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Timescapes of complexity

The notion of timescapes (Barbara Adams) alerts us to the multidimensionality of time. It seeks to capture the entanglement of different co-existing form of time and the intersections of socio-physical and cultural temporal orders. I will focus on three timescapes of complexity: (1) the timescape of imagined futures as manifest in the ubiquitous quest for technological innovation (2) the timescape of a nostalgic return to the past as evident in the rise of populistic and nationalistic political movements in Europe (3) the timescape of the interface of the present based on real data in ‘what if...’ simulations of possible outcomes in the immediate future. While the directionality, modality and framing of these timescapes differ, they share different degrees of performativity, i.e. the capacity to influence social outcomes.