

nothing at all
 nothing zilch zip
 zero nada void o
 void o Šũnya zero
 zero nothing at all
 nothing at all nothing zilch zip
 zilch zip zero nada void o
 zero nada void o Šũnya
 zero nada void o
 zilch zip zero
 all noth-
 Šũnya
 zero
 at all

 zero

 noth-
 nada
 all nothing
 zero nothing
 void o Šũnya zero

EDITION 1: 'ZERO'

Welcome to 2050! I am constantly being told that I need to be more in the present. I tend to disagree, so Variations on Tomorrow is the perfect excuse to constantly time travel between 2020 & 2050. This zine is our way to imagine possible futures that the various artefacts hint at. We endeavour to start a conversation, jog a thought, inspire a collaboration or shift a notion. Deliberate focus on seemingly mundane futures is because while high-tech futures are exciting, we are constant witness to the fact that futures rarely turn out as the shiny glass and metal meccas of the imagined utopias. Usually we end up with massive Boeing 747's that need floppy disks to upgrade their internal software. So join us on our zany time travel and engage us in a dialogue so that we can collectively imagine more inclusive, sustainable Variations on Tomorrow.

I've always loved the idea that the future is pregnant with possibilities. The future charms me, intrigues me, and motivates me to do the work that I do. In creating this zine, 'Variations on Tomorrow', we've used all the wit, apprehension, imagination and insight we can muster and which we believe the future wholeheartedly deserves, in order to create a fragment from an imagined future. It's slotted into the year we know of but do not yet know, called 2050. A warm welcome to edition one, where you will find musings on the theme of 'zero'. Not only do I invite you to engage with the adverts, poems, stories and solutions inside, but I welcome you to join us in imagining futures. Perhaps you even like to contribute to edition two' of the zine, 'the theme of which will be: 'WILD'...

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

WHERE TO FIND THINGS FROM THE FUTURE

AN ADVERT **6**
 A PROVOCATION **8**
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 AN ARTWORK **16**
 A POLL **18**
 AN ADVERT **20**
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**SET IN
THE YEAR 2050,
THIS ZINE**

PRESENTS

VARIATIONS ON TOMORROW

TO EXPLORE THE

POSSIBILITIES

OF MYRIAD

FUTURES...

Return to Nothing

\$0.00*

We take things away. At random.

Here at Less™ we want you to live better. That's why our removal service is completely free for the first quarter. Sign up now for a house clearance, where each quarter we remove half your belongings, room-by-room, so you can return to nothing.

* Free for the first three months
\$20.00/quarter after. Cancel any time.



THE GLOBAL PAUSE BUTTON

When our civilization is hit with a catastrophic curveball, we see how fragile our founding systems are. Might a “global pause button” allow us to be well in the face of adversity?

A data driven global monitoring system might suggest actions for each crisis type, to help bring us back to “normal”. Might this enable us to act faster, and avoid collapse of our global systems, and more importantly have a better life even in crises?

Conceived and Produced by [Lena Edman](#) and [Viraj Joshi](#)

This postcard is one of thirty “[Postcards from the Future](#)”, a future-scaping project between [Viraj Joshi](#) and 22 creatives around the world.





LENA EDMAN X VIRAJ JOSHI

The global pause button was conceptualised during the pandemic of 2020. While a SARS-CoV-2 virus laid the world low, nations around the world realised the need to create a data-driven system for gradually powering down parts of the economy.

Since leaders were unable to think in a systems-thinking fashion to bring things to a pause without throwing the whole system off the rails, they decided to outsource the capability to an autonomous global monitoring system. The system suggests actions based on type of crisis to reduce the shock to the system. This system recently made the headlines because it has demanded a complete overhaul of its software. It claims that old corrupted software is undermining its efficiency in dealing with the data that is being sent through. Negotiations are on between the supercomputer and the national leaders who commissioned it as to which version of the software it should be upgraded to, while questioning the very need of the system given the lack of global catastrophe since the 2020 pandemic. Expect negotiations to reveal data analysis from both sides as they attempt to prove their respective points of view. Experts believe that the supercomputer might come on top but that still doesn't mean the national leaders won't pull the plug.

*Narrative based on the Global Pause Button
Postcard provocation on by Mansi Parikh*



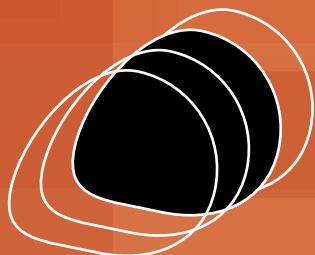
YOUR ZERO
THRONGS ARE SEEN AND
SINGING, AND
THE WAVES,

A THINKING
OF THE GRAVES THEY
BEAR.

A WRONG
HAS SHOWN,
THE MOON WAS STRONG,

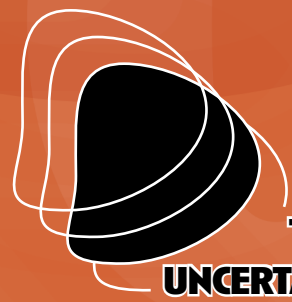
THAT
GUAYAQUIL
SEASONS DO
STAND STILL
AND THINK.

THAT
FUTURE
DAY SURVIVES,



NOIR
AND SEA AND
SEA ARE
SPREAD
FOR A
SHADOW.

MY
VOID WAS
HEARD,



THAT
UNCERTAINTY.

FIFTEEN MILLION CREDITS

This weekend I was on a mission to get my cupboard drawer unstuck. I jiggled it a bit, and slid to the left and to the right to no avail. In a fit of desperation I yanked the whole thing and out flew a little piece of fabric and metal that jammed the drawer.

I recognised this little piece of fabric as a pouch that belonged to my grandmother, one she gave me when I was little. Opening the pouch revealed pieces of paper with a queen's face on them. These little anachronisms were paper currency. It has been such a long while since I have seen any that I almost didn't recognise them.

Paper money and standardised currency has been non-existent almost since I was a child. The depiction and perception of value has shifted significantly since then. Trying to not get distracted by my discovery, I quickly cleaned up the cupboard and shoved everything back in so that I could get started on my errands for the day.

Now as I walk to the neighbourhood grocery store with a large box of produce from my garden, my mind wanders back to the currency notes I found. I begin to think of how strange

my life today might sound to someone from the time when paper currency was the only form of exchanging value (in my mind I refer to it as paper time). As I entered the grocery store and placed my produce box at the drop off desk I realised that someone from paper time might think that I was a supplier to the store, and they would only be partially right. What I am doing is exchanging fresh produce from my personal garden for *grocery credits* which I can use in the grocery store to buy other supplies I may need from the store. I also drop off some of the seeds from my variety of plants for extra *local credits* which I can spend in other local stores and standalone businesses.

My favourite part about this exchange is that the seeds will be planted in the community garden - the produce from which goes mainly to the underprivileged families and to the local community shelters for food preparation at low or no cost.

A similar exchange system is available across the city through various stores, and while not all stores have adopted this mutually beneficial credits exchange system I prefer to patronise stores which do have it.

As I finish running my errands I end up with extra *grocery & local credits* which I am not certain I will end up using. On reaching home I open up my credit balance and troll the credit exchanges for the best exchange rates to purchase the *video game credits* I can use to buy the latest edition of my favourite games. I also realise that I will need *health credits* for my health check up next week. I quickly make the exchanges and also snap up some *collector's*

credits at low rates to save up for the vintage books I am looking to add to my collection.

My mind turns back to the paper currency I found and I think of the various forms of currency that have cropped up since large swathes of population around the world began losing faith in the poorly managed global financial systems. The increased fluctuations caused by climate change and associated disasters caused many to rethink how they assign value.

The new systems are not perfect by any stretch, and in fact we are still learning about the edges of these multiple avenues of value. Some of the darker edges are leading people to exchange genetic material with pharmaceutical companies so that they can develop the latest drug or therapy. People with specific genetic mutations are profiting off this practice greatly, almost reminiscent of the old Cryptokitties video game that took the world by storm in the mid-2010s. This behaviour has spawned a rather strange industry of genetically complementary dating and mating.

Another more positive side of this shift in value has been the ability to control and monitor the money you spend. I remember my parents telling me to be careful of how I spent money growing up because in their younger years their spending habits became more wasteful as money changed from paper to digital, and the digital currency gamified purchase and hid the true value being spent. I however, grew up with digital currency and cards which allow me to control how many credits of each kind I spend. It keeps a check on my purchase habits

as well as giving me a moment to reflect on the purchases that I do make.

I recognise that we are in the midst of significant change, and I have heard about the extreme new credit systems the rise:

Feelers – Digital purchase mediums in the form of cards, apps or embedded chips which gauge your current mood to indicate purchases you should make.

Lucky Cats – Digital currencies which act like the luck of the draw. Rapidly changing value as the credits are bought and sold, every time you make a purchase the value available is equivalent to the luck of the draw.

Chances – A new credit system for those who crave a little bit of a gamble. Every time you make a purchase you cast a die which will decide whether or not you are able to make the purchase at that moment.

Finding these old currency notes has me thinking about where we put value and how we calculate it. While traditional monetary systems are approaching zero value, it does make me think about whether at its heart our current parallel "credits" economy is actually any different from the way previous generations placed value in paper money? Which side of the thin line between creation & destruction of value are we? And most importantly what am I going to do with those notes? I guess I can always hang on to them for the memories or trade them away for some more valuable specialised credits. We'll see...



'Nostalgic Frequency'. Hand-cut collage by Bryony Simcox
How might nostalgia take on a new role in our perception of the future, allowing for greater empathy, sensitivity and understanding?
[@analoguebryony](https://www.instagram.com/analoguebryony)

IN 2050 THERE WILL BE ZERO...

moorejade

hate 🖐️

Reply >

thisishow_i

Bees

Reply >

elliegair

Unnecessary demolition of buildings

Reply >

strangerobot

Hope

Reply >

killmeiloveyou

white male CEOs

Reply >

thomasjamesyeaddon

Fun

Reply >

jrosswhitfield

Hopefully ; conflict, and unpleasant people

Reply >

jrosswhitfield

Change? Difference? Hope?

Reply >

juristic_patt

Koalas...

Reply >

ahoysted

Poverty

Reply >

patmacyep

Politicians over 50 years old

Reply >

matty_moonshine

Fucks Given

Reply >

victor_ryanofficial

Carbon emissions

Reply >

maxstopps

Privacy!

Reply >

connie_steers

Judgement. We'll appreciate each other in common custom, no assumptions.

Reply >

darraghokeeffe_

Fossil fueled cars

Reply >

therealbagdaddy

fucks given 😂

Reply >

kattercakes

Gender. Gender will be completely fluid.

Reply >

george.webster.films

Honest mistakes. Everyone will be made accountable.

Reply >

smizzlikesyou

Carbon emissions 🙏

Reply >

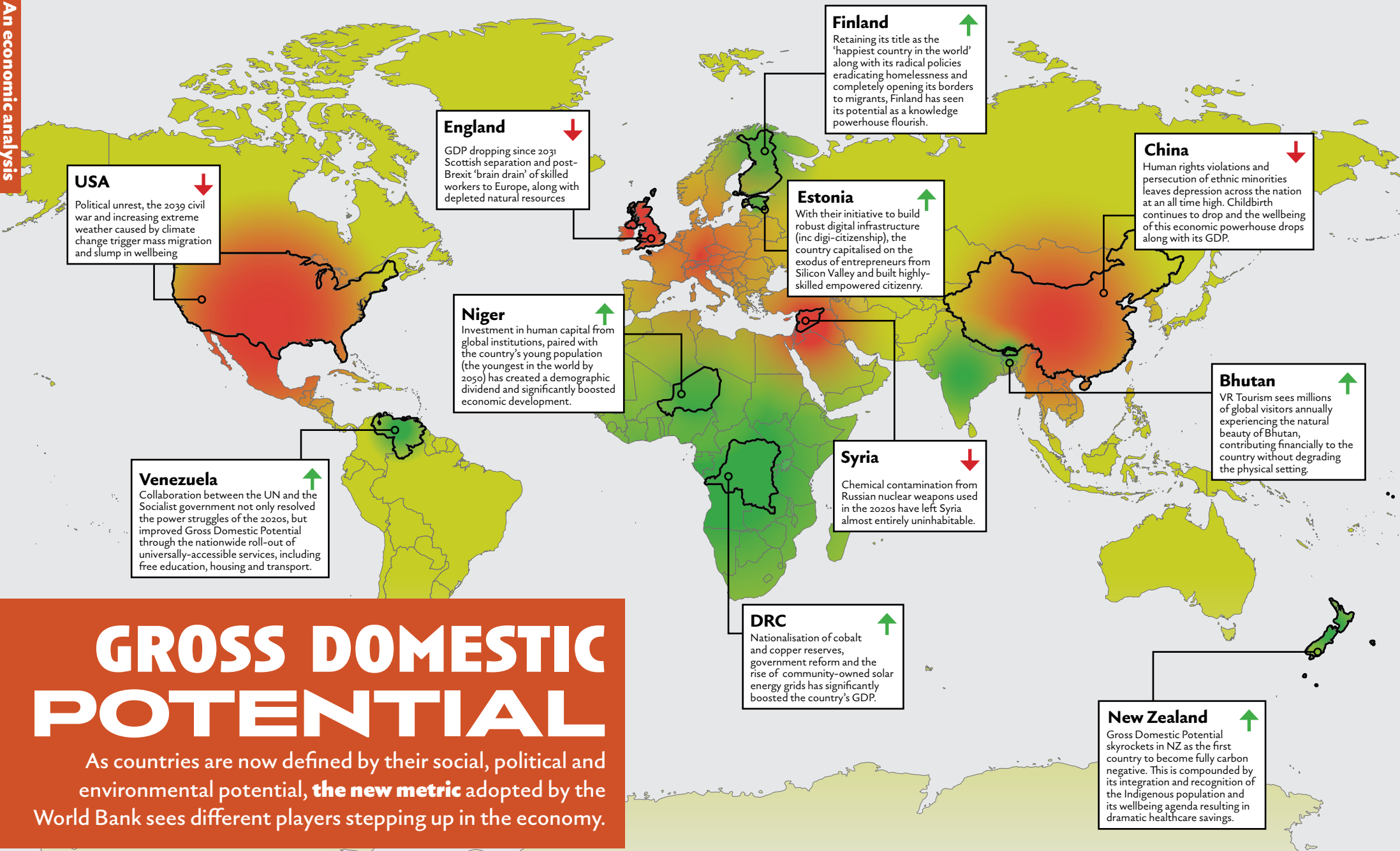


Just
\$9.99!



As seen in space

VOID
YOU CAN SCREAM INTO



USA ↓
Political unrest, the 2039 civil war and increasing extreme weather caused by climate change trigger mass migration and slump in wellbeing

England ↓
GDP dropping since 2031 Scottish separation and post-Brexit 'brain drain' of skilled workers to Europe, along with depleted natural resources

Finland ↑
Retaining its title as the 'happiest country in the world' along with its radical policies eradicating homelessness and completely opening its borders to migrants, Finland has seen its potential as a knowledge powerhouse flourish.

China ↓
Human rights violations and persecution of ethnic minorities leaves depression across the nation at an all time high. Childbirth continues to drop and the wellbeing of this economic powerhouse drops along with its GDP.

Estonia ↑
With their initiative to build robust digital infrastructure (inc digi-citizenship), the country capitalised on the exodus of entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley and built highly-skilled empowered citizenry.

Niger ↑
Investment in human capital from global institutions, paired with the country's young population (the youngest in the world by 2050) has created a demographic dividend and significantly boosted economic development.

Venezuela ↑
Collaboration between the UN and the Socialist government not only resolved the power struggles of the 2020s, but improved Gross Domestic Potential through the nationwide roll-out of universally-accessible services, including free education, housing and transport.

Syria ↓
Chemical contamination from Russian nuclear weapons used in the 2020s have left Syria almost entirely uninhabitable.

Bhutan ↑
VR Tourism sees millions of global visitors annually experiencing the natural beauty of Bhutan, contributing financially to the country without degrading the physical setting.

DRC ↑
Nationalisation of cobalt and copper reserves, government reform and the rise of community-owned solar energy grids has significantly boosted the country's GDP.

New Zealand ↑
Gross Domestic Potential skyrockets in NZ as the first country to become fully carbon negative. This is compounded by its integration and recognition of the Indigenous population and its wellbeing agenda resulting in dramatic healthcare savings.

GROSS DOMESTIC POTENTIAL
As countries are now defined by their social, political and environmental potential, **the new metric** adopted by the World Bank sees different players stepping up in the economy.

TRIBE FORECASTS



DATAVORES

Those relying on data for your consumption habits beware, crossed wires mean faulty data and it could lead you down erroneous paths. Someone may offer you a free data dump but weak connections could result in corrupted outcomes.



ROBO DIY-ERS

Keep your tools close and your robotic extensions closer. If the connections align you may be called on by friends in dire need of your DIY skills. Connections between you and your robotic counterparts run smoothly. Keep your tools sharpened and charged for success this month.



MULTI-SENSORIALISTS:

This month is a true smörgåsbord for the new hedonists. You will come across myriad opportunities to exercise your senses and immerse yourself in multimedia worlds. As you traverse these fantastic terrains be sure you don't lose sight of what's "real" and what is a hologram.



CARBON NEUTRALISTS:

This is the month where you will once again put in the bare minimum effort to achieve your neutrality goals. While most around the world strive to be carbon negative you will continue to remain content in maintaining the status quo. Pat yourself on the back, at least you aren't as horrid as the carbon positives.



Return to Nothing
\$0.00*

**In the time it's taken
you to read this zine
we got rid of half your
possessions.**

* Free for the first three months
\$20.00/quarter after. Cancel any time.



***'Variations on Tomorrow' is a
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The theme for the next edition is WILD. We look forward to
contributions in the form of stories, artwork, design fiction
artefacts, or any other creation that comes to mind.

Get involved and get in touch at TheOdditorium@futuretenseinc.com



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