

The Arts of Foresight, Technology and Dragons: an inquiry into new narratives

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This presentation combines art and ecology, design and architecture to storyboard the prospect of the North of England becoming a forested "Supercity". "By better linking up [the North's] strengths through better transport and digital connections, the North's great cities could compete as one with the super cities of South America, China and Africa." From Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison's visions of 'Casting A Green Net: Can It Be We Are Seeing A Dragon' (1998) to Liverpool's Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy for new technologies and the Northern Powerhouse, the authors explore the necessity for 'climate futures', 'imaginaries' and realities as grounded research, teaching and learning within university arts and design curricula.

Ecological collapse and transformative challenges are putting human and other-than-human 'life support systems' under stress, but this may be the 'tipping point, 'the systems change' the 'paradigm shift', or the time when technologies go 'pop'? What may we learn from this situation? How may we creatively respond? There is great potential in 'Regenerative Design', 'ecological resilience' and becoming self-determined communities.