

## MATERIALS TO PREPARE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE LECTURE

### 'The role of humans in an age of intelligent machines'

**Nick Bostrom (\*1973)** is a Swedish-born philosopher at the University of Oxford known for his work on existential risk, the anthropic principle, human enhancement ethics, superintelligence risks, and the reversal test. In 2011, he founded the Oxford Martin Program on the Impacts of Future Technology, and is the founding director of the Future of Humanity Institute at Oxford University. His book *Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies* (2014) was a New York Times bestseller, was recommended by Elon Musk and Bill Gates among others, and helped to popularize the term "superintelligence". Bostrom believes that superintelligence, which he defines as "any intellect that greatly exceeds the cognitive performance of humans in virtually all domains of interest", is a potential outcome of advances in artificial intelligence. He views the rise of superintelligence as potentially highly dangerous to humans, but nonetheless rejects the idea that humans are powerless to stop its negative effects. In 2017 he co-signed a list of 23 principles that all AI development should follow.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick\\_Bostrom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nick_Bostrom)

**Nolan McCarty (\*1967)**, an American political scientist specializing in U.S. politics, democratic political institutions, and political methodology. The Political Economy of Inequality and Redistribution written by Nolan McCarty: The article focuses on the interaction of unions and employers, the role of political parties and electoral institutions, and the effects of racial and religious diversity. It also discusses the implications of recent work in behavioural economics and political science.

<https://archive-ouverte.unige.ch/unige:83334>

**Jane Goodall (\* 1934)** a British behavioral scientist who began studying chimpanzee behavior in the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania in 1960.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane\\_Goodall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Goodall)

**Guy Standing, FAcSS (\*1948)** is a British professor of Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and co-founder of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy\\_Standing\\_%28economist%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Standing_%28economist%29)

**Thomas Hobbes (1588 – 1679)** was one of the founders of modern political philosophy. He is best known for his 1651 book *Leviathan*. In it he argued in favor of the transfer of all power to a sovereign ruler, since in the "state of nature" there is an egoistic "war of all against all" (*bellum omnium contra omnes*) for property and reputation, which is only due to the fear of punishment by an overpowering force could be prevented. In a treaty,

In Zusammenarbeit mit



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therefore, individuals should transfer their natural rights to a central power that is most perfectly represented in one person, the absolute ruler.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Hobbes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Hobbes)

**David H. Autor** (\* 1967) is an American professor of economics at the MIT.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Autor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Autor)

**Ronald Fisher** (1890-1962) wrote the fundamental theorem of natural selection, which is one of the most cited theories of in evolutionary biology.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fisher%27s\\_fundamental\\_theorem\\_of\\_natural\\_selection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fisher%27s_fundamental_theorem_of_natural_selection)

**Donald Davidson** (1917-2003) was an US-American analytical philosopher.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald\\_Davidson\\_\(philosopher\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Davidson_(philosopher))

**Bretton Woods Agreement** (1944) established the rules for commercial and financial relations among the United States, Canada, Western European countries, Australia, and Japan. It was the first international monetary order intended to govern monetary relations among independent states. It was based on a gold standard.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bretton\\_Woods\\_system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bretton_Woods_system)