



# Using Scenarios in Academic Research to Study the Future

A panel event presented by the International Migration Institute's Global Migration Futures project

**Date:** 26 May 2011

**Venue:** Seminar Room 1, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford Department of International Development

**Time:** 18:00–20:00, followed by a reception in the Hall of Queen Elizabeth House

## Aim

The aim of the event is to promote our engagement with scholars employing futures (and particularly scenario) methodologies in their academic research. There are a number of researchers across a variety of departments in Oxford, and especially among Oxford Martin School institutes, who are using scenarios in an academically rigorous way. This event would act as a forum in which to learn how researchers have used and adapted the method, and to present and receive feedback on our use of the method in the field of migration.

## Structure

18:00	<b>Keynote speech by James Martin</b> (Founder of the Oxford Martin School)
18:10	<b>Introduction</b> The Global Migration Futures team will introduce some of its key findings on future migration in North Africa and Europe, arising from the project's recent second stakeholders workshop in Cairo. The team will present the aim of the event (to bring together futures researchers at Oxford) and briefly define the scenario methodology.
18:30	<b>Panel, with Q&amp;A, moderated by Line Bonneau</b> (Institute for Science, Innovation and Society)
	<b>Arnoldo Matus Kramer</b> (Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University Centre for the Environment) The presentation <i>Tulum 2030: Adaptation to Climate Change</i> provides first, the rationale behind the use of socioeconomic scenarios using the year 2030 to identify climate change adaptation options, barriers and priorities for the tourism

	<p>community of Tulum in the Mexican Caribbean. Second, the presentation shows the methods used to integrate the scenarios and how scenarios were used in a participatory approach with local stakeholders in a one-day workshop. Finally, it provides some final remarks on the benefits but also on the methodological and logistical challenges of using socioeconomic scenarios for climate change adaptation at the local level in a coastal tourism community.</p>
	<p><b>Trudi Lang</b> (Institute for Science, Innovation and Society; Saïd Business School )</p> <p>In this presentation, Trudi Lang discusses the scenario work carried out by three organisations as they sought to understand emerging developments in their strategic contexts. The three organisations are the European Patent Office, The Open University (UK) and the Strategic Policy Office of the Government of Singapore. She outlines their reasons for using scenario work and highlights key factors that influence its successful deployment. These factors include choices about the design of the process; the people involved; the role of the sponsor; and the way the scenarios are presented and used.</p>
	<p><b>Hein de Haas</b> (International Migration Institute, Oxford Department of International Development)</p> <p>The Global Migration Futures project (GMF) explores future trends and patterns of international migration and their potential consequences and policy implications using a scenarios methodology. The methodology involves identifying the main drivers of migration and building scenarios around future directions these drivers may take. Migration stakeholders from international organisations, academia, governments, the private sector, and civil society organisations are an integral part of this process. While stakeholders provide their diverse expertise and insights, the project helps stakeholders to challenge common-sense assumptions about migration drivers and trends and to develop new, long-term insights about international migration.</p> <p>This presentation shows how the GMF project uses a scenario methodology to study the future of international migration. It emphasises why scenario-building is particularly suited to study migration futures, and discusses what insights and challenges the project has encountered thus far. In particular, the project combines conventional scientific approaches, which provide information on key migration drivers, with scenario development, which lends more imaginative and creative insight, to explore the future directions migration may take and the consequences of future migration dynamics for the development of effective policies.</p>
19:50	<b>Concluding remarks by James Martin</b> (Founder of the Oxford Martin School)
18:00	<b>Catered reception in the Hall of Queen Elizabeth House</b>

## Speaker biographies

**Line Bonneau** is the James Martin Fellow in Futures at the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society, part of the Oxford Martin School. Her main research interests revolve around the temporality of innovation and the strategic management of time in technology ventures. Her thesis led to the definition of a two-dimensional time horizon framework that gave access to the diversity of strategies adopted by biopharmaceutical managers in the face of a shifting environment. In addition, her textual method for identifying temporal orientation assumptions renders them graphically visible hence providing a basis for interaction and discussion among scholars and practitioners. She is now pursuing her interests in the production and dissemination of management tools for futuring practices. Trained as a biochemist, Dr Bonneau worked as a manager in the pharmaceuticals/diagnostics industry, and earned an MBA and a PhD in management at HEC Montréal.

**Hein de Haas** is a Senior Research Officer and James Martin Fellow at the International Migration Institute. His research focuses on the linkages between migration and broader processes of human development and globalisation, primarily from the perspective of migrant-sending societies. He has carried out extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and North Africa, particularly in Morocco. He has published on a range of issues including migration and development, migration determinants, migration futures and the links between migration and environmental change. Hein has a PhD in social sciences (Radboud University of Nijmegen), and an (under) graduate degree in cultural anthropology and human geography (University of Amsterdam). Before joining IMI in 2006, Hein held researcher and lecturer positions at Radboud University of Nijmegen and the University of Amsterdam, and was a visiting fellow to the Forced Migration and Refugees Studies programme at the American University in Cairo. He has acted as a consultant and advisor to governments and international organisations, including the UK Government Office of Science, EU, UNDP, UNRISD, IOM and Oxfam.

**Arnoldo Matus Kramer** is on his final year of a DPhil in Geography and Environment in the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford. His research is on adaptation to climate change in the Mexican Caribbean tourism sector. Arnoldo is a co-founder of climate & biodiversity nexus ([www.cbnex.com](http://www.cbnex.com)) and climate & biodiversity experts. He has worked as a consultant (2009) on adaptation at the Environment Directorate of the OECD. Previously, he was an advisor on climate change at the National Institute of Ecology in Mexico, where he participated as a Mexican Delegate to the UNFCCC and the IAI. Arnoldo has also worked for the Committee of Environment in the Mexican Parliament and as a consultant on adaptation for UNDP and the UK government. He holds an MSc in Renewable Energy and Environment, Reading University; an MSc in Environment and Resource Management, BTU-Cottbus; and a BA Major in Political Science and Minors in Economics and Environment, McGill University.

**Trudi Lang** is a James Martin Fellow and DPhil candidate in Management under the supervision of Dr Rafael Ramírez at the Institute for Science, Innovation and Society at the Saïd Business School. Her doctoral research focuses on the capacity of scenario work to accelerate the building of social capital. While at Oxford, she has presented her research at international conferences and contributed to the design, development and delivery of executive education programmes. Prior to joining Oxford, Trudi

managed the Scenario Planning and Research Unit at Curtin University of Technology's Graduate School of Business in Australia. Trudi holds a Master of Science (Management Research) from the University of Oxford graduating with Distinction and winning the Templeton College Nautilus Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

**James Martin** founded the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford, which has 30 institutes doing scholarly research on the problems, dangers and opportunities of the near future. Martin is the largest individual benefactor to the University of Oxford in its 900-year history. He has written 104 textbooks, many of which have been seminal in their field. Martin wrote *The Meaning of the 21st Century*, which was made into a major film, and is a Pulitzer nominee for his book *The Wired Society*. James Martin was a pioneer in the automation of software development, and was ranked 4th in *Computer World's* 25th Anniversary Edition's most influential people in computer technology. He was a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Defense. He is an Honorary Life Fellow of the British Royal Institution, a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, an Honorary Fellow of Keble College, Oxford, and a Senior Fellow of the James Martin Center for Non-Proliferation Studies at Monterey, California. Martin has honorary doctorates from universities on all six continents.