

Session 1: Specialisation

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Leading:

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Scenario:

Super brain, AI, big data, mass customization,
archive of total information on anything, skill to access that archive.

Provocation:

The creatives stared in contemplation into the middle distance as the labourers refilled their coffee cups for them. Each piece was in its place, and playing its part. And that was right. Those who, by accident of birth, contingency of life, or guiding of the Social Plan, were deemed best fit for menial tasks were trained from the start for that at which they would excel. And those best suited to more cerebral reflection were trained in that. Within such specialisations were those trained in art history and those trained in art appreciation; those trained in neuro-psychology, and those trained in psycho-neurology. And lest silos become too narrow or disconnected, there were those trained in interdisciplinarity. To each their allotted place, as the Social Plan willed it.

And yet, thought one of the creatives, I wonder if there is a better way? They shook such a strange thought from their head. Not my concern. If there were any chance of a better way, the Social Plan surely had someone specialised to look for it.

Film:

Free Guy (2021).

Book:

Midgley, Mary (1991). "Chapter 1: Moon Monsters and Free People." In Mary Midgley, *Wisdom, Information and Wonder: What is Knowledge For?* London: Routledge.

Questions:

What is the nature of knowledge? Of humanity? Of technology?

What is the purpose of knowledge? Of humanity? Of technology?

What inter-connections does the use of technology enhance?

What inter-connections does the use of technology break?