[RE]
THINK

CON TENTS

INTRODUCTION

When you introduce seven women to the topic of Precarity and set them loose into unchartered waters, you better be ready for what is in store!

Welcome to Rethink - a brave look at hard topics that face the world that we live in today.

We are bold enough to question, sensitive enough to consider, and imaginative enough to redesign outdated paradigms!

OUR TEAM

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WHO WE ARE

We are a diverse team of seven women from a wide range of cultural backgrounds from Ireland, Poland, India and Brazil.

Our professional backgrounds span a range of disciplines including; graphic design, geography, visual art, journalism, marketing, fashion, architecture and urban planning. We have a complementary combination of skills between us, and coming from different personal and professional backgrounds has opened us up to a broad variety of viewpoints and perspectives.

This has made for a creative process that has been stimulating and unique to us all. We have arrived at this point in our lives, all with a shared goal for wanting change in the world we see. And this is what we hope to 'Reimagine'.

OUR VALUES

SEARCH FOR MEANING

Our five core values are fairness, knowledge, creativity, integrity and meaningful connections.

FAIRNESS
Equality and respect for nature and all living creatures.

KNOWLEDGE
Knowledge combined with ethics can foster positive change. Knowledge is King!

CREATIVITY
Being open-minded, adventurous and playful in our work. Aiming to be openly creative will add value to the overall experience and delivery of our work.

INTEGRITY
Practising having respect and honesty with ourselves and others. Being guided by ethical principles that will lead us in the right direction.

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS
Connecting with our environment and nature. Fostering a social connection between people, the community and with one another as a group.

OUR CORE RESEARCH AREAS

Our core research areas include the environment, health, fashion, gender equality, labour instability and immigration to name but a few.

CURRENT
SITUATION

The scenario we find ourselves working under has been unique due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have learned to adapt to our current online learning environment, which has at times proved to be challenging. On the other hand, it has opened up new opportunities for collaboration with international universities and experiences we may not have had otherwise. Although, we do look forward to seeing each other in real life at some point.

THE VISION

"REIMAGINE DESIGN. TRANSFORM THE FUTURE."

All these elements combined, such as; who we are, our past experiences, our values and our interests, all form our vision for the project which is "Reimagine Design. Transform the Future."

PRE
CAR
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We began our research under the theme of precarity.

Precarity can be defined as a state of persistent insecurity and can be found in all aspects of society and living. It is present in the very nature of existence. As a group we have discussed in length the diverse and complex issues we face as a society and as individuals, with many insightful and enlightening discussions taking place during our brainstorming sessions.

This booklet will take you through our wide exploratory research on the topic of precarity and introduce our proposed research framework. Under our theme we have investigated the many areas where precarity can be found within the social, environmental, economic, technologic and political areas of society. We have explored social issues such as; the housing crisis, access to health care, labour insecurity, austerity, gender inequality and intersectionality.

We have looked at our built and natural environments where we have investigated other social-environmental issues such as; access to the city, gentrification and the effects of human impact on the climate and our planet. Other areas of research include; AI technology, governmental policies and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This combined nine months research has led us to propose a research framework. The design of which has been guided by our group values. The framework does not provide solutions to these issues of precarity but instead is designed to help us navigate and understand these difficult topics better. It aims to guide us towards asking better questions. And is a tool that aims to expand thought, imagination and help envision transformation.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

SEMESTER ONE

We each choose an area of precarity to investigate, compiled a literature review and facilitated a workshop based on our topic. The following will detail our individual research topics for semester one.

ACCESS TO THE CITY

The precarity of housing in the cities of Buenos Aires and Dublin highlights how both cities struggle to deliver affordable housing, security of tenure to residents thereby giving rise to threats of eviction. Poor urban residents struggle to access the social infrastructure of the cities they live in. From this research a question was developed for a workshop on the topic on how "The Covid pandemic has resulted in many temporary and permanent closures of businesses throughout cities. And how do we now revitalise our cities as we emerge from the pandemic?" This was looked at from the point of view of how urban living and cities are changing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Access to the city by citizens is fundamental to having security in one's life. Cities provide opportunities for citizens and people want to live in the city to have access to transport, healthcare, education, social programmes and economic support (Muñoz, 2017).

Much of the literature reviewed was written before the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then the world has suffered a significant blow to economic growth and working and living environments have become shared spaces for many people, particularly for city dwellers. This has created increased precarity in all aspects of life and has expanded the numbers of people impacted. Academic studies will now be required to include post-Covid implications for workers/home dwellers in their research and this is why a decision was taken to examine how we might begin to solve the problems of how city space is used as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

THE HOUSING CRISIS

This research concentrates on access to quality housing and affordable housing in large urban centers. The literature review is based on different researchers such as Solange Munoz who provided a debate about city rights in her article *Urban Precarity and Home: There is no "Right to the City"*. My literature review discussed the possible causes of housing crisis issues. Especially in Ireland, more precisely in Dublin, with some factors connected with the housing crisis topic, such as; fast economic growth, international student immigration, and the government positioning when it relates to the construction of affordable houses.

Another relevant part of its discussion is about the housing regulations in Ireland. During my research about Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), the study suggests that there is a gap between the system that regulates the issue of real estate and the application of these regulations in an effective way. At the end of this research it is suggested that the government should take responsibility for this issue and invest in affordable house constructions. Also, the RTB regulation should be applied more effectively.

THE RELATIONSHIP FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT HAS ON INDIGINOUS EMPLOYMENT

The nuances of foreign direct investment is not fully understood domestically, this lack of clarity is challenging the indiginous job market. The research undertaken in this area was varied and thought provoking. It was extremely challenging and opened up the opportunity to look at things from different angles, viewpoints and perspectives.

The research centred around the impact foreign direct investment (FDI) has on indigenous jobs in Ireland. It looked at the financial impact the current system has on investments in all aspects of Irish society, including the environment, health, social and cultural issues, education and Covid-19. The insights realized that there are a number of key considerations that need to be made by our government, and change needs to be embraced in order to solve the problems that exist with the outdated current model of FDI in Ireland. Government policy has not balanced its focus on internal and external foreign direct investment equally, this is leading to an adverse effect on indigenous Irish business. As a country a redesign or transformation centred on creating this balance could drive the change needed for Ireland to grow its economy through a fairer tax system, invest wisely, and be successful long into the future.

GLAMOURISING OR SELF-PRECARITY? ANALYSIS OF STRATEGIES FOR COPING AND LIVING WITH PRECARITY.

We are living in precarious times. It has been over a year since the novel coronavirus began spreading around the world. Covid-19 highlighted weaknesses in our socio-economic systems, housing and education. It also had a pernicious impact on inequality in the work-place. However, the disintegration of security within labour markets started much earlier as a result of the recession of 2008 – 2012. On another note, during Covid pandemic, we noticed a reemergence of new trends, often

linking precarious Covid-19 conditions with something aspirational and trendy.

In my research I placed focus on strategies of working and organising in order to minimise visible effects of precarious conditions such as labour insecurity, housing crisis and austerity. In particular, I was concentrating on coping mechanisms where precarity was being normalised, glamourised or rebranded.

Covid-19 reminded us all of the vulnerability and instability of human existence. Craving for a better world, we need to remember that in examining how people make sense of their diminishing opportunities and how they choose to respond, we find the emergence of "new". This tactic is our hope for survival and a better tomorrow.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION CREATES BARRIERS TO PEOPLE ACCESSING HEALTHCARE RESOURCES
We all know the saying, your health is your wealth. One's wealth also determines where they choose to live or if they have a choice at all. A patient's place of residence dictates their proximity to healthcare and therefore their ability to access it. For example, the centralising of specialised cancer centres creates a geographical barrier to patients from rural and/or deprived areas when receiving care. Retrospective and observational population studies have shown that geographical location has a negative impact on cancer patient outcomes (Villanueva; Turner; Crawford).

The aim of the workshop was to explore and research initiatives, services and programs that have been introduced to minimise the impact of geographical location on a patient's accessibility to healthcare resources. It was hoped that precedent examples would be uncovered which would allow further exploration into possible communication interventions.

DUBLIN - WHO IS OUR CITY SERVING?
We have seen the fast quarterisation, gentrification and commercialisation of our city. And with it, the mass closure of our creative spaces, studios, nightclubs, markets and small businesses have followed. Often they have found themselves pushed out or priced out of locations to make way for homogeneous shops, restaurants, aparthotels, student accommodations and office blocks. There has been a continued prioritisation of development over culture that isn't serving the community but the wider neo-liberal capitalist economy. Although many of us regard these places as integral to our lives, our needs as a community have been neglected. This has us questioning then who our city is really serving?

During a collaborative workshop with the Arts as Urban Innovation programme (Vienna) centered around the theme of No Man's Land, the research explored the now dysfunctional zone of the former Bernard Shaw pub and its surrounding areas. While reimagining the area as temporary open space for the public, the focus on this location opened up a wider debate around the gentrification of Dublin city and the underrepresented importance of these spaces as culture and connection forming institutions. These are people and culture shaping places, integral to society and should be recognised as such - an ongoing debate that will no doubt need to be continued.

INTERSECTIONALITY:
THE GENDER GAP IN EMPLOYMENT - WHAT IS KEEPING WOMEN DOWN?
The literature review and workshop aims to identify patterns and commonalities across Europe and globally in societal responses to specific manifestations of precarity. The research looks at a "new" gender gap is where the gap between the number of economically active men and women has been slowly decreasing – and one based more on inequity in the quality of employment. Those who do attain work, they are generally segregated in poorly-paid, insecure, home-based, or informal employment, partly as a result of

lingering discrimination among employers and partly in response to the female need to combine family responsibilities with paid employment. In general, the trends analysed throughout the research confirm a situation of female employment whereby the sectors where women work, the types of work they do, the relationship of women to the job, and the wages they receive are all indicative of a lingering gender disparity.

The purpose of the study is to investigate the causes of gender inequality in the labor force. In almost every country in the world, men are more likely to participate in labor markets than women. I have researched intersectionality in my context which is a theoretical framework understanding of the social and political aspects of a person which terms create different modes of discrimination. Since we comprehend what intersectionality is, how might we join it into our women's liberation? Adding intersectionality to women's liberation is critical to the development since it permits the battle for gender fairness to be comprehensive.

CONCEPT MAP & OUR APPROACH

After investigating precarity from our perspectives, we took on the challenge of designing a concept map based on our individual research. We were interested in looking at precarity in Ireland from a human-centred perspective and we used Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs as a guide.
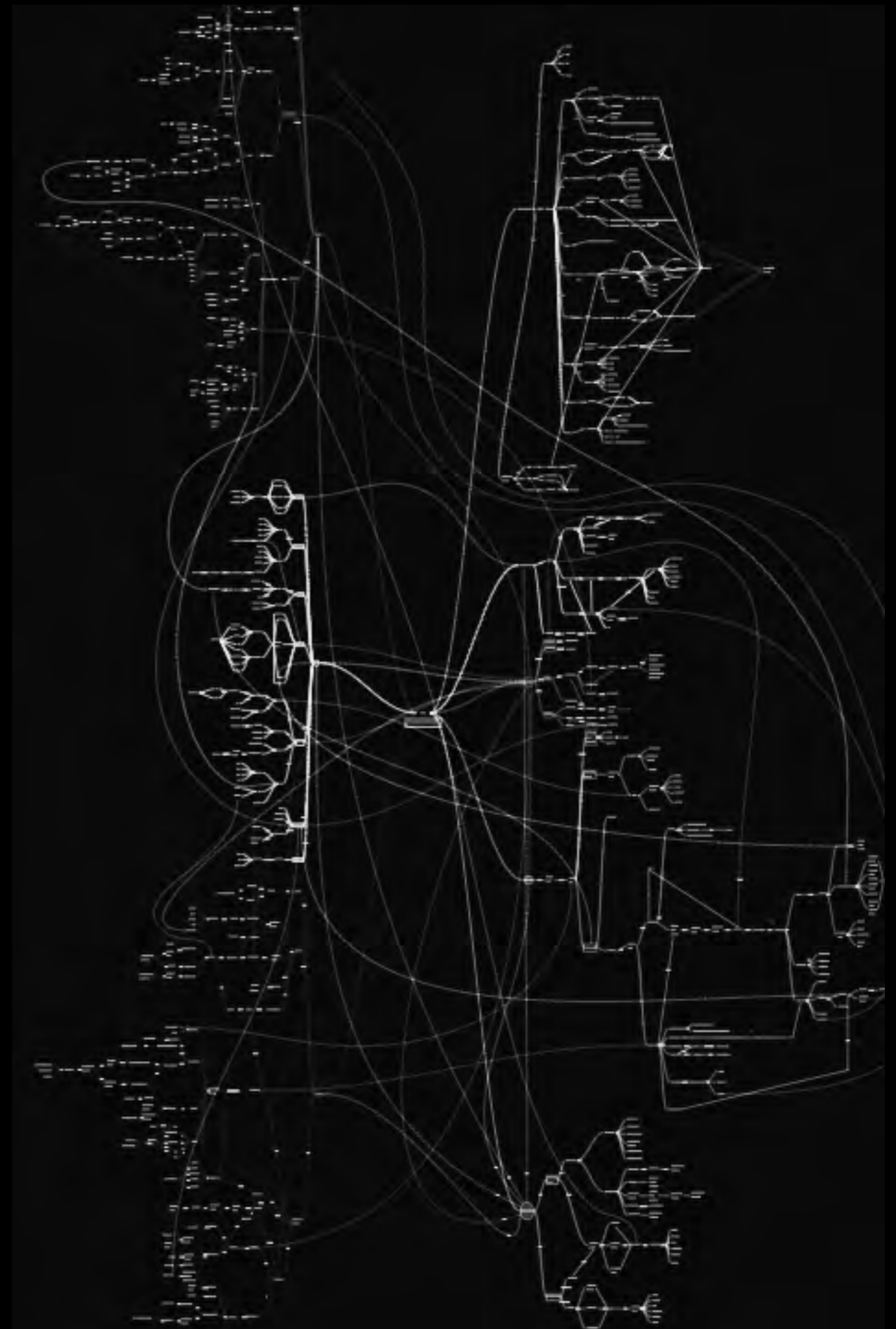
Our questions included:
– What are the conditions and circumstances that create and reproduce precarity?
– What does a precarious life look like?
– How does precarity manifest in society as a whole?

This led us to our main question:
"What does Precarity in Ireland mean to us?"

Having defined the questions we started mapping our main areas, which included;
– Social Issues
– Health
– Environment
– Government Policy

OUR INSIGHTS

Creating a concept map of precarity was a personal and technical challenge. Working on the map made us realise the enormous scale of the subject. When we reflected on the main areas we realised that social issues such as housing, homelessness, gender roles, job insecurity were all interconnected issues. When these issues are not addressed properly precarity arises as a symptom of these problems.

The same applied to mapping the impacts on the natural environment, where we see interrelated economic, political and social issues. Here a large part of environmental instability is related to human impact on the planet. We see how intensive agriculture is causing issues such as habitation and species loss, and impacting on other social factors such as the forced migration of communities due to its effects on climate change. Along with this we mapped out how our built environments are being affected by issues such as development and gentrification.

In regards to health, we learned that social class has profound effects on who has access to healthcare. Lower literacy impedes a patient's ability to navigate the health system. Income impacts a person's ability to access healthcare. Higher-income earners avail of private healthcare and are more likely to plan for the future. On another hand: people who feel more connected to a support network of care are more likely to know signs and symptoms of diseases, be better able to assimilate information and are less likely to drop out of the system.

When looking at government policies our insights demonstrated that urgent policy changes are required across all of these areas if any systemic shift or relief from precarity is to occur.

Other research areas included; Covid-19, the economy and technology. On the map there is only an indication of these. It will need extensive further work and investigation.

FINDINGS FROM THE CONCEPT MAP

– Precarity is not a linear issue. It is a multi-layered, feedback loop of interrelated issues, affecting all aspects of society.
– Policy changes are fundamental to addressing issues of precarity.
– All the areas covered when not addressed can have negative impacts on mental and/or physical health.
– All ecologies and aspects of human society are at risk from the impact of humans on our environment.
– There must be an urgent appeal for political priority of constructing sustainable cities, societies, communities and environments that correspond to human and non-human needs rather than just the imperative of profit-making.
– Technology has the capacity to create fundamental changes in society. It is how we choose to use or distribute the technology that can have positive or negative impacts.

REFLECTION ON THE CONCEPT MAP

Overall, throughout the process we learnt and challenged each other's understanding of precarity. During this term we got the chance to put the research design tools we had been learning into action. The design tools encouraged deeper exploration and insightful conversations. The concept map is a highly beneficial tool for exploring any complex issue such as precarity. As we have learned that no issue exists in isolation. There are many other interconnecting and impacting factors that may not be evident at first glance. It is important then to take the time to map these out to gain a deeper understanding of the area of research.

FURTHER INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

SEMESTER TWO

For our design analysis essay we each chose an area of design to investigate and propose an alternative epistemology. We also each created a counter map to accompany the essay.

The following will detail our individual explorations.

OBJECT ORIENTED ONTOLOGY ARCHITECTURE

Non-human architectural ecologies such as Object Oriented Ontology (OOO) are becoming an essential part of architectural design today. OOO is a rejection of anthropocentrism. It claims a radical and imaginative realism that not only asserts that things exist beyond the scope of human conception, but that this existence is not fully accessible to our understanding (Kerr, 2016).

The future of architecture needs an OOO approach given such issues as climate change, more efficient methods of production and being less focused on just the human element to protect and preserve the built environment in a way that does not harm the planet, for example the creation of more wind farms. OOO holds the potential to reshape the theoretical foundation on which the majority of 19th and 20th Century architectural movements have been based. OOO offers new theoretical perspectives from which new types of architectural ideas and languages could surface (Gage, 2017) concentrating on buildings and structures for their quality and not what they say about the existing dominant frameworks and power structures in situ.

AGRICULTURE PROCEDURES METHODOLOGIES

Social Design has become a useful tool capable of providing humans with a better understanding of complex issues. Developing interdisciplinary solutions to address problems in social, technological, and environmental contexts are the most pertinent challenges societies face in the twenty-first century. In semester two the research was based on different aspects of Social Design and examples of solutions. Projects in the areas of Agriculture, Permaculture, and Restoration Agriculture were presented. Considering Human-Centered Design as a fundamental part of the design solutions presented in this analysis, other scholars called "non-human centered" are briefly presented, as they emerge in modern discussions in the design field.

The study focused on the importance of the underpinning principle of the practice, to grow plants with minimal inputs, which results in the reduction of costs associated with personnel, machinery, pesticides, and other resources. Therefore, even though the revenue generated per square meter of land is not as high as those found on farms that practice temporary agriculture, costs are considerably lower as well. As a result, Restoration Agriculture allows for sustainable practices in capitalist markets, as it encourages the use of land with minimal impact on its ecosystems, while also maximizing profit. The discussion is closed with a critical point of view about current design solutions offered by the capitalist market. As an outcome of this research, a counter map was generated, which provides possibilities of rooftop expansion in the city of Dublin.

POST HUMAN DESIGN

Redesigning a human or the entire human race? This research was focused on the precarious area of Post Human Design. The work looked at Elon Musk's Neuralink - the fully integrated brain interface. It looked at how it will re-engineer the brain, and how it will form a symbiosis with artificial intelligence. It observed what it means to be human and if the term human will need to be re-defined in the future as we evolve as a species that will in essence be part biological, part machine.

It was important to examine the different spectrums of thinking in this area for context and it examined work from Rosi Braidotti on Post Humanism, from Donna Haraway on Cyborgs. In addition, it looked at Dr. Susan McKeevers work on AI and Deep learning.

The insights gained into this fascinating subject were wide and varied. Utmost importance must be leveraged to ensure that a social class of enhanced versus non-enhanced humans is not created leading to division and inequality in society.

AI transparency must be written into legislation to protect humanity, and uphold human rights to bodily integrity. Approval for use (a type of health and safety) legislation on new technologies needs to be created. Technology needs to adhere to strict due diligence, before it is allowed to be released for use into the wider market. It must be able to show that it will not commit harm to society by suppressing, controlling against their will, or coercing either directly through governments, or indirectly through multinational stakeholders. Guidance is needed at global level on who will ultimately control and programme the data and legalities need to be considered surrounding ownership of bodily autonomy.

NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY: TRANSITION DESIGN AND FEMINIST MATERIALISM PERSPECTIVES TOWARDS COVID-19 PANDEMIC (AND WATER).

This essay explored Transition Design (TD) and its pragmatic approach to resolving wicked problems facing society. It concentrated on two subjects: water supply issues and COVID-19, and placed them in light of TD. It analysed TD's approaches used by Carnegie Mellon School of Design to both problems, and insights to lead society towards the future. Finally, it analysed these subjects through the lens of Feminist Materialism to see how this approach may draw out perspectives overlooked by other frameworks.

OBJECT ORIENTED USER EXPERIENCE: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PLURIVERSE APPROACH?

The dominant framework of User Experience (UX) Design process has a human centered approach. Object Orientated User Experience (OOUX), is a tool that can be incorporated into the UX design process that has the power to alter the intuitiveness and inclusiveness of the final digital solution. Traditionally UX designers control content by assigning actions and tasks. The alternative OOUX tool removes the human centered agenda and focuses on recognising the relationship between objects. OOUX fosters inclusive and accessible digital solutions that have the potential to be more fulfilling, engaging and emotionally positive for a much broader demographic.

Escobar noted that most digital worlds are built for consumer products which serve capitalist ends, he argues in favour of the development of "autonomous design" that calls for more collaborative and place-based solutions. Designing this way focuses on the creation of human experiences that are in tune with questions surrounding environment and politics. (Escobar). OOUX puts the object before the action allowing circular connections between the objects themselves and fosters content discovery through the content itself. OOUX is not an end-to-end process but it is a great example of how a design theory created an alternative approach to information architecture.

By examining UX through the Pluriverse lens, the negative needs based approach that serves capitalist ends becomes magnified. OOUX can be considered a Pluriverse approach for it acknowledges that objects are worlds within their own right, there are worlds in these worlds, all of equal importance, and many have relationships to each other.

REPOSITIONING THE MINDSET TOWARDS A MORE THAN HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

This essay explored how our current 'modern' mindset is failing to move beyond human exceptionalism. Looking to 'design for sustainability' and design in our urban environments as examples of this thought - such as the recent transition to LED street lighting in Dublin city and its under-acknowledged effects on other species (Macgregor et al; Ouyang et al). As an alternative epistemological approach the reesearch looked to theories such as new material feminism and post humanist thought as a way of repositioning the 'modern' mindset through ideas of interconnectedness, entanglement and agency. (Alaimo; Bennett; Guattari).

The essay suggests that if we are to truly design sustainably there needs to be a repositioning of our current mindset and a greater acknowledgment of the agencies that exist in and around us - taking the agency of mycelium fungi both as a material and a concept to highlight this. The research asks us to look beyond our current human-centric thinking, towards a post-human view of sustainability (Cielemęcka and Daigle) and encourage a more than human approach to the design of our environments.This research area will be brought forward for the final semester thesis.

RED LIGHT DISTRICTS (FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE): INVESTIGATION OF URBAN LEVEL SEX WORK SPACES IN MUMBAI REDLIGHT DISTRICT, INDIA

This research looked at the Mumbai Red Light District (RLD) in India is more than an aggregation of sex organizations and windows which accumulate information on how female occupants experience the RLD in their regular day-to-day existence and henceforth adds to the existing approach to a woman in multi-use spaces and prostitution regions. The reason for this examination was to find how residing in an improving, multi-use, and sexualized space impacts female residents' living experience. Living in a period where, in any event in western social orders, gender equality and women's activist topography are generally talked about. These limitations for women as far as spatial certainty and utilisation of spaces in urban areas should not be a norm. Kamathipura encapsulates the convergence of multi-use space, sexuality, consumption, and recreation is in this manner as multi-use space for prostitution.

I took a speculative design approach to the red-light districts where I developed urban development models for the Red Light Area. The insights I found was to look into how stigmatised neighborhoods and communities could be empowered by architecture and urban planning, to transform environments by making them aware of how they could use the space available to them for their empowerment. City planners have the ability to create a space that serves as a forum to promote the social initiatives of neighborhood associations and other organisations and to serve as a facilitator of strategic creativity through the delivery of design knowledge and thinking that can help to create a broader platform for activities and participation.

THE FRAME WORK

THE FRAMEWORK MANUAL
The accompanying concertina booklet is a detailed account of our designed framework and a step by step guide on how and when to use it.

The framework is divided into six phases:
– Define
– Research
– Explore
– Imagine
– Transform
– Evaluate
and comprises of 17 steps.

GETTING THERE

Bringing the research and insights forward into the second semester we began working on our major collaborative group project.

At this point in our journey we were to pull together as a team, look back on our combined research on the topic of precarity and continue developing the project further towards our final presentation goals of which were opening up to us.

We began by looking back on our insights and spent the first few weeks discussing the different aspects of precarity that we felt we connected to most as a group - with the aim of finding an area to bring forward for further investigation. These areas included; housing, the environment and mental health. Often getting lost in all our great ideas of a brighter future, and refraining us from jumping too far ahead of ourselves, we were guided by our facilitator to begin looking at our aspirations as a group.

To find these we asked ourselves questions such as; What do you want from life? What do you want for the world? What do you want from the project? From this we began to define our personal and group values. We recognised the importance of defining our values as a way of aligning ourselves with what we believe in most. Defining our values guided us to define the group vision and purpose, and from this, to define our group goals. What we all agreed on, and what has us all in this programme in the first place is that we want to imagine a better future and help others to reimagine with us.

WHY BUILD IT?

Focusing on developing the framework as a team allowed us to understand that these things take the time they take. You must put in the hard work and investigation before any strategies or goals can be realised. In semester one we learnt the importance of a problem statement and problem question.

The framework was born out of our desire to understand how to construct better research questions. It is only through thorough exploration and understanding of a topic that you can come to know the right questions to ask.

From here we began working on a creating framework to help guide our research towards our vision of the future. What became evident in our process was the complexity and time taken in creating a framework alone. As much as we wanted to dream up ideas of a brighter future, under our limited time constraints we decided to be realistic with our time and focus on creating a unique and meaningful research tool that would not only be beneficial to ourselves for our future research, but can be potentially used as a tool by other researchers to navigate projects on complex research topics such as peracrity.

The framework is a hypothesis. A navigational aid which we hope will help us research our final project work, be smart in how we do it and help in understanding how we can challenge topics by using the appropriate tools. The process challenges us at each stage.
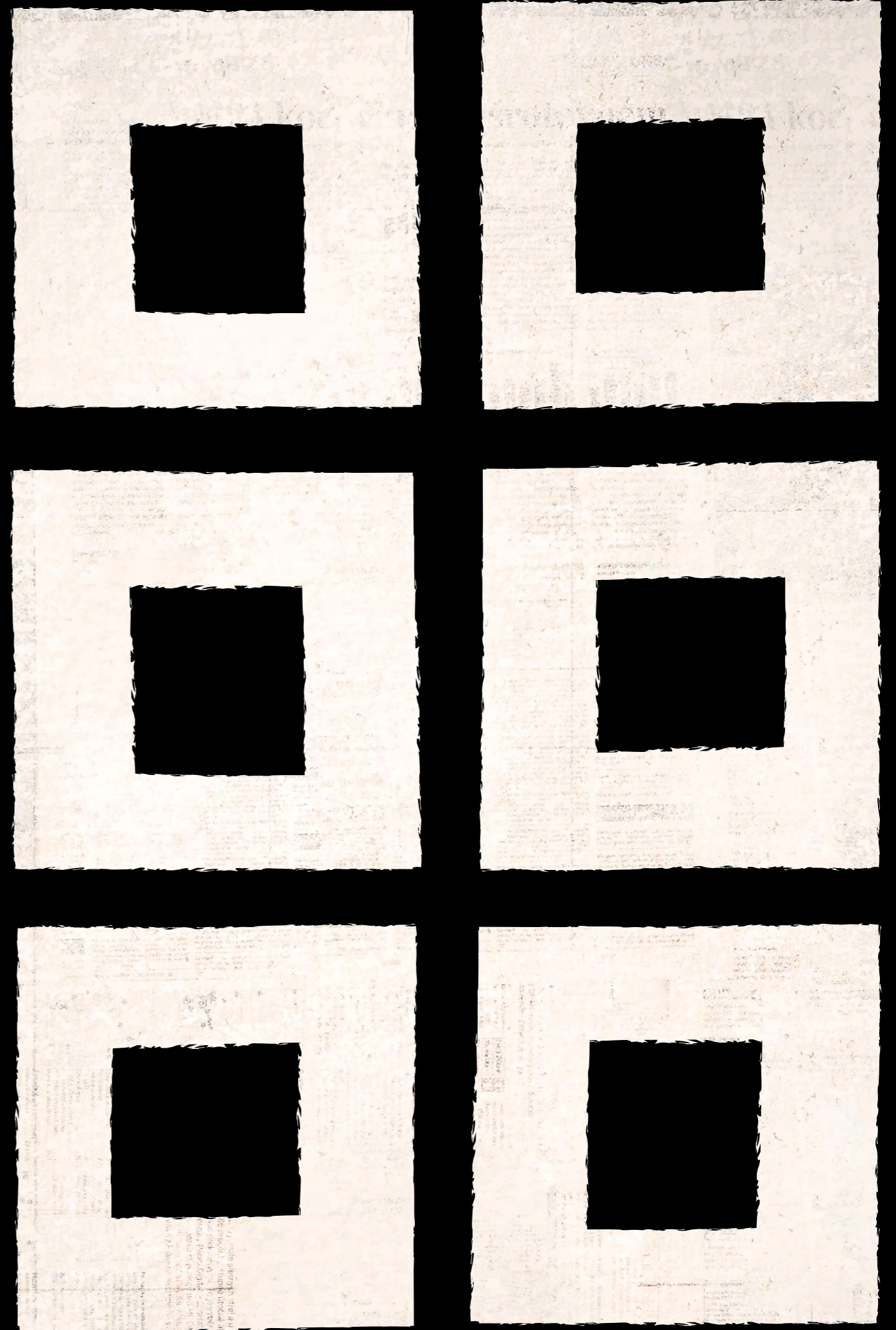
The next phase for us is to examine the framework hypothesis through researching our thesis projects.

THE 5W'S + H APPROACH

To understand our research steps and design a strategy framework, we had to prioritise some design tools which helped us to develop our research with a strategic focus on our roadmap.

The 5W's + H have been part of our research building process at various stages. This technique allowed us to understand situations and discern a problem by analysing all the aspects by separating our brainstorming production according to "Who", "What", "Where", "When", "Why" and "How".

The questioning methods of the 5W's + H allowed us to precisely define the subject of the research and highlight our interests as a group. In many situations it directed us to the next point.

OUTCOMES

Through our research, we have identified just a fraction of the inequalities, insecurities and injustices that exist within our current system. There are many others. Precarity is a symptom of existence. The very act of being alive already contains so much uncertainty.

We find ourselves in a time of ever-growing insecurity about our present states and our futures. With much blame to be put on the current neo-liberal capitalist system that has thrived off inequalities, exploitation and the extraction of earth and its resources. It has, and continues to function by keeping people in a state of instability.

Finding ourselves at times overwhelmed by the complexity of the challenges of these issues, we continued to find many possible avenues for change. Our world is not fixed or unable to be changed. We have an opportunity to reimagine ways of seeing, understanding and creating the world and systems around us.

We have learned the many ways that design can help us in facilitating these changes. Through our classes, workshops and group projects we have discovered the importance and benefits of leveraging a diversity of skills and knowledges through interdisciplinary collaboration. The collaboration between diverse fields is a model of what society needs to best tackle the complex challenges we face and create innovative ideas and potential solutions. We have seen the benefits of utilising design tools as a way of engaging a diverse team and stakeholders in the discovery of new insights, alternative perspectives and ideas. These tools allow for creative engagement and encourage exploration, opening up new ways of thinking about a topic, ways of understanding and gathering information.

Rather than trying to 'solve' the big problems we have seen ways in which design can be a simple tool to help others implement change, or how bottom-up approaches can be most successful for societal change.
We have identified the importance of aligning our work with our core values. Understanding what you and your team truly value will help in guiding future goals. Our framework aims to help facilitate others in this process. In guiding collaborators to ask the questions that open up avenues for research, exploration and encourage a 'Rethinking' of the current systems we find ourselves in. With values being at the core of the framework it may prompt to question the importance of one's own values and the values of society - a call for a realignment with what really matters and what is needed for change.

Ultimately, the framework aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of these complex problems and to generate alternate visions for the future. Asking the 'why' questions is the first step to understanding how things might change.

RE
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BECOMING BETTER DESIGNERS
Throughout the process, our confidence has grown as both designers and as collaborators. We have become aware of our own predisposed biases and have learned to be critical of the existing structures in both society and design. We have learned through researching, sharing points of view, all the while being open to listening and learning from one another. We understand that the collaboration process can sometimes be challenging however we see the value it brings to the overall process by adding diverse perspectives into the research.

OUR GROUP

As a group, we have worked very well collaboratively. There is a deep level of respect and support for each other's strengths. There has been an absence of ego within the group when creating our work.

We have allowed ourselves to just be, and have supported each other. This has reflected in the work which has grown organically and our collective creativity has evolved and come together allowing us to build a framework that we can use for our final thesis projects.

A lot of design solutions are created via post rationalisation. Where the end result is decided at the beginning, defined by subconscious bias and other factors. This can lead to stale design outcomes. Our thesis work next semester will ultimately test the framework. We have created a format that will unravel research in a new way, so it will be fascinating to see where this leads us, and if any new outcomes will be generated by working through the system.

We are splitting off individually to work on our final thesis projects in the next semester, but we are very much tied together as a group through our topic of precarity and the core values. It will be very interesting to be able to come together and give further reflections on the framework, and see how well it worked, once our final projects are completed.

WHAT IS NEXT?

NOTES TO OUR FUTURE SELVES
Creating the framework has made us realise as designers that we need to plan and view our work as a constant evolution. The solution is a short term outcome not the grand finale, for it will present problems of its own making. We should never look at a solution as the final outcome, for 'a solution' will ultimately create new problems, which will need to be addressed. In fact solutions are high fidelity prototypes which will always need refinement and development.

Fundamental to this project was learning how to empathise with those you are designing for. We have changed the way we think about the design process and are now working in a way that has the scope to include multiple collaborators, minimising negative impact and fostering positive change. These extremely valuable insights will be hugely beneficial to each of our individual thesis projects and will guide us in the process.

FUTURE STEPS

**Taking all we have learned into consideration, the proposed framework will be used in collaboration and to support our final thesis projects.
We hope this framework will lead us to more inquisitive questioning by framing the problems identified in a better way.**

The ultimate test for our framework will be to continue to test it with our individual research. By doing this we will identify its strengths and weaknesses within it and review it and attempt to iterate updated versions of the framework when necessary.

The following is a short description of each of our thesis topics:

SMART CITIES WITH AND WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY
This thesis topic will investigate the global experience of smart city initiatives with and without technologies which could be incorporated into the Indian smart cities proposal to upgrade the quality of urbanization and ground-level interventions on diverse scales.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SHIFT IN ORGANISATIONS
This thesis topic will examine the value of ESG criteria with regards to the protection of the environment and will explore how organisations can effectively integrate environmental strategies to create fairer societies for future generations.

REPOSITIONING THE MINDSET TOWARDS A MORE THAN HUMAN PERSPECTIVE
This thesis topic will explore ways of highlighting the agencies of the more than human actors in our environments and investigate how we might form alternative experiences and/or relationships with them.

PAST. PRESENT. FUTURE.
Reflection on futuring and temporality in design.

DIGITAL FASHION IN VIRTUAL REALITY
Looking into the future lens of Fashion within the digital world of Social Virtual Reality. How will our digital twins be created and ultimately perceived? Will they be ourselves expressed digitally, extensions or enhancements of ourselves, or will they be complete digital reinventions of our desired self? An exploration of this design paradigm shift and transformation will inform the research.

REDUCE THE INFORMATION DEFICIT. IMPROVE A PATIENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE.
Every Irish cancer patient should be able to easily access the trustworthy information that they are looking for. This thesis topic will perform scoping research for a digital platform focused on breast cancer resources, services and support on the island of Ireland.

UX DESIGN STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN IRELAND
In a time of so much ever growing insecurities both within our own lives and in the world around us. We now find ourselves in a situation to utilise our existing and newly developed skills to be part of reimaging society.