

**MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report**

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New Strategies and Platforms for Data, Logistics, and Finance

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February 18, 2021 12:00 pm - 1:00  
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12:00pm - 1:00pm

Fireside Chat on Global Strategy for AI and Data

Alex Pentland  
Toshiba Professor  
Professor of Media Arts and Sciences  
Head, [Human Dynamics Research Group](#)



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Alex "Sandy" Pentland directs MIT's Connection Science initiative and the MIT Media Lab Entrepreneurship Program and is a founding member of advisory boards for the World Economic Forum, AT&T, Telefonica, United Nations, and Nissan. He previously helped create and direct MIT's Media Laboratory, the Media Lab Asia laboratories at the Indian Institutes of Technology, and Strong Hospital's Center for Future Health.

Forbes magazine declared Pentland "one of the seven most powerful data scientists in the world," along with the founders of Google and the CTO of the United States. Pentland is among the most-cited computational scientists in the world, and a pioneer in big data analytics, computational social science, organizational engineering, and wearable computing. His research has been featured in *Nature*, *Science*, the World Economic Forum, and *Harvard Business Review*, as well as being the focus of TV features including "Nova" and "Scientific American Frontiers." His most recent books are *Social Physics*, and *Trust :: Data*.

Interesting experiences include winning the DARPA 40th Anniversary of the Internet Grand Challenge, dining with British Royalty and the President of India, staging fashion shows in Paris, Tokyo, and New York, and developing a method for counting beavers from space.

[View full bio](#)

David Shrier  
Professor of Practice, AI & Innovation, Imperial College Business School



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David Shrier is a globally recognized authority on technology innovation, serial entrepreneur and corporate innovator, and author. He is a Professor of Practice (AI & Innovation) with Imperial College London, and holds a secondary appointment with the University of Oxford.

David specializes in helping established organizations to act strategically to build new revenue and new markets. He has developed \$9 billion of growth opportunities with C-suite executives, particularly in data-driven businesses related to the financial services sector. He has led a number of private equity and venture capital-backed companies as CEO, CFO or COO, in either interim or full-time capacities, and has cofounded four AI-enabled MIT spinouts including Esme Learning Solutions ([www.EsmeLearning.com](http://www.EsmeLearning.com)). David's books on AI, distributed ledger and identity include *Trusted Data* (with Alex Pentland and Thomas Hardjono, MIT Press, 2019), *Basic Blockchain* (Little Brown, 2020) and the forthcoming *Augmenting Your Career* (Little Brown, 2021).

Douglas Kim  
Connection Science Fellow, MIT Connection Science



