* * * READ ME FIRST * * *

It's now Summer 2024 and we've just kicked off the second cohort of the Summer of Protocols program. As we work on this Kit track to finish publishing the first cohort's research, on the new cohort track we're reflecting on what's fundamentally unfinished about it. One of the reasons we picked a 3-ring binder as the form factor for publishing is that it viscerally conveys the eternally unfinished nature of any live field of study. The 2024 cohort is building on the work of the 2023 cohort to explore best practices for improving existing protocols, exploring emerging protocol domains, and evangelizing protocols. You can follow the action at forum.summerofprotocols.com.*

The theme of this fourth mailer is the social science of protocols. Our two anchor essays, *The Swarm and the Formation* by Rafael Fernández and *Unprotocolized Knowledge* by Kara Kittel and Toby Shorin, both explore the social processes of inhabiting protocols, turning systems of rules and automation into living, breathing entities. Supporting these essays, we have a short piece by Steve Powers called *Protocolized Economics*. Finally, we have a fascinating bit of speculative fiction about artificial life on blockchains.

You will also find further installments of our various ongoing series, workshop materials you can use to organize discussions and activities, and a tabletop game by Mashal Waqar called *Protocol Party*.

Now that you have more than half the kit in your hands, with a mix of reading material and material to support activities, how about pulling together an event of some sort?

The SoP team is organizing two workshops over the summer, one in Singapore on regional governance protocols and a Protocol Week in Healdsburg, California, as part of the Edge Esmeralda** pop-up city experiment.

We'd love to see more such events being organized around the world, so if you are considering something like this, and need some support, reach out. We'll be happy to ship out extra copies of any mailer materials that suit your particular idea.

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* forum.summerofprotocols.com
** www.edgeesmeralda.com

Protocol**Kit**