

# Exploring the Future 2014

## Introduction - Futures Studies

- What is future studies?
  - Pluralistic Approach
    - Empirical Tradition - USA
    - Critical Tradition - Europe
    - Cultural Tradition - Non-Western
    - empowerment-oriented perspective - Europe & Australia since 90s
- Alternative Futures
  - Core Value
  - Non-Predictive
- Futurists/Contemporary Futures Studies
- Framework
  - Framing
  - Scanning
  - Forecasting
  - Visioning
- Wildcards
  - Planning
  - Acting
  - Attitude
- Long Term Thinking In Short-Term World

## Drivers of Global Change-STEEP

- Society
  - Inequality
    - Gender
    - Race
    - Poverty
- Technology
  - Big Data
  - Robotics
  - Nanotechnology
  - Biology
    - Genetics
    - Synthetic Bio
- Economy
  - Scarce Resources
- Environment
  - Climate Change
- Politics
  - No One In Charge
  - Rise of the "isms" - Religious Fundamentalism

## Scenarios

- Plausible, Not Probable Futures
- Storytelling
  - Imagination
- Five Important Futures Pubs of Last 50 Years
  - 1972: The Limits to Growth
  - 1973: Shell Scenarios
  - 1992: Mt.Fleur Scenarios
  - 2000: Kenya at the Crossroads
  - 2008: Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World
- Alternative Futures
  - Escape from day-to-day business
  - Different Cultural Views
  - Weak Signals
  - Wildcards
- "The Starships are Coming"
  - Lifeboats

## Where is humanity heading?

- Global Warming?
  - Methane?
  - Sea level rise?
  - Resources?
  - Population?
  - Quality of People in 2050?
  - Inequality?
  - Energy transition?
  - Nuclear or Bio war?
  - Governance and Law?
  - Info abundance: help or hurt?
- Future Generations

## Oxford Martin "Now for the Long Term" AI Gore "The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change"

## Global Risks

- X Factors from Nature
  - Runaway Climate Change
  - Rogue Deployment of Geoengineering
  - Significant Cognitive Enhancement
- Asteroids
- Economy
- Pandemics

## WFS 2014 Outlook

- Jobs
- Man v Machine
- Military
- world futures

## Science & Technology: The Future is Now

- IT
  - Nanotech
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Robotics
  - Synthetic Biology
  - 3D Printing
  - Diamonds
  - Kurzweil
- Triple/exponential (IT/BIO/Nano) Revolutions--Changes occurring in months (instead of decades) Dennis Bushnell, Chief Scientist NASA

## State of the Future: 2013-14

- Food
  - Water
  - Energy
- Where we're Winning and Losing

