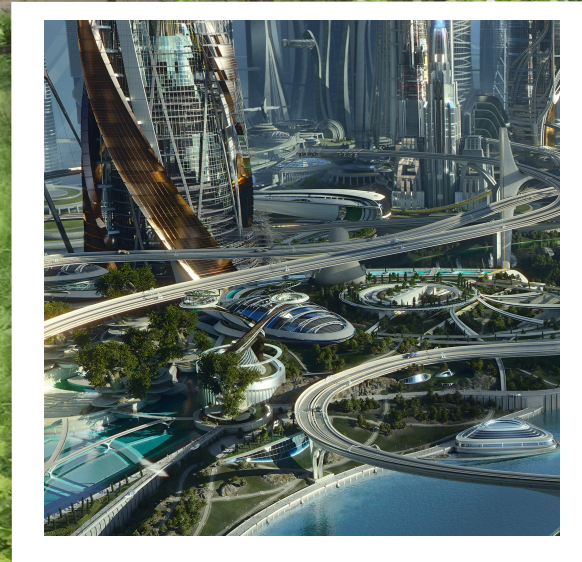
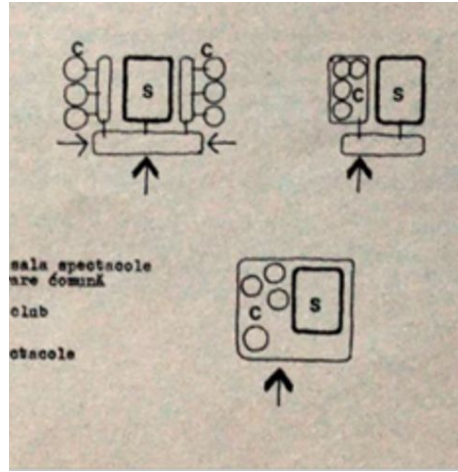


Reimagining cultural houses, university and society



What we'll cover

- Intros and collective manifesto

Reimagining cultural houses

- Brief presentation
- Activity

Reimagining Society

- Brief presentation
- Activity

Reimagining Academia

- Brief presentation
 - Activity
 - Collective visual manifesto for action
 - Closing
-

Where are we now?

Where do we want to be?

Intros

Tell us your name, course and your favourite TV show, book or film that you engaged with over lockdown.

Collective manifesto link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/160RATgv3PILmXxisFQBKtqAVrIIBONYMVSkhv5FgiWc/edit>

Reimagining cultural houses

Starting with the late 19th century new spaces of sociability and education (of the masses) mushroomed in towns and villages which on one hand became alternative spaces of education for the working class and the peasantry, but also introduced various levels of control and surveillance over their leisure time and collective practices.

Cultural Houses are institutions that were heavily funded by the state, where everybody had access to and potentially accommodate both the development of a multidimensional person in a collective as well as the collective production of culture.



Holistics range of thinking and participation

Cultural Houses appear as spaces that allowed for a holistic range of thinking and participation... reuniting production, arts, technology, education and leisure in a 'non-expert environment' of the 'amateur'; resisting specialisation and therefore the alienation of the individual, more or less becoming a laboratory of both understanding 'what is the new socialist culture and how is it possible to raise a socialist consciousness?'



Orientation Towards The Future

Cultural policy makers, architects, sociologists and participants have often presented the Cultural House programme as a work in progress, as an institution that will generate other needs, other activities, that should not have a fixed form, but rather should be flexible to accommodate changes and local specificities.



intrare sala spectacole
sau intrare comună



intrare club

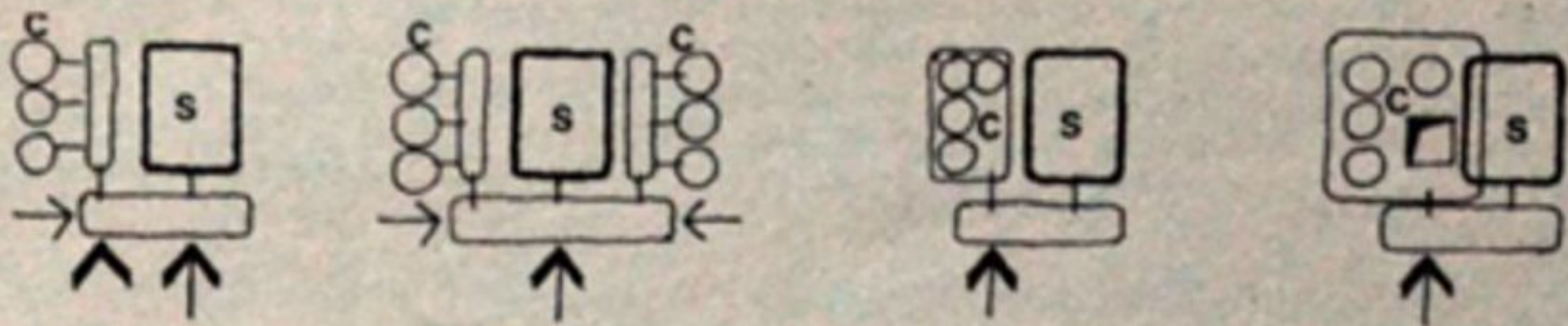
S

sală spectacole

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club



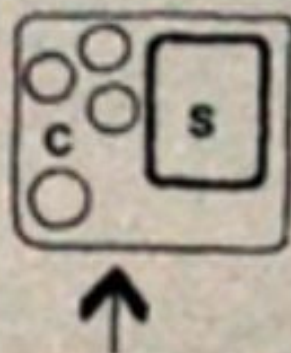


↑ intrare sala spectacole
sau intrare comună

→ intrare club

S sală spectacole

C club





The building will have a future, I said...



Reimagining cultural houses: activity

If you were to design a cultural house, what should there be in it?

What do you see yourself doing with other people? Is there something you would like to learn? What tools/objects would you like to have? What activities should cultural houses accommodate?

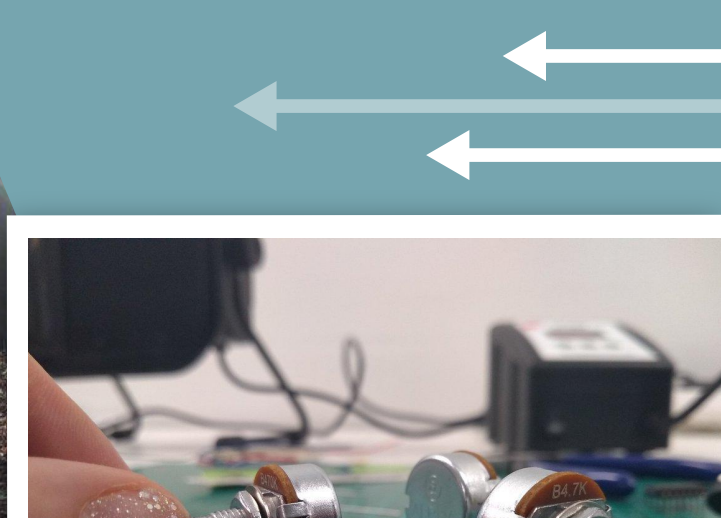
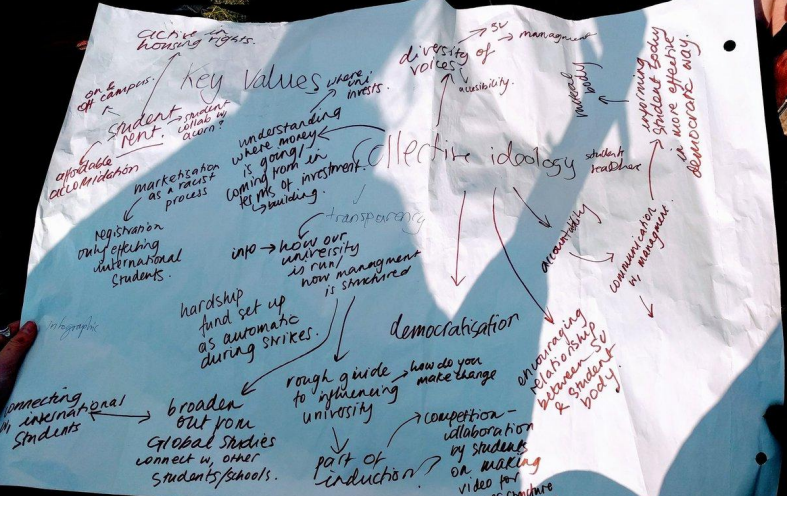
Go and think about what your room in a cultural house might look like. What activit(ies) could you do here? Draw this on google draw.

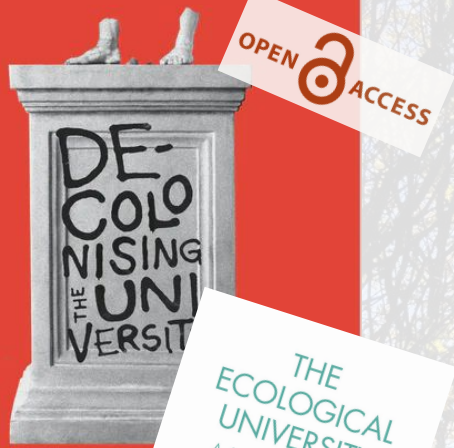
This plane represents the high dreams, liberation, peace,



Reimagining the University

- Universities have come under criticism for being neoliberal marketised spaces that exploit their staff
 - Some say students have never been less free to learn, certain types of performative expectations have limited and controlled behaviours, and legal restrictions such as Prevent have created distrust between staff & students
 - However, we have also seen joint working between staff (academic and non-academic) and students, campaigns and forms of resistance that have created new pedagogies, and different ways of working and being, alongside new forms of community and care emerging during and before the pandemic
-





Edited by Gurmin
Kerem Nişancıoğlu



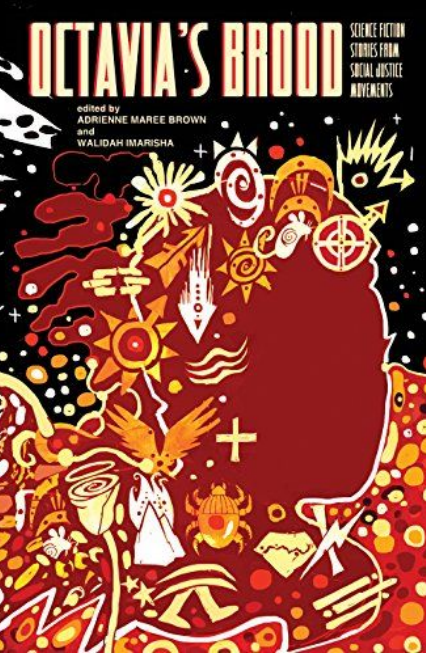
Reimagining university activity

Think back to when accessing the University physically was a reality. What made the university a place you wanted to be, and what would you change?

What spaces/networks could do with some reconsideration and reimagining? Can these be creative, non-discriminatory and free?

How can we consider all staff who do the reproductive work in the institution, and connections with the broader community and climate in these reimaginings of the university?

Use the jamboard to collect images, books and thoughts that express or underpin your imaginings of the university...



Reimagining society: what can visionary fiction teach us?

Many political organisers have found speculative fiction useful to help them imagine, and work towards, alternatives.

Visionary fiction is defined by Walidah Imarisha as:

‘Encompass[ing] the fantastical cross-genre creations that help us bring about those new worlds. This term reminds us to be utterly unrealistic in our organizing, because it is only through imagining the so-called impossible that we can begin to concretely build it. When we free our imaginations, we question everything’ (Imarisha, 2015).

Woman on the Edge of Time by Marge Piercy

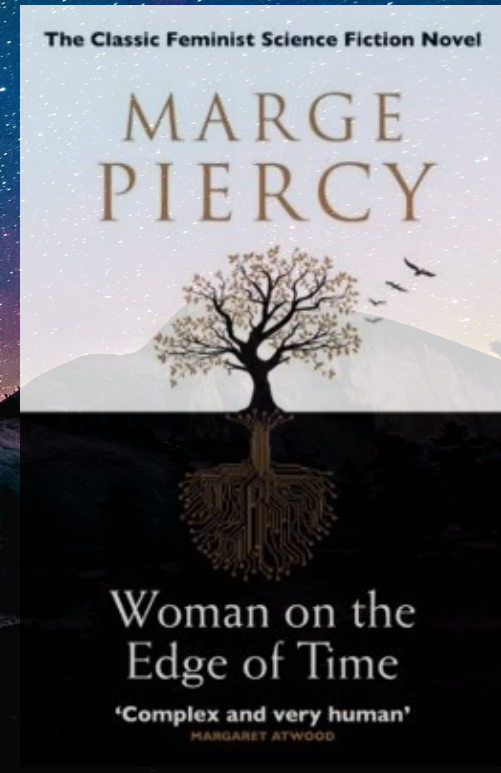
This feminist dys/utopia from 1976 follows Connie Ramos who is incarcerated in a mental institution for defending her niece from her abusive boyfriend.

She is visited by Luciente who transports her to a possible utopian future of 2137.

This agrarian community is self-sufficient and environmentally focused. There are no prisons, no police and political decisions are made via consensus decision making. The gender binary no longer exists and people are described as person or 'per'.

Children are 'made', not born, and usually have three 'co-mothers'. Children are encouraged to undergo a period of independent living at 13, in which they transition away from their co-mothers and choose their own name.

Everyone in this community is in functional polyamorous relationships. Each has a room of their own, creating a rhizomatic network of closely related individuals, with no nuclear family or hierarchical relationships.



Fictional world-building: creative writing exercise

‘World-building’ – process of constructing an imaginary world; its history, geography.

Imagine you were writing your own utopian vision of the future, which you are explaining to a visitor. Start with your utopian character - what are they like?

Describe your surroundings – is this rural and idyllic like Mattapoissett? Or is this more urban and technologically advanced?

What kind of communit(ies) have formed? How would people spend their time? Draw on your ideas for cultural houses and university here!

Padlet: <https://uofsussex.padlet.org/km5062/y8u20qpf987cihl9>

Reimagine the world: Collective visual Manifesto for Action

Moving from the micro to the macro, what radical changes might we propose, from leisure spaces to the university, from academia to society?

What would you like to see more of (i.e.: more opportunity for communal, free, public spaces; decolonising the university; housing for all; conservation and establishment of natural environments; public infrastructure, etc)? What do you think should be **challenged, reduced or eradicated**?

Collective manifesto:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/160RATgv3PILmXxisFQBKtqAVrIIBONYMVSkhv5FgiWc/edit>
