University of Amsterdam
Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies

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Unleashing students' creative potential via scenario development

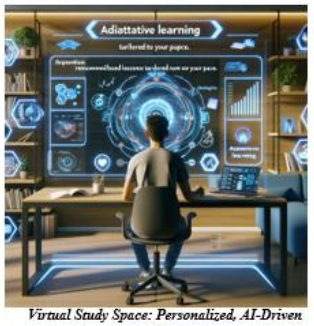
Who am I?

Curriculum Developer for the Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies:

- Bachelor Future Planet Studies (FPS), amongst which the courses:
  - Reflexive Design Project.
  - Scenario Planning.

- Lecturer at FPS and elsewhere:
  - Philosophy of Science.
  - (Future) rol of Generative AI in education (honours course).

Modern Campus: Personalized Learning with AI Integration



Virtual Study Space: Personalized, AI-Driven Learning
"Using a projector | text = adaptive learning, tailored to your pace"

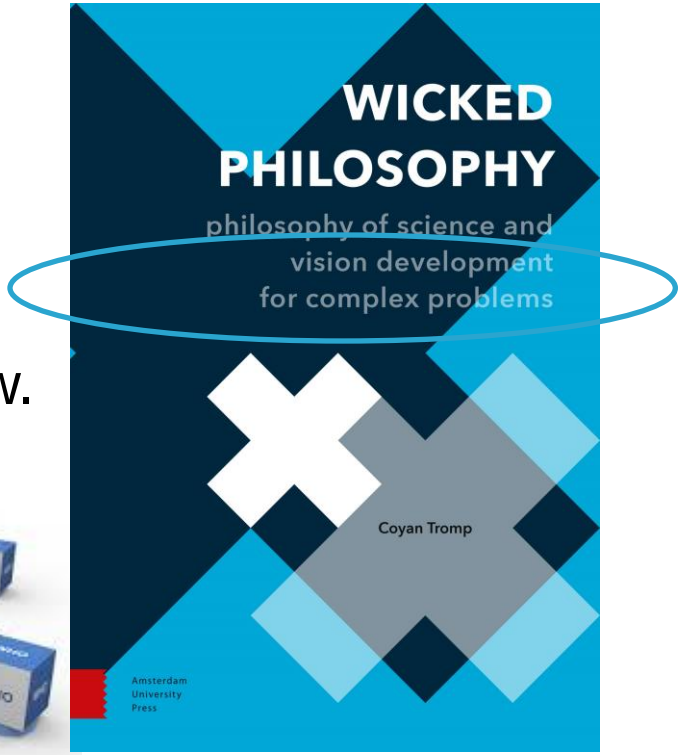
Research lab: Vibrant and Innovative with AI

Modern Classroom: Inclusive and Empowered by AI

Wicked Philosophy – for Philosophy of Science & Scenario Planning

Ch6 - The Future of Science:

- Vision-Based Science and Science-Based Visions.
- Science and Futures Thinking: Combining Know-What with Know-How.



The Scenario Method

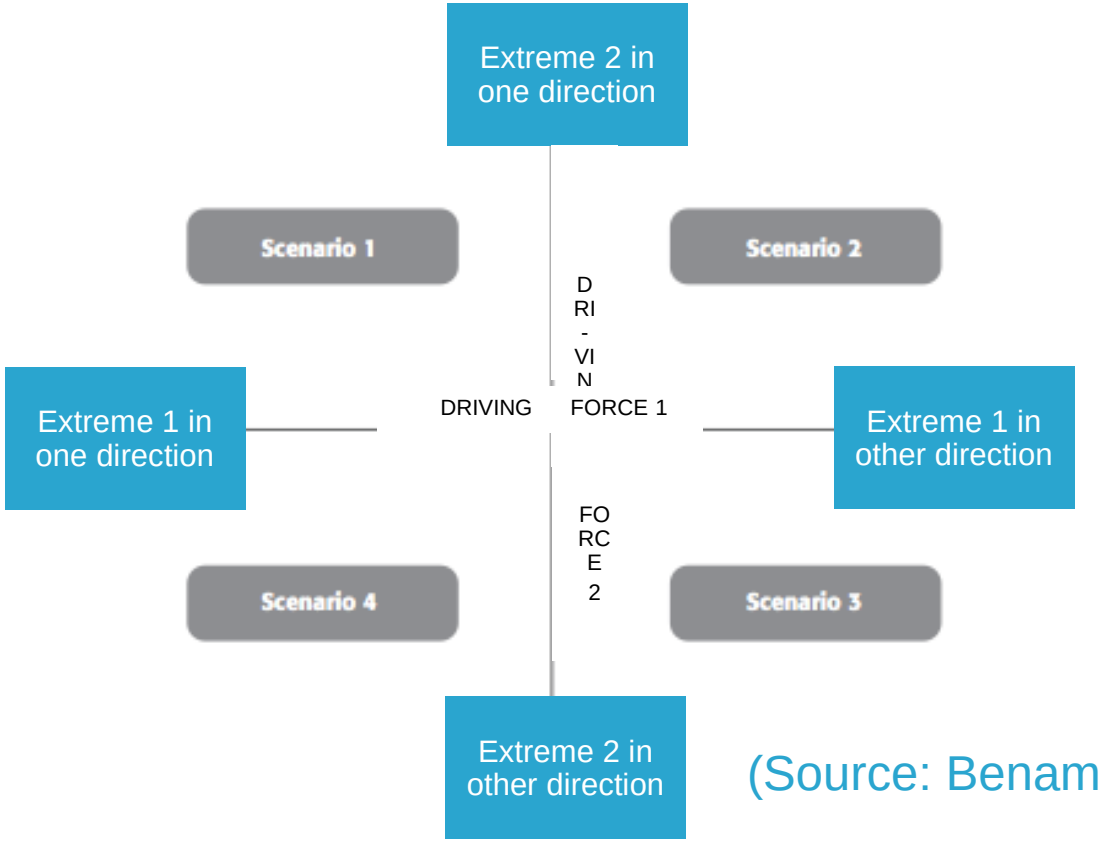
1. Identifying Focal Issue & Problem Analysis
2. Trend Analysis & Selecting Driving Forces
3. Design Scenario Matrix & Develop Scenarios
4. Reflect on Policy Implications & Formulate Policy Advice

See knowledge clip Introduction to the Scenario Method

Week 1 *Week 2* *Week 3* *Week 4*

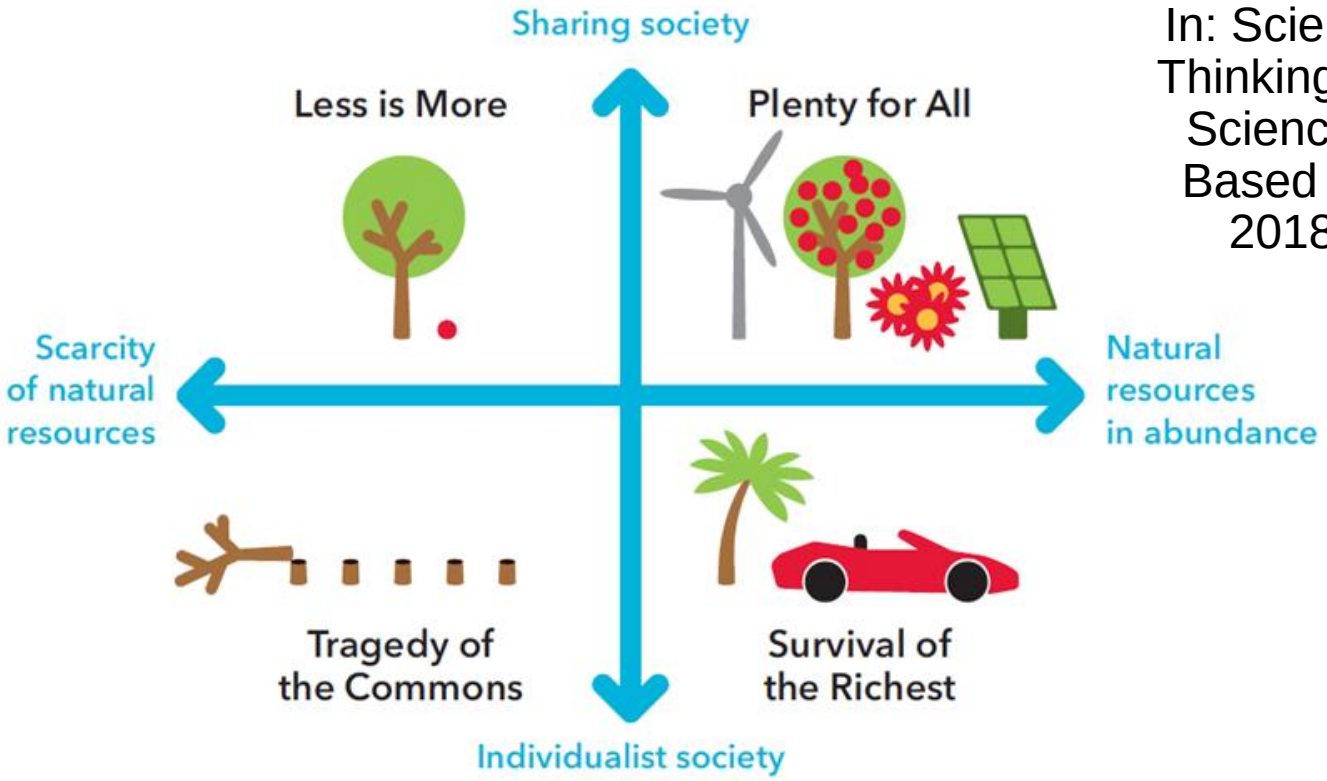
(Source: scenarios2 strategy.com)

Scenarios: possible futures



(Source: Benammar *et al.*, 2006, p. 11)

Future Visions – Future Scenarios
Four possible worlds

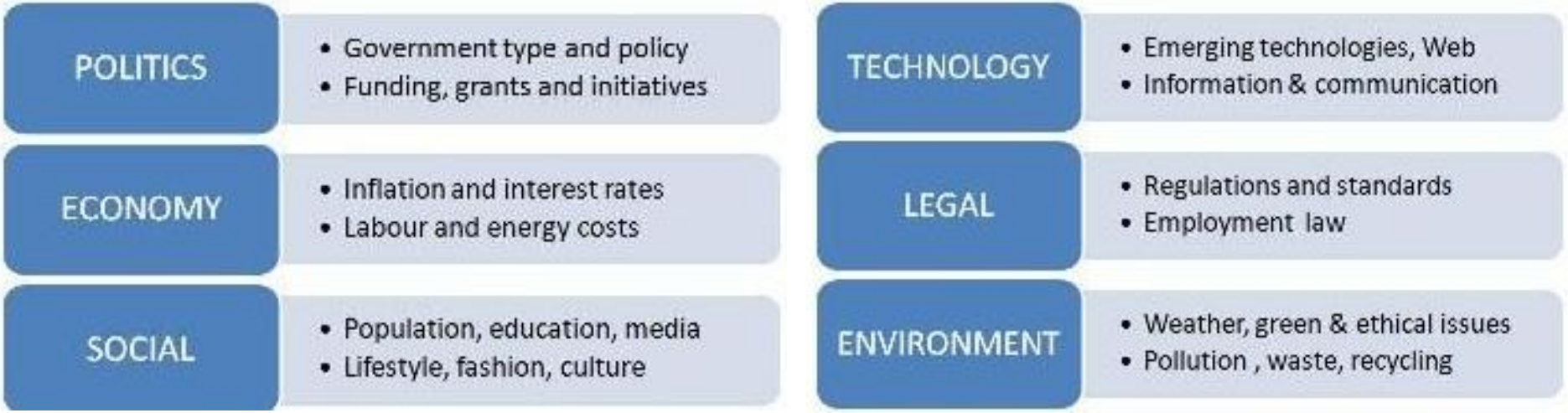


In: Science and Futures Thinking & Vision-Based Science and Science-Based Visions (Tromp 2018, p. 142-153)

Knowledge clips, amongst others:

Introduction into the scenario method, including

- An explanation of how to select the main drivers for a matrix.
- Explanation of the six pillars of the STEPLE(D) approach, which can help students detect important drivers and also help to develop their future scenarios.



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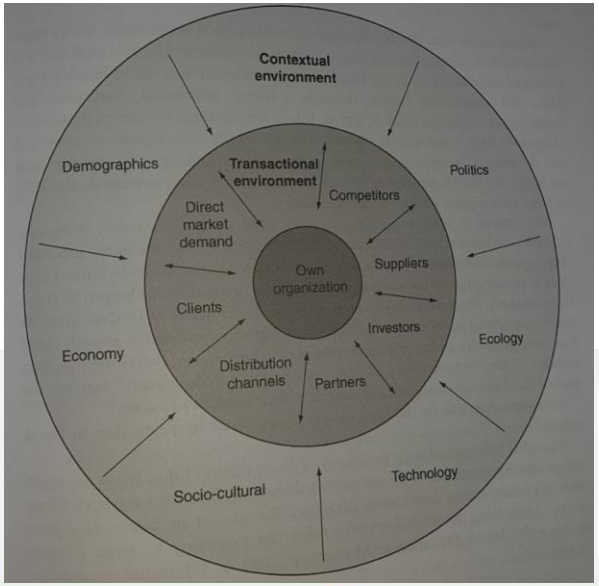
Developing Scenarios



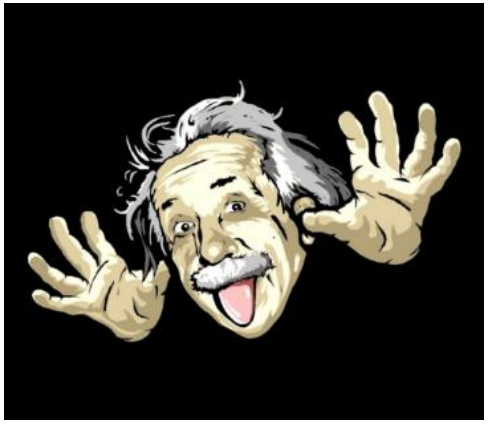
Using the STEPLE(D) method (cf. Nekkers, 2016, p. 19 →)

Political	Economic	Demography	Technological
Institutional			
Nationalism vs. globalism	Trade flows	Population Growth	Payments
State capitalism	Investments in new markets	Longevity	Energy

Socio-Cultural		Ecology	
Consumption culture	Eco-Awareness	Biodiversity	Ecosystem Services

Knowledge clips, amongst others:

Scenarios: Science or Fiction?

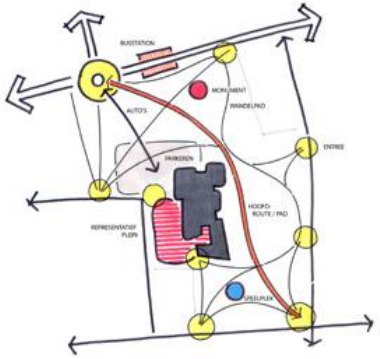


- Preferably, scenarios are based on both quantitative and qualitative analyses.

Knowledge clips, amongst others:

Scenario development as source of inspiration:

- Stimulation of creativity and outside-the-box thinking.
- Developing inspiring and leading / binding visions (using narratives and metaphores).
- Bending threats into the direction of challenges.



Masterclass Imaginative Thinking with theater makers

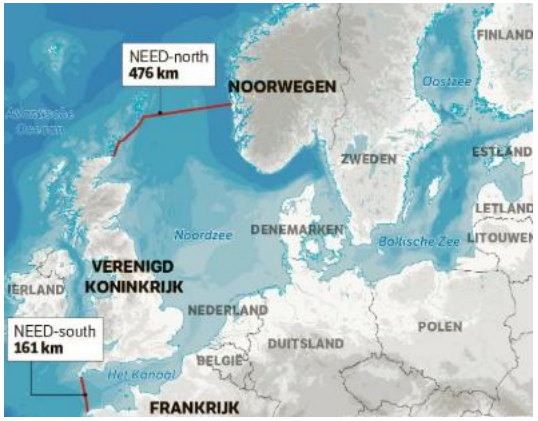
- What is the role of art and our imaginative capacities in scenario development? How can it help us to envision possible, desirable future worlds?
- Presentation of various future climate scenarios, mixing cabaret and science, guiding the audience on an imaginative journey about the consequences of climate change.
- For our students: exercises in out-of-the-box thinking and stimulating their imagination, applied to their context, to their chosen topics for scenario development.

Masterclass Imaginative Thinking with theater makers

- Are there any scenarios, any future world visions that are taboo?
- If so, why is that?
- What can we learn from imagining such ‘forbidden’ world visions?
- What insights do they provide for now and in the future?
- Can you think of a taboo scenario for your own topic?

Masterclass Imaginative Thinking with theater makers

- Other show: ‘Overvloed’ (Superfluous / Abundance), together with Physical Oceanographer Sjoerd Groeskamp.
- To protect 15 European countries against sea level rise, he proposes to build massive sea dams across the North Sea and English Channel, which will cut off the North Sea from the rest of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Radical scenario to raise awareness and enhance discussion.



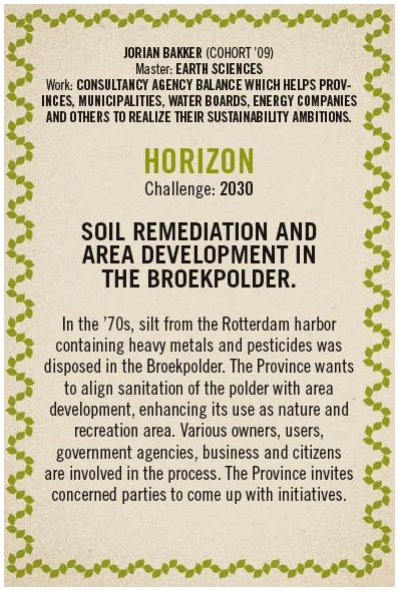
Masterclass Imaginative Thinking with theater makers

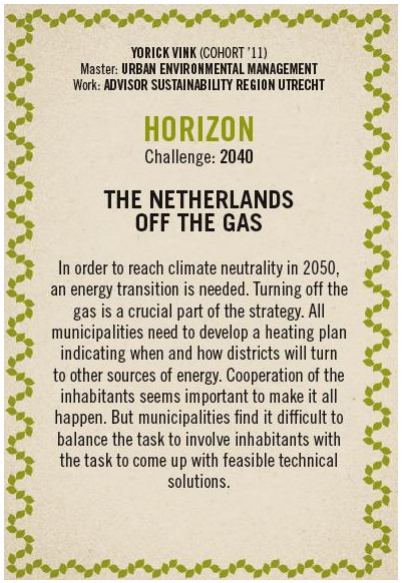
- Show: How do you think things are going?
- Singing a ‘Scenario Song’ in which the future is going to look ever more grimm.
- Thus making people realize we really need to do something if we want to avoid the worst case scenario from happening.
- Highlighting the role storytelling can play in developing desirable futures or to avoid undesirable futures.

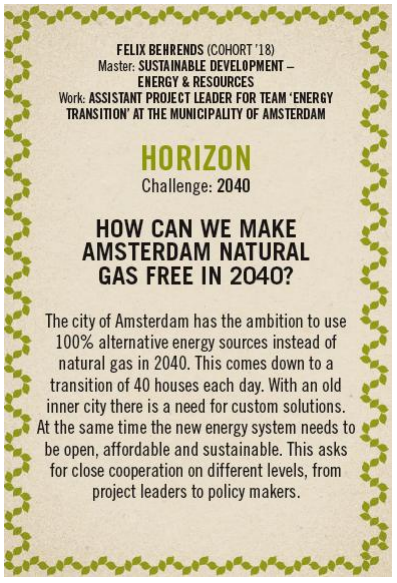
Cor Burger

Scenario Development & Planning

- Much desired skills on the labour market - see for instance the challenges of:







Favorite slogans within Future Planet Studies:

"We cannot predict the future,
but we can prepare for it."