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Insolvent

How to Reorient Computing for Just Sustainability

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IS COMPUTING INSOLVENT?

We face a looming global environmental tragedy. Given that we see it coming, why has our response been so limited? . . . the metaphor of the perfect moral storm . . . has three dimensions; global, intergenerational, and theoretical. At its core is the asymmetric power of the rich, the current generation, and humanity as such over the future of the planet, and the corresponding vulnerability of the poor, future generations, and the rest of nature. These asymmetries make it tempting for the powerful to externalize the costs (including the serious harms) of their activities over space, time, and species. The possibility of such buck-passing threatens to undermine ethical action, and even moral discourse itself.

—Gardiner (2014, 439)

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