

# GOVERNANCE FUTURES LAB

## Reimagining society for an age of planetary challenges and human responsibility

The Governance Futures Lab is a new initiative at the Institute for the Future that brings social inventors and futures thinking to the challenge of designing better systems of governance.

Today's governments are increasingly incapable of dealing effectively and justly with the complex global challenges of the 21st Century. Governance failures will not only cause suffering for today's citizens, but will ripple through time, constraining the future for generations to come. Revolutions have recently ruptured decades-old systems of government in the Arab world, and widespread dissatisfaction is growing in the United States and Europe, raising questions and demand for new thinking. If government as we've known it isn't working, what new forms of governance will we have and rely upon to reconstitute society?

The answer to this question may not be discovered, it may have to be invented. The aim of the Governance Futures Lab is to reimagine and experiment with the basic architectures and processes of governance. We believe it necessary

to prototype better systems to govern life on our planet. We now have powerful tools to connect, organize, and coordinate human behavior. We also have an unprecedented amount of knowledge about how the world works and humanity's role in its own future.

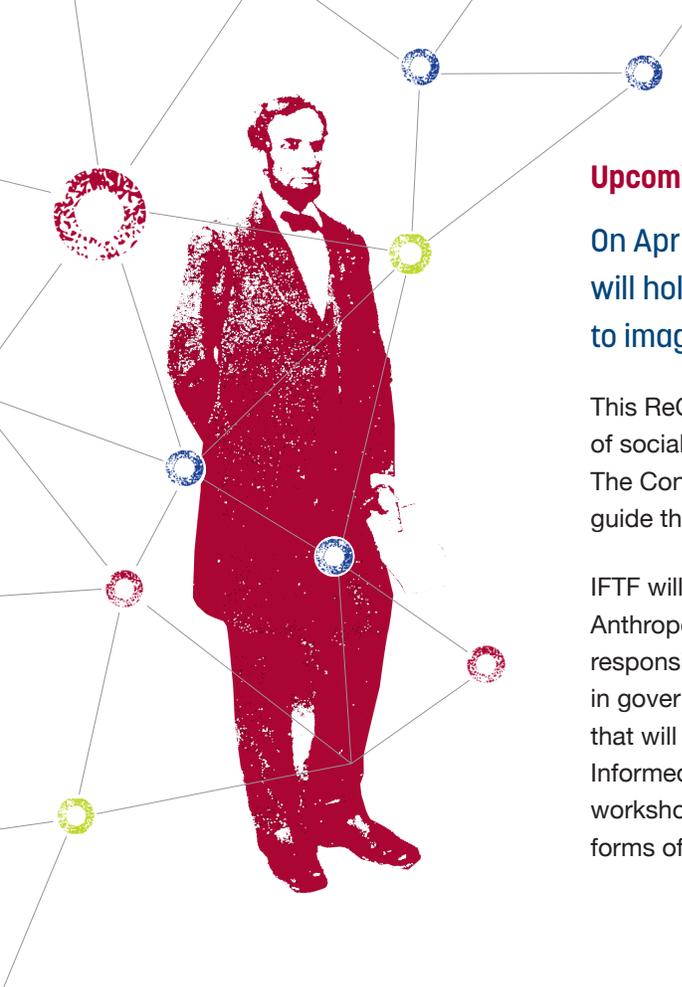
Indeed, we are now witnessing the rise of a broad global movement to rethink the relationship between people and their governments. Now is the time to bring rigorous foresight methods to explore the widest range of possible futures and leverage participatory systems to harness the wisdom and insight of the crowd to make these possibilities tangible and actionable. Through a range of public events and research initiatives, the Governance Futures Lab will catalyze the invention of governance systems that are responsive to an age of planetary challenges and human responsibility.

**Reimagine the future**  
and anticipate disruptions

**Network with visionaries**  
and craft new strategies

**Experiment and design**  
new forms of governance

**Prototype new solutions**  
and catalyze change



## Upcoming Event: ReConstitutional Convention

On April 26–27, 2013 IFTF’s Governance Futures Lab will hold a ReConstitutional Convention, a two-day gathering to imagine and design better systems of governance.

This ReConstitutional Convention will help create both a community of social inventors and a common language around governance design. The Convention will generate new concepts and connections that will guide the future activities of the Lab and its network.

IFTF will set the context for the main governance challenges of the Anthropocene—the current age of planetary challenges and human responsibility. On day one, we’ll hear from innovators leading experiments in governance and social organization, who will create “design briefs” that will provide the foundation for new ways of constituting society. Informed by these insights, on day two we will host a public prototyping workshop that invites the global community to creatively model new forms of governance for the future.

## Partner with us

The Governance Futures Lab is seeking your support and collaboration. There are many ways that you or your organization can partner with us.

### For more information on supporting the vision and activities of the lab, contact

Jake Dunagan at [jdunagan@iftf.org](mailto:jdunagan@iftf.org) or Sean Ness at [sness@iftf.org](mailto:sness@iftf.org)  
650-854-6322.

[www.govfutures.org](http://www.govfutures.org)

### About IFTF Labs

IFTF Labs are action-focused hubs for reimagining and remaking the future. IFTF created labs to amplify urgent futures, bring futures thinking to the world, and catalyze change for the common good.

### About IFTF

The Institute for the Future is an independent, nonprofit strategic research group celebrating more than 45 years of forecasting experience. The core of our work is identifying emerging trends and discontinuities that will transform global society and the global marketplace. We provide our members with insights into business strategy, design process, innovation, and social dilemmas. Our research generates the foresight needed to create insights that lead to action and spans a broad territory of deeply transformative trends, from health and health care to technology, the workplace, and human identity. The Institute for the Future is based in Palo Alto, CA. | [www.iftf.org](http://www.iftf.org)

