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REIMAGINING DECOLONIZED FUTURES IN SPACE THROUGH SPECULATIVE DESIGN

Abstract

This paper proposes a methodology for utilizing speculative design as a tool for challenging Western-centric narratives and envisioning decolonized futures. Drawing on critical theories of decolonization and postcolonial studies, the methodology involves several key steps. Firstly, it begins with the creation of counterfactual scenarios that diverge from dominant narratives of progress and development. Through imaginative exploration, designers envision worlds where historical injustices were not perpetuated or where alternative forms of knowledge and culture flourished.

Integration of intersectional perspectives, which involves centering marginalized voices and experiences are adapted in the speculative design process. By considering the ways in which various forms of oppression intersect and compound each other, designers ensure that their speculative futures are inclusive and representative of diverse human experiences.

Furthermore, the research emphasizes critical reflection and cultural critique, encouraging designers to unpack the underlying assumptions and ideologies embedded within dominant narratives. By exposing the ways in which Western-centric discourses reinforce power differentials and erase alternative perspectives, it challenges hegemonic narratives and promote more equitable and just futures.

A key aspect of the methodology is the envisioning of decolonized technologies and futures that prioritize sustainability, equity, and autonomy. By imagining technologies that are developed ethically and sustainably, the design framework challenge the colonial legacies of technology and offer a vision of the future that is rooted in solidarity and cooperation.

The research proposes tools like like worldbuilding and activism, where immersive narratives and environments can be created that inspire action towards social change and justice. By mobilizing collective imagination and empowering marginalized communities to envision and create the futures they desire, speculative design serves as a form of activism and advocacy for decolonization and liberation.