# DÉBAT

**Manuel MUÑIZ, directeur du programme sur les relations transatlantiques au Weatherhead Center for International Affairs de l'Université de Harvard**

Thank you everybody.  We have run through a huge range of issues, starting with accelerated change technology and how that connects with political economy issues and populism.  Then Daniel discussed tech and issues of accelerated change, and you saw a few of the technologies that he is working on, which might have a big impact on productivity and also on jobs and other things.  We can discuss that, as well as trust in transactions, and others, the use of data breaking, echo chambers and informing people properly, and, ultimately, investment in human capital across the board.  I have a few questions and, since we only have nine minutes, I was wondering if we have any questions in the room?

**Marc HECKER, directeur des publications au sein de l'Ifri et rédacteur en chef de *Politiques étrangères***

Une question pour Caroline Goulard sur un point spécifique de sa présentation qui est le pouvoir de prévision des big data. Effectivement, lors des élections américaines de 2008 et de 2012, on avait beaucoup parlé d'une nouvelle science électorale américaine qui permettrait de prévoir les résultats de manière beaucoup plus fine que les sondages et cette année on a vu que les sondages ont échoué mais également le pouvoir de prévision des big data. J'aimerais savoir si vous pouvez nous expliquer pourquoi les big data ont échoué à ce point-là lors de cette élection ? Merci.

**Caroline GOULARD, co-fondatrice et PDG, Dataveyes**

Quite simply, in the end, prediction is statistics, so when you say that 98% will vote for Hilary, there is still a 2% chance for Donald Trump to be elected.  The problem with elections is that we cannot reproduce events many times to see if the prediction is right.  You just have one event and the result can be in the 80% about whom we are sure, but it can also be in the 2% that we are not.  Predicting and modelling are still a way to be close to the reality, but there are still errors and error margins.  Maybe the problem is that when you communicate survey results, the media do not emphasise this error margin.  This can make the difference.

**Arthur STRIL, chef de bureau au sein du ministère français des Affaires socials et de la Santé**

Thank you for these very inspiring remarks.  I have a question about the youth that you talked a lot about today.  What struck me in recent elections and the referendum we have seen, is first of all, that youth turnout is the lowest among age groups generally, but, conversely, you see that youth overwhelmingly vote for a choice that eventually loses – Hilary; remaining in Europe.  How do you ensure a solution to make sure that youth get more involved in politics and global issues, and that their voice is eventually heard?

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Who wants to take that?

**Lionel BARABAN, co-fondateur et PDG, Famoco**

I think that one of the reasons why young people are not voting is that they do not trust the system.  We can see in populism growing everywhere, from Trump, to Marine le Pen, to everywhere in Europe, that we do not trust the system

any more, we do not trust the information. What Caroline just talked about, the Facebook algorithm in the US, no one trusts the system anymore. I think by building trust, youth believe in technology; they naturally believe in technology. If together we all made the technology, through blockchain for example, I do not know if blockchain is familiar, but there are ways to make sure that the information on the Internet is more reliable, trustworthy. In China, for example, it is now very difficult to publish information if you do not identify yourself; anonymous blogs are now forbidden. I think this is a step forward. I think we need to build trust in the digital world and speak to the youth through it.

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Can I just add a quick comment on the Brexit debate? I know it was in the press quite a bit that the youth had voted against Brexit, but if you look at the details, most of the youth vote was in prosperous areas. We are unsure what youth in other areas would have voted but there seems to be a very high correlation between income per capita and supporting Brexit; below GBP 30,000-40,000 per year and you were likely to be in the Brexit camp. The economic connection between these things is quite strong, but the age side on Brexit is unclear. Also, in the US, a lot of the youth supported Bernie Sanders, who again was an anti-system, anti-establishment candidate, and many people saw him that way. I think he was very, very radical. Youth is very split and I think is going to suffer a lot of consequences of this change unless we deal with the use of education. I was reading a fascinating piece the other day about how returns on capital are so significant that it is holders of capital who do well. This means you have a major development issue because when you enter the jobs market you have very little in savings and very little capital. Unless you are a very successful entrepreneur from the very beginning, then you have a lot of issues getting your hands on capital so it is very difficult to accumulate wealth. Youth are going to be quite hard by some of these dynamics, unless we deal with part of the education issues and others. Essa, did you want to ask something about youth? Are there any more questions around the room?

**Tatsuo MASUDA, professeur, Nagoya University of Commerce and Business Graduate School, Japon**

Thank you very much for this very interesting discussion. I feel the pulse of younger generations here. I have one question for Essa from Qatar. People always talk about fault lines between East and West as a clash of civilisations or division between different ethnic groups. However, judging from what you did, your communication and skill and combining all these people, your generation do not feel anything like the division between the East and the West, the fault line of cultures. What actually are the day-to-day feelings about those things? How are the generations talking about it; are you already outdated? Thank you.

**Essa AL-MANNAI, directeur exécutif, Reach Out To Asia, Qatar Foundation, Qatar**

Thank you for referring to me as one of the younger generation but I think that one of the perks of being born in 1979 is that I was the six-year old kid who played the Nintendo entertainment system; I was a teenager who played PlayStation 1; I was the one who played *Mario* and *My Neighbour Totoro*. Being Generation X, we lived in a time where we witnessed the evolution of the Internet and how the world has become a small village. Although, I consider myself a global citizen, I was really shocked looking at younger generations. For example, I saw my one-year-old son looking at the newspaper one day and scratching with his finger, thinking it was an iPad. It was a strange thing for me, looking at how the world is changing. However, things like difference among different cultures, even going to their schools, it has been so globalised that we have even become a bit worried about our own identity and our own culture. I personally believe that it is a good thing to see that the world is becoming one village but are we going to go from white, black, grey to all yellow, perhaps? There are two sides to that equation but it is definitely becoming a more open world and people are more accepting about each other.

**Manuel MUÑIZ, directeur du programme sur les relations transatlantiques au Weatherhead Center for International Affairs de l'Université de Harvard**

Thank you everybody for being on the panel and thank you for being in the room.