

FUTURE *takes*

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Commentary

After years of learning and practising future studies, I deeply feel that their impact and value exceed the already broad – but traditional – discourse of experts and uses in public plans and large corporations’ strategies. I think it’s always important to avoid what I call the “Club Syndrome” that can leave room for complacency and hide remaining progress. As design, future studies must be inclusive! There are still “uncharted waters” and “hunting grounds” for the methodologies, uses, and overall “spirit” of future studies: SME, education (see the Canadian project on *durable innovation*), and emergent and “forgotten” countries and continents...

In my own view, this broadening vision must be completed by a deeper understanding of the human impact of future studies. Future studies act at the individual level to help to envision and monitor change and changes, to develop assertiveness, to find “flow” in the Csikszentmihalyi term, bringing a person not only to imagine but to *love the future*. At the collective level, the journey to a shared vision brings to listen, learn from, and accept the differences of views: cultures, assumptions, and sensitivities.

May be more important, as the Future does not belong to anybody but as everybody has something to see and to say about the Future; Foresight and Futuring sessions are a rare, even unique case where people meet with no expert leadership and preserve and shared freedom and right of expression among all participants. In a way, a future studies meeting is a unique true niche for democracy in business practices!

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