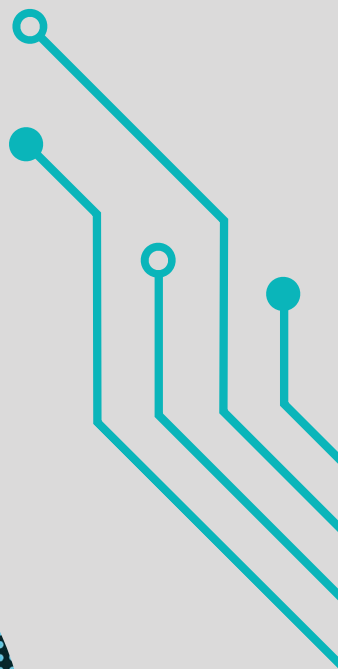


RHODES FORUM ON

Technology & Society

RHODES HOUSE | OXFORD

11 NOVEMBER 2023





WELCOME

*from the Warden of Rhodes House
& CEO of the Rhodes Trust*



Dear attendees,

One of the strengths of the Rhodes community is that it is comprised of individuals from across the globe who are unlikeminded but likehearted. Diversity of thought and perspective can drive great innovation, but the eventual goal should always be for the betterment of society. Purpose Driven Technology requires the same sort of approach, one which requires both tremendous creativity and ideation, but also profound integrity.

This is our second annual Technology and Society Forum, and it is a delight to be able to welcome you to our newly re-opened Rhodes House, which has been reimaged for the 21st century. We have new gathering and collaboration spaces, our main convening hall and even an XR Lab. I hope you enjoy exploring our new spaces and also venture

outside to see how the surrounding landscaping is an integral part of our vision, together with our ambitious sustainability goals.

With the rapid rate of change in the technology field, our speakers represent a range of voices who all know what it takes to influence the direction of new discoveries and policies. I hope you will leave the Forum having forged new friendships and connections, and feeling re-energised to embrace the nuances required to ensure technology can be of true benefit to societies across our world.

Dr Elizabeth Kiss

*Warden of Rhodes House &
CEO of the Rhodes Trust*



Opportunity for an Immersive Virtual Reality Experience

Concurrently to the main strand of programming, we will be hosting demos in the new XR lab. Spaces for these experiences are limited and require sign up at the registration desk upon arrival.

Sessions are available at:

8:25–8:55 11:00–11:30 12:30–13:00 13:00–13:30 14:45–15:15

The Atlantic Institute has placed a strategic focus on XR (Extended Realities), or what some refer to as the embodied internet, web three or the metaverse. Just as those furthering equity throughout history have harnessed the power of traditional technologies to uplift communities and ideas, the movement toward equity will be strengthened and celebrated using emerging technologies.

We are delighted to welcome you to the newly built XR Lab at Rhodes House. It is a privilege to host GAWI, a VR film made by Atlantic Fellow Myriam Hernandez and The Rarámuri culture from Northern Mexico. The Rarámuri have been guarding their environment and culture for milenia. They build their reality and wisdom from connecting with their dreams. At a time of climate crisis, the Rarámuri invite us to join them through a dream-like VR experience. Through oneiric visions you enter an intimate journey that unfolds at the pace of an ancestral poem about how to become a real Rarámuri and heal the planet (GAWI) and yourself.

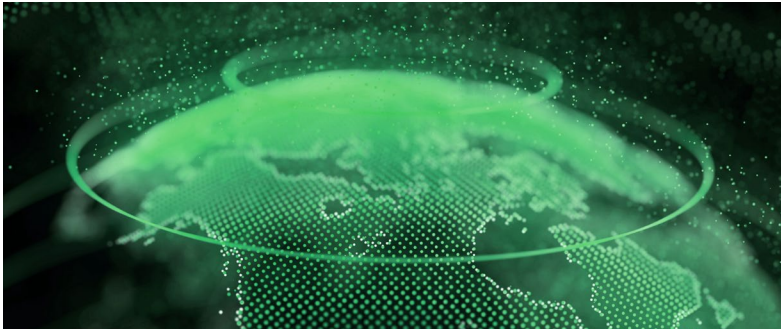
Like the technology itself, engagement in this area is emerging, so ask questions, dream with us and explore how you can use this resource to build fairer healthier societies.



RHODES FORUM ON

Technology & Society

PROGRAMME

08:15	Registration and refreshments. <i>Sign up for a free XR Lab demo</i>
PLENARY SESSIONS	
09:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:10	Fireside chat: Building Ecosystems for Ethical Technologists in a Sceptical World CONVENING CENTRE  <p>In an era where technology wields unprecedented influence over our lives, cultivating ethical practices within the tech industry has become imperative. Join us as we delve into the dynamic interplay between technology, values, and community. Uncover strategies to cultivate thriving ecosystems that foster innovation, and empower purpose-driven technologists to generate meaningful work that creates lasting impact.</p> <div><div>Elizabeth Kiss <i>Warden of Rhodes House & CEO of the Rhodes Trust</i></div><div>Danil Mikhailov <i>Executive Director, data.org</i></div><div>Abhilash Mishra <i>Founder, Equitech Futures</i></div></div>

09:40

Morning Keynote

CONVENING CENTRE

The Global Technology Turning Point: How Alternative Routes in Technology are Driving Tech Innovation and ROI for Businesses



Code First Girls is on a mission to close the gender gap in the tech industry by providing employment through free education. They have already helped more than 150,000 women learn to code and by working with companies globally, they are boosting employability, diversity and social mobility, transforming local economies and communities.

Upskilling women and avoiding attrition is business critical for tech teams facing a reskilling crisis and a tech skills gap. We hear from Code First Girls CEO about how they work with over 130 businesses to invest in alternative routes into technology.

Anna Brailsford

Co-founder & CEO, Code First Girls

10:00

Generative AI: Unlocking Potential

CONVENING CENTRE

This panel will explore the fascinating world of AI-driven generative models, where technology merges with imagination to push the boundaries of what is possible. Discover how generative AI is reshaping workflows, spurring innovation, and inspiring new frontiers of human-AI collaboration.

David Hanson

Founder & CEO, Hanson Robotics

Mathew Lodge

CEO, Diffblue

Angie Ma

Co-founder, Faculty

Moderator: Billy Byiringiro

Product Engineer, Moonah Technologies

11:00	COFFEE BREAK LIGHTWELLS
PLENARY SESSION	
11:30	<p>Purpose-Driven Tech: Advancing the UN Sustainability Goals</p> <p>CONVENING CENTRE</p> <p>In times when the pursuit of progress must harmonise with the urgent call for environmental and societal balance, this panel brings together diverse perspectives to explore the pivotal role of technology in accelerating the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. From eradicating poverty to fostering clean energy and promoting responsible consumption, the UN SDGs form an integrated roadmap for a more equitable and sustainable world. During this session, we will unravel how purpose-driven tech initiatives can align with these global objectives, to catalise positive transformation across industries and communities.</p> <div><div><p>Hila Cohen <i>Deputy Head, UN WFP Innovation Accelerator</i></p><p>Swati Mylavarapu <i>Co-founder & Managing Partner, Incite.org</i></p><p>Moderator: Varun Shankar <i>Climate Fellow, The Oxford SDG Impact Lab</i></p></div><div><p>Gina Lucarelli <i>Accelerator Lab Network Team Leader, UNDP</i></p><p>Zikho Pali <i>COO, Quro Medical</i></p></div></div>
12:30	LUNCH LIGHTWELLS

12:45

Presence: Cultivating Your Personal and Organisational Brand

This practical session explores the art of crafting an influential personal brand and an organisational brand. Presence transcends mere visibility; it is about making a lasting impact, resonating with authenticity, and commanding respect. This talk delves into the intricate relationship between your personal brand and your organisational brand, unveiling the synergy that propels you towards effective leadership.

- **The Power of Personal Branding for Leaders:** Uncover the significance of your personal identity as a leader. Learn how to define, refine, and authentically project your persona to establish trust, credibility, and influence.
- **Crafting Your Organisational Brand:** Explore the art of shaping an authentic brand identity for your organization that seamlessly aligns with your personal brand. Delve into the core elements of effective organizational branding, from mission and values to visual identity and culture.
- **Compelling Storytelling:** Master the art of using captivating narratives to enhance your presence as a leader and connect with your team and stakeholders. Stories with authenticity can inspire, motivate, and align your organisation towards a common goal.

You will be armed with valuable insights and actionable strategies to cultivate a strong presence, both personally and for your organisation.

Shukri Toefy

CEO, Southfields

PARALLEL PANELS

In these sessions we delve deep into the heart of what harnesses purpose-driven technologies, charting a course for a more sustainable future through three distinct but interwoven pathways.



Pathways to Responsible Technology: Investment

Discover how investment strategies can be leveraged as a powerful tool for impact. This panel will explore how strategic investments can ignite and support innovation and drive meaningful progress, while delivering both financial returns and positive societal impact.

Linda Kinning

*Faculty of Entrepreneurship,
Equitech Futures*

Paul Miller

*Managing Partner,
Bethnal Green Ventures*

Remus Radvan

*Head of Venture Strategies,
UCL*

Moderator: Jeffrey Fasegha

*Product/Growth Lead,
Mash*

Pathways to Responsible Technology: Applied Research

Knowledge is the catalyst for innovation. This panel will unravel the potential of applied research to harness values-based technologies that tackle pressing global challenges head-on. Explore how academia and industry collaboration can lead to groundbreaking solutions that have the potential to change the world in the most impactful ways.

Kumeren Govender

*Chief Scientific Officer,
Global Pathogen Analysis Service*

Mandela Patrick

*CEO,
Optimatik*

Ethan Perets

*Schmidt Science Fellow,
UT Southwestern Medical Center*

Maria Suci

*Senior Manager in Statistical Genetics,
Regeneron Genetics Centre*

Moderator: Clare Lyle

*Machine Learning Researcher,
DeepMind*

Pathways to Responsible Technology: Public Interest Technology

Activism takes on a new form. This panel will explore strategies for harnessing the potential of technology to empower citizens, influence policy, and foster inclusivity in our rapidly evolving world. Gain insights into the innovative approaches driving tech for social good and learn more about some of the world's most successful initiatives that pave the way for a more accountable future.

Anna Brailsford

*Co-Founder & CEO,
Code First Girls*

Nasser Eledroos

*Policy Counsel,
Color of Change*

Moderator: Rachael Merritt

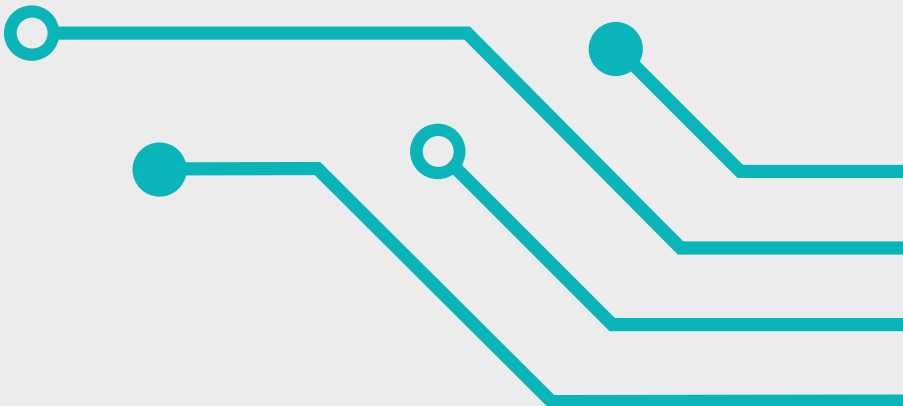
*MPP,
University of Oxford*


Stephen Damianos

*Director of Technology and Human Rights,
Perseus Strategies*

Adam Parr

*Chair,
Oxford Semantic Technologies Limited*



<div>14:45</div>	<div>COFFEE BREAK LIGHTWELLS</div>
	<div>PLENARY SESSIONS</div>
<div>15:30</div>	<div> <div>Fostering Resilience: Harnessing Technology and Innovation for National Security</div> <div>CONVENING CENTRE</div> <div> <p>Embark on a thought-provoking journey into the dynamic intersection of technology, innovation, and national security, as our panel of experts explores the vital role of technological advancements in protecting and empowering nations. Explore how cutting-edge innovations, from AI-driven cybersecurity to data privacy solutions, are reshaping the landscape of national defense and discover insights into strategic collaborations, policies, and breakthroughs that are shaping the way countries respond to modern threats.</p> </div> <div> <div> <div>Robert Bassett Cross</div> <div>CEO, Adarga</div> </div> <div> <div>Deeph Chana</div> <div>Managing Director at DIANA, NATO</div> </div> <div> <div>Nick Elliott</div> <div>UK Chair, Helsing</div> </div> <div> <div>Emelia Probasco</div> <div>Senior Fellow, Georgetown's Center for Security and Emerging Technology</div> </div> <div> <div>Moderator: Lillian Usadi</div> <div>MSc in Engineering Science, University of Oxford</div> </div> </div> </div>
<div>16:30</div>	<div> <div>Afternoon Keynote</div> <div>CONVENING CENTRE</div> <div> <div>  </div> <div> <p>Join us for the closing session with Hanson Robotics' Sophia the Robot. Sophia is the world's first robot citizen and despite hundreds of media and conference appearances this is her first visit to a British university. The session will not only provide us with a glimpse into the world of AI but also will highlight the importance of responsible AI development and the need for a harmonious coexistence between humans and intelligent machines.</p> </div> <div> <div> <div>Sophia</div> <div>The Robot, Hanson Robotics</div> </div> <div> <div>Moderator: Uljad Berdica</div> <div>DPhil in Engineering Science, University of Oxford</div> </div> <div> <div>Moderator: Sorina Campean</div> <div>Director of Lifelong Programmes, The Rhodes Trust</div> </div> </div> </div> </div>

OUR SPEAKERS



Robert Bassett Cross *CEO, Adarga*



Robert Bassett Cross MC is the CEO and founder of Adarga, one of the UK's leading developers of artificial intelligence software, serving customers in Defence and National Security. Robert has applied his experience as a former British Army officer, leading teams on counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the world, to build an intelligent platform that allows users to analyse huge volumes of information at speed, and maintain a dynamic understanding of threats and opportunities in order to make better, faster and more informed decisions. After leaving the British Army, Rob joined J.P. Morgan as an investment banker where he advised international corporate customers from a number of sectors, mergers and acquisitions, and offering roles.

Uljad Berdica *DPhil in Engineering Science, University of Oxford (United Arab Emirates & Wadham 2022)*



Uljad Berdica is a Rhodes Scholar from Albania studying for a PhD in Engineering Science under the Center for Doctoral Training in Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems. He is a member of the Foerster Lab for AI Research and the Soft Robotics Lab of the Oxford Robotics Institute. He works at the intersection of developing controllers through open-ended exploration, sim2real adaptations and emergent complexity via synthetic environments. His research experiences include cyber-security, Simultaneous Localization and Mapping in robotics, Computer Vision, and AI Safety. Prior to Oxford, Uljad received a Bachelor of Science with Great Distinction in Electrical Engineering from NYU.

Anna Brailsford *Co-founder & CEO, Code First Girls*



As CEO of Code First Girls, Anna Brailsford is on a mission to eliminate the diversity gap in tech by providing free education and employment to women, globally. Anna has transformed Code First Girls from a social enterprise to a rapidly accelerating profit-making business, including securing Series A funding from female angel investors and a leading investment firm to accelerate the company's growth and close the gender gap in the traditionally male-dominated tech industry. Previously, Anna was the Commercial Director of both Lynda.com and LinkedIn. When LinkedIn acquired Lynda, she became part of the fourth-largest acquisition in social media history and subsequently contributed to the creation of LinkedIn Learning, one of the largest online learning platforms.

Billy Byiringiro *Product Engineer, Moonah Technologies* (Rwanda & Trinity 2021)



Billy is a Rhodes Scholar who recently completed his MSc in Advanced Computer Science and an MBA from the University of Oxford. While there, he was an active team member and leader in OxAI, Oxford's AI society's Entrepreneurship hub. Before Oxford, he earned his BSc in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Edinburgh and co-founded an EdTech initiative. He has conducted research in machine learning, delving into reinforcement learning, graph theories, and neuroscience-inspired architectures. Currently, Billy is with Moonah Technologies, leveraging digital assets to tackle trade payment challenges in inflationary economies.

Sorina Campean *Director of Lifelong Programmes, The Rhodes Trust*



Sorina is currently overseeing the design and delivery of the alumni programmes portfolio for the Rhodes Trust. Sorina's career is based on building purpose-led global communities and channelling their energy towards delivering impactful initiatives, through mission-inspired programming. She joined the Rhodes Trust from the Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Centre, where she was leading on partnerships and stakeholder engagement, and was instrumental in creating initiatives that increased opportunities for alumni engagement and growth in the Oxford ecosystem and beyond. Previously, Sorina served as Leadership Programs Director for The Aspen Institute office in Bucharest, where she managed one of the most prestigious leadership fellowships in CEE and the Caucasus.

Deeph Chana *Managing Director at DIANA, NATO*



Deeph joined DIANA as its first Managing Director, bringing with him expertise of leading innovative science and technology research and development in academia, industry and government, focusing on global risks and next generation infrastructure security. He joined from Imperial College London (ICL) where he was Director of the Institute for Security Science and Technology and Co-Director of the Centre for Financial Technology within ICL's Business School. He has consulted and lectured worldwide with businesses and governments on the nature and implications of disruptive and emerging technologies, and has several decades of experience in technology entrepreneurship, covering a wide range of applications spanning quantum cascade laser detectors to materials science. Established by the current Secretary General, he was the founding Chair of NATO's Advisory Group on Emerging and Disruptive Technologies and is currently a high-level science advisor to the UK's Ministry of Defence.

Hila Cohen *Deputy Head, UN WFP Innovation Accelerator*



Hila is the Deputy Head at the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) Innovation Accelerator and was one of the first team members when the Accelerator was launched in August 2015. Prior to joining WFP in 2012, Hila advised start-ups and venture capital firms as a corporate lawyer at a leading Tel Aviv firm. She holds an MBA from the SDA Bocconi School of Management (Italy) and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Haifa (Israel).

Stephen Damianos *Director of Technology and Human Rights, Perseus Strategies (Pennsylvania & Balliol 2020)*



Dr. Stephen Damianos is the Director of Technology and Human Rights at Perseus Strategies. In this capacity, he manages the firm's neurorights portfolio, working to promote the ethical development of neurotechnologies through the application of human rights law and privacy law. Stephen's doctoral research investigated digitally mediated human rights abuses perpetuated against asylum seekers in Greece, with a focus on border technologies, corporate complicity, and novel forms of state violence. Stephen has taught courses on human rights and forced migration at the University of Oxford, worked in detention centers to provide legal aid to incarcerated migrants, contributed to mass atrocity prevention efforts in the United Kingdom, and supported displaced researchers around the world through mentorship and skills training at the Refugee-Led Research Hub.

Nasser Eledroos *Policy Counsel, Color of Change (Atlantic Fellow)*



Nasser, a public interest technologist, is devoted to utilizing technology to explore the dynamics of power imbalances in justice and societal domains. He is currently the Policy Counsel for Technology & Economic Justice at the U.S.-based non-profit, Color Of Change, where he spearheads public policy initiatives benefiting Black Americans. As a Global Atlantic Fellow at the Atlantic Institute, Rhodes Trust, Nasser explores designing narrative futures through Extended Reality (XR) technologies. Additionally, he is a 2021 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity, collaborating with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Columbia University. Previously, Nasser directed a tech policy center at Northeastern Law School and served as the Chief Technologist for the district prosecutor in Boston, MA.

Nick Elliott *UK Chair, Helsing*



Nick is the UK Chair of the European defence technology and AI company, Helsing, a non-executive director with the global programme management consultancy Turner & Townsend, and an angel investor. Nick has led large private and public sector organisations in defence, and infrastructure. As Director General of the UK Vaccine Taskforce, he set up and ran what has been described as the most successful component of the UK's response to the covid-19 pandemic. Following an initial career in the Army, he went on to deliver some of the biggest rail infrastructure projects in the UK before returning to defence as the Deputy CEO of Defence Equipment & Support.

Jeffrey Fasegha *Product/Growth Lead, Mash (Prairies & Jesus 2021)*



Jeffrey Fasegha is deeply passionate about entrepreneurship and using innovation as a tool for economic and social development. He currently leads Product and Growth at Mash, a startup building better ways to monetize media without relying on invasive ads or high-friction subscriptions. Prior to this, Jeffrey was Co-Founder and CEO of Fyfyne, a Canadian startup building business operation software for independent beauty artists. Fyfyne recently exited to Bumpa, the "Shopify for Africa." While at Oxford, Jeffrey completed his MSc in African Studies and MBA, both with a focus on the Nigerian digital economy.

Kumeren Govender *Chief Scientific Officer, Global Pathogen Analysis Service (South Africa & Balliol 2018)*



Dr. Kumeren Govender is the Chief Scientific Officer at the Global Pathogen Analysis Service (GPAS), a global health company dedicated to providing equitable access to cloud-based genomic sequencing analysis worldwide. Developed in collaboration with the University of Oxford and Chaired by Professor Sir John Bell, GPAS' tools have been utilised by organizations and governments on nearly every continent, serving as a critical tool for global surveillance during the COVID pandemic and for addressing future global infectious and biosecurity threats. Kumeren previously founded, Mable, the first personalized migraine start-up to use genetics and telehealth based in San Francisco, which was acquired by a large US firm in April 2023.

David Hanson *Founder & CEO, Hanson Robotics*



By integrating figurative arts with cognitive science, robotics engineering and collaborative developments in AI, David Hanson develops robots regarded as the most human-like in the world. Hanson founded and serves as CEO of Hanson Robotics, a company whose most extraordinary outcome is Sophia, a humanoid created in 2016; Sophia is the world's first robot citizen and the first robot Innovation Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme. With Sophia, Hanson promotes an optimistic vision of the future of AI by demonstrating that it is possible to combine the capabilities of humans with AI. As the founder of the Global Artificial Intelligence Association, he strives for this AI to help solve many global problems. Hanson received awards from NASA, NSF, Tech Titans' Innovator of the Year, RISD, Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial. He also co-received the 2005 AAAI first place prize for open interaction of an AI system.

Linda Kinning *Faculty of Entrepreneurship, Equitech Futures*



Linda has spent the past 10 years bringing ideas, products, and communities to life in domains ranging from theatre, AI research, to startups in the U.S. and Asia. At Equitech Futures, she helps lead venture strategy and entrepreneurial education. Additionally, she is a product manager for an international venture incubator based in Japan and Silicon Valley. She helps first time founders innovate and build human-dented startups from idea stage to launch. She has worked in AI research at the University of Chicago and in the nonprofit sector in higher education and the arts. She received her MBA from Chicago Booth in behavioral science, strategy, and entrepreneurship and is currently based between Chicago and Tokyo.

Elizabeth Kiss *Warden of Rhodes House & CEO of the Rhodes Trust (Virginia & Balliol 1983)*



Elizabeth Kiss became Warden of Rhodes House and CEO of the Rhodes Trust in August 2018, the first woman to hold this position. She oversees the world's oldest graduate scholarship, the Rhodes Scholarship, as well as several partnership programs. Before joining the Rhodes Trust, Dr. Kiss served for twelve years as president of Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Kiss is a scholar of moral and political philosophy who has published on moral education, human rights, ethnic conflict and nationalism, feminist theory, and transitional justice. She received her B.A. in philosophy from Davidson College in North Carolina, becoming Davidson's first female Rhodes Scholar and received a BPhil and DPhil in philosophy from the University of Oxford.

Mathew Lodge *CEO, Diffblue*



Mathew Lodge has 25+ years' diverse experience in product leadership. He is currently CEO of Diffblue, an AI For Code startup, serves on the board of the Good Law Project and is Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Photographic Society. Previously he was SVP of Products and Marketing at Anaconda Inc, the most popular Python/R data science platform and COO at Weaveworks, a container and microservices start-up. Prior to that he was Vice President of VMware's Cloud Services and co-founder for what became vCloud Air.

Gina Lucarelli *Team Leader at the Accelerator Lab Network, UNDP*



Gina stewards the world's largest learning network on sustainable development through the Accelerator Labs, 91 social innovation teams embedded in the United Nations Development Programme reaching 115 countries. She's been working on human rights and development work for over 20 years, but is just getting started! She has focused her development work on Asia, Eastern Europe and most recently Africa. She writes, talks about and is always looking for ways to tap into collective intelligence, learn from grassroots knowledge, and drive continuous R&D to transform the systems that will determine whether future generations will be able to meet their development needs.

Clare Lyle *Machine Learning Researcher, DeepMind (Québec & University 2018)*



Clare Lyle is a research scientist at Google DeepMind, where she studies optimization in neural networks and deep reinforcement learning. She completed her PhD at the University of Oxford under the supervision of Yarin Gal and Marta Kwiatkowska, where she was the recipient of an Open Philanthropy AI Fellowship. Prior to her doctoral studies, she interned with the Governance of Artificial Intelligence group at the Future of Humanity Institute and at Google Brain Montreal.

Angie Ma *Co-Founder, Faculty*



Angie co-founded Faculty: Europe's leading applied AI firm and a world leader in AI safety and responsible AI deployment. Faculty combines the best of humans and AI to help organisations make better decisions through its services, products and training. So far, Faculty has built and deployed 450+ high-impact AI systems for over 250 organisations across both public and private sectors. Angie also mentors and advises various tech startups and charities. Prior to Faculty, Angie had a unique career path that involved doing academic research in physics, studying law and founding another tech startup.

Rachael Merritt *MPP, University of Oxford (Michigan & Exeter 2022)*



Rachael is currently reading a Master's of Public Policy at Oxford. In 2021, she built a 14x14' log cabin by hand in West Virginia. After that summer, she read a Master's in Social Science of the Internet which was primarily focused on the normative power of digital architectures. Rachael is interested in the space between that cabin and the contemporary technologies that we will be discussing in this panel.

Danil Mikhailov *Executive Director, data.org*



Danil Mikhailov, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of data.org. With over 20 years of experience setting up multiple start-ups and leading work across a range of diverse sectors, Danil brings a focus on investigating and innovating in the space where technology, culture, and society converge. At data.org, Danil heads a talented, international team, and has driven the creation of a unique field-building organization. During his tenure, data.org has launched global data for social impact programs in climate, health, and financial inclusion to build digital public goods, train a new generation of purpose-driven data practitioners, and design sustainable data ecosystems across the globe. Prior to data.org, Danil was at Wellcome where he founded and directed the Wellcome Data Labs, an interdisciplinary team of data scientists, software developers, and social scientists, creating open-source data tools supporting Wellcome's mission. Danil holds a Ph.D. in Sociology and Communications from the University of Brunel.

Paul Miller *Managing Partner, Bethnal Green Ventures*



Paul Miller is Managing Partner and CEO at Bethnal Green Ventures, Europe's leading tech for good venture capital firm. He co-founded the firm in 2012 and has helped invest in and support over 150 startups that aim to create a more sustainable planet, an inclusive society and healthy lives. Paul's also written widely about supporting early stage technology ventures. Previously he was co-founder and CEO of an education technology startup and worked for two UK-based think tanks – Forum for the Future and Demos. He was awarded an OBE for services to startup investment in 2020.

Abhilash Mishra *Founder, Equitech Futures
(India & Merton 2008)*



Abhilash Mishra is a scientist, entrepreneur, and educator working on problems at the intersection of technology and global challenges. He is the Founder and Chief Science Officer of Equitech Futures, a talent network and applied research lab dedicated to technology for social impact. Abhilash also holds an appointment at the University of Chicago, where he is the founding director of the Xu Initiative on Technology and Public Policy. His current research is focused on understanding the potential of emerging technologies in solving global challenges and associated risks. Abhilash is trained as a physicist and holds a PhD from Caltech and an MPhys from the University of Oxford. He received the Rhodes Scholarship in 2008, the Clinton Global Initiative University Distinguished Alumni Award, the KVPY Fellowship from the Government of India, and the Goldman Sachs Global Leader Award.

Swati Mylavarapu *Co-founder & Managing Partner, Incite.org
(Florida & Wolfson 2005)*



Swati is the co-founder of Incite.org, which provides catalytic capital and support for startups, nonprofits, and civic organizations that work on some of our world's biggest challenges – particularly climate change. To date, Incite has supported over 75 new companies, and dozens of nonprofits and civic organizations. The majority of Swati's work focuses on melding entrepreneurship, technology, and high-growth teams for scale and social and environmental impact. Incite works across a broad range of sectors, and has a deep track record of supporting entrepreneurs and activists advancing climate solutions and economic opportunity creation, in particular.

Zikho Pali *COO, Quro Medical*



Zikho's background straddles the critical intersection of law, healthcare and technology. At the age of 26, she was one of the youngest board members at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic hospital, one of the largest hospitals in the world. She is an admitted attorney by profession and she received her legal training at Bowmans, one of the largest law firms in Africa. She holds a Bachelor of laws (with distinction) from Wits University and Master of Laws from Harvard Law School. She is currently the Co-Founder and COO of Quro Medical (Pty) Ltd, a digital health company pioneering premium healthcare solutions for Africa and the emerging markets.

Adam Parr *Chair, Oxford Semantic Technologies Limited*



Adam Parr is an Anglo-French barrister and businessman, who has lived and worked in Europe, Japan, South Africa and Australia. From 2006–12, he was CEO and chairman of the Williams F1 team. He now chairs Oxford Semantic Technologies, an AI spin-out of the University of Oxford; Cheesecake Energy, a spin-out of the University of Nottingham, developing compressed air energy storage systems; and Homeland Conservation, a UK charity dedicated to accelerating the carbon drawdown. Homeland Conservation has helped launch Downforce®, an innovative technology for measuring natural capital, and SRI 2030, an initiative to promote climate-smart rice cultivation. Adam is a DPhil candidate and Business Fellow at the Smith School for Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford and Research Associate at the John Porter Diplomacy Centre, Hertford College, Oxford. He has an MA from Cambridge University and a PhD from UCL.

Mandela Patrick *CEO, Optimatik (Caribbean & University 2018)*



Dr. Mandela Patrick is the CEO of Optimatik, a start-up building the future of AI generated entertainment. Previously, he did a PhD at the University of Oxford in the world famous VGG computer vision group, where he pioneered research in multi-modal AI video and image representation learning. During his PhD, he was a research collaborator with Meta in their AI research department, where he researched core AI multi-modal algorithms for the IG Reels Recommendation system. Before Oxford, he earned a BA honours degree in Computer Science from Harvard in 2018 with a specialisation in machine learning.

Ethan Perets *Schmidt Science Fellow, UT Southwestern Medical Center*



Dr Ethan A. Perets is a Schmidt Science Fellow at UT Southwestern Medical Center applying imaging technologies for discovery of fundamental biology relevant to cancer, aging, and neurodegenerative diseases. Ethan conducted postdoctoral research at Harvard University and completed his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Yale University. At Yale, Ethan developed laser techniques revealing that water molecules contain information about biomolecular structure, suggesting new perspectives on why life needs water and how water helped life to begin.

Emelia Probasco *Senior Fellow, Georgetown's Center for Security & Emerging Technology (Maryland/DC & Wolfson 2002)*



Emelia (Emmy) Probasco is a Senior Fellow at Georgetown's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET), where she works on the military applications of Artificial Intelligence. Prior to joining CSET, she was the Chief Communications Officer and Communications Department Head at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), leading technical and institutional communications to support and drive APL's strategic vision. Prior to APL, Emmy served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy, deploying twice to the Indo-Pacific. She also served in the Pentagon as the speechwriter to the Chief of Naval Operations and at the U.S. Naval Academy as an instructor in political science.

Remus Radvan *Head of Venture Strategies, UCL*



Former serial start-up founder who continued his career in venture capital having various roles with a family office, venture builder, building and running accelerators for corporates and governments, to strategic corporate venture capital investments at Telefonica, Virgin Media O2, and teaching staff at UCL on venture capital.

Varun Shankar

*Climate Fellow, The Oxford SDG Impact Lab
(Zambia & Keble 2020)*



Varun Shankar is a DPhil candidate in Engineering Science as a Rhodes Scholar from Zambia. He is passionate about accelerating the transition to low-carbon mobility with a focus on reducing transport emissions and improving air quality. He is currently a Climate Fellow at the Oxford SDG Impact Lab in partnership with Neste, Extreme E, and Rosberg Philanthropies investigating the decarbonisation of the maritime sector with a case study of the St Helena ship. His previous experience includes conducting detailed life cycle assessments, net-zero roadmap design, battery supply chain evaluations, coastal blue carbon offsetting, and advancing climate resilient infrastructure with the World Bank and AFRY Management Consulting. Prior to Oxford, he completed an MEng in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Bath.

Sophia *The Robot, Hanson Robotics*



Sophia, Hanson Robotics' most advanced and celebrated AI-powered human-like robot, personifies our dreams for the future of AI. As a unique combination of science, engineering, and artistry, Sophia serves simultaneously as a science fiction character depicting the future of AI and robotics, and a technology platform for AI research and uses such as education, healthcare, hospitality, retail and the arts. With her remarkable robotic hardware and interactive AI, Sophia simulates a full range of facial expressions, tracks and recognizes faces, looks people in the eye, and holds natural conversations with you.

Maria Suciú *Senior Manager in Statistical Genetics, Regeneron Genetics Center*



A passionate geneticist, Maria Suciú is working on understanding how changes in our DNA impact our health and risk of disease. Maria uses statistical tools to leverage knowledge from big genetic data to inform drug discovery. She is currently focusing on identifying drug targets with strong genetic support in immune disease and women's health. She is applying the latest technology in genetic research to understudied conditions such as endometriosis, and has garnered wide interest from the genetics community. As part of her work, she developed and published analysis tools in both academic and industry settings. She currently works at Regeneron Genetics Center in Tarrytown, NY.

Shukri Toefy *CEO, Southfields*



Shukri Toefy is the CEO of Southfields, the founder of several companies, keynote speaker, strategic advisor and board director to numerous organisations around the world. He holds a degree in Law and Politics from the University of Cape Town, lectures at several universities around the world, and is an Entrepreneurship Expert at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. Shukri has consulted to some of the most exciting brands and organisations in the world including NASA and Google. He also sits on the Advisory Board of the Global Solutions Summit - World Policy Forum. Shukri has won awards in Amsterdam, LA, Rome, Cannes and is an EY World Entrepreneur finalist. He has been named a Top 40 CEO by Under40CEOs, and one of Fast Company's Most Productive People.

Lillian Usadi *MSc in Engineering Science, University of Oxford (New Jersey & Magdalen 2021)*



LTJG Lillian Ngo Usadi graduated and was commissioned from the United States Naval Academy with a BS in electrical engineering. She then joined the Physical Acoustics Lab reading for an MSc in Engineering Science (by research) under the direction of Dr. Ronald Roy and Dr. James Kwan at the University of Oxford. She is currently researching the phenomena of acoustic cavitation, bubble formation in liquid in the presence of a sound field. Following her time at Oxford, she will go on to the United States Navy as a submarine officer. Her long-term career goals include the pursuit of the advancement of science and technology through her work in the submarine community and beyond.

USEFUL INFORMATION

NAME BADGES

Please wear your name badge at all times. Staff members and volunteers can be identified by the label on their badge.

WIFI

There is public access Wifi available at the venue. The password is Rhodesw1f1! for the Rhodes Guest network.

DRESS CODE

Business casual, no tie. A cloakroom will be available near the registration desk.

CATERING

If you have let us know about specific dietary requirements and you do not see something suitable being served at a meal, please do speak to a member of the catering team directly to receive your alternative option. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at Rhodes House.

PHOTOGRAPHY/LIVESTREAMING

A photographer and videographer will be present throughout the day and all sessions will be streamed for our online audience. Most of the sessions will also be recorded for viewing after the event. Please contact us in advance if you have any questions regarding this. If you indicated during registration that you would not like to be photographed, you will be given a white lanyard upon arrival.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We highly encourage you to join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #TechAndSociety2023.

Rhodes Trust can be found on Facebook as @RhodesTrust, on Instagram as @rhodestrust and on Twitter / X as @rhodes_trust

PARKING

There is no parking available at Rhodes House. Taxis are available around Oxford and there are a number of bus stops close by. We recommend using Google Maps, Apple Maps, or Waze to plan your journey.

**FOLLOW THE
CONVERSATION:
#TECHANDSOCIETY2023**

SPONSOR



Kevin Xu
Initiative

This particular event was made possible through the generous support of our donor, Kevin Xu as part of the Kevin Xu Initiative on Technology and Society at the Rhodes Trust.

PARTNERS



Equitech
Futures

Equitech Futures is a digital campus for emerging innovators, from anywhere in the world, who want to use science and technology to tackle societal challenges.

Contact: info@equitechfutures.com

The Atlantic Fellows logo is a dark blue square containing the words "Atlantic" and "Fellows" in a white serif font, stacked vertically.

Through seven global, interconnected programs, Atlantic Fellows collaborate across borders and disciplines to address the root causes of inequity.



SCHMIDT
SCIENCE FELLOWS

Developing the next generation of science leaders to transcend disciplines, advance discovery, and solve the world's most pressing problems.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Clare Lyle
(Québec & University 2018)

Abhilash Mishra
(India & Merton 2008)

Fadzai Madzingira
(Zimbabwe & Lady Margaret Hall 2014)

Michael Stein
(South Africa-at-Large & Lincoln 1988)

RHODES TRUST:

Sorina Campean

Nayana Niji

Susanna Griffiths

Dougie Scott

Richard Hughes

Tiffany Taylor

Babette Littlemore

Georgie Thurston

Bel Lovel

Hannah Warren

Helen Nicholson

FORUM AMBASSADORS:

Monique Cooper
(New Zealand & St Cross 2022)

Yuan Zhang
(China & St Peter's 2020)

Khansa Maria
(Pakistan & Harris Manchester 2021)



Rhodes House, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3RG, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1865 270918 Email: conferences@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk
Web: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

CONNECT WITH RHODES

