

June 3, 2022

Welcome back to the Unfinished newsletter, where we explore key issues at the intersection of tech, ethics, and society.

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What we're thinking about

The importance of community, collaboration, and grassroots work in building a better internet for all.

As you may recall, last week, we [announced a landmark partnership](#) with Polkadot to develop [Project Liberty](#)—a foundation for the next generation of the internet based on the [decentralized social networking protocol](#). Boiled down, the idea is to use web3 technologies to forge a new model for digital life. Individuals would control how their information is accessed and monetized, wresting control from Big Tech titans that exploit user data using opaque algorithms.

This new system would require a new conception of *governance*, where citizens define the terms of engagement rather than corporations. For that reason, Frank McCourt, Unfinished creator and Project Liberty founder, [explained in an interview with Protocol this week](#) that the effort to architect a better web can't be based on technology alone.

“This has got to be a broad conversation and one where experts, technologists, computer scientists and social scientists get together and sort out the governance issues,” McCourt said. “I'm not talking about token governance, I'm talking about societal governance. We need to discuss and debate the ideas about how we want democracy to work in a digital world. We've been living with democracy in an analog world and institutions that were architected to support that analog world. We now need a civic architecture for a digital world.”

For that to happen, a diverse range of stakeholders must engage with web3 concepts. To that end, Unfinished supports a [movement of impact](#)

organizations that actively and critically participate in this world. Recently, our partners at **Ashoka** launched a program with the **Mutualist Society** dedicated to exploring how social innovators might use web3 technologies — crypto, NFTs, DAOs, and blockchains — “to support communities, increase participation, generate new income for our constituents, and hold big players accountable.” It’s called the DWeb Learning Collaborative, and you can learn more about it — and watch its programming — [here](#).

We asked Konstanze Frischen and Sara Horowitz, co-founders of the initiative, to share some thoughts about the purpose of this work.

“We wanted to learn from social entrepreneurs who’ve built with web3 to learn what tools can be useful for social innovators to have more impact — collaborate in new ways, create new forms of data ownership, new forms of participation and remuneration,” they said. And, “we wanted to understand web3 better so we can more meaningfully critique.”

The Dweb Learning Collaborative has convened a number of valuable discussions approaching these topics from different angles. The group has explored [how informal workers in Latin America](#) use the web3 token economy for quicker access to capital without burdensome fees, [how workers could redefine organizing](#) via DAOs, and [how villages of rice farmers in Indonesia](#) use blockchain to cut out the middle man, to name a few examples. (If that last topic is of interest, we also recommend [Xiaowei Wang’s book *Blockchain Chicken Farm*](#), which delivers a nuanced perspective on the technology’s applications in rural China.)

As Frischen told us, there’s an important lesson to take from these conversations: “successful models get built in community, as a collective, from the ground up.” Can’t argue with that.

Announcing Unfinished Live 2022!



**UNFINISHED
LIVE**

Hosted by
Baratunde
Thurston

September 21-24,
2022

The Shed,
NYC

[Registration is now open for Unfinished Live 2022](#), a four-day event in September exploring the collision of tech, art, ideas, and impact 🦊

If you think a lot about the internet's intersection with society—and want to participate in building a better digital future—this is the event for you.

We'll be announcing great speakers throughout the summer, and we're excited to share that we already have some amazing guests on the agenda, including Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, *The Defiant* founder Camila Russo, and Center for Human Technology co-founder Tristan Harris.

We hope to see you there. Book now for early bird rates!

Join our salon on Wednesday

UNFINISHED SALONS #002

Angela Glover Blackwell
in conversation with
Dr. Danielle Allen, Eric Liu,
and Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson

Wednesday, June 8 • 1-2 PM ET

Speaking of great events: We invite you to join the second in our ongoing series of salon conversations on Wednesday, June 8. Angela Glover Blackwell, chairperson of the Unfinished Network, will host an intimate conversation about finding a shared purpose in a thriving multiracial democracy — a central cause in our mission to strengthen civic life in the digital age. We're thrilled to host guests Dr. Danielle Allen, Eric, Liu, and Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson.

[Register for free here.](#)

Thank you for reading.

Follow Unfinished ([@byUnfinished](#)) on Twitter for ongoing chitchat on the changing web.

Have a great, restful weekend.

The Unfinished team

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