

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

Entwürfe für eine Welt mit Zukunft (Blueprints for a world with a future)

40

The first volumes in a new book series dealing with concrete blueprints for the future were published in 2013/14; volumes on urban planning, the labor market, democracy, food, and education are in preparation. Klaus Wiegandt and Harald Welzer, Director, FUTURZWEI.Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit are the series editors. The series continues the series on the future of the Earth (S. Fischer Verlag, 2007-2009; English: The Sustainability Project, Haus Publishing) (p. 70).



Fortschrittsgeschichten
Für einen guten Umgang mit Technik
(Stories about progress—Handling technology well)
 Marcel Hänggi
 S. Fischer Verlag, 2015, ISBN 978-3-596-03220-4

What kind of progress do we want? A new perception of technology that is both realistic and critical is urgently needed, for the looming destruction of the foundations on which our lives depend, for which we and our technologies are largely responsible, forces us to seek a sustainable way of dealing with technology. In twelve stories about progress, Swiss technology expert Marcel Hänggi examines how technological change comes about, how we perceive it, and how it benefits society. His deliberations result in a vision of a world 30 years in the future that handles technology responsibly. (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)



Schubumkehr
Die Zukunft der Mobilität (Thrust reversal—The future of mobility)
 Stephan Rammler
 S. Fischer Verlag, 2014, ISBN: 978-3-596-03079-8

Mobility is of fundamental importance for our economy, which is based on the division of labor, as well as for our private lifestyles. Yet it is extremely product- and resource-intensive and poses great challenges to the future. In light of a growing global population and scarce resources, it is clear that we need a drastic change of direction, a thrust reversal. Stephan Rammler develops the image of a future with innovative technologies, wise economic strategies, and a changed political culture. An exciting journey to the world of tomorrow! (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)



Zwei Grad mehr in Deutschland
Wie der Klimawandel unseren Alltag verändern wird (Two degrees more in Germany—How climate change will change our everyday lives)
 Friedrich-Wilhelm Gerstengarbe, Harald Welzer (eds.)
 S. Fischer Verlag, 2013, ISBN: 978-3-596-18910-6

Climate scientist Friedrich-Wilhelm Gerstengarbe, social scientist Harald Welzer, and their team of authors outline a scenario that depicts the consequences of climate change for everyday life, the economic system, and the social welfare systems in Germany. (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)



**Wege aus der Wachstumsgesellschaft
(Pathways out of growth-driven society)**

Harald Welzer, Klaus Wiegandt (eds.)

S. Fischer Verlag, 2013

ISBN: 978-3-596-19616-6

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In the volume “Wege aus der Wachstumsgesellschaft,” the authors discuss the problems of the industrialized nations on the path toward sustainable development. Internationally renowned scientists depict possibilities what life could look like—and how attractive it is if it is not driven by wasteful consumption and constant growth. (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)



*Klaus Wiegandt,
Prof. Harald Welzer (left to right)*

Foreword by the editors of the new book series

The 19th and 20th centuries were the epoch of expansive modernity. Increasingly large parts of the world followed the path of industrial societies and growth-based economies; their populations experienced material and above all immaterial progress: societies became democratic states based on freedom and the rule of law, and struggles for occupational safety, education, health care, and social welfare systems were successful. In the 21st century, as globalization has drawn practically the entire planet into the vortex of growth-based economic activity, but has by no means established freedom, democracy, and the law across the board, we are faced with the challenge of securing the standard of civilization we have attained, for it is increasingly under pressure from environmental devastation, competition for resources, and global warming, to name just a few of the most serious problems. What is a modern society like that no longer follows the principle of perpetual expansion, but instead secures a good life with just a fifth of today’s consumption of materials and energy? Nobody can answer that question at present; there is no master plan for such a type of modernity. That is why we need images of the future that make the quality of life in a sustainable model of modernity imaginable and that make its blueprints for different types of mobility, building, and housing seem attractive and not forbidding.

For this reason, we asked scientists to sketch out concrete utopias of future models of living and economic activity for the book series “Blueprints for a world with a future.” Concrete utopias—that means scenarios of future realities that can be created on the basis of the technological and social means available today. Only against the background of such images of the future can people consider which steps forward make sense today in order to embark in the direction of a desirable future. In other words: in the absence of images of the future, active policies and the role that civil society plays for such policies are impossible to imagine. If the political community and civil society are fixated exclusively on maintaining an ever more fragile status quo, they lose the ability to move toward any other goal, remaining frozen in the present, which is a deadly position in a changing world.

Following the 18 volumes of the preceding series, which was also published by Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, and which presented a scientific survey of the natural status quo of the Earth in its individual dimensions, from the oceans to population growth, we now turn our attention from the present to the future in the hope of showing concrete perspectives for the ways in which a sustainable modern society could be shaped, perspectives that encourage the political community as well as citizens to use the options for action at their disposal and to embark on paths to the good life.

Harald Welzer and Klaus Wiegandt, July 2014

Source: Schubumkehr, pp. 10-11, S. Fischer Verlag, 2014



Das Risikoparadox
Warum wir uns vor dem Falschen fürchten
(The risk paradox—Why we are afraid of the wrong things)
Ortwin Renn
S. Fischer Verlag, 2014
ISBN: 978-3-596-19811-5

It seems we are constantly becoming aware of new dangers—avian flu, swine fever, electric smog, crime, and the like confront us in the media almost every day. Fear of such “false” risks and dangers blocks our view of the “real” risks that threaten us and future generations. Internationally renowned scientist Ortwin Renn demonstrates which ones they are, why we underestimate them, and how we can deal with them responsibly. (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)

Excerpt from the foreword by Klaus Wiegandt

(...) With this book, Ortwin Renn has created an outstanding foundation for each individual citizen’s decision-making processes. Readers are provided with a concept of the underrated risks in our society as well as the overrated ones, and also with a manual for risk-aware, competent, and risk-responsible judgment and action. In addition to describing the risks mentioned above, Renn also explains the psychological and sociological reasons why people often under- or overestimate risks. Readers are presented at times astounding insights from a wealth of scientific disciplines in four sections. The first section presents risks and threats that seem significantly more dramatic than they actually are, and the second section gives reasons for insufficient assessment of risks. The third section is devoted to risks that are often underestimated, and systemic characteristics are presented along with their potential to threaten society. Sustainability is at the center of the fourth section; Ortwin Renn shows how a prudent risk policy can also contribute to the goals of sustainable development. He opens our eyes to the Earth’s carrying capacity, shows why resilience is to be given higher priority than efficiency and why social justice deserves precedence over optimal resource justice, and presents a new model of governance as well as ways to overcome the tragedy of the commons.

At the same time, the author also specifies reforms and changes required for a successful discourse toward sustainable development in our society. In this context, his proposal of an analytical-deliberative discourse among four partners—the policy and scientific communities, civil society, and the business community—as a complement to representative democracy deserves particular attention. The main goal of this discourse is not consensus, but intensive and transparent participation on the part of significant parts of our society. (...)

Source: Risikoparadox, pp. 11–12, S. Fischer Verlag, 2014

SUPPORTED PUBLICATIONS

FUTURZWEI.Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit

Der FUTURZWEI Zukunftsalmanach 2015/16 · Geschichten vom guten Umgang mit der Welt (The FUTURZWEI almanac of the future 2015/16—Stories about handling the world well)

Harald Welzer, Dana Giesecke, Luise Tremel (eds.)
S. Fischer Verlag, 2014 · ISBN: 978-3-596-03049-1

Without alternatives? By no means. The second FUTURZWEI almanac of the future tells 83 stories about alternatives to the leading culture of growth and waste. The focus is on the political, and as always on the future perfect (translator's note: Futur Zwei is the German term for future perfect): Will we have been prepared for less material, less consumption, and less injustice? Five writers talk about how we could deal with raw materials and consumer products in the near future. (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)

Der FUTURZWEI Zukunftsalmanach 2013 · Geschichten vom guten Umgang mit der Welt (The FUTURZWEI future almanac 2013—Stories about handling the world well)

Stefan Rammler, Harald Welzer (eds.)
S. Fischer Verlag, 2012 · ISBN: 978-3-596-19420-9

We will have been active!—Pathways toward a grandchild-compatible future
The 21st century needs visions—stories about better lifestyles, stories about a successful future. Even today, the development of a sustainable society is driven forward by successful projects: responsible entrepreneurs, creative school principals, start-ups by students, as well as members of the public use the latitude they have to develop groundbreaking and sustainable economic strategies and lifestyles. The FUTURZWEI almanac of the future presents their stories, thus providing role models for sustainable economic models and lifestyles and showing that alternative concepts to the current guiding culture of growth and waste can be fun. (Source: S. Fischer Verlag)

Both publications were supported financially by the foundation Forum für Verantwortung.

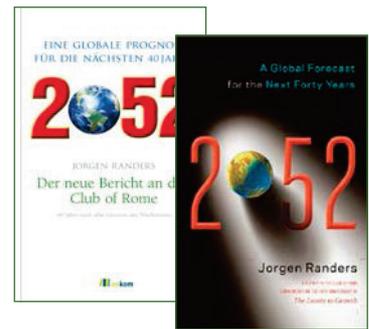


Professor Harald Welzer

The collaboration with social psychologist Harald Welzer, Professor of Transformation Design, University of Flensburg and Director of FUTURZWEI.Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit, and his team is highly enriching for the work of the foundation Forum für Verantwortung in terms of mobilizing civil society concerning sustainability. FUTURZWEI, financed by the entrepreneurial couple Hanna and Dieter Paulmann, collects success stories beyond scientific insights and moral appeals. Even today, there are examples and role models for sustainable living and sustainable economic activity in a wide range of places in society, for example in schools, businesses, public institutions, or in the private realm. FUTURZWEI tells their stories in the form of an “archive of the future” on the foundation’s website (www.futurzwei.org) and in the future almanacs published by S. Fischer Verlag in order to make these pioneers politically effective and visible to society. Harald Welzer works with Forum für Verantwortung in particular by conceptualizing and running the colloquiums for young scholars and by editing the books in the series “Blueprints for a world with a future” together with Klaus Wiegandt.

2052: A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years

Jørgen Randers
 Chelsea Green Publishing Co.
 ISBN: 978-1-603-58421-0



2052. Der neue Bericht an den Club of Rome

Jørgen Randers
 oekom verlag, 2012
 ISBN: 978-3-865-81398-5

Jørgen Randers, one of the co-authors of “The Limits to Growth” (1972), reveals in his newest book that, like Dennis Meadows, he has come to the bitter conclusion at the end of his career as an economist that humankind will not succeed on the path to sustainable development. In order to satisfy his curiosity as well as to try to motivate society to take action nonetheless, he tried in this book to illustrate a well-founded impression about the development of the next 40 years—no wishful thinking, no listing of all the measures necessary to achieve sustainable development.

To avoid this prognosis being limited by the boundaries of his own knowledge, he asked 35 scientists and other experts to tell him what they believed would happen with absolute certainty by 2052.

Jørgen Randers’s shocking confession: “I have gotten to know this future, grieved about the unnecessary suffering involved, and finally come to peace with the lost global opportunity.” The German translation from the English was funded by Forum für Verantwortung. The German edition was launched with the author as well as oekom verlag in Frankfurt am Main on October 12, 2012. (Text: Klaus Wiegandt)



Endspiel: Wie wir das Schicksal der Tropischen Regenwälder noch wenden können
Der neue Bericht an den Club of Rome (On the edge. The state and fate of the world’s tropical rainforests. Report to the Club of Rome)

Claude Martin
 oekom verlag, 2015
 ISBN: 978-3-865-81708-2

To some, they are paradise; others still call them “green hell.” Practically no other living environment provokes as much fascination and is under such threat at the same time: cattle herds, palm oil plantations, and the run on tropical timber are putting pressure on the rain forests from all sides. The situation is as difficult to comprehend as the forests themselves: On the one hand, forests are cleared illegally, on the other, the government supports reforestation; in many parts of the tropics, the amount of forest land is declining dramatically, in some regions, it is constant, and in many places, undeveloped primeval forests still exist besides impoverished and isolated forms. Claude Martin summarizes the current status quo in the new “Report to the Club of Rome”: He observes the regionally differentiated causes for cutting down the rain forest, assesses the chances that protective measures will succeed, and ventures a prognosis for the future. The question as to how the rain forests will react to climate change is of particular interest. The scientific community agrees that a time bomb is ticking here if the forest collapses and goes up in flames because the climate is getting drier and drier. To Claude Martin, a grand finale is currently taking place at the Equator—and nobody really knows how it will end. (Source: oekom verlag)

Both German publications were supported by the foundation Forum für Verantwortung.



Wurzeln für die lebende Stadt

Wie wir die Eigenverantwortung von Stadtteilen stärken können und warum diese mehr Wertschätzung verdienen (Roots for the living city. How we can strengthen neighborhoods' own responsibility and why they deserve more appreciation)

Harris C.M. Tiddens

oekom verlag, 2014 · ISBN: 978-3-865-81468-5

If emotion and reason are separated in a person, we call it dissociation—a serious health condition. Something similar is to be observed in cities, a kind of societal dissociation: citizens are natural emotional experts for their neighborhoods. Yet local politicians and government keep more and more of a distance from them, having retreated to higher levels such as municipal districts. This separation is a decisive cause for depolitization and citizens being enraged. The completely new, practically oriented approach presented here helps citizens as well as the political, business, and scientific communities to shape neighborhoods and cities in a sustainable way. (Source: oekom verlag)

Cheaponomics: Warum billig zu teuer ist (Cheaponomics: The High Costs of Low Prices)

Michael Carolan

oekom verlag, 2015, ISBN-13: 978-3-86581-734-1

(Routledge, 2014, ISBN 978-0-415-73515-5)



Do you really think you are getting a good deal when given that free mobile phone for switching service providers, if a multinational retailer undercuts its competitors or by the fact that food is relatively cheaper today in many countries than ever before? Think again! As Michael Carolan clearly shows in this compelling book, cheapness is an illusion. (Source: Routledge)

The German translation was supported by the foundation Forum für Verantwortung.



Der Wandel ist machbar · Manifest für ein neues Amerika (America The Possible · Manifesto for a New Economy)

James Gustave Speth

oekom verlag, 2013 · ISBN: 978-3-865-81438-8

(Yale University Press · ISBN: 978-0-300-19834-8)

The book identifies a dozen features of the American political economy—the country's basic operating system—where transformative change is essential. It spells out the specific changes that are needed to move toward a new political economy—one in which the true priority is to sustain people and planet. Supported by a compelling "theory of change" that explains how system change can come to America, the book also presents a vision of political, social, and economic life in a renewed America. Speth envisions a future that will be well worth fighting for. In short, this is a book about the American future and the strong possibility that we yet have it in ourselves to use our freedom and our democracy in powerful ways to create something fine, a reborn America, for our children and grandchildren.

The German translation was supported by the foundation Forum für Verantwortung.