

Possible Futures For Inclusive Finance:

A Workshop Facilitator Guide

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Introduction

Part 1: The Value of Value

In many respects, Economy as such is a connecting tissue, critical to our collective lives. It is a meta-system that activates human behavior (singular or social), resources (natural and artificial), culture, and environmental constraints.

To that end, many would argue that the current economic system is failing us. More importantly, it fails future (human) generations along with the natural surroundings. The disconnect between a finance-based economy and the production system, profit maximization, and consistent abuse of natural resources to boost have created a morbid state of (economic) affairs that generations Z, Alpha and beyond will have no choice but to live through.

There is an undeniable and desperate need for change.

And then there's the question of Value.

The nature of value-carrying entities has evolved throughout history congruently with powerful expressions of human endeavors. Such endeavors include technology, knowledge and discovery, physical and cultural migration, and particularly the capacity for a futuristic outlook, arguably the most human trait of all.

These “Valuable” entities have taken a plethora of shapes and forms, stemming from seashells, stone beads or whale teeth, to physical labor, to meat, coal, minerals and diamonds, to metal coins, paper notes and bonds, to digital transference, to data, to solar energy, to...

And so, with the intention of Change in mind, and within the boundaries of an academic exercise with practical implications, the question to be asked would be:

How might we create a preferable model of sustainable, exchangeable value in, shall we say, 2075?

China’s GDP in terms of PPP (Purchasing Power Parities) is projected to triple in the next 25 to 30 years, to about 60 trillion \$US. But what if the PPP, a key indicator in the current system, changed, and dramatically so? What if the power purchase was measured in an entirely different way? With a different token? A different value-carrying entity?

What if in 2075 GDP will be evaluated in oxygen? Gut bacteria? Soil fertility? Gamma waves? Quantum Computing’s amplitude?? Where might economic resources come from - Inside the human body? Underwater? From outer space? What will affect these values? What system of moral modalities and practical modalities can we build?

Part 2: Design? How come?

Design is an extremely instrumental force when attempting to plan for the future. Conceptualizing, building, and testing “speculative-yet-feasible” futuristic scenarios is an established Design practice.

Designers are trained to observe the world in a critical and empathic manner, then apply creativity and imagination alongside practical structures in order to generate innovative solutions or meaningful questions.

It is clear then, that when planning for a preferable economy, on a path that is both radically different and highly sustainable, Design approaches and methods of operation are not merely useful but imperatively necessary.

Part 3: The “Possible Futures” Canvas

With this “Possible Futures” canvas we propose both teaching and learning approaches to think about preferred, speculated futures of Inclusive Finance in a practical and playful setting.

This simple 5-step methodology enables students, researchers, and other thinkers to create an imaginary world and speculate about the economic models that might lead to a sustainable and inclusive worldview.

A recommended structure of the Possible Futures Workshop:

Stage Duration (Recommended)	
<p>10 min</p>	<p>Workshop Intro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce yourselves, your goals and incentives for the workshop ● Introduce workshop's agenda ● If you wish - provide a brief introduction to Design Thinking and Speculative Design (outside the scope of this guide)
<p>30 min</p>	<p>Assessing personal experiences + Cluster</p> <div> <p>The diagram is a 2x2 grid on a grid background. The vertical axis is labeled 'Positive Impact' at the top and 'Negative Impact' at the bottom. The horizontal axis is labeled 'Saving' on the left and 'Consumption' on the right. The title 'Impact Axis' is at the top left, with 'Assessing activities' below it. There are small icons at the bottom right of the grid.</p> </div> <p>This step can be kicked off either with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Home assignment: asking participants to document daily activities that relate to health and wellness. Print output (photos/ verbal descriptions) in advance and hand them out during the session. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare in advance a bank of photos and verbal descriptions of daily activities that relate to health and wellness. Print and hand them out

5 min

Hang the Impact Axis canvas on the wall or place on a table accessible to all participants

- Place each data bit on the axis system in the relevant place based on (1) its level of impact on an individual, and (2) its utilization of resources from savings to consumption (think about natural resources but not only)

When all participants complete placement of data bits on the axis, explain:

- This activity has created a framework that gives new meaning to the information we generated by self-observation/reflection.

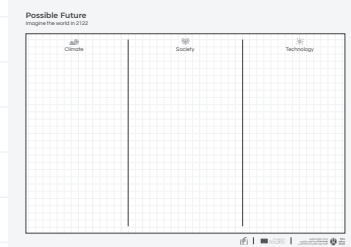
Examine the results:

20 min

- Through a group discussion tag each data bit with keywords
- Can you identify any patterns or clusters that emerge? (feel free to move things around)
- Give a name/title to the different clusters that describe it's meaning - up to five words each

25 min

Imagine future conditions & constraints



5 min

Now we'd like you to divide into five groups (based on number of participants, should be at least 3 members in each group)

- Each group should choose a theme to perform a "Future Speculation" on.
- Stand by one of the appropriate poster hanging on the wall

5 min

Start by mapping out the terrain in which this activity takes place:

- Think about performing this activity in the present day.
- Now describe, in general terms, the conditions in which this activity takes place.
- What are the climate conditions? What are societal structures and conditions which influence our experience? What technology do we use or is relevant to this activity?

Use one color of postits. Write a single condition on each postit note

5 min. Timer

Now, to help you come up with a number of really good, creative, visionary ideas of the speculative future:

Begin a very short brainstorming session.

Take 5 minutes in which each participant (individually and quietly) generates ideas around areas involving climate, society, and future technologies.

Use a different color of postit notes. Write one idea on a separate postit note.

Our goal here is to come up with as many ideas as possible. At this stage quantity is more important than quality

A few simple Brainstorming rules:

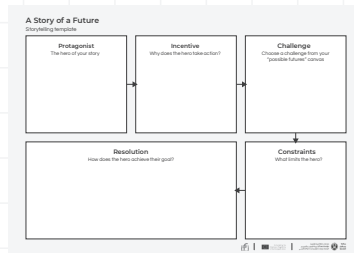
1. There are no bad ideas, all ideas ROCK!
2. Crazy ideas ROCK even harder
3. When discussion the ideas, rather than saying why you don't like an idea think how you might improve it or build upon it
4. Feel free to draw, doodle or use any other form of expression other than use words

10 min

Now share your ideas with the group and place them on the relevant place in the poster

20 min

Storytelling



Now let's connect the theme you chose with the future terrain you mapped out.

We would like to imagine a story of a person living in the future:

- Who is the protagonist of your story - your hero? Describe him or her both in terms of demographics as well as "soft", personal qualities (preferences, likes dislikes, think of a dating application..)
- You just brainstormed different possible future challenges - choose one that your protagonist must engage with or be part of.
- Incentive - why would the hero take action? Is there a trigger? An incentive?
- Constraints - choose the relevant constraints from your canvas that challenge your protagonist in achieving his or her objective.
- Resolution - how do your heroes get over the constraints?

Think about services or products you can invent that will help the hero overcome the constraints

- We recommend applying 3 MINUTES PER SQUARE
- feel free to write, draw or create outside the box.
- remember - you are focused on a single person's future experience, not on societal layer or policy

15 min	Break (give out storytelling canvas + hang extrapolation canvas)
20 min	Lets Share
20 min	<p>Extrapolate</p> <p>Thus far we've created a speculative future stemming from the individual experience.</p> <p>Now we would like you to retreat to thinking as expert economists (or aspiring economy thinkers) and extrapolate on the systemic level.</p> <p>Participants will be asked to create a future sustainable finance index.</p> <p>We will use the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) to speculate on the measurements of impact the product/ service you imagined might have on the world in 2075.</p> <p>*if the group is not familiar with the UN SDG take 15 min. to introduce them</p> <p>How to do that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Split back into the original groups 2. Instruct each group to choose 4 of the UN SDG's 3. that are relevant to the product/ service they created. Feel free to add your own goals Come up with at least 3 measurements, for each 4. goal, to evaluate the influence of your product/ service on the goal <p>Extrapolate to the year 2075 and assess the levels and trends of impact for each initiative and goal.</p>

15 min

Discussion and Summary

Now to sum up:

place your canvases on the axis

share with the group your reasons for your placement.

Reflect on your experience in the workshop

Impact Axis

Asses daily activities



Possible Future

Imagine the world in 2122


Climate


Society


Technology

A Story of a Future

Storytelling template

