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Sensing Future Potentialities in Human-Technology Relations

Living in a VUCA world (Bennett and Lemoine, 2014) that is deeply affected by digital transformation we have to ask ourselves what is to be human in this world, what is the future of work, and how our role is changing in digitized environment. We can observe that technology is often created through reduction (Ito, 2017), using a mechanistic and rather narrow-minded engineering problem-solving approach. Oftentimes this results in technology being used to control and optimize human work and creativity.

We propose to follow instead a future-oriented approach to innovation that is based on sensing and identifying (future) potentialities, "learning from an unfolding future as it emerges" (Peschl and Fundneider, 2013). Artistic methods are applied in this innovation process (Bozic Yams, 2018), in order to expand human creativity and explore in new ways possible human-technology augmentation and alternative ways of co-being, creating a space of potentiality (Agamben, 1999). Through the flux of movement, human creativity, imagination and unconscious material are activated in a process of dreaming memories of future.

In the paper we first explore the concept of emerging future potentialities. Secondly, we describe an innovation process using artistic methods that can enable new emerging potentialities in human-technology relations. And third, we indicate what kind of new technology or at least specifications for its development could emerge from this process that would result in technology for augmenting human creativity and sensing emerging future potentialities. Additionally, we will offer a workshop where these concepts can be experienced in a practical manner.