

Oracle for Consentful Publishing Infrastructures

How to use the Oracle for Consentful Publishing Infrastructures

Welcome!

This oracle is a hands-on card deck designed to help us collectively envision and share ideas for what consentful publishing infrastructures might be... or might not.

The game is part of Anaïs Berck's research exploring the concept of an algoliterary publishing house in the Medialab Prado, Madrid. As Anaïs Berck represents a collective of humans, trees and algorithms, the algoliterary publishing house will function within this collective. This means that we will have to rethink all aspects of publishing in collaboration with all entities involved. This raises a series of questions, like: How can questions around ethics and ecology be thought alongside print or online publishing? What does consent mean when working with trees, algorithms and more than humans?

The wisdom of the oracle is questionable, sometimes embedded with values we wish to pursue, sometimes not. We offer this as an unstable tool to consider what values are often already embedded in technological infrastructures and which ones are not. What kind of inventing, play, agencies and collaborations will be necessary to remake the world of publishing with care for more-than-humans included?

Goal

The purpose of the Oracle for Consentful Publishing Infrastructures is to create ideas for publishing infrastructures that are imbued with values that will remake the world so that many worlds can fit.

Take anywhere between 10 / 20 minutes for each step depending on how long you have for the activity.

1. Consult the Oracle

- Each group/person takes:

1 or 2 Values Cards

1 Object Card

1 Situation Card

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1 Places Card

as we are online, I can either roll a dice for you, or you can say what numbers you like

2. Read your cards

Value card(s): Each Value card represents a value from the texts we encountered this week. Take a moment to reflect individually and/or discuss in your group, what this value means to you. Do you wish to take this value into your work or leave it behind?

If you decide to leave it behind, keep working with this value and write down three steps in each direction away from this value, what is the most intense version of this value, what is the furthest value from this one?

For example if you had 'optimisation' - perhaps the steps towards more intensity of this value would be: extraction, removal of bodies, automation - and the steps away from optimisation might be - slowing down, working with problems, doing very little. Consider what this spectrum of values around 'optimisation' is and keep brainstorming until you have an intensity of this value that works for you. Once you have finalised this, continue on.

Object card: Each Object card represents an object referenced in our text from this week.

_Places card: the place cards all say the same thing. "Be in your own body. Be in the place you inhabit." Some speculative design exercises encourage you to imagine that you are another kind of person, but trans*feminism encourages us to recognize the importance of situated and embodied knowledge. Instead of pretending that you are someone else and you know what they need, take a moment to reflect on who you are. What body are you in? Where do you live? What privileges and burdens do your body and place provide?

_Situation card: Situations cards provide you with a situation that you need to deal with. This is a way to focus your energy on an apparatus that you might want to transform.

3. Create your Publishing Infrastructure!

Your goal is to envision a consentful publishing infrastructure that:

_is embodied in your Object;

_is guided by your Values;

_is developed by and for your People, in your Place;

_and will help you work with the situation presented to you by the oracle.

Remember, it's the future, so objects are not limited by today's capabilities... everything's possible!

Some things we are working with that we invite you to think with are: algorithms, trees, more-than-humans, books, publishing, humans.

This speculative exercise should have a title, a diagram or drawing of your publishing infrastructure, and a brief description of how it works and what it creates. You can make use of the template that comes with the cards.

4. Share your ideas

In person: Share your ideas back with the others!

Share your ideas about how this process did or did not work for you with us!

As this is still in progress and we are accumulating ideas/processes & methods.

Very happy to hear your thoughts on this work via publishing@anaisberck.be