

agora

My Life My Business My World

Exploring the outer reach of technology and personal
development

The Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson - Arizona, 27-29 September 2018

Public program

Thursday 27 September 2018

18:00 – onwards	Registration of participants, welcome drinks
19:30-21:30	<p>Outdoor Barbeque Welcome dinner <i>From where I stand....</i></p> <p>The evening is an opportunity to get to know your fellow participants and discussion initiators through interactive proceedings and a traditional social Southwest Barbeque.</p> <p><i>Interactive proceedings led by:</i> Paul Saffo is a technology forecaster with over two decades' experience exploring the dynamics of large-scale, long-term change. He teaches forecasting at Stanford University and chairs the Future Studies and Forecasting track at Singularity University. He is a Board member of the Long Now Foundation which foster long-term thinking.</p>

Friday 28 September 2018

09:00 - 10:00	<p><i>The exponential technologies: What is coming next in Intelligent Machines, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and Robotics and Automation... What does that mean for your business and are you ready to disrupt it?</i></p> <p>This is now the era of exponential technologies, with fast advances in the domains of Artificial Intelligence and special purpose robots, with IOT already moving towards fully automated IoT, with business processes using just-in-time replenishment and auto-scaling services, and with autonomous vehicles increasingly impacting on human transportation, and new virtual reality applications unfolding under our eyes. More than ever, the challenge is anticipation, fast integration of new technologies, adaptation of business models to new production modes and new consumers' expectations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the next developments looming ahead over the next three to five years? ✓ How can Start-Ups leverage technology innovation to become unicorns? ✓ What is the new modus operandi that fast technology changes require from us? <p><u><i>Discussion led by:</i></u></p>
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	<p>Hod Lipson, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Data Science Columbia University, and a co-author of the award-winning book <i>"Fabricated: The New World of 3D Printing"</i> and <i>"Driverless: Intelligent Cars and The Road Ahead"</i>. Hod Lipson's work challenges conventional views of robotics, and has enjoyed widespread media coverage. He has also pioneered many aspects of 3D Printing, including bio-printing, electronics printing, and food printing, as well as launching the first open-source printer in the US. Lipson has co-authored over 300 publications and has founded four companies.</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Networking break
10:30 – 11:30	<p><i>What is changing with VCs and IPOs and what does that mean for funding startups?</i></p> <p>The VC industry has begun to change and the changes are accelerating. What we see is CEOs becoming - or behaving like - venture capitalist. Big high-tech conglomerates have been evolving the same way, not only looking at the development of new technological and business model's innovations but also with the objective of taking control of potential new competitors, and "owning" and dominating a high-growth potential sector. At the same time, more and more VC firms are operating now like private equity firms. Another significant evolution relates to the way, what you might call, "VC hotspots" have been multiplying. While Silicon Valley had a quasi-monopoly in terms of innovative high-tech startups, a number of spots in the world are now turning into very vibrant ecosystems for startups and innovation, whether it is China, India - with centers such as Bangalore and Gurgaon-, Israel, Singapore to some extent, not speaking about Europe startups hubs in Paris, London, Switzerland etc. What does that mean for the funding of new companies and the development of entrepreneurship?</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u></p> <p>Lynne Bairstow, Managing Partner, Mita Ventures, Mexico. An Internet entrepreneur, investor and advisor, Lynne's interest and passion for tech startups comes from both hands-on technical knowledge and high growth marketing/customer acquisition experience. Business owner/entrepreneur in Mexico for >15 years, with Mexican private and governmental entities as clients. Founder of MITA, and VC experience as General Partner of the MITA Seed Fund.</p> <p>Thierry Porté, Managing Director at J.C. Flowers, former President and CEO of Shinsei Bank. Before joining Shinsei bank Thierry was Managing Director and President of Morgan Stanley Japan. He has served in various capacities in capital markets, corporate finance and management in New York, London and Tokyo. He is an investor in a number of Startups. He serves on the Boards of OneLife Holding , Group Financière CEP, and Acuon Capital Corporation. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Chi-X Asia Pacific.</p> <p>Ganapathy Venugopal (VG), Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Axilor Ventures and former Head, Strategy and Planning, Infosys. He has 17 years of experience in strategy, planning and consulting, and also serves as a Member of</p>

	the Board of the Information and Communication Technology Academy of Kerala. VG serves on the Boards of several companies.
11:45 – 12:45	<p><i>Tell me how you sleep...I will tell you how creative you can be</i></p> <p>Many experiments have now established the link between the quality of one person's sleep and her/his creativity. In fact depending on its quality, sleep can promote creative problem-solving. Dr. Penny Lewis and two of her colleagues from Cardiff University have come up with a new theory describing the link between sleep and creativity. According to them, Rapid Eyes Movement (REM) sleep – a kind of sleep characterized by rapid eye movements, more dreaming and bodily movement, and faster pulse and breathing - and non-REM sleep work together to help us find unrecognized links between what we already know, and discover out-of-the-box solutions to vexing problems. What should we do to ensure that the way we sleep will keep us innovative and creative in our thinking?</p> <p>Christopher Winter, owner, Charlottesville Neurology and Sleep Medicine clinic and CNSM Consulting. Dubbed "The Sleep Whisperer" by Arianna Huffington, Dr. Winter has been involved in the field of sleep medicine for twenty-five years. He is a fully board certified neurologist and double board certified sleep specialist, who has been helping individuals sleep better through his private clinic, group consultations, work with professional athletes, and dynamic media presence. He is also the author of "The Sleep Solution: Why Your Sleep Is Broken and How To Fix It"</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<p>Luncheon</p> <p><i>The potential and power of "Unsafe thinking"</i></p> <p>We all recognize the need for thinking "outside the box". However, the ever-accelerating pace of change in every domain – starting with technology – is compelling us to avoid the temptation of groupthink, to move out of the comfort of conventional wisdom. How to get creative thinking prevail over risk-aversion? How to get away from time-tested approaches to issues and challenges to think and behave like a trail-blazing innovator?</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u></p> <p>Jonah Sachs, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Free Range Studios, USA. Jonah is an author, speaker and viral marketing trailblazer whose work helped spur the 21st century values revolution. Sachs' pioneering new approaches to digital media have been critical in bringing the ideals of social change to the forefront of business and popular culture. Jonah was the creator of some of the world's first, and still most heralded, viral digital marketing videos. Jonah helps Fortune 500 companies, cutting-edge entrepreneurs, international organizations and small businesses learn how to break old patterns and make new connections so they can create powerful, meaningful, radical change. He was named by Fast Company as one of today's 50 most influential social innovators.</p>
14:45 – 15:45	<i>What the new age of geopolitics of risks and uncertainty means for us?</i>

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	<p><u>Discussion led by:</u> Bruce Jones, Vice President and Director - Foreign Policy Program, Senior Fellow Project on International Order and Strategy, Brookings Institution, USA. He is also a consulting professor at the Freeman Spogli Institute at Stanford University and chair of the advisory council of the Center on International Cooperation at New York University. Jones' expertise and policy experience is in international security.</p>
15:45 – 16:15	Networking break
16:15 – 17:15	<p>Leadership in the era of disruptions</p> <p>The rules are changing, the number and nature of players keep changing; disruptive technologies are forcing us to put into question quite a number of assumptions in the way we operate or we conceive business models; customers' behavior and expectations are now in flux. What are the "Must Have" qualities for leadership in an era where disruptions are happening at with an unprecedented magnitude scale and speed in modern history?</p>
17:30-18:30	<p>Cybersecurity: What do you do when reality trumps science fiction</p> <p>Having your computer 's hardware hijacked by criminals to mine cryptocurrencies; ransom attacks on cloud services; Getting one's info compromised in a data leak and not even being aware of that; smartphones contaminated with malware and malicious apps; Ai and machine learning increased capabilities being leveraged to automatize and expand exponentially cyber-attacks.... The list of cybersecurity threats seems to be expanding by the day. No wonder that cyber-attacks are now ranking among the top threats to individuals, corporations and countries welfare and security. What can we do, and how to keep pace with the fast expanding, science-fiction like, capabilities of cyber-hackers? What does that mean for our business and personal life?</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u> Georgia Weidman, Shevirah founder and CEO. Georgia is a serial entrepreneur, penetration tester, security researcher, speaker, trainer, and author. Her work in the field of smartphone exploitation has been featured internationally. She has provided training at conferences such as Blackhat USA, Brucon, and CanSecWest. Georgia founded Bulb Security LLC, a security consulting firm specializing in security assessments/penetration testing, security training, and research/development. She was awarded a DARPA Cyber Fast Track grant to continue her work in mobile device security culminating in the release of the open source project the Smartphone Pentest Framework (SPF). She founded Shevirah Inc. to create product solutions for assessing and managing the risk of mobile devices in the enterprise. She is the author of <i>Penetration Testing: A Hands-On Introduction to Hacking</i>. She was the recipient of the 2015 Women's Society of CyberJutsu Pentest Ninja award.</p>
19:30 – 21:30	Meet the Chef and discover local tastes AND... Relax while taking in the view...

Saturday 29 September 2017

07:30 – 9:30	<p><i>Ride, Hike or just golf cart into the wild for Breakfast AND...</i></p> <p>Time and Foresight: the deep structure driving rapid change and innovation</p> <p>The present unfolds out of the interaction of multiple fast and slow processes. Seemingly sudden change actually is driven by deep, slow-moving forces passing unnoticed through the zeitgeist. An understanding of the structure of this interaction offers a means to identify and understand deep trends in order to evaluate challenges, identify opportunities, avoid surprise and develop strategy. It also provides a context for understanding one's personal place in this exponential moment – and one's responsibility to the future.</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u> Paul Saffo is a technology forecaster with over two decades' experience exploring the dynamics of large-scale, long-term change. He teaches forecasting at Stanford University and chairs the Future Studies and Forecasting track at Singularity University. He is a Board member of the Long Now Foundation which foster long-term thinking.</p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p><i>What will Blockchain ACTUALLY change in the way we transact and do business?</i></p> <p>Could it be that the most promising innovation about bitcoin is not the cryptocurrency in itself but the technology that has allowed it to come into being: blockchain? The purpose of bitcoin was to create a stateless virtual currency, escaping the control of any bank or government. The solution was to create a public log – the blockchain – maintained by a peer-to-peer swarm of computers (or “nodes”), each holding an identical copy of the ledger. Then came the realization that blockchain technology could have much wider usages than securing the exchange of cryptocurrencies, from verifying property rights to quality control, to the overseeing of supply chains. And this moving of value or data among many players without intermediation. This is what has been labelled as “the Trust Protocol” by technology Guru Don Tapscott. However, many technology analysts are pointing out that the technology is too slow, that its “bandwidth” remains limited, and that “mining”, the mechanism that enables a system without a central authority, is a gargantuan energy-user. Is it just a question of allowing enough time for the technology to mature to develop its full potential, or is there an element of pie in the sky in all the discussion on the blockchain technology?</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u> Rik Willard is the Founder and Managing Director of Agentic Group, a New York City-based federation of over 50 blockchain and related companies on five continents. He is also CEO of Global Blockchain Technologies, a publicly</p>

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	<p>traded company on the Toronto and Tokyo Stock Exchanges, and a co-founding member of the Silicon Valley Blockchain Society in San Francisco. He serves on the advisory boards of several Token Generation Events around the world. He is featured in the recent blockchain documentary “The Blockchain and Us”. In 2016, Rik lead the team that conceived of the blockchain strategy for both the country of Luxembourg and The Port of Rotterdam, among others.</p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p><i>Will happiness come from my smartphone?</i></p> <p>While the smartphone keeps bringing a number of improvements and new opportunities in our daily life as well as in our businesses, some of the drawbacks that the kind of addiction it is creating for hundreds of millions of users are generating more and more concern. Some research is now linking sleep disorders and depression to an “overuse” of smartphone. In the same way texting is replacing in-person communication and is sometimes becoming an ersatz of real-life friendship. The fact that People are expected to be online and connected to their phones all the time is becoming a real impediment to family life and parents-children relationship. It is now in many cases a problematic of smartphone-life balance instead of work-life balance. How to avoid becoming the slave of your smartphone? How to separate the trivial and futile in the use of our smartphone from what really makes our life easier and generate or sustain genuine relationships?</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u> Dr. Elizabeth Dunn, professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Dunn conducts experimental research examining how time, money, and technology shape human happiness. She is the co-author of “Happy money: The science of happier spending”. Her work has appeared in top journals and she was selected as one of the “rising stars” in academia by the Chronicle of Higher Education a few years ago. She was an honoree for the 2007 Mind Gym Academic Prize for pioneering work in positive psychology. In 2010, she received a New Investigator Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, as well as UBC’s Robert E. Knox Master Teacher Award. Her research has been featured in hundreds of media outlets around the world, including The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, The London Times, Maclean’s, Time, and CNN.</p>
12:45 – 14:15	<p>Luncheon</p> <p><i>Branding in the digital age</i></p> <p>The internet has radically changed the way consumers perceive and engage with brands. Many traditional marketing strategies are now obsolete. What is happening to consumer loyalty, so crucial to brands but increasingly difficult to secure in an E-commerce environment? As customers have exposure to so many brands and digital experiences literally at their fingertips, how to differentiate from the competition and keep the customer engaged? How to make the brand convey the message that you understand the customer’s aspirations? How to</p>

	use the brand to create a relationship with customer, whether talking about products or services?
14:45 – 15:45	<p><i>The genomics and bioengineering breakthroughs changing human health and the healthcare industry</i></p> <p>Whether it is developing a functional cure of HIV by using CRISPR gene-editing, using stem cells to regenerate kidneys, working on restoring sight for the blind through stem cells treatment, working on "synthetic biotics," or genetically engineered bacteria strains to try to cure rare genetic metabolic diseases. New and fast advancing bio-tech breakthroughs are changing human health and the healthcare industry. What are the new opportunities opening for a number of startups to build new companies by leveraging these promising new developments? How to address the ethical challenges that some of the biotech developments are raising by redefining how life can be created? What is permissible and what is not in terms of gene manipulation?</p>
15:45– 16:15	<i>Networking break</i>
16:15 – 17:15	<p><i>At the end, it is all about trust</i></p> <p>The digital economy is creating the need for a new kind of social contract between the corporation, its customers, and society at large: To develop their activities companies have to “embed” themselves more and more in the life of their customers – whether individuals or businesses - who will use social media platforms to connect and share, fintech services to transact, online devices to monitor and manage an increasing number of daily life aspects, and different technological applications to oversee and conduct industrial processes. People and businesses aren’t just using online, digital, services and disruptive technologies applications, they are in fact seamlessly providing information about themselves, their activities, and their priorities. But as they are thus “opening up” an exponential amount of crucial data to their technology services providers, they increasingly expect that these providers are extremely punctilious in the way they protect this data, and use it according to strict rules and limitations. This requires a new type of relationship, a new level of trust between the digital company, its customers, and society at large. And only the businesses which will be able to establish this new relationship and trust will sustain success in the future. The key question is: What is required to create such a relationship?</p> <p><u>Discussion led by:</u> Jacob Metcalf, Founding Partner, Ethical Resolve, USA. Jacob is a technology ethics researcher and consultant specializing in data analytics and artificial intelligence. He studies how data ethics practices are emerging in industry and civil society organizations. He also studies how design practices can successfully integrate ethical values and principles. Jake’s firm provides clients with a range of ethics services, helping them to make well-informed and timely business decisions that reflect their values.</p>
17:15 – 18:00	<i>Connecting the dots: A few things to take back home</i>

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18:00 – 19:30	<i>Until the next time... A drink, some southwest snacks and future plans</i>
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