

Review of: "The Role of Think Tanks in Megatrends Analysis and Future Research"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article addresses an exiting topic, as think tanks are playing an increasingly important role in policy advice, media and in shaping public opinion. Specifically, the authors address the contribution of think tanks to megatrend analysis and future research. The article draws the attention of readers involved in futures research and megatrend analysis to the diverse activities of these organizations. To this end, it is useful to define think tanks precisely. However, the authors rely primarily on one source, the "Go To Think Tank Report" by James McGann; other sources are predominantly non-academic. I suggest to use existing scholarly literature, especially on partisan, ideological or interest-related think tanks. The authors also mention – without considering the ideological dimension of knowledge production and dissemination - neoliberal or pro-market think tanks (e.g., in Chile) and authors (e.g., Chafuen).

My second comment is aimed at section 5, which describes six think tanks in the field of megatrend and future research in different countries and world regions. The brief portrayals are of interest for researchers in this field, no question. The selection is also good. But there is no in-depth characterisation let alone a research question that would allow to identify the think tanks in terms of the political character of their knowledge production or compare them according to their influence or knowledge-shaping activities, for example.

From a formal point of view, the article could be tightened somewhat. In sections 2, 3, 4 there are some redundancies; section 4 I advise to subdivide, namely where it goes from general definitions to think tanks in megatrend and future research.

All in all, I think this is an article for “newcomers” who are interested in the subject areas and think tanks and then want to delve deeper into the field.