

July 2023

GO-Science Futures Toolkit

Our work on refreshing the Government Office for Science's Futures Toolkit is entering its final stages. We have comprehensively reviewed each of 12 futures tools and techniques, as well as "pathways" (ways in which tools can be combined to achieve an outcome), and have now agreed the final text with the client. We've also looked at issues like facilitating futures workshops, the futures and policy cycle, and other ways to develop scenarios. Many of the tools are accompanied by comprehensive worksheets for the first time. The next phase is working with our design partners Davydov to produce a totally new design that is much easier to use and navigate.

The new Toolkit is planned to be up and running and accessible to the public on Gov.uk in the Autumn.

Sustainable Innovation Pathways Framework

We continue our work on SIP: www.sip-labs.com. We have begun extending the scenario development using a morphological analysis approach, as this allows for a better integration with the quantitative stage that follows. A number of industry bodies are interested in using the approach across their membership. Contact Jonathan at jbs@samiconsulting.co.uk to discuss how our approaches to the future of sustainability could be applied in your organisation.

SAMI Cohort

Our "postgraduate" action learning set, the SAMI Cohort, completed its latest annual 6-part cycle recently. The Cohort is a group of futures professionals sharing their knowledge and expertise, providing suggestions as to how members can address their respective "challenges". Many of the discussions have revolved around driving action from futures work, though our latest one addressed the role of Large Language Models in futures work and issues of resilience arising from Oliver Letwin's submission to the Covid-19 inquiry.

We are looking to recruit another group for the next round of Cohort beginning in the Autumn. If you are interested in joining and benefitting from this unique approach to sharing practical futures expertise, then please contact

Jane.Dowsett@samiconsulting.co.uk

Foresight and Strategy will be taking a break next month.

Executive Education

We will be running our online course *“Understanding the Future”* again on 20th and 21st September. The course fee is £490 + VAT - discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. We also organise bespoke courses to suit specific clients’ needs.

We are developing new training modules in the areas of turning scenarios into action, Adaptive Plans (contingency planning) and risk and uncertainty. If you interested in any of these, please do get in touch.

For more information, please email training@samiconsulting.co.uk.

Futures Issues

[Large language models](#) sometimes have “dark personality patterns”.

Designers are taking inspiration from [dragon-fly wings](#) to design Boeing 777 wings that are lighter, more efficient using fewer materials, leading to considerable savings in fuel and costs.

A [back support exoskeleton](#) has been developed at the Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (Italian Institute of Technology—IIT) to improve railway workers' safety and conditions for heavy manual material handling during maintenance and renewal operations.

A mobile, robotic-controlled uncrewed ground vehicle can [provide remote assessment and treatment of casualties](#) in high-risk environments such as humanitarian disasters.

The EU is moving to treat [new genomic techniques](#) differently from GMOs. Two newly released JRC reports describe case studies of how crops developed through gene editing could become celiac-safe (using mutagenesis) or resistant to disease to allow reduced use of pesticides (cisgenesis).

Our Blogs

Our recent blogs have covered a range of topics:

- Should we [prepare or prevent when looking at what our responses](#) could be to future events?
- Some reflections on the [future plans for the Thames Barrier and managing London's flood responses](#).
- An exploration of [ideas about what's cutting UK productivity](#).
- An examination of [possible developments in the Russia China alliance](#).

Our series of blogposts will resume in September.

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](#).
