Background:
- 1962-1963: The original 24-episode season of The Jetsons first aired on television, made for color TV.
- Premise: average American family living 100 years in the future (2042).
- Loosely based on The Flintstones, another Hanna-Barbera cartoon about a stone age family, and the 1956s show The Honeymooners.

Introduction:
- The Jetsons is an enduring icon of classic American culture.
- Created during an era of excitement and potential—space race, education reform, scientific innovation, and social movements.
- The Jetsons is regularly referenced in discussions of new innovations and possibilities of the future.
- Two reasons generally cited as evidence that the show is no longer relevant: the technology & cultural traits seen in the show.
- Technology is viewed as too fantastical or not possible.
- Culture is viewed as old-fashioned.
- To what extent is The Jetsons' view of the future relevant to today, both technologically and culturally?

Methods:
- Retrofuturism—the study of how people in the past envisioned the future.
- Interdisciplinary, research-based approach (history, anthropology, science, etc.)
- Examination of technological and cultural development postulated in The Jetsons.
- Compare and contrast the reality of the modern era (50 years after the show's creation; halfway to the era in which the show is set) with the imagined future depicted in the show.

Conclusion:
- The Jetsons has remained relevant and influential across the decades through both its iconic technology as well as its fundamental human relatability.
- The dazzling technology in the show feels familiar, and most of it is either already available or is in development.
- Despite the show's somewhat dated outlook on society, we can still empathize and see our own modern experiences reflected back at us through an animated futuristic lens.
- The Jetsons serves as a touchstone for our hopes for the future as well as the experiences of the past and the values and goals of the present.

Want to know more information about the images above?  
Ask me!

Acknowledgements:
I want to thank my outstanding mentor, Eric Hill, for his excitement while working on this project with me and for guiding me every step of the way, as well as my fantastic committee members, Gilad Hill and Randall Milstein, for their helpful feedback throughout this process. Also, thanks to my family and friends for all their support and proofreading—i am so grateful for your presence in my life.

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