

THE PLACE OF PREDICTION

5–6 May 2025, University of Bologna
Aula Prodi & Aula Torresani, Piazza San Giovanni in Monte

MONDAY 5 MAY 2025, AULA PRODI

10.15 **Welcome**

10.30–12 **Panel 1: International organizations and future planning**

Frank Gerits

Decolonizing the Biosphere: UNESCO's MAB program, Nonalignment and preventing the end of Mankind

Margaret Pulk

Conditioning European lives: the evolution of futures research in the EEC institutions

12.15–14 **Lunch break**

14–15.30 **Panel 2: Planetary futures and development politics**

Or Rosenboim

Planetary thinking in the 1960s (on Barbara Ward and her contemporaries)

Sara Lorenzini

Visions of the Future: The Tensions Between Environment and Development in the 1980s

15.30–16 **Coffee break**

16–17.30 **Panel 3: Predicting challenges in Agriculture and Climate**

Julia Nordblad

Saving Evolution: Erna Bennett and the Question of Agricultural Diversity, 1967–1980

Ruth Morgan

Climate caution: Australian scientific and political responses to climate change in the 1970s

19.30 **Dinner**

TUESDAY 6 MAY 2025, SALA TORRESANI

10.30–12 **Panel 4: Techno-Futurism in British thought**

Antonio Ferraz de Oliveira

The Future's Multiple Births: Ritchie Calder's geographical imaginaries, scientific internationalism and the politics of prediction, c. 1934–1982

Lise Butler

Sufficiently unpredictable to be interesting: E.F. Schumacher's challenge to planning and forecasting in post-war Britain

12–12.30 **Concluding Discussion**

12.30–14 **Lunch**

14–15 **Closed Discussion for PI/Co-Is**

The conference is part of the BA Knowledge Frontiers Project
Getting it Wrong: The Limits to Prediction.



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UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA