

8-10 May 2024

(DRAFT OF 28 MARCH 2024)

Program

Day 1

Wednesday 8 May 2024

PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE TO HARTWELL HOUSE

12:00 LUNCH / *The Soane Room*

13:00 WELCOME, FRAMING, AND INTRODUCTIONS / *The James Gibbs Room*

- *Formal opening, welcome remarks to plenary, setting out the plan and objective for this retreat and for the Network*
- *Participant introductions*

13:30 GEOPOLITICAL TRENDS: BOOK TALK AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS / *The James Gibbs Room*

An insightful exploration of 'The New Cold War' by Sir Robin Niblett kicks off our retreat, setting a foundational tone for understanding current global tensions. Building on the insights from the opening book talk, we will expand the lens to a broader view of the economic and geopolitical forces at play. Participants will delve into essential questions: Which economic and geopolitical trends are currently shaping our world, and what are their projected paths? How might these trends influence both the global stage and local spheres in the coming years? In what ways can our newfound understanding of these dynamics inform strategic planning and decision-making processes?

14:30 COFFEE / TEA BREAK / *The James Wyatt Room*

15:00 HOTEL CHECK-IN / *Reception*

15:30 GLOBAL SHIFTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE: NAVIGATING EMERGING CRISES/ *The James Gibbs Room*

This session, presented by Apolitical, will delve into the economic and geopolitical shifts shaping the landscape of public service. Through a comprehensive presentation, we will examine the key crises anticipated by public servants globally over the coming years. Central to our discussion will be three focus questions: How are these crises interconnected, and what is their cumulative impact on public service? Do the perceived crises and their impacts vary across different geographies and governance levels—from local to national to regional? How can public servants prepare for and adapt to these evolving challenges?

8-10 May 2024

(DRAFT OF 28 MARCH 2024)

**16:15 DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN RESPONSE TO A POLYCRISIS/
*The James Gibbs Room***

This session will explore how sustainable development and community building can progress despite ongoing polycrisis. Speakers will tackle three central questions: How can governments integrate sustainability into their development plans? What innovative strategies are being adopted to overcome current global challenges? How do we balance immediate crisis responses with long-term sustainability goals?

16:45 BREAKOUT SESSIONS/ *The James Gibbs Room / The Throssel Boardroom / The Keene Room*

Following the plenary discussions, we will transition into focused breakouts, allowing for deeper engagement with the topics. These workshops, led by our speakers, will offer the opportunity to contribute to shaping actionable strategies that address the dual imperatives of development and sustainability in an increasingly complex world.

17:15 COFFEE / TEA BREAK / *The James Wyatt Room*

18:00 DEBATING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH VS DEGROWTH/ *The James Gibbs Room*

Guided by Sandrine Dixson-Declève, co-author of 'Earth for All,' this session will stage a critical debate on two contrasting economic futures: sustainable growth versus degrowth. Participants will delve into a comparative analysis, exploring the merits and demerits of each approach to shape our collective future. Central questions include: What are the fundamental principles and outcomes associated with sustainable growth and degrowth? How do these economic paradigms address current environmental and social challenges? And ultimately, which approach offers a more viable solution for a sustainable and equitable global economy?

19:30 DINNER / *The Soane Room*

21:00 INFORMAL NETWORKING / *The Drawing Room*

8-10 May 2024

(DRAFT OF 28 MARCH 2024)

Day 2

Thursday, 9 May 2024

07:30 BREAKFAST / The Soane Room

09:00 WELCOME AND FRAMING FOR DAY 2 / The James Gibbs Room

09:15 BOOK TALK / The James Gibbs Room

In a deep dive into 'Four Internets: Data, Geopolitics, and the Governance of Cyberspace,' Dame Wendy Hall will outline the evolving dynamics of the internet's global landscape since her book's publication. This book talk will address pivotal questions: How have the concepts and categorizations of the internet changed in light of recent technological advancements, especially AI? What are the implications of the internet's fragmentation on global governance and diplomacy? And how can we anticipate and navigate the future of digital coexistence?

10:15 GROUP PHOTO / The Hartwell Court Garden

10:30 COFFEE / TEA BREAK / The James Wyatt Room

11:15 TECHNOLOGICAL DISRUPTION / The James Gibbs Room

In this session, technologists will deliver interactive presentations on the potential of technology in various national settings to enhance the well-being of citizens. Key questions they will address include: What is the role of regulation in technology? How do different models impact societal welfare and innovation? Can diverse national strategies coexist without leading to global fragmentation or conflict? Following the initial discussion, participants will engage in an interactive brainstorming session to explore strategies for harnessing technology to serve humanity better while mitigating risks.

12:30 LUNCH / The Soane Room

14:00 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO POLYCRISES / The James Gibbs Room

This plenary session will present three strategic case studies—two from central governments and one balancing central and regional interests, showcasing diverse approaches to global challenges. The focus will be on answering: What strategies are central governments deploying to address polycrisis? How can central and regional interests be balanced for cohesive national strategies? What lessons can be learned from these diverse approaches to inform future policy?

8-10 May 2024

(DRAFT OF 28 MARCH 2024)

14:30 BREAKOUT SESSIONS / *The James Gibbs Room / The Throssel Boardroom / The Keene Room*

Following the plenary discussions, we will transition into focused breakouts, allowing for deeper engagement with the topics. These workshops, led by our speakers, will offer the opportunity to engage in solution-oriented workshops, aiming to refine and advance actionable strategies for responding to complex global challenges.

15:15 FORESIGHT AND FUTURES THINKING AMIDST POLYCRISIS / *The James Gibbs Room*

This session will explore how governments can utilize foresight and futures thinking to prepare for the future, even under the pressures of polycrisis. Presenting three international case studies of proactive government use of these approaches, speakers will address three key questions: How are foresight and futures thinking being implemented today? What lessons are being learned from these approaches? How can these methodologies be adapted to navigate through and beyond current crises? Following the initial discussion, participants will engage in an interactive brainstorming session, focusing on further exploration and deeper engagement with the topics presented.

16:00 NEXT-GEN PLANNING / *The James Gibbs Room*

This session will focus on integrating the perspectives and needs of future generations into governmental strategy and planning. A leading strategic planner for future generations will guide a dialogue with next-generation leaders, exploring their vision of the future and the challenges they anticipate. The discussion will revolve around key questions: What are the current concerns of young leaders, and how do they foresee them evolving? How can governments plan effectively for these future scenarios? And, importantly, how do we safeguard the rights and meet the needs of those not yet born? Following the panel, the session will transition into an interactive brainstorming, encouraging all participants to contribute to a forward-looking planning process.

16:30 COFFEE / TEA BREAK / *The James Wyatt Room*

17:00 STRATEGIES FOR POLYCRISIS: EMPOWERING THE PUBLIC SERVICE/ *The James Gibbs Room*

This session will delve into three case studies exemplifying effective strategies for governments to equip their public service amidst polycrisis. Participants will explore key questions: What are the core components of successful strategies in navigating polycrisis? How can governments effectively empower and support their public service in times of multifaceted challenges? What lessons can be drawn from these case studies for enhancing resilience and adaptability in public service delivery? Following the presentations, participants will engage in an interactive brainstorming session to delve deeper into the insights and applications of these strategies.

8-10 May 2024

(DRAFT OF 28 MARCH 2024)

18:15 CONCLUSIONS / *The James Gibbs Room*

- *Summary and wrap-up of the agenda*
- *Time for reflection on your government and what concrete you will do and with whom.*
- *Evaluation and feedback*

19:30 DINNER / *The Soane Room*

21:00 INFORMAL NETWORKING / *The Library*

Day 3

Friday, 10 May 2024

HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Hotel check-out is before 11:00 a.m. Please check out of your room after breakfast, or latest during the coffee break. Luggage can be stored securely if required.

07:30 BREAKFAST / *The Soane Room*

09:30 BUS DEPARTURE

A bus will be waiting outside to transport participants to our next optional event location. For those not continuing with us, the bus will also make a stop at the Haddenham & Thame Parkway train station, providing convenient access to trains for your onward journey, whether it be to airports or other stations.

11:00 OPTIONAL SITE VISIT / UNIQUE EXPERIENCE HOSTED BY THE UK POLICY LAB AND THE GO SCIENCE FUTURES TEAM

This session will offer an immersive look at cutting-edge policy development techniques aimed at equipping public servants to tackle the polycrisis effectively and enhance care for UK residents. Participants will witness firsthand how innovative ideas are being operationalized to meet the demands of the present and future, addressing key questions on the application of these methodologies in real-world scenarios and the impact on public service.