

Lynne Wainfan



Doctoral Fellow, RAND Corporation; President, Westerly School Board of Trustees

Expertise

The theory and application of strategy; modeling how people and organizations work; virtual collaboration.

Lynne's background is in business and engineering, and her work has been used in the fields of telecommunications, defense, and environment.

Education

Ph.D. (Anticipated Fall 2008), Policy Analysis, Pardee-RAND Graduate School

MA Policy Analysis, Pardee-RAND Graduate School

MS Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles

Research and coursework towards MA Psychology, California State University, Long Beach

BS Engineering, University of Michigan

Publications of Interest

Strategic Decision Theory, RAND Doctoral Dissertation (forthcoming)

[*Challenges in Virtual Collaboration: Videoconferencing, Audioconferencing, and Computer-Mediated Communications*](#), with Davis.

[*Presenting Uncertainty About Climate Change to Water-Resource Managers*](#), with Groves, Knopman, Lempert, and Berry.

See below for Lynne's publications, patents, and awards.

Background

As a RAND Doctoral Fellow, Lynne has researched and applied principles of economics, empirical analysis, decision science, communication, and psychology. Her work has been noted in reports to the Undersecretary of Defense, the US State Department, and the National Science Foundation.

Lynne is also President of the Board of Trustees for the Westerly School of Long Beach. During her 2-year Board tenure, the Board developed a 5-year strategic plan, created a new governance partnership with the retiring Head of School, developed a master plan for major new campus construction which received unanimous approval from the Long Beach Planning Commission, and conducted a \$2M capital campaign.

Before coming to RAND, Lynne was Chief Strategist and Director of Business Development for Boeing Space Services Company. She founded an organization to create telecommunications businesses for Hughes Space & Communications, later Boeing. The organization, composed of Marketing, Regulatory, and System Architecture experts, created a \$33M pipeline of ventures. Working with Hollywood studios, Lynne's organization created and spun off Digital Cinema, Inc., a secure file transport service. Other aerospace-related experience include being on the Hughes Architecture Enterprise Team, a small team that re-engineered Hughes Space & Communications Co.; Mergers and Acquisitions Whip for Hughes Communications, Inc.; and Implementation Program Manager for Hughes' Spaceway program (now SpaceNet).

From 1999-2008, Lynne was President and CEO of Microflap, Inc.

Lynne also enjoys being a novelist, explorer, and a tap dancer. Her proudest accomplishment is being the mother of three whole children, the eldest of which is currently interning at Parliament.

Recent Media Appearances

Interviews: The Los Angeles Times; *Commentary:* Women in Aviation, Kitplanes Magazine, Verdad Literary Magazine

To arrange an interview: Contact Lynne at 562-425-3338 or [send an email](#).

Lynne Wainfan's Publications, Patents, and Awards

Publications

- Wainfan, Lynne, [Strategic Decisionmaking Theory](#), Doctoral Dissertation. Paul K. Davis, Dissertation Chair, the Pardee-RAND Graduate School, anticipated Fall, 2008

Strategic Decisionmaking (SDM) Theory is a new area of policy analysis specifically developed for groups of high-level decisionmakers with diverse perspectives. SDM differs from traditional decisionmaking in that it affects longer-term outcomes, more resources and stakeholders with diverse interests. As groups work to solve problems affecting these diverse stakeholders, their differing perspectives—values, beliefs, and expectations—strongly affect the decision outcome, and can often be at least as significant as more traditional “objective” criteria. SDM usefully accommodates different perspectives by focusing the group’s discussion on information and actions rather individuals’ values, beliefs, and expectations about the future. Principles of SDM Theory have been applied by the author to wide-ranging applications including national security strategy, corporate mergers & acquisitions, educational institution strategy, and climate change planning. This research will document the principles, constructs, and methodology of SDM Theory and apply it to a real-world defense acquisition problem.

- Wainfan, Lynne and Paul K. Davis, [Challenges in Virtual Collaboration: Videoconferencing, Audioconferencing, and Computer-Mediated Communications](#)



This book summarizes the research and applied literature on virtual collaboration, focusing on interactive virtual collaborations in real or near-real time. In particular, it reviews how the processes and outcomes of virtual collaborations are affected by the communication medium (videoconferencing, audioconferencing, or computer-mediated conferencing). It then discusses how problems in such collaboration can be mitigated and opportunities realized. Problems include increased “us vs. them” divisions and misunderstandings, ...

For more information, click on [Amazon](#) or [RAND](#) websites.

- Groves, David, Debra Knopman, Robert J. Lempert, Sandra H. Berry, Lynne Wainfan, [Presenting Uncertainty About Climate Change to Water-Resource Managers: A Summary of Workshops with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency.](#)



Water-resource managers have long strived to meet their goals of system reliability and environmental protection in the face of many uncertainties, including demographic and economic forecasts, intrinsic weather variability, and short-term climate change induced by El Niño and other naturally occurring cycles. Now water managers also face a new uncertainty — the potential for longer-term and more persistent climate change, which, in coming years, may significantly affect the availability

For more information, click on [Amazon](#) or [RAND](#) website.

- Groves, David, Debra Knopman, Robert J. Lempert, Sandra H. Berry, Lynne Wainfan, [Identifying and Reducing Climate-Change Vulnerabilities in Water-Management Plans](#)



This research brief summarizes work with Southern California's Inland Empire Utilities Agency to help it identify climate-change vulnerabilities in its long-term water plans and evaluate its most effective options for managing those risks.

For more information, click on [RAND](#) websites.

- Wainfan, L. and Davis, P.K., "Errors due to virtual collaboration," proceedings of the SPIE conference on enabling technologies for simulation science, Vol5423, 2004.
- Wainfan, L. and Davis, P.K., "Virtual Collaboration: Face-to-Face Communication versus Videoconference, Audioconference, or Computer-Mediated Communication," DARPA PM-1624-DARPA, January, 2004
- Various articles in aviation publications: Kitplanes Magazine, Model Builder Magazine, Women in Aviation Magazine
- Numerous FCC spectrum applications and awards
- Numerous proposals, business cases, annual reports

Patents

US Patents #6,339,707 and #6,032,041(Wainfan et al.) "Method and system for providing wideband communications to mobile users in a satellite-based network".

US Patent #7,026958 (Wainfan et al.) "The Method and system of utilizing satellites to transmit traffic congestion information to vehicles"

Awards

Poster Award, AAAS: "Which Decisionmaking Approach Works Best for Water Planners?" 2007

RAND Graduate School Doctoral Fellowship, 2003

1994 Hughes Space & Communications Company Joe Sanders Leadership award.

Hughes Masters' Fellowship, 1979

Recent Publications where Lynne's work is cited

- [Comparing Alternative U.S. Counterterrorism Strategies: Can Assumption-Based Planning Help Elevate the Debate?](#)



The United States faces the challenge of countering the terrorism threat. Frequently, both expert decisionmakers and lay citizens have trouble assessing alternative strategies to address such issues because of the emotions they engender and of the deep uncertainty involved. RAND has a long history of developing and employing methods for addressing...

- [Preparing for an Uncertain Future Climate in the Inland Empire: Identifying Robust Water-Management Strategies](#)



Water managers face significant uncertainties about future water-management conditions, including precipitation and temperature patterns that may be changing in response to global climate change. As part of a multiyear study on climate-change decisionmaking under uncertainty, RAND researchers are working with water agencies in California to help them better understand...

- Various [RAND Energy and Environment reports](#)
- [Implications of Modern Decision Science for Military Decision-Support Systems](#)



Decision science concerns understanding human decisionmaking and methods and tools to assist it. The first concern includes the distinction

between descriptive and prescriptive: how humans actually decide, versus how they should decide. Much of the early literature prescribed rational-analytic methods, such as embodied in systems analysis and ...

- [RAND Research Brief | Identifying and Reducing Climate-Change Vulnerabilities in Water-Management Plans](#)
- [RAND NSRD Annual Report](#)