

Philosophical-minded people have long debated to what extent human history is predictable or unpredictable. “Had Cleopatra’s nose been shorter, the face of the world would have changed.”

Predict the state of the world in 2033
(or: how good were 1983 predictions for 2008?)
Of course we don’t expect to be very accurate
.....

My intellectual tools for thinking about predictions:

**inertia, trends, statistical fluctuation,
unpredictable unique events.**

Inertia: In much everyday life we just assume that most aspects of the world will be unchanged in 25 years.