# A New Ecology

## Thought Experiment 2: World 2

**DRIVERS:**

Climate Change
Data-Driven Decision Making
Compulsory Renewability
Compassion And Global Justice

### IN THIS WORLD...

**The intensified effects of climate change result in mass movements of populations and increasing food and water insecurities, prompting global demand for action from governments, industry and society. Global crisis has shifted collective mindsets, with a strong emphasis across all areas of human activity on responsible and sustainable action. The goal of economic growth disappears as a key driver with all activity instead measured according to an 'eco bottom line' making sustainability and renewability the new indicators of human advancement.**

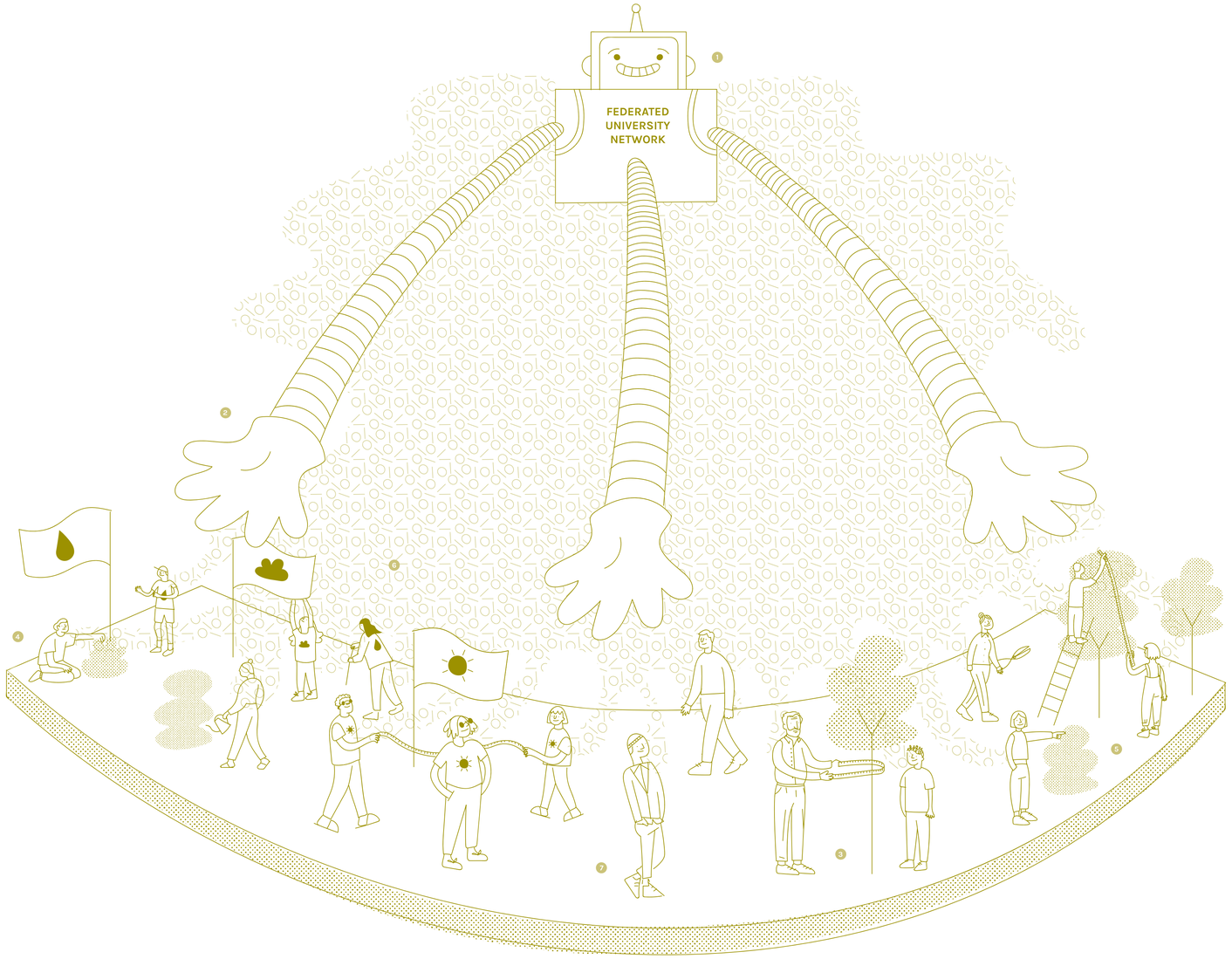
**Data analytics for compassion are funded globally to better understand and manage issues around environmental impact, equity and sustainability. Datafication and data-driven decision making become core to progressive reform, while citizenship practices are increasingly enabled through the data-driven activities of governance and social care. National borders and sovereignty become less important than global justice and equity.**

**Education and research become focused almost entirely on addressing global crises, with teaching in universities increasingly designed around action and practical solutions to 'real world' problems. Federations of global, elite universities drive research agendas each with tightly-defined niche areas of expertise, while teaching is conducted by networks of local universities designed to minimise the need for travel. Advanced technologies for telepresence lessen the need for international mobility.**

### THIS FUTURE, THIS UNIVERSITY

Sustainable
Algorithmically-determined
Global
Practice-oriented

Compassionate
Unbiased
Sharing
Impact-obsessed




### THIS FUTURE EXPANDED...

#### 1. THE UN-BIASED MACHINE

- Trust in the capacity of humans to make good decisions is reduced as they are increasingly seen as unreliable and open to corruption: automation and data-driven decision making are seen as more objective and unbiased.
- All research and teaching becomes highly dependent on the new field of 'compassion analytics'.
- Humans feel liberated, not oppressed, by advances in machine intelligence.

#### 2. BESPOKE LEARNING AT SCALE

- Bespoke learning experiences are curated by intelligent agents, combating the risk of siloed thinking by matching people who will challenge each other, and partnering students with appropriate supervisors and programmes.
- At-scale teaching across the globe is enabled by an international teaching commons working in partnership with compassionate machine intelligences designed according to internationally-agreed ethical standards.

#### 3. RESEARCH THROUGH ACTION

- Almost all research and education is directed towards solving global crises, with adverse effects on disciplines where knowledge is not readily 'applied'.
- Education has become to a large extent practice-based with all students actively involved in researching and designing solutions to global challenges.
- Time-intensive academic traditions such as publishing and peer review decline as research impact converges with openly-accessible outputs in multiple forms, algorithmically ranked for quality.

#### 4. GUILDS

- Communities of research and teaching are formed across federated university networks, defined by common missions.

#### 5. EXPERIENCE OVER ACCREDITATION

- Students are not routinely assessed: achievement and credit frameworks are tied to practical impact evaluated via impact metrics and portfolios informally assessed by students' personal academic networks.

#### 6. GLOBAL AND OPEN

- All academic resources, data and code is open, accessible and shared. Proprietary knowledge is not trusted: globally, the cultural imperative is toward open.
- With 'sharing' the new norm, diverse and constantly evolving educational material is available, presenting challenges to quality standards and stable disciplinary knowledge.

#### 7. A NEW DIVERSITY

- Local, economic diversity is embraced as international mobility for students and staff is tightly regulated in the interest of sustainability.

### OUR VALUES IN THIS WORLD...

#### VALUE 1, EXPERIENCE OVER ASSESSMENT

- Student experiences are directed toward practical outcomes: the impact of student work on a set of defined challenges becomes the core measure of its value.
- Unbiased algorithms continually measure competencies in the background, enabling educational provision to focus on building a rich and varied student experience.

#### VALUE 2, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- International collaboration across an academic commons ensures diversity of content and inclusive definitions of academic knowledge.
- Diversity is focused on local inclusion and economic diversity as well as international reach.

#### VALUE 3, RELATIONSHIPS OVER INSTRUCTION

- Dialogue across borders is structured into most education provision.
- Academic mentorship becomes vital to help students navigate and work with a vast and volatile global knowledge network.

#### VALUE 4, PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPARENCY

- Students work with global challenge-based networks to define and build their own personal curriculum and mission: most higher education is highly participative.
- Transparency of decision-making is to a large extent assured by global ethical standards for machine intelligences.