



futureearth  
research for global sustainability

## Including Future Generations in Discussions on Sustainability

本セミナーでは、将来の世代が社会の持続可能性に対して持つ意義について概念的な基盤を概観し、市場主義や民主主義が将来の世代との関わりにおいても課題について考えます。また、自然環境などのホリスティックな資産について、どうすれば異なる世代の意見を反映した民主的な意思決定を行うことができるかを議論します。さらに、その一つの方法として、仮定の将来世代が意思決定の過程に参加する「Future Design」の試みを提示するとともに、岩手県矢巾町（やはばちょう）で「Future Design」を初めて実施した事例を紹介し、今後の導入に向けた課題を検討します。

While discussing the significance of the future generations as the philosophical groundwork for mankind's existence in the future, the seminar will review the possible setbacks of democracy and market system in relation to the future generations, and present ideas of taking turns among generations with holistic legacies including natural environments. "Future design" is a new framework that attempts to represent imaginary future generations in decision making processes with major implications for the future. The seminar will present the framework and its first participatory deliberation in Yahaba town, Fukushima, and discuss its implications for further development and implementation.

### プログラム

安部 浩 Hiroshi Abe 京都大学人間・環境学研究所 准教授  
Why do we owe a duty to future generations?

Matthias Fritsch Professor of Philosophy, Concordia University  
Democratic representation and future people

西條 辰義 Tatsuyoshi Saijo 一橋大学経済研究所 教授  
Future Design

原 圭史郎 Keishiro Hara 大阪大学環境イノベーションデザインセンター特任准教授  
Future Design - Deliberation by creating virtual future generations

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大学共同利用機関法人 人間文化研究機構  
総合地球環境学研究所  
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature

# The 7th Future Earth in Asia Seminar

## Including Future Generations in Discussions on Sustainability

### Why do we owe a duty to future generations? - Hiroshi Abe

In this presentation, unlike the majority of environmental scientists and specialists, I would not like to talk about how to protect future generations, but why we should care about them. This is because, if there were no good reason for justifying our responsibility towards them, i. e. if we did not necessarily have to owe future people, then all of the how-to researches on protection of them would not make sense fundamentally. Hence, I shall critically review some significant arguments that try to lay, albeit respectively in different ways, the philosophical groundwork for mankind's existence in the future.

### Democratic representation and future people - Matthias Fritsch

This presentation will review various proposals that have been made by political theorists as to how best to represent future people in democratic decision-making. Before this review, I will discuss the reasons for holding that liberal-capitalist democracies are inherently presentist, that is, favour the currently living at the expense of the mid- to long-term future. I will then present some ideas of my own as to how to reconceive democratic institutions in the face of increasing responsibilities for future people. These ideas revolve around the idea of taking turns among generations with holistic and encompassing legacies, such as traditions, institutions, and natural environments.

### Future Design - Tatsuyoshi Saijo

There are two main pillars in our society. One of them is the market system. It is an excellent device that realizes our desires in the short-run. However, it does not allocate resources with the interests of future generations in mind. Democracy is another pillar that is supposed to compensate the faults of the market, but it too is a mechanism that benefits the current generation without regard for future generations. Because future generations do not exist now, the current generation cannot hear their voices. Furthermore, since we are by nature myopic and optimistic, we cannot conduct decision making that sufficiently takes account of future generations. In this way, the current generation remorselessly deprives the resources that could have been utilized by future generations. Coping with this important issue, we propose a new framework called "Future Design" including introducing "imaginary future generations" in our society. I will show some experimental results and related research areas.

### Future Design - Deliberation by creating virtual future generations - Keishiro Hara

My talk will briefly introduce the first attempt of participatory deliberation under the concept of Future Design, which has been carried out in a local municipality in Japan over the past year. In the Future Design concept, present generations and virtual future generations who are tasked to represent and speak for future generations are to negotiate to overcome conflicts over priorities and values. I will present some of the preliminary results obtained from the deliberation processes in Yahaba town of Iwate prefecture, in which groups of present generations and virtual future generation first came up with ideas for vision settings for Yahaba town in 2060 individually and both groups then attempted to negotiate to overcome possible conflicts. A stark contrast was observed between the groups particularly with regards to the way of thinking and priorities in values. Though such deliberation practices have just begun and accumulation of case studies are awaited, I will discuss some implication derived from the practices in Yahaba town to develop the concept and implementation of Future Design in real world.

### 安部 浩 Hiroshi Abe

Hiroshi Abe is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Logic at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, in Kyoto, Japan. In 1999 he received his PhD in philosophy from Kyoto University. In 2011-12, he was a research fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. His publications include "From Symbiosis (kyōsei) to the Ontology of 'Arising Both from Oneself and from Another (gūshō)" in *Environmental Philosophy in Asian Traditions of Thought* (SUNY Press, 2014) and "Umweltethik im modernen Japan [Environmental ethics in modern Japan]" in *Begriff und Bild der modernen japanischen Philosophie* (frommann-holzboog, 2014).

### 西條 辰義 Tatsuyoshi Saijo

Tatsuyoshi Saijo is a Professor in the Institute of Economic Research, Hitotsubashi University. He was a Professor in the Research Institute for Future Design, Kochi University of Technology and a Professor in the Institute of Social and Economic Research, Osaka University. He received a Ph.D. (Economics) from the University of Minnesota. He is specialized in Institutional Design and Public Economics. He advocates for "Future Design," which incorporates "imaginary future generations" in the design of current and future social systems. He explores the theory and is engaging with the experiment and practice for the "Future Design."

### Matthias Fritsch

Matthias Fritsch is Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University, Montréal. He has published a monograph (*The Promise of Memory*), a range of articles in scholarly journals, co-edited two anthologies, and translated authors such as Heidegger, Gadamer, and Habermas into English. He has been a Humboldt Fellow in Frankfurt and at present is Visiting Research Professor at Kyoto University, where he is working on a book manuscript (for which he has been awarded federal Canadian funding) on intergenerational ethics and politics. A second project develops a concept of deconstructive normativity in relation to metaethics, biopolitics, and environmental philosophy.

### 原 圭史郎 Keishiro Hara

Keishiro HARA is an associate professor at the Center for Environmental Innovation Design for Sustainability at Osaka University. He works on sustainability science and environmental management, both in a local and global context. Most recently, he has been engaged in projects and research related to "Future Design." He is the principal investigator of project "Planning and Research for Future Design Method: Deliberation with Virtual Future Generations" (FY2015), supported by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), RISTEX. He holds bachelor in Engineering and Ph.D. in Environmental Studies, both from the University of Tokyo.

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