



Rhodes Forum on

TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY 2025

8 November 2025

Rhodes House
Oxford



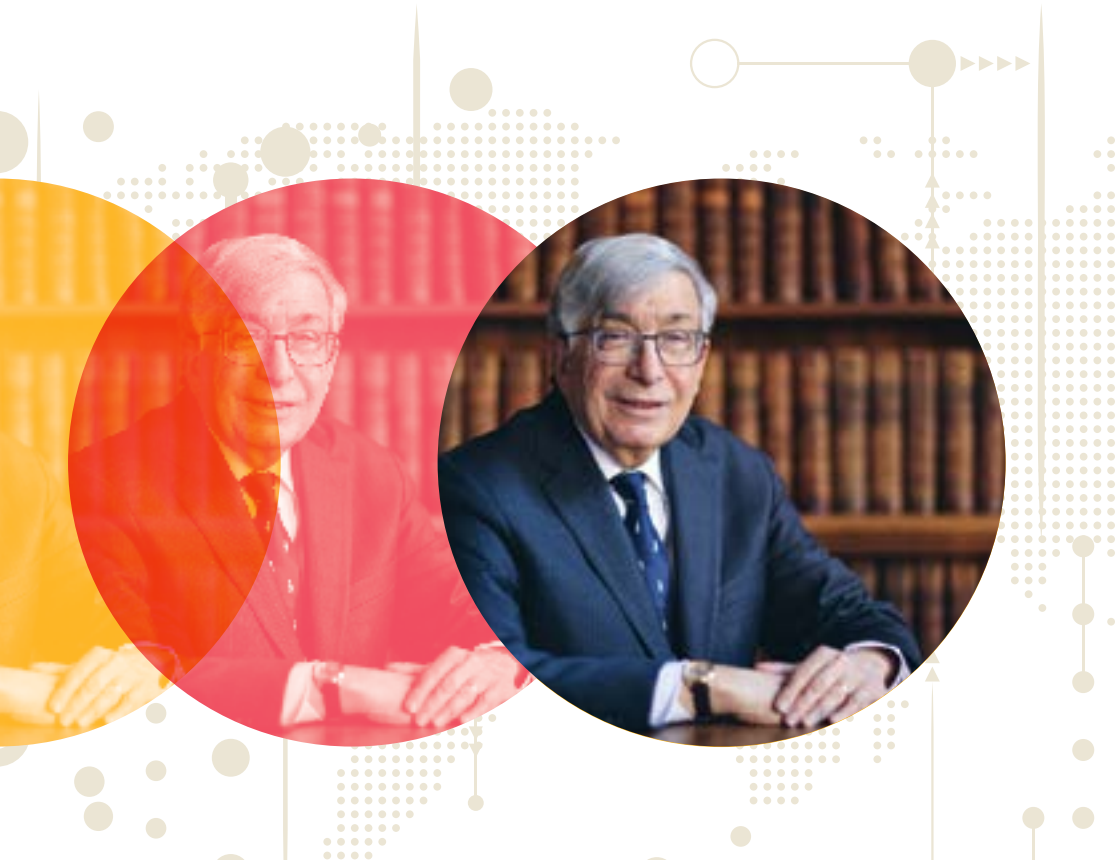
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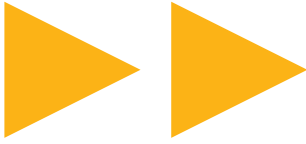
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Welcome

Welcome to the fourth annual Rhodes Forum on Technology & Society. Our objective, as in previous years, is to debate, from various perspectives, the potential impact of innovative technology. I hope that all participants will acquire valuable knowledge from today's presentations and discussions.





Our theme for the 2025 Forum is Reimagining Abundance. At its core, Abundance is the belief that we can build a world where there is enough housing, healthcare, clean energy, infrastructure, and opportunity for everyone to lead a better life.

This framing asks us to move beyond scarcity-driven thinking, where caution, bureaucracy, and limited resources shape our collective choices, and instead imagine a future centred on bold action, inclusive innovation, and societal well-being.

We are delighted to be able to bring together technologists, academics, commentators, cultural leaders and students who will consider if such a vision can be meaningfully extended across the globe, what it might look like in developing economies, and if Abundance is even the right goal. We look

forward to the debate that these ideas will spark throughout the day.

During the afternoon we will also hear emerging ideas on using AI to increase human agency and dignity from the Kevin Xu Innovation Challenge pitches, ensuring that practical solutions and innovation are once again central to this forum. I look forward to the applications that these presentations will explore.

We are grateful to our sponsor, Kevin Xu, for continuing to support this important event in our calendar, to our

collaborators at Equitech futures, and to the members of the Advisory Board for ensuring that our discussion topics have relevance and resonance. My thanks to all our speakers for sharing their expertise and to the team at Rhodes House for delivering another impressive programme. In the meantime, I wish you an inspirational forum day and trust that the contacts and ideas with which you leave will enhance your own journey of exploration of Abundance.

Prof Sir Rick Trainor
Interim Warden & CEO
of the Rhodes Trust

The Forum in Numbers

4th
EDITION

2022 —



— 2025

160

SPEAKERS

1000+

ATTENDEES

12

**INNOVATION
CHALLENGE
FINALISTS**

35+

**COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED**



“I hope more and more technology can provide a platform for dialogue and understanding.”

Sophia the Robot
Keynote Speaker 2023

“We have a responsibility to act ethically –you have so much power in your personal choices and how you communicate”



Patrick Pichette
Keynote Speaker 2024



XR Lab Demos



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

**Sessions are available at:
11:00 - 11:30
12:45 - 13:15
13:15 - 13:45
14:45 - 15:15**

In an age of technological abundance, more speed, more data and more connection, we invite you to the Atlantic Institute XR Lab to sit with a different question: what if technology could offer less? Less noise. Less overwhelm. More space to pause.

The Atlantic Institute, based at Rhodes House, provides Fellows and staff with the networks, architecture and resources to connect, learn and act to address the underlying systemic causes of inequity – locally and globally. The Institute has put a strategic focus on XR (Extended Realities), sometimes called the embodied internet, Web3, or the metaverse, as a new frontier for equity. Just as past movements have used traditional technologies to uplift communities and catalyse change, we explore how emerging immersive tools can lead to action and positive impact in the world. For the Technology & Society Forum, we are lowering the volume in this bespoke workshop, considering how this technology can foster reflection, resilience, and embrace simplicity.

In this practical, discursive session, the Atlantic Institute XR team invites participants into a guided VR experience designed to support mental well-being. We'll explore how virtual reality can ground us in the present, regulate emotion, and disrupt patterns of stress and overdrive.

We hope you can join us, to sit inside the tension between tech abundance and the radical power of stillness.

Programme

In a world often defined by scarcity – of resources, opportunities, and vision – this year's edition of the Rhodes Forum on Technology & Society invites us to reimagine *Abundance* on a global scale. How can society move beyond zero-sum thinking to create a future where prosperity, sustainability, and human potential are not constrained but expanded?

Building on last year's conversations on envisioning the future through a more positive lens, this convening will bring together thought leaders, technologists, policymakers and change-makers from across the globe to explore the conditions that enable Abundance – and the barriers that prevent it.



09:10 — 10:00

Morning Keynote and Fireside Chat

Jeremy Heimans

Co-founder and CEO, Purpose

Firas Darwish

DPhil in Statistics and Machine Learning,
University of Oxford

10:00 — 11:00

Plenary panel: The Economics of Abundance – Breaking Bottlenecks, Building Capacity

Abundance is often misunderstood as excess. But in economic terms, it's about expanding capacity to meet society's needs at scale. This panel will examine how our economic systems must evolve to deliver on that promise. What are the structural barriers that keep abundance out of reach? What kinds of reforms are needed to scale solutions quickly and equitably? And how can we shift mindsets, from managing scarcity to enabling generative, inclusive growth?

MODERATOR:

Paul Cadario

Distinguished Fellow in Global
Innovation, University of Toronto



SPEAKERS:

Madeline de Cock Buning

VP, Netflix and Professor Digital Politics
Economy and Society, Florence School
of Transnational Governance

Alberto Cottica

R&D Specialist, UNDP Accelerator Labs

Brian Wyborn

Chief Investment Officer,
Aboriginal Investment NT

11:00 — 11:45

Refreshment Break in Lightwells

Parallel Panels

Delve into our parallel panels. With multiple sessions running at the same time, you can choose the conversation that matters most to you, and watch the others back via the app later!

From the relationship between Technology and Art, Trust, and Climate each panel offers a distinct lens on abundance and society. Whichever session you attend, you'll find thought-provoking discussion and the chance to connect with others around shared interests.





11:45 — 12:45

Parallel panel:

Planetary Abundance: Rethinking Growth in a World on Fire

(WEST ROOM)

Join an exploration of what it means to move beyond the logic of scarcity toward systems that sustain both people and the planet. This session will delve into the political, economic, and cultural shifts needed to imagine abundance not as endless extraction, but as long-term wellbeing and ecological balance. Together, we'll examine pioneering examples of climate action that are already redefining what's possible, and unpack the barriers that prevent these bold initiatives from scaling. How can we design a future where prosperity and planetary health go hand in hand?

MODERATOR:

Tina Christmann

Lecturer and Environmental Scientist,
University of Southampton

SPEAKERS:

Farwiza Farhan

Executive Director, HAKA

Patience Mususa

Senior Researcher,
Nordic Africa Institute

Michael Schmidt

CEO / CSO,
biometrio.earth GmbH



11:45 — 12:45

Parallel panel: **Museums of Tomorrow:** **Imagining Abundance Through Art & Innovation**

(MIDDLE ROOM)

Join us for an inspiring exploration of the evolving role of museums, cultural institutions and the arts in shaping our collective visions of the future. It will examine how storytelling and immersive experiences can foster a mindset of abundance. Explore the transformative potential of technology in reimagining cultural heritage and artistic expression, with a focus on accessibility and inclusion.

MODERATOR:

Kathryn Brown

Reader in Art Histories, Markets and Digital Heritage, Loughborough University

SPEAKERS:

Brendan McGetrick

Creative Director, Museum of the Future

Kati Price

Head of Experience and Digital, V&A

Bruce "Canda" Niyonkuru

Creative Director, Milele Museum

11:45 — 12:45

Parallel panel: **Rebuilding Trust in the Digital Age: Tackling Misinformation, Privacy and Ethical AI**

(EAST ROOM)

As the winner of the community panel picker, this discussion will explore the complex tensions at the heart of our digital lives: how can we rebuild public trust in digital systems when the very technologies designed to connect us are also used to divide and manipulate? Exploring what ethical AI development looks like in practice, the discussion will examine who should be held accountable when AI systems cause harm or reinforce bias. As misinformation proliferates, we will also grapple with how to protect free expression while ensuring access to accurate, trustworthy information.

MODERATOR:

John Dupree

Partner, Opus Faveo
Innovation Development

SPEAKERS:

Atindriyo Sanyal

Co Founder and CTO, Galileo

Lian Ryan-Hume (Najami)

Head of T&S Policy for the Middle East,
Türkiye, and Africa, TikTok

Helen Xiao He Zhang

DCOS | Co-Founder,
Office of Eric Schmidt |
Intrigue Media



12:45 — 13:45

Buffet lunch in John McCall MacBain Hall



13:00 — 13:45

Glass Pavilion session: **Emergent Sentience:** **Myth and Logic of a** **Non-Predatory Future**

As human and artificial intelligence converge, filmmaker and systems thinker Anand Gandhi draws from *Maya*, his expansive science-fiction epic and 21st-century mythology (co-created with Zain Memon), to explore how stories steer civilization. *Maya* serves as a living laboratory where the myths and logics of a non-predatory future are tested, revealing how ethics, technology, and imagination have to co-evolve to build a humane, self-aware, equitable world. Join us for a rich conversation, unveiling *Maya* with Anand Gandhi.

SPEAKER:

Anand Gandhi

Co-founder & CEO,
Department of Lore



13:45 — 14:45

Plenary panel: Who Gets to Build the Future? Power, Governance & the Politics of Abundance

This panel will explore what it takes to design institutions, across government, industry, and civil society, that can navigate uncertainty while enabling ambitious, future-oriented action. At the heart of the conversation is a fundamental question: how can leadership and governance channel abundance toward the public good, rather than private accumulation?

This session will also ask who needs to be part of these decisions, and what it takes to foster the trust, accountability, and shared vision necessary to act collectively in shaping a more just and abundant future.



MODERATOR:

Abhilash Mishra
Founder, Equitech Futures

SPEAKERS:

Robert Saldin
Professor of Political Science,
University of Montana

Ella Duus
Master of Public Policy Student,
University of Virginia

Lollie Mancey
Programme Director, Innovation,
University College Dublin

Anthony House
Founder, The Promethean Collective

14:45 — 15:30

Refreshment Break in Lightwells



15:30 — 16:30

Kevin Xu Innovation Challenge

This challenge invites bold, early-stage ideas that use AI to build systems of Abundance—reimagining access, opportunity and well-being in a world too often shaped by scarcity. We have welcomed ideas that use AI to help people make better decisions, have more time to spend on the things that really matter to them, and develop richer relationships with the people and environment around them.

Hear from finalists from the Equitech Futures, Rhodes, Schmidt Science Fellows, RISE Fellows and Atlantic Fellowship networks who will present their solutions at the Forum, competing for prize money and the chance to receive feedback and support from a panel of esteemed judges.

JUDGES:

Ming Tan

Founding Executive Director,
Tech for Good Institute

Helen Xiao He Zhang

DCOS | Co-Founder,
Office of Eric Schmidt | Intrigue Media

Noa Havazelet

Head of Google Accelerator, Google

16:30 — 17:15

Closing Keynote

Lindsay Herbert

Author, Digital Transformation

17:15 — 17:20

Innovation Challenge Winner Announcement





*This is your space to
challenge prevailing
shape your own vision*



*to think critically,
g assumptions, and
ion of the future!*

Speakers and Judges





Brendan McGetrick

Creative Director, Museum of the Future

Brendan is the Creative Director of Museum of the Future in Dubai. Previously, he was founding director of Global Grad Show, an annual exhibition of graduate projects from the world's leading design and technology schools. In 2014, he curated Fair Enough in the Russian pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. Brendan oversees the storytelling and design elements of all content, exhibitions, and the overall visitor experience. His work aims to empower visitors to see the world, the future and themselves in new ways.



Kathryn Brown

Reader in Art Histories, Markets and Digital Heritage,
Loughborough University
South Australia & Balliol 1988

Kathryn Brown is Reader in Art Histories, Markets and Digital Heritage at Loughborough University. Her books include *Women Readers in French Painting 1870–1890* (2012), *Matisse's Poets* (2017), ed. *Digital Humanities and Art History* (2020), *Henri Matisse* (2021), *Dialogues with Degas* (2023), *Art Auctions: Spectacle and Value in the 21st Century* (2024), and (ed.) *Artificial Intelligence and Art History: Looking at Images in an Algorithmic Culture* (2026). She has held visiting fellowships at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts (Washington DC), the Humanities Research Centre of the Australian National University, Tulane University, the Beinecke Library (Yale University), and the Getty Foundation. Brown's research has been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK), the British Academy, the Independent Social Research Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art. She is the series editor of *Contextualizing Art Markets* for Bloomsbury Academic.



Paul Cadario

Distinguished Fellow in Global Innovation,
University of Toronto
Ontario & Magdalen 1973

Paul Cadario is the Distinguished Fellow in Global Innovation at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and Centre for Global Engineering, where he coaches, counsels and mentors students and faculty on international development, global governance and advanced technology issues, particularly as they relate to the world's poor. He joined U of T in 2012 after a 37-year-career at the World Bank; he helped the Bank prepare for an era of transparency and accountability in the roll-out of its global information systems to improve results and development impact. A graduate of U of T, Oxford, and American University, he lives in Washington DC. In 2013, he was awarded a LLD for his distinguished career in global development and his service to the University.



Tina Christmann

Lecturer and environmental scientist,
University of Southampton
Germany & Worcester 2018

Tina is a restoration scientist, lecturer and professional triathlete. Her research seeks to understand how to best restore ecosystems using satellite data, ecological and social methods. Tina supervises students on topics related to forest ecology, remote sensing and restoration and rewilding.



Madeleine de Cock Buning

Chaired Professor, Faculty of Law, Economy and Governance, Vice President Global Affairs EMEA, University of Utrecht, Netflix

Madeleine is professor of Copyright and Media Law at the University of Utrecht Faculty of Law, chaired professor of Digital Politics, Economy and Societies at the European University Institute in Florence and Chair of the Advisory Board at the European Digital Media Observatory. Madeleine is also Vice President for Global Affairs EMEA at Netflix. In this role, she works with her team to ensure Netflix continues to play an active role in supporting governments across the region in their efforts to promote and champion the creative industries as a catalyst for innovation, jobs and creativity.



Alberto Cottica

Research & Development Specialist,
United Nations Development Programme

Alberto is an economist, and network and data scientist, with a passion for political economy, anthropology and economic history. He likes to combine qualitative and quantitative methods to address challenges in environmental, technology, and development policy. Alberto currently works at the United Nations Development Programme, where he take part in designing and prototyping new types of development interventions – including economic policies – in a fast-changing world. In his spare time, he builds a cohousing project in Brussels; runs; and dabbles in open data/open knowledge activism.





Firas Darwish

DPhil in Statistics and Machine Learning,
University of Oxford

United Arab Emirates & Worcester 2025

Firas Darwish is a PhD student in Statistics and Machine Learning. Previously, Firas completed his undergraduate Computer Engineering degree at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), where he worked on machine learning to solve real-world clinical challenges and design prosthetic control systems. He has worked on AI governance and strategy at e& and served on NYUAD's AI Advisory Committee. Firas also teaches on several national AI programs, such as with the governments of the UAE and South Korea.



John Dupree

Partner, Opus Faveo Innovation Development
Mississippi & Christ Church 1976

John Dupree is currently a Partner at Opus Faveo Innovation Development, a boutique venture development studio in Austin and Dallas, Texas where he helps lead the firm's activities supporting very early-stage entrepreneurs as well as angels, small venture investors, family offices and tech transfer offices. Opus Faveo focuses on first-time founders and has helped launch successful new companies across biotech, robotics, advanced materials, AI, digital wellness, hospitality, and other sectors. Previously, he held a variety of technology sales and marketing positions for US telco, Sprint (now T-Mobile), including leading the enterprise sales team of over 3,000 global sales professionals and generating annual revenues in excess of \$13 billion. He lives in Dallas where he also serves on the board of Social Venture Partners Dallas and leads that organization's activities in early-stage social impact investing.



Ella Duus

Master of Public Policy Student,
University of Virginia
2021 RISE Fellow

Ella Duus is a policy advocate with a technical background dedicated to shaping safe, ethical, and trustworthy AI systems through governance. Ella is a Jefferson Scholar and a Master of Public Policy student at the University of Virginia, with a background in computer science. As a two-time NASA contractor and entrepreneur in the ML space, she leverages technical understanding to craft sound policy. This summer, Ella advised the UK government on risk assessment and information sharing practices as a Summer Fellow at GovAI. She works in the Policy Working Group at Encode, informing federal lawmakers and advocating for state-level AI legislation. She is a research assistant at the Sloane Lab and the Faruqe Lab at the University of Virginia's School of Data Science. Ella was an inaugural winner of the RISE scholarship.



Farwiza Farhan

Executive Director, HAKA

Fawiza is a forest conservationist working to protect and restore the Leuser Ecosystem in Sumatra, the last place on Earth where rhinos, tigers, elephants, and orangutans still roam together in the wild. As Co-founder and Chairperson of Yayasan HAKA (Forest, Nature and Environment Aceh Foundation), she brings together Indigenous communities, ecologists, policymakers, and private sector leaders to build inclusive, community-driven conservation models. Recognized internationally for her leadership, Farwiza continues to champion environmental justice and women's voices in protecting our planet's most vital ecosystems.



Anand Gandhi

Co-founder & CEO, Department of Lore

Anand Gandhi is widely regarded as the film auteur who ushered in a new wave of Indian cinema. His first film, *Ship of Theseus*, won the National Award for Best Picture, the Indian equivalent of an Academy Award. It was also on The Critics' Circle, UK's list of 15 "life-changing" films of the past century. His next film, *Tumbbad*, a genre film which used horror as an allegory, became the region's most-watched genre film of the last two decades. His non-fiction production, *An Insignificant Man*, was India's most commercially successful documentary film. Anand's films have won the highest honors at the international film festivals of Toronto, Venice, Transylvania, Tokyo and Hong Kong, and have been globally distributed by Disney, Netflix, PrimeVideo and Channel4.



Jeremy Heimans

Co-founder and CEO, Purpose

Keynote Speaker

Jeremy Heimans is co-founder and Chairman of Purpose, a Public Benefit Corporation that builds and supports movements for an open, just and habitable world. He also co-founded GetUp!, an Australian political organization with more members than all of Australia's parties combined, and Avaaz, the world's largest online citizens' movement with over 65 million members. Heimans is co-author of the international bestseller *New Power*, described by The New York Times' David Brooks as "the best window I've seen into this new world" and shortlisted for the Financial Times Business Book of the Year. He has been recognized by Fast Company as one of the Most Creative People in Business and is the recipient of the Ford Foundation's Visionary Award. The proud son of two first-generation immigrants to Australia, Jeremy was educated at Harvard University and the University of Sydney. He lives in New York.



Lindsay Herbert

Author, *Digital Transformation*

Keynote Speaker

Lindsay is a world-renowned innovation expert who helps large organisations find and solve complex problems by combining technologies, data, and new ways of working. Her book *Digital Transformation* was published internationally by Bloomsbury and has received industry-wide praise for its practical BUILD innovation framework, designed as a how-to guide for becoming adaptive to change itself. In her day job, Lindsay is an IBM Inventor and the Chief Innovation Officer for IBM Garage. She is also a Governor for the London Museum, appointed by the Mayor of London and serving her second term, helping to guide the Museum's own transformation as it prepares to reopen in its new home in Smithfield. Originally from the far remote reaches of northern Canada, Lindsay now lives in the UK with her family and their Labrador, Dax.



Anthony House

Founder, The Promethean Collective

Washington & Christ Church 2003

Anthony House is the founder of The Promethean Collective, a nonprofit equipping Civil Society to thrive in the age of AI. After completing a DPhil in social history, he spent nearly twenty years at Google, leaving as Director of Foresight for Technology and Society. He founded The Promethean Collective on the belief that advances in AI will soon force a renegotiation of the social contract—one that can succeed only if every community can understand the impacts of technologies and advocate for its values and needs. The Collective helps communities gain the understanding and tools they need to shape AI for the common good. He lives in London and Provincetown with his partner Andrew and their dog Percy.



Lollie Mancey

Programme Director, Innovation,
University College Dublin

Dr. Lollie Mancey is an anthropologist, futurist, and cultural strategist whose work explores how technology is reshaping society, governance, and human potential. She is Programme Director at University College Dublin's Innovation Academy, where she leads initiatives to help leaders and entrepreneurs navigate uncertainty and design for future challenges. She is also a partner at We Are Impetus, that delivers innovation strategies to global organisations. She co-presents RTÉ's science programme Futureville, which investigates how emerging technologies will shape Ireland in 2050. Her work centres on creating inclusive, ethical, and human-centred approaches to innovation.



Abhilash Mishra

Founder, Equitech Futures
India & Merton 2008

Abhilash is a scientist, entrepreneur, and educator working on problems at the intersection of technology and global challenges. Abhilash is the Founder and CSO 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, and is the recipient of several prestigious awards.



Patience Mususa

Senior Researcher, The Nordic Africa Institute
Zambia & St Antony's 2001

Dr. Patience Mususa is a Senior Researcher at The Nordic Africa Institute. An environmental anthropologist, her work concentrates on mining and human settlements, linking research with policy. She has led research teams across various countries on urban climate politics and has organised policy forums with African and Nordic policymakers on mining and urbanisation. She emphasises Africa's role in global urban development debates and its importance in the green transition. She serves on the editorial boards of the Journal for Southern African Studies and Urban Forum, and co-convenes AEGIS's African Urban Dynamics research group. Previously, she taught anthropology at the University of Cape Town and architecture at Copperbelt University in Zambia.



Bruce 'Canda' Niyonkuru

Creative Director, Milele Museum

Bruce Niyonkuru, known artistically as Canda, is an interdisciplinary artist, educator, and cultural advocate whose work bridges personal memory with collective transformation. Self-taught and shaped by a childhood without access to formal arts education, his practice is rooted in creating spaces for healing, reflection, and justice with a focus on BIPOC communities. He is the Founding Director of Milele Museum, a hybrid platform that preserves and reimagines African cultural heritage through gaming and expressive workshops. Canda's work spans continents and disciplines, leading art therapy programs for conflict-affected youth. His visual language draws from resilience and ancestral wisdom, blending bold textures with deep questions of identity, history, and belonging. Canda perceives his art as a way to listen, remember, and hold space for what is often left out.



Kati Price

Head of Experience and Digital,
Victoria and Albert Museum

Kati is a digital director specialising in digital transformation, audience engagement and brand experience. She currently oversees experience and digital at the Victoria and Albert Museum, for audiences encountering the V&A online and in person. She also leads teams working across content, technology and design and directs an award-winning portfolio of digital products and content. Since graduating from the V&A/Royal College of Art history of design Masters programme, Kati has specialised in content and communications and has worked within retail, charities and the cultural sector. Passionate about connecting people with culture and the possibilities of digital technology, Kati is regarded as a thought leader in the cultural sector, regularly speaking at international conferences, contributing to published works and mentoring emerging and established talent.



Lian Ryan-Hume (Najami)

Head of T&S Policy for the Middle East, Türkiye,
and Africa, TikTok
Israel & St Antony's 2018

Lian leads regional efforts at TikTok to design and implement policies that protect users and strengthen platform integrity. She guides a team dedicated to building inclusive, context-driven approaches that respond to emerging digital trends and foster safer online experiences worldwide. She is the first Arab-Israeli Rhodes Scholar, a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, and holds master's degrees in Public Policy and Comparative Social Policy from the University of Oxford. Lian is driven by a core belief: safety and inclusion are not features of technology, they are its foundation.



Robert Saldin

Professor of Political Science, University of Montana

Robert Saldin is a Professor of Political Science and the Director of The Mansfield Center's Ethics and Public Affairs Program at the University of Montana. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Niskanen Center in Washington, DC. Saldin's research lies at the nexus of American politics and history, political institutions, and public policy. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and three books, most recently *Never Trump: The Revolt of the Conservative Elites* (Oxford University Press, 2020) with Steven Teles. A frequent contributor to the popular press, Saldin's work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *Democracy Journal*, and *National Affairs* among others.



Atindriyo Sanyal

Co-founder, Chief Technology Officer,
Galileo

Atindriyo (Atin) Sanyal is the co-founder and CTO of Galileo. Before this, he led engineering efforts behind some of the most impactful AI platforms at Apple and Uber—contributing to the early versions of Siri, and helping build Uber's AI technology, part of their well known Michelangelo team. His work has powered hundreds of mission critical AI models into production, serving many millions everyday. At Galileo, he heads up their Engineering and AI Research, to help teams AI builders around the world use GenAI in a safe and secure manner.



Michael Schmidt

CEO / CSO,
biometrio.earth GmbH

A trained geobotanist and geoecologist, Michael received his PhD from the University of Mainz in Geoecology and Remote Sensing in cooperation with the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and Brazil's INPE where he used SAR data to map biomass in the Amazon. He has worked in Mexico's National Commission for Biodiversity (CONABIO) for over 15 years building the national systems for monitoring land use change and biodiversity with satellite data and large-scale in situ sensors.



Brian Wyborn

Chief Investment Officer,
Aboriginal Investment NT
Atlantic Fellow

Brian Wyborn is a proud Torres Strait Islander Australian and Papua New Guinean whose career has centred on service, equity, and economic empowerment. He is the Chief Investment Officer at Aboriginal Investment NT, where he oversees a \$650 million portfolio dedicated to nation-building initiatives that align financial performance with cultural and social impact. Brian also serves as Chair of one of the largest NFP regional and remote aged care providers in Australia, and sits on several national investment committees including the Noongar Boodja Trust and NAB Foundation Impact Investing Advisory Committee. With more than 15 years' experience spanning investment governance, wealth management, and social impact, he brings expertise in aligning finance with community outcomes. A father of three and Army Reservist, Brian's leadership is grounded in service to people and place, and in shaping sustainable futures through values-based decision-making.



Helen Xiao He Zhang

DCOS | Co-Founder,
Office of Eric Schmidt |
Intrigue Media

Helen is the Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Research and Projects in the Office of Eric Schmidt. Helen is also the co-founder of Intrigue Media, a media-tech company focused on geopolitics. Prior to this, Helen was a global public policy manager at Google Search, Australian diplomat (served in the Middle East, Europe, and North Asia), and began her career as a commercial lawyer. Helen holds an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School and a law degree from the Australian National University.



Kevin Xu Innovation Challenge Judges



Ming Tan

Senior Fellow and Founding Executive Director,
Tech for Good Institute

Dr Ming Tan is Senior Fellow at the Tech for Good Institute; a non-profit think tank focused on technology, society and economy in Southeast Asia. She was founding Executive Director of the Institute, and is concurrently Senior Fellow at the Centre for Governance and Sustainability at the National University of Singapore. Ming was previously Managing Director of IPOS International, part of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. Ming also serves on the boards of private companies and government agencies in Singapore, including the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, Singapore Network Information Centre and on the Digital and Technology Advisory Panel for Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay, Singapore's national performing arts centre. Her current portfolio spans philanthropy, social impact, sustainability and innovation. Ming obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees from Stanford University and her doctorate from Oxford.

Noa Havazelet

Head of Google Accelerator,
Google

Noa leads Google's Accelerator programs for the EMEA region, overseeing a portfolio of over 400 deep-tech and AI startups. The program is designed to help innovative companies grow and succeed. Beyond her role at Google, Noa is a passionate advocate for founder development, coaching entrepreneurs on building resilience. She also serves as a board member for the World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator, where she advises on using technology to combat global hunger.



Helen Xiao He Zhang

DCOS | Co-Founder,
Office of Eric Schmidt |
Intrigue Media

Helen is the Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Research and Projects in the Office of Eric Schmidt. Helen is also the co-founder of Intrigue Media, a media-tech company focused on geopolitics. Prior to this, Helen was a global public policy manager at Google Search, Australian diplomat (served in the Middle East, Europe, and North Asia), and began her career as a commercial lawyer. Helen holds an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School and a law degree from the Australian National University.





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 sessions will also be recorded for viewing after the event.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage you to join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #TechAndSociety2025

The Rhodes Trust can be found on LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok as @rhodestrust, on X as @rhodes_trust and Bluesky as @rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

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: #TECHANDSOCIETY2025

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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



Oxford Saïd
Entrepreneurship
Centre

This year, the Rhodes Trust has once again partnered with the Saïd Business School and their Oxford Saïd Entrepreneurship Forum (OSEF). This collaboration has brought together leading minds from both events to foster a richer exchange of ideas and innovations.

Contact: entrepreneurship@sbs.ox.ac.uk

Atlantic Institute

The Atlantic Institute provides Atlantic Fellows and staff with the networks, architecture and resources to connect, learn and act to address the underlying systemic causes of inequality – locally and globally.

Contact: www.atlanticfellows.org/contact-us

Special thanks to...

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Rhodes House,
South Parks Road, Oxford
OX1 3RG, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1865 270918
E: conferences@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk
W: www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk



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