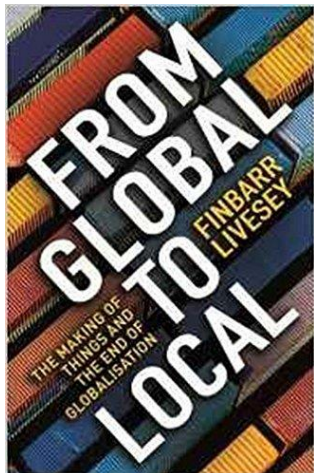


AJASN Newsletter

July 2017

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This [book](#) gives examples of weak signs of early change that a reversal of globalisation is starting.

Contact: Kate Delaney
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Public service (& related)

This [study](#) found that the most widely used model for predicting how U.S. government spending affects gross domestic product (GDP) can be rigged using theoretical assumptions to control forecasts of how government spending will stimulate the economy.

A new [website](#) launched for *The Women in Public Service Project*. WPSP aims to reach a minimum of 50 percent of all decision-making positions in public service held by women by 2050 ("50 x 50").

The Victorian Auditor General's Office tabled a report [Public participation in government decision-making](#). The UK's Institute for Government has done in a [report](#) on setting up and running delivery units means examining success factors (including Australian units.)

Multinational corporations are moving income from their profitable, high-tax subsidiaries into unprofitable ones to save money on taxes, a University of Waterloo [study](#) has found.

The 2017 IPS-Nathan Lectures [series](#) by Singapore's Peter Ho might be of interest.

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) will withdraw most of its Better Practice Guides.

Policy-making

The Canadian province of Ontario has created a website to explain its 'Fair Housing [Plan](#).' A 15 % surcharge on offshore speculators is one component.

A [study](#) on 'Should Governments Invest More in Nudging?' says nudging is a valuable approach that should be used more often in conjunction with traditional policies, but more calculations are needed to determine the relative effectiveness of nudging.

Also a recent publication, [Behavioural Insights for Education](#): A practical guide for parents, teachers and school leaders.

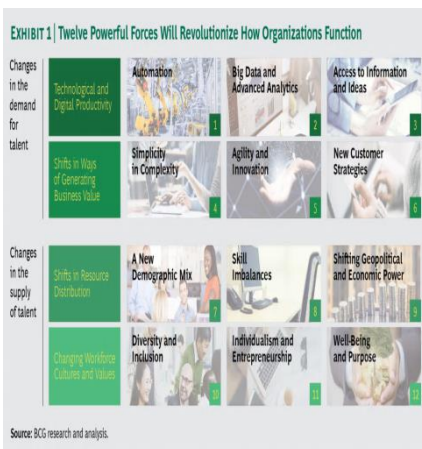
Mega-trends

This [article](#) discusses a macro-trend that deserves attention: the rise of personalist "strongmen" authoritarian governments. Research shows that personalist authoritarians are the most likely to [initiate conflicts abroad](#) and pursue risky foreign policies.

An interesting article on the [cashless society](#) asks: What will the cashless economy mean for the poorest people in society? (See also Malaysia [article](#), [IMF](#) paper, Australian [article](#).)

DARPA (US) has issued a request for information about how to assign confidence levels in social and behavioural science research ([here](#).)

Changing workplace



Boston Consulting Group identified 12 [megatrends](#) (in four categories) changing how organisations will work.

The *Shift Commission: Four Futures for Work* can be downloaded from [here](#). This [paper](#) provides a summary of research and discussion on the future world of work (Australia.)

This [article](#) discusses changes in higher education being captured by online providers like 'Udacity' with nanodegrees and hiring partners. The [OECD Skills Outlook 2017](#) report reveals big differences in the extent to which countries are equipping workers with the right skills to benefit from the globalisation of production chains.

Assumption busting

This [article](#) asks: How can we identify and evaluate decision forks in a modelling project; those points where a different decision might lead to a better model?

The IMF, WTO and World Bank say [role of trade as a driver of global growth](#) is threatened by a slowdown in trade reform (since early 2000s) and an uptick in protectionism (post financial crisis.)

Some companies are relaxing degree requirements for recruitment. The question is: Are these few companies 'outliers' or the forerunners of a new trend?' This raises new questions about the value of a university education.

Urban

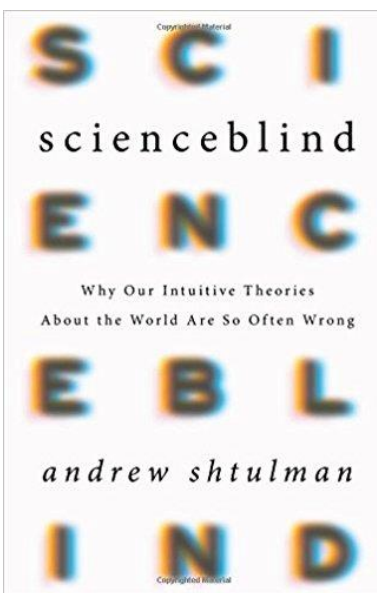
A [new paper](#) predicts that 'the percentage of U.S. households who will find water bills unaffordable could triple from 11.9% to 35.6%' over the next five years. Anglicare released its annual national (AU) [Rental Affordability Snapshot](#).

This [article](#) discusses alternative uses for parking garages in a world of driverless cars and declining car ownership. Wireless charging (i.e. a charge-as-you-drive system) would address a major drawback of plug-in electric cars – their limited driving range. Here is a [study](#). A [report](#), *Driving Decarbonization: Pathways and Policies for Canadian Transport*, focuses on both actions (e.g. energy efficiency) to reduce transport emissions – and government policies – to motivate these actions by individuals, institutions and corporations. A McKinsey article on the future of mobility – read [here](#). The International Energy Agency released a report on the '[Future of Trucks](#): Implications for energy and the environment.'

An [audit](#) has found Queensland's water providers aren't doing enough to protect themselves against cyber-attacks, putting the state's water supply at risk.

Health

A [study](#) looks at how to model infectious disease outbreaks for interventions. Industrial pollution from Indian pharmaceutical companies making medicines for nearly all the world's major drug companies is fuelling the creation of deadly superbugs, suggests [new research](#). Global health authorities have no regulations in place to stop this happening.



You can read an interview with the author [here](#).

The Internet & beyond

Almost half of all Scottish jobs are under risk from automation, according to a new IPPR Scotland [report](#). But mid-career skills training can help equip people for the new economy.

Cognitive capacity and overall brain power are significantly reduced when your smartphone is within glancing distance (even if it's turned off and face down) according to a recent [study](#).

Two Data61 [reports](#) are now available: (1) Risks and Opportunities for Systems using Blockchain and Smart Contract and (2) Distributed Ledgers: Scenarios for the Australian economy over the coming decades

Science & technology

This [paper](#) reviewed 24 studies (modelled scenarios) about getting to 100 per cent renewables – it found 'there is no empirical or historical evidence that demonstrates that such systems are in fact feasible.' This [report](#) found U.S. clean tech patenting grew from 2001, outpacing growth in all U.S. patents, but declined by 9 percent between 2014 and 2016. The (AU) National Wind Farm Commissioner's [2016 Annual Report](#) (first ever) was released.

DARPA (USA's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) is [investing](#) in ways to download new skill-sets directly into your brain (e.g. a second language.)

This [paper](#) discusses ways to aggregate previous statistical findings (to improve meta-analysis.)

KU Leuven University topped Reuters' second annual ranking of Europe's [Most Innovative Universities](#) (of educational institutions doing the most to advance science, invent new technologies, and help drive the global economy.)

Researchers tackling [bias in algorithms](#) have just received a US \$1M to study this.

Society

A [study](#) measures how much air passengers value equitable vs. discriminatory screening procedures against sacrifices in safety, cost, wait time, and convenience.

This [article](#) says those on the periphery a network can generate collective action (more so than those at the core) especially in the context of large-scale protests in authoritarian regimes (note: big data used to support hypothesis.)

A [study](#) reports that higher levels of testosterone increase the tendency to rely on intuitive judgments and negate cognitive reflection. In other words, act now and ask questions later — or just not at all.

[New research](#) says the genres of fiction you read reflects your moral style. Science fiction, fantasy, and literary fiction readers lean toward a more permissive moral style.

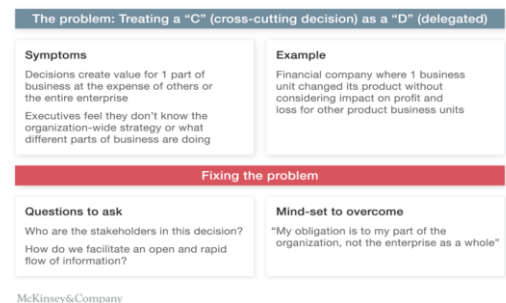
A [scan](#) of water, sanitation and hygiene services and challenges in remote Australian Indigenous communities was completed.

The **ABCDs** of categorizing decisions.



McKinsey&Company

When you are **locked in silos**, you are unlikely to collaborate effectively on cross-cutting decisions.



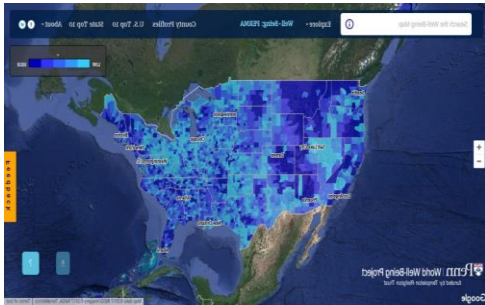
McKinsey&Company

Two figures from a McKinsey take on decision-making in organisations – article [here](#).



This Netherlands architecture firm used emojis on the façade of a mixed use building. Photo by Attika (<http://www.attika.nl/>.)

A [separate story](#) shows analysts read 40 quarterly earnings reports (from big companies) and then used emoji to convey them (so you don't have to read the reports) from 📉 to 📈.



A new map based on tweets from the World Well-Being Project ([WWBP](#)) - which is pioneering scientific techniques for measuring psychological well-being and physical health. (Work is a collaboration of computer scientists, psychologists, and statisticians; it might replace expensive survey methods.)



The EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) published a [report](#) exploring gray swan scenarios, or hypothetical events that 'may seem unlikely now but which could happen at one point in time,' which could transform the security situation regionally and even globally.

Upcoming meetings

Next meeting:

9 August & 10 August 2017

Frames / framing

A [study](#) suggests if you're trying to convince the public to change their stance on a topic such as wind energy, you may be more successful if you use a cartoon rather than a photograph.

A report on International aged care: a quick [guide](#).

Forward looking

Prediction markets are not very accurate – this [article](#) says they can be more so if you implement a minority reward system (i.e. explicitly favour those who go against popular opinion if they turn out to be correct.)

Arup made an app to predict the future (it doesn't have much content yet). Download the app [here](#).

This (open access) [paper](#) briefly describes some examples of use of scenario planning within the energy sector, as well as some unusual factors that may influence the outcomes.

Predicting the future of additive manufacturing: A [Delphi study](#) on economic and societal implications of 3D printing for 2030

News

In the 2017 budget the Australian government distinguished between 'good' debt, incurred to boost growth, and 'bad' debt, used to finance welfare and other recurrent spending. The budget also assigned the level of government debt across portfolios.

The BBC posted an [article](#) 'How Western civilization could collapse.'

Deloitte published *One Step Ahead*, its 2017 [bribery and corruption report](#). It provides insights from Deloitte's survey of Australian and New Zealand risk leaders, asking about their perception and experiences of domestic and foreign bribery and corruption.

The most recent issue of [Library Trends](#) revisits (27 years later) the topic of agricultural libraries.

A [new study](#) suggests that fact-checking has little influence on what online news media cover; it may use up resources newsrooms could better use elsewhere.

Web sites

This [website](#) allows you to monitor trends in open science in Europe.

This is a collection of media on [artificial intelligence](#) in government.

The WA Government released a change management [guide](#).

Jennifer Raff has prepared a helpful [guide](#) for non-scientists on how to read a scientific paper.

The WEF developed a Future of Jobs Report [website](#) (in case you missed it).

Here is a [Future of Education](#) card game developed by the EDU122 Technology in Education class at Canisius College (Creative Commons Licencing)