

Standards and Quality Criteria of Futures Studies

According to:

Gerhold, Lars / Holtmannspötter, Dirk / Neuhaus, Christian / Schüll, Elmar / Schulz-Montag, Beate / Steinmüller, Karlheinz (eds.): *Standards und Gütekriterien der Zukunftsforschung. Ein Handbuch für Wissenschaft und Praxis*. Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden 2015

Translation of the terms and short description by K. Steinmüller

- 1 Standards, that result from the specific character of futures studies in distinction to other forms of research (standards that emphasise “futures” in “futures studies”)
 - 1.1 Principle “Images of the Future” (reflecting that statements about the future are constructions)
 - 1.2 Modality (clear distinction between possible, probable and preferable futures)
 - 1.3 Argumentative verification (images of the future have to be open to scrutiny in debate about their ingredients and composition)
 - 1.4 Reference to action (futures studies are to inform decision making and action)
 - 1.5 Interdisciplinarity
 - 1.6 Transdisciplinarity

- 2 Standards, that make futures studies different to other forms of futures thinking (standards that emphasise “studies” in the sense of scientific research in “futures studies”)
 - 2.1 Aims and framework conditions (have to be made explicit)
 - 2.2 Transparency and comprehensibility (third parties should be able to follow each step)
 - 2.3 Theoretical foundation (a sound theoretical basis for the construction of images of the future)
 - 2.4 Choice and combination of methods
 - 2.5 Conceptual quality (including procedure according to the state of the art)
 - 2.6 Scientific relevance
 - 2.7 Code of conduct

- 3 Standards, that result from the tasks of futures studies
 - 3.1 Practical relevance, usability and impact
 - 3.2 Understanding of the addressees, their type, role and peculiarities
 - 3.3 Transfer and communication (results should have an format suited to transfer)
 - 3.4 Identification of (general) lines of action
 - 3.5 Project and process management

N.B.: There is some overlap of the standards.