SICT 2022 -- A doctoral school on sustainable ICT, August 29th to September 2nd 2022 in Grenoble, France: "Rethinking the Roles of Information and Communication Technologies in the Anthropocene: Towards a Post-Growth World?" https://www.sictdoctoralschool.com/

Fictional Abstracts Workshop Description

In this two-day workshop we will work with "Fictional Abstracts" – 200-300 words long statements about fictional research that has not yet been conducted. We will more concretely work with, explore and discuss abstracts of yet-to-be-written research papers that will (could) be published in the future. We believe Fictional Abstracts can be a fun and interesting way to explore and highlight possible ethically problematic aspects of certain research areas (for example AI, ML, IoT, HCI, Ubicomp, Smart X, Autonomous X) that are hard to pinpoint and discuss — since the technology and its effects on people and planet strictly speaking do not yet exist. It could be that one function of Fictional Abstracts is as an early-warning systems of potential future uses of a technology that could be perceived as problematic, e.g. exploring "the shadow of the future" in the present.

This workshop is organised by Daniel Pargman, Petra Jääskeläinen, Tina Ringenson and Jan Tobias Muehlberg, who will guide you through the process of writing fictional abstracts and help you to develop and refine your ideas. The workshop takes place on the last two days of SICT2022.

Please read through the materials below to prepare for the workshop.

Examples of Fictional Abstracts

Below are three samples of fictional abstract. The first two are unpublished and the third was published in Penzenstadler et al. (2014):

• Penzenstadler, B. et al. (2014). ICT4S 2029: What will be the systems supporting sustainability in 15 years. In Proc ICT4S'14. Atlantis Press.

Learning from the South: The "Reverse ICT4D" Movement from a Swedish Perspective. (Bror* Daniel Pargman)

Following the 2017-2021 spread of "The Greek disease" to most European countries, we have seen a surge of tinkering and hands-on innovative experimentation aiming to uphold a basic level of infrastructure for computing and networking in Sweden. This paper describes the reverse-ICT for development (RICT4D) movement from a Swedish perspective and compares it to the 20th century amateur radio movement (Bogdan 2003). We analyse the movement in terms of practitioners' motivations, dividing them into 1) technological and experimental activities, 2) learning and knowledge production, 3) social and societal utility and 4) career options.

We furthermore take stock of three aspects of the Swedish reverse-ICT4D movement; 1) the DIY

ethos and the emergence of the movement from the more technologically utopian 3D printer/maker movement, 2) the relationship between a modern small-scale energy system built on distributed intermittent energy sources and the movement's technological and experimental activities and 3) the connection between the primary stakeholders; tinkerer-practitioners, government, industry (as it is) and academia.

With this paper we hope to foster a frank conversation about minimal computing in formerly-affluent countries struggling to maintain a functional ICT infrastructure despite endemic cutbacks in public spending and their consequent detrimental effects on infrastructure and research.

* This honorary Swedish title ("brother") indicates that the author has joined an order of researcher-monks, living an ascetic life in order to wholeheartedly offer his services as a researcher to society

Towards Techno-emergent Collective Moral (Mario Romero and Elina Eriksson)

The 2022 IPCC report concludes with 98% confidence that our over-use of technology played a major role in climate change including the newly defined natural phenomena of Worldwide Oceanic Flash-Floodings (WOFFs). The 2021 WOFF, Acheron, claimed nearly a fourth of humanity and while this event's magnitude has no precedent in recorded history, the relative scale of loss of life has been a trauma which humanity has suffered recurrently. Yet, Acheron presented a transcendental difference: evidence for a newly techno-emergent systemic global phenomenon which we call Collective Moral, empathy of individual humans towards humanity as a whole. This paper presents an ethnographic study in seven regions receiving Acheron refugees. The results provide powerfully compelling evidence that it was the bio-powered implanted nanophones (bipimps) that provided, together with Acheron, the necessary and sufficient conditions for reaching the critical mass of people to achieve Collective Moral. Nevertheless, while bipimps have been beneficial in terms of openness to refugees, voluntary aid, and self-sacrificing resource allocation, there is evidence that suggests a causal relationship between bipimps and a 17% increase of post-traumatic stress disorder leading to suicide among the people aiding survivors of Acheron. This report suggests that a way forward may be to incorporate mechanisms to attenuate the unexpected empathy effect of bipimps.

Mother Svea Vigilant: Lessons learned from a nation-wide anti-waste initiative (Baki Cakici, Daniel Pargman)

In this paper, we analyze the widely acclaimed "Mother Svea Vigilant" initiative aimed at eliminating wasteful consumption in Sweden. The initiative was funded by the Swedish state between 2021 and 2026 to recognise and classify consumption acts by automatically monitoring commercial transaction logs from all Swedish households and combining them with data submitted by citizens' smart-ID implants. From a technical perspective, we argue that automatic advisory methods such as scheduled comparisons of recycled mass versus the total mass of purchases in a given time period have created new possibilities of ensuring enthusiastic public commitment to monthly recycling quotas.

We also analyze the success of social aspects of the Mother Svea initiative such as the "See some waste, tell with haste!" program and the community-enhancing "tell (on) your neighbour" campaign. We conclude that Mother Svea and other comparable neo-Benthamite national ICT initiatives this far provide the only scientifically proven methods to stem CO_2 emission through the combination of powerful technical and social motivators.

Preparation / Homework

Please prepare for the two-day SICT Fictional Abstracts workshop by performing these 2.5 tasks:

1. Read this article (appended): Pargman, D. S., Eriksson, E., Bates, O., Kirman, B., Comber, R., Hedman, A., & van den Broeck, M. (2019). The future of computing and wisdom: insights from human–computer interaction. Futures, 113, 102434.
2. Read the three examples of fictional abstracts given above
3. Optional task: watch an episode of the UK/Netflix series "Black Mirror". We more specifically recommend the episode "Nosedive" (season 3, episode 1)