Anticipation as empowerment

Co-elaborative scenario building for action

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The research project

• **Research focus:** The use of the future (anticipation) as an empowerment process through the acquisition of Futures Literacy as a capability

• **Discipline:** Transdisciplinary anticipation with a flavor of renewed old institutional economics

• **Anticipatory system:** Connecting “the future as novelty” with “the future as preparation” and “the future as planning”

• **Anticipatory assumptions:** The future is an inexhaustible common good (rivalrous and non excludable)
The research framework

Tools second to process
- Nurture diversity
- Promote futures literacy
- Foster empowerment

Add novelty to planning and preparation
- Focus on ruptures and human agency
- Develop learning by doing
- Engage local actors in collective action

Co-elaborative scenario building: Principles and Activities
And also...

- Futures Wheel
- Critical uncertainty matrix
- Causal Layered Analysis
- Three Horizons
- Futures triangle
- ...

Diagram showing critical uncertainty matrices and scenarios.
Applications

- Grassroots foresight initiative (GFAR)
- Land use planning (CIFOR)
- Forest tenure security (CIFOR)
- Aquatic agricultural systems (Worldfish)
- Futures of EU-Africa relations (GovINN/Jean Monnet Foundation)
- Local governance of food systems (CoE/UWC)
- Transfrontier conservation areas (EU/CIRAD)
- Territorial Development (AFD/CIRAD)
Completed (2005-2016)
On-going/Planned (2016-...)

Where?
“Flagships” of on-going/recent developments

Territorial foresight (on-going):
Combining a territorial diagnostic including demographic projections, with interviews of resource persons, household surveys and co-elaborative scenario-building. Mali, Madagascar, South Africa, and more to come...

Geoprospective (starting):
Coupling spatial modeling to co-elaborative scenario-building. Senegal to start with...

The futures of Governance and the Governance of the Future (starting):
Establishing an extended peer community to develop conceptual and applied transdisciplinary research on anticipation as a governance innovation and its implications for governing the future. Beginning with an African perspective...
Some recent references


