

## **Abstract**

### ***Changing Philosophy, Changing Methods: Building Futures Literacy for Policy Making and as Policy***

Wicked problems, chaotic and complex realities, and unfamiliar contexts for allocating our attention – this is the human condition. When and how can volition and intention play a role? Does the quality of our preparedness and of our decision-making capacity matter for survival? Are we “better” at realizing our aspirations if we get ready in advance and improve management in its full range, from conception to execution? What is our moral obligation to prepare, to foresee, to project? Should we pursue resilience at any cost? Is immortality the “good” strategy for nations, for firms, for a community? Finding other questions than these depends on our anticipatory assumptions – the ways in which language, mental models, and the stories we continuously tell about the future (scenarios of all kinds) – construct the meaning of the present. This talk will look at the foundations of anticipation (ontology) and explore the methods and implications of Futures Literacy (epistemology) for living in a spontaneous society. Futures Literacy is one new approach to addressing the fundamental indeterminacy of complex systems by using “rigorous imagining” to identify and create policy relevant anticipatory assumptions.

This presentation will present the new planning methodology used, with a special focus on the (meta-) foresight work performed this last year and the way in which it feeds into national risk assessment.