

Attentive

Ecological

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE TECH FUTURES!

Fruitful

Reflective

Transparent

Complex

Pluralistic

Interdependent

Democratic

Notes from
Catch/Editing:
Symposium
26.06.20

Inclusive

In late June, we held a symposium and workshop, where artists, designers and technologists were invited to discuss and explore what alternative tech futures mean and how to make them more tangible.

Inclusive

We would like to share some notes with you.



This publication contains the themes and questions that were explored during the day, and that worked as a foundation for conversations and discussions around alternative tech futures. We invite you to use it as inspiration to discuss and explore how to shape technologies for the future. All feedback or comments are appreciated.





COVID precautions



Workshop *about* *New Institutions*

Our world is constantly changing, but right now the change seems to be very tangible, as if a window of opportunity has opened up in the aftermath of COVID-19 that has showed us that radical change is possible. How can existing art and tech institutions adapt to emerging ideas about new and/or re-emerging ideas about working and organizing? How can we as representatives from institutions take action and what should characterize institutions in the future?

Opening talk by
Majken Overgaard (Catch) and
Tina Ryoona Andersen (Et_ting)

Workshop **about** **New Institutions**

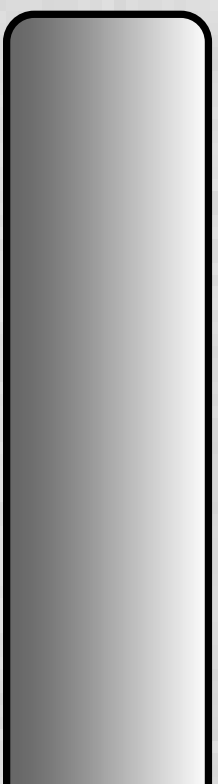
Humoristic

Questions:

- Which institutional visions can be developed in the light of the current paradigm shifts we're facing right now?
- What constitutes and characterize the most ideal institution of the future?
- What societal impact can art/tech institutions offer?
- Which forms of collaborations are possible in the future?

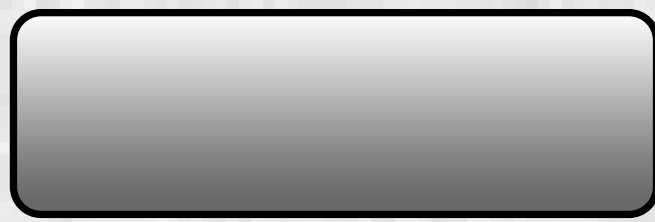
"History is not important in itself, but only when it provides us with perspectives on our present time"

*Jacob Thorek Jensen
Curator, Danish Museum of
Science and Technology*



*"How will we
publish in the
future?"*

Hanna Bergman
Visual and editorial designer,
The Reading School

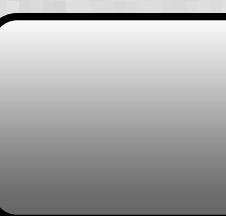


*"We have to ask
the questions
which pull out the
answers that ev-
eryone is eager
to get."*

Marie Høst
Tech journalist

Workshop
about
Data, surveillance
and privacy

Data has become central in today's global trade and as a tool for surveillance. But is the use of our private data by the state and corporations undermining our basic human rights and thus our democracy? How can we as developers, designers, artists and citizens take action and what should characterize data driven technologies in the future?



Workshop ***about*** ***Data, surveillance*** ***and privacy***

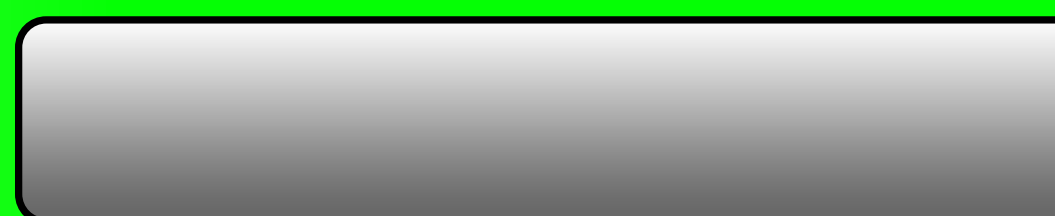
Questions:

- Which core principles should be obligatory when developing data driven products and solutions, and what constitutes and characterizes a positive vision of a data-driven future?
- What are the most urgent challenges in regard to data privacy and surveillance? (lack of transparency, monopoly etc...)
- Which questions and perspectives can art bring to the table - which forms of collaboration between art and tech are possible in the future?
- Who is responsible for our data privacy? The citizens, the corporations, and legislators? To what extent? And how?



Opening talk by Irina Shklovski (KU) and Miguel Sicart (ITU)

<http://www.ridiculous.software/>



Custom prompt

Who is responsible for our data privacy?
The citizens, the corporations, and
legislators?

GENERATE ANOTHER

Completion

Who is responsible for our data privacy? The citizens, the corporations, and legislators?

_____ Respondents for this study were contacted online for their opinions on data privacy and protection by telephone (n=168), email (n=136), and face-to-face (n=44) or via the web (n=88). The sample was self-selected using demographic and geographical self-selection mechanisms; more than 90% of those who responded opted for answering questions online. The response rate of those participating was high (83%), with each of the four data collection methods being used at least once. Approximately 80% of the responses came from the United States. The sample provided us with data for a total of 16 countries, with responses from 13 countries and 20

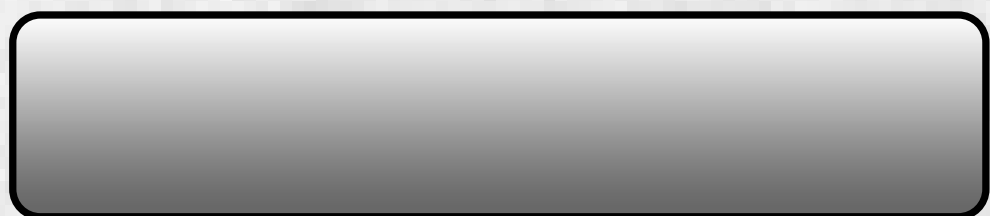


"What does it mean to be read by an algorithm and how can we read it back?"

Kristian Husted
Playwriter, theatre director
and author

"Privacy is an actual problem, but privacy in software is an imaginary problem"

Miguel Sicart
Associate Professor, IT

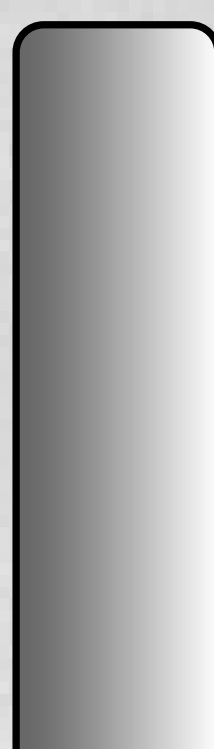


"What is the cost of things being smart?"

Susse Sønderby
Senior experience designer
Adobe XD

Workshop ***about*** ***Body and the machine***

The boundaries between the body and the machine are becoming more and more blurred. Currently, there's a focus on developing more inclusivity in AI and other types of software and hardware that are not gender or racial biased. How can we as developers, designers and artists add new perspectives to the field, and what should characterize developments within body-tech in the future?



Workshop ***about*** ***Body and the machine***

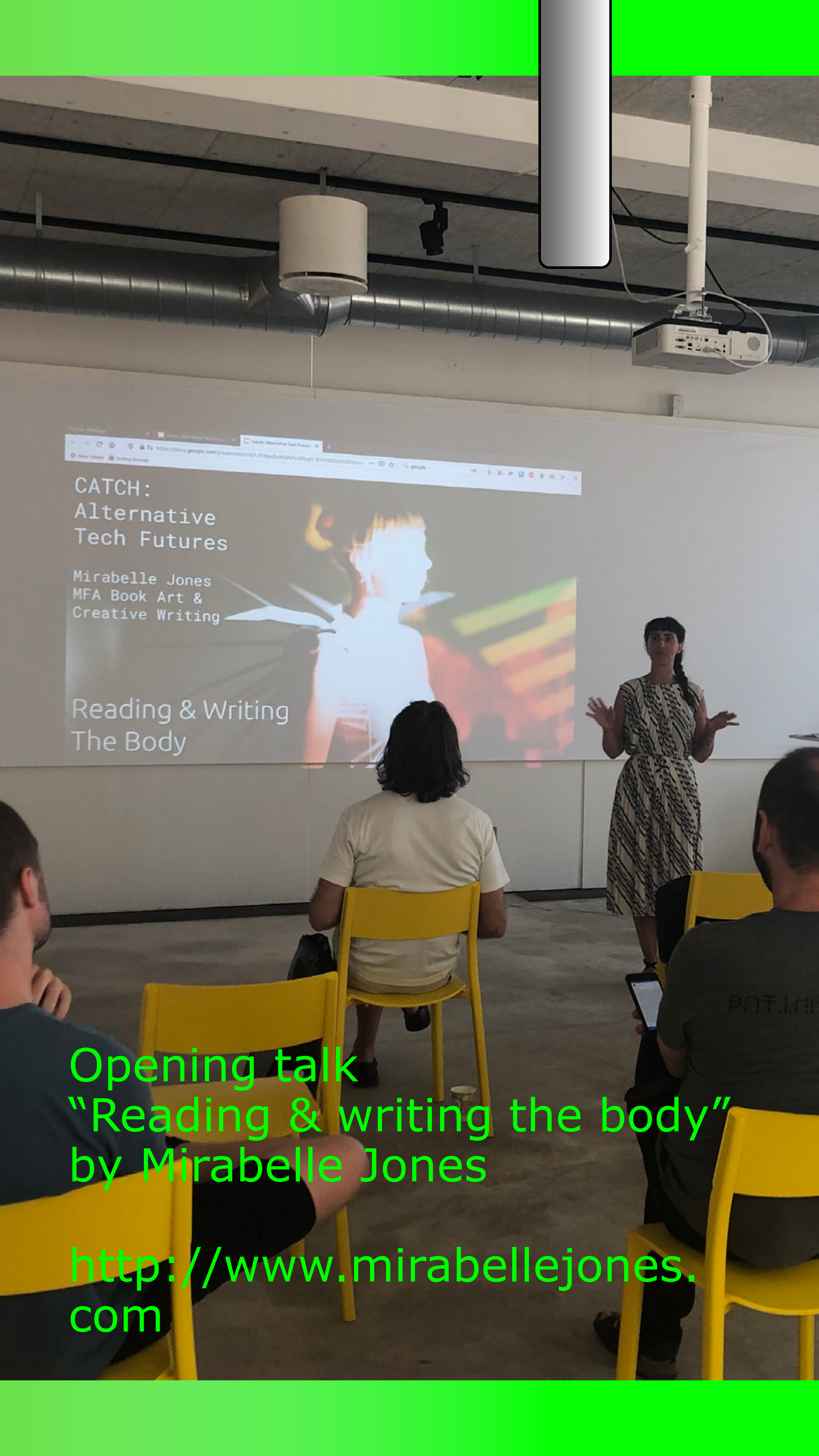
Questions:

- What role does gender play when working in this field? How?
- What should characterize developments within body-tech in the future?
- Which body-related perspectives are relevant to explore when adding technology?
- Which challenges arise when adding technology to the body(ies)?

CATCH:
Alternative
Tech Futures

Mirabelle Jones
MFA Book Art &
Creative Writing

Reading & Writing
The Body



Opening talk
"Reading & writing the body"
by Mirabelle Jones

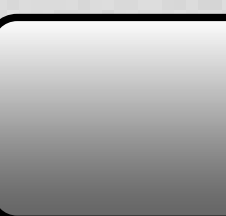
<http://www.mirabellejones.com>

*"Our future tech
is not in a case
or on a screen
but in every-
day objects that
are enchanted
with technology,
weaved into the
them"*

*Vanessa Julia Carpenter
Ph.d and
Future Technologies Designer
Kintsugi Design*

Workshop about Alternative economies

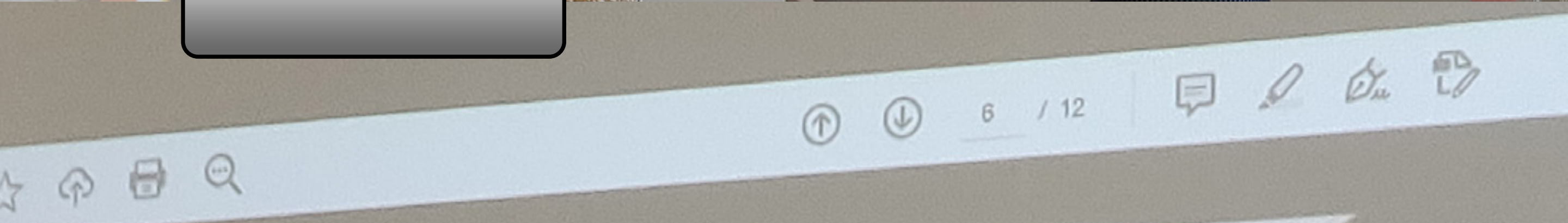
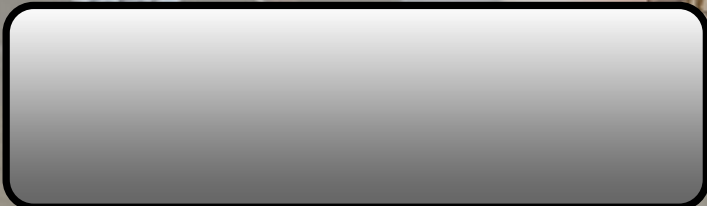
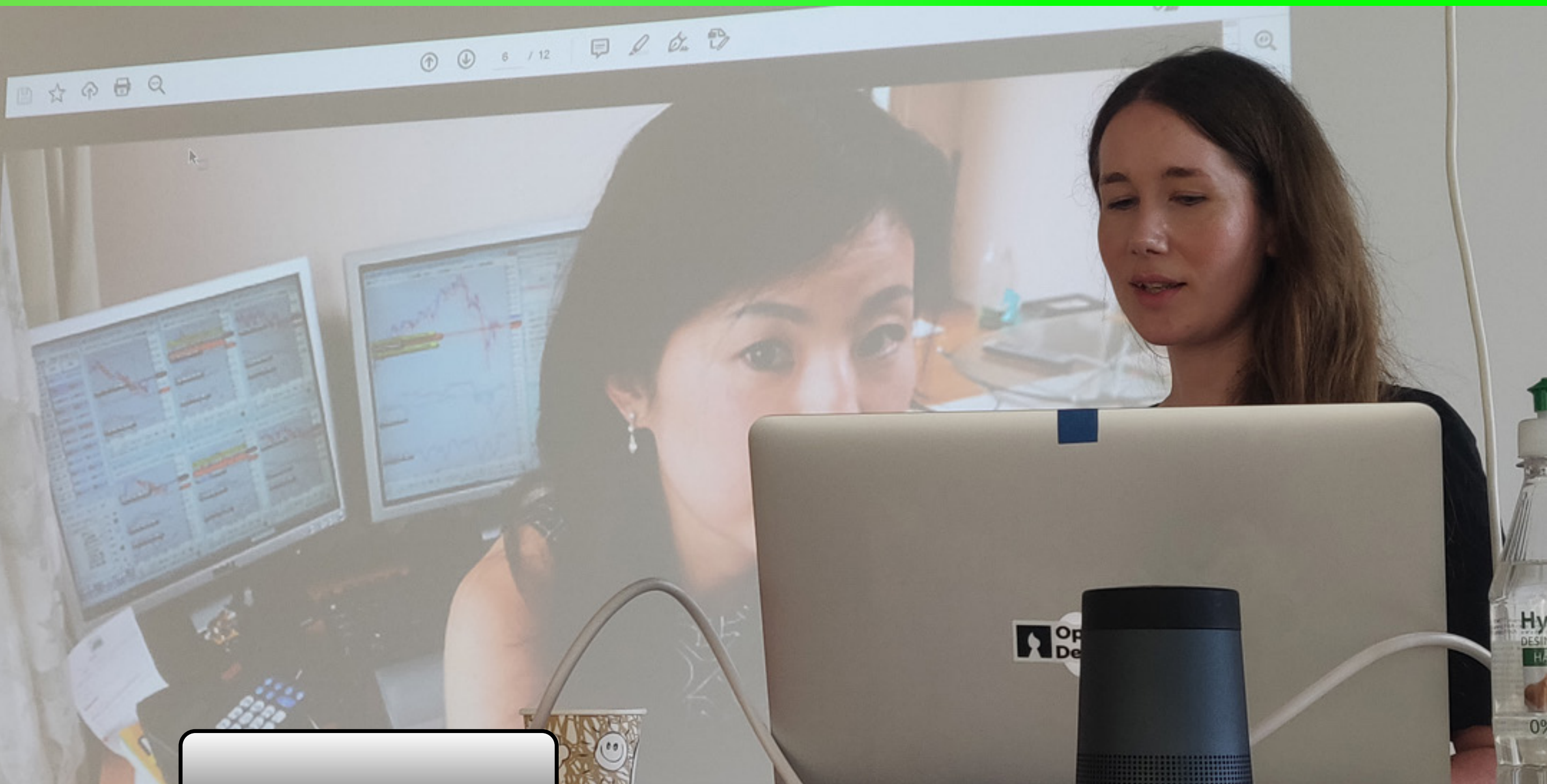
What new possibilities and challenges arise when money and economics goes digital? How can we create business models that remunerates all value creators, and is based on value creation, not only profit? How can artists, designers and technologists take action in order to stimulate local, smaller scale economies or disrupt larger scale economic power structures - and what should characterize alternative economies in the future?



Workshop *about* *Alternative* *economies*

Questions:

- Which possibilities arise when money and economics goes digital?
- How do the current logics of business and/or funding models work? What are the biggest challenges?
- How can we take action in order to stimulate local, smaller scale economies?
 - Is there a potential in developing a crypto currency for an "Alternative tech futures" ecosystem?
 - Is there a potential in developing cooperatives? How would they work?
- What should characterize alternative economies in the future?



Opening talk
by Christine Bjerke

<https://www.christinebjerke.com/>
<http://www.thefxbeauties.club/>



*"How can
cooperative
principles and
business models
play a role in
technological
development"*

*Johanne Aarup Hansen
Interaction designer
Flexwerker and Et_ting*

Workshop *about* *Collaborative* *Platforms*

Remember how optimistic you felt about the internet when you first discovered it? We all thought this would be the end of restrictions and boundaries in the most positive and generous sense. It gave every one of us the power to self-publish and share our words, ideas and creativity with the world. But it soon got co-opted by commercial, extractive and proprietary players. Is there a future for the types of ideas of the internet we had when we first encountered it?

Workshop *about* *Collaborative* *Platforms*

- How can we as developers, designers and artists take back the tools from private corporations and multinational institutions?
- How can we organize and collaborate and put forward a commons-based logic?
- How can we create shared value, peer-to-peer exchange, open contributory systems and governance that are built on solidarity and sharing?

People

Proces

What systemic/
structural aspects are
missing on the post?

(Com)puter

Product

(Com)post

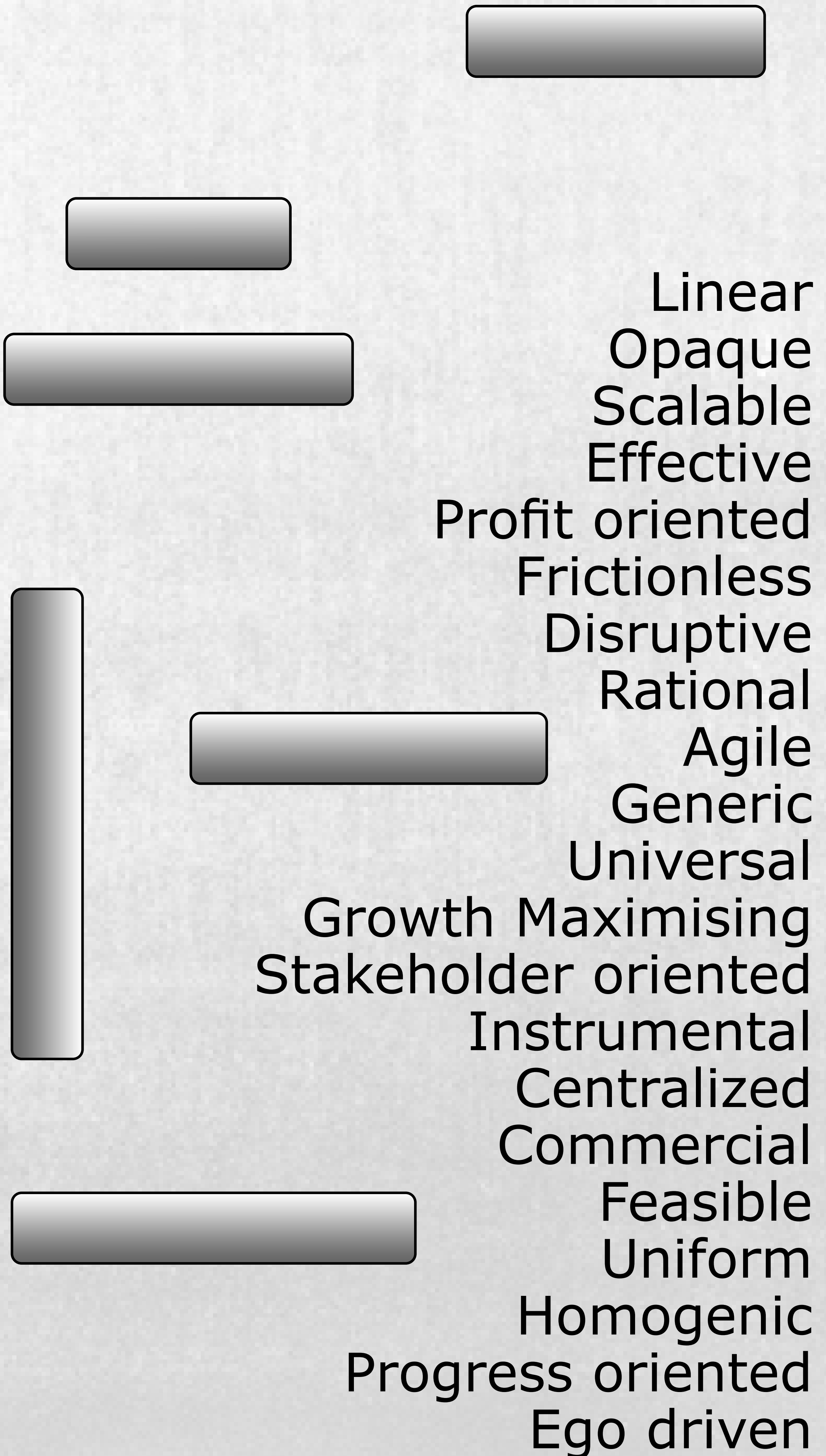
(Com)panions

Production

Behavioral change
Methods
Museum
Education
Institutions
Influencers
Businesses
Economy

Planet

What current value notions should we challenge?



What 'alternative' value notions do you miss on the post?

Non screen
Evolution of humans
Beauty
Optimism
Contradictory
Humor
Playful
Bodily
Non-conformist
Non-calculable
Responsible
Relational
Vizual
Collective
Material
Non convenience
comfortable
Changing mindset
Translating identi-
fication
Crafted
Deconstruction
Border breaking

Meaningful
Plural
Divers
Inclusive
Ecological
Reflective
Playful
Careful
Fruitfull
Healing
Mending
Democratic
Interweaving
Frictional
Fictional
Interdependent
Imaginative
Creative
Multilayered
Complex
Progressive
Holistic
Circular

Attentive

Ecological

Fruitfull

Transparent

Complex

Interdependent

Democratic

Pluralistic

Inclusive

Recommendations

Books:

Lorde, Audre: "The Master's tools will not dismantle the master's house"

Solnit, Rebecca: "Hope in the Dark"

De Waal, Edmund: "Haren med de ravgule øjne (The Hare with Amber Eyes)"

Benjamin, Ruha: "Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code"

Jenmisin, J.K: "Fifth season"

Wachter-Boettcher, Sara: "Technically Wrong: Sexist Apps, Biased Algorithms, and Other Threats of Toxic Tech"

Rose, David: "Enchanted Objects"

Raworth, Kate: "Doughnut Economics"

Recommendations

Easterling, Keller: "Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space"

Watts, Laura: "Energy at the End of the World"

Ames, Morgan: "The Charisma Machine"

Videos:

Sommar pratarna Greta Thunberg, sr.se

Ingrid Lafleur: See talk on afrofuturism + local Detroit cryptocurrency

Monty Python: Bring out your dead

Amer, Karim and Noujaim, Jehane: 'The Great Hack' (with David Carol, Professor of New School)

Podcasts:

Lydkunst

VOX Media: "Land of of the Giants"

Recommendations

MACBA's podcast on sounds, philosophy and art

Holly Herndon and Mat Dryhurst: "Interdependence"

David Graeber: "Promises, promises: A history of debt"

Blogs:

Greater Spaces: <https://ing.dk>

Other:

Performer Johannes Paul Raether

Mz Baltazar's Laboratory, Vienna

Russian Formalism and Defamiliarization

LACMA - <https://www.lacma.org/>

Ian Cheng's writings and artwork

