

Abstract

Futures with an 's'!

How we can strengthen our resilience with futures literacy

How much of an optimist are you when thinking about the future? Do you think you can influence your own future – or even that of others? And have you ever wondered how thinking about the future influences the present?

Futures literacy is a vital skill set for enhancing our resilience and ability to act in an increasingly complex and uncertain world. It enables us to anticipate possible future developments and to imagine desirable futures that we want to strive toward.

In an interactive keynote, futures scientist Katrina Günther from [Futures Probes](#) will playfully introduce the mindsets and methods of futures literacy. Through illustrative future scenarios, she will demonstrate how we can apply the concept of futures – with an 's'! – in the present to enhance both our futures literacy and resilience. Together, we'll envision and discuss various (im)possible futures, while strengthening our collective futures thinking abilities!

—

Katrina Günther

Futures Scientist, Strategic Designer & Illustrator

[Katrina Günther](#) is a co-founder of the futuring collective [Futures Probes](#), a freelance illustrator and a graphic recorder at [Thinking Visual](#) as well as a lecturer for futures studies, innovation mindsets, and visual thinking at *SRH University of Applied Sciences for Communication and Design*. At the intersection of these activities, she creates knowledge transfer between different parties through creative and participative processes, workshop facilitation, visual thinking and critical futures studies – thereby opening up new spaces for negotiation.

After studying communication design (B.A.), Katrina Günther completed a design thinking training programme at *Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI)*. Enthusiastic about creative innovation processes, she continued working as a designer and project manager at *HPI* and later as creative director at *Ellery Studio*. To gain a deeper insight into the development of change, she studied futures studies at *Freie Universität Berlin* (M.A.) until 2019 and has been working in this field ever since.