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Dr. Sheila R. Ronis is Chair and Professor of the Department of Management and Director of the Center for Complex and Strategic Decisions at Walsh College holding a special term appointment with Argonne National Laboratory University of Chicago.

Dr. Ronis is the former chair of the Vision Working Group of the Project on National Security Reform (PNSR) in Washington, D.C., which was tasked by the U.S. Congress to rewrite the National Security Act of 1947. As a Distinguished Fellow at PNSR, she was responsible for the plan to use judgment and decision sciences to improve policy making by the President of the United States in the development of whole of government “grand strategy”. Dr. Ronis served as guest speaker on the use of foresight methodologies to improve public policy on September 12, 2014 at The Royal Society in London, U.K. On 12 June 2013, Dr. Ronis was awarded the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff’s Outstanding Public Service Award in a formal ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ronis was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Award by the U.S. State Department to Nanyang Technological University in Singapore to study the Centre for Strategic Futures of Singapore in 2011. Her B.S. is in Physics, Mathematics and Education. Her M.A. and Ph.D. are from The Ohio State University in Large Social System Behavior.

Singapore Story: A Heritage Visionario in 2035

Singapore Story: A Heritage Visionario in 2035, is an example of how the lessons learned through historical analysis can be the foundation for a methodology to explore complex social systems and the challenges they bring to government policy makers. Looking into the future using foresight tools by creating narratives that explore the complexity of social systems in some detail permits learning that can inform decisions and produce better policy.

Complex social systems are not controllable. Nevertheless, they can be influenced if understood well. A useful tool for learning about the system being studied is to begin by mapping it. Identify the boundaries, the internal elements and their interactions and interdependencies and the external forces and how they impact the system along the STEEP spectrum of forces; sociological, technological, economic, environmental and political.

In the development of a visionario, system interactions and interdependencies are studied to ensure an understanding of the complexity inherent in the system and enabling thinking through second, third and fourth order effects of decisions and potential policies. In addition, story lines can assist a policy or decision maker in considering multiple stories and how a government would respond to a variety of situations.

