



SOCIAL FUTURING – CHANGES AND COMMUNITIES

Third Conference of the Social Futuring Center

2017.10.06

8.30 – 14.30

Corvinus University of
Budapest, Building C

LIBRARY

Aquarium Hall

Program



8.30 – 9.00 Arrival

9.00 – 9.10 Opening ceremony, Foreword – János Csák

9.15 – 11.20 I. Plenary Session – Family and Urbanism

Chair: Eszter Monda

9.15 – 9.35	Tamás Bartus Education and Childbearing: The Role of 'Marrying Down'
9.35 – 9.45	Commentary: Márta Radó
9.50 – 10.10	Jenő Szmodis The Defining Properties of Evolution and Culture in the Consistent and Inconsistent Ideas in the Concept of Family
10.10 – 10.20	Commentary: Zoltán Ábrahám
10.25 – 10.45	György Alföldi Urbanism / Society / Social Futuring
10.45 – 10.55	Commentary: Richárd Ongjerth
11.00 – 11.20	DISCUSSION, Questions and Answers

11.20 – 11.40 Coffee Break

11.45 – 13.30 II. Plenary Session – Humanity and Technology

Chair: Balázs Szepesi

11.45 – 12.05	Dóra Perczel Forintos Mindfulness in Focus
12.05 – 12.15	Commentary: Judit Sass
12.20 – 12.40	Kristóf Iván Challenges and Opportunities in Informational Technology in the Next Decade
12.45 – 12.55	Commentary: Eszter Monda
13.00 – 13.15	DISCUSSION, Questions and Answers

13.15 Closing Ceremony, Afterword – Zoltán Oszkár Szántó

13.30 Reception

ABSTRACTS

9.15 Tamás Bartus

Education and Childbearing: The Role of 'Marrying Down'

Commentary: Márta Radó

In the literature in population research, expansion of higher education is often thought to be one of the causes of fertility decline, in general, and of the emergence of “lowest low” fertility in post-socialist countries, in particular. In the first part of my presentation, I examine the relationship between education and fertility by analyzing the 'Turning Points of the Life Course' dataset, collected by the Demographic Research Institute of the Central Statistical Office. I argue that the fertility effect of the expansion of higher education is mediated by educational hypogamy: female graduates find it harder to find graduate spouses, and 'marrying down' decreases fertility intentions. In the second part of my presentation, I examine the question whether Hungarian family policies would be able to mitigate the negative effects of educational hypogamy.

9.50 Jenő Szmodis

The Defining Properties of Evolution and Culture in the Consistent and Inconsistent Ideas in the Concept of Family

Commentary: Zoltán Ábrahám

This presentation first looks through the history of raising our offspring with special regard to the importance of evolutionary predefinition of, and cooperation between the genders. Then it analyses the cultural and evolutionary bases of monogamic and poligamic tendencies. It shows how Sumeric family policies, traditional cultures of the Far East, ancient Greek and Roman philosophies, Jewish and Christian morals approach the laws and regulations of marriage and family. It also presents main factors like the postmodern deconsrtuctivist philosophy that might pose challenges to the traditional concept of marriage and family. Then at last, the presentation also tries to show the possible economical and social consequences of these changes in our concept about family.

10.25 György Alföldi

Urbanism / Society / Social Futuring

Commentary: Richárd Ongjerth

This research takes a very interesting aspect of the future. So far, we have dreamed about the future, writers and movie directors have told stories and made up universes, we constantly research future and even plan future, but not many researchers have ventured in the world of social futuring, finding out more about our possibilities in our future.

From an urbanistic point of view, this question is even more important as we professionally research future. We examine tendencies of certain periods and try to map out short-, middle- and long-term prognoses. Our colleagues just one generation before planned out and realised the future of entire cities and municipalities, and now we can clearly see that things do not really go as they thought they would. After this „blueprint” planning, now we use different IT methods and work together with several other fields' experts, count in several other factors while planning areas and cities, but the question still remains with us: are we going to be able to predict well, are we making the best plans we can, is our country going towards a well-planned future? What opportunities will our country offer to inhabitants of a certain region?

Urban development is an open and complex progress that is influenced by many macro- and microfactors. In this presentation I am trying to point out some interactions between certain factors to give an adequate overview as a base for our examination. We need to look at Hungary's urban futuring at a continental and regional level. Today's networking has greater and greater effects on our regions and municipalities (macrofactors), but the development of our towns can also be described by urbanisation factors, such as geographical, social, economical and physical factors, that all work interdependently in forming our regions.

Traditional urban planning, including ITS (Integrated Urban Development Strategy), examines past-present-close future tendencies and uses these as the base of its prognoses and realisation plans. The timespan of social futuring, however, points far beyond this, therefore, considering the openness of urban systems, it requires different methods. Since Eszter Monda has already

examined these methods at an earlier workshop, I would only like to address the ones that contribute to this new way of urban planning.

I am going to introduce four methods of urban planning present today: Sustainable City / Slow City / Smart City / Resilient City. These approaches have developed independently of one another, and so, they each have different foci. These approaches, however, are closely related to certain „trendy” terms: climate change, energy management, population concentration, globalisation, the appearance of an omnipresent IoT, expectable and unexpected natural disasters, etc. Each approach has well-based views regarding our Earth's future, and offer different solutions, goals and strategies to cope with complex urban problems. It is interesting therefore, from our point of view, to examine what methods they use and categorise them according to our terminology, seeing whether they are active, proactive, or reactive.

I would like to evaluate these theories on an urban level. Otherwise, this presentation would prove insufficient. I am going to use foreign examples as well, just as the 'Budapest 2050' monography published by the Budapest University of Technology and Economics , Department of Urban, Planning and Design where we have already begun to implement the concepts of social futuring in our research.

11.45 Dóra Perczel-Forintos

Mindfulness in Focus

Commentary: Judit Sass

Mindfulness means a conscious attention towards everything, that happens in our bodies, in our minds and in our environments in a given moment. Its goal is that we should immerse ourselves in the given moment as best as we can. This is a method of living in the „here and now”, being conscious; free of judgements, denial or any reaction whatsoever. This particular attitude has many positive health and mental benefits: lowers stress, strengthens our immune system, lowers pain or makes it more bearable, lowers the risk of depression and anxiety, and improves attention and memory. Those practicing mindfulness often are generally happier with themselves and their lives, are more satisfied, have higher self-esteem, and seem to be more forgiving with others and themselves.

The popularity of mindfulness-based stress reduction training points to the 21st century man's innermost desire to stay balanced even in the storms of our postmodern world and lifestyle. With the insane improvement of technology, the challenge is not acquiring information, but choosing the right pieces. With today's obesity epidemic (globesity), the challenge is not hunting down food, but resisting consumption. It seems that these new, postmodern challenges require new skills: the skill to be mindful and conscious at any given moment; relive our wishes, needs and desires and control them accordingly. Simply put: our future depends on our self-regulation skills.

In this presentation, we are trying to present some methods of this beneficial skill, i.e. mindfulness.

12.20 Kristóf Iván

Challenges and Opportunities in Informational Technology in the Next Decade

Commentary: Eszter Monda

Research fields of the last few decades and their results have now changed to become parts of our everyday lives. Therefore, by reviewing today's flagship research programs (e.g.: EU flagship programs: quantum technology, artificial intelligence) we can, in many cases, anticipate the technologies that are most probable to appear in the fields of information technology and its related areas. These technological steps pose significant challenges to our homeland as well. What kinds of challenges are we already facing in the fields of public education and higher education? How can we prepare for the new challenges?