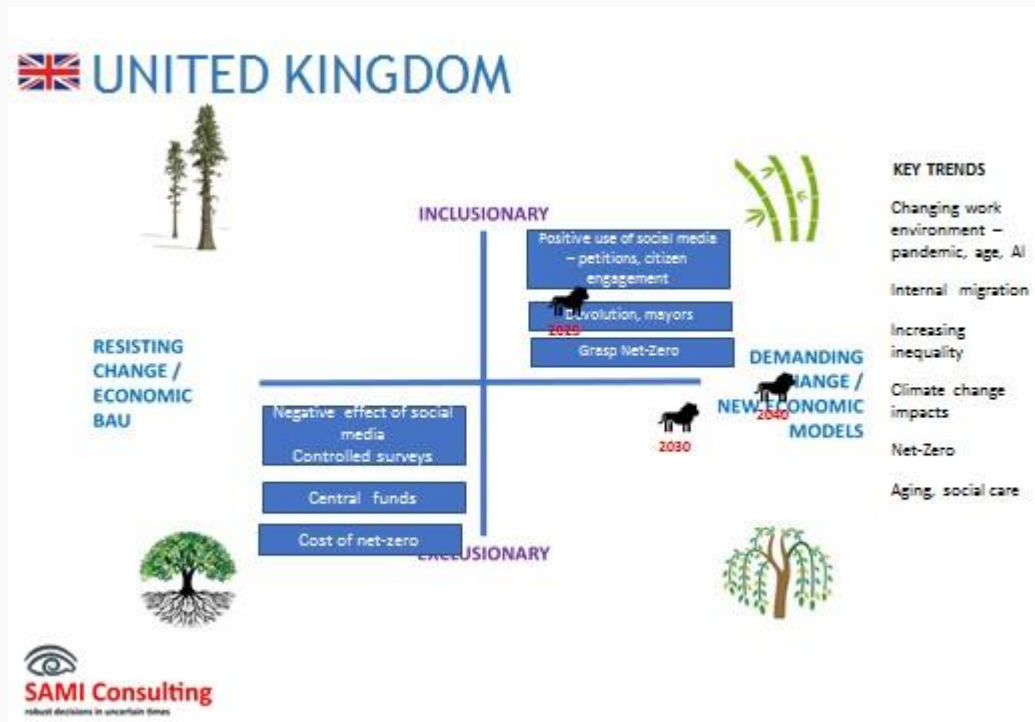


F&S February 2022

In the last session of the current **SAMI Cohort**, the team “played” the futures for the UK in the innovative Strategic Foresight Scenario Game we developed for the EC Research and Innovation Directorate. More information on the game can be found [here](#), and in our blogs.



The radical uncertainties in the future scenarios revealed the range of contingency planning required. Opinion varied on where the British lion should be and it was quite easy to play “devil’s advocate”. But overall there was an optimistic feeling in the group which suggested that positive responses would be found to the challenges ahead.

The Cohort is a small group of professionals working with foresight and scenario planning, who gather every couple of months to learn from each other and SAMI staffers in a mutually supportive online environment. Further members are welcome. For further information contact Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk.

[One day in 2050](#)

SAMI Principal Patricia Lustig contributed to the “One day in 2050”, a

collaborative project for climate change activation. Her news item for May 5th anticipates the launch of the [micro-™ climate rain generator Gee-rain™](#) in Nepal.

[APF Emerging Fellows](#)

Patricia is also running the Association of Professional Futurists' "Emerging Fellows" programme. The Emerging Fellows Program is designed to recognize promising new futurists and mentor them to develop their Foresight capabilities. Over the three year process, they will learn about foresight tools, develop their writing competence on strategic foresight issues, contribute to projects within the field, develop their networks of practitioners and mentor successive cohorts to make the program sustainable over time.

Executive Education

Our online course "Understanding the Future" will be run again on March 15th to 19th, 2022. 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. We also organise bespoke courses to suit specific clients' needs.

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

Futures Issues

[Atmospheric concentrations of methane](#), a greenhouse gas at least 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide, reached nearly triple pre-industrial levels. Many researchers worry that global warming is creating a feedback mechanism that will cause ever more methane to be released, making it even harder to rein in rising temperatures.

The Law Commission proposes that the person in the driving seat of a [self-driving car](#) should no longer be responsible for how the car drives. Instead, the company or body that obtained authorisation for the self-driving vehicle would face regulatory sanctions if anything went wrong.

The Government is proposing that [genome-edited crop plants](#) are exempted from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) regulations, provided the genetic changes could occur naturally or via existing conventional breeding techniques.

In four experiments on pig tissues, a [robot sutured](#) two ends of intestine—one of the most intricate and delicate tasks in abdominal surgery – without human help. The procedure requires a high level of repetitive motion and precision, with high accuracy and consistency.

After years of difficulties, IBM is getting out of the [AI healthcare space](#). It announced it was selling off healthcare data and analytics assets from its Watson Health business. Watson was the subject of [a lot of early hype](#), with big promises about its potential for AI-enabled clinical decision support.

SpaceX's newest fleet of satellites are [tumbling out of orbit](#) after being struck by a solar storm. Up to 40 of the 49 small satellites launched last week have either re-entered the atmosphere and burned up, or are on the verge of doing so. A geomagnetic storm made the atmosphere denser, which increased the drag on the Starlink satellites.

Our Blogs

Over the past few weeks we have continued with our series of blogs on the regional scenarios developed for the EC SAFIRE Global Scenarios Report. Of the 10 regions included in the project, we have most recently explored the scenarios developed for [the ASEAN Region](#), [the Indian sub-continent](#), [Australia and New Zealand](#) and [Central and South America](#) and discussed how the various trends identified may affect these regions and the scenarios outlined. We also took some time to look at the [2022 World Economic Forum Global Risks Report](#) and explore how this may affect future trends and scenarios.