Future Generations: A bibliography (In English only)

Jim Dator September 2008

I. Apparently the first major philosopher to identify and write extensively about the issue of intergenerational fairness was John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Harvard University Press, 1971 (See also his *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. Harvard University Press, 2001)

Two volumes were devoted entirely to Future Generations soon after:

Richard Sikora and Brian Barry, *Obligations to Future Generations*. Temple University Press, 1978.

Thomas Schwartz, "Obligations to Posterity," pp. 3-14; Jan Narveson, "Future People and us," pp. 38-60; Gregory Kavka, "The Futurity Problem," pp. 186-203; Brian Berry, "Circumstances of Justice and Future Generations," pp. 205-248.

Ernest Partridge, ed., *Responsibilities to Future Generations*. Prometheus Books, 1980

Hans Jonas, "Technology and Responsibility: The Ethics of an Endangered Future," pp. 23-36;
Thomas Derr, "The Obligation to the Future," pp. 37-45; Martin Golding, "Obligations to Future
Generations," pp. 61-72; Joel Feinberg, "The Rights of Animals and Unborn Generations," pp. 139-150;
Ruth Macklin, "Can Future Generations Correctly Be Said to Have Rights?" pp. 151-157; Richard De
George, "The Environment, Rights, and Future Generations," pp. 157-166; Galen Pletcher, "The Rights of
Future Generations," pp. 167-170; Annette Baier, "The Rights of Past and Future Persons," pp. 171-186;
Thomas Thompson, "Are We Obligated to Future Others?" pp. 195-202; Ernest Partridge, "Why Care
About the Future?" pp. 203-220.

II. Subsequently, several futures generation groups were established:

A. Future Generations Programme of the Foundation for International Studies at the University of Malta, supported by Unesco. http://www.fis.org.mt/page.asp?p=11506&l=1.

It published *Future Generations Journal* and several volumes of essays, usually based on conferences it sponsored:

Emmanuel Agius, *The Rights of Future Generations: In Search of an Intergenerational Ethical Theory.* Leuven: Faculty of Theology, Catholic University of Leuven, 1986.

Emmanuel Agius and Salvino Busuttil, *Our Responsibilities Towards Future Generations*. Malta: Gutenburg Press, 1990.

Emmanuel Agius and Salvino Busuttil, *What Future for Future Generations*? Malta: Union Press, 1994.

Emmanuel Agius, et al., eds. *Future Generations and International Law*. London: Earthscan Publishers Ltd., 1998.

Emmanuel Agius and Salvino Busuttil, *Germ-line Intervention and Our Responsibilities to Future Generations*. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1998

Emmanuel Agius and L. Chircop, eds., *Caring for Future Generations: Jewish, Christian and Islamic Perspectives*. New York: Praeger, 1998

- B. Following the Rio UN Conference on the Environment in 1990, another group, Institute for the Integrated Study of Future Generations, was established in Kyoto, Japan, by Katsuhiko Yazaki of Japan and Tae-Chang Kim of Korea. It also held conferences and published several volumes of essays:
 - 1. Institute for the Integrated Study of Future Generations, ed., *Why future generations now?* Kyoto: Future Generations Alliance Foundation, 1994

In addition to essays by Yazaki and Kim, there were articles on "Why we should care about Future Generations now" by Sakae Shimizu, Wendell Bell, Emmanuel Agius, Allen Tough and Rick Slaughter

2. Institute for the Integrated Study of Future Generations, ed., *Thinking about future generations*. Future Generations Studies Series I. Kyoto: Future Generations Alliance Foundation, 1994

In addition to essays by the previous authors, this volume also had articles by Eric Chaisson, Jim Dator, Howard Didsbury, Jr., Kido Inoue, Theodore Kheel, Daniel Leighton, and Oliver Markley

3. Tae-Chang Kim & Jim Dator, eds., *Creating a New History for Future Generations*. Future Generations Studies Series II. Kyoto: Institute for the Integrated Study of Future Generations, 1995. This derived from a conference in Kyoto

New contributors were Sohail Inayatullah, Christopher Jones, Godwin Sogolo, Wilfrido Villacorta, Alexandre Timoshenko, Duane Elgin, Christopher Stone, Bruce Tonn, Ana Maria Sandi, Nicholas Albery, Martha Rogers, Natalie Dian and Christel Nilsson, John Seed and Anja Light, Ernest Partridge, Keekok Lee, Norman Care, and Salvatore Privitera

- 4. Tae-Chang Kim & Jim Dator, eds., *Co-creating a Public Philosophy for Future Generations*. London: Adamantine Press, 1999. This is a report of a conference in Honolulu sponsored by the Future Generations Alliance and the Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies that brought together futurists, ethicists, and political practitioners who had tried to incorporate foresight into government.
- 5. Tae-Chang Kim and Ross Harrison, eds., Self and Future Generations: An Intercultural Conversation. Cambridge: White Horse Press, 1999
- C. A group concerned with intergenerational justice formed in Germany, publishing essays and a journal: Joerg Chet Tremmel, ed., *Handbook of intergenerational justice*. Cheltenham, UK, Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2006.

Contents: Responsibility for future generations: scope and limits / Dieter Birnbacher --Principles of generational justice / Christoph Lumer -- The impossibility of a theory of intergenerational justice / Wilfred Beckerman -- John Rawls on rights of future generations / Claus Dierksmeier -- Justice between generations / Michael Wallack -- Rule change and intergenerational justice / Axel Gosseries, Mathias Hungerbuehler -- The economic sustainability indicator / Peer Ederer, Philipp Schuller and Stephan Willms -- Protecting future generations : intergenerational buck-passing, theoretical ineptitude and a brief for a global core precautionary principle / Stephen M. Gardiner -- Institutional determinants of public debt : a political economy perspective / Bernd Sussmuth and Robert K. von Weizsaecker -- Establishing intergenerational justice in national constitutions / Joerg Chet Tremmel -- A constitutional law for future generations: the 'other' form of the social contract: the generation contract / Peter Haeberle --The French Constitutional Charter for the environment: an effective instrument? / Dominique Bourg -- Commission for Future Generations in the Knesset : lessons learnt / Shlomo Shoham and Nira Lamay -- Institutional protection of succeeding generations: Ombudsman for Future Generations in Hungary / Benedek Jaevor -- The role of CPB in Dutch economic policy / Rocus M. van Opstal and Jacqueline Timmerhuis -- Intergenerational justice / Emmanuel Agius.

Intergenerational Justice Review (IGJR)

Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen (Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations) Oberursel, Germany

D. One futurist who has thought and written extensively about future generations for some time is Bruce Tonn:

Bruce Tonn, "500-year planning: A speculative provocation," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, Vol. 52, No. 2, Spring 1986

Bruce Tonn, "Philosophical Aspects of 500-Year Planning," *Environment and Planning A*, 1987. Vol. 20, 1507-1522.

Bruce Tonn, "The Court of Generations: A proposed amendment to the US Constitution," *Futures*, Vol. 23, No. 5, June 1991 Also, see Vincent Pollard and Bruce Tonn, "Revisiting the 'Court of Generations' Amendment," *Futures*, Vol. 30, No. 4, 1998

Bruce Tonn, "Distant Futures and the Environment," *Futures*, 2002 Vol. 34, 117-132. Bruce Tonn, "Integrated 1000-year planning," *Futures* 2003

III. Other books and articles about future generations:

John Ahrens, Preparing for the Future. An Essay on the Rights of Future Generations. Transaction Publisher, 1983

Gustaf Arrhenius, *Future Generations: A Challenge for Moral Theory*. Dissertation for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Practical Philosophy presented at Uppsala University in 2000. Unpublished.

Gustaf Arrhenius, "Mutual Advantage Contractarianism and Future Generations," *Theoria*. Vol. 65, 1/1999, pp. 25-35.

Alan Auerbach, et al., "Generational Accounts: a Meaningful Alternative to Deficit Accounting," *Tax Policy and the Economy*. Vol. 5, 1991 pp. 55-110.

Alan Auerbach, et al., eds., Generational Accounting around the World. University of Chicago Press, 1999

Bruce E. Auerbach, Unto the Thousandth Generation. Conceptualizing Intergenerational Justice. Peter Lang, 1995

Bertram Bandman, "Do Future Generations Have the Right to Breathe Clean Air?" *Political Theory*, Vol. 10, 1/1982, pp. 95-102.

Brian Berry, "Justice between Generations," in Hacker, P. M. S. / J. Raz, eds., Law, Morality and Society. Essays in Honour of H. L. A. Hart. Clarendon Press, 1977, pp. 268-284.

Stephen Bickham, "Future Generations and Contemporary Ethical Theory," *Journal of Value Inquiry*, Vol. 15, 2/1981, pp. 169-177.

Edith Brown-Weiss, *In Fairness to Future Generations*. Tokyo'/New York: United Nations University/Transnational Publishers, 1989 and Edith Brown-Weiss, "In fairness to future generations," *Environment*. Vol. 32, No.3, 1990

Wendell Bell, "Why should we care about future generations?" in Howard Didsbury, ed., *The years ahead: Perils, problems, and promises.* Bethesda, Maryland: World Future Society, 1993.

Jim Dator, Dick Pratt, Yongseok Seo, *Fairness, Globalization, and Public Institutions: East Asia and Beyond* (University of Hawaii Press, 2006), pp. 25-31 where "fairness" is defined and discussed, including in relation to "future generations", and pp 186-92 when "future generations" are discussed in relation to "governmental foresight" activities.

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Avner De-Shalit, "Environmental Policies and Justice Between Generations. On the Need for a Comprehensive Theory of Justice Between Generations," *European Journal of Political Research*. Vol. 21, 1992, pp. 307-316.

Andrew Dobson, ed., Fairness and Futurity. Oxford University Press, 1999

Jane English, "Justice between Generations, Philosophical Studies. Vol. 31, 1977 pp. 91-104.

Ulrich Feeser-Lichterfeld, "Intergenerational Justice in an Extreme Longevity Scenario: Ethical Issues in Biogerontological Endeavours," in SrzG, ed., *Demographic Change and Intergenerational Justice*. Springer. 2008

Philip Frankenfeld, "Simple gifts, complex environmental hazards, and the responsibility to leave a controllable world," *Futures*, Vol. 25, No. 1, January/February 1993.

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Gregory S. Kavka, "The Paradox of Future Individuals," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*. Vol. 11, 2/1982, pp. 93-112.

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Antonia Oposa, "In Defence of Future Generation," *Intergenerational Justice Review* (English edition). Vol. 2, 3/2002, pp. 7.

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IV. Court Case:

To my knowledge, only one judiciary has acted affirmatively on behalf of future generations. In the case, *Oposa vs. Factoran, Jr.*, (1993) the Philippine Supreme Court ruled that representatives of future generations have standing and thus can bring legal action to prevent environmental destruction which diminishes the quality of life of future generations.

V. On "Discounting the Future" See:

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