

Abstract

Forward Engagement, Complexity and Public Policy
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The tempo of major events is accelerating, while lags of perception and response diminish the capacity of government to react. U.S. governance is strongly affected by this phenomenon, giving the appearance of being myopic: it focuses on what is clearest in the short-term, and defers action on what is coming next, regardless of how big or how fast those oncoming developments may be. Forward Engagement is a method for addressing this deficiency. It aims to identify major potential developments originating further in the future than we normally think about, and to assess policy responses early in the belief that it is more effective to engage the future sooner rather than later.