

# EPIGRAPH

No one knows who will live in this cage in the future, or whether at the end of this tremendous development entirely new prophets will arise, or there will be a great rebirth of old ideas and ideals, or, if neither, mechanized petrification, embellished with a sort of convulsive self-importance. For of the last stage of this cultural development, it might well be truly said: “Specialists without spirit, sensualists without heart; this nullity imagines that it has attained a level of civilization never before achieved.”

– Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (1930 [1905])<sup>1</sup>

What if the event of our time turns out to be not so much the knowledge that human action is altering global climate, as the realisation that climate is responsive to our nudges only because it is far more precarious than we ever dared imagine?

– Nigel Clark, *Inhuman Nature: Social Life on a Dynamic Planet* (2011)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1930 [1905]), 181–182.

<sup>2</sup> Nigel Clark, *Inhuman Nature: Sociable Life on a Dynamic Planet* (London: Sage, 2011), 31.

