FH Salzburg

Analysis of the Now

Domain: **Food**
Impacts of Future Technologies
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The Domain

Food is one of the few things that encompasses each and every one of us. As one of the fundamental necessities of life, the domain of food arguably is one of the most important areas to investigate. As such, this domain includes a myriad of different aspects: From the production of food and individual food consumption, all the way to global societal issues – arising from a growing world population and a change in climate.

Cues, Trends & Weak Signals

I performed two different searches to identify cues, trends and weak signals, one for popular media and one in scientific literature. In popular media I mainly investigated articles and themes mentioned in BBC's Future Food Fiction [1] and BBC's Follow the Food [2]. In addition to that I tried to include past visions of the future from the TV show "The Jetsons" (1962-1963) [3]. Scientific research was done by searching for popular literature (more than 80 citations) in the last 30 years with the following keywords: "Future Food", "Future Food Trends", "Future Food Production" and more variations thereof. I then categorized my results into three distinct areas: Food Production (FP), Food Preparation (FPR) and Food Cosumption (FC). For *FP*, possible cues I will look deeper into in the envisioning phase are: Vertical farming ([4], [5]) and Biotech (e.g. lab-grown meat [6], [7], [8], [9]). Concerning *FPR* the cues are: AI-generated recipes [10], automated preparation robots [11] and 3D printed food [12]. Lastly the cues identified for *FC* are insects for individual consumption (e.g. [13]) and "Meals in a pill" ([14], [15], [16]). These topics all inhibit a great number of possible interactions a few of which I am going to focus on in the "envisioning" phase.

Historical & Current Issues

It is not possible to account for all of the different societal, environmental, economical or political developments in this domain in such a small frame. Therefore I want to focus on two distinct societal issues in that regard: The problem of food security for a growing population (e.g. [17]) and the effect of climate change and droughts on food production [18]. I will dive deeper into how these could be tackled with the cues from beforehand in the next phase of this course.

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