We shape the world through the stories we tell

Hobbes Leviathan (1668), story about the origin and need for a government.
NARRATING CLIMATE FUTURES

- Forecasts
- Scenarios
- Literary Narratives
- Pathways
- Roadmaps
- Visions
- Utopias/Dystopias
Imagination is a knowledge process that involves seeing and sensing.

Imagination creates the conditions for material interventions in, and political sensibilities of, the world.
THE POWER OF IMAGINATION

- Coherent imaginaries can coordinate action
- Imaginaries can provide ideas about what is likely or possible
- Imaginaries can work as threats and warnings
IMAGINING DECARBONISATION
(1) MODELLING AND SCENARIOS

pathways to deep decarbonization

2014 report

The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan
National strategy for climate and energy

Emissions reduction roadmap

- CO₂ emissions decrease over time through various strategies such as
  - Biofuels and additional technology
  - Carbon-neutral growth by 2020
  - Economic measures

- Historical emissions vs. projected emissions by 2050

- 50% reduction by 2050
IMAGINING DECARBONISATION
(2) VISIONS, ROADMAPS
IMAGINING DECARBONISATION
(3) EXHIBITIONS AND (4) PROTOTYPES
SCENARIOS AND LITERATURE

Scenarios
- General
- Objective
- Focus on trends
- Factual
- Informational

Literature
- Specific
- Subjective
- Focus on agency
- Imaginative
- Critical
CLIMATE SCENARIOS

  - Key work for policy, planning, impact, vulnerability studies.
  - Conveyed the general nature of future development through key assumptions (growth, regional integration, sustainability).

- New generation of scenarios (2010-)
  - Reference concentration pathways (RCP)
  - Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP)
NARRATING FUTURE SOCIETIES

- SSP 5: (Mit. Challenges Dominate)
  - Fossil-fueled
  - Development
  - Taking the Highway

- SSP 2: (Intermediate Challenges)
  - Middle of the Road

- SSP 1: (Low Challenges)
  - Sustainability
  - Taking the Green Road

- SSP 3: (High Challenges)
  - Regional Rivalry
  - A Rocky Road

- SSP 4: (Adapt. Challenges Dominate)
  - Inequality
  - A Road Divided
CLIMATE FICTION & SSP SCENARIOS

SPP 1 – Sustainability
Taking the Green Road

SPP 2 – Middle of the Road

SPP 3 – Regional Rivalry
A Rocky Road

SPP 4 – Inequality
A Road Divided

SPP 5 – Fossil-fueled Development
Taking the Highway
Contextual agency allows the reader

- To experience clashes of world-views and ethical considerations
- Identification with the protagonist – to live the impacts of climate change
- To understand the possibilities and abilities offered in different contexts
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Fictive stories allows us
- To imagine the non-plausible
- To be emotionally engaged from an insider perspective
WE LEARN DIFFERENT THINGS FROM DIFFERENT KINDS OF IMAGINARIES

- Outcomes
- Timing
- Impacts of solutions

- Reasons
- Different understandings
- Importance and desirability
CONCLUSION: FROM SCENARIOS TO SHARED IMAGINARIES

- Imaginaries of a climate changed world emerge across different forms of narrative.

- Coalition building is about creating shared imaginaries.

- Imaginaries emerge in dialogue:
  - New forms of engagement, new stakeholders.
  - Need to create open processes that resist narrative closure.