

jaron lanier who owns the future

Jaron Lanier: Who Owns the Future?

jaron lanier who owns the future is a phrase that invites us to explore the intersection of technology, economics, and society through the eyes of one of the most thought-provoking thinkers of our time. Jaron Lanier, a computer scientist, virtual reality pioneer, and author, has been deeply influential in shaping how we understand the digital age's impact on human life and the economy. His insights challenge us to rethink the ownership and distribution of the immense wealth created by the digital revolution.

If you've ever wondered who truly controls the future shaped by technology, Jaron Lanier's perspectives provide a compelling roadmap. He goes beyond the obvious tech giants and delves into the underlying structures that dictate who benefits from innovation and data. Let's take a closer look at Lanier's ideas and why they matter in today's rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Jaron Lanier: A Visionary at the Crossroads of Technology and Society

Jaron Lanier is not your typical technologist. While many are dazzled by the promise of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and big data, Lanier approaches these topics with both awe and caution. As one of the early pioneers of virtual reality, he understands the power of immersive technology firsthand. But his work goes far beyond VR hardware.

His books, such as **Who Owns the Future?**, lay out a critical examination of how digital networks impact wealth distribution and social structures. Lanier argues that the current system, dominated by large corporations harvesting user data for profit, is creating economic inequality and undermining individual agency.

Understanding “Who Owns the Future?”

The phrase “who owns the future” encapsulates a vital question: in an era where data is the new currency, who controls this resource? Lanier’s answer is nuanced. Unlike traditional ownership models—where physical assets are owned by individuals or companies—digital assets like data and algorithms are often controlled by massive platforms without direct compensation to the individuals generating that data.

Lanier warns that this concentration of control threatens not only economic fairness but also innovation and privacy. The major players in Silicon Valley have built business models relying heavily on capturing and monetizing user information, often with little transparency or benefit to the users themselves.

The Economics of Attention and Data: Lanier’s Critique

One of the key concepts Jaron Lanier explores is the “economics of attention.” In the digital age, companies compete fiercely for our attention because it translates directly into revenue. Social media platforms, search engines, and content aggregators rely on algorithms designed to keep users engaged — often at the cost of quality information and genuine interaction.

Lanier sees this as a deep problem. The commodification of attention leads to a feedback loop where sensationalism and divisiveness thrive, undermining public discourse and democracy.

Data as Labor: A New Economic Model

To address this imbalance, Lanier proposes an intriguing alternative: treating data as labor. Instead of giving away personal information for free, individuals should be compensated for the data they produce. This model would decentralize power and create a fairer digital economy where everyone

benefits from the value their information generates.

This idea has sparked conversations across technology and policy circles, inspiring new approaches to data privacy, ownership, and monetization. By reframing data as a form of labor, Lanier challenges the status quo and offers a path toward economic justice in the digital era.

The Role of Virtual Reality and Human-Centered Technology

Lanier's background as a virtual reality pioneer gives him a unique perspective on the potential of technology to enhance human experience. Unlike many tech visionaries who focus solely on automation and AI, Lanier advocates for technology that augments human creativity and connection.

He envisions virtual reality and other immersive technologies as tools to empower individuals rather than replace them. This human-centered approach emphasizes ethics, empathy, and inclusivity in tech development.

Ethical Implications and Digital Humanism

Beyond economics, Jaron Lanier stresses the importance of maintaining humanity in an increasingly digital world. His concept of digital humanism calls for technology that respects human dignity and fosters meaningful social bonds.

This philosophy challenges the dehumanizing tendencies of some digital platforms and encourages designers, engineers, and policymakers to prioritize ethical considerations. It's a reminder that technology is not just about efficiency or profit but about enhancing our shared human experience.

Jaron Lanier's Influence on the Future of Technology Policy

Lanier's ideas have resonated far beyond the tech community. Policymakers and activists are increasingly grappling with questions of data privacy, antitrust regulation, and digital rights that Lanier has championed for years. His work serves as a foundation for discussions about how to regulate powerful tech companies and protect individual freedoms.

Practical Steps Toward a Fairer Digital Economy

While some of Lanier's proposals may seem idealistic, they offer concrete starting points for reform:

- **Data Dividends:** Creating mechanisms where users receive payments for their data usage.
- **Decentralization:** Promoting technologies and platforms that distribute control rather than concentrating it.
- **Transparency:** Demanding clear policies on how data is collected, used, and shared.
- **Ethical Design:** Encouraging developers to prioritize user well-being over engagement metrics.

These ideas are gaining traction as societies worldwide seek to balance innovation with fairness and privacy protections.

Why Jaron Lanier's Perspective Matters Today

In an era dominated by rapid technological change, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of new gadgets and algorithms. However, Jaron Lanier's work serves as an important reminder that technology's future isn't predetermined. It is shaped by choices about ownership, ethics, and social responsibility.

By asking **jaron lanier who owns the future**, we are invited to consider who benefits from the digital transformation and how to create a more equitable world. His call for recognizing data as labor and building human-centered technology offers a hopeful vision—one where technology serves humanity rather than exploiting it.

Whether you're a tech enthusiast, policymaker, or everyday user, engaging with Lanier's ideas can help you better understand the stakes involved in our digital future and inspire actions toward a fairer, more inclusive technology landscape.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Jaron Lanier, the author of 'Who Owns the Future?'

Jaron Lanier is a computer scientist, virtual reality pioneer, and author known for his critical views on digital technology and its social impacts. He wrote 'Who Owns the Future?' to explore the economic and societal consequences of the digital age.

What is the main thesis of 'Who Owns the Future?' by Jaron Lanier?

The main thesis of 'Who Owns the Future?' is that the current digital economy disproportionately rewards large companies that control data, while devaluing individual contributions. Lanier proposes a new economic model where individuals are paid for the data they generate.

How does Jaron Lanier propose to fix the digital economy in 'Who

Owens the Future?'

Lanier suggests implementing a system of micropayments where users are compensated for their data and online contributions, creating a more equitable distribution of wealth and preventing monopolistic control by tech giants.

What criticisms does Jaron Lanier make about big tech companies in 'Who Owns the Future?'

Lanier criticizes big tech companies for exploiting user data without fair compensation, leading to wealth concentration, loss of privacy, and erosion of middle-class jobs due to automation and data monopolies.

How does 'Who Owns the Future?' relate to the concept of data ownership?

The book argues that data ownership is crucial in the digital economy. Lanier advocates for individuals to have control and ownership over their personal data to ensure they benefit financially and socially from its use.

Why is 'Who Owns the Future?' considered relevant in today's technological landscape?

'Who Owns the Future?' remains relevant as issues of data privacy, digital monopolies, and fair compensation for online content are increasingly prominent. Lanier's insights provide a framework for addressing challenges posed by AI, big data, and platform economies.

Additional Resources

Jaron Lanier *Who Owns the Future: An Analytical Exploration of Digital Ownership and Power*

jaron lanier who owns the future is a question that transcends mere technological curiosity and delves deeply into the socio-economic fabric shaped by the digital age. Jaron Lanier, a pioneer of virtual reality and a critical voice in the discourse on digital culture, has extensively explored this theme in his influential book "Who Owns the Future?" Through his analysis, Lanier challenges prevailing paradigms about data ownership, economic inequality, and the concentration of power among digital platforms. This article investigates Lanier's perspective on digital ownership and its implications for the future of technology and society.

The Central Thesis of Jaron Lanier's "Who Owns the Future?"

At the heart of Lanier's argument is the assertion that the current digital economy disproportionately benefits a handful of powerful intermediaries—often referred to as “Siren Servers”—who collect vast amounts of data without adequately compensating the individuals generating this information. He critiques the prevailing business models of tech giants, which rely on harvesting user data to fuel advertising revenue and algorithmic control, creating a feedback loop of wealth concentration.

Lanier proposes a fundamentally different economic model, one that incentivizes the fair distribution of wealth by compensating individuals for their data contributions. This vision seeks to democratize ownership in the digital realm and restore agency to users who have become commodified in the modern internet landscape.

Jaron Lanier's Background and Influence

Lanier's credibility stems from his early work in virtual reality, where he coined the term and helped develop some of the first VR technologies. His technical expertise combined with a philosophical outlook enables him to critique the tech industry from both an insider and a societal perspective. His writings and lectures have influenced debates on digital ethics, artificial intelligence, and the economics of information technology.

Lanier's concerns about digital monopolies align with broader discussions about antitrust regulation, data privacy, and the future of work. His insights resonate in policy circles and academic debates, making "Who Owns the Future?" an essential reference for understanding the evolving digital ecosystem.

Analyzing the Economic Implications of Digital Data Ownership

The economic structure Lanier critiques is primarily characterized by the asymmetrical flow of value: users generate data, but the profits accrue to platforms such as Google, Facebook, Amazon, and others. This creates a new form of "digital feudalism," where a few Siren Servers control the digital commons while the majority remain data producers without equitable returns.

Lanier's advocacy for a "humanistic information economy" includes a system where micropayments for data sharing could empower individuals financially. This approach challenges the zero-price economy that dominates current digital services, which often masquerades as "free" but ultimately commodifies user attention and information.

Pros and Cons of Lanier's Proposed Model

- **Pros:**
 - Promotes economic fairness by redistributing wealth generated by data.
 - Empowers individuals with control over their digital footprint.
 - Encourages transparency and ethical data practices.

- **Cons:**

- Implementation complexity in integrating micropayment systems on a large scale.
- Potential resistance from entrenched tech monopolies.
- Risk of increased bureaucracy or transactional overhead in data exchanges.

Technological and Social Dimensions of Digital Ownership

Lanier's analysis extends beyond economics into the technological architecture underpinning the internet. He highlights how algorithms and network effects reinforce the dominance of certain platforms, making it difficult for smaller players to compete. This technological lock-in not only shapes economic outcomes but also influences cultural and political discourse.

Furthermore, Lanier raises ethical questions about privacy, surveillance, and autonomy. The concept of ownership in the digital age is complex, involving not just legal rights but control over identity, personal data, and the narratives constructed around individuals online.

Comparing Lanier's Views with Other Digital Theorists

While Lanier advocates for a decentralized and compensated data economy, other theorists propose alternative frameworks:

- **Shoshana Zuboff's Surveillance Capitalism:** Emphasizes how corporations exploit data for behavioral modification and profit, calling for regulatory intervention.
- **Evgeny Morozov's Critique of Tech Solutionism:** Warns against overreliance on technological fixes for complex social problems.
- **Cory Doctorow's Open Data Advocacy:** Supports open data access but stresses user privacy and rights.

Lanier's unique contribution lies in combining a practical economic model with a human-centered vision for technology's role in society.

Implications for Policy and Future Digital Landscapes

The question of "jaron lanier who owns the future" intersects significantly with emerging policy debates on data sovereignty, antitrust laws, and digital rights. Governments worldwide are grappling with how to regulate tech monopolies, protect user privacy, and foster innovation.

Lanier's model suggests that future regulations might focus on:

1. Establishing data as a form of personal property with enforceable rights.
2. Creating infrastructure for data payment mechanisms, facilitating fair compensation.
3. Encouraging platform interoperability to reduce monopolistic barriers.

Such policy directions could reshape the digital economy, making it more inclusive and sustainable.

The Role of Emerging Technologies

Technologies like blockchain, decentralized networks, and artificial intelligence could be pivotal in realizing Lanier's vision. Blockchain, for example, offers mechanisms for secure, transparent transactions that could underpin data micropayments. Similarly, decentralized social networks may reduce the power of centralized Siren Servers.

However, these technologies also bring challenges, including scalability, energy consumption, and governance issues that must be addressed to create a truly equitable digital future.

The ongoing debate about digital ownership and power highlights the importance of critical voices like Jaron Lanier's in steering the conversation toward more equitable frameworks. His work invites stakeholders—from technologists to policymakers, and users themselves—to reconsider who should hold the reins of the rapidly evolving digital frontier.

Jaron Lanier Who Owns The Future

jaron lanier who owns the future: Who Owns the Future? Jaron Lanier, 2013-05-07 The "brilliant" and "daringly original" (The New York Times) critique of digital networks from the "David Foster Wallace of tech" (London Evening Standard)—asserting that to fix our economy, we must fix our information economy. Jaron Lanier is the father of virtual reality and one of the world's most brilliant thinkers. Who Owns the Future? is his visionary reckoning with the most urgent economic and social trend of our age: the poisonous concentration of money and power in our digital networks. Lanier has predicted how technology will transform our humanity for decades, and his insight has never been more urgently needed. He shows how Siren Servers, which exploit big data and the free sharing of information, led our economy into recession, imperiled personal privacy, and hollowed out the middle class. The networks that define our world—including social media, financial institutions, and intelligence agencies—now threaten to destroy it. But there is an alternative. In this provocative, poetic, and deeply humane book, Lanier charts a path toward a brighter future: an information economy that rewards ordinary people for what they do and share on the web.

jaron lanier who owns the future: *Summary of Jaron Lanier's Who Owns the Future?* Everest Media,, 2022-05-09T22:59:00Z Please note: This is a companion version & not the original book. Sample Book Insights: #1 The price we pay for the illusion of free information is that most of the overall economy isn't about information. Eventually, most productivity will become

software-mediated. This could lead to a period of hyper-unemployment and political and social chaos. #2 People are becoming poorer than they need to be because popular digital designs do not treat people as being special enough in the digital world. People are treated as small elements in a bigger information machine when in fact people are the only sources or destinations of information. #3 The primary influence on the way technologists think about the future is their direct experience of digital networks through consumer electronics. As information technology becomes millions of times more powerful, any particular use of it becomes cheaper. #4 The cloud is driven by statistics, and even in the worst individual cases of personal ignorance, dullness, idleness, or irrelevance, every person is constantly feeding data into the cloud these days. The value of such information could be treated as genuine, but it is not.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Das Ende des Individuums Gaspard Koenig, 2021-09-09 Die philosophische Antwort auf die Herausforderung der Künstlichen Intelligenz Um herauszufinden, wie es um die Zukunft im Zeitalter der Künstlichen Intelligenz steht, begibt sich Gaspard Koenig auf eine Weltreise. In mehr als 120 Gesprächen mit Wissenschaftlern, Politikern, Unternehmern, Investoren, Aktivisten und einem Zauberer lotet er die künstliche und die menschliche Intelligenz aus. Er erforscht, was den freien Willen und die Werte der Aufklärung bedroht, und skizziert eine Politik, die dem Ende des Individuums begegnen kann. Wer nutzt heute noch einen Stadtplan, anstatt Google Maps? Dabei denken wir nicht daran, dass die KI hinter der App uns zum Wohle aller nicht immer auf den schnellsten Weg führt. KI kann süchtig machen und uns manipulieren. Ausgehend von unseren Daten analysiert sie unser Verhalten, personalisiert Empfehlungen, lenkt unsere Aufmerksamkeit. Klingt gruselig, ist aber längst Teil unseres Alltags. Wir lassen uns unsere Entscheidungen von Technologien abnehmen. Warum auch nicht, wenn sie für uns perfekte Partner oder passende Jobs findet, wenn sie uns besser kennt, als wir uns selbst? KI vereinfacht unser Leben, aber sie stellt uns auch vor grundlegende Fragen: Wird ein Computer meine Arbeit übernehmen? Wer haftet für die Entscheidungen der Maschine? Wieso klicke ich so oft auf »Akzeptieren«? Auf der Suche nach Antworten geht es Koenig um den Menschen, nicht um die Maschinen. Er will herausfinden, wie KI unsere Gesellschaft formt und wie wir sie formen müssen, um dem Ende des freien Willens und damit dem Ende des Individuums entgegentreten zu können.

jaron lanier who owns the future: An Executive Summary of Jaron Lanier's 'Who Owns the Future?' A. D. Thibeault, 2014-04-12 A full executive summary of 'Who Owns the Future?' by Jaron Lanier. This is not a chapter-by-chapter summary. Rather, the author takes an holistic approach, reorganizing and breaking down the content for easier understanding where necessary, and cutting out the repetition.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Metaversum Peter Hoffmann, 2025-07-02 Die Entwicklung des Internets, insbesondere des WWW, stößt aktuell an ihre Grenzen – sowohl technisch als auch sozio-kulturell und ökonomisch. Als Lösung wird ein neues Internet versprochen, das die Grenzen der realen und der virtuellen Welt überwinden und Realität und Digitalität verschmelzen soll – das Metaversum. Technische, semantische und organisatorische Details greifen hierzu eng ineinander. Was aber bedeutet dies bei genauerer Betrachtung? Welche technisch-technologischen Herausforderungen müssen bewältigt werden, um ein solches Verschmelzen zu erreichen? Welche ökonomischen Möglichkeiten eröffnen sich – und welche verbieten sich möglicherweise? Wie kann erreicht werden, dass ein offenes und für jeden benutzbares Metaversum entsteht? Und wie kann vermieden werden, dass auch in diesem neuen Metaversum wenige große Anbieter ihre proprietären Ideen durchsetzen? Für diese Fragen soll dieses Buch Antworten aufzeigen. In der vorliegenden Auflage wurden zudem aktuelle Trends sowie der Beitrag der künstlichen Intelligenz zum Metaversum ergänzt.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Das Kapital bin ich Hannes Grassegger, 2014-06-25 Das Manifest für alle Internet-Zweifler und Gegner der virtuellen Manipulation. Für alle, deren Fingerspitzen nur noch Touchscreens berühren, die in YouTube verloren gehen und sich Facebook ausgenommen fühlen. Für alle, die sich den AGBs von Google & Co nicht mehr fügen wollen. Es ist Zeit, sich aus der selbstverschuldeten Digitalen Leibeigenschaft zu befreien! Der Ökonom Hannes

Grassegger zeigt auf, wie wir zu einem neuen Selbstbewusstsein im Umgang mit unseren Daten finden und auch noch Geld daran verdienen.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Bitcoins und andere dezentrale Transaktionssysteme Elfriede Sixt, 2016-08-26 Dieses Buch beschreibt zum ersten Mal in deutscher Sprache umfassend die verschiedenen digitalen Währungen, das faszinierende Potenzial elektronischen Geldes sowie einer möglichen neuen Wirtschaftsordnung: Geld ist im Bitcoin-System ein programmierbarer Wert, geschützt durch Kryptotechnologien. Experten aus der Finanzbranche arbeiten heute gemeinsam mit Juristen, Wirtschaftsfachleuten und Softwareentwicklern intensiv an neuen kryptographischen Finanzprodukten. Die Erwartungen sind groß: es geht um die Hoffnung auf signifikante Effizienzgewinne und Anwendungsszenarien auf volkswirtschaftlicher und betriebswirtschaftlicher Ebene. Mit den neuen Finanzprodukten und -Dienstleistungen sollen Einzelpersonen, Organisationen und sogar Maschinen Transaktionen flexibler, effizienter und produktiver ausführen. Die Autorin gibt dem Leser einen umfassenden Wegweiser in die komplexe Gegenwart und mögliche Zukunft des Cybergeldes mit seinen Vor- und Nachteilen, Informationen über die praktischen Nutzungsmöglichkeiten, die rechtlichen Implikationen und den Schutz vor seinen Gefahren.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Der Geist aus der Maschine Andrian Kreye, 2024-03-20 Welche Zukunft hat der Mensch im digitalen Universum? Noch nie hat sich ein entscheidendes Kapitel der Menschheitsgeschichte so schnell vollzogen wie die digitale Revolution. Der renommierte Kulturjournalist Andrian Kreye hat den Aufstieg der digitalen Technologien von einer Subkultur der Programmierer, Wissenschaftler und utopischen Denker in den 1980er-Jahren zur kulturellen, sozialen und politischen Superkraft der Gegenwart genau verfolgt. Die Geschichte der digitalen Revolution beschreibt er nicht nur als Chronist eines Kulturwandels, sondern auch als Augenzeuge aus dem Blickwinkel des politischen Reporters. Ein spannendes und wichtiges Buch für das Heute an der Schwelle zu einem neuen digitalen Zeitalter.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Digital Enlightenment Now! Tim Cole, Ossi Urchs, 2015-03-05 During the Enlightenment of the 18th century societies in Europe threw off oppressive regimes, freed cities from the bondage of the medieval estate-based society, and defined a set of basic human rights that helped shape their sense of self to this day. Today, we as citizens of an increasingly digitized and networked world are in a similar situation. We, too, need the muster the confidence and creativity to rethink rules, values and categories that define our society and the courage to dare to think for ourselves, as Immanuel Kant, the father of modern Enlightenment, demanded in his famous dictum "sapere aude!"

jaron lanier who owns the future: Out of Sync & Out of Work Joel Burges, 2018-06-27 Out of Sync & Out of Work explores the representation of obsolescence, particularly of labor, in film and literature during a historical moment in which automation has intensified in capitalist economies. Joel Burges analyzes texts such as The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Wreck-It Ralph, Fantastic Mr. Fox, and Iron Council, and examines their "means" of production. Those means include a range of subjects and narrative techniques, including the "residual means" of including classic film stills in a text, the "obstinate means" of depicting machine breaking, the "dated means" of employing the largely defunct technique of stop-motion animation, and the "obsolete" means of celebrating a labor strike. In every case, the novels and films that Burges scrutinizes call on these means to activate the reader's/viewer's awareness of historical time. Out of Sync & Out of Work advances its readers' grasp of the complexities of historical time in contemporary culture, moving the study of temporality forward in film and media studies, literary studies, critical theory, and cultural critique.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Revolutions in Communication Bill Kovarik, 2025-09-18 This new and expanded edition of Revolutions in Communication, the 3rd edition, explores printing, imaging, electronic and digital media history within a framework of technological change and social impacts. Using key figures in history to benchmark the chronology of technical innovation, Kovarik's scholarship narrates the story of revolutions in printing, electronic communication and digital information, while drawing parallels between the past and present. This edition builds on the success of the previous two editions as a leading media history textbook. The 3rd edition includes: -

Digital media technology, impacts and expectations that have changed since 2015. - Updated and additional information that has become recently available, including: declassified histories of super-computers, the US news media's record on civil rights, Gutenberg's printing experiments in the 1440s, the role of the 1796 invention of lithography and improving the printing and culture of music. - A sharper international focus and effort to avoid the impression that Europe is more or less at the center of mass media history.

jaron lanier who owns the future: The Networked Image in Post-Digital Culture Andrew Dewdney, Katrina Sluis, 2022-07-12 This collection examines how the networked image establishes new social practices for the user and presents new challenges for cultural practitioners engaged in making, curating, teaching, exhibiting, archiving and preserving born-digital objects. The mode of vision and imaging, established through photography over the previous two centuries, has and continues to be radically reconfigured by a hybrid of algorithms, computing, programmed capture and display devices, and an array of online platforms. The image under these new conditions is filtered, fluid, fleeting, permeable, mobile and distributed and is changing our ways of seeing. The chapters in this volume are the outcome of research conducted at the Centre for the Study of the Networked Image (CSNI) and its collaboration with The Photographers' Gallery over the last ten years. The book's contributors investigate radical changes in the meanings and values of hybridised media in socio-technical networks and speak to the creeping automation of culture through applications of AI, social media platforms and the financialisation of data. This interdisciplinary collection draws upon media and cultural studies, art history, art practice, photographic theory, user design, animation, museology and computer science as a way of making sense of the specific cultural consequences of the rapid succession of changes in image technologies and to bring the story up to date. It will be of particular interest to scholars and students of visual culture, media studies and photography.

jaron lanier who owns the future: The Third Pillar Raghuram Rajan, 2019-02-26 Shortlisted for the Financial Times/McKinsey Business Book of the Year Award From one of the most important economic thinkers of our time, a brilliant and far-seeing analysis of the current populist backlash against globalization. Raghuram Rajan, distinguished University of Chicago professor, former IMF chief economist, head of India's central bank, and author of the 2010 FT-Goldman-Sachs Book of the Year Fault Lines, has an unparalleled vantage point onto the social and economic consequences of globalization and their ultimate effect on our politics. In The Third Pillar he offers up a magnificent big-picture framework for understanding how these three forces--the state, markets, and our communities--interact, why things begin to break down, and how we can find our way back to a more secure and stable plane. The third pillar of the title is the community we live in. Economists all too often understand their field as the relationship between markets and the state, and they leave squishy social issues for other people. That's not just myopic, Rajan argues; it's dangerous. All economics is actually socioeconomics - all markets are embedded in a web of human relations, values and norms. As he shows, throughout history, technological phase shifts have ripped the market out of those old webs and led to violent backlashes, and to what we now call populism. Eventually, a new equilibrium is reached, but it can be ugly and messy, especially if done wrong. Right now, we're doing it wrong. As markets scale up, the state scales up with it, concentrating economic and political power in flourishing central hubs and leaving the periphery to decompose, figuratively and even literally. Instead, Rajan offers a way to rethink the relationship between the market and civil society and argues for a return to strengthening and empowering local communities as an antidote to growing despair and unrest. Rajan is not a doctrinaire conservative, so his ultimate argument that decision-making has to be devolved to the grass roots or our democracy will continue to wither, is sure to be provocative. But even setting aside its solutions, The Third Pillar is a masterpiece of explication, a book that will be a classic of its kind for its offering of a wise, authoritative and humane explanation of the forces that have wrought such a sea change in our lives.

jaron lanier who owns the future: The Geometry of Wealth Brian Portnoy, 2023-04-25 HOW

DOES MONEY HELP IN CREATING A HAPPY LIFE? In *The Geometry of Wealth*, behavioral finance expert Brian Portnoy delivers an inspired answer based on the idea that wealth, truly defined, is funded contentment. It is the ability to underwrite a meaningful life. This stands in stark contrast to angling to become rich, which is usually an unsatisfying treadmill. At the heart of this groundbreaking perspective, Portnoy takes readers on a journey toward wealth, informed by disciplines ranging from ancient history to modern neuroscience. He contends that tackling the big questions about a joyful life and tending to financial decisions are complementary, not separate, tasks. These big questions include: • How is the human brain wired for two distinct experiences of happiness? And why can money “buy” one but not the other? • Why is being market savvy among the least important aspects of creating wealth but self-awareness among the most? • Can we strike a balance between pushing for more and being content with enough? This journey memorably contours along three basic shapes: A circle, triangle, and square help us visualize how we adapt to evolving circumstances, set clear priorities, and find empowerment in simplicity. In this accessible and entertaining book, Portnoy reveals that true wealth is achievable for many—including those who despair it is out of reach—but only in the context of a life in which purpose and practice are thoughtfully calibrated.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Screening Big Data Gerald Sim, 2024-07-30 This book examines the influence of key films on public understanding of big data and the algorithmic systems that structure our digitally mediated lives. From star-powered blockbusters to civic-minded documentaries positioned to facilitate weighty debates about artificial intelligence, these texts frame our discourse and mediate our relationship to technology. Above all, they impact society’s abilities to regulate AI and navigate big tech’s political and economic maneuvers to achieve market dominance and regulatory capture. Foregrounding data politics with close readings of key films like *Moneyball*, *Minority Report*, *The Social Dilemma*, and *Coded Bias*, Gerald Sim reveals compelling ways in which films and tech industry-adjacent media define apprehension of AI. With the mid-2010s techlash in danger of fizzling out, *Screening Big Data* explores the relationship between this resistance and cultural infrastructure while highlighting the urgent need to refocus attention onto how technocentric media occupy the public imagination. This book will interest students and scholars of film and media studies, digital culture, critical data studies, and technopolitics.

jaron lanier who owns the future: *Developing Moral Sensitivity* Deborah Mower, Wade L. Robison, Phyllis Vandenberg, 2015-05-15 Moral sensitivity affects whether and how we see others, note moral concerns, respond with delicacy, and navigate complex social interactions. Scholars from a variety of fields explore the concept of moral sensitivity and how it develops, beginning with a natural moral capacity for sensitivity towards others that is shaped in a variety of ways through relationships, forms of teaching, and social institutions. Each of these influences alters the capacity as well as one’s responses in complex ways. The concept of moral sensitivity deepens as progressive chapters demonstrate its increasing complexity through development within individuals, over time, as they mature, and as their relationships and social contexts expand. The chapters integrate research from philosophy, psychology, neuroscience, literature, education, and media and technology studies, with key chapters by Darcia Narváez, Nancy E. Snow, Michael S. Pritchard, and Stephen J. Thoma and a Foreword by Owen Flanagan. It is the only comprehensive presentation of interdisciplinary work on moral sensitivity that integrates a theoretical, methodological, and pedagogical analysis. This highly interdisciplinary approach provides a new way of thinking about the relationship of individuals to society and moral sensitivity as a social phenomenon, extending current research in ethics, moral psychology, and psychology toward situated, embodied, and contextual analyses.

jaron lanier who owns the future: The Death of the Artist William Deresiewicz, 2020-07-28 A deeply researched warning about how the digital economy threatens artists' lives and work—the music, writing, and visual art that sustain our souls and societies—from an award-winning essayist and critic There are two stories you hear about earning a living as an artist in the digital age. One comes from Silicon Valley. There's never been a better time to be an artist, it goes. If you've got a

laptop, you've got a recording studio. If you've got an iPhone, you've got a movie camera. And if production is cheap, distribution is free: it's called the Internet. Everyone's an artist; just tap your creativity and put your stuff out there. The other comes from artists themselves. Sure, it goes, you can put your stuff out there, but who's going to pay you for it? Everyone is not an artist. Making art takes years of dedication, and that requires a means of support. If things don't change, a lot of art will cease to be sustainable. So which account is true? Since people are still making a living as artists today, how are they managing to do it? William Deresiewicz, a leading critic of the arts and of contemporary culture, set out to answer those questions. Based on interviews with artists of all kinds, *The Death of the Artist* argues that we are in the midst of an epochal transformation. If artists were artisans in the Renaissance, bohemians in the nineteenth century, and professionals in the twentieth, a new paradigm is emerging in the digital age, one that is changing our fundamental ideas about the nature of art and the role of the artist in society.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Radicals Jamie Bartlett, 2017-05-18 From the creator of hit podcast *The Missing Cryptoqueen* 'Thoughtful and intelligent' Observer 'Inside the anti-political revolt that gave us Brexit and Trump' Evening Standard 'Fascinating... Excellent' Literary Review 'Must read ... A radical odyssey' Daily Mail In the last few years the world has changed in unexpected ways. The power of radical ideas and groups is growing. What was once considered extreme is now the mainstream. But what is life like on the political fringes? What is the real power of radicals? *Radicals* is an exploration of the individuals, groups and movements who are rejecting the way we live now, and attempting to find alternatives. In it, Jamie Bartlett, one of the world's leading thinkers on radical politics and technology, takes us inside the strange and exciting worlds of the innovators, disruptors, idealists and extremists who think society is broken, and believe they know how to fix it. From dawn raids into open mines to the darkest recesses of the internet, *Radicals* introduces us to some of the most secretive and influential movements today: techno-futurists questing for immortality, far-right groups seeking to close borders, militant environmentalists striving to save the planet's natural reserves by any means possible, libertarian movements founding new countries, autonomous cooperatives in self-sustaining micro-societies, and psychedelic pioneers attempting to heal society with the help of powerful hallucinogens. As well as providing a fascinating glimpse at the people and ideas driving these groups, *Radicals* also presents a startling argument: radicals are not only the symptoms of a deep unrest within the world today, but might also offer the most plausible models for our future.

jaron lanier who owns the future: Kulturvirologie Susanne Ristow, 2020-12-16 Durch die Corona-Krise hat das Virus unlängst tagesaktuelle Bedeutung erhalten, doch Virus und Viralität gehören spätestens seit der Nachkriegsmoderne zu den zentralen Begriffen einer manipulativen Verschmelzung von Natur und Technik in der westlichen Gegenwartskultur. Als Synonym für Veränderung und evolutionärer Alleskönner wird das Virus im Zusammenhang mit den technologischen Voraussetzungen der Speicherung und Transformation kultureller Informationen vorgestellt. Wenn es Viren nicht gäbe, hätte man sie erfinden müssen. Das im Unterschied zu Bakterien erst in den späten 1920er Jahren genauer erforschte Virus muss als obligatorischer Parasit fremde Zellen dergestalt umprogrammieren, dass im Wirtskörper eine massenhafte Reproduktion des Virus selbst stattfindet. Alle wichtigen Diskurse des 20. Jahrhunderts kommen im „Prinzip Virus zusammen. Mit Viralität, also dem „viral gehen von Informationen in der Massenkultur, entsteht aber etwas, wovon man keinesfalls mehr als bekannte biologistische Metapher sprechen kann, sondern das von einem neuen, durch digitale Reproduktionstechnologie rasant beschleunigten kommunikativen Phänomen des 21. Jahrhunderts zeugt. Die hier vorgeschlagene KULTURVIROLOGIE leistet einen weitgespannten Überblick zum Virus als Denkfigur für Interaktion, Transmission, Interdisziplinarität, Konnektivität und Interdependenz im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert.

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Gültigkeit dieses Narrativs jedoch in Frage. In Crowd-Design analysiert Florian Alexander Schmidt die Entstehungsgeschichte, Funktionsweise und Rhetorik solcher Plattformen. Der Vergleich von historischen Crowd-Diskursen und Visionen der Online-Kollaboration bildet den Ausgangspunkt für eine kritische Betrachtung aktueller Ausprägungen von Crowdarbeit: Der Fokus der Studie liegt auf der Auslagerung von Designaufgaben unter Verwendung dieser Crowdsourcing-Plattformen. Grundlegenden Mechanismen, welche den Plattformbetreibern zur Motivation und Kontrolle der Crowds dienen, werden offengelegt.

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