



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**

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