CAPITAL INSTITUTE

MONEY & BANKING FOR A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

3-week Online Course Re-imagining Money & Banking in Regenerative Finance with John Fullerton

December 2025 - Sample Syllabus

Note: modules will be updated into 3 modules along with other changes before start date

"This course weaves together the macro critical issues facing humanity into a digestible picture and then offers a practical framework to guide how we go forward for the better." - Judi Costanza, Alumni

Curriculum

Finance is too big. Finance confuses means and ends. Finance is extractive, undermining the health of society and the one Earth that is our home. And finance ideology and analytics are ignorant of how life actually works. Yet finance must play a critical role in service of the urgent economic transformation called for by the unprecedented 21st century context.

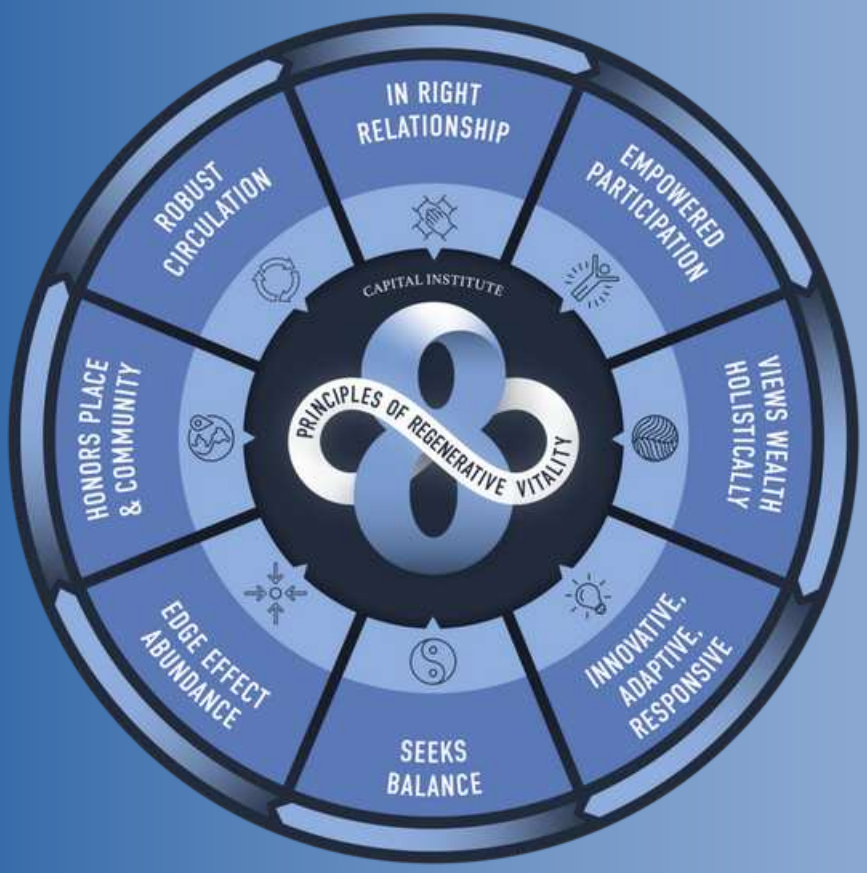
In 2018, John Fullerton published a 4-part working paper, "Finance for a Regenerative World." Unlike most critiques of finance following the financial crisis, his analysis sought to address root causes rather than symptoms, and to avoid political ideological debates that are a distraction from the real work. Instead, he began with the first principles of regenerative vitality as developed by the Capital Institute's groundbreaking work on Regenerative Economics, and explored what they imply for finance, regardless of the "absolute truths" that had to be stubbornly doubted in the process.

Our journey together in this first-ever course on Regenerative Money & Banking builds on this working paper with subsequent learnings and sensing, all informed by John's experience inside the belly of the beast for over two decades. The Regenerative Money and Banking course is designed for finance professionals seeking to move beyond the "sustainable finance" industry norms, as well as anyone curious to reimagine the banking system, money, and finance's role more broadly in service of a regenerative economy.

We will interrogate the unquestioned assumptions underlying finance ideology to get at both root causes and genuine alternatives to the present degenerative system. The curriculum emphasizes conceptual clarity over technicalities.

Approach

Money & Banking for a Regenerative Economy



This course is based on 8 Principles of Regenerative Vitality and how these principles can be applied to build a vibrant and self-sustaining economy that is in service to all life. Grounded in the science of living systems as well as practical real-life examples, the syllabus for this 4-week course includes various key topics as outlined in the following pages.

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Course Syllabus

Course Sessions: Mondays and Tuesdays at 11am ET (New York) December 1, 2025 - December 16, 2025

Topic 1: The 2008 Banking Crisis Demystified, and Regulatory Response

The Wall Street (and neoliberal government policy) induced Great Financial Crisis of 2008 shocked the world and destroyed institutional trust. Yet the cost of the bankers' sins was socialized across society with lasting consequences for us all. One can connect the dots to MAGA, Brexit, and more. It would be irresponsible to "move on" from this seismic event as the bankers would wish without learning several essential lessons that our reductionist "never again" response neglects.

Learning Objectives:

- Demystify the Financial Crisis and clarify the lessons we must take from it.
- Understand who Central Banks serve and their response to "do whatever it takes" to protect the banking system.
- Interrogate how the regulatory response to the banking crisis can be both understandable and dangerously flawed at the same time.
- Understand the profound structural changes to both the banking system and Central Banks since the financial crisis, to the global capital markets, and the implications for future system shocks and our economic health.

Practice Lab Topic: "Moneymen Morality": The perennial ethical challenges in finance, and "The Regulator's Dilemma"

Topic 2: Central Banking and Money as Technology

Central Banks and fiat currency hold power over our lives and our future. We must understand the system if we want agency to change it.

Learning objectives:

- What do central banks do, who is their boss, how is money created and distributed, and the dangers of neoclassical economists at the wheel.
- Understand the rise of Quantitative Easing as a tool to manage both the financial crisis and the pandemic.
- Explore the financial and political limits and opportunities of "Qualitative Easing" to meet the challenges of the polycrisis.
- Examine new and complementary forms of money as a technology, including traditional complementary currencies and crypto currencies of all kinds.

This Week's Discovery Dialogue Guests: We'll discuss Crypto, Defi, and Refi with Jessica Groopman, Intentional Futures (confirmation pending)

Topic 3: From the Extractive Mainstream, to Values-Based Banking to Regenerative Banking

We do not need to accept the confusion of means and ends that banking represents, nor toxic speculative excess, nor the systemic risk of psychopathic behavior most recently demonstrated in Crypto. Banking broadly defined, is not "just" a business, nor a finite game of winners and losers. We can demand and enforce better. We need bankers playing the "infinite game".

Learning objectives:

- What in finance needs to be encouraged to die, and how might that happen
- Understand what a banking system focused on the real economy entails
- Consider the paradox of scale in an increasingly complex, and increasingly digital world
- Explore what regenerative banking in support of business ecosystems can look like in the real world.

This Week's Discovery Dialogue Guests: Peter Blom, former CEO of Triodos, Kat Taylor, Chair of First Beneficial State Bank (confirmation pending)

Topic 4: Toward a Regenerative Financial System and Policy Implications

Weaving together the first principles of living systems, the insights gleaned from the Regenerative Investment Course, and the Regenerative Money and Banking Course, we can begin to get a glimpse of what a Regenerative Financial system might look like.

Learning objectives:

- Integrate the various strands of provocation during the Finance Program into a single coherent whole
- Consider key leverage points and pathways to implementation of such a vision.
- Formulate a policy agenda for genuine financial reform that would transform finance into an enabling condition for the regenerative economy we need.

Practice Lab Topic: Workshop the Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality into real life applications of money systems, the banking system, and a policy agenda for system transformation.

Course Design

LIVE LECTURES

2-hour sessions, Mondays at 11:00 am ET

For each module, course participants will have access to experience a live lecture and engage in live group dialogue. These lectures provide the core framework of the curriculum, and are augmented by selected readings and other content. In addition to this material, we are creating a growing library to provide an unparalleled source of emergent regenerative theory and practical application in the real world.

DISCOVERY DIALOGUES

1.5-hour sessions, select Tuesday at 11:00 am ET

Mindfulness Dialogue is a core learning tool of the course. John Fullerton will host a module-specific Discovery Dialogue with a global thought leader to further support emergent understanding. Note: Discovery Dialogue for Module 2 will be recorded and not live due to thanksgiving holiday in the USA.

What Course Alumni Are Saying

"Thanks to the course content, John Fullerton's knowledge and vision, and the quality of the course participants, several other dots in my understanding of the system were connected. This course is helping us to take a giant step into the emerging future."
- MJ Caya, Cohort 1 Alumni

PRACTICE LABS

2-hour sessions, select Tuesdays at 11:00 am ET

With the intention of supporting course participants in applying their learnings to their own work and life context, this course will offer two interactive and engaging workshops. Course participants will have the opportunity to work in small groups to workshop the Eight Principles of Regenerative Vitality in real life case studies and scenarios to deepen their learning and offer practical ways the frameworks and tools shared in the course can be applied.

COMMUNITY

We have created a mindful and intentional container to explore in community the profound paradigm shift that underlies the content of this course. Participants will gain access to the active existing course alumni community of 1000+ professionals, entrepreneurs, students, policymakers, and thought leaders from over 53 countries where they can collaborate with a range of regenerative thinkers and change makers long after the course is completed. Participants are encouraged to self-organize throughout and after the course to advance their personal and professional growth in key areas of interest.

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FINANCE FOR A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

Go Deeper Into the 2-Course Online Program Hosted by John Fullerton

Two part, online program offering a comprehensive exploration into regenerative finance through the impact of Investment, Money & Banking. It will challenge and equip you to redefine the role of finance in achieving ecological harmony and social equity, placing life at the center of financial systems.

Money & Banking for a Regenerative Economy Begins on Monday, December 1, 2025

Investment for a Regenerative Economy Begins on TBA

Finance ideology and the financial system as currently designed and governed is overly complicated, extractive and degenerative. It's a major obstacle to the emergence of a regenerative economy, but it doesn't need to be this way. We can imagine a financial system in service of a regenerative economy. In service to life. Come explore what this might look like, the critical obstacles to confront, and the potential that can manifest if we align with the very patterns and principles that describe all living systems. Join us in helping make finance our servant for transformational change, not our degenerative master.

Let us choose life as the basis of our financial system design.

Money & Banking for a Regenerative Economy begins on Monday, December 1, 2025.

Enroll at capitalinstitute.org/money-banking-for-a-regenerative-economy-course/

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