

Workshop: Re-imagining higher education futures

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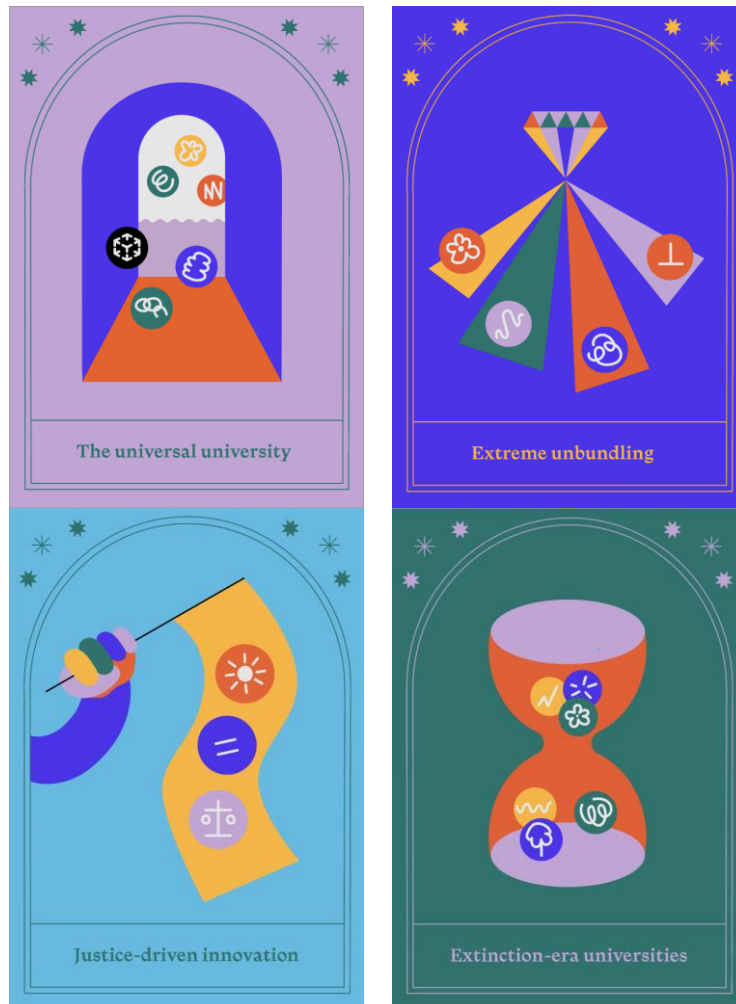
Intended audience

This workshop is intended for those who have an interest in speculative methods, storytelling and the future of networked learning in universities.

Workshop description

The workshop will use a set of new speculative scenarios for the future of higher education teaching. The scenarios were developed in 2022 to work as a provocation and starting point for new conversations about the future of our universities and the teaching we do through them. They aim to unsettle assumed futures and support us to imagine new, desirable ones. They are told from a particular time and place, and speak to present concerns and hopes. Each scenario is accompanied by a piece of microfiction which aims to convey something of what of what our imagined futures might look and feel like.

The scenarios to be discussed are focused around the conference themes and are as follows:



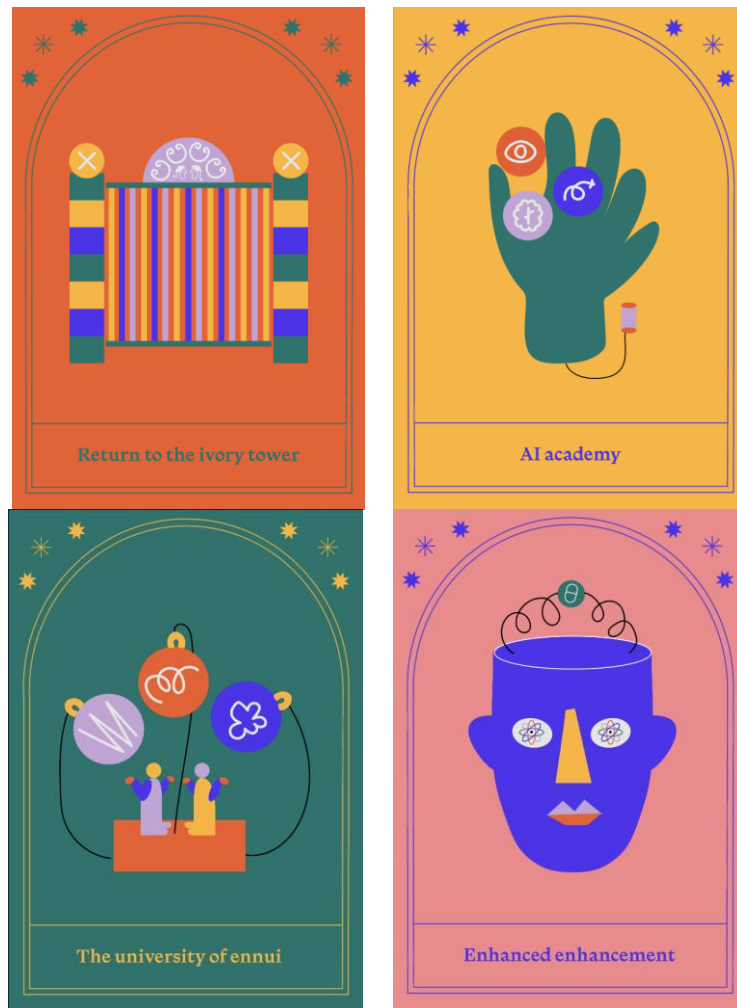


Figure 1: 8 scenarios to be engaged with during the workshop. For more information, see <https://www.de.ed.ac.uk/project/higher-education-futures>

Participant engagement

Participants will have the space during the workshop to imagine, discuss and build their visions for different (better?) higher education futures. There will be an opportunity both to engage in depth with specific, selected topics, and consider the relationship between the different topics and futures.

Participant outcomes

By participating in the workshop, attendees will:

- Learn how speculative methods can form the basis for generative future-making in networked learning contexts.
- Critically examine current ideas about future trends for networked higher education.
- Collaboratively develop and analyse a vision for a hopeful future for higher education.

Workshop alignment with conference themes

Focusing specifically on networked learning themes, we will consider what higher education teaching might look like in the context of expansive artificial intelligence, amplified social activism, cognitive enhancement, changing human-machine relationships, climate crisis, unbundling and ennui.

Workshop activities

The workshop will use a set of 'tarot' cards designed to support such collaborative future-making work. Participants will discuss in depth at least one scenario within a small group, feeding forward their collaboratively-created vision to the wider group. Readings of the microfictions and research-sharing will be used to anchor the discussions.