

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.

“Furthermore, this paper gathers diverse evidence from various other sources to demonstrate the rising attention paid to megatrends analysis and future research and the growing number and diversity of think tanks in various parts of the world. Evidence includes academic papers, reports, and interviews with experts.” (Reviewer Comments: Be more specific about your dataset and sources. Describe how many semi-structured interviews and how interview partners were selected.)

Reviewer Comments: Authors describe difference between megatrends and future trends twice. Define “strategic foresight” earlier in the paper. Describe difference between foresight and scenario planning earlier in the paper. Cite sources for these three terms.

Reviewer Comments: Comparison between SDGs and megatrend analysis is interesting, but seems extraneous to this paper.

Excellent summary of think tank origin story.

Cite public opinion on Chatham and Rand. I had never heard this opinion before despite working with both organizations for 17 years. What do you mean by elitist organization? I know Rand receives government money. The reference to think tanks being elitist may be irrelevant to your research question.

The US prefers the word “non-partisan” to refer to think tanks not aligned with a certain political party.

Drop use of Anglo-Saxon if referring to modern era. There are more descriptive ways to describe a region than by a historical ethnicity. I recommend that you simply list the governments or nation-states.

Run-On Sentence (see below)

More recently, we see a trend that non-profit organisations engaged in policy-oriented work prefer to work under the label of think tank rather than advocacy-organisations because advocacy work, especially involvement in campaign work, has become under scrutiny from government administration and courts in some countries, especially in the Global South and when it involved foreign funding. India and China are prime examples for this development. However, even some advocacy non-profit organisations in Western Europe face legal challenges.

Remove reference to death of James McGann. While tragic, it doesn't align with your research question. The reader also may not know anything about the death.

Describe methodology.

“The majority of established think tanks, however, are not deeply affected by the burgeoning megatrends discourse and does not specifically engage in future studies or uses strategic foresight tools.” (Change “does” to “do” since subject is singular.)

Capitalize Proper Nouns: The UN future summit 2024

Can article provide more analysis on the types of megatrends research and some comparison and contrasting of how megatrend analysis is covered by select think tanks. This could be done through some content analysis.

Should think-tanks focus more on mega-trend research?

F"uture literacy is likely to receive more attention by international organisations as well as universities and the education and consulting industry." Reviewer Comment: Delete or explain in more detail)

Findings are not backed-up with sources. Arguments should rely more on the literature and sources.

A visual such as a table to show the various think tanks and to compare their coverage of megatrends would be helpful.

Conclusion could be longer.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your paper.