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Reading 2: Designing for emerging technologies

The call to arms facing the disruptive emerging technologies was an inspiring, if a bit daunting, glimpse at the world as is digests and develops these new technologies. While they are by their nature disruptive to the current system, in the past such disruptions have arguably led to improvement for humanity overall. In this case, the speed and intensity of the development is tenfold due to the nature of the technologies themselves, but such interconnectivity also means that any large-scale failing or disaster can have massive and far reaching repercussions. Field practices will indeed need to change, as not only can these problems arrive quickly and with devastating effect, but the gaps and issues of the modern era can deepen or be exasperated by the hasty introduction of new and disruptive technologies. Development and productions needs to be done with careful forethought, but because they may need to change radically to adapt, it means that moving forward has incredible liberty, as standards and practices have not been fully developed or set in stone, allowing for freedom of movement in these new and fledgling fields. The problems faced are not only the ones brought by the technologies, but rather the risk of history repeating itself or the initiative for developing these new technologies to be lost, stagnating the advance of technology towards narrow and often selfish interests. In truth, even if there is a place for these new technologies, they are still at heart disruptive, and due to the high interconnectivity of the modern world, integrating such technologies without damaging or greatly disrupting the system will require careful planning and cooperation, assuming all parties involved can see the benefit. This crossing of fields is important for these new technologies, as they are quickly reaching the point where no one field of expertise can handle them, and rather the proper use and understanding of them will require people and learning from a great many diverse fields. Failure to do so could lead to dangerous omissions or oversights in implementation, and worse still potentially scar the further development of these technologies with the failures that push them outside of the scope of feasibility in the public eye. With careful consideration and planning, these “disruptive technologies” can be used to disrupt the current issues in this connected world and be put to use furthering all of humanity.