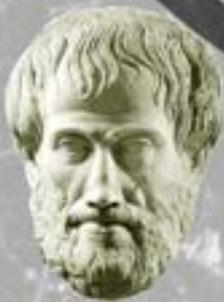




EXPANDED SOCIETIES



FÄRGFABRIKEN

Expanded Societies

”The Future is Here and Now!”

Expanded Societies examines the future’s sustainable, intelligent and online society. A society run by technology that uses the planet’s resources in an effective and sustainable way.

The project also studies the interaction in between mankind and digital technology.

Expanded Societies is a project that will investigate how technology affects our lives, but is more than a forum. The purpose is to scan what is happening right now and within the near future through different perspectives. The project will be up-to-date with current research and tendencies. With the ambition to create a Lab with several partners from different fields, the project wants to give an overview of a rapid development. We want to create new opportunities and positive consequences for the future.

Through Expanded Societies we want to challenge, influence and create a context, understanding and exchange of ideas through dialogue, seminars and exciting exhibitions. The exhibitions will be produced in collaboration with partners and function as a platform for the opportunities and challenges that technique brings in the encounter with society. The project will last during 2016-2019 starting fall 2016.

During the last 20 years Färgfabriken has exhibited and run projects within art, architecture and urban planning. Färgfabriken works interdisciplinary and runs projects both in Sweden and internationally. Färgfabriken is a platform for different experiences and competences to meet, which creates unexpected collaborations and results. Färgfabriken is located in Liljeholmen in Stockholm, in an industry building from the 19th century, which is an exceptional space for exhibitions and seminars.

Expanded Societies has identified five subject matters that will affect our future:

1. A Digital Civilisation

How do we find “the third way” when discussing community planning and the environment? Mankind stands before challenges, climate threats, urbanization and the increase of populations create problems never faced before and they demand quick solutions. New synergies in between research, ICT and the public sector create new strategies for the development of society. But how and in which way will these take place?

Technique and research offer solution and help us to analyse threats to the environment and the consequences of climate change. New technical solutions make it possible to use the planet’s resources in a smart and effective way. This applies especially to the new sustainable energy- and food production. Digital simulations and enormous amounts of data help us plan cities and do impact analysis. Complex constructions, planning and infrastructure solutions that before have been impossible to execute will soon be reality thanks to the new technology. At the same time it is crucial to remember the human and social factor.

2. Can Technology open up for new dimensions of what quality of life is and can be?

We live longer and stand before a transition in demography. Technology, like apps and smart phones, give us possibilities to control our mental and physical health. We can switch and exchange body parts and this development is progressing, does a Cyborg already exist in a laboratory? In a connected world viruses and epidemics can spread in a split second; can technology stop and identify future threats?

Nowadays, we carry around small computers in our pockets constantly; the smart phone filled with apps gives us new possibilities to a richer life even if we still suffer diseases. Smart phones are also a prerequisite for us to relate to a more complex world. We are in the beginning of an evolution where we can connect to enormous amounts of data, about ourselves, others and different functions in society.

3. Media and the Role of Entertainment Culture

A transitional media landscape where the former channels of information stand before structural changes. What will stand in contrast towards rumours and propaganda? Games and entertainment take a bigger part of our life, we are learning as we are experiencing. Where is the thin line in between imagination and reality?

Big corporations choose the information and content for us. They have more or less control over our media and culture behaviors. Like literature, tv-shows, music and the flow of information we daily consume to keep us updated of our surrounding world. This development give us inspiration but there is a risk that homogenization can eliminate initiatives and alternative thoughts and activities. Which alternatives will arise?

4. Psychology and Philosophy

Technology is everywhere and that is not always an advantage. The question is how much information we can take before an mental overload? And how are we supposed to choose when the possible choices are endless? New services that guide us and help us make choices are constantly developed. Can these develop into a some sort of parallel intelligence?

Techniques of visualization makes it possible to meet in virtual realities that correspond with physical space. What happens if social interactions moves from the physical into the virtual world? Will robots take over social functions? Can a machine acquire the same intelligence, empathy and feelings as a human? What does this mean for the existential questions?

5. A Turbulent Post Democratic World in Transition

Globalization and the latest technological development go together. A connected world has not only made geographical distances shorter, we have access to real time information of what is happening in the world. The presence of technology and the access to global information and communication affects our habits.

Social media is a tool to create opinion. Propaganda and untruths are used as a strategy to create and fuel conflicts. It has reached a point where we have to ask ourselves questions, - who owns the truth and how will source criticism follow along the development? With internet comes new tools of communication that also can be used for surveillance. What happens when we hand over essential decisions to the digital systems? What dangers does that imply for the physical systems' vulnerability? The development induce obvious challenges for the democratic society. Are we in a transition towards a post democratic world?

Project Goals and Objectives

- The project will create ten recommendations for a proactive development of the digital human society.
- The thoughts will be shared by the project's partners and engage broad audiences in Sweden and in the world.
- The project works with different stakeholders to create new constellations and therefore new possibilities. An intersectional setup with participants from ITC, construction, traffic, med tech, media, city planning, government, politicians, public sectors, municipalities, research, universities, arts and culture.
- The project wants to investigate the present day and future for the digital revolution. What motives and requisites drives different participants and what slowdown the development?
- New contacts = new possibilities, this creates a dialogue in between different fields, that otherwise would not have emerged.
- Engaging and inspiring seminars and exhibitions that include and conclude the experiences and knowledges that arise within the project.
- An active forum that has the ambition to live on and develop.

Time Plan

2016

Expanded Societies will start during fall 2016 with preparatory seminars and workshops. This process will be lead and coordinated by Färgfabriken. The aim is to develop questions and to take in experiences from different participants.

2017

From 2017 Färgfabriken's premises will be of disposal where researchers and creators together with other stakeholders will develop ideas and applications for the digital society. An informal Lab that also will be a showroom with the purpose to exhibit different drafts and concrete proposals.

2018 +

A larger exhibition will take place at Färgfabriken that withhold the intentions by Färgfabriken and in collaboration with the partners of the project. Where creative expressions meet the digital world. During the exhibition different seminars and activities will be held by Färgfabriken and the project's partners.

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For more information about Färgfabriken and Expanded Societies please visit: www.fargfabriken.se/en