Modernity without a Project

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[I]t is time ... to consider some final return or reinvention of the outmoded in full postmodernity, a recurrence that is doubtless the most paradoxical of all since it proves to be the very concept of modernity itself, which we had all naively assumed to be long since superseded. But it is in fact back in business all over the world . . . .

Fredric Jameson, *A Singular Modernity*

Most people, me included, are most comfortable conceptually living about ten years back from whatever point in time we’ve reached. I think we all have these moments that are vertiginous, and terribly exciting, and very frightening, in which we realise the contemporary absolutely. And it induces terror and ecstasy, and we retreat from it because we can’t stay in that state of panic, which is the real response to what’s happening to us. We’re more comfortable with an earlier version of who we were, and what we were, it makes us feel more in control.

William Gibson, *No Maps for These Territories*