



## USES OF THE FUTURES XXIII WFSF WORLD CONFERENCE

Mexico City  
10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PROPOSALS

Submit Abstract by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

The XXIII World Conference in Mexico City will bring together researchers, policymakers, peace and development professionals, environmental advocates and students who will explore the different uses of the future(s) for Humanity. Participants will be encouraged to analyse and consider the diverse functions and purposes of the future(s) as an issue to manage, as a provision of hope, as a reservoir for choice, as a source of revenues, etc. This reflection may lead to several connected aspects such as the nature of the future, our responsibility towards the future or the future generations (as futurists and as human beings), the role of Futures Studies, long term implications of present decisions, how to plan or to make policy for the future, etc. In short, the Conference can be viewed as intense research or creative ideas about the crucial role of the improvement of democratic systems, peace processes, development and environmental innovations in transforming the future(s) and Futures.

The Conference Program will include a variety of spaces and moments to tackle the subject from different angles: keynote speeches, plenary and creative parallel sessions, panel discussions, and workshops. But it will also provide an open networking space for participants who can connect in informal ways.

We invite participants from all those interested in presenting their proposals, research or creative ideas about the crucial role of the improvement of democratic processes, peace, development and environmental innovations in transforming futures. All abstracts and proposals will be peer-reviewed and you will be notified of acceptance on March 1, 2019.

If you want to present a paper or poster, or run a workshop at the Conference, please submit an abstract/proposal (max. 250 words) by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 to the Scientific Committee Chair for the Conference at [secretariat@wfsf.org](mailto:secretariat@wfsf.org).

The conference is bilingual English/Spanish. Abstracts and presentations in both languages are accepted.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Abstract and Creative Participation Proposal

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection of Abstract/Proposal

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Submission of Draft Paper for Presentation

1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

Submission of Final Version for Publication\*

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

\*For potential publication of Conference Proceedings and potential selection as an article for a special issue of *Futures* or for a special topic by the *European Journal of Futures Research, EJFR*.

## THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

### USES OF THE FUTURES BUSINESS AS USUAL or TRADITIONAL USES

Some of the most widespread applications of the future(s) related activities is to manage uncertainty. Hence, we can find a rich literature with many cases encompassing a wide spectrum ranging from crisis management and rapid response mechanisms to anticipatory systems but including preventive approaches and strategic planning.

However, the question here should be, is this use still valid? Does it need any updating?

### OUR DUTY AS WORLD CITIZENS or COSMOPOLITAN USES / PLANETARY USES

The future(s) is one of the few questions that truly encompass the whole of humanity. For instance, the big challenges cannot be dealt with from a local or regional perspective alone, they do need a planetary approach. Yet, there are other questions that can be better addressed at the regional, national or local level. While some issues, like security and conflict resolution, demand a multilayered focus. In any case, all this help us realize the relevance of networks and importance of promoting them.

### FUTURE AND BEYOND or CREATIVE USES

Futures Studies has been traditionally contained within a scientific and empirical approach. Still, there is a growing evidence that, quite often, we are better at imagining the future(s) than to anticipate it or forecast it. Art, design, science fiction and other fields are opening new ways to know and to explore the future(s). Imagination and intuition should be actively used to investigate the future. However, the main issue here would be if the use of this creative alternatives can be accepted as a valid and reliable way to engage with the future.

### THE FIELD AS A WHOLE or HOLISTIC USES

Richard Slaughter already stated that Futures is, firstly and foremost, an intellectual domain. Thus, it should be addressed in an integral way; it cannot be limited to apprehending a set of tools, it must encompass the study of its tradition and history plus the diverse theoretical schools that have been working in it. Ultimately, we should aim for the whole humanity to attain a minimum level of Futures literacy, so all of us could engage in a truly future-oriented exercise of debating how can be the future of the future and the human communities of tomorrow.

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

*Co-Chairs:* Erik F. Overland (WFSF President) and, Victor V. Motti (WFSF Director).

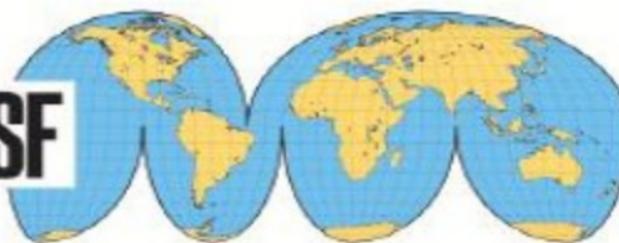
*Scientific Committee Members* who will assist with review of abstracts and papers, translation, chairing sessions: Thierry Gaudin, Tom Lombardo, Mei Mei Song, Jim Doctor, Jay Gary, Sohail Inayatullah, Roberto Poli, Richard Slaughter, José Ramos

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Chair:* Guillermina Baena Paz,

*Advisory Panel:* Rosa Alegria, Lucio Henso, Luis Raggio, Alethia Montero, Antonio Alonso Concheiro, Jordi Serra, Tomás Miklos, Guillermina Benavides, Karla Paniagua.

# WFSF



LONG TERM - BIG PICTURE - RADICAL CHANGE

## WORLD FUTURES STUDIES FEDERATION

INDEPENDENT GLOBAL PEAK BODY FOR FUTURES STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP  
A UNESCO PARTNER - FOUNDED PARIS 1973



ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
FUTURISTS