


June 2021

We are now recruiting for a second **SAMI cohort** where in a small group with other professionals you can explore the issues surrounding your foresight work. Cohort members choose the topics for discussion. Contact Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk if you are interested.

Jonathan Blanchard Smith's talk on the **fourth industrial revolution**, given as part of the recent APEC Symposium and Workshop went well – feedback included:

"Your participation in the APEC event was awesome " 

["Redesigning the future"](#). Dr Wendy Schultz, SAMI Principal, spoke at a Chatham House event on 25th May. Designers, policymakers and thinkers discussed how radical design thinking can provide positive answers and innovative solutions to shape the future.

Wendy also delivered her talk ["It's Chaos Turtles All The Way Down"](#) at the [Global Foresight Summit](#), while Patricia Lustig and Gill Ringland spoke about ["Green Shoots: Humankind meets Future Shock"](#). Patricia also introduced the Association of Professional Futurists ["Emerging Fellows"](#) session.

Gill and Patricia also published a blogpost discussing the value of [Environmental, Social and Governance](#) measures.

"Expect the unexpected", Huw Williams' article on scenario planning appeared in Edge, the magazine of the [Institute of Leadership and Management](#). For a copy please contact huw.williams@samiconsulting.co.uk. He is also due to talk to the Derby and Nottingham branch of the [Chartered Quality Institute](#) in July

SAMI Associate Garry Honey's new book **'Missed Risks'** will be published shortly. The book identifies several types of unseen and unspoken risks in an attempt to show boards where risk perception is critical.

A failure in part of [Fastly's](#) Content delivery Network resulted in many high-profile websites being out of action for over an hour. The Guardian website was one of those affected – their tech guy said *"Fastly incidents are relatively rare. It has been years since we had an incident anywhere close to this scale. It doesn't make it any more likely that there will be future incidents."* Is that your approach to high-impact low probability events?

Executive Education

Our online course "Understanding the Future" will be run again on 20th to 24th September. The course fee is £490 + VAT, and discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. For more information, please email us at training@samiconsulting.co.uk.

A range of information on various [futures techniques](#) – our version of the GOS Futures Toolkit - is available on our website.

Futures Issues

The Bank of England is putting banks and insurers through [three climate scenarios](#), including one in which governments fail to take further steps to curb greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in average temperature increases of 3.3C and a 3.9-metre rise in sea levels.

Soaring demand for chips from a boom in sales of laptops, game consoles and mobile phones during the lockdown has exacerbated [a shortage in the supply of computer chips](#) that could last two years. If this forces companies into reusing chips and extending the life of certain types of computing technologies then that at least improves sustainability.

A new type of [dairy substitute](#) made from microalgae has been developed producing a milk comparable in nutritional value to cow's milk, but is made using a fraction of the energy, land and water. It doesn't taste like cow's milk but it has a similar texture to nut-based milk.

A [wave-power generator](#) uses large macroalgae and mussels in its submerged structure to add drag and inertia. They experience only relatively little motion during operation, grow and regenerate naturally. And you end up with farmed mussels you can eat.

The US have trialled a [drone interceptor system](#) that fires strong string streamers to incapacitate the target's rotors. Backed by an automated decision system, the interceptor can be used to defend convoys moving through populated areas where explosive defensive weapons could cause collateral damage.

With quantum computers theoretically able to crack conventional cryptography, quantum entanglement is being explored as a way of enabling [unhackable conversations](#).

"[Targeted dream incubation](#)" can enable corporations to manipulate your dreams to include ads for their products. Smart speakers could become instruments of passive, unconscious overnight advertising.

And in a story that never goes away, the dream of [flying cars](#) continues. Proponents argue that autonomy will be far more powerful in the air than on the ground, and that it will enter our daily lives much sooner.

Our Blogs

In recent blogs we completed our short series on the [US National Intelligence Center's report on global trends to 2040 with a look at the scenarios](#) they were suggesting. We

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followed this with an exploration of a paper from the [EU Joint Research Council about thinking the unthinkable](#) and 'black swan' events and continued our theme of [dealing with the unexpected by looking at future proofing for resilience](#) in the face of (apparently) unlikely events.

If you'd like to receive reminders when our blogs are published, then [check the link on our website](#) or if you would like to write a blog for us, then please [contact us here](#).