

Design for This Century

Name: Zixuan Kevin Fan

NID: N00631555

09.05.17

## Response

When we consider the relationships among humans and new humans, non-humans, technologies, general economies, AI, ecosystem etc, one thing we have to keep reminding ourselves is the very principle of diversity. Certain preoccupations that our modern societies and institutions are built upon may not be the ultimate answers. With the ever-increasing information of the Internet age, we must keep challenging our perceptions of the world as if we were still living in the Medieval pre-Copernican age. How do we define our society, either geological or physiological? How do we delimits the degree of intelligence? How do we even depict the fundamental characteristics of humans?

The status quo in some societies may not apply to others. The spatial differences in the world we live in can be seen in a lot of conflicting war zones. During the siege of Kobane, the patriarchal reality of most countries became non-existent. Instead, a flat, rotational system was formed to operate the government machine at the Kobane canton. Women are no longer the "second sex", and payments are never requested within social interactions. The extreme demands of war lead to such family state culture so that everyone unites and prioritize his/her attentions to defeat the common enemy. While this Utopian state's sustainability remains questionable during peaceful times, it is interesting enough to realize this alternative worldview in parallel with the rest of the world.

Modern AI has always been a controversial area ever since its emergence in the 1950s. Regardless of the technological debates around us, how humans can either design or adapt to it needs more to be investigated. Is human intelligence the only possibility of intelligence that can be found on Earth? If not, the existence of other kinds of intelligence can fundamentally alter the way we cultivate our civilization. Is the human-centrism mentality that limits the potential of our world? However, it is terrifying to realize that humans can no longer be the matter of interest in the universe.

Numerous attempts have been made to eradicate the differences between genders, races and classes in our society. But isn't diversity itself needs to be valued also? Technology is a double-sided blade and the source of multiple problems nowadays. We've achieve so much for the past decades in terms of science and engineering. Is it worth the risk to restore back to the early-stage black and white text-based cyber culture?

All these questions need to be asked, questioned, and attempted if not answered by our generation. It may be impossible to answer all of them; however, us designers do have the responsibility to inspire and provoke thinking in others to at least attempt these questions. This way, we can better prepare these alternative worldviews in the face of singularities and human annihilation.

### Questions

1. How do you interpret the topic "Horizon of the Human"?
2. Do you think the people reached a true equality at Kobane?
3. Is "hard AI" (compared to "soft AIs" like Apple's Siri...) really a necessity to the humans?
4. How do we determine the intelligence of AI?
5. Explain *"worse than being seen as an enemy is not being seen at all"*?
6. What are the pros and cons of women guerillas at Kobane?
7. What do you think about the present "reputation economy", where people put on fake personas just to please people on social media.
8. What's your opinion on *"if nature is unjust, change nature!"* from Xenofem manifesto?
9. How would imagine the world after the disappearance of Man?