

**2019 ANTICIPATION CONFERENCE**  
**OLSO (NORWAY), OCTOBER 9 -11, 2019**

Proposal from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) in collaboration with Policy Horizons Canada (PHC), and Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

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**Curated Session: Imagining Canada’s Future: Creating new synergies with Foresight/  
Knowledge Co-creation and Mobilization to address global challenges**

The ever increasing velocity of change and complexity of our world, calls for a greater need to better understand the systems, the challenges, and the kinds of services we envision to support communities in the face of change. In Canada, partnerships across academic, government, business and community sectors are enabling joint efforts to look ahead and collectively imagine futures to help ensure we are prepared to address emerging economic, societal and knowledge needs, and to guide the best choices going forward.

This panel examines the recent roles of foresight, research, knowledge synthesis and mobilization driving new approaches to identify global challenges and enable collective action to inform policy making and decision-making across sectors. Since 2015, the Government of Canada has launched a renewed call for evidence-based decision making. Quality analysis and research are in demand to inform policy and practice for rapid response to critical issues as well as for medium and long term planning. Traditional environmental scan activities have evolved to include futures thinking and foresight as valuable resources in strategic planning toolkits.

This session will engage foresight experts, futures thinking and design practitioners in a review of recent leading initiatives in Canada to identify and address emerging and future global challenges. This includes the results of a rigorous horizon scan to identify top global challenges, led by Policy Horizons Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; a review of the work program resulting from “A De-globalizing World” horizon scan, led by Global Affairs Canada; as well as a number of unique engagement programs seeking to foster academic/government collaborations, notably with graduate students and early-career researchers.

Discussions will illustrate growing opportunities for collaboration given converging interests to better understand and prepare for futures, and to capitalize on the benefits of engaging a diversity of ideas, experience, talent and resources across all sectors.

**Approach**

The curated session will seek to engage participants in an interactive inquiry with a series of brief cases. Each speaker will present a perspective and supporting case for 10 minutes, followed by questions. Two speakers will first present on the collaboration between their organizations and how needs of their respective agencies has been served by it (SSHRC, PHC)

followed by moderated dialogue. The next three panelists (SSHRC, Graduate Student/GAC Laureat, TBC) will discuss how to operationalize collaboration in foresight activities at a policy analysis level and impact on decision making for their longer terms programs. We seek a final dialogue on the most critical issues emerging from the audience.

### Themes and Questions

Why are we collaborating? How are we collaborating? How are stakeholders and various constituencies helping in shaping the understanding of changes, trends, impacts and implications? How to address systemic views and strategic futures in working with multiple stakeholders?

Given the unique contexts of foresight and futures practices, Anticipation 2019 provides an important opportunity to share and hear from practitioners and advisors leading policy strategies with creative and evidence-informed foresight. This year's focus on design and how various organizations can engage through their own fields and connect with others is conducive to interdisciplinary engagement, content and dialogue.

The different types of collaborations undertaken by SSHRC with Policy Horizons Canada and Global Affairs Canada respectively touch on several of the core 2019 conference themes.

Canada has a long history of futures thinking in public policy, going back to the 1960's and the original *Committee on Technological Forecasting*, through to today's *Imagining Canada's Future* initiative (SSHRC 2017) and Policy Horizons Canada. The panel proposes to present a unique Canadian perspective informed by our involvement in collaborations that bridge research, policy and practice.

### Facilitators:

- Ursula Gobel, AVP Future Challenges, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- Peter Padbury, Chief Futurist, Policy Horizons Canada
- Maika Sondarjee, University of Toronto, PhD Candidate, Global Affairs Canada Laureate
- Panelist from Norway (Name to be confirmed)

### References

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, [Imagining Canada's Future Initiative](#)

Policy Horizons Canada, [The Next Generation of Emerging Global Challenges](#), *A Horizons 2030 Perspective on Research Opportunities, prepared for SSHRC*

Maika Sondarjee, 2017 GAC [International Policy Challenge Laureate](#)

### Session Approach

A full 90-minutes session on “How can collaborative work for the future be realized in anticipatory actions in the present?”

- Introduction and overview
- Two speakers (SSHRC & PHC) present on the collaboration between SSHRC and PHC to identify future global challenges that SSHRC may consider for its Imagining Canada's Future initiative 2019-20 to 2021-22 followed by moderated dialogue with participants.

- The next three panelists (SSHRC, Graduate student, third panelist (TBC)) discuss their collaboration in terms of policy and practice research needs addressing international policy and engagement of early career researchers, followed by moderated dialogue.

#### *Moderated discussion & Final Dialogue*

Each speaker presents a perspective and supporting case for 10 minutes, followed by questions and provocation provided in a summary handout. Handouts describing our positions with some of the provocation questions can be passed to participants.

Perhaps an exercise or open question for the audience can be included for the final dialogue. Questions in the moderated dialogue with the audience may include:

- What approaches and tools are being used to identify and govern future narratives?
- What are the issues and experiences in moving from top down structures and planning to pluralist processes and reflexive, “progressive” review?
- Are we prepared now to work with tomorrow’s needs and challenges?
- How do we manage tensions between the short and long term approaches in the future?
- How can we better address the degree of multidisciplinary to make progress on addressing future global challenges impacting domestic policies?
- How do we collaboratively address whether we need to inform a challenge through deeper thinking or raise awareness and shape the challenge?
- What promising approaches and mechanisms are being used to identify and govern future narratives?
- How do we balance rapid response approaches to emerging issues while attending to longer-term futures needs?
- What can be done to generate greater multidisciplinary and multi-sector engagement to addressing future global challenges that may impact research and policy-making?
- There is no future without futures literacy: How may current practices train future generations of academics and policy-makers in fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing?