



ISTANBUL
 INNOVATION
 DAYS

#NextGenGov

Economic Science Fiction Zone
 of Experimentation
 Edgeryders Research Network

Tuesday 26 November 2018





WELCOME TO Economic Science Fiction Zone of Experimentation

Does 'science fiction' writing point to alternative ways of organizing resources and building new, just economic systems? What can we learn from speculative fiction about potential future economics? The session provides a platform and fertile environment for the exploration of the economic ideas in science fiction. We explore the pairing between science fiction speculation and economic theory. What is already happening? What can be seen in the data? How does engaging this lens open up innovative ways of implementing new economic and development strategies?

PANEL DISCUSSION and Q&A

Featuring Alberto Cottica, Malka Older and Raffaele Miniaci

A 3-way conversation and deep dive into the world of EconSciFi. What are the key principles that make up Econ SciFi? We build our discussion around the fundamental interplay between pairs of social and economic concepts all drawn from the pages of contemporary science fiction:

Innovation and intellectual property rights
Reputation economies and gift economies
Automation of labor/ Labour Rights
Cultural, social and ecological reproduction

To what extent are these factors already in the real world data. Do we see these factors operating in what we do now? How do we scale these ideas into the wider economy? Have they already been attempted? If Yes, where?





<Orientations>

<Speculations>

<Applications>

IMMERSIVE EXPERIMENTS

Designed by anique yael vered with Alex Levene

The immersive experiments are offered as a kind of orienteering to Econ Sci Fi, opening space to translate speculation into application. Moving through three phases, you are given tools adaptable to different people-types and areas of interest in order to participate to the degree of your comfort. Designed to cultivate conditions conducive for collaborative and self-guided experimentation in and beyond the event, the immersive experiments bridge the possible with the pragmatic to unleash a new kind of probable.

< Orientations >

The Telling

Adapted from a technique developed by anique yael vered with Aaron Finbloom (The School of Making Thinking)

PART ONE: THE INHERITOR

Notice the path in tape on the floor. Begin walking along it at your own pace while being aware of the people around you.

Independently, think about **a component of Econ Sci Fi shared in the panel that resonates with the context of your work** (eg. Labour rights).

Consider some of the following, or if you wish, simply walk.

How is this component of Econ Sci Fi directly connected to your work?

Where might it manifest?

When does it manifest?

What do you do with it?

Who do you do it with?

Why is it important?

For example: Labour rights resonates with my team's work in addressing the labour market gap for young women in the MENA region. It's manifests through the intersection of legislative challenges, cultural norms and entrepreneurial skills in the young women associated to our actions.





<Orientations>

<Speculations>

<Applications>

< Orientations >

The Telling

PART 2: THE MAP MAKER

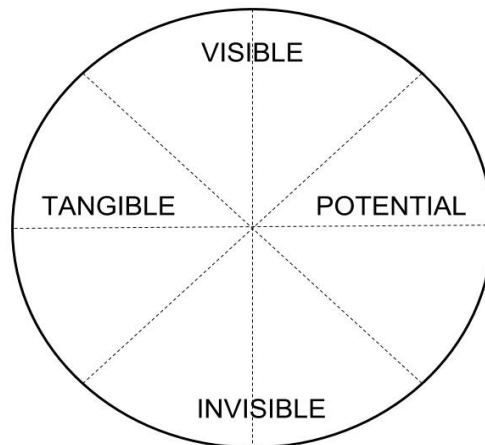
Continue walking along the pathway. **Find a partner or let one find you.**

With your partner **share the Econ Sci Fi component** that resonated and how. Or if you wish, simply walk.

Together, **use the compass below to observe how this component interacts with the broader economic, political, social, cultural and ecological context** of next generation governance.

Consider the features you encounter, the external forces at play and the scale.

For example: In my work I've seen that labour rights extend beyond places of work to impact the status of women in their communities as well as their own self-confidence. I'm beginning to realise that in addition to advocating for labour rights in the legislative and economic arenas, there are niche spaces - like the local hammam - where they can be addressed to shift systemic biases and build agency.



< Orientations > The Telling PART THREE: THE QUESTIONER

Find another group of 2.
Join forces.

As a group of 4 continue to walk along the pathway.

Share your insights. Begin to **provoke and question the component in the compass further**. Or if you wish, simply walk together.

For example:

What might it mean to stretch the boundaries of your work connected to this component?

Is this component truly important?

Who might be excluded from this activity? Who might be impacted?

Notes.

Series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.



<Orientations>

<Speculations>

<Applications>

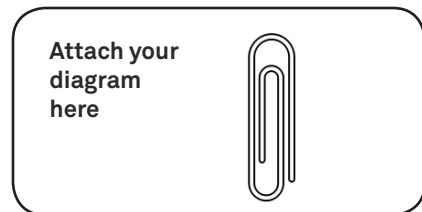
< Speculations >

Diagram hacking

via *Judith Leemann*

Perhaps part of the joy of this undertaking is the mis-use of someone else's carefully mapped detail. **It's the mis-fit that's productive here**, the lack of alignment of the systems being mapped against one another. In Econ Sci Fi it is offered as a **worldbuilding exercise to break down complex and seemingly impossible ideas into a joyful, emergent constellation.**

-to be itself hacked, cross-bred, translated, bent-



< Speculations >

Micro Fictions part two: Survival (taking Econ SciFi away)

Sci Fi offers us a vast wealth of easily understandable tropes, ideas, concepts and locations. The language of these ideas transcends geography and cultural identity.

With these tools we can reimagine problems that we face through the lens of a hundred different settings, creating a hundred different solutions.

Fictional realities act as a tool to co-write and co-imagine. Return to the post-it notes you made during **Micro Fictions part one**.

Select one each from your collection for each category:

Economic Concept

SciFi Trope

Speculative position (where does it take place?)

E.g.
Stateless nations without fiat currency
Cybernetic Enhancement
Deep space travel

Get creative! Write a micro fiction

How can you combine these three elements together to create a speculative fiction that encapsulates each of these elements?
How does this narrative open up new ideas for possibilities?

Use the page over to write your thoughts and creative ideas



MICROFICTION

Example Microfiction:

A small spaceship of lost survivors of a planetary eco-system collapse; they keep themselves alive in deep space through cybernetic enhancements, but these breakdown and they lack the resources to replace them. A marketplace grows up for parts and maintenance

When you've finished your short fiction find another participant and share your short story.

Consider any links to relevant concepts in current economic theory while you discuss your fictions.

NOTES



<Orientations>

<Speculations>

<Applications>

< Applications >

Collaborative ideation relay

An adaption of the Charette tool that emerged from architecture and was one of the earlier participatory techniques used with communities to get their input and ideas on development projects. Collaborators do not need to know each others' work nor be in the same team. A part of the beauty of this exercise is **the power of collective intelligence, the randomness of insight and that everyone has something to offer.**

STEP ONE

Think about a possible **idea for how to apply links between Econ Sci Fi and your work in next generation governance.** Keep it light - just a few sentences, or even go with a diagram if it feels easier.

For example: In one case we used a women's co-working space in Tunisia as way to respond to rural womens' entrepreneurship (see: Our Ghema, Medenine).



< Applications >

Collaborative ideation relay

STEP TWO

After 3 minutes hand this idea the person to your left. And receive the one from the person next to you. Now **with this new idea write the list of elements** that would be necessary to make that idea possible.

For example: a lease for a co-working space, women interested and available etc.

Notes.

Notes section containing ten horizontal dotted lines for writing.

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< Applications >

Collaborative ideation relay

STEP THREE

After another 3 minutes, hand the booklet to the person to your left and receive the next from the person to your right. Now, write **the actions that would be required for the elements to function.**

For example: approach local real-estate owners to get a lease, connect with womens' groups in rural areas etc.

Notes.





< Applications >

Collaborative ideation relay

STEP FOUR

3 minutes later and hand the booklet over one final time. With this new idea, you are now invited to write **a call to arms or manifesto for it**. This could become the seeds of a blog post for the idea holder, or perhaps something to be shared with colleagues, maybe even just a tweet and see what comes.

Notes.

Area with horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

ACROSS THE LINE

After 3 more minutes hand the booklet back to the original holder, take a moment to meet your idea's journey and consider thanking your fellows in the relay.





<DIY RITUALS>

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These small exercises are offered as a continuation of your Econ Sci Fi journey beyond the IIDs 2018. They span fun and simple to a little more ambitious and are yours to use, stretch, flip as you wish. We'd love to hear your experiences so feel free to share them to @aniquevered and @edgeryders on twitter with #EconSciFi!

From farm to table to office and on

1. Consider a world that emerged for you in the Econ Sci Fi session.
2. What stands out? A particular setting, characters, tone, atmosphere, sensation...
3. Make this world for dinner. What tastes, colours and textures might do it justice? How long would it take to be ready (#slowfoodisyum). Listen to it, tend to it and then enjoy.

Time in your hands

1. Over breakfast one workday read over your Collective Ideation Relay. Write one sentence that sums up how you're feeling about it now.
2. Set your alarm to go off every hour for the rest of the day.
3. When the alarm rings each hour, take 1 minute to re-read the sentence and then write down a list of words that come to mind.
4. At the end of the day, read over the words and listen to how the idea is flowing for you. Write or draw what comes, or there's nothing, do nothing. No matter what, reward yourself somehow.

Orienteering

1. Draw a circle.
2. Consider a challenge you're dealing with at work. For example: paperwork. Write it in one word on the left side of the circle.
3. Now, think about a world in which that challenge could be stretched outside its bounds. For example: telepathic decision making processes. Write it in one word on the right side of the circle.
4. Choose a tool - real or imagined - that could make this stretch. For example: a new law, cryptocurrency, an in-ear translator, Shamanic trainings, a cape. Write the tool at the bottom of the circle.
5. Now, consider something that inspires you. For example: my daughter, the sun on a lake, that TED talk last week, the feeling when my work has had impact. Write it in one word at the top of the circle.
6. Before you step into your meetings or start any tasks today, pull out this circle - your compass - and orient yourself.
7. Stride on in.

After this session don't forget to input on the "Big Brain"!

www.innovationdays.istanbul/big-brain





“We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. So did the divine right of kings.”

Ursula LeGuin

A taste tester selection of works by the Econ Sci Fi panelists for you to continue reading:

Sci Fi

- Cory Doctorow 2017, Walkaway
- Vinay Gupta 2006, The Unplugged (http://www.appropedia.org/The_Unplugged)
- Ursula Le Guin 1974, The Dispossessed
- Malka Older 2017, Narrative Disorder (<https://firesidefiction.com/narrative-disorder>)
- Malka Older 2017, The Narrative Spectrum (<https://firesidefiction.com/the-narrative-spectrum>)
- Bruce Stirling 1999, Distraction
- Benjamin Rosenbaum 2010, The Guy Who Worked for Money (<https://www.shareable.net/blog/the-guy-who-worked-for-money>)

Economic Science Fiction

- Ha-Joon Chang 2018, Why sci-fi and economics have more in common than you think (<https://newhumanist.org.uk/articles/5329/why-sci-fi-and-economics-have-more-in-common-than-you-think>)
- William Davies (ed) 2018, Economic Science Fictions (<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/economic-science-fictions>)

Innovation and intellectual property rights

- Clancy and Moschini 2013, Incentives for Innovation: Patents, Prizes, and Research Contracts. (https://www.card.iastate.edu/faculty/profiles/giancarlo_moschini/Clancy-Moschini-AEPP-2013.pdf)

Reputation economies and gift economies

- David Reinstein 2014, “The Economics of the Gift“ in: Gift giving and the “embedded” economy in the ancient world, edited by Filippo Carlà and Maja Gori, Universitätsverlag Winter Heidelberg, 2014, pp. 83-99. (<http://repository.essex.ac.uk/10009/1/dp749.pdf>)

Automation of labor

- Integration and Trade Journal: Volume 22: No. 44: July, 2018: Planet Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence for a Predictive and Inclusive form of Integration in Latin America (<https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/9080>)

Social (cultural and ecological) reproduction.

- Miles Corak 2016, Inequality from Generation to Generation: The United States in Comparison aka “The Great Gatsby Curve.” (<http://ftp.iza.org/dp9929.pdf>)
- Acemoglu 2013, The World Our Grandchildren Will Inherit, in Palacios-Huerta, Ignacio.; In 100 Years : Leading Economists Predict the Future, MIT press <https://economics.mit.edu/files/10396>

For a full reading list, to peruse the Econ Sci Fi wiki and to continue your Econ Sci journey join us at edgeryders.eu/c/research-network/econ-scifi

