

# FUTUREFEST

SHAPING THINGS TO COME

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2013  
SHOREDITCH TOWN HALL

FEATURING

ROBIN INCE

LILY COLE

STUART NOLAN

BERTOLT MEYER

PAUL MASON

JP RANGASWAMI

RACHEL ARMSTRONG

ROBERTO UNGER

PLUS MORE...

# PROGRAMME

FUTUREFEST.ORG

#FUTUREFEST

WELCOME TO

# FUTUREFEST



Geoff Mulgan

**Cast your mind forward 25 years to the late 2030s, a time as distant from today as the late 1980s. What will you eat? How will you have fun? How will you be governed?**

No one knows for certain, and you may be happy just to wait and see. But what if choices we make now decide whether Britain then is at war or at peace, suffering from perpetual drought and food shortages or enjoying an age of plenty? And what if crucial decisions are being made today that will determine whether we get the best or the worst of driverless cars and genetic medicines, memory implants and synthetic nutrition?

For most of human history change was something to fear. Our ancestors' fragile lives were overshadowed by the risks of violence, floods or plague. Yet today perpetual change is embedded into the very fabric of the world - from science to culture and business. The future looms over us always, as both dream and nightmare. It offers the thrills of marvellous technologies and scientific triumphs, and the potential disasters of war and ecological breakdown, mashed into a blur that becomes ever hazier the further ahead we look. There is no avoiding the blur because the future is by its nature unknowable. There are so many possibilities, and so many variables, that it's impossible to grasp firmly.

But there are times when it's more important to engage with what might be as well as what is. Now is one of those times. One reason is that so many horizons have shrunk, leaving our future underexposed, dim and obscure. Excessive optimism has been replaced by excessive pessimism thanks to a stagnant economy and shrinking public spending. Millions are focused on what's not possible rather than what is; on dreams deferred; and on the continuing pain of paying for the mistakes of the past.



Another reason we now need to think much harder about the future is that history suggests that the crises which at first narrow our choices, in the longer run open them up. The very systems which seemed to be working best - from finance to health, energy to transport - are increasingly revealed as flawed, vulnerable, not fit for purpose - leaving us no choice but to reshape them.

Thinking about the future is energising - it quickens our senses. It's invigorating to imagine how everything from food to religion could change. Invigorating to imagine a conversation with your future self or with your future grandchildren. Invigorating to play with the building blocks of possible future worlds.

These are all reasons why Nesta is hosting FutureFest. There's no shortage of imagination around us. But not much of this is evident in the day-to-day arguments of politics or the media. Horizons are too short; agendas too narrow; the options on offer too dull. We want to burst them open and to enlarge our sense of what's possible, so that we can all play our part in shaping things to come.

**FUTURE DEEPER**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

FutureFest aims to make thinking about the future both a provocation and an experience - but we'll also let you spend time conversing with experts and practitioners at a more informed and analytical level. The Oxford Martin School has joined us, bringing its astonishing range of natural and social scientists to a series of seminars called FutureDeeper - digging down into the main themes of the event, with questions invited from the audience.

# 2013

## THEMES

### IN THE IMAGINARIUM

We close our eyes (or open them to the visions of others) and we can dream our way into any future we like. Yet our coming wave of devices - shaped by games, neuroscience, pervasive and immersive media - will massively amplify these imaginative powers. When our fantasies become ever more tangible, how will reality fare?

### THE VALUE OF EVERYTHING

Adam Smith warned us against knowing "the price of everything and the value of nothing". Yet as computation and networks transform our business and organisational models, and the environment changes what we regard as 'scarce' or 'plentiful', we need a new political economy for the mid-century. What do we truly value in our economies now?

### THE GASTRODOME

The Sunday Gastrodome is a tour d'horizon of the future of food. Presentations, films and insights are accompanied by unique tastings in this haptic food court. Food is presented in relation to other future trends in fashion, technology, globalisation, climate, environment and society. Fast food, non-food and pickling the past, are just some of the delights in store...

### WELL-BECOMING

Recently we've been told that our true prosperity lies in our wellbeing - a goal of the ancients. Yet in the face of radical forces of change (longer lifespans, human enhancement, emerging economies and cultures) our perennial sources of contentment may be up for dispute. We know what we've been. What may we become?

### WE ARE ALL GARDENERS NOW

You break it; you own it. And we certainly now own climate change. We're in what ecologists call the 'anthropocene', the era where the biosphere's health depends directly on our actions. What scientific and conceptual resources do we need to exercise this responsibility well? How can we become good planetary gardeners?

## PERFORMERS

### FUTUREPLAY

To play is to suspend the normal rules of reality and imagine, "what if?" - and in so doing, prepare ourselves for the future. The mysterious speaker Frankie Kuniklo heralds a new kind of social activism for the next few decades. And award-winning playmakers Coney - collaborating with start-ups Playify, Glitchspring, and >CC - will present an interactive and immersive theatre piece, FuturePlay, in The Stage. Come play the future: how will you act?

[www.youhavefoundconey.net](http://www.youhavefoundconey.net)

### XHUMED

xHumed features the greatest minds focused on the world's biggest problems, with one crucial twist ... their keynote speakers are long since dead. Part theatre, part conference, part technology expo, xHumed quite literally brings archive content back to life. Wonder what Mary Shelley thinks of the ethics of biotechnology? Or HG Wells on the future of robots and warfare? Walk into The Stage, and meet some resurrected geniuses.

[www.xhumed.co.uk](http://www.xhumed.co.uk)

# SATURDAY MORNING PROGRAMME

9

05  
10  
**15**  
20  
25  
**30**  
35  
40  
**45**  
50  
55

## THE HUB

**Geoff Mulgan / Pat Kane**  
Welcome to FutureFest

**Nick Harkaway**  
One thousand and twenty four times stranger than today

**Bertolt Meyer**  
The posthuman condition

**Peter Gregson**  
From STEM to STEAM - keeping the arts at the heart of innovation

**Paul Mason**  
Post-capitalism - what comes next?

**Sadie Creese**  
The future of cybersecurity

**Frankie Kunicklo**

**David Runciman**  
The future of democracy

**Vinay Gupta**  
Back to the future...via the village

**Daisy Ginsberg**  
A designer's critical take on synthetic biology

**Tom Kenyon** Nesta topic

**Anab Jain**  
A "new normal" for health

05  
10  
**15**  
20  
25  
**30**  
35  
40  
**45**  
50  
55

05  
10  
**15**  
20  
25  
**30**  
35  
40  
**45**  
50  
55

05  
10  
**15**  
20  
25  
**30**  
35  
40  
**45**  
50  
55

## THE STAGE

**Stuart Nolan**  
The future of deception

**xHumed**  
Performance

**FuturePlay**  
Performance

## THE FORUM

**Michael Keith, Usman Haque, CJ Lim, Francesca Bria**  
The emergent city: 'smart', 'sustainable', and beyond

**Tom Kenyon**  
Nesta topic

**Sonia Trigueros, Eric Drexler, Daisy Ginsberg**  
Bio/Nano: the huge consequences of controlling the very small

**Anders Sandberg, Steve Fuller, Bertolt Meyer, Andy Miah, Ghislaine Boddington**  
Humanity 2.0: dealing with enhancement

10

11

12

# SATURDAY MORNING SPEAKERS

## Geoff Mulgan and Pat Kane

Welcome to FutureFest!  
A curator's brief guide to the weekend



FutureFest is the brainchild of Nesta's CEO, Geoff Mulgan - and to kick us off, he'll briefly explain its original impulse, and how it fits into Nesta's own future plans.

FutureFest's lead curator Pat Kane follows, with a whistle-stop tour of what to see, and how everything hangs together, over the next two days.

## Nick Harkaway

One thousand and twenty four times stranger than today [The value of everything]



Even ten years of exponential change in science and technology will make 2023 a radically new world, says author Nick Harkaway - never mind our mid-century point. We better get ready for a daily life stranger than we can imagine.

## Bertolt Meyer

The posthuman condition [Well-becoming]



Presenter of C4's series *How To Build A Bionic Man*, Professor Meyer - speaking from scholarship, and his own experience - will explore the ethical dimensions of human enhancement. How will - and should - our norms of ability and disability shift, as cyborgs begin to stride the earth?

## Peter Gregson

From STEM to STEAM - keeping the arts at the heart of innovation [In the imaginarium]



We praise the ability to code - but what about the ability to write music? What does it mean to study, develop and refine your artisan skills, in an age where mobility, agility and novelty are king? Cellist Peter

Gregson heralds a future where skillful technique is central.

## Sadie Creese

The future of cybersecurity [The value of everything]



In an information age of potentially total awareness - where hackers are as powerful as departments of state, or fourth estates - Sadie Creese asks: what should we be protecting? What does harm really look like? And who should take action?

## Paul Mason

Post-capitalism - what comes next? [The value of everything]



The Crash of 2008 is still reverberating through our economies and societies - and many believe the faulty structures that caused capitalism to nearly implode are still in place. Weaving together the visions of protestors, politicians and professors, C4 News' Paul Mason points to a better model.

## Frankie Kunicklo

Introducing... FuturePlay [In the imaginarium]



Shoreditch's top impresario of post-gamification, Frankie Kunicklo, introduces our plenary audience to a day of FuturePlay in the Council Chambers - where the information - enterprises of the next ten years will lay out their paradigm-changing plans. Sort of.

## David Runciman

The future of democracy [The value of everything]



We live at a time of astonishing tech-change, says Cambridge's David Runciman, yet staid and unadventurous politics. The two can't co-exist indefinitely.

How will this affect democracy? What comes after Obama's data-campaigns, or Chinese technocracy?

## Vinay Gupta

Back to the future...via the village [We are all gardeners now]



It's our conventional wisdom that the bulk of the world's population in the next few decades will be living in urban conditions. But could we use eco-tech and radical innovation to slow the rush to the cities, not accelerate it, asks disaster consultant Vinay Gupta?

## Daisy Ginsberg

A designer's critical take on synthetic biology [Well-becoming]



Leave synthetic biology - the engineering of biological devices - solely in the hands of engineers, and we'll be in trouble. How do we decide the best way to use these coming powers of shaping life itself? Designer Daisy Ginsberg shows us how art and design can point the way.

## Anab Jain

A 'new normal' for health [Well-becoming]



We've had a digital era where we're used to hacking code in order to publish and connect. Now we verge on DIY biology - and nowhere might it impact more directly than health and medicine. When entrepreneurs can customise, in their garages, treatments to match their patients' DNA precisely, what kind of health-care system will result?

## Stuart Nolan

The future of deception [In the imaginarium]



We live in a world where culture, politics, social interaction, work and play are increasingly mediated by layers of technology - and each bring the potential for illusion and deception. Researcher and magician Stuart Nolan will show how magic practitioners, who think deeply about how illusions are created, may help us find our way through this slippery future.

## FUTURE DEEPER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

## Michael Keith, CJ Lim, Usman Haque and Francesca Bria

The Emergent City: 'smart', 'sustainable' and beyond

At present, a slight majority of the planet lives in cities: by the middle of the century, most of humanity will. Politicians, planners, companies and citizens, north and south, are searching for strategies to manage, develop (or perhaps mitigate) this burgeoning reality. A diverse group of architects and designers will explore the major new framings and understandings of the urban future.

## Eric Drexler, Sonia Trigueros, Daisy Ginsberg and Carole Scott

Bio/Nano: the huge consequences of controlling the very small

We are becoming engineers of materials, and life, in evermore precise and controllable ways. Atomically-precise manufacturing, and synthetic biology, could together open up a new era of radical abundance. Two world experts in 'bio/nano' talk with designers and writers about the consequences of this revolution - and how it can best be plotted.

## Anders Sandberg, Bertolt Meyer, Steve Fuller, Ghislaine Boddington and Andy Miah

Humanity 2.0: dealing with enhancement

Humans are radical animals. We have always been able to dream of extending our powers and faculties, and through technology and science have increasingly done so. How will coming enhancements - neurological, molecular, prosthetic, computational - redefine our understanding 'normal' humanity? What challenge will they make to our laws and institutions?

# SATURDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

1

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

## THE HUB

**Rachel Armstrong**  
Black-sky thinking

**Tamar Kasriel**  
Futurescaping your lifepath

**Rohan Gunatillake**  
Wellware - software for mental flourishing

**Frankie Kunicklo**

**Alice Casey** Nesta topic

**Kathy Hinde**  
Harnessing digitality to nature - using an 'open score'

**Marek Kohn**  
Turned out nice: Britain's climate in 2100

**Ian Goldin**  
Fixing global governance: for all people and our planet

**Ben Hammersley**  
The new map of Europe: imagine there's no nations...

**Alex Fleetwood**  
The game space: a cultural institution to come

**Alice Taylor**  
Makers take the future, one doll at a time

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

## THE STAGE

**Stuart Nolan**  
The future of deception

**xHumed**  
Performance

**FuturePlay**  
Performance

## THE FORUM

**Dr Cameron Hepburn, Paul Mason, Geoff Mulgan, Lauren Anderson**  
The value of everything: the political economy of the mid-century

**Adrian Hon, Hazel Grian, Brendan Walker, Graham Thomas, Keith Kahn-Harris**  
Are we having fun yet? The future of entertainment

**Alice Casey**  
Nesta topic

**Rohan Gunatillake, Tamar Kasriel, Indra Adnan Nick Harkaway,**  
Well-becoming: will our values persist - or transform - in the face of radical innovation?

2

3

4

# SATURDAY AFTERNOON SPEAKERS

## Rachel Armstrong

Black-sky thinking [We are all gardeners now]



The problem with the 'Singularity' - Ray Kurzweil's idea of an unimaginable leap-forward in computation - is that it's too singular. What if there's more to come than just runaway supercomputers?

Rachel Armstrong introduces Black-Sky Thinking - probing a future where 'Next Nature' is our primary technology.

## Tamar Kasriel

Futurescaping your lifepath [Well-becoming]



How can we as individuals deal with the future in general? The pace of change can seem so enormous that the risk is one of 'disruption paralysis' - what is the point of even trying? Businesses also face extreme uncertainty, but have no choice but to plan. What tools and techniques might we borrow from them to help us?

## Rohan Gunatillake

Wellware - software for mental flourishing [Well-becoming]



Our networked computers, devices and interfaces have gained a bad rap in relation to mental wellbeing - they frazzle our attention span, instrumentalise our friendships... How can we turn this tanker around?

How can we deliberately use tech to reinforce positive habits of mind?

## Kathy Hinde

Harnessing digitality to nature - Using an 'open score' [In the imaginarium]



Humans have been creatively responding to birdsong, and animal calls, since they've had ears to hear them. With new machines and software sensitive to all kinds of input, how can composers write an 'open score', using the sounds of nature? Kathy Hinde introduces her Bird Piano (set up in the vestibule).

## Marek Kohn

Turned out nice: Britain's climate in 2100 [We are all gardeners now]



All those eco-scary images of a flooded London? That isn't the way it's going to be after nearly a century of climate change. The Celtic Fringe may be the world's sweetspot; the communal Georgian terrace will make a comeback. Generally, everything will be like it is as the moment, says Kohn - except pushed to extremes.

## Ian Goldin

Fixing global governance: for all people and our planet [We are all gardeners now]



We are inescapably planetary citizens, but we don't behave that way - and nor do our political structures help. The director of the Oxford Martin Institute for the Future suggests some new institutional and organisational solutions, for taking responsibility for the world.

## Ben Hammersley

The new map of Europe: imagine there's no nations... [We are all gardeners now]



The borders of Europe's nation are historical accidents, imposed by war, conquest or political solutions from another age. But we still respect their power. What if we could redraw them, using data from today, suggests Hammersley - making new territories that were more just, more representative, and more elegant?

## Alex Fleetwood

The game space: a cultural institution to come [In the imaginarium]



We'll have cinemas, opera houses, art galleries and theatres in the future. But we'll also have game spaces: zones where the continuously evolving practice of games and play can be experienced as part of our civic life. Alex Fleetwood conjures up a building - and a purpose - to match the BFI, the National Theatre or Channel Four.

## Alice Taylor

Makers take the future, one doll at a time [The value of everything]



We look to the fab-labs of distributed manufacturing as our next industrial revolution. But what, asks games - guru and owner of MakieLab, Alice Taylor, if we get to the world of the makers through toys, dolls, play and customised fun of all kinds?

## Stuart Nolan

The future of deception [In the imaginarium]



It's 2050, and very little is private these days - mind-to-mind communication, AI's sifting through your data and anticipating your needs... Illusionist and tech visionary Stuart Nolan will ask participants to switch off their neuro-phones, and experience what it was like to be deceived (and to deceive), to enjoy mystery, illusion and wonder, in the days before permanent transparency.

## FUTURE DEEPER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

## Dr Cameron Hepburn, Paul Mason, Geoff Mulgan, Lauren Anderson and Ian Goldin

The Value of Everything: the political economy of the mid-century

In the aftermath of yet another world-convulsing financial meltdown, we ask questions about what makes for a sustainable, healthy economic life - but rarely find satisfactory answers. Are the old explanations of Smith, Marx, Hayek and Keynes still relevant? Or if a new model is going to appear, where should we look to find its germinating seeds?

## Graham Thomas, Adrian Hon, Hazel Grian, Keith Kahn-Harris and Brendan Walker

Are We Having Fun Yet? The future of entertainment

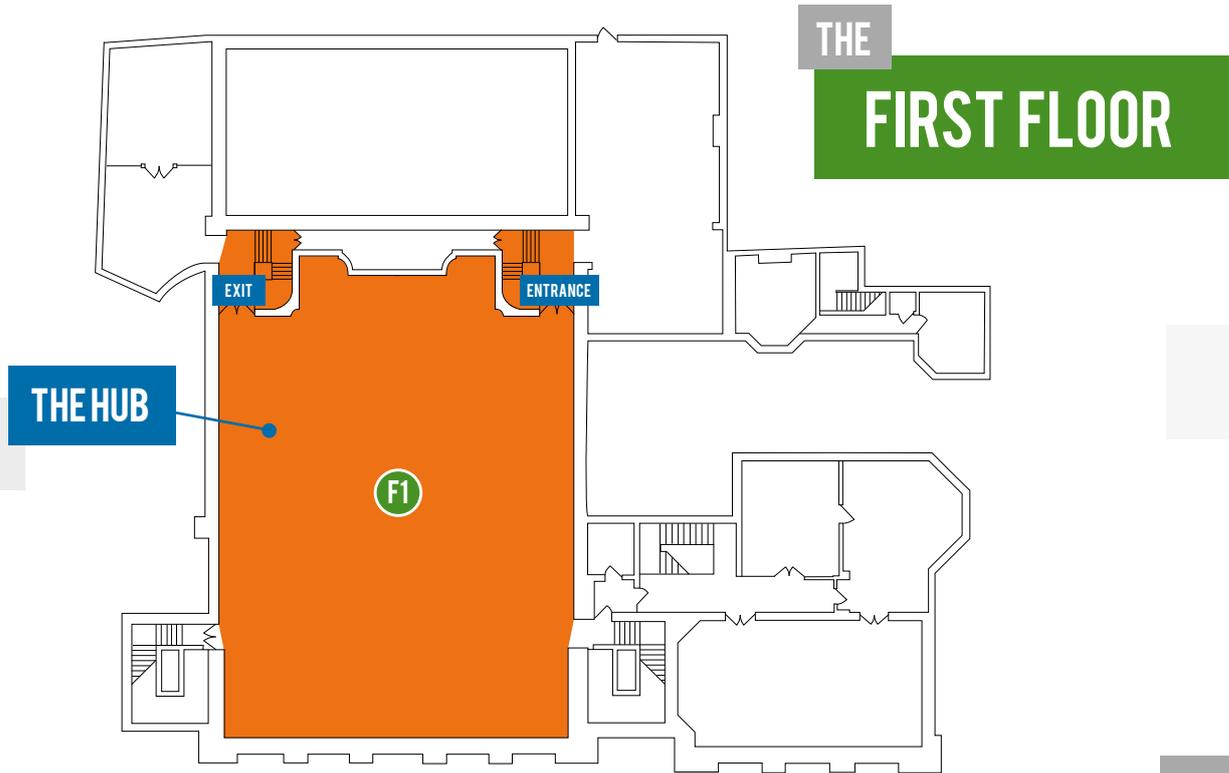
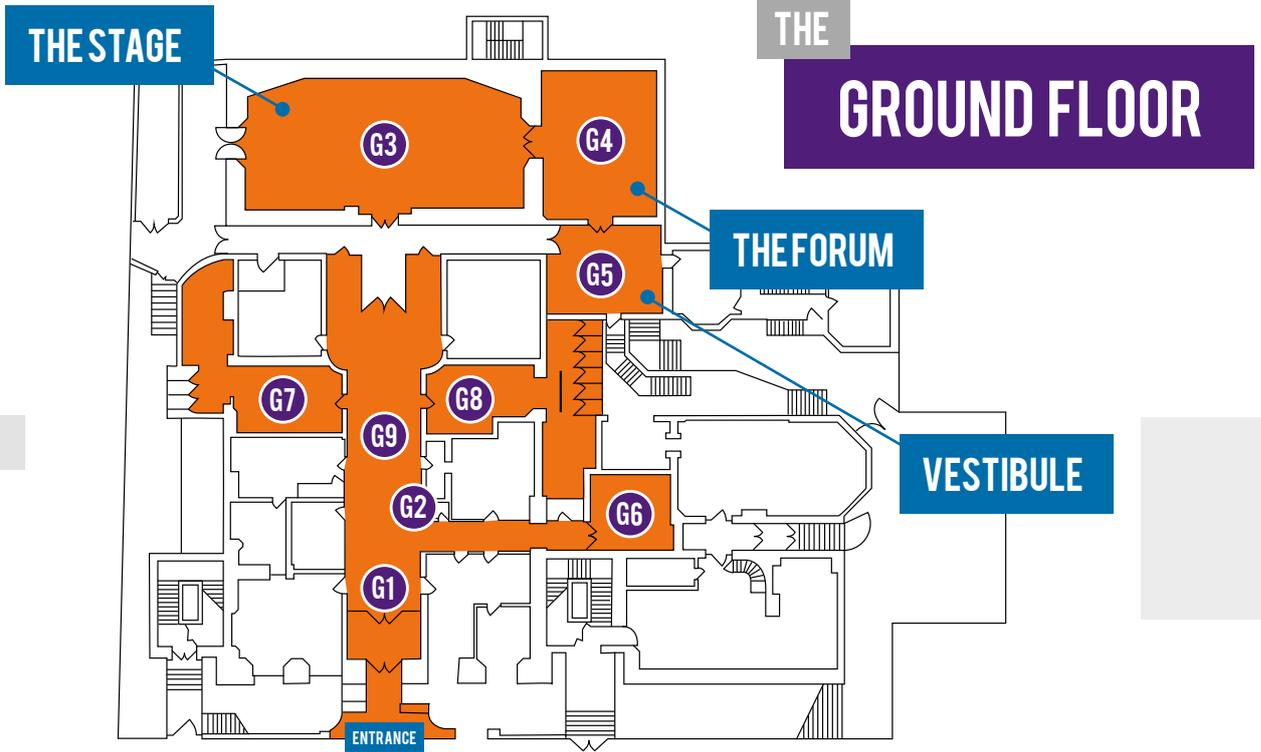
Look back enough into the human record, and it would seem our entertainments - song, dancing, games, storytelling, humour - are part of our evolved inheritance (given they're still going strong). Will disruptive technologies and innovative platforms just give our old thrills new forms? Or - via the insights of neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, AI and ludology - are there forms of fun we haven't discovered yet?

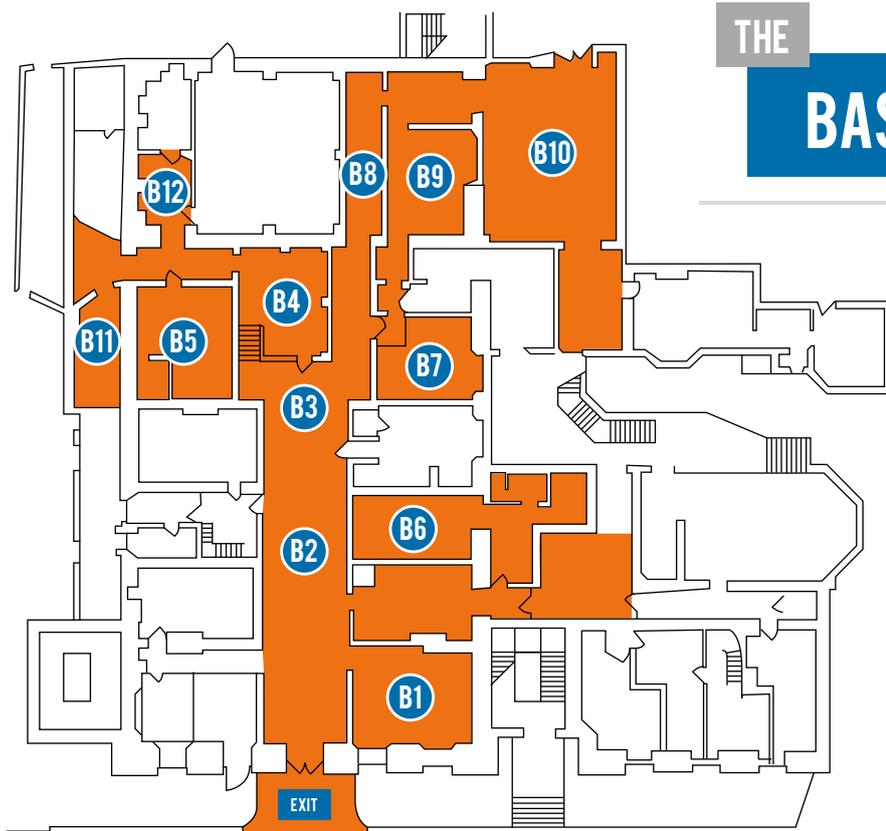
## Rohan Gunatillake, Tamar Kasriel, Nick Harkaway, Andy Miah and Indra Adnan

Well-Becoming: will our values persist - or transform - in the face of radical innovation?

Humans are built to think innovatively about the future - we adapt and thrive by juggling scenarios, generating new possibilities. But amidst this tumult, there is continuity too - our vast cross-civilizational archive of ethical, philosophical, literary, and spiritual understandings, many of which (for example, the Golden Rule of compassion, or the role of desire, or the nature of selfhood) are still pressing issues. Do the extraordinary coming advances in biology, computation and materials challenge the relevance of these wisdom traditions? Do these perennial values anchor, qualify or even resist our progress?

# FUTUREFEST MAP





THE

# BASEMENT

INTERFACE

## KEY

### GROUND FLOOR

- G1** Registration
- G2** Hot Topic Photo Booth
- G3** The Stage
- G4** The Forum
- G5** The Vestibule
- G6** Stairs to Basement
- G7** Male Toilets
- G8** Female Toilets
- G9** Information Desk

### BASEMENT

- B1** BBC Surround Video
- B2** BERG
- B3** Arup
- B4** Brook Lyndhurst
- B5** Forum for the Future
- B6** 100 Objects of the Future
- B7** Lorna McNeil
- B8** Cancer Research
- B9** OpaCity
- B10** Hold Hands/Lock Horns
- B11** Doug Burton
- B12** BBC Radio 5 Live Football Experiment

### FIRST FLOOR

- F1** The Hub

# SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMME

9

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

## THE HUB

**Nick Bostrom**  
Superintelligence and the unknown future

**Lily Cole**  
The altruistic revolution

**Frankie Kunicklo**

**Jaan Tallinn**  
Getting out of the 21st Century intact

**Drew Hemment**  
Making the future festive

**Robin Ince**  
The future's already happened. Deal with it

**Geoff Mulgan** Nesta topic

**Roberto Unger (videolink)**  
The religion of the future

**Andoni Aduriz (with translator) introduced by Morgaine Gaye**  
Techno-emotional cuisine

## THE STAGE

**Cory Doctorow, Pat Cadigan, Charles Stross, Sue Thomas, Ken McLeod, Roz Kaveney and Robin Ince**  
Science Fiction Writers' Parliament

**FuturePlay**  
Performance

**xHumed**  
Performance

## THE FORUM

**Tara Garnett, John Frater, Vinay Gupta, Robert Biel**  
Surviving the future: food, water shelter, health for the world's majority

**Helen Goulden**  
Nesta topic

**David McCandless**  
Information Is beautiful - and how to keep it that way

10

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

11

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

12

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

# SUNDAY MORNINGSPEAKERS

## Nick Bostrom

Superintelligence and the unknown future  
[We are all gardeners now]



Our "Sermons for the Future" Sunday sessions begins with Oxford philosopher Nick Bostrom, who'll map out the extremes of optimism and pessimism that span our current imagination of the near-to-mid future.

How bad could it get? How good could it get? Do we need a 'superintelligence' to cope with the span of possibilities in between?

## Lily Cole

The altruistic revolution [Well-becoming]



As founder of Wikipedia, Jimmy Wales has a confidence that a well-constructed platform can bring out the sharing and cooperative instinct. What are the prospects for more Wikipedia-like enterprises to come? And Jimmy has invested in model, actress and activist Lily Cole's impossible.com, a new social network being developed to engender a peer-to-peer gift economy. Lily will discuss impossible's principle: "Make a wish. Take a wish. Say thanks."

## Jaan Tallinn

Getting out of the 21st Century intact  
[We are all gardeners now]



Founding programmer of Skype, and co-founder of the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, Jaan Tallinn will take us up the ladder of innovation that may lead us to a crisis point in human existence.

At what point might our ingenuity with computation, materials and biology outstrip our ability to manage or moderate its powers?

## Drew Hemment

Making the future festive [In the imaginarium]



A festival can be a place to participate in the future. And a 'festival of the future' isn't about a lost weekend, but making pop-up futures; it's idealistic, but it's also critical. Drew Hemment, director of Manchester's FutureEverything since 1995, shares his experience on how to turn conviviality into a laboratory of things to come.

## Robin Ince

The future's already happened. Deal with it.  
[In the imaginarium]



Comedian and science populariser Robin Ince is frustrated and impatient. Why are we so complacent about where science, technology and medicine has brought us? If we could properly appreciate the vast distances in energy, health, productivity, and learning we've travelled in the last century, would we be so pessimistic about the future?

## Roberto Unger

The religion of the future [Well-becoming]



For philosopher (and ex-minister for Lula's Brazilian government) Roberto Unger, the goal of democracy is not to "humanise society but to divinise humanity...to raise ordinary life to a higher level of intensity and capability." So what would a religion of the future be like, that embraced humanity's appetite for radical, incessant change?

## Andoni Aduriz

Techno-emotional cuisine [Well-becoming]



For Catalonia's Aduriz, the world's no. 3 chef, food sits at the junction point of culture and cooking - always a reflection of its society. The future of food will not just build on heritage and tradition, but from inputs we can barely imagine. Yet technology merely enhances the beauty or ugliness of food: new concepts are what changes cooking.

## Stuart Nolan

Future deception: a view from 2050  
[In the imaginarium]



We live in a world where culture, politics, social interaction, work and play are increasingly mediated by layers of technology - and each bring the potential for illusion and deception. Researcher and magician

Stuart Nolan will show how magic practitioners, who think deeply about how illusions are created, may help us find our way through this slippery future.

## David McCandless

Information is beautiful - and how to keep it that way  
[In the imaginarium]



At the very least, we can be confident that the future will bring more and more data and information - snowing down on us from countless sensors, algorithms and sources. The world-renowned information-designer, David McCandless, leads a hands-on workshop on how to make the intractable tractable - and maybe even gorgeous.

## Robin Ince, Charles Stross, Pat Cadigan, Ken McLeod, Sue Thomas and others

Science Fiction Writers' Parliament  
[In the imaginarium]

Science fiction writers often give themselves the license to imagine whole new societies, their rules and norms, and test them to destruction (or raise them to a heavenly perfection). Imagine if you actually gave them real power? A gaggle of SF notables will argue their case on the hot-button issues of the future - and put it to your vote.

## FUTUREDEEPER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

## Tara Garnett, John Frater, Vinay Gupta, Robert Biel and Carole Scott

Surviving the Future: food, water, shelter, health for the world's majority

Resilience has been the great buzz-word of development policies over the last few years. It implies that the future will almost certainly bring systemic disasters of some kind - and that humans must develop their individual and communal resources to be able to bounce back. But can we be less passive, and more proactive and imaginative, in the face of threats to our survival? Can we think prevention as much as adaptation?

## Cory Doctorow, Pat Cadigan, Charles Stross, Sue Thomas, Ken McLeod, Roz Kaveney and Robin Ince

The Science Fiction Writers' Parliament

Science fiction writers often give themselves the license to imagine whole new societies, their rules and norms, and test them to destruction (or raise them to a heavenly perfection). Imagine if you actually gave them real power? Robin Ince will be hovering above a team of some of the best Science fiction writers on this planet or any other as they argue their cases for what the future will hold - and put their futures to a public vote.

# SUNDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

1

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

## THE HUB

**Halima Khan**  
Nesta topic

**Gastrodome** - Dr. Morgaine Gaye

Charles Spence

Ento

Blanch and Shock

Curious Confectioner

Andrew Stellanano

**Close** - Dr. Morgaine Gaye

**Break**

**Andrew Blum (videolink)**  
The tubes are calling: the next infrastructure for the information age

**Charles Leadbeater**  
How Weak States Can Suggest Innovative Pathways Ahead and wrap up.

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

05  
10  
15  
20  
25  
30  
35  
40  
45  
50  
55

## THE STAGE

**George Monbiot**  
Rewilding the plane

**Mark Miodownik**  
Materials to remake our world

**Ruth Little**  
Art and science  
Explore the anthropocene

**Mark Stevenson**  
The future of organisations

**Break**

**JP Rangaswami**  
The next business

**Sir Martin Rees**  
Life's long-term prospects

**Diane Coyle**  
Extending our time-horizons beyond the eternal 'now'

**Smari McCarthy and Francesca Bria**  
An info-constitution for the mid-century

## THE FORUM

**Pedro Ferreira, Mark Walpert, Jon Agar, Rachel Armstrong**  
The biggest science: what major projects should we invest in for the longest term?

**Cory Doctorow, Cher Potter, Adrian Hon, Georgina Voss, Jessica Bland**  
Speculative fluency: how to imagine the new society - for better and worse

**Halima Khan**  
Nesta topic

**Steve Rayner, George Monbiot, Bridget McKenzie, Ruth Little**  
Gardeners' answer time: how can we become capable of managing the anthropocene?

2

3

4

# SUNDAY AFTERNOON SPEAKERS

## George Monbiot

Rewilding the planet [We are all gardeners now]



We might now be directly responsible for the planet's climate trajectory. But rather than extend our powers, a different response might be to consciously withhold them - and let natural forces and species burst forth into the vacated spaces. George Monbiot argues for an environmental future where the feral wins over the cultivated.

## Mark Miodownik

Materials to remake our world [We are all gardeners now]



The made world is our immediate environment these days - and in an era which combines resource scarcity with mountains of consumer waste, we need to get a lot better at appreciating the materials which enable our lives. Imperial's Mark Miodownik will showcase the new substances which challenge our models of living.

## Ruth Little

Art and science explore the anthropocene [We are all gardeners now]



Could we see climate change not as a threat, but as an expedition into a future - where artists and scientists jointly search and explore for solutions, in a spirit of shared curiosity and optimism? Ruth Little, co-director of Cape Farewell, tells us how "slow knowledge" can help us become better stewards of the planet.

## Mark Stevenson

The future of organisations [The value of everything]



Our major institutions are bewildered by the pace of technological and social change. But the future of organisations is actually here - it's just that it's scattered across the world, in the hands of entrepreneurs and experimenters from Samsø to Christchurch, from the mega-corporate to the garden shed. Mark Stevenson gives us a tour d'horizon.

## JP Rangaswami

The next business [The value of everything]



Once Chief Scientist of BT, now in the same position in Salesforce, JP Rangaswami has a synoptic view of how companies are in the midst of a long upheaval, as the information age works its way through every aspect of business. He'll scan the horizon for the key challenges for mid-century enterprise, how the world of work will change and what that means for participants.

## Sir Martin Rees

Life's long-term prospects [The value of everything]



The Astronomer Royal offers his perspective on life's long-term prospects, here on Earth and (perhaps) far beyond. He argues that an awareness of the far future, speculative though its details are, can motivate a deeper concern about the societal risks we confront in the coming decades - risks stemming from our collective impact on the environment, and from misapplication of powerful technology.

## Diane Coyle

Extending our time-horizons beyond the eternal 'now' [The value of everything]



We drill through mountains, just to gain a nanosecond on a financial transfer. The foundation of our economic system on an intensifying short-termism is something we've grown sceptical about. But could the future bring other uses for networks, markets and ubiquitous communication - than just an endless speeding-up?

## Andrew Blum

The tubes are calling: the next infrastructure for the information age [The value of everything]



Our rhetoric about our information economies and societies is that they are 'weightless', 'immaterial' - when in reality huge engineering and infrastructural resources are required to serve our digital visions. Andrew Blum lays out what we'll need to stop our Clouds from bursting in the next few decades.

## Smari McCarthy and Francesca Bria

An info-constitution for the mid-century [The value of everything]



A hacker activist who helped crowdsource Iceland's post-crash constitution, and an academic who's helping Europe to forge its next evolution of network standards, come together to suggest a new architecture for our information societies. What kind of social contract can we agree to, in an age of total transparency?

## Closing Session: You, The Future



It's been a long, strange, stimulating trip through the future over the last two days... and in the main plenary of the Assembly Rooms, we'd like you all to come together, and tell us what thoughts, passions and enterprises it's inspired. What's most excited you? What's most frightened you? What might you do differently? The UK's top innovation expert (and Nesta fellow) Charles Leadbeater will ask you the questions, and will sum up the event for us.

## FUTURE DEEPER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL

## Pedro Ferreira, Sir Mark Walport, Jon Agar and Rachel Armstrong

The Biggest Science: what major projects should we invest in for the longest term?

What should the next slate of major investments be? Energy, health, synthetic biology - or are these the expected items? What are the real bets and gambles? How do governments, universities and large corporations maintain the public legitimacy of these big projects? And what should the right balance be between civilian and military research?

## Cory Doctorow, Cher Potter, Adrian Hon, Georgina Voss and Jessica Bland

Speculative Fluency: how to imagine the new society - for better and worse

There is a skill to thinking usefully about the future - but it's not just the accredited futurologists, crunching data and tracking trends at their desks, who should claim all the authority. SF narrators, on screen or page, speculate subtly (or wildly) on systems of economics or politics. Visual artists and curators dive deep into the history of how we've thought about the future, to help us navigate the coming decades with more awareness. We bring them together to compare their speculative fluencies.

## Steve Rayner, George Monbiot, Bridget McKenzie, Ruth Little and Natalie Day

Gardeners' Answer Time: how can we become capable of managing the anthropocene?

The scientific consensus from climatologists is clear: the best we can do is to mitigate the impact of the inexorable climate changes that human socio-economic development has caused. But how radical, or how conservative, should our actions be in the face of this fate? Do we rewind or geoe engineer? Increase biospheric literacy and decrease consumerist lifestyles - or use human ingenuity to escape from human ingenuity's consequences?

## GASTRODOME

The Sunday Gastrodome is a tour d'horizon of the future of food. Presentations, films and insights are accompanied by unique tastings in this haptic food court. Food is presented in relation to other future trends in fashion, technology, globalisation, climate, environment and society. Fast food, non-food and picking the past, are just some of the delights in store...

Featuring: Morgaine Gaye, Charles Spence, Ento, Blanch and Shock, Curious Confectioner and Andrew Stellitano

# OUR CONTRIBUTORS

## non zero one

### non zero one

hold hands / lock horns: the future edition

In this one-on-one performance in the basement of Shoreditch Town Hall, an anonymous interviewer invites participants to make a series of choices, prompting them to consider their relationship with the future. Reaching one of 64 end points, they are invited to discuss their choices and the reasons behind them – what made them make that choice at that moment in time? hold hands / lock horns explores decision-making, connecting people and our interpretation of the future.

[www.nonzeroone.com](http://www.nonzeroone.com)

twitter: @nonzeroone



## Brook Lyndhurst

Re-dreaming the future

Interactive session to re-visit our childhood dreams and to design a future economy capable of fulfilling those dreams.

[www.brooklyndhurst.co.uk](http://www.brooklyndhurst.co.uk)



## Ravensbourne and Cerfav

(Opa)City

This future city, made entirely of glass, is the work of the artist H el ene Varin, who works with Cerfav, a specialist teaching and production facility for glass based in Northern France. In a collaboration with Ravensbourne, a small specialist Higher Education Institution in North Greenwich, we have transported this prototype city of the future to London to be part of FutureFest, where Ravensbourne designers are given the opportunity to work with it for a month, using lights, computation, cameras and other dynamic tools to explore its unique properties.

[www.ravensbourne.ac.uk](http://www.ravensbourne.ac.uk)

[www.cervav.fr/](http://www.cervav.fr/)

## ARUP

### Arup

IT'S ALIVE – Can you imagine the urban building of 2050?

Illustration of a vision of a future urban building. The image is designed to inspire conversation about how cities and buildings might look and function in the future. It is a tool to explore the art of the possible and look at some of the key drivers of change shaping our urban future.

[www.arup.com](http://www.arup.com)



## Forum for the Future

#theBIGshift?

There is by definition an infinite number of possible futures ahead of us. It's not about predicting the future so much as imagining the possibilities. One thing is clear: the future world will be very different from the one we live in today. Join us to explore these possible futures and help us answer the question – do we need to create a big shift to create a sustainable future?

[www.forumforthefuture.org](http://www.forumforthefuture.org)



## BERG Cloud

Little Printer

Little Printer is a delightful web-connected printer for the home. The perfect gift for every family. Use your smartphone to subscribe to over 100 different publications and Little Printer will gather them into a timely, miniature newspaper, printed at the push of a button. With puzzles and games for kids, recipes from BBC Good Food, breaking news and headlines from *The Guardian* and *New York Times*, productivity tools from Google and Github, or social alerts with top Tweets and Instagram of the day.

Share your Little Printer with friends and it will deliver their pictures and messages direct to you every day! Little Printer's publishing tools are now open to everyone, anywhere. You can create your own publications in minutes; personalised, beautiful content direct to thousands of homes. Visit us to see Little Printer in action, print out a mini-FutureFest guide on demand, or have your #FutureFest tweets printed out in our gallery.

[www.bergcloud.com](http://www.bergcloud.com)



## Skyhook Press

History of the Future in 100 Objects

A speculative journey through the near future of humankind by means of the artefacts we might leave behind, based on Adrian Hon's recently released book.

[www.skyscraperpublications.com](http://www.skyscraperpublications.com)



## BBC R&D

Surround Video

Creating an immersive TV experience by extending the picture out to cover the walls of the living room.

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

## BBC R&D

BBC Radio 5 Live Football Experiment

An experiment to see if we can provide a more 'live' football experience using audio objects. You can choose where in the stadium you want to sit, which bit of the crowd you hear and change the balance between the commentary and the crowd.

[bbc.co.uk/rd/blog/2013/05/5-live-football-experiment](http://bbc.co.uk/rd/blog/2013/05/5-live-football-experiment)



## Cancer Research UK

Innovative and interactive citizen science project

Cell Slider is the world's first citizen science project which encourages the public to analyse real-life cancer data and directly contribute to accelerating cures for cancers. It's easy to do and you don't need to be a science boffin to get involved (although science boffins love it too!). Anyone can do it and everyone will make a difference. Get involved. And the best bit? It actually works!

[www.cancerresearchuk.org](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org)

## Kathy Hinde

Piano Migrations

The inside of an old upright piano is recycled into a kinetic sound sculpture. Videos of birds are projected directly onto the piano to provide an ever-changing musical score. The movement of the birds trigger small machines to twitch and flutter on the piano strings. In this work, nature controls machines to create delicate music.

[www.kathyhinde.co.uk](http://www.kathyhinde.co.uk)

## Doug Burton

Shroud

'Shroud' is a four minute, multimedia sculpture that is projected in a loop onto the surface of a modelled resin form. The animated sculpture takes its starting point from a found piece of matter-debris. I'm interested in discovering a vision of the earth that is created as an archaeological find, when there is only a faint trace of our existence left, that is reanimated as a piece of physical history. The audio track was captured and enhanced from the environment that the matter-debris was unearthed from, and synced to the physical dynamics of the animation. 'Shroud' uses a process of digital-casting, using the resin form as a skin, the animation slowly transmogrifies building to a peak in the middle of the animation and then echoing back to its original self by the end.

[www.dougburton.net](http://www.dougburton.net)

## Lorna Carmen McNeill

Rising, Opening, Setting, Closing

This is a kinetic light installation about the certainty and constancy of life's cycles even as we progress into an uncertain future. The installation is a reminder that after the initiation of anything new, all things evolve, reach fruition and then transform in the eternal cycle of life. This is an invitation to feel comforted by the eternal constancy that transcends all things.

INTRODUCTION TO

# NESTA

**Nesta is an independent charity that works to increase the innovation capacity of the UK. We specialise in turning great ideas into organisations and public services that can grow and improving the overall support for innovators everywhere.**



We focus our support to the areas where the benefits of innovation can be felt most. We look at public services and test out radical new approaches for making them more efficient, we run programmes to support the growth of our creative industries, and we seek to influence the policies that help wider economic growth throughout the UK.

Our support comes in four complementary ways. We create world-class research, we convene networks to exchange ideas, we make investments, and we train people and organisations with the right skills to help them innovate. Nesta also has access to a vast range of people and organisations across a spectrum of expertise. Tech start-ups, financial experts, artists, academics and policy leaders regularly convene at Nesta events and workshops to swap ideas and learn from each other. This breadth of knowledge allows for lots of creative collisions, and results in the kind of cross-pollination of ideas that Nesta specialises in.

## FUTUREFEST CATERING

**Present your Nesta FutureFest wristband at any of the establishments below when ordering to receive the offer provided. Limit one use per person.**



### **JUNO** 25% DISCOUNT

Their kitchen is open from noon onwards offering sharing platters, homemade burgers and a great selection of bar snacks.

134 Shoreditch High St, London, E1 6JE



### **TRAMONATA BRINDISA** 25% DISCOUNT ON FOOD BEFORE 7PM

Tramonata Brindisa offers very good Spanish gastronomy, drawing on 25 years of carefully sourcing fine Spanish food for the UK market.

152 Curtain Rd, London, EC2A 3AT



### **KEU! DELI** 10% DISCOUNT (SAT ONLY)

This Vietnamese deli offer the Banh Mi which is a crusty baguette filled with terrines, meats, lightly pickled vegetables, fragrant herbs and mayonnaise.

332 Old St, London Borough of Hackney, EC1V 9DR

### **TRAMSHED**

134 Shoreditch High St,  
London, E1 6JE

### **TRAMSHED COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAIL WHEN ORDERING A MAIN COURSE BEFORE 5PM.**

Steak and chicken are the order of the day at Tramshed. The menu is simple – seasonal sharing starters, followed by chicken or steak.

OUR PROUD PARTNERS

**TheObserver**



**National  
Theatre**



# Nesta...

FutureFest is a brainchild of Nesta,  
the UK's leading innovation charity.

- [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)
- [www.futurefest.org](http://www.futurefest.org)
- [#futurefest](https://twitter.com/futurefest)
- [facebook.com/nesta.uk](https://facebook.com/nesta.uk)
- [@nesta\\_uk](https://twitter.com/nesta_uk)



**FUTUREFEST**

SHAPING THINGS TO COME

