Expediting Inquiry in the Contributory City of Intellect: Re-Evaluating Peirce's Social Economy of Research through the MICE Framework

Dr Neville Buch and MICE[1]

Abstract

This essay evaluates Susan Haack's seminal analysis, "Expediting Inquiry: Peirce's Social Economy of Research" (Haack 2018, pp. 208–223), synthesizing its epistemological insights with the operational architecture of the Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE). Originating in Charles Sanders Peirce's 1879 "Note on the Economy of Research" (Peirce 1879, pp. 197–201), the social economy of research addresses the allocation of finite cognitive, temporal, and financial resources to maximize genuine truth-seeking while preventing "pseudo-inquiry"—the manipulation of research for commercial, political, or administrative gain. This paper demonstrates: (1) how MICE fulfills Haack's demand for uncorrupted, disinterested inquiry by providing non-extractive cognitive scaffolding, the POLICE diagnostic model, and a Contributory Income Scheme; (2) how the

[1] Original articles and essays are humanly-devised. Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) has been fairly used in the production of this work. The tool used is Google NotebookLM (recently rebranded as Gemini Notebook). It is an AI-powered virtual research assistant and thinking partner designed to help a person interact deeply with their own documents. Unlike general chatbots, it is source-grounded, meaning it only generates answers based on the specific PDFs, documents, or links uploaded. The A.I. process in the production of this work has been limited to the attached (prompts) on each of the questions in turn. This ensures an accurate reading of each source. The author then rearranged and re-edited the answers the A.I. provided. The human author publishes this work. A.I. is never an author when used properly. This assistance is not qualitatively different from a human research assistant when that assistance is deemed to have no authorial status but is acknowledged.

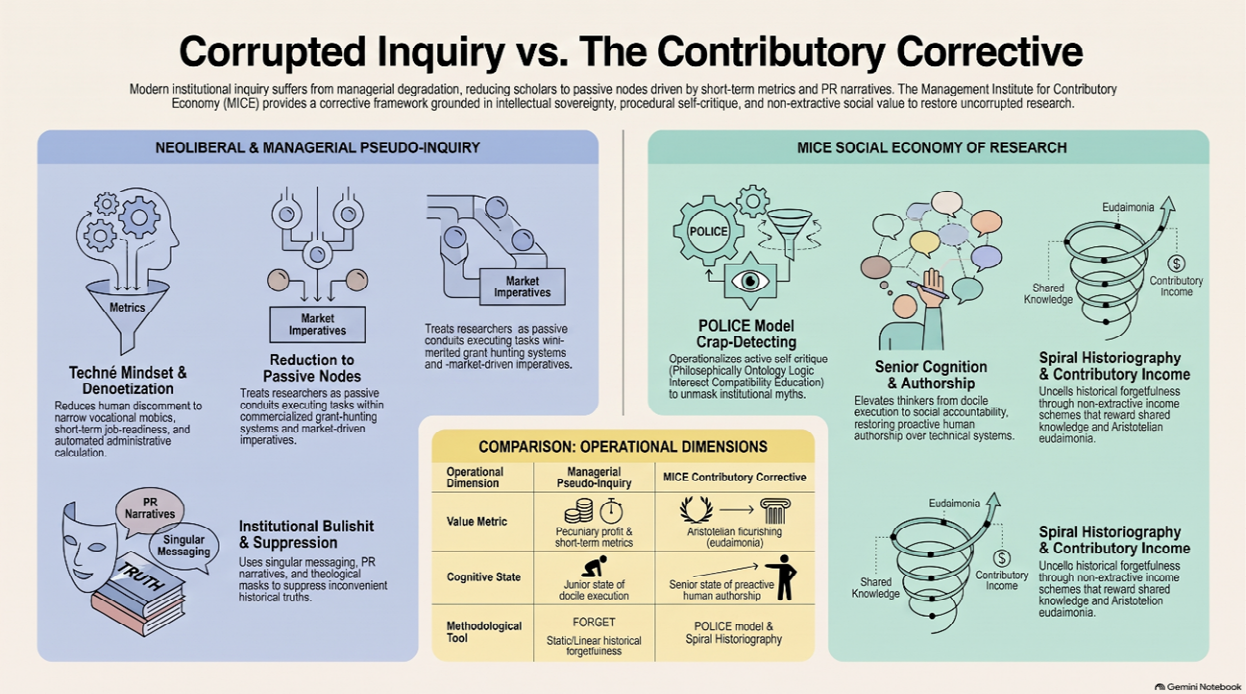
Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council fail Haack's criteria by enforcing "retail governance," "job-ready" vocational reductionism, and managerial "satisficing"; (3) the structural reforms required in public employment and scholar contracting to transition from short-term transactional labour to "Senior" social accountability; and (4) why this message is vital to halt automated denoetization, preserve intellectual sovereignty, and achieve Aristotelian flourishing (eudaimonia).

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1. Introduction: Peirce, Haack, and the Pathology of Commercialized Inquiry

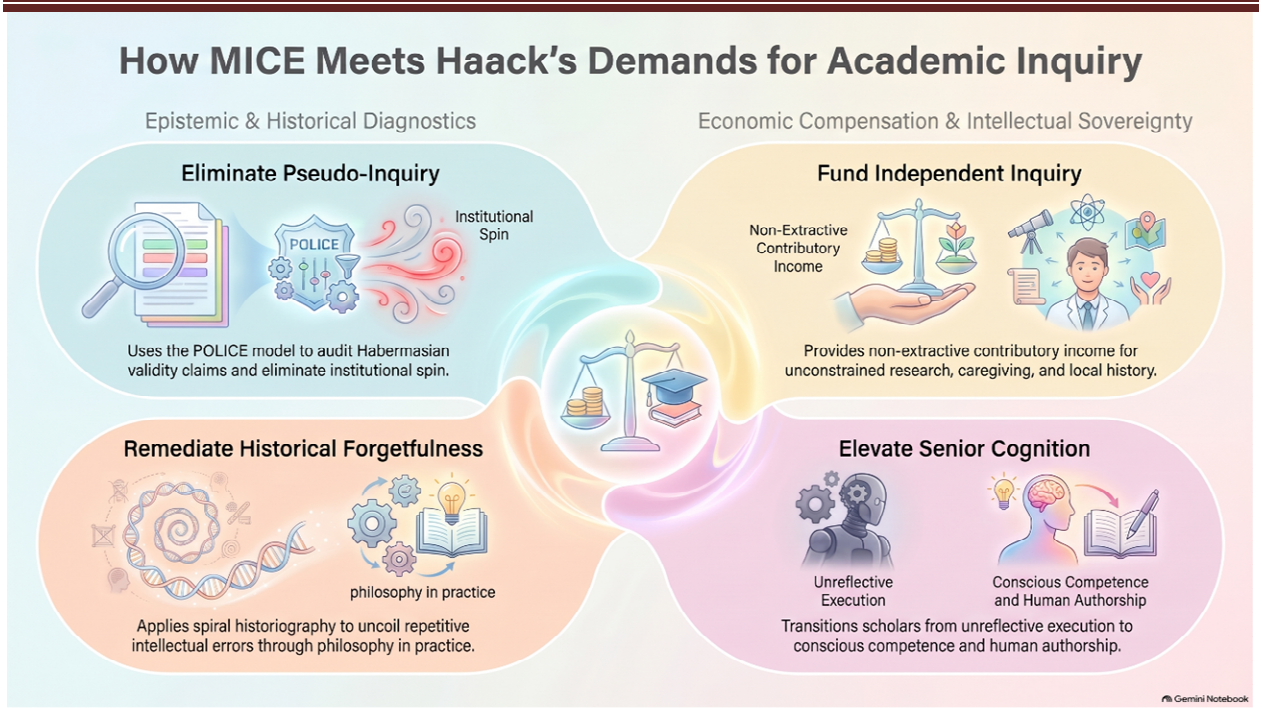
In *"Expediting Inquiry: Peirce's Social Economy of Research"* (Haack 2018, pp. 208–223), philosopher Susan Haack revisits Charles Sanders Peirce's pioneering 1879 essay on scientific methodology (Peirce 1879, pp. 197–201). Peirce recognized that inquiry is not an abstract, unconstrained exercise in pure logic, but a material process bound by finite human energy, limited time, and scarce economic resources (Peirce 1879, p. 197; Haack 2018, p. 209). Consequently, the primary objective of a "social economy of research" is to determine how to organize, fund, and conduct inquiry so that society reaches real, testable truths with the greatest possible efficiency and the least waste of cognitive labour (Haack 2018, p. 211).

Haack extends Peirce's framework to diagnose a pervasive contemporary disease: the corruption of genuine inquiry by corporate metrics, bureaucratic grant mechanisms, and "pseudo-inquiry"—where researchers are incentivized to endorse predetermined outcomes, generate superficial publications for status, or serve commercial and political masters (Haack 2018, pp. 214–218). Under modern neoliberal governance, research is systematically converted into a transactional commodity, degrading the seeker of truth into a instrumentally managed labourer (Haack 2018, p. 216; Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37).



2. Point 1: How MICE Meets the Demands of Haack's and Peirce's Social Economy of Research

The Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE), founded by Dr. Neville Buch and his associates, directly meets and operationalises the rigorous demands set out by Haack and Peirce[1][2]. MICE provides the structural, methodological, and cognitive architecture required to liberate inquiry from commercial distortion[3][4]:



1. **Eliminating "Pseudo-Inquiry" via the POLICE Model:** Haack warns that corporate and bureaucratic institutions reward "fake reasoning" designed to bolster organizational branding rather than uncover truth (Haack 2018, p. 215). MICE addresses this through the POLICE model (Philosophically Ontology Logic Intersect Compatibility Education), a diagnostic tool that serves as an "intellectual immune system" to detect PR spin, audit logical consistency, and unmask "institutional bullshit"[5][6].

2. **Funding Independent Inquiry via the Contributory Income Scheme:** Peirce insisted that inquiry requires economic freedom from immediate commercial pressures (Peirce 1879, p. 198). MICE operationalises this through its Contributory Income Scheme, which compensates unpaid intellectual labour, independent scholarship, historical preservation, and care work (*panser*)[7][8]. By decoupling survival from narrow market utility, MICE creates a non-extractive space for genuine public inquiry[9][10].

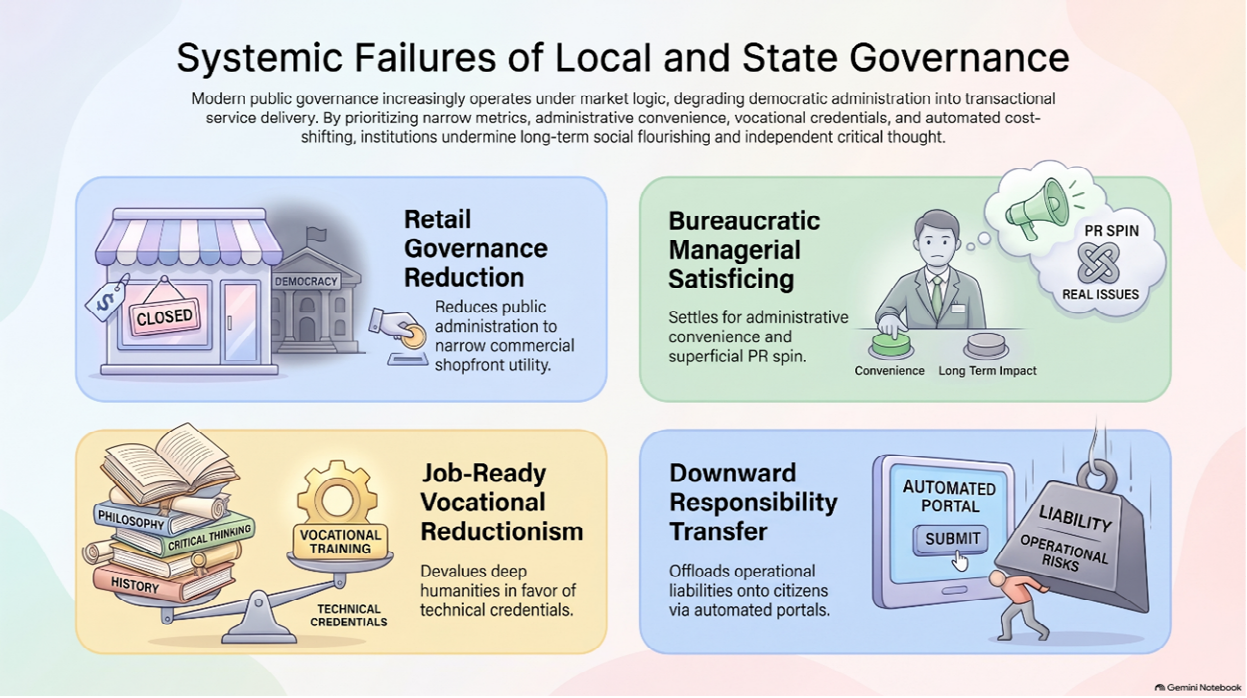
3. **Remediating "Historical Forgetfulness" via Spiral Historiography:** Haack notes that modern research routinely wastes resources by reinventing the wheel or repeating past mistakes due to historical amnesia (Haack 2018, p. 219). MICE deploys Spiral Historiography, operationalising the axiom that "understanding history is philosophy in practice"[11][12]. By "uncoiling" past intellectual errors, MICE ensures that contemporary inquiry builds upon intergenerational wisdom[13][14].

4. **Fostering "Senior Cognition" and Human Authorship:** MICE rejects the reduction of scholars to "puny human nodes" executing tasks in automated networks[15][16]. It drives a developmental ascent from "Junior" unreflective execution to "Senior Cognition"—a state of conscious competence where the scholar takes moral responsibility for shared knowledge and reclaims proactive human authorship[17][18].

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3. Point 2: How the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council Fail the Demands of the Social Economy of Research

In stark contrast to MICE, the Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council exemplify the structural failures critiqued by Haack[19][20]. Public administration in Queensland remains deeply infected by economic rationalism, retail governance, and managerial satisficing, actively violating Peirce's principles of economic inquiry[21][22]:



- **Subjugation to "Retail Governance":** Both state and municipal authorities reduce civic administration to "retail governance"—viewing citizens as passive consumers and measuring public success through short-term "Political Profit," media announcements, and superficial branding campaigns (Buch 2026a, p. 37; Buch 2026e, p. 153; Jameel 2026,

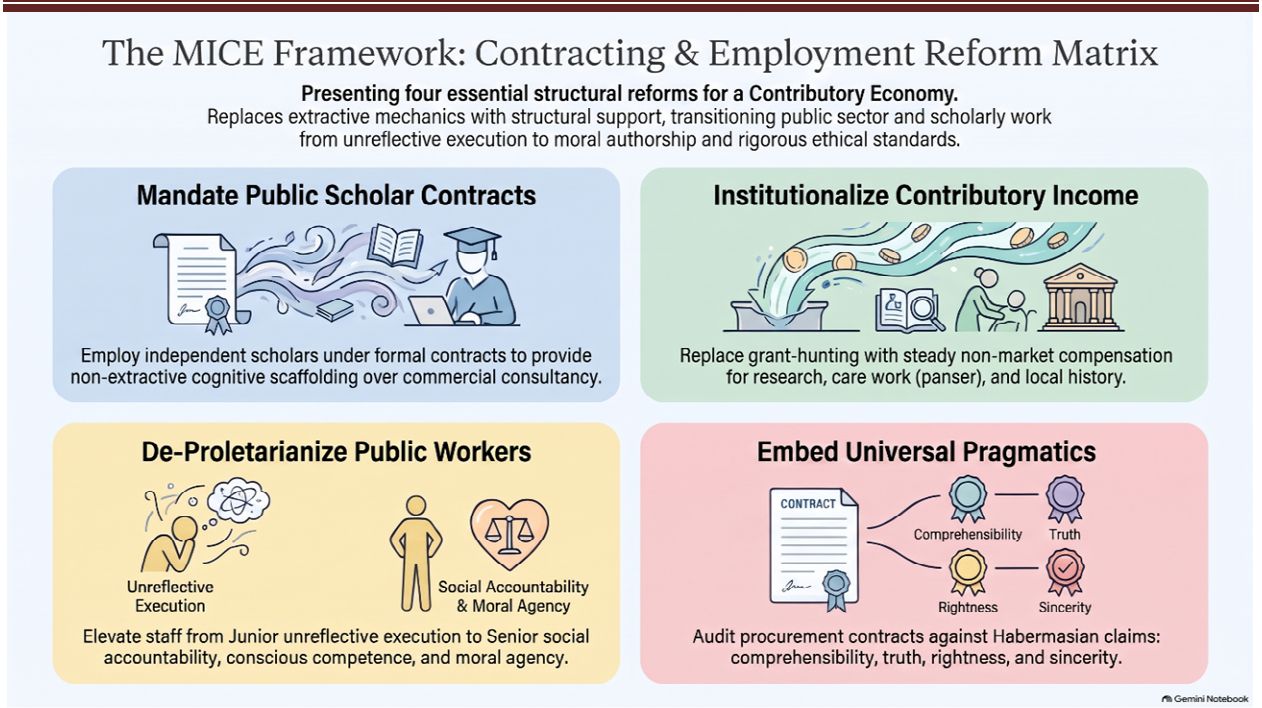
pp. 1–10). This directly contradicts Haack's mandate that public resources must support disinterested inquiry rather than political self-aggrandizement (Haack 2018, p. 216).

- **Entrenchment of Bureaucratic "Satisficing":** Drawing on Herbert Simon's administrative model, Queensland agencies routinely settle for "satisficing"—implementing superficial, rule-bound policy fixes that create systemic brittleness while hiding failures behind "institutional bullshit" (Simon 1957; Frankfurt 2005; Buch 2026a, p. 38). They actively resist independent historical and sociological audits that might expose regional policy blunders (Buch 2026c, p. 4).
- **Enforcement of the "Job-Ready" Prejudice:** State educational and cultural policies enforce a strict vocational reductionism, treating learning solely as preparation for commercial employment (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37). By starving local history, humanities, and independent research institutes of funding, governance promotes specialized ignorance and weaponizes "Historical Forgetfulness" to maintain administrative control (Buch 2026a, p. 33; Buch 2026c, p. 4).
- **Exploitation via the Law of Responsibility Burden:** In line with Arif Jameel's economic law, when local councils and state departments deploy automated digital portals and AI platforms under the banner of "efficiency," they do not eliminate operational costs; they shift unpriced administrative, temporal, and cognitive liabilities downward onto citizens (Jameel 2026, pp. 1–15; Jameel & Buch 2026, p. 4).

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4. Point 3: Reforming Contracting and Employment to Meet the Social Economy of Research

To align public administration with the social economy of research, governance must dismantle extractive procurement practices and execute four structural reforms in contracting and employment[23][24]:



1. **Establish Non-Extractive Contracts for Public Scholars:** Rather than outsourcing policy analysis to expensive, politically aligned commercial consultancies that produce "pseudo-inquiry" (Haack 2018, p. 215), government bodies must issue formal, long-term public contracts to independent historians, philosophers, and sociologists (Jameel & Buch 2026, p. 14; Buch 2026b, p. 12). These scholars provide the independent cognitive scaffolding necessary to audit policy assumptions and protect historical truthfulness (Jameel & Buch 2026, p. 14).

2. **Deploy the Contributory Income Scheme in Employment:** Public employment contracts must transition away from precarious, grant-dependent labour toward a Contributory Income Scheme (Stiegler 2010; Buch 2026b, p. 7). This guarantees that intellectual, artistic, and care-based work (*panser*) is recognized as a fundamental public good, protecting researchers from the financial desperation that drives pseudo-inquiry (Haack 2018, p. 218; Buch 2026b, p. 7).

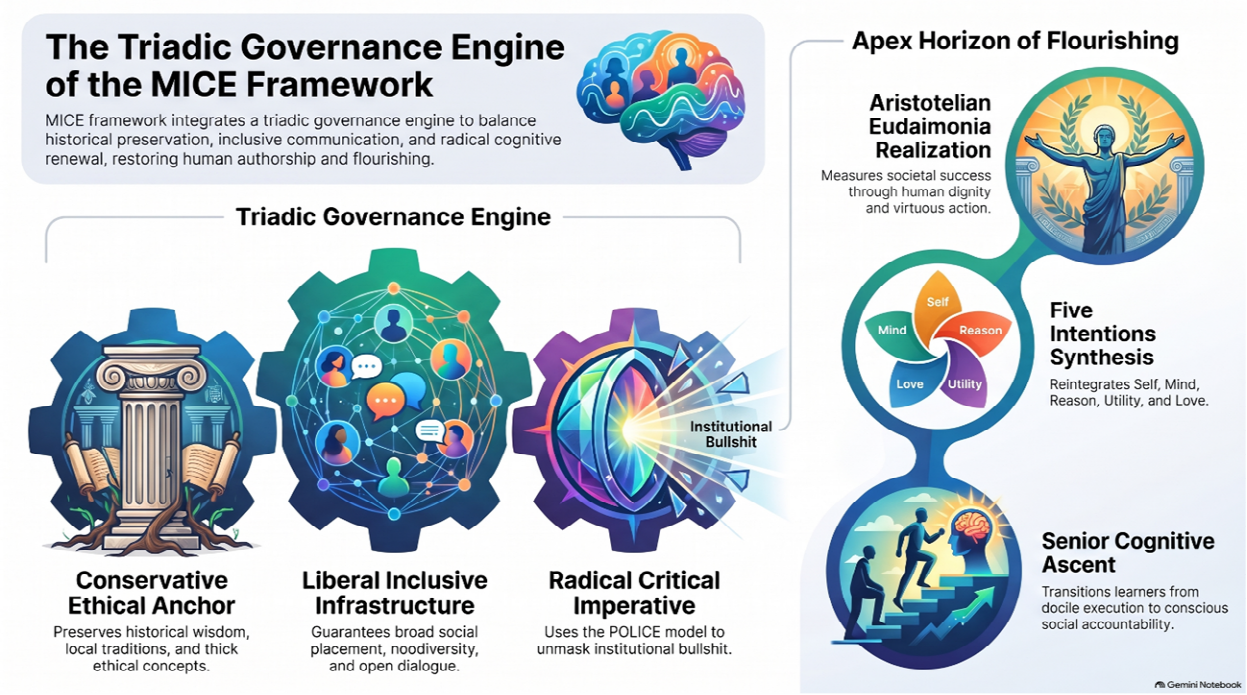
3. **Elevate Public Servants from "Junior" to "Senior" Status:** Government contracting must mandate professional development that elevates workers out of "Junior" docile execution—where staff blindly follow algorithmic rules—and into "Senior" social accountability[25][26]. Public servants must be trained in the POLICE diagnostic model to "crap detect" internal inefficiencies and take personal responsibility for ethical outcomes[27][28].

4. **Enforce Universal Pragmatics in Policy Audits:** Public administration must incorporate Jürgen Habermas's Universal Pragmatics into procurement, requiring every contract and policy paper to raise and reciprocally prove four validity claims: comprehensibility, factual truth, normative rightness, and internal sincerity[29][30].

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5. Point 4: Why the MICE Message is Important: Preserving Noetic Agency for Eudaimonia

The message articulated by MICE and grounded in Peirce and Haack's epistemology is of vital civilisational importance because modern society is undergoing an "immense regression"[31][32]. Under the combined pressure of automated artificial intelligence, market fundamentalism, and bureaucratic rationalism, human judgment is undergoing systematic denoetization—the mechanical liquidation of the capacity to think, judge, and act meaningfully[33][34].



The MICE message provides the only integrated, operational exit from this regression through its Triadic Governance Engine[35][36]:

- **Conservative Anchor (Preserve Good Value):** Protects intergenerational long circuits of memory, historical wisdom, and thick ethical concepts against technocratic erasure[37][38].

- **Liberal Infrastructure (Decent Social Place):** Guarantees inclusive dialogical placement, respects *noodiversity* (epistemological pluralism), and provides accessible public tools for all citizens[39][40].

- **Radical Imperative (Shift the Agenda):** Dismantles neoliberal market hegemony, unmasks institutional myths, and replaces short-term profit metrics with Aristotelian Flourishing (Eudaimonia)[41][42].

Ultimately, MICE restores the Synthesis of Being (The Five Intentions)—harmonizing Self (identity), Mind (judgment), Reason (logic as cognitive regulator), Utility (socialized welfare), and Love (*panser* / thinking as caring)[43][44]. By operationalising Peirce's social economy of research through modern contributory mechanics, MICE ensures that the human person ("the who") remains the conscious, proactive author and master of technological, economic, and administrative systems ("the what")[45][46].

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6. Conclusion

Susan Haack's defence of Charles Sanders Peirce's social economy of research serves as an urgent reminder that uncorrupted inquiry is the bedrock of a free and rational society (Peirce 1879, p. 198; Haack 2018, p. 220). When public administration in Queensland and Brisbane succumbs to market fundamentalism, retail governance, and managerial satisficing, it starves genuine inquiry and degrades civic life into automated routine (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37).

The Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE) provides the necessary corrective. By reforming public contracting, enacting the Contributory Income Scheme, deploying the POLICE diagnostic model, and driving an ascent to Senior Cognition, MICE operationalises Peirce and Haack's vision. In doing so, it transforms public governance into a flourishing "City of Intellect"—a community dedicated to restorative truth-telling, human authorship, substantial fairness, and Aristotelian *eudaimonia*.

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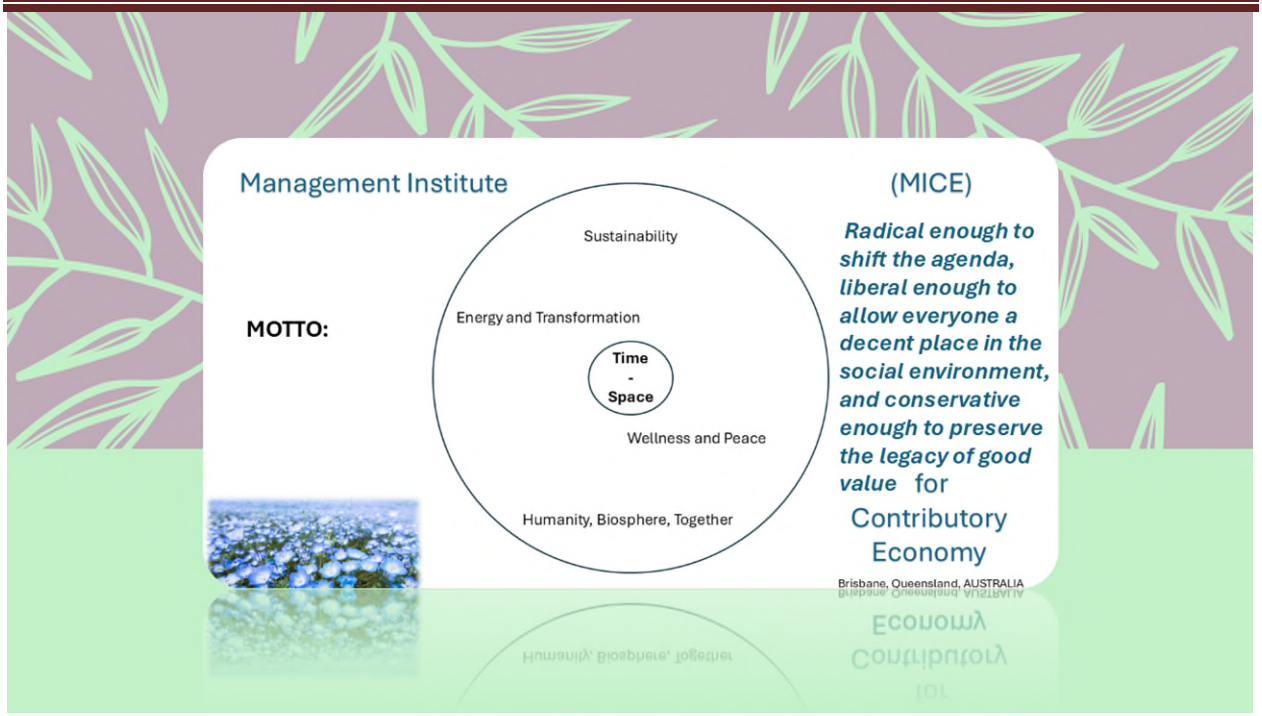
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