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**Report of meeting** held at School of Economic Science, 11 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ  
See: **Notes of Open Research Group meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2018: [OpenResearchGroup-180131](#)**  
**Present:** Janos (chair), Mary (notes), Paul. Apologies: Dagem, Ahmet, Bob, Ellena (medical), Henry, John Mc, Kyle, Ashburn, Liliias, Philip, Sandra, Steve, Trevor, William,

**Janos** – Reviewing progress of our project (again), it was not clear how much we could achieve by pursuing the timetabled mandala rather than a drop-in which is the way the Global Table has always operated.

Meanwhile Janos had heard a very interesting Programme on Radio 4 “Start the Week” – Monday 5th Feb 2018: “**Money Makes the World Go Round**”: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09qb089> – Andrew Marr discusses money, transformation and the obsession with growth with two leading economists: **Prof Diane Coyle** and **Dharshini David**. Professor Coyle, an economist and a former advisor to the UK Treasury, argues it's time to rethink the way we measure productivity, while the broadcaster Dharshini David follows the journey of a single dollar in her study of globalisation, “The Almighty Dollar”, published by Elliott and Thompson. The theatre director **Anna Ledwich** is more interested in the people whose lives revolve around the money markets: her latest play “Dry Powder”, at Hampstead Theatre, London until 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, highlights their vulnerability, vision and sheer unadulterated greed. During the financial crisis of 2008, Iceland experienced proportionally the largest banking collapse by any country in economic history. The novelist **Jón Kalman Stefánsson** is writing a modern Icelandic family saga, “About the Size of the Universe,” translated from the Icelandic by Philip Roughton, and published by MacLehose Press, explores whether the transformation of his country in the 20th century laid the foundations for its future collapse. We noted the different approaches of Iceland and Ireland to their Banking collapses. The latter bailed out the banks, whereas in Iceland the opposite occurred, and some bankers were jailed.

**Renegade Inc's** programme this week had a strong message: **Digital is Killing Democracy**: “A big assumption we make when talking about the Internet and social media is that it is a power for good and enhances democracy. But what if social media actually narrows the debate and closes down free speech? After a string of recent global political upheavals, we ask whether it is time to re-think where we get our information from and who is pulling the strings? Host Ross Ashcroft travels to The Netherlands to meet political scientist Andre Krouwel, who thinks differently about the power and influence of social media”. Tax-evading corporates who run social media, in particular Facebook, whose main purpose is commercial - can scrape our photos, collate our data and influence public opinion towards a populist, right-wing agenda. Google silenced dissidents in China. The internet also hosts AirBnB, so students can't find affordable accommodation in Amsterdam. What's happening in Europe is that with breakaway groups, Europe has to re-think itself, they set policy in Brussels but try to keep accountability at the local level. Nobody knows who is on the EU parliament, and Andre's view is that the latter should be dissolved to connect up national parliaments in Europe, instead of governments using Europe as a scapegoat – resulting in a lack of control. Both amongst politicians and the general public are ignorant about what is happening and are angry at the loss of control of their politicians. Yessi Bello Perez from UKTech News - <https://www.uktech.news> expanded on the power of Facebook – it holds more data than any government. Tweeted responses were also reported during the programme: <https://www.rt.com/shows/renegade-inc/417906-digital-democracy-social-media/>