

# The Netherlands Imagines: creative practice for collective imagination

## Exploring artistic repertoires for envisioning (spatial) futures

Department: Sustainable Development

Research group: Urban Futures Studio

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### Project description

The Netherlands faces increasing challenges leading to societal turmoil: water safety, housing, rural liveability. Technical knowledge exists, but shared visions for the future are lacking. This project investigates how collective imagination can transform decision-making processes around spatial challenges through Techniques of Futuring (ToFs).

Central question: Through which artistic repertoires can collective imagination be mobilized? While many ToFs employ technical methods (scenarios, models, workshops), artistic repertoires offer distinct capacities for making futures experienceable through affect, embodiment, and enactment. Yet we know little about how different artistic repertoires function as ToFs and what their specific affordances are. Thus, the student assistant will support Maarten Hajer, Jesse Hoffman, and Abe Hendriks in exploring: What do artistic repertoires enable? What types of futures become possible? What affective registers are activated? How does collective meaning-making unfold?

As such, we are looking for a student assistant that will:

- document, reflect on and develop (in this order) creative practices around spatial futures in the Netherlands: written forms (letters to/from the future, speculative fiction, poetry), visual practices (collage, drawing, photography, mapping), performative experiments (theatre, ritual, embodied exercises), or sound/music-based approaches (soundscapes, collective composition).
- curate outcomes into accessible format(s): potentially a zine, installation, performance, or – less accessible – an exhibition.
- contribute to research documentation on the comparative affordances of different artistic practices for futuring.

This project bridges research and creative practice, generating both experiential and analytical insights: understanding how different artistic repertoires shape collective imagination

### Job requirements

We seek someone creative and organized who can coordinate from concept to publication:

- Strong communication and outreach abilities
- Editorial skills: reviewing, selecting, and editing creative submissions
- Project management: coordinating timelines, submissions, design, and production
- Interest in creative/artistic approaches to sustainability and spatial challenges
- Excellent written Dutch and English