

# Thinking with Monsters

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**Abstract.** Optimistic instrumentalism dominates the narratives and discourse(s) that attend recent technology advances. Most future-studies methods in current use depend on projecting properties, processes, facts or conditions of the present into the future. Absent is substantive engagement with the human condition and day-to-day life such technological futures entail. To critique the dominant discourse on future worlds, we offer *thinking with monsters* to disclose 'living-with-technologies' and the social, political, and economic alternatives to the optimism that pervades our rational instrumentalism. We argue that shifting the focus away from facts and towards *matters of concern* engenders a critical voice that enables participation in research that produces the (future) worlds that we seek to explain and understand.

**Keywords:** Future(s), Monsters, Socio-technical, Matters of Concern.