

Powerful Dichotomies

Ester Barinaga



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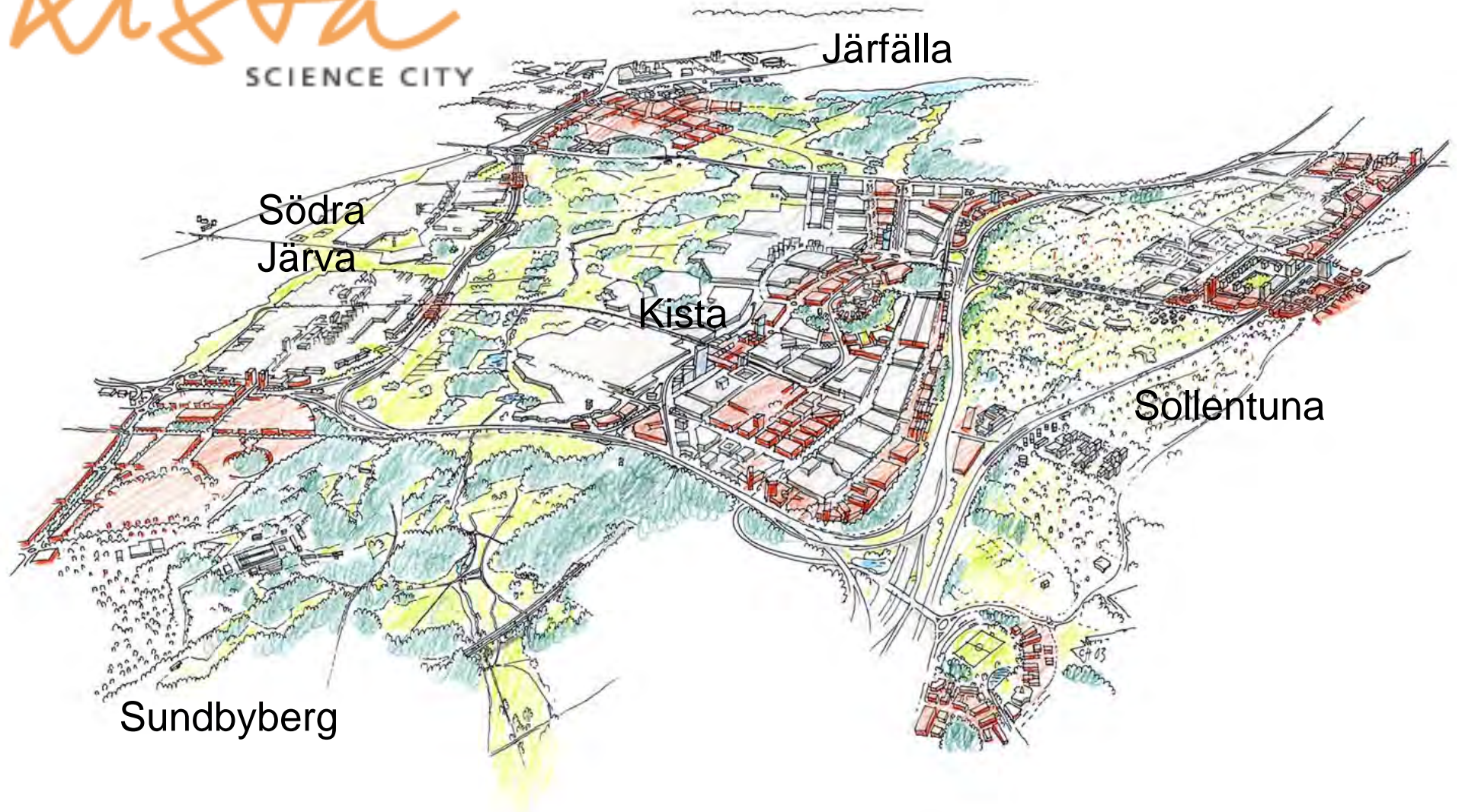


Kista Borough	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of workplaces in Kista Borough	26 549	26 566	24 890	26 096	26 781	29 708	31 331
Open unemployment	3,1%	3,9%	3,7%	5,1%	5,5%	5,3%	5,5%
Economically active persons living in Kista B.	65,5%	65,6%	64,5%	61,5%	60,0%	57,9%	58,5%
Persons with disability pensions	7,2%	7,8%	8,4%	8,8%	9,7%	10,2%	10,0%
Pop. with foreign background	59,5%	60,7%	61,6%	62,5%	63,7%	65,4%	67,3%

Persons with social assistance according to nationality	2001	2002	2003
Swedish	7,7%	6,6%	9%
From other Nordic countries	8,9%	8,3%	8,1%
From outside Nordic countries	45,5%	39,1%	23,2%

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Activities are described according to the amount of technological expertise required, and places according to the degree of technological specialisation. Such descriptions introduce the technological boundary as a valid one to describe who we are and what we do.

1. Technology boundary

Facts and Figures



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Land area: 2,000,000 m²

Office space: 1,100,000 m²

650 companies

250 ICT companies

175 SMEs

28,000 employees
(Ericsson 8,000)

Main areas

Wireless Systems

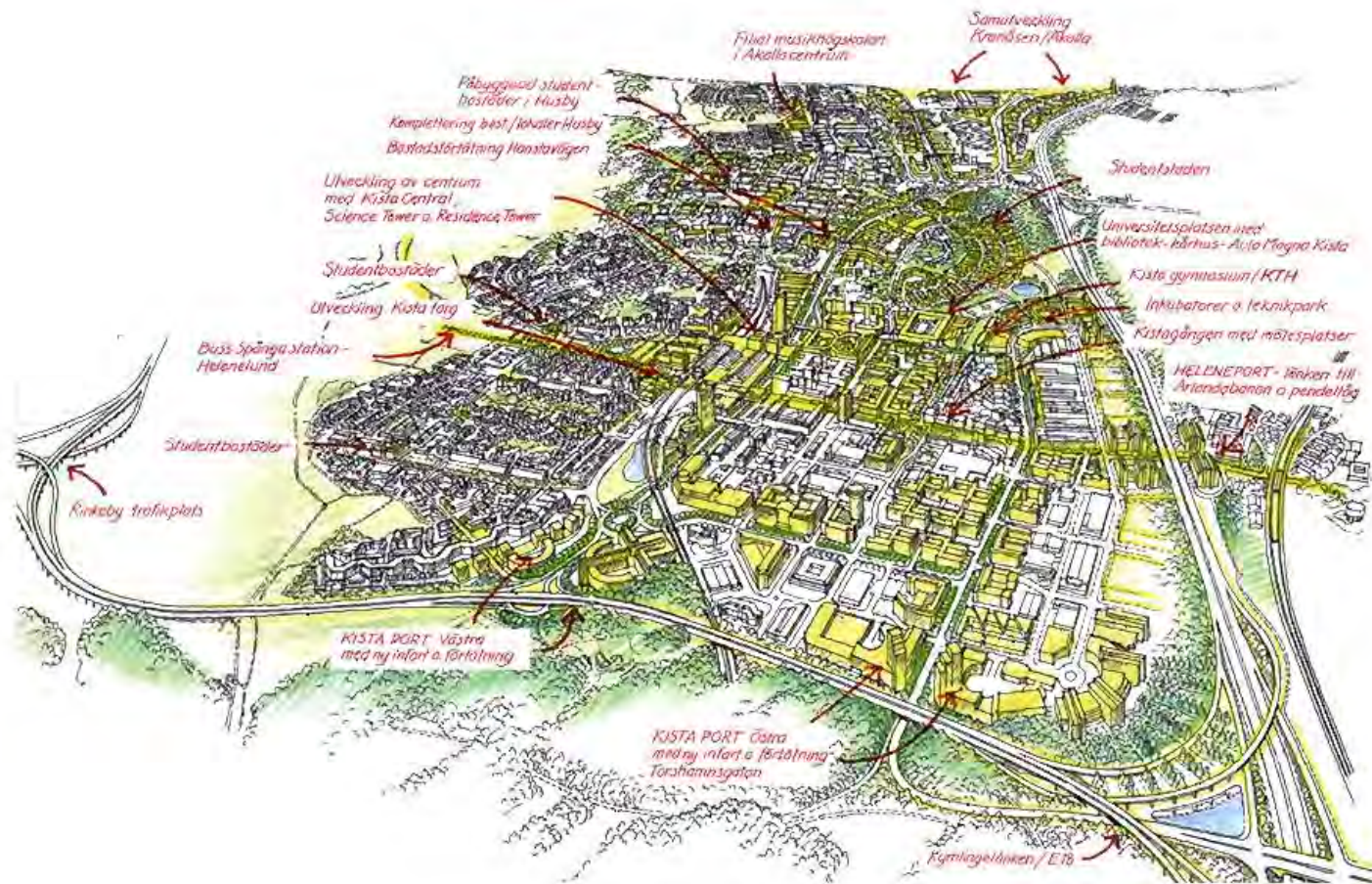
Broadband Systems

Mobile Services

“It is a community with university, housing and companies, as well as a variety of services and recreational opportunities in an international atmosphere, making it an environment that is attractive to highly qualified people, and successful companies.”

(Kista Science City - Design and Development, p.9)

”Ett viktigt led i att skapa en levande stadsmiljö har den kraftfulla utbyggnaden av **studentbostäder** varit. Mer än 3000 studentbostäder, på norra och södra Järva, har skapat en livskraftig studentmiljö som blivit ett tillskott för hela området. Andra viktiga tillskott för utvecklingen av Kista Science City utöver **näringslivslokaler** och lokaler för service i gatustråken är **hotell, företagshotell, forskarbostäder, lägenhetshotell och bostäder** som kompletterar bostadsutbudet i Kista Husby och Akalla. I viktiga hörn- och korsningspunkter har fastighetsägarna reserverat lokaler för gemensamma mötesplatser och service som håller **öppet sent för både studenter och folk som flexar över dygnet på företagen.**”
(Framtidsbild – Kista Science City)



2.
Techie /
Non-techie

The technological boundary so introduced brings about the dichotomy techie/non-techie, which implies lower status to the less technological activities.

Some milestones in Kistas history

- 1905** Military training ground
- 1972** Construction of houses gets underway
- 1975** First to move in: Ericsson – SRA and Rifa
- 1976** The last farmer leaves
- 1980** IBM moves in
- 1985** The City of Stockholm takes an initiative to build an electronics center in Kista
- 2000** The work to create a joint vision starts
- 2001** The building of Kista Science City starts



“At the beginning of the '80s, those that moved to the area were those that lived cramped in the city center and those who had sold their house.”

“In the mid '80s, whole families, particularly from Latin America, moved from Tensta and Rinkeby to Kista. To move from Tensta and Rinkeby to Kista meant to move up socially and economically. But those who were already living here, particularly Swedes, started to feel that there were far too many immigrants.”

“Immigrants continued to move in, but by the end of the '80s they came from other parts of the world: Greece, Yugoslavia, Finland and Iran. [...] Today's big groups of Somalies, particularly in Husby, have arrived only during the last five years.”

“None of my Swedish friends live here anymore. All moved out.”

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FRÅN MILITÄRT ÖVNINGSFÄLT TILL SCIENCE CITY



Fakta

aga

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Kista har genom olika utvecklingsfaser kallats för Kiselista, Chipsta, Mobile, Wireless, Opto Valley och Sveriges Silicon Valley.

Här är historien om hur området omvandlats från jordbruksbygd via militärt övningsfält till högteknologiskt centrum för Stockholm och Sverige. Här finns spåren från de första lämningsarna av bofast befolkning från 500 f kr till visionen om framtidens Kista.



Kistas historia

Från jordbruksbygd till vetenskapsstad

500 f kr Talrika fynd från bronsålder och järnålder på Järvafältet. Ett antal runstenar från vikingatid. 850 e kr Den s k Ärvingekvinnan begravdes vid Ärvinge gård.

1800-tal Familjen Jansson brukar jorden i sju generationer på Akalla Gärd från 1740 till 1976. Den sista lantbrukaren Bengt tog sig senare efternamnet Akalla.

1905 Riksdagen beslutar att militären ska få köpa Järvafältet för att använda det som övningsområde. Gärdarna fick bli kvar som arrendegårdar.

1953 Järvafältet anses inte längre vara lämpligt för militär verksamhet.

1970 Formellt överlämnas Järvafältet till kommunerna runt fältet. Beslut tas om att Järva ska bebyggas.

Järvafältet börjar bebyggas

1972-80 Bostäder börjar byggas. Först Husby sedan Akalla och sist Kista.

1975 Tre företag har bestämt sig för att flytta till Kista: Ericssonföretagen SRA och Rifa samt IBM.

1976 SRA, Svenska Radioaktabolaget, flyttar till Kista sommaren 1976. Lantbrukaren Bengt Akalla slutar skörda sina åkrar.

1977 RIFA, Radio Industriin Fabrikaktiebolag, flyttar till Kista. Kista Centrum invigs av kungaparet. T-banan till Kista invigs.

1978 IBM flyttar till Kista.



Kista runt 1980

30 675 inhabitants
67,3% with foreign
background
10,0% on social
welfare
58,5% with a job
82% commute to
work elsewhere

31 331 work in Kista
Majority commute

The terms of the dichotomy are positioned in a hierarchy wherein each derives meaning from the other. The “techie” is presented as sufficient, highly competent, global and transformative in relation to which the “other” is deficient, unskilled, local and acted upon.

3. Hierarchy of values

Alfonso, a young engineer from KTH with whom I share an office at the IT University, tells me that *Vicente* has been dismissed and is leaving his job at the IT-University by late September.

eb. Usch, that's tough!

Alfonso: It is very tough now. For everybody. But particularly for people without education.

eb. But he has a master in philosophy and has worked with web-design.

Alfonso. Well, well... he has no education... Ok, for people who do not have the right education.

”Almost 30 000 people live in the Borough. More or less the same amount of people work in Kista that has a strong and expansive business life. Kista is an international city borough with many dwellers with roots in other countries and cultures and with companies with activities all over the world.”

(“Kista - En framtidsinriktad stadsdelsnämnd i en dynamisk stadsdel”)

Welcome to Kista Science City





4. Overlap technology - ethnicity boundaries

The technological boundary comes to be entangled with the ethnic boundary. This is particular to a context where the ethnic boundary is culturally accepted.

Kista's industrial area	Kista's residential area
"Techie"	"Non-techie"
Expatriate	Immigrant ("multicultural")
Global	Local
Connected	Disconnected
High-tech	Low-tech
Customer	Resident
Income strong	Income weak
Highly educated	Without education
Middle class	Low class
Long working hours	Unemployed
Established	Outsider
Core	Periphery
Normal	Stigmatized

5. Materialization

Technology is developed to suit the preferences of the “techies”, the prioritised social group.

“We focus only on those who work in Kista. Weekend-people do not have such equipment. Well, we can assume that.”



conference participant: What about Wireless in Husby?

institute director: Let me be frank. Those people are not quite Swedish. They are immigrants... our products are not for them. They don't have the education nor the income."

1. Introduction of a technology boundary to describe who "we" are and what "we" do.

3. In a region divided along ethnic lines, technology comes to be entangled with ethnicity. And meaning is infused between the elements.

2. Appearance of the dichotomy techie/non-techie, which implies lower status to the less technological activities. Or, a "we" implies a "they". Thereof the beginning of a process of exclusion.

4. These associations materialize in the technology being developed, further cementing segregation.

The very logic of regional development projects based on science and technology make it inevitable that the technological and educational elitism also translates into another sort of elitism.

Awareness to the built-in risk of the logic!