

Reading Response VII (word count:338)

“Superforecasting: The Art and Science of Prediction”

Argument Reconstruction (word count: 78)

- I. Predictions made about the future are mostly erroneous.
- II. The accuracy of predictions can be improved with better data and analysis methods.
- III. Assessing the accuracy of predictions can lead to information that can be used to generate more accurate predictions. Making good predictions is a skill that can be cultivated.
- IV. The accuracy of predictions made is currently not calculated nor assessed.
- V. We should measure the accuracy of predictions after they are made, and then use that information to improve our predictive abilities for the future.

Question (word count: 234)

My question in this argument reconstruction lies with the authors' definition of what a prediction is. In my opinion there are many different types of predictions that have all been lumped together in one definition. For example, a prediction could be made about what the weather will be like tomorrow, or a prediction could be made about what a student will receive as a grade in their exam, or a prediction could be made about what which political candidate will win a debate, or a prediction about what the next discovered planet will be or even a prediction about which singer sings better. All of these predictions are of a different type, and so my question is that is it valid to ask about the accuracy of predictions in the same way for all of these questions? Furthermore, can one even assess a prediction of the type of “this singer is better than that singer”? Is it not too subjective of an idea to assign an objective value? Furthermore, I'd like to raise a point that predictions made about the future that actually matter to people (such as the price of stocks in the future, or the “points” a particular political candidate is projected to receive) are actually assessed and the assessment is used to further improve future predictions - so why should we apply the conclusion to all predictions, not just the important ones?