

#HOPE

#RESILIENCE

#AGENCY



AT THE TIME OF MONSTERS



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How do I step in?



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Themes of study / interest:

- ★ Anticipatory resilience
- ★ Planetary wellbeing and social sustainability (justice)
- ★ Decolonisation, ethics of foresight
- ★ Transformative futures and foresight
- ★ Collective imagination, futures studies methods
- ★ Futures Consciousness, Futures Literacy
- ★ Strategic foresight, organisational / system level futures capabilities
- ★ Innovation ecosystems and value co-creation



Who are these
monsters?

AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES?



PICTURE: freepik / AI

A young boy is the central focus, carrying a large, dark bucket filled with coal. He is walking through a dark, rocky mining area. In the background, other people are visible, some carrying loads, and a simple structure is partially seen. The overall atmosphere is somber and depicts the harsh conditions of child labor.

CHILD LABOUR USING BUSINESSES?



GLOBAL RULERS OF TECH SPACE?



POWER-SEEKING NARCISSISTS?



#murderers
#terrorists
#opressors

#narcissists
#psychopaths

#toxic_people
#manipulators
#patheticliers

#racists

#human_rights_violators

#corrupt_power_holders

#environmental_activists
#climate_change_deniers
#left_or_right_wing_extremists

#colonisers

#bystanders

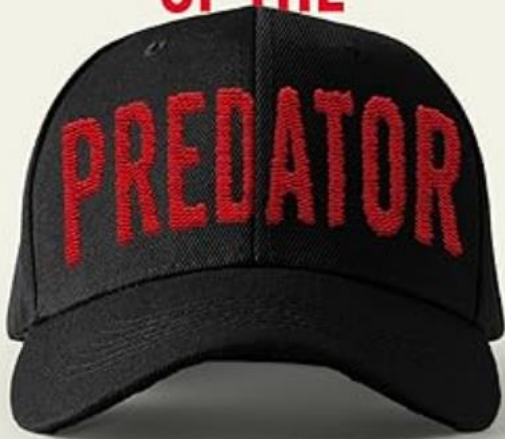
#selfinterested_people

#predatory_leaders

GIULIANO DA EMPOLI

*Author of *The Wizard of the Kremlin**

**THE HOUR
OF THE**



**Encounters with the Autocrats
and Tech Billionaires
Taking Over the World**

PUSHKIN PRESS

"The old world is
dying, and the new
world struggles to be
born; now is the time
of monsters"

- Gramsci 1929 -

Speaking of hope,





PICTURE: freepik / anantachat



PICTURE: freepik / AI

... resilience and
agency?

"We're living through a rupture
in the moral order.
Not a lack of information.
Not a lack of intelligence.
A lack of courage."

- Jackie Kinley 2026 -

"Resilience is not returning to the old self, but moving forward with greater self-understanding, integration, and strength."

- Danilo Dominguez 2026 -

"The crack is the monster's gift – a reminder that the fixity of the postures we take on often prove more dangerous than the threats we presume to withstand."

- Bayo Okomolafe 2024 -

The fallacy of "desired futures"

"Discussions about the future are frequently framed around certainty, planning, control, and familiar ideas of progress. This is not resulting from a lack of foresight, but a lack of imagination.

- Riel Miller 2026 -

Myth 18 – Africa is doomed to underdevelopment

Myth 19 – Capitalism is race-neutral and colonial legacies are irrelevant

Myth 20 – Poor people are poor because they are less entrepreneurial

Myth 21 – Markets are perfect

Myth 22 – Trade guarantees peace

Myth 23 – Inequality is necessary for innovation

Myth 24 – Capitalism is gender-neutral

Myth 25 – Markets are inherently stable

Myth 26 – Finance always allocates capital efficiently

Myth 27 – Debt and credits are harmless tools for growth

Myth 28 – Capitalism is truly global and corporations are stateless

Myth 29 – The IT revolution has created the greatest progress in history





Myth 30 – Platforms are the future: universal, inevitable and good for all

Myth 31 – Technological change is neutral and inevitable

Methods to imagine transformative futures. An integrative literature review.

Ask Copilot: Save time, read 10X faster with AI

- Save
- Related Papers
- Summarize
- Points Discussed
- Evidence/Examples Used
- Key Takeaways
- Conclusions
- Biases or Limitations

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Highlights

- According to this integrative literature review, the definition of transformation has remained vague or completely ignored.
- The methodological knowledge of imagining transformative futures is very fragmented.
- Achieving fundamental transformation needs methods that pave the way for imagining the previously unknown and unimaginable.
- More understanding is needed about the means to produce change in the participants' cognitive abilities to use the futures.
- A shift of focus is needed to see futures practitioners as capability developers rather than method appliers.

THE CHALLENGE OF IMAGINING TRANSFORMATIVE FUTURES

"Colonialism's impact goes beyond physical land theft to include the suppression of Indigenous knowledge, **the imposition of hierarchical worldviews**, and the rewriting of our relationship with nature.

It taught that the Earth is a resource to be dominated rather than a part of a larger whole, and it eroded traditional education methods in favour of institutionalized learning that often lacks ecological wisdom. This is why decolonization efforts emphasize reconnecting with the land, **restoring** Indigenous **knowledge systems**, and unlearning colonial myths that prioritize domination and ownership."

– Earthly education –

Let's make hope normal again...



Green Party of
England & Wales



Bold Politics with
Zack Polanski

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bF_a_w7Dozo

Thriving in
uncertainty?

#foresight

#corporate_foresight

#strategic_foresight

#scenarios

#trends

#megatrends

#wild_cards

#futures_orientation

#futures_literacy

#futures_consciousness

#forecasts

#antispation

#resilience

Sense making

E.g.,

- Creating a a sense of participation / agency
- Increases **the active role and understanding** of one's own agency
- Helps to observe **possible development directions and pathways** (which then support strategic decision-making)

= Supports preparedness and strategic planning

Sense breaking

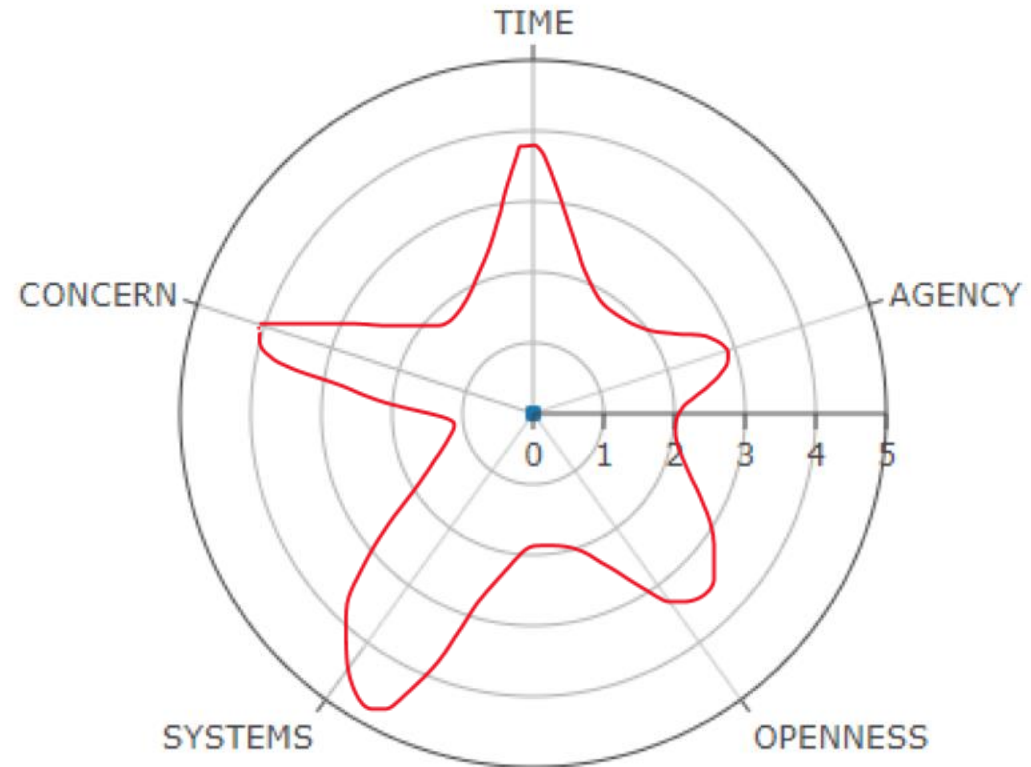
E.g.,

- **Brings in tensions, marginalised viewpoints etc**
- Enables detachment from what looks like and what is seen as valuable)
- Creates new narratives, **bringing forth hidden assumptions, hopes, desires, values**
- Helps to observe possible development directions and pathways (which then support strategic decision-making)

= Challenges given structures, beliefs and preferences

Futures Consciousness

Futures Consciousness (Ahvenharju et al., 2018) refers to the ability to visualise, process, and create future visions, to understand the impact of present choices on tomorrow, and to act consciously toward the future. It is a multidimensional concept that combines critical and creative thinking about alternative future pathways, an understanding of responsibility for one's actions, and a sense of agency in building one's own and shared future.



Futures Consciousness

➔ Instead of trends, focus on different forms of knowledge, CURIOSITY, listening, observing...

NOTE: This table dates back to 2017 - no huge change though, right?

<p>Climate change</p> <p>Natural disasters Epidemics Deserted areas Population growth Famine and poverty Increase of refugees</p>	<p>Geopolitical power relations</p> <p>China, India, Russia Resource monopolies New Silk Road Nuclear power threats Cyberwars, extremist movements</p>	<p>Regional disparities</p> <p>Growing cities End of nation states EU breaking up Polarisation Income inequality</p>	<p>Economic change drivers</p> <p>Mission orientation New values Platforms and ecosystems Basic income Social responsibility</p>	<p>Technological agency</p> <p>Monopoly-platforms Singularity Data ownership Bio hacking Automatisation, IoT Network monitoring</p>
SHARED INTERESTS	COMPETING WORLDVIEWS	GLOBAL MARKETS	VARYING MOTIVATIONS	POWER RELATIONS

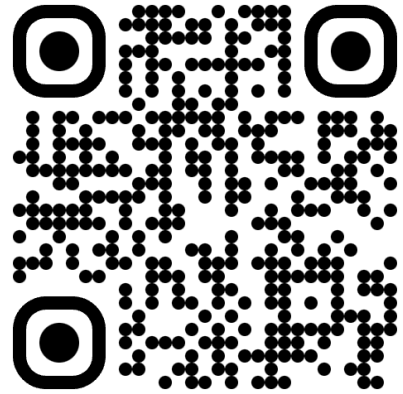
Know history

Learn to trust your intuition and

Give space for experts by experience emotions Embrace embodied knowledge

"The purpose of
looking into the
future is to
disturb the
present."

- Gaston Berger 1940-1950 -



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Transforming how we think about futures

Questions? Comments?