The Future of Capitalism and Democracy
A Futures Agency special speaker engagement package

GERD LEONHARD, Futurist & Humanist
CEO The Futures Agency

TIM RENNER, former Secretary of State
Capitalism as we know it is not sustainable and has no future. All around us, exponential technological advances are reconstituting business models, reshaping consumption habits, upending politics, questioning our limitations, and challenging our assumptions about work, jobs and education.

Is there such a thing as 'sustainable capitalism'? What could that even look like?

In the West, our traditional economic model more or less got us through the 20th Century, but will it stand up to a world where ten billion people are connected to very-high-speed internet, where 70% of all new jobs are yet to be invented, and where intelligent machines do most of the routine work?

Our world is being redefined by powerful, global technology platforms that are revolutionising literally everything around us: what we read, see and hear, how we make decisions, how we travel, how we communicate... from commerce to agriculture to media to healthcare. These companies are immensely powerful: they employ Millions of people, they are the top-spenders in government-lobbying, and of course they are the top performers on stock markets around the globe.

We’re still mostly enthralled by them, yet some of their practices and unintended consequences are clearly starting to threaten our democratic process, eroding our social contracts and gradually dehumanising our society.

Over the last century, “shareholder primacy” remained the conventional business wisdom. Times have changes. That change, you might recall started with the speech Bill Gates gave in Davos in 2008, in his last year of full-time service at Microsoft, calling for a new “creative capitalism.” Capitalism, it seemed, was desperately in need of a modifier. Gerd and Tim are now asking fundamental questions about how well capitalism is serving society in a world of abundance and exponential technological change. Today, 64% of Americans believe that a company’s “primary purpose” should include “making the world better”. 41% of Fortune 500 CEOs are saying that solving social problems should be part of their core business. Proof that the capitalism’s crisis of purpose has prompted as much soul-searching among authors, futurists and academics as it has in boardrooms.

In this riveting session, Tim Renner (a leading German politician) and Gerd Leonhard (a global futurist, author and humanist) will discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, offering unique insights on what we need to do to make sure that human flourishing remains the core objective of all technological progress.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

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SUGGESTED SESSION FORMAT:

- 2 x 12-15 minute presentations by Gerd and Tim
- Fireside chat with a highly qualified journalist or host
- Questions and debate with the audience
- Optional book signing session afterwards

Total duration: 45-90 minutes

Please inquire office@thefuturesagency.com for further details
Gerd Leonhard is a hunter and gatherer of foresight about the future. From science and technology to culture, society, business and commerce, Gerd brings back his insights about the future so that leaders can make better choices, today. ‘Practical wisdom’ is Gerd’s goal.

In his latest and best-selling book, Technology vs. Humanity, Gerd explores the myriad of ethical, social and political questions which urgently require addressing before we blindly forego that which makes us human.

For organizations in the grip of disruption, facing exponential change, Gerd supplies visionary insight and practical wisdom that transforms his clients and audiences, today. Gerd Leonhard has redefined the vocation of a futurist as a new humanist, going from an outpaced focus on predictions to a new kind of ‘future therapy’.

Gerd is listed as one of the top 100 influencers in technology by Wired magazine and is ranked #12 in the global futurist ranking. His clients include over 300 companies and organisations in 50+ countries, including Google, UBS, Roche, WWF Cisco, KPMG, Unilever, US Social Security Agency, the BBC, Universal Studios, the EU Commission and many more.

Gerd Leonhard is a member of the Royal Society of Arts (RSA, London), and an advisory board member of the Indian and Canadian Research Institutes.

ABOUT TIM RENNER

Tim Renner, Political Advisor, former Secretary of State (Berlin), Author, Professor at Popakademie Baden-Württemberg and Founder/Owner of Motor Entertainment, Berlin / Germany

Tim Renner was Chairman and CEO of the German division of global music market leader Universal Music. In 2003 he started the world’s first download portal ‘Popfile’ and was announced as a ‘Global Leader for Tomorrow’ by the World Economic Forum Davos.

A year later he published his first book about change process in media (‘Kinder, der Tod ist gar nicht so schlimm’/‘Death is not that bad’ – English version 2006) and formed Motor Entertainment. His company re-invented label services for artist, founded a radio station (MotorFm/FluxFM), and started to produce music-documentaries for television (‘Berlin Live’).

At the same time, Tim started to consult companies such as ‘Pro7/SAT1’ in regards to their music strategy, wrote the concept of BMG’s new label service, and became an advisor for the German Social Democrats and some of their federal ministers for digital transition, copyright and creative industries.

In early 2014 he became Berlin’s Mayor Klaus Wowereit’s permanent Secretary for Culture. Tim oversaw all cultural activities of the city and state of Berlin until the end of his term. Currently Tim teaches as a Professor in Mannheim, consults several companies from banks (Donner & Reusch) to mobility (Volkswagen), real estate (Kurth group) and the city of Berlin when it comes to change and other creative processes. He is a member of Gerd Leonhard's Futures Agency.

ABOUT GERD LEONHARD

Gerd Leonhard, Futurist and Humanist, Author of Technology vs. Humanity, Global Keynote Speaker and CEO of The Futures Agency, Zurich / Switzerland
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