1. How did I start prospective studies

I was studying social change within sociology and the answers that social change studies gave me did not seem to answer the need for understanding rapid change. This was in the end of the 60s. I contacted Bertrand de Jouvenel, Robert Jungk, Johan Galtung and John and Magda McHale who supported my desire with suggestions and indications.

2. How do I see prospective studies in the future and its limits

I see the increasing importance of such studies given the ever growing rapidity of change and the interrelatedness of the areas such as social issues (family, the younger generation, the increase in life expectancy and hence the increase in older population), political issues (emerging of contrasts within nations, international misunderstandings and their influences, conflict emerging in different regions), cultural (the revival of cultural identities and the need for them to be respected in their differences). Cultural issues I believe are the essential ones in the 21st century and the most needed to be analyzed and studied in the medium and long term. Cultural issues are both internal to regions, such as Europe, or between regions where different historical and cultural identities emerge, such as Islam which can be Arabic or not. Economic issues which are very short term but at the same time need at least medium perspectives. I see hence the great importance of prospective studies. The case of growing prospective studies in the European Community is an important indicator. Also Latin America is increasing the use of prospective studies at various levels: state, cultural, economic.

As to its limits the often insufficient social and cultural analysis as well as historical understanding of different perspectives and basic values in different cultures, hinders in depth prospective studies. The analytical and historical part of prospective studies is the one that has most to be developed so as to produce useful results.

3. What in sociology are the main fields of my interest

Issues related to cultural aspects of society, value changes, education and women’s issues.
4. **What prospective studies gave me**

Prospective studies opened my mind to the relations between issues, to the better understanding of history and the present and taught me to look ahead in alternative terms both in my life and in my profession. Prospective studies also enriched me greatly through my work as teacher for almost 30 years with students from different cultures (European, African, Asian, Latin American), also my field research in education, women’s issues and cultural issues gave me a better understanding of what is happening and might happen in different parts of the world.

5. **What did I find of interest in the Millennium Project**

The global approach, the rigorous methodology and its capacity to spread the need for prospective studies.

6. **Women’s studies and prospective studies**

I realized during my field work that women are social actors able to build alternative futures. They are not often considered so but in every culture, whatever the limitations, women are able to look ahead because of their need to build a better future for their children. Women’s capacities are very adapted to a world in continuous change: they are able to act rapidly, they are able to do different things at the same time, they are able to chose among economic, social, political issues those that may influence future generation, as such they rebuild social structures destroyed by conflicts, natural disasters and wars. Usually these capacities are not visible but if women are able to create networks around the world the changes they could bring may be surprising. This is also true if stronger networks between women working in prospective studies could develop more.

7. **The influence of women on some present challenges**

- The capacity to create peace building groups such as Israel Palestine;
- The capacity of creating networks among women in situations of conflict like in Colombia;
- The capacity together to rebuild society after wars such as Rwanda and Uganda;
- The capacity to protect the environment which they recognize as necessary for living. A crucial area is that of water.
8. Futures of cultures. Are there changes?

Indeed there are changes in the values shared in different cultures and at the same time there is the reinforcement of historically shared values. As already said it is a crucial area for prospective studies, certainly the most difficult one because it needs much more than quantitative data but an understanding of images, symbols and beliefs which are not always easy to detect.