



CONJECTURAL FUTURES CONFERENCE 2022

PROGRAM

Thursday, Nov. 17th

Friday, Nov. 18th

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9:30

Arrival and breakfast

10:00

Welcome & conference agenda

10:30

Keynote by Kwamou Eva Feukeu



11:00

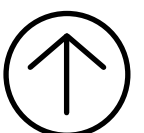
Session 1

**Make some space! Eating,
moving and thinking about
the new city.**

Speaker: Carolyn Steel

Speaker: Viktor Bedö

Speaker: Thalia Verkade



Thursday, Nov. 17th

13:00 – **Discussion 1**

13.45 – **Lunch and VR**

15.15

Session 2

**Tipping scales – tracing links
from particle to planet.**

Speaker: Alexander Klose

Speaker: Rüdiger Trojok

Speaker: Florian Neukart



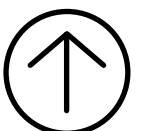
17:15 – **Break**

17:30 – **Discussion 2**

18:30 – **Closing Remarks**

19:00 – **Dinner**

20.00 – **Wildcard Performance**



Friday, Nov. 18th

9:45 – **Arrival & Breakfast**

10:15 – **Welcome & Conference Objective**

10:30 – 12:00

Workshop Session: Drafting Conjectures 1

Lead: Roman Lipski

Lead: Yannis Angelis

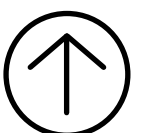
Lead: Stefanie Ollenburg &
Martin Ciesielski

Lead: Friederike Riemer

Lead: Jörg Blechschmidt



12:00 – **Lunch**



Friday, Nov. 18th

13:00 – 14:30

Workshop Session: Drafting Conjectures 2

Lead: Evonik Foresigt Team

Lead: Deutsche Bahn

Lead: zero360

Lead: N O R M A L S

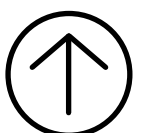


13:00 Uhr – **Coffee Camp**

15:00 Uhr – **Barcamp**

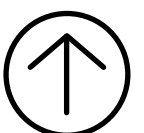
15:45 Uhr – **Barcamp Presentation & Farewell**

End of Conference





Kwamou Eva Feukeu is a legal scholar & Anticipation Specialist and develops participatory action research processes with communities and governments. The assumption is simple: even if the future does not exist, who gets to decide what it can or should look like holds the power over us all. Up until today, looking up the curve of the horizon is the privilege of the few. Despite it all, we are all blind as long as we don't come together to make sense of it. Having the ability to design learning spaces using the non-existent future offers the opportunity for people to create value differently and more meaningfully.



Thursday, 11:10 – 13:00

Session 1

Make some space! Eating, moving and thinking about the new city.

A city is larger than itself. Its manifold relationships stretch through space and time. Different periods and ideas, current and ancient connections layer and manifest themselves in its streets, market squares, architectures and facades. How we live, feed and move in cities has an impact far beyond them. They interact with their surroundings – landscapes, countries, the whole world – that they shape and are shaped by. At the same time, this dynamic relationship is often overlaid by the static normality of its concrete structures and infrastructures, a fast-moving but unchanging status quo. This combination of dynamic entanglement and concrete tangibility in our everyday urban experience allows us to think and develop other futures through new urban designs and a changed conception of urbanity. Can we change the world by changing the city?

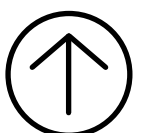
Speaker: Carolyn Steel



Speaker: Viktor Bedö

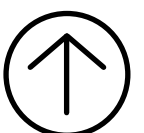


Speaker: Thalia Verkade



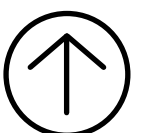


Carolyn Steel is a London-based architect and writer and a leading thinker on food and cities. Her award-winning books *Hungry City: How Food Shapes Our Lives* (2008) and *Sitopia: How Food Can Save the World* (2020) describe how we live in a world shaped by food, a 'sitopia' (from the Greek. sitos, food + topos, place) and how our failure to value food now threatens our future on the planet – but also how, by learning to value food again, we can address the multiple threats we face to build better, more equitable and resilient lives for the future.



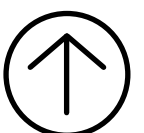


Viktor Bedö is a research designer concerned with crafting care-based and more-than-human imaginaries of urban tech futures. His input, *Design Friction for Predictive Food Rescue*, proposes an infrastructure for the automated distribution of food that—after being ejected from supermarket shelves—is reincarnating as a shared resource. The proposal is an invitation to engage with design dilemmas of imagining alternative automation and frictions between the inherently homogenising machinery of predictive tech and unruly, wet, delicious, mouldy, allergic, and nutritious matters of cooking and eating.





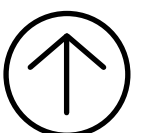
Thalia Verkade is a writer and journalist and co-author of the book *Movement: how to take back our streets and transform our lives*. Until recently she found it only natural that she had to press a button to cross the street. In *Movement* she discovers that it is not a given that people need ever more complex technology for moving around. She learns to question the mobility language, which feels natural but stems from an engineering, economical and techno-utopian worldview. This helps to change apparent givens - like that button - back into the political choices they are. This can then help open up a deeper conversation about which future we want to make possible.



13:55

VR-Experience: VORAUS:schau-Brille

The VORAUS:schau Brille is a virtual reality (VR) application developed by the Berlin design and futures studio N O R M A L S on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It is based on the study "The Future of People's Values in Our Country" and interactively brings six future scenarios for the year 2030 to life. The VR-experience can be tried during the lunch break.



Thursday, 15:25 – 17:15

Session 2

Tipping scales – tracing links from particle to planet.

Sometimes, the biggest changes take place in the smallest details. In the 19th century, organic chemistry discovered fossil hydrocarbons, the basic building blocks of petro-modernity. The consequences of this discovery – the unleashed availability of energy and the ability to shape material into basically any form – still make up our reality: leisure, individual freedom, division of labour, nutrition, knowledge society and Tupperware parties on the one hand; geopolitical conflicts, exploitation of people, natural disasters and climate change on the other. What the historical mobilisation of hydrocarbons was to energy and materials, the emerging manipulation of quantum states might be to information, or the designability of genetic functions to life. How can we imagine the implications of bio and quantum technologies?

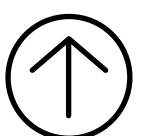
Speaker: Alexander Klose



Speaker: Rüdiger Trojok

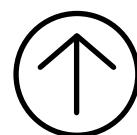


Speaker: Florian Neukart



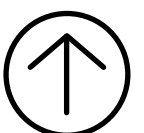


Alexander Klose and his group Beauty of Oil trace the impact of petrochemical molecules on the development of modern societies. He looks at our present and past through the lens of a class of molecules and asks: what do we want to and can we leave behind, what can we take with us and what can we transform on the way to a post-fossil future.



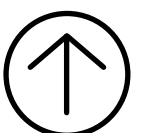


Rüdiger Trojok is hacking evolution. Together with artists, hackers, lawyers and scientists, Rüdiger went off the beaten paths of academic and corporate R&D and asked the question what the exponential technology of life science is actually good for. And the answer came quickly: to fix the damages the technologies of the 19th and 20th century have done to the planets ecosystems. To tackle the problem at its roots, his journey led him out of Europe and back in time to the origins of molecular biology and into the world of bacteriophages, the smallest and most abundant living entities on this planet. Equipped with miniaturized personal laboratory automation hardware and the technology to read and write the code of life itself, it is time to start the biological transformation of our society and industries.





Dr. Florian Neukart Quantum-powered technologies are no longer only an exciting leitmotif for science fiction. Quantum technologies are set to transform everything we know today, from business to society, and our planet. According to a recent McKinsey study, four industries—pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automotive, and finance—remain on track to become the first beneficiaries of quantum advantages, with the potential to capture nearly \$700 billion in value as early as 2035. What are investment strategies to explore the power of quantum technologies and where do we see the potential for early industry application?



Friday, 10:30 – 12:00

Workshop Sessions: Drafting Conjectures 1

In Drafting Conjectures, we train to use our heads and hands to work with and discuss the future in workshops and discussions. After much input, this is the place to introduce your own topics and practice the Arts of Conjecture!

Lead: Roman Lipski



Lead: Yannis Angelis



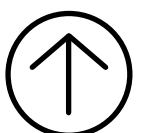
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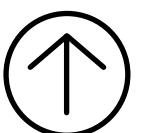
Lead: Jörg Blechschmidt



Roman Lipski

Workshop **Painting with Artificial Intelligence.**

You are invited to create a work of art together with the artist Roman Lipski and his artificial Muse. The painting process takes place in collaboration with Lipski's AI "Muse" which responds to the brush strokes painted on the canvas by each participant. This is how a creative conversation develops between participants and AI. Discover creative potential with the professional support of Roman Lipski and explore the infinite worlds that the muse will reveal to you.

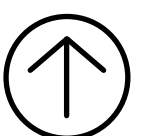


Yannis Angelis

Workshop **Practicing Metaverse by inviting new senses through a cross-sensing experiment.**

Synesthesia is a condition that some people experience when a stimulus activates a related sense, and at the same time, another unrelated sense is activated involuntarily. For example, tasting garlic results in always seeing a green triangle.

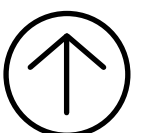
What if we experiment by using one sense to describe another sense voluntarily without being synesthetes? What kind of new descriptions of a condition will emerge that could alter our perceptions? How about if by practicing with the unfamiliar, new experiences and new conjectural future possibilities become discernible?



Stefanie Ollenburg,
Martin A. Ciesielski

Workshop **Improvising and the Futures of Aviation.**

To change the future, we need to change and act different in the present. Yet all the recent crises highlight the crisis of imagination, the waning of hope and resilience. How do we learn to cope with unknown, emerging futures? Join the workshop to experience how applied improvisation enhances the capability of futures literacy. Find out why such approaches have relevance for aviation, exemplified by the ScenAIR project of the excellence cluster SE2A. Facilitators Martin and Stefanie are co-founders of ZUKÜNFTE, a network to further futures literacy as part of the UNESCO Futures Literacy Network.

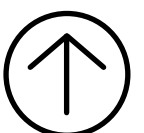


Frederike Riemer

Workshop

How to trick your brain with storytelling and play to shape desirable futures.

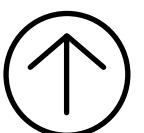
Thinking in future tense is difficult for our brain because we detach from ourselves. Fighting for desirable futures though, makes personal involvement and energy inevitable. The Future Game 2050 combines Storytelling and Serious play to trick our brains and make futuring accessible and fun.



Jörg Blechschmidt

Workshop Understanding mechanisms of trends: The trend microcosm.

The trend microcosm is a pragmatic tool to identify the mechanisms behind the evolution of a trend and to derive room for maneuver. We will apply this to an example and understand what the method can deliver and where its weaknesses lie.



Friday, 13:00 – 14:30 Uhr

Workshop Sessions: Drafting Conjectures II

Lead: Evonik



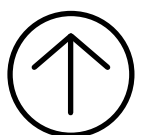
Lead: Deutsche Bahn



Lead: zero360



Lead: N O R M A L S

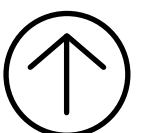


Evonik

Workshop

The Next GameChangers

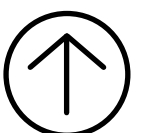
Environmental, technological, and social changes are putting ever growing pressure on the systems that govern our daily lives, until systems adapt and the rules of the game change. Over past decades, the world has seen tremendous change in the wake of well-known GameChangers such as economic globalization or the wide dissemination of smartphones and social media. But change remains a constant to be reckoned with and “more change” seems to be always on the horizon. In this workshop, we want to identify and discuss what could be the Next GameChangers that have the potential to change the rules of today’s industries, markets, sectors, or businesses.



Deutsche Bahn

Workshop Innovation @ DB Skydeck

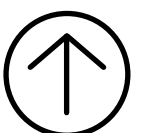
How to turn fancy innovations into real business cases? Skydeck is one of Deutsche Bahn's central vehicles to develop trends and technology into viability. In this workshop, you will yourself become a corporate innovator! Using virtual reality as example, you will be taken through the methodology by Kolja Schwenson, innovator at DB System.



zero360

Workshop **Sustainable futures, but how? Let's play it out!**

In this workshop we bring Bill Sharpe's 3-horizons model into action to experience the challenges of transformation from degenerative business-as-usual to the regenerative organisation. Participants act out what moves them or what they want to move together. Everything can be transformed into roles and played.

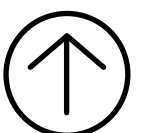


N O R M A L S

Workshop

Listening to the image – visual literacy for futures thinking.

Imagine the future without images in your mind: impossible, isn't it? We conjure up images we know from photos, artwork, or films to integrate new information into familiar narratives—to tell complex stories in simple ways. This workshop is about images: what they show, what they hide. The worlds they reveal. The way they influence our visions of tomorrow. It is an exercise in visual and narrative literacy, to build images of the futures and extract stories from them.



About the Conference

There is something reassuring about looking at the horizon: things appear, find a form, some dissolve into thin air again, while others connect to the world and slowly become clearer. Larger events tend to linger a little longer on the horizon, swirling around the dividing line between reality and potentiality as they become integral to our gaze into the distance. We observe what is coming from afar, even (or especially) if the images we glimpse are frightening. The larger they are, the more immobile they seem. We measure the distance and reposition ourselves in small steps. Until, all of a sudden, the perfect storm unleashes, blowing what seemed frozen and afar across the horizon line right among us: heat waves, pandemic, energy crisis, Zeitenwende. Now, the observers are involved; continuities are shredded or crumble away. The small steps were too small. We must transform ourselves – that much is clear. But which ideas should guide us? Which ideas have brought us here, and which ideas can carry us forward? Is forward the right direction anyway? And if yes, where is forward?

The second edition of the Conjectural Futures Conference searches for connecting lines between overwhelming events and our ability to act, between tiniest particles and planetary effects, sensual experience and modelled landscapes, technical possibilities and social realities. Thinkers and doers from fields as diverse as synthetic biology, speculative design, architecture, quantum computing and mobility research, along with members of the Conjectural Futures Network, ask and debate what contemporary futures thinking can or should look like?

