**Session 1 — Radical Autonomy & Interdependence**

**Overall Idea of the Session**

This session is all about autonomy, community, and finding new ways to organize society outside the limits of industrial capitalism. We'll look at Ivan Illich's idea of "conviviality" – how tools and institutions can either give people power or take it away. Silvia Federici adds to this by arguing that taking back "the commons" and valuing everyday acts of care are key to resisting the alienating effects of capitalism. Arturo Escobar takes these ideas even further by imagining a diverse world where many ways of being and designing can exist together, instead of being forced to follow Western ideas of development. These texts challenge us to think critically about the structures that shape our lives and to imagine ways to create autonomy, communal care, and alternative social and technical systems.

**Summaries of the Three Texts**

**Ivan Illich, Tools for Conviviality**

Illich critiques industrial society’s reliance on tools and institutions that diminish human autonomy, arguing for a shift toward convivial tools—those that enable personal agency and collective self-determination. He proposes that true freedom arises when individuals have the ability to shape their environment, rather than being reduced to passive consumers of technology and institutional services .

**Silvia Federici, Re-Enchanting the World**

Federici explores how capitalism has alienated people from their communal and reproductive labor, advocating for a return to the commons as a way of resisting economic and ecological exploitation. She argues that re-enchantment—reconnecting with non-capitalist ways of living and collective self-sufficiency—is a crucial political act in reclaiming autonomy from globalized capitalist structures .

**Arturo Escobar, Designs for the Pluriverse**

Escobar critiques the universalizing logic of Western development and design, calling for a shift toward autonomous, community-led ways of organizing life. He introduces the concept of “pluriversal design,” which supports localized, non-capitalist, and ecologically sustainable alternatives that emerge from Indigenous and communal epistemologies .