

Press release, 11 April 2018

## Review of best student ideas on AI and the future of work

*The participants of this year's St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award were asked to describe the job they aspire to in the future, analyse how it will be influenced by artificial intelligence (AI), and suggest how they would augment themselves technologically, if necessary, to prevail in their chosen career. Specifically, they were asked to discuss the following question: "Robots are coming for your job. How do you augment yourself to stay economically relevant?"*

### Opportunities and Threats

In their essays, the Leaders of Tomorrow noted that the rise of the robots and AI are both opportunities and threats. On the one hand, the new technology enhances the capacity and processing of data, at any time, and allows detecting data patterns and phenomena that humans would not necessarily be able to notice. It thus improves productivity and allows coming up with novel insights, and, in general, complements humans who can focus on other tasks –or simply have more leisure time. On the other hand, current business models and professions are very likely to become obsolete in their current forms since several tasks will be disrupted by automatization, and human adaptability might not keep up with the pace of technological change.

### Which Jobs?

The Leaders of Tomorrow note that many different jobs will change because of robots and AI – and that there is hardly any profession that is not affected by this development, including all kinds of white-collar jobs. Perhaps because of their backgrounds as graduate students, the Leaders of Tomorrow discuss how existing jobs in academia, journalism, professional service firms, including consultants and lawyers, the financial sector, public policy, and entrepreneurship, will change. For example, several essays predict a substantial change in how students will be educated and that the teacher of the future will benefit from the use of technology and focus on interaction with the students. Beyond the mere change in existing professions other leaders of tomorrow foresee the rise of new jobs, for example, a "meaning consultant" who helps people achieving meaning in their lives.

### How to stay relevant?

The Leaders of Tomorrow provide a wide array of suggestions of how to stay relevant in the age of robots and AI pertaining to three broad areas. First, several essays argue that a shift of values from an economic to a much more socially responsible orientation is needed, for example, because machines will beat humans in productivity anyways. Second, other Leaders of Tomorrow argue that one can stay relevant by considering the complementarity between humans and machines. This complementarity can imply the development of hybrid human-machine interfaces such as humanoids, cyborgs, and chatbots, or the focus of humans on their non-replaceable humanistic values and capabilities, such as being visionary, creative, and empathic. Third, other Leaders of Tomorrow suggest that dealing with the rise of robots and AI requires appropriate governance and policies on the global level, for example, global robot taxation. Overall, it is astonishing how frequent the Leaders of Tomorrow stress how important it will be for humans to have a proper understanding of modern technology, which includes developing coding skills through corresponding education initiatives.

### About the St. Gallen Symposium

The St. Gallen Symposium is a student-run global forum that has been creating healthy debates on relevant topics for nearly 50 years – between generations, disciplines, and cultures. The 48<sup>th</sup> St. Gallen Symposium (2–4 May 2018) will be held at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, one of the world's leading business schools. In the past, global luminaries such as Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Professor Niall Ferguson, Harvard University, Christine Lagarde, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Jack Ma, Alibaba Group, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO, Stephen Sackur, BBC Television Centre, and Tidjane Thiam, Credit Suisse Group AG, have contributed to the "St. Gallen debates."

### Essay Review & contact details:

You will find the above presented essay review 2018 at [www.symposium.org/essayreview](http://www.symposium.org/essayreview). For questions and media coverage, please contact:

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