Strategic Foresight & IR for the 21st Century
Working Group
ISA Annual Convention, Atlanta 2016

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Working Group Honorary Conveners: Robert Jervis (rlj1@columbia.edu), Columbia University

ISA Section Partnership: International Security Studies Section (ISSS)

Overview
In our increasingly uncertain and networked world, existing governance systems face unprecedented challenges. In order to manage the globalised economy, technology revolutions and volatile resource pressures of a growing global middle-class, governments must re-envision their current command-and-control role to become enablers: facilitating and guiding other actors, rather than directly providing or directing. To transition into this new structure, governments must take the longer-term into account, and build the institutional and behavioural capability of strategic foresight to do so. Strategic foresight approaches can have significant impact on international policy-making: looking beyond the shape of present challenges and opportunities to those rising up on the horizon is arguably an indispensable and necessary role of government. Despite the value of strategic foresight it has a strangely marginal position in the International Relations academic sphere. It is largely absent from most IR faculties and courses, and questions remain about the effectiveness of strategic foresight in influencing decision-making.

The participants in this working group will be united by the core belief that the purpose of government is to facilitate the implementation of effective long-term and coherent strategies to promote citizens’ wellbeing, security and prosperity, while remaining legitimate through accountability to their citizens. Projected outcomes of the sessions are to:

1. **Explore why the discipline of International Relations fails to incorporate much horizon-scanning, methods of strategic foresight and futures techniques**, or theory on this topic which has been largely absent from most IR faculty and courses.

2. **Enable the understanding of recent trends and cutting edge methodology in strategic foresight**, resulting in an increase in their use in the policy sphere. This includes developments in modelling and technology, greater understanding of systems-thinking in IR, multipolarity, crowd-sourcing, diffusion, and so forth.
3. Bring together Strategic Foresight experts across the world to establish a community of interest within the ISA structure and the IR academic network, and to build an identity in this regard. At ISA 2012 there was not even one panel on the subject in spite of strategic foresight serving as a key analytical and conceptual approach used by foreign policy analysts and practitioners, particular policy planners and strategic experts. Tides were turned with the ISA 2014 Roundtable and expanding to a Working Group is the natural evolution in enabling ISA to be the constructive laboratory for the advancement of strategic foresight.

4. Discuss good practice on theorising, practice and pedagogy of Strategic Foresight. Identify the main barriers to mainstreaming strategic foresight into the teaching and research of International Relations, and issue recommendations for IR departments to integrate strategic foresight into research efforts.

5. Determine whether foresight can be used to change views on how we view IR, particularly its capacity to develop a dialogue between the different fields of thought to project a clearer world view. The working group will challenge existing conceptual approaches and prompt participants to step beyond their field canons to seek inter-disciplinary collaborations.

6. Finally, demonstrate how foresight in the IR field can translate into policy-relevant insights, through the use of case-studies into foreign policy issues that can be presented as providing useful longer-term advice for the new administration.
Working Group Agenda
(Permanent to attend all three sessions)

Day 1 - Pre-conference meeting:
Tuesday, March 15th, 2016

9:00 - 9:30 am Welcome and introductions

9:30 - 11:00 am Discussion title: Methodological Debates in the Practice of Strategic Foresight
Presentation of four 15 minute papers, followed by discussion. – e.g. qualitative approaches versus quantitative modelling, role of big data analytics and crowd sourcing, what complexity science can add to foresight in IT

11:00 - 11:30 am Break

11:30 - 1:00 pm Discussion title: The Study and Use of Strategic Foresight in IR
Presentation of four 15 minute papers, followed by discussion. E.g. different practices in the classroom, and research, usage or lack thereof in the policy community, value for state and power perspectives versus focus on broader actors-structures, including institutional development.

1:00 - 2:00 pm Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 pm Discussion title: The President’s Problems and Opportunities
Presentation of four 15 minute papers on long-term views on Foreign policy topics critical for the next US President to engage with in the run-up to the elections, followed by discussion e.g. proliferation, global public health, climate and sustainability, peace-building and conflict resolution, economic and broader development, ideational/ideological change, and instability in the Middle East. Consider break-out groups

3:30 - 4:00 pm Break

4:00 - 5:30 pm Summary of key findings throughout the day, general comments, plan of action moving forward and wrap-up

Day 2 - Follow-up meeting:
Wednesday, March 16th, 2016
12:30 – 1:30 pm
Participants will meet to discuss the panels they have attended thus far at the ISA 2016 conference and their relevance for discussions held on Day 1 within the two streams of Methodology and President’s Problems and Opportunities. The themes of cooperation and conflict, and governance strengthening in the face of fragility/conflict will drive discussion in accordance with the ISA 2016 theme of Peace.

Day 3 - Wrap-up meeting:
Thursday, March 17th, 2016
12:30 – 1:30 pm
A wrap-up discussion will be organized in roundtable format, in which the experts will continue drawing on insights from panels they attended at ISA 2016 and will identify future areas for research. The conversation will end with concrete proposals for moving forward, particularly the publication of findings in a special journal edition.
Working Group Coordinator

Catarina Tully

Catarina Tully is Director of FromOverHere, a consultancy specialising in international security and strategy, and an honorary fellow of the University of Exeter Strategy and Security Institute. Previously, Cat was Strategy Project Director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK and has worked in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, for the UN Deputy Secretary General's office on the UN reform process, Global Compact, UN Development Programme, EU Commission and with the World Bank in Geneva. She advises the UK and US governments on futures and national strategy and is particularly interested in strategic foresight, managing risk, the impact of technology, democracy 2.0, and participatory forms of public engagement into emergent strategy.

Working Group Speakers

Hillary Briffa

Hillary Briffa is currently reading for a doctorate in War Studies at King's College London, focusing on Small States and Grand Strategy. Her interest in international affairs was initially sparked by receiving scholarship to the Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Institute in North Carolina. Thereafter, she attained a First Class Honours degree in International Relations from the University of Malta and an MA in Conflict, Security and Development from KCL. As the current Youth Ambassador to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe for Malta, she has worked closely with the OSCE ranging from the development of the organisation's Action Plan on Youth, to patrols with the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, and the running of conflict resolution workshops in Kyrgyzstan. Presently she interns at the Malta High Commission to the UK and FromOverHere strategic consultancy in London. Prior to this, she interned in the Department of War Studies at King's College and the European Commission representation in Malta. As content producer for international voluntary organisations 'YASI' and 'YLTE' she runs and chairs yearly summer schools across Europe on subjects such as peacebuilding in Eastern Europe in Moldova and Ukraine (2014) and minority integration in Slovakia and Hungary (2015). This year she is running the inaugural summer school on Grand Strategy and the Anglo-American Strategic Tradition for King’s College in partnership with the Clements Centre for History, Strategy and Statecraft at the University of Texas.
Barry B. Hughes

Dr. Barry B. Hughes is John Evans Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. His principal interests are in (1) global change, (2) computer simulation models for economic, energy, food, population, environmental, and socio-political forecasting, and (3) policy analysis. The fundamental concerns that synthesize these interests are (1) developing effective response to long-term global change and (2) improving the long-term human condition. He developed *International Futures (IFs)*, the widely-used computer simulation for study of long-term national, regional, and global issues (see [http://Pardee.du.edu](http://Pardee.du.edu)). Dr. Hughes has supported the U.S. National Intelligence Council’s reports to the President on *Mapping the Global Futures 2020, Global Trends 2025,* and *Global Trends 2030.* He provided long-term global forecasting for the United Nations Environment Programme’s *Global Environment Outlook 4.* He provided background research papers and forecasting content used in the *United Nations Human Development Reports* (2011 and 2013). He was a principal researcher in European Commission projects on the New Economy and on Information and Communications Technology. He has contributed research to projects of RAND, the Central Intelligence Agency, United States Institute of Peace, Peru’s National Center for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) and many other organizations.

Margaret Kosal

Margaret E. Kosal is Associate Professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Institute of Technology and currently is the Director of the Sam Nunn Security Program. Her research explores the relationships among technology, strategy, and governance. Formally trained as an experimental scientist, Kosal earned a doctoral degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) working on biomimetic and nano-structured materials. She is also the co-founder of a sensor company, where she led research on biological, chemical, and explosive detection and spearheaded efforts toward the real-world applications of the technology. Kosal previously served as a senior advisor to the Chief of Staff of the US Army as part of his inaugural Strategic Studies Group (SSG) and as Science and Technology Advisor within the U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).
Robert Jervis

Robert Jervis is Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Politics at Columbia University and a member of the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies. His most recent book is *Why Intelligence Fails: Lessons from the Iranian Revolution and the Iraq War* (Cornell University Press, 2010). His *System Effects: Complexity in Political Life* (Princeton University Press, 1997) was a co-winner of the APSA’s Psychology Section Best Book Award, and *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Cornell University Press, 1989) won the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. He is also the author of *The Logic of Images in International Relations* (Princeton University Press, 1970; 2d ed., Columbia University Press, 1989), *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton University Press, 1976), *The Illogic of American Nuclear Strategy* (Cornell University Press, 1984), *American Foreign Policy in a New Era* (Routledge, 2005), and over 150 other publications. He was President of the American Political Science Association in 2000-01 and has received career achievement awards from the International Society of Political Psychology and ISA’s Security Studies Section. In 2006 he received the National Academy of Science’s tri-annual award for behavioral sciences contributions to avoiding nuclear war and has received honorary degrees from Oberlin College and the University of Venice. He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1978-79 and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Academy of Political and Social Science and the American Philosophical Society. He chairs the Historical Review Panel for CIA and is an Intelligence Community associate. His current research includes the nature of beliefs, IR theory and the Cold War, and the links between signaling and perception. Jervis received his B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.