

Liberating Speculations

FA24 — ARCH 509.004

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Wednesdays @ 1-4PM @ 3146 A&AB

This seminar explores practices, theories and expressions of speculation as they relate to power. From real estate to financial markets, *speculation* has become the purview of those who command enough capital or political power to make new worlds appear out of ruins or thin air. How might we *liberate* speculation—interpreted broadly—from its embedment with neoliberalism? How might speculation be leveraged in service of *liberatory* future-making? Together we will examine the ways in which speculation shapes and manifests futures; who is afforded and denied the power to speculate; and the various ways in which speculative imaginaries shape our real world(s). In the process, we will contend with a range of frameworks for understanding oppression, liberation, power and resistance; trouble the thin line between fiction and reality; and interrogate theories concerning speculation and future-making. Along the way, we will examine the tools at our disposal as designers for crafting speculations. Through readings, analyzing media and visual culture, discussions, creative projects and research, this course asks us to contemplate our role and our power—as designers with the capacity to render speculations believable, tangible, and real—in shaping and being shaped by speculation.