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**FUTUREPOL**  
**A POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE FUTURE**

**Stefan Vargolici**  
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## Outline

- Presentation of the team
- The FUTUREPOL project
- Personal research outline
- Comments, suggestions





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## The FUTUREPOL team

Jenny Andersson – Project Coordinator

Egle Rindzeviciute – Post-doctoral fellow

Pauline Prat – Research Manager

Sybille Duhautois – PhD Student

Stefan Vargolici – PhD Student





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## FUTUREPOL

The project studies how contemporary societies engage with the future

How does the future become an object of governance?

FUTUREPOL aims to lay the foundation for a new field of research in the intersection between transnational history, science studies, and the literature on governance

A field that we might call a **political history of the future.**





The project posits four research objectives:

1. to study the emergence of a global future field in the post war period, particularly with reference to the circulation of scientific and intellectual ideas around futurology
2. to explore the way that these ideas gave rise to forms of future governance in national administrations in Europe
3. to understand how such forms of national future governance stood in relationship to emerging world futures, particularly after 1970, and
4. to study the evolution of means of future governance over time up until the present day.





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A first step in the research strategy is devoted to the *circulation of ideas*

A second step focuses on analyzing the *institutionalization of the future and how different political systems* shape a new field of political intervention around the future

A third step is devoted to the uses of *technologies of future governance, and to the question of how predictive technologies* sought to accommodate change





The project ambitions are admittedly large but they will be gathered around four main studies:

- a. A study of the transnational networks of futurists and the global circulation of future ideas.
- b. A comparative study of the institutionalization of foresight in a number of countries in Western Europe (France, the Netherlands, Sweden, UK).
- c. A study of the role of future governance in the construction of the East West divide, and in the transformation of tools of future governance post 1989.
- d. A study of the development, in the period from the late 1980s, of foresight as a policy tool on the national and European level.**





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Personal Research

**The role of foresight within the European Union in the context of European integration and the creation of Europe's common future**





## Main Questions

How do EU institutions develop processes of foresight internally?

Who are the main actors?

What forms of expertise exist?

What methodologies do they use?

What is the permeability of foresight studies in the process of policy making?

What gives the experts legitimacy to influence future perspectives and consequently shape the EU agenda?

How do collective expectations shape individual expectations of experts?





## Methodology

- Literature review on foresight
- Historical overview of foresight in the EU
- Qualitative interviews with key actors
- Empirical fieldwork in two organizations





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## **Main focus**

IPTS – Institute for Prospective Technological Studies  
(Seville, Spain)

STOA – Science and Technology Options Assessment of the EP  
(Brussels, Belgium) – TA and Foresight





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Feedback, Comments

Thank you!

