

# Lame Flamingoes, Flying Ducks: Exploring what South Africa's State of the Future Index could contribute to her policy discourse

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**The Millennium Project**  
World Federation of UN Associations

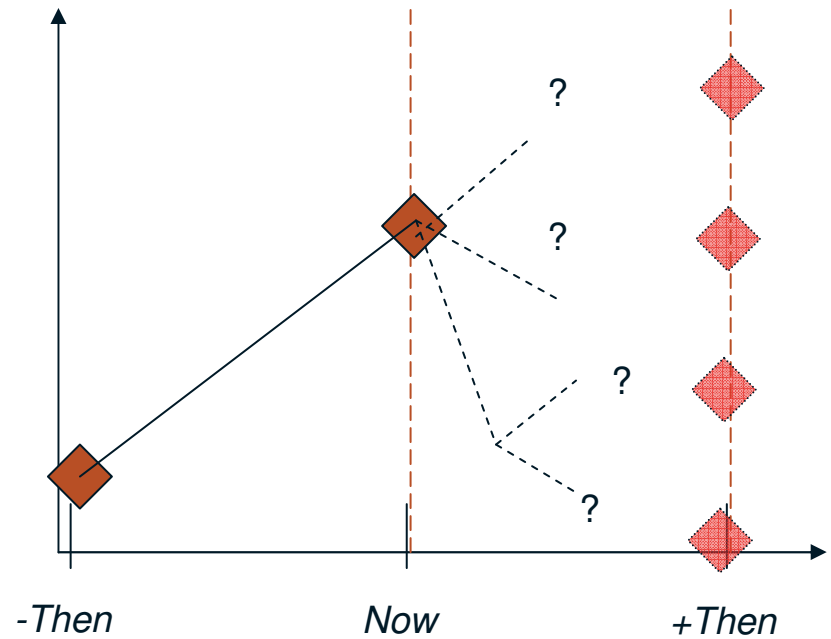
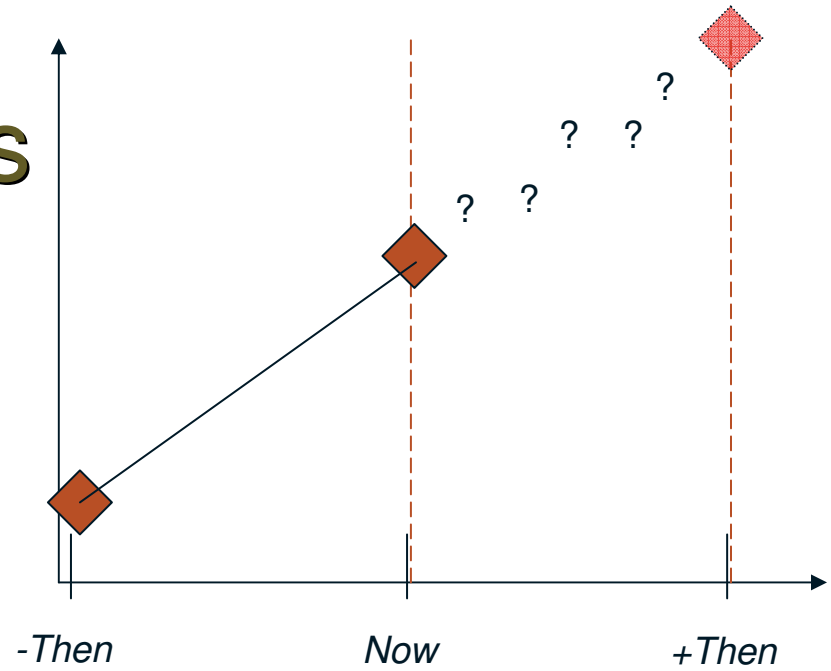
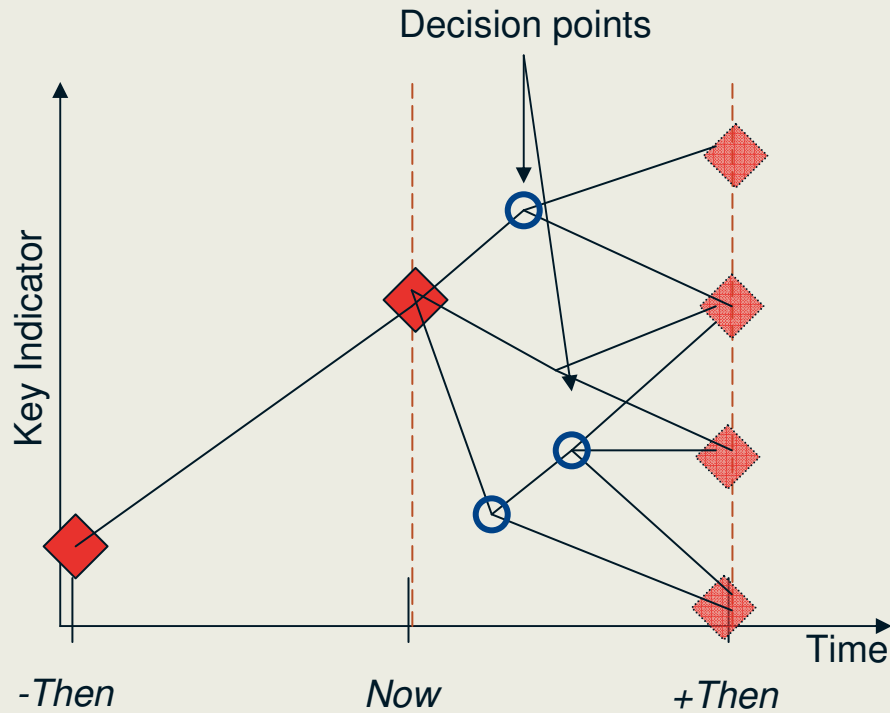


# Exploring and resolving discourse disconnections evident based on SA's dominant foresight methods

1. **Conceptually disjointed**: Weak practical connection between scenario and what it will take to achieve it
  - social unrest as an indicator of disagreement on the flamingos flight path
2. **Methodologically indeterminable**: Unspecified indicators or measures to monitor progress towards scenario
  - inadequate monitoring of flight path to determine flamingo / icarus / ostrich / duck?

= Poor policy alignment / realignment

# Scenario Paths



(Kuusi, 2002)

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# Back to the beginning: Outline

- South African context; what role for public policy discourse
- Foresight in SA
- The SA-SOFI pilot
- Exploring the value
- Conclusions

# SA Context

- Transitions beyond the definitive political change from apartheid to majority rule
- RDP to GEAR (> ASGISA, JIPSA)
- Civil unrest: land, service delivery (housing), xenophobia
- Some big gains: political transition, transformation, macro-economic stability, progress in infrastructure delivery
- Some big pains: education, health, poverty & inequality, crime, energy, water.
- Project goes beyond assessment of results of democratic period and ending of apartheid inequality

# Role of Discourse

- Social science provides important instruments for change;
- Project reflects on links between research and public debate;
- Public discourse includes the “**interactive** processes that serve to ‘coordinate’ the **construction** of [ideas about public action] and to ‘**communicate**’ them to the public”
- Assessment of **results** provides basis for validity of **policies**
- Shifting the discourse from an intense preoccupation with the present

# (definitions)

- **Futures research**: systematic, multidisciplinary and long-term exploration of future development alternatives
  - **Foresight**: process of anticipating the future
    - **Methods**: scenarios, horizon scanning, econometrics, statistical modelling, time series forecasts, futures wheel, decision modeling, genius forecasting, technology roadmapping, Delphi,
- Passive > Reactive > Preactive > Proactive  
historical                  probable                  possible                  preferable

(Gordon, 1994)  
(Tapio, 2008)  
(Heinonen, 2008)

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# Of Flamingoes & Ducks

- A strong history of scenarios; notable precedents



# Many scenarios...

Title	Date	Agency
High Road/Low Road scenarios, The World and South Africa in the 1990s	1987	Anglo-American
The <i>Mont Fleur</i> Scenarios	1991	Pieter le Roux
The Nedcor/Old Mutual scenarios	1992	Old Mutual
The Knowledge-Intensive Service Business in 2007	1997	CSIR
The Future of the Unions-The September Scenarios	1997	The September Commission, reporting to COSATU
PSG / Siphumelele Three Scenarios	1998	PSG Group & Siphumelele w/Pieter le Roux
Technology Foresight Studies	2000	SA Department of Science and Technology
Southern Africa 2020: Five Different Scenarios	2002	Inst for Global Dialogue & Friedrich Ebert Foundation.
Southern Africa 2015	2001	SAIIA
SADC 2015 Scenarios	2003	CSIR infrastructure Thrust in support of NEPAD
CSIR Strategy 2014: South African Science based Organization providing Technological Innovation	2003	CSIR
CSIR Energy Scenarios for Africa	2003	CSIR and Shell
Africa 2025: What possible futures for Sub-Saharan Africa?	2003	THE UNDP Africa Futures Institute
Memories of the Future I -- South Africa Scenarios 2014 Memories of the Future II -- South Africa Scenarios 2024	2003 2007	South Africa Presidency

# Of Flamingoes & Ducks...

- A strong history of scenarios; notable precedents
- **Current futures landscape:**
  - Numerous
  - Exclusive
  - Proprietary
- **Disconnections**

# Discourse disconnections

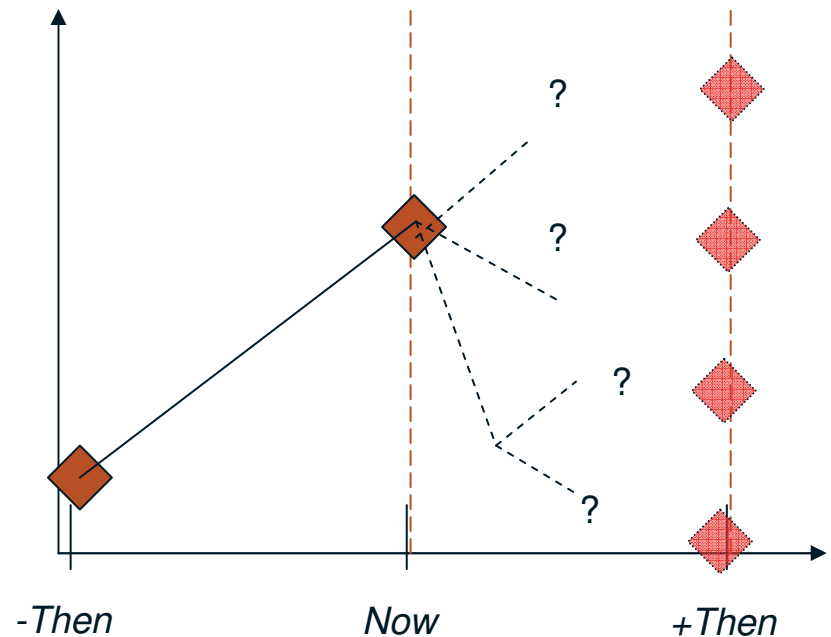
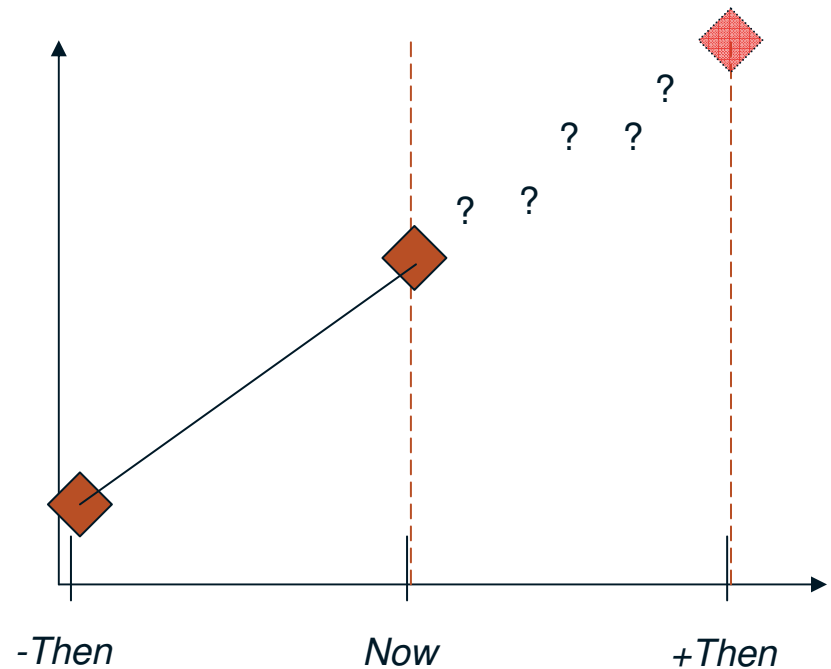
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# SA-SOFI pilot

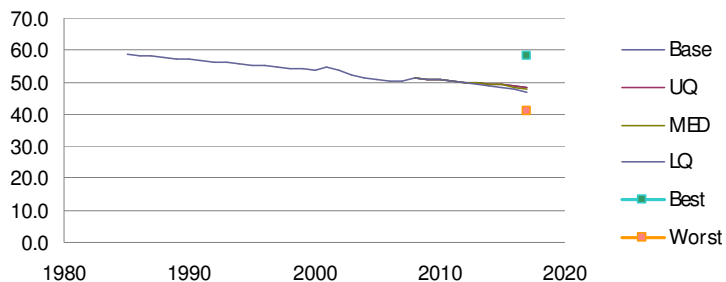
- Rationale:
  - Scenarios important for stretching horizon of public discourse in transition period, BUT:
    - Continuum
    - Connection
    - Monitor
- Method:
  - Selection of variables and developments
  - Timeseries: historical and forecast
  - Delphi
  - Trend impact analysis
  - Computation of SOFI

Public Discourse  
Policy alignment

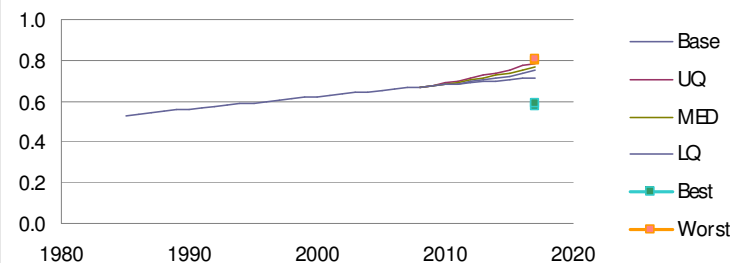
# SA-SOFI Elements

1. Population growth
2. Life expectancy at birth
3. Infant mortality
4. GDP per capita
5. Inequality
6. Poverty headcount ratio at \$1 a day
7. Unemployment, total
8. People Voting in Elections
9. Freedom Level
10. Seats held by women in national parliament
11. Trade balance
12. Days Lost per Year Due to Labor Strikes
13. Internet Users
14. School enrollment, secondary
15. R&D Expenditures
16. Refugees
17. Physicians
18. Prevalence of HIV
19. Homicides, intentional
19. Levels of Corruption
20. GDP per unit of energy use
21. Biodiversity Intactness Index CO2 emissions
22. Water self sufficiency
23. Access to improved water source
24. Access to electricity
25. Access to sanitation
26. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure
27. Establishment of regional (SADC) Free Trade Zone
28. Frustrations over pace of land reform in SA degenerate into a domestic crisis Measure goes here
29. SA is energy secure from non-nuclear and non-fossil fuel
30. A new SA (and elsewhere) pandemic of the scale of HIV/AIDS or avian flu
31. Global depression (GDP/cap drops 15%)
32. Radical effects of climate change affect SA & and region
33. SA becomes a total oligarchy, severely compromising its democratic ideals
34. SA is one of the 5 fastest growing economies in the world

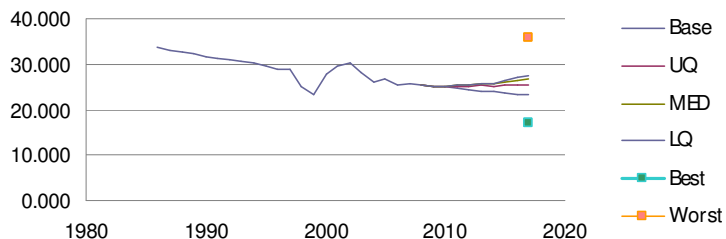
### Life expectancy at birth (years)



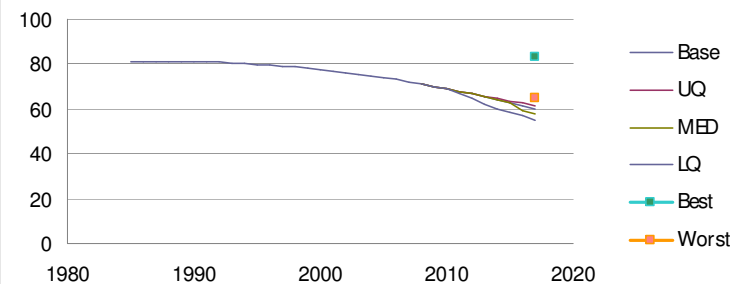
### Inequality (Gini Coefficient)



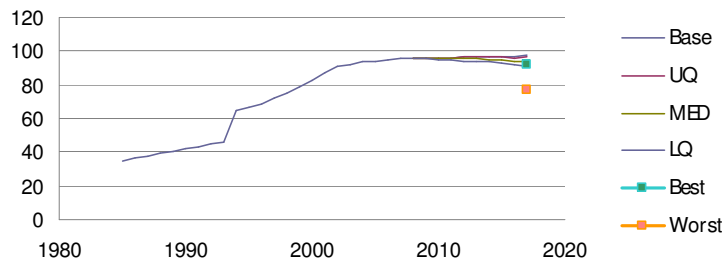
### Unemployment, total (percent of national labor force)



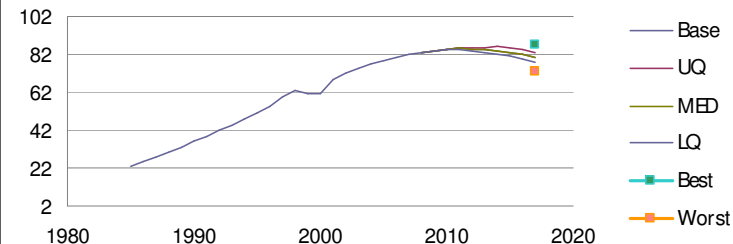
### Water self sufficiency



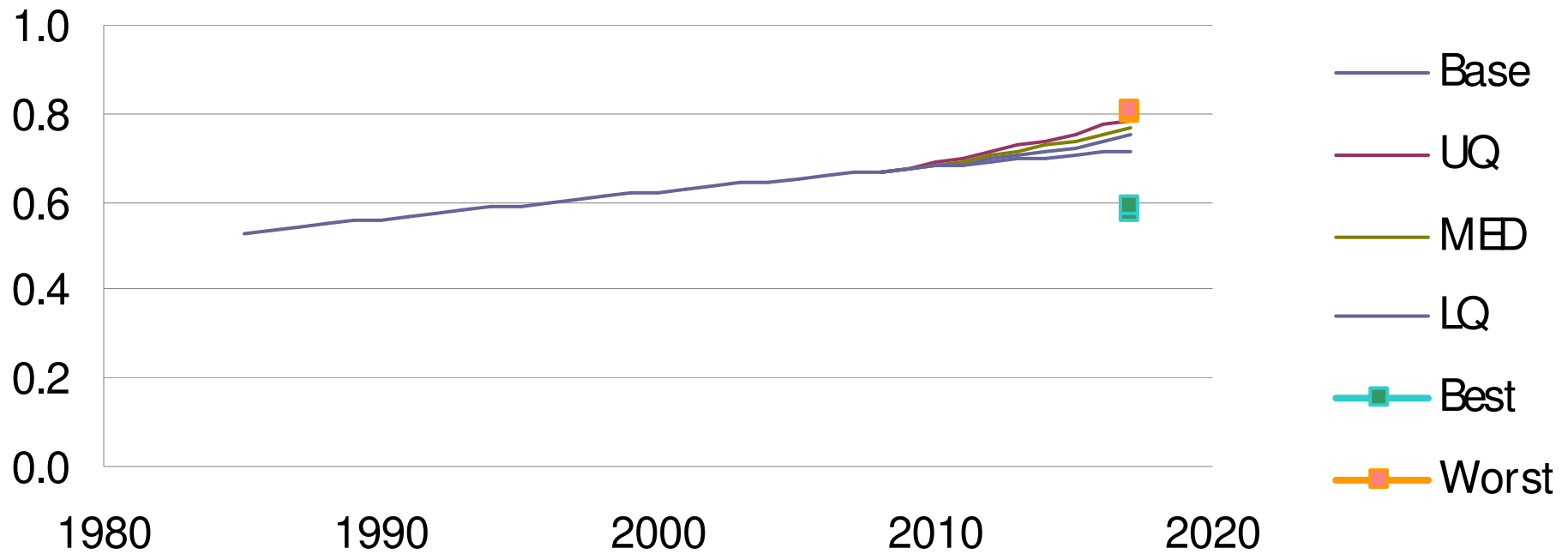
### Access to improved water sources (percent of national population)



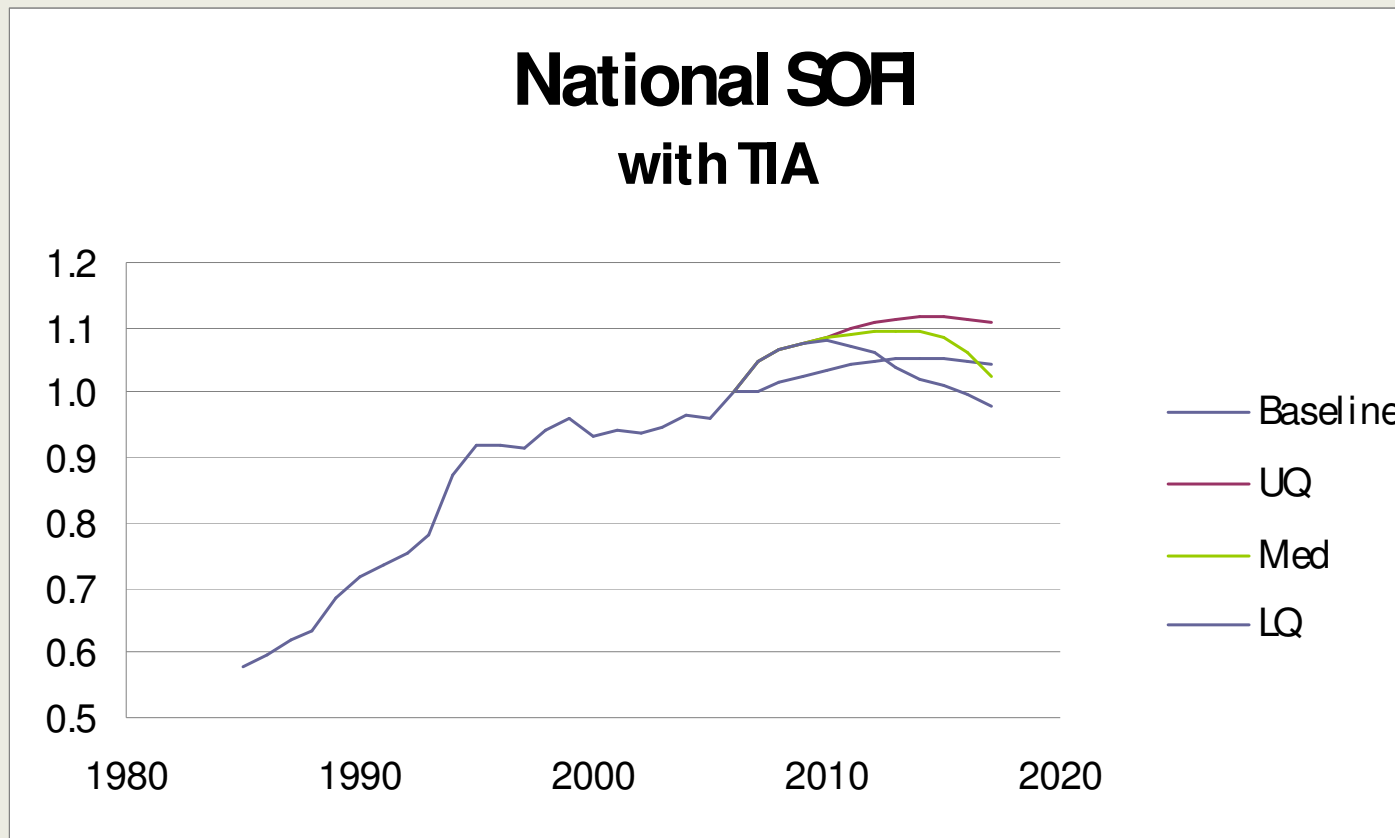
### Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (percent of national households)



# Inequality (Gini Coefficient)

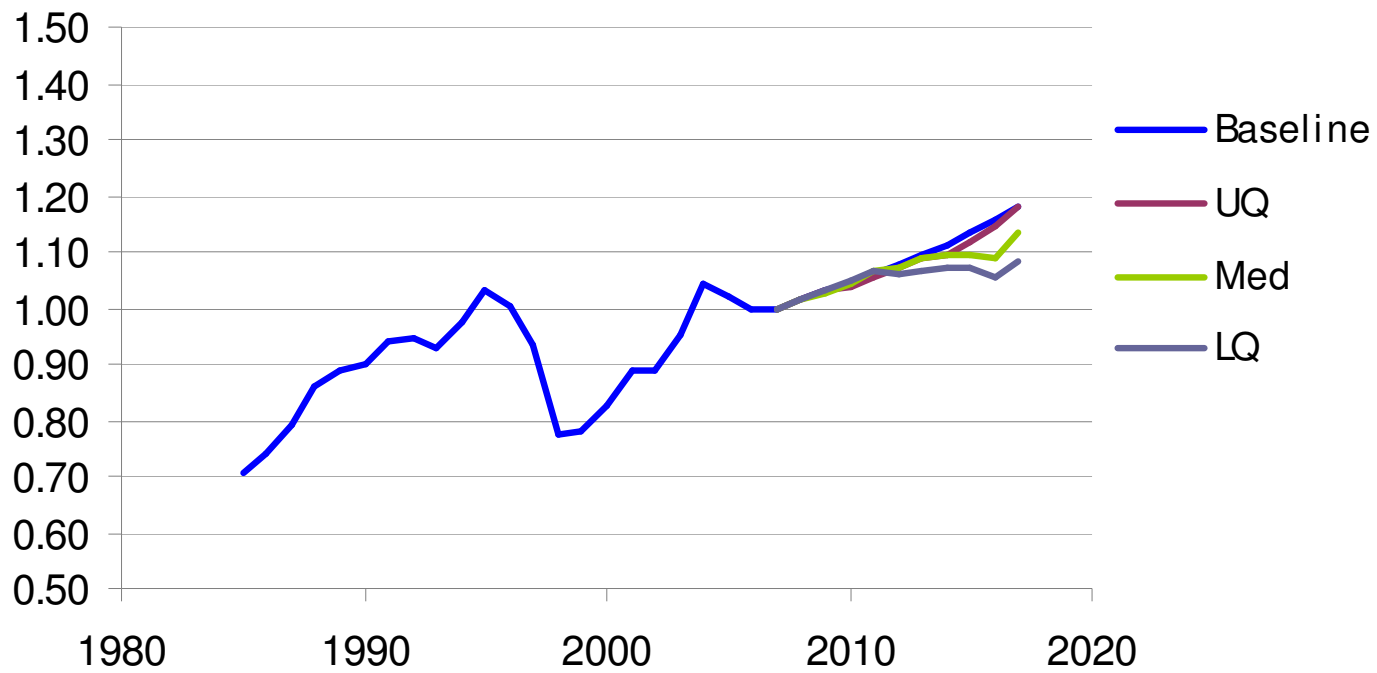


# SA-SOFI





# Korea National Focus SOFI



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# Lessons

- Findings:
  - **Human capital formation**, as influenced by education, health, and access to basic services;
  - The **threat of national instability** linked to socio-economic factors such as inequality, unemployment, and the slow pace of land reform; and
  - **Disaster management** strategies around radical impacts of Climate Change or a global / regional pandemic as phenomena; mitigation and adaptation strategies both key

# Lessons

- Deconstruction (by experts & state): apprehension about agenda, contestation of authenticity
- Navel gazing by state: developmental / interventionist
- Defensive, limited learning space: intolerant of government failures
- Optimistic / pessimistic rather than analytical: discomfort with uncertainty

Method	Quantitative	Qualitative	Normative	Exploratory
Scenarios				
SOFI Index	Continuum , Connection , Monitor			
Delphi				
Trend Impact Analysis				
Statistical Modeling				

# Concluding Statements

- Work in progress: test with publics
- Next steps:
  - Dissemination of 2007 SA-SOFI
  - Refinement of SA-SOFI and future rounds
  - IFs / SOFI developments
  - Collaborations

Muchas Gracias!  
Moltes Gràcies!  
Siyabonga kakhulu!

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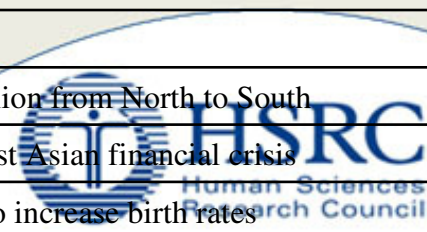
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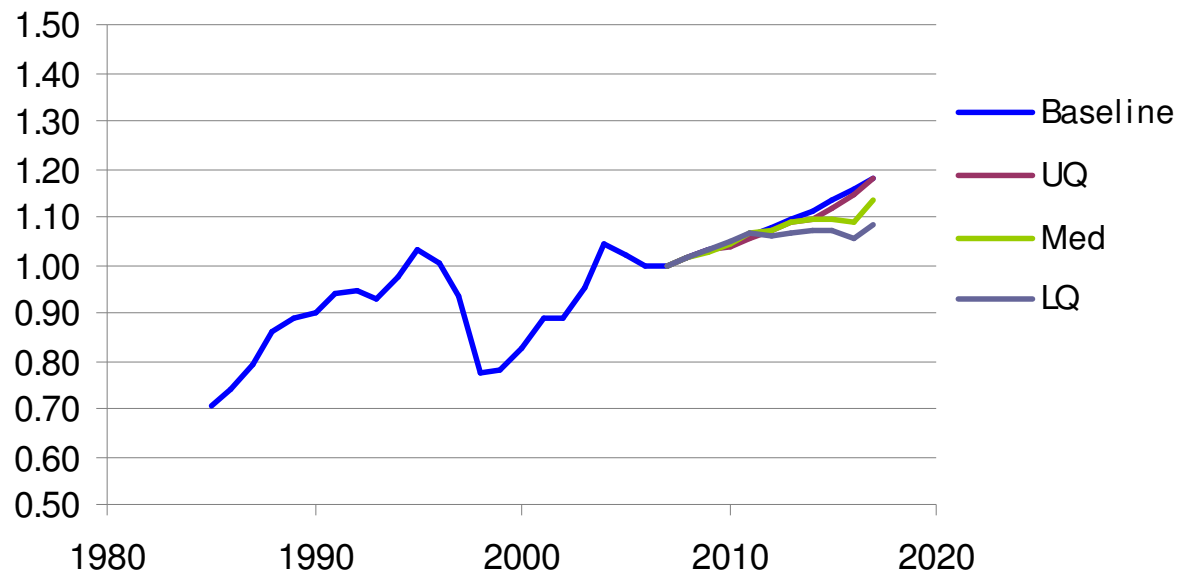
# South Korea SOFI

<b>VARIABLE</b>
1. Korean export volume (billion Eros)
2: Days Lost per Year Due to Labor Strikes
3: GDP per capita (ppp current int'l dollars)
4: Improved water source (percent of population with access)
5: Carbon dioxide emissions (Metric tons per capita)
6: Fertility rate (children per woman over her lifetime)
7: Percent unemployment
8: Corruption (percent of survey reporting no bribery)
9: S Korean income disparity between rich and poor (Esteban & Ray (ER) index; the higher the index, the greater the disparity (index * 100)
10: Patents per Year (number)
11: R&D expenditures by government and private sector (percent of GDP)
12: Energy consumption per GDP (metric tons oil equivalent/million \$)
13: Seats held by women in parliaments (percent)
14: Level of Freedom of the Press (rank among nations of the world by Freedom House (rank among world countries)
15: Dependency on Foreign Energy Sources (percent of energy consumed)

<b>DEVELOPMENTS</b>
16. Reunification becomes a reality
17. Rise of trade wars, new isolationist policies of many countries limits trade to current levels.
18. Social marketing programs prove effective in changing public behavior
19. North/South labor mobility quadruples
20. Establishment of a regional peacekeeping system including at least China, S Korea, and Japan.
21. Energy from non-nuclear and non fossil fuel doubles in S Korea
22. A new Korean pandemic of the scale of HIV/AIDS
23. Availability of a cheap effective anti-aging therapy
24. Ministry of Ed declares increasing intelligence as a natl goal
25. Energy costs drop 50% in S Korea.
26. Energy costs rise by 100% in S Korea
27. Genetic information: Human genome information used in routine medical diagnosis and therapy.
28. Global depression (GDP/cap drops 15%)
29. Increasing globalization drives up GDP/cap growth rate 5%.
30. Incr labor costs in S Korea leads to export 10% of low paying S Korean jobs
31. Establishment of Northeast Asia Free Trade Zone
32. S Korea continues to provide massive food and agriculture aid to N Korea.
33. North/South Korean trade quadruples
34. Universal old age health care
35. Reunification leads to immigration of 5 million from North to South
36. Financial crisis as large or larger than the last Asian financial crisis
37. New effective S Korean policies designed to increase birth rates



## Korea National Focus SOFI



1. “Bright national future” as image of an attainable S.Korea; use for setting national goals.
2. Track the 14 variables (+) in a national annual monitoring system to gain a sense of national movement toward a bright or less bright national future
3. Produce annual South Korean SOFI with data the monitoring system
4. Use key future events (+) to test existing and planned national policies to determine their resiliency and ability to withstand external shocks and take advantage of positive developments