

Welcome To the Minnesota Futurists

SIG Guidelines

Everybody knows a “chunk” of what our community and world futures might hold.

So, everyone is always welcome to share their savvy thoughts and insights during always challenging & stimulating, idea exchanges with other futurists having diverse views perceptions about future thought leadership.

Our group explores Alternative Futures & NOT “The” Future. This approach enables us to consider multi-tiered, many-faceted, multi-cultural Futures (plural) that await us.

Our weekly process often includes guided dialogs about impacts of alternative futures.

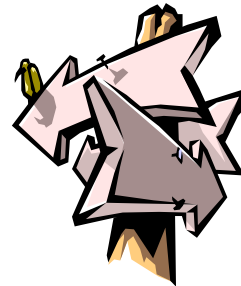
What was past - or is present - remains germane to our conversation if it also helps to clarify or illustrate emerging futures.

"The past is but a memory. The future is only in our imagination. The only reality is this instant in time." ... Jeffery Deaver "The Vanished Man"

Mission: Study of Alternative Futures ...

Affiliated with the World Future Society
@ www.wfs.org ... our purpose includes:

- ◆ **Create a rational awareness of alternative futures and the importance of future studies WITHOUT advocating particular ideologies or engaging in political activities.**
- ◆ **Advance serious and responsible investigation of future scenarios.**
- ◆ **Promote development of future studies methods and increase public understanding.**
- ◆ **Facilitate dialogs among both organizations and individuals who study or plan for global futures.**



The “experienced” inter-regional chapter of the
World Future Society @ www.mnfuturists.org

Future Thought Special Interest Groups

1st Saturday “Future Studies” Session:

Tutorials cover new forecasting methods about possible Alternative Futures & assess significant impact areas ...

Economy SIG:

Discusses 21st Century Global Economy alternative futures.

Science & Technology SIG: Explores exciting breakthrough and breakout frontiers for nanotechnology, information science, biology, cybernetics, genetics & techno-trends.

Management / Education & Societal SIG:

Examines possible futures for management and leadership. Alternately, we discuss topics about multiple impacts areas for health care, governance, crime, education, the family and other societal concerns.

5th Saturday Peace SIG:

Studies 21st Century Global Peace alternative futures.

MINNESOTA FUTURISTS

We don't gaze at crystal balls

We don't read tea leaves, study ancient prophesy or even "predict" things.

Futurists are both scientists & scholars.

We have our own methodology and terminology for exploring what futures await us ...

ALTERNATIVE FUTURES: Possible emerging developments. This term emphasizes that our future is not fixed: many things may happen and people should explore various possibilities and then actively seek to realize those options that seem most desirable. A Futurist does NOT predict THE future, but instead develops POSSIBLE alternative futures. These are modeled, simulated and studied. From experiencing these scenarios, others can choose a desired future.

TREND: A change in a variable that takes place over an extended period of time. Trends are distinguished from fluctuations ... a change that occurs over a brief time period ... and which may have NO long-term significance.

TREND ANALYSIS: The analysis of changes based upon historical precedent and understanding both the cause AND consequence relationships of an event to its environment.

LINEAR TREND EXTRAPOLATION: Extending a trend in a straight-line fashion. "Linear" forecasting assumes that a trend will continue unchanged into the future. For example, extrapolating that a city's economy will grow next year by 5% because it has grown 5% a year during the past 10 years.

MULTIFOLD TREND: A many-faceted trend in which many changing variables interact with and relate to each other.

LEADING INDICATORS: Key indicators that generally precede or reflect change. They vary by field (e.g., social/political & economic/environmental). Because Trend now indicates a more fixed pattern, Indicator has become a more useful cognitive descriptor for futurists.

PREDICTION: The term prediction IMPLIES a greater degree of precision and certainty than does forecasting. Future-oriented scholars generally AVOID making predictions and deal with terms like Forecasts or Conjectures.

SELF-FULFILLING FORECAST: A forecast that tends to make itself come true. For example, a forecast for rapid growth of a certain city may encourage businesses to locate there, and cause the futuring forecast to be realized.

TIME HORIZON: An organization may be viewed as having a "short time horizon" if it rarely gives serious consideration to events that are forecasted to occur more than two years into the future.

VISION or IMAGES: A picture or perspective of how you think something might be - or should be - sometime in the future. It is useful for developing possible TARGETS and for explaining them. Images are more useful to futures studies ... these suggest that there are multiple outcomes. Vision may suggest ONLY one possible outcome.

NEW!

Our new Futures Studies Course, takes an in-depth look at the actual art and science of seeking and framing future possibilities.



We hope you enjoyed participating in our weekly SIG session and that you will participate often.

We encourage you to become a regular member of the Minnesota Futurists Chapter and can give you information on joining the World Future Society. Please feel free to discuss membership options with any of our members or contact:

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