



ملتقى أبوظبي للأفكار 2018
ABU DHABI IDEAS WEEKEND

بمشاركة
in association with

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE



2-3 MARCH 2018

Knowledge partner

L.E.K.



تمكين TAMKEEN

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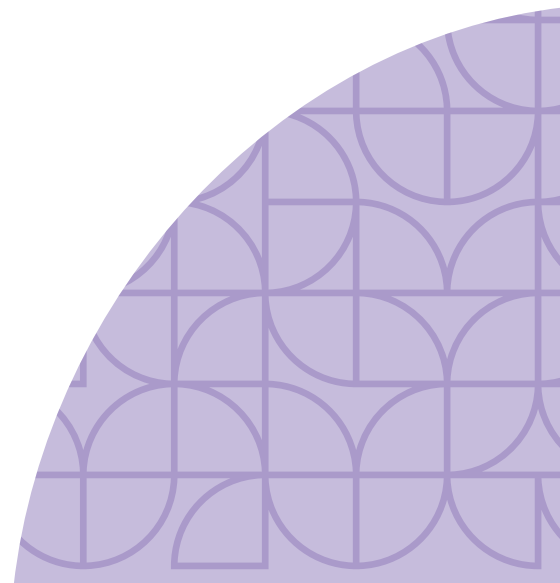


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INTRODUCTION



Over the past decade, Abu Dhabi has become a global hub for new ideas, emerging technologies, and cutting-edge thinking. The successes of institutions such as New York University Abu Dhabi, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, and the Louvre Abu Dhabi are testaments to the knowledge-based growth and progress taking place at this crossroads of continents. Abu Dhabi's emergence as a cultural and intellectual powerhouse in the Gulf has made the emirate an ideal location for the Abu Dhabi Ideas Weekend, a two-day exploration and celebration of the most innovative thinking tackling the world's most important challenges.

The event was hosted by Tamkeen, an Abu Dhabi Government-owned company, in association with the Aspen Institute, host of the annual Aspen Ideas Festival in Colorado. Considered one of the most influential and high-profile public

mediums in the world, the Aspen Ideas Festival has for the last 13 years brought together hundreds of speakers and thousands of attendees to discuss the best ideas that could solve the world's toughest economic, social, political, scientific, and technological issues. The event remains a trailblazer, pushing progressive thinking through multiple mediums from talks and art to musical performances.

The Abu Dhabi Ideas Weekend drew on both: Abu Dhabi's reputation for embracing new ideas, and the Aspen Ideas Festival's expertise in bringing those ideas to the fore. There were two parts: an invitation-only, VIP Forum, and an open, public Festival.

The Forum gathered some of the brightest minds of our time to discuss some of the world's most pressing challenges in front of an audience of over 300 top executives, government representatives, industry leaders and



academics. Speakers included Emirati and global leaders such as UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron, and Former President of the French Republic Nicolas Sarkozy, as well as experts in their field such as Emmy-award winning director Anthony Geffen and Chief AI Scientist for Facebook, Yann LeCun.

The Forum was structured differently to most conferences. Instead of loosely connected sessions tied together by a common theme, talks were curated to answer large, complex questions that face humanity. These were 'moonshot' challenges, defined as much by the significance of their reach as the magnitude of effort required to achieve them. In 2018 the four moonshots were:

- Polarisation: Bridging the gaps
- Cancer: An end in sight?
- Artificial Intelligence: Our super-intelligent friend?
- The Modern Silk Road: A new era of globalisation?

The public Festival took place on both days in the evening after the Forum. Over 3,500 attendees from more than 50 countries attended open talks from leading thinkers, entrepreneurs and explorers. They immersed themselves in interactive experiences from celebrated international artists, and enjoyed performances delivered by regional and international musicians.



The talks and workshops covered a variety of topics ranging from the future of the music industry and living on the International Space Station, to building 3D printed limbs and participating in Sufi cultural rituals using virtual reality headsets.

L.E.K. Consulting, as one of the world's leading strategy firms with deep industry expertise and knowledge in a variety of sectors, found a natural connection with the Abu Dhabi Ideas Weekend and joined as the event's Knowledge Partner, reinforcing its commitment to learning and innovation.

The following pages provide a window into the invitation-only Forum talks and their key takeaways. For more information on the event please visit www.ideasweekend.ae or watch the talks on the @AbuDhabiIdeasWeekend channel on YouTube.

MOONSHOT #1

POLARISATION:

Bridging the gaps

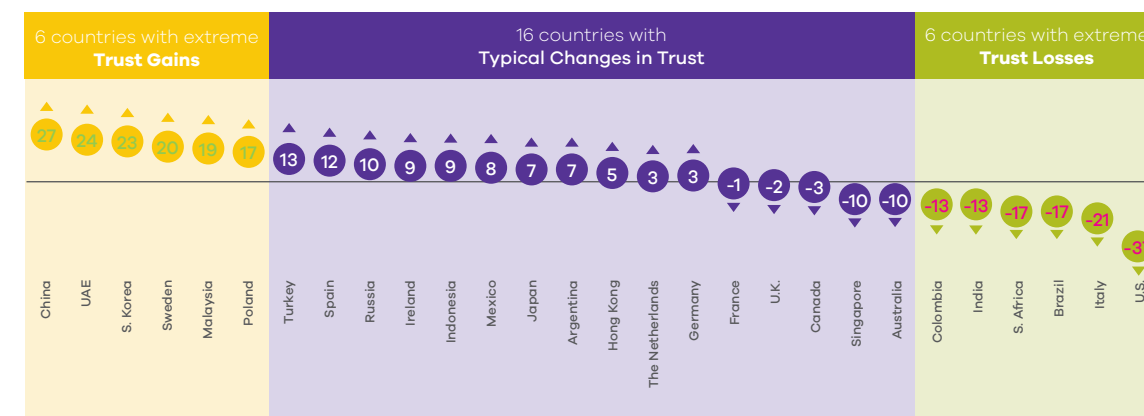
Over several years, pollsters have tracked a shift in public opinion towards populism as well as a declining trust in democracy. Across Western Europe, for example, the Pew Research Center found that trust in the news media varies more widely between those who hold populist and non-populist views, than between traditional political divides of left and right.¹ Meanwhile, the Democracy Perception Index 2018 found that disillusionment with democracy is higher in democratic countries (64%) than in non-democratic countries (41%) – a risk to the future stability of democracies if their citizens continue to feel disenfranchised.²

This change in global public opinion has already resulted in a number

of unexpected political outcomes, including the 2016 US Presidential Election of Donald Trump; the United Kingdom's referendum vote to leave the European Union; the rise of France's National Front and Italy's antiestablishment Five Star Movement; the election of the far-right Alternative for Germany into the Bundestag; and the self-styled "illiberal democracy" of the Hungarian Prime Minister. In each case, the campaign and rhetoric deployed demonstrated deep rifts within those countries.

At the root of this populism and declining trust in democracy, however, is a broader trend: increasing economic, political, and social polarisation.

Aggregate percentage point change of trust in institutions from 2017 to 2018



SOURCE: Edelman

1 <http://www.journalism.org/2018/05/14/in-western-europe-public-attitudes-toward-news-media-more-divided-by-populist-views-than-left-right-ideology/>

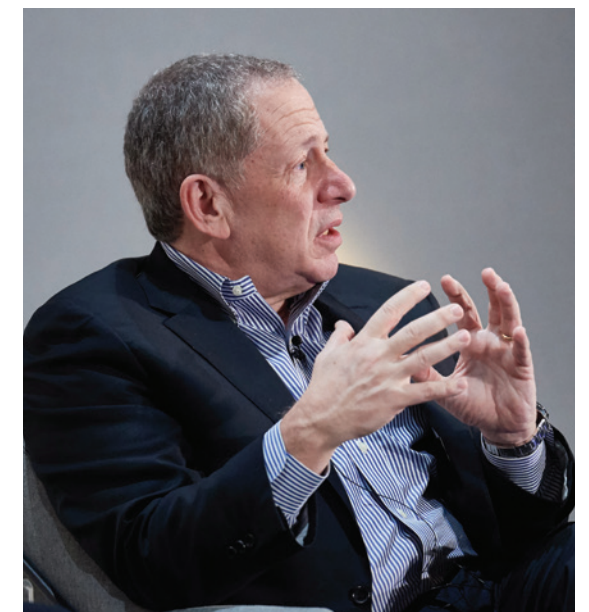
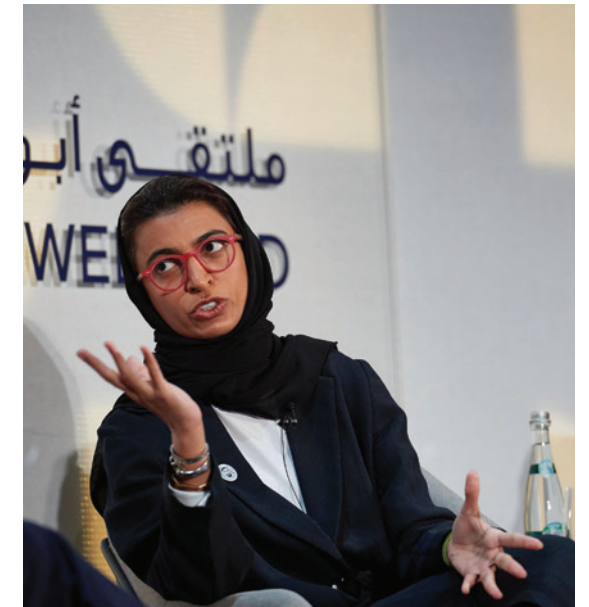
2 <https://www.politico.eu/article/democracy-europe-citizens-disillusioned-poll/>

Two main drivers of this polarisation were raised at the Abu Dhabi Ideas Weekend. The first was the growing influence of social media. Sir Lynton Crosby, the renowned campaign strategist, said that social media was previously considered a highly positive technology, connecting people across borders and cultures, creating greater transparency and inclusivity, but is now considered the opposite: a technology that catalyses anger and makes it easier for the powerful to manipulate the people. Today, only 14% of British adults believe social media is ultimately good for society.³

The second was the long-standing concern in many communities over immigration, an issue hotly debated during both the UK "Brexit" referendum and US Presidential Election, and one that remains a sensitive issue in the EU after so many years of the Syrian refugee crisis. Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Cameron stated that centrists cannot ignore the problems of globalisation or the causes of populism but must try to solve them directly: "Clearly in Britain we have to do better on controlling immigration. It's been the number one political issue year after year and clearly we have got to do better at making sure everyone shares in economic growth."

To all these challenges, there is a case to be made for technology as a solution. The rapidly improving sophistication of virtual and augmented reality have potentially profound implications for how we deliver education and for injecting a critically missing ingredient in social media: empathy. "Clouds Over Sidra", produced by Gabo Arora, the multi-award winning immersive artist, is a VR film that follows the story of a twelve-year-old Syrian refugee

3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aRMi3TB7c0>



girl. The film was used by UNICEF in an experiment to see if it had an impact on donations. Whereas most donation drives convert on average one in 12 people to give a donation, if someone first experienced the Syrian conflict through a VR headset that number rose to one in six. Mr. Arora pointed out that virtual reality has transformative and transporting qualities. He believes *"It is essential to use this new medium not just for gaming or entertainment but for what technology has always had its higher purpose for: connecting us and building empathy."*

More generally, VR and AR technology can create stronger connections to other cultures and ways of life. Emmy-award winning director Anthony Geffen has produced VR and AR films to do just that. His productions "Rome Unwrapped" and "Egypt's Mystery Chamber" enable children from different countries to experience and learn about history and different cultures, creating deeper links to and appreciation for differences between societies. Other productions such as "David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef" and "Galapagos with David Attenborough" are calls to action to protect the environment that are all the more powerful for immersing the viewer and creating a human connection.

In the UAE, technology and education play a central role in making the country a centre for tolerance by promoting peaceful values and multi-culturalism as a matter of course. UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi believes the most important aspect of knowledge development is finding ways to connect with each other. Through education, societies can teach critical

listening skills, open-mindedness to other people's views, and how to disagree without becoming dogmatic or, worse, violent. *"In an age where information disseminates faster than ever before, technology must be wielded to counter polarisation and leverage more from existing cultural exchange programmes and other initiatives that bring communities together."*

However, polarisation is perhaps an inevitable symptom of this stage in history. David Rothkopf, founder of the Rothkopf Group, believes that for the first time ever we are entering a world in which there will be one global cultural ecosystem. *"In other words, each and every person anywhere on the planet will be connected to each and every other person everywhere else on the planet all the time, in real time."* This will change what we think of as a community, of governance, and of culture. And as we see this evolution take place, the resulting impact on every aspect of society, from jobs and education to culture and social norms, will become clearer.

The populist drive continues, and there remains an open question as to who or what can counter it. Will technology continue to polarise societies, or can it now also bring humanity back together? What can be done to bridge the gap between two increasingly polarised parts of a society?



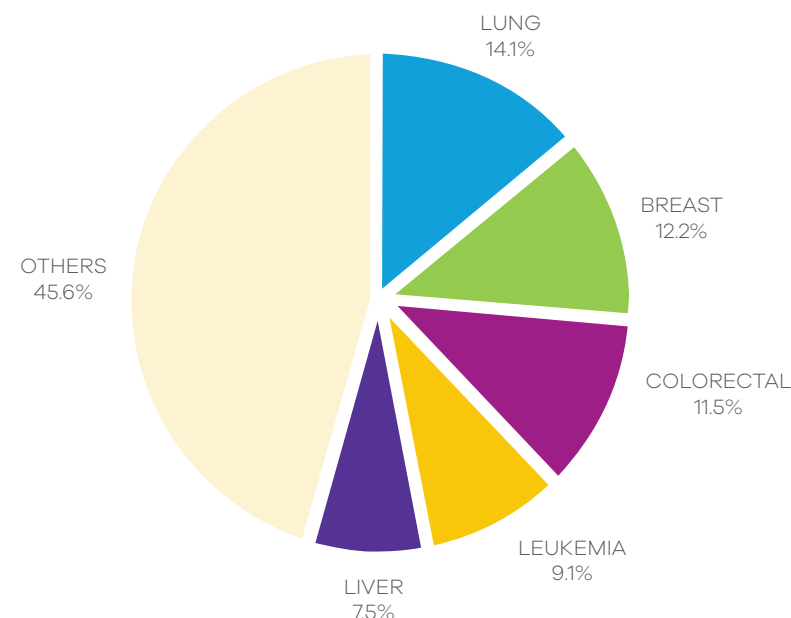
MOONSHOT #2

CANCER:

An end in sight?

Over 14 million people each year are diagnosed with one or more of over 100 types of cancer. In the UAE, approximately 4,500 new cases are reported every year, and cancer remains the third leading cause of death in Abu Dhabi. After 250 years of research and major advances in detection and drug development, there is increasing hope that we could finally find cures for this disease.

Leading Causes of Death Related to Cancer - Abu Dhabi 2015



SOURCE: Department of Health - Abu Dhabi

The road has been long, but we have seen progress largely due to significant advancements in both research and healthcare.

In terms of research, the enormous gains made in artificial intelligence, specifically deep learning and machine learning, have created a powerful diagnostic tool for doctors to assess and treat tumours. By training AI neural networks on massive

amounts of data, computers are able to achieve rates of efficiency and speed that most trained radiologists cannot match. Dr. Lily Peng, a lead researcher at Google Health, uses deep learning networks to understand how these advances can be applied to cancer and other diseases, and the results are already impressive. *"Pathologists find 73% of the cancer lesions with zero false positives. Our trained model found more than 95%*

of the cancer lesions with eight false positives. The ideal system would be a combination of the two, where you would have high sensitivity, finding a lot of cancers, but having a pathologist review and rule out the ones that are not actually cancer."

In the field of synthetic biology, scientists are learning how to re-programme bacteria to detect and eventually suppress tumours. Dr. Tal Danino, Director of the Synthetic Biological Systems Laboratory at Columbia University, began editing the DNA of various bacteria to perform such tasks as lighting up under stimuli or flashing light in unison at a particular frequency. Pro-biotic bacteria, which are good for your health, were discovered to "colonise" some types of tumours, making them an effective way to detect cancer. Dr. Danino explained: *"One of the other things you can do is not just diagnose cancer but engineer this bacteria to make different kinds of drugs that will shrink the tumors that they're living in. And the way we did this is engineer a programme so that when the bacteria reach critical*

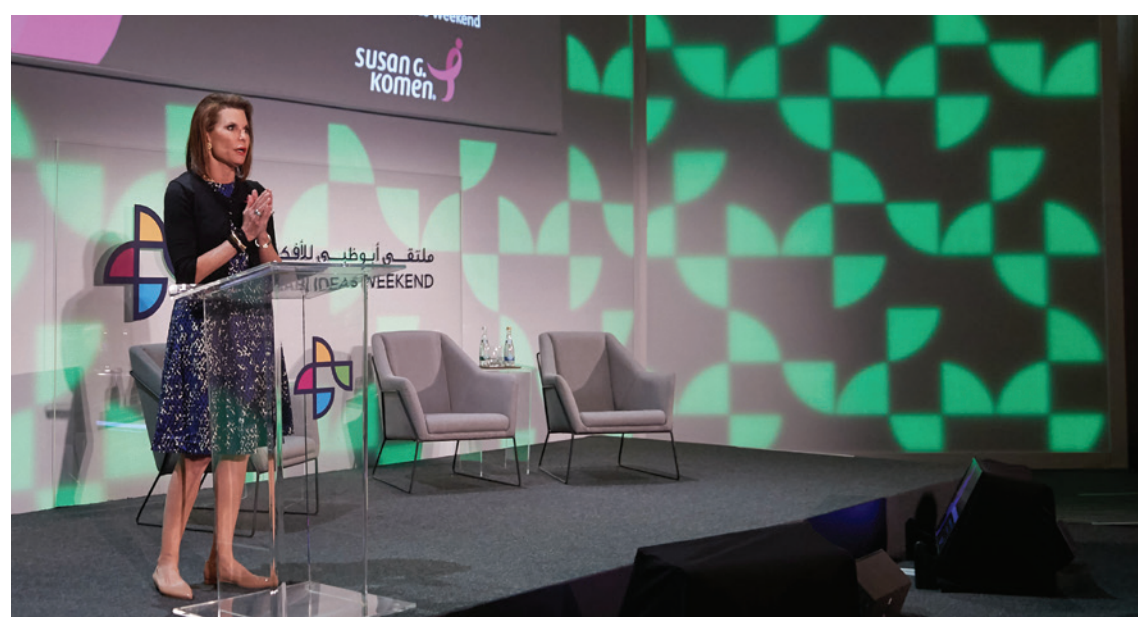
density they 'lyse' themselves, which means bursting open releasing their content into their surrounding environment, which lets the drugs to be released and reach the cancer cells." These "smart bacteria" would be multiple times more precise and effective than chemotherapy, which has serious and often painful side effects as it targets the whole body, and not just the cancer.



The latest research that has found its way into some hospitals, and is already creating positive results, is in immunotherapy and gene therapy. The former works to boost the body's natural immune systems to fight cancer using "checkpoint inhibitors", while the latter repairs missing or damaged genes in order to correct genetic disorders. Dr. Dale Shepard, Director of the Taussig Phase I and Sarcoma Programs at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, said: *"When you look at our ability to treat cancer, it is truly a revolutionary time. We have seen progress in the last few years that is unrivalled. We have a lot of immunotherapies that are now available, there is also a whole new range of genomic therapies."* He gave one example of a former patient: *"I've had a patient with a bladder cancer that has had three lines of therapy and there was nothing that was known to be working. He received one of these checkpoint inhibitors and his tumour literally melted away, and three years later he still doesn't have evidence of cancer."*

The UAE National Health Agenda 2021 aims to cut cancer cases by 18%, in part through the establishment of a world-class healthcare system. To that end, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi is a cutting-edge multi-specialty hospital that brings with it the Cleveland Clinic Ohio philosophy of holistic care. By providing high-quality healthcare, attuned to the local environment of patients, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi can provide much more accurate diagnoses and effective treatments. The advantage, according to Dr. Rakesh Suri, CEO of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, is that patients no longer have to go abroad to receive specialist care but can receive state-of-the-art treatment in Abu Dhabi.

Outside the hospital, greater awareness among the general public significantly helps reduce cancer deaths through a combination of preventative care and earlier diagnoses. Ambassador Nancy Brinker, founder of Susan G. Komen, the non-profit cancer organisation, has seen firsthand the impact of



these awareness raising programmes. *"Critical to their success is making sure they are culturally relevant and appropriate to the community you are serving: there is no one-size-fits-all approach."* At Susan G. Komen the focus is on breast cancer, and through culturally-specific programmes they have helped raise \$965 million for breast cancer research and reduce the mortality rate of US breast cancer patients by 39% over the last 25 years.

Cancer's days could be numbered by a combination of these advances. The tantalising question is: could the arrival of artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, immunotherapy, gene therapy, 21st century healthcare practices, and more sensitive public awareness programmes really send cancer the way of smallpox?



MOONSHOT #3

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:

Our super-intelligent friend?

Artificial intelligence platforms have existed for decades but only recently, with the advent of machine and deep learning techniques, has AI seen a leap in capabilities. From Google's DeepMind to IBM's Watson to Elon Musk's OpenAI to Facebook's AI bots, some of the greatest minds and companies are racing to define the next era of computing.

In 2017, the UAE government launched its "Strategy for Artificial Intelligence" appointing the world's first ever Minister of AI, with the aim of making the UAE a leader in the field of AI investments in various sectors. One of these sectors is healthcare, where AI has already begun to offer enormous benefits.

From making more precise diagnoses to offering the most accurate treatment for patients, AI is increasingly a key instrument for doctors to rely on. For instance, during the Ebola outbreak of 2013-2016, one AI company screened thousands of compounds and identified two that were effective in treating the virus, and all in less than twelve hours. Dr. Hugh Montgomery, who consults for DeepMind, pointed out that in Britain, 72% of a junior doctor's time is spent on a computer, ordering tests and getting results back, which is partly the reason why 42% of junior doctors left medicine in 2017.⁴ If many of these tasks could be automated by AI – deciding tests, analysing the results,

recommending a treatment plan – then doctors would have more time to focus on the human aspect of healthcare: talking to and treating patients.

Agriculture is another sector reaping the AI boom. David Rosenberg's AeroFarms uses machine learning when growing plants by analysing all the variables and outcomes in plant production, from light to pH to soil type to produce a better quality product for less cost while using 95% less water. As a result, AeroFarms is 390 times more productive than a typical farm in New York State and is twice as efficient, more than halving the time to harvest from 30-45 days in traditional farms down to 15 days on average.

Anthony Geffen, the award-winning director, has also deployed AI in his productions. From assisting doctors with autism patients to personalised physical training programmes for athletes to educational content for students, he believes the combination of AI, VR, and AR could be revolutionary, creating a level playing field for people around the world.

Looking at where AI could go in the future, there are two areas of research with enormous potential.

The first is in the field of "artificial emotional intelligence", i.e. training machines to be able to understand and interpret human emotions. Dr. Rana El Kaliouby, Co-Founder



⁴ <https://youtu.be/1QwRTdKDSVI>

and CEO of Affectiva, calls this new technology “multi-modal emotional intelligence”, in which a machine takes in a person’s facial expressions and gestures, and combines them with their tone of voice to make an inference about the individual’s emotional state. If machines could understand human emotions, such as happiness or fear, it would open up new potential use cases for AI in areas such as medicine, counselling, and personal assistance.

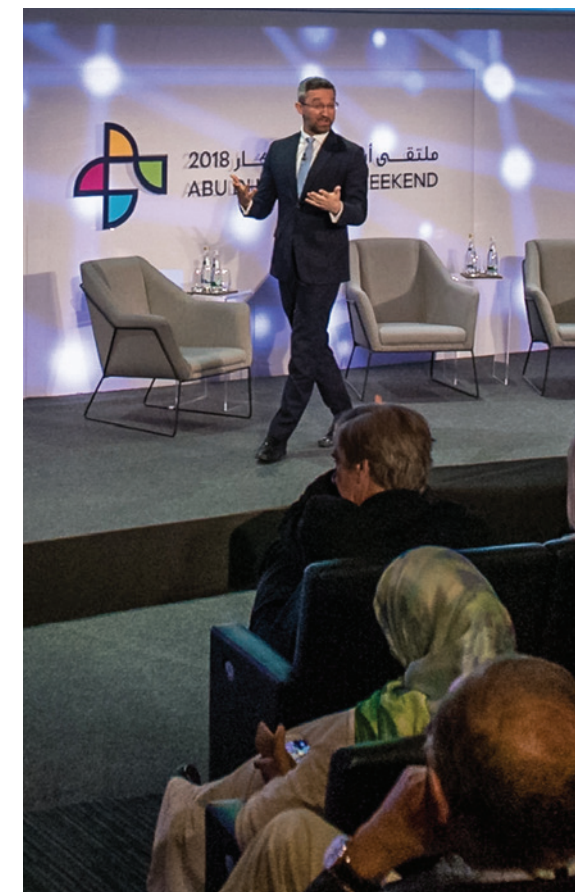
The second area of research is in “predictive artificial intelligence”. Can machines build models of the world that allow them to predict what will happen next, something that humans can do easily from the earliest age, but which computers find incredibly difficult? Dr. Yann LeCun, the Chief AI Scientist at Facebook, thinks “*The essence of intelligence is the ability to predict. The ability to predict the consequences of our actions or*

predict what is going to happen in the world is really what allows us to plan and take advantage of the world. How do we get machines to learn predictive models of the world? That’s really the big question.”

With all these breakthroughs, we seem to be at the beginning of an AI revolution, especially when academic predictions for achieving certain AI milestones have proven conservative. Until recently, it was believed that a machine would not beat a human at the board game ‘Go’ until the 2020s, but DeepMind’s AlphaGo beat the world champion in 2016 after four weeks studying and playing hundreds of thousands of games. Even more astonishing was that the following year the next iteration, AlphaGo Zero, beat AphaGo after just three days of training, which consisted of playing itself over and over again, without access to any other data or example games.

The speed at which AI is developing has naturally raised certain fears, in particular about the notion of an emerging ‘singularity’, the hypothetical moment when AI is not only smarter than humans, but begins to outsmart its creator. Experts are divided as to if and when this will happen, but Dr. LeCun believes that humans do not risk losing the number one slot as the greatest threat to humanity and the planet. “*The desire to take over the world is not correlated with intelligence.*” Instead, in his view, malicious groups manipulating advanced AI are the more substantial threat.

AI, for now, appears to be growing into humanity’s super-intelligent friend, one that could help bring much needed assistance in curing diseases, alleviating food scarcity, and providing quality education for all. What other applications await us in the near future? And importantly, will AI always be benevolent?



MOONSHOT #4

THE MODERN SILK ROAD:

A new era of globalisation?

While the developed world can seem increasingly ill at ease with globalisation, China is emerging as a vocal advocate. With major investments in innovation and infrastructure both inside and outside its borders, China is shifting the locus of globalisation east. Creating new systems of trade and cooperation to match, there are wider implications for the global economy, regional security, and public diplomacy that could ripple out for decades.

It began in 2013 when China launched its Belt and Road Initiative, a new network of railways and roads, pipelines and ports, and cultural exchange programmes aimed at binding China more closely to Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. To get an idea of its scale and ambition, the projects planned under the Belt and Road Initiative have a total estimated capital need of \$4-8 trillion, will touch about 65% of the world's

population that constitute one-third of global GDP, and help move a quarter of all goods and services. Former President of the French Republic Nicolas Sarkozy said: *"If I had to make one speech to the United Nations, that speech would be about demography. I am not saying we should not have children, but this demographic shock that the world is facing today is something we have not seen since the first human inhabitants 3 million years ago. This is the demographic shock that engages pollution, climate change, wars, problems of water supply and other primary necessities, utilities, the cause of all these perturbations that the world knows today is due to this problem."*

The Belt and Road Initiative has already come to symbolise China's aspirations for global influence. Martin Jacques, author and expert on China, believes that the Belt and Road Initiative is a reflection of China's own

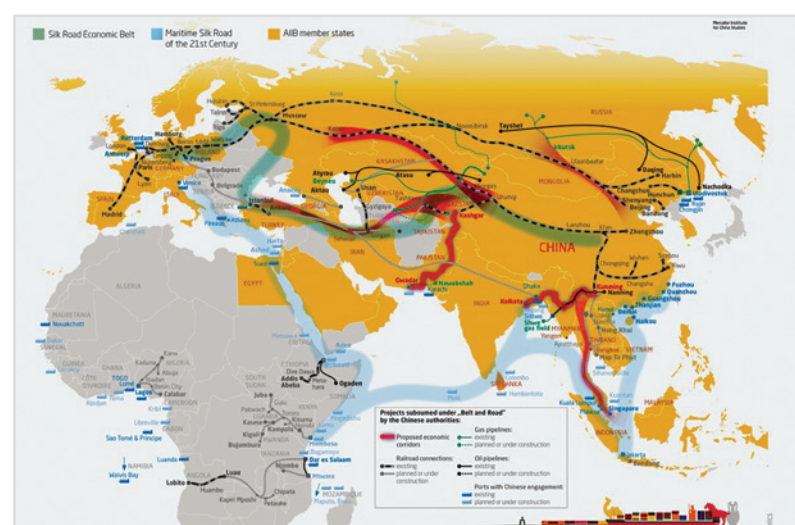
unprecedented transformation over the last several decades, applying some of the lessons learned from the country's extraordinary growth to the Eurasian landmass. He believes: *"To understand China, one of the key words we have to grasp is 'development'. China is in our time the great exponent of development, by which I mean development for the developing world. China is the master of this experience."*

The Belt and Road Initiative has thus invigorated a "China rising" narrative. Dr. Elizabeth Economy, the CV Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, believes the initiative has morphed and evolved over time, and is often opportunistic. For instance, it

has moved from being driven purely by economic and security concerns, to also incorporating a substantial cultural and political character, as a way of promoting China's influence. Dr. Economy thinks: *"There is overall a sense, especially under [President] Xi Jing Ping, of great ambition to have China assert its place on the world stage and to play a much greater role in shaping how the international community develops and embraces certain norms."*

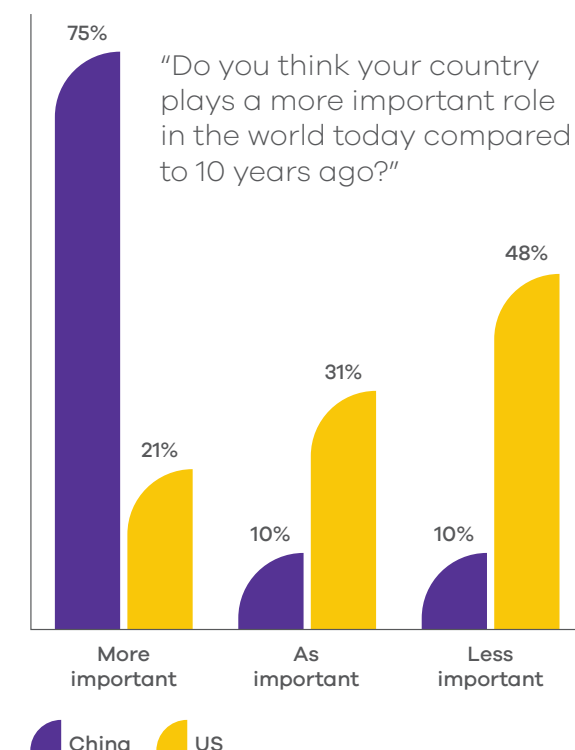
The potential environmental impact of the Belt and Road Initiative has also risen in proportion to the scope of its ambitions. David Sandalow, Co-Director of Energy and Environment at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, emphasises the damage that the initiative could have on climate change as China is by far the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. Even though China has set

Projects under the Belt and Road Initiative



SOURCE: Merics

China vs USA: Changing Global Roles



SOURCE: European Council on Foreign Relations

out clear goals called "Guidance to a Green Belt & Road" focused on environmental protection and sustainability practices, the vast size and number of projects only highlight the challenge in managing the environmental consequences. Mr. Sandalow said the Chinese leadership does not want to be perceived as a climate villain, an overarching motivation in China's environmental policies. *"I think there is almost nothing happening on the planet that is more important with respect to climate change and environmental issues in particular than the Belt and Road Initiative. The size of this initiative is so big, there are already 900 projects and \$50 billion of investment. The projections are thousands of projects and as much as trillions of dollars of investment in dozens of countries. The difference between that investment being low-carbon or high-carbon is enormous."*

The primary motive for the Belt and Road Initiative, however, remains clearly economic. David Rothkopf, CEO of the Rothkopf Group, compares the Initiative to an enormous organism that needs a lot of input in order to survive. In one sense, the project is not just strategic in nature, but also inevitable, as China's only means to maintain its growth path is to shift from an internal development model to one that connects it to the rest of the world.

In a similar vein, Dr. Yasheng Huang, founder of the China Lab at MIT, believes China has benefited the most from the current global system. It was a poor country just 40 years ago. Now it has the second largest GDP in the world and is the largest trading country. *"China has been the biggest beneficiary of the current global system. Look at how it grew under*

that system. I do not see any evidence which would challenge that. I think the international system served countries like China and India very well."

China's Belt and Road Initiative has only just begun and could run for decades, growing ever larger and more complex as it begins to affect politics, economics, and cultures in dozens of countries. The implications are still unknown, but will building a 'modern silk road' not only shift globalisation east, but perhaps also give it renewed impetus, to the benefit of millions of people?



CONCLUSION

Throughout the two days of the Abu Dhabi Ideas Weekend, many of the same themes and questions repeatedly emerged: What role will technology play in shaping our future? To what extent can nations really go it alone or are our destinies intertwined within a global system? Will we be able to harness the dominant trends of our time to our benefit, or lose control of them to our detriment?

Both Abu Dhabi and the Aspen Institute are committed to scanning the horizon, seeking solutions to the long-term, complex, multi-stakeholder issues that face all of us. The Abu Dhabi Ideas Weekend, with L.E.K. Consulting as its Knowledge Partner, is a continuation of this spirit, recognising that through immersion in the issues, empathy with each other, and the sharing of experience we can more convincingly define our own futures.



SPEAKER OP-ED

MARTIN JACQUES, GULF NEWS

27 FEBRUARY 2018

The UAE will have significance in China's Road drive

The Belt and Road Initiative marks a new stage in China's rise. Launched in 2013, it built on China's going out strategy which took shape around the turn of the century. If the lines of continuity are clear, the differences are even starker. The going out strategy saw China developing closer relations with Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America, to name the most prominent. In contrast, the BRI is an overarching project designed to transform the Eurasian land mass, presently home to around two-thirds of the world's population.

We have never seen the like of it before, a project on the grandest of scales and in that sense consonant with China's own traditions.

Although Europe is part of the Eurasian land mass, the central aim is the transformation of the developing countries that comprise most of the continent. The developmental logic runs roughly as follows. China transformed itself — the most remarkable transformation in human history, one never likely to be repeated — by massive investment, in which the state was instrumental and which was largely directed towards infrastructure.

The result was spectacular economic growth and a massive reduction in poverty. If it worked for China, then why could it not for other developing countries? China doesn't see itself as a model, but it does believe that these lessons are of more general application.

Spectacular though Belt and Road maybe, it would be wrong to underestimate or dismiss its chances of success. After almost

four decades of continuous growth, China has a formidable record of delivery. Belt and Road should not only be taken seriously, it should be assumed that in the long run it is likely to be largely successful.

By 2050, Eurasia will surely look very different, growth will have taken root in many countries and Eurasia will have moved to the centre of the global economy and geopolitics. For the more sceptical, it should be born in mind that by 2030 the Chinese economy is projected to be twice the size of America's.

For various reasons, most importantly the closeness of the US's relationship with the Middle East, China has moved relatively cautiously in expanding its ties with the Middle East. But the pace has quickened since the Western financial crisis.

The most important single aspect of China's relationship has been its dependence on the Middle East for half its oil imports. But the Chinese approach has consistently focused on the need to establish a much broader economic relationship. In this context, the Middle East countries have shown great interest in the Belt and Road Initiative.

All the Middle Eastern states, bar five, are members of the Asian Infrastructure Bank, and three of the 12 directors are from the region.

Apart from the obvious economic importance of China to the Middle East, there are two key reasons why the latter is showing such interest in Belt and Road. Firstly, these countries — and perhaps most notably the Gulf states — occupy a key strategic position with regard to both the land and maritime routes.

This lends their ports an obvious significance and enhances the potential of their accompanying economic zones. The second is that with the decline of fossil fuels now firmly on the agenda, they need to diversify their economies with some alacrity, Saudi Arabia being the most compelling example.

The UAE has been well to the fore in broadening its relationship with China. China is the UAE's second largest trading partner while the UAE is China's second largest partner in the Gulf region.

The Khalifa port is one of the fastest growing in the world and, with Cosco's decision to establish its own container terminal, is set to almost double in size. The Kamsil industrial zone is expanding rapidly with major Chinese investments.

A UAE-China investment fund was established in 2015 and the UAE sees itself as becoming a major financial hub. Lying on the key trading routes to Africa, Europe and the Indian subcontinent, the UAE is well-placed to be a major beneficiary of the BRI.

SPEAKER OP-ED

LYNTON CROSBY, *THE NATIONAL*

1 MARCH 2018

In the pessimistic West, an aura of negativity feeds into a growing political divide

We live in a world that seems angrier, more cynical, more divided. That's the story we've been increasingly told in recent years, especially since the twin upsets of Brexit and Donald Trump winning the US presidential election in 2016. But it's not the whole truth. What's largely happened is that Western commentators have taken a western experience and held it up as the global norm.

Take the comparison many western journalists have made between Mr Trump and India's Narendra Modi. What the analogy ignores is that 88 per cent of Indians have a favourable view of Mr Modi, according to Pew Research, while only 34 of Americans approve of Mr Trump's job performance.

So what's actually going on?

International evidence shows a clear divide in the attitudes of the mature western democracies and the fast-growing economies of the developing world, especially Asia. The latter are generally more upbeat about the future, more satisfied with the performance of their governments, more trustful of business, the state and the media.

According to CT Group research, 74 per cent of Indians, 75 per cent of Indonesians and 78 per cent of Filipinos were happy with the direction that their country was headed in. This compares to 29 per cent of Americans and 32 per cent of Britons.

In the more pessimistic West, this aura of negativity feeds into a growing political divide, particularly on the issues of immigration, household incomes and the impacts of globalisation. In recent elections, we've also seen a growing partisan gulf between the youngest and oldest voters.

Uniting the generations is a sense that society is not working the way it should. In a 2016 survey, Ipsos Mori found that 66 per cent of Americans felt that their society was "broken". So did 56 per cent of the British and 52 per cent of the French. In India, the equivalent figure was only 32 per cent.

So what's driving that sense of anger and division across the western world?

I believe there are at least four factors at play: the rise of social media, the response of the mainstream media, declining trust in traditional sources of authority and the increased professionalisation of the political process.

Social media has given a voice to the angry, the extreme and the anonymous. Instead of a genuine exchange of views, we now have an opinion war. Because we share and engage with the content we like, it's easy to become trapped in our own political echo chambers.

But social media does not operate in vacuum. It's part of a broader communications ecosystem that includes the mainstream media. Faced with declining sales, the traditional media has been forced to become more sensationalist, more

politicised and less measured in its coverage. Driven by the need to maintain viewers in the face of more competitors, 24-hour media outlets position most issues as a crisis or a scandal and rely on achieving a "gotcha" moment, when they can put an interviewee on the back foot.

But politicians can fight back. Because they no longer need the traditional media to communicate with their supporters, they can denounce it as "fake news" and take their message directly to their base online.

In turn, that dynamic corrodes public trust in the idea of objective authority.

Edelman's global trust barometer report finds that trust in public institutions continues to fall across the western world, which is understandable. The banks said they would look after our money, politicians promised rising living standards. But 10 years on from the global financial crisis, not everyone seems to have shared in the recovery. If mainstream institutions don't seem to be delivering, then of course people will look for solutions elsewhere.

The last factor is the increased professionalisation of politics itself. Differentiation is pursued to set yourself apart from your opponent. Votes aren't won by being the same on issues.

In western democracies, voters and the media have become highly politically literate. As a result, media coverage tends to focus more on the process of politics than its purpose. Instead of reporting on what a politician is saying, journalists ask: "Why are they saying it? Who are they targeting? What do the polls say? Who's up, who's down?"

Political parties are desperate to change this conversation because they want to be talking about their issues, not the processes and tactics that lead voters to conclude that all politicians are the same. So they will

often resort to what I call "the dead cat strategy". Because if you turn up at a dinner party and fling a dead cat on the table, people are likely to start talking about the cat. For politicians that means saying something deliberately controversial and differentiating, an issue calculated to outrage their opponents, stir up the base and change the conversation. The undisputed master of this technique is sitting in the White House.

So how should mainstream politics respond to these trends? Part of the solution involves changing the nature of the online discourse. The trolling, the bullying, the casual defamation and the spread of extremist propaganda can no longer go unchecked. The big social media platforms have to accept that they are responsible for the content that they publish.

But that's not the whole solution. It's no good just complaining about the media. Politicians have a responsibility to get better at communicating what they're trying to do: talking in clear, simple, personally relevant terms that are grounded in the values of their audience, meeting voters where they are, not where politicians would like them to be.

For me though, the most important part of the solution is strong and effective leadership. Napoleon said that leaders are dealers in hope and I agree. We need leaders who are on the side of mainstream, who can say what they want to put right rather than just what's gone wrong, who acknowledge the flaws in their societies without attempting to exploit them and above all, who have a clear vision setting out how they will improve peoples' lives.

The best antidote to the anger and anxiety many are feeling right now is a good job in a growing economy with rising incomes and in a country that's moving forward. That's what governments of all kinds need to get on and deliver: a return to the politics of aspiration rather than resentment.



FORUM SCHEDULE

Friday 2 March 2018

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| 09:30 | Welcome remarks Rima Al Mokarrab, Chairman, Tamkeen Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President, The Aspen Institute |
| 10:00 | Moonshot 1 - Polarisation: Bridging the gaps Ed Williams, CEO – UK & Ireland and Vice Chairman, Edelman |
| 10:05 | Polling on polarisation: Which way are we headed? Sir Lynton Crosby, CEO, The CIT Group |
| 10:35 | Role Reversal: What can tech do to de-polarise society? Anthony Geffen, CEO and Creative Director, Atlantic Productions Gabo Arora, Co-Founder and Creative Director, Tomorrow Never Knows |
| 11:10 | Break |
| 11:30 | Reframe: Changing our narratives about each other HE Noura Al Kaabi, UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development David Rothkopf, CEO, The Rothkopf Group |
| 12:00 | Bridging the gaps Rt. Hon. David Cameron, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom |
| 12:30 | Wrap Up Ed Williams, CEO – UK & Ireland and Vice Chairman, Edelman |
| 12:35 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Moonshot 2 - Cancer: An end in sight? Alan Weil, Editor-in-Chief, Health Affairs |
| 14:05 | Tech Touch: Machine learning for cancer detection Dr. Lily Peng, Product Manager, Google |
| 14:40 | Genetic Design: Treating cancer with bacteria Dr. Tal Danino, Assistant Professor, Columbia University |
| 15:10 | Break |
| 15:30 | Tailored Cures: The power of personalized medicine Dr. Rakesh Suri, CEO, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi Dr. Dale Shepard, Director of Taussig Phase I and Sarcoma Programs, Cleveland Clinic |
| 16:00 | An end in sight? Ambassador Nancy Brinker, Global Consultant, Hologic Inc. and Founder, Susan G. Komen |
| 16:30 | Wrap Up Alan Weil, Editor-in-Chief, Health Affairs |
| 16:35 | Forum Day 1 closes |
| 17:00 | Speaker Reception, NYU Abu Dhabi Torch Club |

Saturday 3 March 2018

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| 09:50 | Welcome remarks Andrew Hamilton, President, New York University |
| 10:00 | Moonshot 3 - Artificial Intelligence: Our super-intelligent friend? Dr. Noah Raford, COO & Futurist-in-Chief, Dubai Future Foundation |
| 10:05 | The Power and Limits of AI: Present and Future Dr. Yann LeCun, Chief AI Scientist, Facebook |
| 10:35 | Futurescape: Will AI change how we live? David Rosenberg, Co-Founder and CEO, AeroFarms Anthony Geffen, CEO and Creative Director, Atlantic Productions |
| 11:10 | Break |
| 11:30 | Inside Out: Will AI know us better than ourselves? – Part 1 Dr. Hugh Montgomery, Professor of Intensive Care Medicine, University College London |
| 12:00 | Inside Out: Will AI know us better than ourselves? – Part 2 Dr. Rana El Kaliouby, Co-Founder and CEO, Affectiva |
| 12:30 | Wrap Up Dr. Noah Raford, COO & Futurist-in-Chief, Dubai Future Foundation |
| 12:35 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Moonshot 4 - The Modern Silk Road: A new era of globalisation? Julian Gewirtz, Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government |
| 14:05 | Big Picture: China's Belt & Road Initiative will change the world as we know it Dr. Martin Jacques, Author and Academic |
| 14:35 | Behind the Belt: The lesser-known sides of China's big push Dr. Elizabeth Economy, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia Studies, Council on Foreign Relations David Sandalow, Inaugural Fellow, Centre of Global Energy Policy, Columbia University |
| 15:10 | Break |
| 15:25 | Sponsor talk - Education: China's western leanings and learnings Ashwin Assomull, Partner, LEK |
| 15:30 | On the Road: A global economic 'super solution'? David Rothkopf, CEO, The Rothkopf Group Yasheng Huang, Professor, MIT |
| 16:00 | Viewpoint: A global perspective Nicolas Sarkozy, Former President of the French Republic Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President, The Aspen Institute |
| 16:45 | Wrap Up Julian Gewirtz, Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government |
| 16:50 | Closing remarks Rima Al Mokarrab, Chairman, Tamkeen Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President, The Aspen Institute |

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Ed Williams

CEO, UK and Ireland – Vice Chairman, Europe, Edelman

Ed leads Edelman's UK and Ireland business, and is also Vice Chairman, Europe. Before joining the firm in 2011, he oversaw communications for two global media companies: the BBC and Reuters. He advises senior executives on corporate communications and strategy as well as issues and crisis management. As a former TV and print journalist, he still likes to turn his hand to speech and op-ed writing. Ed serves on a number of boards, including the Royal College of Art, the Woolf Institute and Crisis Group's International Advisory Council. A graduate of Harvard Business School's AMP, he is one of the Evening Standard's 1,000 most influential Londoners.



Sir Lynton Crosby

CEO, CIT Group

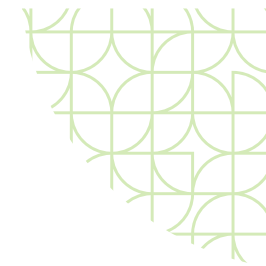
Sir Lynton Crosby is a renowned campaign strategist and Co-Founder of international campaigns consultancy, the CIT Group. His track record includes successful campaigns for Australian Prime Minister John Howard, and, against the odds, securing two terms for Boris Johnson as Mayor of London. At the 2015 UK General Election, Sir Lynton steered the Conservative Party to a historic victory, taking the party from a 12-point deficit to a near 7-point lead and returning them to government with an increased share of the vote for the first time since 1955. Drawing on skills and experience acquired over a lifetime of political campaigning, Sir Lynton has also advised some of the world's leading businesses, ensuring they are armed with the research, strategy, messaging and campaign execution with which to achieve their goals.



Anthony Geffen

CEO and Creative Director, Atlantic Productions

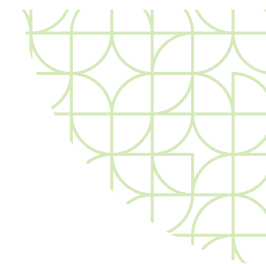
Anthony Geffen is one of the world's leading documentary film makers and a pioneer in multi-platform storytelling. He has won four British Academy awards (BAFTAs) and eight American Emmy Awards. He followed Ang Lee and James Cameron to be presented in Hollywood with the Charles Wheatstone Award for his outstanding contribution to film and television. His diverse films include eleven projects with Sir David Attenborough including the BBC series The Great Barrier Reef, the theatrical film The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest and the recently acclaimed The Coronation with The Queen. He is considered by the media as a visionary for storytelling across different digital multi-platforms in 3D, interactive apps, and now immersive VR, AR and AI experiences. These include Space Decent, The Munduruku, First Life and Health VR. In 2007 he received the first British Academy Award for VR storytelling. Anthony is a fellow at St. Cross College, Oxford University.



Gabo Arora

Co-founder and Creative Director, Tomorrow Never Knows

Gabo Arora is a multi award-winning immersive artist, filmmaker, thinker and humanitarian. His work has been heralded by the LA times as "game-changing" and "transcending all the typical barriers of rectangular cinema" and has exhibited at festivals, museums and fora around the world, including the White House, Museum of Modern Art in New York and the World Economic Forum in Davos.





HE Noura Al Kaabi

UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development

Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi was appointed as the UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development in October 2017. As Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Her Excellency is responsible for the promotion of all UAE cultural fields on both a national and international level. She previously held the post of Minister of State for Federal National Council Affairs. Her Excellency also holds the position of Chairwoman of the Media Zone Authority - Abu Dhabi (MZA) and twofour54, the home of media and entertainment in Abu Dhabi. She is Chair of Abu Dhabi Media Company and Chair of Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC Group). In 2014, she was named as one of Forbes Middle East's 30 Most Influential Women in Government; and was awarded 'Business Woman of the Year' at the Gulf Business Industry Awards.



David Rothkopf

CEO, The Rothkopf Group

David J. Rothkopf is CEO of The Rothkopf Group (TRG), a diversified media and advisory firm focusing on international issues. TRG is co-creator and co-presenter of CultureSummit, a global event convening international leaders from the policy, culture and tech communities each year in Abu Dhabi. It is also convener of The Policy Forum events and web platforms and presenter of the *Deep State Radio* Network where he hosts the acclaimed *Deep State Radio* podcast. Additionally, David is a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and a Senior Fellow at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). David is the author of numerous internationally acclaimed books, including *The Great Questions of Tomorrow*, *Power, Inc.*, *Superclass*, *Running the World*, and *National Insecurity: American Leadership in an Age of Fear*. He is a frequent contributor to leading newspapers, magazines and media outlets, including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Financial Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *MSNBC*, *CNN*, *Time*, the *National (UAE)*, *Ha'aretz* and many others.



Rt. Hon. David Cameron

Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

David Cameron served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 2010 to 2016. He was the UK's youngest Prime Minister since Lord Liverpool in 1812. Cameron came to power at a moment of economic crisis and with an unprecedented fiscal challenge. Under his leadership, Britain became the fastest-growing major advanced economy in the world. His vision has always been of a country where everyone—whatever their background—can succeed, and where every part of the country is brought together. David Cameron continues to focus on issues he advanced while in office: supporting life chances for young people; championing Britain's cutting edge medical research; and promoting international development. He is Chairman of Patrons at National Citizen Service, the UK's flagship youth development programme; President of Alzheimer's Research UK; and he is chairing the LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development, under the auspices of the International Growth Centre. He also sits on the Global Board of Advisors at the Council on Foreign Relations.



Alan Weil

Editor-in-Chief, Health Affairs

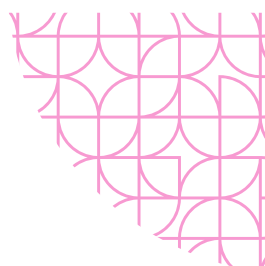
Alan Weil became Editor-in-Chief of Health Affairs, the nation's leading health policy journal, in 2014. Formerly, he was the executive director of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), directed the Urban Institute's Assessing the New Federalism project, held a cabinet position as executive director of the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and was assistant general counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Medical Security. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and an appointed Member of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, a master's degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.



**Dr. Lily Peng**

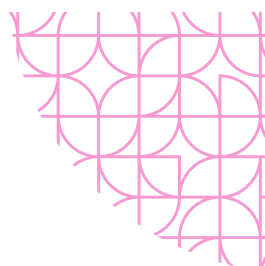
Product Manager, Google

Lily Peng is a trained physician who has been repurposed as a product manager at Google Health, where she focuses on applying deep learning and other Google technologies and expertise to medical imaging. Prior to joining Google, she was a product manager at Doximity, the “LinkedIn” for physicians, and a co-founder of Nano Precision Medical, a start-up developing small, implantable drug delivery devices. Lily completed her M.D. and Ph.D. in Bioengineering at the University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley, and received her B.Sc. with honors and distinction in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University.

**Dr. Tal Danino**

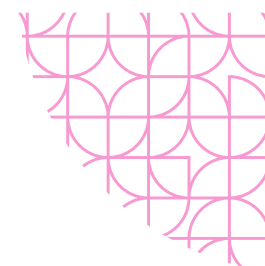
Assistant Professor, Columbia University

Tal Danino’s research explores the emerging field of synthetic biology, where he focuses on reprogramming bacteria to detect and treat cancer. Originally from Los Angeles, Danino received B.S. degrees from UCLA in Physics, Chemistry, and Math, and received his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from UCSD. He then did a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT in the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. He is now an assistant professor at Columbia University in the City of New York directing the Synthetic Biological Systems Laboratory. Dr. Danino also brings his science outside the laboratory as a TED Fellow and through bio-art projects that share perspectives and stories about science.

**Dr. Rakesh Suri**

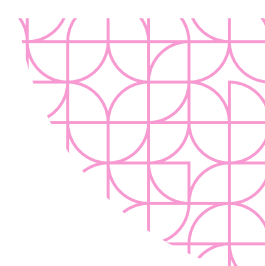
CEO, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi

Rakesh M. Suri, MD, is Chief Executive Officer and Chief of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. In his role, Dr. Suri oversees the hospital’s overall strategy and effective operation as the first-ever US multispecialty hospital to be replicated outside of North America. In his previous role as Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi’s Chief of Staff, Dr. Suri spearheaded the recruitment of more than 400 physicians, and led the medical staff to deliver a suite of complex and innovative services with safety and quality outcomes that are competitive among leading academic medical centres globally. In his secondary role, Dr. Suri recruited and led the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgical team, and was involved in the creation of robotic and transcatheter cardiac programs at Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi.

**Dr. Dale Shepard**

Director, Taussig Phase I and Sarcoma Programs, Cleveland Clinic

Dale R. Shepard MD, PhD is the Director of the Taussig Phase I and Sarcoma programs at Cleveland Clinic. In this role, Dr. Shepard oversees the early development of the new cancer therapies including the genomic-based treatments and immunotherapies that are revolutionising the care of patients with cancer. As a medical oncologist and clinical researcher, he has been the principal investigator for dozens of clinical trials and was recently the recipient of a National Cancer Institute Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Award. Dr. Shepard is a thought leader for management of sarcoma, gastrointestinal and genitourinary cancers and a consultant for many pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Shepard earned a PhD in Pharmacology and his MD at The Ohio State University and completed a Clinical Pharmacology fellowship at the University of Chicago.

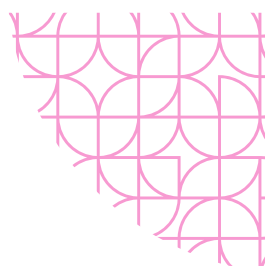




Ambassador Nancy Brinker

Global Consultant, Hologic Inc. and Founder of Susan G. Komen

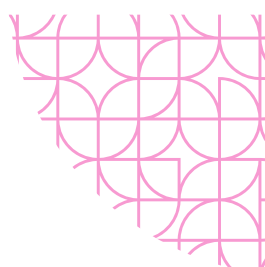
The Honorable Nancy Brinker is the founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world's largest network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, ensure quality care for all, and energize science to find cures. Nancy has also been named Goodwill Ambassador for Cancer Control for the United Nations World Health Organization. Nancy earned wide bipartisan praise in serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary and United States Chief of Protocol during in the George W. Bush Administration. In 2009, President Barack Obama honored Brinker's lifetime dedication to service by presenting her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2010, Brinker became a best-selling author with her personal memoir, *Promise Me*. Nancy has also served on numerous nonprofit and corporate boards. In addition to being a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she is a Global Advisor on Breast Cancer to Hologic, Inc.



Andrew Hamilton

President of New York University

Andrew Hamilton was named the 16th president of New York University in March 2015. He officially took up his duties as NYU's president on January 1, 2016. Dr. Hamilton has an acclaimed record of success as a leader in higher education and is a noted scientist. Most recently, Dr. Hamilton served as the vice chancellor of Oxford University, a post he held since 2009, and as professor of chemistry at Oxford. Before being named as Oxford's vice chancellor, Dr. Hamilton served as provost (2004–08) of Yale University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the recipient of the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society, and the winner of the International Izatt-Christiansen Award for Macrocyclic Chemistry.



Dr. Yann LeCun

Professor, NYU and Chief AI Scientist, Facebook

Yann LeCun is Director of Facebook AI Research and Silver Professor at NYU, affiliated with the Courant Institute and the Center for Data Science. He received a PhD in Computer Science from Université P&M Curie (Paris). After a postdoc at the University of Toronto, he joined AT&T Bell Labs, and became head of Image Processing Research at AT&T Labs in 1996. He joined NYU in 2003 and Facebook in 2013. His current interests include AI, machine learning, computer vision, mobile robotics, and computational neuroscience. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.



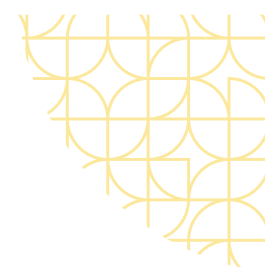
Dr. Noah Raford

COO and Futurist-in-Chief, Dubai Future Foundation

Dr. Noah Raford is responsible for overseeing the Dubai Future Foundation research, studies and reports and managing all intellectual leadership projects that shape the Foundation's future direction. He also provides policy consultancy to government institutions in Dubai and the UAE in general.

Dr. Raford also oversees many of the Foundation's initiatives and projects, such as the Museum of the Future's periodic participation in the World Government Summit, the Museum of the Future initiative, the Dubai Future Academy and the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Accelerated Research.

In addition to that, Raford undertakes representing the Dubai Future Foundation in global events and platforms aimed at finding the best solutions to the 21st Century challenges and transforming them into opportunities that help improve the service of human societies and build a better future for future generations.



**David Rosenberg**

Co-Founder and CEO, AeroFarms

David Rosenberg co-founded and leads AeroFarms, a clean-technology company that builds and operates advanced vertical farms in urban environments. AeroFarms has been recognised as a Circular Economy 100 company, won the World Technology Award for most impactful Environmental Company and received the 2016 New Jersey Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. AeroFarms was also voted the Best Growth Company to invest in at the Wall Street Journal's ECO:nomics conference, and was a finalist for The Circular Awards for The World Economic Forum. David is also the founder of Hycrete, Inc., a nanotechnology cleantech company. David is a member of the World Economic Forum where he co-Chairs the Young Global Leaders Circular Economy Taskforce. David is also a member of the B20 SME Taskforce, which advises the G20. David received his BA from UNC Chapel Hill and holds an MBA from Columbia University.

**Dr. Hugh Montgomery**

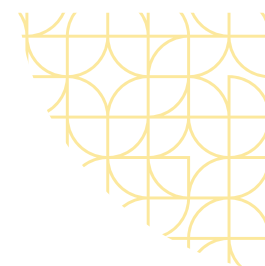
Professor of Intensive Care Medicine, University College London

Hugh Montgomery is 56 years old. He obtained a 1st class degree in neuropharmacology and cardiorespiratory physiology before graduating from the University of London as a doctor in 1987. He has completed specialist training in General Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Intensive Care Medicine, and his higher research degree (MD) in 1997. He works as a consultant Intensivist in North London, UK and is also Professor of Intensive Care Medicine at University College London, where he directs the Centre for Human Health and Performance. He described the first 'gene for fitness', and has published over 450 scientific papers (including two in 'Nature'). Hugh has an active interest in the role of 'Big Data' analytics in human health, and is a strong believer in the application of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence to transform healthcare. He consults for DeepMind Health.

**Dr. Rana El Kaliouby**

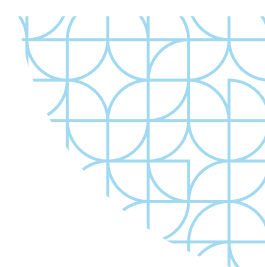
Co-Founder and CEO, Affectiva

Rana is co-founder and CEO of Affectiva. As a research scientist at MIT Media Lab Rana spearheaded the applications of facial coding. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, Wired, Forbes, Fast Company, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, CNN, CBS, TIME Magazine, Fortune and Reddit. She was recognised by Entrepreneur as one of the "7 Most Powerful Women to Watch In 2014" and listed on Ad Age's "40 Under 40," was inducted into the Women in Engineering Hall of Fame, and is a past recipient of Technology Review's "Top 35 Innovators Under 35" Award and Smithsonian magazine's American Ingenuity Award for Technology. Rana holds bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from the American University in Cairo and a Ph.D. from the computer laboratory, University of Cambridge.

**Julian Gewirtz**

Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

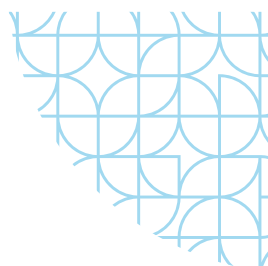
Julian Gewirtz is a Fellow in History and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He is the author of Unlikely Partners: Chinese Reformers, Western Economists, and the Making of Global China (2017), which The Economist called "a gripping read, highlighting what was little short of a revolution in China's economic thought." His writing on Asia has appeared in publications including the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the Financial Times, Foreign Policy, and Foreign Affairs. A Chinese speaker, he has lived and worked in China and the United States and most recently served as Special Advisor for International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy. A Rhodes Scholar, he holds degrees from the University of Oxford and Harvard College.



**Dr. Martin Jacques**

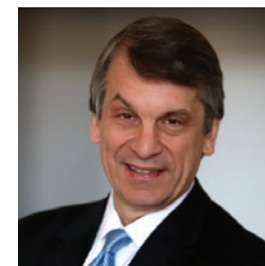
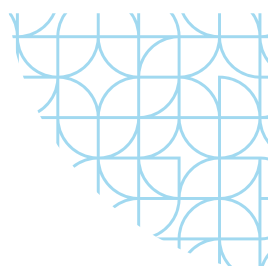
Author and Academic

Martin Jacques is the author of the global best-seller *When China Rules the World: the End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order*. It was first published in 2009 and has since been translated into fifteen languages and sold 400,000 copies. The book has been shortlisted for two major literary awards. A second edition of the book, greatly expanded and fully updated, was published in 2012. A new updated and expanded edition of the book was published in China in April 2016. His TED talk on how to understand China has had over two million views. He is a Senior Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge University, and a Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University, Beijing, Fudan University, Shanghai, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore. He is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Modern International Relations, Tsinghua University and at the China Institute, Fudan University.

**Dr. Elizabeth Economy**

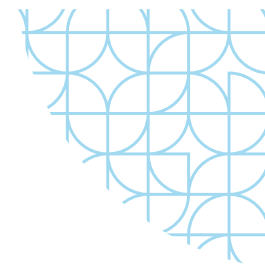
C. V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

Elizabeth Economy is the C. V. Starr senior fellow and director for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is the award-winning author of *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future* (Cornell University Press, 2004; 2nd edition, 2010), and *By All Means Necessary: How China's Resource Quest is Changing the World* (Oxford University Press, 2014), co-authored with Michael Levi. Her forthcoming book, *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*, will be published by Oxford University Press in May 2018. She also frequently contributes to foreign policy and scholarly journals including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and the *Harvard Business Review*; and op-eds in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, among others. Dr. Economy received her BA from Swarthmore College, her AM from Stanford University, and her PhD from the University of Michigan.

**David Sandalow**

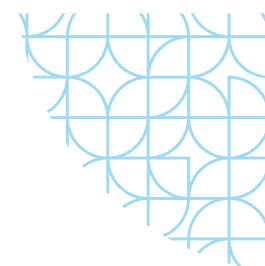
Inaugural Fellow, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University

David Sandalow is the Inaugural Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy and co-Director of the Energy and Environment Concentration at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He launched the Center's U.S.-China Program and served in senior positions at the White House, State Department, and Department of Energy. He was Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and Energy & Climate Change Working Group Chair at the Clinton Global Initiative. He was Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, Environment & Science and Senior Director on the National Security Council staff. He is on the Selection Committee of the Zayed Future Energy Prize and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr. Sandalow has appeared on CNN, NPR, NBC, BBC, CCTV and written widely, recently on *The Geopolitics of Renewable Energy and Meeting China's Shale Gas Goals*. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and Yale College.

**Ashwin Assomull**

Partner and founding member of the Global Education Practice at L.E.K. Consulting

Ashwin Assomull is a Partner and founding member of the Global Education Practice at L.E.K. Consulting. He has extensive experience working on cases across all education verticals including K-12, Higher and Vocational Education, Transnational Education, English Language Training, and Education Technology. Ashwin frequently advises CEOs of top education companies and investors on buy- and sell-side diligences, market-entry strategies, pricing strategies, and full potential assessments. Ashwin is a regular speaker at industry-leading conferences such as IPSEF MENA, EdEx MENA, and EdEx Qatar. Ashwin holds a Bachelor of Science from the London School of Economics and an MBA from London Business School.





Yasheng Huang

Professor, MIT; Founder, China Lab

Yasheng Huang is Professor of International Management at MIT's Sloan School of Management, where he founded and runs the China and India Labs and holds the International Program Professorship in Chinese Economy and Business. He is also a Fellow at Tsinghua University, Shanghai University, the Michigan Business School, and the World Economic Forum. He was previously recipient of Stanford University's National Fellowship and a Social Science Research Council-MacArthur Fellowship. He has consulted for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and OECD, and previously held faculty positions at Harvard University and the University of Michigan, and professorships at Fudan University, Xian Jiaotong University, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, and Hunan University. In 2010, he was named as one of the most outstanding scholars in the US by the National Asia Research Program.



Nicolas Sarkozy

Former President of the French Republic

Nicolas Sarkozy served as the President of the French Republic from 2007 to 2012, a position that culminated from years spent dedicating his life to a highly esteemed and richly diverse political career. Prior to his presidency, Sarkozy occupied various ministerial posts including Minister of State, Minister of the Interior, Minister of the Economy, and Minister of Budget. From November 2014 to September 2016, he served as President of the French political party Les Républicains, a position he previously occupied from 2004 to 2007. Sarkozy retired from politics in November 2016 following the center-right presidential primary election. Sarkozy is the recipient of numerous honours, including the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit, Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Charles III (Spain), Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath (United Kingdom) and Knight of the Golden Fleece (Spain).



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The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization that has gained a reputation for gathering together diverse, nonpartisan thought leaders, creatives, scholars and members of the public in order to address some of the world's most complex problems. Based in Washington, DC, the Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and offices in New York City.



