

LECTURE 22



Dr. Riel Miller

- **Head of Futures Literacy, UNESCO, Paris**
- **Founder of Futures consulting**
- **Senior Fellow : Ecole des Ponts Business School;
University of New Brunswick;
University of Stavanger**

Date: 2023.09.22



2023 淡江大學熊貓講座
Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair

AI+SDGs = ∞
ESG+AI = ∞

專題講演

9/22 報名網址 

超越確定性：人類、宇宙與預想作為釋放自我的途徑
ESCAPING CERTAINTY: HUMANITY, THE UNIVERSE, AND ANTICIPATION AS LIBERATION
10:10-12:00
守謙國際會議中心 有連廳

系列講座

9月 SEPTEMBER

21 運用未來作為思考蛻變的工具
USING THE FUTURE AS A TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS
10:10-12:00
養生綜合大樓洞悉未來情懷教室 (1201)

23 未來素養實驗工作坊
FUTURES LITERACY LAB
09:30-12:30
報名網址  養生綜合大樓洞悉未來情懷教室 (1201)

25 未來思考論壇
FUTURES SYMPOSIUM
10:10-12:00
報名網址  守謙國際會議中心 科萊廳 (HC403)

DR. RIEL S. MILLER
米勒博士是位經驗豐富且富有創新精神的教育家，也是未來素養和預測學科領域的先驅。他致力於推動運用未來思考改進管理和公共政策手段的理論和實踐，尤其關注轉型領導力。2012年起榮任聯合國教科文組織 (UNESCO) 前瞻和策略規劃首席領導人。

主辦單位：淡江大學教育學院 



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INTRODUCTION

- Riel Miller started his career at the OECD in Paris in 1982 in the Economics Department. Completed his PhD in Economics at the New School for Social Research, New York, in 1987. From 1985 to 1993 he worked for the Ontario Government, in the legislature and as a senior manager in the Ontario public service (Ministries of Finance; Universities; and Industry). In 1995 he returned to the OECD in Paris to work in the International Futures Programme and with the Centre for Educational Research

and Innovation. In 2005 he founded an independent consultancy – xperidox (which means knowledge through experience) to advise public and private sector clients from around the world on how to use the future more effectively. From mid-2012 to early 2022 Riel served as Head of Foresight and Futures Literacy at UNESCO.



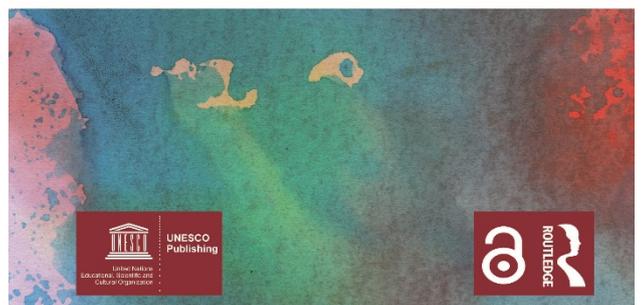
- Riel Miller is one of the world's leading authorities on the theory and practice of using the future to change what people see and do. He is recognized as an innovative and globally experienced project initiator, designer, and manager. He is widely published in academic journals and other media on a range of topics, from the future of the Internet to transforming strategic processes. He is an accomplished keynote speaker and facilitator.
- Riel's lifelong ambition is to put the richness of complex emergence at the service of humanity's capacity to be free.
- Currently Riel is affiliated with the following institutions:
 1. Senior Fellow: J. Herbert Smith Centre for Technology Management and Entrepreneurship, Deep Change Initiative, Faculty of Engineering, University of New Brunswick (Canada)
 2. Senior Fellow: Ecole des Ponts Business School (France)
 3. Senior Fellow: University of Stavanger (Norway)
 4. Senior Advisor: Nordic institute for studies of innovation, research and education (Norway)

5. Visiting Professor: University of Corsica (France)
 6. Senior Fellow: School of Governance, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa)
 7. Fellow, Future Africa, University of Pretoria (South Africa)
- Book: Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century Publications available on ResearchGate



TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

ANTICIPATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Topic : Escaping Certainty: Humanity, the Universe, and Anticipation as Liberation

ABSTRACT

For millennia, in many communities all around the world, humanity has adopted a default view of the future – as a domain that needs to be conquered, controlled, won. Pursuing this vain and destructive quest has tragic consequences. The amazing human capacity to imagine ends up being confined to seeking credible certainties – the familiar past projected into the future. Change and uncertainty are seen as enemies of ‘best laid plans’. As a result, a profound and painful alienation occurs, separating humans from the world and each other as exploitation and instrumentalization hold sway in a mad scramble, full of anxiety and doubt, to impose our will on the future, to stifle or pre-empt changes that do not correspond to the plan.

One explanation of this mono-culture of the imagination rests on promises of ‘better’ futures. Along with the promises of ‘better’ tools, policies, agendas, and laws to make better futures happen. The immediate reaction is: “How can anyone refuse promises of a better future?” It is so easy to be seduced by the illusions of superiority and mastery, certainty and continuity. But there is a high cost. An obsession with knowing the future, picking-winners, blinds us to changes, sowing fear and disappointment when the ceaseless novelty and creativity of this universe disrupt the plans.

Instead of finding inspiration in change and meaning in ephemerality, humans reinforce administrative and hierarchical imperatives that are heavily biased towards path-dependency, defensive preservationism, oppression and fear. Underpinning this cycle of destruction, now made so evident by the impartial mirror of our planet’s changing climate, is a massive and unnecessary failure to cultivate the anticipatory systems and processes that are integral to all living things. Our species may now have enough historical experience to realize that a crucial part of wisdom, fruit of the lessons of learning-by-doing, is an enhanced capacity to understand and use our imagination.

Gaining a fuller appreciation of the diversity of human anticipatory systems and processes, nurturing a practical awareness of the many reasons and methods we use to imagine the future, offers one source of inspiration for scenarios that reconcile our species with the universe we live in and liberate us from the misery of always trying to colonize tomorrow.

What is futures literacy

- Simple concept – it is a capability (NOT a method) that is built and understood on the basis of comprehending and gaining practical skill in using-the-future for different reasons, in different ways, in different contexts.
- Skills emerge, develop and proliferate in historical context. For FL the context includes: capability approach to development as freedom (Sen), philosophy of novelty, complexity, assemblages, etc.

Transforming the Future: Anticipation in the 21st Century (available in free pdf)

Forthcoming:

- Chinese (2023),
- Spanish (2023),
- Farsi (2023)



TRANSFORMING THE
FUTURE
ANTICIPATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

2018



تحويل المستقبل
التوقع في القرن الحادي والعشرين

2019



TRANSFORMER
LE FUTUR
L'ANTICIPATION AU XXI^e SIÈCLE

2020

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Recapitulation: A New Turn in Futures Studies

- FS explores the theory and practice of conscious human anticipatory systems and processes (ASP).
- ASP take many forms and can be studied through a range of disciplinary approaches, taking into account the different kinds of future that humans imagine, arising from the different reasons and methods for imagining the future.
- FS as the field that enhances human understanding of ASP covers a wide range of applied activities related to the ways that humans actually use-the-future.

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Why Futures Literacy?

Turning uncertainty and complexity into assets



MINUTE

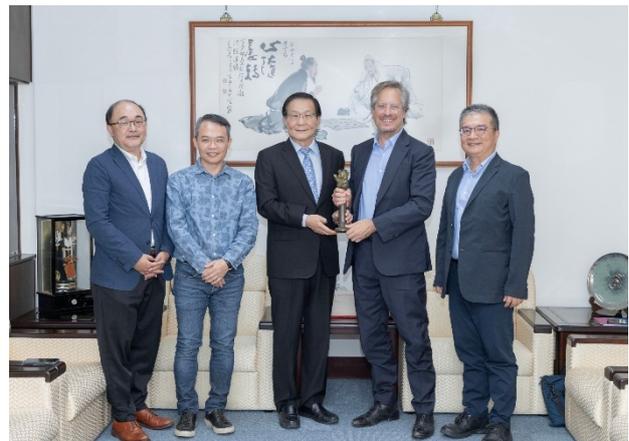


- Before giving a speech to the undergraduate student, the Dean of College of Education, Dr. Kuo-Hua Chen, took Dr. Miller to the Gallery of Tamkang History & The Founder Dr. Clement C. P. Chang's Memorial Hall to learn more about Tamkang University. They also took photos together in front of the Hall and before the introduction of triple objectives.



- Dr. Miller shared with the students his insights on the theme of the lecture, focusing on the concept of anticipating the future. He explained that, whether it's for individuals or organizations, when planning for future visions, it is crucial to first clarify the underlying reasons and evaluate whether the current conditions are suitable. He also believed that this concept could be applied to research in various other academic disciplines.

Tamkang Clement and Carrie Chair



- Accompanied by the Dean of College of Education, Dr. Kuo-Hua Chen, the Chair of the Department of Education and Futures Design, Dr. Jian-Bang Deng, and Associate Professor Shun-Jie Ji, they visited President, Dr. Huan-Chao Keh, and the Chairperson of the Board, Dr. Flora Chia-I Chang.
- In addition to extending a warm welcome and gratitude to Dr. Miller on his first visit to Taiwan, President Keh not only introduced the origin of the "Panda Lecture" but also shared the founder of Tamkang University, Dr. Clement C.P. Chang 's vision for future-oriented education and its implementation at university.
- Chairperson Chang introduced Dr. Miller to the university's triple objectives educational philosophy and Tamkang's culture. Dr. Miller acknowledged the university's solid foundation in future studies and future-oriented education. He mentioned that he is actively promoting workshops related to organizational foresight and suggested that the university continues to excel

in this area, becoming a global model for vision planning and implementation among universities.



- As the music played, Dr. Miller performed a special opening dance before his formal speech. "This is uncertainty." He explained that we cannot control the future, which leads to anxiety and stress. Throughout history, people have always desired to have a grasp on the future, which can be divided into two categories: "certainty" and "uncertainty." "Certainty" includes things like the sunrise tomorrow, which people consider through predictions to ensure it. Anticipation systems are created through the actions and consciousness of individuals in the present. On the other hand, "uncertainty" is full of changes, making the future unknown and causing people to feel uneasy. This can lead them to try to solve non-existent problems, and ideological fanaticism can lead to a separation between humans and the world.

Dr. Miller believes that "imagination begins with assumptions, and assumptions stem from personal expectations." Just as a baby might expect to be fed and cared for by crying, people similarly imagine the future in various ways based on their different backgrounds. The conditions, knowledge, values, and experiences in our lives create a sense of need, and this need manifests in our lives through expectations and imagination, bringing about change. However, the framework for imagining the future must also be built within certain norms, not in a completely unfettered manner. For example, in a time when medicine wasn't advanced, you might assume the existence of bacteria and imagine that washing your hands could reduce bacterial levels, leading to decreased infections and deaths. But to do so, you would have to provide evidence and theory, using bold imagination while carefully seeking verification and working hard to create the imagined future through your efforts.



- Dr. Miller organized a workshop for doctoral students and off-campus unit to share future literacy and provided a roundtable forum for school teachers.
- The main focus of the discussion was on the concept of future literacy and the importance of using anticipatory systems to understand and apply the future. Anticipatory systems are considered a crucial part of the thinking framework as they can inspire people to explore unknown possibilities. However, anticipating the future is a concept that doesn't actually exist, making it more challenging to prove. Dr. Miller proposed the idea of building a connection to the future through anticipation, essentially incorporating the future into the present in an anticipated form. This kind of thinking framework forms the foundation of future literacy, and people can apply future literacy in various ways. Progress in both the theory and practice of anticipation is necessary for a better understanding of future literacy.