



BREAKTHROUGH IDEAS: BECOMING A MORE STRATEGIC THINKER

with Dr. Julia Sloan

\$395 (US) per person

VIRTUAL SESSION (3-HOUR)

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Being strategically competitive in today's chaotic and complex global environment requires a different way of looking at how we approach strategic thinking. Leaders who are tasked with strategic responsibility must be attentive, agile, adaptive and innovative thinkers. Four key issues are addressed in this session: Why do organizations need strategic thinkers? What is strategic thinking? Who is a strategic thinker? How can strategic thinking be developed?

A highly interactive seminar, the session begins with an exploration of historical events and its impact on the evolution of strategic thinking. It proceeds with a discussion of an unconventional model of the underlying cognitive clusters that support strategic thinking, followed by five essential attributes of strategic thinkers. The session concludes by delving into the process for strengthening strategic thinking on an individual and team level.

DR. JULIA SLOAN

Dr. Julia Sloan, author of the definitive book, *Learning to Think Strategically*, 4th ed., 2020 (Best Business Book of the Year, Financial Times), is widely recognized for her pioneering work on the application of complex cognitive theory to everyday global strategic thinking practice. Her work draws upon more than two decades of her own expatriate corporate experience in Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe and North America. Julia teaches at Columbia University and has lectured at some of the premier academic institutions including: MIT, Harvard University, Princeton University (US); Beijing University (China); Tokyo University, Keio University (Japan); and India Institute of Management (India). She holds a distinguished faculty appointment at the Central University of Finance and Economics (China). Awarded a Fulbright Fellow, Julia has also received a Researcher-in-Residence fellowship, Faculty Excellence Award, Outstanding Teaching Award, Ahead-of-the-Curve Teaching Award and Innovative Influencer Award. She has served on the faculty of the Brookings Institute and was named as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series at the Mohammad bin Rashid School of Government (Dubai). A resident of New York City, Dr. Sloan holds a doctorate from Columbia University, master's studies at Yale University and University of Alaska, and undergraduate studies from Kent State University. Julia is principal of Sloan International Inc., a New York-based firm specializing in strategic thinking for businesses operating in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and North America.

TOPICS COVERED

FOUNDATIONS OF STRATEGIC THINKING

UNDERSTAND WHAT STRATEGIC THINKING REALLY MEANS AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT.
LEARN THE KEY TRAITS OF STRATEGIC THINKING, LIKE BEING FLEXIBLE, INTUITIVE, AND FOCUSED ON SOLVING PROBLEMS.
DISCOVER HOW STRATEGIC THINKING HAPPENS NATURALLY IN INFORMAL SETTINGS, NOT JUST IN MEETINGS.
UNDERSTAND THAT STRATEGIC THINKING IS AN ONGOING PROCESS, NOT A ONE-TIME DECISION.

STRATEGIC THINKING VS. PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THINKING CREATIVELY ABOUT PROBLEMS (STRATEGIC THINKING) AND FOCUSING ON SOLUTIONS (STRATEGIC PLANNING).
LEARN HOW STRATEGIC THINKING IS ABOUT EXPLORING IDEAS, WHILE PLANNING IS ABOUT SETTING CLEAR STEPS AND MEASURING PROGRESS.
DISCOVER HOW STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION IS ALL ABOUT TAKING ACTION AND GETTING THINGS DONE.
AS A LEADER, YOU'LL LEARN WHEN TO SWITCH BETWEEN THINKING, PLANNING, AND DOING, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION

DEVELOPING STRATEGIC THINKING SKILLS

LEARN HOW TO TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS AND EMOTIONS IN DECISION-MAKING.
DRAW ON PAST EXPERIENCES (EVEN FROM OUTSIDE OF WORK) TO THINK CREATIVELY AND SOLVE PROBLEMS.
STEP BACK AND REFLECT ON YOUR DECISIONS TO SEE IF THERE'S A BETTER WAY.
USE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES (FRAMES) TO AVOID GETTING STUCK IN ONE WAY OF THINKING.
PRACTICE CHANGING HOW YOU LOOK AT PROBLEMS TO COME UP WITH NEW SOLUTIONS.

APPLYING STRATEGIC THINKING IN LEADERSHIP

DEVELOP KEY TRAITS OF GREAT STRATEGIC THINKERS, LIKE CREATIVITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND A LONG-TERM FOCUS.
LEARN HOW TO BALANCE BIG-PICTURE THINKING WITH PRACTICAL ACTION TO AVOID GETTING STUCK IN ONE PHASE.
CREATE A TEAM CULTURE WHERE EVERYONE SHARES A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF STRATEGY AND WORKS TOGETHER.
ENCOURAGE FRESH IDEAS BY BRINGING IN DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS AND CHALLENGING OLD WAYS OF THINKING.

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