



# The world is changing We need to talk

We need to have  
Brave Conversations

**BANGALORE | FEBRUARY 12 2020**

In association with International Institute of Information  
Technology Bangalore, the British Deputy High Commission  
Bengaluru, the Web Science Institute and the Web Science Trust

## Humans, Values, Technology - Web Science in Practice

Brave Conversations was created to bring thinking around Web Science and the Social Machine to mainstream conversations that occur in everyday life. Its objective is to demystify the world of emerging technologies and enable an exploration of the impact that these technologies will have on our selves, our communities, our societies and our planet.

We have partnered with IIIT Bangalore, the Deputy British High Commission, the Web Science Institute and the Web Science Trust to bring Brave Conversations to Bangalore in 2020. This builds on the global network that we have already created and gives us the chance to have these conversations in India for the first time.

We deliberately create a space where everyone can be brave, can say the things that they know need to be said, and be prepared to apply intellectual rigour to challenging ideas that might take us to

uncomfortable places. Most importantly we tailor Brave Conversations to the particular context we are working in so that no two Brave Conversations are ever the same.

### Background

In 2008 a group of people from industry, government, academia, and the community sectors came together to create the first the **Meta** conference in Australia which sought to provide a forum for people to discuss and debate the emerging issues related to humans and their use of digital technologies.

At about the same time a group of luminaries from the Web world were creating **Web Science** in order to focus interdisciplinary research on precisely the same thing.

In 2017 these two groups came together to create Brave Conversations.

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**“We shape our technologies and forever after they shape us.”**

- Marshall McLuhan

## The Evolving Web

The Web dominates how most of us interact with each other and with the societies in which we live. It has provided new digital platforms which have given rise to the largest companies of the modern era; it has enabled massive societal change on a global scale, and it is facilitating powerful new socio-technical systems which are changing the very notion of human research, science and potentially human evolution.

We can feel that things are changing all around us, but

- How often do we find the time to step back in a space with others from diverse backgrounds, knowledge, perspectives and skills, to critically examine what is happening around us?
- How often do we engage in a robust and challenging dialogue and debate about what sort of future we want to create for ourselves and for future generations?
- How often do we feel that our opinions are respected, that we have the space to imagine real possibilities, and that we can take some proactive control of the world that is emerging?

## Objectives

The goal of Brave Conversations is to challenge and also empower everyone who participates. There is no pre-requisite of knowledge or expertise, and we seek to encourage as diverse a group of participants as possible from all walks of life, ages and stages.

We will explore the decisions that we make on a minute by minute basis and impact us all on a personal, community, societal and planetary level, in order to make explicit how our engagement with social technologies is changing everything.

We are all responsible for the world we are creating. It is time we were empowered to make it better rather than blindly feeling over-whelmed. In order to do this we need to learn from each other, play with ideas, and ask the questions that are both confronting and will take us to uncomfortable, yet important places.

## How it works

The best way to learn is through the experience of playing with ideas. Brave Conversations works through creating small teams of diverse participants who critically examine themselves and their societies through the lens of systems, communications, governance and technology. It is designed to ensure participants are heard, can all contribute and feel comfortable to challenge the status quo.

## Brave Conversations Bangalore

In association with the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore, the British Deputy High Commission Bengaluru, the Web Science Institute, University of Southampton, and the Web Science Trust.

**WHEN** February 12 2020, 9am - 5pm

**WHERE** IIIT-Bangalore  
Bengaluru, India 560100

**Conference Room** in the main Administrative Block near Reception, please follow signs. Limited parking available.

**WSL:** [wsl.iiitb.ac.in](http://wsl.iiitb.ac.in)

## REGISTER NOW

**Registration:** <https://forms.gle/xdh3KTZV386KLUJP8>

**Info:** [www.braveconversations.org/bangalore-2020](http://www.braveconversations.org/bangalore-2020)

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