

The Great Acceleration

Artificial Intelligence Between Breakthrough and Apocalypse

Technological change, global connectivity and increasingly dense flows of information are transforming the world at an accelerating pace. Artificial intelligence is pushing this acceleration into a new phase. At the same time, we have never had access to so much information — and yet it is becoming increasingly difficult to understand what is actually happening, what matters, and what deserves our attention.

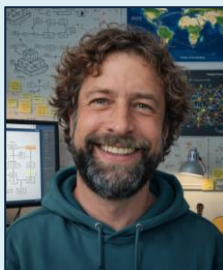
The talk asks how we can navigate an increasingly complex and accelerating world — and what role artificial intelligence plays in that process.

Starting with everyday things such as supermarket products, smartphones and social media, it looks beyond the visible surface to the systems behind them: global supply chains, digital infrastructures, data flows, platforms, algorithms, economic interests and structures of power.

This perspective reveals how closely physical, economic and digital systems are interconnected, how media and algorithms shape attention and perception, and why more information does not automatically produce more orientation.

Artificial intelligence intensifies these developments further. Some see the beginning of a historic breakthrough — driven by scientific advances, rising productivity and entirely new possibilities. Others warn of loss of control, social disruption and existential risk.

The central question is this: How can we recognize the structures behind these developments — and remain capable of orientation and action in a world of growing complexity and uncertainty?



ABOUT ARALD MEIER

Harald Meier is a geographer, systems analyst and founder of Digital Space Lab. For more than 15 years, he has worked with digital networks, data analysis and complex economic, social and digital systems.

His background combines geography, network and data analysis, digital methods and international research. Today, his work focuses on how people and organizations can make sense of complexity, information overload and uncertainty – and develop the orientation needed to act responsibly..