

Gerd Leonhard's New 2026 Speaking Topic: Navigating The Intelligence Revolution

Navigating the Intelligence Revolution: The #1 Keynote for 2026

We are entering the most profound transformation era in recent human history. The Industrial Revolutions (1760, 1870) amplified our bodies and muscles. The Internet Revolution amplified communication and information exchange. Now the Intelligence Revolution – the rise of AI – **is amplifying cognition itself.**

Think about that for a moment: for the first time ever, our machines are no longer just tools that execute our commands. They are starting to reason, create, decide – and act in the real world, as agents, not tools. They are shaping us. The AI companies already speak of 'digital labour', 'digital entities' and 'digital organisations'. This is not science fiction. This is now. This is a once-in-a-century shift that will redefine every industry, every institution, every country — and ultimately, what it means to be human.

And here's my honest assessment: we are utterly unprepared.

I believe this is THE defining leadership challenge of our age – bigger than climate change, bigger than energy, bigger than disease – because how we handle machine intelligence (software and hardware) will determine how we handle everything else.

The stakes could not be higher

The opportunities are breathtaking: dramatic breakthroughs in medicine,

science, education, sustainability, and human creativity are now within reach. I remain a huge optimist about what these amazing tools can do for us – but if the tools become the purpose, i.e. the Telos, than we're heading towards the complete convergence of humans and machines. I shutter.

Of course, every great technological leap produces unintended consequences – and the bigger the leap, the bigger the externalities. Industrialisation gave us prosperity and increased longevity, but also pollution, climate change, exploitation, and war. The Internet gave us connection, but also surveillance capitalism, misinformation, and digital addiction.

The Intelligence Revolution risks something even deeper: the perfect storm of unprecedented power, reductionism, and dehumanisation. The automation of not just our work, but our thinking and our judgement. Seducing us into first outsourcing and then surrendering the very capabilities that make us human: The [Androrithms](#). Welcome to the [Good Enough Dilemma](#), and [Super-Stupidity](#).

And in this mad, USA vs China rush to ['own AGI' and be first](#), we may well, soon, succeed in creating machines that surpass us in intelligence; while we let our own intelligence, wisdom, and agency wither. Intelligent machines could be amazing servants. They would, without a doubt, be terrible masters.

The real question...

... is no longer whether AI is 'a bubble' or how it will change our world. It already is – and we cannot put the genie back in the bottle. The real question is this: **will we shape this revolution, together — or will we be shaped by it?** One thing is already abundantly clear: we will have all the science and all the tools. What we deeply lack is [TELOS](#) – wisdom, foresight, direction, purpose. We obsess over the WHAT and the HOW.

The WHY is left aside.



This constantly updated keynote confronts this extraordinary moment with clarity and gentle honesty, optimism, courage, and a clear sense of purpose, asking the questions that really matter:

- What distinguishes human intelligence from machine intelligence, and should we pursue a 'convergence' or not?
- What is consciousness, as opposed to intelligence — and could or *should* machines ever become conscious?
- What are the key AI / AGI forecasts for the next 3-5 years, and what are the implications?
- How will business, commerce, and society change – and why do I propose that 'the future is better than we think'?
- What other game-changers are converging with the Intelligence Revolution (robotics, quantum, fusion energy)?
- How can we prepare – individually and privately, and as leaders, organisations, and societies?
- What new economic and societal structures will serve us best in this new world?

- And above all: how do we move forward with optimism, not fear?

Key messages

The Good Future is not about choosing between humans and machines. It is about designing a world where technology elevates humanity (and the planet) instead of replacing it. Not 'transcending human limitations' —but expanding human capabilities with better tools, not with 'digital gods'

We must invest in humanity as boldly as we invest in technology. Yes, we can and must innovate dramatically with machine intelligence. But with the same energy – and the same investments – we must nurture and protect what makes us human: our [Androrithms](#). Imagination, empathy, ethics, consciousness, and purpose. Algorithms run our machines; Androrithms define us (read more on Androrithms on [this new microsite](#))

We must move beyond the 1P economy of power and profit — towards the 5Ps: [People, Planet, Purpose, Peace, and Prosperity](#). That is what I call the Good Future.

The future will not be determined by the power of our technologies, but by the wisdom with which we choose to use them.

Societies are driven by their technologies — but governed by their ethics.

**We are to be the architects of the future — not its victims
(Buckminster Fuller)**