Populism & Environmentalism

Opening up Ecomodernism to the people

Iddo Wernick
Program for the Human Environment
The Rockefeller University

Breakthrough Ecomodernism 2019
September 22-24, 2019
Salamander Resort
Middleburg, VA 20117
Populist - a political approach that strives to appeal to ordinary people who feel that their concerns are disregarded by established elite groups. Lexico.com

“Science is the belief in the ignorance of experts” Richard Feynman
Populism & Environmentalism

What is the anthropogenic role in the Anthropocene

From a populist perspective:

• Humanity exerts unprecedented influence on the planetary environment
• Humanity does not control planetary outcomes
• Preserving individual human rights take precedence over achieving collective outcomes
Populism & Environmentalism

Selecting political bedfellows

• Do traditional values (i.e., G-d, family, flag) conflict with a positive environmental agenda?

• Must allegiance to a positive environmental agenda presume particular positions on gender, healthcare, the Middle East, .... ?
Populism & Environmentalism

Whose interests does Ecomodernism represent?

• The workers in offices, vehicles, factories, warehouses, mines, farms?
• The corporations that employ them?
Can a new brand of Centrist Environmentalism emerge after Trump?

Thank you for your attention

iwernick@rockefeller.edu