

## **Abstract**

### **Geopolitical Developments: Big Shifts and Discontinuities**

Big complex organizations (governments included) typically much prefer incremental, evolutionary change to 'big shifts and discontinuities' -- even though it's often more difficult to drive adaptive behaviour in incremental change situations. The coming decade looks likely to present a set of 'threshold shifts' that fall in the logical middle -- shifts that will appear to many as discontinuities but have deep roots in incremental (and foreseeable) political economy dynamics. In this presentation I'll briefly discuss four of these shifts that have major geopolitical consequences: scarcities in basic human needs, shifting theories of value creation, experimental roles for governments in economic growth and innovation, and the new 'Copernican' structure of international political economy. I'll conclude with some observations, drawing from recent work in behavioural economics, about the source of intellectual and organizational resistance to seeing these shifts for what they are -- which is of course a prerequisite to taking appropriate strategic action.