

Global Challenges & Sustainable Futures 2018

BACK TO THE FUTURES WE WANT

Four Stages of the Project

- 1) Seeds for Sustainable Futures **Deadline: 21st October**
 - a) Describe your choice of region and why you chose it (your personal relationship to the place)
 - b) Research region
 - c) Identify 3 Seeds for Sustainable Futures in the region today
 - 2) Envision 4 Sustainable Futures **Deadline: 11th November**
 - a) Envisioning exercise of four different futures (in class: Workshop 2, Oct 23)
 - b) Describe these sustainable visions
 - c) Peer review- Give & Receive feedback on Parts 1 & 2 (Workshop 3, Nov 13)
 - 3) Backcasting Your Critical Future Vision **Deadline: 9th December**

**Graded Assignment*

 - a) Critical reflection on one vision.
 - b) Redevelop this vision.
 - c) Backcasting: How do we get there? (Workshop 3, Nov 13)
 - d) Peer review of Part 3 **Deadline: 16th December**
 - 4) Presentations of final project **Workshop 4: 11th December**
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-Welcome to Part III: Backcasting Your Critical Future Vision-

Overview

Based upon Workshop 3 and your Part 1 & 2, critically redevelop one vision and discuss how we could reach such a sustainable and desirable future. Submit to Studentportalen by **23.59 9th December**. You will give each other feedback on this draft (peer review feedback deadline **16th Dec**). Incorporating the peer feedback you received, the final submission deadline is on **13th January**. Alongside this, we ask you to present your project on **11th December**.

What could a sustainable and desirable future look like, according to you? In 'Part 2: Envisioning 4 (Sustainable?) Futures,' you have developed four future scenarios for a chosen region/city for year 2040. Now, we ask you to critically examine one vision and to redevelop it. Through this process, we want you to reflect on what a *desirable* sustainable future is for you and for other people and beings. And then: how do we get to those sustainable futures? In the final part of this project, we ask you to discuss possible strategies and pathways to reach the sustainable and desirable future that you envisioned.

Instructions for Graded Assignment

a) Critically reflect on one scenario/vision (approx. 600 words)

Through Part 1 & 2, you have developed four different future scenarios based on the two axis and seeds. This exercise was aimed for you to explore how the future could look radically different based on many different factors. For this part of the assignment, we ask you to choose one of your four visions to critically reflect on using the five lenses. Choose a vision that you find especially intriguing and believe to have the potential to be a 'sustainable and desirable' future vision.

Critically discuss your chosen vision using Five Lenses (see end of document). The Five Lenses is designed to critically reflect on different aspects of your scenario/vision, and help you develop it further by incorporating these perspectives. Remember the activities and discussions about privilege we had in class (Oct 16) and insights from Workshop 3 (*Critical reflections and backcasting*, Nov 13th).

- **Choose one vision you developed in Part 2.**
 - **Shortly state which vision this is and why. Include your seeds, axis and which quadrant this scenario is.**
- **Critically discuss your chosen vision using the Five Lenses using at least 2 references.**
 - **Consider what might be less sustainable in your vision? For who? Why?**
 - **Use all five lenses in your discussion, but you can choose which ones to put emphasis on.**

b) Redevelop your 'sustainable & desirable' vision of 2040 (approx. 500 words)

Incorporating your critical reflections of question a), redevelop your chosen scenario so that it reflects *your* sustainable and desirable future vision. Describe *why* and *how* it is sustainable and desirable, connecting to and supported by references. Try to explicitly include how your seeds are a main part of the society. We encourage you to include visuals! (Reference source if not using your own images).

- **Describe your redeveloped "sustainable and desirable" vision of 2040, using at least 2 references.**
 - **Recreate your vision to be more sustainable, considering the discussion above. How can your vision be more desirable? How could it be inclusive? Can your vision be a utopia?**
 - **What does this mean for your seeds?**

c) Backcasting (approx. 1000 words)

So, how do we get to those sustainable futures? In order to discuss this, we are going to ask you to use 'backcasting': 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.

Choose a target group from the list below and discuss *strategies and possible pathways* for the target group to act towards reaching your vision. Imagine that you will submit this set of recommendations to real actors in your region (which you could also do once it's done!). Develop 5 key action points. Motivate each action point, when and how goals are to be met, and how it could drive the changes necessary to reach your vision. The action could be in the form of specific policies, campaign strategies, business targets, etc., while also including cultural, behavioral, and norm aspects. For example, you could relate to the actions and discussions around staying below 1.5C temperature rise (Paris Agreement) and the SDGs, Relate also to the situation of today, using references. Within each action point you could include subaction points, which need to occur in order for the main action point to occur.

E.g.: Action Point: Achieve renewable energy supply 100% by year 2030

Subaction Point: Divestment 2020

Subaction Point: Taxation on Fossil Fuels 2025

Subaction Point: Large state investment in Renewable Energy 2025

Target groups:

- Policies and public sector - national, regional, local governments
- Civil society and social movements
- Business or certain industrial sectors

- **Backcasting:**

- **Choose a target group from the list above and discuss *strategies and possible pathways* for the target group to act towards reaching the vision you outlined in question b) above.**
- **Develop and formulate 5 key action points. Motivate each action point on why this is needed, when and how goals are to be met, and how it could drive the changes necessary to reach your vision. Use a minimum of 1 reference per action point.**

d) Peer Review Part 3

After submitting parts a), b) and c) on Studentportalen, your draft will be given to 2 students in your SLS group, and in turn you will receive 2 drafts. You will have one week to read their drafts and give feedback. Specific guidelines will be given soon!

Submission Requirements

Use the [Harvard Anglia Reference System](#) for your references. Submit your paper on Studentportalen by **23.59 9th December**. This draft will be distributed to your peers for peer review (step d). You will give each other feedback on this draft (peer review feedback deadline **16th Dec**). Incorporating the peer feedback you received, the final submission deadline is on **13th January**. Part 3 of your assignment will then be graded 3, 4, or 5.

Further Resources

- Check <http://www.web.cemus.se/gcsf/b2fww/>

Five lenses to desir-/sustain-able futures

- **PEOPLE & PRIVILEGE:** Which social groups (age, gender, race/ethnicity, class) might be privileged in your vision? Who gains at economic, social and other levels? Who is silenced - what social groups are not included in your vision?
- **TECHNOLOGY:** What assumptions about technology are underlying in your vision? Is sustainability in this vision relying (too much) on technology? Are there any risks or vulnerabilities?
- **GLOBAL JUSTICE:** Does your vision rely on the exploitation of people and resources in other parts of the world? Where might resources be coming from? How might your region be relating to other parts of the world?
- **STATUS QUO OR CHANGE?:** How does this vision challenge the status quo or not (in terms of social norms, economic and political system)? Is this an evolution or a revolution?
- **POWER:** Who are the main actors for change? Who makes (political) decisions in your vision? Who controls whether people live “sustainably” and follow these political decisions? Is the political/organizational process surrounding your case democratic and transparent?

Welcome BACK to the Future!

Sachiko & Laila