

## Longtermism

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When I hear the phrase *Longtermism* the word that comes to my mind is hokum. Future generations are speculative. Our ability to predict or anticipate a future 1,000 years out, let alone 10,000 years, is negligible. Drew Beamer, writing in *The Conversation* stated longtermism makes impossible predictions about the future, gets caught up in speculation about robot apocalypses and asteroids strikes, depends on wrongheaded moral views, and ultimately fails to give present needs the attention they deserve. <https://theconversation.com/longtermism-why-the-million-year-philosophy-cant-be-ignored-193538>

Those who advocate the longtermism project are indulging in self-aggrandizing, techno-utopian fantasies. Our concern should be for the people now alive, and the generation being born today. According to World Vision 712 million people (9% of the world's population) live in extreme poverty and 1.1 billion people, including 566 million children, live in multidimensional poverty.

(<https://www.worldvision.org/sponsorship-news-stories/global-poverty-facts#facts> ).

Longtermism calls for safeguard humanity's future in a manner that both diverts attention from current misery and leaves harmful socioeconomic structures critically unexamined (Carary, 2023). Carary cites Joanne Barka in Dissent Magazine (Fall 2013) who wrote that the wealthy philanthropist are engaging in 'the exercise of wealth-derived power in the public sphere with minimal democratic controls and civic obligations'

To be concern about the future requires a concern about the present. The condition of all of societies' structures and systems require attention. Welfare is predicated on adequate income, education, health, physical infrastructure , and environment. If today's problems are not addressed then a tomorrow may near be.

Alice Crary (2023). The toxic ideology of longtermism. RADICAL PHILOSOPHY 2.14. <https://www.radicalphilosophy.com/commentary/the-toxic-ideology-of-longtermism>