Organization of the Volume and List of Contributors

Instead of selecting individual authors first, as was the case back in 1955, we began by selecting topics and then enlisted experts to reflect on them. It was no easy task limiting a discussion of the future to just a dozen areas. We made our selections after vigorous debate, and our choices undoubtedly reflect our own backgrounds and interests, as well as our experience coteaching an undergraduate course on modeling choice across the academic disciplines. Morson, a literary critic and an influential commentator on Russian literature and thought, is the Frances Hooper Professor of the Arts and Humanities at Northwestern University. He is the author of ten books, including the award-winning Narrative and Freedom: The Shadows of Time. Schapiro is professor of economics and president of Northwestern University, after serving in a similar capacity at Williams College. The author or coauthor of five books and the coeditor of two others, he is among the nation’s leading authorities on the economics of higher education, with particular expertise on trends in educational costs and student aid. Morson and Schapiro are members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Part 1 of the volume deals with three of the basic aims of any society: wealth, health, and happiness. Economic scenarios are considered by Robert J. Gordon, Stanley G. Harris Professor of the Social Sciences at Northwestern University, a macroeconomist with a particular interest in unemployment, inflation, and both the long-run and cyclical aspects of labor productivity. His textbook in intermediate macroeconomics, now in its twelfth edition, has educated generations of economics students. He is a distinguished fellow of the American Economic Association, a fellow of the Econometric Society, and a member of the American
Academy of Arts and Sciences. For more than three decades, he has served on the National Bureau of Economic Research’s Business Cycle Dating Committee, which determines the start and end dates for recessions in the United States. His recent work on America’s declining economic prospects has provoked worldwide commentary.

Health prospects are discussed by Eileen M. Crimmins, AARP Professor of Gerontology at the University of Southern California, where she directs the USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health, a Demography of Aging Center supported by the National Institute on Aging. Much of her work has focused on changes over time in health and mortality. She recently served as co-chair of a committee of the National Academy of Sciences on changes in life expectancy. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

The section concludes with a chapter by Richard A. Easterlin, University Professor at the University of Southern California, who is widely recognized as one of the most influential and innovative economists of his generation. A distinguished fellow of the American Economic Association and a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he is past president of both the Population Association of America and the Economic History Association. He is perhaps best known for his work on the “Easterlin Paradox”—that is, that happiness at a national level does not in general increase with wealth. His topic is the course of individual satisfaction in the United States and abroad.

We turn in part 2 to politics, religion, and human rights. Discussing prospects for peace and war is Robert L. Gallucci, Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. He previously served as president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and as dean of Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. His governmental service includes positions as both ambassador at large and special envoy for the U.S. Department of State. He was chief negotiator with North Korea under President Clinton. He is the author or coauthor of a number of publications on political-military issues, including *Neither Peace Nor Honor: The Politics of American Military Policy in Vietnam* and the award-winning book *Going Critical: The First North Korean Nuclear Crisis*. 
Writing about religion is Eboo Patel, founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Core and a key member of President Obama’s Inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships. A Muslim of Gujarati heritage and a former Rhodes Scholar, he has devoted his career to the cause of interfaith cooperation. His recent book is Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America.

The section concludes with a discussion of the future of civil liberties by Wendy Kaminer, a lawyer and social critic, who writes about law, liberty, feminism, religion, and popular culture. Her latest book is Worst Instincts: Cowardice, Conformity, and the ACLU. A former Guggenheim fellow and recipient of the Smith College Medal, she is the author of seven previous books, including Free for All: Defending Liberty in America Today and A Fearful Freedom: Women’s Flight from Equality. She is an ardent civil libertarian.

Part 3 deals with science, technology, and the environment. It begins with an essay by Mark A. Ratner, one of the world’s preeminent theoretical chemists, who serves as Lawrence B. Dumas Distinguished University Professor at Northwestern. With his son Daniel Ratner, he is the author of Nanotechnology: A Gentle Introduction to the Next Big Idea and Nanotechnology and Homeland Security: New Weapons for New Wars. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, he is the recipient of the Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics for outstanding interdisciplinary research in chemistry and physics.

The future of technology is the topic for John Kelly III, senior vice president and head of IBM Research, where he oversees three thousand scientists and technical employees at twelve laboratories in ten countries around the world. His top priorities are to stimulate innovation in key areas of information technology, to bring those innovations into the marketplace, and to create the new businesses of IBM’s future. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

The section ends with a chapter by Mark R. Tercek and Jimmie Powell on the environmental future of the planet. Tercek is president and CEO of the Nature Conservancy, the world’s largest conservation organization with more than one million members and over $5 billion in assets. A former partner and managing director of Goldman Sachs, he is the coauthor of the best seller Nature’s Fortune: How Business and Society Thrive by Investing in Nature, which explores why responsible steward-
ship of nature is of the utmost importance to businesses, governments, and societies. Jimmie Powell is the team lead for Energy Strategies at the Nature Conservancy. Previously, he worked in several capacities during a twenty-year career with the United States Senate, concluding as the staff director of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he worked for its chairman, Senator John Chafee. After leaving the Senate, he served for two years as the executive director of the Pew Oceans Commission and was also a member of the board of directors of the League of Conservation Voters.

Part 4, the final part of the book, addresses education, communication, and society. We have assigned ourselves the task of discussing the future of higher education in the United States and the world.

Our chapter is followed by that of Arianna Huffington, who considers the changing face of media. She is the chair, president, and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group, a nationally syndicated columnist, and the author of fourteen books, including biographies of Maria Callas and Pablo Picasso. In 2005 she launched the Huffington Post, a news and blog site that quickly became one of the most widely read, linked to, and frequently cited media brands on the Internet. In 2012, the site won a Pulitzer Prize for national reporting.

Finally, Barry Glassner, professor of sociology and president of Lewis & Clark College, considers which of the usual societal worries are actually cause for alarm, which are not, and whether it is possible to tell the difference. He has written nine books on contemporary social issues, including the much-acclaimed best seller *The Culture of Fear*, in which he argues that many of Americans’ concerns and fears are largely unfounded. His other books include *The Gospel of Food* and *Bodies*.

By design, the chapters are short and nontechnical enough that we see no reason as editors to provide extensive summaries. However, in the conclusion, we examine how the various predictions on widespread topics interrelate. How do they converge and diverge? And what do they say about the world of the future?
The Fabulous Future?