

Purchase link:

<https://www.apf.org/store/ViewProduct.aspx?id=16603386>

**THE
KNOWLEDGE
BASE OF
FUTURES
STUDIES
2020**

**EDITED BY
RICHARD SLAUGHTER
& ANDY HINES**

THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF FUTURES STUDIES 2020

Editors

Richard Slaughter & Andy Hines



Washington, DC, USA



Brisbane, Australia

Copyright © 2020 Association of Professional Futurists and Foresight International

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

The Knowledge Base of Futures Studies 2020 is edited by Richard A. Slaughter and Andy Hines. For questions regarding this publication, please write contact@apf.org.

This book is licensed for your personal study only. It may not be re-sold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each person. If you're reading this book and did not purchase it, or it was not purchased for your use, then please visit <https://www.apf.org/> and buy your own copy. Thank you for respecting the work of these authors and editors.

For details of the earlier 5-volume USB Legacy Edition of the KBFS please go to: <https://foresightinternational.com.au/kbfs/> To purchase go to: <https://foresightinternational.com.au/shop/usb/knowledge-base-of-future-studies-usb/>

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-0-9857619-3-6 (print)

ISBN: 978-0-9857619-2-9 (ebook)

CONTENTS

Foreword	iii
Introduction	iv
Acknowledgements	viii
Volume 1: Foundations	1
Introduction to Volume 1: Foundations.....	2
Part 1: Origins and State of Play	6
Chapter 1: Yesterday’s Futures over Three Millennia.....	7
Chapter 2: Mapping Fifty Years of Futures Studies Scholarship (1968–2017)	24
Chapter 3: The State of Play in the Futures Field: 10 years on.....	48
Part 2: Approaches to Futures Thinking	65
Chapter 4: Seeing in Multiple Horizons: Connecting Futures to Vision and Strategy	66
Chapter 5: Design for the Abstract Qualities of Futures Studies	86
Chapter 6: Presencing: The Theory U Framework as Foresight Method.....	98
Chapter 7: The Manoa School’s Four Futures.....	109
Volume 2: Methods and Practices	120
Introduction to Volume 2: Methods and Practices.....	121
Part 1: Futures Methods and Tools	124
Chapter 8: Emerging Practices in Foresight	125
Chapter 9: Aspirational Futures.....	143
Chapter 10: Ethnographic Experiential Futures (EXF).....	157
Chapter 11: Wild Cards and Weak Signals.....	171
Chapter 12: An Updated Practitioners Guide to Science Fiction Prototyping	185
Chapter 13: Framework Foresight: Exploring Futures the Houston Way.....	196
Part 2: Critical Practice and Integral Futures	215
Chapter 14: Decolonizing Futures: Finding Voice, and Making Room for Non-Western Ways of Knowing, Being, and Doing.....	216
Chapter 15: Surfacing the intangible: integrating the doing and thinking of strategy	231
Chapter 16: Integral Futures: Theory, Vision, Practice	237
Volume 3: Synergies, Case Studies and Implementation	258
Introduction to Volume 3: Synergies, Case Studies, and Implementation	259
Part 1: Synergies and Implementation	263
Chapter 17: Australian Futures: The Swinburne Foresight Program	264
Chapter 18: Finnish and Nordic Futures Studies – Current insights and new voices	280
Chapter 19: The IFR story and Futures in Africa	295

Chapter 20: A Foresight Journey in Education Futures, Foundation Style.....	310
Chapter 21: The Polak Game	326
Chapter 22: Foresight Maturity Model (FMM): Achieving Best Practices in the Foresight Field	341
Chapter 23: Foresight Capacity: Towards a Foresight Competency Model	352
Part 2: Futures in Governance.....	367
Chapter 24: Transforming Global Governance in the 21st Century: Issues and Proposals.....	368
Chapter 25: Anticipatory Governance: The Role of Futures Studies in Regaining the Political Initiative	385
Chapter 26: Foresight as a Rigorous and Systematic Imagining Process	403
Volume 4: Directions and Outlooks.....	418
Introduction to Volume 4: Directions and Outlooks	419
Part 1: 21st Century Outlooks and Risks.....	422
Chapter 27: Public Perceptions of Future Threats to Humanity: Why They Matter	423
Chapter 28: The Three Tomorrows of Postnormal Times	437
Chapter 29: Energy Descent Futures	453
Part 2: Where Now for Futures Studies and Applied Foresight?	471
Chapter 30: Professionalizing Foresight: Why Do it, Where it Stands, and What Needs to Be Done.....	472
Chapter 31: Futures Studies as a Quest for Meaning.....	489
About the Editors.....	508

Foreword

It is an honour for APF—the Association of Professional Futurists—to offer this compendium to forward-looking learners everywhere. Since 1994, thousands of practitioners have encountered the pathway of foresight through *The Knowledge Base of Futures Studies*. Now the new *KBFS 2020* builds on this classic tradition.

It is often said that experience is the best teacher. In an age of change, chaos, and complexity, however, we cannot experience everything we need to become future-ready. We must turn to trusted friends to help us navigate the future.

You will find both old and new friends in the *KBFS 2020*, thanks to its editors Richard Slaughter and Andy Hines, two distinguished foresight educators from Oceania and America. They have collected seminal contributions from foresight scholars and professionals around the world.

Early and mid-career professionals, educators, policymakers, managers, and college students will find something of value in this new volume. As well, instructors, trainers, consultants, and professors will find collected wisdom to pass onto others.

A century ago, Europe was plunged into a Great War following a terrorist event, taking 18 million lives, only to be followed by the deadly 1918 Influenza Pandemic which took another 50 million lives, mostly young adults. After the war, a progressive US President, Woodrow Wilson, received the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting the League of Nations. Central to Wilson’s life was his view of knowledge: “I not only use all the brains that I have, but all that I can borrow.”

It is APF’s hope that every person who picks up this work will “use all the brains that they have” and “all that they can borrow” from the wisdom of the future-oriented friends who contributed to this volume.

Jay Gary, PhD
Chair, Association of Professional Futurists
Washington, DC
May 11, 2020

Introduction

The Knowledge Base of Futures Studies (KBFS) arose from ideas and conversations in various locations around the world during the early 1990s. A major concern at the time was that Futures Studies (FS) was expanding and diversifying but core features such as organizations, methods, and literature were sometimes hard to identify or evaluate. How would practitioners define their field(s) of interest and how could new entrants find their bearings? Moreover, there were growing concerns that FS could be seen as a purely Western phenomenon. In which case where were those “other voices,” other views and, importantly, other “ways of knowing?” I wrote to as many practicing futurists as I could around the world requesting their insights and support.

The first incarnation of what later became known as the KBFS was a special issue of the journal *Futures* published in May 1993. It contained seven main articles, ten “divergent perspectives,” and no fewer than five annotated bibliographies from different regions of the world. It was intended to be critically aware, gender neutral, multicultural, and critically informed. The first edition appeared three years later in 1996 as a three-volume set of hardcopy books in a sturdy slip case. It was launched that year in Washington, DC at a World Future Society (WFS) event and in Sydney, Australia at the Futures Foundation. It garnered some very positive reviews and was quickly seen as a welcome addition to the literature. Students from the Houston Foresight program even referred to it as a one-stop-shop.

While most understood “knowledge base” to be merely a useful metaphor, some questioned whether it suited a field as diverse and fluid as FS. In order to emphasize its process orientation and openness to diversity and change, it therefore made sense to publish a follow-up paper describing the KBFS “as an evolving process.” A couple of updates ensued and, with the valuable assistance of my son Rohan (an IT specialist) the first CD-ROM version was produced in 2000. It provided a stable, easy-to-use format that, unlike the heavy hardcopy books, was easy to mail. A further five years were then required to produce the 2005 Professional Edition. The introduction to that edition can be found [here](#). And that is where the KBFS could very well have ended.

In the years that followed I remained deeply immersed in futures work as an independent futurist, freshly liberated from academia. I continued to write, review, edit, and perform occasional consulting jobs. But I was no longer immersed daily in the active networks and intense exchanges of ideas and influences provided by universities. Yet it was unusual for a year to pass without being reminded of the KBFS and wondering how it could be updated.

I was particularly galvanized when I returned to earlier work of undoubted quality that now sat unregarded in the dark recesses of publishers' archives. I could not avoid the fact that most commercially published work only saw daylight for a brief time before vanishing behind unassailable paywalls. Nor was that the only issue. Physical copies, journals, and author offprints with multiple, uncomplicated uses had disappeared, leaving only the traces of significant amounts of human effort and professional value hidden away in distant "cloud" repositories. Two key issues arose. One was that only those with privileged access could use this vast trove of hidden knowledge. More seriously, however, no guarantee was or would ever be provided regarding the long-term conservation and maintenance of this material. Digital files have many flexible and handy uses in the here-and-now. What is less well appreciated is that the commercial case for long-term archiving of digital material is problematic at best. State-run and -financed libraries operate on an entirely different basis, but they too have human, organizational, and budgetary constraints. It's no exaggeration to conclude that most or all of this digital trove will, at some point, disappear. No knowledgebase-type exercise could possibly begin to compensate for this defective system of profiteering and expropriation. But it became a "burr in the saddle" that kept reminding me that work of considerable value and salience was continually being lost.

During these years something else had been going on. The Association of Professional Futurists (APF) was steadily growing into a world-spanning organization comprised of active and talented people from a range of futures-related disciplines. A combination of idealism and experience, along with a willingness to put the new capacities of IT to good use, meant that the APF had rapidly become a lively and distinct success. The original World Future Society (WFS) had downsized some years previously and the World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF), with which I'd been closely associated, continued on its own rather quiet and restrained path. But the APF was going places. Its in-house journal

Compass provided a lively compendium of news, reviews, and articles of genuine interest.

When Jay Gary became the new chair of the APF I felt there might finally be a chance to do something with the KBFS. I contacted Jay and was assured that he felt it was well worth doing. Moreover, the APF would be willing provide a small budget (for copyediting and production) to help make it happen. My initial delight, however, was moderated by concerns about how difficult it would be to manage such a project on my own. That's when I contacted Andy Hines, who agreed at once to be co-editor. Andy and I knew each other well. As well as catching up at conferences he'd also been a guest at the Australian Foresight Institute (AFI) back in 2003 during my time as Director. Thus in early 2019 we got started on our list of prospective contributors.

Throughout that year we, along with a small group of helpers, sought to uncover some of the best published work from the previous decade. We were not primarily focused on various "legends" of our field, people whose work was already well-known and widely appreciated, so much as on recent work by emerging writers. To assist with this we assembled a simple list of criteria, as follows.

- Does the article represent an important innovation or change in the field?
- How new and fresh is the material?
- Is it of exceptional quality?
- Does it introduce new voices, including emerging futurists?

Kristin Nauth, our copyeditor, kindly took a look at the house style used for the previous edition and a few details were updated. We provided prospective authors with this as well as a short "Author Guidelines" summary. Perhaps three-quarters of the final collection was generated by writers who produced new versions of earlier work. For the rest we asked a few people for contributions on specific topics. By early 2020, just as the Covid-19 pandemic was beginning to impact the world, nearly all the papers had been copyedited and publishing agreements signed.

As this introduction was being finalised a stream of comments and proposals for informed responses to the pandemic appeared on the APF website. A known "wild card"—the coronavirus—had emerged to become a global catastrophe. It's too early to speculate what kind of world will emerge once the pandemic has run its course, or how long this will take.

Among the many proposals, however, there are bound to be references to improving our capacity for high-quality environmental scanning and vastly increasing its active role in decision-making across the board. One point of reference for such initiatives is over twenty years old—Laurie Garrett’s *The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance* (1994, London: Virago Press). The key is in the subtitle.

As long as human civilisation continues along its present destabilising course, the world will be “out of balance.” It follows that the present pandemic, challenging and frightening as it may be, can be seen as merely one expression (or continuation) of a worldview and *modus operandi* that has long called out to be thoroughly revised and redressed. KBFS 2020 does not address the current crisis directly. But it contains a number of powerful messages for the kind of disciplined enquiry and practice that the world needs now more than ever.

Andy and I trust you will enjoy the ride and, like us, find inspiration and courage on nearly every page.

Richard A Slaughter
Brisbane, Australia
April 2020

About the Editors

Richard A Slaughter is a writer, practitioner, and innovator in Futures Studies and Applied Foresight with particular interest in Integral Futures. His PhD was on Critical Futures Studies and Curriculum Renewal (Lancaster, 1982). During 1999–2004 he was Foundation Professor of Foresight at the Australian Foresight Institute, Melbourne. During 2001–2005 he was President of the World Futures Studies Federation. He is the author or editor of some 20 books and many papers. He has been a board member of several futures journals. Key works include: *The Biggest Wake Up Call in History* (2010) and *To See with Fresh Eyes—Integral Futures and the Global Emergency* (2012). In 2010 he was voted one of “the best all-time Futurists” by members of the foresight network *Shaping Tomorrow*. He has been awarded three “Most Significant Futures Works” awards by the Association of Professional Futurists, of which he is an Emeritus Member. His website is <http://www.foresightinternational.com.au> and he may be reached at rslaughter@ozemail.com.au.



Andy Hines is Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for the University of Houston’s Graduate Program in Foresight and is also speaking, workshopping, and consulting through his firm Hinesight. His thirty years of professional futurist experience include a decade working inside first the Kellogg Company and later Dow Chemical, and consulting work with Coates & Jarratt, Inc. and Social Technologies/Innovaro. His books include *Thinking about the Future* (2nd edition), *Teaching about the Future*, *ConsumerShift: How Changing Values Are Reshaping the Consumer Landscape*, and *2025: Science and Technology Reshapes US and Global Society*. His dissertation was “The Role of an Organizational Futurist in Integrating Foresight into Organizations.” He can be reached at ahines@uh.edu.



THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF FUTURES STUDIES 2020

Edited by Richard Slaughter and Andy Hines

Since 1993 thousands of practitioners have encountered the pathway of foresight through *The Knowledge Base of Futures Studies*. Now an entirely new 2020 edition has been created by the Association of Professional Futurists. It is organized in four volumes, across 31 chapters, by 37 authors. Early and mid-career professionals, educators, policymakers, managers, and college students, as well as instructors, trainers and consultants will find something of value in this edition.

Volume 1: FOUNDATIONS

- Origins and Current State
- Approaches to Futures Thinking

Volume 2: METHODS AND PRACTICES

- Futures Methods and Tools
- Critical Practice and Integral Futures

Volume 3: SYNERGIES, CASE STUDIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Synergies and Implementation
- Futures in Organizations and Governance

Volume 4: DIRECTIONS AND OUTLOOKS

- 21st Century Outlooks and Risks
- The Futures of Futures Studies



ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL
FUTURISTS

FORESIGHT
INTERNATIONAL

