

<INTER>ACTION
PHASE 01—DESIGN RESEARCH

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01. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Research field

Posthumanism & Humanity+

Subject

Religious practices/faith/belief and the discourse of Posthumanism and Transhumanism. The forecast of the posthuman.

Approach

Science is constantly seeking to allow mankind to better itself and overcome the boundaries imposed by nature. However, with the evolution of technology and the growth of human knowledge, the paradigm is now changing: science aims to create a new human. By creating a new way of thinking towards the future, the project's subject is framed around the notions of PostHumanism and Transhumanism, terms that advocate the possibility of human evolution beyond its current physical and cognitive limitations.

Through the lenses of these intellectual and philosophical movements, my proposal is to explore how aspects inherent to the human-being as we know it today can morph, adapt or transcend according to the premises of the posthumanist movement. More specifically, this framework proposes a reflection on faith, belief and religion— notions inherently human—and how they will transcend in a posthuman forecast. The goal is to explore how the decentralization of the human being and the centralization of the posthuman/transhuman will reform organized religion, perpetuator of power and conflict, as well as an anthropomorphic deity.

02. OBJECTIVES

“The patriarchal implications of the monotheistic concept of God obviously are in contradiction to the feminist theoretical perspective of posthumanism.”

FERRANDO, F. (2019). *PHILOSOPHICAL POSTHUMANISM* [BOOK]

—Decentralize the human being from this chain of thought, using Posthumanism as a speculative tool to engage critically into present issues as well as future outcomes, while exploring my own position in relation to the posthumanist arguments.

—The subversion of the human condition encompasses the transformation of a set of notions inherently associated to human's perception, from social relations and culture, to religious dogmas and gender constructions.

—There are significant ways in which religion features within discourses and representations of posthumanism. The goal is to reflect as well on the kind of religious dimension of PostHumanism, related to its almost metaphysical power of a non-dualistic unification.

03. HYPOTHESIS

Premise

The principles advocated by Posthumanism are the way of achieving a posthuman forecast—the inevitability of the decentralization of the human will lead to the reconfiguration of belief and theism, morality and organized religion.

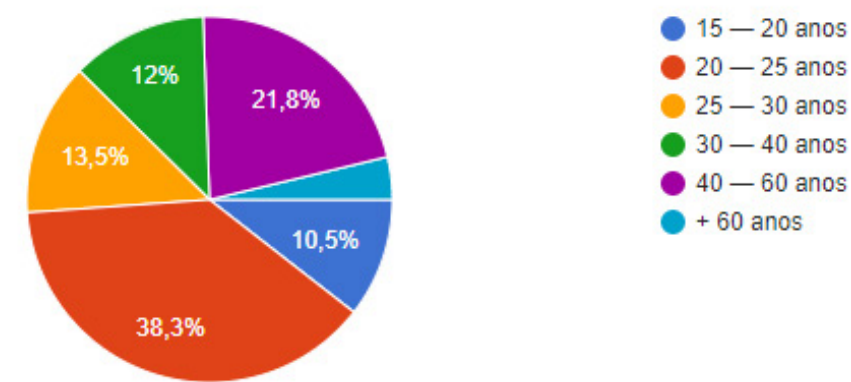
Hypothesis

The link between PostHumanism or Transhumanism and the advancement of science and technology might create an assumption of its removal from the concerns of faith, since mostly religion and science, belief and skepticism, theism and atheism are regarded as incompatible. But it appears there are also significant ways in which religion features within discourses and representations of posthumanism. My approach forms an hypothesis within the framework of Speculative Design and Design Fiction, with the goal of reflecting upon the social, moral and spiritual reconfigurations implied by the decentralization of the human being and the rising of the posthuman/transhuman, through the practices of storytelling and worldmaking. The main objective aspires to a fictional world and the utopian creation of a non-dualistic unification of faith/religion—a way critically approaching the human tendency of materializing belief in organized religion, perpetuator of power and conflict.

04. SURVEY

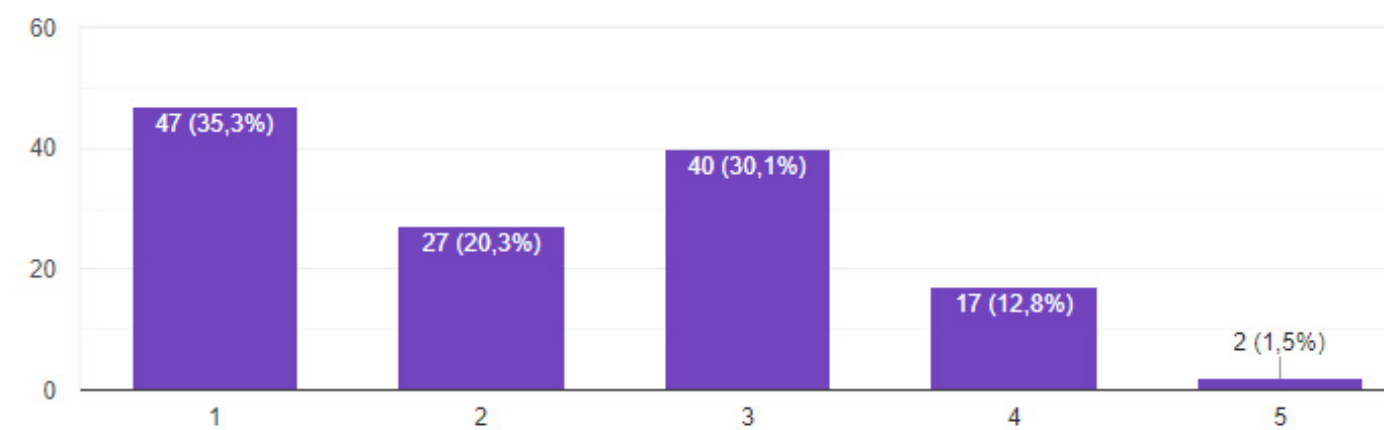
Faixa etária

133 respostas



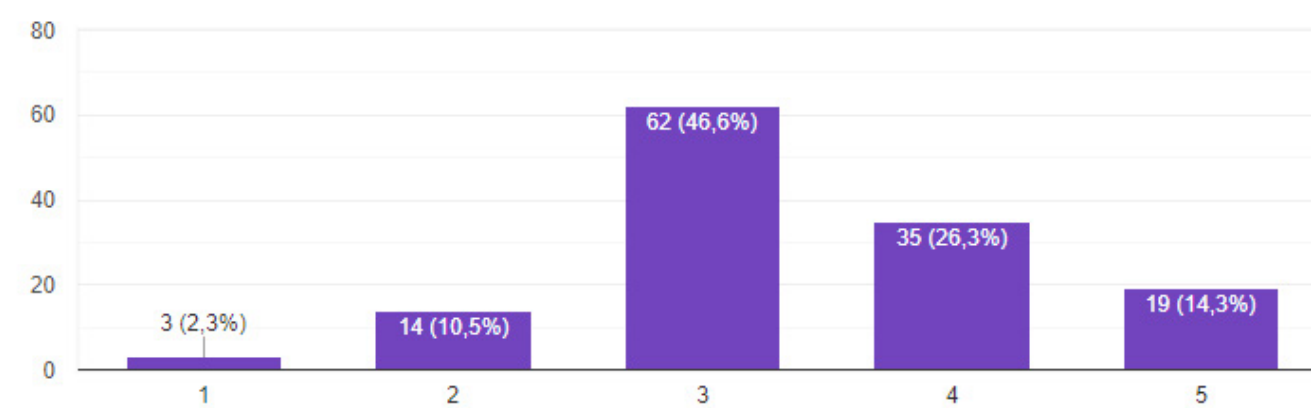
Quão familiarizado/a estás com o Pós-humanismo?

133 respostas



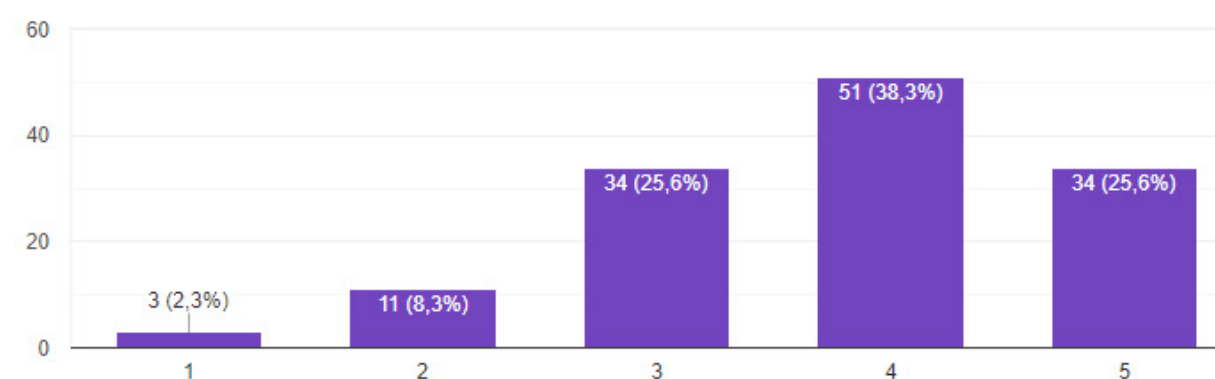
Quão pertinente consideras as ideias do Pós-humanismo para pensarmos sobre o futuro?

133 respostas



Alguns autores do tema defendem o uso de novas tecnologias para alcançar um futuro melhor (como a manipulação genética ou a cibernética). Quão pertinente consideras o uso da ciência e da tecnologia na procura de um futuro melhor?

133 respostas



Survey for user research / 134 answers

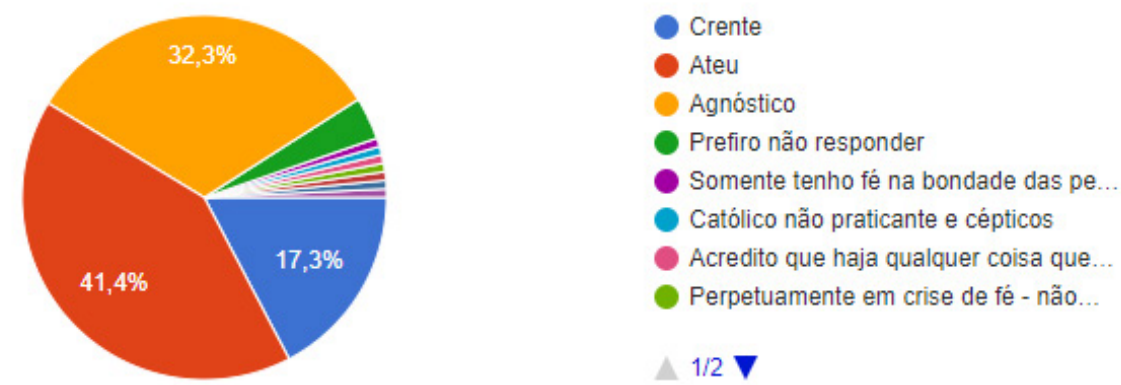
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Results at <https://tinyurl.com/mt66s3yk>

04. SURVEY

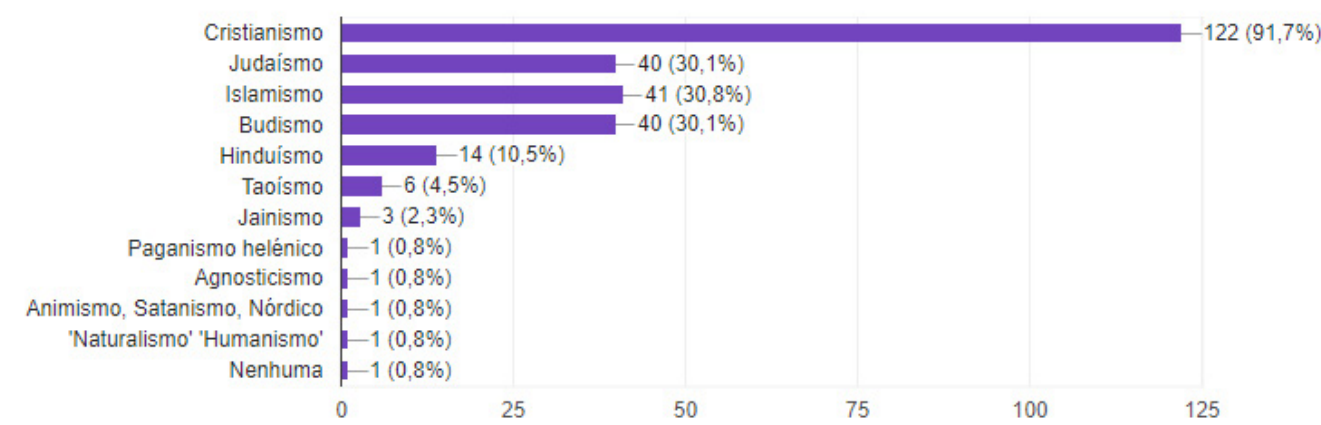
Qual a tua posição em relação à religião e à fé?

133 respostas



Das seguintes religiões, seleciona as que te encontras mais familiarizado/a com as respetivas crenças.

133 respostas



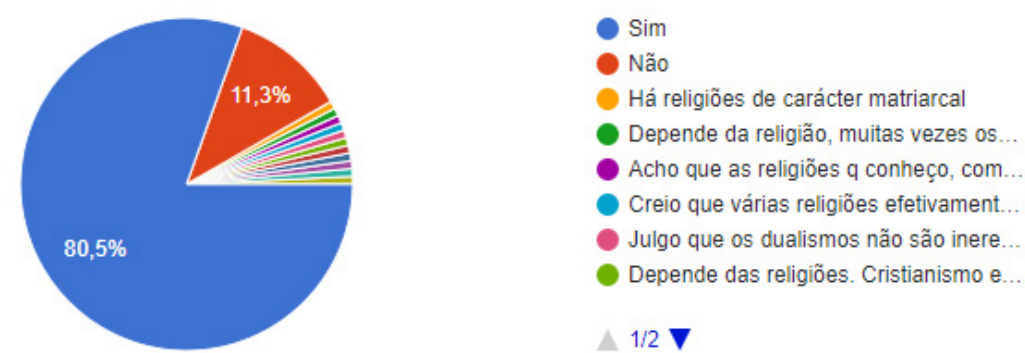
Na tua perspetiva, qual será o futuro da religião?

133 respostas



Alguns autores afirmam que as religiões são construídas com base em dualismos e no patriarcado, um sistema que coloca o homem em posições de dominação e privilégio. Concordas com esta afirmação?

133 respostas



Se respondeste "Não" na pergunta anterior, justifica.

10 respostas

- Acredito que algumas religiões sejam construídas com essa base mas não todas as religiões.
- Acredito que a posição de dominação e privilégio vem do poder que o Cristianismo, em especial a Igreja Católica, historicamente teve e tem. Vários sistemas de espiritualidade e religiões, especialmente indígenas, vêem o ser humano como uno com a Natureza, reconhecendo a nuance existente na vida.
- Uma religião que é obrigatoriamente assente em conceitos antiquados nao sobrevive a uma sociedade em mudança. A religião é inerente ao ser humano portanto vai existir mesmo quando a humanidade ultrapassar esses conceitos antiquados.

Na tua opinião, quais os aspetos mais urgentes a mudar na sociedade atual para alcançarmos um futuro melhor? Justifica.

86 respostas

- Redistribuição da Riqueza
- Recurso à espiritualidade para encontrar harmonia nas relações inerentes à sociedade.
- Levar as palavras de Jesus a sério. Seria hilariante se não estivéssemos a falar de um assunto tão sério que uma religião que começou com um homem a falar de amar o próximo chegue ao ponto de ter um bilião de casos de pedofilia e estar afundada em ouro enquanto as crianças que pedem pra nós rezarmos morrem a fome.

05. BENCHMARKING

Goals

—Analyze the practices of storytelling and worldmaking (principles of Design Fiction).

—Reflect upon the theoretical premise in order to conceptually analyze the hypothesis.

—Analyze the outcome of possible narratives and its potential suspending disbelief.

Projects

—*Geocinema* (2018), a collaboration between Asia Bazdyrieva and Solveig Sues

— *Divina Lingua* (2021), a collaboration between the Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Center for Medieval Studies of the University of Montreal, McGill University and Concordia University

— *Planet City* (2021), Liam Young

05. BENCHMARKING

GEOCINEMA

'Geocinema' considers planetary-scale sensory networks—cell phones, surveillance cameras, satellites, geosensors—as a vastly distributed cinematic apparatus: a camera. Sensing fragments of the earth their operations generate terabytes of raw data, infrastructural architectures, obscured labour, dissonant weather, governmental policies, scientific management, environments and situations each participating in the changing of the earth's fabric through their own sets of scales and temporalities. Here, the representation of earth is the sum of a decentralized editing process with its image anything but whole.

The project unfolds as a series of episodic research into geocinema through experiments in moving image, narration and collective thinking. Each probes into ways of understanding and sensing the earth while being on the ground, enmeshed within vastly distributed processes of image and meaning making.

The project traces the physical infrastructures and abstracted processes which make up the supply chains of perception, attentive to the situated histories of sensing techniques which frame movements of the cosmos, atmospheres, oceans, and surveil flows of bodies and their congregations, in order to unstitch and restitch given narratives about earths.



Registering Solar
Ongoing

The sun's photons translate into data by an ecology of recording devices. Registering Solar moves from the scale of photons to ourselves as prosthesis for how the earth senses itself. Time and place specific, here we look at how geocinema is informed not necessarily by events that trigger its attention but rather through the very slow processes of how environments are sensed.



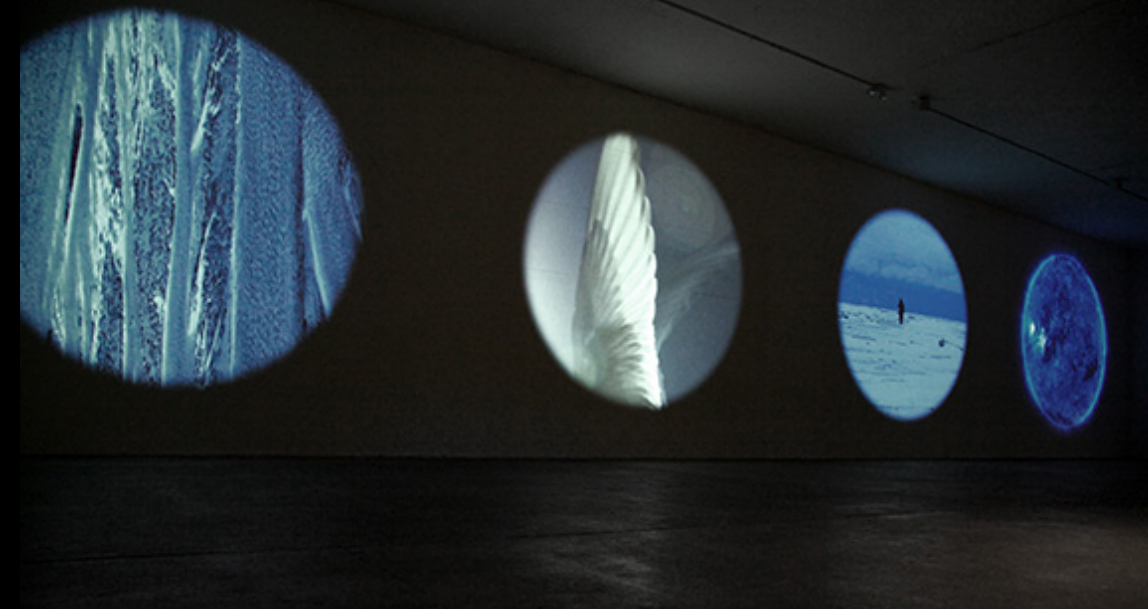
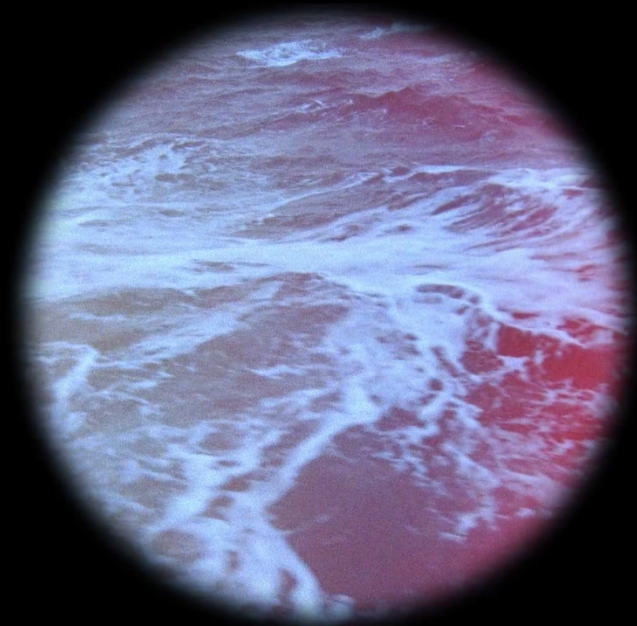
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Available at <https://geocinema.network/>

05. BENCHMARKING

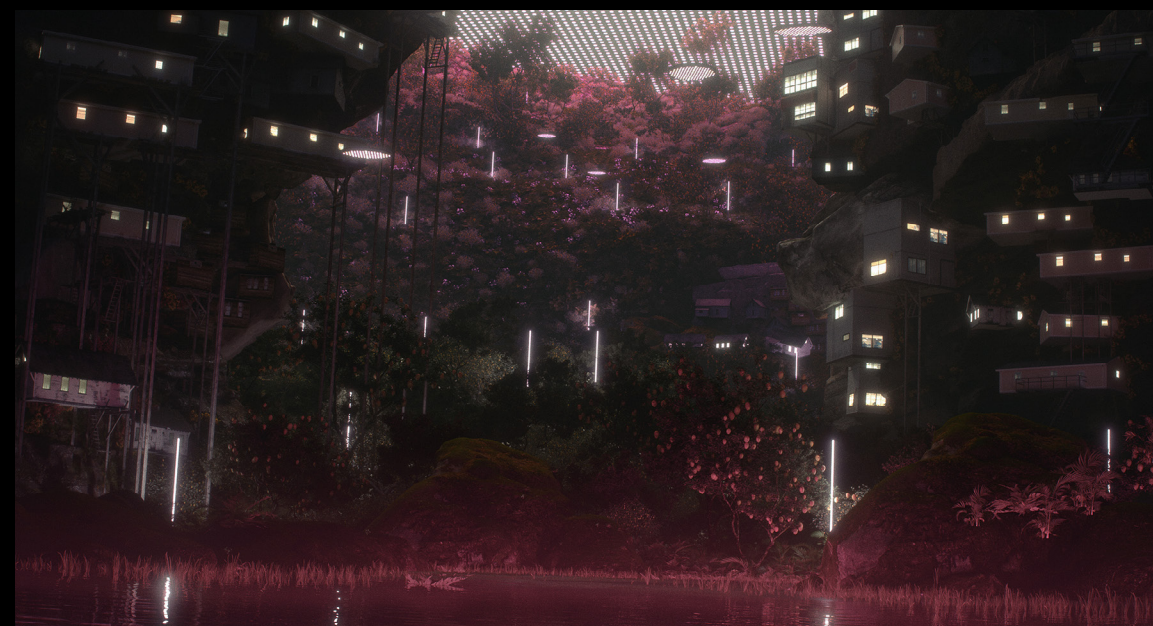


***CircumSolar, Migration 1* (2014), Rebeca Mendez**

CircumSolar, Migration 1 is a single-channel video focused on the migration of the arctic tern, a small sea bird that has the longest migration of all living beings on earth, flying from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again each year. As such, it experiences two polar summers of 24-hour daylight each year, which makes it the one creature in the world that lives the most daylight. With the tern as its protagonist, *CircumSolar, Migration 1* looks to explore larger themes critical to our time, such as the unstoppable force of migration; the ecological concern of climate change and other man-made detritus; the geopolitics of the changing landscapes of coastal lands and the Arctic and Antarctic regions; and at the limit of what is known, the role of the archetypal explorer, who goes beyond to bring back the boon to benefit all.

Available at <https://gallery.dma.ucla.edu/filter/faculty/rebecamendezstudio.com/CircumSolar-Migration-1>

05. BENCHMARKING



Planet City (2021), Liam Young

Humans dominate the planet. Following centuries of colonization, globalization and never-ending economic extraction and expansionism we have remade the world from the scale of the cell to the tectonic plate. But what if we radically reversed this planetary sprawl? What if we reached a global consensus to retreat from our vast network of cities and entangled supply chains into one hyper-dense metropolis housing the entire population of the earth? *Planet City* explores the productive potential of extreme densification. Although wildly provocative, *Planet City* eschews the techno-utopian fantasy of designing a new world order. This is not a neo-colonial masterplan to be imposed from a singular seat of power. It is a work of critical architecture – a speculative fiction grounded in statistical analysis, research and traditional knowledge. This is a fiction shaped like a city. Simultaneously an extraordinary image of tomorrow and an urgent examination of the environmental questions facing us today.

Available at <https://liamyong.org/PROJECTS/PLANET-CITY>

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