

MEDIA RELEASE

July 27 2018

TAKE A JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE WITH SINGULARITYU AUSTRALIA SUMMIT

“Exponential technologies - technologies that double in power or processing speed every year while their cost halves”

Ever wished you had a crystal ball to glimpse into the future? For the first time in Australia, the world’s leading commentators in exponential technologies will gather in Sydney to take us on a journey of discovery and reveal the exciting opportunities in our changing world.

For three days from February 19-21, 2018 the ICC Sydney will host the SingularityU Australia Summit, one of a series of global conferences held by the Silicon Valley-based Singularity University.

The SingularityU Australia Summit 2018 will feature the world’s foremost speakers covering the spectrum of innovation including Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Virtual Augmentation, 3D Printing and Synthetic Biology with insights applicable to a range of industry sectors from medicine to agriculture and car manufacturing to energy solutions.

Established in 2008 by Ray Kurzweil - an American author, computer scientist, inventor and futurist – and Peter Diamandis - an American engineer, physician and entrepreneur – Singularity University is supported by academia, business and governments around the world in its mission to stimulate ground-breaking, disruptive thinking and solutions aimed at solving some of the planet's most pressing challenges.

Director of the SingularityU Australia Summit and a global commentator on exponential technologies Kaila Colbin believes the key to embracing the future is education and knowledge.

“We are living in the most amazing time in human history. If you consider the major changes the world has experienced in the past decade, and accept that there are further changes coming that will happen more rapidly than we have ever seen before and with more dramatic impacts on just about every industry, this Summit is a not-to-be missed event,” she says.

And while exponential advances in technology are creating a world of abundance never before imagined, Colbin also points out the transition is likely to be challenging.

“We have never experienced this phenomenon of technological unemployment at this speed and at this scale so we don’t really know what to expect.

“A widely read study by Frey and Osborne suggests that between 47% and 81% of jobs as we understand them are under threat from technology within the next 20 years and that sounds like a scary prospect.

“Historically, every time we have had jobs replaced by automation, that new technology has enabled more new jobs than it has done away with. But we need to be starting now to prepare our young people and our workforce for a future that looks nothing like the past,” Colbin says.

“Governments, businesses, universities, high schools – we all need to start talking about what is just over the horizon and how we can adapt and thrive in the new world.”

The Singularity University Summit series is supported worldwide by Deloitte.

Book for the SingularityU Australia Summit – February 19-21 2018 at <http://singularityaustraliasummit.com>.

NOTE TO JOURNALISTS – THE SINGULARITYU AUSTRALIA SUMMIT SPEAKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS PRIOR TO 2018. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST INTERVIEWS:

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CONFIRMED SPEAKERS – July 27 2017

Kaila Colbin - Singularity University: New Zealand Ambassador and Director of SingularityU Australa Summit.

Kaila Colbin lives at the nexus of ideas and action, creating transformative experiences and environments to inspire people to think differently. In addition to being the New Zealand Ambassador for Singularity University, she is also the Curator of TEDxChristchurch and a co-founder and Chair of the non-profit Ministry of Awesome, the starting point to make things happen in Christchurch. A native New Yorker, Kaila is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Italian, holds a degree from Cornell University and has been a serial entrepreneur since the age of 22.

David Roberts - Singularity University: Faculty and Alumnus

David Roberts is regarded as one of the world's top experts on disruptive innovation and exponentially advancing technology. He is an award-winning CEO and serial entrepreneur and has started ventures backed with more than \$100 million of investment from Kleiner Perkins, Vinod Khosla, Cisco, Oracle, Accenture, In-Q-Tel and others. David is Chairman at HaloDrop, a revolutionary global drone services company, Chairman at 1QBit the world's first software company for quantum computers and is a formal adviser to Made-In-Space, responsible for manufacturing the first object in Space with a 3D printer on the Space Station. David has led the development of some of the most complex, state-of-the art systems ever built, including satellites, drones and fusion centres.

Raymond McCauley - Singularity University: Biotech

Raymond McCauley is a scientist, engineer, and entrepreneur working at the forefront of digital biology. Raymond explores how applying technology to biology, genetics, medicine and agriculture is affecting every one of us. Raymond is co-founder and Chief Architect for BioCurious, the hackerspace for biotech, where professional scientists, DIYbio hobbyists and entrepreneurs come together to design the next big thing to come out of a Silicon Valley garage. He is also part of the team that developed next generation DNA sequencing at Illumina, where he worked in bioinformatics, cancer sequencing, and personal genomics. Raymond's postgraduate work includes studies at Texas A&M University, Stanford and UC Berkeley in electrical engineering, computer science, biophysics, biochemistry, bioinformatics and nanotechnology.

Marc Goodman - Singularity University: Policy, Law & Ethics

Marc Goodman is a *New York Times* best-selling author, global strategist and consultant focused on the profound change technology is having on security, business and international affairs. He is the founder of the Future Crimes Institute and has built his expertise in international cyber-crime and terrorism working with organisations including INTERPOL, the UN Counter Terrorism Task Force, NATO and the US Government. Goodman frequently advises industry leaders, security executives and global policy makers on transnational cyber risk and intelligence and has operated in more than 70 countries around the world. Marc's book, *Future Crimes*, is a *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today* best seller, was selected as Amazon's Best Business Book of 2015 and has been names on of *The Washington Post's* Top 10 Best Books of 2015.

Daniel Kraft - Singularity University: Chair, Medicine and Neuroscience

Daniel Kraft is a Stanford and Harvard trained physician-scientist, inventor, entrepreneur, and innovator. With more than 20 years of experience in clinical practice, biomedical research and healthcare innovation, Kraft has chaired the Medicine Track for Singularity University since SU's inception and is Executive Director of Exponential Medicine, a program that explores convergent, rapidly developing technologies and their potential in biomedicine and healthcare. Following undergraduate degrees from Brown University and medical school at Stanford, Daniel was Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Paediatrics after completing a Harvard residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital & Boston Children's Hospital and fellowships in haematology, oncology and bone marrow transplantation at Stanford. He has multiple patents on medical devices, immunology and stem cell related patents through faculty positions with Stanford University School of Medicine and as clinical faculty for the paediatric bone marrow transplantation service at University of California, San Francisco.

Amin Toufani - Singularity University: Director of Strategy

Amin is the Director of Strategy at Singularity University. He brings a unique set of technological, entrepreneurial and policy perspectives to the dialogue of innovation on campus. Before Singularity, Amin founded for-profit and social impact organisations in a range of domains including: artificial intelligence, peer to peer lending, bitcoin, human rights, international development, carbon offsetting, solar energy, and quantitative global macro trading. Google Search ranks him as the world's best guitar player - a title he readily rejects. In addition to his work at Singularity, he is building the world's first hedge fund for the poor, as well as Reversopedia - a reverse encyclopedia composed of things we know we don't know.

Nathaniel Calhoun - Singularity University: Global Grand Challenges

Nathaniel Calhoun sits on the Global Impact Faculty of Singularity University (SU), helping to guide the institution's strategy and curriculum around creating massive, positive global change. He moderates Executive Programs for SU and is the Director of Global Grand Challenges and Team Project Leader for the Global Solutions Program. Nathaniel specialises in applying technology to solve problems in low income countries and challenging environments. He founded CODE Innovation in 2007 to help development work organisations like UNICEF and DFID to use web and mobile technologies more effectively in their education programming.

Tiago Mattos - Abundance

Tiago Mattos is a futurist, entrepreneur, educator, author and teacher, currently in charge of the Futurism track of the Transdisciplinary Innovation Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In this project, participants can interact and learn from technology experts, including 14 Nobel Prize winners. Tiago has also helped to co-found several projects like innovation schools, learning consultancies, technology labs, software bureaus, big data centres, peer-to-peer learning platforms, positive impact accelerators and several others. On top of that, he's the co-founder of Perestroika: the biggest school of creative activities in Latin America, which is highly respected for its own way to shape disruptive learning experiences. Tiago currently leads Aeroli.to, a company that explores future scenarios through an original methodology and has already created experimental projects on virtual reality, internet of things, robotics and artificial intelligence.

Mandy Simpson - The Blockchain

Mandy Simpson has recently been appointed Chief Executive at New Zealand-based consultancy Cyber Toa, helping companies which handle sensitive financial or personal data to dramatically improve their cyber security. She has deep capital markets expertise, including as Chief Operating Officer at NZX, where she has been an advocate for the development of blockchain technology for financial markets. Prior to that she was Chief Financial Officer for technology company, Fronde. Mandy has been in New Zealand for 10 years, arriving from the UK where she worked in financial investigation and surveillance roles for Deloitte and the London Stock Exchange.

Marita Cheng - Robotist

Marita Cheng was the 2012 Young Australian of the Year and is a technology entrepreneur and women in technology advocate. She is the founder and CEO of aubot (formerly called 2Mar Robotics), which makes a telepresence robot, Teleport, helping kids with cancer in hospital to attend school, people with a disability to attend work and to monitor and socialise with elderly people. As well as telepresence robots, aubot does research and development in robotic arms, virtual reality and autonomous mapping and navigation. In 2015, Marita attended Singularity University's 10-week flagship Global Studies Program, held at NASA Ames in Mountain View, funded by a \$40,000 scholarship from Google. While there, she cofounded Aipoly. Aipoly's first application recognises objects in real time on a smartphone using convolutional neural networks and relays them to people who are visually impaired. Since launching at CES in January 2016, Aipoly has been downloaded more than 250,000 times and has been translated into seven languages.

Anita Schjøll Brede - Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Anita is the CEO and Co-Founder of Iris.ai, an artificially intelligent science assistant, able to read, digest and connect scientific knowledge. Iris.ai is projected to become the world's first AI researcher within a decade and was named one of the 10 Most Innovative Companies in AI in 2017 by Fast Company. Anita was named one of Inspiring Fifty Nordic's most inspiring women in tech. She is a two-time TEDx speaker and an alumna of 500 start-ups, SU GGC Awards and TechCrunch Disrupt Start-Up, Battlefield. Anita was the first Norwegian to attend Singularity University's GSP in 2015 and held the first Global Impact Challenge (GIC) Norway in 2016. Her career has spanned nine industries in the past decade, including developing an e-learning tool in Silicon Valley, performing theatre for babies, reducing energy consumption in the process industry through heat exchanger network optimization, getting 30 (mainly middle-age male) engineers to dance to ABBA in front of their co-workers, facilitating solar light business creation in Kenya, being at the centre of several start-ups crashing and burning, organising entrepreneurial conferences and trying to disrupt the recruitment industry.

Sarah Bergbreiter - Robotist

Sarah Bergbreiter joined the University of Maryland, College Park in 2008 as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, with a joint appointment in the Institute for Systems Research. Sarah helps bridge research in systems and control with research in microsystems and fabrication. She received her B.S.E. degree in electrical engineering from Princeton University in 1999. After a short introduction to the challenges of sensor networks at a small startup company, she received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in 2004 and 2007 with a focus on microrobotics. She received the DARPA Young Faculty Award in 2008, the NSF CAREER Award in 2011, and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) Award in 2013 for her research on engineering robotic systems down to sub-millimeter size scales.

Edie Weiner - The Future of Work

Edie Weiner is President and CEO of The Future Hunters, a leading futurist consulting group. Formed in 1977 as Weiner, Edrich, Brown, The Future Hunters has served more than 400 clients in identifying opportunities in strategic thinking, product development, marketing, investment, human resources, and change management. The Future Hunters' clients range from national governments to Fortune 500 companies. Edie was the youngest outside woman ever elected to the board of directors of a major financial institution when she joined the board of Union Mutual Life Insurance Company (now UNUM Provident Corporation) at the age of 29. Throughout her career, she has founded and run a series of programs aimed at mentoring inner city girls, bringing technology to inner city classrooms, preserving modern dance and networking women at various stages in their lives.