Georges AMAR, Benoit Weil, SIG 2015

'Non-Predictive' Prospective **&** Design Theory .

> **PROSPECTIVE as 'conceptive activity'**
>
> An *innovative design task* of a specific nature
>
> (rather than 'knowledge' about the future)

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PROSPECTIVE as 'conceptive activity'

An *innovative design task* of a specific nature
(rather than 'knowledge' about the future)

FUTURE is a matter of Design…

*and not (only) of Knowledge, **Prediction**, Foreseeing*
, Decision, Strategy, Planning,…

… a kind of Design

*which aim is **not** to "<u>fix</u>" or build a definite **object**,*
*but rather to "<u>de-fix</u>" the definition of a given **field***

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Why a *non-standard*, "*non-predictive prospective*" ?

Predictive prospective is

1) Impossible
2) Possible, more and more powerful (Big Data, Data science,…)
3) Too easy…

              But confined to known objects, concepts, paradigms

What is a fair/smart/relevant **relation to Future?**

An example

The future of urban transportation…
(Suppose you want to adress the sustainability problem, reduce the CO^2, etc.)

*You may study several « **scenarios** »,*
*built according to various **hypothesis,** about a number of **factors**.*
*Lets consider the factor **« modal balance »** (or modal share): The proportions of different modes of transportation.*
*One of the main conceptual frame of the transportation world is the distinction / opposition of **public** and **individual** transport.*

*Within this frame you can do a <u>predictive prospective</u> study, and suggest **strategies**. (Such as: increase the proportion of Public Transport and reduce that of Individual.   But, this conceptual frame is becoming **obsolete**.*

*A <u>conceptive prospective</u> would observe **new objects** (like Velib…) which do not fit, are **not thinkable** in the old modal language. It takes for that a new, paradoxical concept, and the **formulation of a new name**, for instance the oxymoric **'PIT'** , for "Public Individual Transport".*

*This Prospective produces a range of other concept/names, forming a new **Paradigm of urban mobility**, frame/language which allows other, unheard, stories of the future!*

Prospective *ethics* :

the future is not to know

but to open

- What we owe to '*future generations*' is... a future !

a *real* future, i.e. an ***open future***

An *Open future Prospective*

- Neither foresee <u>the</u> ('objectively') true Future

- Nor define a (subjectively) desirable Future

Neither « true », nor « desirable », but **open** / *fertile*

FUTURE is not *what comes after*, mere chronology,

but : **The Open**

Prospective means : **To open**

PROSPECTIVE as a *conceptive task* :

Open the (DS) **'Design Space'**

DS in CK Theory :   {C°, K°}

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PROSPECTIVE as a *conceptive task* :

Open the (DS) **'Design Space'**

DS in CK Theory : {C°, K°}

- Design Space as a « Paradigm »

- Prospective is about *Paradigm shifts*

* Prospective as **Paradigm Shifts Studies**

⁻What kind of 'Study'? And of shifts ('ΔP') ?

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ΔP : **New** paradigm / **Old** paradigm ?

or : **Fertile** *versus* **Obsolete**, saturated paradigm

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Prospective is a *twofold* exercice :

- **Critics** (of the 'Dominant Paradigm' often *invisible* or

misunderstood)

- « Creative », pro-positive

FORMULATION of

- the "old" P
- **the "new" P**
- the *shift* ($\underline{\Delta}$P)

Formulation, Naming, *designating*

           – ***the new, the emerging, the unknown***
           with words, various means and languages
           (examples, things, drawings, mathematics)

     is a key function of Prospective

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Formulation of a paradigm shift is not the description of the 'known'

but using it to **address and 'design the unknown'**

'Fecundity' = ***the unknown made visible***

speakable

collectively workable

PROSPECTIVE **&** FUTURE

- *There are 2 different **ideas of the Future** :*

- **dF** : deterministic / determinable Future

(on a cognitive or pragmatic level)

- **oF** : Open Future

rich of unknown possibilities

(Fecundity)

'd' & **'o'** can be seen as possible qualities of a given <u>field</u>,

structural properties of a Design Space

(This is a theorem of CK Theory)

PROSPECTIVE **&** FUTURE

- *There are 2 different **ideas of Prospective**:*

- **dP** : Deterministic Prospective

  tries to master the future (Cognitively : prediction. Pragmatically : planning)

- **oP** : Open Prospective

  tries to give 'o' property (*fecundity*) to the given DS (Design Space)

The opening / fertilizing task of O'Prospective

Working on a Design Space {C°,K°}

- Study the saturation / obsolescence of the 'dominant paradigm' or definition of the given DS;

- - Suggest surprising links in K Space

    (as through unusual **rhymes** or fresh **metaphors**)

    - Outline new, 'crazy' concepts related to these links

- Use for that all the resources of language (naming, phrasing,..) and various (art and math and other) means

*

Thank You