The Undetected Signal
The Power of Narratives

Storytelling is Essential to Our Humanity

Objective Reality vs Fiction

Science Fiction Drives Tech Innovation
Science Fiction is Power.
And Yet...

Science fiction does not influence social innovation to the same extent.

Why?
Slaughter: Why Organizations Fail at Foresight

- Short-Term Thinking
- Bounded Rationality
- Unexamined Presuppositions
- Mainstream Economics
- Limited Use of Futures Methods
- Lack of Futures Literacy
- Lack of Capacity
Let's Add One More...

We Do Not Understand The Complexity of Our World
What’s Missing from Science Fiction?
Science Fiction Narratives...

- Begin or end on the precipice of change
- Resemble alternative realities
- Take place in a galaxy far, far away
What Do We Need?

1. Stories that leverage backcasting and show transitions

2. Acknowledge that reality can be rewritten

3. Better integrate foresight, systems, and narratives

4. Focus not only on social innovation, but transition design
An Answer: Worldbuilding
The Seven Pillars of Worldbuilding

- Philosophical
- Political
- Economic
- Environmental
- Scientific & Technological
- Social
- Artistic
The Seven Pillars of Worldbuilding

Philosophical
• Epistemology, metaphysics, value theory, logic and reason, and human nature

Political
• Creation, maintenance, and governance of entities

Economic
• Management of wealth and resources

Environmental
• Ecological systems, including physical and contextual space
The Seven Pillars of Worldbuilding

Scientific and Technological
• Observation of and experiment with the natural and physical world

Social
• Social constructs, relational dynamics of our world and the systems

Artistic
• Representation, expression, and form
Worldbuilding Model: Adding Timescale
Time Scale: Individual
Time Scale: Communal/Organizational
Time Scale: Societal

- Artistic
- Philosophical
- Social
- Political
- Scientific & Technological
- Economic
- Environmental
Time Scale: Civilizational
End Result: Reimaginings of New World Orders

- Complete worlds
- Systemically designed
- With civilizational foresight in mind
Incremental Shift: Current State
Preferred State: 30 Years
Backcast: 20 Years
Backcast: 10 Years
End Result: Transition Design

- Systemic evolution over incremental periods of time
- Backcasting a system from its preferred state
- Transition plan that connects our current state to that preferred state
Real World Applications

- Creating new systems
- Transitioning current systems
- Foresight tool
- Narrative design tool
Implication for Science Fiction: A New Subgenre

Write Transtopias

Show us not only what the future could be but also how to get there.
Thank You

Stuart Candy

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Your Feedback is Welcome!

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Live Long and Prosper