

Pre-Call: Social Futures Handbook

Editors

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Rationale

The future matters immensely. The future is now. It is not far off and empty, but lived and created in the here and now. Ideas of futures also shape our pasts and presents in myriad ways, and they reach beyond individual national societies, beyond today's generations, beyond the bounds of planet earth. Who owns the future? Whose values matter? Why is one's utopia another's dystopia? Who's to intervene in the complex unfolding of futures, and how?

The new 'social futures paradigm' develops a new framework for research that starts from the understanding that futures in the Anthropocene are social because they matter to people, and because they are shaped by the – often very long-lived – accretions, excretions and exhalations of the social. It appreciates that everyday social and material practices of mobility, energy use, consumption, and communication have complex multi-scalar systemic 'worlding' effects with resonances to Immanuel Wallerstein's world system theory and critiques of global capitalism. Social futures are local, but also global, planetary, perhaps interplanetary; they entangle inequalities, multiple pasts, presents and futures, the material and the technological, the human and the non-human.

The editors of the Social Futures Handbook seek to map the terrain of the emergent interdisciplinary field of social futures studies. The aim is to document how the concept of 'social futures' enables researchers and research 'users' to address the central role of the social in making futures in new ways. The contributions will chart contested values, local and global synergies, systemic complexities, and contradictions. It will record and develop methodologies of researching the inherent futurity of everyday social and material practices, and leverage the analytical power of social and human science approaches for interdisciplinary research, affirmative critique, and innovation.

Mobilities are critical to social futures, and we invite contributions from mobilities researchers. Contributions may explore topics including

- the critical role of mobile utopia, mobilities practices, mobilities systems in shaping futures,
- the power of the mobilities paradigm as an analytical orientation for the study of social futures,
- mobilities as a methodological approach to mainstreaming or democratising the future and to 'world' with greater care and ethical circumspection.

Timeline

We are finalising the contract with Routledge.

December 2017	Call opens officially
February 2018	Submission of abstracts
March 2018	Invitation to contributors
September 2018	First draft
September 2018	Social Futures Symposium, Lancaster University
	Peer review comments circulated & discussed in closed session
February 2019	Revised drafts due, final review by editors
June 2019	Final chapters due
October 2019	Submitting manuscript to Routledge

Please send your abstract (max 250 words) no later than 1st February 2018 to Monika Büscher m.buscher@lancaster.ac.uk