

Back to the Futures we want

– Part 3: Backcasting and Performing –

So far in this project, you have explored four different future scenarios ([Part 1: Visions](#)), and critically redeveloped your sustainable and desirable vision for 2067 in your chosen region ([Part 2: Visions Reloaded](#)). Now that you have gotten a glimpse of that utopia, we are back to the present - *from* the futures we want.

1) Backcasting

Let's refocus on the present again: How do we get to those sustainable futures? In the third and final part of this project, we ask you to do 'backcasting'. This means that after creating a desirable (sustainable) future vision, you look *back* at how this could be achieved. You will generate ideas and discuss what actions and changes need to be taken now and in the coming decades in order to reach your vision.

Steps for Backcasting to the Futures We Want

We suggest you to go through the following three steps in order to come up with a path to the 2067 that you imagined. Maybe you have thought about some of these questions already in previous parts of the assignment, but it's good to revisit your thoughts for the backcasting. In Literature Seminar 2 (Nov 21st), we have tried these steps out.

Step 1: Brainstorm necessary changes to reach your future vision

- What cultural and behavioural changes are needed?
- What legal and structural changes are needed?
- What technological changes are needed?

Step 2: Seeds and barriers in the present region

- *Seeds*: What are initiatives and examples that you see in your present region that could grow towards the vision?
- *Barriers*: What are walls and barriers that for reaching your vision?

Step 3: Form Action Points and make a timeline

Make a timeline that extends from the past, present, to the future (year 2067), and come up with who should be doing what by which year in order to reach your vision. How could the seeds you thought of be developed further? How could you overcome the barriers? Think of action points for the following actors/sectors:

- Government (National and regional)
- Business and Work
- Civil Society/Academia/Culture
- You/students

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Submission

Use the document you submitted on Studentportalen on November 20th (the critical redevelopment of a vision you chose) and add to this document 10 action points, based on the steps above:

- Your 10 action points (or more) should include 3 'seeds' you see in the past and present and 7 action points for the future.
- Specify which actors/sectors (Government, Business, Civil Society, You) drive each action point.
- In what year does each action point take place.
- Motivate the action points by writing 2-3 sentences for each point, including why this is needed and how it will drive the changes necessary to reach your vision.

You will work on coming up with seeds and action points already during the Literature Seminar 2 on November 21st. **Hand it in on Studentportalen by Thursday, November 30th at 17:00 (5pm).** This submission will be treated as the final draft of your project, which will be the document assessed by Sachiko and Thomas.

2) Performing Futures: 8x2067 (December 5th)

December 5th will be a creative session where you have the opportunity to share the visionary process you have gone through in the past month together with your classmates. We want you as a Student-led session (SLS) group to share your process with the rest of the class. **Each group will have about 10 minutes.** You will have the last 30 minutes in class on November 28th to plan; we encourage you to meet in your groups outside of class as well to prepare.

Make it fun and interesting! In order to immerse into the journey of exploring different futures, we ask you to prepare a creative format. No formal PowerPoint presentations are allowed. You could do theatre, a mock news show (as in Lit. Sem. 1), visualizations, guided art exhibition (no silent exhibitions), a podcast, a short film, a song, etc. Take the opportunity to showcase the exciting utopias that you have developed, and share any interesting insights you have gotten from your process and discussions in your group. Make sure that everybody in the group is involved in the presentation and the preparation, it should be a group project.

Focus the creative presentation / performance on how the visions in your group differ or are similar from each other:

- Mainly, focus on how each member of the group interpreted the “What if” question you had and the visions you developed. Be aware that the other people in class don’t know what your “What if” question was.
- Have a discussion in your group about how your visions differ and what is interesting about how they are different or similar. You could also reflect about the backcasting narratives of how you envision the way to 2067 differently.

Further Resources

Inspirations for ‘seeds’ in Backcasting Step 2:

- Seeds of a Good Anthropocene project at Stockholm Resilience Centre
<http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2015-09-29-seeds-of-a-good-anthropocene.html>

Inspiration for making the performance on Dec 5th:

- Visualisations
 - The way the film *Carnage* visualizes future society and everyday life - any details to steal for inspiration?
 - *The World We Made*, excerpt available [here](#) and book available on course shelf in CEMUS Library. Video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q4MG1a4MI>
 - *The Future We Want* Visualizations: <http://futurewewant.org/category/visualizations/>
 - Video “The Future of Marriage”: <http://jfsdigital.org/2017/09/22/the-future-of-marriage/>
 - *Circular Futures*: <http://jfsdigital.org/2017/02/27/reburg-envisioning-circular-futures-through-immersive-design-fiction/>
- Theatre
 - Boal, A., 2002. *Games for Actors and Non-Actors*. London / New York: Routledge. Available at: <https://www.deepfun.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Games-for-actors-and-non-actors...Augusto-Boal.pdf> (See e.g. ‘Image Theatre’, p. 174-)