

## **Israeli Anthropological Association Conference Abstract**

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### **Futural Orientations in a Time of Technology**

We are living in a Time of Technology that redefines our relationship with the future. From renewable energy infrastructure promising an ethical socio-economic model based on clean sustainable power, to space exploration and innovations in biotechnology that stretch the known limits of the human, our interaction with technology lengthens or foreshortens futural horizons. Abundant social media effectively telescopes the immediate future as an anticipated present, while probability and expectation orient life on frenzied trading floors. In all instances, our experience of the future in the present has been drastically altered by technology.

I propose that a Time of Technology should be analysed as a vernacular timespace, an epochal way of thinking that identifies certain affective structures, characteristics, and teleologies. The affective dimension of a vernacular timespace has the effect of appearing to foreshorten, forestall, stop, or start the future and thereby temporality. There is a collective sense of living in an era that has a particular temporality with a set of ways to express experiences of that period. In a Time of Technology there is a thinning of the temporal horizon, with rhythms and orientations that make the future tangible today. Yet, while a Time of Technology often entails excited momentum towards actualising potential futures, it can also involve moments where hope may turn to apathy, frustrated planning to disillusion, and imagination to fatigue.