

2. International German Forum

Dialogue Partners of the Chancellor

John Kao



Named “Mr. Creativity” and a “serial innovator” by The Economist, John Kao is an interdisciplinary innovator, practitioner and activist. He is an advisor to start-ups, companies, and nations on innovation strategy, implementation, and future trends. John Kao chairs the Institute for Large Scale Innovation (ILSI) based in San Francisco. ILSI is a NGO whose mission is to help define, coordinate and drive the innovation agendas of regions, nations, and the global system. ILSI supports a community of national “chief innovation officers.” John Kao’s most recent initiative is the company EdgeMakers where he serves as CEO.

EdgeMakers aims to empower young people worldwide to become innovators and to make a difference. It was launched with the intention of filling the gap caused by insufficient practical, contemporary learning regimes for innovation. Currently EdgeMakers is launching into national education systems with the support of senior government stakeholders in a number of countries, including Brazil, India, Turkey, Colombia and the United States. John Kao is a former Harvard Business School professor with both an MD (Yale) and an MBA (Harvard), as well as a Tony nominated producer of film and stage. A Yamaha concert artist, he apprenticed to rock legend Frank Zappa in 1969.

Geoff Mulgan



Geoff Mulgan is a leading expert in the field of social innovation and an international adviser to many governments around the world. He currently holds the position as Chief Executive of Nesta (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), an innovation charity in the UK dedicated to supporting ideas that can help improve the quality of life within society. The activities of Nesta are ranging from early stage investment to in-depth research and practical programs. Under the leadership of Geoff Mulgan Nesta has moved out of the British public sector to become a charity. He launched a range of

new initiatives in investment, programs and research, and has implemented a new strategy involving partnerships with other funders in the UK and internationally. Prior to his engagement at Nesta, Geoff Mulgan was the first Chief Executive of the Young Foundation, a leading centre for social innovation which is combining research, creation of new ventures and practical projects. Before that he held various positions in the UK government including director of the Government's Strategy Unit and head of policy in the Prime Minister's office. Geoff Mulgan is a visiting professor at LSE, UCL, Melbourne University and a regular lecturer at the China Executive Leadership Academy. He also published several books and articles on a wide range of topics connected to politics, economy and (social) innovation. In his latest book “The Locust and the Bee” he is writing about the future of capitalism and the need of creativity and (social) innovations in economy.

Alessandra Orofino



Alessandra Orofino is the Executive Director and Co-founder of Meu Rio, an online platform which is developing tools for civic engagement and participation in Brazil. Meu Rio is organizing online petitions as well as campaigns and aims to make information of political processes accessible to a broader public. Orofino herself describes the work of Meu Rio as "translating public policy issues into a language that is understandable to a broader society and young people". Prior to that, Alessandra Orofino worked at Purpose.com, a partner organization of Meu Rio, where she took part in setting up Purpose Brazil. Before that, she worked at a corporate social responsibility consultancy that provides strategic advice to major Brazilian corporations, and in women's rights advocacy and research in Brazil and India. She holds a degree in Economics and Human Rights from Columbia University and subsequently became a faculty member at the School of Visual Arts, contributing to their pioneering program in Design for Social Innovation.

Juliana Rotich



Juliana Rotich is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Ushahidi, a non-profit technology company, founded 2008 in Kenya. Ushahidi specializes in developing free and open-source software for information collection, interactive mapping and data curation. The company produces tools to democratize information, increase transparency and lower the barriers for individuals to share their stories. Through Crowdfunder.com, Swiftly.org and accompanying mobile applications, Ushahidi is expanding its global footprint and making crowdsourcing tools available and useful, as well as catalysing entrepreneurial initiatives like iHub in Kenya. In 2013 Ushahidi branched out into hardware. The company developed a new type of internet modem, called BRCK. This device is designed to withstand power cuts and cope in unpredictable environments – hallmark conditions of living in Africa. Juliana Rotich has worked in the telecommunications and data warehousing industry for over ten years. She has a Computer Science degree from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. She is a technologist, MIT Fellow, TED Senior Fellow and currently serves as Vice Chair of World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Data Driven Development. Juliana Rotich has been recognized as the Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2011 by the World Economic Forum, and as one of The World's 50 Greatest Leaders by Fortune Magazine.

Suneet Singh Tuli



Suneet Singh Tuli is the founder and CEO of DataWind, a provider of wireless web access products and services. DataWind's tablets have received worldwide attention, as the company executes a vision to empower the "next three billion people" with computing and internet access. In 2012, DataWind's Aakash2 tablet computer was launched at the United Nations by the Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. Besides, the company has been recognized as UK's Most Innovative Mobile Company for 2012 by UK Trade & Investment and received the Technology Achievement Award by the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Tuli himself declared that the motivation for the production of a low cost tablet was mainly to enable three billion of the poorest people worldwide to get access to digital technology. Suneet Singh Tuli has more than twenty years of experience as a serial entrepreneur, having previously launched two successful companies. Suneet Singh Tuli graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Science in Engineering from the University of Toronto.

Hosts of the Thematic Groups

Christian Bason



Since November 2014 Christian Bason is the CEO at the Danish Design Centre, an independent, government-funded organization which works to strengthen design as a driver for innovation and growth. Prior Christian Bason was head of MindLab, a cross-governmental innovation unit. He advised a wide range of governments on innovation in the public sector, and is a member of a number of advisory boards in Denmark and internationally.

Christian Bason holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Aarhus University, executive education from Harvard Business School and the Wharton School and is currently a Ph.D. Fellow at Copenhagen Business School.

Christoph Beier



Dr. Christoph Beier is Vice-Chair of the Management Board at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. As Chief Operation Officer, he is in charge of GIZ's operations worldwide as well as of the Business Units Migration, Global Partnerships/Emerging Economies and Industrialized Countries. Dr. Beier was appointed by the German Chancellor as a key expert on 'Germany in the eyes of the world' as part of the Federal Chancellor's Dialogue on Germany's Future 2011-2012. In 2014, he was appointed to the board of the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI).

Engelbert Beyer



Engelbert Beyer is Head of the Directorate “Innovation Strategies” at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Prior he was in charge of various units in the field of innovation, for instance as head of the division for “Innovation Policy” at the BMBF. In his work in the recent years, he significantly focussed on the planning and coordination of the Hightech-Strategy for Germany.

Engelbert Beyer studied economics at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster.

Mikko Kosonen



Mikko Kosonen is the President of the Finnish Innovation Fund (Sitra). Sitra is an independent public foundation which operates directly under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament and aims to promote sustainable economic prosperity and a high innovation capacity in Finland. Previously, Mikko Kosonen was Senior Vice President of Strategy and Business Infrastructure at Nokia. He also served as a board member at a number of companies and institutions. Mikko Kosonen holds a Ph.D. in International Business from the Helsinki School of Economics and was awarded with an Honorary Professorship from the Budapest Business School.

Johanna Mair



Johanna Mair is a Professor of Organization, Management and Leadership at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin and the Hewlett Foundation Visiting Scholar at the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society. She currently serves as the academic editor of Stanford Social Innovation Review. Professor Mair was faculty member at IESE Business School in Barcelona and held visiting positions at Stanford University, Harvard Business School and INSEAD in Fontainebleu. She is a member of the Global Agenda Council on Social Innovation of the World Economic Forum and advises governments and foundations on social innovation. She serves on the advisory board of several foundations and social ventures.



Grace Sai



Grace Sai is the CEO and Co-Founder of The Hub Singapore. An ecosystem builder, she is a node for social entrepreneurship in Asia. She is currently advising the governments of Singapore and Malaysia on using social entrepreneurship as a national strategy. Grace Sai sits on the Advisory Boards of Ben & Jerry's Singapore and the global Impact Hub Network. She has been recognized as Prestige Singapore's Top 40 under 40 and Cosmopolitan's Top 12 Female Leaders in Singapore, 2014, and was a nominated Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, 2013. She has a MBA from the University of Oxford and is a Skoll Scholar.

Nicolás Shea



Nicolás Shea is the founder of Cumplo, a peer-to-peer lending platform in Latin America. He also founded Start-Up Chile, an economic accelerator program created by the Chilean Government to turn Chile into the innovation and entrepreneurial hub of Latin America. He has received the innovation award of Chile for both organisations. Nicolás Shea is the Founding President of Socialab as well as the Chilean Association of Entrepreneurs and was entrepreneurship and innovation advisor to the Chilean Minister of Economy. Currently, he is a fellow at the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, working on the "Start-Up Chile Manual". Nicolás Shea holds a M.Sc. in Management from Stanford University and a M.Sc. in Education from Columbia University.

Mark Speich



Dr. Mark Speich is Managing Director of the Vodafone Foundation Germany as well as the Managing Director of the Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications. Prior to his engagement at Vodafone Dr. Speich was Director of Policy Planning of CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Party at the German Bundestag and Director of Programs at the Herbert Quandt Foundation of ALTANA AG. He holds a Master of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge and a Ph.D. from Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn.

Giulio Quaggiotto



Giulio Quaggiotto heads the UN Global Pulse Lab in Jakarta, Indonesia. Global Pulse is the flagship innovation initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on big data which aims to harness the power of new digital data sources and real-time analytics for development issues. Prior to his current position, Giulio Quaggiotto set up the Innovation Practice at the UN Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, managing a portfolio of innovation prototypes across twenty-three countries. His background includes stints at the World Bank, the BBC and WWF. Giulio Quaggiotto is a regular speaker at international conferences at the intersection of innovation and development.

Marion Weissenberger-Eibl



Univ.-Prof. Marion Weissenberger-Eibl is the Head of the Fraunhofer-Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI, which analyses the origins and impacts of innovations. She is also Professor for Innovation- and Technology-Management at the Institute for Entrepreneurship, Technology Management and Innovation (EnTechnon) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). Univ.-Prof. Weissenberger-Eibl was decorated as one of the "Spitzeningenieurinnen Deutschlands" ("Leading Female Engineers in Germany") and was member of the Federal Chancellor's Dialogue on Germany's Future from 2011 to 2012 where she headed the group on 'Innovation Culture'.

Moderator

Jana Pareigis



Since 2010 Jana Pareigis anchors Deutsche Welle's flagship news program, the Journal. She also works as a freelance reporter for Deutschland-funk, Zeit Online and Deutsche Welle-TV. Before she worked as an assistant of the chief editor of the TV news station N24. She gathered first work experience at the United Nations Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the news agency Reuters as well as various foundations and newspapers. Jana Pareigis studied Political Science and African Studies in Hamburg, New York and Berlin.