



Futures Studies

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Introduction



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Our discussion today

Futures Studies 101



Futures Studies 101

10 Principles

1- The future is plural

FUTURES



A photograph showing a vast landscape covered in a massive pile of discarded plastic waste, including bags, bottles, and other debris. In the background, an industrial facility with several tall chimneys is visible, with a thick plume of dark smoke rising into a cloudy sky. The scene is set during what appears to be dawn or dusk, with a soft, hazy light. The overall atmosphere is one of environmental degradation and pollution.

If there is only **ONE FUTURE**

THOUGHTS:

Pollution is so bad right now, there's nothing I can do about it. Why should I care to not use plastic bags or buy bottled water

A photograph of a beach heavily littered with plastic waste, including bottles, bags, and debris. Two people are holding a large yellow banner across the middle of the beach. The banner has the text 'POLLUTED BY SINGLE-USE PLASTIC' written in bold black letters. The background shows a body of water and a cloudy sky.

**POLLUTED BY
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC**

ACTIONS/Behaviour:
Plastics continue to be part of our lives



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

PLANET OR PLASTIC?

*18 billion pounds
of plastic ends up
in the ocean each
year. And that's
just the tip of
the iceberg.*



1- The future is plural

THOUGHTS:

Pollution is so bad right now, there's nothing I can do about it. Why should I care to not use plastic bags or buy bottled water

We love our ocean

We care for our neighbourhood

We choose
NO MORE TRASH

We choose
plastic free city

ACTIONS/Behaviour:
Don't buy bottled water
We support businesses for greener environment

renew europe.



OUR OCEANS, OUR FUTURE

WORLD OCEANS DAY



2- The future is Possible, Plausible and Probable

Probable futures

are based on a continuation of current trends, if things remain the same



2- The Probable futures of traffic situation in Taipei



2- The future is Possible, Plausible and Probable

Plausible futures

which most people would consider believable and are consistent with our current understanding of science, technology, socio-economical systems





“...it can be seductively easy for cities to pat ourselves on the back for finding ways to do the wrong things better. An example is electric & driverless cars — in other words, “better cars” — when the right answer is fewer cars.”

FOUR TYPES OF LEGO TRAFFIC JAM



PETROL CARS



DIESEL CARS



ELECTRIC CARS



SELF-DRIVING CARS

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2- The future is Possible, Plausible and Probable

Possible futures

are futures which seem highly unlikely or “too far out” because they may involve technology or knowledge that does not currently exist



Possible futures



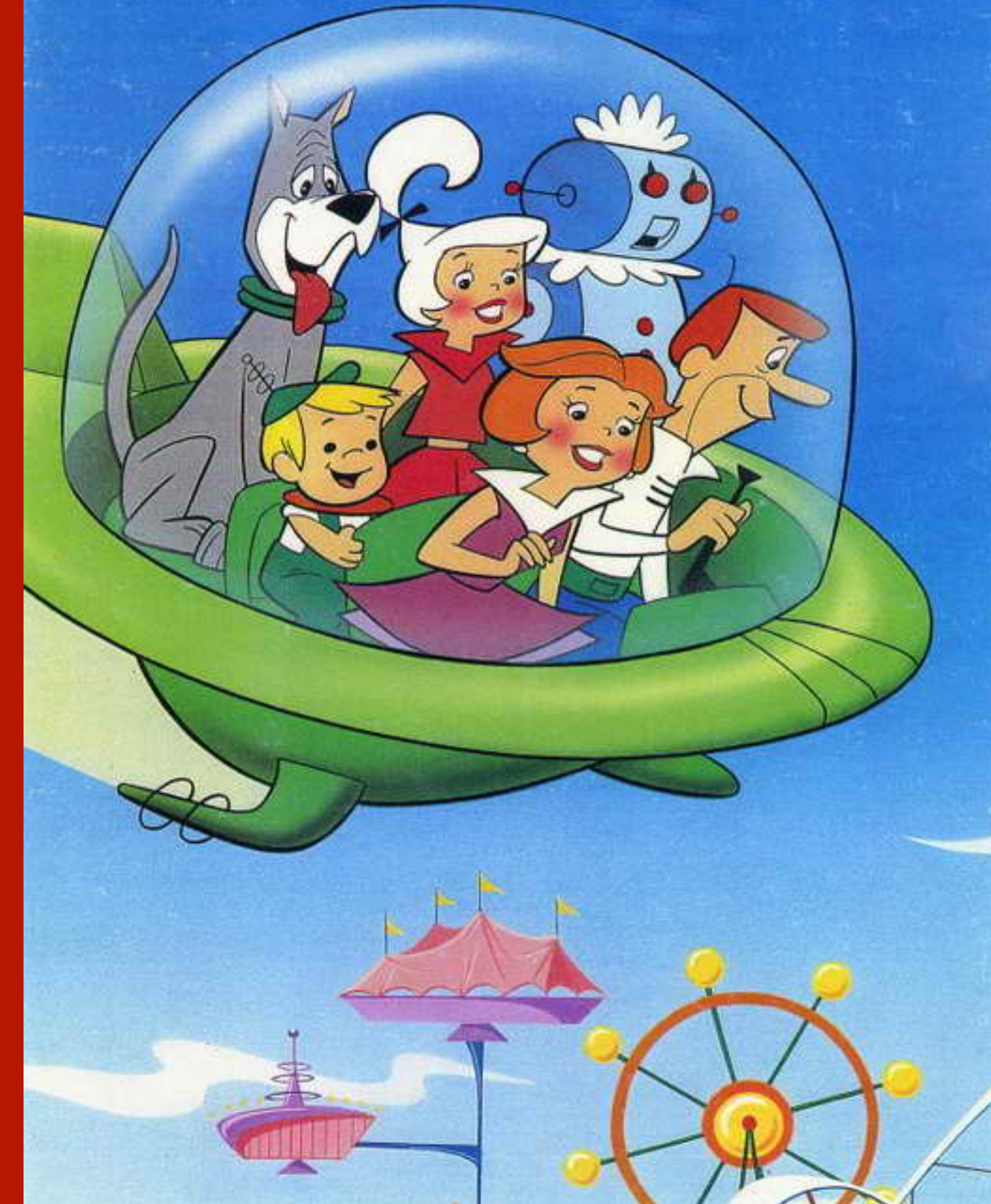
**communication device first appeared
in Star Trek 1964**



**2021 - We can't live without our mobile
phone**

Possible futures

Hanna-Barbera
PRESENTS
The **JETSONS**



The Jetsons Flying Saucer 1962

2017 - Dubai Autonomous air taxi



المكتب الإعلامي
لحكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI
MEDIA OFFICE

Possible futures



3- The Future is Open

The future is NOT fixed and we have opportunities and freedom to influence the future in a positive direction



3- The Future is Open

Possible futures - our choices and actions can help to create it.

**“We can choose and act to bring about a desired future” -
Wendell Bell**



1- The future is plural

THOUGHTS:

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4- The Future is Fuzzy

Knowledge about the future is always imperfect and severely limited.

Even with fuzzy knowledge, imperfect understanding can still provide useful and valuable guidance - help us make better decisions.



4- The Future is Fuzzy : Future Jobs



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1. Cyber security expert

No-one wants to fall victim to cyber-based crime which is why the government is trying to tackle the issue by providing apprenticeships to encourage young people to choose this growing sector.

2. Robotics engineer

All types of engineer are in demand but those who are highly skilled in coding and software are needed in areas such as biomedical engineering, warehousing and logistics, agri-tech (agricultural technology) and hi-tech manufacturing such as driverless vehicles. Engineers are well paid and their skills are sought after around the world so if you like the idea of being able to travel it could be a good career.

3. Nurse

The government has announced nearly 4,000 extra university places for nurses as hospitals continue to experience shortages. Bursaries for nursing degrees have been replaced with fees but there are now more routes into the career with degree apprenticeships in nursing an option.

4. Software developer

Computer programming skills are the most sought after area of expertise in the UK – they're needed everywhere! From cloud computing to artificial intelligence to business intelligence to gaming – and other possibilities yet to be imagined.

5. User experience (UX) designer

5- The Future is surprising

The future will surprise us.



5- The Future is surprising



some change are continuous

5- The Future is surprising

some change are discontinuous

Dogs in prams: Taiwan's falling birthrate sees pets outnumbering children

Trend of canine carriers goes beyond the practical and reflects changing attitudes towards pet ownership



6- The Future is NOT surprising

The principles of continuity - The future contains continuity and change.

Anti-change forces are *stabilities ; e.g. rules, culture, customs & traditions, economic systems*



6- The Future is NOT surprising



7- The Future is fast

Change is occurring at a rapid and accelerating pace
“too much change in a short time”

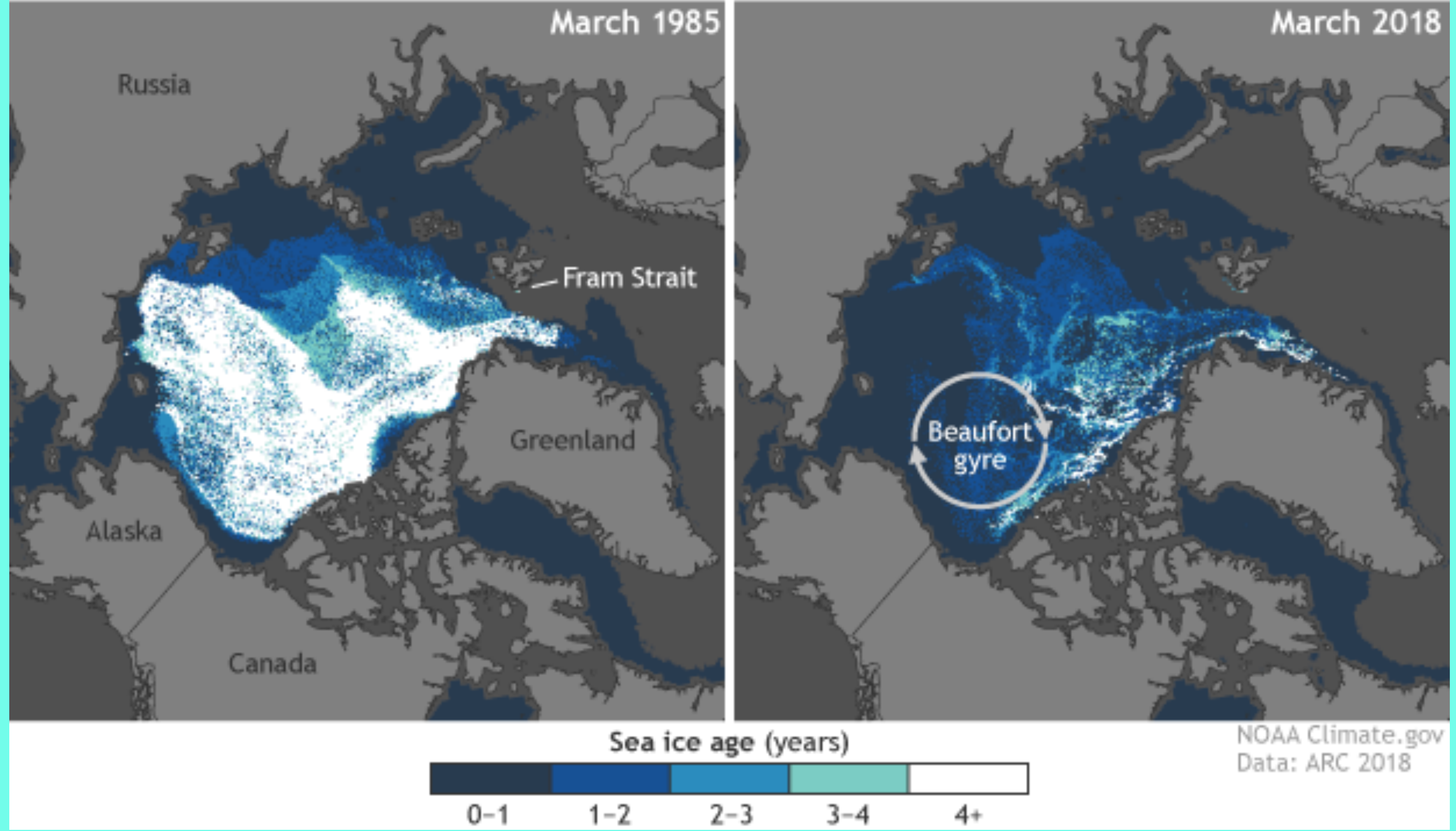
The implications of this : the future is approaching faster than
we think, are we ready?



8- The Future is slow

The future is also shaped by slow, continuous, incremental change

LOSS OF VERY OLD ICE OVER TIME



9- The Future is generic

How do you study something that does not currently exist?

Futurists study people's images of the future



9- The Future is generic/ archetypal

The are four general categories about the future

Continue/ Continued growth

Collapse - War & Pandemic

**Discipline - society structured
by fundamental ideals e.g. religion**

Transformation - A.I. or Robotics transform economies

10- The Future is Inbound and Outbound

Our personal futures are shaped by:

1) change that happens to us

2) change that we create ourselves



Our personal futures are shaped by:

1) change that happens to us



Our personal futures are shaped by:

2) change that we create ourselves



Readings for an Introduction to Futures Studies

Bengston, David (2018), Principles for Thinking about the Future and Foresight Education. World Futures Review, Vol 10(3).

Inayatullah, Sohail (2018), Six Pillars: Futures Thinking for Transforming, Foresight, Vol 10(1).

Miller, Riel (2015), Learning, the Future, and Complexity. An Essay on the Emergence of Futures Literacy. European Journal of Education, Vol 50(4) .

