

To See With Fresh Eyes: Integral Futures and the Global Emergency

Richard A Slaughter

Major Sources and Themes

Part One: Early Perspectives -> PhD in Critical FS & Curric Renewal

1. Origins of a defective worldview (1975, 1986) *Bermuda + SF, David Wingate, Mumford, Roszak, Thoreau & other early US conservationists.*
2. Future vision in the nuclear age (1987) *Huxley, Schumacher, Macy, Frankel et al -> Laughlin & Richardson. (Applies notions of empowerment and Transpersonal Psych to fears of nuclear war.)*
3. Cultural reconstruction in the post-modern world (1989) *Fraser, Berman, Wilber, Hess (Siddhartha, Glass Bead Game). (Explores four versions of 'hierarchicality' and value of distinct 'levels' or 'layers' of analysis.)*

Part Two: Applications - Critical to Integral FS

4. Mapping the future (1996) *Coates, Halal, Thurow, Meadows, Drexler, Marien, Brown. (6 Questions for a 'structural overview' and early attempt to delineate the 'civilisational challenge'.)*
5. Transcending flatland (1998) *(My 18th paper published in Futures.) Schon, Elgin, Wilber. Implications of Integral Perspective for FS.*
6. A new framework for environmental scanning (1999) *Hamel & Prahalad, Harman, Michael, Ogilvy, Linstone & Mitroff. (Uses 4Q model to re-frame ES.)*
7. From forecasting and scenarios to social construction: changing methodological paradigms in futures studies: (2002) *Bell, Kahn, Tibbs, Luckmann & Berger, Beck. (Overview of paradigmatic shift toward critical and Integral methods.)*
8. The transformative cycle (1982, 2003) *Markley, Henderson, Galtung, Hayward. (Considers changes of meaning in relation to, eg, social innovations.)*

Part Three: Case Studies and Implications – Approaching Post-Integral

9. Waking up after the war (2004/5) *Diamond, Gebser, Raskin, Beck, Edwards, Rushkoff, Wynberg, Voros. (Defines 'post-conventional' futures work.)*
10. Mapping the limits of intelligence (2005) *(Critiques National Intelligence Council, Washington DC, Mapping the Global Future study. Conclusions.)*

11. What difference does integral make? (2008) *Edwards, Nanus, Wack, Leaky & Lewin. (Exploratory review of methods using Integral framework)*
12. The state of play in the futures field – a metascanning overview (2009) *Kunstler, Ramos, Randers, Turner, Loveridge, Hines & Bishop, Conway, Riedy. (Project supported by Futs Fdn, Seattle. Applies new metascanning method to Futures-related activities around the world.)*
13. Beyond the threshold: using climate change literature to support climate change response (2009/10). *Lynas, Manne, Lovelock, Monbiot, McIntosh, Hochachka. (Applies integral concepts / methods to a major issue of our time.)*
14. Welcome to the anthropocene (2011) *Rockstrom, Watts, Beebe, Fry, Glenny, Kubler-Ross. (Reality check on status of humankind in relation to the global system; some implications thereof.)*
15. Making headway during impossible times (2012) *Marien, Halal, Gilding, Jackson. (Given the above, what to do, where to aim? Domains of generic responses.)*

Availability

Contents, intro and foreword: http://integralfutures.com/wordpress/?page_id=15
 PDF: <http://www.foresightinternational.com.au/>

Hard copy book available August, eBook by December. Review copies for course directors by request.

Values and worldviews in relation to climate change

Figure 10.3 ‘Waking up’ within four worldview perspectives

Pre-conventional

The transition between sleep and wakefulness each day.

Appropriate communication: The family needs feeding.

Demotivators: There are sufficient resources for today.

Conventional

Becoming aware of new ideas, opportunities and resources.

Appropriate communication: what new ideas are emerging about the world and our place in it?

Demotivators: Criticisms of personal behaviour, values, modus operandi.

Post-conventional

Opening to new realms of possibility, ways of knowing, paradigms, social options.

Appropriate communication: Invitation to explore ‘beyond the given’ through workshops, models, books, networks and exemplars.

Demotivators: Fatalism, anti-intellectualism, fads and fashions.

Integral

Understanding how the self, the ‘instrument of knowing,’ can be attuned to any and all phenomena at a variety of levels from gross matter to sublime spirit. Within that vast spectrum there is enormous scope to resonate with different expressions of reality without identifying exclusively with any one of them.

Appropriate communication: Celebrations of the richness of the universe, rituals such as the Council for All Beings, invitations to explore the spectrum of consciousness.

Demotivators: 1960’s ‘New Age’ re-hashed, inappropriate commercial applications, initiatives that fail to respect autonomy and diversity.

Figure 10.4 Communicating at six values levels**Red (egocentric and exploitative)**

Theme: Be what you want, do what you want.

Self-sense: need for protection, fulfilment of immediate needs, vulnerability, if in doubt, attack.

Demotivators: Use of threats, name-calling, excuses or accusations of weakness.

Example of communication: ‘Humans have not destroyed the planet; we have humanised it, turning what without us would be another pointless planet orbiting the sun into a place of abundance... We don’t need to rein in the ‘human footprint’ but rather stamp it even more indelibly on our planet, and in the future, on other planets too.’ⁱ

Appropriate communication: Wakefulness can reduce dangers, put you more in control. How much territory do you and yours really need?

Amber (absolutist and authoritarian)

Theme: Life has meaning and purpose but the outcomes are already set out.

Self-sense: search for approval; conform to social expectations, prevailing values, etc.

Demotivators: Attack religion, country, culture, holy books; disregard rules; be unfair or profane.

Example of communication: ‘To the Muslims who come into this country and then complain about how we dress, act or do anything, PISS OFF. If you want to wear clothing that covers your face, if you want to live under Islamic law and if you want to live in your own little enclaves, go and live in an Islamic country. Australia is happy to accept any religion, but don’t try and change us. Australia is a nation based on Christian principles. If you don’t like it, PISS OFF.’ⁱⁱ

Appropriate communication: What do the saints and sages of your culture say about becoming more aware and responsible? Do you understand and use the rules that have been laid down? Are you a good citizen? How might you change your views of others?

Orange (multiplistic and strategic)

Theme: Self-interest rules; play to win

Self-sense: Competitive, success-, and goal-oriented; strategic; responds to feedback.

Demotivators: Critique profit motive, entrepreneurialism; challenge competitiveness, demean results and withhold rewards; be inflexible and over-stress rules, regulations.

Example of communication: ‘The instant you commit to a sharing intention, you embrace an even larger purpose than riches for yourself. Your desire to give back energises you to achieve much greater levels of wealth. This makes your passion and purpose far more meaningful. It clears the way not just for more prosperity, but for ultimate success.’ⁱⁱⁱ

Appropriate communication: Are you ready to wake up to success? What do you need to do to achieve your goals and whom do you need to assist you? How can you re-assess your goals and check that you’re ‘on track?’ Can you expand on what it means to be a winner?

Green (relativistic and consensual)

Theme: Seek peacefulness and harmony within and without.

Self-sense: Self is related to others and to system; tolerant and open; acknowledges interpretation and role of subjectivity; open to spiritual dimensions.

Demotivators: Try to divide group, gain control; deny feelings, quality of life; emphasise facts at expense of subjectivity; be elitist, exclusive and aggressive.

Example of communication: ‘The spiritual and emotional dimensions of humans will not be denied, and we are now witnessing what might be viewed in Freudian terms as the return of the repressed on a societal scale. The human soul is determined to find meaning and cannot live by bread alone... Intuitive ‘body-wisdom’ is coming to our rescue in the spontaneous growth of new organisational forms, networks, rap groups, cooperatives and other manifestations of the human potential movement.’^{iv}

Appropriate communication: Do you appreciate the pay-off of consensus, sharing, participation and expanded awareness? How can win / win solutions be achieved that work for all?

Teal (systemic and integral)

Theme: Open to the fullness of being and becoming.

Self-sense: Links theory and practice; acknowledges dynamic relationships, emergent conflicts, higher principles, paradox etc.; aware of contradictions; seeks growth options.

Demotivators: Impose rules and regulations when they do not fit; close off access to sources of knowledge; force group solutions and restrict diversity.

Example of communication: ‘In contrast to reform environmentalism which attempts only to treat some of the symptoms of the environmental crisis, deep ecology questions the fundamental premises and values of contemporary civilisation... Deep ecology recognises that nothing short of a total revolution in consciousness will be of lasting use in preserving the life-support systems of our planet.’^v

Appropriate communication: What are the options for waking up and from whence do they emerge? What do hunches, intuition and scientific data suggest about the global predicament? What is your role in responding?

Turquoise (holistic and ecological)

Theme: Experience of wholeness through mind, body and spirit.

Self-sense: Active interplay of awareness, thinking, action; open to meaning making and value of transformation; acknowledges and enjoys complexity, shifting relationships in all domains.

Demotivators: avoidance of reality; impose short-term goals; overrule living systems; deny spirituality; promote ego.

Example of communication: ‘While all the worlds and planes of existence teem with consciousness, human mentality presents a distinctive feature: the capacity to choose, to change its karma. That is why a human life is considered so rare and priceless a privilege. And that is why Buddhist practice begins with meditation on the precious opportunity that a human existence provides – the opportunity to wake up for the sake of all beings.’^{vi}

Appropriate communication: What is the pay-off of holistic appreciation, of waking up at multiple levels and in relation to different (but interrelated) realities? How are breadth and depth reconciled? If consciousness is pivotal how can it be deepened and opened up even further to multiple points of view?

From Slaughter, R. Biggest Wake-Up Call in History, FI, 2010, pp. 158 & 162.

Table 13.2 Climate change at six value levels

Red: It's a jungle out there. Only the strong survive. We must dominate in order to have a chance. We will do whatever it takes to stay on top.

Blue: Strong government and a comprehensive set of strictly enforced rules are the only way forward. Overpopulation and pollution will lead to our extinction unless we conform to the imperatives of survival.

Orange: Though times are challenging we can innovate to survive. There are many opportunities for those who are clever and persistent enough to see beyond the present crisis: new industries, new urban forms, new ways to travel, grow food etc. Solutions will be found if we step up to the mark and bring the best entrepreneurial intelligence to bear.

Green: The communities of the world now have the best reason ever to put aside their differences, work together and fashion a new world. Joining together in this way we go beyond the profit motive and seek progress through harmony and love.

Yellow: Chaos is normal – we have been here before. The challenges are great but so is our individual and collective capacity to respond. We can use the crisis to fundamentally shift our civilisation to a new level of complexity and systemic awareness. Breakdown leads to breakthrough and this takes many forms.

Turquoise: The breakdown of the old world order will be painful but it is a prelude to the new in which cosmic truths prevail, along with principles of “enoughness” and balance at all levels. Individual and community life is centred around, and guided by, holistic and transpersonal energies. Earth resources are no longer limited to the physical and tangible but embrace subtle energies as well. What is meant by the “known universe” expands manyfold. New human and cultural options emerge and ancient enmities are finally transcended.

The value of these aspects of integral methodology is that they provide a fresh way of looking at climate change literature and the many proposals found within it.

From: Slaughter, R. To See With Fresh Eyes, FI, 2012, p. 168.

KBFS 2012 Update

Introduction

The KBFS has proved to be a useful and highly praised resource, especially for new entrants to futures and futures-related fields. It has gone through several iterations since it was first published in a three-volume hard copy slip case edition in 1996. The last major revision was carried out in 2005 and it is now time for a further up-date. Careful thought has been given as to how to achieve this in the light of the explosion of futures-related specialities, associated publications and new web sources.

We considered using a web delivery system for the new version but this involves considerable costs and continuing administration. We're not ruling out that option for the future. After careful thought, however, we decided on the

following strategy. We'll keep volumes one, two, three and five more or less as they are. A few items may be dropped from these and a few added but, overall, no major changes are planned for these four volumes. We'll drop the existing volume four (*What futurists think*) as (a) its more than 100 items are out of balance with the rest and (b) the bio accounts it contains are frozen in time and would need to be vastly expanded to remain up-to-date. Were this to be undertaken, it could be done as a separate project.

The old volume five will become volume four and our major effort to update the series will focus on creating a new volume five with the working title of *New directions in futures studies and applied foresight*. This volume will be issued separately in pdf form and subsequently as an eBook. It will also be included on a newly reformatted CD-ROM. The latter will then offer a distinctive combination of:

- increasingly rare and hard-to-find legacy material (origins, pioneers, disciplinary and conceptual foundations);
- early 21st century contributions (organisations, methods, approaches) and;
- a sample of innovative and up-to-date contemporary work.

The value of the legacy material is that it enables new entrants to futures studies and applied foresight to quickly gain an understanding both of the work of some of the early pioneers and the substance of the field as it developed during the 20th century. This permits a necessary grounding in an area that can often appear confusing or diffuse at the outset. For the time being the largest part of the KBFS will remain that provided by material from the late 20th and early 21st centuries. This is a true international overview. Numerous accounts from different cultural locations and points of view demonstrate how futures thinking and practice developed over that time. The new volume five will showcase new and significant work from the last few years.

How we'll proceed

From the earliest phase of this project the underlying principles have been as follows: non-commercial collaboration; international and multi-cultural perspectives and evolving structure and content.

This is how I approached the very first iteration of the KBFS. It took the form of a special issue of *Futures* that was published in April 1993. As noted above, the first three-volume hard copy edition followed three years later, in 1996, after an intensive period of consultation and collaboration with many people around the world. Also during 1996 an article was published in *Futures* called *The knowledge base of futures studies as an evolving process*. It was intended to head off the anticipated criticism that the project was going to be monolithic or set in place for all time. In that paper I identified four factors that I felt would allow it to continue evolving. These were: critique, innovation, new voices, and synthesis. All can be seen operating in the way the project has evolved over nearly two

decades. A combination of the underlying principles and evolutionary factors will continue to shape this latest revision. It will proceed in the following steps.

1. Consultation with colleagues internationally about categories (see below) and content for the new volume five.
2. Material will be identified and the authors contacted for copyright clearance (my firm view is that copyright should always remain with authors whose right it is to provide licences to publishers).
3. To be included submissions *must* conform to house style and formatting guidelines (copy editing non-compliant work is expensive).
4. The resulting material is made available as a pdf, eBook and on CD-ROM.
5. The time-line for completion of this project is approx. 18 months from inception.

Volume five search categories

The following are identified to assist the search process for new material.

- Journals: Futures, Foresight, Journal of Futures Studies, other?
- Books published since 2005.
- Web-based writing: web sites, blogs etc.
- You Tube videos: presentations, innovations, illustrative material.

Volume five draft headings

- New ideas and emerging perspectives
- New voices
- Evolution of methods in futures studies / applied foresight
- Futures studies / applied foresight and the global emergency
- Other?

Richard Slaughter, Foresight International, Brisbane. June, 2012.

Email: rsllaughter@ozemail.com.au Web: <http://foresightinternational.com.au>

ⁱ O'Neill, B. 2009, p. 8.

ⁱⁱ Anonymous email received 26th January, 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ Howard, C. 2010, endpaper quote.

^{iv} Henderson, H. 1978, p. 23-4.

^v Seed, J. et al, 1988, p. 9.

^{vi} Macy, 1991, p. 82