My relationship to race and gender has very recently reshaped my relationship to futures thinking the sense that I now know that my perspective is only as valuable as the ways in which I help critique and deconstruct racist, sexist systems that limit our futures as a whole. What I mean by this is that I generally see everything I note as culturally, politically, or structurally significant as limited by my own experiences as a white woman in America.

When I note [aesthetic or cultural trends in my day job](https://blog.adobe.com/en/publish/2022/01/12/optimism-and-defiance-the-adobe-stock-2022-creative-trends-forecast), they are generally defined by my own limited exposure to those in my cultural space, and I actively make more space for black, brown and indigenous creators, storytellers, and information-sharers. I loved Womack’s deep dive into Afrofuturism because I believe that this cultural shift in acknowledging “otherworldly visions” can and will redefine what we accept as possible in a progressive society. Afrofuturism in Janelle Monea’s music, Lil Nas X’s new music videos, and Lovecraft Country hugely shapes these futures, and acknowledging that many realities (and thus, many futures) exist under repressive systems is crucial to unlearning the limitations of our own privilege and reshaping what futures can and should be.

For this reason, I really appreciated Gidley’s introduction to the “history of the future”, and especially the background context she provided for the notion of pluralism in futures. This notion of pluralistic futures acknowledges the many variations in realities people experience within the present day, and gives us the tools to deconstruct the limitations we inherit. I’ve always had a hard time with the idea of one reality and the fact that academics have been pushing for pluralism in all fields and especially in futures studies since  *the 60s* helped me realize that our own perspective is only really as helpful as the ways in which it is applied to our gaps in knowledge and growth.

As a white woman from a family of immigrants, our relationship to stability and our futures has been complicated. I think I can see that the potential of my family is defined by our ability to grow, and immigrants are maybe better equipped to grow than non-immigrants. So now it’s just a matter of changing our entire family’s mindset to understand and strive for long-term growth, rather than just immediate survival. I think this can be applied to society as a whole, and I hope we can learn and grow in time to protect our way of life.