



# **Futures Thinking and Scenario Planning in a Post-COVID19 World**

## **Course Overview**

*“The Planning fallacy is that you make a plan, which is usually a best case scenario. Then you assume that the outcome will follow your plan, even when you should know better”*

*- Daniel Kahneman*

# Why Futures THINKING?

In early-March 2020, COVID-19 accelerated through communities in the world and the world changed. The whole world is experiencing the current disruption, and in a scenario that most people never believed would happen, are questioning certainty and are looking for tools to manage “post normal times”. Now more than ever, organizations large and small, technology-focused and otherwise, and governments need futurists and foresight practitioners. Foresight can be of tremendous help in such times as it creates internal tension, discussions, innovation-based projects, and planning on a new world. Futurists can help organizations look beyond their current struggles towards better planned and more resilient futures for them, for humanity, and for the planet as a whole.

Strategic foresight is the understanding of alternative – possible, probable and preferred – futures and the worldviews and myths that underlie them. Thinking about the future helps us to identify threats to sustainability, take advantage of emerging opportunities, develop shared visions of a desirable future and build plans and strategies to achieve that future. With an awareness of increasing rates of change, foresight has acquired prominence as a process aiming to support forward-looking opinion formation in decision-making, both for public policies and businesses.

In this regard we would like to propose a series of capacity building workshops for your organization. Deepening on your need, whether it is a technology/product foresight for your engineering team, a customized program for your managerial and administrative team or a general capacity building program for the whole organization; a program will be specifically created for your team and its requirements. We would love to speak with you about your specific project and how your organization can locate itself for change.

# What to EXPECT?

- During these workshops the participants will:
- Explore the field of strategic foresight and scenario building.
- Learn the methods most commonly used to facilitate this process.
- Gain knowledge of the basic techniques for analyzing the future.
- Develop skills in building robust strategies and policies.
- Learn how to develop robust scenarios.

**1-2**  
DAYS

**DURATION**

in-person / online



## Course **METHODOLOGY**

A balanced approach of presentations, discussions and the practical application of strategic foresight methods will be used throughout the workshop. The practical application will be based on examining a current topic of major public interest to show how strategic foresight can be used to develop insights about the future. During the workshop, participants will engage in hands-on exercises for imagining possible futures quickly and collaboratively. Participants will discuss emerging visions for the future, technological innovations, and implications for the participants' own practice, as well institutional context.

## Course **CONTENTS**

1. An introduction to thinking about the future; rationales and objectives of foresight.
2. History as an indicator of the future. What are the milestones and grand trends of time which have brought us to the present?
3. Scrapping the present and questioning the assumptions of perceived reality. This intends to identify blind spots in current strategies. This will be explored by questioning of assumptions.
4. Anticipating the future using futures triangle and futures wheel
5. Developing alternative scenarios of the future using integrated, double variable, genius and organization methods. Scenarios are possible stories of the future and by looking at a variety of possibilities; one comes closer to shaping the future, rather than merely predicting it.
6. Exploring organizational/ individual/ stakeholder myths/metaphors and how to change those narratives using Causal Layered Analysis (CLA).

## Who should **ENROLL**

- Faculty
- Non Faculty





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