



[USEFUL-FICTION.COM](https://useful-fiction.com)

USEFUL FICTION

SOUTHCOM & FIU JACK D. GORDON
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

AI: WHAT LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

09.20.2024

0830-1300
 SEPT 20, 2024
 CONFERENCE CENTER OF THE AMERICAS

WHAT IS "USEFUL FICTION"?

Useful Fiction, or FICINT ("Fictional Intelligence") melds nonfiction analysis/research with narrative, so as to explore and explain new and complex issues related to future trends, technology, and policy, while also reaching greater target audiences, with greater effect. It has been used by organizations that range from SOCOM and NATO to Fortune 500 firms.

WHO IS USEFUL FICTION LLC?

Useful Fiction, LLC (useful-fiction.com) works at the intersection of strategic narrative, foresight, and change management, helping organizations to identify and better tell their key "stories." Over the years, its events and projects have brought together the work of former leaders of US military services, strategists and tech forecasters for Fortune 500 companies, best-selling writers of projects like *World War Z*, *Ghost Fleet*, and *American War*; the producers of such Hollywood projects as *Game of Thrones*, *Call of Duty*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Homeland*; and artists who have illustrated for *Wired* and *The New York Times Magazine*.



AUGUST COLE is Founder & Managing Partner at Useful Fiction and an author exploring the future of conflict through fiction and other forms of FICINT storytelling. With Peter W. Singer, he is the co-author of the best-seller *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War* and *Burn In: A Novel of the Real Robotic Revolution*. His talks, short stories, and workshops have taken him from speaking at the Nobel Institute in Oslo to presenting at SXSW Interactive to tackling the "Dirty Name" obstacle at Fort Benning.



PETER W. SINGER is Strategist at New America, a Professor of Practice at Arizona State University, and Founder & Managing Partner at Useful Fiction. A New York Times Bestselling author, he has been named by the Smithsonian as one of the nation's 100 leading innovators and by Defense News as one of the 100 most influential people in defense issues. No author, living or dead, has more books on the professional US military reading lists.



AGENDA

TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
0830-0840	WELCOMING REMARKS SOUTHCOM & Useful Fiction	Workshop objectives
0845-0925	PETER W. SINGER Author & Useful Fiction Partner	The AI Revolution: The Big Questions and Big Impact
0925-1010	GREG GRANT Senior Advisor, Special Competitive Studies Project	DoD AI Policy and Wartime Lessons from Ukraine
1010-1025	BREAK	
1025-1110	KEN LIU Award-Winning Sci-Fi Writer and AI Expert	Training You and Your AI
1110-1155	JENNIFER STRONG SHIFT AI Podcast Host (virtual)	Unsolvable Questions For AI
1155-1210	BREAK	
1210-1250	AUGUST COLE Author and Useful Fiction Partner	The Future Impact of AI on Defense and Beyond
1250-1300	CLOSING REMARKS	Workshop Wrap-Up



GREG GRANT is a senior advisor for the Special Competitive Studies Project and an adjunct senior fellow for the Center for a New American Security. He brings eight years of experience working in the Department of Defense in addition to several years working as a journalist covering the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Previously, he served as a senior principal at MITRE's National Security Sector focused on the operational implications of emerging technologies, as senior director of strategy at the Defense Innovation Unit, and as special assistant to Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work.



KEN LIU is an American author of speculative fiction. A winner of the Nebula, Hugo, and World Fantasy awards, he wrote *The Dandelion Dynasty* and the English translation of the international bestseller, *The Three-Body Problem*; as well as the short story collections *The Paper Menagerie and Other Stories* and *The Hidden Girl and Other Stories*. Ken also penned the Star Wars novel *The Legends of Luke Skywalker*. Prior to becoming a full-time writer, Liu worked as a software engineer, corporate lawyer, and litigation consultant. Liu frequently speaks at conferences and universities on a variety of topics, including futurism, machine-augmented creativity, and the mathematics of origami.



JENNIFER STRONG is the host and creator of SHIFT, a podcast that examines our ever-changing trust in automation and emerging technologies. Strong is the creator of several tech podcasts for newsrooms, including ProPublica, The Wall Street Journal, and MIT Technology Review. Her reporting has received wide acclaim, including six Webby and three Podcast Academy Award nominations. Her narrative podcasts were shortlisted twice at the New York Festival and once for Podcast of the Year by The Drum Awards for a taping she did inside an experimental fighter plane.