

Global Foresight

Geopolitical Risk and Scenario Planning

CSIS EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



CSIS | HESS CENTER FOR
NEW FRONTIERS

Course Overview

Geopolitical volatility, rapid technological adoption, and intensifying strategic competition are forcing today's decisionmakers to operate in conditions where the pace, scale, and interconnectedness of change consistently outpace traditional planning cycles. To build long-term advantage, organizations need structured, forward-looking approaches to anticipate geopolitical risk, surface opportunity, and develop leaders equipped for an uncertain future. Global Foresight combines geopolitical insight with applied foresight and scenario planning to help leaders translate long-term thinking into better day-to-day decisions. Drawing on CSIS's world-class research, participants engage with leading experts and experienced practitioners to assess the impact of global macro trends on the future operating environment, identify critical uncertainties, and build plausible future scenarios that inform strategic planning.

Course Objectives

Through a combination of topical seminars, strategic foresight workshops, and a scenario building practicum, participants will:

- **Map Global Megatrends:** Discover the ways structural megatrends are transforming workforces, consumer markets, supply chains, and geopolitics.
- **Create Scenarios:** Learn to build robust future-fit scenarios that model complexity, deliver impact, and stress-test current long-term strategies.
- **Build Organizational Capacity:** Review case studies about successfully integrating foresight frameworks into enterprise risk management, strategic planning, and day-to-day business operations.
- **Embrace Anticipatory Leadership:** Transition from reactive crisis management to proactive strategy building by learning to spot critical uncertainties and hidden opportunities.

Register

DATES: October 26-29, 2026

TUITION: \$4,000

LOCATION: 1616 Rhode Island, Ave, Washington, D.C. 20036
Virtual participation available upon request

REGISTER: www.csis.org/executive-education/courses/global-foresight-geopolitical-risk-and-scenario-planning

QUESTIONS: Please contact Eric Palomaa, Director of the Hess Center for New Frontiers, at epalomaa@csis.org.

EXAMPLE AGENDA

TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
9 AM	Welcome Session	Africa's Future	Frontier Technologies and Strategic Competition	The Rise of Populism
	BREAK			
10 AM	New Frontiers Megatrends Shaping the Future	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
11 AM	LUNCH	Future of Food and Water Risk	Critical Minerals and National, Economic, and Energy Security	Scenarios as Tools: Action and Application
12 PM	Shifting Demographics in Global Populations	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1 PM	BREAK	Identifying Critical Uncertainties	Remapping the Global Economy	Applying Foresight to Your Job
2 PM	The Art and Science of Foresight		BREAK	BREAK
3 PM			Scenario Design Building Future Worlds	Farewell Session
4 PM		BREAK		
		Networking Reception		
5 PM				

Networking

Seminars

Exercises

Seminars

NEW FRONTIERS: FIVE MEGATRENDS THAT WILL CHANGE THE FUTURE

The pace of change is accelerating, and tomorrow's challenges and opportunities have never been more interconnected. Explore the paradigm-shifting megatrends already in motion across the globe in this introductory session, which will prompt decision makers to grapple with the tough questions they need to better sense, shape, and adapt to the fast-changing future.

SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS IN GLOBAL POPULATIONS

As the global population surpasses 8 billion on its way to a projected 9.8 billion by 2050, historic changes in relative population growth, distribution, and demographics are on track to drastically reshape humankind as we know it. Identify changing outlooks in key regions across continents, countries, and communities.

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF FORESIGHT

There is no crystal ball for predicting the future, but there is a robust discipline, methodology, and skill set for preparing for it. Learn how experts translate the science and art of foresight into an actionable guide for leaders to navigate tumultuous times.

AFRICA'S FUTURE

By 2050, one in four people on Earth will be African. Explore the economic, demographic, and geopolitical forces shaping Africa's future.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Economics, technology, and changing diets are revolutionizing the way we feed the world. Map the interconnected relationship food and water have with our communities, workforces, energy systems, geopolitics, and global supply chains.

TECHNOLOGY AND STRATEGIC COMPETITION

Frontier technologies, particularly AI, are redefining the relationship between national security and economic security. Analyze the geopolitical strategies and tradeoffs that are shaping rules, markets, and intensifying the race for technological supremacy.

CRITICAL MINERALS AND NATIONAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENERGY SECURITY

Critical minerals comprise the building blocks of the next industrial revolution. As demand for lithium, cobalt, copper, and rare earth elements skyrockets to power chips, batteries, and national defense systems, critical minerals will dominate the future of trade policy, technological innovation, and strategic competition.

REMAPPING THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Slowing globalization, fragmenting trade, and rapid technological disruption have mired the modern economic order in uncertainty. Looking to the world's economic future requires a new outlook that takes into account overlapping workforce demographic shifts, geopolitical competition, and emerging technologies.

EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Emerging biotechnologies are no longer the work of science fiction but reality. Synthetic biology and genetic engineering enable critical advancements in areas like drug development, agricultural enhancement, and novel research. Yet, the rewards are not without risks. How can stakeholders reduce the misuse and militarization of biotechnology without hampering scientific or industrial progress?

THE RISE OF POPULISM

Populist movements are gaining momentum around the world and reshaping domestic politics in ways that are spilling onto the global stage. Explore the economic, cultural, and technological forces driving political mobilization and heightened nationalist sentiment.

Workshops

IDENTIFYING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES

Work with peers to challenge hard wired assumptions, identify weak signals of change, and develop a common language for describing the future.

SCENARIO DESIGN

Use the inductive method to create robust futures that effectively employ story, system, and other scenario-planning best practices.

APPLYING FORESIGHT

Effectively present scenarios to senior leadership and review strategies for building foresight capacity within your organization.



CSIS Executive Education

CSIS Executive Education offers a unique blend of global insights, experiential learning, and leadership development that leverages its world-class experts and coaches to prepare professionals for a rapidly changing world. Our innovative programming creates a one-of-a-kind learning environment for problem solvers ranging from early career to the highest executive levels.

CSIS Hess Center for New Frontiers

The Hess Center provides leaders with analytical tools and foresight frameworks through data-driven scenario planning and customizable workshops designed to help leaders navigate the fast-changing future. Through its flagship “New Frontiers” presentations and hands-on foresight workshops, the Hess Center empowers organizations to achieve readiness in an era of radical uncertainty.

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