From: Institute For Social Futures
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Inter-Futures 6

The ISF Newsletter

Welcome to the sixth edition of Inter-Futures, the ISF Newsletter, which reports on ongoing work by ISF'ers, events, news and more.

What we do:

News

Linda Woodhead

Sociology, Lancaster University

Fellow, 2018-19, Stanford University

Linda Woodhead, ISF Co-Director, has been appointed a fellow at Stanford University (2018-19) to conduct research on the 'No Religion Generation'. She is part of a larger 'iGen Project', based at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) that is carrying out research with young millennials in the US and UK.

Her particular focus is on what it means for young people to be raised in a context in which 'no religion' rather than Christianity is the cultural norm, and whether this bears any significance on how they think about their future.

Woodhead is a sociologist of religion, beliefs and values. Much of her work has looked at the decline of Christian influence (especially in liberal democracies) and the rise of alternative beliefs, values and rituals – both spiritual and non-religious. Her latest book is *That Was the Church That Was: How the Church of England lost the English People* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016, with Andrew Brown).

Upcoming Book Release
February 2019

There Is No Planet B

A Handbook for the Make or Break Years

Mike Berners-Lee

We have the chance to live better than ever. But, as humans become ever more powerful, can we avoid blundering into disaster? - Mike Berners-Lee

There is No Planet B maps it out in an accessible and entertaining way, filled with astonishing facts and analysis. For the first time you'll find big-picture perspective on the environmental and economic challenges of the day laid out in one place, and traced through to the underlying roots – questions of how we live and think. This book will shock you, surprise you – and then make you laugh.

And you'll find practical and even inspiring ideas for what you can actually do to help humanity thrive on this – our only – planet.

Reviews

Planet B has received glowing reviews. Some of which can be found below:
"I absolutely love this book! If you've ever felt overwhelmed by the scale of the global challenges we face, then read this book. There Is No Planet B is full of practical guidance, evidence-based and robust, yet completely accessible, and sets out the difference any one of us can make. In an increasingly complex and confusing world, this book stands out as a beacon of common sense, clarity and – crucially – hope." ***Caroline Lucas MP***

"It asks all the searching and systemic questions I want to ask as humanity peers over a precipice…and has a bloody good go at answering them with data, experience and integrity." ***Pooran Desai, OBE****, Co-founder of Bioregional Development Group, and International Director of Bioregional's One Planet Communities programme, and author*

of One Planet Living.

"… a lively and cogent assessment of what is happening to the Earth's biosphere and resources. He tells us what we can do if we want to make a difference, and tread more softly on the planet." ***Martin Rees****, Astronomer Royal and author of On the Future: Prospects for Humanity*

"… It's also massively important, given the current state of the planet." ***Bill McKibben****, author of Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?*

You can find more information about the author and the book here.

Global Futures

Hope and The Future

A conversation from many perspectives

Thursday 7th February 2019, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
D55 InfoLab21, Lancaster University

The next in a series of Global Futures events will be ‘exploring burning questions for global society’. The format of this event will be 6 x 6 minute talks followed by panel Q&A, discussion with all views welcome, and refreshments.

Speakers

Mike Berners-Lee, Director, Small World Consulting
Elizabete Carmo-Silva, Lecturer in Plant Sciences for Food Security
Laura Premack, Lecturer in Global Religion & Politics
David Sobral, Reader in Astrophysics
Andrew Tate, Reader in Literature, Religion & Aesthetics
David Tyfield, Reader in Environmental Innovation and Sociology

All welcome. The event will bring together people from across the University, Lancaster city and the local area, so that the question can be explored from fresh angles in a lively

but relaxed setting. For catering purposes it will be helpful if you can let us know if you will be attending the event by emailing researchinstitutes@lancaster.ac.uk

How to get there: Infolab21 is the green and orange building on the university campus overlooking the M6. For D55, turn right at the café on the top floor.

Past Global Futures Event

Award winning environmental photo journalist Ashley Cooper gave a talk on 'Images and Reflections on a Warming Planet'. The event took place on 7 November 2018 at LEC 3 Training Rooms 1 & 2 were Cooper engaged the audience in a lively debate on global warming.

Other News

Publications

Cities, Railways, Modernities: London, Paris, and the Nineteenth Century, a new monograph by Carlos López Galviz

Published as part of the Routledge Advances in Urban History, *Cities, Railways, Modernities* chronicles the transformation that London and Paris experienced during the 19th century through the lens of the London Underground and the Paris Métro. By highlighting the multiple ways in which the future of the two cities was imagined and the role that railways played in that process, it challenges and refines two of the most dominant myths of urban modernity: a planned Paris and an unplanned London. The book recovers a significant body of work around the ideas, the plans, the context, and the building of metropolitan railways in the two cities to provide new insights into the relationship of transport technologies and urban change during the 19th century. Introducing the notion of 'past futures', the author invites us to think about alternative ways of connecting the urban past to our urban futures.

Further details, including options to order the book are available here.

Other News

Calls

Discipline Hopping in Information and Communication Technologies

The EPSRC's Information and technologies (ICT) team is encouraging researchers to pursue an immersive experience in other disciplines and user environments. Discipline Hopping Awards will provide short-term support to allow researchers from core ICT fields to work in other disciplines and/or user fields. The aim of this is to foster new interactions, bringing a multidisciplinary and user-driven focus to research. Alternatively, non-ICT specialists can apply for funds to bring a technological perspective to their home discipline.

The call is aimed at researchers who have a proven track record of research in their home discipline, providing funding to develop skills and collaborations with other disciplines and end users.

Further details on the EPSRC website here.

Forthcoming ESRC Funding Call & Town Hall Event

Management Practices and Employee Engagement (Coordination and Evidence Hub)

The ESRC will be inviting proposals for a single Coordination and Evidence Hub in early January 2019 as part of its Transforming Productivity, Management Practices and Employee Engagement initiative.

This follows an earlier call for research projects on management practices and employee engagement (MP-EE), and their relationships with productivity (now closed and in review).

The purpose of the Coordination and Evidence Hub will be to act as an umbrella structure that brings the individual research projects together into a cohesive and strategic whole, and provides a central link to the ESRC's broader productivity portfolio. In addition to its central coordinating function, the hub will deliver a synthesising and evaluating role across the programme of project investments; ensuring cross-theme fertilisation, drawing out cross-cutting evidence, and evaluating interventions to analyse "what works". Critically, the hub will also provide a focus for knowledge exchange and the translation of research into practice.

Both calls build directly on the outputs of the joint ESRC-ONS workshop on ‘Understanding management practices, employee engagement and firm-level productivity that we held in February 2018, as well as the strong MP-EE dimension that came out of the discussions at our recent Future of Work scoping workshops – which many of you fed into, helping to identify the key research gaps and challenges.

As part of the commissioning cycle for the Coordination and Evidence Hub, **we are holding a networking and information event on 29th January 2019 in Bristol to bring together participants from both academia and the policy/user communities**. You can find out more about the call and register to attend the 'town hall' meeting here.

Inter-Futures 7 will be circulated by 28 February 2019

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