

Humanity Empowered: Building Resilience with AI

December 1-2, 2021 | Hybrid Aspen Berlin AI Conference

DRAFT AGENDA

The Aspen Institute Germany and the Federal State Representation of Baden-Württemberg will hold the fourth annual high-level Aspen Berlin Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI). During the *Aspen Berlin AI Conference*, participants from across the world will come together in a virtual setting for discussion formats including keynotes, two-on-one conversations, panel discussions, and seminars taking place in English.

With hindsight, the COVID-19 pandemic has catalyzed political discussions on key issues ranging from technological sovereignty and communication infrastructures to the faster digitalizing of public services, businesses, work, and education. As countries work to transition out of this pandemic however, one of the key questions that remains is, how prepared will they be for the next crisis? Can the current political momentum, which was fueled by painful and costly lessons learned, be sustained? Building resilience should not mean just reacting to crises quickly but should mean the ability to use crises to transform societies and to make these more crisis-resistant for the future. As countries work to transition out of this pandemic, one of the key questions is, how well prepared will they be for the next crisis, and the ones after that? Can the current political momentum, built on painful and costly lessons learned, be sustained? Although resilience is not a new concept, it needs to be rethought. It is not just about reacting quickly to crises, but the ability to use crises to transform societies and to make them more crisis-resistant for the future. The overarching questions of the next Aspen Berlin AI Conference will therefore be: how can we make our societies more resilient? How can the resilience of complex socio-technical and socio-economic systems – also across borders – be supported? And what role can artificial intelligence play in this? We will explore these and more questions with top policymakers, innovators, philosophers, academics, and representatives from business, media, and civil society at #AspenAI21.

December 1, 2021

12:30 – 13:30	Small Lunch Reception and Registration
13:30 – 13:50	Welcome Remarks from Hosting Partners
13:55 – 14:25	Opening Remarks
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Discussion on “Under Pressure: International Supply Chains in a Post-Pandemic Era”
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break

- 16:00 – 16:30 **Spotlight Talk on “Global Digital Governance and International Trade”**
(working title)
- 16:35 – 17:20 **Three-on-one Conversation on “Friends or Faux? Digital Sovereignty and the EU-US-China Triangle”**
- 17:20 – 18:20 **An Oxford Style Debate on the Motion:**

Europe must become digitally autarkic to protect its values.

December 2, 2021

- 9:00 – 9:30 Coffee and Registration
- 9:30 – 10:15 **One-on-One Conversation on “#WhatsAtState: Regional Cooperation on Climate Change and Digitalization”**
- 10:20 – 11:25 **Panel Discussion on “Burden or Benefit? Environmental Sustainability in the Age of AI”**
- 11:25 – 11:40 Small Coffee Break
- 11:40 – 12:40 **Breakout Sessions**

Public Administration and AI

Big Data – The New Competitive Advantage?

Capabilities of Digital Innovation
- 12:40 – 13:40 Lunch Break
- 13:40 – 14:15 **Spotlight Talk on “Sleeping Giant: The Potential of Innovation in Public Administration”**
- 14:20 – 15:05 **Three-on-one Conversation on “Cybersecurity”** (working title)
- 15:05 – 15:40 Coffee Break

15:40 – 16:15	Spotlight Talk on “Risks and Remedies of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare” (working title)
16:20 – 17:05	One-on-one Conversation on “Intrinsic Inequality? Sources and Solutions to Bias in Artificial Intelligence”
17:10 – 18:10	Panel Discussion on “The New Normal: Obstacles on the Path to Digital Skills and Education”
18:15 – 18:30	Closing Remarks and Reception