English abstracts

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Preface: Mathematical Modelling in Future Studies

This special issue is about modeling in futures research. In the editorial the challenges of a modeling approach in futures studies are outlined from a general philosophical point of view, and futures knowledge is understood as a generalization of scientific knowledge under deep contingency.

Futures researchers or experts in different substance areas, who, however, approach their research problem from the futures point of view, were invited to contribute the issue. The articles have been reviewed and accepted by the guest-editors, in some cases with the assistance of outside experts.

The issue starts with general, mainly methodological futures research articles followed by application-oriented articles. The articles have been organized from macro towards micro level applications to some sector-specific themes, e.g. energy themes and a decision support agent system. Ms Lora-Lee Bell, the cover page artist, describes her thoughts behind the painting and Archimedes's box from the point of view of futures problematique.

The guest editors express their thanks for fruitful co-operation. Special thanks are due to Professor Fabrice Roubelat, University of Poitiers, and Professor emeritus Martti Luoma, University of Vaasa, for their skilful assistance and for Ms Lora-Lee Bell for her inspiring artistic contribution.
and egocentric transitivity of the distance measure are deduced.

Key words: futuribles, theory of futuribles, futures manifold, futures knowledge, scenario, futures space, synopsis, synoptic distance, local and egocentric transitivity