Emerging and disruptive technologies shaping the future

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Social Machines

Real life is and must be full of all kinds of social constraint – the very processes from which society arises. Computers can help if we use them to create abstract social machines on the Web: processes in which the people do the creative work and the machine does the administration... The stage is set for an evolutionary growth of new social engines. The ability to create new forms of social process would be given to the world at large, and development would be rapid.

Berners-Lee, *Weaving the Web*, 1999 (pp. 172–175)
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Select a rumour to see how unsubstantiated claims are spread on Twitter before being confirmed or denied.

- Rioters attack London zoo and release animals
- Rioters cook their own food in McDonald's
- Police 'beat a 16-year-old girl'
- London Eye set on fire
- Rioters attack a children's hospital in Birmingham
- Army deployed in Bank
- Miss Selfridge set on fire
@marstonbikepath

Datasets or dataflows?

Pip Willcox
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rstl.royalsocietypublishing.org
Big data elephant versus sense-making network?

The challenge is to foster the co-constituted socio-technical system on the right i.e. a computationally-enabled sense-making network of expertise, data, models, software, visualisations and narratives.