Multiverse Thinking
Why Multiverse? First answer, you will see a second one later more elaborated

Inspired by the Many Worlds Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics

Anything that can happen does happen...

...in multiple parallel universes.
The Multiverse Thinking (MT) Framework

- Option Thinking
- Multiverse Thinking
- System Thinking
- Combinatorial Thinking

Venn Diagram showing the intersection of different thinking frameworks.
The MT Main Characteristics

• Starting on how the World is today it focuses on (far) future scenarios.

• **Social Constructs** and **Resources** are taken as methodologic building blocks.

• Scenario building uses today as starting point and imagines the future by combinatorically relating **Social Constructs** with **Resources**.

• This relationship (tension) provides the transformative specs for a not yet existing technology.

• Technology is interesting only if it is transformative of scenarios (feasibility is not an issue).

• Technology options are formulated based on modes of production, distribution, consumption and revenue in conventional and unconventional ways.
  
  • Conventional ways: potentially legal or socially accepted ways for production, distribution, consumption and revenue in a future scenario.

  • Unconventional ways: potentially not legally or socially accepted ways (e.g. distribution through a dark internet in the future, piracy, etc) in a future scenario.
The MT process steps

1. Building Block Selection
2. Scenario Building
3. Transition Identification
4. Technology Formulation
5. Conceptual Prototype
Building Block Selection: **Social Constructs** and the **Resources** as building blocks

Social Constructs: an idea that has been created and accepted by the people in a society.

Resources: sources of supply or support.

Money
Democracy
Poverty
Property rights
Free Market
Freedom of Expression
Family
Job
Salary....

Energy
Population
Data
Capital
Labor
Water
Food
Education....
Scenario Building (1): Scarcity, Absence and Abundance as options

Social Construct Scenarios
- Scarcity
- Absence
- Abundance

Resources Scenarios
- Scarcity
- Absence
- Abundance
Scenario Building (2): Scenarios Canvas

**Social Constructs vs Resources**

- **Abundance**
- **Scarcity**
- **Absence**

**Resources vs Resources**

- **Abundance**
- **Scarcity**
- **Absence**

**Social Constructs vs Social Constructs**

- **Abundance**
- **Scarcity**
- **Absence**
Scenario Building (3): Scenario Canvas

Social Constructs vs Resources

Freedom of Expression
- Abundance
- Scarcity
- Absence

Data
- Absence
- Scarcity
- Abundance

Scenario Building starts with the world as it is today.

...scarcity of Freedom of Expression and abundance of Data (data is an abundant resource today)

If the world were a village of 100 people

Example
Scenario Building (4): Scenario Canvas

Social Constructs vs Resources

Freedom of Expression

Abundance  

Scarcity

Absence

Data

This is the scenario we imagine

Scarcity of Data creates scarcity of Freedom of Expression
Transition Identification: Example (1)

But this is the scenario where we would like to be in

Abundance of Data creates Abundance of Freedom of Expression

The goal of MT is to propose a scope of technologies enabling the Transition
The reverse situation is also possible should the scenario we would imagine is Abundance/Abundance. The goal of MT would be then to propose a scope of technologies to avoid the Transition.
Now, we know what our transformative technology should enable:

It should lead to and keep a social status quo with abundance of data and abundance of freedom of expression.
## Technology Formulation: Technology Formulation Canvas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Modes of Production</th>
<th>Modes of Distribution</th>
<th>Modes of Consumption</th>
<th>Modes of Revenue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conventional</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconventional</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conceptual Prototype

- Since MT focuses on (far) future scenarios with envisioned not yet available transformative technologies, prototypes are conceived as conceptual compasses.

- The goal of prototyping is not instantiating a solution for a problem of today but envisioning a transformative technology not yet available considering the created scenarios.

- The Technology Formulation Canvas is taken as the specs of the not yet available technology.

- The prototypes are elaborated using drawings, conceptual pictures, cardboard models, etc, (I call it Leonardo’s approach).

- Prototyping thus, fully departures fro the orthodox Design Thinking methodology which considers feasibility; in MT feasibility is not an issue.
Why Multiverse? Second answer

The practitioner decides the level of complexity to implement MT by:

Deciding how many Social Constructs and Resources building blocks she/he wants to consider.

Deciding how many scenarios she/he wants to combinatorically consider (e.g. only one like scarcity/scarcity, or comparing three scenarios simultaneously like scarcity/abundance vs abundance/scarcity vs abundance/abundance, etc).

Deciding how many comparisons between both she/he wants to make (e.g. Social Construct vs Resources only or Social Construct vs Resources AND Social Construct vs Social Construct, etc).

In other words...the practitioner decides how many universes to create and the dimensionality of those!!! That is why “Multiverse”
Background slides
GLOBAL VILLAGE 100 PEOPLE

- 63 are adults
- 47 are starving all or most of the time
- need most of the day to get water
- 17% nuclear power
- 73% fossil fuels
- 10% renewable energy
- 10% have no electricity
- 24 have no electricity
- 10 have less than $2 a day
- 10 have more than $87,500 per year
- 13 of them work
- 6 of them work
- 1 Jew
- 11 Other
- 13 Hindus
- 21 Muslims
- 33 Christians
- Buddhists
- Atheists