



*Issue 4/2016*

# GLOBAL SCANNING REVIEW

## **INCLUDED INSIDE**

This issue looks at Robot Cops in Dubai, Space Nations, Nigerian Politics, Twitterbots, Virtual Reality Justice, Typhoon Power, Capsule Collections, Urban Traffic, AI Innovation, Transient Technology, Smart Sewage Systems and much more...

## **GLOBAL SCANNING REVIEW**

The Global Scanning Review is the exclusive bimonthly members' review by the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies (CIFS). The ideas presented here are inspired by the horizon scanning observations made by the Global Scanning Network (GSN) at CIFS.

With our GSN, we collect, compare and evaluate a wide range of signals – including new and emerging trends, technologies, values, products, concepts, companies, services and ideas – in order to identify what's happening now and what could be emerging tomorrow. It is a process that seeks to identify the earliest indications of a potentially disruptive issue, but also tracks transformations of already established phenomena or trends.

Global scanning is an evidence-based method for understanding indicators of change and possible futures. It is the art of systematically scanning the external environment for evidence of emerging issues and a practice that seeks to inform decision-making, by creating a patterned awareness of both potential opportunities and challenges.

Using a competitive and comparative frame, global scanning provides members and clients a detailed review and analysis of some critical raw ingredients for inspiring innovative and future-oriented business opportunities. CIFS' global scanning also offers tailored solutions in order to generate relevant industry- and business-specific insights according to specific member or client interests.

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## **GLOBAL SCANNING NETWORK**

The GSN is a network comprised of CIFS consultants and associates, and a team of global ambassadors. The ambassadors are Master/PhD graduates and working professionals on a six month rotation, providing expert perspectives in the realms of science and technology, politics, culture, design, innovation, business management, finance, marketing and branding. The GSN represents a diverse, global group of individuals who contribute with unique observations, profitable ideas, and sharp insights into specific industry challenges.

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# FUTURE OF SOCIETY & GOVERNANCE

## ROBOCOPS

### Robot police on patrol in Dubai

By 2017, Dubai's police force will receive a major upgrade for public safety. Robotic cops, using artificial intelligence systems, will be able to patrol the streets of the city and keep watch over society. With prototypes unveiled at the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX), it is not far from now that we will see advanced forms of technology moving around in public. In collaboration with IBM's supercomputer Watson and Google, Dubai Police are working to produce voice commands through virtual assistant methodology, which will allow the police robots to approach and greet people from up to 10 or 20 meters away. As police units are looking for ways to develop technology for the future of fighting crime, more trends on AI prove that society has come far in building unique machinery capable of learning and understanding human behaviour and interaction, and also trusting in this AI. *Source Link*

## FACT OR FICTION ONLINE

### Google News' fact-checking algorithm

Google is making strides in attempting to help readers understand who is telling the truth and who is fabricating lies. For example, many politicians have their stories and dictated figures put into news stories online for people to see; with Google's advances, it is possible for people to see whether the stories or reports a journalist covered were true or false. With this technology, it is extremely easy to see how accurate someone's claims are when browsing the Web. The company's decision on this could also reflect an effort to fight plagiarism online. Any source or material that goes through the algorithm will be verified for its accuracy and statistical proof, allowing for measures of trustworthiness to be assessed and making other sources more credible for viewers or subscribers, allowing for transparency between the analysis and the reader. *Source Link*

## TWITTERBOTS

### 32.7 % of Tweets supporting Trump in the 2016 US election were bots

An Oxford University study indicates that 23% of the tweets that occurred in the three days following the September 26th 2016 presidential debate were generated by bots. In that same period it was discovered that about 32.7% of tweets supporting Trump were bots totaling to 576,178 tweets; while bots supporting Hillary generated about 22.3% of all the tweets supporting her campaign, totalling 136,639 tweets. This demonstrates the way political campaigns are utilizing social media to influence potential voters. Corporate entities, political groups, and other interest groups can utilize technology in ways to sway public opinion. This type of strategy subscribes to the idea that the social structures that currently exist within these communities are prone to mob/herd mentalities and the use of bots, might actually work to effectively sway public opinion if they flood the platform with enough messages. *Source Link*

## A NATION IN SPACE

### Applications now open: Asgardia in 2017

A group of scientists are seeking approval from the United Nations (UN) to launch a new program that involves the creation of a "pacifist nation-state" out in space known as 'Asgardia'. This will become the first known satellite to launch in late 2017. This project overall will encompass new space activities to promote development and growth of a fresh batch of civilians. At this time, a flag and symbol are being considered for Asgardia. With this project in mind, the world would see a new generation of individuals living outside of Earth in space, which is likely to create less obstacles for people who want to live within the realms of personal welfare and peace. Since the UN is required to submit full approval for the program, it is likely that criticism from governing bodies and agencies will contribute to policy issues, especially foreign policy and international security laws. Governance will be virtually impossible in outer space for this nation-state, since there is no control by any individual nation over who lives and does what on Asgardia. *Source Link*

## #NOTTOOYOUNGTORUN

A bill reducing the constitutional age requirement for elections in Nigeria has passed its first reading

A bill reducing the constitutional age requirement for elections in Nigeria has passed its first reading. The #nottooyoungtorun bill seeks to lower the age requirement for presidential by a decade and the other offices by five years (the age qualification for the office of the President from 40 years to 30 years; Governor 35 to 30). It also seeks to mainstream independence candidacy. Independent candidacy has never been practiced in Nigeria's electoral history. If the bill passes, on a grassroots scale this can make the difference between party propaganda and electoral honesty. This is important as Nigeria is one of Africa's biggest economies. Its politics are responsible for the limitations on its business environment. Giving younger candidates a chance to run and be elected into office could initiate a much-needed shift of perspectives towards more transparency and improved political literacy of the masses, when they see young people like themselves actively being policy makers. *Source Link*

## TRANSPORTING PEOPLE

Making transporting systems about people again

There is a new push for countries to develop safer infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists by organizations like the United Nations Environment Program. This endeavor to increase the emphasis on pedestrians and cyclists seems to target two specific future goals: the first being an increase in protection for individuals living in these countries. The second is to help meet the global goal of limiting the rise of the global temperature to less than 2° Celsius by having fewer vehicles emitting CO2. It is predicted that if nothing is changed from the current patterns in the development of our infrastructures, then about 13 million more people will die from road fatalities in the next 10 years. These changes can prevent those unnecessary deaths and curb the effects of the emissions from these vehicles. If countries and communities begin to implement transportation plans that prioritize pedestrians and cyclists this may encourage their use and create less of a need for vehicles as well. *Source Link*

## ROAD TO PEACE

The Nobel Peace Prize as an instrument on the road to peace

Colombia is, for the first time in 52 years, close to reaching peace yet a final deal seems to be still far away. After the Colombian government signed a peace agreement with Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), the same agreement got surprisingly rejected in a national referendum by a margin of only 0.4%. This result puts the peace process in uncertain condition, as the opposition calls for a change and FARC holds on to the signed agreement. Although, this seems a challenging situation, both parties have reconfirmed their willingness to leave the dialogue open and maintain the ceasefire effective since August 2016. Only a few days after the plebiscite, the country's president Juan Manuel Santos was awarded the Nobel peace prize in Norway. The jury accentuated Santos' effort in the peace process and stressed that the prize would be an extra motivation for all parties to continue working towards a historical agreement. *Source Link*

## VIRTUAL REALITY JUSTICE

Bringing criminals to justice using virtual reality

German prosecutors and police have recently created 3D technology that can aid in catching the remaining Nazi war criminals, who are to be taken into custody and put on trial. By recreating an Auschwitz environment through the technology's lenses, a team headed by Bavarian State Criminal Investigation Office (LKA) used digital imaging to visualize concentration camps. The visual models help to illustrate certain vantage points and narrows down to the smallest of details when determining who was in the camp, what perspective they held, and why they were there, not to mention more specific questions like, "does a suspect know that people were taken to gas chambers?" Law enforcement authorities in Germany are hoping this technology can be used to identify criminals in other dimensions beyond the scope of their current investigations. The success of the Auschwitz recreation could potentially lead to other solvable questions in other criminal case studies (of both historic and futuristic value). *Source Link*

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# FUTURE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMY

## VR AND AR MARKETS MAKE MONEY

The VR & AR markets will reach \$162 billion by 2020

Total revenue for VR and AR is projected to increase from \$5.2 billion in 2016 to over \$162 billion in 2020, according to the International Data Corporation. This represents a compound annual growth rate of 181.3% over the 2015-2020 forecast periods. Sales of VR/AR hardware will generate more than 50% of VR/AR revenues worldwide over the same period. Software is a smaller, but notable revenue source, growing more than 200% year-over-year in 2016. However, it will be quickly overtaken by services, mostly due to demand in the enterprise segment. Revenues for VR systems are forecast to be greater than AR related revenues in 2016 and 2017, primarily due to consumer uptake of games and paid content. After 2017, AR revenues will hit critical mass in healthcare, product design and management related uses. From a regional perspective, Asia-Pacific excluding Japan, the United States, and Western Europe will account for around 75% of worldwide VR/AR revenues. In addition, The US is forecast to contribute a larger amount as time progresses. [Source Link](#)

## AMAZON CONVENIENCE STORE

Amazon expands its grocery business with new convenience stores

Would you buy milk, meat and vegetables from the internet? Amazon is pushing deeper into the offline grocery business: The world leading online retailer plans to build small convenience stores as well as to offer curbside pickup for online orders. "The new stores are designed to capture the large share of people who prefer to pick out their products, or bring home their groceries on the way from work", as the Wall Street Journal stated earlier this week. It is superfluous to say that the grocery market is huge: Groceries account for approx a fifth of all the money spent by consumers. Although the online grocery market is still at the very beginning, Morgan Stanley Research estimates that "the online grocery market could more than double to over \$42 billion this year". The battle for the market's leading position has caused a competitive race between various large retailers like Wal Mart and Kroger in recent years. [Source Link](#)

## URBAN TRAFFIC

Uber's "Elevate" – an urban air transport system on-demand

Uber has published a whitepaper on the possibility to push small electric aircrafts into our urban transport system. The idea is a network of the so-called VTOLs (vertical take-off and landing aircrafts) that are able to land and take off vertically which should serve as an on-demand service and improve problems of today's transport systems, focusing especially on commuters in the first term. The implementation of an on-demand urban air traffic system would certainly initiate a new era of urban city planning, overcoming some of the expected problems that urbanization will trigger, with 70-80% of the world's population living in cities by 2040-2050. Following increased urbanisation cities will have even more pressure on transport systems. Moving even a bit of the urban traffic up in the air could release the pressure on the city roads and underground transport systems. [Source Link](#)

## TYPHOON POWER

Generating energy from a typhoon

The company Challenergy, founded by the Japanese engineer Atshushi Shimizu, aims to use the devastating power of a typhoon to generate wind energy. The newly designed turbine is based on an old technological finding called the 'Magnus effect', which for example is the scientific explanation for a spinning kicked football flying in a curve. While conventional rotators have been used in stormy regions and regularly broke down due to the high velocities of the storm bows, Challenergy's turbine was specifically designed to hold stand in a typhoon reaching wind speeds greater than 150 miles per hour. The omnidirectional axis of the turbine is expected to eliminate the risk of spinning out of control. Although, the efficiency is about 10% lower than the one of conventional wind turbines, the maximum energy being captured from one typhoon could power Japan for 50 years. Challenergy plans to save the high amounts of energy in hydrogen which is generally expected to be one of the most promising energy carries in the future. [Source Link](#)



## MORAL ECONOMICS

Should morality be adopted as a policy requirement for business dealings?

In a newly published New York Times Opinion exploring War Ethics in the context of unending Wall Street corruption, Nathaniel B. Davis, major in the United States Army, picks up the old topic of moral economics. He points out that recently both Pope Francis and Senator Bernie Sanders have gained appraisal for urging the establishment of a moral economy. Davis makes an interesting point about classifying consumers as civilians and factoring their wellbeing into business decisions. He also goes beyond religious and social advocacy to involve morality as a policy to guide the one percent. More transparency could indeed be another way of reducing economic inequality, possibly a reduction in White Collar crime, as well as regulating morality in business potentially extending into other sectors of society. *Source Link*

## TRANSIENT TECHNOLOGY

Self-destructing lithium-ion batteries set to revolutionize “transient electronics” applications

Researchers at Iowa State University have, for the first time, demonstrated lithium-ion batteries that “self-destruct” within 30 minutes when exposed to water. The field of “transient electronics” has existed for some time, but until now batteries have not deteriorated at similar rates to other component parts. Their development opens up new product possibilities where devices may, effectively and virtually entirely, break down and “disappear” rapidly in a predictable and controlled manner. Electronic devices that “vanish” may have applications in several areas. There may be applications in the medical devices field where, for example, controlled release devices may be inserted into the brain. Given the delicate nature of brain surgery, any device that doesn’t require surgery to remove it might be of significant clinical benefit. Other potential applications may be possible in espionage and surveillance where the ability for devices to “disappear” might be advantageous. *Source Link*

## AI INNOVATION

AI-powered tools bring deep learning to a wider audience of businesses and developers

Clarifai, a New York deep-learning start up just launched two new tools: Custom Training and Visual Search- to help businesses and developers integrate artificial intelligence and machine learning into their apps in an easy and accessible way. Custom Training is a tool that puts the training of AI models in the hands of businesses and developers. That way, they can personalize their own visual recognition models. Usually, training an AI model requires a lot of resources – e.g. a team of data scientists, special infrastructure, a lot of code, thousands of data examples per concept, weeks of training, high costs – which makes the adoption of AI and deep learning harder for small-medium businesses. With Clarifai’s new tools, a wider audience of developers and businesses will be able to access the same technology that gives tech giants their technological edge at a fraction of a cost. Custom Training and Visual Learning can help democratize the use of AI and deep learning, and unlock the innovation capabilities of even more retailers and service providers. *Source Link*

## ALGAE EPIDEMICS

Turning an environmental threat into a business reducing our dependency on crude oil

In theory, algae could (and already partly does) replace crude oil as the main resource for products like plastics or fuels, used for aviation, marine, and road transport. In addition, algae contain the OMEGA-3 fatty acid DHA (docosahexaenoic acid) which is one of the most essential structural parts of our brain, skin, sperm, etc., hence used as a supplement in food and pharmaceutical products. According to Algaeworld, this market – including the cultivation of algae – will be worth about US\$1.1 billion by 2024. The usage of algae, being an environmental friendly and biodegradable, replacement for crude oil, will be a market changing movement in the longer run. The current trend of buying bio-products and ecological food could provide a good opportunity for market growth of algae products as well as lead to more investments in the harvesting of wild algae rather than cultivated ones. Today, the growth in demand for algae-based products still depends very much on the price of crude oil and other fossil fuels which might prevent the market lift off. *Source Link*

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# FUTURE OF CONSUMERS & RETAIL

## COMMERCIAL DRONES ARE REALITY

Rwanda first country with commercial drone delivery service

Rwanda is officially the first country to create a commercialized regular drone delivery service, which will be serving the Central African population in the initial phases. Drop-offs are conducted through fly zones where fixed-wing drones are able to release small packages attached to parachutes, which work without landing and can fly near delivery points before departing. The American start-up behind the technology, named Zipline, consists of engineers who formerly worked at companies such as Space X, Google, Lockheed Martin, and so fourth. The main objective of the drone service is to provide blood, plasma, and coagulants to support hospital operations across rural Western Rwanda, with expectations to cut down on waiting times for patients to receive important health treatment. Launched from catapults near the capital of Kigali, the aircraft flies below 500 feet to avoid airspace commonly used by passenger planes. Each delivery is paid for by the country's health department. *Source Link*

## FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE

Facebook introduces a marketplace feature to its mobile app

Marketplace is a new Facebook mobile app-feature. The feature shows by default the products available in the users' neighbourhood, and allows them to browse through various categories (e.g. households, electronics and apparel). It does not facilitate the payment and delivery, only the display of products and the interactions between buyer and seller. It is available in the US, UK, Australia and New Zealand to every user over the age of 18. Facebook added the Marketplace special feature to facilitate the retail interactions that were already happening through group chats or posts on users' walls. This shows how the company is looking for additional ways to remain appealing to its users, by adding features to facilitate particular types of interactions - with the possible advantage that Facebook could generate more trust between buyers and sellers (if they have connections in common). For Facebook, this feature might be a pilot stage for opening a B2C e-commerce channel. *Source Link*

## YAHOO DATA BREACH

Consumer data vulnerabilities

Yahoo, Google, and Amazon are responsible for securing a vast amount of consumer data. This includes email addresses, phone numbers, physical addresses, banking, credit card information, and even an individual user's search history. Yahoo was a victim of a cyberattack in 2010 by "Chinese Military hackers" and then again in 2014. Yahoo failed to be pro-active in its efforts to secure consumer data, and this has led to increasing vulnerabilities. In 2013, Edward J. Snowden, the infamous former National Security Agency contractor, made disclosures that Yahoo was a frequent target for nation-state spies. The magnitude of such an indiscretion spans beyond Yahoo and into the lives of consumers. Hacking groups, competitors, and governments (including the U.S. government) are willing to go to great lengths to gain access to this type of data. Internet users are giving out more data than can be properly secured, and this is creating immense threats to both the consumer and economic stability around the world. *Source Link*

## TAX CUTS FOR RECYCLING

Swedish tax breaks for repairing old stuff

In Sweden, two parties have proposed a law introducing tax breaks for repairing recyclable goods and increasing taxes for unrepairable goods. Goods possibly affected by the new legislation range from shoes to bicycles to washing machines. On the one hand, regular taxes on repairs of certain goods are cut from 25% to 12% and Swedes can deduct half the labour cost of appliance repairs from their income tax. On the other hand, the politicians propose to implement a "chemical tax" on substances which are hard to recycle. This should increase the prices for new products. At the same time, with the implementation of the new law, a marketing campaign should support the effect of the new legislation. The debates about repairing, recycling, and closed loops are not new and this is closely related to the term of "peak stuff", which describes the decreasing demand for new, products in Western societies. Interestingly, the Swedish company Ikea has already announced that they will increasingly build a circular loop of products to facilitate repairing and recycling. *Source Link* 9

## THE INDUSTRY OF LONELINESS

Paying for social contact could be the future norm

Loneliness makes illnesses such as dementia, high blood pressure and alcoholism more deadly. It increases risks for depression, anxiety and suicide. We live in “The Age of Loneliness” and it seems to create new business models that take advantage of increasing numbers of young people who suffer from loneliness. In LA, a guy walks people for a living. “The People Walker” satisfies need for human interaction. Paying for companionship could be the new normal since robots and other technological devices can’t provide sufficient solutions yet. Increased loneliness among individuals could also lead to changes in the built environment. Public places, clubs, and activities, where all people can easily mix, could gain more importance in the future. This could even lead to a new conception of solidarity to fight the causes from the bottom-up. The problem with all these suggestions are psychological barriers (people *being shy*). *Source Link*

## REDEFINING “LADYLIKE”

New H&M’s ad breaks away from traditional notions of “ladylike”

H&M launches a new ad for their 2016 Fall collection with the theme: the meaning of being “ladylike”. The video ad runs for a little over one minute and it shows a mosaic of women with different body shapes, ages, hairstyles, sexual orientation and ethnicity. The ad also features a transgender model. Besides the variety of looks – more remarkably – the ad portrays these women doing different activities, for example: dancing, looking in the mirror, arriving at a corporate meeting, unbuttoning jeans in order to enjoy a bowl of French fries, stretching arms showing unshaved armpits, using a fork as a toothpick to remove food caught in between teeth at a formal dinner. With this ad, H&M seeks to expand the concept of beauty and break away from it’s usual stereotypes. H&M launched the Twitter hashtag #Ladylike to encourage women to share their stories and ideas about what this concept means in today’s world. *Source Link*

## CAPSULE COLLECTIONS

Goop’s new capsule collections shape online apparel retailers

Goop, an online lifestyle publication and retailer founded by Gwyneth Paltrow in 2008, expanded its apparel business by launching a new clothing line in September 2016. The Goop line is based on capsule collections, a few basic items of clothing sold in small batches. Each month, an outfit consisting of up to five items will be sold on the Goop website. The first outfit was blouse, pants, blazer, and tote bag. The sale of capsule collections could expand the current habit of consuming curated goods (e.g. newsletters, music playlists) into the fashion realm. This eases the process of decision-making for users and transfers this task to other parties (experts/gurus, algorithms). A monthly release of a limited amount of garments could impact the cycle of fashion and create an alternative slower paced fashion industry. Additionally, the limited offer of clothing both in terms of quantity and style can be a good vehicle to position a brand in a fashion landscape overwhelmed by options and rotation. *Source Link*

## CONSUMER EMOTION

Emotion-based selling

Consumers make many of their shopping decisions based on emotions and retailers are highly desirous of understanding how their customers respond to their products. If airlines understand emotion responses to lighting, lounge music, or hostesses, they can use this knowledge to become more competitive. If retailers can gain biometric data on what music encourage shoppers to spend more, environments can be more highly specialised for target demographics. Social media and Google reviews are now old hat for retailers gathering consumer data - get ready to be highly targeted. Apple owned start-up Emotient uses facial tracking technology to identify people’s feelings, Nielsen has bought Boston-based Innerscope, which combines facial-cue recognition with Lightwavestyle wearables data and Affectiva intends to make every platform and business able to use emotion sensing products. *Source Link*

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# FUTURE OF PEOPLE & WELL-BEING

## SMART SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Human waste analysis could have a profound impact on the future of public health

The prototype of a smart sewage platform is being developed by researchers from MIT. “Project Underworlds”, expected to be complete in 2018, was funded by a \$4 million grant from the Kuwait Foundation of Advancement of Sciences. Scientists from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research hope to adopt this smart sewage infrastructure to advance their local health interests. This physical infrastructure platform will contain both downstream computational capabilities and biochemical measurement technologies. In the future, public infrastructure, including sewage systems, will be more intelligent. Imagine smart sewage systems that could provide real time data to public health officials. Smart sewage infrastructure may enable (smart) cities to monitor infectious diseases and contain epidemics. Researchers believe this may equip decision makers with information to allocate resources more effectively. *Source Link*

## E-HEALTH

Digital health on the rise

Organizations in the healthcare industry aim to cut costs while continuing to innovate and develop new products. Thanks to the vast improvements in processing power and in data management technologies, these seemingly contradictory objectives may be possible to achieve. Digital health applications offer healthcare providers a cost effective platform for electronic medical records in order to deliver healthcare more efficiently. These applications will also fundamentally improve the patient's overall experience. Patients will be empowered to make serious decisions regarding their health without waiting to consult a medical professional. As mobile penetration rates continue to increase globally, the widespread adoption of digital health applications appears highly probable. Patients are able to self-monitor or to view all doctors in a particular area, and conveniently make appointments based on availability. Other applications may provide solutions to help automate administrative tasks and optimize payment processes. *Source Link*

## CURING CANCER

Microsoft wants to cure cancer by reprogramming cells

Microsoft is attempting to solve cancer problems within the next 10 years by reprogramming diseased cells back to normal, healthy levels. The company hopes to expand its services beyond normal technological means to adapt to new environments of research, including cell networks, biological frameworks, DNA, and other conceptual ideas. Since the company deems cancer a “computational problem,” it believes it has a way in the private sector to contribute to public sector health solutions. The private sector has often been seeking ways to counter the developments of cancer in untreatable patients for decades, and in this generation it may be possible to find solutions after all. Public sector governments often fund research programs and grants for private sector entities when it comes to certain trends that need to be fulfilled. In the future, Microsoft may be viewed as a disease-fighting firm that specializes in advanced technology to mitigate or destroy health risks. *Source Link*

## DNA TRANSPARENCY

Do you want to know your health risks?

Becoming aware of genetic predispositions to specific illnesses, as a result of genome testing, is a great tool in terms of preventing illnesses from developing too quickly. Both in terms of quality of life and in terms of costs related to treatment. On an individual level genome testing can be an opportunity to prepare yourself and immediate family for a predispositioned illness. Likewise, information of your genome can be useful in terms of deciding whether you want to pass those genes on to the next generation or whether it is better to spare the kids for the particular illness. In a Danish TV production, 120 seemingly healthy people are presented with information about their health risks. What is interesting is how their choice of what they want to know varies with, the more facts they are presented with. As the experiment unfolds, more and more participants reach the conclusion that they do not want to know what technology can inform them of. Arguments such as “feeling healthy makes them stay healthy” is put on the table, though there is no scientific proof of this. *Source Link*

## TERRORISM

### Fighting terrorism with culture

The Italian government decided to give every 18-year-old 500 Euros to spend on cultural events. Minister Tomasso Nannicini claims this can strengthen cultural ties within Italy, as an element in fighting terror. Fighting terror should, according to Nannicini, not only be a matter of stronger border control and tightened immigration policies across Europe. Arguably revitalizing cultural activities may act as a source of integrating immigrants, if accessible for all and not only 18-year-olds Italians. Fighting terrorism in a non-violent way as strengthening cultural initiatives, arguably suggests peaceful cultural exchange. Secondly a long tradition of cultural activities is arguably a great part of what makes Europe what it is and thus a source to strengthening the ties between European countries. Thirdly, as the motivation behind the initiative indicates, the gift is a reminder to youth of how they are part of a community that is strong if closely engaged. *Source Link*

## FACEBOOK NEWS

### Facebook has evolved from social media to news curator

Facebook is establishing editorial standards. The company will stop censoring graphic material that is “newsworthy, significant, or important to the public interest –even if they might otherwise violate our standards”. Facebook has not confirmed how its editorial chain of command will be constituted. However, some reports suggest Mark Zuckerberg is at the very top, acting as editor-in-chief. Facebook is increasingly a news platform and serves no longer only to connect people, but also to inform them. Facebook announced that it will work on new tools and approaches to enact editorial standards that provide newsworthy content. If Facebook were to increase its editorial capabilities, it could provide the company with a voice as a news outlet; giving it weight as a media actor in the coming years, even if it does not produce content but only showcase it. However, if Facebook were to increase its editorial capabilities and gain influence in the media landscape, maybe the company could start producing its own content. *Source Link*

## GTA LEARNING

### Self-driving cars learn from video games

Grand Theft Auto 5, one of the most sold openworld games, now serves as the platform for testing self-driving car algorithms. The degree of details in simulating real life situations in video games like GTA 5, has reached a level where research alliances start becoming interested in using it for testing new technologies. One project, called DeepDrive, is supported by car manufacturers, technology companies, as well as different universities. By having implemented a virtual self-driving test vehicle into the game and gathering data of situations being as complex as in the real world, the researchers can improve their AI-System used for real cars. Researchers can manipulate the conditions in GTA 5 according to their needs but also gather data way faster in order to improve the technology of self-driving cars. Having virtual realities simulating real life provides us with an environment where we can test all kind of technologies in all kind of situations. *Source Link*

## AI

### Is AI intelligent – or is it just “smart”?

Kevin Kelly (Wired Magazine) states that it is important that we consider AI to be mechanical but very smart, rather than intelligent. We shouldn't try and replicate our own idea of intelligence onto AI, but consider intelligences that vary from our own as possible. AI should be “smarter” than us in different dimensions. There are many kinds of minds and many “species” of thinking that we should tap into. If we are to utilize AI in the future, we have to imagine its capability to think differently to ourselves and our own potential to work with it. The value of Artificial intelligence lies in its capacity to not think like us, and in its ability to be scaled up. We can scale up the smartness of AI without worrying about our own position as humans. We still hold value in our potential to work with AI There is therefore a current issue as to how we view AI This crosses over to those who are currently developing Artificial Intelligence and the manner in which they do so. *Source Link*

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## **MEMBERS' REPORT 4/2016**

Many new technologies are likely to disrupt business in the future. 3D printing is envisioned to create a massive wave of near-shoring, reducing worldwide exports to mere commodities and fundamentally impacting the nature of globalisation. Bitcoin is envisioned to disrupt the entire financial industry with spill-over effects to the entire economy, just as the electric car is envisioned to be the biggest change to hit the car industry since the Ford T. Electric cars, and in addition become an integral part of our energy storage system.

Each technology has the potential to disrupt specific industries, yet each of them has ramifications far beyond those specific industries

## **CIFS EXECUTIVE**

CIFS Executive is our international membership network for decision-makers. The CIFS Executive meetings are open for members of the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies and are by invitation only. We wish to create a dialogue between people who understand the need to use the future proactively. Our idea is to deliver flashes of inspiration that highlights potential game changers. We are putting the future on the agenda, and our members get the first chance to discuss opportunities and threats related to the latest developments identified by CIFS.

November 16 2016  
**OSLO**

November 22 2016  
**COPENHAGEN**

November 15 2016  
**STAVANGER**

November 22 2016  
**BRUSSELS**



## **SCENARIO MAGAZINE 6/2016**

The 1970s are back and they can be seen in everything from clothing styles and home furnishings to TV shows and music. However, is our longing for this carefree decade limited to aesthetics and a love of all things retro, or does it run deeper? In this issue's main article, we take a look at how the 70s is a decade that in many ways reflects our own reality.

Other articles and topics in this issue include: Are we Living in a Simulation? / Automation - The Perfect Storm or a Storm in a Tea Cup? / The End of Globalisation? / "There is so much Shit on the Internet" / Jetsoning: When the Future is as now / Photo Series: Portraits of Self by Marco Scozzaro / Futures Past: The 'Man-From-Mars' Radio Hat / Blogs / Books / Podcasts / Tech / Trends, Ideas, Visions and much more...

**COPENHAGEN INSTITUTE FOR FUTURES STUDIES** is an international, apolitical and not-for-profit think tank that has advised governments, multinationals, public and intergovernmental bodies all over the world about the future since 1970 through a membership network, strategic consultancy, seminars, workshops, presentations and publications.

The Institute identifies and analyses the trends and driving forces that shape the world, and works with scenario planning that can be used in strategy development and other change processes. The Institute is therefore both a think tank and strategic advisor for public and private enterprises that wish to know more about the future before they make important decisions.

The objective of the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies is to strengthen the basis for decision-making in public and private organisations by creating awareness of the future and highlighting its importance to the present.

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