English abstracts

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Theory of Futuribles

Each field of scientific knowledge has its intrinsic canon of sufficient legitimation. Knowing about the future is no exception; futurological canon legitimizes beliefs and opinions about the future as knowledge of the future. At the moment, however, this canon is more implicit in a plethora of approaches, mindsets, and methodologies applied in futures studies than explicitly stated. Conception of the futures manifold is implicit in many approaches and mindsets of the futurological inquiry, and to study it is the object of the paper.

Instead of considering the future as a single pre-determined case, a fan of possible futures, called futuribles is considered as a proper object of futurological conjecture. The manifold conceptualization of the future has a long history from Luis de Molina and others in the 16th century to Bertrand de Jouvenel in the 1950s and 60s. The logical theory based on the manifold conceptualization has not as yet, however, been fully analyzed. The authors develop a general set-theoretic construction, called a theory of futuribles for futures knowledge inquiry. New concepts of futures space, futures galaxy and futures multiverse as well as synoptic difference and distance, local 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