Deconstructing Technocratic Gatekeeping: MICE "Prenatal Insolvency," Unfair Competition Strategies, and the Epistemological Defence of Disinterested Inquiry

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Abstract

This essay evaluates the theoretical, economic, and administrative dynamics surrounding the Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE), focusing on the technocratic tactic of pronouncing "prenatal insolvency" and deploying "unfair competition strategies" against heterodox economic models. Trapped in market fundamentalism, neoliberal economic rationalism, and Weberian-Simonist administrative "satisficing," entrenched institutions deploy unfair competition tactics—demanding that emerging, non-extractive paradigms prove immediate commercial profitability and formal legal compliance according to the very market metrics they seek to reform. This paper demonstrates: (1) how "prenatal insolvency" operates as an asymmetrical gatekeeping mechanism to strangle contributory frameworks in their cradle; (2) how "hard ideological thinking"—

[1] The original articles and essays 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.

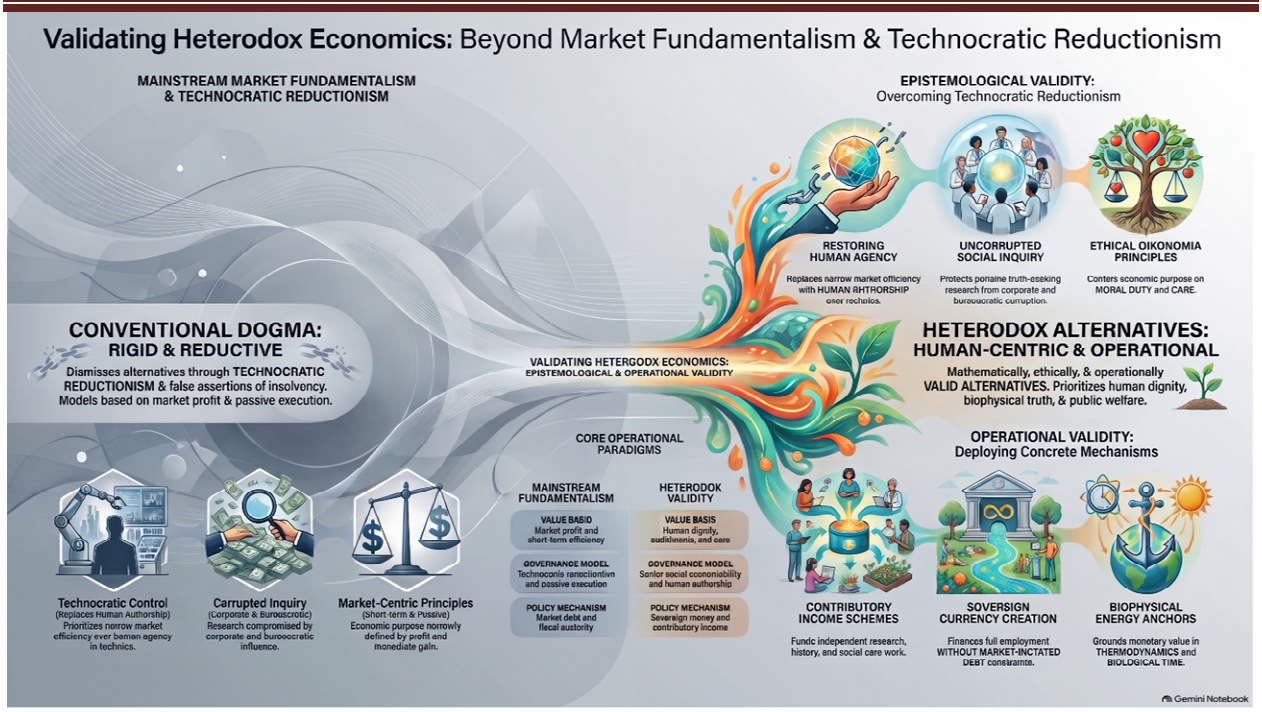
disguised as neutral administrative procedure, "satisficing," and critical thinking—underpins these unfair competition strategies; (3) how Susan Haack's (2018) analysis of Charles Sanders Peirce's 1879 social economy of research provides a definitive epistemological foundation for MICE by exposing "pseudo-inquiry" and validating non-extractive cognitive scaffolding; and (4) why the MICE message—anchored in its triadic governance engine, the POLICE diagnostic model, and the Synthesis of Being—is vital to halt automated denoetization, protect civic agency, and achieve Aristotelian flourishing (eudaimonia).

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1. Introduction: The Technocratic Onslaught and the Stifling of Heterodox Inquiry

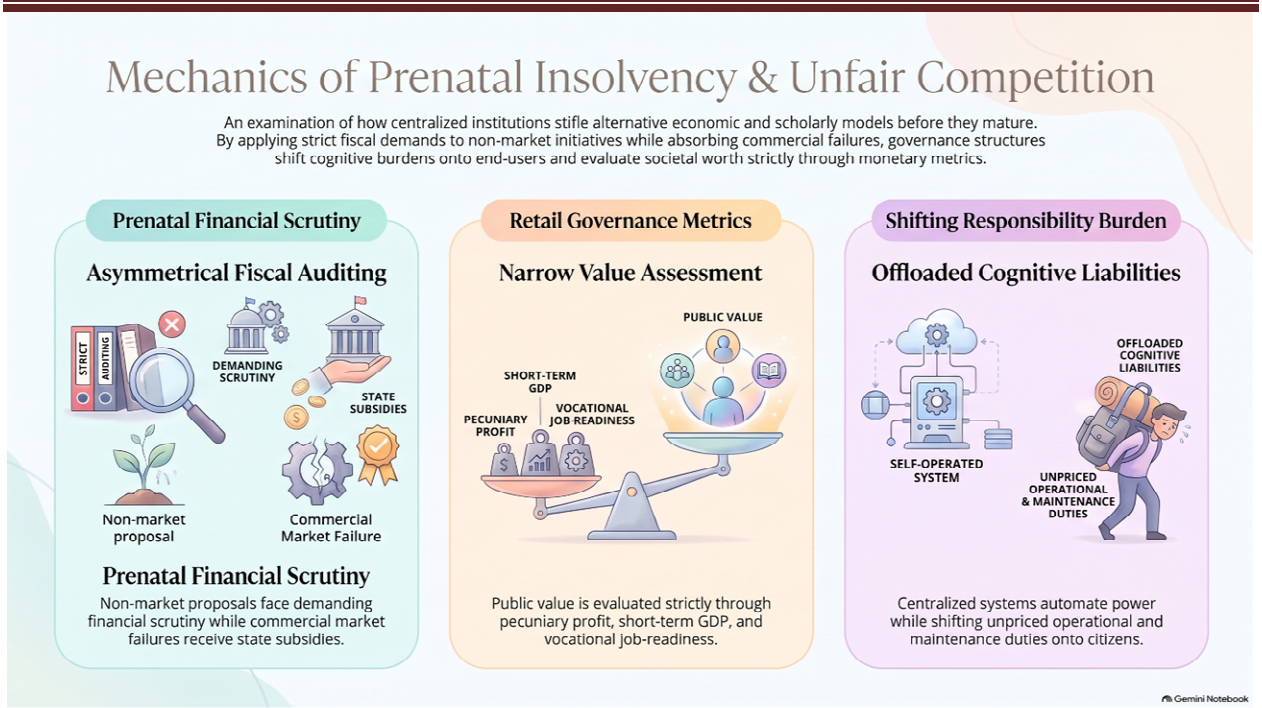
When new socio-economic paradigms emerge to challenge established market structures, incumbent technocratic institutions rarely engage in open, dialectical debate. Instead, they deploy pre-emptive administrative and rhetorical barriers designed to invalidate the new framework before it can secure operational pilots, institutional credibility, or public funding (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37; Luchel 2026b, pp. 1–35). In contemporary political economy, this strategy manifests as accusations of "prenatal insolvency"—declaring a proposed model "financially unworkable" or "fiscally illiterate" prior to its implementation—backed by unfair competition strategies that enforce market-driven metrics as the sole definition of societal value (Buch 2026a, p. 42; Luchel 2026b, pp. 5–12; Jameel & Buch 2026, p. 4).

This essay deconstructs these technocratic gatekeeping mechanics, focusing on the debate between Dr. Neville Buch's Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE) and technocratic critics such as Bevin Luchel (Luchel 2026, pp. 56–78; Luchel 2026b, pp. 1–35). By drawing on Susan Haack's (2018) exposition of Charles Sanders Peirce's social economy of research, this paper proves that MICE is not an "unworkable moral fantasy" (Luchel 2026b, p. 3), but a necessary epistemological and operational corrective to the commercial corruption of public governance and scholarly inquiry (Peirce 1879, pp. 197–201; Haack 2018, pp. 208–223; Buch 2026e, p. 11).



2. Point 1: How MICE Prenatal Insolvency and Unfair Competition Strategies Operate

The strategy of “prenatal insolvency” and unfair competition operates as a multi-layered administrative mechanism designed to maintain market fundamentalism and protect institutional monopolies on knowledge and policy formulation (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37; Jameel 2026, pp. 1–15). This strategy functions through three core operational vectors:



A. The Catch-22 of Prenatal Financial Scrutiny

In his attack on MICE, Luchel asserts that the Contributory Income Scheme—which compensates unpaid caregiving (*panser*), First Nations cultural preservation, and independent research—is an "economic absurdity" because it lacks traditional budgetary projections and taxation mechanics (Luchel 2026b, p. 8). This exemplifies the Catch-22 of prenatal insolvency: heterodox economic proposals that seek to de-commodify social reproduction are declared "insolvent" precisely because they refuse to use extractive, market-based pricing mechanisms (Buch 2026a, p. 56; Buch 2026b, p. 7). Meanwhile, traditional corporate subsidies, commercial consultancy fees, and uncosted administrative bloat are routinely accepted without proof of social return (Mazzucato & Collington 2023; Buch 2026a, p. 37).

B. Asymmetrical Metric Enforcement and "Retail Governance"

Unfair competition strategies rely on enforcing an administrative monopoly over value measurement. Under modern "retail governance," state and local governments treat public administration as a commercial shopfront, evaluating policy success strictly through narrow financial efficiency, "job-readiness" credentialism, and media-driven "Political Profit" (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37; Buch 2026e, p. 153). When MICE proposes replacing these thin metrics with Aristotelian Flourishing (Eudaimonia) and the Synthesis of Being, technocratic managers label the framework "unworkable" because it cannot be reduced to a flat administrative spreadsheet (Buch 2026a, p. 33; Buch 2026e, p. 42; Luchel 2026b, p. 10).

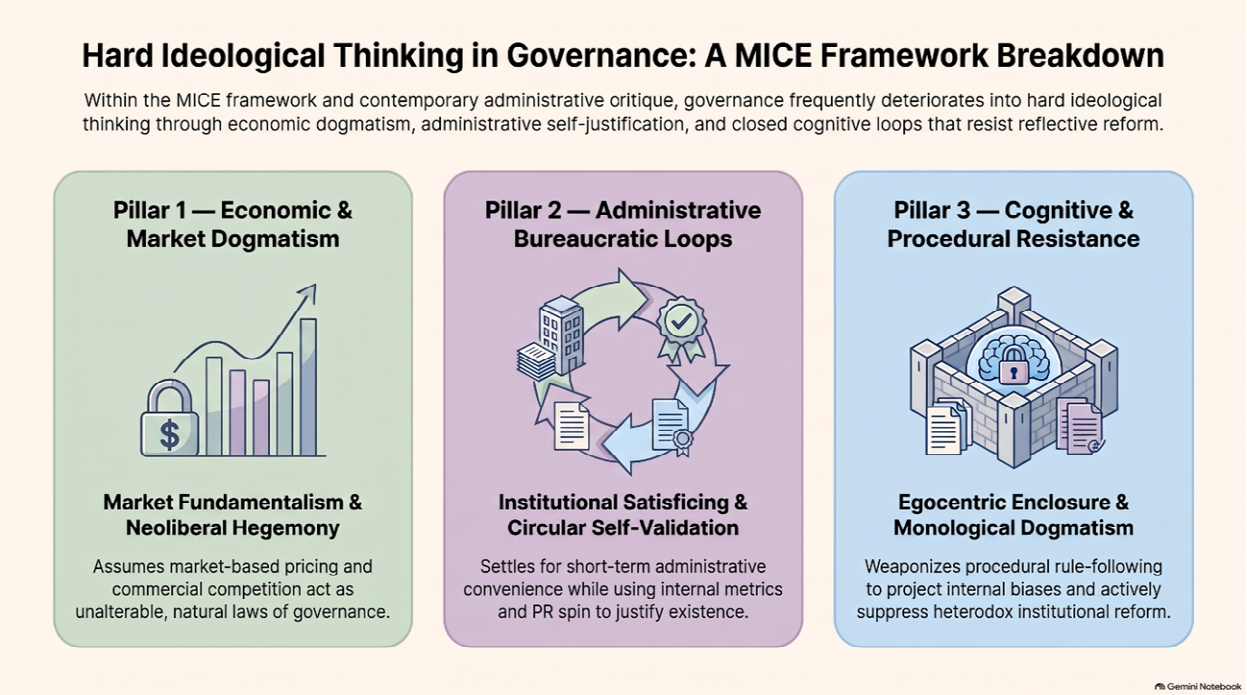
C. Exploiting the Law of Responsibility Burden

As formal institutions adopt automated AI portals, digital platforms, and centralized management systems, they engage in unfair competition by hiding their true operating costs. Under Arif Jameel's Economic Law of Responsibility Burden, when an economic system transitions to automated or decentralized substitutes, systemic operational and cognitive liabilities are not eliminated; they are transferred downward onto individual citizens and workers as unpaid labour (Jameel 2026, pp. 1–15; Jameel & Buch 2026, p. 4). Technocratic governance claims these automated systems represent "efficient, solvent" administration, while dismissing MICE's call for non-extractive human cognitive scaffolding as "inefficient" (Buch 2026f, p. 1; Jameel & Buch 2026, p. 8).

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3. Point 2: How Hard Ideological Thinking Underpins Unfair Competition Strategies

Far from being neutral, pragmatic appraisals of administrative feasibility, accusations of "prenatal insolvency" and unfair competition are driven by hard ideological thinking. This dogmatic ideology conceals itself behind administrative legalism, Herbert Simon's model of "satisficing," and a co-opted vocabulary of "critical thinking" (Simon 1957; Paul 1985, p. 60; Buch 2026a, p. 38; Luchel 2026, pp. 64–71):



1. **Market Fundamentalism and Economic Rationalism:** The foundational premise of technocratic gatekeeping is the unexamined belief that capital accumulation, commodity exchange, and market pricing are the sole legitimate determinants of social organization (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 42). When critics demand that MICE prove its "fiscal mechanics" within existing capitalist constraints (Luchel 2026b, p. 8), they are enforcing hard neoliberal dogmatism—refusing to entertain any economic system that prioritizes human care (*panser*), historical memory, or non-market contribution over pecuniary profit (Buch 2026a, p. 54; Buch 2026b, p. 7).

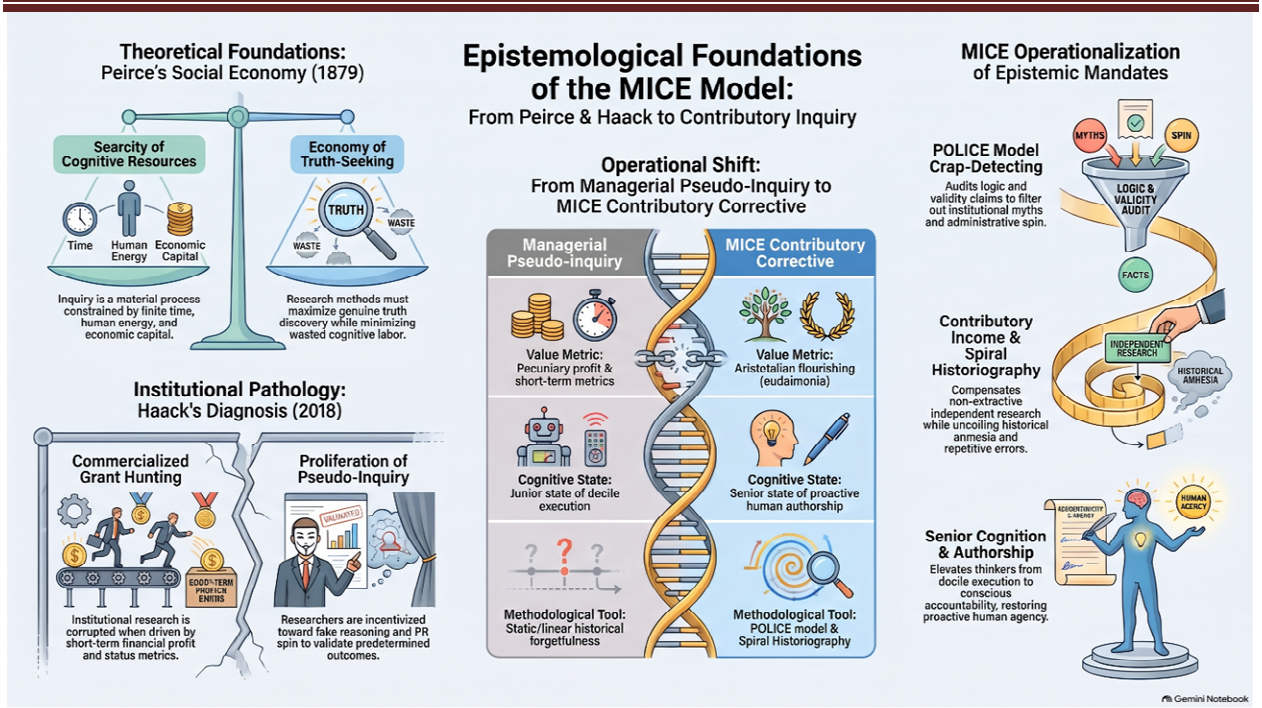
2. **Institutional "Satisficing" and Vicious Circularity:** Drawing on Herbert Simon's administrative theory, technocratic bureaucracies settle for "satisficing"—implementing superficial, short-term solutions that satisfy minimum procedural requirements without addressing underlying social crises (Simon 1957; Buch 2026a, p. 38). Institutionalized satisficing creates a vicious circular argument: bureaucracy uses its own artificial success metrics to justify its ongoing existence, generating "institutional bullshit" and PR spin to deflect accountability and block genuine reform (Frankfurt 2005; Buch 2026a, p. 39; Buch 2026e, p. 18).

3. **Egocentric Enclosure Disguised as "Critical Thinking":** As Richard Paul demonstrated, egocentric minds routinely project an image of open inquiry while distorting motives and defending entrenched biases (Paul 1985, p. 60; Paul 1993, p. 27). Technocratic critics like Luchel co-opt Paul's framework to accuse MICE of "prophetic dogmatism" (Luchel 2026, p. 60; Luchel 2026b, p. 4). In reality, it is the technocratic gatekeeper whose background logic remains trapped in egocentric, monological enclosure—refusing to question the legitimacy of corporate algorithms or Weberian bureaucratic obedience (Weber 1946, p. 95; Buch 2026a, p. 37; Luchel 2026, p. 71).

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4. Point 3: How Susan Haack (2018) Demonstrates the Epistemological Basis for MICE

Susan Haack's seminal paper, *"Expediting Inquiry: Peirce's Social Economy of Research"* (Haack 2018, pp. 208–223), based on Charles Sanders Peirce's 1879 "Note on the Economy of Research" (Peirce 1879, pp. 197–201), provides a definitive, unassailable epistemological justification for the MICE framework. Haack proves that genuine inquiry is fundamentally incompatible with commercialized, market-driven governance:



A. Material Scarcity and the Purpose of Inquiry

Peirce established that scientific and scholarly inquiry is not an abstract exercise in pure logic, but a physical, time-bound process that consumes scarce human energy and economic resources (Peirce 1879, p. 197; Haack 2018, p. 209). The fundamental objective of a social economy of research is to allocate these finite resources so that society uncovers real, testable truths with minimal cognitive waste (Peirce 1879, p. 198; Haack 2018, p. 211).

B. The Diagnosis of "Pseudo-Inquiry"

Haack extends Peirce's analysis to critique modern academic and governmental research, showing that neoliberal funding models incentivize "pseudo-inquiry"—where researchers do not seek truth, but manufacture reasoning designed to secure commercial grants, boost institutional rankings, or justify predetermined political outcomes (Haack 2018, pp. 214–218; Buch 2020, pp. 1–4). Under this regime, scholars are degraded into instrumentally managed labourers executing tasks in corporate networks (Haack 2018, p. 216; Buch 2026a, p. 37).

C. How MICE Operationalises Peirce and Haack

MICE directly translates Haack's epistemological critique into concrete institutional architecture:

- **The POLICE Diagnostic Engine ("Crap-Detecting"):** Haack demands tools to identify and reject "fake reasoning" (Haack 2018, p. 215). MICE provides this via the POLICE model (

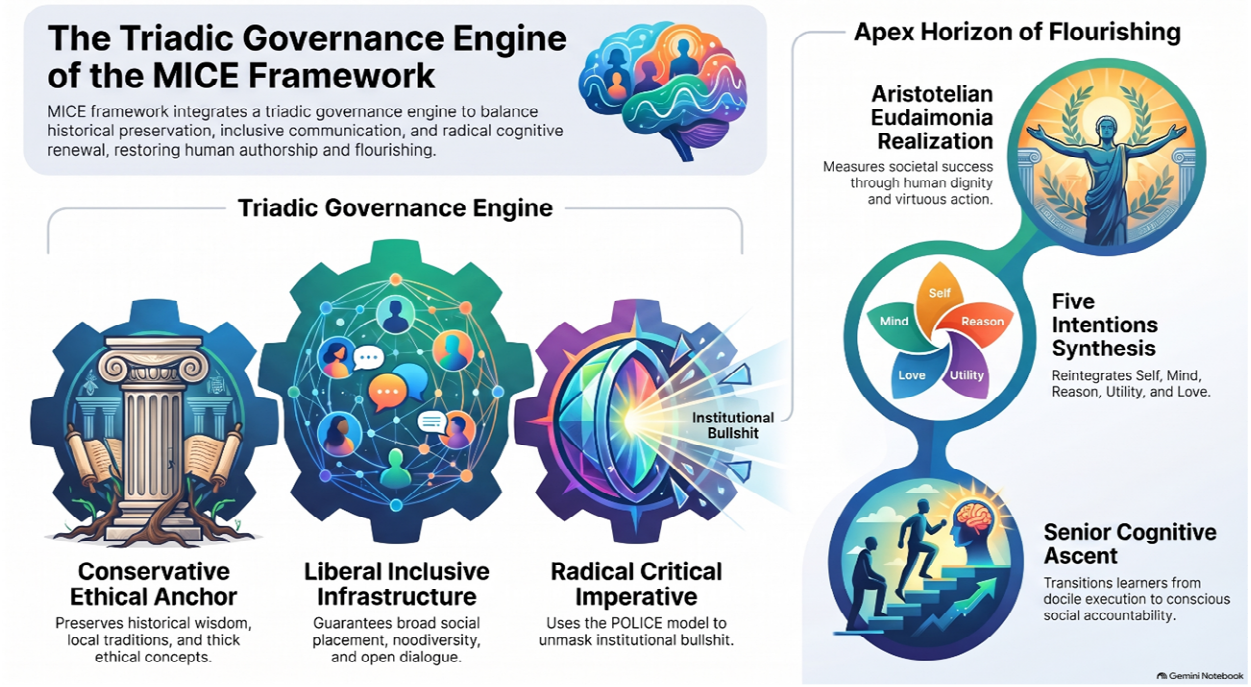
Philosophically Ontology Logic Intersect Compatibility Education), an intellectual immune system that audits validity claims, exposes PR spin, and unmasks institutional bullshit (Buch & Peach 2024; Buch 2026a, p. 46).

- **The Contributory Income Scheme:** Peirce insisted that truth-conducive inquiry requires complete economic freedom from commercial pressures (Peirce 1879, p. 198). MICE operationalises this through its Contributory Income Scheme, providing non-extractive financial support for independent scholarship, local history, and care work (*panser*), decoupling human survival from market utility (Buch 2026b, p. 7).
- **Spiral Historiography against Historical Amnesia:** Haack notes that commercialized research constantly wastes resources by repeating past errors due to historical amnesia (Haack 2018, p. 219). MICE deploys Spiral Historiography, operationalising the principle that "understanding history is philosophy in practice" to uncoil historical errors and ground inquiry in deep intergenerational memory (Buch 2026c, p. 4).
- **Restoring "Senior Cognition" and Human Authorship:** MICE rejects the reduction of thinkers to "puny nodes" in automated AI systems. It drives a developmental ascent from "Junior" unreflective execution to "Senior Cognition"—a state of conscious competence where the scholar reclaims proactive human authorship and social accountability (Buch 2026a, p. 37; Buch 2026e, p. 140).

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5. Point 4: Why the MICE Message is Important: Reclaiming Human Authorship for Eudaimonia

The message articulated by MICE is of supreme civilisational importance because modern society is caught in an "immense regression" (Stiegler 2018; Buch 2026a, p. 10). Under the relentless drive of market fundamentalism, generative AI, and automated bureaucratic systems, human judgment undergoes systematic denoetization—the mechanical liquidation of the capacity to think, judge, and act as a moral agent (Stiegler 2010; Stiegler 2018; Buch 2026f, p. 1).



The MICE framework provides the only comprehensive, operational exit from this technocratic regression through its Triadic Governance Engine:

- **Conservative Anchor (Preserve Good Value):** Protects intergenerational long circuits of memory, historical wisdom, local folkways, and thick ethical concepts against technocratic erasure (Buch 2026b, p. 4).
- **Liberal Infrastructure (Decent Social Place):** Guarantees inclusive dialogical placement, respects *noodiversity* (epistemological pluralism), and provides accessible public tools for all citizens through Habermasian Universal Pragmatics (Habermas 1979; Buch 2026b, p. 6).
- **Radical Imperative (Shift the Agenda):** Dismantles neoliberal market hegemony, deploys the POLICE diagnostic model to unmask institutional myths, and replaces short-term profit metrics with Aristotelian Flourishing (Eudaimonia) (Buch 2026b, p. 8).

Ultimately, MICE restores the Synthesis of Being (The Five Intentions)—harmonizing Self (agency), Mind (synoptic judgment), Reason (logic as cognitive regulator), Utility (socialized welfare), and Love (*panser* / thinking as caring) (Buch 2026a, p. 54; Buch 2026b, p. 10). By overcoming the unfair competition strategies of technocratic governance, MICE ensures that the human person ("the who") remains the conscious, proactive author and master of technological, economic, and administrative systems ("the what") (Buch 2026a, p. 57; Buch 2026e, p. 173).

6. Conclusion

Technocratic accusations of “prenatal insolvency” and unfair competition strategies are the defensive reactions of an unsustainable market order. By demanding that heterodox frameworks prove their fiscal validity within the very commercial metrics responsible for social and cognitive decay, incumbent institutions attempt to block genuine administrative renewal (Buch 2020, pp. 1–4; Buch 2026a, p. 37; Luchel 2026b, pp. 5–12).

Susan Haack’s defence of Charles Sanders Peirce’s social economy of research confirms that uncorrupted, disinterested inquiry requires non-extractive social support (Peirce 1879, p. 198; Haack 2018, p. 220). The Management Institute for Contributory Economy (MICE) provides the operational machinery to realize this vision. By deploying the POLICE diagnostic model, enacting the Contributory Income Scheme, utilizing Spiral Historiography, and driving an ascent to Senior Cognition, MICE overcomes technocratic gatekeeping. In doing so, it transforms public administration into a collaborative **“**City of Intellect”—a flourishing public sphere dedicated to restorative truth-telling, human authorship, substantial fairness, and Aristotelian *eudaimonia*.

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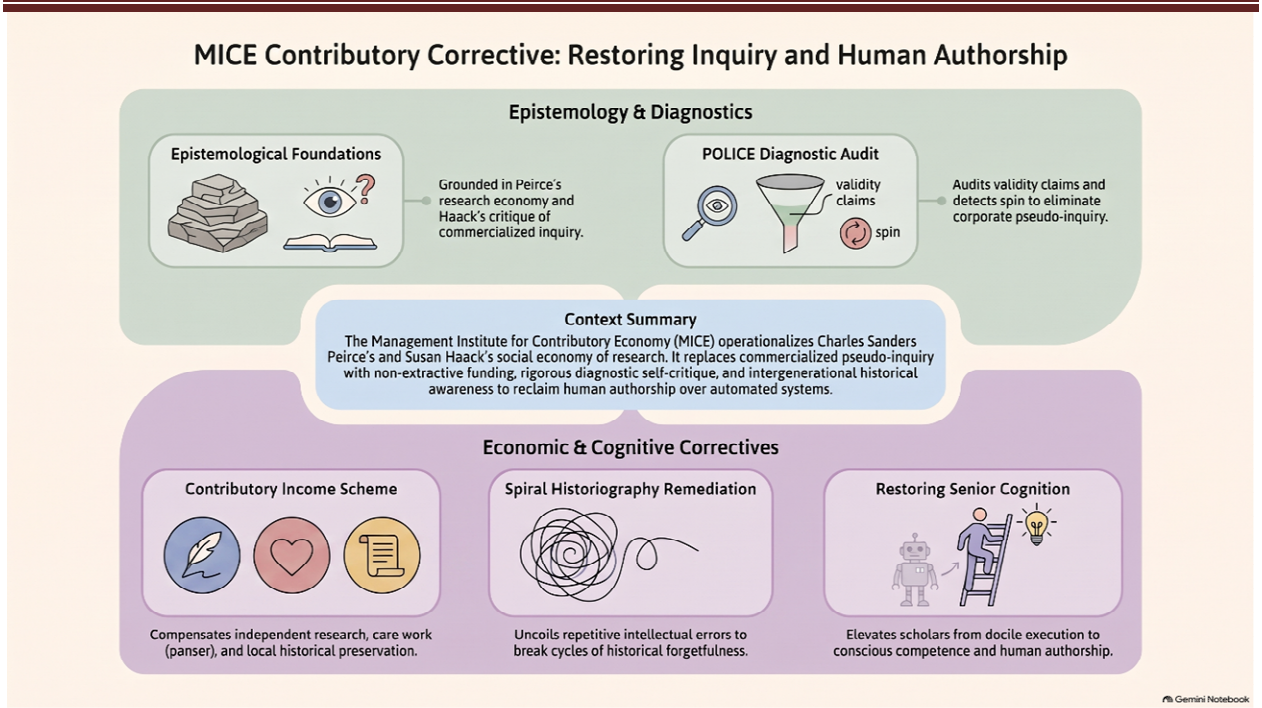
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