

THE *FUTURE* OF **FINANCE**

🕒 PROGRAMME



DAY 1: Tuesday 22nd March

Time	Event
⌚ 8.00am – 8.50am	Registration
⌚ 9.00am – 9.10am	Conference Welcome: Chris Sier, FiNexus Ltd
⌚ 9.10am – 9.45am	Opening Keynote: (tbc)
SESSION 1	How can we use technology to restore trust in financial services firms?
⌚ 9.45am – 10.30am	<p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Danilo Cattaneo, CEO, InfoCert & Chairman, DTCE Daniel Godfrey, Independent Director and Consultant Ravi Jagannathan, MD & CEO, Y-Cash Software Solutions and Chairman & Founder, KrypC Technologies Alan Morrison, Professor of Law & Finance, SBS, University of Oxford Stan Stalnaker, Founding Director, HubID & Ven digital currency Moderator: Emanuela Vartolomei, Founder & CEO, All Street Research</p> <p>No part of the financial services industry is untouched by the reputational damage caused by the financial crisis and subsequent revelations. There is a widespread perception that banks, investment banks, fund managers, brokers, wealth managers and insurers use information asymmetries and opaque pricing and products to exploit customers for their own benefit. However, public trust in technology companies is also declining, chiefly because they are perceived to exploit personal data for commercial gain. New entrants also find their untested proposition is less trusted even than the incumbent providers. This session will explore how technology can be used to build trusting relationships with clients, by communicating regularly and using automation to liberate time, but especially by being open, transparent and sharing valuable information.</p>
⌚ 10.30am – 11.00am	Coffee



SESSION 2

⌚ 11.00am –
12noon

How can we use technology to replace expensive human intermediaries?

Speakers:

Nici Audhlam-Gardiner, Managing Director, Saga Investment Services

Devika Thapar, Financial Services Lead at IBM Watson Group, UK & Ireland

Mike Halsall, Singularity University

Robin Hanson, Associate Professor of Economics, George Mason University

Jaidev Janardana, CEO, Zopa

Anders Sandberg, James Martin Research Fellow, Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford

Moderator: Genevieve Leveille, CEO, KrypC

The costs of financial intermediation, measured as a share of the national income, is higher than at any period for which data exists – even without taking the risks incurred into account. This has not translated into compensating improvements in social welfare, such as improved measurement and pricing of risk, lower costs of borrowing, or better price information. In fact, increased financial intermediation has probably led to a negative social return, in that the high returns accruing to the financial services sector until 2006 turned out to consist of risks underwritten by taxpayers. In other words, the lavish fee structures and high rates of remuneration in financial services do not reflect higher levels of productivity, but only a form of rent-seeking. This session will examine how technology can be used to support disintermediary alternatives such as crowd funding, P2P finance and artificial intelligence.

SESSION 3

⌚ 12noon –
1.00pm

How can we use technology to lower the barriers to entry to financial markets?

Speakers:

Steve Beauregard, CEO, GoCoin

Steve Podmore, Founder, BIGCrowd

Goncalo de Vasconcelos, CEO, Syndicate Room

Nir Vulkan, Associate Professor of Business Economics, SBS, University of Oxford

Moderator: tbc

Financial services firms have erected high barriers to entry, through size, cross-subsidisation, technology capture and especially the exploitation of regulatory licence and privileges (such as access to central bank money). This incumbency creates inertia and inhibits competition. Large technology companies with customer bases of their own are now starting to compete with traditional providers. However, technology can also empower smaller new entrants to reach two groups of consumers that are not wedded to existing providers: young people (who are comfortable with digital technology) and the financially excluded (who cannot afford existing products and services). New entrants can also take advantage of disruptive information (such as API and Blockchain) and social technologies (such as crowd funding). This session will discuss how technology can make financial markets more competitive.

⌚ 1.00pm –
2.00pm

Lunch

⌚ 2.00pm –
2.40pm

Africa: The greenfield opportunity for FinTech

SESSION 4

⌚ 2.40pm –
3.25pm

How can we use technology to eliminate financial exclusion by creating simpler and cheaper money transmission, insurance and savings products?

Speakers:

Robert Hockett, Professor of Law, Cornell

Tim Jones, Chief Executive and Co-Founder, Tibado Limited

Mark Lamb, CEO, Coinfloor

Felix Martin, Author, Money: The Unauthorised Biography

Colin Mayer, Professor of Management Studies, University of Oxford

Moderator: Tania Ziegler, Research Programme Manager, Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance

A financially inclusive society is one in which every adult, irrespective of their income, has access to a bank account, credit, life and household assurance, and savings products. Without these, excluded consumers are denied the benefits of paying by direct debit and borrowing from reputable sources, vulnerable to catastrophes, and without the means to survive temporary or permanent setbacks without an income. The current financial system has proved inept at servicing consumers who consume most of their income but adept at manufacturing and distributing complex and over-priced credit and savings products. This session will consider how technology can facilitate the development of alternative service providers to deliver simpler and cheaper banking, insurance and savings products based on transparency and superior control of costs and measurement of risk.

⌚ 3.30pm –
4.00pm

Coffee

SESSION 5

⌚ 4.00pm –
4.45pm

How can we use technology to reduce frictional costs in financial markets?

Speakers:

Brian Bartaby, Founder & CEO, Proplend

Michael Laven, Chief Executive Officer, Currency Cloud

Jason Nabi, Head of EMEA, itBit

Peter Randall, COO, SETL

Carlos Silva, Co-Founder, Seedrs

Moderator: (tbc)

The financial services industry has a well-deserved reputation for complex and opaque pricing, and for extracting value from their superior knowledge of market prices. The result is higher transaction costs, despite the fact that the industry is highly automated and most of its data digitized. A series of recent scandals in the money markets, coupled with growing political pressure for greater transparency into fees, commissions and bid-offer spreads, have prompted regulators to force banks and fund managers to disclose and control the transaction costs they incur on behalf of investors. This session will analyse how technology can lower transaction costs through higher levels of automation, but especially by eliminating unnecessary intermediation.





DAY 2: Wednesday 23rd March

Time

Event

SESSION 6

⌚ 8.30am –
9.30am

How do we invent new forms of corporate organisation and restore old forms (such as partnerships, mutuals and friendly societies) through technology?

Speakers:

Jane Fuller, Co-Director, Centre for Study of Financial Innovation

Alexander Hoare, Partner, C. Hoare & Co.

William Lazonick, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Patricia de Middel, COO, Konbini

Saule Omarova, Professor of Law, Cornell

Moderator: (tbc)

Finance capitalism is facing a major crisis of legitimacy. A Victorian invention - the joint stock, limited liability corporation - is the dominant organisational form in both the financial services industry and the corporate sector whose securities are issued, underwritten, traded and invested in by financial services firms. This has created insoluble principal-agent conflicts, evident in excessive levels of remuneration of senior management, and - through the financialisation of economies - led to lower levels of investment and innovation and a decline in productivity. This session will scrutinise recent research into corporate governance and shareholder value, and ask whether technology can play a part in fostering more diverse forms of corporate organisation and ownership, such as family-owned businesses, partnerships, mutuals and friendly societies. It will also inquire whether technology is more effective than political solutions at redistributing value between producers, suppliers, distributors, employees and customers.

⌚ 9.30am –
10.00am

Data Science: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Finance

Patrick J. Wolfe, Deputy Director, Alan Turing Institute

This talk will give perspective from the newly-formed Alan Turing Institute, the UK's National Institute for Data Science. It will describe how the Institute can develop and shape research in this area.



SESSION 7

⌚ 10.00am –
10.30am

How do we use technology to extract and summarise knowledge from the data trapped in financial market prices, media, social media and corporate and regulatory documents?

Speakers:

Emmanuel Haven, School of Management, University of Leicester

Anna Pajor, Head of Capital Markets Intelligence, GreySpark Partners

Lisa Schutz, Managing Director, InFact Decisions
(tbc)

Moderator: Elizabeth Lumley, Director, Global Ecosystem Development, Startupbootcamp FinTech & InsurTech

Financial markets manufacture epic quantities of data every day in terms of prices set, agreed and paid, and documents published, yet comparatively little of the vast amount of data is made available in structured formats that allow it to be turned into actionable information to drive decisions or create value. It is ironic that an industry in which competitive advantage has always depended on information should be among the last to use databases and algorithms to search for correlations that can improve relationships with individual customers; sell more products and services; improve existing products and services, or launch new ones; cut production and distribution costs; mitigate risks; set business and investment priorities; and make predictions about the future course of markets. This session will show how more powerful technology and faster data processing is transforming other industries by turning data into knowledge, how they could do the same for the financial markets, and how consumers and clients can be rewarded for contributing to industry data sets.

⌚ 10.30am-
11.00am

Coffee

SESSION 8

⌚ 11.00am –
11.45am

How can new technologies such as block-chain drive innovation in financial services?

Speakers:

Dave Birch, Director of Innovation, Consult Hyperion

Colin Kwan, CEO, Magnr

Vili Lehdonvirta, Oxford Internet Institute

Hakim Mamoni, Chief Technology Officer/Co-Founder, Coinsilium

Moderator: David Wood, Chair, London Futurists

Ten years ago, it was widely believed that innovation in financial markets was reducing risk and volatility. Since the financial crisis, the opposite view has prevailed. In reality, innovation in financial markets was either illusory (being merely a variation of discounted cash flow) or based on inductive fallacy, in which unsound theories of value and risk were derived from analysis of copious amounts of data, largely because the data was available. Confidence in all of the tools of modern financial theory (such as Black Scholes and VAR) is now extremely low. In other industries, by contrast, innovations tend to stem from re-engineering existing products or processes or applying fresh ideas or technologies to new fields. Blockchain is an example of this process now being applied to financial services. This session will probe what makes some businesses more successful than others at exploiting scientific knowledge, paradigm shifts in technologies, social and intellectual trends, and the wider environment and its cultural socio-economic structures, such as the openness of the markets in which businesses operate and the nature of their relationship with the universities and the State.



⌚ 11.45am –
12.15pm

Keynote: Jürg Müller, Economics Editor, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

SESSION 9

⌚ 12.15pm-
1.00pm

How can we use technology to regulate markets in ways that work effectively at much lower cost?

Speakers:

Henry Raschen, Head of Regulatory & Industry Affairs Europe, HSBC Securities Services

Robert Sams, CEO and co-founder, Clearmatics, London

Alan Shipman, Lecturer in Economics, Open University

Moderator: Simon Carne, Proprietor, Simon Carne – Business Consulting

Even though financial markets were de-regulated before the financial crisis, they remained relatively heavily regulated by comparison with many other industries, and since the crisis have become still more heavily regulated. This is one reason why the financial services industry is poor at innovation, because regulation inhibits competition by raising barriers to entry. However, regulation also creates opportunities for technology companies to arbitrage regulation by competing with the banks, fund managers and insurers at lower cost in certain lines of business, albeit usually in collaboration with existing providers, providing a useful tool for de-consolidation of firms that are too big to fail. Regulation itself remains largely untouched by technology in the meaningful sense of using technology to develop alternative approaches, test them, and adopt those that yield the best outcomes in terms of effectiveness, economy and lack of damaging side-effects. This session will place regulators in their proper context, as actors and managers of risk within the complex, adaptive systems that make up the financial markets, and ask whether technology could either improve their performance or provide a workable alternative (for example, in detecting bad behaviour).

⌚ 1.00pm –
2.00pm

Lunch

⌚ 2.00pm –
4.00pm

Financial Inequality Grand Challenge (FIGC) - Round 1 - Pitches

The quest begins for the entrepreneur(s) whose business is believed by the judging panel to be the most likely to significantly reduce financial inequality, globally.

⌚ 4.00pm –
4.30pm

Coffee

⌚ 4.30pm –
4.55pm

Financial Inequality Grand Challenge (FIGC) - Round 1 - Judging

Those shortlisted at FoF16 will be invited to attend a workshop event in London in June 2016 ahead of a final selection event in July 2016 where the winner will be announced.

Prizes will include a place on Singularity University's Executive Programme at NASA Research Park, Silicon Valley, California.

⌚ 4.55pm –
5.00pm

Close

