

BIOLUDDITES CHARTER

Breaking the Frame Conference

BIOLUDDITES ARE FOR:

understanding biotechnology as big system that affects everyone
social critique of biotechnology
keeping track of the big picture
accepting that there is no 'revolutionary' cures, so nurture and subversion
biotechnology on the human scale
long term social implications of biotechnology
scoping the edges of biotechnology sphere

BIOLUDDITES WANTS TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT:

antibiotic resistance
nostalgic synthetic 'nature' of rural landscape
the industrialisation of the organic ethos
overspecialization and monoculture
footprint of meat and other foodstuffs

BIOLUDDITES ARE AGAINST

control of biotechnology beyond human scale
solutionism
mystification of biotechnology that unrealistically gets people's hopes up
mindless exploitation of the environment
patented names for food that have perfectly usable folk names

PRINCIPLES

be aware of biotechnologies in your daily life
society and the environment come first, biotechnology is secondary
be critical of the power structures biotechnology is used within
demand transparency of supply chains
seek out authenticity of lifestyles, information and image
biotechnology should be developed and used on a human scale
fuel production should not be in conflict with food production
beware of short-termism and reductionism

choose quality over quantity - in your lifespan, food and healthcare
extend your senses and communicate with appearance
keep yourself 'relatable' to others

be mindful of food
food should be as cheap as possible, but no cheaper
support biodiversity by expanding the food spectrum to invasives & insects...
how food looks matters
you are what you eat
meat is a luxury product
proper food is medicine but be selective about nutraceuticals
eat together

all biotechnology has a potential to be social
bioluddites are sympathetic to the needs of modern day life
willingness to research and decipher convoluted biotech information for those in need
bioluddites live with their environment

be adaptable and flexible to change
be at the frontier of embracing climate weirding instead of fearing
embrace the contrast of man-made and nature grown, as this is reality

CONCEPT

the lifestyle moral police of biotechnology
quantified self as a part of the food and health supply chains -nobody is separate from their food and waste
be role models: use the self as living embodiments of the principles

OBLIGATIONS

practice non-symbolic actions in bioluddite coaching
curate biotechnology for a range of lifestyles
practice and/or promoting holistic personalised medicine/wellbeing
watch over social network of peer-to-peer healthcare networks
be understood by creating experiences
reappropriate the media's mental pollution into conundrums for thought
hold open house events
point to biotech glitches
hold pop-up bioluddite clinics
hold retreats from biotechnology
promote patience by making use of people's 'wasted' time
teach hunting and foraging skills
any tools of bioluddism should be used on the go

STRUCTURE

a commercial service run in the network of pyramids
a cooperative
a franchise
finance through public pre-nominated fines for self discipline

RIGHTS

OATH

PEOPLE

Lisa Ma socialises activism. Combining fringe communities, ethnographic research and speculative design, she makes 'platforms of engagement' through social events that are perceived as activism but function as services. Creating 'Farmification' with joystick factory workers, creating spa experiences with cat ladies and most recently starting a movement of eating invasive species and even feeding the mayor of Ghent an invasive animal. Lisa Ma create real-life case studies to propose how activism can engage people quietly and productively, beyond the trend of low-engagement clicktivism. Her adventures can be followed on www.fringejoyride.com

Bioluddites' Charter is a work-in-progress collaboration, inviting Luddite members to input their view of biotechnology. We're not talking solely about the glamorous transhumanism and synthetic engineering but also about the everyday realities of monocultures, GMOs, industrial meat processing, organic industry, systems ecology, food deserts, sugar addiction, hormone replacement and public healthcare...

The pervasiveness of biotechnological systems means that one doesn't choose to adapt in or out of biotechnology as one might do with digital technology. As biohackers fight for democratisation of biotechnological tools, society needs a grassroots movement to help us navigate through biotech systems of everyday life. As we start to be selective about the digital technology that we use in our daily life, perhaps Bioluddites might help us to become choosier with biotechnology?

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