PROFESSORS WITHOUT BORDERS

In association with

GULF FUTURES CENTER

presents

# Higher Education for the Age of Transformation

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 September
Venue: London School of Economics

Agenda and Speakers

PROFESSORS WITHOUT BORDERS

GULF FUTURES CENTER

# Agenda

## Saturday, 15th September

09.00 – 09.30

- Participants arrive, tea and coffee

09.30 – 09.40

**Welcoming Speech – Tessy de Nassau**

09.40 – 10.00

**Keynote 1:** Dr. Michèle Aerden

10.00 – 11.15

**Panel 1: Skills for the 21st Century Job Market**
*Moderator Caroline Varin*

- Sallyann Della Casa
- Bernhard Dedenbach
- Manish Singh
- Eithne Treanor

11.15 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.45

**Panel 2: Students of Generation Z**
*Moderator Paola Diana*

- Professor Carola Hieker
- Anita Kouassigan
- Sipim Sornbanlang
- Chandni Hirani

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.00

**Panel 3: Academic Innovation**
*Moderator Anjum Malik*

- H.E. Prof. Hassan Diab
- Dr. Claire Gordon
- Richard Adams

16.00 – 16.30 Open floor

## Sunday, 16th September

09.00 – 09.30

- Participants arrive, tea and coffee

09.30 – 10.00

**Keynote 2:** Scott Smith

10.00 – 11.25

**Panel 4: Higher Education and Entrepreneurship**
*Moderator Dr James Strong*

- Dan Choon
- Frank Floessel
- Guilherme Lichand
- Vincent Dassault
- Geeta Sidhu

11.25 – 11.40 Coffee Break

11.40 – 13.05

**Panel 5: Building Bridges***
*Moderator Tessy de Nassau*

- Wael Aburida
- Patrick Wheeler
- Mohammad Abdelkhalig
- James Monckton
- Pansiri Phansuwan

13.05 – 13.15 Closing Comments

**This panel will form the basis of a policy paper to be published by our Think Tank and will be open to input from the audience.*

**Wael Aburida** has over twenty years of experience in private equity, mergers and acquisitions, investment banking, and executive management. Wael is the Chairman of Halo Investment Management and serves as an officer or Board Director of several high growth companies across both the developed and developing markets. Previously, he was Chief Investment Officer and head of Private Equity & Real Estate Investments for the MENA region for PineBridge Investments, the $90 Billion global investment management firm based in New York. Prior to PineBridge, Wael led the private equity and strategic investment activities for Abu Dhabi-based Waha Capital. Before coming to the GCC, he was responsible for leading strategic investment activities for Intel Corporation, where he was Director of the Global Mergers & Acquisitions group with Intel Capital. Wael holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University and BA from Lake Forest College.

**Richard Adams** is an artist, technologist, educator and thinker. He has managed parallel careers in education and enterprise tech. For the last decade he has been a consultant enterprise digital architect and manager in digital transformation at companies such the BBC, BSkyB, Aviva Plc, Proximus (Brussels), Microsoft Studios (Xbox) and the Royal Shakespeare Company. In education he was a school head of department, founded a university digital arts department, directly creating two under and two post graduate degrees, he has taught at the London College of Fashion and more recently Birkbeck College London. He has taught at and designed curriculum for every phase of education from 7 to 70 years of age. He is a published author and has spoken at many conferences around the world. Richard is a member of the Society of Authors, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a BAFTA member. Utterly committed to lifelong learning, he currently helps Professors Without Borders and is currently thinking about a model for art and design education that would be valid mid and late 21st century.

**Dr. Michèle Aerden** is the first woman to be elected president of the World Dental Federation (FDI), an organization that represents over one million dentists in 134 countries, from 2005 until 2007. As president of this organisation, she focused heavily on projects in the developing world, working closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO). One of Michèle's main priorities as FDI President was the integration of dental health with overall medical health, and one of her proudest achievements was to lobby successfully at the WHO General Assembly for a resolution to recognise this.

**Dan Choon** is Founder and Director of Cycle, a private equity fund investing in sustainable technology. Dan is Cycle's visionary, strategist, cooperation enhancer and company builder. He leads the strategy and corporate development of Cycle and takes care of portfolio development and strategic cooperations. Mr. Choon is also the founder of Dyan, a Luxembourg and Hong Kong based family office specialized on sourcing off-market direct investment opportunities in Europe and Asia. Before, Dan co-founded Venionaire Investment GmbH, a Venture Capital Fund based in Vienna investing in high-tech startup companies in Europe. Before that, Dan worked as a technology M&A specialist with Ganzfeld, a company that he founded, performing technical due diligence and IT consulting, developing technology investment strategies for international customers and analyzing technology investment opportunities in Europe and selecting and evaluating the most promising.

**Vincent Dassault** currently works as the Site Engineer for Vinci Construction, after successfully handing over the keys of the welfare facilities of a prestigious hotel in London, he is now managing a multimillion euros technical package for a complex hotel restructuration project in South of France. From 2013 to 2016, he was the CEO and Founder of Art Embassy in London, an international fine arts agency managing twenty of the most promising artists across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In 2016, he was the Project Manager in charge of developing the event's strategy of Epic Foundation, a unique platform sourcing and securing funding for the most impactful organisations focused on children and youth related issues in twelve countries. He holds a Civil & Environmental M-Eng from Imperial College.
As an Artist, Epic Ambassador and TEDx speaker, he is fully engaged on themes surrounding education and artificial intelligence.

**Tessy de Nassau** is a co-founder of Professors Without Borders. She holds an M.Sc. in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS and is a fellow at the center for Global Health Security at Chatham House. She has extensive experience in informal and formal diplomacy as well as public representation. Tessy has worked as an ambassador for UNAIDS (Global Advocate for Young Women and Adolescent Girls) and has been appointed patron to UNA-UK. Tessy spent five years in the military, during which she was deployed in Kosovo as a peacekeeper and detached to the Luxembourg Commission and Embassy both in Geneva and London. Tessy actively promotes a number of issues, including global health and women's rights. She received the Woman of the Decade award from the Women Economic Forum in January 2017 and the Humanities medal for spreading humanistic ideas worldwide. Tessy leads Prowibo's marketing campaigns. She also contributes to the development of partnerships with schools and organizations and has taught a class in Diplomacy and International Organizations in the Sierra Leone Summer School.

**Bernhard Dedenbach** is the founder of strategic HR advisory company, BD Associates S.A. and of the international network Partners to Leaders. He has been in senior management positions for more than twenty years and served on the management of a global executive search firm where he oversaw Asset and Wealth Management. Bernard is an expert in board services and corporate governance. Prior to joining the executive search industry, he worked in wealth management and started his career with German industrial giant Krupp. Bernard holds a degree from the European Bank Academy. He graduated from Bonn University, with a Master's degree in modern languages and literature. He also studied in Paris and Siena. He is a Member of the European Council of the Association of Executive Search Consultants (AESC) and chairs the association's European Membership Committee.

**Sallyann Della Casa** is the Lead Skills Hacker at GLEAC, an APP with a patent pending method bridging behavioral psychometrics, 21st-century skill development and A.I. to help 'us' become more human.
She also is the Founder of the Growing Leaders Foundation which delivers 21st-century skills to at risk students in schools and universities across the Mena region and Caribbean. She began her career as a corporate lawyer in the US. Sallyann has a very diverse educational background and holds a doctorate, degrees and certifications in Law, Urban Planning, French and Italian and Organizational Behavior from Harvard University, University of Miami, St Thomas University and Franklin College.

**H.E. Professor Hassan Diab** is currently Vice President at American University of Beirut (AUB) and a Professor of Computer Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, AUB. He has over 150 publications in internationally refereed journals and conferences and has supervised 80 research projects. He is a registered Chartered Engineer in the Engineering Council, UK, and a registered Chartered Professional Engineer in the National Professional Engineers Register, Australia. He is Fellow of IET (UK), IEAust (Australia) & Senior Member in IEEE (USA).He received over 30 national/international awards and was invited for inclusion in over 40 international biographies with over 100 citations including Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in Science & Engineering, and Outstanding People of the 21st Century, as well as honorary membership on boards of several biographical institutions.

**Paola Diana** is an entrepreneur, bestselling author and philanthropist. She is the Founder and Chairman of Diana Group, leader in the recruitment and lifestyle management sector, through its subsidiaries: Sigillus, Nanny & Butler and SupremePA, which have been recognised in The Spear's 500 as one of London's most influential service providers for high net worth individuals. Paola has also established herself as one of the leading lights in the literary world as a result of her bestselling book: *'Saving the World. Women: the XXI's Century Factor for Change'*. Paola regularly speaks at conferences and she contributes regularly to TV and radio in the UK and Italy.

**Frank Floessel** is a serial entrepreneur and investor. He holds a master degree in electrical engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, where he cofounded his first venture, a student run Junior Enterprise. After graduating he started his next company, a Swiss-based human resource and customer care company with 600 employees. After hiring a CEO in 2013 he spent time investing and exploring in the Swiss Fintech industry until, in 2015, he exited his company after 17 years. Following the exit, Frank joined the family office network AskTheCircle as partner and CEO until December 2017.
Currently he is working on automated trading algorithms for crypto currencies and is raising capital for his hedge fund.

**Dr Claire Gordon** is Head of the Teaching and Learning Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She works at both strategic and operational levels at the School to enable the development of excellent educational practice and active student-centred approaches to learning and teaching in the social sciences. In 2017-2018 Claire led a university-wide review of undergraduate programmes. Claire's research interests include reward and recognition in higher education and the link to educational change, and developing research-based curricula to empower students in their learning.

**Dr Carola Hieker** currently sits on the Board of Advisors for Professors Without Borders. She is the MBA Director at Richmond, The American International University in London and is Professor of Organizational Behavior as well as a Senior Executive Coach with over 25 years of experience in leadership development. She is a founding partner for diversity-in-leadership and hilcoaching, and her main clients are global companies in the Financial Services Sector as well as Professional Services Firms. Her focus in research lies in coaching, leadership and diversity. Carola has university degrees as Diplom-Psychologin (corresponding to M.A. in Psychology) and Dr. Phil (corresponding to Ph.D. in Psychology.); she also completed a Diploma in Systemic Management at Birkbeck University and is an Ashridge Certified Supervisor (Master level).

**Chandni Hirani** is a research fellow at Professors Without Borders as well as a volunteer professor having taught negotiation and entrepreneurship skills at the African Rural University in Uganda. She is a social entrepreneur from Kenya. She is the Founder of Kilimanjaro Green Energy, a social enterprise focused on bringing solar lighting systems to micro-entrepreneurs across Kenya. Prior to this, she worked as a technology consultant at Accenture UK in London. She holds a BEng in Civil Engineering from the University of Manchester and has recently completed an MSc in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship from the London School of Economics.

**Anita Kouassigan** holds a BSc degree in Politics (University of Bristol), and graduated in the Post-Graduate Degree in Law and the Legal Practice Course (College of Law, London). She also sits on the board of Trustees of the Aplori Foundation (AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute). She is a serial small-business entrepreneur, with her focus areas being Recruitment/Human Capital, Publishing & Media, Events, Fundraising and Pro Bono projects. She recently launched a new media brand and platform: Investing In Women, which is in the business of hosting events on behalf of charities, who may need assistance in PR & Communications, Marketing, and Networking - outside of their usual pool of contacts. The Investing In Women brand extends to CSR and D&I, as well as collaborations with charities. In terms of Education, she's an advocate for charities that fight against child marriage as this prevents girl's from getting an education.

**Guilherme Lichand** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Economics, and Research Director of the Center for Child Wellbeing and Development at the University of Zurich. He uses lab-in-the-field experiments to study the impacts of poverty on decision-making. He also combines natural experiments and randomized control trials to study corruption and state capacity. Guilherme holds a PhD in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University, and has been acknowledged by MIT Technology Review as Brazil's top under-35 social innovator in 2014.

**Anjum Malik** is an international education consultant, presenter and entrepreneur. She creates and manages organizations that enhance the global competence of professionals and students. Anjum contributes to the field of international education in her advisory role to multiple educational and cultural outreach programs and frequent presentations at international education conferences. Anjum was a Professor of Political Science at MKP India and the Director of Global Marketing and Public Relations for the Global Initiative for Education at Leadership at the University of Texas at Austin. She currently holds several leadership positions including Managing Partner of the Alhambra US Chamber, VP of the HOFT Institute, Honorary Ambassador of the Polish network of women's entrepreneurship, and is a Telemachus Mentor for the Global Thinkers Forum.

**James Monckton** After completing his degree in philosophy and theology, Jamie travelled to Syria and Jordan for a year studying Arabic. Following that he attended the Royal Military Academy of Sandhurst where he commissioned into the Coldstream Guards. After a combat tour of Afghanistan, Jamie was promoted to Captain and moved across to the information and influence brigade of the army. After just a couple of months at 77 Brigade he was seconded to the UK Special Forces to lead and conduct information, influence and resistance operations in Iraq and Syria. Jamie now works as a director in an intelligence, research and strategic communications agency on Whitehall in London

**Pansiri Phansuwan** has been working in higher education in Thailand for more than 30 years. Her former positions as chairman for many famous educational sectors over many years show that she has devoted to country's educational development granted by many awards she had received. In her 60s, she is very energetic, visionary and still working on academic affairs and education, not only in university level but also in national level as she presently in charge of Subcommittee on Higher Education and Vocational Education in the Committee on Education and Sport of National Assembly under the royal government of Thailand.

**Geeta Sidhu-Robb** is an author, speaker, CEO and Founder of Nosh Detox. Her frequent media appearances on Print, Radio and National TV have given her a strong media profile as an expert on Natural Health & Lifestyle Solutions and Women's Leadership issues. Geeta gave up her career as a corporate lawyer to set up her own business, Nosh Detox in 2008. She has applied her passion for health to improve performance to help over 15,0000 clients. Recently she expanded into Wellness in Corporate Programmes with speaking engagements at Warner Music, Morgan Stanley, Barclays, State Street and the House of Commons. She has also created numerous JV's with among others Quintessentially and Wall Street Journal. Geeta has taken home Entrepreneur and Business Women of the Year awards in 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2017 and a Champion of Women award in 2017 along with 13 other awards for the business.

**Manish Singh** is Chief Investment officer (CIO) at Crossbridge Capital in London overseeing over $3.5 billion in multi-asset investments. He has previously worked at Societe General and at UBS Investment Bank. Manish is an expert in global macroeconomics and finance and is interviewed regularly on CNBC, Bloomberg TV. Manish holds a Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai, India; a Masters degree in Finance & Management from Cranfield School of Management, UK; and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter holder. Manish has a very keen interest in government policy with a focus on economy and education. He was Head of Policy Research (2007-10) at Conservative City Future, a Policy Research Group of the Conservative Party of the UK. He is an ex-member of the Milken Institute Young leaders circle (YLC).

**Scott Smith,** the author of *A New Operating System For the American Economy* is an engaging speaker on futuristic technologies and their influence on the future of education. Scott is the co-founder of two nationally acclaimed charter schools in the U.S. and *Kidz Magazine*, whose content was created entirely by students with a readership of five million students in over 30 countries. He was a pioneer of structured finance on Wall Street and is the founder of several top technology companies in cloud computing and the Internet of Things. Smith ran a presidential campaign in the 2016 U.S. elections as an independent candidate. His campaign platform placed a major focus on reforms to the U.S. tax system.

**Sipim Sornbanlang** received her Ph.D. and M.P.S. in International Relations from Chulalongkorn University, while earlier obtaining a B.A. in English from Chiang Mai University. She has extensive experience working in the public and private sector, with companies and government agencies, and more recently has entered academia as a lecturer at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok. Over the past couple of years Sipim has served as a guest lecturer and moderator at many workshops and seminars dealing with migration, security issues for migrant workers, human trafficking, and globalization and its effects on countries and people living in Thailand and other southeast Asian countries. Currently, Sipim is working to expand Prowibo's presence in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia to bring quality educational experiences to students in rural areas.

**Dr. James Strong** is a lecturer in British Politics at Queen Mary University of London and member of the Mile End Institute. He joined the School of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary in September 2017. He previously spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of International Relations at LSE, where he received his PhD in 2012. He spent the 2012-2013 academic year as Head of the Director's Office at LSE, working directly for LSE Director and President Craig Calhoun. In an earlier life he worked as a graduate trainee at KPMG LLP, specialising in US and UK personal tax. His research looks at the domestic politics of British foreign policy, including how public opinion, media debate and parliamentary politicking shape the context for decision making.

**Eithne Treanor** runs a specialist media consultancy company based in Dubai. She is an expert media and communications trainer, a professional conference moderator and facilitator and a seasoned energy industry commentator. Eithne acts as OPEC's official on-air conference and webcast moderator. She worked as an international television journalist for ABC News, Sky News, BBC World, and CNBC Europe and she was instrumental in the launch of Bloomberg TV in Europe. Eithne has interviewed thousands of leading politicians, dignitaries, energy ministers and high-ranking business people around the world. She has run her successful Media Training business from Dubai for more than 12 years and she has coached at Government Ministerial and CEO level throughout the region.

**Dr. Caroline Varin** is a co-founder of Professor Without Borders. She holds a Ph.D. in International Relations and an M.Sc. in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics, an LL.M. in International Law from the Universita di Bologna, Italy and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Caroline completed her military service in Switzerland as a medic and worked with the UNHCR in Jordan. As a lecturer in International Relations at Regent's University London, Caroline designs and teaches a variety of courses ranging from 'Theatre and Politics' to 'African Politics'. She has also written a number of articles on international security issues and has published three books. Caroline develops the programs, recruits and trains the lecturers and builds the pedagogical material for the summer schools. In the next five years, she will lead PROWIBO's expansion to reach out to students from all over the world to help them achieve their potential for both themselves and their country.

**Patrick Wheeler** is a cybersecurity practitioner originating from California's Silicon Valley and San Francisco, focusing on programs securing the global financial sector. A naturalized Belgian he contributes to alleviating the critical cyber skills shortage and building a diverse next-generation cyber workforce via CyberWayFinder. Patrick also leads business and executive 'cyber-uplift' programs and masterclasses. His credentials include Environmental and Civil Engineer, a BSCEE, and MBA and job titles including IS Director, VP of Operations, Security Architect and Chief Security Officer.