

# Becoming Futurists

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# **Propositions belonging to PhD thesis Becoming Futurists. Reluctant professionals searching for common ground.**

– Tessa Cramer

1. Futurists struggle with their professionalization and interpret this as a problem, while for sociology of professions scholars their case should be part of the solution and even the way forward.
2. The idea of the heartland is obsolete because professionalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century should be regarded as a lasting endeavor.
3. Contrary to the conviction within boundary work that practitioners usually move back to their own respective worlds after crossing boundaries, futurists prefer to reside in the in-between space of academic, commercial and artistic worlds.
4. The salience of traits, jurisdictions, heartland and knowledge-based professionalization should be fundamentally questioned.
5. Up-and-coming professions are still hardly addressed in journals on professions, yet they should be center stage to aid demystification of implicit academic and societal norms that govern professionalization today.
6. I identified the alternative path of Type 2 professionalization. Now it is up to the futurists to decide if they are going to walk this path.
7. In the age of interdisciplinarity it is remarkable that Maastricht University's guidelines ask PhD candidates to formulate propositions about their sole discipline.
8. A scholar's task is to bring a sense of alternative possibilities, salute change and appreciate transformation instead of sustaining the short term oriented 'publish or perish' culture.
9. Validation is only one part of the futurists' job. Futurists should equally wonder how to bring imagination into the rationalized societal debate.
10. Writing *Becoming Futurists* required me to slow down in a world that worships acceleration. This alienating experience taught me that slowing down our pace is necessary to be able to separate the important (but not urgent) from the urgent (but not important).

