

# Ethicsware

Dan Taeyoung

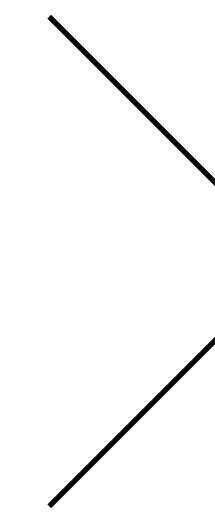
Code Societies - Winter 2019

School for Poetic Computation

**Hi, I'm Dan Taeyoung.**

**I am interested in how:**

Collectively created communities



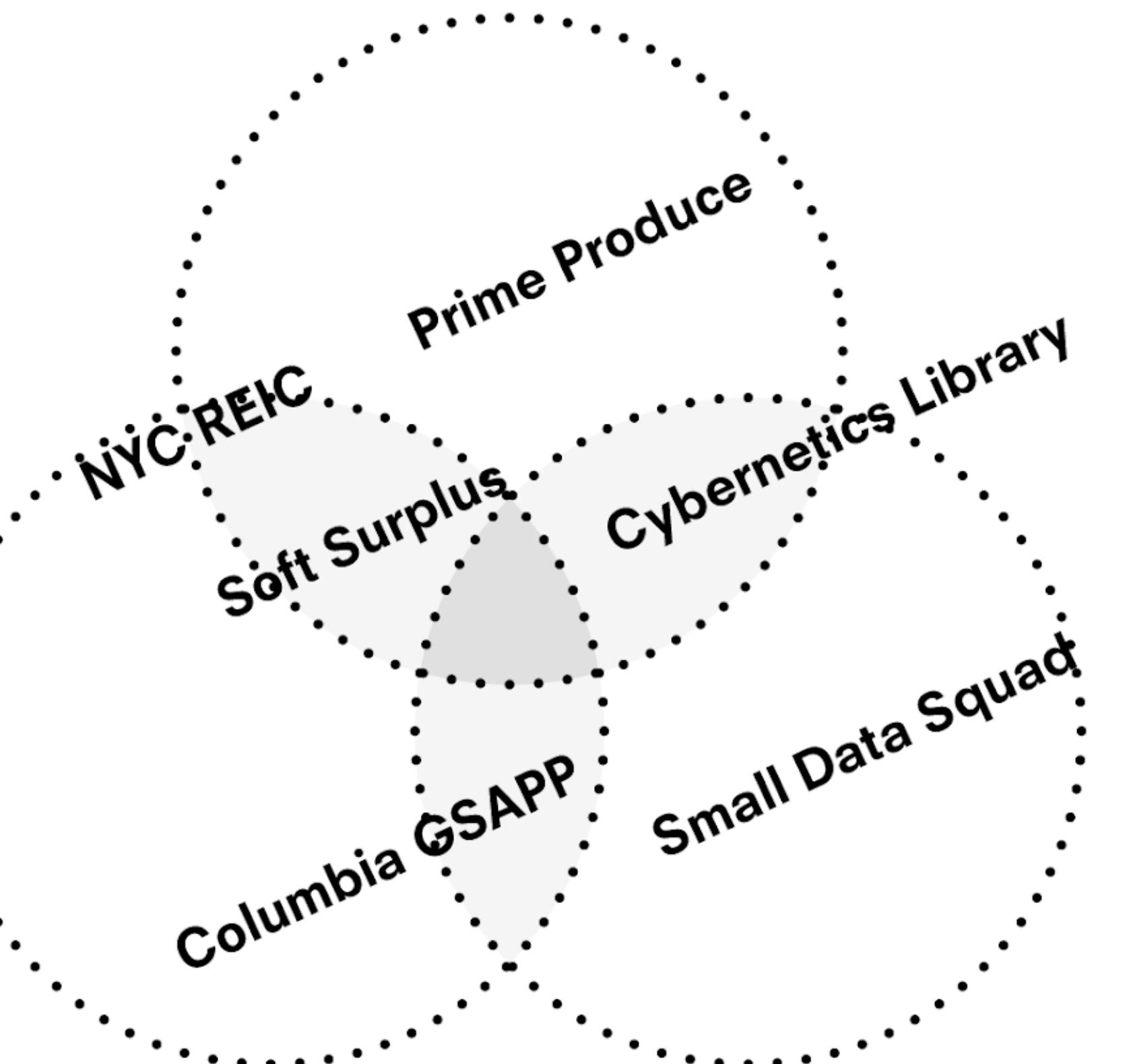
change the way we think, collaborate,  
and learn with each other

Experimental tools and environments

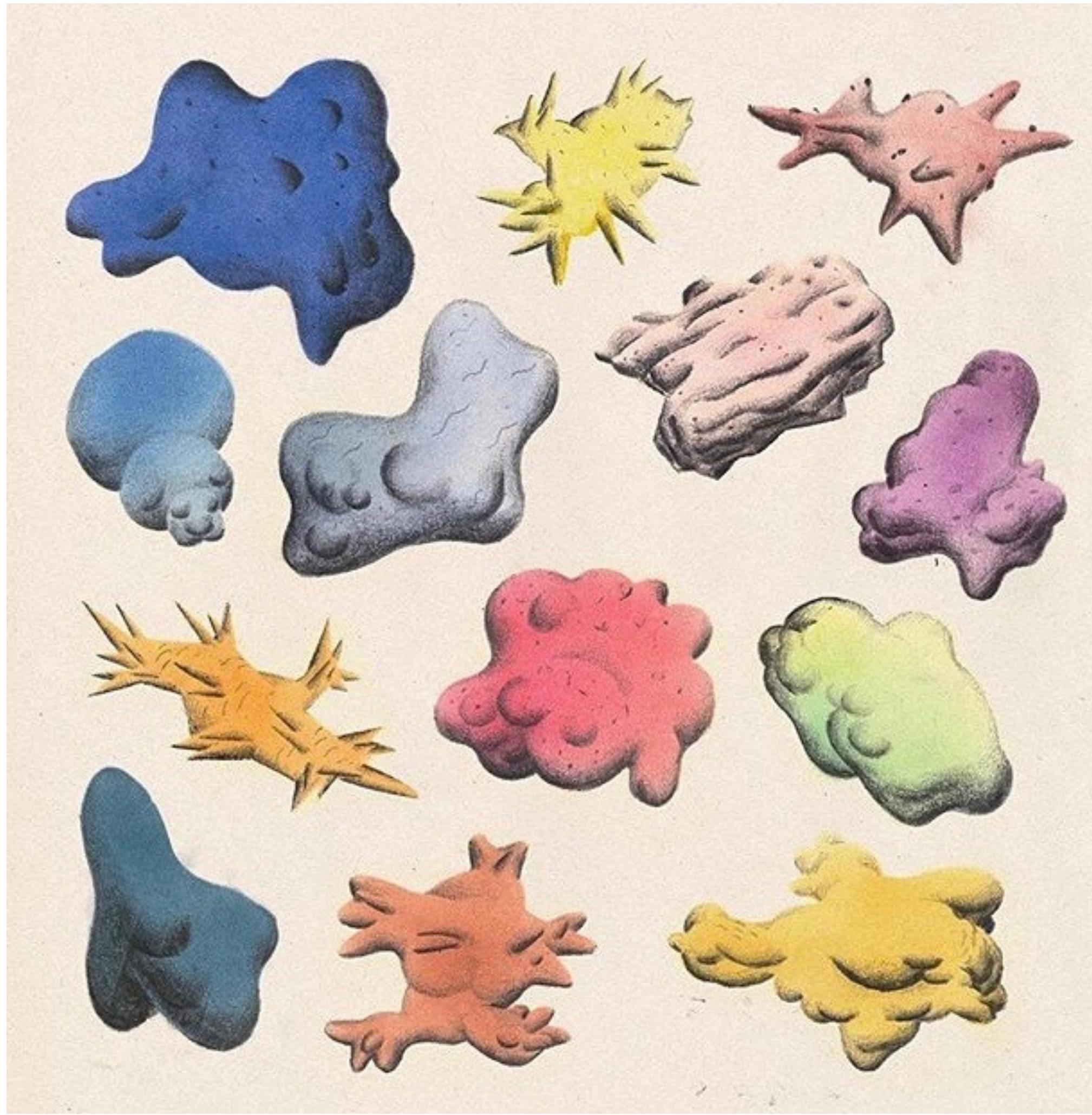
COOPERATIVES

ARCHITECTURE

TECHNOLOGY



- I want to brainstorm *together*.
- I want to be excited about technology that embodies/manifests our wish to care for ourselves and and others.
- I want to imagine a future world where class and capitalism has a weaker hold on us, and where we can imagine and begin to see ideas of technology that are opposed to production and servitude.
- I want to have things be funnnnny!!
- I want to share the idea of concernware. to invite everyone to this universe, and then to say, what do we see from here? what do we imagine? what do we talk about?



**Ethicsware  
Concernware  
Self-care ware  
Shareware  
Careware**

**1.**

**What is technology that does not serve us,  
but is concerned for us?**

**2.**

**Noticing ourselves  
is how we manifest a form of ethics and care**

**1.**

**What is technology that does not serve us,  
but is concerned for us?**

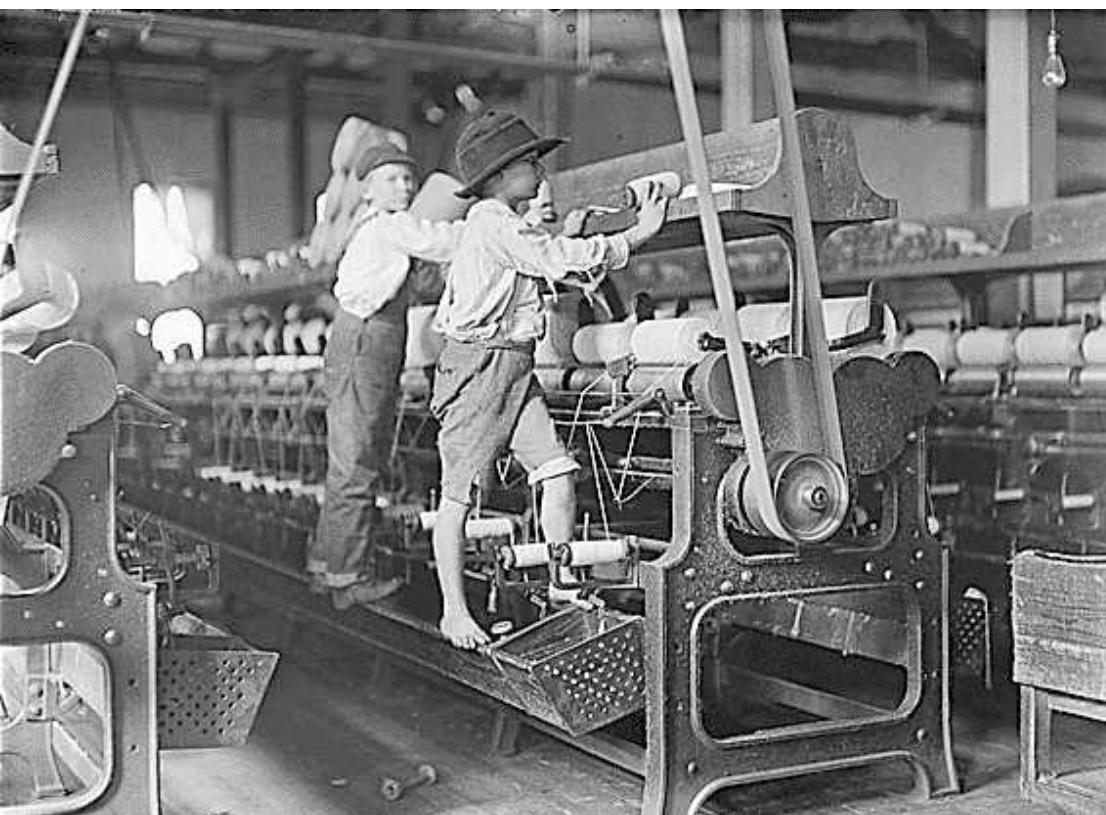
# Google Duplex Is Classist: Here's How to Fix It

*With Duplex, the Google Assistant can trick people into thinking it's human. It's cool, but ultimately turns service workers into inconvenient interfaces. Google can do better.*



By [Max Eddy](#) May 10, 2018 12:37PM EST

## Much of technology mimics, augments, and replaces labor



(What kinds of labor does it mimic, augment, and replace?)

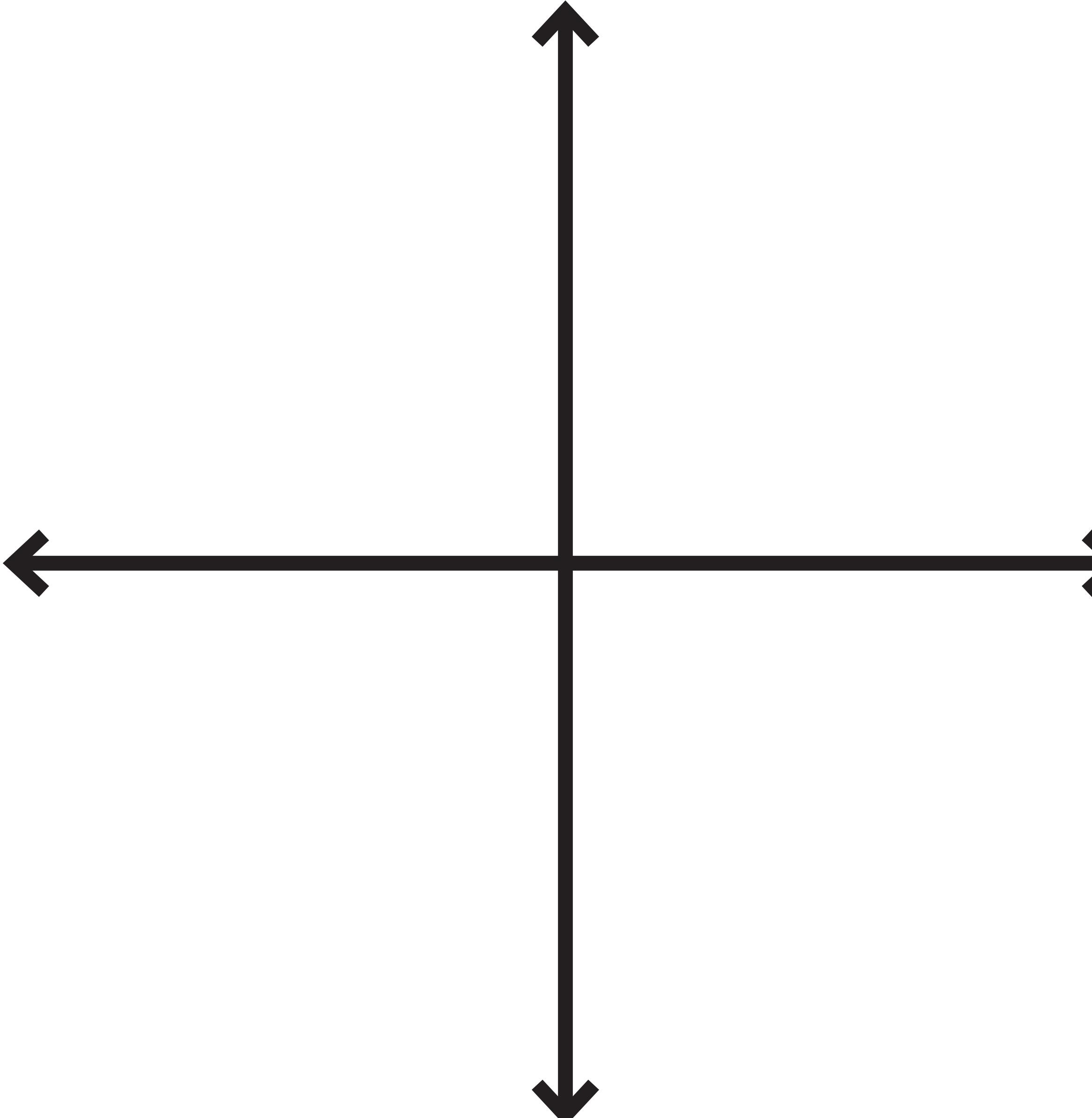
Q: Can you imagine a technology that is very much a part of your life?

What job does it augment & replace?

Or: Can you hire someone to help you do it? Does such a job exist?

**Replaces human labor**

**Occupation is  
not considered preferable**



**Doesn't replace labor**

**Occupation is  
considered preferable**



URSULA K. LE GUIN

# The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction



The first cultural device was probably a recipient. . . . Many theorizers feel that the earliest cultural inventions must have been a container to hold gathered products and some kind of sling or net carrier.

So says Elizabeth Fisher in *Women's Creation* (McGraw-Hill, 1975). But no, this cannot be. Where is that wonderful, big, long, hard thing, a bone, I believe, that the Ape Man first bashed somebody with in the movie and then, grunting with ecstasy at having achieved the first proper murder, flung up into the sky, and whirling there it became a space ship thrusting its way into the cosmos to fertilize it and produce at the end of the movie a lovely fetus, a boy of course, drifting around the Milky Way without (oddly

enough) any womb, any matrix at all? I don't know. I don't even care. I'm not telling that story. We've heard it, we've all heard all about all the sticks and spears and swords, the things to bash and poke and hit with, the long, hard things, but we have not heard about the thing to put things in, the container for the thing contained. That is a new story. That is news.

And yet old. Before—once you think about it, surely long before—the weapon, a late, luxurious, superfluous tool; long before the useful knife and ax; right along with the indispensable whacker, grinder, and digger—for what's the use of digging up a lot of potatoes if you have nothing to lug the ones you can't eat home in—with or before the tool that forces energy outward, we made the tool that brings energy home. It makes sense to me. I am an adherent of what Fisher calls the Carrier Bag Theory of human evolution.

This theory not only explains how tools of theoretical importance had



One relationship among elements in the novel may well be that of conflict, but the reduction of narrative to conflict is absurd. (I have read a how-to-write manual that said, "A story should be seen as a battle," and went on about strategies, attacks, victory, etc.) Conflict, competition, stress, struggle, etc., within the narrative conceived as carrier bag/belly/box/house/medicine bundle, may be seen as necessary elements of a whole which itself cannot be characterized either as conflict or as harmony, since its purpose is neither resolution nor stasis but continuing process.

Finally, it's clear that the Hero does not look well in this bag. He needs a stage or a pedestal or a pinnacle. You put him in a bag and he looks like a rabbit, like a potato.

That is why I like novels: instead of heroes they have people in them.

**Our notions of what technology is adjacent to gendered, racist, classist notions of production and labor;**

**What are other kinds of technologies?**

Our notions of what technology is adjacent to gendered, racist, classist notions of production and labor;

What are other kinds of technologies?

**Human effort as an analogy.**

**What is human effort that doesn't serve us?**

**When have you last done something, and your efforts didn't serve others, was not asking for others to serve you, was not increasing your productivity?**

Our notions of what technology is adjacent to gendered, racist, classist notions of production and labor;  
What are other kinds of technologies?

**What is human effort that doesn't serve us?**

**When have you last done something, and your efforts didn't serve others, was not asking for others to serve you, was not increasing your productivity?**

**Care for others, concern for others.**

## **Care looks different wherever it goes**

**encouragement**

**acts of care**

**spending time together**

**human touch**

**advice as a form of care**

**empathy**

**concern**

**honest observation**

**critique**

**arguing**

Our notions of what technology is adjacent to gendered, racist, classist notions of production and labor;

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**What does care for others look like for you?**

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# **2.**

**Noticing ourselves  
is how we manifest a form of ethics and care**

# Checklist as a technology

## Everything Is Awful and I'm Not Okay: questions to ask before giving up

**Are you hydrated?** If not, have a glass of water.

**Have you eaten in the past three hours?** If not, get some food — something with protein, not just simple carbs. Perhaps some nuts or hummus?

**Have you showered in the past day?** If not, take a shower right now.

**Are you dressed?** If not, put on clean clothes that aren't pajamas. You might want to wear something special, whether it's a funny shirt or a nice pair of jeans.

**Are you sleepy and fatigued but resisting going to sleep?** If so, consider staying in bed with a teddy bear and the sound of your favorite music. Close your eyes for fifteen minutes — no electronic screens! You'll feel better after that, you can get up again; no pressure!

**Are your legs in the past day?** If not, do so right now. Go for a walk or run or trip to the gym, just walk around the block as many times as you like. If the weather's crap, drive to a friend's house and go for a walk there.

### The Male Privilege Checklist

1. My odds of being hired for a job, when competing against female applicants, are probably skewed in my favor. The more prestigious the job, the larger the odds are skewed.
2. I can be confident that my co-workers won't think I got my job because of my sex — even though that might be true.
3. If I am never promoted, it's not because of my sex.
4. If I fail in my job or career, I can feel sure this won't be seen as a black mark against my entire sex's capabilities.
5. I am far less likely to face sexual harassment at work than my female co-workers are.
6. If I do the same task as a woman, and if the measurement is at all subjective, chances are people will think I did a better job.
7. If I'm a teen or adult, and if I can stay out of prison, my odds of being raped are

## White privilege checklist

This list is based on Peggy McIntosh's article on white privilege. These dynamics are but a few examples of the privilege which white people classes have.

On a daily basis as white person...

1. I can if I wish arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.

2. If I should need to move, I can be pretty sure renting or purchasing housing in which I can afford and in which I would want to live.

3. I can be pretty sure that my neighbors in such a location will be neutral or pleasant to me.

4. I can go shopping alone most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed.

5. I can turn on the television or open to the front page of the paper and see people of my race widely represented.

6. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown people of my color made it what it is

### THOUGHT RECORD

Instructions: Follow the hints at the bottom of each column in order to help you successfully reappraise your automatic thoughts and achieve a better balance in your thinking and emotions.

1. Describe The Situation	2. Identify And Rate Your Mood	3. Identify Automatic Thoughts Or Images	4. Facts That Support My Hot Thought(s)	5. Facts That Do Not Support My Hot Thought(s)	6. Balanced, Realistic Or Objective Thought	7. Rate How You Feel Now
		<p>Identifying automatic thoughts and images can be hard. Answer one or more of the questions below to help you out: What was I thinking of just before I started to feel this way? What does this say about me? What does this mean about me, my life or my future?</p>	<p>Circle the hot thought(s) in column 3. A hot thought is the automatic thought that is really causing you distress.</p>		<p>Copy the moods from Column 2. Rerate how you now feel.</p>	

in average public spaces much

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# **Everything Is Awful and I'm Not Okay: questions to ask before giving up**

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**Have you showered in the past day?** If not, take a shower right now.

**If daytime: are you dressed?** If not, put on clean clothes that aren't pajamas.

Give yourself permission to wear something special, whether it's a funny t-shirt or a pretty dress.

**If nighttime: are you sleepy and fatigued but resisting going to sleep?** Put on pajamas, make yourself cozy in bed with a teddy bear and the sound of falling rain, and close your eyes for fifteen minutes — no electronic screens allowed. If you're still awake after that, you can get up again; no pressure.

**Have you stretched your legs in the past day?** If not, do so right now. If you don't have the spoons for a run or trip to the gym, just walk around the block, then keep walking as long as you please. If the weather's crap, drive to a big box store (e.g. Target) and go on a brisk walk through the aisles you normally skip.

**Have you said something nice to someone in the past day?** Do so, whether online or in person. Make it genuine: wait until you see something really

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3. If I am never promoted, it's not because of my sex.
4. If I fail in my job or career, I can feel sure this won't be seen as a black mark against my entire sex's capabilities.
5. I am far less likely to face sexual harassment at work than my female co-workers are.
6. If I do the same task as a woman, and if the measurement is at all subjective, chances are people will think I did a better job.
7. If I'm a teen or adult, and if I can stay out of prison, my odds of being raped are relatively low.
8. On average, I am taught to fear walking alone after dark in average public spaces much less than my female counterparts are.
9. If I choose not to have children, my masculinity will not be called into question.
10. If I have children but do not provide primary care for them, my masculinity will not be called into question.
11. If I have children and provide primary care for them, I'll be praised for extraordinary parenting if I'm even marginally competent.

Press "E" for

Career

Press "I" for

Family

Salary

If you make a mistake, a red X will appear. Press the other key to continue.

## **Thought experiments**

John Rawls'  
Veil of Ignorance

Friederich Nietzsche  
Categorical Imperative

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U.S. Edition ▾

The New York Times

## Business Day

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE

International DealBook Markets Economy Energy Media Technology Person

WAL-MART ABROAD | *A retail giant fueled growth with bribes*

### The Bribery Aisle: How Wal-Mart Got Its Way in Mexico

Wal-Mart de Mexico was an aggressive and creative corrupter, offering large payoffs to get what the law otherwise prohibited, an examination by The New York Times found.



# The Truth About Bribery and Doing Foreign Business

The probe into Walmart's alleged bribery of public officials is interesting, but perhaps unsurprising. In Mexico, "mordida" is a way of life. Can you do business internationally and stick to all your morals?

## **Are you saying things like:**

“It’s just how things are done; everybody does it too.”

“I don’t really have a choice”

“It’s not something that I can decide”

“It doesn’t have a huge impact”

(Note that.. these are not in of themselves ethical statements  
They’re reflective ones. They’re between you and you.)



Yoko Ono, Grapefruit



Brian Eno, Oblique Strategies

## SNOW PIECE

Think that snow is falling.

Think that snow is falling everywhere  
all the time.

When you talk with a person, think  
that snow is falling between you and  
on the person.

Stop conversing when you think the  
person is covered by snow.

1963 summer

Trust in the you of now

## THOUGHT RECORD

**Instructions:** Follow the hints at the bottom of each column in order to help you successfully reappraise your automatic thoughts and achieve a better balance in your thinking and emotions.

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<p>Describe the situation by answering the following questions: What were you doing? Was anyone with you? What time or period of the day was it? Where did it happen?</p>	<p>Identify how you are feeling and rate each mood from 0-100%. Use the 'Emotions Handout' if necessary. Remember that you can have more than one unpleasant emotion.</p>	<p>Identifying automatic thoughts and images can be hard. Answer one or more of the questions below to help you out: What was I thinking of just before I started to feel this way? What does this say about me? What does this mean about me, my life or my future? What is my fear? What am I afraid will happen? What is the worst that can happen? What does this mean about how other people or the person thinks or feels about me? What does this mean about people or the world in general? What images/memories does this bring up?</p>	<p>Circle the hot thought(s) in column 3. A hot thought is the automatic thought that is really causing the emotion. Keep in mind you can have one hot thought related to one emotion or in the case of a number of emotions, a different hot thought for each emotion.</p>	<p>Finding evidence against your hot thought(s) can be hard at times, especially when the emotion(s) are intense. Go through the questions in the left hand column of the next page to help you out.</p>	<p>What is the most balanced, realistic or objective way to see the situation? If this is difficult, ask yourself the questions in the right-hand column on the next page to help you out.</p>	<p>Copy the moods from Column 2. Rerate how you now feel from 0-100%. Also write down any new emotions you may have. For example: relief, surprise, satisfied, etc.</p>

**What are ways in which we can notice ourselves  
so that we are better in tune with our ethics?**

**What are other kinds of technologies that hold concern, honest observation, critique, arguing, as a form of care?**

**What are ways in which we can notice ourselves so that we are better in tune with our ethics?**



**(& and clone the git repo,  
run Jupiter Notebook!)**

**<https://magnificent-class.glitch.com>**

**<https://glitch.com/edit/#!/magnificent-class>**

**ELIZA—A Computer Program  
For the Study of Natural Language  
Communication Between Man  
And Machine**

JOSEPH WEIZENBAUM  
*Massachusetts Institute of Technology,\* Cambridge, Mass.*

Welcome to

EEEEEE	LL	III	ZZZZZZ	AAAAA
EE	LL	II	ZZ	AA AA
EEEEEE	LL	II	ZZZ	AAAAAAA
EE	LL	II	ZZ	AA AA
EEEEEE	LLLLL	III	ZZZZZZ	AA AA

Eliza is a mock Rogerian psychotherapist.

The original program was described by Joseph Weizenbaum in 1966.  
This implementation by Norbert Landsteiner 2005.

ELIZA: Please tell me what's been bothering you.

YOU: The weather is awful.

ELIZA: I'm not sure I understand you fully.

YOU: I hate the current weather.

ELIZA: You say you hate the current weather ?

YOU: Yes, that's what I said.

ELIZA: I understand.

YOU: Great.

ELIZA: Please go on.

YOU: I would say it's your turn now!

ELIZA: Why are you concerned over my turn now ?

YOU: 

<https://magnificent-class.glitch.com>

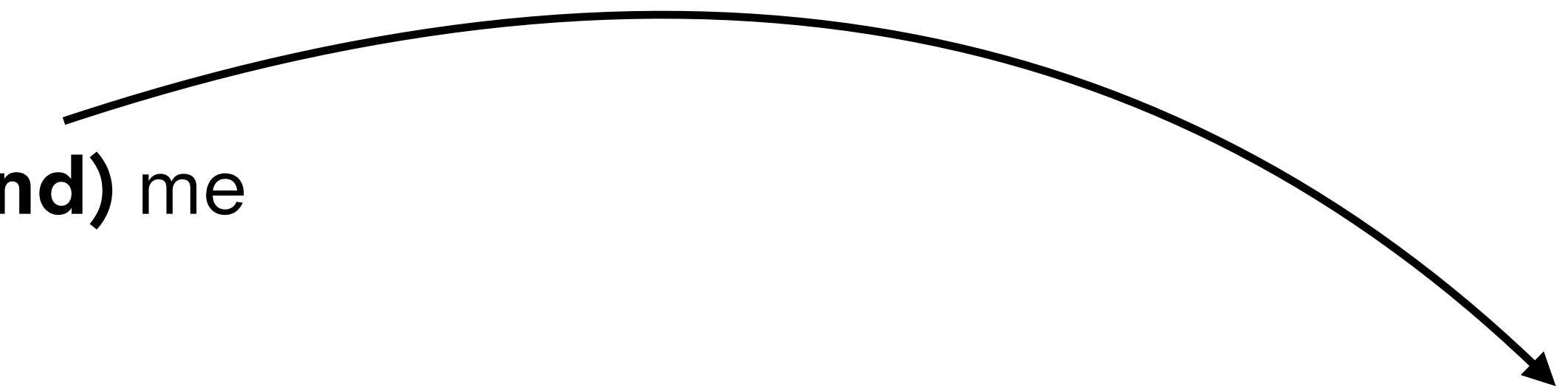
DO YOU HAVE WHEN YOU APOLOGIZE) ((IVE TOLD YOU  
THAT APOLOGIES ARE NOT REQUIRED)))  
(DONT = DON'T)  
(CANT = CAN'T)  
(WONT = WON'T)  
(REMEMBER S  
((0 YOU REMEMBER 0) (DO YOU OFTEN THINK OF 4)  
(DOES THINKING OF 4 BRING ANYTHING ELSE TO MIND)  
(WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER)  
(WHY DO YOU REMEMBER 4 JUST NOW)  
(WHAT IN THE PRESENT SITUATION REMINDS YOU OF 4)  
(WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ME AND 4))  
((0 DO I REMEMBER 0) (DID YOU THINK I WOULD FORGET 5)  
(WHY DO YOU THINK I SHOULD RECALL 5 NOW)  
(WHAT ABOUT 5) (=WHAT) (YOU MENTIONED 5))  
((0) (NEWKEY)))  
(IF 3 ((0 IF 0) (DO YOU THINK ITS LIKELY THAT 3) (DO YOU WISH THAT 3)  
(WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT 3) (REALLY, 2 3)))  
(WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT 3) (REALLY, 2 3)))  
(DREAMT 4 ((0 YOU DREAMT 0)  
(REALLY, 4) (HAVE YOU EVER FANTASIED 4 WHILE YOU WERE AWAKE)  
(HAVE YOU DREAMT 4 BEFORE) (=DREAM) (NEWKEY)))  
(DREAMED = DREAMT 4 (=DREAMT))  
(DREAM 3 ((0) (WHAT DOES THAT DREAM SUGGEST TO YOU)  
(DO YOU DREAM OFTEN) (WHAT PERSONS APPEAR IN YOUR DREAMS)  
(DON'T YOU BELIEVE THAT DREAM HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH  
YOUR PROBLEM) (NEWKEY)))  
(DREAMS = DREAM 3 (=DREAM))  
(HOW (=WHAT))  
(WHEN (=WHAT))  
(ALIKE 10 (=DIT))  
(SAME 10 (=DIT))  
(CERTAINLY (=YES))  
(FEEL DLIST(/BELIEF))  
(THINK DLIST(/BELIEF))  
(BELIEVE DLIST(/BELIEF))  
(WISH DLIST(/BELIEF))  
(MEMORY MY (0 YOUR 0 = LETS DISCUSS FURTHER WHY YOUR 3)  
(0 YOUR 0 = EARLIER YOU SAID YOUR 3)  
(0 YOUR 0 = BUT YOUR 3)

```
[ [ r' ( .* ) you ( .* ) me' ],  
  [ "What makes you think I {1} you?" ] ],
```

I think that you really understand me



**(I think that) you (really understand) me**



What makes you think I {1} you?



What makes you think I **really understand** you?

```
[ [r"(.* )hungry for(.*)", r"(.* )want some(.*)"],  
  ["Why do you want {1}?",  
   "Would it really help you to get {1}?",  
   "Are you sure you need {1}?" ],
```

```
tracery_rules = {
    "filler": ["Hmm. ", "Mm. ", "Ah.", ""],
    "hello": ["hello", "greetings", "howdy", "hey"],
    "computer": ["computer", "AI", "bot", "machine"],
    "fillerhello": ["#filler# #hello.capitalize#"]
}
```

## SNOW PIECE

Think that snow is falling.

Think that snow is falling everywhere  
all the time.

When you talk with a person, think  
that snow is falling between you and  
on the person.

Stop conversing when you think the  
person is covered by snow.

1963 summer

Trust in the you of now

## **Experiment with:**

- “here are the kinds of things you can ask me.”
- breathing. meditation.
- inside jokes to myself.
- conversation in the form of everyday life.
- delayed messaging.
- nice stories
- soft reminders
- quiet thoughts
- names of friends who mean a lot to you
- stern and caring self-noticing
- “have you had a glass of water recently?”

**1.**

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**What are other kinds of technologies that hold concern, honest observation, critique, arguing, as a form of care?**

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**[tinyurl.com/ethicswareexamples](https://tinyurl.com/ethicswareexamples)**