

ENABLING FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIGITALLY DEPRIVED

Organizer(s)

Prasad Ramakrishnan

D-MTEC ETH - Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zürich

Wu Qing

Beijing Cultural Development Center for Rural Women, Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Cheryl Kiser

The Lewis Institute and Babson Social Innovation Lab, Babson College

Contact: raprasad@ethz.ch

Email address for abstract submission: raprasad@ethz.ch

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Disruptive technology changes have opened ‘gig-economy’ alternatives, digitalization, robotization, automation opportunities. For this ‘Digitally Enabled’ workforce, the future appears bright with fast emerging opportunities and themes like Artificial Intelligence, Future of Mobility, Internet of Things and Additive Manufacturing.

Meanwhile, a sizeable part of the world’s population lacks access to clean drinking water, private toilets, equal opportunities for education and employment. For this ‘Digitally Deprived’ the basics continue to be a struggle. Layoffs, insufficient retraining & reemployment opportunities, and longer life spans are forcing some employees to work into their 70s and 80s.

This diverging gap between ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’ worsens societal challenges stemming from the transformation of work and global population migration. There is a pressing need for Closing the Gap between the Digitally Enabled and the Digitally Deprived.

The Organizer(s)s care passionately about combining social and economic impact through creativity, simplicity, action and transformation. This workshop seeks practical action examples from Social movements, Governments, Universities and Industry to develop new perspectives, concepts, measures, and indicators to capture and address the changing realities of work. Let’s share examples that can be a call for action to make this world a better place by enabling the Future of Work with dignity for all.

Babson College’s Lewis Institute inspires action around creating social innovation, defined as any activity that advances one or more of the UN Global Goals—the biggest challenges of our time. Cheryl Kiser uses Babson’s methodology of *Entrepreneurial Thought & Action*® as well as examples of social innovation, to help students develop a new leadership mindset for simultaneous social and economic value creation in *the Future of Work*.

Using a training program that leverages the characters of the Chinese language, and the Changping Practical Skills Training Center, Wu Qing has *Changed the Lives of 20,000 Women and Girls in Rural China*. This has been done with a focus on the basic dignity and needs of human beings for self-respect, equal opportunities & a future that is full of possibility for all.

During his Global Operational Leadership roles, Prasad Ramakrishnan has created practical solutions impacting issues of importance for both employees and employers – these provide good examples of how Industry can *Lead simultaneous economic and social value creation in the Future of Work*.

This workshop will be an opportunity to build further examples of social and economic opportunity creation through practical ideas to address the challenges in the Future of Work. The agenda will be built around 3-4 selected, high quality papers that spark further approaches and replication, and, will be a dynamic opportunity to work with scholars and practitioners who have found meaningful and practical solutions to address societal and economic challenges of the future workforce.

Papers are invited from Swiss and the International academic, profit & non-profit, public & private, Consulting, Government, NGO and services communities that provide Future of Work perspectives, case studies and ideas around the theme of how the ‘Digitally Enabled’ can leverage economic success to provide Social Impact and create opportunities for ‘The Future of Work for the Digitally Deprived’.

This would include potential solutions for contemporary employment, societal challenges from new economies, future education, and welfare provision schemes. Of interest are solutions that address vulnerable groups such as Women and Girls in Rural areas, the disabled, the elderly and the unemployed.