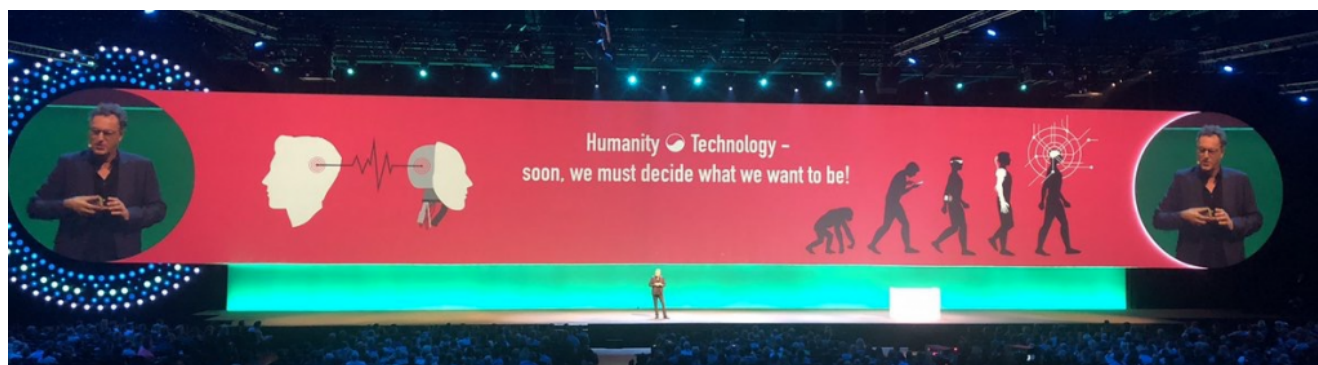# Futurist Gerd Leonhard announces updated mission statement, new 2019 speaking topics: focus on digital ethics and the future of humanity

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announcements   Artificial Intelligence   Digital Ethics

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Greetings everyone, and Happy New Year!

It's been almost 17 years that I started giving talks and presentations on the future, and it's been an amazing adventure – one that I plan to turn into a new book in 2019 (stay tuned via Twitter)

I've done more than 1700 engagements (keynotes, talks, seminars, workshops and advisory sessions) in over 50 countries. My YouTube channel is now nearing 20K subscribers, with the total watch-time of my 556 videos exceeding 15 Million minutes. My total audience has grown to an estimated 2.5 million people, globally.

So first, a huge THANK YOU to all my clients, all the speaking bureaus that have booked me, and all the amazing people I was so fortunate to meet and speak with, on-the-road: you have taught me so much!

I have been very fortunate that my 2016 book 'Technology vs. Humanity' has been successful beyond my wildest dreams – it's now available in 10+ languages and many memes from the book (such as #DigitalEthics and of #techvshuman) have now been widely adopted across the Internet. Almost 75% of all my recent talks have already been on this topic!

Now, it's time to talk about what really matters: the future of humanity.

It's time to go beyond the focus on more-or-less business issues such as digital transformation and 'the Megashifts' to the topics that are truly existential and crucial for the future of humanity. It's also time to acknowledge my strongest passions. During the past 2-3 years I have come to realise that I feel most passionate about human and societal issues that often encompass technological future scenarios. I also have discovered that I have a some-what unique ability to fuse content and ideas from science and technology, business and economics as well as from philosophy, culture, society and humanity in my talks.

Here are my updated mission statements:

1. **To be a force for the good of humanity by making meaningful contributions that help to foster human flourishing**
2. **To speak honestly, openly, engagingly and with total integrity with and to my audiences**
3. **To present passionate and visionary yet balanced and realistic views that are neither techno-utopian nor neo-luddite**
4. **To influence, inspire and advise local, national and global decision makers when it comes to the key technological future topics that are impacting humanity**

In this, I will take guidance from the UN's 'People, Planet, Prosperity' principles that I believe will underpin a new economic system in the future: everything I do must have a human benefit, it must respect the planet at all times and it must allow for sustainable prosperity (both mine as well as that of my clients)

Going forward, I will focus on these 6 speaking topics below. Download the PDF with my speaking topics: 2019-Gerd-Leonhard-Futurist-Core-Topic I will still consider other engagements (such as on my legacy topics); however all engagement requests on my 2019 core topics will receive priority. Many of my traditional business topics can also be covered by my esteemed and accomplished colleagues at The Futures Agency.

In 2019, will also present a lot of new content on #digitalethics, together with a new collaborator, Peter Van. This will include a brand-new newsletter, a new podcast, a series of blogposts and opinion pieces, and some new short films and animations. Download this announcement as PDF: Gerd Leonhard Futurist 2019 Announcement

CORE TOPICS 2019

TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY - DEFINING OUR FUTURE, TODAY

Sometimes it seems that technology is the only thing that will matter in the future. I beg to differ. Sure, data is the new oil and artificial intelligence maybe the new electricity, but this makes being human more important - not less.

❯❯ DETAILS

DIGITAL ETHICS / THE ETHICS OF TECHNOLOGY

Bertolt Brecht famously commented that humans tend to think 'dinner first, then morals'. I observe that we've had many amazing digital feasts already - now it's time for Ethics and Humanity to top the menu.

❯❯ DETAILS

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE [AI] - THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Artificial Intelligence is a very confusing topic for many people, and one that has been greatly distorted in the media. I suggest to differ between IA (intelligent assistance), AI and AGI, and to look at the merits of each.

❯❯ DETAILS

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE, TODAY

In this fast-paced and provocative show, I cut right to the chase - only my most important future observations make it into this presentation. Using current examples, I hypothesise that the future is no longer a timeframe: it's a mindset.

❯❯ DETAILS

THE 10 MEGASHIFTS: TRANSFORMING YOUR ORGANISATION

If you believe 'digital transformation' is what it's all about, think again. I propose 9 other Megashifts that are the result of game-changing technological advances: Virtualisation, cognification, robotisation, automation - read on.

❯❯ DETAILS

HOW TO DO THE FUTURE. TODAY

The future is already here - we just haven't paid enough attention to it. Science fiction is increasingly becoming science fact and we must increasingly challenge our assumptions about what is possible. Futurize, now!

❯❯ DETAILS