



Multimedia Library Collection:

Boersema, Jan J., "How to Prepare for the Unknown? On the Significance of Future Generations and Future Studies in Environmental Policy"

Boersema, Jan J. "How to Prepare for the Unknown? On the Significance of Future Generations and Future Studies in Environmental Policy." *Environmental Values* 10, no. 2 (2001): 35–58.

[doi:10.3197/096327101129340732](https://doi.org/10.3197/096327101129340732) .

The core question of this article is: how can we take account of the future and future generations if our knowledge of the future is so sparse? The importance of the future is discussed within the framework of our (linear) concept of time. After that it is argued that future generations do not constitute a new, let alone unique, element in the debate on the future. Two different routes to acquire knowledge about the future and prepare for the future are described. Both reflect facts and values of the present and the past instead of giving an accurate picture of the future. Finally the view is defended that future-focused activity should be based to a greater extent on durable principles. Some of these durable principles are presented and discussed. (Source: [The White Horse Press](#))

© 2001 The White Horse Press. Republished with permission.

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_10no.1_boersema_jan_j.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV1003.html>
- The White Horse Press
<http://www.ericademon.co.uk/>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327101129340732>

, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal

Boersema, Jan J., "How to Prepare for the Unknown? On the Significance of Future Generations and Future Studies in Environmental Policy"

Source URL: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5819>

Print date: 04 May 2026 12:04:26

- <http://www.ericademon.co.uk/EV/EV1003.html>

, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal

Boersema, Jan J., "How to Prepare for the Unknown? On the Significance of Future Generations and Future Studies in Environmental Policy"

Source URL: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5819>

Print date: 04 May 2026 12:04:26