

Future Log File 2014

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Professor Gunter Dueck is mathematician, philosopher and author. Until 2011, he served as Chief Technology Officer of IBM Germany. Currently he is ranked in the Top 5 in “NEXT 100 – the top influencers of the European digital industry”.

Keynes once said: "... the idea of the future being different from the present is so repugnant to our conventional modes of thought and behaviour that we, most of us, offer a great resistance to acting on it in practice." Is he right? Why (not)?

Yes, of course. Just look back at the years, say, 1914, 1944, 1984, and finally 2014. Obviously, very different. However, most people think that everything is getting worse. As a future thinker, I am asked every day: “Blessing or curse? Aren’t you afraid?”

What do you think are the most relevant developments which will change our world in the next two, three decades?

Selfdriving taxi cars (no private cars anymore), 3D-Printing, cyber physical systems.

Why exactly these?

The most dramatic changes come from infrastructure revolutions. These three will take the lead for our future.

Are you afraid of them or do you think positively?

Bingo! “Afraid.” Afraid of pure taxi traffic? We will have no parking pain, elder people are mobile without “a drivers licence” etc. Many people fear being forced to change their jobs. Not me.

Where will the happiest people live on the globe in the year 2040? Why there?

Happiness means being “rich in your heart”. That’s more an attitude than a bank account problem. I don’t think that there will be a great change... Where are the happiest people now?

Which book do you think will still be worth reading then? What could future generations still learn from it?

I am trying to look back at 1980. Do I really read books written in these times? Of course, there is some “eternal literature”, but the fact books are being updated all they time and are updated so well that we’ll prefer the books (ebooks including new media) of the current time. For many years, I wrote of “humane keeping of humans” (education aligned with the child’s character), I hope that such topics will be realized someday.