

F&S September 2022

HM The Queen

We share the nation's grief at The Queen's death. In her 1999 Christmas message, Her late Majesty quoted Churchill, saying, "The further backward you look, the further forward you can see"

In reflecting on Her Majesty's reign, we thought of a futures method called Three Horizons – and especially, the version of it that we use. In addition to Horizon 1 (to oversimplify, where we are), Horizon 3 (where we are going), and Horizon 2 (how we get there), we use Horizon 0 – where we have come from. In Horizon 0, we look back, usually twice the time we look forwards. As an exercise, it usefully prepares people, especially in workshops, to grasp the possibilities of the future by understanding the change that has occurred in the past. To use Churchill's words, we look far backward so we can look forwards.

This week we have been living in our nation's Horizon 0. Some examples: the discovery of DNA in 1953 to the first cloned sheep in 1996 to the mapping of the human genome in 2003. The first email was sent in 1971; the first Apple computer in 1984, the first web browser in 1990, the metaverse launched in 2021. We saw two female prime ministers, as well as President Obama. The United Kingdom joined, and left, Europe. The Berlin Wall fell. Britain handed off what remained of its Empire, but went to war in the Falklands, Afghanistan and Iraq; and itself devolved into its four Nations. The first jet airliner (the Comet) first flew in 1952, the first Moon landing took place in 1969 and in 2012 the Curiosity rover landed on Mars.

Lists are never enough, and cannot capture everything that happened. In all that constant change, the one single fixed point we had in the UK was the Queen. As we mourn her death, we welcome the reign of King Charles III – who now enters his own Three Horizons. We look forward to seeing what

events will mark his reign.

UN Common Agenda

The Millennium Project has been running a project to advise on the Foresight elements of the UN's Common Agenda. SAMI's Tony Diggle and Patricia Lustig contributed to a Real-Time Delphi to identify the most critical issues. Tony has written two blogs on the subject for us – see links below.

Harvard Business Review Analytic Services

Patricia Lustig is quoted extensively in an [HBRAS report](#) on “Anticipating the Future for Growth and Innovation: Companies in Asia Pacific and Beyond Are Building Prescience into Their Plans”. The key conclusion she reaches is that organisations should build their “foresight muscle”, with all parts of the organisation continually thinking about the future. *“With that foresight muscle built up, you recognize where you’re going and you know what to do about it. That’s a huge competitive advantage,”*

SAMI Cohort

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. Our next cohort will begin in September - additional members are welcome. For further information, contact Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk.

Talks, papers and blogs

Patricia Lustig has been invited to the Dubai Future Forum in October.

Executive Education



We will be running our online course “Understanding the Future” again on 14th and 15th November. 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



In the US, 67% of teenagers aged 13 to 17 now predominantly [use TikTok](#); Instagram and Snapchat are close behind. Facebook use has collapsed to

32%. YouTube is used by 95%. 35% say they are using at least one of them “almost constantly.”

Engineers have devised a new kind of wearable sensor – [“e-skin”](#) - that communicates wirelessly without requiring onboard chips or batteries. The design is a flexible, semiconducting film that conforms to the skin like electronic Scotch tape. The heart of the sensor is an ultrathin, high-quality film of gallium nitrate, that can be used for both sensing and wireless communication.

A hybrid design that combines [3D-printed concrete](#) with conventional wood framing shows how each material can be used where it works best, with minimal waste, to create buildings that are efficient, resilient against increasingly intense weather events and potentially more affordable.

In response to extensive droughts, China is launching [“cloud seeding”](#) programmes, sending airplanes to fire the chemical silver iodide into the clouds.

The smart home market has been given a boost by [Amazon’s purchase of Roomba](#), the robotic vacuum cleaner, which will join the voice assistant Alexa, the Astro robot and Ring security cameras in its portfolio.

The UK Government announced a plan to stimulate the [self-driving vehicles](#) market. Manufacturers will be responsible for the vehicle’s actions when self-driving, meaning a human driver would not be liable for incidents related to driving while the vehicle is in control of driving. Fully automated vehicles however still seem to be some way off.

The Detroit Auto Show featured an [“Air Mobility Experience”](#) featuring flight demonstrations and displays by six international air mobility providers. Everything from eVTOL aircraft to hoverbikes, hoverboards and jet suits. But we are years away from flying taxis.

Our Blogs



Our recent blogs include the first two in a new series updating our drivers of change;

- Firstly, examining [recent changes in population dynamics](#)
- Secondly, exploring the [likely changes in geopolitics](#).
- We then took a look at the [UN Report 'Our Common Agenda'](#)
- And then the [Millennium Project's report looking at the strategic foresight issues](#) raised by the UN Report.

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](#).
