

**Project Group (Number and Name):**

**27 Range Anxiety and Digital Cultures: Batteries as Media of Urban Organization**

## **Comment**

**Authors of the Comment:** Lilian-Sophie Schaberl, Katrin Grell, Tom Tizian Züll

**Comment:**

### **Introduction:**

This comment focuses on the concept of group 27 (“Range Anxiety and Digital Cultures: Batteries as Media of Urban Organization”), including a presentation of the main idea, describing the turning points and featuring a critical view on the whole concept.

### **Main Idea and Turning Points:**

The main idea of the concept is, that our future is a dystopian world in which there is a power shortage. In the described world wealth is defined by the amount of batteries a person owns and how much access an individual has to power. This is displayed by showing different people during the winter, who all own different amounts of batteries. The contrast of living situations is highlighted by showing a “poor” student who is only able to maintain a low percentage of power and can only use paper for her university-notes. On the other hand, a “rich” person owns several batteries and can run several devices simultaneously.

The turning point in this concept already lies behind. Society is still facing a continuous energy crisis from which it never recovered. The state has failed to adequately act and to neither support the energy-market nor the middle and lower classes of society, which led to an even wither split between rich and poor.

### **Challenges + Problems:**

It is clearly displayed, that the world described is a dystopian world. Of course, today’s situation, including the corona-pandemic, the energy crisis and climate change is not directly leading to an optimistic outlook on the future. On the other hand, even though all of those and more problems and crisis are not hopeless and there is still time left to turn things around and make the future a better world to life in.

As shown by the journalist, in the daily university life the contrast between rich and poor students is intensifying since only wealthier people can afford batteries and maintain the energy supply. Our depiction of the student life is close to realistic and not very exaggerated, since during the corona pandemic not everyone had the same access to means of education. Adding to that, opportunities

for rich and poor students did even more grow apart, which as well is quite realistic from today's point of view.

Another aspect that we workout out is the aspect of sustainability regarding batteries. As the current driving force of energy storages batteries cannot be regarded to have a sustainable future, one of the aspects being that lithium is a limited resource.

### **Outlook:**

We do not regard our dystopian outlook as too far-fetched, since some problematic tendencies are already very much present in today's society. Thus including not the same access to education due to technology, resulting in a raging gap between the two-class society. Apart from that, the investment in research for in sustainable energy could be prioritized more.

However, we do still have hope for the government to take according to measures in regard of budgeting the energy supplies and supporting the citizen and the economy. This would increase the chances that the dystopian world we described is only fictional. Measures could include, next to the already mentioned points, help packets in form of tax reductions on sustainable energy and regulations for power and energy usage.

## **Video Information**

**Title of the Video:** *27\_Range Anxiety*

**Authors of the Video:** Paula Fenske, Tom Züll, Tim Sevecke, Yunis Ehlers, Katrin Grell, Robert Schulte, Johanna Westphal, Aleksa Sarac, Max Dannenbaum, Timo van Hoorn, Dariah Gaida, Amanda Janzen, Sophie-Marie Romich, Lilian-Sophie Schaberl, Nikitas Chalkidis  
(not everyone is seen in the video)

**Music:** *No external sources were used.*

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