

Springer

1st
edition

1st ed. 2020, XII, 227 p. 47
illus., 26 illus. in color.

Printed book

Hardcover

Printed book

Hardcover

ISBN 978-981-15-5406-3

£ 89,99 | CHF 118,00 | 99,99 € |
109,99 € (A) | 106,99 € (D)

Available

Discount group

Science (SC)

Product category

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Economics : Social Policy, Public Economics

Saijo, Tatsuyoshi (Ed.)

Future Design

Incorporating Preferences of Future Generations for Sustainability

- Proposes a new “Future Design” framework to address current policies that are based on markets and democracy and do not consider future generations
- Demonstrates that “imaginary” future generations consisting of citizens rather than specialists but can be conceptualized through deliberation experiments
- Presents applications of Future Design to fields such as water, environment, innovation, cities and forest management, which will change our world

This book discusses imaginary future generations and how current decision-making will influence those future generations. Markets and democracies focus on the present and therefore tend to make us forget that we are living in the present, with ancestors preceding and descendants succeeding us. Markets are excellent devices to equate supply and demand in the short term, but not for allocating resources between current and future generations, since future generations do not exist yet. Democracy is also not “applicable” for future generations, since citizens vote for candidates who will serve members of their, i.e., the current, generation. In order to overcome these shortcomings, the authors discuss imaginary future generations and future ministries in the context of current decision-making in fields such as the environment, urban management, forestry, water management, and finance. The idea of imaginary future generations comes from the Native American Iroquois, who had strong norms that compelled them to incorporate the interests of people seven generations ahead when making decisions.

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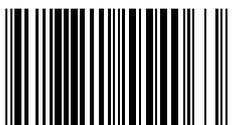
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