PANEL: New Social Science for the Next Administration

The US government has formed many blue ribbon panels to examine whether social science can be applied more extensively and effectively to improve advice, decisions, and policy. Our panel will act in a similar capacity, as a miniature advisory board for the new administration in 2016. We will take a free hand, however, and consider some provocative ideas that official panels are likely to avoid. We will also note instances where conventional social science has proven to be unhelpful or even counterproductive as a guide to policy. We will save time for dialogue and will collect ideas from the audience to feed current government initiatives.

The Urgent Need for a Social Science Upgrade to Presidential Advice: Institutional Fortresses, Trojan Horses, Cosmology Episodes, and Resilience Processes
James Douglas Orton, Research Director; Kari O’Grady, Director
Center for Trauma Studies and Resilience Leadership, Loyola University Maryland

Flyjberg’s Phronetic Social Science in the Context of National Intelligence
Kent Myers, Science & Technology Policy Analyst
Leidos Inc.

Systems Literacy for Policy Makers: The Case of Socio-Ecological Systems
Peter Tuddenham, Vice-President for Systems Education
International Society for the Systems Sciences

Group Facilitation Methods to Aid Community Development Globally
Stuart Umpleby, Professor Emeritus
Department of Management, The George Washington University

Hidden Dynamics of Flourishing Systems
Govind Shah, Director
SVIC Institute, University City Science Center, Philadelphia

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PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

James Douglas Orton - Center for Trauma Studies and Resilience Leadership

Dr. Orton is an expert on loosely coupled systems, organizational sense-making, national security reform, and high-reliability organizations - with a long-term research interest in the U.S. national security system. His graduate school training, during the Reagan administration and G.H.W. Bush administration, focused on leadership, culture, organization theory, and strategy management processes (Brigham Young University, University of Texas at Austin, University of Michigan). His early career focused on doctoral-level research seminars in organizational change and organizational decision-making (Boston College, HEC Paris, MIT Sloan School of Management). After 9/11, during the G.W. Bush administration and the Obama administration, Dr. Orton moved back to Washington, DC, where he has been conducting research on advanced topics in management research and management practice: learning, sense-making, intelligence, innovation, collaboration, and resilience (George Washington University, National Defense University, Loyola University Maryland).

Kari A. O’Grady - Center for Trauma Studies and Resilience Leadership

Dr. O’Grady is also an assistant professor of Pastoral Counseling at Loyola University Maryland. Her research interests include extreme trauma events at the individual and community level. Dr. O’Grady teaches courses in crisis intervention and research methods for the social sciences. Dr. O’Grady is also sought out locally to provide training on issues of trauma, cosmology episodes, and community resilience. Dr. O’Grady and the researchers at the Center train students and professionals from all over the globe to create more resilient individuals, teams, organizations, communities, and nations. Dr. O’Grady and her team of students have conducted research and interventions in such places as Liberia, Haiti, China, India, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Korea, and DR Congo, as well as locally to torture refugees from a variety of high conflict areas from around the world.

Kent C. Myers - Leidos, Inc.

Dr. Myers is currently serving as the social science adviser to the Intelligence Community Director of Science and Technology, in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. He has been a strategy consultant throughout the Federal government for 30 years and is a graduate of the Social Systems Sciences program at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. His interest in practical social science is explored in recent journal articles and his book, Reflexive Practice: Professional Thinking for a Turbulent World.

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Stuart Umpleby - *George Washington University*

**Dr. Umpleby** is a professor in the Department of Management and Director of the Research Program in Social and Organizational Learning ([www.gwu.edu/~rpsol](http://www.gwu.edu/~rpsol)) in the School of Business at The George Washington University. He teaches courses in the cross-cultural management, organizational behavior, process improvement, systems thinking, and the philosophy of science. He has published many papers in the fields of cybernetics and systems science. He is a past president of the American Society for Cybernetics. The address of his website is [www.gwu.edu/~umpleby](http://www.gwu.edu/~umpleby).

Peter Tuddenham - *International Society for the Systems Sciences*

**Mr. Peter Tuddenham** is a co-founder of the College of Exploration, which over the past 20 years has engaged over 15,000 learners worldwide in online collaborative learning environments. He was a Co-Principal Investigator on a number of National Science Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grants researching and educating the topics of literacy, change, and learning in complex national systems. Mr. Tuddenham served for three years as guest faculty in Executive Development at the US Army War College studying personal transformation for mid-career officers. He has studied Systems Design at Saybrook University in San Francisco and the Open University in England. He has a BS in Business from Regis University in Denver Colorado. He was commissioned as an officer from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Govind Shah - *University City Science Center*

As President, Optimal Software Inc., **Dr. Shah** is an entrepreneur in healthcare information systems and outsourcing. He is also initiating efforts, through SVIC Catalyst, Inc., to form adaptive business institutions which inspire individuals. In conjunction with academic programs he is exploring ways to link systems engineering, applied philosophy, and social science to develop flourishing systems. He has developed many technical systems and holds several patents. His doctoral degree in Systems Engineering is from the University of Pennsylvania.