

# MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

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## Future of Manufacturing

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May 7, 2020 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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11:00am - 12:00pm

Manufacturing Work of the Future: Technology, Institutions, and Possibilities  
Elisabeth B. Reynolds  
Former Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Economic Development  
Former Executive Director, MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future and IPC  
Lecturer, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
Partner, [Unless](#)



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Former Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Economic Development  
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Elisabeth Reynolds is a Partner in Unless, an investment firm focused on industrial transformation, and a Lecturer in the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. She was Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Economic Development at the National Economic Council until October, 2022. During her time at the White House, she helped lead the Administration's work on supply chain challenges, national manufacturing strategy, regional economic development and the broader industrial policy agenda. Before working in the Biden Administration, Reynolds was the executive director of the MIT Industrial Performance Center and co-lead, with Professors David Autor and David Mindell, the MIT Task Force on the Work of the Future. In both roles, she worked on manufacturing-related issues including growing innovative firms to scale and technology adoption by small and large firms.

12:00pm - 1:00pm

MIT Production in the Innovation Economy Study: Lessons Learned in the Epoch of COVID-19

Olivier de Weck

Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Engineering Systems  
Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Systems Engineering*  
Executive Director, MIT Production in the Innovation Economy (PIE) Study  
Co-Director, Center for Complex Engineering Systems at KACST and MIT  
Secretary and Treasurer, Council of Engineering Systems Universities (CESUN)



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Prof. de Weck is an international leader in *Systems Engineering* research. He focuses on how complex man-made systems such as aircraft, spacecraft, automobiles, printers and critical infrastructures are designed, manufactured and operated and how they evolve over time. His main emphasis is on the strategic properties of these systems that have the potential to *maximize lifecycle value*. His group has developed quantitative methods and tools that explicitly consider manufacturability, flexibility, robustness, and sustainability among other characteristics. Significant results include the *Adaptive Weighted Sum (AWS)* method for resolving tradeoffs amongst competing objectives, the *Delta-Design Structure Matrix (DDSM)* for technology infusion analysis, Time-Expanded Decision Networks (TDN) and the *SpaceNet* and *HabNet* simulation environments. These methods have impacted complex systems in space exploration (NASA, JPL), oil and gas exploration (BP) as well as sophisticated electro-mechanical products (e.g. Xerox, Pratt & Whitney, GM, DARPA). He has authored two books and about 250 peer-reviewed papers to date. He is a Fellow of INCOSE and an Associate Fellow of AIAA. Since January 2013 he serves as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Systems Engineering*. In 2006 he received the Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising followed by the 2010 Marion MacDonald Award for Excellence in Mentoring and Advising and a 2012 AIAA Teaching Award. From 2008-2011 he served as Associate Director of the Engineering Systems Division (ESD) at MIT. From 2011 to 2013 he served as Executive Director of the MIT Production in the Innovation Economy (PIE) project.

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