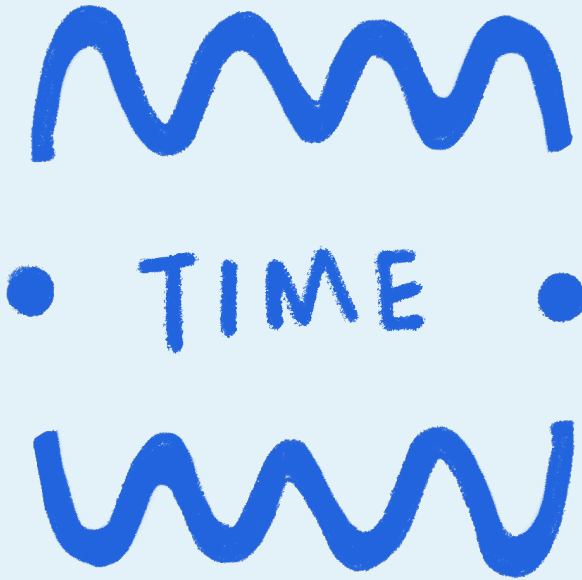


# Futures Methods from Around the World



HUMANITY  
UNITED



مؤسسة دبي للمستقبل  
DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION

*“Kya kalvali ne sringar kiya?”  
(Has the kalvali (a fish) adorned herself yet?)*

This is the question the Dheevar fishing community in India asks to decide when they should start sowing their rice fields. The kalvali is a local fish which develops a bright orange line on its body in breeding season, this is a key indicator for the Dheevars that the monsoon (rains) is five or six days away which is the optimal time to plant rice fields.



The Xochimilcas are the native people to the lakes and Chinampas (floating gardens) from time immemorial. The future is deeply tied to respect for the land, their survival depends on their relationship with the water, the Chinampas, and the lake ecosystem, which they see as their kin.

For them, time and place (territory) are one, not perceived as separate concepts. Xochimilcan land, water, plants, animals, and people they all share the current moment. Time is experienced through changes in each other.

*“We are birds passing through this land”. A very popular proverb expressing the fleeting nature of existence and the temporary quality of our presence in any space.”*

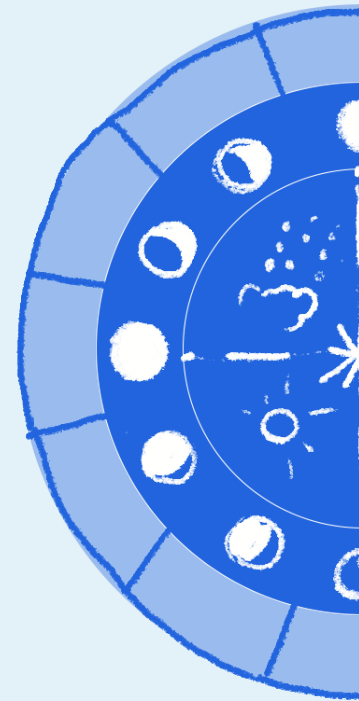
*20 years from now: How is our experience of time rooted to a place and all other living beings there? How is our transience isolating time from place and connection to other living beings?*

In Māori worldview time is not seen as a straightline from past to future but like woven layers of whakapapa (networks of connections).

This shows up in the words they use to describe the past, onamata, and the future, anamata, demonstrating notions of time as kin or relations. Mata refers to eyes, so onamata refers to the eyes of your ancestors, and anamata as the eyes of your descendents. Therefore the way in which we consider past and future is through relationships with and between ancestors and descendants.



Egyptians operate using different calendars in parallel. There is the Gregorian calendar that connects Egypt to the western concept of timekeeping. Then there is the Islamic Hijri calendar, a lunar calendar, through which Muslims in Egypt practice their faith, celebrate their feasts and observe certain rituals such as Hajj or Ramadan. Then there is the Coptic calendar, a solar calendar relevant for the churches in Egypt and also for farmers as it follows agricultural cycles.



*20 years from now, what might change if time was measured through the shifting of relationships?*

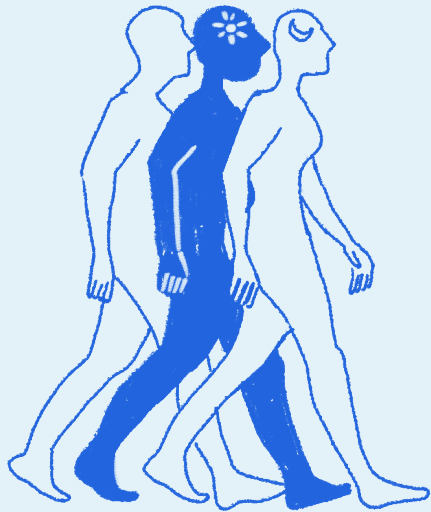
*How might our actions and decisions be different if they were made with our ancestors and descendants watching?*

*20 years from now, how might we anchor ourselves into different temporalities while coexisting as a collective?*

In African time, there is a proverb that says “Your day starts the moment you wake up”. This gives the illusion that time is fluid and can start and be expanded or collapsed.



*Does anything in this zine remind you of a practice, source of knowledge or wisdom from your community that you would like to share with us?*



*20 years from now how can we reject and redefine standardised norms for instance, “What is a day?”*

*How can we stay away from the idea that time is pegged to a particular monetary (or other) reward and loss of time means loss of reward and wealth etc.*

*We shared some of the provocations and questions the entries sparked for us when thinking about potential ideas and implications 20 years from now. Did reading the entries surface any other questions or provocations for you?*



Project Principal:

**Prateeksha Singh | India** | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/prateeksha5/>

**Alice Dimond | New Zealand** | [Alice.Dimond@ngaitahu.iwi.nz](mailto:Alice.Dimond@ngaitahu.iwi.nz)

**Graciela Guadarrama Baena | Mexico** | <https://linktr.ee/okanaga>

**Kushal Sohal | India** | [kushal@soif.org.uk](mailto:kushal@soif.org.uk)

**Lorna Okeng | Africa** | [lornaokeng@gmail.com](mailto:lornaokeng@gmail.com)

**Mansi Parikh | India** | [mansi@futuretenseinc.com](mailto:mansi@futuretenseinc.com)

**Soha Rashed | Egypt** | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/soharashed>

Zine designed by:

**Vidit Jain | India** | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vidit-j->

---

<https://nextgenforesight.org/project/futures-methods-from-around-the-world/>