

THREE TOMORROWS OF POSTNORMAL TIMES

A Workshop on Exploring
Methods of Future Studies

Venue The Alliance of Civilizations Institute
(Süleymaniye Külliyesi, İstanbul)

22 – 24 March 2019

Organised by
The Center for Postnormal Policy and Futures Studies, IIIT, and MAHYA

Postnormal Times is a term coined by Ziauddin Sardar to describe the era we are in: "an in-between period where old orthodoxies are dying, new ones have yet to be born, and very few things seem to make sense".

Given the accelerated nature of change and the speed it demands adaptation to, comprehending a vision of the future, and developing viable policies to navigate it, whilst becoming an ever more complex affair, is vital. Based on the Postnormal Times theory, Ziauddin Sardar and his team at the Center for Postnormal Policy and Future Studies have developed the Three Tomorrows Method which aims to provide a sensible vision of the future and upgrade the study of future to a deeper level. The team has been organizing several workshops to present their theory and methodology to young researchers and interested students in different countries.

AIM OF WORKSHOP

To increase awareness of Postnormal Times and give exclusive training on methods of future studies, with a view to addressing the interconnected, multiple problems that modern society faces using Education as a case study.

FRIDAY – 22 March

- 14:45 Welcome, Introductions, Overview, Goals, Roles
- 15:00 Introduction to Futures
- 16:00 Break
- 16:15 History of Education in Turkey
- 17:15 Mapping the Current Education System in Turkey
- 18:00 Dinner

SATURDAY – 23 March

- 10:00 Trends on Education
- 11:30 Coffee / Tea break
- 12:00 First Scenarios on Education
- 13:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 Emerging Issues & Futures Wheel
- 16:00 Coffee / Tea break
- 16:30 Second Scenarios on Education
- 18:00 End of Day – Thoughts for Tomorrow

SUNDAY – 24 March

- 10:00 Review of Day – Introduction to Day 2 content
- 10:15 What Just Happened (introduction to Postnormal Times Theory)
- 11:30 Coffee / Tea break
- 12:00 Searching for the Unthought
- 13:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30 Third Scenarios on Education
- 16:00 Coffee / Tea break
- 16:30 Postnormal Futures for Education in Turkey
- 17:30 Next Steps for Individual & Group Research (Istanbul Network)
- 18:30 Closing of the Workshop

Preparatory Reading

- Ziauddin Sardar and Jeremy Henzell-Thomas, **Rethinking Reform in Higher Education: From Islamization to Integration of Knowledge** (IIIT, London, 2017)
- Ziauddin Sardar, **Future: All That Matters** (Hodder, London, 2013)
- Ziauddin Sardar, 'Welcome to Postnormal Times' *Futures* 42 (5) 435-444 June 2010
- Ziauddin Sardar and John A. Sweeney, 'The Three Tomorrows of Postnormal Times' *Futures* 75 1-13 2016

This three-day weekend futures workshop is specifically designed to address and navigate the interconnected, multiple problems that modern societies face using Education as a case study.

The overall emphasis is on futures methods. The idea is to use and combine different futures studies methods within the framework of the Three Tomorrows Method of Postnormal Times theory to address a single problem (in this instance education) in all its forms to allow for deeper study and understanding of concepts, framework, and methodology.

Through analysis of trends and emerging issues, participants will be challenged to develop potential scenarios for futures of education in Muslim societies. The aim is to increase awareness of postnormal times, the global crisis in education, and to begin a futures oriented discussion on what transformations are necessary to make education more appropriate and relevant for Muslim futures.

The workshop will begin with a history and overall map of the status of education in Turkey. Participants will then be introduced to several futures methods within the Three Tomorrows approach to give them a deeper understanding of the future evolution of education in Turkey as a case study. Participants will work in small groups to focus on each tomorrow and work systematically to generate scenarios and become cognizant of the specificities of postnormal times. By the end of the workshop, participants will have gained a strong grasp of the rapidly changing landscape of educational futures. The expected outcomes of the workshop are for participants to develop understanding of core concepts, theories, frameworks, and tools of futures studies and postnormal times theory as well as the Three Tomorrows Method and be able to contextualise them to their own research interests and topics. Participants will be supervised to draft a proposal for their own research using the futures methods from which they will be able to start off their own research on future studies.

Course architects:
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