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Anticipating the near future of teaching

Introduction: a better view on the future
Near Future Teaching: thought experiments for an anticipated university
Introduction: a better view on the future
Still-dominant narratives of education and technology

**Instrumentalism:**
technologies are seen as neutral means employed for ends determined independently by their users.

**Determinism:**
technology drives social practice and change...humans must adapt to technical demands, while technology, like a Newtonian god, watches unaffected as the drama unfolds.

Attempts to **predict** the future aspire to eliminate risks of uncertainty.

**Foresight** aims to equip actors with insights into multiple possibilities.

**Anticipation** assumes an active and critically reflective interaction with futures that are unknowable.

Principles for anticipating the future

1: educational futures work should challenge assumptions rather than present predictions
2: the future is not determined by its technologies
3: thinking about the future always involves values and politics
4: education has a range of responsibilities that need to be reflected into visions of its future

Near Future Teaching
Define
What is our preferred future for digital education at our university?

Discover
What values do we want to shape this future?
What are the global trends which are impacting on it?

Values and preferred future defined

Develop
What are our aims and objectives for this future?

Deliver
What actions will enable us to get there?
Defining values

Experience over assessment

Diversity and justice

Relationships first

Participation and flexibility
Future Teaching trends:

EDUCATION & SOCIETY

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Introduction
This review partners with Future Teaching trends: science and technology, providing a short overview of the global societal shifts likely to impact on education over the coming few decades, in order to inform the Near Future Teaching project. It is not a comprehensive review: rather it highlights a few key areas we feel are of particular relevance.

Future Teaching trends:

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Introduction
This review partners with Future Teaching trends: education and society, highlighting the technological trends likely to have significant implications for the future of higher education over the medium term, and those we should attend to in thinking about near future teaching. This is not a comprehensive review of technological shifts, but rather a brief overview of a few areas chosen for their potential high impact.
What would a near future for teaching look like, built on these values and influenced by these trends?
Future university: thought experiments
1. Data, data everywhere

- Datafication
- Marketisation
- Tight borders
- Competition

STEM and data science
- Skills focus
- Diversified sector
- Unbundling
2. A new ecology

Climate crisis
Data-driven decision making
Eco-bottom line

All activity focused on addressing crisis
Practical solutions
Global alliances for research
Local networks for teaching
3. Human-machine interdependence

Teaching focused on student experience
Time-intensive, student led, lifelong
Resurgence of humanities
Human-agent co-teaching
Ennui
4. ‘Uberfication’

Sharing economy
Consumer power
Unbundling
Ageing population

Commodified learning: micro-credits built through life
Students purchase services from academic freelancers
Universities shift from campus to platform
Aims for a preferred future

Community focused

Post digital

Data fluent

Playful and experimental

Assessment orientated

Boundary challenging

Aims: digital education with a focus on assessment and feedback.

Aims: digital education with the University community at its heart.

Aims: digital education that understands data, data skills, and the data of daily.
The future is a murky world but it is one that we have to enter, interrogate and hopefully re-shape.

John Urry 2016 *What is the Future?* Polity
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