



## **Rebecca Costa**

### *Topic Descriptions*

#### **The Watchman's Rattle: Thinking Our Way Out of Extinction**

Why are economic, social, and political problems leaping ahead faster than governments can patch them up?

Business professionals, politicians, housewives, academia, and an ever-lengthening unemployment line are desperate to understand why our problems keep getting bigger.

In "The Watchman's Rattle: Thinking Our Way Out of Extinction," based on Rebecca Costa's book of the same name, she connects the dots between crime, oil prices, Wall Street, global warming, nuclear waste, and childhood violence. In the tradition of Malcolm Gladwell and Thomas Friedman, scholar and author Rebecca Costa reveals the four telltale patterns which paralyze innovative thinking, and with it, a civilization's ability to solve complex problems. Using both historic and modern-day examples, "The Watchman's Rattle" describes what happens when complexity races ahead of the brain's ability to manage it, the underlying reason why experts and governments can no longer fix global crisis and conflict. Costa shows how the same deconstructionist problem-solving techniques used to "find lost luggage" are ineffectively being used to address global warming, war, poverty, and the worldwide financial crisis.

#### **Managing Accelerating Complexity in Business**

Speaker Rebecca Costa provides examples of accelerating complexity and how it has led to higher rates of failure in business and global financial markets. She details specific techniques on how to make complex, time-sensitive decisions, and shares:

- How to understand and exercise the venture capitalist model
- How to decode fact, opinion, and belief-based management
- The five attributes of sustainable growth and success

#### **Fast Adaptation in Higher Education**

Nowhere has accelerating complexity become a greater challenge than in higher education. From new IT requirements, laws and regulations, research methodologies, and joint development with commercial enterprises to the spiraling costs of education, speaker Rebecca Costa shows how the principles of "fast adaptation" are used by today's most successful institutions. In this presentation, she covers:

- The neuroscience behind complexity and learning
- Effective collaboration with commercial enterprise
- Successful integration of distance learning, social media, and diversification
- Moving beyond "research vs. instruction" agendas



### **Navigating Rapid Change in Government**

Rapid changes in technology, policy, and procedures—as well as economic and political landscapes—have led to new levels of complexity, which many institutions and individuals are unequipped to navigate. In this keynote speech, sociobiologist and keynote speaker Rebecca Costa provides the necessary tools to overcome gridlock and succeed in high failure rate environments. She shares how to:

- Overcome the bureaucratic hurdles (regulations, laws, technology, and oversight)
- Decode biological basis for irrational policy
- Avoid interagency collaborative strategy vs. competitive showdowns
- Design complex risk assessment models effectively

### **Accelerating Complexity in Technology**

Gordon Moore was the first to forecast that data densities would double every 18 months. The question we must face is: Can the human organism keep up? Speaker Rebecca Costa, author of *The Watchman's Rattle*, arms executives with practical “fast adaptation” techniques for managing accelerating complexity at the organizational level. In this presentation, Costa describes how to:

- Identify specific criteria for “user hostile” technology
- Develop new tools for rapid content absorption
- Identify techniques to overcome market resistance
- Focus on the future of acceleration and sustainability