

# Speculative Games

from the Chicago Futures Salon

**Chicago Futures Salon** is a creative intellectual and futurist collective featuring senior corporate leaders and academics in Chicago. Our goal is to establish a **new era of creative collaboration** and a unique identity for the futurist community in Chicago as our city becomes the next great global innovation hub.

**CHICAGO  
FUTURES  
SAL⚡N**



**Michael Hyzy (VP, Strategy & Innovation – CGI):** Mike leads the product innovation and strategy practice at CGI and advises Fortune 500 executives on digital transformation. He is a published author and keynote speaker on strategic foresight and innovation. Mike has 15+ years of experience in UX design, product development, and futurist trend-spotting.



**Michael Marshall (Co-Founder Chicago Futures Salon):** Michael leads user experience research at United Airlines, bringing a futurist lens to product innovation and customer experience strategy. Michael has spent the past 10 years in innovation spaces and creative incubators internationally that bridge community-based social art and emerging technology.

The Salon utilizes creative methods developed by classic art and creative action communities like the surrealists and situationists. These collectives used creative juxtaposition, culture jamming, and other methods to disrupt their own mindsets and unlock **new forms of thought and creativity.**

Today we will explore these creative methods - as games.

# En'lan 2000

The past is full of whimsical, exciting, hopeful, and heartbreaking visions of a future world. Understanding the ways the people of the past interpreted their own eras to anticipate the future is valuable. Through exploring past "worlds of tomorrow", we gain insights into our own present day values and biases. We learn how our own imaginations are a product of the ideas, institutions, and feelings of our own moment in time.

The images in front of you are part of a larger collection of 19th century Victorian predictions for the 21st century. Read the predictions attached to each image as well as the cultural note framing the Victorian realities that inspired this future vision.

Then using the same theme as your card, make a prediction for 2100. Explain the present day factors that led you to make that prediction.

# Exquisite Futures

Exquisite Corpse is a classic 1930's french surrealist collaborative game. Players would typically begin by writing a word, a sentence, or drawing a portion of a design on a sheet of paper. They would then fold the paper to obscure their contribution, and pass it to the next player to continue the sketch or story without any context. Surrealists used this method as a means to identify hidden and new connections between seemingly different images and ideas.

Chicago Futures Salon designed our own futurist version of this game called "exquisite futures." To play, follow the prompts on the "exquisite futures" worksheets to create future forecasts with other players. Then, reflect openly on whether or not you have identified new ideas, insights, or connections.

# How Did it Happen?

Futurists typically analyze trends to identify plausible futures, but there are meaningful insights that can be identified in exploring seemingly wild, implausible scenarios.

Often times, wild scenarios require lateral thinking that helps to reveal our own cultural constraints, and open one up to embracing a more dynamic, fluid interpretation of the present - in which any concept or institution feels subject to change.

Look at the card prompts to see wild forecasts of 2050. Tell a story of the social, political, economic, or environmental events beginning from the present that may have led to this scenario. How did it happen?

# Thank You

**CHICAGO  
FUTURES  
SAL⚡N**