

# REVIEW

OF DISSERTATION WORK  
FROM NEDKO PETROV PETROV  
IMPACT OF GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS FOR LONG-TERM FORECASTING ON  
GLOBAL INTEGRATION PROCESSES  
TO ACQUIRE THE EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEGREE "DOCTOR"  
IN AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION: 3. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL  
SCIENCES  
PROFESSIONAL FIELD: 3.4. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES  
DOCTORAL PROGRAM: ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OUTSIDE THE  
SPHERE OF MATERIAL PRODUCTION (SOCIAL ACTIVITIES)

BY PROFESSOR DSc MARGARITA KIROVA BONEVA

The proposed review my dissertation consists of an introduction, concept, three chapters, conclusion and list of references and applications, with a total of 228 pages. A total of 222 titles were cited, of which: 34 titles were in Cyrillic, 172 - in Latin and 7 online sources. The text of the dissertation is illustrated with 25 tables, 6 images and 24 figures and supplemented with 2 appendices.

The dynamics in the development of the world society, connected with the numerous and complex interactions between people and their environment, determines the exceptional importance of the knowledge regarding the forecasting of the future processes in the human society as a whole. In systems with a high degree of uncertainty, whose potential changes are evolving in unknown directions, but have the potential for changes that could change their future, long-term forecasting is particularly important. Given that long-term forecasting is a tool for providing information on possible options for human development, the doctoral student is convinced that it can predict and promote the success of society or a certain area in the future. he justifies the thesis, the goal, the tasks, the object, the subject and the hypothesis of the present dissertation.

In the proposed dissertation, the author uses three methodological levels: general methodology, private methodology, a set of specific methodologies for empirical sociological research such as document analysis, survey, summary and analysis, statistical methods in sociology, scientific description, theoretical research of scientific sources . The doctoral student applies the methodological levels in accordance with the sociological principles: the unity between theoretical and empirical, the unity of objective and subjective.

In the first chapter. **DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS AND PRACTICES FOR LONG-TERM FORECASTING** The author presents a historical overview of ideas about the future and considers the need to create a science for long-term forecasting in the future - futurology. A brief description of basic futurological methods is made and basic concepts are precisely defined. Theoretical positions defining long-term forecasting and methods for long-term forecasting are given.

In chapter two. **GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS FOR LONG-TERM FORECASTING AND THEIR REPORTS** The PhD student presents numerous institutions for long-term forecasting of global models for human society, which are international, national or regional scientific organizations, among which: World Federation; Academy for Forecasting the Future - Moscow, Russia); Millenium - USA; PAND Corporation; Hudson Institute (USA). RAND Corporation and Club of Rome are examined in detail.

The extremely detailed and precise analysis of RAND Corporation and its forecast reports includes its expert staff, the subject of research, scientific methodology, the main achievements of RAND from its establishment until 2020, with special emphasis on the 1946 forecast for forecasting the first spacecraft to explore outer space and support NASA programs. This is a result of the fact that this report sends humanity into space and is the leading forecast of RAND Corporation.

The Club of Rome, whose main research issues are global challenges and the fate of humanity, the doctoral student studies in depth and pays special attention to the reports, which are the result of in-depth research on a wide range of issues mainly in two areas:

- Society - nature-degradation of the environment.
- Man-society (contemporary problems).

There are two prognostic ideas, two are the areas important for humanity, namely:

- The population of the Earth.
- The sustainable development of humanity.

It is on these ideas that the dissertation develops.

Analyzing the long-term forecasting, the doctoral student indicates the relation of this forecasting to:

1. design of social dynamics and social changes;
2. forecasting of the social change - change of the whole system or elements of the society;
3. social time - makes the connection between present and future;
4. the social effect of human activity both in the present and in the future;
5. modeling of social processes for a long-term period of time;
6. social design as scientifically-based modeling of social objects;
7. the study of current and future social processes;
8. has a direct relation to the social management;
9. sociological experiments - gives the opportunity to select, establish or predict the possibilities of different forms of social activity;
10. the enrichment of the sociological metacognition, supporting the development of its theoretical and empirical levels.

From the point of view of certain sociological theories considered by the author, the long-term forecasting is:

1. An approach to predicting a different future (Bertrand de Juvenel).
2. A way to construct the future social reality (Peter Burger and Thomas Lukman).
3. Expression of the social dynamics of culture (Abraham Malls).
4. Third Wave Technology and Overcoming the Shock of the Future (Alvin Toffler).

### **CHAPTER THREE. GLOBAL INTEGRATION ABOUT THE LONG-TERM FORECASTS OF THE LEADING FUTUROLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS. EMPIRICAL STUDY.**

This chapter discusses the main ideas-forecasts, namely:

- Integration around the long-term forecast for human space exploration (RAND Corporation).
- Integration around the long-term forecast of the Earth's population (Club of Rome).
- Integration around the long-term forecast for sustainable development (Club of Rome).

The empirical research on long-term forecasting and integration around his ideas is described in detail. The object, the subject, the purpose, the tasks and the used means and

methods of the research are indicated. Empirical research conducted for the purposes of the doctoral dissertation is two-layered as two research methods were used:

1. Analysis of documents related to global integration, around long-term forecasts created by futurological institutions.
2. Direct electronic survey with students studying the subject Futurology, about the long-term forecasting and forecasts given by futurological institutions.

The collection of empirical material for the present study proceeds according to the methods used in the following phases:

- Analysis of documents related to global integration around the long-term forecasts of leading futurological institutions covers 72 documents - reports, scientific communications and programs presented in the Second and beginning of the Third Chapters of this dissertation.
- The survey with students on the integration around long-term forecasts, which was carried out in the period 15.12.2020 - 23.12.2020.

Email research is an appropriate method for surveying a very clear, well-targeted audience. These surveys provide valuable feedback on pre-existing relationships with respondents - students studying and studying Futurology. The survey consists of 20 closed questions, which involves choosing an answer from the proposed options for individual questions. The survey was conducted online, using Google forms in the period 15.12.2020 - 23.12.2020. The respondents are students of Bachelor's degree, majoring in "Social Activities", III and IV year. A total of 108 students were interviewed.

It is no coincidence that students from the specialty "Social Activities", III and IV year were chosen. Since 2015, they have been studying the subject "Futurology" according to the curriculum of the third year. Thus, the respondents are those who were interviewed at the time of studying science, and from the fourth year - have already passed the training course in it.

- The students unmistakably define the essence of the science "Futurology" - they all define it absolutely precisely as a science for the future;
- the respondents answer the question what is the subject of Futurology - more than two thirds correctly indicate that this is the long-term forecasting;
- respondents agree on the statement that a forecast over 15 years can be set for long-term forecasting;
- according to the respondents, the most important questions of research in Futurology are the question of the mastery of space by man;
- according to the respondents, the most long-term forecasts are for the development of the society and for the technological development;
- according to the respondents, ideas of long-term forecasting, around which humanity is most integrated, are those related to the future development of humanity and technological forecasting;
- above all, humanity would integrate around the idea of protecting the Earth as the only human habitation;
- If there is global integration around ideas of long-term forecasting related to war and human security, then students would prefer the idea of complete disarmament of humanity;
- One of the most important questions asked to the respondents is whether there is a need for an institution / s for long-term forecasting in Bulgaria - two thirds of them think that there is such a need;
- The last question of the survey is: "If you were given the opportunity to work in such an institution, which area of long-term forecasting would you deal with?" - half of them

would deal with the development of human society; also an impressive part would deal with the protection and development of the Earth as the only home of man.

Two types of documents are analyzed - supranational / international and national, which have a direct bearing on global integration around the ideas of long-term forecasting. This analysis shows:

- The stages in the mastery of space;
- The apotheosis of world integration in the mastery of space - the International Space Station "MIR";
- Bulgaria's contribution to the mastery of space;
- The contribution of Shumen University "Ep. Konstantin Preslavski " in the mastery of space;
- International and national forums for the population are indicated;
- Focused on the International Conference on Population and Development - Egypt, 1994 with over 11 thousand participants;
- The conclusions from these national and international conferences for the population are indicated: rapid efforts are needed to stabilize the world's population and achieve sustainable development; the framework for improving the quality of life of present and future generations is outlined.
- It shows with reliable examples how the world has embraced the long-term forecast for sustainable development - examples are given for international forums from 1972 to 2020; they deal with the link between economic development and environmental degradation;
- The Goals for Sustainable Development of the World / UN / are analyzed;
- The response of the European Union regarding the goals for sustainable development is also analyzed;
- The answer of Bulgaria regarding the goals for sustainable development is presented - National Development Program: 2030 / from 20.01.2020;
- All forums and documents lead to accelerated economic development, demographic growth and reduction of inequalities, for the implementation of which targeted policies and interventions are envisaged.

The planned empirical research has been completed in order to highlight the main ideas of the futurological institutions around which global integration is being realized. The following processes of global integration around long-term forecasts of forecasting institutions have been established:

1. Integration around the long-term forecast for the conquest of outer space by man (RAND Corporation);
2. Integration around the long-term forecast of the Earth's population (Club of Rome);
3. Integration around the long-term forecast for sustainable development (Club of Rome). Presenting the development of ideas and practices for long-term forecasting and systematization of theoretical ideas about it.
4. Formulation of the role of long-term forecasting in various public spheres, at national and global level.
5. Derivation of theoretical conclusions about the effectiveness of long-term forecasting and the ideas formulated by him for the integration of human society around them.

The presented dissertation is a research work dedicated to the world integration around the ideas of well-known institutions for long-term forecasting. The original and current

theoretical and practical research proves that this work meets the requirements for such research.

The doctoral student meets the scientometric requirements for educational and scientific degree "Doctor". 7 articles and 1 study have been published on the topic of the dissertation. The presented dissertation presents the doctoral student as a well-developed, competent and precise researcher who handles specific concepts for futurology and knows in depth the specifics of long-term forecasting.

The main scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation are:

1. Knowledge of the historical development of long-term forecasting worldwide from Antiquity to the Present has been studied and systematized.
2. The scientific terminology related to long-term forecasting is presented.
3. Established methods of long-term forecasting are analyzed.
4. World-renowned long-term forecasting institutions such as RAND Corporation and the Club of Rome are shown and their main reports are analyzed.
5. The main ideas of the world institutions for long-term forecasting, around which the world is integrated, are presented.
6. The contribution of Bulgaria and the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" in the mastery of space is highlighted.
7. International and national forums for the population of the Earth are systematized.
8. The long-term forecast for sustainable development is analyzed.
9. An empirical study was conducted with an author's questionnaire on the problems of long-term forecasting and integration around long-term forecasts.
10. The dissertation is important for the practical training of students in the discipline "Futurology" because it creates an idea of the science Futurology - a science of the future, a symbol of long-term forecasting.
11. The theoretical formulations of the dissertation allow some of the ideas of long-term forecasting to be applied in the social practice of society.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend the highly respected scientific jury to vote positively and propose to the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" doctoral student Nedko Petrov to be awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.4. Social activities, doctoral program "Organization and management outside the field of material production" ("Social activities").

REVIEWER:  
(Professor, DSc Margarita Boneva)