

WE@FutureChallenges

The futurechallenges.org core team at Bertelsmann Stiftung explains what futurechallenges.org means to them personally.



Henrik Scheller



Ole Wintermann



Bettina Neuhaus



Yvonne Eich



Thieß Petersen



Malte Boecker



Jonathan Stevens



Xu Ting

Henrik Scheller

FutureChallenges is both a chance and a privilege. The Bertelsmann Stiftung gives me the opportunity to think about the current and future risks our planet is facing. At the same time I have the personal freedom to create and provide concepts on how to tackle them. To collaborate with a wide range of partners, to bring people with multiple backgrounds together and to shape a great team is a thrilling task. Our commitment: to make the world a better place. Being aware that it is only a small contribution, I am convinced that each step matters. We have to remember the future starts right in our own front yard and it is up to us to make and drive the change.

Ole Wintermann

When developing futurechallenges.org, I became more and more aware of what an amazing environment the Internet is. With its decentralized structure and self-organizing capability, it poses an on-going challenge to existing processes, eternal truths and well-defined structures.

Bettina Neuhaus

What I find really satisfying is solving all the knotty logistic problems involved in bringing people from all over the world together in a particular spot at a particular time. Because it's not enough that people simply understand one another – what we have also to deliver are creative inspirational ways of sharing ideas and knowledge and working on joint projects to make the world a better place.

Yvonne Eich

During my studies a class in global history caught me. It was all about the idea to rewrite the Eurocentric narrative of the 19th century within a global frameset and a global version of history occurred to me. The intertwining and interrelations of cultures started long before so-called globalization. I hope that futurechallenges.org will help me to get a better understanding of what ONE common future might mean.

Thieß Petersen

Working as an economist on the correlations between the megatrends, when I was writing the Globalpedia-articles for FutureChallenges, led me to many new insights about how complex the world's economy is. This has led me to increasingly question whether the macro-economic growth-model, which was used over the last decades, fits the needs of the 21th century.

Malte Boecker

FutureChallenges is a great opportunity to reflect on the nature and magnitude of the future challenges lying ahead in a structured way. Ultimately, it will encourage all of us who are involved to become part of the solution. My gut feeling is that the platform will call for behavioral changes at various levels. FutureChallenges urges us to redefine what quality of life, real economic growth and progress mean to us and to work on solutions that shift our behavior in the right direction.

Jonathan Stevens

Working on the Megatrend meta-analysis, as part of the FutureChallenges project, has given me a renewed perspective of, and appreciation for, the intricacies that define our future. Like my past work in Epidemiology and Biostatistics where we examined the direct and indirect causes of disease, looking at the six seemingly independent “mega” trends and how they influence one another has been both personally and professionally fascinating.”

Xu Ting

Shaping a Globalized World project enabled me to broaden my perspective and understanding of important global issues. I have come to realize, more than ever, the important role of EU-Asia-US; as well as the necessity of the trilateral partnership in accomplishing major global initiatives.