

HIST C182C / STS C100: Human Contexts and Ethics of Data

University of California, Berkeley
Fall 2018

Data futures -
perspectives from the past

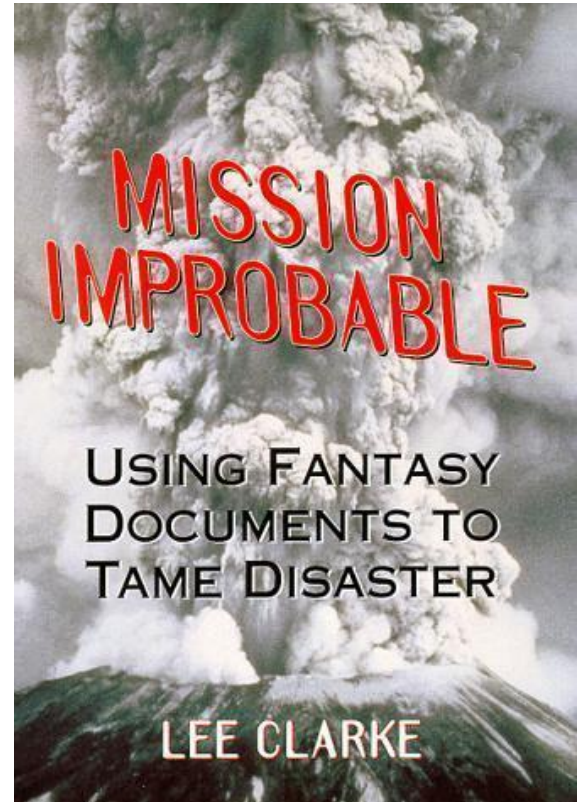
Class 4, 8/29/18

Why do we “future”?



How do we “future”?

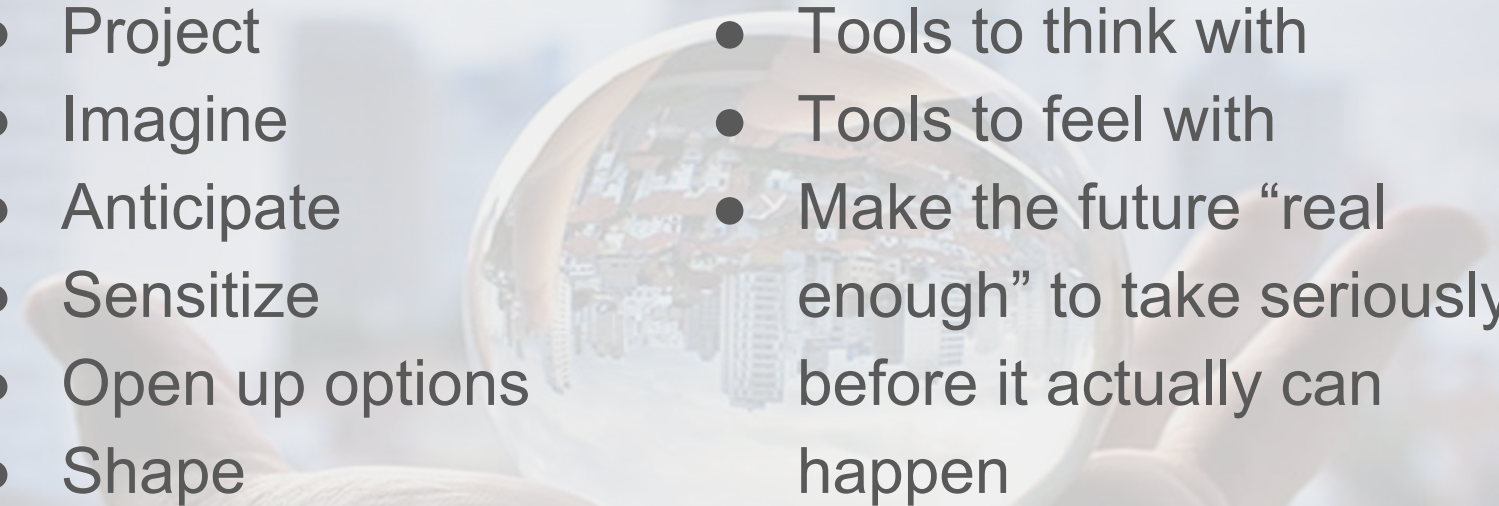
- Projections
- Plans
- Models
- Scenario thinking
- Risk assessment
- Fantasy documents
- Bets (e.g., venture capital)
- Go build it
- Science and engineering
- Literary fictions



Why do we “future”?

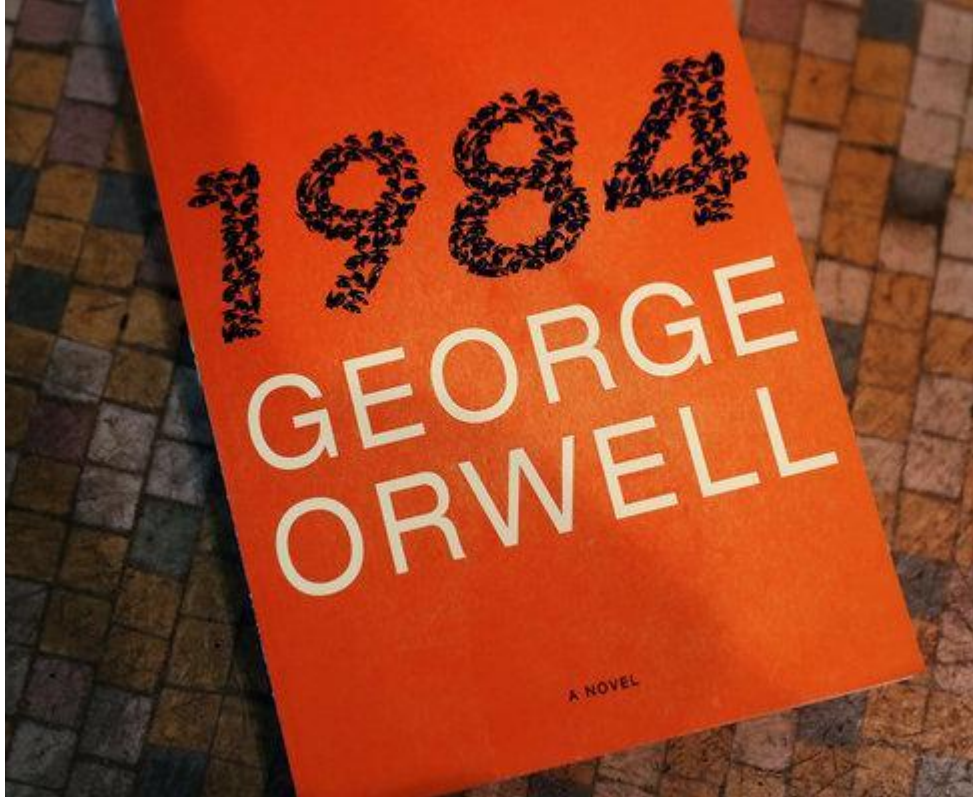


Why do we “future”?

- 
- Project
 - Imagine
 - Anticipate
 - Sensitize
 - Open up options
 - Shape
 - Tools to think with
 - Tools to feel with
 - Make the future “real enough” to take seriously before it actually can happen

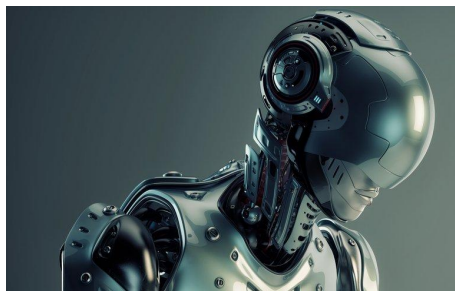
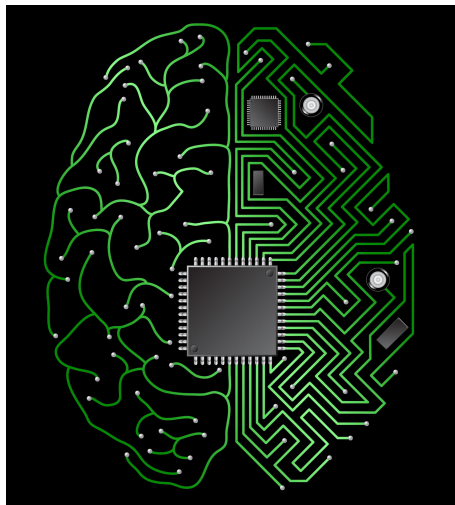
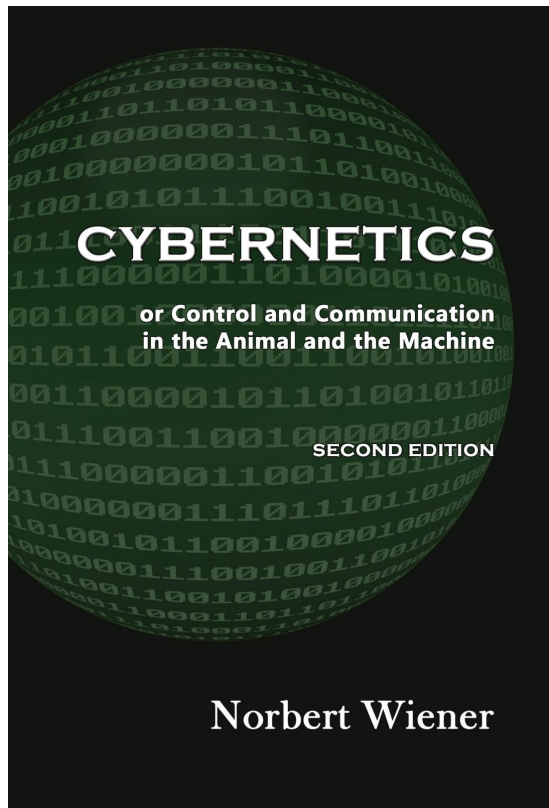
All “futuring” is fictional, just in different voices and modes. Its “affect” can be positive, negative, or nominally neutral.

A dystopian “ur-text”



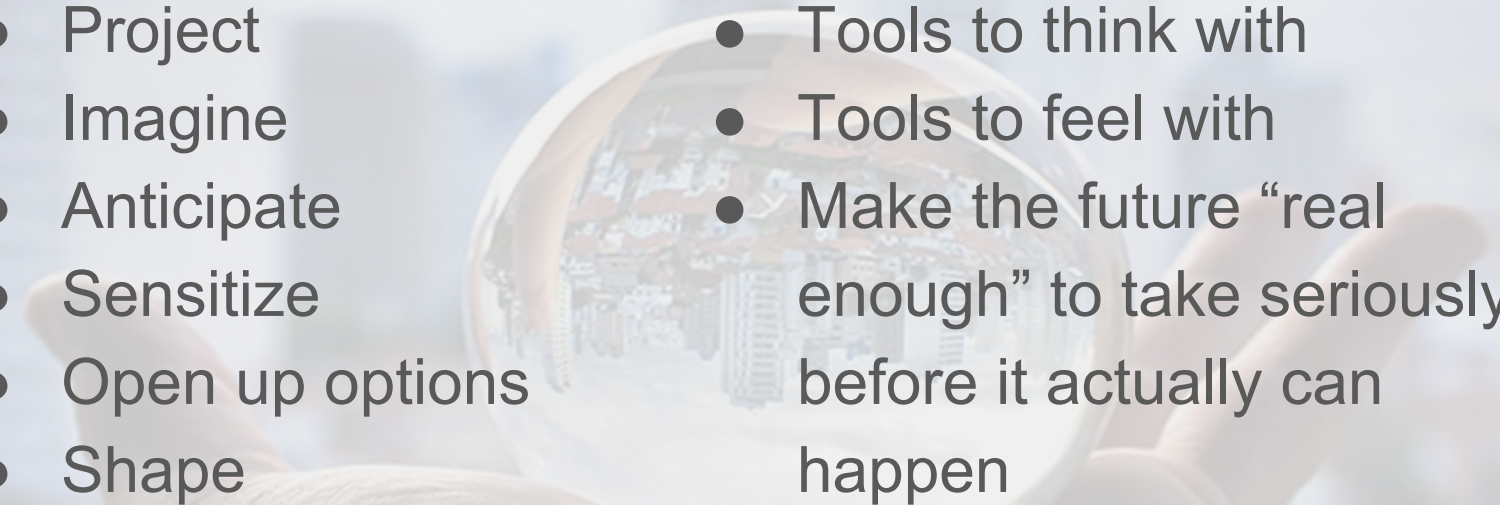
- Technologies of
 - Surveillance, knowledge, control
 - Rewriting the “data” of the past
- Co-production of technologies, selves, and social order
 - Who governs, who controls
 - What technologies get created and deployed, to what ends
 - Technological totalitarianism
- Replays throughout our culture

The cyborg - “cybernetic organism”



- This is science - and it is fiction
 - Part of the existing life world
 - Part of the fantasy world
 - Part of the future
- How do cyborgs appear?
 - Human-machine hybrids
 - Humans-in-the-network
 - Humans-and-their-data?
- What can we learn from cyborgs in their different incarnations?
 - Promises of augmentation
 - Anxiety -- loss of the human, potential obsolescence
 - What futures we can and can't see

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