

## Oxford Futures Forum 2017 – Scenarios & Climate Futures

### *What Have We Got to Lose? Uncertainty, Resilience and Anticipation*

On the one hand, strategies regarding climate futures are often regarded in terms of either mitigation, amelioration or adaptation (e.g. Prasad & Seijan, 2015). In all cases a level of *control* is required. On the other, there is a growing literature within innovation and management – especially that from a creative or designerly perspective – that values the creative power of a lack of control. Given a body of scientific research that attests to the certainty of a damaged future due to the impact of the Anthropocene on the climate (Latour, 2014) – which is positioned in the realm of risk and its management (through amelioration, mitigation or adaptation) – one wonders: what a more creative approach to the complexity of the whole scenario might bring? That is, what might a more *out-of-control*, complex or aleatory approach bring? Such an attitude would favour a focus upon the creative power of uncertainty, the complex characterisation of resilience (as an ongoing and dynamic response to change; rather than its engineering definition close to elasticity, or its ecological definition as retaining homogeneity though deformed (Davoudi, 2012)), and on the imaginary aspects of anticipation.

This proposition offers a philosophical encounter with these concepts in order to tease out the ontological concerns that energise them.

(216 words)

### References

Davoudi, S. (2012) Resilience: A Bridging Concept or a Dead End? *Planning Theory & Practice*, 13(2), pp. 299–307.

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