



# Summer retreat in Strategic foresight #SOIF2017

7-11 August 2017, Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire, UK

The School of International Futures flagship event returns for its sixth successive year. The five-day retreat teaches the science and art of Strategic foresight, the skills you need to understand change and disruption and how to create future-ready organisations in an uncertain and increasingly volatile world.

Our retreats provide a unique combination of executive education, insight, and understanding of how to use foresight with impact. By attending you will learn how to take a systematic and imaginative approach to the future; to identify emerging opportunities and threats, build resilience, and critically to connect future insights back to policy and decision-making today.



It's brilliant, to bring together so many nationalities throughout the world, to think through these things in one place. It's ten out of ten.

Executive Director, African Public Policy & Research Institute

The School of International Futures is a treasure that anybody interested in managing for the future should not miss.

Director, Strategic Foresight Initiative, Atlantic Council

Very professional. Well designed and organised. High quality of faculty.

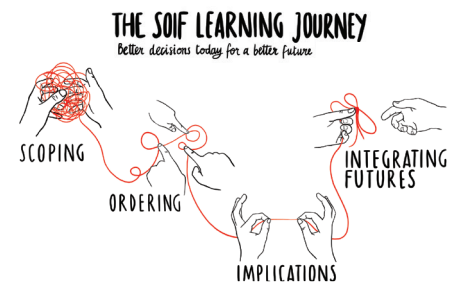
Scenario Planning Team, Shell Global

- **Learn the science of strategic foresight**, tools and methods that can be used to make a real difference in your organisation. SOIF's four stage process for foresight with impact and tools such as horizon scanning, scenario analysis, wind-tunnelling and visioning

- **Appreciate the art of strategic foresight** through panel discussions and debates with expert practitioners and leaders who have successfully used foresight to influence decision-making

- **Gain insight** into the future of education and skills and how to use "Lean Foresight", data and design to build the impact of your foresight work

- **Develop confidence and practical experience** in the craft: by working through a "live" policy challenge set by NATO during guided practical sessions



You will leave a confident commissioner and intelligent user of futures techniques, with practical ideas for implementing foresight in your organisation.

Attendance is limited to 25 participants and discussion is conducted under the Chatham House Rule to provide you with the space to reflect, exchange insights and build lasting relationships.

## Speakers

This year we be joined by over 15 speakers and faculty – expert commissioners, practitioners and users of foresight, as well as private and public sector policy planning/ government leads and experts in futures thinking, design and data.

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Jeff Jonas** Founder and Chief Scientist, Senzing and former IBM Fellow and Chief Scientist Context Computing
- **Jamie Shea** Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO
- **Jane Davidson** Pro Vice Chancellor - External Engement and Sustainability, University of Wales Trinity Saint David; Former Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing in Wales.
- **Stuart Candy** Associate Professor, School of Design, Carnegie Mellon University and SOIF Guest faculty for 2017
- **Arthur Murilo** Deputy Managing Director, International Secretariat of the Society for International Development (SID) in Rome
- **Laline Paull** Award-winning author of 'The Bees' and 'The Ice', playwright and screewriter
- **Nicholas Colloff** Director Argidius Foundation and former Director of Innovation, Oxfam GB
- **Rosemarie Forsythe** Former Director, International Political Strategy at ExxonMobil
- **Mathew J. Burrows** Director of Strategic Foresight, Atlantic Council, Washington D



## Themes

Every foresight retreat is unique – in addition to our focus on strategic foresight we provide you with insights into trends in a specific policy area, new methodology, and practical experience working on a "Live challenge". This year our themes are:

**The future of education and skills.** We will take a holistic look at the global trends that will shape the future out to 2060 (with a focus on 2030, the time horizon for the Sustainable Development Goals). What will life look like in a world that has started to deglobalise – with increasingly local design, production and flows of people and goods? How will artificial intelligence, automation and demographic change impact this future? What skills are needed, what do our educational systems look like and how can countries and organisations take advantage of change?

**Lean and agile foresight** There is a growing interest globally in applying foresight approaches to situations in where there are constrained resources and little time. Companies, governments, local communities, NGOs want to use "agile" and "lean-start-up" approaches to quickly harness insights from foresight into decision-making and operations. Our methodology theme this year will explore role of different tools, principles and approaches. For example, the use of design, collaborative and participative techniques, science and big data, and how to identify, attribute and measure impact.

**NATO Live challenge** Ahead of the refresh of the NATO Strategic Concept next year, we will be joined by Jamie Shea, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Issues at NATO who will set participants the challenge of helping him examine NATO's future strategic context. Using the foresight tools we learn during the week, we will explore the emerging issues, relationships and opportunities that NATO may face over the next decade and how NATO can prepare.

## Who should attend?

Whether you set the strategic direction for your organisation, lead a strategy or innovation unit, are setting up your own foresight function or are just curious about the future, you will benefit from the new analytical and professional perspectives SOIF2017 provides. Whether you have already taken part in strategic foresight exercises or are new to the field, you will learn the skills and techniques needed to create change and to communicate the impact of your foresight work.

Participants work at a senior level in strategy, policy, leadership and analytical roles in governments, NGOs, international organisations and businesses. Organisations signed up include: German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ); Ministry of Defence of Finland; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands; Development Concepts and Doctrine Centre, Ministry of Defence, UK; United Nations Development Programme; University of Geneva; Action Against Hunger.

**SOIF is international** – Our retreats draw attendees from all six continents, and we typically have over 18 nationalities at each retreat.

**SOIF builds a community** — Whether you are a foresight practitioner, user or commissioner, we help you build connections with people working to solve the same kinds of problems you are facing.

## Venue and Registration

This year's event will be held at Hartwell House, near Aylesbury, UK. This historic house provides an intimate setting for debate, 'fireside chats' and creativity in the British countryside.

**Participant fee:** Corporate £4,255\*    NGO, Government, Academia: £2,755\*  
**Accommodation fee\*\*:** £1,195\*

\* All prices are quoted exclusive of UK VAT which will be charged at 20 percent. \*\* Includes use of the facilities at Hartwell House, including four nights' accommodation, spa, meals and airport transfer from/to London Heathrow airport. The accommodation fee will be invoiced by SOIF together with the participant fee.

## Enquiries

To find out more visit [www.soif.org.uk](http://www.soif.org.uk) or get in touch

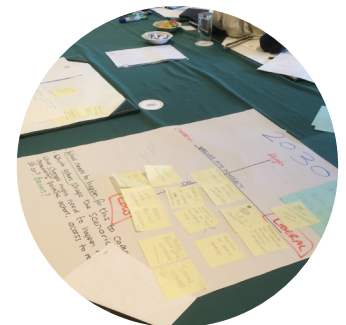
T: +44 (0) 300 302 0486    E: [events@soif.org.uk](mailto:events@soif.org.uk)    @SOIFutures #SOIF2017

The Live challenge combined with faculty sessions and expert panels kept the days lively and allowed for learning, application, and understanding how foresight can fit into the real world

Managing Director at FP Analytics, Foreign Policy

Wonderful opportunity to meet other practitioners and the possibility to learn from non-government teaching.

Office of the Secretary of Defense, United States



### Our story

SOIF was founded to help you and your organisation navigate uncertainty and make resilient and better decision in an increasingly uncertain and complex world. Our vision is that individuals in organisations and communities across the world use strategic foresight to improve their lives professionally and personally.

SOIF founders have experience working with senior government officials and Ministers from their time working inside the UK Government at the Foresight and Horizon Scanning Centre, Foreign Ministry and PM's Strategy Unit. Other SOIF staff have also worked in government roles.

Together with a wide network of experts, we tailor training and consulting services to our clients: international organisations, universities, government ministries and agencies, not-for-profit and private sector organisations. Our research extends from foresight tools and techniques to setting up a foresight unit, public participation in development, the role of social networks, and anticipatory governance.