

SPECULATING FROM THE THICK PRESENT:

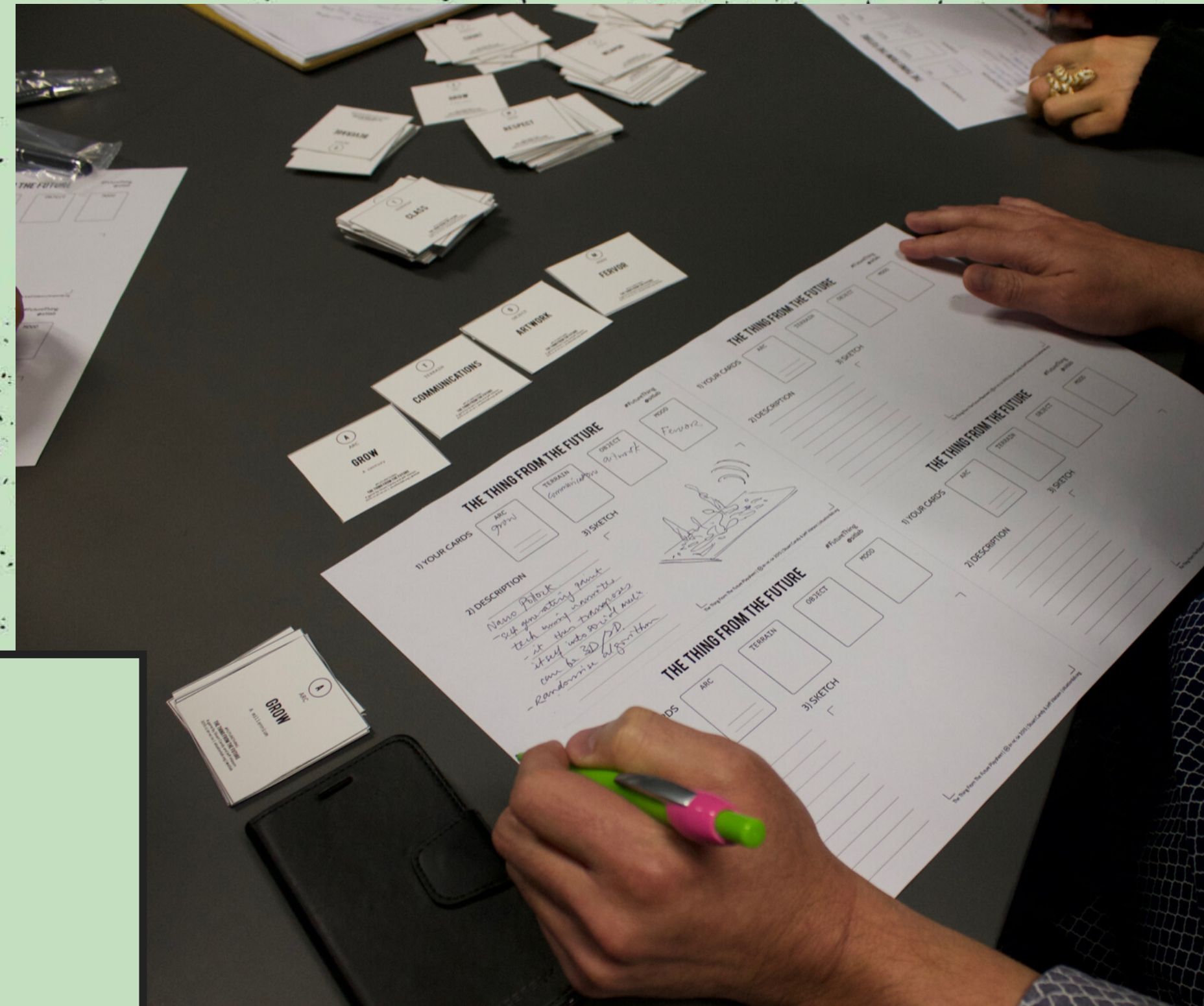
participatory methods for designing feminist futures

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BEGINNING

As memories of the future, technoutopias and dystopian catastrophe scenarios influence, and constrain, the collection imagination.



ISSUES

“Couples depicted in these near-future scenarios seem to be consistently heterosexual; there is no poverty, there are no noticeable power structures that divide the wealthy and the poor, or the colonialist and the colonised; gender seems to be an immutable, black-and-white truth, clearly defined between men and women, with virtually no space for trans and queer identities (let alone queer and trans voices speaking for themselves).”

Luiza Prado de o. Martins and Pedro j.s. Vieira de Oliveira, (2015)

Dunne and Raby, 2004



CIID Research, 2020



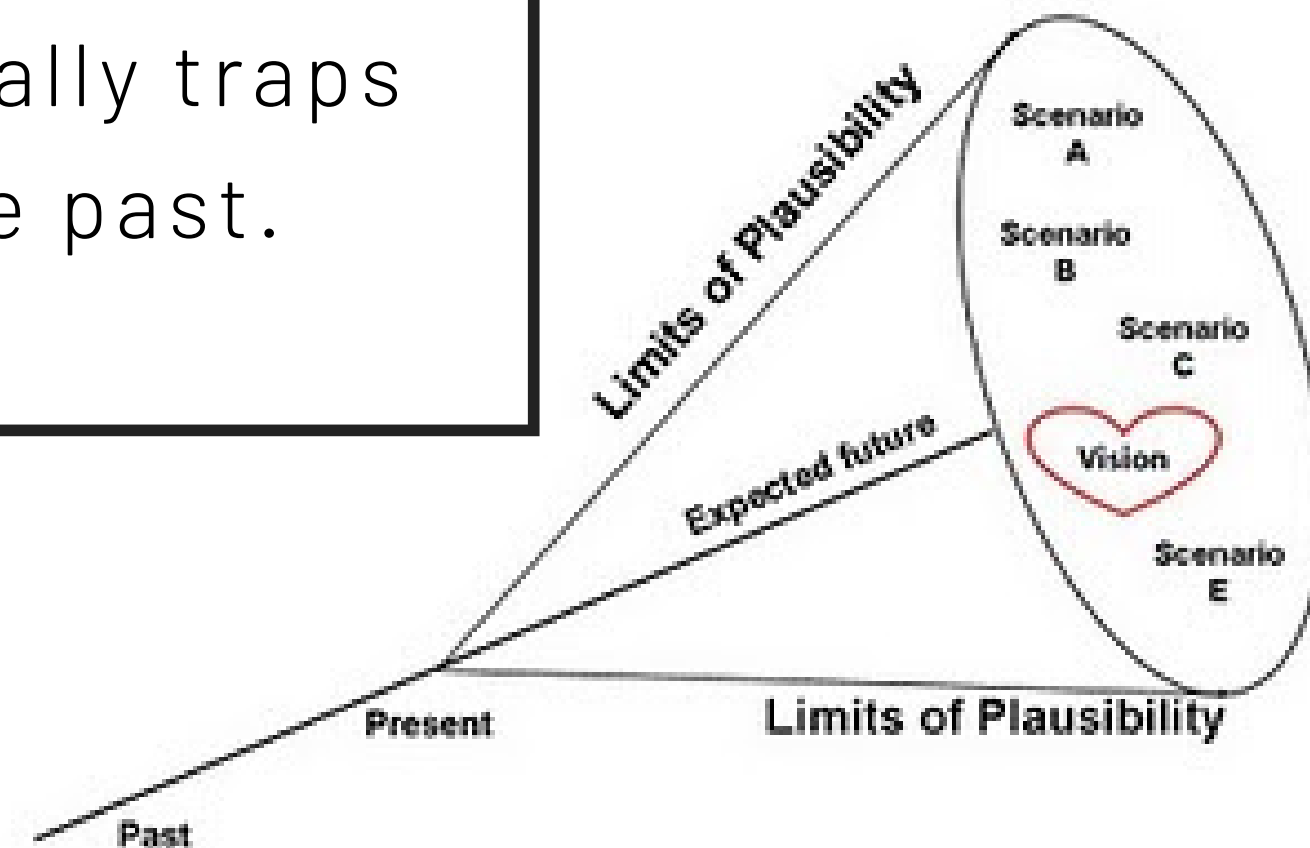
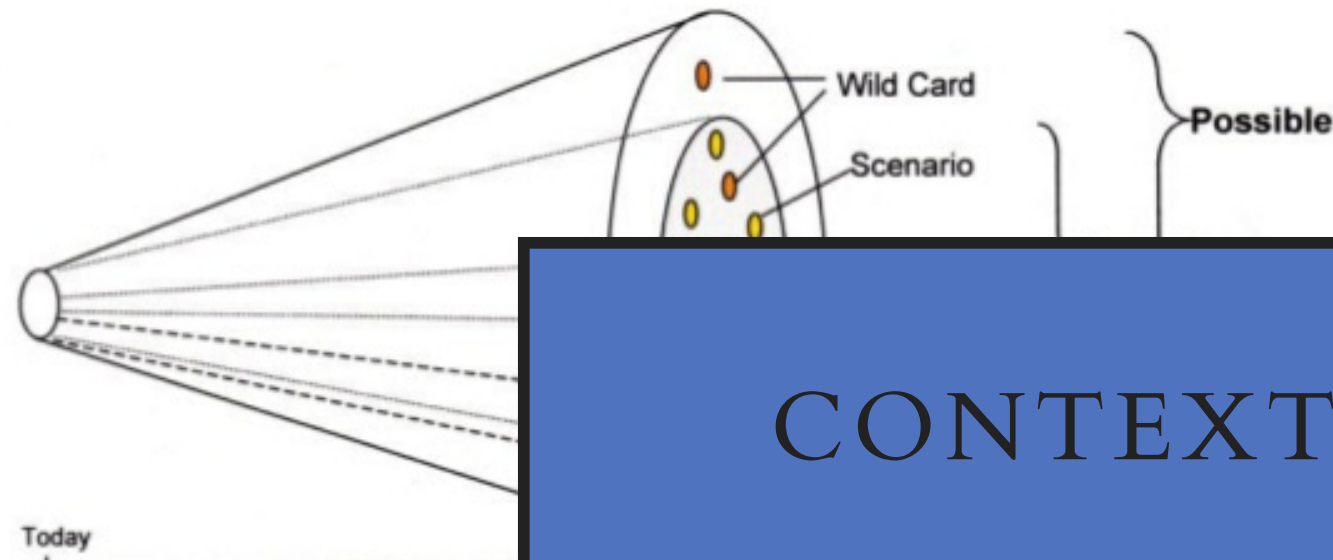
ISSUES

PASTS

Linear time runs the risk of 'forgetfulness', and through repetition it simultaneously and paradoxically traps us in the past.

CONTEXTS

Dominant imaginaries are lacking in the complexities, contradictions and the banality of everyday life.



Linear time is often used to
allude to progress i.e.
feminism is not
needed because we have
reached a state of gender
equality.

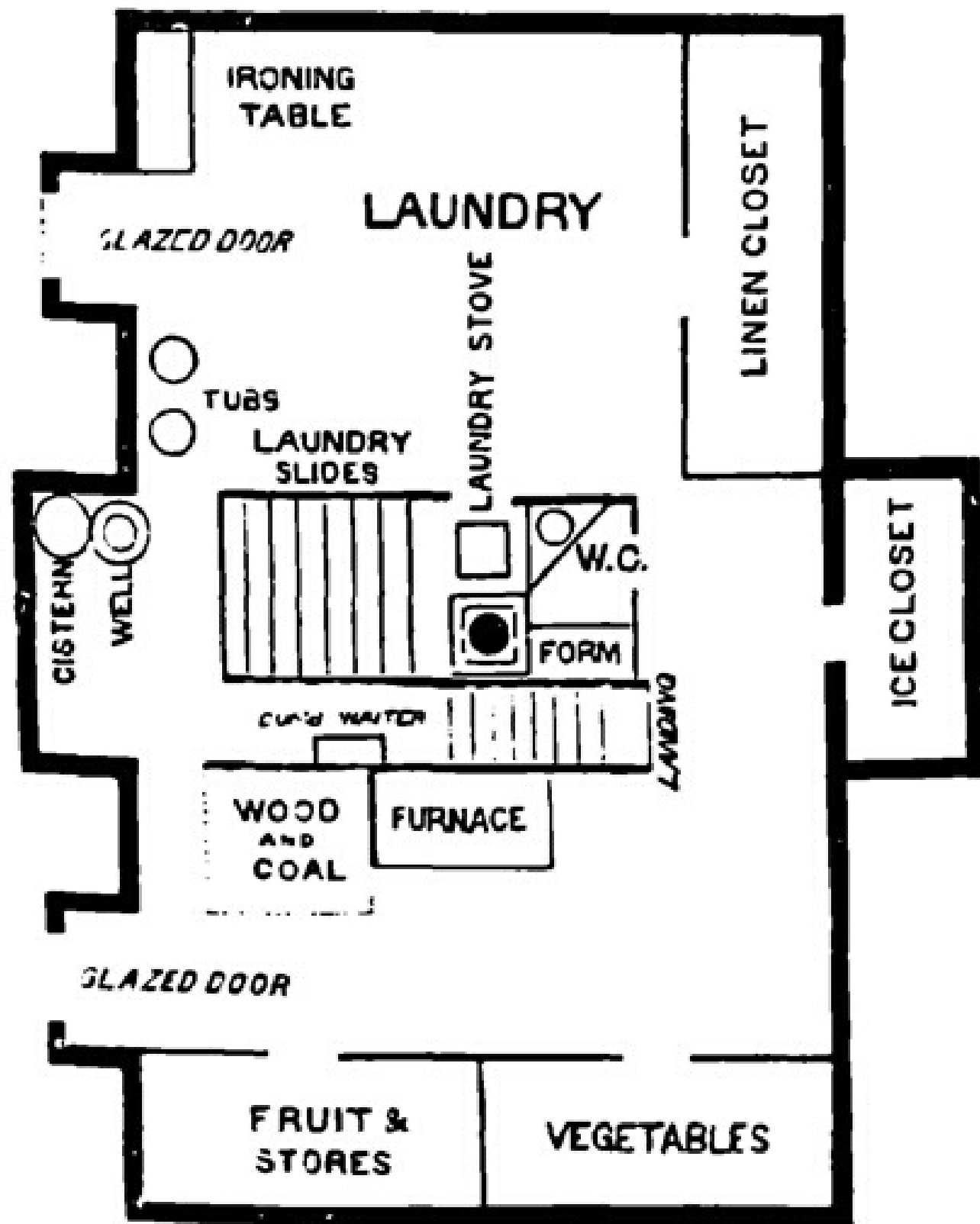
ISSUES

Linear time has perpetuated
a history where womxn and
non-binary people's
experiences are excluded.



ISSUES

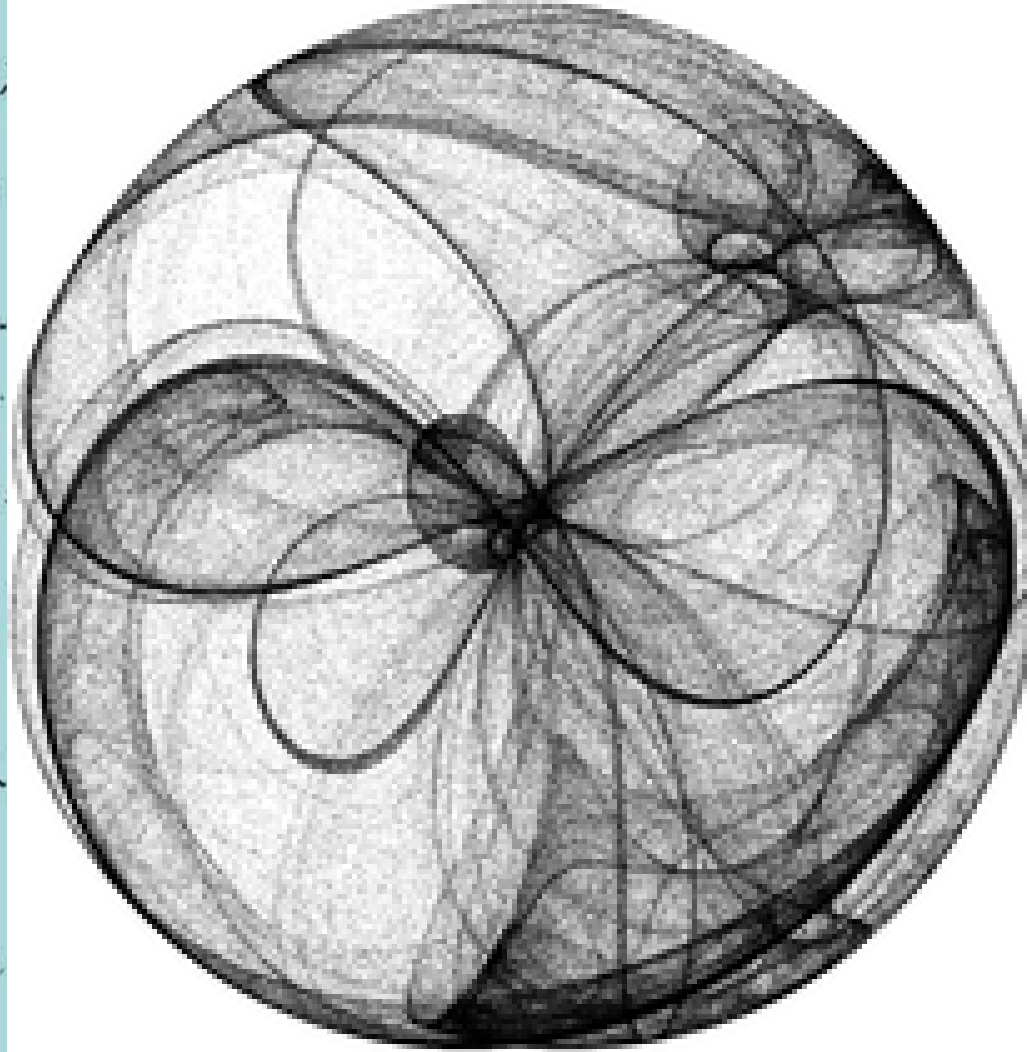
A linear history of feminism itself problematically puts arguments neatly in 'waves' with caricatures of each wave's arguments negating their richness.



CONCEPT: THE THICK PRESENT

At each point in time there is an entire world in a very specific configuration, a thick now simultaneously made up of pasts and futures.

Barad, 2016, Troubling Time/s,
Undoing the Future



The thick present works to move away from the idea of Edenic pasts and apocalyptic or salvific futures. It calls us to be truly present.

Haraway, 2016, Staying with the
Trouble

CONCEPT:THE THICK PRESENT

If people are using memories of popular visions of the future as a database, could we start by using memories of everyday life?

If all times are intertwined in the thick present, would exploring the almost forgotten, past failures, or what might have been, generate alternative futures?

ACTIVATION: GENDER JOURNALS

Tell a story about when you have felt
the weight of your gender.

Tell a story about when you have felt
free from, or comfortable in, your
gender.



iBaby™

iBaby™ Fetal Age: 24 Days 16:30 Hours

Sex / Gender ID Female / 99.5% Woman	1 Day
Sexual Orientation 90% Heterosexual / 75% Libido	15 Days
Skin / Hair Skin #4.4 / Hair #9.2 / Straight	7 Days
Ethnicity Mix Unlock with one easy payment	4 Days
Ethnicity Mix Unlock with one easy payment	4 Days





The Invisible Worker



Jean Derome, 2019, The Invisible Worker



- Less labor
- A better nutrition
- An healthier interior

Your a
dinner lif
look like

3 hr Feminist Futures Workshop

- Participants came with an early memory of an object or space in their home.
- Discussion of feminist things and distillation of their importance.



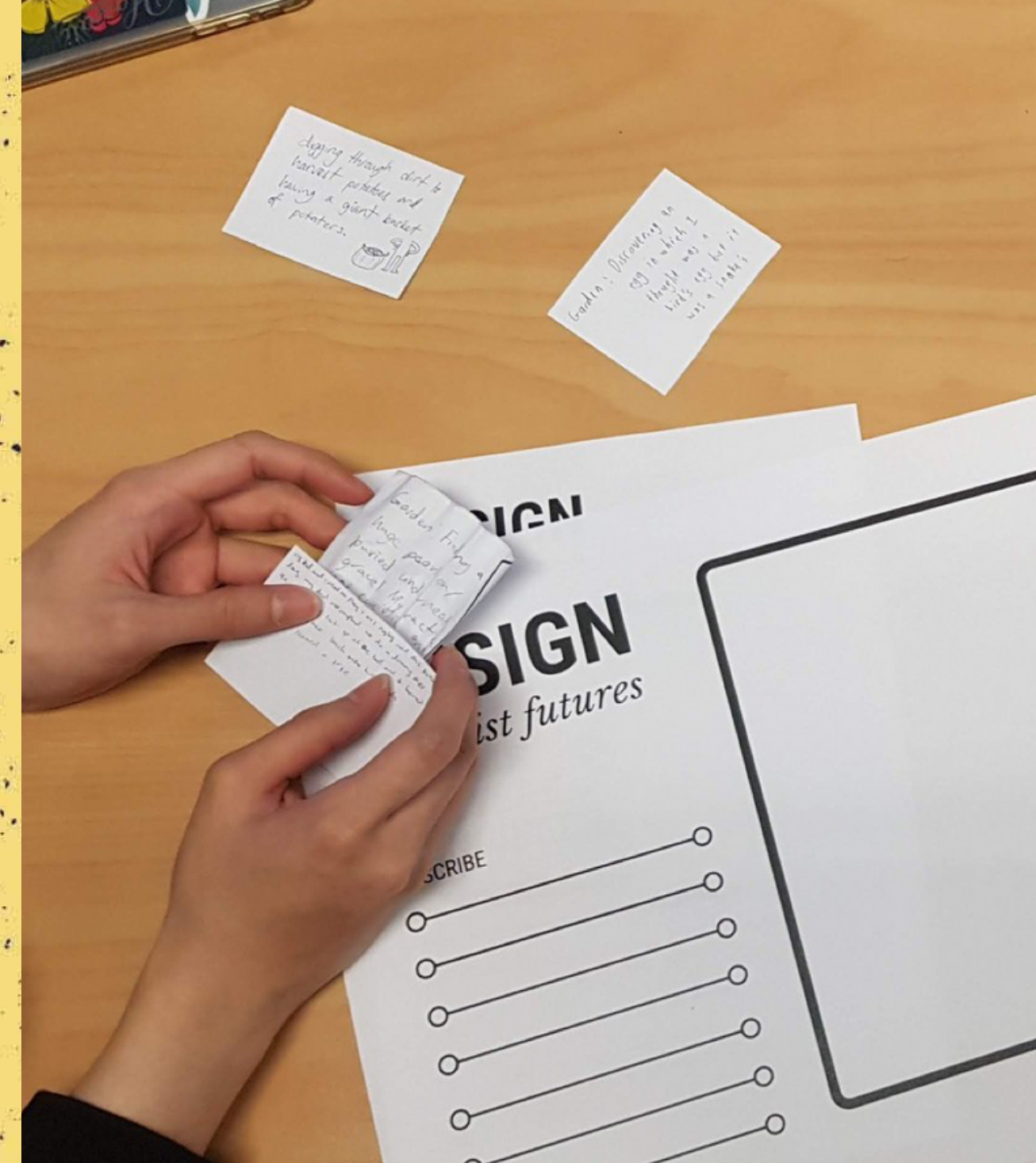
ACTIVATION: FEMINIST OBJECTS

ACTIVATION: FEMINIST OBJECTS

We created cards using feminist things and personal memories and used these as inspiration for objects that could exist in 2040.

A bathroom with integrated hormone supply and measurement.

A festival for breaking down gendered objects and building new things.



By using non-linear approaches, such as the thick present,
alternative futures start to emerge.

There is radical potential in everyday experience and
memory.