

MAMMOTH 2.0

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SITUATION

Scientists of the Laboratory of Synthetic Paleontology of the University of Champs-sur-Marne seek to resurrect the mammoth, extinct for thousands of years.

The project is published in the local journal *Science-sur-Marne*. The scientists claim that they have the technical capabilities to carry out their project, but they seek funding and political support. This public release also allows them to gauge public opinion.

But the project is unanimously accepted. Many actors are opposed to it. Many are calling for a debate. Some even oppose any debate...

The purpose of the game is to debate on whether or not this project should be done, and if so, for what?

SUGGESTION OF CHARACTERS

1) Industry representative

This can be a huge market! He.r and h.er.is company show unconditional support for the development of this project with great potential.

The player is free to imagine what the entrepreneur's activity is.

2) The President of the University of Champs-sur-Marne

Home of the project. Possible benefits: Nobel Prize, abundant funding, patents and notoriety, not to mention the influence the university will acquire in having set up the first platform of prehistoric genomics!

3) A member of Buds et Main d'Œuvre (BMO)

French heteroclite group of synthetic biology opponents including individuals with various motivations: from those who oppose to “sorcerer’s apprentice” to those who denounce the commoditization of living beings (patenting anything that moves... and even that do no longer move!). Others simply see it as a loss of sense of science.

4) A politician

Mayor or deputy for example. S.h.e must send some signal to the public if a debate is to take place. His public image is important. S.h.e should influence local opinion in order to be re-elected.

5) The Phantom Public

A very responsive collective actor which is, however, not very involved in the debate, perhaps because of its dual social-technical aspect, causing double headache. Some say that this actor is a ghost. It talks a lot in the newspapers, the media... It is sometimes presented as being enthusiastic, sometimes as being as stubborn as a mammoth. It often seems a bit stupid and easily influenced... Does it really exist or is it artificial like the famous mammoth? At the same time, how democracy would do without the public being represented in the media, in opinion polls, in surveys...? If it does not exist, should it be invented then? If public opinion is a ghost, does not democracy need it? How can the Phantom Public regain its reality?

6) Philosopher John Deevy

Political philosopher, he follows the debate on recreating the mammoth and focuses on the “co-constitution of publics and problems”: how publics emerge by engaging with a problem that it contributes in turn to transform. He opposes the theses on the public as a “phantom”. He thinks that the public does not exist in itself, but that it can form and even transform the problems.

7) A member of the OSP (Observatory of Synthetic Palaeontology)

Multi-stakeholder organization that brings together associations, scientists, sociologists, philosophers and others, responsible for bringing together diverse expertise gathering a plurality of sensibilities. It has no definite a priori opinion. It examines the arguments of each actor and tries to facilitate the debate.

8) A member of the interreligious association of the Monotheist Cult

Association representing various religious movements, used to ethical debates, traditionally conservative but concerned about its image as well as about the principles of secularism in order to retain their right to speak.

9) The Shaman of the Tribe of Mammoth

An animist Inuit tribe worshiping the spirit of the mammoth, the protector of the tribe. Its sensational leader says that he communicates with the Spirit of the Great Mammoth Ancestor.

The Shaman is not necessarily against recreating the mammoth, but he is concerned about the possible abuse to which Mankind could subject the recreated Mammoth.

10) Researcher in synthetic Palaeontology

S.he wants to promote the new scientific discipline and obtain funding. But s.he is concerned about public reaction.

11) The mammoth?

How to take into account the rights of an animal that does not exist ... or at least not yet? What is known of his intelligence? Of his attitude toward man?

Players will choose if they want to give a voice to the mammoth itself or only through the Shaman of the tribe of the Mammoth (or both).

A SYNTHETIC DEBATE ON FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MammouthResurrection/>



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