GHS2024 Conference Workshops

Day One - Tuesday 18 2024, 4:00pm-6:00pm – Room Cockle Bay 1

Kings College London - Threatcasting For Global Health Security

Threatcasting is a novel technique developed in 2017 by a combination of academic and military researchers, designed to model a broader range of future threats in a rapidly evolving threat landscape. It has subsequently been successfully used across cybersecurity and defence.

Threatcasting draws on established analytical techniques, such as the STEMPLES Plus framework, Delphi modelling, and TAD backcasting, to model and track evolving threats 10 years into the future. Whereas current forecasting techniques typically focus on the evolution of a specific threat and often fail to take into account socio-cultural, technical, economic, and geopolitical change, threatcasting first tracks the evolution of these factors and then uses them as a context into which place the threat evolution. This means threatcasting is able to leverage potential external environments to create multiple alternative narratives to be interrogated in systematic ways. As such, threatcasting is able to provide actionable mitigations against outcomes, and provide concrete policy steps to tackle emerging threats.

The last 10 years have demonstrated that not only is the global health landscape evolving more quickly, but that it is increasingly interconnected with other environmental and political factors. Modelling based on biological and direct health factors alone is therefore insufficient to meet a health landscape that is impacted, and has impact on, broader factors such as climate change, access to technology, economic disparity, and geopolitical threat.

By applying a threatcasting methodology, we are able to explore and query the full spectrum of health threats, and how these might evolve and impact our future, as well as understanding the dependencies on a broader variety of factors.

Objectives:

- To give a brief introduction and experience in threatcasting techniques – the workshop will provide an introduction and then guide participants through a technical exercise which will give them the skills to run organise similar exercises in their own organisations
- To increase understanding of how forecasting techniques can have practical impact – the workshop will guide participants through the synthesis and adaptation part of threatcasting, and how it can be used to make changes and mitigations now to prevent future threats.

- To increase the understanding of future threats, specifically technology, against the healthcare system – the workshop places specific focus on the increased integration of technology into daily life, and how this may impact health security in the future.