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Utopian imaginaries and practices

Apocalyptic fiction, dystopian science fiction, serious reports and publications on multiple crises and worse disasters to come, plus news on terrible things all the time, create an atmosphere of fear, hopelessness and powerlessness.

While “smart” futures of tech driven convenience and control are created and heavily propagated by big tech – hiding that this very probably leads to convenience and control for the elites only. At the same time narrations and imaginaires from nationalist and extreme right forces are gaining more and more traction. They offer oversimplified and dangerous, but for many people attractive answers to the multiple crises and presumed threats, and to the feeling of fear going along with it.

Where are the visions, narrations and imaginaires of good life for all? Designers, movie makers, photographers, writers and other storytellers together with all kind of engaged people can co-create concrete utopias of inclusive, open and sustainable societies, which are inspiring and motivating. They can (co-)design environments, where people can imagine, experience and experiment such futures. Positive future trajectories motivate, reinstall hope and the ability to “do something” now.

The talk makes the arguments tangible by showing examples, both for dangerous future narrations and progressive ones. It also goes back in history pointing to diverse utopic narrations, and discusses risks and potentials of the different approaches. It ends with some with a list promising key qualities and action items for the (co-)creation of future narrations and utopian practices in the present.

Format

This talk can be done as a short lightning talk of about 10-20 min or also as a full blown lecture of 40-60 min. I am open to adapt it, so it fits well into the overall flow of the conference.

Slot

It could fit into: *What world do we want to live in? The very big questions! / belief in technology - technophilia - technocracy*

Language

I can do the talk in English or in German

Optional Workshop

The talk could be followed by a creative workshop, where groups of participants outline future narrations together, discuss them, and try to figure out how those could be continued and to some degree become part of each ones (daily) practice.