Resource shortages and alteration of the natural environment will be distinctive features of the 21st century. Compounding pressures are social and economic disruptions associated with globalization and continued population growth. Consequently we must anticipate abrupt changes affecting the fundamental aspects of everyday life, namely food, water, housing, work, and mobility. Corporate and policy decision-makers have access to R&D and consultants to explore options for facing challenges. By contrast, citizens have no systematic access to analysis of robust alternatives for preparing for unexpected, often unwelcome events. Dr. Duchin will present a social science research agenda grounded in the material world that could provide this kind of content. However, this research has to get out to the public through cultural channels that remain largely to be created. Dr. Duchin’s talk will suggest possible mechanisms that involve new forms of research organization and partnerships.

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