

Jennifer M Gidley, PhD - SPEAKING TOPICS - 2020

Technotopian or Human-Centred Futures?

How do we deal with human futures? Many futurists promote exponential high-tech futures with no thought for the social, cultural, and environmental impacts of rapid unprecedented change. 'Technotopian or human-centred futures?' describes two contrasting approaches to human futures and their inherent values and ethics. Explore how these two approaches, competing for supremacy since the European Enlightenment, still challenge us today.

Post-Pandemic Urban Futures

The urban population of the world tipped past 50% in 2010. It is vital we re-imagine and consciously re-create what it means to be a predominantly urbanised species in a global pandemic. Even Post COVID we will be faced with global climate challenges, such as Ocean decline, sea level rise, and water and food shortages.

How can we create new urban futures that are human-scale?

Are Futurists 'Ahead of their Times' or simply 'Aggregating the Past'?

Many futurists claim to be 'trend setters', to 'see the future before it happens' and therefore to be 'ahead of their times'. This talk explores what it actually means to be "ahead of our times."

In this talk I introduce some "Next Generation Concepts":

- Next generations of ideas;
- Next generations of individualism;
- Next generations of organisational structures and cultures.

Find out why 'trend-setting' is simply aggregating the past as it appears in the present. Discover why imagination is the most important 'futures-thinking' quality.

Megatrends of the Mind & Thought Leadership

We hear a lot about the Global Megatrends. But these are all focused on 'external trends'. Most futurists overlook major paradigm shifts disrupting knowledge for over a century.

- From building blocks to quantum physics;
- From behaviourism to postformal psychology;
- From Darwinian evolution to conscious evolution;
- From factory model schools to postformal pedagogies.

Megatrends of the Mind are as important for global futures as megatrends in the external world.

Postformal Psychology: What does it mean to be Mature?

How do we know if we are mature thinkers? How do we know if 'leaders' are mature thinkers? This talk explores the research of Adult Developmental Psychologists over the last five decades.

Most academic disciplines underwent major paradigm shifts during the 20th century, but this new understanding has not yet reached the corporate, political, or education sectors.

These shifts have already occurred. How can you benefit from them?

Find out more about how the shifting mental landscape will affect your futures.

Transforming Education for Complex, Uncertain Futures

Life in the 21st Century is Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA). How do we educate for this? This talk introduces my postformal educational philosophy. More complex, systems-based, creative ways of thinking are vital to re-shaping education so young people are better equipped for the complexity, paradox and unpredictability of life in the 21st century. Postformal thinking can transform education at all levels.