

# Mastering Change and Transformation

# Identifying known unknowns and unknown unknowns

There are known knowns; there are things we know that we know.

There are known unknowns; that is to say, there are things that we now know we don't know.

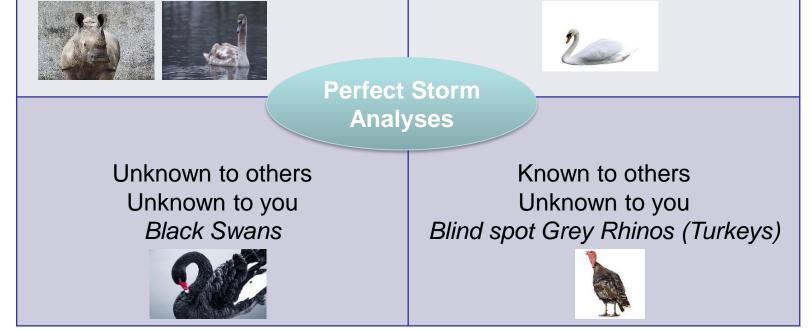
But there are also unknown unknowns – there are things we do not know we don't know.

-Donald Rumsfeld



Unknowns Knowns	Known Knowns	Known Unknowns Things we are aware of but don't understand.	
	Things we are aware of and understand.		
	<b>Unknown Knowns</b>	Unknown Unknowns	
	Things we understand but are not aware of.	Things we are neither aware of nor understand.	
	Knowns	Unknowns	

Unknown to others Known to you Hidden Grey Rhinos (Grey Swans) Known to others Known to you *White Swans* 



Source: Adapted Johari window (Luft & Ingham, 1955). Swiss Re Institute, June 2020 (http://iacpm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Bohn\_ScenarioAnalysis\_PerfectStorms\_v2.0\_202006.pdf

### Managing risk to ensure resilience in the face of the next crisis

### **Known Unknowns** We know there are

things we can't predict

Do research to decrease the amount of uncertainty; try to capture as assumptions and create contingency for others

### **Known Knowns**

Things we are certain of

You should share and be transparent; capture as assumptions

#### **Unknown Unknowns**

We don't know what we don't know

Experiment more and these will become known unknowns for future projects

### **Unknown Knowns**

Other's know but you don't know

Other's should share and be transparent; capture as assumptions

#### Knowledge about impact

Less

Knowledge about occurrence







# International strategies for VUCA

**Complexity:** Dealing with unique environments, regulatory differences, tariffs, cultures, etc. <u>Strategic options</u>: Restructure; develop specialists; add resources

**Volatility:** Exchange rate or supply chain risks <u>Strategic options</u>: Build in slack/ pre-purchase supply/overbuy talent (costly but investment should match risk)

Ambiguity: Immature or emerging markets

<u>Strategic options</u>: Experiment to determine cause and effect; political activities and stakeholder engagement

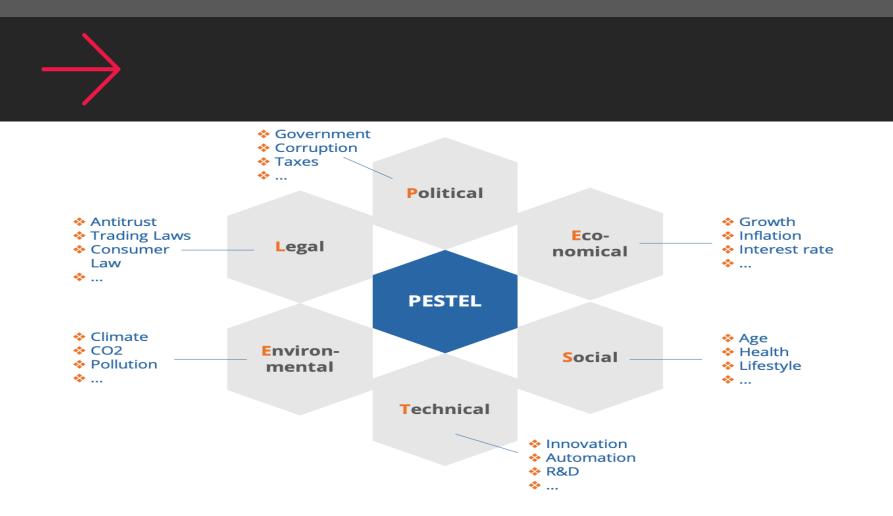
**Uncertainty**: launch of competing product, policy changes

Strategic options: invest in information

Source: Adapted from https://hbr.org/2014/01/what-vuca-really-means-for-you

### The Firm Embedded in Its External Environment





# What is strategic foresight?

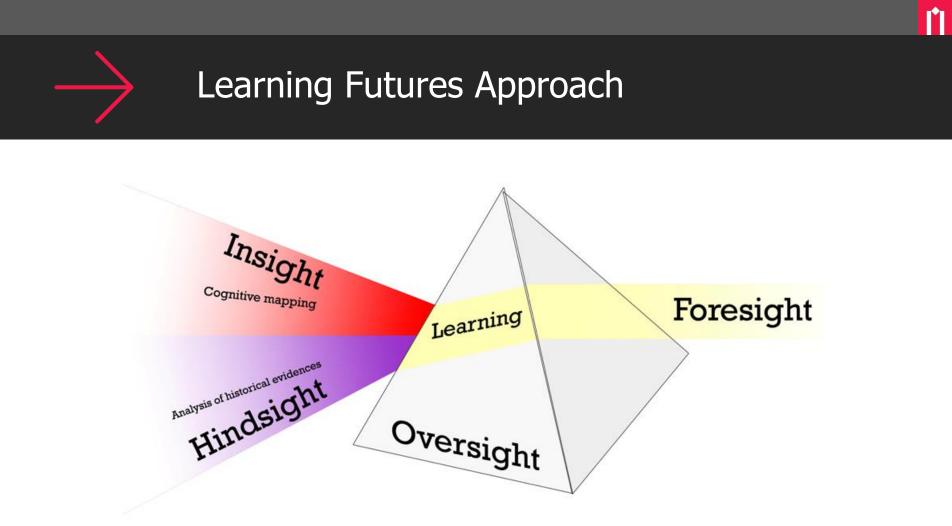
- Strategic foresight is used when organisations encounter VUCA contexts.
- Collectively, these characteristics make the world largely unpredictable, and the future fairly unknown.
- In a VUCA world, traditional planning approaches no longer provide reliable outcomes. Strategic foresight methods are designed to deal with VUCA environments.

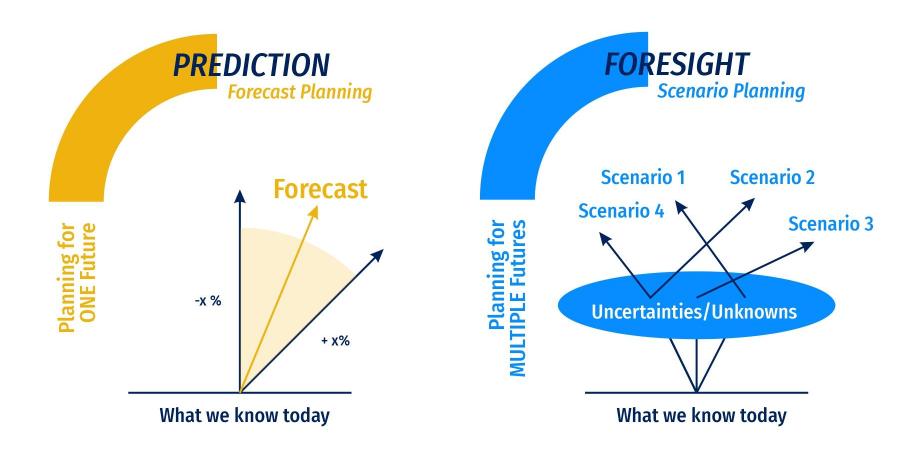




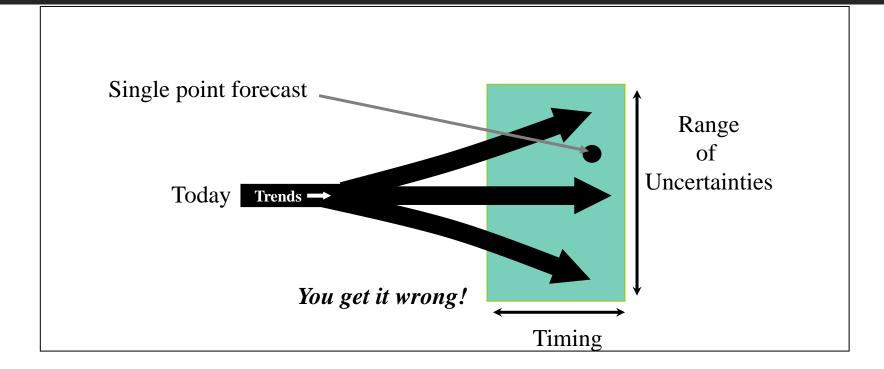
## Learning Futures Model

- The brain combines incoming information with stored information to build "mental representations," or internal models, of the external world.
- The mental representation of a <u>past</u> event is **a memory**
- the mental representation of a <u>present</u> event is **a perception**
- the mental representation of a <u>future</u> event is **a simulation**

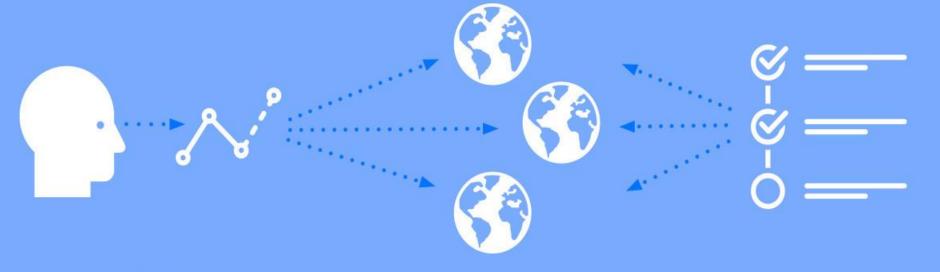




# The Danger in Forecasting (as opposed to foresight) is ...



## THE STRATEGIC FORESIGHT PROCESS



- scan for trends
- analyze the patterns
- theorize the impacts

- develop multiple future world scenarios

 test your strategy against the scenarios and make adjustments





## Scenarios....

- What? A set of distinct stories about alternative possible futures, focused on the *external* environment. They are presented as *a set* to capture a range of uncertain futures - a single scenario implies there is no uncertainty.
- **Why?** To facilitate robust strategic decision making.
- When? Required under conditions of high complexity and uncertainty; when there is little (or no) historical information; when quantification is difficult or impossible.

# Group work



Divide into groups of 5/6 and choose one of your companies to focus on.

- a) Using Figure 1, leverage the PESTEL approach to consider your (two to four) primary contextual strategic opportunities and/or threats in the medium (2-5 years) term.
- b) Reflecting on these, consider the VUCA context, and strategic responses, for your chosen company. How might you:
  - Counter volatility with vision?
  - Meet uncertainty with understanding?
  - React to complexity with clarity?
  - Fight ambiguity with agility?



## FIGURE 1 PESTLE Analysis

PESTLE	FACTOR	OPPORTUNITY	THREAT
POLITICAL			
ECONOMIC			
SOCIAL			
TECHNOLOGICAL			
LEGAL			
ENVIRONMENTAL			



## Group presentations and debrief



## "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn" *Alvin Toffler*