

~30 years from now

What will you be doing?

What were you doing in 1988?

# What were you doing in ~1988?

- George HW Bush beat Michael Dukakis to be POTUSA.
- Floppy disks were a thing (a few years on from Windows 1.0).
- The Netherlands became the second country connected to the internet. (Australia still had a year to go.)
- Table tennis became an Olympic sport.
- Stephen Hawking released *A Brief History of Time*.
- Photoshop shipped (and I mean shipped) its first software.
- First World AIDS Day was held.
- NASA climate scientist James Hansen used the term 'global warming' in testimony to the United States Congress.
- The Morris worm was released, affecting about 10% of computers. It was the first worm to spread over the internet, and its author was the first convicted malware writer in history.
- World Expo 88 in Brisbane.
- In the US, CDs outsold vinyl records for the first time.
- World Population was ~ 5,070,000,000 (~9 billion in 2048).

# And in 2058?

- Poverty and hunger
- Global crises
- Technology
- Health and disease
- Planet, climate and environment
- Research and exploration
- Entertainment
- Geopolitics
- Human security

# And in 2058?

- How old will you be?
- Where will you live?
- Who is your family? Your community?
- Will you be working? What is work 30 years from now?
- What does life look like?
- What will you need?
- What do you use as transport? What do you eat? Wear? Use?
- How do you communicate?
- Do we travel? Where?
- How do we power our worlds?

- Opportunities vary by scenario – images of different futures
- Depiction not prediction
- There is no ‘one’ defined future.
- The craziest ideas of the future are often the most useful.
- Use different – longer – time horizons



Futures Thinking for Postnormal Times | Why Most Prediction Don't Come True

Nerd Nite  
10.6K subscribers

10

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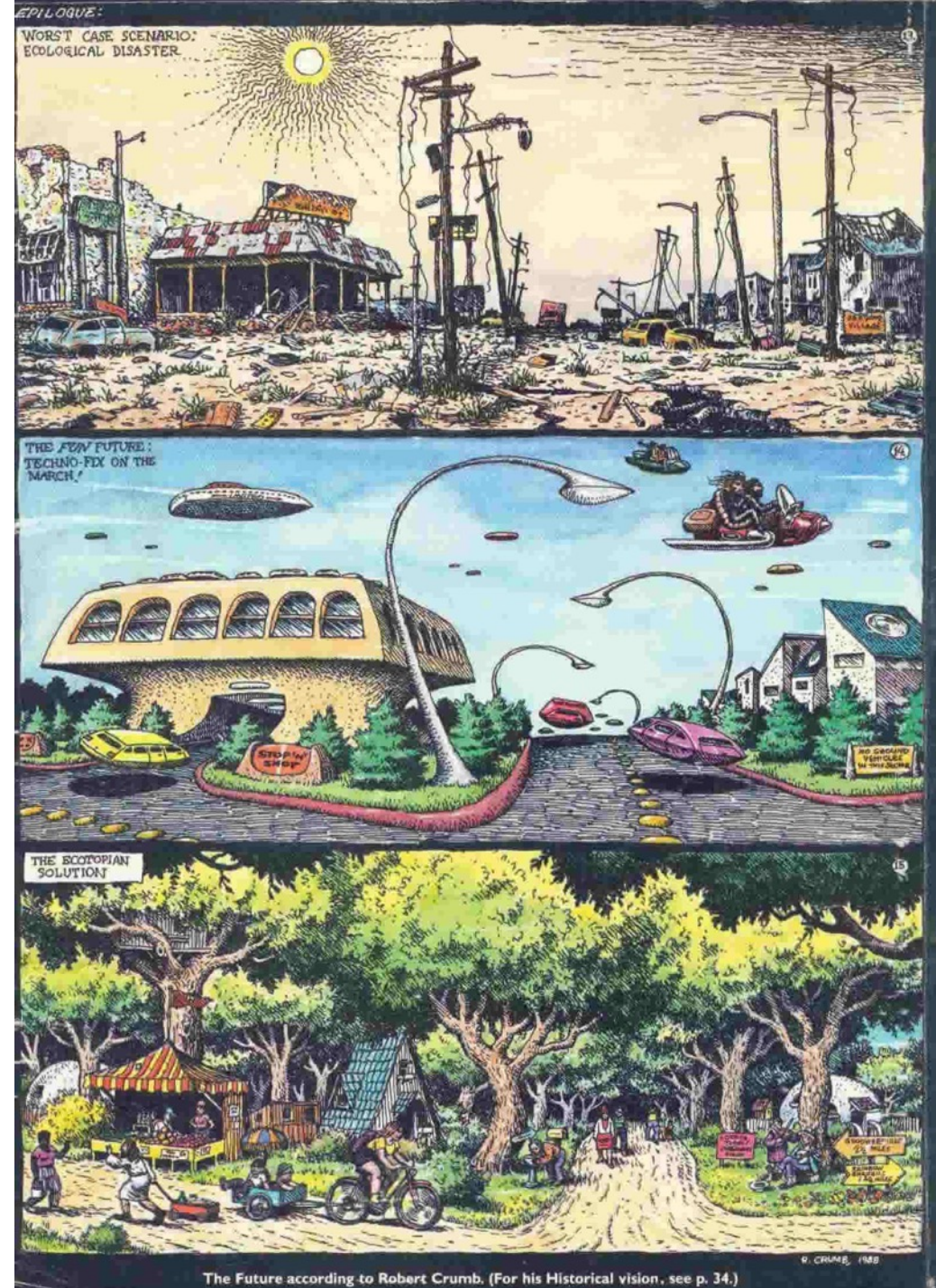
...

0:39 / 19:31 • Introduction >

Subscribed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31fEmEEQmn8>

# Let's Play with Futures...



# SITUATION LAB

## THE THING FROM THE FUTURE

The Thing From The Future is an **award-winning** imagination game that challenges players to collaboratively and competitively describe objects from a range of alternative futures.

We are currently **sold out** of this edition of The Thing From The Future. Stay tuned for more updates about future releases. In the meantime, check out the free, **downloadable Print-and-Play edition**.

### GAMEPLAY OVERVIEW

The object of the game is to come up with the most entertaining and thought-provoking descriptions of hypothetical objects from different near-, medium-, and long-term futures. Each round, players collectively generate a creative prompt by playing a card game. This prompt outlines the kind of future that the thing-to-be-imagined comes from, specifies what part of society or culture it belongs to, describes the type of object that it is, and suggests an

### RULES OF THE GAME

#### SETUP

Gather game cards, blank index cards, and pens. Shuffle the cards and deal out 12 to each player. Set the deck aside. Before the first card is played, the dealer should state how long players will have to generate ideas for this round (usually 2-5 minutes). If players are new to the game, the dealer may wish to allow slightly more time for the first round or two.



# Choose your cards



ARC

+



TERRAIN

+



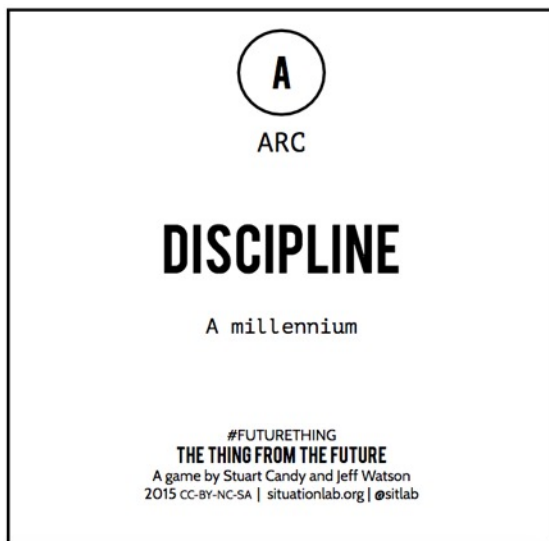
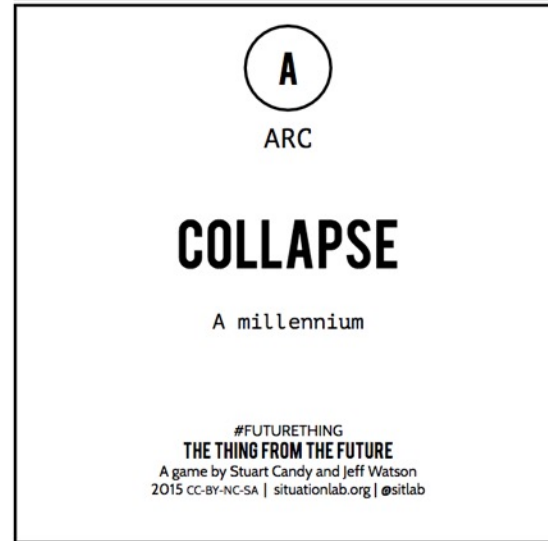
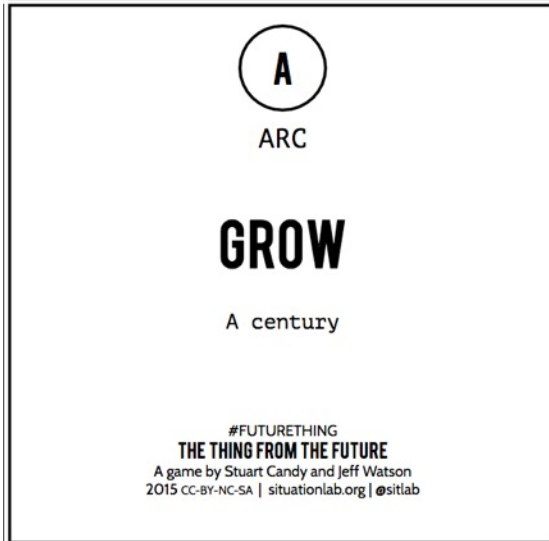
OBJECT

+



MOOD

# The Plot

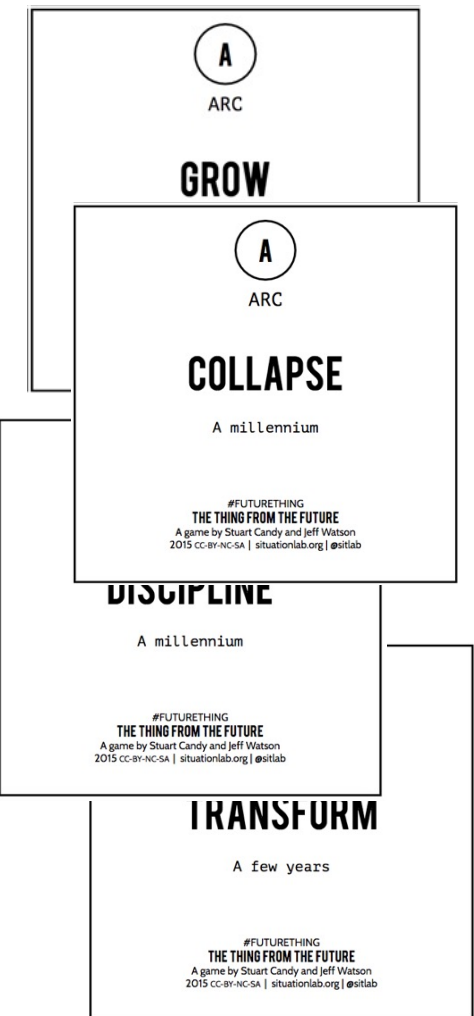


**Grow** is a kind of future in which everything and everyone keeps climbing: population, production, consumption...

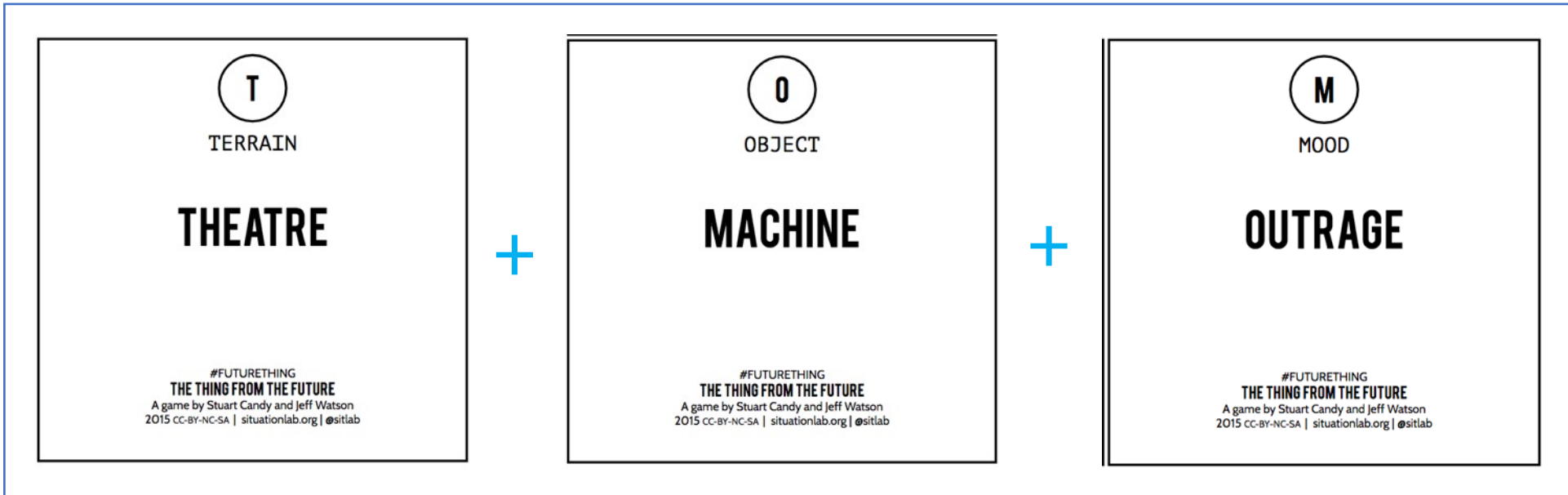
**Collapse** is a kind of future in which life as we know it has fallen – or is falling – apart.

**Discipline** is a kind of future in which things are carefully managed by concerted coordination, perhaps top-down or perhaps collaboratively.

**Transform** is a kind of future in which a profound historical transition has occurred, whether spiritual or technological in nature.



+



**TERRAIN** cards describe *contexts, places, and topic areas*. In a completed prompt, the terrain card describes where – physically or conceptually – the thing from the future might be found.

**OBJECT** cards describe the *basic form* of the thing from the future

**MOOD** cards describe *emotions* that the thing from the future might evoke in an observer from the present.

# Imagine a future...

**THE THING FROM THE FUTURE** #FutureThing @sitlab

1) YOUR CARDS

ARC	TERRAIN	OBJECT	MOOD
_____ _____			

2) DESCRIPTION

3) SKETCH

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reflect on the game

imagining futures. Daring

What did we do?

Utopia and dystopian co-exist.

# Useful framing

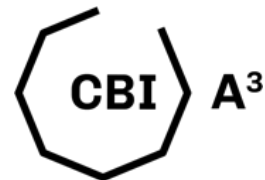
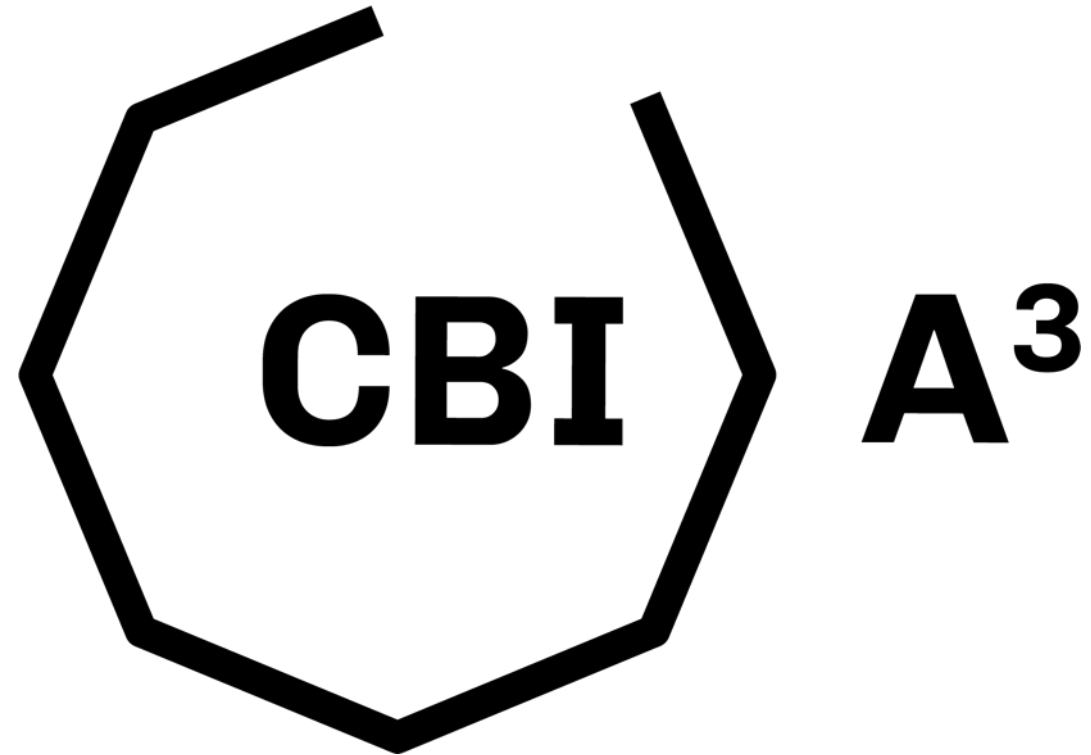
A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at the Milky Way galaxy, which stretches across the sky from the bottom center towards the top. The stars are numerous and bright, creating a dense field of light. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a focus on the cosmic scale of the galaxy.

Can you imagine?

... a world where...

... what if...

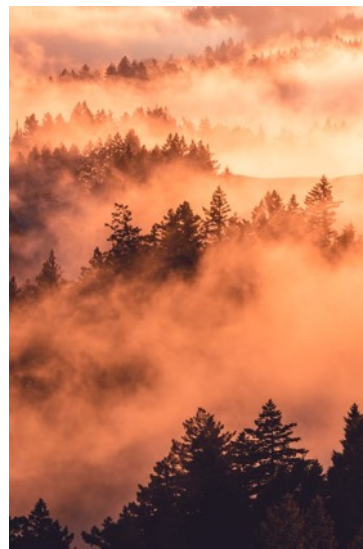
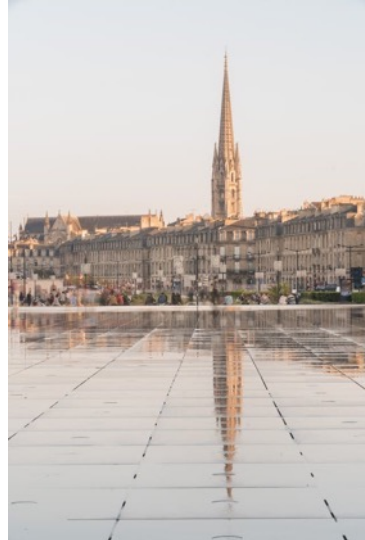
# Drawing Inspiration from Futures











# Scan for trends + signals



Past

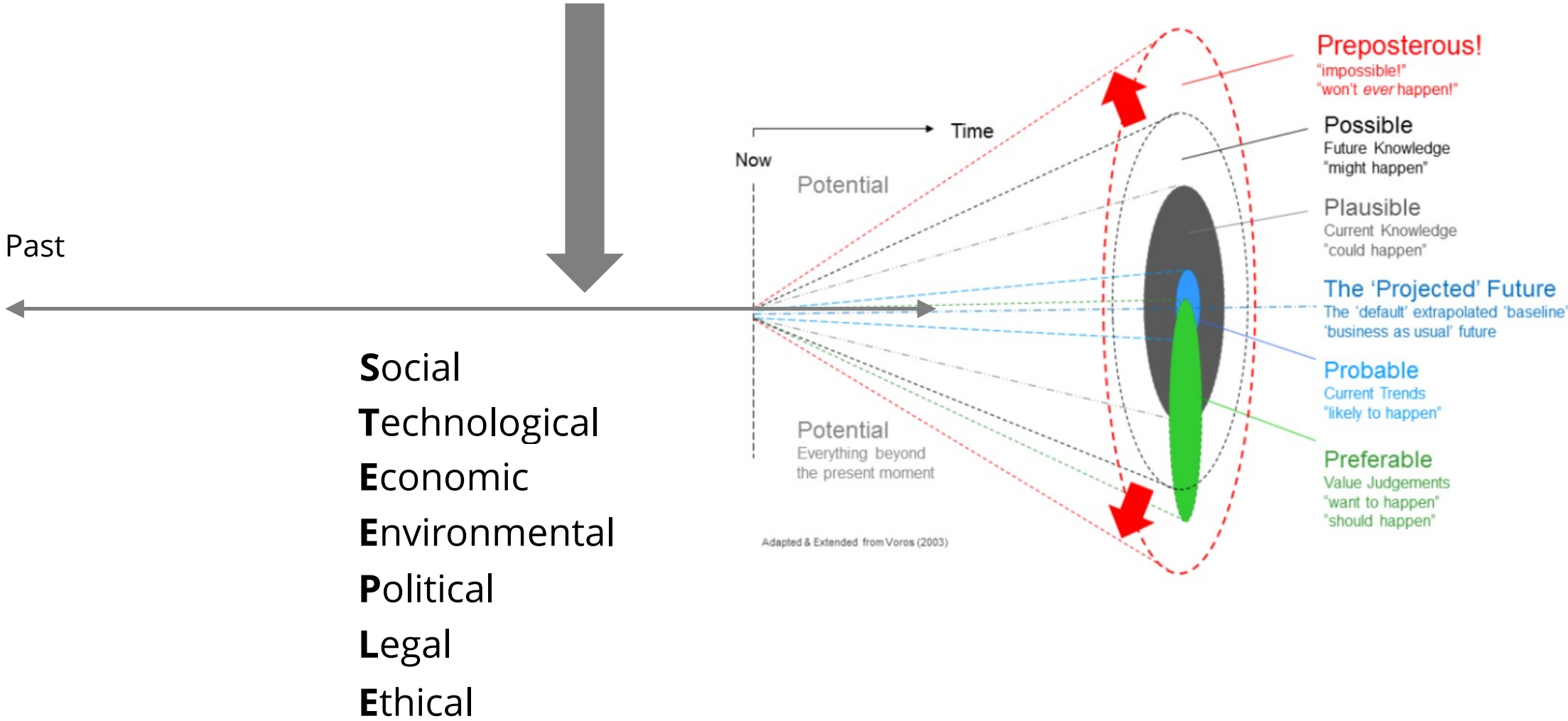
Now



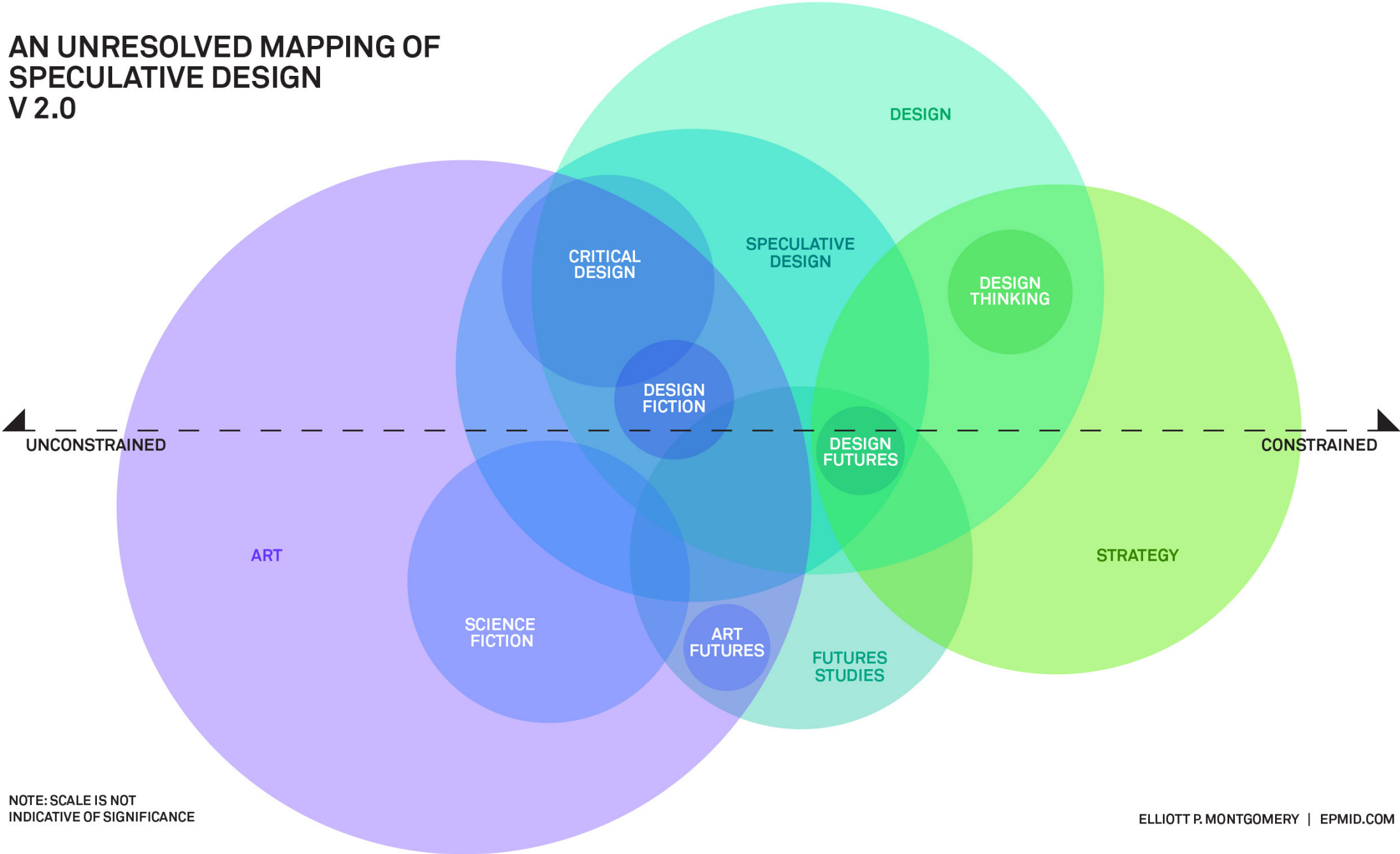
- S**ocial
- T**echnological
- E**conomic
- E**nvironmental
- P**olitical
- L**egal
- E**thical

# Multiple potential future scenarios

## Scan for trends + signals



# AN UNRESOLVED MAPPING OF SPECULATIVE DESIGN V 2.0



NOTE: SCALE IS NOT  
INDICATIVE OF SIGNIFICANCE

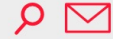
# Speculative design

<https://superflux.in/index.php/work/mitigation-of-shock/#>



FILTERS

MENU



PROJECTS

A pragmatic experiment practicing hope for a future disrupted by climate change.



## MITIGATION OF SHOCK (LONDON) ×

COMMISSIONER  
SUNCORP,  
CENTRE DE  
CULTURA  
CONTEMPORÀNIA  
DE BARCELONA

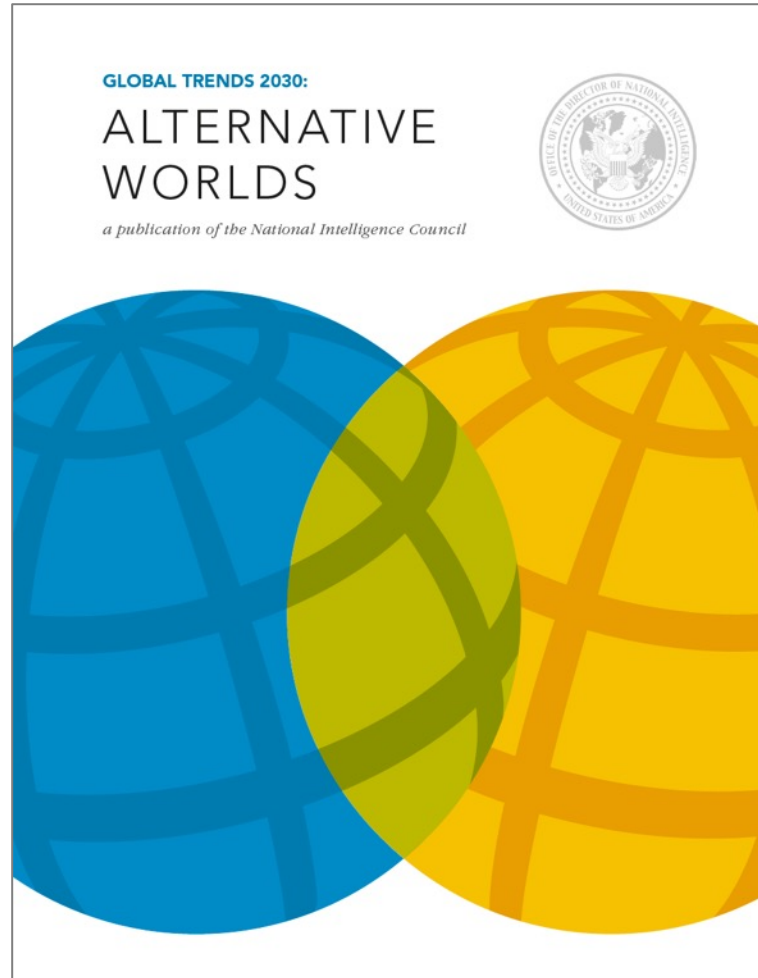
PROJECT LEAD  
JON ARDERN

PROJECT TEAM  
ANAB JAIN, MAËL  
HÉNAFF,  
MIKHAELA  
DIETCH, JON  
FLINT, VYTAUTAS  
JANKAUSKAS,  
JAKE CHARLES  
REES, ALIX  
MCCABE,  
DANIELLE  
KNIGHT, NICOLA  
FERRAO,  
MATTHEW  
EDGSON

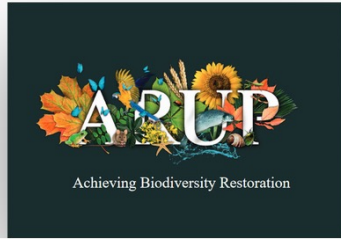
YEAR  
2017-2019

Take a tour around a future London apartment radically adapted for living with the consequences of climate change. One of the inhabitants shares their personal experience of adjusting to a world transformed by food insecurity and climate extremities at home, and in their local community.

# Future Scenarios



# ARUP – International Architecture + Urban Design



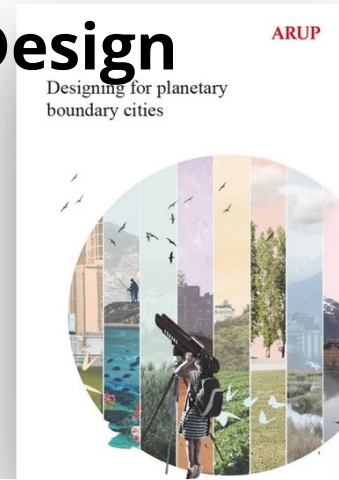
Achieving biodiversity restoration



Future of Urban Logistics



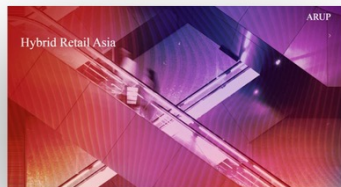
Reimagining the future of transport across Asia and the Pacific



Designing for planetary boundary cities



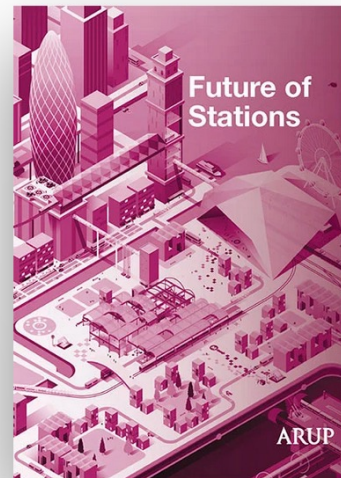
Exploring sustainable food systems



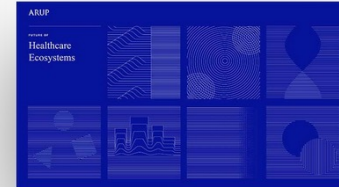
Hybrid Retail Asia



It's Alive: a vision for tall buildings in 2050



Future of Stations



Future of Healthcare Ecosystems



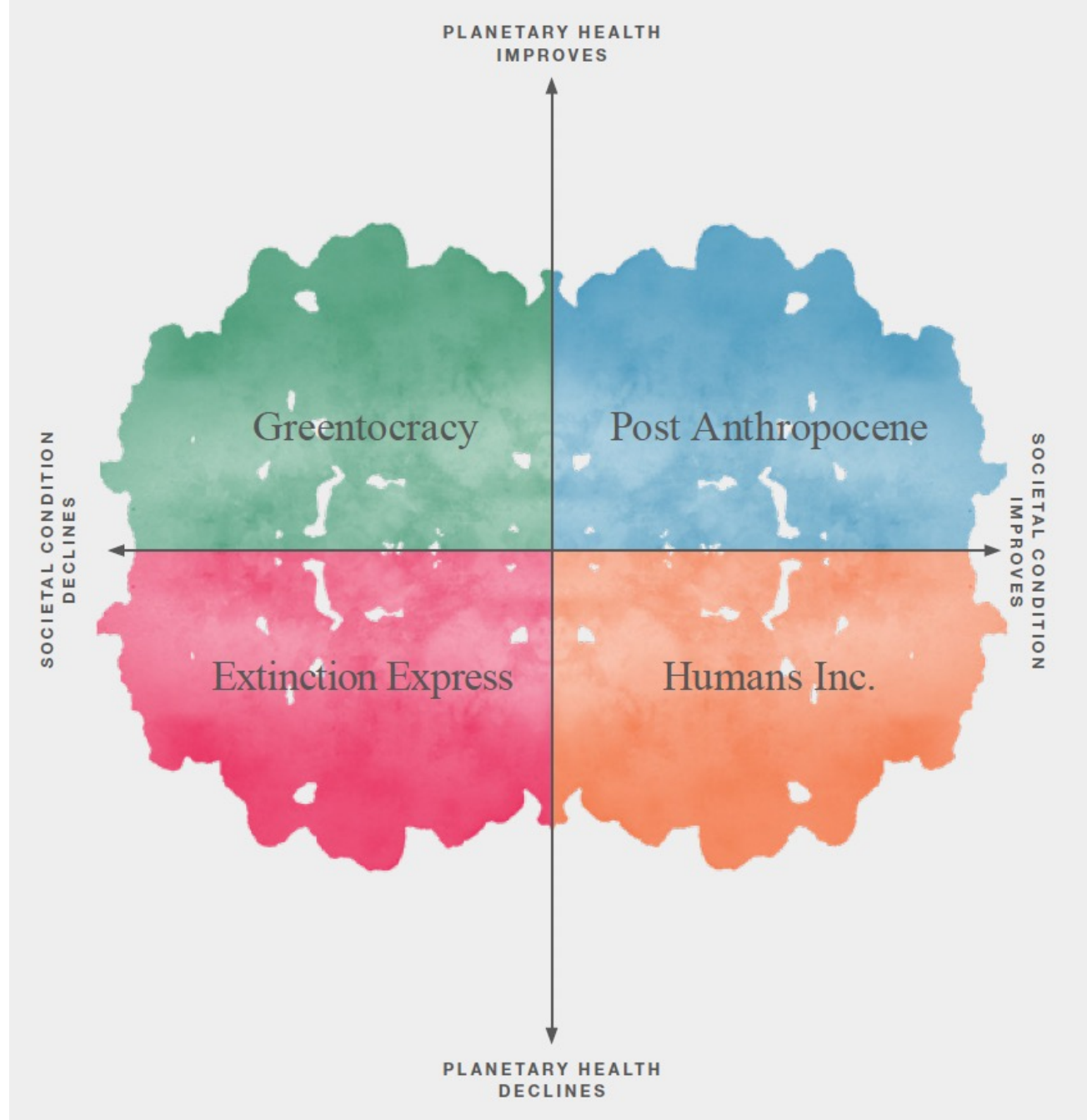
Rethinking transport finance and funding

<https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/all/foresight>



# 2050 Scenarios: four plausible futures



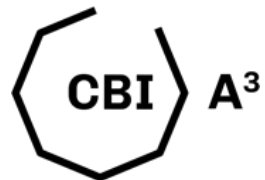
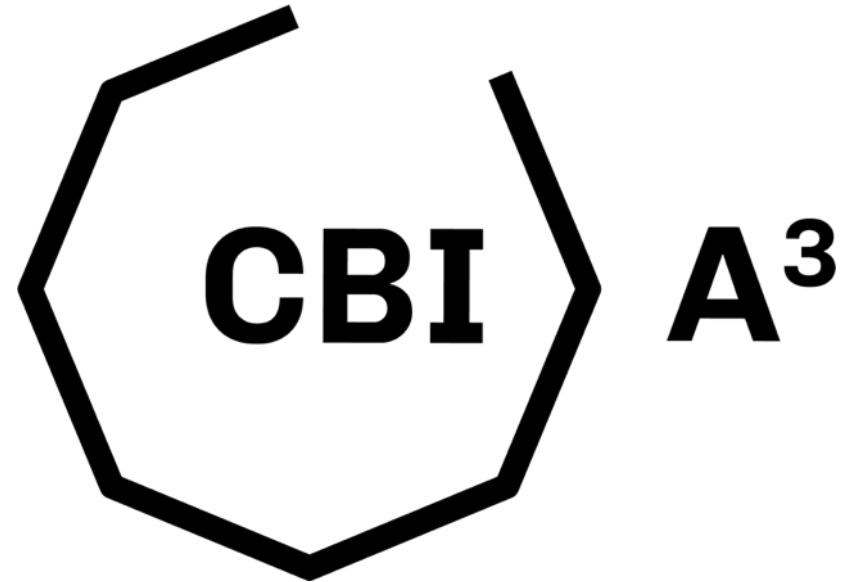




So, what will the world of 2050 look like?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waeysF6h6po>

# Team Switch



# 'World café' team switch



Cross cultural perspectives

Varied working styles

Rapid idea generation

New working experiences

Different thinking towards your projects

# *'World café'* team switch

2 x 45 minute rounds



# 1. Define challenge goal (~5 mins)

Select 1 x new HMW + opportunity card

Decide on the 2 team members who will stay with the table  
(round 1 & round 2)

## 2. World Café Switch (2 x 45 mins)

### **Each round:**

Each mixed team must have 1 original member

Everyone else, switch it up!

You will come up with ideas for the HMW's + the future scenario we will give you.



## 2. World Café Switch (2 x 45 mins)

### **Each round:**

20 mins, generate ideas + 5 minutes, select an idea

10 mins, prototype 1 idea

10 mins, present back

Ready?... Lets go!



# 1. Define challenge goal (~5 mins)

Select 1 x new HMW + opportunity card

Decide on the 2 team members who will stay with the table  
(round 1 & round 2)

# Round 1. ideation

## Greentocracy

1 of ARUP's 2050 Scenarios, Dec 2019

9.5bn  
global population



high wealth gap

1.5°C  
increase



medium global  
cooperation



stable weather

97%  
clean energy

- land regeneration, premium on space
- restricted access to nature
- extreme urban densification, 8m<sup>2</sup> per person
- DEY - Do Everything Yourself, extreme up cycling culture
- coffee + meat with strict allowances, reliant on synthetic food sources - 3d printed proteins



# Round 2.

9.9bn  
global population



low wealth gap

2.0°C  
increase



high global  
cooperation



extreme weather

35%  
clean energy

## Humans Inc.

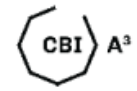
1 of ARUP's 2050 Scenarios, Dec 2019

- business as usual 2020 lifestyle
- broad spread environmental degradation
- economic development + societal wellbeing prioritised over environment
- token effort for sustainable carbon footprints + food production
- life expectancy increased, mortality decreased
- extreme weather and climate conditions prevail



# IDEA NAPKIN:

↶ Name your idea here!



Describe your idea in one sentence:

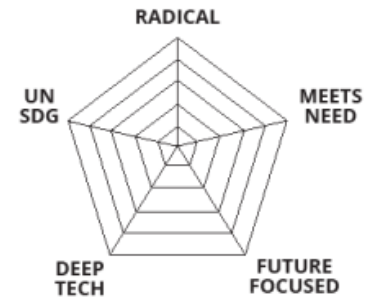
- Visualise your idea. Draw it, map it, diagram it. What are the different components or aspects of the idea?
- Show the idea in context. Sketch how your idea solves the defined issue/problem.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted border, intended for drawing or sketching the idea.

How does the idea work in more detail? What issue does your idea solve?

What are the benefits to the user and other stakeholders?

What is the point of difference?



CREATORS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Who was the super awesome creator of this idea?!