

# BEYOND TODAY

The Essentials of Futures Thinking

**Abdulwahed Jalal Nori &  
Waleed Fekry Faris**



## **Beyond Today: The Essentials of Futures Thinking**

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# I

## Introduction

In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and peace and blessings be upon the messenger of Allah (SWT), his family, and his companions.

This book is primarily intended for young minds who are new to or only superficially familiar with futures studies, besides those intrigued by the field. It aims to educate them on the methods and tools used by futurists to anticipate the future. The purpose of this book is to raise awareness about futures studies and to enhance competencies in order to respond meaningfully to the increasing complexity of our times, considering the unique developmental challenges facing the Islamic world and the world at large.

The Muslim world significantly lags behind Western countries and research institutions in futures studies, despite Islam's emphasis on preparing for future challenges, ensuring the wellbeing of future generations, and fostering competent leadership. Islam's Maqasid al-Sharia underscores the sanctity of life, justice, equality, brotherhood, kindness, compassion, and the reduction of human suffering—all aimed at serving the present and future interests of the people. As Al-Shatibi articulates, laws are exclusively established for the immediate and future interests of those subjected to them.

The Qur'an's discourse on the passage of time reflects a deep sense of future historical consciousness within the Muslim soul. Additionally, the stories of the prophets provide glimpses into the future, as exemplified by Waraqa bin Nawfal's desire to be alive during the Prophet's time of banishment, drawing on historical precedents and the experiences of earlier prophets (Wael, 2011).

This book addresses the gap in futures studies within the Muslim world and highlights emerging trends and issues around us. In an era of aging populations and multi-generational survival challenges, cultivating future-oriented thinking is essential. We are confident that this book will generate knowledge on how individuals and organizations can approach our uncertain future and create a preferable one.

In an era defined by profound global transformations, Futures Studies emerges as an intellectual and practical guide, providing individuals, organizations, and societies with the means to navigate the complexities of an uncertain future. *Beyond Today* illuminates the multifaceted landscape of Futures Studies, offering accessible yet rigorous content essential for students, scholars, policymakers, and industry leaders.

Futures Studies, often called Futurology, is an interdisciplinary field aimed at understanding and anticipating potential future trajectories. It employs a variety of methodologies, theories, and tools to unravel the mysteries of tomorrow. This book bridges the gap between specialists and the broader populace, making Futures Studies accessible to a wider audience.

The book empowers future generations by inviting young minds to engage with Futures Studies. It serves as a beacon for their intellectual and practical journey, equipping them with foresight—a cognitive toolset that allows individuals and organizations to anticipate, envision, and construct a preferable future.

This volume acknowledges the substantial gap in Futures Studies, particularly within the Muslim world. Despite Islam’s exhortation to prepare for future challenges and safeguard future generations, disparities persist.

In an age where pressing survival challenges span multiple generations, cultivating foresight and future-oriented thinking has become indispensable. Whether as individuals or organizations, we must be guided by future thinking, recognizing that the future is co-created through our daily actions.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The overarching aim of this book is to equip readers with the foundational knowledge, methodologies, and critical insights essential for navigating the ever-evolving field of Futures Studies. Our objectives are:

- To cultivate the invaluable skill of futures thinking across diverse disciplines.
- To offer a comprehensive exploration of the diverse schools and

paradigms within Futures Studies.

- To provide a solid grounding in the fundamental principles and epistemology of Futures Studies.
- To critically evaluate various methodologies within the discipline.
- To illustrate the practical applications of Futures Studies through concrete examples and scenarios.

As we embark on this intellectual expedition, it is paramount to recognize that the future is a canvas upon which our choices, decisions, and actions converge. *Beyond Today* invites readers to engage in the enlightening discourse of Futures Studies, a discipline that empowers individuals and societies to collectively co-create a brighter, more sustainable, and prosperous future.

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