



2009 Summer Event

Sponsored by



July 7th 1.30 – 5.00pm

LGA Smith Sq London SW1P 3HZ

Futures studies and social research: Visions for progress in policy and planning

What is futures studies? What can it offer to policy and planning research? How can futurists and social scientists be brought together?

Increasingly, futures research is in demand, satisfying the information hungry requirements of planning and strategy development, particularly in uncertain economic times. However, both within and outside the social research world, there is some scepticism and lack of familiarity with futures research.

Drawing on major futures research programmes recently conducted across the public and commercial sectors, this event will provide a critical introduction to the key concepts, theories and research methods used in Futures studies. Differences and points of intersection with social science research practice will be examined, presenting lessons learned in application to policy and planning research. The discussions will focus on the relationship of futures studies to social research, considering the potentials and limits of collaboration and integration.

This event will be of interest to social researchers of all levels aiming to enhance their knowledge and skill sets in to this growing area of social research and to policy makers looking to better understand the foundation and application of futures studies to planning and policy making.

We are delighted to be delivering this event in conjunction with the Local Government Association.

In association with



Programme

- 1.30 Arrival and registration
- 2.00 Welcome and Introductions
Chair: Mark Wardman (Chair SRA)
- 2.10 Exploring long-term human futures: social research and futures studies for policy and planning
Dr Wendy Schultz – Director, Infinite Futures
- Please adjust your mindset: The grounds for dialogue between futurists and social researchers
Dr Andrew Curry, Director of the Futures Company
- Stakeholder engagement, before, during, after: how are the demands of futures projects different? Lessons from DEFRA
Fiona Lickorish, Head of Horizon Scanning, DEFRA; Victoria Ward, Founder of Sparknow Consultancy
- Making use of insight in strategy
Nick Birks – Head of Strategic Insight, HM Revenue & Customs
- Refreshments
- 4.00 Question Time: How can we demystify and promote the value of futures studies? What scenarios can we envision that would improve the collaborative efforts between futurists and social researchers? And what benefits might this collaboration bring to the process of policy and planning?
Chair: Mark Wardman (Chair: SRA)
Panel: To include speakers and other guests
- 4.45 Close followed by drinks reception

Fees and booking:

SRA Members: £50

SRA Non-Members: £65

For further details or to book check www.the-sra.org.uk, email admin@the-sra.org.uk or call 020 7388 2391