AI revolution: Transforming the global business landscape

Event Date: Thursday, April 25th, 2024

Start Time: 1:00 ET

Format: Atlantic Council Headquarters & Zoom

Speakers' Bios

Wafa Ben-Hassine
Principal, Responsible Technology, Omidyar Network

Wafa Ben-Hassine is a principal on the Responsible Technology team at Omidyar Network, where she leads the organization's vision and portfolio on Digital Trust and Safety and is a member of the Generative AI team. Prior to joining Omidyar Network, Wafa served as a consultant at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), where she managed an open innovation challenge to advance the IFC's financial inclusion agenda. Previously, she was the Middle East and North Africa policy manager and Global Policy Counsel for Access Now, a global non-profit organization defending human rights online. Wafa also consulted for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Wafa is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She has served as the co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council (GFC) on Human Rights and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and as a member of the GFC on Data Policy. She serves on several other committees, boards, and task forces that are focused on how society interacts with emerging technologies, such as the Partnership on Artificial Intelligence's Safety-Critical AI Steering Committee. In 2011, Wafa served as Tunisia's first-ever legislative aide in the national Constituent Assembly, helping to encode human rights into the text of the constitution. She was also the Editor-in-Chief of Tunisia Live, an independent English language news network, and a columnist at Nawaat, a blogging collective. Wafa holds a JD from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, and a BA in political science, public law from the University of California, San Diego, where she served as student body president. She is a licensed attorney with the state of New York and is based in Washington, D.C.

Aisha Saaka
Data & AI Manager, Accenture Federal Services

Aisha Saaka is a seasoned Data & AI Strategist at Accenture Federal Services, bringing over 17 years of dynamic and results-oriented experience in steering projects of all scales. Her passion lies in translating intricate analytics into actionable insights, igniting transformative change across diverse organizations and agencies.

Throughout her journey, she has championed innovative business models, harnessed emerging technologies, and forged cross-sector partnerships to enhance the delivery of products and services globally. Beyond just driving efficiency, she is committed to the responsible integration of AI, ensuring ethical and impactful implementation and its potential to shape the future of work and create positive impacts on marginalized communities.

Geoff Schaefer
Head of Responsible AI, Booz Allen Hamilton

Geoff Schaefer is the Head of Responsible AI at Booz Allen Hamilton and the firm's Chief AI Ethics Advisor. He also serves on the Board of Trustees at The Washington Center. Geoff has written and spoken widely about Responsible AI, including in a series of podcasts with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. His work has been featured in MIT Technology Review, Fast Company, Ethical Intelligence's EQUATION magazine, and more. He has spoken about the transformative future of AI at the University of Virginia and West Virginia University, and co-hosts the Leaders in Responsible AI Summit at Jesus College, Cambridge. Before joining Booz Allen, Geoff worked for a variety of organizations across the intelligence community and financial sector. He started his career as an intelligence analyst at the FBI, specializing in counterintelligence, innovation, and technology strategy. Later in the financial industry, he helped develop capabilities at the intersection of security and technology at Bridgewater Associates and co-led the applied critical thinking group as an Officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Geoff earned a B.S. in economics from West Virginia University and a master's in public policy from George Mason University. In addition, he has completed two special programs at Oxford University in ethics and international affairs.

Xiuzhu Lin
Director of Global Business Advisory, AI, Marriot International

Xiuzhu Lin is the Director of Global Business Advisory, AI at Marriott, the world's largest hotel company. In this role, she leverages her expertise in both technology and business disciplines to identify and capitalize on all AI-driven opportunities for the company. Xiuzhu works closely with cross-functional teams to uncover problems, devise innovative solutions, and ensure the delivery of exceptional products that truly meet the needs of the organization.Prior to joining Marriott, Xiuzhu served as the Conversational AI product lead in Capital One's HR Organization, where she had the privilege of collaborating with a talented team of AI and ML experts. She was the founder of the Responsible AI committee in HR, where she led the creation of principles that contribute to building a responsible and ethical AI future at Capital One. Xiuzhu's background also includes extensive experience in the HR technology space, including roles at companies like Gartner. She holds a Master's degree in International Affairs and Economics, as well as a Bachelor's in Spanish and International Business.Throughout her diverse career, Xiuzhu has consistently demonstrated a passion for leveraging cutting-edge technologies to drive meaningful business outcomes. As the Director of Global Business Advisory, AI at Marriott, she is dedicated to pioneering innovative solutions that elevate the guest and associate experiences.

Moderator

Stefanie Falconi
Emerging Technologies Advisor, USAID

Stefanie M. Falconi, Ph.D. is on the Technology Division's Emerging Technologies Team. She joined USAID as an AAAS Science & Tech Policy Fellow in 2022. With 15 plus years of experience working in frontier and emerging markets, she has led projects in Water and Climate Change issues in rural and megacities alike. She's worked at the intersection of climate and technology highlighting the potential and limitations of technology in solving socio-economic problems. Stefanie is an alum to the Faculty for the Future Fellowship, the Google sponsored Global Solutions Program Fellow, and World Economic Forum Global Futures Council. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. Originally from Ecuador, she always seeks to engage in immersive work that takes her to diverse settings.