
Participants

Henrik I. Christensen is the KUKA Chair of Robotics at the College of Computing Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also the executive director of the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines (IRIM). Dr. Christensen does research on systems integration, human-robot interaction, mapping and robot vision. The research is performed within the Cognitive Robotics Laboratory. He has published more than 300 contributions across AI, robotics and vision. His research has a strong emphasis on “real problems with real solutions”. As such a problem needs a theoretical model, implementation, evaluation, and translation to the real world. He is actively engaged in the setup and coordination of robotics research in the U.S. (and worldwide). Dr. Christensen received the Engelberger Award 2011, the highest honor awarded by the robotics industry. He was also awarded the “Boeing Supplier of the Year 2011” with 3 other colleagues at Georgia Tech. Dr. Christensen is a fellow of American Association for Advancement of Science.

Ernest Davis is Professor of Computer Science at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science, New York University. His research is in the area automated commonsense reasoning, particularly commonsense spatial and physical reasoning. He is the author of Representing and Acquiring Geographic Knowledge (1986), Representations of Commonsense Knowledge (1990), and Linear Algebra and Probability for Computer Science Applications (2012), as well as over fifty technical papers and numerous essays and reviews.

His home page is http://cs.nyu.edu/faculty/davise/

Charles Fadel is a global education thought leader, expert and inventor; founder and chairman of the Center for Curriculum Redesign; visiting scholar at Harvard GSE; Chair of the education committee at BIAC/OECD; co-author of best-selling book “21st Century Skills”; founder and president of the Fondation Helvetica Educatio (Geneva, Switzerland); senior fellow, human capital at The Conference Board; senior fellow at P21.org. He has worked with education systems and institutions in more than thirty countries. He was formerly Global Education Lead at Cisco Systems, visiting scholar at MIT ESG and UPenn CLO, and angel investor with Beacon Angels. He holds a BSEE, an MBA, and five patents.

Full Bio at: http://curriculumredesign.org/about/team/#charles

Michael J. Handel is associate professor of Sociology at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. He studies trends in labor market inequality and job skill requirements, particularly the impacts of changes in technology, work roles, organizational structure, and labor market institutions. He has conducted a national panel survey of the skills and technology that employees use on their jobs, portions of which were incorporated into the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), conducted by the OECD, and the Skills Towards Employability and Productivity (STEP) survey conducted by the World Bank. He has also compared trends in job skill requirements across all advanced economies in research for the OECD. Michael Handel received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Harvard University.

Full bio at: http://www.northeastern.edu/socant/?page_id=366
Frank Levy is Rose Professor Emeritus in MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning and a Lecturer at the Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School. Levy is a labor economist who has written extensively on the evolution of American living standards, income inequality and the impact of computerization and offshoring on the U.S. labor market and demand for human skill. In the spring of 2012, Levy was one of three organizers of an on-going MIT seminar series that brings computer scientists and economists together to examine the implications of computerized work. Levy’s current projects include a co-authored book (with Max Rosen) on the origins and consequences of the 1996-2006 bubble in medical imaging and a co-authored paper (with John Joseph Leonard and Matt Cherian) assessing the current state of robotics, machine vision, natural language processing and other computer domains as they relate to human skill.

Gary Marcus, Professor of Psychology at NYU and Visiting Cognitive Scientist at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, is the author of four books including the NYTimes Bestseller, Guitar Zero. He frequently blogs for The New Yorker, and is co-editor of the forthcoming book, The Future of the Brain: Essays By The World's Leading Neuroscientists. His research on language, evolution, computation and cognitive development has been published widely, in leading journals such as Science and Nature.

Luke Muehlhauser is Executive Director of the Machine Intelligence Research Institute in Berkeley, California. He has written dozens of articles and papers on metaethics, intelligence explosion theory, and the cognitive science of rationality and human motivation, including “Intelligence Explosion: Evidence and Import” and “A Crash Course in the Neuroscience of Human Motivation.” Previously, he studied psychology at the University of Minnesota.

Susan Puglia is IBM Vice President of Global University Programs & Vice Chair of the IBM Academy of Technology (AoT) Board of Governors. The IBM Academy of Technology is a society of the top IBM technical leaders organized to advance innovation and thought leadership in key technical areas, improve the development of IBM’s global technical community, and engage clients in technical pursuits that create business value. As the Vice Chair of the Academy's Board of Governors, Susan provides direction to AoT members and the Academy Leadership Team members who dedicate time to leading the innovative projects and initiatives of the Academy. In her University Programs role, Susan leads a global extended team who works across IBM to build relationships of mutual value with targeted universities in areas of collaborative research, skills readiness, recruiting, community responsibility and regional economic development. This role leverages Susan’s 30+ years of experience leading technical organizations in systems and software development, technical sales, and Information Technology architecture and deployment. Susan is a graduate of New York University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Math, and an MBA in International Business and Finance. She serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Rochester Institute of Technology.
Jürgen Schmidhuber, Scientific Director of the Swiss AI Lab IDSIA (a Business Week Top 10 AI Lab), Professor of Artificial Intelligence at USI & SUPSI, recipient of the Helmholtz Award, has led a team that has won nine international competitions in machine learning and pattern recognition (more than any other AI research group) and six independent best paper/best video awards, achieved the world's first superhuman visual classification results, has pioneered Deep Learning methods for Artificial Neural Networks since 1991, and established the field of mathematically rigorous universal AI and optimal universal problem solvers. His formal theory of creativity & curiosity & fun explains art, science, music, and humor. He generalized algorithmic information theory, and the many-worlds theory of physics, to obtain a minimal theory of all constructively computable universes - an elegant algorithmic theory of everything. Many famous companies are now using the machine learning techniques developed in his group.

John M. Smart is a technology foresight consultant, educator and systems scholar. He is president of the Acceleration Studies Foundation (Mountain View, CA), a strategy consultancy, co-founder of Evodevouniverse.com, a research community, and founder of the Foresight Education and Research Network, a foresight training community. He lectures at the Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, CA), and advises at Singularity University (Mountain View, CA), and NextIT (Spokane, WA). He has an MS in Futures Studies and an MSEq Physiology. He is lead author of Foresight Careers: Success Advice for Foresight Professionals, 2014. His personal website is AccelerationWatch.com, and his blog is EverSmarterWorld.com. Full bio at: http://accelerating.org/johnsmart.html

Lynn Andrea Stein is a founding faculty member at Olin College of Engineering, Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science, and Associate Dean and Director of the Collaboratory. Stein's research, at Olin since 2000 and over the prior decade on the MIT faculty, spans the fields of artificial intelligence, programming languages, and human-computer interaction. She is co-author of foundational documents of the semantic web and the "mother" of a humanoid robot and an intelligent room. Stein has been innovating in computing and engineering curricula for more than three decades, with an emphasis on hands-on pedagogies, interactive technologies, and student engagement. Stein runs workshops to stimulate curricular creativity, empower student-motivating pedagogic experimentation, and catalyze departmental and institutional change. She consults with a wide range of US and international institutions, serves on curricular advisory boards, speaks frequently at educational conferences, and embeds in sites to cause trouble and create constructive change.
Observers

Sheldon H. Danziger, the Henry J. Meyer Distinguished University Professor of Public Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan, is the tenth president of the Russell Sage Foundation. Professor Danziger is a nationally recognized expert on the effects of economic, demographic, and public policy changes on trends in poverty and economic inequality, and on social welfare policies in the United States. He has published widely on the effectiveness of federal anti-poverty programs and did important early work on the rise in inequality in the United States, long before it was recognized as a national problem. In addition to his professorship at the University of Michigan, Danziger is Director of the National Poverty Center, Director of the Research and Training Program on Poverty and Public Policy, Research Professor at the Population Studies Center, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received his B.A. from Columbia University and his Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Gad Levanon is director of macroeconomic research at The Conference Board, where he also leads the labor markets program. He also serves on The Demand Institute™ leadership team. Levanon created The Conference Board Employment Trends Index™, a widely used measure that fills the need for a leading index of employment. His research focuses on trends in U.S. and global labor markets, consumer trends, and forecasting using economic indicators. Levanon is the principal writer of The Conference Board Labor Markets in Review™, a quarterly publication that documents the main trends in labor markets across the globe. He also writes a popular blog on labor markets for Human Capital Exchange™. In addition to writing reports for The Conference Board, he has published extensively in academic and professional journals. Before coming to The Conference Board, Levanon worked at the Israeli Central Bank where he participated in the analysis of financial markets and monetary policy. Levanon received his Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University, and he holds undergraduate and master’s degrees from Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Garry Mathiason, Esq., is a senior class action litigator and legal adviser at Littler Mendelson, the largest global law firm exclusively devoted to labor and employment law. He is widely recognized as a futurist and one of the leading authorities on employment law trends in the United States. He originated and co-chairs Littler’s Robotics, AI and Automation Practice Group, providing legal advice and representation to the robotics industry, as well as employers deploying this technology in the workplace. He routinely advises Fortune 1000 employers regarding workplace law compliance, employee skills requirements, and retraining programs.

Garry has been named one of the top 100 most influential attorneys in the nation by the National Law Journal and has received the highest rankings from Chambers USA, Who's Who Legal, and The Best Lawyers in America. He has argued cases before the U.S. and California Supreme Courts.

James H. McGraw, IV (Jay) is president of the McGraw Hill Financial Global Institute whose mission is to support the advancement of open and transparent capital and commodity markets, increased economic opportunity for individuals, communities and nations and to address other societal issues and trends contributing to global growth and prosperity. Jay previously served as vice president, group publisher for McGraw Hill Construction where he had responsibility for its award-winning business-to-business media, including Engineering News-Record, Architectural Record and GreenSource. Jay also served as vice president, Strategic Programs for Business Week magazine where he led the development of numerous special interest publications on topics such as education, the arts and sustainability. He also led Business Week’s executive conference programs in the Americas, Europe and Asia.
Vicki L. Phillips As director of College-Ready Education at The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Vicki Phillips oversees work to ensure that U.S. high school students graduate ready to succeed, and to improve access to college.

Phillips has committed her career to increasing educational opportunities for young people. Prior to joining the foundation, she was superintendent of Portland Public Schools in Portland, Oregon. Before her move to Oregon, Phillips was secretary of education and chief state school officer for the State of Pennsylvania and served as superintendent of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, school district. She has worked with the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C., and has been a middle and high school teacher.

Peter Robinson is USCIB's 15th president and President of The USCIB Foundation. USCIB, founded in 1945, is a policy advocacy and trade services organization dedicated to promoting an open system of global commerce in which business can flourish and contribute to economic growth, human welfare and protection of the environment. As American affiliate of the leading international business organizations, including the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Organization of Employers, and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD, USCIB provides business views to policy makers and regulatory authorities worldwide.

Mr. Robinson has also had long-time involvement in the field of international education. He served as director of the inbound division at the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), an international educational travel company, and served on the boards of directors of AFS (American Field Service) Intercultural Programs, AFS-USA and of NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Mr. Robinson was appointed to the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC) to the U.S. Trade Representative and the President’s Committee on the International Labour Organization.

Randy Sargent holds dual appointments at Carnegie Mellon University and Google, Inc. As Visiting Scientist in Google’s Earth Engine project, Randy helps develop zoomable time lapse satellite maps of Earth built from Landsat's huge corpus of imagery. As Senior Systems Scientist at CMU's CREATE Lab, Randy researches for the Explorables project, developing ways to interactively explore and understand large datasets and complex systems -- including air and water quality, personal health, and employment and economic trends. Previously at NASA Ames Research Center, Randy led engineering for autonomous instrument placement for the K9 prototype Mars rover, and built image analysis and visualization tools for used as part of the Mars Exploration Rover mission. Randy founded FindChips.com and co-founded Newton Research Labs, both of which continue to be successful companies. While at Newton Research Labs, Randy led teams that won three international robot contests in 1996 and 1997.

Randy received his BS in Computer Science from MIT, and his MS in Media Arts and Sciences from the MIT Media Lab, where he developed the Programmable LEGO Brick under sponsorship from LEGO, helping lead to the successful LEGO Mindstorms robot construction kit.

Abby Shapiro is Senior Vice President for Business Development at the U.S. Council for International Business and also serves as Secretary, The USCIB Foundation. She is responsible for evaluating and growing new products, services and programs that provide new revenue streams to USCIB, add value to membership and support USCIB's mission and vision. An entrepreneur with over 25 years experience in the development and marketing of services for global trade, Ms. Shapiro was the founder and CEO of International Strategies, Inc., a software services company whose clients included many world-class companies. In 2006, she joined USCIB as Director of Marketing where she was responsible for organizational marketing, especially of its diverse array of trade and business services. Ms. Shapiro has extensive experience in the philanthropy sector, particularly in international policy, fundraising and social planning, has served on numerous philanthropic boards and has been a featured speaker at seminars and educational conferences in international trade development. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Russell Sage College.
Desirée van Welsum is an economist in The Conference Board’s Economy and Business Environment Practice and manages The Conference Board Business Scenario Program. She has over 10 years of experience in applied economic research and policy analysis on private and public sectors in the economy. Prior to joining the Conference Board, she worked at the OECD, the UN (UNCTAD and ITU), and the UK National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR). She has also worked as a consultant for the RAND Corporation, INSEAD, the European Commission, and the World Bank. She holds a PhD from Birkbeck College (University of London), an MSc from the University of Nottingham, and a Maîtrise from the University of Paris IX Dauphine. She has published widely in the areas of the impacts of IT, including on growth and productivity, innovation, employment and skills, trade in services, and off shoring and outsourcing.

Eric Wanner served as president of the Russell Sage Foundation from 1986 until 2013. He had a major hand in developing the Foundation’s long-standing research programs on behavioral economics, the social implications of rising inequality in the U.S., the economic and social impacts of U.S. immigration, and the causes and consequences of the accelerating changes in the nature of work in modern economies. Before assuming the presidency of the Russell Sage Foundation, Wanner served as a vice president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, where he started new interdisciplinary research initiatives in behavioral economics and cognitive neuroscience. With a doctorate in psychology from Harvard University, Wanner served on the faculties at Harvard, Rockefeller University, and the University of Sussex before turning to foundation work. His early research involved the development of cognitive models of language comprehension. Wanner is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; he was formerly a Fulbright Fellow and Fellow of the New York Institute of the Humanities.