

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

# FORESIGHT METHODS



## EXECUTIVE ONLINE COURSE

**3 HALF DAYS | 9 SESSIONS | 12 HOURS**

We are taking a **new** methodology and methods-based approach to short executive courses to provide agile and rapid training on common methodologies and methods used in foresight and futures studies. Our method-based approach will be beneficial for anyone interested in designing, implementing, coordinating, managing or evaluating (both *ex ante* and *ex post*) processes related to foresight projects or the application of specific foresight methods.

Together with Futures Diamond Ltd we are launching a new set of online courses focused on foresight 'methods'. The course is structured around six lectures and three interactive sessions delivered in a 3-half day programme (including optional individual and group practical exercises).

For further info, contact: [Deborah.Cox@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Deborah.Cox@manchester.ac.uk)

# FORESIGHT METHODS

Register for half day, two half days or the full course. Since this is a **NEW** live and interactive online course, our introductory price offer is for **400€ per half day or 900€ for the full course**. The course will take place **September 7-9, 2021** (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) at 12PM-4PM GMT, including a short break. Electronic **Course Certificate** will be provided. A special **Recognition Award** will be offered upon completion of Practical Work.

## Half Day 1 Tuesday September 7, 2021

- **Session 1: Foresight Methodology and the Foresight Diamond \***  
Session focused on different approaches and issues concerning foresight methodology.
- **Session 2: How are foresight methods selected? \***  
Session focused on key attributes of methods and their linkages to the foresight process.
- **Practical: Interactive group session for Q&A and practical discussions \*\***

## Half Day 2 Wednesday September 8, 2021

- **Session 3: Cross-Impact and Critical Issues Analysis \***  
Session focused on the systematic mapping of barriers, drivers, opportunities and threats.
- **Session 4: Exploratory and Normative Delphi Surveys \***  
Session focused on designing and running exploratory and normative Delphi processes.
- **Practical: Interactive group session for Q&A and practical discussions \*\***  
Here you will act as a *Sectoral/Thematic Expert* in a foresight process. The discussions will

## Half Day 3 Thursday September 9, 2021

- **Session 5: Scenarios, Wild Cards and Weak Signals Analysis \***  
Session focused on mapping, analysing and prioritising possible futures.
- **Session 6: Robust Advice Framing and Action Roadmapping \***  
Session focused on generating context-, people-, process- and impact-relevant actions.
- **Practical: Interactive group session for Q&A and practical discussions \*\***  
Group presentations with real-time evaluation *alla Dragons' Den* \*\*

\* The course cases will be delivered by Principal Scientist Dr. Rafael Popper.

\*\* The interactive group sessions will be facilitated by Dr. Popper and Dr. Velasco. Participants will be given the task of producing a methodological proposal (max. 10 pages) for an imaginary project with a given budget and implementation timeframe. A template for a Dragons' Den pitch will be provided and the groups will be presenting to a panel on day 3. The main purpose of this exercise is to simulate a real life setting where project members work collaboratively in the design or implementation of a foresight process. The interactive group sessions often require participants to organise additional meetings to coordinate and work on the practical exercise, which also creates new spaces for networking and development of new cooperation opportunities.

**In line with our knowledge transfer policy, we will produce an opinion blog in MIOIR and Futures Diamond websites to share key outcomes and insights from the discussions in the inter-acting group sessions.**

## COURSE ORGANISED BY MIOIR / AMBS



The **Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR)** is a centre of excellence in the field of innovation studies, building on a 50-year tradition of innovation and science studies in Manchester. MIOIR consists of a group of internationally renowned scholars and experts, and supports a broad expertise across a range of academic disciplines. MIOIR is in the Innovation, Management and Policy division of the **Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS)**, one of the largest research groups for innovation management and policy globally. MIOIR is at the heart of innovation related research and form one of the largest components of the University of Manchester Research Institute (UMRI). MIOIR is a recognised international centre of excellence for the study of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy and management. The Institute informs science and innovation policy by engaging with key policymakers, in the UK, Europe and further afield. Reflecting the ethos of rigour and relevance, engagement with key stakeholders is at the core of MIOIR's work.

MIOIR has been running foresight training courses since 1999. Building on over twenty years of foresight experience, MIOIR is able to call upon a wealth of expertise, from staff with know-how of the practice of foresight, as well as from sponsors and practitioners. This online course on **Foresight Methods** runs in alliance with **Futures Diamond Ltd**, a spin-off company built on a 20+ years research, innovation and information technology (IT) experience of Dr Rafael Popper, who has designed and led numerous foresight projects for The University of Manchester, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd, and several other organisations around the world.

## IN ALLIANCE WITH FUTURES DIAMOND LTD

**Futures Diamond Ltd** (originally founded in the Czech Republic in 2011 and then United Kingdom in 2013), is an innovation systems company specialised in the provision of consultancy, information technology (IT) and software solutions to government, business, research and education actors at local, national and international levels. Futures Diamond is built on over 20 years of foresight and horizon scanning research, technology development and innovation (RTDI) know-how. Futures Diamond technologies support qualitative and quantitative research by combining creativity (using exploratory tools), interaction (using participatory tools), evidence (using explanatory tools) and expertise (using advisory tools).



The Futures Diamond team has experience in working across a wide range of industries, working alongside our clients to anticipate potential industry game-changers by applying different perspectives and drawing lessons from other interconnected industries and systems. In the medium-to-long-term, Futures Diamond will continue developing bespoke solutions to help organizations "climb the forward-looking ladder" with our capacity building programmes on foresight approaches and technology solutions capable of providing a customized suite of interoperable foresight tools and platforms. Our integrated and modular systems, together with our knowledge transfer (KT) services, allow organisations to develop world-class foresight and horizon scanning competences and infrastructures in relative short time.

## COURSE DIRECTOR & FACILITATOR



Dr. **Rafael Popper** (PhD) is Founder and Director of Futures Diamond Ltd and Director of Executive Education in 'Foresight and Sustainable Futures', 'Foresight in Action', 'Foresight Methods', and 'SMART Foresight' at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) of the University of Manchester in the UK. In 2018 he was appointed Professor of Foresight and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Governance at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) in Russia and he has been Principal Scientist in Business, Innovation and Foresight at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd (2016-2021). He has over twenty years of experience working as foresight and innovation policy consultant for several international organizations including the European Commission, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, as well as for several government and business organisations in Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Contact at: [Rafael.Popper@futuresdiamond.com](mailto:Rafael.Popper@futuresdiamond.com)

## CO-FACILITATOR



Dr. **Guillermo Velasco** (PhD) is Scientific Manager of Innovation and Technology Transfer of the Flagship 'Human Brain Project' (European Commission) and senior researcher - Task leader - at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He is also Honorary Research Fellow at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) of the University of Manchester in the UK, where he completed a doctoral thesis on the generation of sound advice with Foresight.

His background also includes a MPhil in Economics and Innovation Management and a BEng in Industrial Organization from the Technical University of Madrid. He has over twenty years of experience working on innovation management as Director of Innovation in different industrial companies, and ten years as researcher and consultant for different institutions like the European Commission and United Nations, in Europe and Latin America. He is also Senior Consultant at Futures Diamond Ltd, where he supports the co-creation of knowledge systems for foresight and sustainable innovation research activities.

Contact at: [Guillermo.Velasco@upm.es](mailto:Guillermo.Velasco@upm.es)