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## Futures

Volume 28, Issue 8, October 1996, Pages 741-749

Paper

# Retrieving the dream: How students envision their preferable futures

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/0016-3287\(96\)00032-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/0016-3287(96)00032-8)

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## Abstract

This article begins by recalling the crucial role that popular images of the future play in societal development. It notes the apparent dearth of positive images as we approach the millennium and highlights the value of futures workshops as a procedure for enabling participants to envision the future more clearly. In particular attention is drawn to the work of Elise Boulding and her findings in this field. A pilot-study is then described which used the process developed by Boulding to help students identify the key features of their preferable futures. Some support is found for her contention that a "baseline" future often emerges from such work.



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