FUTURES
For the Interdisciplinary Study of Futures, Anticipation and Foresight.

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DESCRIPTION

Futures:

For the interdisciplinary study of futures, anticipation and foresight

Futures aims to build substantive research and knowledge about the relationships between humanity and its possible futures. It welcomes: new knowledge about humanity's diverse anticipatory practices and how to understand, challenge, develop or enhance them; novel futures-oriented research emerging at the intersections between and beyond disciplines that provides insights into humanity's (and posthumanity's) changing relationship with the future; and the highest quality scholarship in the field of futures/prospective studies.

Above all, it is a journal that seeks to analyse and challenge uses, misuses and abuses of futures, and to build robust knowledge about the conditions for creating socially just, sustainable and emancipatory futures.

In particular, Futures seeks to:

Animate research interest in emerging questions of significance to the futures of humanity and of the planet

Encourage dialogue across different fields and different knowledge traditions about the futures of cultures and societies, science and technology, economics and politics, environment and the planet, individuals and humanity

Build greater understanding of human (and more-than-human) anticipatory beliefs, expectations, practices and behaviours - building insight into how futures are imagined and the implications of these models for the present

Pluralise the worldviews and perspectives that inform scholarship on and about futures, in particular learning from the knowledges of those who have, hitherto, not been in positions of power and dominance

Further develop the intellectual, ethical and empirical foundations of futures inquiry

Strengthen the methodological development of professional practices in the futures field - including scenario planning, foresight, horizon scanning, as well as methods emerging from outside these traditions

Engender high quality, responsible approaches to futures education - in schools, universities and professional and policy settings

About the Journal  Futures was launched in 1968 to create a forum for the emerging field of Future Studies and is internationally recognised as a leading journal in the field. Today, Futures is at the cutting edge of developments in the theory and practice of futures-oriented research across many disciplines, opening-up new ways of theorising, studying, challenging and cultivating human anticipation Futures
acts as a point of encounter between the 50+ year history of Futures Studies and emerging interests in time and futures across many fields. The journal is at the forefront of efforts to create more plural, democratic and sustainable futures through robust research, high quality scholarship and responsible practice. Papers are subject to a rigorous double blind peer review process and are published soon after final acceptance.

**What is in scope/out of scope for publishing with Futures**

The journal welcomes papers that: Make a substantive contribution to knowledge in one or more of the following areas: changing relationships between humanity and futures and/or anticipatory processes - the uses of ideas of the future by individuals, organisations, systems and/or the theory, ethics, methods and practices of futures, foresight and prospective and/or the theory, ethics, methods and practices of futures, foresight and prospective and/or the theory, ethics, methods and practices of futures, foresight and prospective. Are reflexive and transparent about the theories, assumptions and methods that are used to produce accounts of the future. Have the potential to make a significant contribution to efforts to create more plural, democratic and sustainable futures - by providing new empirical or conceptual insights, challenging paradigms, assumptions and ideas. Make a substantial contribution through exploring and informing thinking about futures in a particular domain, country or geographical region, i.e. 'futures of X' (previous examples include work, healthcare, existential risks, education, capitalism, communities, small business, food, governance, synthetic biology...) We actively welcome proposals for Special Issues from researchers seeking to create an interdisciplinary forum for topics and issues that do not yet have a settled disciplinary home.

We are unable to publish papers that: Simply advocate for a vision of a particular desired, possible or probable future, with no reflections on the basis for these claims, without transparency about the methods used to produce these claims, and with no inquiry into the consequences of these future images. For example, we cannot publish papers that simply state without rationale and robust supported argument - 'the future should be X' Simply describe a futures method or technique (e.g. we ran/made these scenarios or 'we did this survey') with no discussion of what happened because of this intervention, no reflection on the assumptions and theory that underpinned the approach, and no analysis of the contribution to the scholarship or practice already existing in the field. Do not refer to futures or potential implications for the future in any way. For example, papers that simply describe technological improvements and efficiencies; papers that simply discuss methods, theories or innovations with no reference to their implications for humanity's relationship to futures or for developing futures-oriented research; or papers that do not explain why the proposed theory, method or innovation is of significance for human anticipatory capacities. Do not engage with or contribute to the existing body of knowledge related to futures theory, research and practice.

**AUDIENCE**

Strategists, policy makers and analysts, social scientists, educators and consulting futurists with professional interest in understanding how, globally, societies' futures are anticipated, explored, planned, innovated, changed, protected, and created.

**IMPACT FACTOR**

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

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To stimulate the systematic use and growth of futures literature, one of the criteria for article publication in this journal is an indication of how the article relates to others in the futures literature. Articles submitted for publication in FUTURES must show awareness of the futures field and make an original contribution to the advancement of knowledge in Futures Studies. Corresponding authors are requested to explain briefly the contribution to futures knowledge in the covering letter to the editor uploaded during the submission process. See also the section below on criteria for selection.

Futures Studies covers a range of areas, including futures, foresight, prospectives and anticipation. Authors are encouraged to read Ziauddin Sardar's article on 'the Namesake' which gives more information about the journal and futures studies, available here.

Types of paper

Full length articles provide the main content of the journal. Each should demonstrate a significant contribution to knowledge related to Futures Studies. Papers should demonstrate rigorous approaches to research and new knowledge creation, be well organised and written in clear English. The style of paper can be as a research article or as an essay demonstrating critical reasoning, scholarship and a clear contribution to knowledge in the field. The recommended length of articles is around 8,000 words (range of 6,000-10,000), giving sufficient space for a rigorous approach without superfluous material. See also section on Article Structure.

Review articles are intended for research that contributes to knowledge to Futures Studies from a critical analysis of extant publications. Papers should demonstrate rigorous scholarship and research, be well organised and written in clear English. The recommended length of such articles is 5,000-8,000 words. See also section on Article Structure.

Special Issues articles are papers submitted to a specific virtual special issue (VSI). When submitting to a virtual special issue, please chose the specific VSI in the "Article Type" drop down menu during the submission process.

Experimental Futures is an invitation to report on empirically verified social practices, perhaps involving emerging technologies and/or social innovations, which offer alternative socio-economic futures and which have demonstrably been sustained in practice at the present time. The recommended length of such articles is around 8,000 words with supplementary materials as necessary. Papers should describe the emerging practice, offer evidence of its sustainability and provide critical reflection on its possible medium to long term consequences and significance.

Short Communication

1. Short Communications are robustly argued and coherent pieces ? up to 3000 words in length ? which will be subject to a rapid review process as a consequence of their timely and urgent nature.

2. They are used for two purposes:

To set new agendas: The short communication should make the case for the importance of a new topic or issue associated with the Aims and Scope of the journal that is currently under-examined in the Futures field and that requires interdisciplinary effort in order to address it. Pieces should clearly explain why the issue is currently under-addressed and identify the nature of the interdisciplinary research effort that would be needed to address this gap.
Rapid Responses: To make a rapid and informed response to a recently published paper in order to facilitate enhanced understanding of the issues under consideration.

3. Pieces will be judged against the following criteria.

Scholarship and robustness of argument
Contribution to opening up a new avenue of research in the Futures field.
Clarity of communication
Timeliness and originality
Clearly identified research agenda

Criteria for peer assessment of articles

The broad criteria for peer review are as follows. The subject addressed is worthy of investigation in futures studies. The article primarily is about the medium- to long-term future and not primarily a review of the present or the past, although the present or the past may be discussed to build the argument, analysis or scenario about the future. The article makes a substantive new contribution to knowledge in the field. The overall approach is rigorous, the organization of the manuscript is appropriate and overall, the manuscript is appropriate for the journal.

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

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• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.

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**PREPARATION**

**Peer review**
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As this journal has adopted a double blind reviewing policy, please remove all identifying features from the paper itself by ensuring that no author's name appears in the main text, in-text citations, reference list, or any running header. Replace all references to the author with, "Author, 2003", "Author et al, 2006", etc. The title of the article and the name of the journal or book, etc., should also be removed from these references.

Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Article Structure

The purpose of structuring an article is to communicate the issue addressed, the rigour of the approach and contribution to knowledge. Rigour and a well communicated demonstration of a contribution to knowledge in futures studies are the main criteria for selecting articles for publication. How these are demonstrated depends on the approach. What follows is advisory and relevant to research studies. Other contributions may require different structures.

Subdivision - sections
Divide your article into clearly defined sections, such that the structure is clear and thus helps the reader to understand the paper. Subsections may be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Section numbering is not mandatory.

The headings below are not prescriptive. Research and scholarship can be presented in numerous ways. The structure below simply covers the main aspects expected in a futures studies article.

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background to explain the purpose and context, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Context and previous research
Provide a section that identifies how the work of the study relates to previous research studies and literature. This might be shown as a separate section or as part of the introduction or methodology, depending on the nature of the study. It is important to demonstrate the contribution made by the study to futures studies knowledge and hence the way in which it builds on or adds to previous work on the particular topic.
In the case of Experimental Futures" the approach will depend on how changes in practice represented in the paper are conceptualised. The background literature can provide a basis for the conceptualisation; for example social structure, work, human experiences, socio-technological trends, design thinking etc.

In short communications, reference to previous research should be used to support the claims being made in the paper

**Methodology**

Explain the conceptual basis of the research study, essay or review and how it fits with the research questions and objectives of the study. Show how the methods used relate to this and what was done to generate new knowledge in a rigorous way.

In the case of Experimental Futures describe and explain the practices identified and how these practices are created (for instance, what is done, what technologies are used, what eco-system is involved). Explain how the practices have been sustained over time and have evolved from an idea or design to a practice. Make clear what is distinctive and 'new' about these practices. The tone of the paper should be critical reasoning and not advocacy.

In Short Communications, explain methodological issues relevant to the type of paper.

**Result**

Results of futures research or foresight studies should be clear and concise.

**Discussion**

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Demonstrate how the work reported in the paper, essay or review contributes new knowledge. Show how the work links with existing literature, including futures studies literature, avoiding over-elaborate citations.

With regards to Experimental Futures the discussion should explore the significance of the case. Typical question might include: Why is it important? What alternative futures are envisaged or imagined from this case? What trends in societies might be driven or altered by it? What unintended consequences might be identified at this stage?

**Conclusions**

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

**Appendices**

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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**Highlights**

Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

A concise and factual abstract is required (maximum length: 200 words). The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

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Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 125 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view example Highlights on our information site.

**Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, "and", "of"). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

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