

PUBLIC
POSITIONS
SERIES
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Contemporary political attempts at navigating the Anthropocene are interwoven with technoscientific equipment. The current pandemic is just the tip of an iceberg. Yet, against its modernist promise, this equipment does not offer the certainty and guidance its protagonists have promised. Nor does it relieve humanity from the burden of reworking systems without knowing where that will lead. Much of the technoscientific

equipment, including digital technologies, is produced in the wealthier Northern countries but also in China and India and aims to encompass the world, often reproducing older forms of geopolitical inequality. This series assembles talks that demonstrate the importance of knowing how to better interweave projects of political order with technoscientific equipment to maintain planetary life for all.

CONVENED BY
PROFESSOR RICHARD
ROTTENBURG

STS, POLITICAL ORDER AND MAINTAINING PLANETARY LIFE

Respondent:
Mamadou Diallo
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South Asian, and African Studies at
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1 JUNE, 16.00-17.30

ABOU FARMAN
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FUTURE
INEVITABLE -
THE SECULAR
TENSE OF
TECHNOSCIENCE
AT THE END OF
THE WORLD

Technoscience with promises of immortality and space colonies, continues unfettered on its path of technological expansion, projecting and developing inevitable posthuman possibilities. At the same time, scientists are projecting an unavoidable future of devastating climate

change, and social and ecological collapse. On both sides, the sense of inevitability is changing the open and free future promised by modernity and secular humanism. This talk will explore the scenes and grammars of inevitability, and their effect on contemporary political ideologies.