

AIDS in Africa: Scenarios for the Future



What people choose to do is based on their understanding of the present and their assumptions about how the world works

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Scenarios are NOT forecasts

Forecasts are based on a single understanding of the present, which is extrapolated to the future. Scenarios by comparison are built on different understandings of the present as well as different assumptions about the future

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A scenario is...

- A story that describes a **possible** future

Scenarios are...

- Credible, challenging, coherent

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What are scenarios?

X



Predictions

Credible

Projections

Challenging

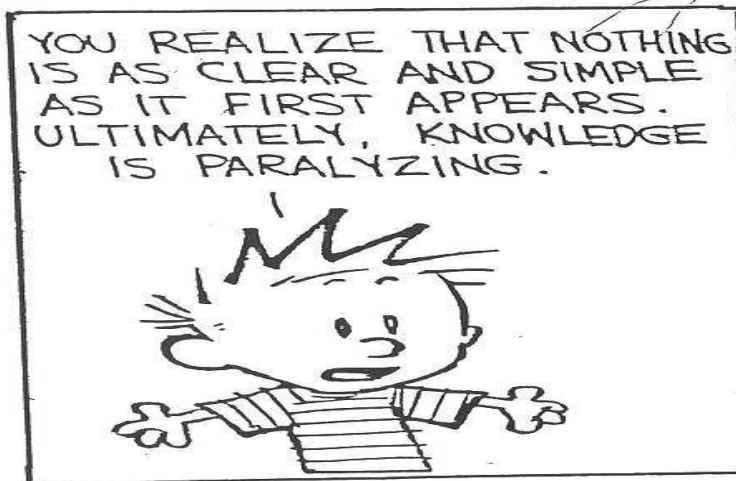
Preferences

Coherent

...stories describing paths to different futures

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But there are few facts about the future...



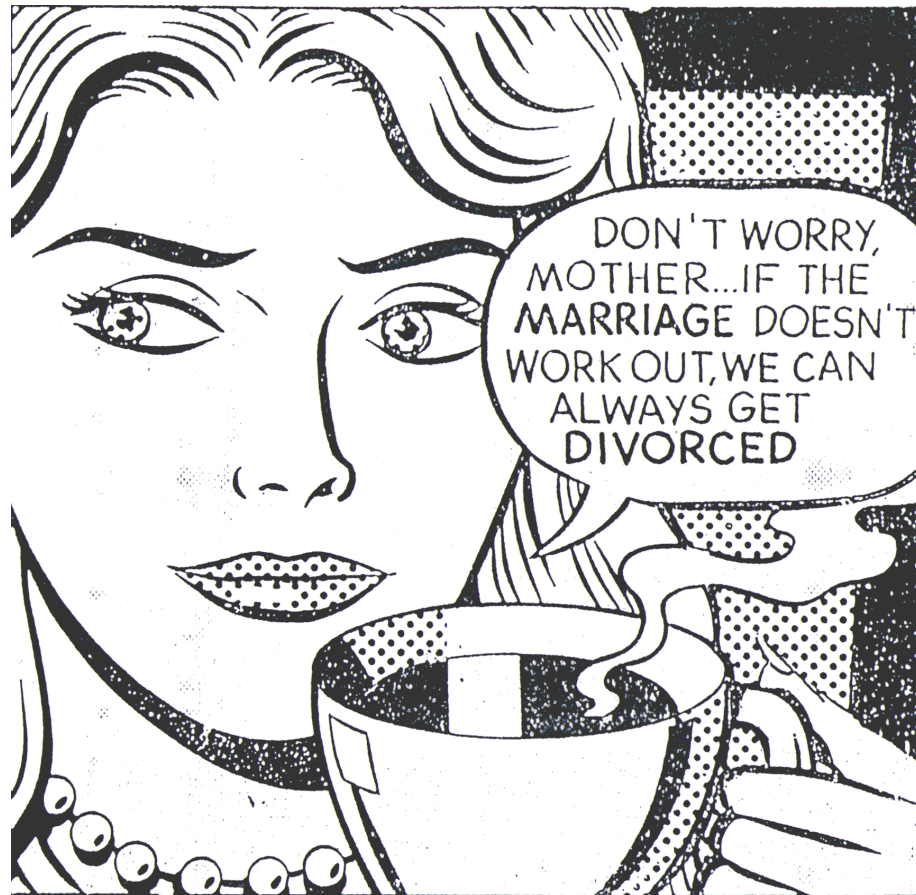
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Scenario are used for...

- Testing policies and decisions
- Exploring for new ideas and thinking
- Building relationships by forging alignment and shared commitment

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Scenarios ask the right question...



...not whether but...WHAT IF?



- Plausible: Recognisable from signals in the present
- Internally consistent
- Challenging: helping to highlight critical dilemmas and key uncertainties
- Relevant: consequential to the decisions we must take or face today

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Why scenarios?

- Success in the future depends not just on the study of the future but on the future success of decisions taken today.