



# FUTURES BULLETIN

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**The newsletter of the World Futures Studies Federation**

**Vol. 31, No. 5 September 2006**

## Editorial

This number of the Futures Bulletin is primarily focused around news and announcements. The two events in focus are the next WFSF World Conference in South Africa, for which the dates have been finally set, and the I WFSF Regional Conference in Latin America that will launch the creation of the Latin America Regional Chapter. Jordi SERRA, the driving force behind these events, reports on the details.

Among other items in this issue, we would like to point your attention to the short report from the meeting between representatives of WFSF, WFS, Millennium Project and APF that took place in July in Toronto; and a very inspiring story about Tom LOMBARDO's appointment as a resident faculty futurist.

As usual, we also introduce new members, who were recently admitted to the Federation, present the reports from various events that have taken place in recent months, announce new publications and events. We hope you will enjoy the read!

John RATCLIFFE & Ela KRAWCZYK

### Next issues of the Futures Bulletin:

15 November 2006	15 January	15 March	15 May 2007
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## SECTION 1 – COMMUNITY HOUSE

## MEMBERS

**Dr Tom LOMBARDO – Futurist Faculty Appointment**  
**[Tom LOMBARDO]**

This fall semester I was appointed the full time resident futurist faculty member at Rio Salado College in Tempe, Arizona. Receiving this appointment was the fulfilment of a long-standing dream and the result of many years of hard work and tenacious determination. Here is how it happened.

In 1991 I was hired as chairperson of psychology and philosophy at Rio Salado College. Around 1993 I became interested in the study of the future and began teaching a general introductory class at Rio on the future. Over the next couple of years, I wrote a textbook for the class and gave a copy of it to Dr. Paul ELSNER, the Chancellor of the Maricopa Community Colleges (MCCCD) of which Rio Salado is part. Chancellor ELSNER was very impressed by the book and suggested that I establish a Futures Institute at Rio Salado. I was awarded a grant for creating a website and over the next few years developed and presented a series of workshops on different aspects of the future, including globalization, technology, education, and religion.

After this auspicious beginning, however, certain struggles and setbacks emerged. Upon Dr. ELSNER'S retirement from MCCCD, the Futures Institute was discontinued and enrolment in the futures course dwindled due to changes in program requirements. I continued in my position as chair of psychology and philosophy at Rio, but my passion for the study of the future did not waiver. I continued to read voraciously on the topic, began attending and regularly presenting at WFS annual conferences, and, beginning with a paper solicited by Richard SLAUGHTER, began publishing more and more articles on the future, especially over the last three years. I have been particularly interested in the connections between the disciplines of psychology, philosophy, and science fiction and the study of the future, and how to enhance constructive and creative attitudes toward the future. Along the way, many noteworthy futurists have encouraged my efforts, including Wendell BELL, Rick SMYRE, Reed RINER, Ed CORNISH, Tim MACK, and Walter Truett ANDERSON. Over the last ten years, following the advice of Paul ELSNER, I have strived to network with a greater number of futurists, to get to know them, to learn from them, and get support for what I was doing. This has been a critical element, since the study of the future can be a rather solitary pursuit, given the lack of reinforcement in our popular culture.

Along with publishing a series of relatively focused articles over the last few years (something my wife Jeanne strongly encouraged me to do), I have also been writing several drafts of books on the future. I thought it was important to do something substantial to more strongly establish myself in the discipline. These efforts finally paid off this summer (again the key word is "tenacity") with the publication of two companion volumes on the psychology and historical development of the human capacity to think about the future: *The Evolution of Future Consciousness* and *Contemporary Futurist Thought*. I believe the publication of these books was a highly important factor in establishing my professional credentials.

But further, and most significantly, after finishing the books, I came to the realization that, although my position as department chair was in many



ways rewarding and fulfilling, it was time to personally and professionally move toward creating a more positive and creative future for myself. I had a series of epiphanies and revelations about my life and decided it was time to go after my dream. It was time to walk the talk of a futurist.

Consequently at the beginning of the fall semester, I was ready to move forward and fortunately I was at the right place at the right time. Rio Salado College was planning some significant and transformative changes for the immediate future, and, consequently, was very open to innovative ideas and approaches. Hence, there was a clear and sudden resonance between my aspirations and the goals of the college. Within a period of two weeks, I proposed to the Vice President, Dr. Karen MILLS, my ideas of creating a futurist faculty position, discussed it with the President, Dr. Linda THOR, wrote up a job description, and had the position approved. Although I had been working on building my credentials as a futurist for many years, and I made this case very strongly during my discussions with the President and Vice-President, the fundamental change – when it happened – was quick and dramatic.

In my new position as resident futurist faculty, I will be providing ongoing futurist consultation on central initiatives and strategic plans for Rio Salado College. I will also be offering college-wide educational programs, relevant to the future, for staff. Finally, I will be re-establishing the Futures Institute. My first projects have been to provide input on Rio Salado College's vision for 2012 and to develop a series of workshops on enhancing future consciousness (developing more constructive and creative attitudes and behaviours pertaining to the future) for emerging leaders and staff in general at Rio.

In closing, I should mention that my wife, Jeanne, has been the greatest source of encouragement and inspiration in this ongoing quest. She is extremely interested in the future and over the years we have discussed a myriad of future-relevant topics. She edits and contributes to all my writings. She is my partner in our collaborative journey into the future.

## Welcoming New Members

### Maree CONWAY [Maree CONWAY]



I began to learn about foresight and futures work in 1999, when I was lucky enough to be asked to establish a futures unit at Swinburne University in Melbourne, which lasted until 2004. I now work at Victoria University in Melbourne as General Manager, Quality, Information and Planning, where I continue to use futures approaches in my work. I have been running scenario planning workshops internally, and we are working on setting up an environmental scanning framework for the University. Ultimately, however, I hope to move out of universities where I have worked for more than 25 years, and focus on convincing Vice-Chancellors and other planning folks of the value of integrating futures approaches into existing strategy processes. This is one reason why I established the University futures website ([www.universityfutures.org](http://www.universityfutures.org)) – to provide a repository of information for university planners who are interested in finding out more about futures work. I am about to commence my third year in the Masters of Strategic Foresight at Swinburne. On the personal front, my husband is a research scientist, my son is currently spending the almost obligatory (at least for Australians) year overseas, and my daughter is in her second year of high school. We live in inner city Melbourne, in a Victorian terrace house which we recently renovated.



### Patrick van der DUIN [Patrick van der DUIN]

My name is Patrick van der Duin (Amsterdam, 1970) and I studied macro-economics at the University of Amsterdam at which I graduated in 1995. After this I worked at KPN Research, where I conducted numerous projects involving the future of telecommunication. Currently, I work as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Technology, Policy & Management of Delft University of Technology. I recently finished my PhD-thesis called *Qualitative futures research for innovation* in which I investigated how commercial organisations use qualitative methods of futures research in their innovation processes. My topics of interest are futures research and innovation management, and the way they can be integrated. More specifically, I focus on the use of futures research within a commercial setting and I am interested in best practice of futures research. I am currently working with colleagues on a book about innovation systems and I am starting a book on how different scientific disciplines are dealing with the future and another book on how market research bureaus are predicting the future.



### Erik ØVERLAND [Erik F. ØVERLAND]

**Erik F. ØVERLAND** is one of the most experienced foresight practitioners and theorists in Norway. Currently, he is the Managing Director of SUBITO! Research&Futures ([www.subito.as](http://www.subito.as)), but will later this year become the expert on Innovation Policy and Foresight on behalf of the Norwegian Government in the new Unit within the Royal Ministry of Education and Research. He has acted as a researcher, adviser and consultant in the Futures field for many years. Among his clients are the Government and several Ministries, Innovation Norway, The Research Council of Norway and other important actors within the innovation system in Norway.

As a social scientist, philosopher and information technologist Dr. Øverland (Mag. Art.) has experiences across professions. After being a research scholar at Rheinisch Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung and Nixdorf Computer in the late 1980s, he spent several years as Consultant for Hewlett Packard Europe (HP) and partner companies to HP in Germany. He is merited as a work researcher from the Work Research Institute in Oslo and had a position as senior adviser responsible for innovation and foresight in public sector for the Minister of Planning and Coordination (1997-1998) and the Minister of Labor and Government Administration (1998-2002).

He was the Project Manager for "Norway2030", a comprehensive foresight project for the Norwegian Government (1998-2001). He was also responsible for the process for the foresight projects on Biotech, Aquaculture, Advanced Materials and Energy carried out by the Research Council of Norway 2003- 2005. He was one of the initiators of For Society an ERA-Net project on foresight and policy development across Europe. Mr. Øverland has written a number of articles and contributed to several books on working life and long term planning issues. In several articles he has launched the concept "Perspectivist scenario building", which is based on morphological analyses and scenario building techniques combined with participatory tools and instruments from the Action Research field and the Democratic Dialogue movement.

In addition to being the writer of books and articles on futures issues, innovation policy and work life research, Erik F. Øverland has carried out more than 150 talks and lectures on foresight and scenario issues both in Norway and abroad since 1997.



## FEDERATION

IN

## A year on... [John RATCLIFFE]



A year has passed since new Executive Team took over the leadership of WFSF and it seems like a good moment to review and sum up our activities during that period. Currently, the Executive Team prepares the general report on the WFSF activities between September 2005 and August 2006. This report will be published in the next issue of the Futures Bulletin in November.

## I WFSF Regional Conference in Latin America [Jordi SERRA]



## 1. INTRODUCTION

For quite some time the WFSF has been trying to strengthen its presence in South America, several strategies have been tried over the years with limited success so far.

The election of a new board and the president program made the correction of this situation a priority.

Taking advantage of my position as a member of the, possibly, biggest Spanish electronic journal, *Prospectiva* I started some preliminary contacts. Guillermina BAENA, Mexican professor and director of the journal, put me in contact with Eduardo BALBI, an Argentinean scholar who is the Coordinator of a regional network EyE (Escenarios y Estrategia, Scenarios & Strategy). EyE soon proved to be a valuable contact as it has nodes and members all over the region, including professionals, professors, deans and principals.

Very soon it was obvious that both organizations could benefit from each other: the WFSF, through a network already working in the region, could improve its presence and activity in the region; and EyE could reach an international projection beyond its territory. And not only that. With *Prospectiva*, the chances of reaching a much wider community became a lot greater (right now, the journal has an average of 5.000 visitors and 165.000 hits on diverse contents).

Very soon, though, we all realised that, given the budget capacity of both organizations, the foundation of the WFSF Regional Chapter could go unnoticed to the broader community. Hence, the need to start with a big event that would make the Chapter and the founding organizations more known to the public, and that is how we decided to organise the I WFSF Regional Conference in Latin America.

By the way, we have opted for Latin American instead of South American or Hispano American because it is the most inclusive label.

## 2. THE CONFERENCE

## Dates:

The conference will be held from the 26 to the 28 of April in 2007 including pre and post conference events.

- A pre conference day with several workshops and seminars.

- A 2 days or 2'5 days conference
- A half-day working session to sketch the Chapter working plan for the following two years and the people responsible for every activity.

**Venue:**

The conference will be held at the new building of the Public Administration Graduate School (EGAP) at the TEC University in Monterrey (Mexico).

The TEC ([www.itesm.edu.mx](http://www.itesm.edu.mx)) is a university originally designed with a technical and business angle that has been progressively extending its field of activities and its presence all over Mexico and beyond. It holds a Master in Strategic Prospective run by Carlos DE LA CRUZ and Zidane ZERAOUI who are also the coordinators of the Monterrey EyE node.

**Participation:**

The conference will be broadcasted on-line so there will be the possibility of electronic participation.

**Structure**

The conference will be arranged according to the following classification:

- Special acts: such as opening, closing and the formal constitution of the WFSF Latin American Chapter. We will also try to have top officials at these events, like governors or even presidents.
- Plenary sessions: Mostly, with panels devoted to broad subjects like Futures: the State of the Art; The Relation between Futures and Strategy; Futures and Human Security; and The diffusion of Futures Studies. This time we will have a high percentage of traditional, formal presentations with invited speakers. We have discussed this at length and we all feel that it is important to invite all key people in certain places or areas. This will be the first conference and it is important to acknowledge the work of the people already being active in the field.
- Parallel sessions: these will form the space devoted to specific subjects like Futures and wealth, Prospects for labour in Latin-America, Futures and International relations, Futures and Ethics, etc. The sessions will be arranged in groups of 3 or 4 for every block, each session will be run by an expert who will make an introductory speech; but the intention is to have more interaction with the participants. The parallel sessions will decrease the number of participants in each group and, therefore, enable greater involvement of individuals.
- Workshops and seminars: the conference previous day will have workshops, devoted to training and technical questions, and seminars, with a more epistemological angle.

In the following days an official announcement with further information will be send to all the membership, in the meantime do not hesitate to contact me for any comment, question, query or proposal you may have.



## The next WFSF World Conference in South Africa – dates agreed! [John RATCLIFFE]

As we informed in the March (2006) issue of the Futures Bulletin the next WFSF World Conference in 2007 will be organised by The South Africa Node of the Millennium Project and The African Futures Institute. Over recent weeks, through the discussions between the President, Secretary General and the organisers, the dates for the conference have been agreed. The event will take place between **30<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007** in **Johannesburg**.

Currently, we are in the process of reaching the consensus on the conference topic. The next few weeks should bring further developments regarding the event's programme. These will be communicated through the Futures Bulletin and the list-serv. So watch this space!!

### OUT

## Meeting between WFSF , WFS, Millennium Project and APF in Toronto [Fabienne GOUX-BAUDIMENT]

On 30<sup>th</sup> of July, during the WFS conference in Toronto, a meeting between representatives from four futurists' organisations took place. The people present were: Fabienne GOUX BAUDIMENT and John RATCLIFFE (WFSF), Tim MACK (WFS), Jerome GLENN and Elisabeth FLORESCU (the Millennium Project) and Michele BOWMAN (APF).

A number of topics were discussed during the meeting:

- the creation of a common brochure presenting each institution;
- the establishment of a one page portal;
- the foundation of a common directory of the members;
- possible press release;
- the involvement of other futurists organisations in similar meetings in the future; and
- a possibility for cooperation on common projects.

The participants have agreed to create a common brochure and to establish one page portal. The brochure will present each institution and also it will include short information for the rationale of its creation. The portal will include the same short 'rationale' information and have the logo of each organisation and the link to their own websites, as well as some Open Source Tools. There is a possibility to add the list of futures journals to the website. The agreed deadline for the implementation of these decisions is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006.

### from the secretariat

## Helping hands for the secretariat [Alessandra DI PIPPO]

Alessandra DI PIPPO has started the internship within the 'Leonardo DA VINCI' programme at WFSF Secretariat on 4<sup>th</sup> September and will be assisting us in our duties until 18<sup>th</sup> February 2007. She has written a short text about her interests and also why she has chosen to get her work experience with the WFSF.

My name is Alessandra DI PIPPO and I'm a 23 year old Italian girl. I have graduated from Political Science and International Relations. All my vocational education included a multicultural and multidisciplinary dimension. I am particularly interested in working in a dynamic international context.

I chose WFSF because I wanted to put myself to the test and to be dealing

with something new. I approached this discipline driven by curiosity of learning about new research methods in the field of social studies. Futures Studies have been a very interesting finding especially because of my background in Political Science. I'm highly enthusiastic about the projects carried out by the Federation and I hope to give an actual contribution to its objectives.

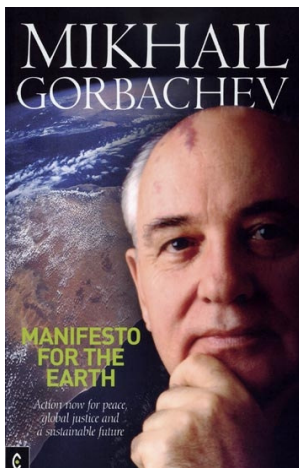
Futures Studies are a different way of thinking and provide me with a great opportunity to look at the world from a different perspective, more creative, more critical, more open.

## ABOUT "LEONARDO DA VINCI" PROGRAMME

"Leonardo da Vinci" is a Programme financed by the European Commission aiming at promoting, through the trans-national cooperation, the quality, the innovation and the European dimension of the Vocational Training, contributing to the creation of the European Knowledge Area. One of the most significant actions of the Leonardo Programme is "Leonardo Mobility", which promotes the organisation of students and new graduates' internships in European companies, with the aim of fostering students' and graduates' development of professional skills and competences.

## NEW RELEASES

### Manifesto for the Earth [Richard A SLAUGHTER]



Gorbachev, M.  
**Manifesto for the Earth**, Clearview,  
London, 2006

There can be few people in the world better placed to have an informed view on the issues that plague our time than former President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail GORBACHEV. His book, *Manifesto for the Earth*, sets out a brief, but coherent, analysis of the global situation along with some clear recommendations for change.

GORBACHEV is no idealist. As one who lived through the multiple privations of life in war-torn and post-war Russia, his view of the world is grounded in the realities of life as seen from a small farm in Stavropol region of the North Caucasus. As Russian President he is known for initiating certain democratic reforms that opened up the Soviet Union, bringing it forward out of the totalitarian era. He, more than most, is eminently well qualified to state that 'the opportunities on offer at the end of the cold war were for the most part not taken up'. And he is clear about why: lack of vision, lack of political will and the spread of economic liberalism around the world. This was shown beyond doubt at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development where a variety of progressive measures (such as investment in renewable energy by the OPEC countries and measures to curb excessive consumption in the rich West) failed to be taken up and implemented.

For these and many other reasons 'global politics is in crisis' and there is an urgent need for new initiatives to take us forward.

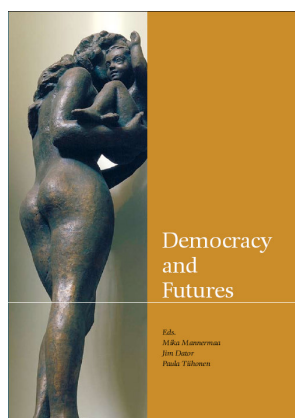
GORBACHEV writes about how the Chernobyl disaster affected him personally. It was 'a decisive test for glasnost' (openness), it 'shattered' his belief in the 'absolute reliability of technology' and it radically changed the time-scales that he'd been implicitly using. 'What right have we to burden our descendants with such a problem?' In the book he writes succinctly about the 'three crises': economic, social and ecological. After lamenting the widespread failure of the UN and governments to respond, GORBACHEV calls for a rejection of the consumer society (which he regards as 'a disaster'), a re-assessment of economic liberalism ('the growing ecological crisis shows that a liberal economy functioning mainly according to the



criteria of profitability and a return on capital is not capable of coping with the ecological challenge') and a wholesale commitment toward re-thinking and re-prioritising human activities on the Earth. 'What we need is not a revolution but an evolution of the idea we harbour about ourselves and about how the world might be organised and what its new shape in the age of globalisation might be'.

This all points to deeper challenges that manifestly go beyond what any nation is capable of achieving within the current world order, i.e., reversing 'currently prevalent behavioural patterns' beginning with 'changes in the human spirit, a reprioritisation of our value system, including relations between people and the interrelationship between humanity and nature'. GORBACHEV's solution, insofar as he is able to locate one in this context, is to put his energy into initiatives like the Earth Charter, Green Cross International and the Earth Dialogues process. He's accepted that governments per se and the UN simply will not act in the ways that will achieve sustained change. Therefore the only route left is direct engagement with people around the world and, especially, through the NGO movement.

There are a number of references to 'the future' in this book and its greatest omission is that it makes so little use of them. The focus is on finding solutions within the here-and-now to the great global problems. It says little or nothing about how human and social foresight can be mobilised to understand the challenges of the near-future environment, generate timely social responses and actively design futures worth living in. Despite a sound underlying analysis and a wealth of statesman-like experience, the writer fails to understand both the need and the potential for social foresight. But in all other respects this is a timely and refreshing book from someone who has earned the right to be heard and taken seriously. Would that governments were able to look beyond their immediate self-interest and act on these overdue suggestions.



Eds. Mika  
MANNERMAA, Jim  
DATOR, Paula  
TIIHONEN

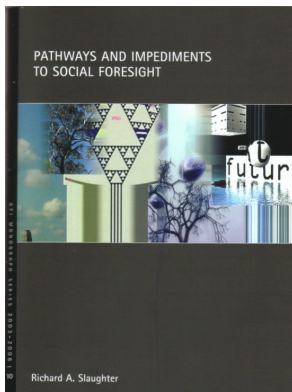
## Democracy and Futures [Alessandra DI PIPPO]

Democracy may be a word familiar to most, but it is a concept still misunderstood and misused. In the dictionary definition, democracy "is government by the people in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system." Shortly, democracy is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Among political theorists, there are many contending conceptions of democracy. The definition of the word 'democracy' from the time of ancient Greece up to now has not been constant and it keeps on developing. This book is an attempt to understand and promote democracy in different ways.

In connection with the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parliament of Finland, the Committee for the Future of the Parliament started the project 'Futures of democracy'. This book is one of the outcomes of its work. It's an international collection of articles written by distinguished futurists, many of whom are the WFSF members, on the compound theme of democracy and futures from their different cultural, scientific, technological, and geographical perspectives. What seems to be common to all of them is that they think democracy is the most desirable system of societal governance and that needs to be approached with a futures-oriented discussion.

## Pathways and Impediments to Social Foresight [Ela KRAWCZYK]



By Richard A  
SLAUGHTER, AFI  
Monograph No. 10,  
Swinburne, Australia

*Pathways and Impediments to Social Foresight* is the final publication in the AFI Monograph Series, Swinburne, Australia. This monograph reviews and brings together some of the key topics addressed by the series in the period between 2003 and 2006. The author, Richard SLAUGHTER, summarises the key features of the AFI programme, considers the limitations of conventional views of the future in the immediate regional (Australian and New Zealand) context, and discusses why the future still seems to be a 'missing dimension' in so many activities. He draws the attention to two areas of published work – the examination of issues forming the 'global problematique' and how they play out in the Australian context.

Starting with a brief 'conventional' description of the general situation of Australia and New Zealand at present and the challenges facing these countries in the future, the author tries to focus our attention on the elements that are missing from the traditional way of looking at the future. First, such an approach provides a description of an 'exterior' situation that deals mainly with well understood empirical issues. Second, although factors, such as world views, values and ideologies, are hinted to they are not articulated clearly. Finally, the analytical frame used to create such an overview remains in the background, often hidden and unacknowledged. Given these limitations the degree of clarity required for understanding and action is limited. And, therefore, clearly there is a requirement to develop more adequate views, which means that we need to move beyond conventional approaches.

The core exploratory part of the monograph aims to develop an understanding why conventional approaches to options and alternatives for Australia (or the world) are unconvincing and cannot sustain any sort of meaningful debate or dialogue. It includes the examination of the general reasons why the futures seems to be a 'missing dimension' in so many activities, the discussion of the various issues absent from the debates about the future of Australia, the identification of the shared resources for thinking ahead, and the examination of the lack of awareness about futures work that has been conducted in Australia and elsewhere. Having this understanding it becomes obvious that in order "to make progress we need to re-define the problem, our approaches to it and canvass ways of moving beyond the blockages outlined earlier".

In the next part of the publication the author proposes and discusses in detail the actions that can be taken to re-define 'the problem'. He draws on the lessons learned in AFI and from the research carried out into 'creating and sustaining social foresight'. The following actions are proposed and explored in detail:

- the search for layered explanations (i.e. multiple layers of causation, not just one);
- the development of an understanding of the nature and operation and social interests;
- gaining knowledge from integral understanding and practice; and
- the use of the full range of available tools and methodologies.

This monograph, as well as the series that it concludes, is a valuable resource for anyone who tries to develop social foresight capacity. The series, not only demonstrate multiple ways and angles to approaching and developing such capacity, but also challenges us to undertake actions to build and sustain social foresight.



By Ute Héléne von  
REIBNITZ

## Es gibt immer eine Alternative Entdecken und gestalten sie Ihre berufliche Zukunft [Ute Héléne von REIBNITZ]

Who does not want to make the best of his/her personal future? This book is made for all those who want to shape their personal and professional future. The Scenario Method offers a concrete support on how to deal constructively and positively with future changes. At the beginning of your career, in the mid of your life, in your midlife crisis or in front of your retirement, it is always necessary to anticipate your life in all alternatives, and to fix concrete goals. Either there are changes you want to make or there are changes created by your environment: in any case it is always important to think ahead and to develop alternatives. The eight steps of the Scenario Method help you to explore alternatives to plot your successful path into the future.



By Professor Mahdi  
ELMANDJRA

[http://www.elmandjra.org/Presse\\_Valeur\\_des\\_valeurs.htm](http://www.elmandjra.org/Presse_Valeur_des_valeurs.htm)

## Valeur des Valeurs (The 1<sup>st</sup> Civilization War) [Mahdi ELMANDJRA, translation Fabienne GOUX-BAUDIMENT]

This reprinting of "First Civilisation War" takes up, under the spotlights of recent events, the book published in 1992. The Arabic publication, issued in 1991, has already been re-edited seven times since then. It has been translated in French, Japanese and Spanish.

In February 1991, during an interview for the German newspaper *Der Spiegel*, Mahdi ELMANDJRA described the attack against Iraq as the first civilisation war. Two years later, the journal "Foreign Affairs" released the famous Samuel HUNTINGTON's article, namely The Clash of Civilizations.

The approach of this book is preventive. It points out the weigh of values in the conflicts outbreak — hence the importance of the intercultural dialogue to promote peace. HUNTINGTON also insists on the role of culture but he identifies the non Judaeo-Christian world as the main cause of the coming wars. This is a reductionist approach and, as such, prescriptive for it implicitly justifies the military interventions in Afghanistan and in Iraq, among other countries....

Aggression against Iraq is already old of more than 15 years with its continuous attacks and bombings. The military occupation has already lasted 3 years. The number of victims of this violence, including economic embargo and other atrocities, children as well as adults, exceeds 2 millions. This war has cost until today 500 billions of US dollars.

With these sad records in mind, and considering the reality of a country destroyed with barbarity in the name of a "democracy" which is nothing else than a State terrorism in the age of mega-imperialism, this book appears today more relevant than ever.

Rabat, June 2006

## SECTION 2 - FUTURES RIDE (PAPERS)

## SECTION 3 - FUTURES STUDIES IN THE WORLD

### Australia



### Earth Dialogues Brisbane 21-24<sup>th</sup> July 2006 [Richard A SLAUGHTER]

The fifth in a series of Earth Dialogues was held in Brisbane in July 2006. The event was supported by the Brisbane City Council, the State Government and a variety of other sponsors. A number of visitors, including several Nobel Laureates, attended from overseas. In addition leading Australian commentators from many fields took part in wide-ranging discussions and presentations. The public attended in considerable numbers and a special day was set aside to involve young people from schools throughout the state.

The primary draw card of the event was the active presence of Mikhail GORBACHEV, former President of the Soviet Union. His influence was felt in the underlying philosophy of the Earth Dialogues series which is itself an outgrowth of an NGO he created called Green Cross International. GORBACHEV'S presence was felt from the outset in an opening speech notable for its direct and uncompromising stance. He issued a blunt warning about the severity of the challenges now faced by the human race and suggested that most of today's political leaders did not know how to tackle them. They either needed to find ways to act decisively or stand aside. He also spoke about how poverty, hunger and lack of fresh water and sanitation are creating 'time bombs' in many places. He called for a 'rights-based' approach to fulfilling peoples' basic needs, including an end to the humiliating poverty faced by many. He also critiqued the spread of US-inspired commercial expansionism that had resulted in the current pernicious form of market oriented globalisation. He contrasted the billions of dollars spend on weapons of war with the smaller amounts that were needed for more positive uses. Finally he called for a new understanding of the meaning of 'security' involving actively responding to the challenges of population, access to natural resources and climate change.

GORBACHEV'S presentation was backed by a number of supporting elements including the Earth Charter itself, his book *Manifesto for the Earth* and other publications put out by Green Cross International, including its journal *The Optimist*. Overall, therefore, his influence on the event was pervasive both as a result of his unique place in modern history and of the quality of these more recent contributions. His participation was widely reported and did a great deal to raise the profile of the event. Here is an excerpt from the preamble of the Earth Charter.

*We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognise that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.*

The Earth Dialogues were carefully structured around the following topics, each of which included several panels of experts and commentators from a variety of cultures and fields:



- Trends, threats and opportunities
- Governance and accountability
- Human rights and justice
- Innovation and inspiration – solutions and proposals toward sustainable peace
- An education day, and
- A report back session with draft action statement.



Going into the event I wondered if it would be merely another 'talk fest' that would take place and soon be forgotten. In retrospect I think it achieved more than that. To begin with there was genuinely broad social participation. The Brisbane City Hall was a large and accommodating venue with easy access and the main auditorium was usually full for the large plenary sessions. Second, local politicians were prominently involved and could not have failed to hear and take notice both of the issues being raised and the obvious expressions of public concern about them. Third, the event was very well organised and this meant that people could ensure access by simply booking ahead. Fourth, there was a genuine attempt to accommodate young people, with a full day devoted to engaging with them.

A few things surprised me. One was that the local city mayor appeared to have some 'green credentials' that were expressed in a long-standing interest in alternative energy sources. His constraint, apparently, was that of public support for initiatives in that field, which again underlined the importance of a vocal and informed public. Another was being a 'Nobel laureate' did not prevent one from making serious mis-judgements about the kinds of topics appropriate for public discourse. (I'm thinking here of an Irish participant who insisted on giving graphic details of atrocities involving young children that, really, had no place here.) But the most important was this: the futures dimension, while implicit in the whole event, was largely unaddressed.

It seemed to have occurred to no-one that, with the sufficient lead-time that can be created by the intelligent use of foresight, all the problems and issues that were being addressed could be dealt with much more easily. Without it everyone will continue to be overwhelmed by events, thus further inscribing the common practice of crisis management (as is happening now in Queensland with the current water crisis.) All the speakers were invited to submit their own brief recommendations. So I'll close this account with the paragraph I wrote for the event.

## Statement for the Earth Dialogues on Creating Social Foresight

The one change I would ask people to make in their lives is to think very carefully about the future implications of everything they do, and everything that is done on their behalf. All human beings are gifted with the capacity for foresight in their everyday lives. We now know how to take this ability and build it into a broad social capacity so that society as a whole becomes aware of the diminished futures we are currently creating. The hard fact to swallow is that 'normal' operation of our culture is progressively reducing the capacity of the planet to support life. Yet when we discover how far we are along this 'overshoot and collapse' path, new sources of motivation arise, along with many social innovations. These provide the means to make necessary changes, reorienting society away from its present trajectory toward one that is more satisfying, just and sustainable. The development of social foresight means that we do not have to wait until the 'four horsemen of the



Photographs by Richard SLAUGHTER

apocalypse' are at our door before we respond. We can act to avoid them by designing and fashioning the foundations of a new, far-sighted, civilisation that recognises planetary limits and lives more lightly upon the Earth. If the choice is between that or a new 'dark age' it makes sense to choose the former!

## Azerbaijan



## Azerbaijan Futures Studies Society (AFSS) [Reyhan HUSEYNOVA]

### History and Mission

Azerbaijan Future Studies Society (AFSS) was established in January 2006 as a non-profit research centre. This is the first research centre of such kind in Azerbaijan with the aim of studying the current trends and predicting the future ones. AFSS incorporates in itself a group of professional experts and analysts who use international models of future studies and analyze the development trends for Azerbaijan as well as for the whole Caucasus region.

[www.futurestudies.az](http://www.futurestudies.az)

### Methodology

While analyzing the issues and forecasting future models of development, AFSS uses methodological tools that have been known to Western experts for many decades. AFSS combines various interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the future, such as political, economic, social, cultural, geo-political analysis as well as the consideration of such factors as mentality, history, regional conflicts, security issues and global trends. AFSS takes a careful view at all existing variables and studies the risks and challenges to the predicted forecast. Finally, AFSS conducts various surveys, secondary data study, interviews, qualitative and quantitative research for the purpose of full and complete study of the issue.

### Products

AFSS offers qualitative research studies and analysis on future trends and models of development in the sphere of politics, economics, security, conflict and social/religious problems.

### Contacts

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## Holland



## The Summit for the Future - Report 2006 [Patrick CREHAN, Chairman of the Summit]

We have been looking at the issue of risk, through many different lenses and we started out with many, many questions. While listening to the conversations, a couple of threads have emerged – this is my personal sense-making, and I want to share that with you as a conclusion. Starting out with one of the negative ideas; we have been looking at death, and that somehow led to a discussion about health. The prevailing approach is 'curing the disease', a kind of response to when things are going wrong. What people seem to be saying is that we should think more about a proactive way of looking at these things, 'from curing to caring'. Looking beyond the body - and looking at the being. Going from a fragmented view of healthcare to a more integrated view of the individual, that combines the physical health with the psychological,

mental and emotional health of the patient. We had discussions on entrepreneurship, innovation; these are all part of the human experience everywhere in the world. People have needs, and parts of those needs are to plan, to care for their families, to build and construct, to change the world. Our most basic biology demonstrates the fact that we are driven to embrace change, and to be vectors and factors of change. This is how we are anticipating the world's development. The downside of our investment is that we are fighting these changes as if they were dangerous risks.



Another thread was the 'politics of fear' as associated with risk. People manipulate people. Communication is a form of manipulation, and one of the things we do is invite force. It's a form of violence, the way that we propagate politics of fear to influence how people behave. We need to understand what is real in terms of our perception of risk. Risks to business, risks to the environment, risks to the planet, risks to ourselves. And in terms of reality, one point was that money is not a map of the world, but it is certainly a partial one. And if it is the only one we use we will not navigate this landscape of risk very well. So the idea is to move beyond money towards something that is more value-based and includes money. After all it is one of the most powerful tools ever invented, and it is the most powerful cause for change in the world, but so is communication, and knowledge. In that sense, like for instance in any diet, it needs to be balanced or we break out in spots. So this whole idea of money, scarcity, fragmentation, again, another thread leading to values and the idea that there are scarcities but other things that you value exist in abundance. Looking at the whole area of media and entertainment, the experience economy – it's interesting, young musicians tend to look at the media business as a great evil, but well, you know, nothing is simple and with success and other things those views will change. But what is also interesting is how the world in media and entertainment is driving communication, connectivity, and the diffusion of knowledge, thus creating new forms of the economy. Peer to Peer sharing, Open Source, all of those things are already movements beyond a mere money-driven society towards a broader, more value-based economy. So it is quite interesting that in this area, there are already models emerging of different methods, and these are very positive images for the future. It shows that it is possible to go beyond money. The thing is not to say to people 'oh you shouldn't do this because no money is coming out, you should give them directions to go. Business has been a creative force in that, entrepreneurs, and small businesses, and some of the people speaking of entrepreneurship spoke about the role of small companies and the fact that small companies can co-exist with large companies and compete, not necessarily in a nasty way, but in a healthy, evolutionary, Darwinian way that is never personal.



Another thread is the whole idea of systems. It is so easy to blame the system. On the other hand, it's not easy to make changes. So if you feel the need to blame, you can instead look at the system and recognize that part of the way the world is today is in the system, so to speak. But you mustn't forget that it does come down to individuals – individuals matter, they can make a difference. But they must want to make a difference, they need to know that they matter, and they need to give themselves the freedom to participate in the world in that way. There is movement from the system, where you delegate responsibility away from yourself towards the individual, which has led towards those wonderful emerging ideas about the collective ideas, a collective consciousness, collective intelligence, and the idea that the system as

such is a form of life.

Part of the evolution occurs in this early phase of thinking, where the system changes and then moves on. But this emerging collective consciousness is a very positive image, the idea that we are part of that system that decisions do come down to individuals and they can make a difference. So our attitude to governance and leadership – we all are leaders in some way - changes in the way people lead. People become more affluent, more educated, more free. Leadership and governance systems are changing. So there are a lot of interesting concepts emerging from this. In terms of our perception and the meaning of risk, rather than seeing risk as something evil, unnecessary, and the basis of the politics of fear, to see risk as something corresponding to opportunity, see it as a challenge, see it as a force for good. Instead of thinking in terms of problems, give yourself the freedom to do something about it. Maybe having a new view on risk, on your life, on health, happiness, the meaning of money and so forth, this would give you a new freedom to undertake risks and to live with the consequences.



## Summit for the Future Report 2006

With contributions by Sir Paul JUDGE, Simon JONES, Ahmed EL SHEIKH, Elisabet SAHTOURIS, Jonathan MARKS, Madanmohan RAO, Colby STUART, Oebele BRUINSMA, David BUTLER, Martin HERZOG, Ralph FREELINK, Jacqueline TERNIER-DAVID, Chris DE BRUIJN, Gustav J. DOBOS, Huib SCHWAB, Roman RETZBACH, Joop REMMÉ, Geoffrey KLEMPNER, Mick YATES, Mark MINEVICH, George PÓR, Mathijs VAN ZUTPHEN, Kalle KÄHKÖNEN, Mike TAYLOR, John RENESCH, Leif Thomas OLSEN, Tom LAMBERT, Finn DROUET MAJLERGAARD, Peter MERRY, Patrick CREHAN, Evalueserve and many more ...

See:

<http://www.clubofamsterdam.com/event.asp?contentid=625&catid=85>

## Mexico / Global

## The Global Millennium Prize "Futures Challenges"

[Ela KRAWCZYK]



The Global Millennium Prize is an international competition for secondary (high) school students that aims to foster their creative future thinking. The organisers hope to awaken the teenagers' awareness through imagining new alternatives and addressing global challenges, and to stimulate their creativity and social responsibility.

The competition invites students between 15 and 19 year old to explore and write an essay on how they think one of the 15 Global Challenges (AC/UNU Millennium Projects Global Challenges) could be addressed between now and the year 2015. The Global Challenges include issues such as sustainable development, water, pollution, resources, democratisation, long-term policy-making, information technology, the rich and poor gap, transnational crime, energy, innovations in science and technology, and global ethics.

The contest started on 15th of September and will end on 15th November, 2006. Three students will be awarded for each from 15 categories. The Award Ceremony will take place in Mexico City in the National History Museum at the Chapultepec Castle.

Contacts for the competition:

English: John J. GOTTSMAN, [gottzman@msn.com](mailto:gottzman@msn.com)

Spanish: Concepción OLAVARRIETA, [olav@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:olav@prodigy.net.mx)

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**SECTION 4 - CALLS FOR PAPERS AND EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Journal of Futures Studies - Special Issue  
Invitation to submit articles on foresight, innovation and  
entrepreneurship (FI&E)

Globalisation and rapid modernisation is increasingly creating the need for social reflexivity in respect to the production and diffusion of innovations, both social and technical, within a landscape of widening change horizons and ethical concerns. This arises as a consequence of the dramatic effects of innovation on the modern world, its influence on social and ecological systems, and the implication innovations have on our futures. A new intellectual alliance between FI&E is now a matter of human survival. How and what we innovate, the enterprises we choose to create and the influence of infrastructure for generating entrepreneurship will combine to greatly impact human sustainability in the 21st century. This special issue will bring together cross-disciplinary research aimed at finding new synergies between foresight, innovation and entrepreneurship (FI&E).

Articles that are empirically based are preferred however conceptual works well grounded in the literature will be considered. A possible range of topics might address such issues as:

- The link between emerging social innovations and social foresight
- How foresight can inform social, technological and market responsive entrepreneurship
- State based foresight and innovation within geographic and political systems
- Case studies linking foresight, innovation and entrepreneurship
- Consequences (diffusion) research as foresight
- Issues of venture planning and growth arising from foresight practices
- Technology and/or venture impact assessment issues (ecological, social and economic)
- Innovation/entrepreneurship and alternative futures
- Foresight for start-up and growth enterprise
- Global risk and expanding uncertainty horizons
- New innovation frontiers
- Eco innovation & eco entrepreneurship
- Foresight and the influence on opportunity and venture evaluation

The special issue is being prepared in conjunction with submissions to the 2007 AGSE Entrepreneurship Research Exchange. However articles from non-conference participants are also invited for publication in the style and referencing format of the journal. The special issue will consist of up to 10 articles of acceptable publishable length (essays 1500-3000 words and journal articles 5000-7000 words) refereed through double blind review. A panel of four referees will be assembled to review the papers with two from the field of futures studies and two from entrepreneurship.

**Schedule of Important Dates**

- 900 word abstracts due no later than 1st January 2007
- Acceptance notified by 1st February 2007
- Full papers due 15th April 2007
- Full paper review advised by 15th May 2007
- Final submission with edits 1st August 2007
- Publication in the *Journal of Futures Studies* November 2007.

Journal co-editors will be: Jose RAMOS [jose@actionforesight.net](mailto:jose@actionforesight.net) & Allan O'CONNOR [aconnor@swin.edu.au](mailto:aconnor@swin.edu.au)

We look forward to receiving submissions and drawing together an alliance between these two dynamic and progressive fields of research.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Contributions to the Futures Bulletin welcomed!

We are inviting all members to contribute to the content of the Futures Bulletin by sending us your papers, news about changes in your and your community life, info about new books, reports, conferences that you have attended and you will attend and any other things that you would like to share with your fellow futurists.

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### PEACE, MACROHISTORY AND THE FUTURE

#### TRANSCEND Peace University – TPU On-Line

!!!!!!Call for applications for the Fall 2006 semester!!!!!!

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006

Sohail INAYATULLAH, Professor, Tamkang University, Taiwan; University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia; Queensland University of Technology, Australia, and Associate, Transcend Peace University

*What are the alternative futures of War?*

*Can the current trends toward violent conflict state, nation, community, family and personal levels be changed?*

*What insights can be gleaned from thinkers such as Khaldun, Toynbee, Spengler and Sarkar as to our peace futures?*

*How will technological developments nano-bots, designer soldiers, gene warfare challenge the possibilities of peace?*

*Can microvita and other spiritual approaches create the possibilities of inner and outer world peace?*

*Can futures thinking help us develop alternatives to violent conflict or does it primarily help war planners develop more sophisticated gaming scenarios?*

This course will focus on these and other questions related to the futures of peace. We will use the five basic pillars of futures studies and associated methods to explore this.

More information at: <http://www.transcend.org/tpu>



### HUMANITY AND THE BIOSPHERE: THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS



Since the early 1970s, UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB)

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/mabProg.shtml>) has worked continuously for the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity and an improved relationship between people and their environment globally.

In 2006 for the first time, the *Foundation For the Future* will join with UNESCO in conducting a MAB international seminar, but with the added emphasis on the thousand-year future. How can humankind look upon the biosphere from a very long-range perspective? What does sustainability mean in the context of a thousand years into the future? What will conservation (or lack thereof) of biological diversity mean in the long term?

*The Foundation For the Future* and UNESCO are working together to orchestra the seminar "Humanity and the Biosphere: The Next Thousand Years" to be held in Paris, September 20–22, 2006.