

Might Zak Polanski provide a moment (or more) of hope?

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Zack Polanski [has emphatically won](#) the Green Party leadership with over 20,000 votes, compared to fewer than 4,000 for his rivals.

As readers here will know, I don't do party politics, and although Caroline Lucas has been a long-term friend of mine, for almost 20 years now, she never persuaded me to become a member of the Greens any more than other leaders of that party, including Jonathan Porritt and Natalie Bennett, both of whom I know, have ever done. So why comment on Zach Polanski's election when, as yet, we have never met, although that is scheduled to change sometime later this month?

That is because, in my opinion, Green Party members have shown an appetite for change in this election. They have, for some time, been dissatisfied with leadership that has not sought to rock the boat economically, politically, or even in many cases with regard to climate-related issues. The past policy might be summarised as "softly, softly, win the election, but don't upset the electorate." This is not, as far as I can tell, what Zack Polanski is all about.

Zack is radical. He appears to be so economically. He is most certainly on the left politically. He is more than willing to be critical of Labour and Reform, although I hope he spends little time on the Tories, since they now appear to be something from the past. And, on climate, I strongly suspect that he is going to shout much more loudly than has been the case before about the need for radical action to address the failure to tackle climate change, which is now all too clearly the policy of Ed Miliband and the Labour Party, much to my disappointment.

I can also say, with certainty, that Zack knows what my economics are all about, because he has actively reTweeted them, for example, over quite a long period of time. Indeed, that is how I first became aware of him.

I cannot be sure as yet, but there is the prospect that he might be the first UK political party leader who not only really knows what Modern Monetary Theory is, but actually thinks it explains how the economy works. I am hoping so. If so, he really does

represent a break from the past. Caroline Lucas always acknowledged MMT to me, privately, but never had the confidence in her ability to discuss economics to do so publicly. I am seriously hoping that the times are changing.

That is necessary.

This country needs radicalism.

It needs a left-of-centre political leader who has the courage to say what many people in this country believe.

Our planet needs someone to speak for it.

We need an economics which is soundly based, and which embraces the idea of care.

If Zack Polanski can deliver these things, then he is very good news.

If he is also willing to ask the Greens to work in cooperation with other left-of-centre parties to present viable platforms for election in the future, that is better still.

We know that Labour will not do these things. I sincerely hope that others who want to stand up against fascism will cooperate. Time will tell, but if we can build a narrative that shows that there is an alternative to the damage that Farage is deliberately creating, there might be just a glimmer of hope. I am allowing myself the luxury of thinking about that this afternoon.