Not like my father is largely accepted in developed societies as an important phase of human development. Leaving home or learning from mistakes are considered rites of passage – character building journeys to adulthood. Yet, the profound effects of these shifting generational world-view cycles on the physical wellbeing and economic resilience of the world remain under investigated. A recent study reported on NPR presented Millennials' overwhelming preference for a socialist or communist society over their Baby Boomer parents' preference for a capitalist one. Researchers blamed this on a lack of knowledge of History. But not History-as-Survey-of-the-Past as the Baby Boomer generation construed it. Instead, History as current phenomenon chronicled in the fine grain complexity of intermingling systems of economics, environmentalism, policy
formation and power filtered through the dynamic lens of social media. This paper presents a macro-to-micro whole systems analysis of political, environmental and economic influences making perturbations such as the Enron Scandal of 2001 possible. Still considered the largest willful corporate scandal of the century, self-interest and hubris destroyed economies, ecologies, retirements and lives. Looking back, Reaganomics and deregulation were logical, if not predictable, outcomes of a conservative generational pendulum swing. Today (2017), Jeff Skilling, CEO of Enron Corporation at the time of its fall, is released from prison. And just at a time when conservative views are calling, again, for the deregulation of banks and the erosion of watchful environmental policy. The policy work done to safeguard us against incidents like Enron are viewed as excessive and unnecessary. Those who don’t know history are doomed to repeat it (Edmund Burke). Those who can’t identify the complexity circumstances distinguishing arbitrage opportunities from coincidence are just plain doomed. Perhaps it’s time to develop tools to better understand this generational twenty-year-lag as a function of a larger society’s organismal act of survival.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Darla V. Lindberg is a registered architect, entrepreneur and a Professor of Architecture in the Department of Architecture at The Pennsylvania State University. She’s the first woman in the over 100-year history of the department to be tenured and promoted and then to be promoted to Full Professor. She recently held a two-year Endowed Chair of Design Innovation for her work in systems dynamics as it affects thesis thinking in design. She also gave a TED talk on the invitation, “What motivates influential people?” and chronicled living into a way of systems thinking. She grew up on a 1500-acre grain farm in North Dakota where, as natural systems farmers, life and living were both seamless and expansive. Imbedded intelligences gained through experiencing the interrelated systems of weather, crops, wildlife, lifestyle, and community and take time and investment. Located in the middle of the Bakken Shale, one of the largest oil developments in the U.S., she witnessed the horrors of coal strip mining in that powerfully productive landscape. Not surprisingly, her undergraduate architectural thesis tackled environmentalism, strip coal mining, land reclamation, and corporate greed in the design of a Scheduled and Unscheduled Maintenance Facility and Headquarters for North American Coal Corporation.