

## Management and cultivation of strategic foresight in contexts of rapid change, greater complexity, and genuine uncertainties

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### **Special Issue Call for Papers for Foresight**

*Deadline for abstracts: August 01, 2014*

*The journal of future studies, strategic thinking and policy*

**Guest Editors:** *David Sarpong*, Bristol Business School, University of the West of England

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### **Overview:**

Occupying analogous intellectual space with concepts such as long range planning, strategic planning, and strategic thinking, strategic foresight has come to dominate contemporary management discourse on the creation and capture of sustainable value in complex and fast moving environments. Theorized as an organizing capability that enable firms to transcend established boundaries to capture opportunities otherwise glossed over by competitors, the topic of strategic foresight has attracted considerable academic interest during the past decade. A growing body of evidence now suggests that strategic foresight could lead to durable organizational outcomes such as adaptive learning, ambidexterity, and innovation.

Nevertheless, theoretical and empirical specifications on the management and cultivation of strategic foresight as an organizing capability remain sparse. At best, the existing literature on organizational foresight has suggested two opposite perspectives on the cultivation of strategic foresight. Conceptualizing managers as the locus of strategic foresight, some scholars suggest that the cultivation of foresight requires firms to episodically organize ultra-rational corporate futures exercises. This view is supported by the proliferation of corporate foresight exercises and multifarious methodologies such as scenario planning, Delphi, environmental scanning etc. Others in contrast, have highlighted the distributed nature of strategic foresight and the contingent role of 'ordinary' organizational members in the cultivation of strategic foresight by emphasizing everyday organizing practices, routines, and activities as the site of emergence of strategic foresight.

The purpose of this special issue, therefore, is to explore the antecedents, logics and organizing dimensions of strategic foresight and how it could be managed and leveraged in fast moving environments.

## Call:

The Special issue will include a set of critical papers, essays, and book reviews on the specified theme. A pre-application process towards full submissions will be undertaken (i.e. submission of abstracts for approval) for efficiency.

## Possible topics for essays and papers include but are not limited to:

- What are the origins and locus of strategic foresight?
- What insights from history can help extend our understanding of strategic foresight?
- How do organizing routines and practices influence the cultivation of strategic foresight?
- When and how can organizations capture value from corporate foresight exercises?
- What constitutes strategic foresight and how can it be quantified or measured?
- How and when does strategic foresight lead to the identification of opportunities for adaptive learning and innovation?
- How can one integrate or embed strategic foresight in an organization?
- How can firms embedded in uncertain and dynamic environments balance their concurrent need to remain viable in the present while preparing for the future?
- What are the organizational and institutional antecedents that enable the creative emergence of strategic foresight in strategic groups such as product innovation teams?

## Book Reviews:

A few original reviews of books will be considered for inclusion in the Special Issue. The books reviewed must be salient to the main theme, and the reviews must provide useful insights. Kindly contact the guest editor if in doubt on the appropriateness of the book to be reviewed.

## Important Dates:

Date	Description
April 2014	Publication of Call
01 August 2014	Submission of Abstracts
15 August 2014	Notification of successful authors
30 November 2014	Final date for submission of manuscripts
30 January 2014	Review, comments & notifications to authors
30 March 2014	Final papers due
June 2014	Expected publication

## Instructions for submissions:

**Abstracts:** Abstracts should be prepared using the following format and submitted to [David2.Sarpong@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:David2.Sarpong@uwe.ac.uk) or faxed to +44 (0)117 3282129 by 15 July 2014.

<b>ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: 2014 Foresight Journal Special Issue on the Management and Cultivation of Strategic Foresight</b>	
<b>Title</b>	Title of proposed paper
<b>Type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Article <input type="checkbox"/> Essay <input type="checkbox"/> Book review
<b>Author(s)</b>	Full names, titles, and primary institutional affiliation (if any) of all authors. Lead author first <b>in bold</b> .
<b>Address</b>	Contact details for lead author
<b>Country</b>	Lead author's first <b>in bold</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	Include country code
<b>Fax</b>	Include country code
<b>Mobile</b>	Include country code
<b>e-mail</b>	Include alternate email if necessary
<b>Abstract</b>	Not more than 300 words please
<b>Topic / Keywords</b>	Select keywords carefully, making sure that they match the theme of the Journal issue

Guidance on preparation of abstracts is available at <http://info.emeraldinsight.com/authors/guides/abstracts.htm>.

**Papers:** Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Send one copy of your submission in the form of an MS Word-compatible file attached to an e-mail. The papers should be emailed to the guest editor. The paper submission should also include an updated structured abstract following journal guidelines (<http://info.emeraldinsight.com/authors/guides/abstracts.htm>).

As a guide, articles should be 5,000 – 7,000 words, and book reviews approximately 1,000 words. A title of not more than eight words should be provided. A brief autobiographical note should be supplied including full name, affiliation, e-mail address and full international contact details. A general guide for authors, sample copies and other relevant information for submitting papers are available at the journal's website: [http://info.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/author\\_guidelines.htm?id=fs](http://info.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/author_guidelines.htm?id=fs)

All papers are refereed through a peer review process.

Only upon acceptance, authors will be asked to submit other required documentation and transfer the article to Manuscript Central, Emerald's online submission and peer review system.

A selection of papers that are not published in the Special Issue may be considered for other publication with the notification and approval of the respective authors.

**Submissions to:**

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**About the Journal:**

Edited by Dr. Ozcan Saritas, *Foresight* is an international, peer-reviewed online journal concerned with the study of the future. *Foresight* is considered essential reading for those who need to keep abreast of research and current thinking about the future and for those making the future. The journal has a lively and contemporary feel.

*Foresight* is the only futures studies journal which seeks to cater for the needs of academics, practitioners and policy makers alike by striking a balance between peer-reviewed articles and topical commentaries.

For more information please see the journal website at: [www.emeraldinsight.com/fs.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/fs.htm)