

# IFTF Foresight Essentials

## Live-Online Fall 2020 Schedule

Our primary platform will be Zoom, with the use of Google docs and other collaborative tools. Participants are expected to complete 1.5-2 hours of pre-work per session, including a mix of videos to watch, solo work, and buddy work.

Structured sessions include time for live instruction organized with IFTF's *Prepare-Foresight-Insight-Action* framework, IFTF office hours offered between Session 5 and 6, as well as 2 optional happy/coffee hours to get to know your fellow participants.

**October 14 – November 13, 2020**

**6-session, 4.5-weeks**

### **Session One (Orientation)**

**Wednesday, October 14, 8am-9:30am PDT**

In our kickoff gathering we will spend time framing our upcoming learning journey as well as getting to know the others.

### **Session Two**

**Wednesday, October 21, 8am-12pm PDT**

#### **PREPARE**

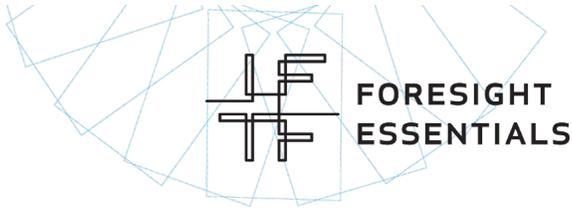
Building on the pre-work videos exploring the fundamentals of foresight, session one focuses on how to prepare your evidence, frame futures questions, and open your mind for futures work. Through small group work and whole group discussion, we'll get to know each other and orient ourselves toward the basic skills and practices of strategic foresight.

#### **OPTIONAL**

**Monday, October 26, 10am-11am PDT**

#### **"Sip & Chat" #1**

Get to know your fellow foresight practitioners in this social hour hosted by IFTF.



### **Session Three**

**Wednesday, October 28, 8am-12:00pm PDT**

#### **FORESIGHT**

In session two we move into developing our own foresight and forecasts - “statements about the future that provoke insight in the present.” We explore a wide range of foresight approaches and practice the ability to analyze futures evidence. Through upbeat peer-to-peer interactions and group discussions, we focus on how to integrate these tools and processes into our day to day practice.

### **Session Four**

**Wednesday, November 4, 8am-12:00pm PST**

#### **INSIGHT**

Session three describes the transition from Foresight to Insight - the “aha moment” when you draw meaningful connections between an outside-in view of the future and the work that you’re doing today. Insight tools include mapping the implications of foresight on various stakeholder groups or impact domains, and identifying waves of change.

#### **OPTIONAL**

**Friday, November 6, 9am-10am PST**

#### **Sip & Chat #2: PRACTITIONER INTERVIEW**

What does foresight look like in practice? In our second optional session participants will get a chance to meet and ask questions of a special outside guest, who will share their experiences putting the tools of foresight to work.

### **Session Five**

**Wednesday, November 11, 8am-12:00pm PST**

#### **ACTION**

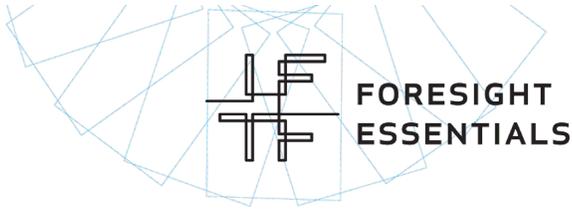
In our final tool-based session, we discuss tools and processes for moving from Insight to Action. After all, the purpose of doing strategic foresight, in the end, is about taking different action in the present. We cover instructions, tools, and guidance for our capstone activity—an action plan for how you will weave the methodologies you have learned into a project that is meaningful to you. Participants can use the original project they had in mind or develop something entirely new.

#### **OPTIONAL**

**Wednesday-Thursday, November 11-12, varying time slots**

#### **IFTF OFFICE HOURS**

As participants work through their project planning, IFTF veterans will make themselves available to participants for 1-on-1 office hours and guidance sessions.



## Session Six

Friday, November 13, 8am-12:00pm PST

### FORESIGHT PRACTICE COACHING

We start our final session with an exercise that is consistently ranked as a highlight of the training session—peer feedback on action plans. In small groups, facilitated by IFTF faculty, participants share their plans, challenges, and questions. We gain insight into alternative ways to implement the tools and thoughtful commentary from peers and IFTF. And we participate in the final rite of the program—graduation—knowing that the community will continue to be a resource moving forward.

### FACULTY

#### Lyn Jeffery

Director, IFTF Foresight Essentials

Lyn is a cultural anthropologist who collects stories of change from around the world and tracks the new social practices that make you shake your head in wonder or concern about where we're heading. Her core interest is in exploring how people make sense of the rapidly shifting world around them, whether it's a "left-behind" child in a Sichuan village, an executive in a large multinational organization, or an amateur musician experimenting with new digital tools. She is passionate about understanding how people are using ubiquitous information and digital co-presence to express themselves in new ways and form new kinds of social relationships.

An IFTF Distinguished Fellow, Lyn leads IFTF's EDU program, developing and delivering futures thinking training to public and private sector practitioners around the world. She contributes to IFTF's Future 50 annual research program. Fluent in Mandarin, she has several decades of experience doing research in China. She enjoys designing bespoke research projects, group processes, and foresight presentations for a wide range of audiences. Lyn holds a BA in Chinese Studies and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

#### Sara Skvirsky

Research Director

Sara brings a diverse background in the fields of education, community organizing, and social justice advocacy to her work as a researcher for the Institute for the Future's Work+Learn Futures Group. Having spent several years in Latin America and Spain before joining IFTF in 2011, she approaches futures thinking from a deeply global perspective. Sara leads much of IFTF's future of learning research, working with governments, educational institutions, corporations, foundations, and non-profits around the world to understand the rapidly shifting landscapes of education and work.

Sara is passionate about giving individuals and institutions the tools they need to more effectively think about and prepare for the future. In 2014, Sara developed and launched IFTF's Foresight Studio, which produces resources and courses to train people in futures thinking and foresight methodologies. She also has been a core member of several projects using IFTF's massively open

online forecasting platform, the Foresight Engine, to engage large audiences in thinking about complex future ideas.

Before arriving at IFTF, Sara worked for Amigos de las Américas in Ecuador, where she managed an international team to establish a youth leadership and community development volunteer program and cultivated partnerships across a wide variety of NGOs. Sara holds a BA in Latin American studies and Spanish from Oberlin College.

## **Jacques Barcia**

### **Research Fellow**

Jacques Barcia is an award-winning journalist, author and futurist. His core interests are in the futures of narratives and the narratives about the futures. He holds a masters in Design and is one of the co-founders of Futuring Today, a network that blends foresight, design, and science fiction to prototype the futures.

Jacques is the futurist-in-residence of Brazilian non-profit science and technology park Porto Digital ([www.portodigital.org](http://www.portodigital.org)), where he helps startups innovate for the the next decade. He's also a fellow at the Centre For Postnormal Policy and Futures Studies ([www.cppfs.org](http://www.cppfs.org)) and teaches Design Futures at Cesar School ([www.cesar.school](http://www.cesar.school)).

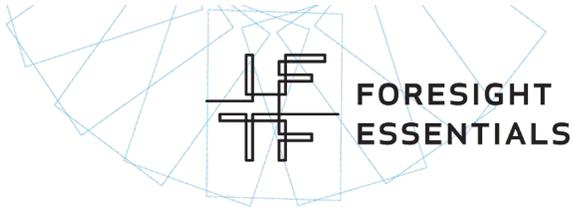
Jacques has written on technology, economics, crime, and human rights for newspapers in Brazil. He has researched on a range of futures topics such as energy, work, entrepreneurship, cities, media, and grief. Jacques's fiction has been featured in *Shine: An Anthology of Optimistic Science Fiction* and *The Apex Book of World Science Fiction*; and has appeared in magazines such as *Clarkesworld* and *Electric Velocipede*.

## **Rod Falcon**

### **Program Director, IFTF Vantage Partnership**

Rod brings his extensive experience directing research and teams at IFTF to his current role co-leading IFTF's Future 50 Partnership. With a deep background in public health policy, he has served in several different capacities at IFTF since 1995, including leading the Food Futures and Health Futures programs and leading research for the Tech Futures program. In the course of his work, Rod speaks to executive audiences and helps them find innovative strategies for participating in the global economy. His research focus areas have included personal health technologies, communication and messaging practices in the workplace and home, social networks and abundant connectivity, and health-aware environments.

Born in Oakland, California, in a time and place of great social change, Rod attended nearby UC Berkeley to better understand what was happening. There he earned a BA in American history and a master's of public policy. After working one summer enforcing the Voting Rights Act for the Justice Department, Rod realized that public policy was not as future oriented as it might be and was inspired to do something about it. He came to IFTF to forecast the future of the California health care safety net and ended up staying on.



## **Vanessa Mason**

**Research Director, IFTF Vantage Partnership**

Vanessa is the research director for IFTF Vantage Partnership, a network of future-smart organizations that support strategic foresight research into the urgent futures that will shape the next decade across the business, social and civic spheres. Her research and foresight work delivers and scales real-world impact with a focus on health and healthcare, equity and technology.

Prior to Institute for the Future, Vanessa worked in a variety of roles at the intersection of inclusive design, innovation and health, advancing product and business strategy for technology that advances health equity and programs and strategies that foster entrepreneurship among underrepresented populations.

She is a frequent speaker and has been recognized as a 2018 Aspen Ideas Festival Spotlight Health Scholar, 40 Under 40 Tech Diversity Silicon Valley, 2016 New Leaders Council San Francisco Fellow, 200 Black Women in Tech to Follow on Twitter and as a 2016 TEDMED Research Scholar. Vanessa earned her BA in psychology from Yale University and her MPH in global health from Columbia University.

### **Limited spots available.**

For further information and to register, please contact **Neela Lazkani**: [nlazkani@iftf.org](mailto:nlazkani@iftf.org)

[Registration terms & conditions.](#)

### **IFTF Foresight Essentials**

Institute for the Future is the world's leading futures organization. Its training program, IFTF Foresight Essentials, is a comprehensive portfolio of strategic foresight training tools based upon 50 years of IFTF best practices. IFTF Foresight Essentials cultivates the mindset and skillset that enable individuals and organizations to foresee future forces, identify emerging imperatives, and develop world-ready strategies. IFTF Foresight Essentials is uniquely customizable for businesses, government agencies, and social impact organizations.