

F&S November/December 2023

SAMI have completed work on the main **Government Office for Science “Futures Toolkit”** with the html passed over to the Gov.UK team. This comprehensive review and re-design of the Toolkit demonstrates SAMI’s core competence in the whole range of Futures tools and techniques. Look out for the launch in the New Year.

SAMI Fellow Jonathan Blanchard Smith ran a series of workshops for [Cyberevolution](#), a **cybersecurity conference** run by [KuppingerCole](#) in Frankfurt. where “revolutionary concepts meet futuristic visions” bringing together cybersecurity, digitalisation and AI. Some thoughts are in a [blogpost here](#) – watch out for more in the New Year.

SAMI Consulting ran a futures workshop for the **Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine** as part of their Science Leadership Strategy. Using a range of futures tools, Patricia Lustig, Jane Dowsett and Jonathan Blanchard Smith took some 80 participants through a day of work. Participants examined scenarios, developed responses to challenges, and engaged in creating solutions-focussed teams for meeting them.

SAMI Principal Garry Honey has written “**Navigating Uncertainty**” aimed at Board members treating risk as a set of strategic options, as distinct from managing risk as a control function. We will be publishing excerpts from the book on our blog during January and February. He also offers a short training course on the topic.

Apart from the insights into personalities, the second module of the **Covid-19 inquiry** has provided some interesting lessons into how organisations move from contingency plans to implementation. We will be looking at this in a blogpost in the New Year.

COP28 made some progress with a range of commitments on adaptation funding. But commitments to reduce emissions and switch to non-fossil fuels have been widely regarded as weak. There remains a huge range of climate scenarios to factor into your planning, from limiting warming to 1.5C, through delivering the commitments, to the risks and dangers of “business as usual”.

Executive Education

We will be running our online course “**Understanding the Future**” again on 28th and 29th February. The course fee is £490 + VAT - discounts may be available for self-funded individuals. Take a look at our [training brochure](#) for more details. 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.

SAMI Principal Garry Honey also offers a course on “**Navigating Uncertainty**” aimed at governing boards & senior leadership teams.

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

Futures Issues

[Extreme heat and drought](#) typical of an end-of-century climate could soon occur over Europe, and repeatedly. By 2050–2074, two successive years of single or compound end-of-century extremes, unprecedented to date, exceed 1-in-10 likelihoods; while Europe-wide 5-year megadroughts become plausible.

Moving beyond the “[trolley problem](#)” for driverless cars, the [Agent Deed Consequence](#) model more accurately reflects the real situations drivers face and the moral decisions they take.

The [mental and physical health](#) of those aged 11–15 years old is declining, with well-being falling especially among girls. Only 57% of young people met the survey's criteria for high mood, and in contrast 19% were deemed at risk of depression.

New technique of rapid [3D printing](#) of personalised lower limb prosthetics can be deployed in under-served regions and developing countries with limited access to health care, and even in users' homes.

A therapy based on the [CRISPR](#) technology has for the first time been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) for the treatment of patients who have sickle cell disease or transfusion-dependent beta thalassemia.

Our Blogs

Our recent blogs have covered a range of topics:

- Using [publicly available scenarios at a cyber conference](#)
- Reviewing [scenarios developed for the World Energy Outlook](#)
- Examining the idea [of 'risk tipping points'](#)
- Reviewing the [50th Anniversary conference of the World Futures Studies Federation](#)
- Reviewing the [ESPAS 2023 Conference](#)

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](#).