

DISRUPTIONS

How will we create
togetherness in
the future?

05

**SOCIETY &
COMMUNITY**

How will we want
to live in harmony
with ecosystems and
the planet?

06

**PLANETARY
HEALTH**

How will we want
to share our life with
artificial
intelligences?

07

**AI &
AUTOMATION**



DISRUPTIONS

How will we create togetherness in the future?

RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY

BUBBLE BUSTING

05 SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

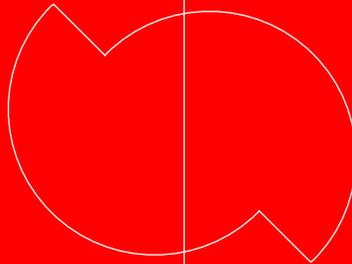
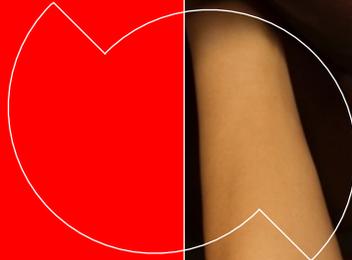
How will we create togetherness in the future?



DISRUPTIONS
05 SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

RE- CONNECTING

Decades of hyper-individualism have left society fragmented and people lonely. Now we are looking to our communities, recognizing that real connection and compassion are the foundations of resilience.



From individualism to interdependence

From fragmentation to reconnection

From institutional dependence to community-led resilience

From empowerment to autonomy

WHAT IS SHIFTING?



DISRUPTIONS
05 SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY

WHAT IS DESIRABLE?

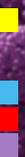
We are rediscovering community as a source of strength in times of crisis and building new mutual-aid networks that offer us solidarity and autonomy.

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“Communities often have different kinds of people with different expertise. Being together is something that would help us deal with all the problems which might come towards us.”

Sujatro Ghosh, India





RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY

Community autonomy and self-reliance

Communities are forming self-reliant systems of mutual aid and local resilience, engaging in localized action to reduce dependency on failing institutions and lay the groundwork for future self-governance.

Going off-grid

People are moving away from mass social platforms, seeking safer, private spaces where they can connect with their communities without being subjected to surveillance, online hate, and toxic visibility.

Acts of dissent

From grassroot activities and solidarity economies to artistic expression and critical conversations, activism is becoming woven into everyday life, reflecting a collective resistance to systemic failure.

32%
of US Gen Z are regularly
**engaged in
activism or social
justice work.**
Source: United Way NCA, 2024



“But the crisis also reveals something deeply human. In those moments, strangers help strangers. People come together. There’s solidarity, but we shouldn’t need disasters to remind us of it.”

Tanisha Arora, India



Oxford Mutual Aid is a volunteer-led community that began during the COVID pandemic and remains vital today amid the cost-of-living crisis, providing stigma-free food and essential support.
Source: Oxford Mutual Aid, 2025



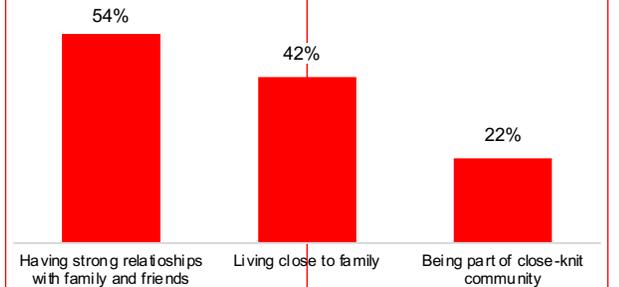
Freifunk is a grassroots initiative to establish a decentralized, free Wi-Fi network with the aim of providing socially disadvantaged people with access to the internet.
Source: Freifunk.net, 2025
Image: Computerbild, 2017

“We’re going off-grid – away from government and institutions – and finding more intimate ways of connecting to combat the effort to erase us.”
Ryan Fitzgibbon, USA

Close-knit community as life goal
Family, friends and community was among the Top 5 life goals worldwide.



Thinking about your most important life goals today...



Source: Foresight Academy, Quantified Customer Foresight Study, 2025



DISRUPTIONS
05 SOCIETY & COMMUNITY

BUBBLE BUSTING

WHAT IS DESIRABLE?

We want to break free from echo chambers or social bubbles, embracing friction to open dialogue across divides.

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“I’m interested in creating more intentional friction – we have to embrace that conversations are not always going to be easy if we want to better understand each other and even ourselves.”

Ryan Fitzgibbon, USA



BUBBLE BUSTING

Broad listening

Instead of broadcasting fixed ideas, people seek new formats for cross-ideological and intergenerational exchanges that expand collective understanding.

Friction for growth

People seek exposure to different perspectives even when they might be uncomfortable, with the discomfort itself fueling transformation.

Alternative life pathways

Breaking out of bubbles means redefining what's possible, as exposure to diverse role models expands life pathways beyond gendered expectations and prefabricated scripts for identity, purpose, and career.

Serendipity by design

People value urban and digital spaces designed for unscripted interaction as they 'rewild' their social worlds and recognize the value of randomness and unpredictability.

Breaking away from gender binaries

People seek to dismantle gender stereotypes and social disparities by embracing inclusive expressions of masculinity and femininity that bridge divides rather than deepen them.

F A C E T S & S I G N A L S



“How do we create spaces in which something like cultivated coincidence is possible – places where I know something can happen here?”

Jasmin El-Mahny, Germany



“The future is more based on communities helping each other and supporting each other instead of separating people into different boxes.”

Jim Inglis, USA

84%

of Americans believe that they **should overcome their political differences.**

Source: Statista, 2025

Be heard

“**I actually listened...** It forced me to read his response as opposed to formulating my ideas while he was still talking”

Mary R.

Sandbox App allows users to answer weekly questions on political issues in a structured, civil forum designed to reduce hostility and encourage listening across divides.

Source: Axios, 2025



The Cossitt Library was redesigned to serve as a civic hub that helps counter social isolation, foster connection across divides, and demonstrate how libraries can address today's wider connection crisis.

Source: Medium, 2024



DISRUPTIONS

How will we want to live in harmony with ecosystems and the planet?

POST-TECH SOLUTIONISM

WOO WOO EXPANDS SCIENCE

**06
PLANETARY
HEALTH**

How will we want to live in harmony with ecosystems and the planet?



DISRUPTIONS
06 PLANETARY HEALTH

THE TURN TO CYCLICAL SYSTEMS

We are realizing that the same mindset driving the eco-crisis cannot solve it. Therefore, we must abandon simple narratives of linear progress and establish more cyclical, ecosystems-based frameworks for discovery, innovation, and change.



From progress to cycle

From tech fixes to value shifts

From reactive to proactive

From human-centric to life-centric

WHAT IS SHIFTING?



DISRUPTIONS
06 PLANETARY HEALTH

POST-TECH SOLUTIONISM

WHAT IS DESIRABLE?

We seek transformative solutions beyond quick tech fixes, which will require leadership, fundamental shifts in values and mindsets, and a deeper awareness of our ecological interdependence.



“Climate change is not just a problem of technology or of economics – it’s a problem of philosophy and values and worldviews.”

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, USA



DISRUPTIONS
06 PLANETARY HEALTH

POST-TECH SOLUTIONISM

Tech is not enough

Technology can support, but it will not save us. Real transformation lies in human values, cultural renewal, and people-centered change, guided by visionary leadership willing to embrace and advance the necessary shifts.

Scaling down, building up

Small-scale efforts are not isolated but meaningful and replicable, offering roots for systemic change when adapted to each community's specific place-based needs and challenges.

The new paradigm of regeneration

As the extractive, linear growth model fails, we look to a regenerative paradigm based on the reciprocity of human and natural systems to ensure that resources endure for generations to come.

Beyond performative sustainability

People expect brands to demonstrate moral leadership through real commitment to people and planet, while making transparency, regenerative practices, and durability non-negotiable.

FACETS & SIGNALS



“The moment we broke the concept of a ‘cycle’ that nature had laid out for us – that everything must feed into something else – we created the root of our ecological crisis.”

Tendai Pasipanodya,
USA / Zimbabwe



“The world will be saved by analog means – not digitally.”

Jasmin El-Mahny,
Germany

58%

of C-suites globally say developing **more regenerative business models is an opportunity** for their business.

Source: Kearney, 2023

80%

of a product's environmental impact is already **locked in at the design phase.**

Source: European Parliament, 2023



Plant-based puffer jackets replace goose down with bulrush reeds – startup Saltyco's BioPuff insulation mimics feathers' warmth and water resistance while drastically cutting environmental impact.

Source: The Guardian, 2023



Ecobarter is a Nigerian waste-management operation using a mobile app and reverse vending machines to prevent drainage clogs and floods by encouraging people to value their waste rather than dispose of it improperly.

Source: Global Center on Adaptation, 2024



DISRUPTIONS
06 PLANETARY HEALTH

WOO WOO EXPANDS SCIENCE

WHAT IS DESIRABLE?

Other knowledge systems – including oral traditions, alternative medicines, psychedelic experiences, and Indigenous wisdom – could expand modern problem-solving with time-tested solutions.



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“It is time that the world of science and spirituality meet again.”

Dana Ulrike Glatz, Germany





DISRUPTIONS
06 PLANETARY HEALTH

WOO WOO EXPANDS SCIENCE

Mending the circle

Environmental justice calls for rebuilding broken human-nature and intercultural relationships by reimagining ‘progress’ as cycles of restoration and reciprocity rather than endless, extractive growth.

Kinship with life

People recognize their belonging within the living world, moving beyond the reduction of harmful impact to actively collaborating with other species for shared ecosystem health.

Humble listening

Western societies must exercise intellectual humility if they want to learn from other knowledge holders of the world, whose practical wisdom offers proven solutions for global challenges.

Don't be so sure we know better

The combination of modern analysis with ancestral wisdom and know-how could open breakthrough pathways of transformation that Western thinking alone might never access.

F A C E T S & S I G N A L S



“Being confronted with an alternative knowledge system humbles you as a scientist.”

David Dao, Switzerland

40%

of commercial drugs today derive from plants and traditional medicine.

Source: UC Berkley, 2023



“Indigenous people don't own the natural world. We live in reciprocity with the natural world – we live with values rooted in respect, responsibility, and reverence.”

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, USA



After a century's absence, California condors returned to Yurok ancestral lands using Indigenous knowledge that young birds need adult mentors to survive – a requirement biologists had initially missed.

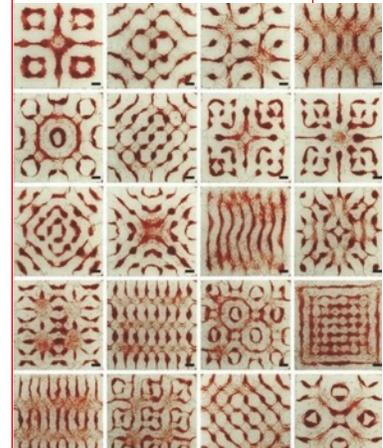
Source: Undark, 2022
Image: The Guardian, 2021

85B

land animals were slaughtered for meat in 2023.

90% of them were chickens.

Source: Our World in Data, 2025



Sound waves are being used to arrange heart cells into tightly packed patterns that beat in sync with the heart, enabling disease modeling, drug testing, and functional heart repair patches.

Source: Stanford Medicine, 2018



DISRUPTIONS

How will we want to share our life with artificial intelligences?

STAR TREK & STONE AGE

CODE OR BE CODED

07 AI & AUTOMATION

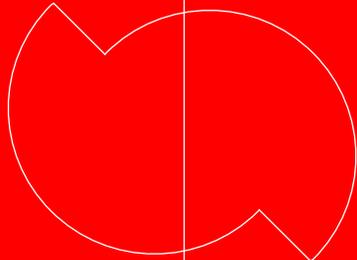
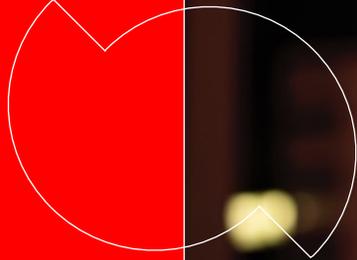
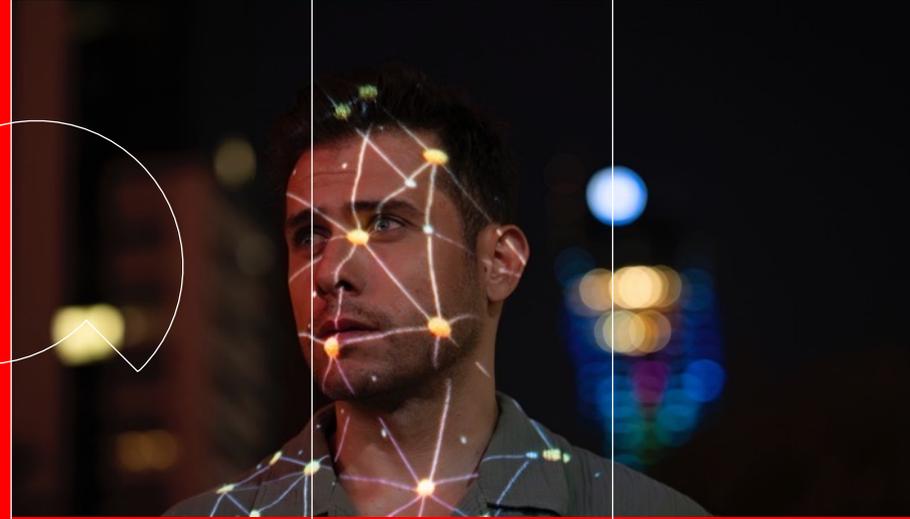
How will we want to share our life with artificial intelligences?



DISRUPTIONS
07 AI & AUTOMATION

TOWARDS CONTEXTUAL TECHNOLOGY

We are questioning and experimenting beyond big tech's predetermined solutions, seeking user agency – the ability to understand, modify, and use AI systems on our own terms.



*From platform dependence
to personal autonomy*

*From predefined solutions
to self-authored systems*

From tech at scale to tech in context

WHAT IS SHIFTING?



DISRUPTIONS
07 AI & AUTOMATION

STAR TREK & STONE AGE

WHAT IS DESIRABLE?

People will combine high- and low-tech approaches, hacking and repurposing technology beyond its intended use to uncover unexpected applications that better serve real-world needs in context.



“Technological localism is about bringing tech to communities and translating it into local knowledge and language.”

David Dao, Switzerland

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DISRUPTIONS
07 AI & AUTOMATION

STAR TREK & STONE AGE

Breaking the 'one-size-fits-all' fallacy

Homogenized solutions designed for scale often fail against local complexity, ignoring cultural nuance and the messy realities of how people actually live and work.

Hybrid approaches across technological 'time zones'

People combine high- and low-tech tools – AI sensors alongside machetes – to solve local problems with agility and creativity.

Contextual tech

People want locally controlled, open-source, and modifiable AI tools reflecting community values and context so the tools work better for their needs.

Prototyping moment

Innovation will be driven by continuous experimentation, with prototyping becoming the primary mode of learning and building tech that evolves alongside its users.

Everyday robots

There's growing appetite for automated help in daily activities without technical complexity, data harvesting, or interference with what people enjoy doing themselves.

F A C E T S & S I G N A L S

400M

people could get
access to electricity
thanks to off-grid solar systems
for the first time by 2030.

Source: Off-Grid Solar Market Trend Report, 2024



"A great experiment would be to let kids in the bush who've never heard of IoT or AI play with these concepts – that's how you break free from a 'paradigm of expectations' about what technology is and does."

Ferdi van Heerden,
South Africa



"The future means different things to different people because we live in completely different 'time zones' in terms of how we understand the world."

Frances Shi Li, China

1M+

3D printers were purchased
in the US in Q1 2025, driven by
anxieties over incoming tariffs.

Source: Context World, 2025



Family rice fields in Vietnam are getting a tech upgrade with autopiloted drones for fertilizer and pesticide deployment.

Source: Hakai Magazine, 2024



ASHABot is an Indian LLM designed specifically to meet the informational needs of healthcare workers with low connectivity and resources.

Source: Microsoft, 2025



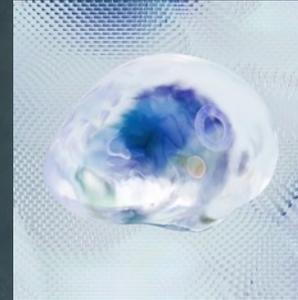
DISRUPTIONS
07 AI & AUTOMATION

CODE OR BE CODED

WHAT IS DESIRABLE?

We will demand agency to adapt and author our own systems, shifting toward personal software rather than accepting top-down automation that dictates how we work and live.

Further Reading
Hot Topic Space | **ENVISIONING AI-DRIVEN INDUSTRIES, 2025**



“Technology has no natural plateau. If there is one, it will come from human resistance, not technological limits.”

Ziad Taoud, UAE



CODE OR BE CODED

From adapting to defining AI

While AI is widely accepted as unstoppable, the conversation is shifting from 'what AI can do' to 'what it should do' – and who decides its design and impact.

Personal software for digital self-authorship

People move beyond default systems, using generative AI to co-create personalized algorithms and apps that reflect their own needs and values.

The algorithmic mirror

AI systems reflect their creators' values and training data biases, making human oversight that actively seeks to counter bias essential to ensure that technology serves people, not just metrics.

The human plateau

As technological capabilities increase, the embodied intelligence of people gain value – with human input and oversight providing a 'ceiling' or upper limit on tech innovation and implementation.

Human and machine roles

As AI handles scale and speed, people remain essential for context and nuance – successful systems will clearly distinguish irreplaceable human capabilities from those of machines.

FACETS & SIGNALS

\$203M

revenue Reddit has generated since 2024 by licensing its user data to LLM companies instead of letting it be scraped for free.

Source: TechCrunch, 2025



OpenAI and Ollama partner to launch [gpt-oss](#)

Chat & build with open models

Open source LLMs like Ollama now offer local desktop models, lowering the barrier to personal model ownership.

Source: Ollama, 2025

“Technology only matters if it’s serving people. If it’s not improving lives, it’s irrelevant.”

Ziad Taoud, UAE



“We need to find a way to make sure that technology works for us rather than allow it to take over our lives. It’s all fun and games until we become enslaved in the robot uprising. I’m not looking forward to that day.”

Jamie Nonis, Singapore



Julián Isla developed DxGPT after facing extreme challenges getting a diagnosis for his son’s rare disease. Now, DxGPT is being used by 6,000+ doctors in Madrid to generate complex diagnoses in seconds.

Source: Microsoft, 2025

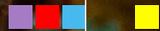
7,000+

app integrations now powered by Zapier’s agentic AI,

making it easier for everyone to create agentic software tools.

Source: Zapier, 2025

HOW DO WE WANT TO LIVE IN 10 YEARS? UNDER THE ASSUMPTION OF POLYCHANGE



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Gravity GmbH is the Lead Agency at the Foresight Academy.

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Central Presentation

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