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Making futures? Technology start-ups in Singapore

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Propositions accompanying the thesis
Making Futures? Technology start-ups in Singapore.
by Zane Kripe

- (1) The startup promise of progress relies on and perpetuates existing inequalities of gender, race, class, and global order.
- (2) Singapore's technopreneurship and knowledge economy are not just products of global trends but are deeply rooted in the country's historical and local contexts, resulting from overlapping interests of differently situated players.
- (3) The notion of a 'start-up ecosystem' is less a description than a normative ideal facilitating the expansion and reproduction of capital.
- (4) Start-up futurities are enabled by infrastructures that are routinely disavowed as external to entrepreneurial activity, such as family support, affective ties, savings, corporate employment, and state funding.
- (5) The answer to the question about what value start-ups are creating is much more ambiguous than what the narratives about progress, technological advancements, and a thriving economy would suggest.
- (6) The entrepreneurial ideal of perpetual malleability and flexibility is ultimately unsustainable for human bodies, families, and societies.
- (7) Using the term 'future' with the definite article is a problematic linguistic construction as it denies the inherent multiplicity, openness and contingency of futures.
- (8) Studying up or sideways reveals not only the reproduction of power but also its fragility.
- (9) Anthropology's resistance to commodification is life-affirming and exhilarating, but also doubly disorienting in the context of neoliberal university and entrepreneurship-focused fieldwork.
- (10) Interdisciplinary education should not only be praised for its creative outputs, but also acknowledged for the extra support it needs.
- (11) Contradiction is not inconsistency; it is life.
- (12) In their strategy of spawning millions of expendable offspring, frogs embody a neoliberal ideal. It may work for frogs, but it is a poor model for human society.