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Art School Futures Lab Helsinki

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Focus, aim and objectives

Focus

- the futures of Uniarts Research
- the futures of research environment: organisational and work culture

Objectives

- gain insights about the future of research at Uniarts Helsinki
- identify future opportunities and threats that may impact our research success
- improve future conditions for research at Uniarts Helsinki

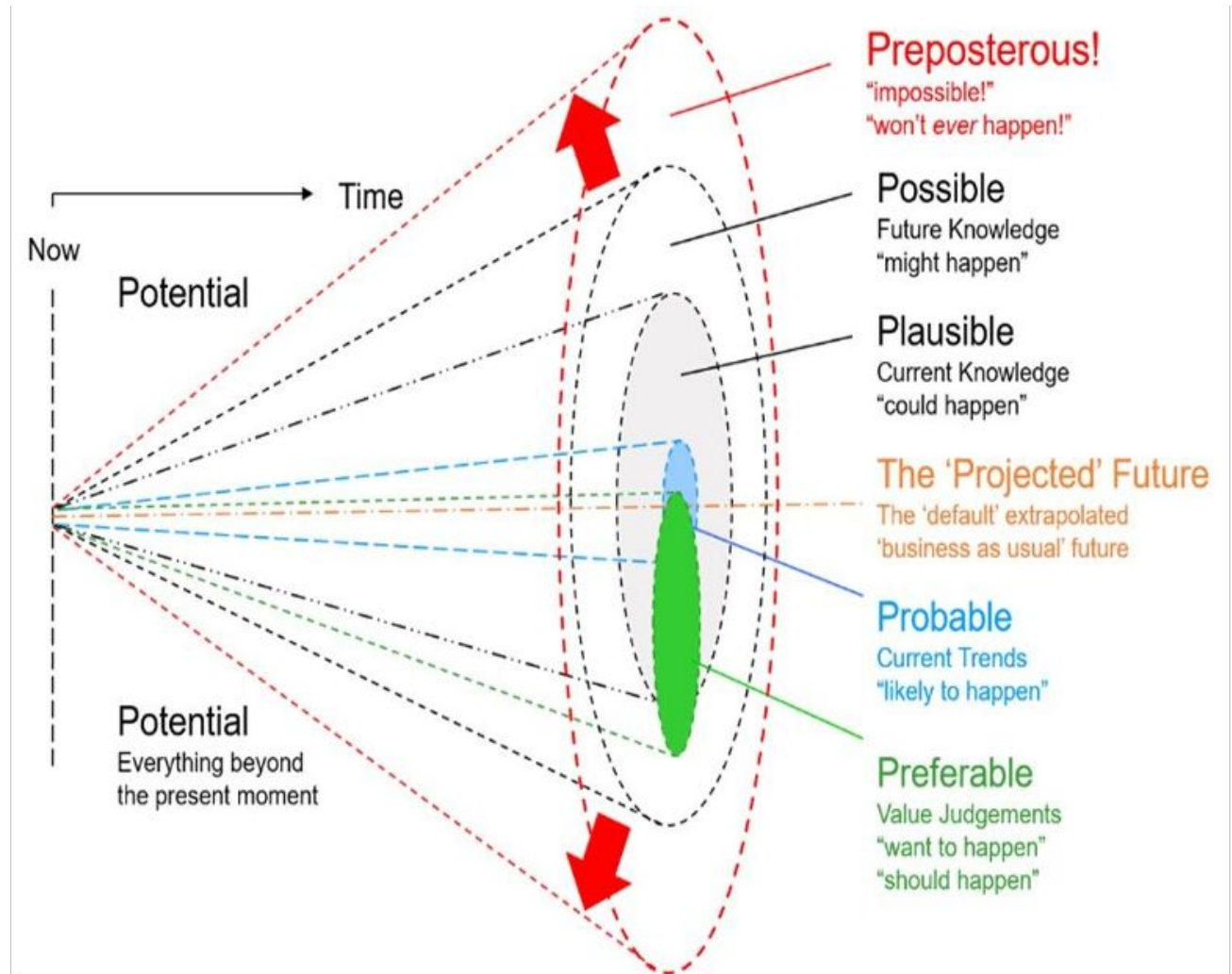
Informed Consent

The lab's ethos

- Everyone's ideas and perspectives are valuable
- Give space for each group member
- Use all your experience
- There are no wrong ideas – futures are different from today
- In idea generation write down all ideas even contradicting ones – no consensus needed
- Wild ideas – use bold imagination!

About Futures

- Not predictable
- We can create alternative futures images:
e.g. possible, probable and even imaginary
- Our decisions and actions affect the future
- Open value discussion inevitable and important



The Futures Cone, Voros, 2017

Futures images

- Futures images are framed by our scientific knowledge and cultural understanding of the world and they can include both realistic and imaginary elements
- Futures images can include preferable, unpreferable or neutral elements

Drivers of the future

What kind of driving forces

- (= drivers of change) influence my future operational environment?
- Which driving forces may have the most impact?

How these driving forces are forming the futures? (most likely, possibly, and in what ways)

Drivers of futures

Megatrends

- slowly changing phenomena with clear developmental direction forming the future.
- For example
 - Climate change, biodiversity loss and limited natural resources -> materials, touring and travel
 - Technological development: digitalisation, automation, robots, artificial intelligence
 - -> recording, distribution, pedagogies
 - Globalisation and interdependence
 - -> cultural influences, networks
 - Population growth, aging of population particularly in western societies -> audiences, amateur artists
 - Urbanisation -> accessibility in rural areas

Drivers of futures

Trends

- clearly visible phenomena that cause change – a development of change.

e.g. local food / fashion..., land traveling
-> e.g. shared ownership, artists as activists

Counter trends – opposing existing (mega)trends

e.g. slow food / life / university

Trends: What next?

Drivers of futures

Weak signals

- an indication of an emerging issue or an early sign of a change that may be meaningful in the future
- > e.g. universal income for artists, hologram dancers, AI composed music

Wild cards/ Black Swans

- events and things, with very small probability, but with dramatic affects e.g. 9/11, Fall of Sovjet

What if...?

A Future Jump

Imagine that you are in year 2045

Walk around and read news headlines ...

choose 1-2 most triggering headlines and
imagine:

What does this mean for your
ongoing research project?!?

Share the most interesting observations
with your neighbour.

September 2, 2045

Journal of Research in Music Education



Image by Nenad Stojkovic, CC BY 2.0.

"All I really needed to know about music-making I learned from YouTube."

Researchers discuss:

– How did massive open online courses change the game of music education in 2020s?

30/9/2045

Science Today

6 M Euro to SAR for innovative Open Access publishing!



Image: Digits.co.uk Images, CC BY 2.0

Science Europe awards the Society for Artistic Research for its groundbreaking efforts in advancing Open Access publishing through new and improved JAR.

Secretary General
– *Publishing in 3D VR with no paywalls will soon be the new normal in all research.*

5/10/2045

Science Today

Are we now supposed to publish in 3D VR?



Image: Image: Brian Talbot

EU's action to cut funding from researchers who don't submit to its new open science 3D VR requirements leaves researchers baffled.

Researchers Homm and Humm:

- *We thought 3D VR was for the game industry.*
- *I don't have a clue how it works.*

THE SOLID TRUTH

NEWS AND GOSSIPS

WORLD EXCLUSIVES. 20.10.2045

Brain drain grows!



Image: rawpixel.com, CC0 1.0

Artists and scholars vote with their feet as far right populism keeps gaining power in Northern Europe.

Director of Advocacy, FUURT

– Freedoms of art and research are under serious threat with the new policies imposed on publicly funded universities and arts institutions.

22/10/2045

Science Today

Has the freedom of research been lost forever?



The National Board on Research Integrity introduces a list of banned words as the next step towards responsible conduct of research.

Secretary General:

- Using these words in research will lead to severe penalties.

MIND THE GAP!



Image: housemind78

Researcher Joanna Panka who managed to get their monograph published by Ripoff Publishing Ltd now faces a € 5,500 open access bill. The former employer, listed as their affiliation in the book, refuses to pay because their affiliation ended in 2044 despite unspent research funds they left behind.

Joanna Panka:

– I'm currently unemployed and can't afford to pay the open access fee. My peer-reviewed book will not come out at all.

THE SOLID TRUTH

NEWS AND GOSSIPS

WORLD EXCLUSIVES

23.10.2045

Brain doping is sooooo last season!



Trendy scholars move to smart chip brain transplants.

Vice Dean, Foxord University

– Efficiency matters for universities: we accept no slow brains and pay a bonus to chipped researchers.

INNOVATION TODAY

24.10.2045



The smart ring measures now the health impact of your participation in the arts.

For years, researchers have identified physiological indicators for cultural well-being. Now, the new and improved smart ring measures your daily arts engagement and reminds you about the daily dosage.

Our current principles and practices (formal and informal) relating to research vis-à-vis Uniarts Strategy goals.

Solo work
(10 min.)

ON THE LEFT: Which existing policies and practices prevent or hinder their achievement?

ON THE RIGHT: Which existing policies and practices contribute to achieving them?

Changing world of work in research

Group work
(25 min.)

Discuss the *change drivers* presented before and consider: How they may change the future work of researchers at Uniarts regarding *knowledge production and sharing of knowledge* as well as *artistic and arts educational processes* related to the two above. Take into account:

- researchers' new roles in society
- future collaborative partners (inside and outside Uniarts; also outside the arts field)
- necessary professional skills and competencies

Use post-its (one colour for each question) to write down your ideas. Share, discuss, and organise the ideas on a big sheet.

Uniarts Research future organisational and work culture

Group work
(30 min.)

In the light of the insights from the previous tasks, discuss the need to reconsider and develop *organisational and work culture* in Uniarts Research to *ensure the favourable results of your work*.

WHAT KEEP?	WHY?	BENEFITS?
WHAT LEAVE OUT?	WHY?	BENEFITS?
WHAT NEW?	WHY?	BENEFITS?

THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF PREFERABLE
FUTURE WORK CULTURE AT UNIARTS
RESEARCH?

Add notes from your discussion to the table.

Vote the most central ideas* (5 votes / person
– use stickers)

Break 15 minutes



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Co-creating a futures image: "Preferable operational and work of Uniarts Research"

Group work
(25 min.)

Using the ideas that got the most votes, co-create a futures image that describes *the favourable operational and work culture of Uniarts Research in the year 2045*.

While preparing the futures image, consider also:

- What are *the main principles and central features* of the future operational and work culture in this futures image?
 - What are the most powerful *change drivers* forming this futures image?
- ✓ Use keywords, figures, or drawings to support the presentation of the futures image.
 - ✓ Fill the template: clarify the key elements of your futures image including main change drivers.
 - ✓ Prepare to present the futures images (3 min /group).

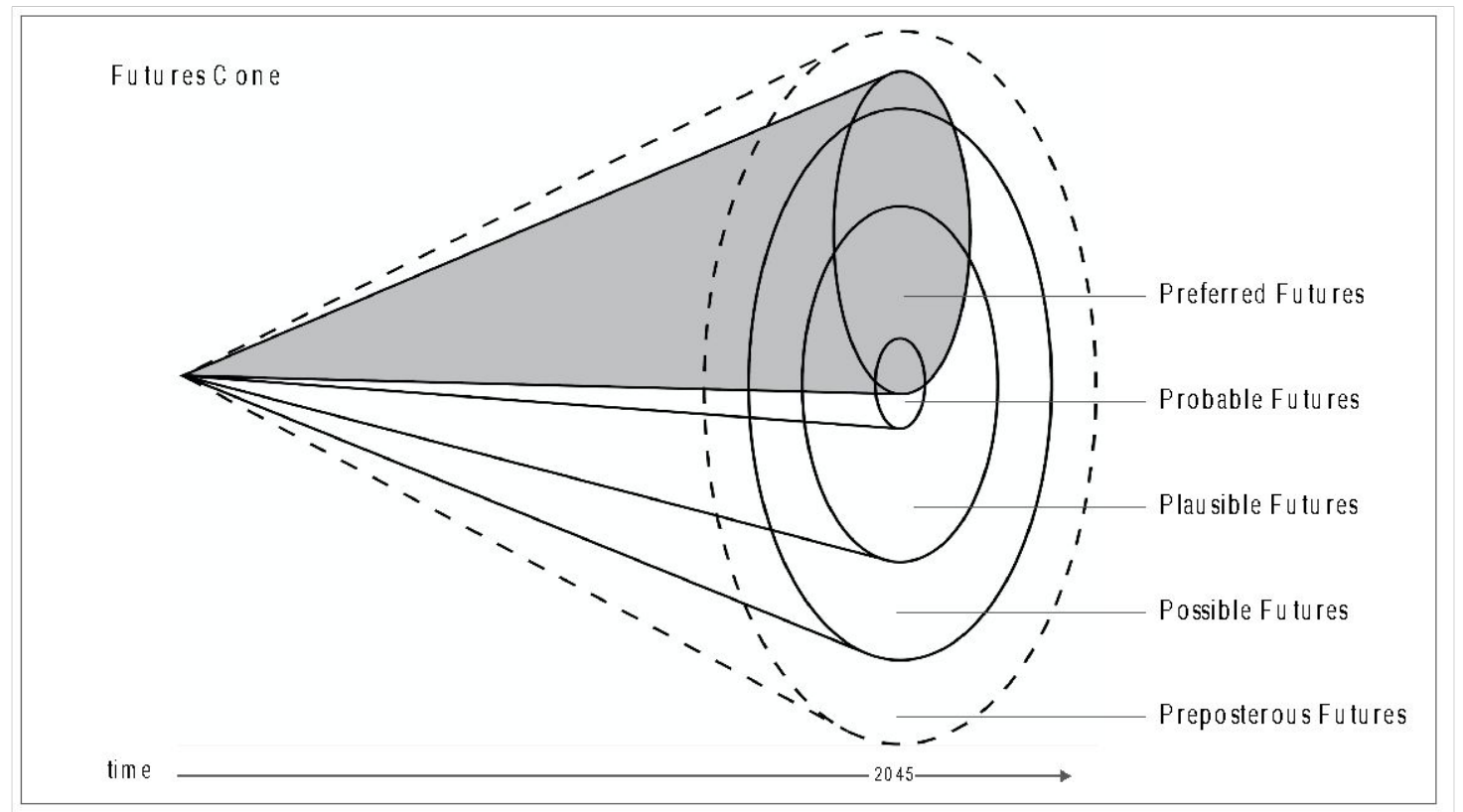
Sharing and discussing (40 min.)

Share the futures image

Discuss:

- What might be the themes in the images that we jointly agree on as preferable?
- What might be the themes we should discuss further?
- What changes seem most urgent? Why?

Evaluating the probability of futures images (5 min.)



(adapted and modified from Voros 2017)

Place a sticker on the futures cone to indicate whether the image is 'possible', 'plausible', 'business-as-usual', 'probable', 'preferable', or 'preposterous' *from your perspective*.

THANK YOU!



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