

SOCIAL | 4.0 POLICY

CONGRESS ZURICH 2016

Basic Income in Switzerland - a role model?

DOES THE TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION REQUIRE A NEW SOCIAL POLICY?

International Conference

*Date: 4 May 2016,
Congress Center Zurich, Switzerland*

The conference will bring together renowned economists, political scientists and business leaders to discuss a rethinking of our social systems in an age of digitalization and robotics. The conference constitutes the starting point of a debate on how “social innovation” could and must match the “technological innovations” that are currently transforming our lives. It will deliberate, amongst others, the proposal of a universal basic income, which will be on the ballot in Switzerland in June 2016. Can it work? Is it necessary? Which effects will it have on society at large?

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

ETH Zurich | Cato Institute |
Roosevelt Institute | Royal Society
of Arts UK | Young Scholars
Initiative (YSI) | Institute for
the Future | Institute for New Eco-
nomic Thinking (INET), NY



BACKGROUND

Technological innovation changes our world at an unprecedented speed—confronting us with new and fluid work and life realities, the “**uberization** of society”, a fourth industrial revolution and robots taking over more work from us than ever. These technological innovations seem to have the potential to change our social system fundamentally. But it is an open question whether for better or for worse. The critical piece to match technological innovation—social innovation—is still missing.

Switzerland, as the first nation in world history, will vote in June 2016 on a promising proposal of social innovation: a universal basic income (UBI).



Robots working for us

BACKGROUND



Erik Brynjolfsson at the WEF, Davos

The idea of "universal basic income" (UBI) has been embraced by prominent economists and philosophers from the left and right (Friedrich Hayek, Robert Nozick, Milton Friedman, Robert Solow, Herbert Simon, Thomas Piketty). It currently experiences a worldwide revival: At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos along with the discourse about the "4th Industrial Revolution", a UBI was proposed as a promising concept in the context of upcoming disruption of traditional labour markets (e.g.: Erik Brynjolfsson MIT).

Even WEF founder Prof. Klaus Schwab considered that a UBI will be soon required. "We have to think in new ways", he said to BLICK, Switzerland's leading tabloid. [The Guardian](#) as well as [CBS News](#) wrote about the discourse.

Also leading [Silicon Valley](#) entrepreneurs are currently debating about basic income and are planning large basic income tests and experiments. The [Finnish government](#) is planning experiments testing the potential of introducing a UBI. The [Netherlands](#) are conducting a set of experiments testing basic income in Utrecht, Maastricht and Groningen.

The concept of basic income has been provoking debates on reforms of the social welfare system, less bureaucratic and less paternalistic welfare, the consequences of the technological revolution on the workplace and the distribution of income.

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

This conference poses the question of whether technological change requires a new social policy.

The partnering institutions want to contribute to the debate by hosting a conference with prominent aca-

demics, business leaders and politicians with libertarian, conservative and progressive backgrounds.



ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

The conference will be giving three types of speakers a floor:

People that make the technological revolution happen: Well-known and credible venture capitalists from Silicon Valley, well-known **BUSINESS LEADERS** from Europe and the US.

People who think about the way social systems work, and how they affect society: **ECONOMISTS, POLITICAL THEORISTS AND FIELD RESEARCHERS.**

People who have to find political answers to the technological revolution: relevant **POLITICIANS** (especially from Switzerland and Finland).



CURRENT LIST OF SPEAKERS

ACADEMICS

Robert Johnson

President

Institute for New Economic Thinking

Erik Brynjolfsson

Economist

Professor MIT Boston

Dirk Helbing

Professor

ETH Zurich

Willem Buiter

Chief Economist

Citi Bank Group

Guy Standing

Economist

London University

Michael Tanner

Senior Fellow

Cato Institute

Anthony Painter

RSA UK

^{tbc} **Christopher Pissarides**

Economist

LSE London, Nobel Prize Laureate

Several researchers of the recent basic income field experiments in India, Namibia, Utrecht and Finland.

CURRENT LIST OF SPEAKERS

POLICY RELATED SPEAKERS

Robert Reich

Former
United States Secretary of Labour

^{tbc} **Petteri Orpo**

Minister of Interior
of Finland

^{tbc} **Alain Berset**

Minister of Interior of Switzerland

Andrew Stern

Emeritus President SEIU
*Fastest growing trade union
in the USA*

Felicia Wong

President and CEO
Roosevelt Institute, USA

Daniel Häni

Founder of Basic Income Initiative
and Movement in Switzerland. Ent-
repreneur.
Switzerland

Enno Schmidt

Founder of Basic Income Movement
Switzerland

Rick Wartzman

Executive Director
Drucker Institute

Several Members of Parliament
from Switzerland, France and
Germany

CURRENT LIST OF SPEAKERS

ENTREPRENEURS

Albert Wenger

Venture Capitalist
*Partner at Union Square Capital
New York, USA*

Götz W. Werner

Founder of
*Europes largest drug-store
chain „dm Drogeriemarkt“*

Natalie Foster

Founder
peers.org, San Francisco, USA

Matt Krisiloff

Head of Research at Y Combinator
Lead in Basic Income Experiment
*the worlds most successful
accelerator, Palo Alto, USA*

^{tbc} Chris Hugh

Co-Founder of Facebook
New York, USA

Robin Chase

is a transportation entrepreneur.
She is co-founder and former CEO
of Zipcar, the largest carsharing
company in the world. She founded
many other companies
Boston, USA

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Albert Wenger

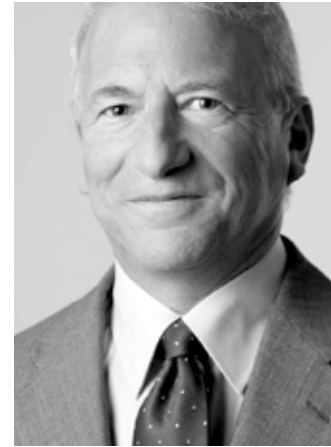
Venture Capitalist, Partner
at Union Square Ventures, NY



Albert Wenger manages with his colleagues 1 billion \$ and invests in tech start-ups. That and his over 30 years of experience in the field of computers enables him to see what is in the pipeline and how it will transform labour markets and society.

Andy Stern

Former President
SEIU, trade union



He experienced the transformation of our labour market from a union perspective and advised President Obama on it. For 2008 he is listed as the “most invited person to the oval office”. Soon his new book will be published, in which he proposes a universal basic income for the US. He is currently senior fellow at Columbia University, New York.

Natalie Foster

Co-founder of peers.org
Fellow Institute for the Future



Natalie Foster has spent the last 15 years at the crossroads of social movements and technology. She worked for the Obama Administration, for Sierra Club, MoveOn.org. Recently she co-founded Rebuild the Dream and Peers.org

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS & ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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Entrepreneur “idea-producer”, writer, journalist, leadership consultant and full-time staff member for this conference.

Armin Steuernagel

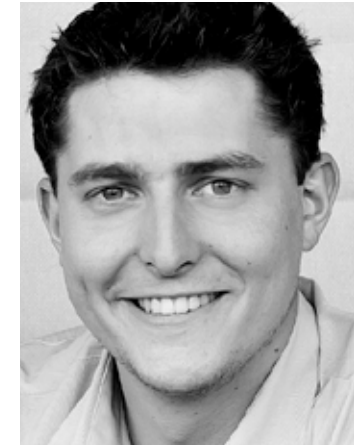
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Economist and co-founder of several start-ups in e-commerce and food sector that are active in 20 countries around the world. Founder of Purpose Foundation.

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Social Innovator, project developer and congress organizer. Benjamin worked with the “Alternative Nobel Prize” Committee before.