

## **This house believes...**

Alison McMillan

### **Debate prompted by Reading & Viewing List**

In addition to the *Novum Organum*, Bacon also wrote "The New Atlantis", which in today's language might be described as a Science Fiction novella. Unfinished at the time of his death, it describes the rescue of the survivors of a shipwreck by an isolated and unknown society of people with highly advanced technology. This suggests Bacon's vision for the outcomes of the *Novum Organum*.

- Comparing Bacon's perspective 400 years ago, with the technology we have now, can this guide in technology development of the next 400 years?
- Or is the role of Science Fiction less about the technology itself but to prompt thinking ahead of the consequences that could ensue?

### **Sources**

#### F Bacon, The New Atlantis

<https://thomasmorestudies.org/docs/Bacon.pdf>

This version has margin notes and line numbers for easy reference. I particularly commend you to read from page 31 line 18 to the end, as this is nothing short of a list of the new technology Bacon envisaged would be developed. Pay particular attention to page 40 lines 17 to 24.

#### F Bacon, Wisdom of the ancients: Ch 19, Daedalus, or Mechanical Skill

<https://archive.org/details/baconsessayswisd00bacoiala/page/viii/mode/2up> p 374-377

#### G Roddenberry, et al., Star Trek: The Next Generation: The Drumhead, season 4, episode 21

Set in the 24<sup>th</sup> century, mankind has interstellar travel, and the ability to inter-breed with species from other regions of the Galaxy. This episode touches on espionage, mis-trust and justice.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0708793/> also available on Netflix

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Drumhead](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Drumhead)

#### C Mazin, Chernobyl, TV mini-series

This is a fascinating portrayal of the events that led up to the Chernobyl disaster, and how it was managed in the aftermath.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7366338/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chernobyl\\_\(miniseries\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chernobyl_(miniseries))

#### Some current scientists

<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/5-big-questions-about-the-future-of-science>

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn17256-top-scientists-predict-the-future-of-science/>

<https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/industry-innovation/transforming-our-future/>

#### Futurology

Moore's law: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore%27s\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore%27s_law)

Wikipedia, Future studies: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futures\\_studies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futures_studies)