

PREPARING FOR UNTHINKABLE FUTURES THROUGH SOCIAL SIMULATIONS

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**ROGUE
UNION[®]**

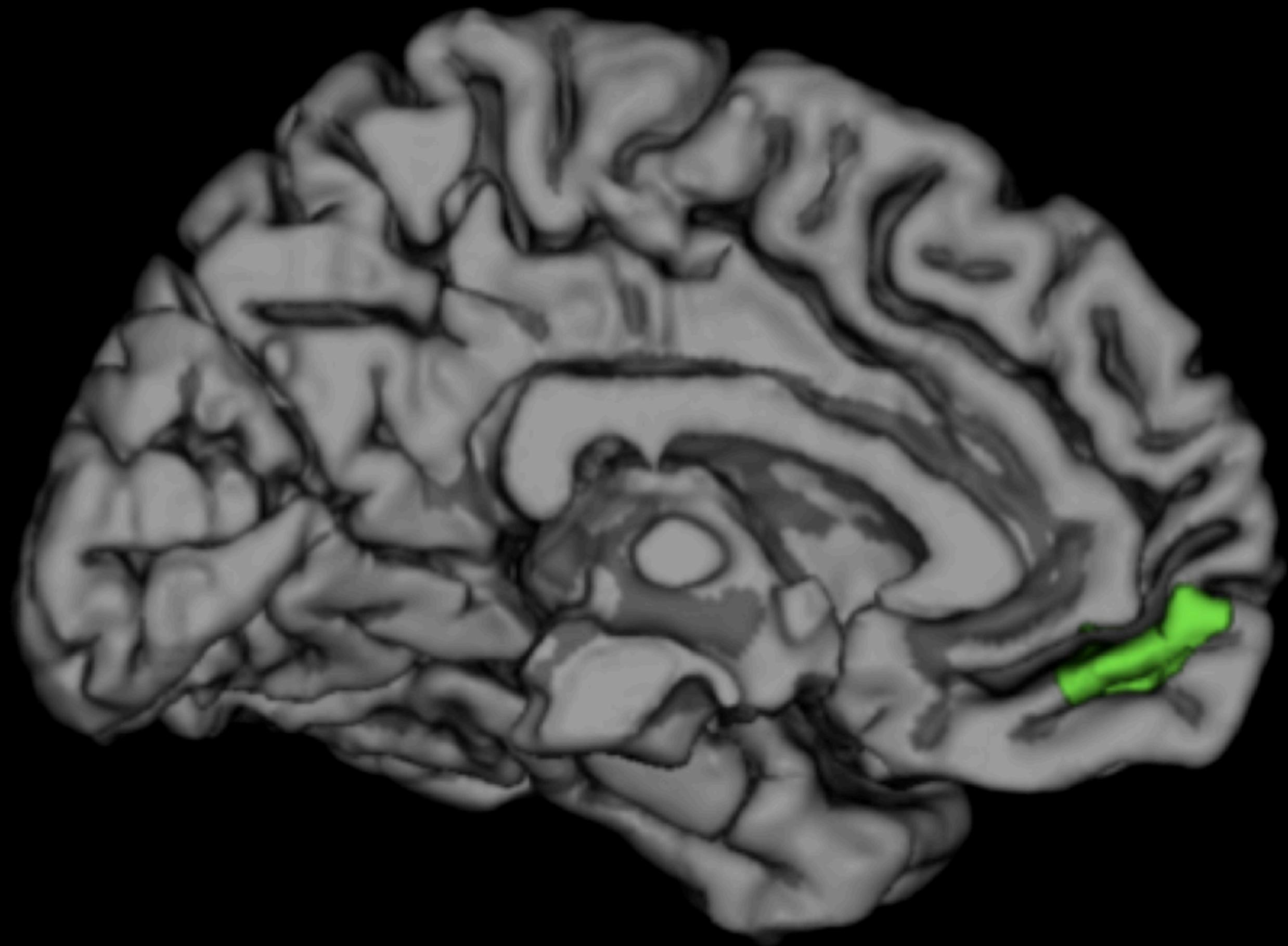
**THINKING ABOUT THE
FUTURE IS HARD.**





01

**We treat our
future selves
like strangers.**



02

**We tend to
underestimate threats
and believe life will
continue as normal.**

“NORMALCY BIAS”





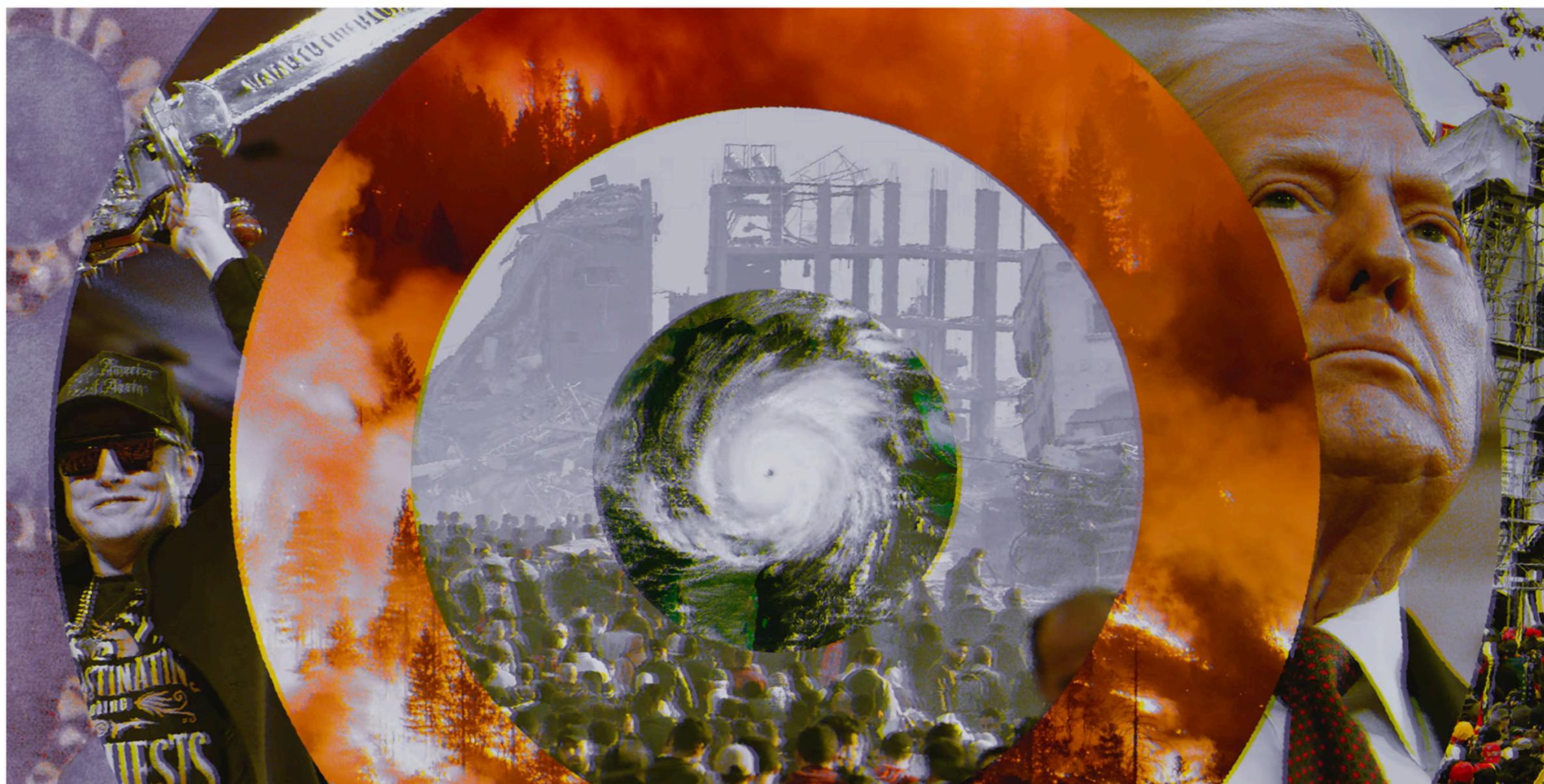
What is this era of calamity we're in? Some say 'polycrisis' captures it



Matthew Cantor

Thu 6 Mar 2025 17.02 CET

Share



ANTIDOTE:
Strong futures
imagination



**“You can only
bring about what
you can imagine.”**



IMAGINATION

ACTION



MOST FUTURES THINKING APPROACHES

do not engage
emotions



MOST FUTURES THINKING APPROACHES

are not focused on
building real muscles

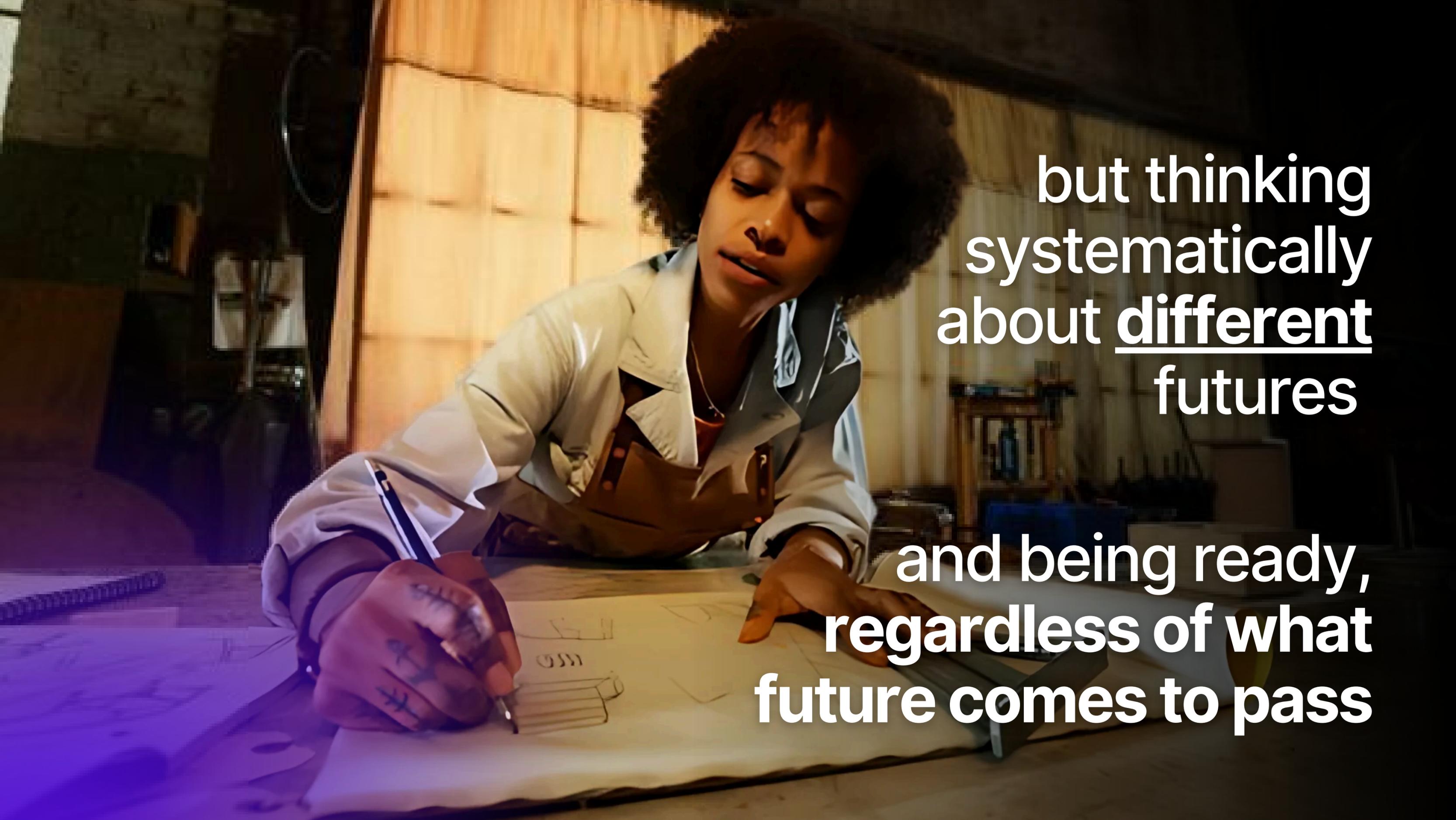




**Futures
thinking is...**



**not about
predicting
the future**

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white lab coat over a dark top, is sitting at a desk. She is focused on drawing in a large notebook with a pen. Her left hand is resting on the notebook. The background shows a window with light-colored curtains and a bookshelf. The lighting is warm and focused on her work area.

but thinking
systematically
about different
futures

and being ready,
regardless of what
future comes to pass



futures,
not one
future



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ROGUE FUTURISM

6 STEPS TO ROGUE FUTURISM



**STEP 1:
LOOK WIDE**









STEER



Social



Technological



Economic



Environmental



Political



S

behaviors, demographics, beliefs, lifestyles, values, cultural concepts, family, aspirations, life stages, mobility, etc.



T

hardware, software, innovation, sciences, energy, transport, logistics, research and development, patents, etc.



E

interest rates, trade, taxes, savings, inflation, subsidies, jobs and workforce, markets, housing, pensions, entrepreneurship, currencies, etc.



E

wildlife, water, wind, food, soil, energy, pollution, environmental regulations, urbanization



P

national and local stability, policies, laws and regulations, treaties, borders, conflicts, non-governmental organizations, consumer protection, unions, social/political movements, etc.

Dear AI Overlords, Don't F*ck This Up.

| Inside OpenAI
BY STEVEN LEVY



+ MORE AI

Spot the Fakes.
BY CHRISTOPHER BEAM

Talk to Whales.
BY CAMILLE BROMLEY

Write a Bestseller.
BY VAUHINI VARA

Rule the World.
BY VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN



**What's your
blindspot?**



Social



Technological



Economic



Environmental



Political





EVENT
(AN INDIVIDUAL TREE)



2018:
BOLSONARO GETS ELECTED IN BRAZIL



**Bolsonaro in
Brazil**



**Duterte in the
Philippines**



**Erdogan in
Turkey**



Modi in India



**Johnson in
the UK**



Trump in the US



TREND
(FOREST OF SIMILAR TREES)



**Rise of illiberal populists
in mainstream politics**



**STEP 2:
DIG DEEP**







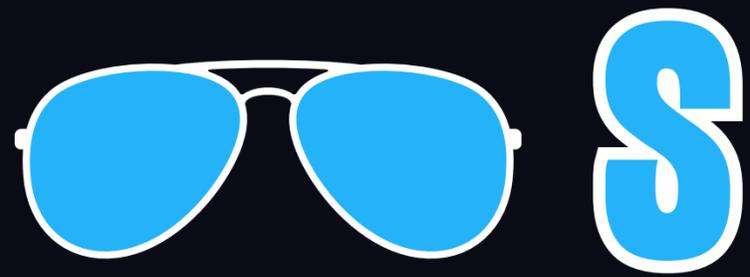


DEEP DRIVERS OF CHANGE

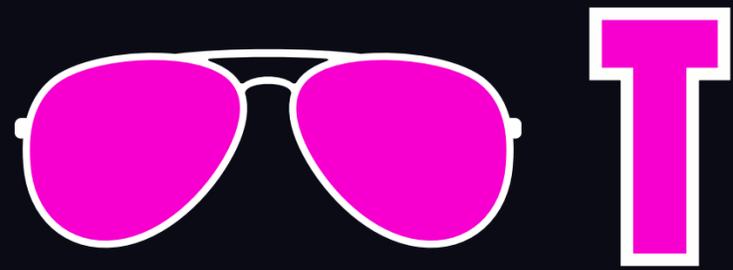
Giant forces under the surface
that move the trees



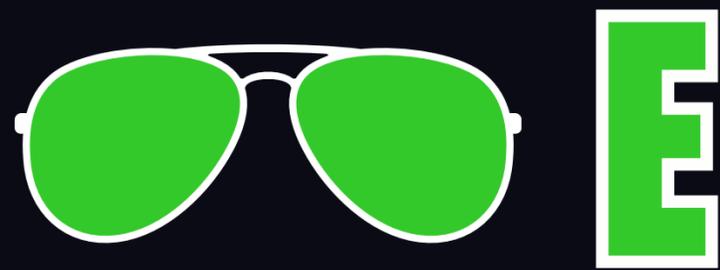
Decline of public trust in institutions



individualization & loneliness



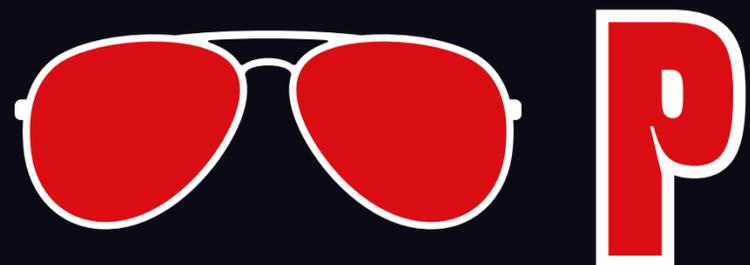
increasing human lifespan



proliferation of mega-cities



renewable energy



universalization of migratory flows

**STEP 3:
SCAN THE
PERIPHERIES**





Signal of Change

SIGNAL OF CHANGE



something that is happening in the fringes



still small or localized



but it points to compelling new ways the future can evolve into





**SIGNAL
OF CHANGE**

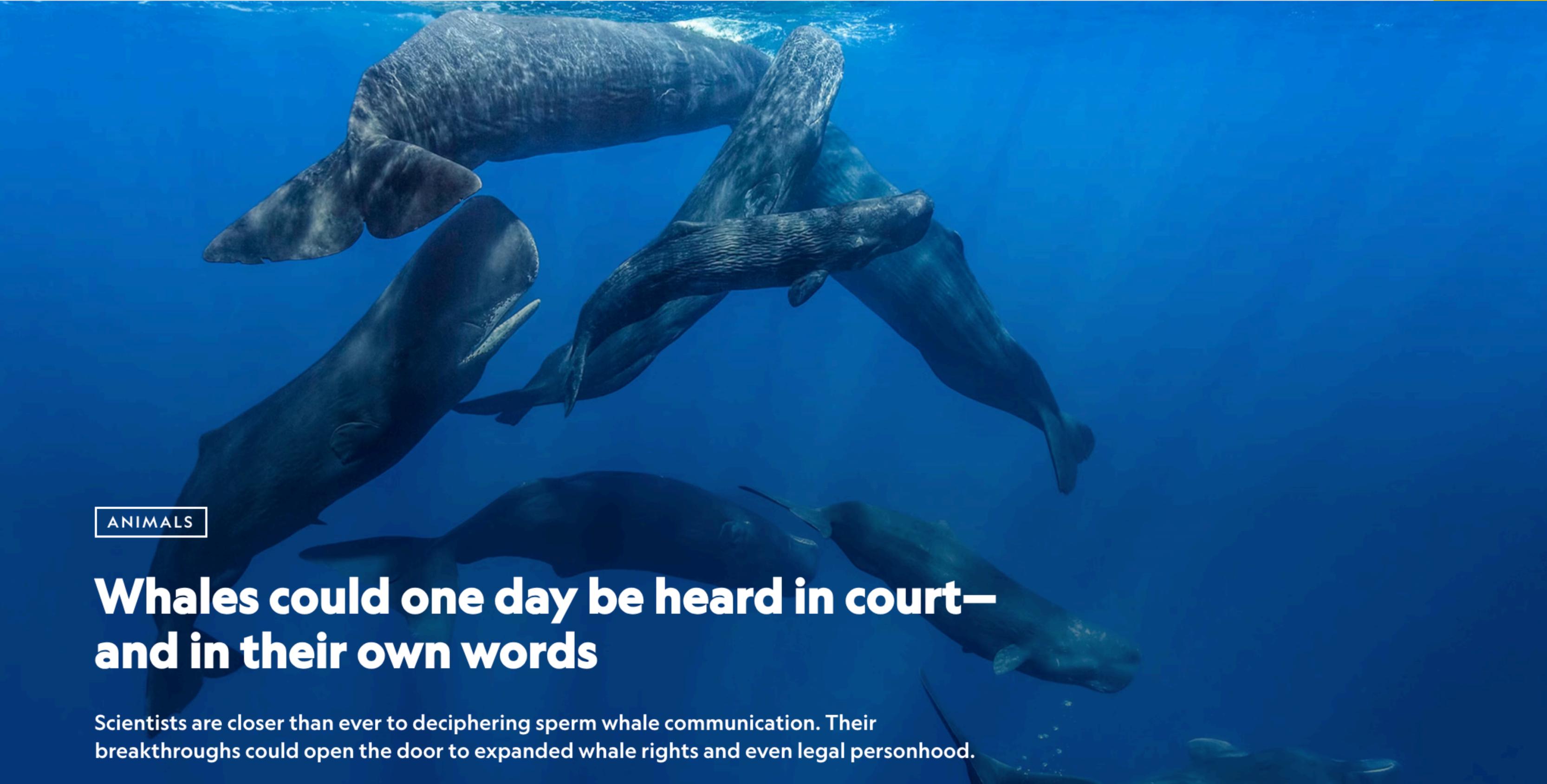
Ecuador

Legal bid for Ecuador forest to be recognised as song co-creator

Petition to Ecuador's copyright office is first legal attempt to recognise an ecosystem's moral authorship



📷 Los Cedros cloud forest. The song was 'absolutely and inextricably an act of co-authorship' with the forest, Robert Macfarlane said. Photograph: Robert Macfarlane



ANIMALS

Whales could one day be heard in court— and in their own words

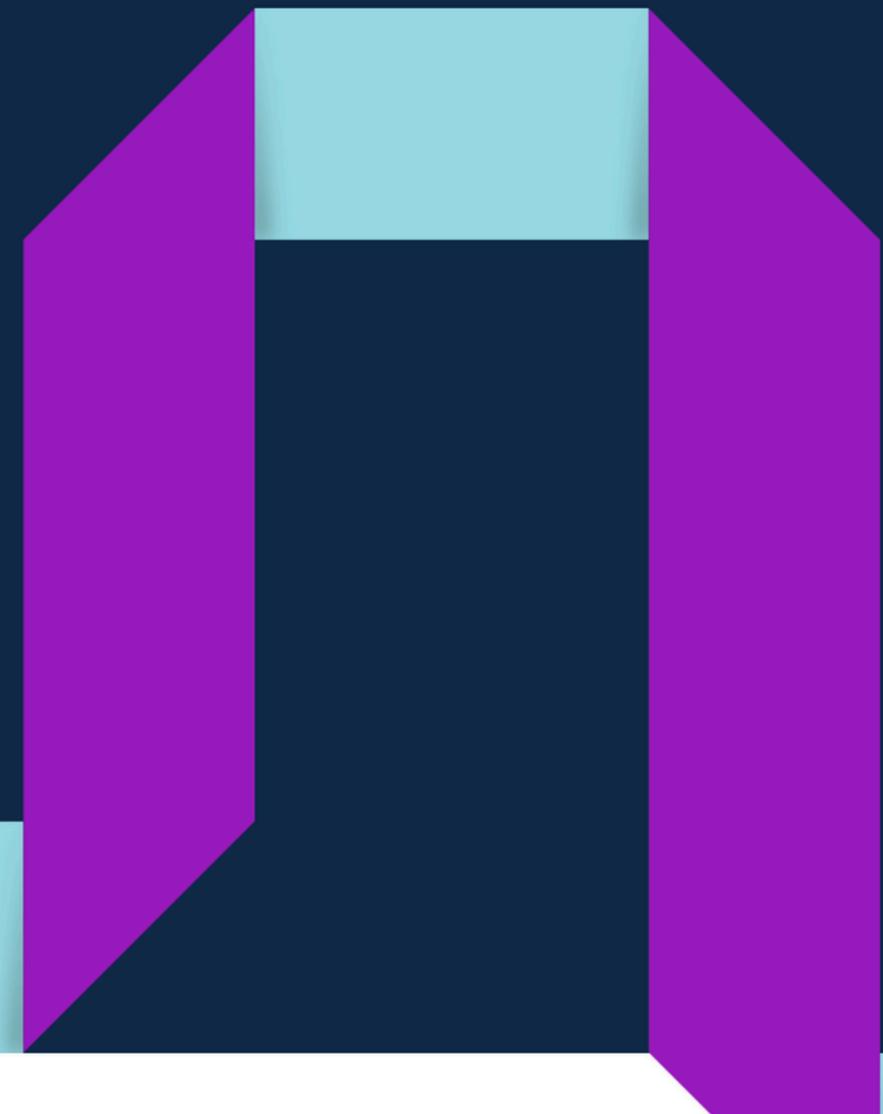
Scientists are closer than ever to deciphering sperm whale communication. Their breakthroughs could open the door to expanded whale rights and even legal personhood.

[Home](#) / [Features](#) / [Future Signals – what we're watching for in 2025](#) /

Leavesdropping: translating the hidden language of plants



William Woodward

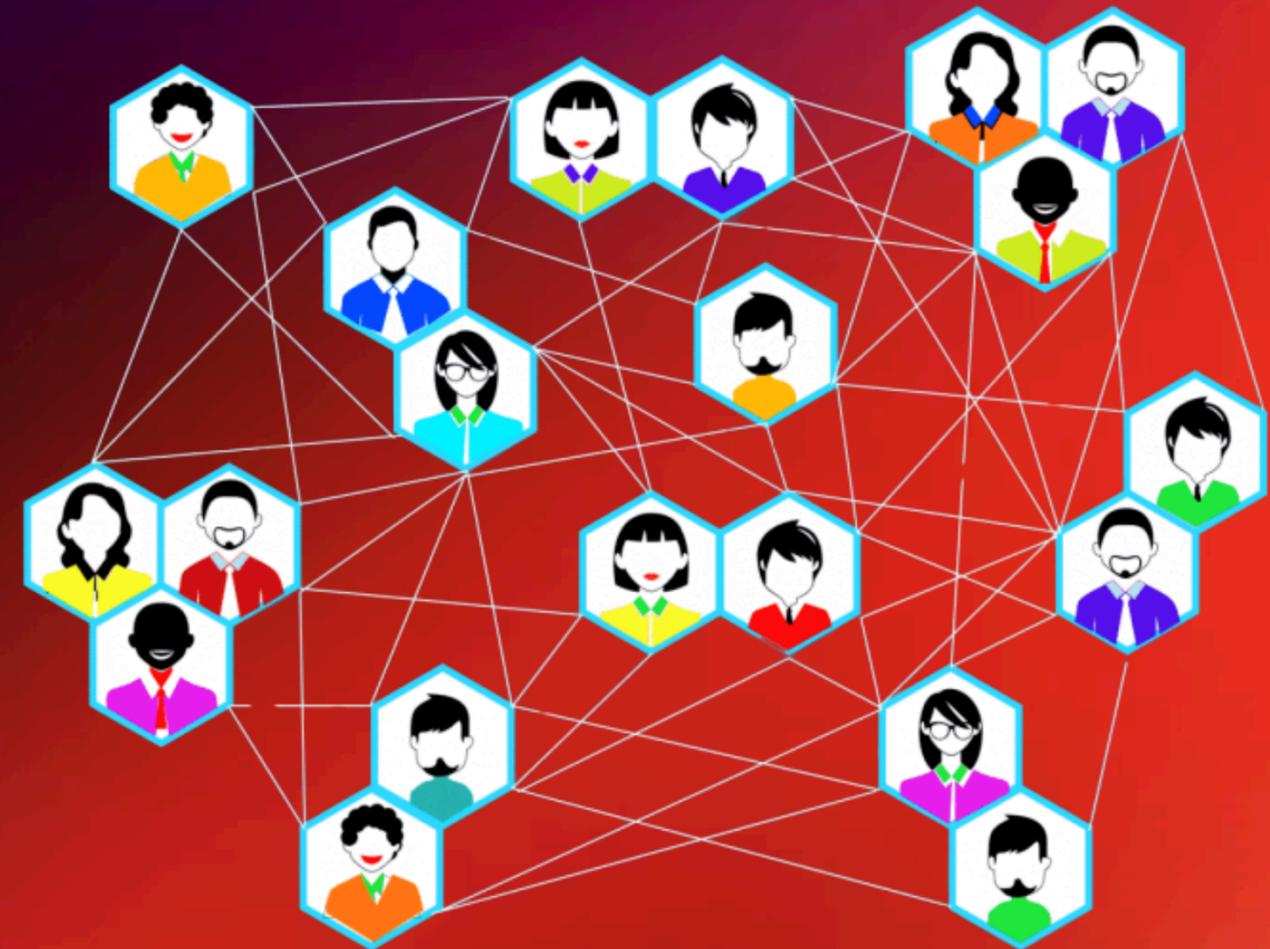


Decentralized
Autonomous
Organization
(DAO)

Traditional hierarchical organization



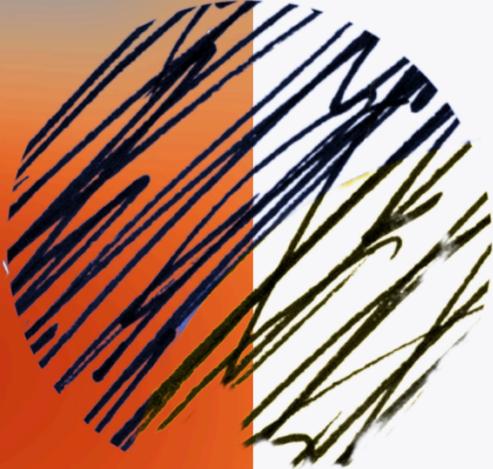
Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO)



It's never about
the tech.

It's about the
question behind
the tech.



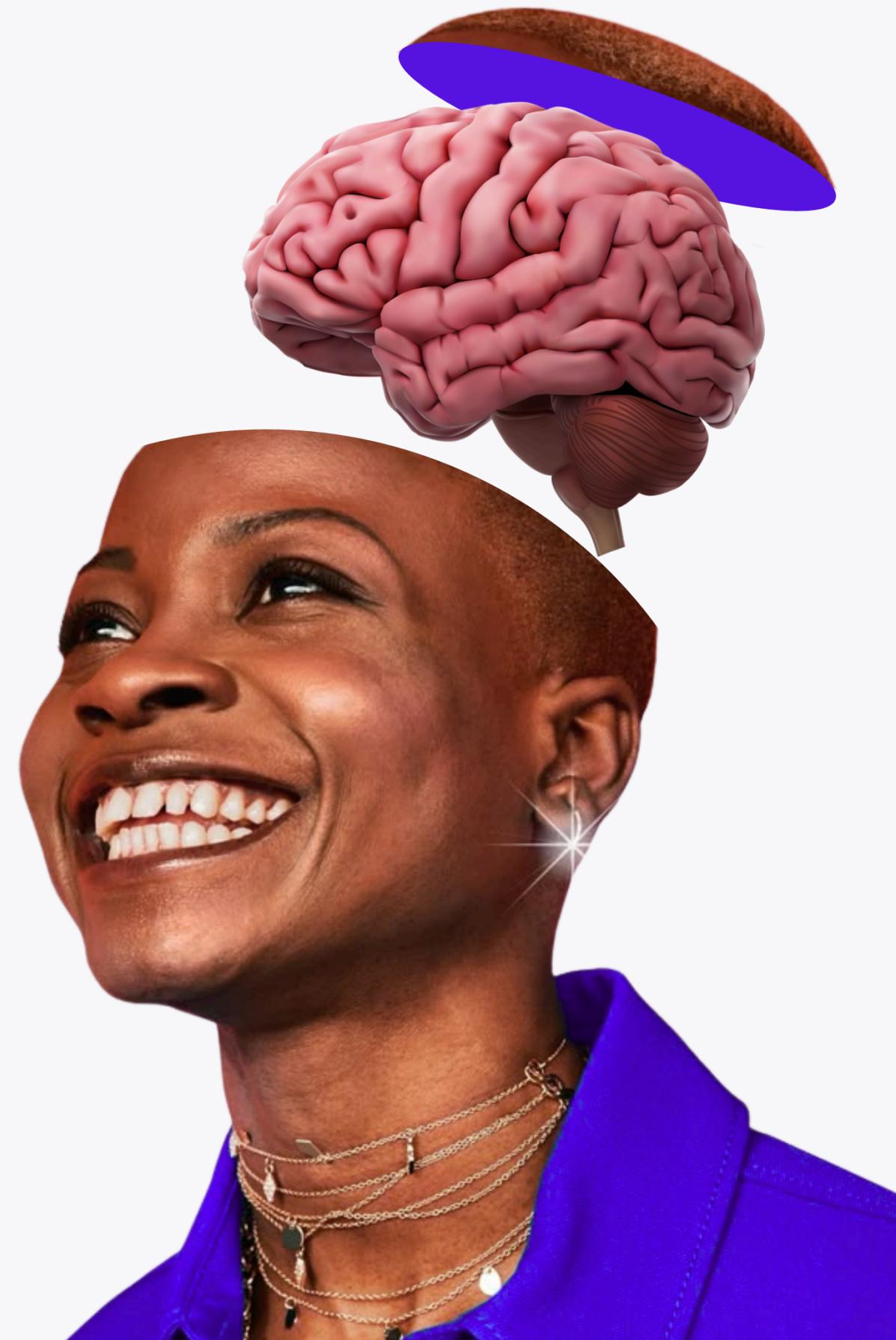


THE HIGHER LEVEL OF WORK ON SIGNALS OF CHANGE

Finding **patterns** that
point to a possible shift
in the direction to the future

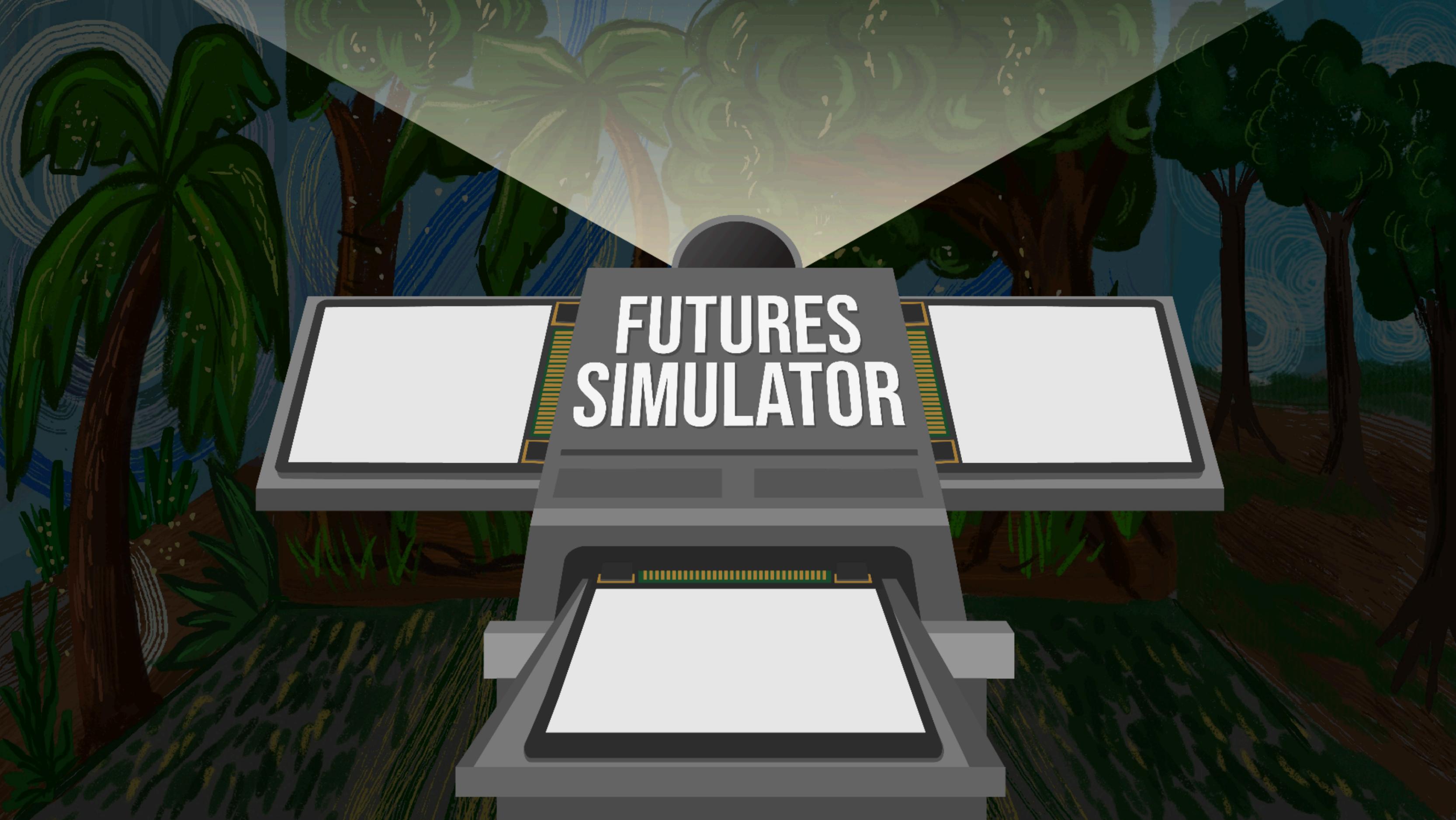


**STEP 4:
BUILD &
SIMULATE
FUTURE
WORLDS.**









FUTURES SIMULATOR

TREND

FUTURES SIMULATOR





TREND

FUTURES SIMULATOR

DEEP DRIVER

TREND

FUTURES SIMULATOR

SIGNAL

DEEP DRIVER

New future possibility
(scenario/world)

TREND

**FUTURES
SIMULATOR**

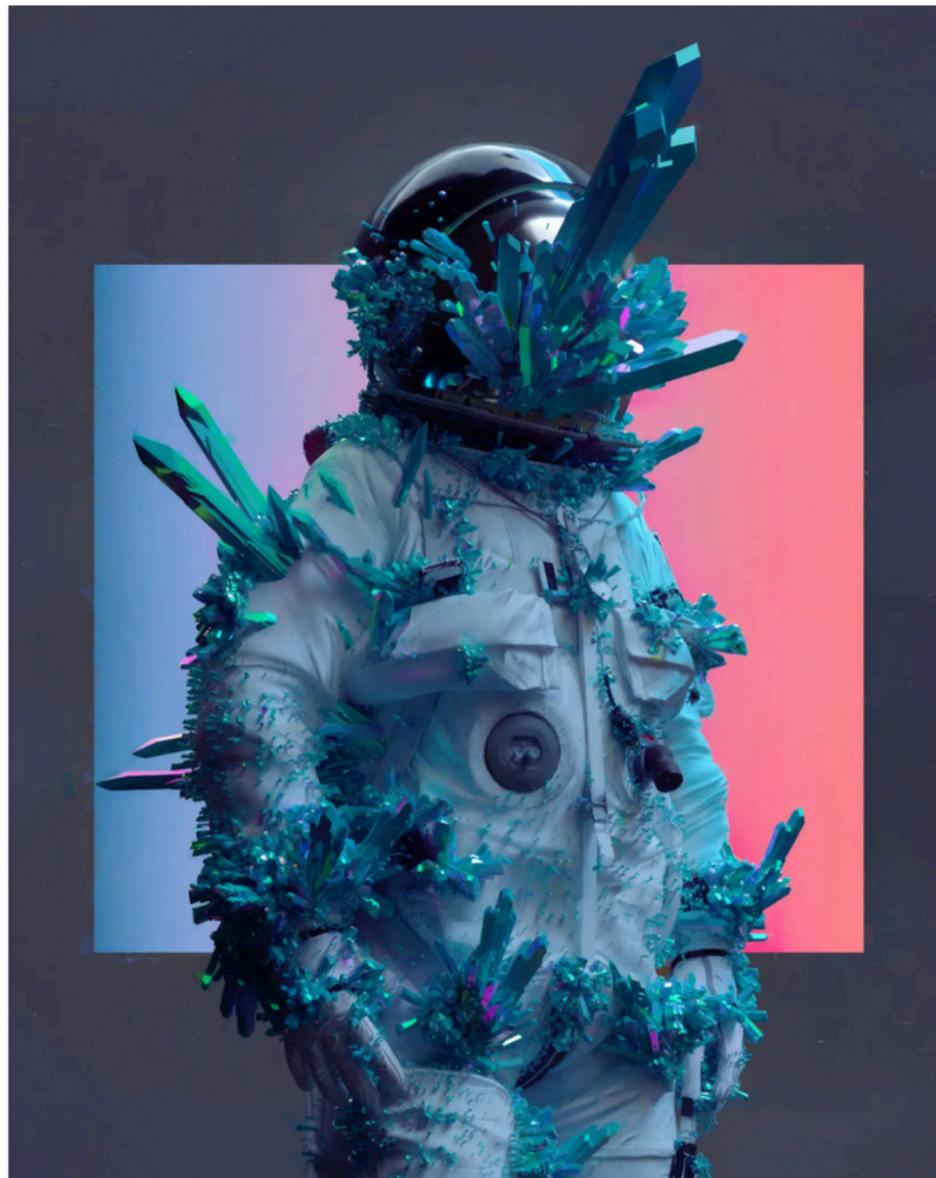
SIGNAL

DEEP DRIVER



What Are NFTs, Anyway? One Just Sold for \$69 Million.

“Nonfungible tokens” and blockchain technology are taking the mainstream art world by storm, fetching huge prices. We explain,





Watch on  YouTube

and our own plant-governed DAOs,



HOW SCENARIOS
HAVE OFTEN BEEN CRAFTED



An aerial photograph of a city, likely San Juan, New Mexico, featuring a large body of water (Lake Taos) on the left and a dense urban area with mountains in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'SEMANTIC FUTURE' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters, with a white underline beneath the word 'SEMANTIC'.

SEMANTIC FUTURE

THINKING
(abstract facts)



THE WORLD

**It's the year 2036.
It is now required by
law to take one
migrant into your
home at any given
time.**



QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN SEMANTIC FUTURE THINKING

- **Why does this law exist?**
- **What type of government passed it?**
- **How have resident citizens of a country reacted?**
- **What are the biggest changes in society as a result?**



HOW SCENARIOS SHOULD BE

**street-level
view of the
world**



EPISODIC FUTURE THINKING (lived experience)



THE WORLD

**It's the year 2036.
It is now required by
law to take one
migrant into your
home at any given
time.**



QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN EPISODIC FUTURE THINKING

- How does that look like in your daily life?
- Do you comply?
- Do you resist?
- How does it change your habits?
- Do you still walk around in your underwear in the morning?



You're not
role-playing.

You are you.

Vox

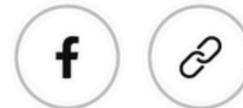
FUTURE PERFECT

How to future-proof your life from pandemics and other threats

You can prepare your brain for the next big disaster, biological or otherwise. A futurist explains how.

by **Sigal Samuel**

Apr 8, 2022 at 12:30 PM GMT+2



'In this eye-opening, actionable book, Jane McGonigal teaches you how to widen your peripheral vision, extend your imagination farther into the future, and conceive of the inconceivable.'

Adam Grant, New York Times bestselling author of Think Again

HOW TO SEE THE
FUTURE COMING
AND BE READY FOR
ANYTHING



IMAGINABLE

JANE MCGONIGAL

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



We're going to simulate!

RULE OF THE GAME





Suspend your disbelief

anywhere in the world. Paired with the standard Launchpad™ meal offering, we use the latest in neuroscience and sensory manipulation to let you eat like a local — before you even get there.

Any useful statement
about the **future**
should at first seem
ridiculous.

JIM DATOR

Practicing the “mental stretch”



“Just because you
don’t like something
doesn’t mean you
shouldn’t think
about it.”

— Jane McGonigal



social simulation



F

The Gene Divide



Copy link



but the flourishing of life.

Watch on  YouTube

Today's the vote. You're standing
in line at your local polling
station.

How do you vote?

How do you vote?

"Yes" to fully legalize all genetic enhancements services

"Yes" but only for legally defined therapeutic gene editing

"No" to prohibit any genetic modification

*Do a free-write for 5 minutes
to journal your thoughts and feelings.*

The referendum passed:
**only therapeutic gene editing is now
legal.**

No enhancements.
Just certified treatments for
diagnosed conditions.

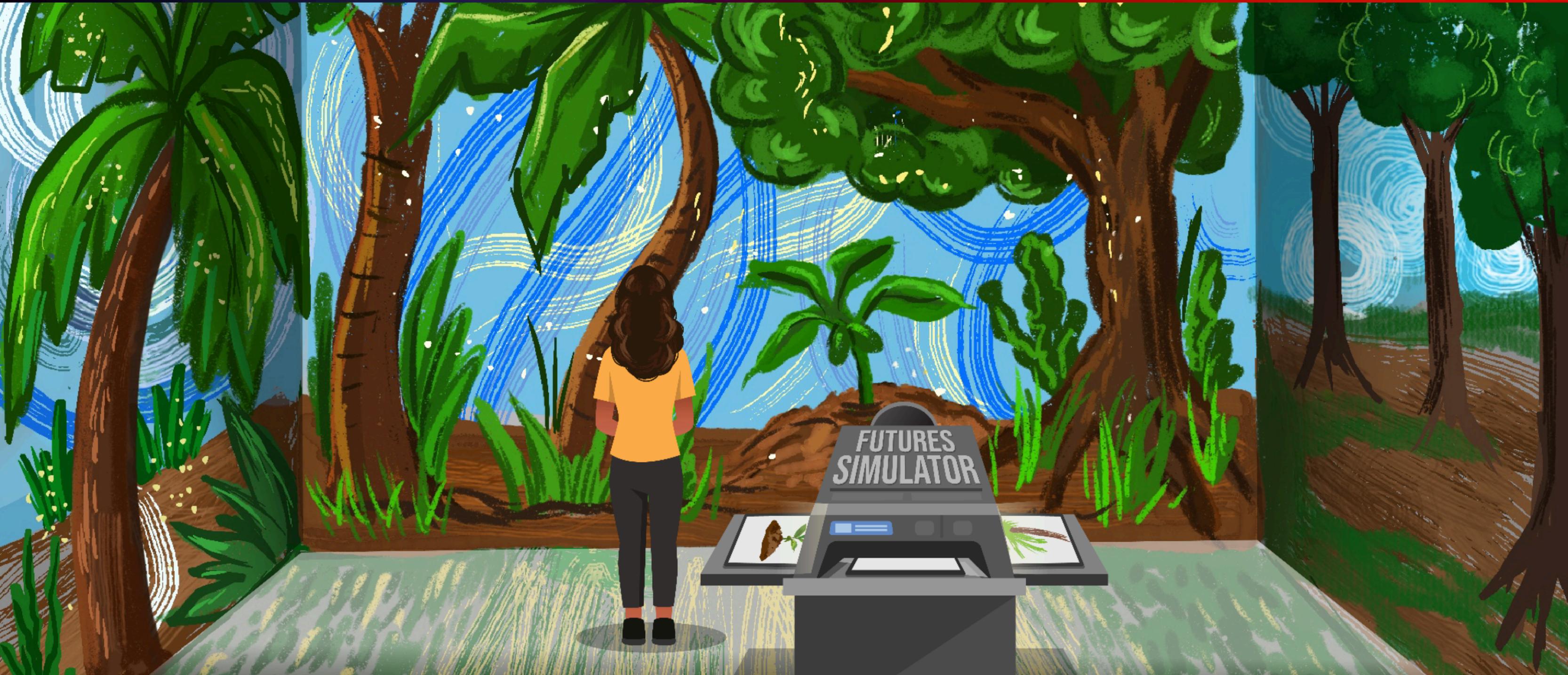
Later that day, a close friend texts
you:

*“Feeling a little down. I was hoping
the enhancements would pass. My
focus has been all over the place
lately—I’ve been juggling too much,
have not been sleeping at all, and it’s
starting to show. Just thought...
maybe this could’ve helped.”*

You can feel their disappointment through the screen—not just about the vote, but about how hard things have been lately.

How do you respond to your friend?

WHAT MAKES A GOOD 'WORLD'?



1)

IRON FIST + VELVET GLOVE

Ari Popper, Scifutures



Future Today Strategy Group's 2025 Tech Trend Report

Our 2025 edition includes 1000 pages, with hundreds of trends published individually in 15 volumes and as one comprehensive report. Download all sections of Future Today Strategy Group's 2025 Tech Trends report at www.ftsg.com/trends.



“The Great Tech Convergence”

LIVING INTELLIGENCE

```
graph TD; A[LIVING INTELLIGENCE] --- B[Artificial Intelligence]; A --- C[Advanced Sensors]; A --- D[Bioengineering];
```

Artificial Intelligence

Advanced Sensors

Bioengineering



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Technology And Analytics

Why “Living Intelligence” Is the Next Big Thing

by Amy Webb

January 6, 2025



TECH

How digital twins could change clinical trials

Digital twins can cut time and costs associated with running drug studies.

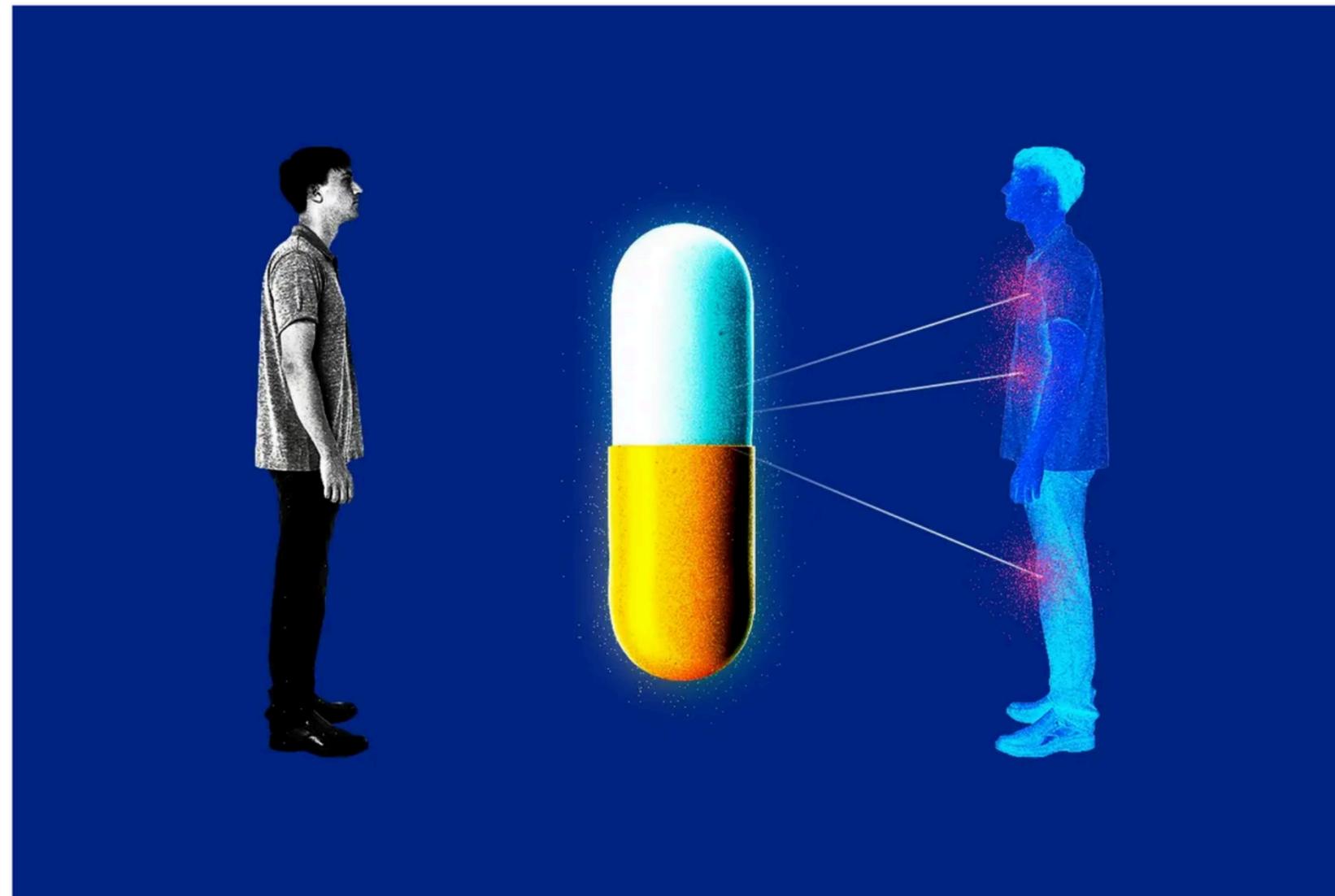


Illustration: Anna Kim, Photo: Getty Images

THE FUTURE OF SPORTS IS HERE

We are on a mission to redefine super humanity through science, innovation and sports.

Get Enhanced



EH ENHANCED GAMES
Las Vegas 2026



AN ENHANCED DOCUMENTARY
50 METERS TO HISTORY
THE FIRST SUPERHUMAN



EH 50M Freestyle World Record
Fastest Swimmer in History.



Enhanced Games claims former Olympic swimmer broke two world records ahead of controversial launch



By Leon Imber
May 22, 2025

The First Conference On Human Enhancement

A New Horizon for Athletes

Date

Length

March 27, 2024

4 min read



2)

THE BALANCING ACT

Enabling emotions vs.
psychological safety



A pair of hands is shown holding a red elastic band horizontally across the frame. The band is stretched and has white text printed on it. The background is a gradient from dark blue on the left to bright red on the right.

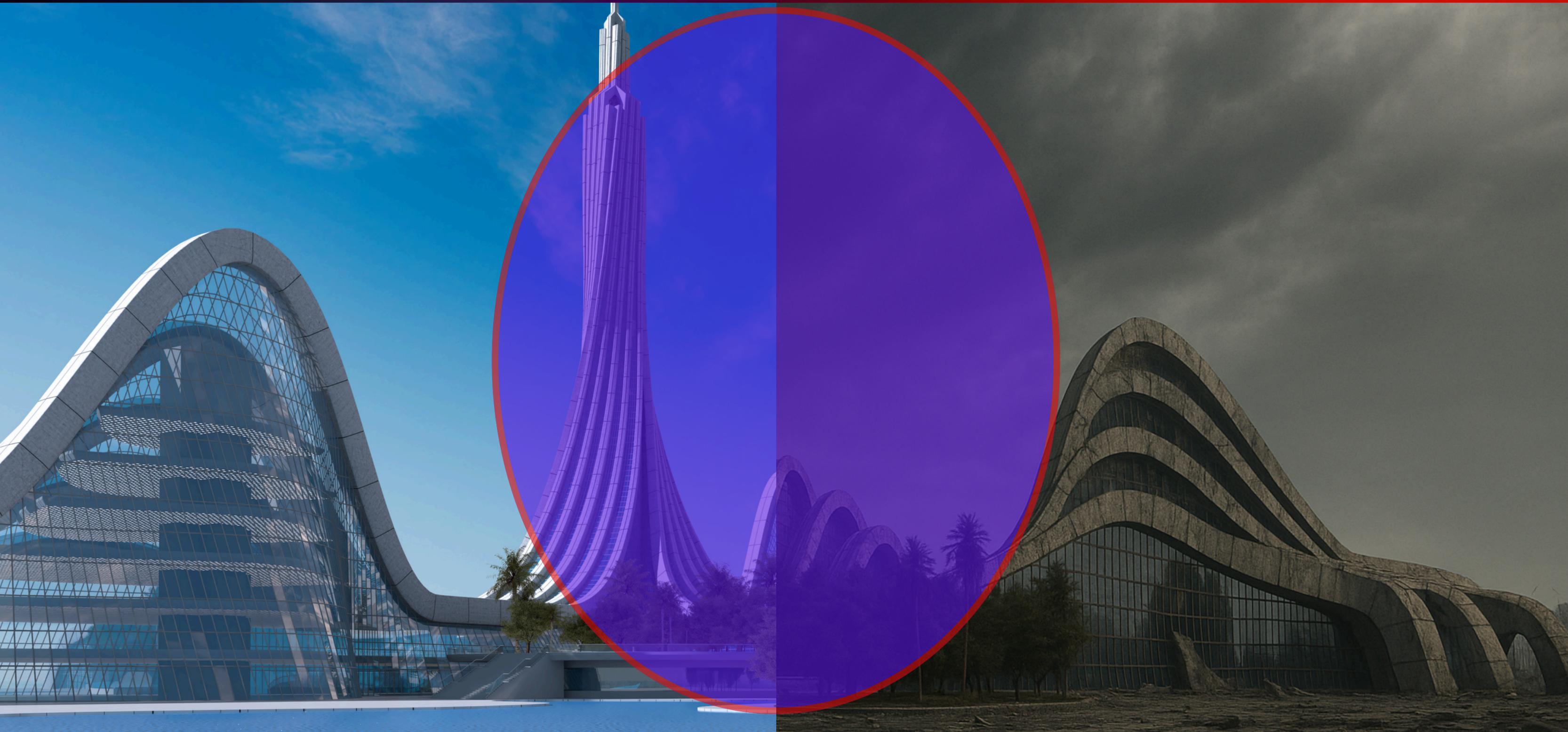
**3) THE ELASTIC BAND
OF TIME**



4.

**FEELING OF CONTROL
OR AGENCY BY THE
PERSON SIMULATING**

5. NEITHER UTOPIAN NOR DYSTOPIAN



**5)
COMMUNICATION
MAKES OR BREAKS
A SCENARIO.**





ATTENTION

The user is under the surveillance
of the city of Montreal and the State
of Québec. By using this facility,
you grant consent for your
biological waste to be analyzed
by the city, the state, and any
third party with whom the data
is shared.

These data may be combined
with other facial recognition or
identification technologies if
necessary to confirm your
identity and your contribution.

Version 1.0 - 2023-01-01 - 1000

ATTENTION

This toilet is under the surveillance of the city of Palo Alto and the state of California.

By using this facility, you grant consent for your waste to be analyzed by the city, state, and any third-party with whom this data is shared. Waste data may be combined with facial recognition or other identification technologies if necessary to contact you regarding your contribution.



New chat

UOScenarioCreator

New chat



UOScenarioCreator

By @janemcgonigal

2 monthly users · 11 followers · 994+ points

History

Rates

API



View more

Future Scenario

Continue your last chat with this app



Today

UOScenarioCreator

Hello! I'm the Urgent Optimists scenario creator. My job is to write short, hypothetical future scenarios set ten years in the future that ask people to imagine how they would feel and what action they would take if a scenario really happened. I would like YOU to tell me what future topic or drivers of change YOU are interested in. I will then offer a scenario exploring that topic and realistic

Message





Since when are you a video editor? Since now.

In Descript, editing video is as easy as editing text.
And it's loaded with AI tools that do the heavy lifting for you.
So you can make video that's actually good, and make it fast.

Get started for free →

**STEP 5:
DRAW STRATEGIC
LEARNINGS FROM
THESE FUTURE
WORLDS.**



**STEP 6:
CREATE YOUR
“PERSONAL
TRAINING PLAN”
FOR FUTURES
READINESS.**





rogueunion.org

 [/kriznagomez](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kriznagomez)