Digital Transformation Speaker Event

Embracing a digital future: ways of working and future tech

Wednesday 31 October 2018, 2-3.30pm

Lecture Theatre B, Simon Building, University of Manchester
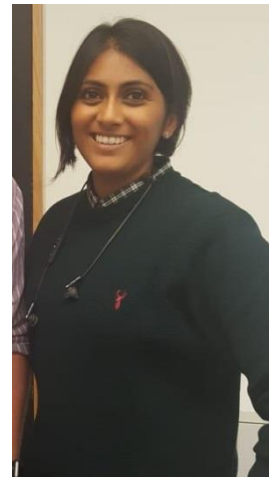
Three inspirational speakers who are experts in the areas of future technology and new ways of working will share their collective experiences of transformation and change. Each speaker is from a different industry and will do a short presentation, followed by panel discussion and questions from the audience.

Speaker Biographies

Mindy Jhakra - Technology Manager at Expedia Group

Mindy Jhakra is a Technology Manager at Expedia Group. She started her career as a head hunter, recruiting developers into software houses before making the jump into the industry herself. Some achievements include leading a nation-wide connectivity programme across 1,200 retailers, her talks at Women in Technology conferences, and rolling out a digital loyalty programme across Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Mindy pairs her background in Psychology with her insights from working in London's Silicon Roundabout to make sense of the Sapiens' place in this ever changing, tech environment. Apart from currently building high performing teams in London and Budapest, Mindy's interests include astronomy, social justice and travelling.

Challenges in Tech

I believe the greatest challenge facing Technology right now is the sheer pace at which things are changing. Organisations that cannot handle change die out, and those that are set up to listen and respond to change, survive. This offers us a multitude of opportunities that span from using technologies that are more responsive to working on creating safe, test and learn team cultures.

Christopher Barnatt – Futurist, keynote speaker and freelance academic

Christopher Barnatt is a futurist, keynote speaker and freelance academic having spent 25 years teaching computing and future studies in the University of Nottingham. He managed IT support and systems development teams in the Business School for over 15 years, and often worked with central IT/IS staff on university IS/IT admin and projects.

Chris is the author of thirteen books including "Digital Genesis: The Future of Computing, Robots and AI", "3D Printing: Third Edition" and "The Next Big Thing". He writes for and maintains ExplainingTheFuture.com which provides information on future challenges, trends and technologies, both on the website and via its YouTube channel.

Suzie McFarlane – Technology Leader at ASOS

Suzie leads teams at [ASOS](#) who are driving the agenda to enable them to become a truly 'Data Driven' organisation that puts data at the heart of its business decision making. By leveraging new Cloud technology, her teams build the Data Platform for ASOS Advanced Analytics, enabling the business to create greater and faster insight across multiple departments and regions.

Suzie hasn't always worked in Data – starting out her technical career seventeen years ago as a COBOL programmer. She built a foundation that has taken her on a varied and fascinating technology journey, from delivering financial crime systems for RBS to recruitment websites and global customer demand profiling applications for Tesco.

She has a passion for personal development and diversity in technology teams, believing they drive better technological solutions and higher business benefit.

Suzie studied Business Information Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University and is looking forward to returning to Manchester.