



Con il patrocinio della
Commissione Nazionale Italiana
per l'UNESCO



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy
Department of Sociology
and Social Research

Images of the Futures Taken Literally

Open Time | Applied Futures Research



kenniscentrum



IMAGES OF THE FUTURES

- / ...are the central subject matter of futures studies.
(Dator, 2002)
- / ...have long been understood to impact significantly on the development of cultures and societies. (Polak, 1972)
- / ...are **usually thought of as concepts or ideas**, rather than as pictorial (two or three-D) representations of futures or as symbolization.

EXAMPLE

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE ON TELEVISION

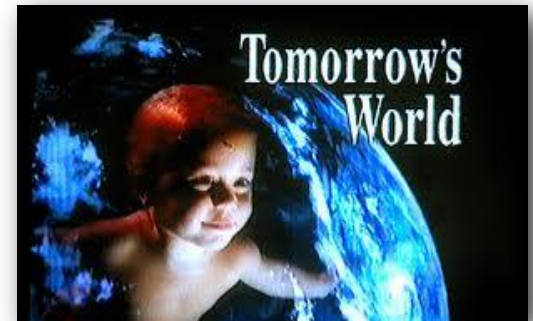
A content analysis and production study of **representations** of the future in Britain in the mid-nineties. University of Westminster, London, 2001



Red Dwarf, BBC Two, Dave, 1988 - 2012



STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION



Tomorrow's World. BBC1, 1965-2003

EXAMPLE

AGENCE FUTURE



- / 382 conversations
- / 30 months
- / 27 countries
- / 5 continents
- / 2 bikes
- / 1 semi-structured interview schedule

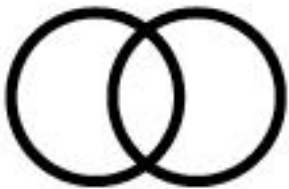
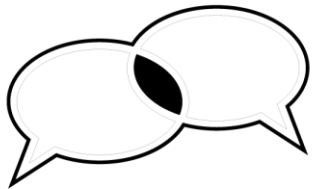


EXAMPLE

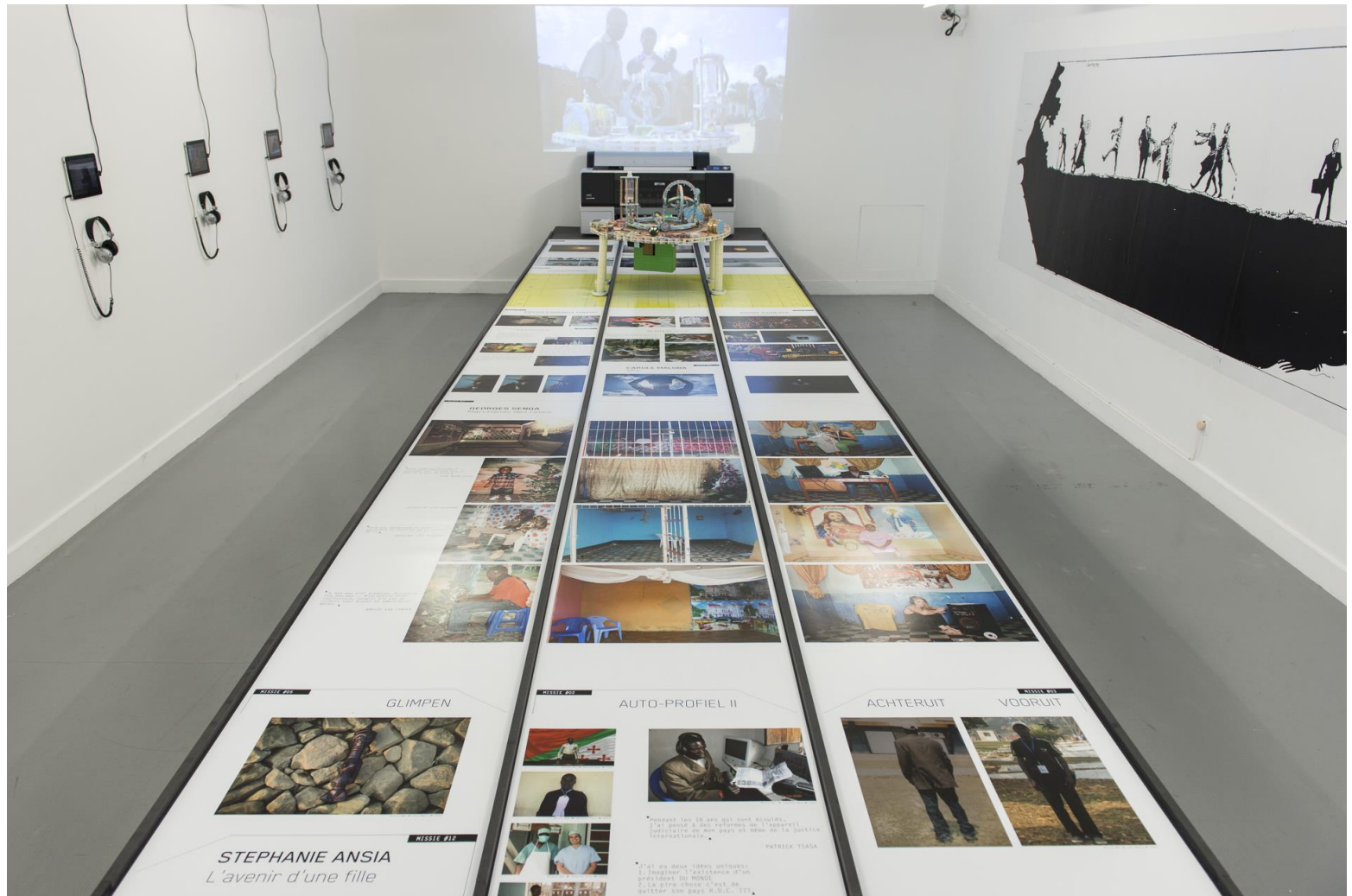
MAONO 0201234



A ROADBOOK WITH 21 MISSIONS



EXHIBITIONS ON CAMPUS AND AT M HKA



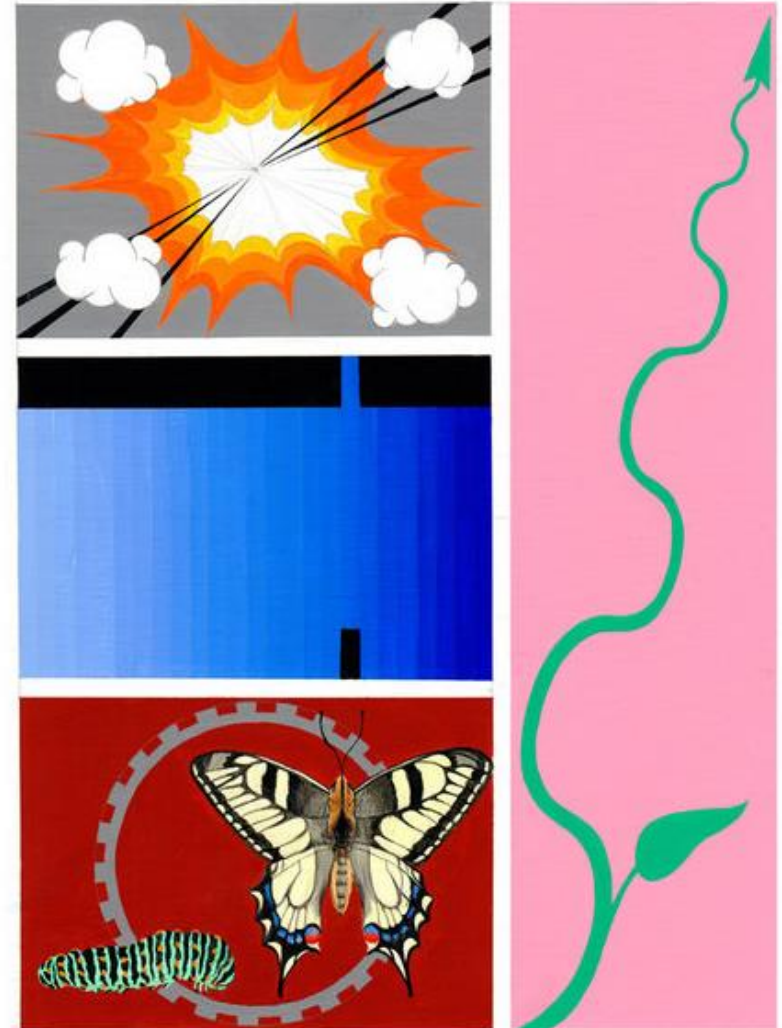
EXAMPLE

A TEMPORARY FUTURES INSTITUTE

Museum of Contemporary Art of Antwerp

- / 4 generic alternative images of the future as structuring principle
- / 4 futurists
- / 9 artists
- / 5 months
- / 1 conference

An embodiment of futures thinking that creates a whole other kind of futures awareness and supports futures literacy



DESIGN DEVELOP TRANSFORM CONFERENCE @ATFI

EXAMPLE

THE TOYNBEE CONVECTOR EXPERIMENTS

ORDER YOUR IMAGES OF THE FUTURE

Acquire unique still images.
Send our time-travelling photographer to any future of your choosing.
This month's time horizon : 2040!

Limited offer!

DESCRIBE IN A SINGLE PHRASE THE IMAGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE

BEINGS

no people
 one person
 two people
 a small group
 a lot of people

Specifically:
Other beings:

OBJECTS

no particular object
 no objects
 one object
 several objects
 a lot of objects

Specifically:

ENVIRONMENT

Should a specific environment appear in your image?
(for example: natural, urban, industrial, forest, lake, mountain, river, street, sea, village, the moon, ...)

no particular environment
 a specific environment:

STRUCTURE

Should a specific building or structure appear in your image?
(for example: hospital, bridge, tent, hut, dam, stadium, tunnel, station, motorway, tower...)

no particular structure
 a specific structure:

CONTACT DETAILS

Name :
Affiliation :
Email :

I wish to stay informed on Agence Future projects.
 I give Agence Future permission to reproduce parts of this order form for publication in any form or medium and in any time zone.**

ACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Should a specific action or activity appear in your image ?

no particular action or activity
 no action or activity
 a specific action or activity:

DOMAIN

Should a specific domain appear in your image? (for example: politics, household, medicine, tourism, leisure, science, ...)

no particular domain
 a specific domain:

INTENDED USE *

How do you intend to use your image?
Where might you show it? Is it related to a specific project you are involved in?
Any additional requirements?
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

- / Prague 2005, Taipei 2015
- / One time traveling photographer
- / Expert participants
- / Seventy orders, 40 responses

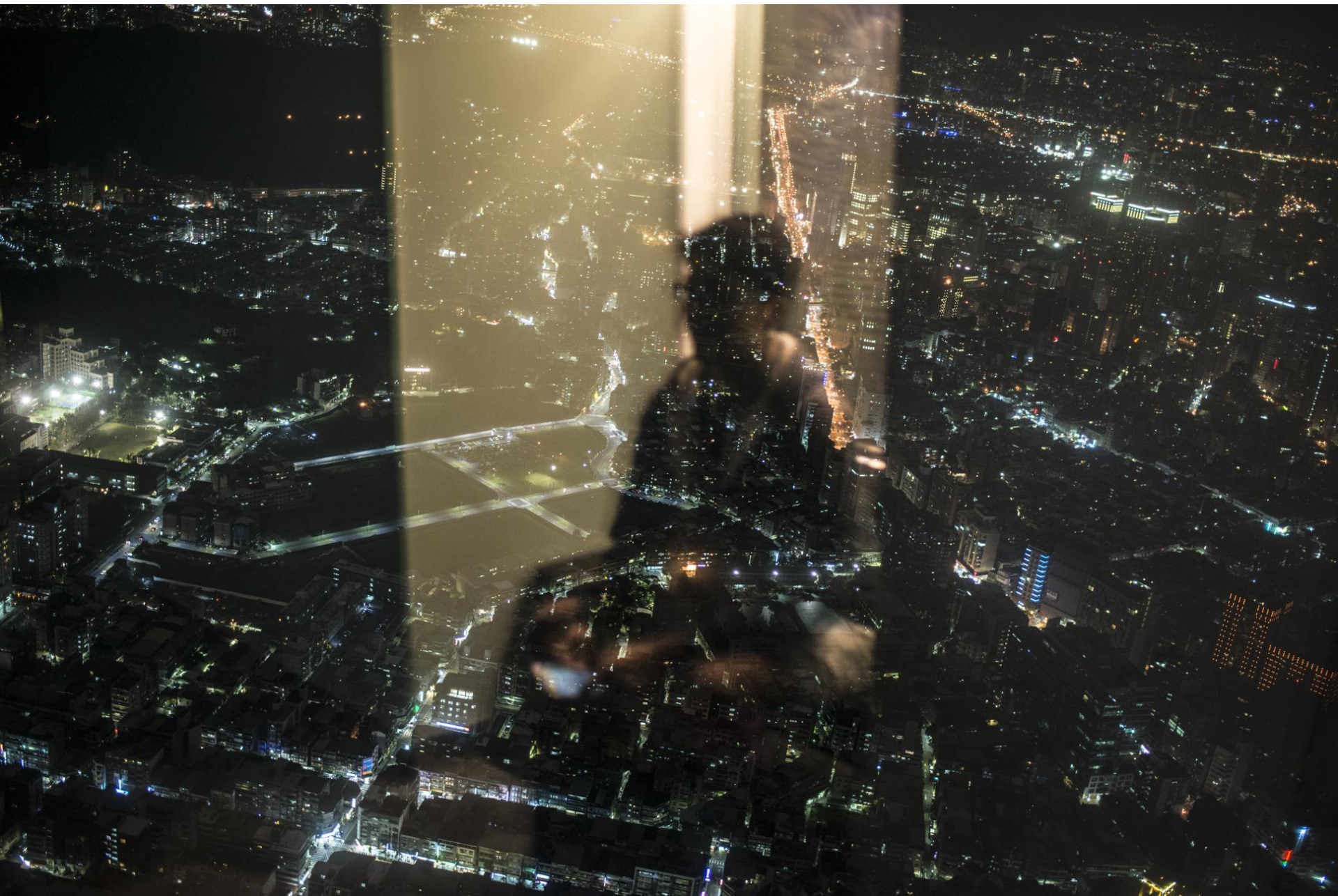
- / Trials with two student groups

Visualizing conceptualizations of the future(s) is an enormous challenge, in particular for experts...

















OUTERSPACE

www.outerspace.com.tw



LEARNINGS

- / How images communicate
- / How we code and decode images of the futures
- / How we (can/could) depict futures
- / How visual or media rich approaches to futures work, what they can do and what they can't do

- / Close attention to images, pictures and design is needed in futures studies and discipline of anticipation => focus on **Media, Arts and Design approaches**



WHAT WE ARE STUDYING NOW

- / MAD approaches for supporting **futures literacy** and social capacities for **anticipation**
- / MAD approaches for **emergence**
- / MAD approaches for **interdisciplinarity**
- / MAD approaches for **inclusivity** and working with extended peer communities
- / MAD approaches for **action oriented** work that benefits the groups, businesses, organizations, communities and groups that use them



Organizzazione
delle Nazioni Unite
per l'Educazione,
la Scienza e la Cultura

Con il patrocinio della
**Commissione
Nazionale Italiana**
per l'UNESCO



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair
in Anticipatory Systems



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy
Department of Sociology
and Social Research

Thank you

www.agencefuture.org

www.erasmushogeschool.be

www.muhka.be/programme/detail/660-a-temporary-institute-of-futures-studies

www.ddtconference.org