

## Panel 1: Communicating Strategic Foresight Insights

### Speaker: John Bredar

Senior Executive Producer, National Geographic Specials

**John Bredar** is the Senior Executive Producer of the National Geographic Specials. He produced his first film for National Geographic Television in 1989. Since then he has produced 25 more, exploring topics ranging from cockroaches and sharks to sumo wrestlers, combat cameramen and presidents. His first book, *The President's Photographer* was published in November of 2010. Companion to the National Geographic Special by the same title, it follows the life of President Obama's photographer while revealing the history of previous chief White House photographers going back to JFK. Since 2005 he has overseen production for the National Geographic Specials on PBS as well as serving as co-executive producer for the NOVA-National Geographic Specials, a series of co-branded programs that run on the premiere science series on US Television. In 2009, he received the George Foster Peabody award as executive producer for *Ape Genius*, a Nova-National Geographic Special about primate intelligence. That same year, he co-wrote and executive produced the PBS Special, *Illicit: The Dark Trade*, based on the best-selling book, *Illicit*, by Moises Naim. The film was nominated for the Best Investigative Documentary Emmy award. In 2006, Bredar received the national Emmy award for Best Director, for his National Geographic Special, *Arlington: Field of Honor*. He was producer, director and writer of National Geographic's *Inside the White House* and *Inside the Vatican*. *Inside the White House* was the highest rated PBS program of the 1996-97 season. He has been nominated for seven Emmy awards, winning the Best History Emmy for *Combat Cameramen of World War II* in 1998, and another as Executive Producer and writer for *Predators at War* in 2006. In 2006, he co-wrote and Executive Produced the *Gospel of Judas*, one of the highest rated programs in National Geographic Channel history. In 2008, Bredar wrote the treatment for National Geographic Television's first fully scripted drama, *Darwin's Darkest Hour*, then went on to serve as the made-for-TV movie's executive producer which aired in October of 2009. The film, starring Ian Cusick and Francis O'Connor, looked at the personal dynamic between Charles and Emma Darwin as Charles struggled to publish his landmark theory. In his capacity as an executive producer at National Geographic Television, he has overseen the development, production and post-production of more than 100 programs including a live production from the Great Pyramid in Egypt. These programs have run on PBS, the National Geographic Channel, NBC and Fox. Bredar began as a radio and print reporter and eventually moved into filmmaking. His films reflect an eye for detail as they explore how people carry on the sometimes tricky business of life whether they are saddle makers, White House plumbers or marine archaeologists. Originally from Colorado, he holds an undergraduate degree in Radio, Television and Film and US History from Northwestern University and a master's degree in American Diplomatic History from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He and his family live in Washington, DC where they are taxed but not represented in the US Congress.