Societal Issues Innovation Outlook

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Risk&Security

- Will disputes over natural resources become the next big issue for global conflicts?
- Legislation and society lags behind scientific and technological advances
- Privacy protection issues vs. security demands
- How to balance the need for innovation with the precautionary principle and risk avoidance?
- Will a society of mutual mistrust emerge?
- DIY movement gets larger and more sophisticated - universal open access or a threat for business and security?
- The possibility of faking of DNA evidence and biometric data causes challenges for security and criminology
- Trust in e-government
- War over resources (incl. food and water)

Ethics/Legal

- Personhood debate - are all humans persons and can only humans be persons?
- Legal status of persons in (still hypothetical) suspended animation
- Robots for healthcare - ethical?
- Social, legal and ethical implications of human-like AI and robots
- Blurring border between living and non-living, natural and artificial causes irritation
- What does communication with machines mean for human/social interaction?
- New reliability issues caused by intelligent technologies and complex human-machine interrelations
- Legal issues about the use of neuro-data and neurotechnology for security, in court and in criminology
- ELSI of Human Enhancement Technologies
- Medical advances and redefinitions of the beginning and end of human life
- Legal issues and international challenges of space and deep ocean mining

Social Life/Interaction

- The implications of a “telepathic society” caused by neurotechnologies (e.g. ‘mind reading BCIs’)
- Will we rely and depend too much on technology
- The biologisation of society?
- The impact of robot toys on child development
- The future of human interaction in face of virtualisation
- Lifelogging - digitally recording and storing ones whole life
- HET and the future of social competition
- Hyper-individualisation?
- The impact of virtual reality on human perception of ‘reality’ and the societal impacts
- Labour monitoring - intrusion of privacy or improvement of productivity?
- Is the eco-wave lasting?
- The impact of global collaboration
- Adapting work structures towards new lifestyle concepts
- Social challenges of long-tern space trips
- Environmental refugees
- Feminism - the discrimination of men?

Research/Education

- The need for interdisciplinarity
- X-Prize and donation-based research - new ways to initiate and finance innovation
- Will AI/robots replace human workers - and are knowledge workers next?

Finance & Business

- How should preventative measures and human enhancement technologies be financed?
- How to finance future healthcare?
- Neuromarketing
- Will Artificial Intelligence run the future economy (automatic yield management plus automatic price comparison)
- The social impact of the 24 hour economy