

## SPEAKER BIOS

### **Dale Allen, PhD, President and Co-Founder, DXtera Institute**

President and co-founder of DXtera Institute<sup>SM</sup> Dale Allen is responsible for the expertise and strategic direction necessary to realize DXtera's entrepreneurial vision of transforming higher education through digital solutions. A nationally recognized leader in post-secondary education policy and innovation, Allen brings over 25 years of experience in public and private higher education, systems office, and private industry. His successful record scaling educational innovations has led to more than \$1 billion in shared investments to support policies, facilities and efforts aimed at significantly increasing student completion, improving the economic outcomes for individuals and their communities. He most recently served as the Special Assistant to the President for Innovation at Quinsigamond Community College (QCC), leading the conceptualization and implementation of the education and workforce development components of two National Manufacturing Innovation Institutes (NMII): AIM Photonics and Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA). Previously, he served as Vice President for Community Engagement at QCC, where he oversaw the \$20 million US Department of Labor TAACCCT funded Transformation Agenda. Dr. Allen also served as a Special Assistant to the Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education, where he led policy development for college and career pathways, including the Commonwealth's involvement with Complete College America and the Guided Pathways to Success in STEM careers initiative. Dr. Allen holds master's and bachelor's degrees from Springfield College and a doctorate in Public Policy from University of Massachusetts Boston.

### **Marta Aymerich, MD, MPH, PhD, Vice President of Strategic Planning and Research, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**

Marta Aymerich has a doctoral degree in Medicine and Surgery (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 2002), a master's degree in Health Service Assessment and Management (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 2001), a master's degree in Public Health (Harvard University, 1999) and a postgraduate diploma in Social Policy (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 1995). She is the executive president of the UOC's eHealth Center and a member of its eHealth Lab research group. Previously she founded and was a researcher at TransLab (Translational Medicine and Decision Science Lab), at the University of Girona, where she was a professor in the Faculty of Medicine from 2009 to 2014. She led the Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Research from 2006 to 2008, where she developed her research career since 1995. She was director of the Government of Catalonia's Interdepartmental Council for Technological Innovation and Research (CIRIT) from 2004 to 2006 and deputy secretary of the Catalan and Balearic Academy of Medical and Health Sciences from 1997 to 2002.

She has published numerous articles in indexed journals and has given many talks and lectures on health service assessment and research. She assesses research projects for the European Commission, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation's National Research Evaluation and Analysis Agency

(ANEP), the Spanish Ministry of Health's Health Research Fund (FIS) and a range of other scientific organizations.

**Dr. David Bañeras, Lecturer, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**

He received a BSc in Computer Science (2001) and a Ph.D. in Computer Science (2008) from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain. He is currently a full-time lecturer at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya in the IT, Multimedia and Telecommunications department from 2007. His research interests include innovative e-learning systems such as intelligent tutoring systems, automated assessment, learning analytics and the application of Artificial Intelligent in educational contexts. Currently, he is co-coordinating the development of an intelligent tutoring system and an early warning system for UOC Virtual Campus.

**Dr. Timo Bechger, Lead Research Scientist, Advanced Psychometrics, ACTNext**

Timo Bechger is ACTNext's lead research scientist of Advanced Psychometrics. Prior to joining the ACTNext team, Timo was a senior research scientist with CITO for 17 years and a post-doc in behavior genetics at the free university of Amsterdam. Although immersed in practice and active as an international consultant, he kept a continuing interest in research which led to a quirky oeuvre of over 40 publications. He co-founded the dexter project (<https://dexterities.netlify.com/>) which aims to develop and disseminate open-source software for professional educational measurement. Timo earned his MSc and PhD in psychology from the University of Amsterdam. He lives near Arnhem (the Netherlands) with his girlfriend. He has two (almost) grown-up children.

**Dr. Àngels Fitó Bertran, Vice President of Competitiveness and Employability, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**

Angels Fitó Bertran, PhD is the Vice President for Competitiveness and Employability at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain) since 2010. Previously she taught in many other Spanish universities as an Associated Professor while she worked as a consultant in the financial and accounting area. She holds a PhD in Economic and Business Sciences (2005) and an MsC in Accounting and Finance (1998) from the Universitat de Barcelona. Her research interests are management and e-learning, management accounting, financial accounting and accounting education. The results of her research have been published in relevant indexed journals or books. She attends regularly to accounting and education national and international conferences.

**Michael Bourque, Vice President Information Technology and CIO, Boston College**

Michael Bourque has over thirty years experience in the field of information technology. He was named Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer at Boston College in January, 2010. In that capacity, he oversees the planning and operations of information technology across the University. This includes strategic planning, customer service, project management, network and systems infrastructure, applications and systems architecture. He joined higher education, at Boston College in 2003, after fifteen years in industry.

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Prior to joining Boston College, he was Vice President, Business Systems at Parametric Technology (PTC), a \$1B product development and mechanical software provider. During his five years at PTC, he oversaw a major push in systems modernization in support of global operations.

Before joining PTC, he spent fifteen years at Raytheon, a global aerospace leader, in positions of increasing responsibility. He led major company-wide projects such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and the Year 2000 Program Office. He was also active in Six Sigma quality initiatives and negotiating corporate volume procurement agreements for technology.

Michael has taught project management in the Carroll School of Management at Boston College. He also previously taught courses in mathematics and information systems for Fitchburg State University. He is active in the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) Conference on Information Technology Management having served as president and vice president. He holds a masters degree in engineering management from the University of Iowa and a bachelors in electrical engineering from Merrimack College.

### **Mark Brown, Professor of Digital Learning and Director of the National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) at Dublin City University (DCU)**

Mark Brown is Ireland's first Professor of Digital Learning and Director of the National Institute for Digital Learning (NIDL) at Dublin City University (DCU). He is a Fellow and Executive Committee member of the European Distance and E-learning Network (EDEN) and serves on the Supervisory Board of the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (EADTU). Professor Brown was previously Director of the National Centre for Teaching and Learning at Massey University where he was also President of the New Zealand Association for Open, Flexible and Distance Learning. Mark has played key leadership roles in the university-wide implementation of new models of teaching and learning and has published extensively in the fields of Blended, On-line and Digital (BOLD) Education. In 2017, the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) recognised Mark as a world leader in Open and Distance Learning and he is Chair of the ICDE World Conference on Online Learning, which will be held in Dublin in November 2019.

### **Brian Co, Senior Vice President and Head of The Product Studio, Strada Education Network**

Brian Co has over 20 years of product development experience of consumer and enterprise software solutions. He is Head of The Product Studio and develops technology solutions that amplify Strada's collective impact, enabling every learner to forge their path to success. He is responsible for the development of the uCoach student success platform for InsideTrack which is used to coach students throughout the student journey. The Product Studio portfolio includes College Confidential, The College Fair, and software products for learners and institutions. He lives near Portland, Oregon with his wife and twin six-year-old boys.

### **Scott Fleming, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial and Product Officer, Strada Education Network**

As Strada Education Network executive vice president and chief commercial and product officer, Scott Fleming is responsible for the growth of Strada Education's affiliates. He also manages new technology and product development for the organization.

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Fleming has extensive experience in both the private sector and the education policy arena in a variety of roles, from startups to well-established companies in the United States and globally.

He previously was executive vice president and general manager of Fishtree, the Washington, D.C.-based provider of an award-winning adaptive and personalized learning platform. He also is co-founder of Madison Education Group, in Washington, D.C.; he served first as president and then as vice chairman of the management consulting firm.

Fleming's previous experience also includes executive leadership roles with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Scantron Corp., and work with Chartwell Education Group.

He served for five years on the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, working on higher education and career and technical education. Fleming has published work and commentary on topics ranging from higher education policy and student financial aid to international education and development.

Fleming holds master's and bachelor's degrees from Brigham Young University.

### **Matt Gee, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Brighthive**

Matt Gee is co-founder and CEO at BrightHive, a public benefit corporation building data collaboratives that power smarter government and more effective social service delivery. He is also a Senior Research Scientist at the University of Chicago's Center for Data Science and Public Policy. He is the co-founder of the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Data Science for Social Good fellowship, which over the last five years has paired 250 data science fellows with over 85 national, state, and local government organizations and NGOs to build data-driven solutions to social problems.

Matt works to find new ways to increase individual efficacy and equality of opportunity with new data and new tools like machine learning, focusing primarily on social service systems, workforce and education, and sustainable development. He has been principal investigator on major research initiatives in data science, machine learning, and AI research initiatives funded by the National Science Foundation, the Sloan Foundation, the JP Morgan Chase Foundation and others, developed new models for public-private data partnerships with nonprofit organizations, corporations, and governments. He has previously worked at the US Treasury and has founded several companies using data to improve society. He's served as an advisor to Code for America, DataKind, and the World Bank. He is an open source software evangelist and an active advocate for improving access to STEM opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

### **Peter Gillis, Innovation Services Team Lead and Senior Researcher, Learnovate Centre**

Peter is Innovation Services Team Lead and Senior Researcher at Learnovate. Learnovate is a research and innovation centre, hosted at Trinity College Dublin, focused on EdTech and learning technologies. With over twenty full-time researchers and practitioners, Learnovate has one of the richest concentrations of EdTech expertise in Europe. Peter is an experienced team lead, skilled in the practices of: innovation (JTBD, Lean Startup, Design Thinking), digital strategy and corporate company management. Peter is also a researcher with a demonstrated history of working in the EdTech research industry. He lectures on the psychology of learning on several masters programmes. Peter holds a first-class honours degree in Psychology, the focus of his research was cognitive theory of multimedia learning. In 2012, he completed an MSc in Technology Enhanced Learning at Trinity College Dublin. His research interest is the interaction between motivation and technology-enhanced learning. Peter is currently developing his

research on motivation and learning through the PhD programme at TCD. Peter has over two decades commercial experience in the digital design and communications industry. He was Managing Director of one of the first multimedia agencies in Ireland working with blue-chip clients in Ireland and the US.

### **Beth Havinga, Executive Director, German Alliance for Education**

Originally a high school teacher from Australia, Beth Havinga has managed education publishing houses and education software companies in Europe, founded her own EdTech startups in Germany and the USA, and, for the last six years, has supported a wide variety of education organisations through her company, Connect EdTech. Beth works with large tech corporations, education publishers, governments, ministries of education and education startups globally, supporting them in education policy, digital implementation strategies, market analyses, and the internationalisation and expansion of digital products.

As a specialist in the digitisation and interoperability of education systems, Beth is currently on the expert committee of the Austrian Ministry of Economy, Research and Science, and is also the executive director of the German Alliance for Education, an NGO acting as the interface between the German state and federal education ministries and the education industry.

### **Chris Heron, Chief Executive Officer, Vivagogy**

Chris is a passionate former teacher, learner and educational reformer. He is leading a social and learning change movement with his Vivagogy team to facilitate a global market for people and competencies to

solve the Skills Gap. Through blockchain certification of competencies and AIEd, they are building a lifelong skills portfolio in an online learning eco-system for learning with direct job placements.

This will be a game changer to empower a currency; which will help organisations to measure their human resources as an asset and in doing so will link formal learning with business balancing the labour skills supply and demand balance, so solving the Skills Gap. The resulting global index will also measure trust and behaviour in organisations culture and processes and map trusted skilled people with jobs accurately.

Chris has experience in business as a manager and entrepreneur then trained as a teacher and worked as a University lecturer in Business and Economics at The Ashcroft International Business School, Cambridge. Vivagogy is a socially motivated, ethical organisation and who are passionate about improving learning and the way business behaves by innovating processes with technology and new social behaviour models based on trust. This together with new business models, blockchain technology and AI will solve the problem of The Skills Gap.

### **Linda McCarthy, Technical Director, Student & Academic Application Services, Information Technology Services, Boston College**

Linda McCarthy has over thirty years experience in the field of information technology. She joined Boston College in June 1995 and has held various positions in the Information Technology Department. She oversees the implementation and support of the various systems used by the Academic departments at Boston College. These systems include Undergraduate & Graduate Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, and Enrollment. She is currently overseeing the development and implementation of

EagleApps Student Information System. The first two modules, Curriculum Management and Student Accounts, went live in 2011 and 2018.

She holds a masters degree in management from the Boston College and a bachelors in computer information systems from Bentley College.

**Dr. Valtencir Mendes, Project Officer, Education Sector, UNESCO**

Valtencir M. Mendes is Project Officer based at UNESCO's Unit for ICT in Education at UNESCO. He designs, coordinates and monitors the implementation of activities under the framework of UNESCO Mobile Learning Week, the UN's flagship conference in ICT in Education; assisting the Director of ED/PLS in providing consultative support and strategic advice on UNESCO's engagement with different programmes in ICT in education policy; and contributing to other cross-cutting emerging technologies in education activities and multi stakeholders projects.

He holds a European PhD in Project and Systems Engineering from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, UK. His research focused on the multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards the achievement of the UNESCO EFA (and other UN campaigns), and the contribution of emerging innovative ICT. His most recent master's degree is in Leadership and Social Innovation in Non-Governmental Organizations from ESADE.

Previously, he was the Head of International Projects at the Jaume Bofill Foundation in Barcelona, Spain, where he designed and managed many educational research projects and conferences in partnership with organizations such as the OECD, UNESCO, and IAU among others.

Formerly Observatory Co-ordinator at the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), a joint project created by UNESCO, United Nations University and UPC Barcelona. He is a member of the International Association of Universities' expert group on ICTs and Higher Education.

**Jeff Merriman, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder, DXtera Institute**

An internationally recognized leader in educational technology, DXtera's co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Jeff Merriman brings over thirty-five years of experience in educational innovation and collaborative leadership to the DXtera Institute.

In his role as CTO, Jeff oversees technical strategy, design and development related to the DXtera consortium. His deep understanding of post-secondary information systems, along with a progressive architectural approach to scalable, extensible integration solutions, guides DXtera's technological path toward increasing digital integration and access.

Jeff's career began as Director of Residential Computing at Stanford University in 1987, leading the effort to network all of Stanford's graduate and undergraduate residence halls. In 1998 he became Director of Academic Computing Technology and began to widen his focus to include issues of educational software infrastructure. In 2000, he joined MIT as Senior Strategist for Academic Computing and served as Executive Director of the Open Knowledge Initiative. Jeff has also served on the Board or Directors of the Sakai Collaborative Learning Environment, and for the Learning Curve Consortium, facilitating educational technology for K-12.

Most recently, as Associate Director in MIT's Office of Digital Learning, Strategic Education Initiatives, Jeff oversaw Institutional and global projects, extending architectural approaches to educational innovation.

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This experience and work provides a foundation for the DXtera Institute to reimagine higher education information systems and next generation solutions.

**Dr. Antoni Pérez-Navarro, Deputy Director of Research, eLearn Center, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**

Dr. Antoni Perez-Navarro has a PhD in Physics for the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) since 2000. He got his bachelor in physics, also from UAB, in 1995.

He currently holds the position Deputy Director of Research at eLearn Center at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) and is lecturer in the Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunication department (EIMT department), since 2005. His association with the university dates from 2002, starting as a teaching consultant. Between the years 2010 and 2014, he has been the academic director of the postgraduate of Geographic Information Systems (at UOC), and between 2011 and 2014 he has been postgraduate coordinator of his department. Nowadays is the director of the Technological Observatory of the EIMT department and director of the technical collection of books of editorial Ediuoc.

Apart from his activities at UOC, he works, since the year 2007, at Escola Universitària Salesiana de Sarrià (EUSS), part of UAB, where he gives classes in Industrial Engineering grades. He has also collaborated with Cartographic and Geologic Institute of Catalonia (ICGC) in its International Course on Management and Applied Techniques in Cartography.

His teaching activities range from the fields of physics and GIS in telecommunication engineering, computer science, multimedia and industrial engineering. He has also written several teaching materials in these fields, and has created more than 100 teaching videos about these topics.

Before starting his career in academia, he has worked as a GIS professional between the years 2000 and 2005 in Aurensis, S.L.. That work includes project management and design of new GIS software.

His main research interests are indoor positioning and prevention of diseases via smartphones.

Regarding education, he has several contributions in journals and congresses. His main contributions are mathematical notation in physics and mathematics in online environments; and the introduction of video as a learning tool in the virtual classroom, which received the Best Innovation Project Award at UOC in 2010 with the project Present@. Nowadays, the use of video as teaching material in STEM subjects is his main focus of research in education and he is supervising a doctoral work in this topic.

**Dr. Josep A. Planell, President, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya**

Dr. Josep A. Planell Estany (born Barcelona, 1951) graduated in Physics from the University of Barcelona in 1975 and earned his doctorate in Materials Science from Queen Mary, University of London in 1983. Since 1992 he has been a full professor in the Materials Science and Metallurgy department of the Barcelona School of Industrial Engineering at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). Since its establishment, in December 2005, he has been the Director of the Institute of Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC). On April 3, 2013 has taken office as president of the university.

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**Simone Ravaioli, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Digitary**

EdTech influencer with a specific expertise on digital micro-credentials and interest in blockchain technologies.

Born and raised in Italy, Simone holds a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Management Information System from Loyola University Chicago (2001)

After a corporate experience in New York and Milano he joins CINECA (2006), the leading consortium of Italian Universities dedicated to developing Student Information Systems for HE. As International Affairs Manager Simone drives the organization's international strategy in the EMEA region.

In 2007 Simone is founding member of RS3G (Rome Student Systems and Standards Group) - an international group of HE implementers focused on data exchange standards in the Education sector that would go on to seed the Groningen Declaration Network (2012).

From 2010 to 2014 he is appointed chair of the Digital Student Data Portability task force of European Association for International Education (EAIE) of which he is currently a relentless activist. He is the EAIE Rising Star recipient in 2011.

In 2014 the epiphany with Open Badges turns him into Chief Dreamer of Bestr, the first Italian Open Badges platform, which gets him invited as a TEDx speaker in 2015 in Bologna

In 2016 he contributes to kickstarting BadgeChain, an early initiative aimed at exploring the impact of the Blockchain revolution onto the Open Badges ecosystems.

Since early 2017 he serves as Director of Strategic Partnerships at Digitary, a global provider of secure online credentials in Higher Education, with a special mandate to bring into the strategic roadmap emerging technologies (blockchain) and open standards (open badges).

Simone is currently contributing to work conducted by the European Commission on Employment and Education, being an selected member of the ESCO Technical Maintenance Committee (2018 - 2022), a selected expert in the EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum (2018 - 2020) and a contributor to the design of the new Europass platform (expected launch Feb. 2020).

Additionally, Simone currently sits on the Advisory Board of the Open Recognition Alliance.

Simone has been speculating that his next professional reincarnation will be in the Food Innovation space, yet he is most comfortable with being described, across any industry, as a Nomadic Serendipity Developer.

**Teuvo Sankila, Publishing Director, Otava Learning / Otava Publishing Company**

Teuvo Sankila is a former mathematics and information technology teacher who has worked in the Finnish educational field over 20 years. His professional journey has taken him from developing the first steps of ICT in learning for Otava, to developing digital workflows in the field of publishing for PrePress Studio, all the way to spreading ICT to Finnish Schools for Microsoft. This is his third period with Otava. For the last eight years, he has worked as a publishing director for Otava Publishing Company, managing the whole of educational publishing and leading the change from print to digital. He has also been 5 years (2011-2015) chairman of the European Educational Publishers Group (EEPG) and he is a member of the board of Otava Publishing Company and a chairman of the educational publishers workgroup in Finnish Publishers Association. Teuvo Sankila's passion is to improve learning possibilities and develop tools for better learning.

**Scott Thorne, Senior Architect, DXtera Institute**

pioneer in data architecture and management in higher education, Scott Thorne is DXtera Institute's Data and Service Architect. Scott's principle focus is on the management and integration of data to produce vital information of value to the wider community.

Scott's extensive career at MIT centered on designing simple, innovative internet-based systems, through data modeling and a collaborative approach – with long-lasting results. His accomplishments include creating one of the earliest and most successful Data Warehouses in Higher Education and leading development of services to solve campus integration issues. Through data modeling, Scott developed a common solution for managing enterprise authorization across most of the Institute's administrative systems. Scott was the Chief Architect of O.K.I., and a Service Architect on the Quali Student project and has collaborated with other universities in many community and open source efforts to design and implement service based solutions.

Many of Scott's projects represented the first of a kind, requiring not only design and implementation, but also extensive community coordination and outreach to bridge the gap between stakeholders, management, community members and developers.

**Timo Väliharju, Executive Director, Educloud Alliance**

Timo Väliharju is a lifelong entrepreneur with vast experience in doing business in different industries. He is also an experienced leader and has nearly 20 years of experience in Open Source Technologies as well as in the field of eLearning and Education. Timo was the first Steering Committee Member of COSS Association – the Finnish Centre for Open Systems and Solutions in 2004 and he continues to be a member as well as the Executive Director of COSS today. He was also the founding member and Member of the Board of the Association of Finnish eLearning (2002-2012), which is an independent national association that promotes sharing of knowledge, best practices and quality in eLearning.

**Alejandro Jara Weitzmann, CEO and Co-Founder, Smart Republic**

Alejandro Jara Weitzmann is a Chilean born economist, specializing in the fields of sustainable development, international cooperation and governance. During his early years in Chile, he opposed the military regime. This led to him having to leave Chile and begin a new life in the United Kingdom. There he undertook postgraduate studies, obtaining a Master of Philosophy and undertaking PhD studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he was granted the Central Research Fund Award of the University of London for his doctoral thesis research on public policies and social welfare.

During this period of his life, he helped pioneer the Ethical Banking impulse for emerging countries, working at Mercury Provident Bank, in Sussex, England, now a UK branch of Triodos Bank.

As an adviser on a World Bank programme (TAL-II) he came back to Chile during the democratic period and in the 1990s helped to modernize public companies in accordance with social responsibility criteria. He was a key executive and advisor to the world's largest copper corporation, CODELCO (2000-2010). He participated in its governance law reform and became the United Nations – Global Compact representative of CODELCO. He has also facilitated

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international liaison for global governance conferences (PGCs) between Latin American institutes and Policy Network, the major UK think-tank based in London. The conferences were attended by high ranking government representatives from Europe, the US and Latin America.

Upon moving to Paris (September 2010), he became the Latin America representative for the International Social Observatory, OSI - a CSR think tank led by the multinational energy ENGIE Group in France. He also was a senior member of two innovative initiatives in France and the UK: the ENGIE Rassembleurs d'Energies Fund – a Green Investment Fund, and Novante – Tractebel, a new advisory firm on social compliance for big projects. During this period, he carried out key research studies on Impact Investment and social governance on behalf of OSI and ILO-UN. He was also the OSI representative at the COP Climate Financial Conferences (Sustainable finances at Finances for Tomorrow, Paris-Europlace).

During that period (2010-2018), he participated in several missions and gained extensive experience in international cooperation, in countries and regions such as Brazil, Chile, India and Northern Africa. He was also involved with international programmes supported by the UN and large think tanks in the field of Global Warming, such as the Clean Cookstoves Alliance, supported by the UN Foundation and the Melissa and Bill Gates Foundation. He also attended the Future of Power (FOP) Conference in northern India.

These experiences have led him to become aware that in order to address the global social gaps, there is an acute need to use new technologies to empower citizens to access social services, in areas such as communications, knowledge transfer, social banking, smart cities, health and education. During 2018 he became one of the founding members of the Smart Republic project in Europe ([www.smartrepublic.net](http://www.smartrepublic.net)), a new social network company, based in the UK and France. Smart Republic is seeking a strategic partnership in India and other emerging countries, where a major shift in smart technologies connectivity, citizen's consciousness and governance models is expected to take place. Currently Smart Republic is also developing partnerships for the Smart Republic Foundation to promote philanthropic causes.