

Your Future **me** Design Thinking Problem Brief

Department:
School of Digital Arts

Problem Brief:

“The future is already here. It’s just not evenly distributed yet”
— William Gibson

Opening question: *How might we create opportunities make technologies and access to technology inclusive to excluded groups, to create better fairer societies?*

Context:

This project sits within the content of the Digital Divide (in the [UK](#) and [globally](#)). Key concepts surround the ideas of Digital Natives and Digital Migrants (Prensky 2001 ([link](#))) – defined as those that have grown up with the internet vs those who have joined the digital world midway through life – this is a powerful concept because it suggests the value of younger persons teaching, supporting and inspiring older people – this isn’t just a case of age but location, economic, cultural access – It leads us to consider other ways that those who can ‘swim’ in the digital world can support those who cannot.

There primary barriers here surround access and the rate of change – *‘things will never move this slowly again’*

Remember, those that control the message control the power – we are a culture of storytellers creatives and pioneers – how do we change / own / reframe the conversation and create new ones?

Starting points/ prompts:

- Offer a voice to excluded groups (this could consider age, economic status and location)
- Improve Economic opportunity
- Access to health, wealth and learning for all.
- Post device era – Future of computing inclusive / barrier free UX / ubicomp / pervasive systems.
- How might we respond to the reality of digital divides – digital privilege and poverty?
- Overcoming brain drain, latent talent and increase digital independence.
- How do we distribute digital infrastructure to create access?
- How might we rethink rapid urbanisation and the issue digital poverty in rural areas?
- Sustainability – carbon neutral futures – computers are energy dependant, hungry and hot – How might we benefit from technology whilst also being carbon neutral?
- Consider interesting pairings of humans and non-humans – how will automation damage or support inclusion?