

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

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The article fills a void in the existing body of academic literature on think tanks. Remaining - we guess - within the realm of future studies, it provides useful, though preliminary, information on these organizations and their work with Megatrends Analysis. The Authors focus their attention on a sample of 7 distinguished think tanks from different parts of the world, whose representatives showed interest in the research topic and in having a semi-structured interview. The collected data have, therefore, quantity and quality limits. As the authors noticed, it is possible that these organizations did not publish their methods, nor did they contribute to the "analysis of the MTs evolution" because of the futurists and experts' habit of looking ahead instead of backward. However, it is more probable that by doing so they simply tried to protect (hide) their techniques.

In addition to that, given their political matrix, I received the impression that their use of MTs could be instrumental: MTs can be read and quoted to justify, recommend, or lobby for a desired outcome. This action (anticipation) falls within the domain of future studies, but it sets doubt about the deontology of the futurist involved. Instead, it could be stated more clearly that they can be used for understanding the dynamics of change, possibly quoting some examples. MTs can also generate long-term scenarios or improve strategic thinking, especially if combined with other techniques like sector analysis and panel surveys [1]. In my experience, at least some of the mentioned think tanks work for large corporations: businesses are often eager to know which scenarios are more probable to happen and do appreciate professional and detached advice, starting from a correct MTs analysis. The missing evidence in the collected data of this type of analysis does not mean MTs are not used for this purpose. See for example the existing literature on MTs use in economics [2].

[1] Ginanneschi, M. Long-term strategic thinking, the Themis method and the future of food. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, Volume 165, 2021, 120468.

[2] Malik, R., Janowska, A.A. Megatrends and their use in economic analyses of contemporary challenges in the world economy. *Prace Naukowe Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu*, 2018.