

## **Integral Futures, the Global Emergency and the Final Update of the KBFS**

**Richard Slaughter, APF ProDev Session Outline, Toronto, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**

### **Implications of integral futures for professional practice and the evolution of our craft**

- General attitude: take what's useful, leave the rest, re-evaluate.
- Overview of my engagement with Integral perspective over c 25 years.
- What has emerged over that time in terms of:
  - Methods
  - Insights
  - Products & results.
- Outline of *To See With Fresh Eyes* (tracks developing understanding of some implications of IF for Futures enquiry and practice).

### **Understanding and responding to the 'global emergency' (AKA 'mega crisis')**

- Essence of *The Biggest Wake-Up Call in History*
- Part One: understanding the problem: what is the challenge to civilisation? Conventional responses. Is 'overshoot and collapse' credible? (Yes – but not inevitable.) Contexts and extremes of overshoot. Confronting the collective shadow.
- Part Two: The Search for Solutions: re-framing climate change and global warming. Beyond collapse – an emerging narrative. Transition strategies. Enhancing awareness (facets of the self -> an expanded frame of thinking and action). Responding to a world on the edge. Vision to action.
- Recent work on the global emergency includes:
  - Evaluating overshoot and collapse futures (*World Future Review*, Aug-Sep 2010, pp. 5-18).
  - Responding to the global megacrisis (*Journal of Futures Studies*, 16, 2, Dec 2011, pp. 111-114).
  - Welcome to the anthropocene (*Futures* 44, 2012, pp. 119-126).
- Take-away 'messages' include:
  - No single way to approach the GMC but most approaches are too partial, i.e., privilege LR (& to lesser extent LL) domains.
  - Most overlook some of the most vital factors, i.e., interior human / social development (show why this matters with e.g. from BWCH).
  - Equally, a renewed focus on these areas provides (a) better balance of efforts and (b) true sources of inspiration and hope.
  - *But*, human and social development in this sense is too slow and hence there is no simple or straightforward solution in sight.
  - Only option is to (a) gain clarity and (b) mobilise on a society-wide basis to respond. "The time to wake up is now."
  - *Conclusion*: the danger comes less from the external situation (which is certainly challenging) than from the paucity of the internal response! Or, "the problem is us!"

**Essential features of a final update of the Knowledge Base of FS**

- Why the KBFS?
- Brief overview of its history and development.
- Last update in 2005. Now looking at final one.
- Current purpose(s) and ultimate goal.
- Draft categories. Draft process.
- Feedback and suggestions??