

Charity number: 1170492



Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society

Trustees' report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society Annual Report

Contents

	Page
Legal and administrative information	1
Trustees report	2
Independent examiners' report	5
Statement of financial activities	6
Balance sheet	7
Notes to the accounts	8

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society

Annual Report

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	1170492
Principal address	PO Box 75779 London SW15 9HW
Trustees	Mr Hans Tomas Bjorkman Dr Jonathan Rowson Mr Ian Christie
Independent Examiner	Ash & Associates Chartered Accountants 2 London Wall Buildings London EC2M 5PP
Principal Bankers	Lloyds Bank plc 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society Annual Report

Report of the trustees For the year ended 31st December 2020

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (Registration number 1170492) and constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The charity is governed by its constitution dated 30th November 2016.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are to seek to advance education for public benefit through:

- a) The provision of materials and activities provided in the interest of promoting ecological sustainability, human development, and democratic engagement.
- b) Such materials and activities will be provided with the purpose of developing individual and collective capabilities to respond to complex societal problems

In meeting these objectives, the trustees have given due consideration to the guidance on Public Benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

2020 was a major year for the development of Perspectiva in which we began several new projects, clarified strategy and conducted a visual redesign. By the end of the year the structure of our work became clearer and is discernible in four main interrelated areas: Insight, Praxis, Realisation, Emergence. Those modalities of work represent an underlying theory of overcoming immunity to change (beyond the scope of this update) but in project terms they manifest as our books and essays, our Antidebate and other forms of practice-based inquiry, The Realisation festival and associated activity, and the Emerge project, including its website.

2020 was also, of course, the year the Coronavirus pandemic took hold. Perspectiva's plans for a public event series were put on hold and we had to postpone The Realisation Festival, originally scheduled for June, and we could not travel to build funding relationships or work with our main partner, The Fetzer Institute. We also stopped renting our office spaces and worked remotely.

On Insight: We worked to develop our publishing arm, Perspectiva Press, with five books prepared for publication in 2021. In two cases, with *Unlearn* by Hanno Burmeister and *Collective Wisdom in the West* by Liam Kavanagh, the manuscripts were quite short, their positioning was closely aligned with our own and they were submitted in a close to final form that didn't require much editing from us. Both these books had their own value, but also helped raise Perspectiva's profile in adjacent networks. In the case of *The Politics of Waking Up* by Indra Adnan, we brought this book into being by commissioning Indra to write a series of blog posts for our Emerge website (www.whatisemerging.com) alongside illustrations by Chris Burrows, and then worked with Indra to edit the material into book form. In the case of *The Entangled Activist*, this project arose from a project Perspectiva helped conceive and raise funding for with the support of The Emergence Foundation, including dedicated research and writing time for the author Anthea Lawson. In the case of *Dispatches from a Time Between Worlds: Crisis and Emergence in Metamodernity*, this anthology arose

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society Annual Report

gradually by inviting authors within our network to contribute, and our director worked with co-editor Layman Pascal to bring into towards completion.

In 2020 our work on the Digital Ego project also began, led by Tom Chatfield and Dan Nixon; Minna Salami was also commissioned to develop her work on exousiance and help with editing for Perspectiva Press; Zak Stein continued to advise on our work on transformative education, as did Bonnitta Roy. Our Director also dedicated time to further develop the intellectual foundations of Perspectiva's work, leading to an essay published early in 2021 called Tasting the Pickle: Ten Flavours of Meta-crisis and the Appetite for a New Civilisation. This essay, also a chapter in *Dispatches*, helped clarify the basis of Perspectiva's work for the next few years.

On Realisation: Our work here stems from the co-founders' interest in Bildung, and from our prior work to build a transformative education alliance, supported by the JJ Trust. We partnered with St Giles House in Dorset to put on a festival that would act as a touchstone for the idea of transformative civic and aesthetic education, including an online event. In due course our work on realisation will manifest as accessible course material, in which the annual festival acts as a kind of flagship event.

On Praxis: We were encouraged by The Director of Public Engagement at the John Templeton Foundation to develop a funding application for the idea of The Antidebate, which, after several revisions, was successful at the end of the year. The idea of the project is to create a new social practice that combines the best of dialogue and debate, informed by intellectual humility and the desire to respond to cultural polarisation of all kinds.

On Emergence: As one of its three founding organisations Perspectiva took over operational and strategic control of Emerge, due to the need to put it on a sustainable footing. Emerge is partly a website featuring profile and insight pieces but is also an international (mostly Northern Europe) 'network of networks' and incipient social movement that shares an interest in the relationship between societal challenges and the inner lives of human beings. This process included taking over the European entity *Cocreation.x gGmbH* based in Berlin to make it easier to work with our European network, particularly in light of the impact of Brexit which may make it harder for organisations in the UK to raise funds within the EU. As part of this process we also began a recruitment process for a Director of Emergence at Perspectiva, to lead the Emerge project while also supporting Perspectiva's broader work. Professor of Cultural History at the University of Kent, Anna Katharina Shaffner, was appointed.

2020 also featured a significant amount of work with the Designers, Sutherland Studios, which led to an elegant visual language to make sense of and help communicate Perspectiva's work. This redesign was later featured in several Design magazines and led to the format of our books and essays, and informed our new website.

2020 ended with a newsletter capturing the scale of these developments, and clarifying plans for 2021 and beyond.

Financial review

The charity received funds totalling £375,319 (2019 - £322,572) and incurred costs totalling £325,625 (2019 - £322,572). At the year end the funds held by the charity amounted to £241,180 (2019 - £191,486).

Reserves policy

At present no specific reserves are maintained, this will be reviewed once the charity becomes more established and has secured further funding.

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society Annual Report

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the trustees

Dr Jonathan Rowson
Trustee

9th November 2021

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society.

We report on the accounts of Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society for the period ended 31st December 2020 set out on page 6 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is our responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act, to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- (i) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....
Ash & Associates

Chartered Accountants
2 London Wall Buildings
London
EC2M 5PP

9th November 2021

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society

Annual Report

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31st December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Grants received	2	373,673	322,436
Events		1,131	10
Publications		474	115
Bank interest		41	11
Total incoming resources		375,319	322,572
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Office Rent		3,025	8,088
Staff costs	3	75,197	74,325
Consultants & researchers		138,122	106,520
Event Costs	4	87,638	39,996
Office & IT Costs		818	-
Attending conferences & seminars		-	1,501
Publishing of materials		18,140	3,072
Recruitment costs		680	-
Accountancy fees		1,662	3,030
Bank charges		343	332
Total resources expended		325,625	236,864
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		49,694	85,708
Total funds brought forward		191,486	105,778
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		241,180	191,486

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society
Annual Report

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2020

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Investment in subsidiary	5		23,289		
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank and in hand			219,091		193,586
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Accrued expenses			(1,200)		(2,100)
NET ASSETS			<u>241,180</u>		<u>191,486</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted fund			<u>241,180</u>		<u>191,486</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>241,180</u>		<u>191,486</u>

The accounts were approved by the trustees on 9th November 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Jonathan Rowson
Trustee

Mr Hans Tomas Bjorkman
Trustee

Mr Ian Christie
Trustee

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31st December 2020

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102 are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

1.2 Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.
- Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.3 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

2. Grants Received

	2020	2019
	£	£
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	26,250
The Fetzer Institute	287,429	152,763
The J J Charitable Trust	-	60,000
Hans Tomas Bjorkman	86,244	62,801
Friends Provident	-	2,836
The Edith Maud Ellis Trust	-	500
The Schopflin Foundation	-	4,286
The Society for the Study of Science and Religion	-	13,000
	<u>373,673</u>	<u>322,436</u>

Perspectives on Systems, Souls and Society

Annual Report

Notes to the accounts

For the year ended 31st December 2020

3. Staff costs	2020 £	2019 £
Salaries	66,000	67,400
Social security	7,883	5,938
Pension contributions	1,314	987
	<u>75,197</u>	<u>74,325</u>
Average number of employees:	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

4. Event Costs	2020 £	2019 £
Public Events	1,900	980
New Economic Thinking / Friends Provident project	0	1,445
Emerge Network – Berlin	85,738	37,571
	<u>87,638</u>	<u>39,996</u>

5. Investment in subsidiary

During the year the charity acquired *Cocreation.x gGmbH* a Berlin based non profit making organisation, to make it easier to work with our European network, particularly in light of the impact of Brexit which may make it harder for organisations in the UK to raise funds within the EU.

6. Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

The charity received grants totalling £86,244 (2019 - £52,801) from Mr Hans Thomas Bjorkman, one of the trustees.

During the year Dr Jonathan Rowson, was employed as the Charity's full time Director, and received remuneration of £66,000 (2019 - £67,400) and pension contributions of £1,314 (2019 - £987), as permitted by the Charity's constitution and approved by the remaining trustees.

The remaining trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2019: £nil). Expenses re-imbursed to the trustees in the year totalled £nil (2019: £524).