

## Celebrating love and loss in 2014: writing, traveling, mothering

From: Vesna Manojlovic <becha@xs4all.nl>  
To: uncivilization@lists.puscii.nl  
Subject: [unciv] Celebrating love and loss in 2014: writing, traveling, mothering  
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<https://lists.puscii.nl/wws/arc/uncivilization/2015-01/msg00029.html>

[Air] ...

All I need is peace of mind  
Then I can celebrate

All in all there's something to give  
All in all there's something to do  
All in all there's something to live  
With you...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQVz21i38Wc>

2014 started with a bang: the text I wrote was published on Guy McPherson's blog "Nature Bats Last": <https://guymcpherson.com/hackers-ethic-for-the-world-after-collapse/>

For the rest of the year I wrote a lot to the mailing lists, mostly to UnCiv; on the wiki pages, and many proposals to the conferences, that were mainly rejected: <http://becha.home.xs4all.nl/i.html>

One stands out: summary of my contribution to the discussion about Future of Technology: [https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/File:Nature-speaking-on-future\\_of\\_the\\_internet-RIPE69.pdf](https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/File:Nature-speaking-on-future_of_the_internet-RIPE69.pdf)

My plans for 2014 were to explore possibilities for "natural living", meet like-minded people, and learn along the way. Some of those plans came true: we visited Calafou, an existing co-living place — and learned that I can not join them any time soon. I brought my children to the houses in Croatia where I've spent my childhood (Lika and Dalmacia) — with mixed-feelings result: nature is beautiful there, but the war damage is still strongly present in the communities, and it turned out that Charlie's allergies are flared to asthma in Lika... so for the rest of the year I was learning to deal with his health problems.

Instead of visiting many other places, I opened up my house and learned a lot about sharing and communal living that way! There were in total \*26\* people who stayed in my place during the year! Either alone or with kids; staying shorter or longer time periods; friends, family or total strangers,

recommended by friends. And it's a small apartment in Amsterdam, so often we were crammed... but at other times I was able to be at Arnd's place so there was more flexibility... For the next year, feel free to visit, I got even better at handling guests and co-living :)

I did many other travels with children: to the cities from A to Z: Alphen a/d Rijn, Barcelona, Belgrade, Kopar, London, Zadar; and to nature-admiring places: dunes at Overveen, Adriatic coast in Karin, forests at Hoge Veluwe...

Most fun, exchange of ideas and new friendships happened at conferences: MoneyLab in Amsterdam, Radical Openness in Linz, Interference in Amsterdam, BalCCon in Novi Sad, GreenPeace hackathon in Amsterdam and 31c3 in Hamburg: [https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha/Events\\_2014](https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha/Events_2014)

All of these provided much material for UnCivilization, and new subscribers / contributors.

Looking towards 2015, I see several big trips and events: visiting Japan, choosing school for Alisa, going to the CCC summer camp with children, and welcoming Azart, Ship of Fools, back to Amsterdam: [https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha/Events\\_2015](https://wiki.techinc.nl/index.php/User:Becha/Events_2015)

My mission for 2015 will be de-growth: learning to slow down, to resist the myth of progress, to join forces in the existing projects rather than starting more and more new ones... and getting new terminology for these concepts, in order to speak of it in the positive way, in the way that people can be proud when announcing an idea that they consciously decided to drop, or stop, or merge with someone else's effort; in the way that the closing, finalizing and letting go can be celebrated.

Love,  
Vesna

Uncivilization list archive: <https://lists.puscii.nl/wws/arc/uncivilization>

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"The greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function."

[http://www.albartlett.org/presentations/arithmetic\\_population\\_energy\\_transcript\\_english.html](http://www.albartlett.org/presentations/arithmetic_population_energy_transcript_english.html)

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