The Role of Visions in a Scenario Process

Case Winland

This present moment

Used to be

The unimaginable future

Stewart Brand

The Clock of the Long Now
The Role of Visions in a Scenario Process – Case “Winland”

Time:  Tuesday 13 June at 9:00–10:30
Room:  Dining Room
Moderators: Dr. Burkhard Auffermann and Dr. Marko Keskinen

Introduction to the session: what visions, what scenarios, what Winland?

Winland research project – Introduction to the case study
Marko Keskinen
Aalto University, Finland

Scenario process and future visioning in Winland
Matti Minkkinen, Burkhard Auffermann & Riikka Saarimaa
Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku, Finland

Visioning Winland from the point-of-view of the relationship of human agency to planning and complexity – Comment speech
Riel Miller, UNESCO, Paris

Presentations are followed by discussion and facilitated participatory workshop on the role of visions in the scenario process and values.

winlandtutkimus.fi
twitter.com/WinlandFI
From Failand to Winland?

• Strategic research project investigating future energy and food security in Finland
  → Multidisciplinary team aiming for interdisciplinary research

• Research and policy recommendations co-created with key stakeholders to ensure policy impact
  → Integration critical: scenarios the key method!

Research questions

• How do the shocks and pressures to our energy and food system and their related policy measures affect Finland’s comprehensive security in the future?

• How can we improve the resilience of our society?
  → How do we prevent Finland from becoming Failand and proceed toward Winland?

Scenario process as key integrative method: thinking ahead up to 2040, together with our stakeholders
Resilience and learning
Scenarios and visioning

- Visioning is widely seen as important in a scenario process

- Challenges from two perspectives
  1) Visioning as an ethical challenge
  2) Visioning as a pragmatic challenge
From Failand to Winland: the scenario process

2016

2017

2018

2019

Visioning as an ethical challenge

• **Dialogue:** Which are ‘relevant’ stakeholders and perspectives? Who defines key terms?

• **Closure:** Unifying consensus vision vs. pluralism – Meta-consensus?

• **Unintended consequences:** good intentions are not enough
  • **Colonizing the future:** future generations are not included in the discussion

Visioning as a pragmatic challenge

- **Commitment**: ensuring commitment to the process and stakeholder ownership of the vision
- **Imagination**: promoting creative imagination (keeping in mind the security focus)
- **Efficiency**: considering complex issues in a short time frame
- **Implementation**: getting from vision to scenarios and policy recommendations

Winland 2040

- Stakeholder vision workshop in autumn 2017
  - First creative visioning, then consideration of existing visions and ‘official’ political aims, and identified threats
- Vision as **processual**, not as a closed state of the future
  - How to organize comprehensive security in the future? Alternative models, not one right path
- Research made in the Winland consortium is integrated into the scenario process
Questions for discussion

How to ensure that diverse perspectives are taken into account in a vision?
How to ensure that a vision is effective in practice?

How to take into account shocks and surprises?
How to integrate **scientific research** into visioning practice?

The process of visioning

Futures workshop with 4 phases:
1. Preparation phase,
2. Critique phase,
3. **Visionary phase**,  
4. Implementation phase