Seminar Genre non-conforming Edutainment (LOVE HUMANS)
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Concept paper for an audiovisual realisation
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Synopsis
„Fast, Faster, Future" is a short video thematizing the
philosophical and political movement of accelerationism. Imagining a
possible future, the project enacts within the field of speculative
realism and anti-capitalist thoughts. Told from a distant future, it
shows a world, which could evolve if accelerationist beliefs become
real, but with a dangerous twist: that of a right-wing ideology,
that uses accelerationist ideas to form a technocratic dictatorship.

Title: Fast, Faster, Future
Length: 15 minutes
Genre: Science-Fiction, Dystopia
Language: English

Topic
The video project takes place within the scientific and political
field of accelerationism. Accelerationism is the idea in political
and social theory, that capitalism should be accelerated instead of
overcome in order to generate radical social change. With the
intensification of capitalism, self-destructive tendencies might
emerge and ultimately lead to its collapse. Especially the aspect of
technological development is to be forced and used for the goals of
accelerationism.
Accelerationist theory has been divided into contradictory left-wing
and right-wing beliefs. Left-accelerationism attempts to press the
process of technological evolution beyond the constrictive horizon
of capitalism, for example by repurposing modern technology for
socially beneficial and emancipatory ends; right-accelerationism
supports the indefinite intensification of capitalism itself,
possibly in order to bring up a ruling technological singularity,
for example in the sense of artificial intelligence.
In the 2010s, a far-right, white-nationalist adaption of the term
came up, which aims to develop a white ethnostate.
The early beginnings of the movement were influenced by the works of
Karl Marx and Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. Later on, the
"#ACCELERATE MANIFESTO for an Accelerationist Politics" was
published by Alex Williams and Nick Srnicek in 2013. This manifesto
stresses climate change as the biggest challenge of our current
time.

Artistic Intentions

The video project deals with the future and how it is possible and necessary to imagine different versions of it. With the background of the global environmental change and upcoming right-wing movements, the concept of acceleration becomes more and more relevant. Although we do see the interesting points in this thought tradition, we are also highly concerned, how it is used my anti-democratic powers. Rather than using it to imagine an alternative future, that erases social inequalities and hegemonic power structures, it might be misunderstood as some kind of new dictatorship, which is still determined by capitalistic rules. With the project we wish to question these dynamics and point out the weak points of the accelerationist movement. Using a dystopic format and visualization, we would like to stress that this is just one of many possible futures; of course nobody knows what is to come. Regardless of that, we believe in the power of imaginative and speculative thought and SF storytelling.

Visualisation and Realisation

In the beginning, the video is supposed to follow the narration style of a fairytale to describe the present time from a future perspective. This is to reflect on the foundation of a possible dystopian outcome which is described later on from a present perspective in the future. Both of these narration styles draw on satirical elements to render the thin line between the left deconstructive and right ideological accelerationism visible, meaning that at first the video starts with an overly harmonious, fairytale-like setting and a group agreeing on a political theory which is accelerationism. Throughout the video, this theory is being co-opted by right ideology, leading to a society under dictatorship under the veil of calling it an "enterprise" or calling the dictator a "CEO". The setting continuously shifts towards a darker and more threatening atmosphere. In the end, this problematic issue is reflected on by "mocking" present day ideas of "objective" technology without consideration of algorithmic bias or similar. In this case, technology or an AI is shown reacting rather hostile towards certain social groups or individuals.

Throughout the video the narrator describes these events from a critical perspective and with mocking and sarcastic undertone:

> *"Once upon a time … there was capitalism. An exploitative system, tormenting its citizens. And then there was accelerationism. Its supporters were full of hope that the capitalist system could be destroyed from within and through*

its own means by accelerating its growing nature. But how could this be done? Who was going to help them?

A few of them saw help in new technologies and impatiently awaited the day of singularity when technology would gain agency and would self-evolve and self-improve. But for this day to come, they needed a leader. Someone who would guide the process. Someone with knowledge. Someone with resources. Would it be the tech savvy CEO Egon Mask to save human civilization? Could he be the CEO of all of them? Could this billionaire, who gained status thanks to capitalism, be their leader to the destruction of a capitalist system? They believed he could.

And what can I say? Capitalism has been accelerated. That's it. No destruction, as some have hoped. Nowadays it exists in its most extreme form: the world is a single enterprise. Egon Mask is in fact our "CEO" and technological singularity did in fact realize itself. But who could have imagined this – a technocratic dictatorship – to be the outcome? Also, technology became extremely authoritarian and deliberately discriminatory. What a horror! How is this possible after not having paid attention to far-right ideologies and discriminatory behavior in the tech industry and not having questioned the colonial and biased data base used for programming in the past? Truly horrific."