



[www.futuresdiscovery.com](http://www.futuresdiscovery.com)

**E-newsletter: 01 – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

Dear Futurist Friend,

With my best greetings, please find below an update of the most useful news, events and online contents on Futures Studies (FS) captured from the Internet in recent month. If you think this free service is helpful, please drop me a line at: [info@futuresdiscovery.com](mailto:info@futuresdiscovery.com) so that your name and e-mail address may be added to my mailing list as a subscriber. You may also cooperate with me in offering a better service by sending your attractive online contents to above mentioned e-mail address as some of my dear futurist friends are doing so.

*Happy Futuring!*

*Alireza Hejazi*

*Founder & Editor at FuturesDiscovery.com*

---

### **Top 10 Attributes of FS Students**

Becoming a student of Futures Studies (FS) is a challenging endeavor that should be navigated not only by the academic leaders and professors, but also personally by the students. In recent years a number of FS programs has been launched in different universities and colleges around the world, especially in the US; from University of Huston, University of Arizona, and ... to Hawaii Research Center for FS and Regent University. Among these programs and courses, those that are based on research have more attraction for the students who are going to shape their professional tomorrows not just by theoretical foundations, but by the spirit of inquiry.

Read more at: <http://www.wfs.org/content/top-10-attributes-fs-students>

---

### **A Sound Theory of FS: Is it All We Need Today?**

One of the most important questions that has occupied many futurists' minds is that "How is theory different from other concepts in Futures Studies (FS)?" Theory can refer to validated theory, usually from positivist schools— something which FS has reacted against, along with prediction, given its narrow assumptions, in the micro. So we would have to make good distinctions. This is one reason why Dr. Gary an expert futurist and professor of Strategic Foresight at the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE), Regent University once described FS as "layered, Philosophy, Frameworks, Theory and Methods" in one of his impressive articles. In his point of view theory must be tested quantitatively, or grounded qualitatively in its mix.

Read more at: <http://www.futuresdiscovery.com/Articles/SoundFSTheory.htm>

## **Student loans outpace credit cards in the United States**

From the New York Times, college students are graduating with increasing amounts of debt, a sum that totals more than Americans are spending on credit cards for the first time. American labor policy has been to increase the number of college-educated workers as much as possible since the end of the Second World War. Still, the cost of education has been outpacing wages by a factor of 2.5 since 1980. Given the amount of the cost that is borne by student loans, this number is deceptive as to its real impact. The actual amount of wealth spent on education will also have to include interest payments as well.

Read more at:

<http://blog.competitivefutures.com/2011/04/12/student-loans-outpace-credit-cards-in-the-united-states/>

---

## **25 reasons why foresight is broken - and how we can do better**

After more than a year of writing, editing, and design, Eric Garland is proud to announce the publication of his latest book entitled How to Predict the Future...and WIN!!! The book is a study of the twenty-five ways we are most likely to fail when we try to see what's next - and what we can do today to make truly future-focused organizations. For you futurist-types here at WFS, here's the inside scoop: After the absurdly predictable financial crisis of 2008, he became incensed when everybody in charge said, "NOBODY COULD SEE IT COMING!!!" followed immediately by, "and of course, since this is a crisis, nobody has time to think about the future." And then, all the same pundits and experts and future-y keynote guys went right back to their business like nothing happened.

Read more at: <http://www.wfs.org/content/himanshustestblog10>

---

## **9 FREE Foresight Publications**

Dr. Ian Miles has prepared a number of useful documents on foresight over the years that can be downloaded for free. He updates his blog usually at: <http://ianspublicationsonline.blogspot.com/> and you may get new info about other publications he offers there. Here is his publication list along with related download links. Thank you dear Dr. Miles!

### **The Shape of Things to Consume**

[http://www.scribd.com/doc/3494210/Shape-of-Things-to-Consume-whole-text?in\\_collection=2290941](http://www.scribd.com/doc/3494210/Shape-of-Things-to-Consume-whole-text?in_collection=2290941)

### **Evaluating Foresight: fully-fledged evaluation of the Colombian Technology Foresight Program**

[http://community.iknowfutures.eu/action/file/download?file\\_guid=2204](http://community.iknowfutures.eu/action/file/download?file_guid=2204)

### **Practice on Road-mapping**

[http://www.tc.cz/dokums\\_raw/practice-on-roadmapping\\_1265907945.pdf](http://www.tc.cz/dokums_raw/practice-on-roadmapping_1265907945.pdf)

### **Evaluation of the United Kingdom Foresight Program: Final Report**

[http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Publications/Current%20round%20General%20Publications/Foresight\\_Evaluation\\_2006/Foresight\\_Evaluation\\_Final\\_Report\\_June\\_2006.pdf](http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Publications/Current%20round%20General%20Publications/Foresight_Evaluation_2006/Foresight_Evaluation_Final_Report_June_2006.pdf)

### **Foresight on Information Society Technologies for the European Research Area (Fistera): Key Findings**

[http://www.madrimasd.org/tic/Seleccion/Downloads\\_GetFile.aspx?id=5695](http://www.madrimasd.org/tic/Seleccion/Downloads_GetFile.aspx?id=5695)

### **Sector Futures - The knowledge-intensive business services sector**

<http://www.emcc.eurofound.eu.int/publications/2005/ef0559en.pdf>

### **European Knowledge Society Foresight: The EUFORIA Project Synthesis Report**

<http://www.eurofound.eu.int/publications/files/EF0404EN.pdf>

### **Handbook of Knowledge Society Foresight**

[http://mbs.ac.uk/PREST/euforia/documents/EFL\\_Handbook\\_April\\_2003.pdf](http://mbs.ac.uk/PREST/euforia/documents/EFL_Handbook_April_2003.pdf)

### **Practical Guide to Regional Foresight in the United Kingdom**

<http://cordis.europa.eu/foresight/cgrf.htm>

---

### **Upcoming Event: Yeditepe International Research Conference on Foresight and Futures August 24 - 26, 2011, Istanbul**

The Foresight and Futures Studies field has been criticized by some for the inadequacy of its theory. There is debate on whether the field has progressed beyond an exploratory stage to a point where there is a core set of basic terminology and models, and on whether more emphasis should be given on developing and employing a set of reliable, valid and reproducible methods for conducting research in the field of Foresight and Futures Studies. Interested individuals from academic (economics, management, political science, engineering) and business worlds are invited to come together to discuss and communicate on challenging problems related to THEORY BUILDING in FORESIGHT and FUTURES STUDIES within the historic and mystic environment of Istanbul.

Read more at: <http://marc.yeditepe.edu.tr/yircof11.htm>

---

### **The drive toward hydrogen vehicles just got shorter**

Researchers make advances in rechargeable solid hydrogen fuel storage tanks. LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, March 21, 2011—Researchers have revealed a new single-stage method for recharging the hydrogen storage compound ammonia borane. The breakthrough makes hydrogen a more attractive fuel for vehicles and other transportation modes. In an article appearing today in the March 18 edition of *Science* magazine, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and University of Alabama researchers working within the U.S. Department of Energy's Chemical Hydrogen Storage Center of Excellence, describe a significant advance in hydrogen storage science.

[http://www.lanl.gov/news/releases/drive\\_toward\\_hydrogen\\_vehicles\\_just\\_got\\_shorter.html](http://www.lanl.gov/news/releases/drive_toward_hydrogen_vehicles_just_got_shorter.html)

---

### **Food: Global challenges and opportunities**

The world demand for food is expected to double in the first half of the 21st century – with half of that growth coming from population growth (from 6 billion to 9 billion people) and half from growth in purchasing power of low-income consumers. The world population is projected to grow between now and 2050 by 2.6 billion people. The current population of China is 1.3 billion, so the world's farmers are being asked to increase their production over the next 40 years by enough to feed two more "Chinas".

Read more at:

<http://www.nestle.com/CSV/RuralDevelopment/GlobalFoodSecurityRuralPoverty/Pages/GlobalFoodSecurityRuralPoverty.aspx>

---

### **New Book**

#### **Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100.**

By Michio Kaku. *Doubleday; 416 pages; \$28.95. To be published in Britain by Allen Lane in May; £22.* A MORE sober look at the future comes from Michio Kaku, who teaches theoretical physics at the City College of New York. Setting out to chart the direction technological progress will take in the 21st century, Mr Kaku is aware that history is replete with unfulfilled prophecies. To avoid his joining their ranks, he adopts a cautious three-pronged strategy. First, he rejects any ideas that are at odds with what is currently understood about the fundamental laws of physics. No teleportation, wormholes or flitting between dimensions, then, at least until 2100, when Mr Kaku's story ends.

Read more at: <http://www.economist.com/node/18329654/print>

---

### **Welcome to the iKNOW Delphi 2.0 Intro**

You may already be familiar with the iKnow project. In this project, we are trying to get a better grip on the subjects of Wild Cards and Weak Signals. Everyone knows that these are important issues for futures and foresight studies, but they have received very little attention in terms of methodological development. In the delphi survey, we are seeking to use expert opinion to get a sense of how significant are various Wild Cards and Weak Signals. These are a small selection of 120 of the total set of 700+ WIs and WEs developed and/or identified in the course of the project.

Read more at: <http://community.iknowfutures.eu/delphi/>

---

## A Unique Opportunity



Being download by more than 1000 futurists around the world, this free publication provides a unique opportunity to advertise your research activities, academic courses and programs, conferences and meetings, books and publications. If you are going to promote your plans in the field of Futures Studies, Foresight and other related fields, you can trust Futures Discovery free e-newsletter to realize your future dreams.

Please contact: [info@futuresdiscovery.com](mailto:info@futuresdiscovery.com) for more information.