

Gerd Leonhard 2019 Topics Preview January 7 2019

Greetings!

Many of the topics that I feel passionate about and that I explore in my speaking engagements revolve around this key question: how will exponential technological progress impact humanity, and what will be our biggest opportunities and challenges in the next 10 years?

I use custom-made animations, video-clips and graphics for most of my talks. These look really amazing, especially in big venues and for large audiences. However, I am equally happy to speak at smaller and more intimate events, and without visuals, as well.

#1 Humanity and technology – the next 10 years

Sometimes it seems that technology is the only thing that will matter in the future. As I often put it, data is the new oil; artificial intelligence (AI) is the new electricity; and the Internet of Things (IoT) is the nervous system. The top-20 digital giants and social-media platforms already are the most powerful organisations in the world. Algorithms, AI and bots are gearing up to run the show in every industry. What, then, will happen to humans when machines become truly intelligent? What about privacy, secrets, mystery, serendipity, emotions, intuition, imagination, consciousness, and free will? These are also the themes explored in my recent book, *Technology vs. Humanity*, and will remain my primary focus for 2019.

#2 Digital ethics - the ethics of exponential technological progress

Science fiction is increasingly become science fact; witness the exponential technological advances, across a vast range of sectors, such as artificial intelligence (AI), human genome manipulation / editing, and quantum-computing. Hence, I believe that the ethical and human-centric use of technology can no longer remain a mere afterthought but will quickly become an existential issue for humanity. If we define ethics as “the difference between having the right or the power to do something, and doing the right thing”, who will decide what is right, and who will be “mission control for humanity”?

#3 Artificial intelligence – the next 10 years

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become one of my key topics that I always relish exploring further. In my talks, I explain – from a non-academic perspective – the differences between AI, IA (intelligent assistance), and AGI (artificial general intelligence), and what each of them could mean for our future. Crucially, I depict what is real and what’s not, and where AI is going in the next 10 years. Examples

are drawn specifically from the client's domain, and / or specific to an industry. This talk also covers elements from the *Technology vs. Humanity* themes, as outlined above, and in addition often addresses the impact of AI on work, education and jobs.

#4 Ten critical things you need to know about the future, today

In this fast-paced talk, I cut to the chase. Only my most important future-observations make it into this keynote. Culled from my firehose of recent reads, news, reports, research, videos and films, and influenced by the many brilliant people I meet and speak to, this constantly updated talk lays out the top-10 things I find most relevant for our immediate future. This talk is highly customisable and can cover almost any desired segment within business, society, technology and humanity.

5 How to become future-ready

I often state that the future is already here - we just haven't paid enough attention. The future is no longer merely an extension of the present because the changes impacting every aspect of our lives are exponential, combinatorial and interdependent. 'Tomorrow' is happening increasingly faster than we think, and it is therefore vitally important to boost our future-readiness, to 'futurize' ourselves as well as our organisations. In this talk, I share my approach to observing, understanding and imagining the future, both on a personal as well as on an organisational level. The future is a mindset not a timeframe!

NOTE: My presentations are usually tailored to each client and for every unique event. Please ask me if you would like to investigate whether I would be a good match for your event.

Also in development for spring 2019:

People Planet Prosperity - the future of capitalism

The 'basic income guarantee': solution or illusion?

The United States of Europe: Utopia or Realopia ?

Longevity and human life extension: the next decade