



Global Catastrophic Risks

Conference, Oxford, Saïd Business School, 17–20 July, 2008

Rhodes Trust Lecture theatre

Thursday, 17 July

- 6.00–6.15pm **Registration** in the Saïd Business School entrance hall
- 6.15pm–7.20pm **Keynote lecture**
Sir Crispin Tickell, 'Humans: Past, Present and Future'
- 7.20pm **Book launch** and wine reception: *Global Catastrophic Risks*, eds. Nick Bostrom and Milan Cirkovic (OUP), Saïd Business School entrance hall

Friday, 18 July

- 09.30–10am **Coffee** and welcome
- 10.00 Introductory words by **Nick Bostrom**
- Theme: Contexts
- 10.30 **Jonathan Wiener**, 'The Tragedy of the Uncommons'
- 11.20 **Pause**
- 11.25 **Eliezer Yudkowsky**, 'Rationally Considering the End of the World'
- 12.15 **Pause**
- 12.20 **Michelangelo Mangano**, 'Expected and Unexpected in the Exploration of the Fundamental Laws of Nature'
- 1.10 **Lunch**
- 2.00 **James Hughes**, 'Avoiding Millennialist Cognitive Biases'
- 2.50 **Pause**
- 2.55 **Peter Taylor**, 'Insurance and Catastrophes'
- 3.45 **Coffee**

4.05	Christopher Wills , 'Disasters, Ecological Diversity, and the Future of Humanity'
4.55	Pause
5.00	Robin Hanson , 'Catastrophe, Social Collapse, and Human Extinction'
5.50	End of day

Evening Optional Event: Conference Dinner, at St Benet's Hall (see 'optional events' sheet for details)

7.30	Pre-dinner drinks
8.00	Dinner

Saturday, 19 July

09.30-10am	Coffee
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Theme: Nature

10.00	David Morrison , 'Cosmic Impacts: The Most Extreme Global Catastrophes'
10.45	Pause
10.50	Arnon Dar , 'Cosmic Threats'
11.35	Pause
11.40	William Napier , 'Hazards from Comets and Asteroids'
12.25	Lunch
1.15	Fred Adams , 'Into the Dark: The Long Term Future of our Dying Universe'
2.05	Pause
2.10	John Oxford , 'Social, Scientific and Medical Lessons from the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918'

3.00 Pause

3.05 **Ali Nouri**, 'Biotechnology and Biosecurity: Preventing Risks While Preserving Benefits'

3.55 Pause

Theme: Hostile Acts

4.00 **Joseph Cirincione**, 'The Continuing Threat of Nuclear War'

4.55 Pause

5.00 **William Potter and Gary Ackerman**, 'Catastrophic Nuclear Terrorism: A Preventable Peril'

6.05 End of day

Evening Optional Event

7.00–8.45pm **Punting and Picnic.** Meet at Magdalen Bridge punt station (see 'optional events' sheet for details)

Sunday, 20 July

09.30 **Steve Rayner**, 'Culture and the Credibility of Catastrophe'

10.20 Pause

Theme: Unintended Consequences

10.25 **Eliezer Yudkowsky**, '(Artificial) Intelligence: The Wild Card'

11.15 Coffee

11.35 **Mike Treder and Chris Phoenix**, 'Small Machines, Big Choices: The Looming Impacts of Molecular Manufacturing'

12.20 **Rafaela Hillerbrand, Anders Sandberg and Toby Ord**, 'Probing the Improbable: Methodological Challenges for Risks with Low Probabilities and High Stakes'

1.00 Lunch

- 1.50 Dave Frame, 'Climate Change, Catastrophe and Uncertainty'
- 2.40 Milan Cirkovic: closing words
- 3.00 Close