



# The world is changing We need to talk

We need to have  
Brave Conversations

FRIDAY 14 AND SATURDAY 15 AUGUST, 2020  
TO BE HELD ONLINE

Humans, Values, Technology  
Web Science in Practice

The Pandemic has been a great leveler all around the World. Most of the global population has been in some form of 'Lockdown' or isolation over the past six months - many have lost their livelihoods, many have been separated from loved ones, everyone has been impacted one way or another. But, for the first time in human history, we have known what a 'Pandemic' is and we have been globally connected by the wonderful technologies called the Internet and the Web.

Following on from our first fully Virtual Brave Conversations held in July 2020 we are now using the opportunity afforded by the Covid Corridor to experiment with new ways of bringing Brave Conversations to people we would otherwise be unable to reach, and to connect them with each other in a way that would have previously been impossible.

Whilst we each have our own unique story of life in the AnthroPause, we all have a collective story of how humanity is learning to navigate new ways of being,

doing, working, communicating and surviving. It is these stories that we hope will emerge during this Brave Conversations held in two languages - English for the plenary sessions, and then Arabic for the Breakouts so that we can harness the potential of a virtual event but make it as easy as possible to converse and share.

There will be challenges of connectivity and bandwidth; each person will have their own way of interacting, but collectively we will have the opportunity to craft something where we can all learn from each other and perhaps learn something about ourselves.

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

**"And in today, already walks tomorrow."**  
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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## Background

In 2008 a group of people from industry, government, academia, and the community sectors came together to create the first Brave Conversations (then called the Meta conference) to create 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.

Since that time the world has changed and in the last few months has changed almost beyond recognition!

We can all feel that the world ahead is very different from the world behind and for many we have had the time to step back and consider what this might mean.

Brave Conversations will seek to provide all with the opportunity to engage in a robust and challenging dialogue and debate with others from diverse backgrounds about what sort of future we want to create now that the world as we know it has been upended.

“We ... need to be prepared for the internet that we know to evolve unpredictably, and work to ensure that it remains beneficial for humankind.” Professor Dame Wendy Hall & Dr Kieron O’Hara, “Four Internets: The Geopolitics of Digital Governance”

## BRAVE CONVERSATIONS ARABIC

**WHEN** Friday 14 and Saturday 15 August, 2020

From 8 pm to 11 pm AEST

1 pm - 4 pm Palestine time, 10 am to 1 pm GMT

**WHERE** Online - Logon details will be sent to all

## REGISTRATION

**This is an Invitation Only event**

**Please reply to whomever sent you this**

## Objectives

The goal of Brave Conversations is to challenge everyone who participates - regardless of what background they come from, or what their skillset and expertise are - to more fully explore and understand the interplay between humans, the technologies we have created and the societies which will emerge from the Pandemic.

We want to empower people to think about what their future lives might be like as a result of this global reset, and to embrace the opportunity to make it all worthwhile through making more informed choices as to how we participate as commercial actors within the economy, and how we operate as digital citizens and exercise our political rights, and how we interact with our environment.

Each of those decisions begin on an individual human level - our bodies and our minds - and then emanates out to our families, communities, societies and from there to nation states. We are all responsible for the world we are creating and never has there been a time when we have more potential to influence the changes around us. But we need to be given the space for robust debate and respectful curiosity, learning from each other, playing with ideas, and asking the questions that are both confronting and potentially will take us to uncomfortable places.

## How it works

The best way to learn is through experience and the act of playing with ideas.

We have deliberately chosen to hold our first fully online Brave Conversations as a part of the 2020 Web Science Conference in Southampton in order to fully immerse ourselves in to the online world and explore both it’s limitations and its benefits. Themes will emerge which will include the Geopolitics of Digital Governance, the future of globalisation and inequality, and the further of work.

Brave Conversations will frame many of the subsequent conversations at the Web Science Conference but also be an opportunity to speak to a broader audience from all walks of life, and for the first time, on a global scale.