

About the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk

We are an interdisciplinary research centre within the University of Cambridge dedicated to the study and mitigation of existential risks

Contents

Vision.....	6
Mission.....	6
Values	6
Existential Risk	7
1. Technologies & Activity	7
2. Strategies	7
3. Community.....	7
Administrative Information.....	8

Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER)

Description:

The Centre for the Study of Existential Risk is an interdisciplinary research centre within the University of Cambridge dedicated to the study and mitigation of risks that could lead to human extinction or civilisational collapse.

Stakeholder(s):

University of Cambridge

CSER Team :

We bring together some of the best minds from academia, technology and policy to collaborate on our shared challenges

Martin Rees :

Co-founder ~ Lord Martin Rees is the Astronomer Royal. He founded the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk with Huw Price and Jaan Tallinn. He is a Fellow of Trinity College and Emeritus Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics at the University of Cambridge.

He was formerly the Master of Trinity College and President of the Royal Society. He has extensive experience engaging with both policymakers and the public to better prepare for our long term challenges.

He is the author of a number of popular books, including Just Six Numbers and the existential risk-focused Our Final Century? He has written over 500 peer reviewed papers and eight books in total.

Personal website: www.martinrees.uk

Jaan Tallinn :

Co-founder ~ Jaan Tallinn is a founding engineer of Skype and Kazaa. He founded the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk with Huw Price and Martin Rees. He is also a co-founder of the Future of Life Institute and philanthropically supports other existential risk research organizations. He is also a partner at Ambient Sound Investments (asi.ee), an active angel investor, and has served on the Estonian President's Academic Advisory Board.

He has given a number of high-profile talks highlighting the potential risk from advances in artificial intelligence.

Huw Price :

Co-founder ~ Huw Price was Bertrand Russell Professor of Philosophy and a Fellow of Trinity College at the University of Cambridge.

He co-founded the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk in 2012 with Martin Rees and Jaan Tallinn. He was also Academic Director of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence. Before moving to Cambridge he was ARC Federation Fellow and Challis Professor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney, where from 2002—2012 he was Director of the Centre for Time.

"With so much at stake, we need to do a better job of understanding the risks of potentially catastrophic technologies."

His publications include Facts and the Function of Truth (Blackwell, 1988; 2nd. . OUP, forthcoming), Time's Arrow and Archimedes' Point (OUP, 1996), Naturalism Without Mirrors (OUP, 2011) and a range of articles in journals such as Nature, Science, Philosophical Review, Journal of Philosophy, Mind and British Journal for the Philosophy of Science. He is also

co-editor (with Richard Corry) of Causation, Physics, and the Constitution of Reality: Russell's Republic Revisited (OUP, 2007). His René Descartes Lectures (Tilburg, 2008) were recently published as Expressivism, Pragmatism and Representationalism (CUP, 2013), with commentary essays by Simon Blackburn, Robert Brandom, Paul Horwich and Michael Williams.

He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Fellow and former Member of Council of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and a Past President of the Australasian Association of Philosophy. He was consulting editor for the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy from and is an associate editor of The Australasian Journal of Philosophy and a member of the editorial boards of Contemporary Pragmatism, Logic and Philosophy of Science, the Routledge International Library of Philosophy, and the European Journal for Philosophy of Science.

CSER Staff

Seán Ó hÉigeartaigh :

Interim Executive Director

Jessica Bland :

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S. J. Beard :

Academic Programme Manager and Senior Research Associate

Haydn Belfield :

Academic Project Manager

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PA and Administrative Assistant

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Senior Research Associate

Lalitha Sundaram :

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Stakeholders (continued)

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CSER Visiting Researchers

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Visiting Researcher

Emily Bugden :
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Cecil Abungu :
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Tegan Maharaj :
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Georgiana Gilgallon :
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Sumaya Nur :
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Pablo Suarez :
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Gordon Woo :
Visiting Researcher, July 2022

Coleman Snell :
Visiting Researcher, August 2022

CSER Research Affiliates

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Yang Liu :

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Adrian Currie :

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Gorm Shackelford :

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Bonnie Wintle :

Former Research Associate

CSER Management Board :

Stephen Cave :

Director, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence

Steven Connor :

Director, CRASSH

Partha Dasgupta :

Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, Fellow of St John's College

Robert Doubleday :

CSER Advisor, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Policy, Bye-Fellow of Christ's College

Susan Owens :

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Huw Price :

Co-founder

Martin Rees :

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William Sutherland :

Miriam Rothschild Professor of Conservation Biology, Fellow of St Catharine's College

Jaan Tallinn :

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CSER Scientific Advisory Board - External Advisors :

Margaret Boden :

CSER Advisor, Research Professor of Cognitive Science, University of Sussex

Nick Bostrom :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Philosophy, Future of Humanity Institute, Oxford

David Chalmers :

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Stuart Russell :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Computer Science, University of California, Berkeley

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Stakeholders (continued)

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Murray Shanahan :

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Peter Singer :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Bioethics, Princeton University

Max Tegmark :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Physics, MIT

Jonathan Wiener :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Law, Environmental Policy & Public Policy, Duke University

CSER Scientific Advisory Board - Cambridge Advisors

David Cleevely :

CSER Advisor, Chair of Advisory Council - Centre for Science and Policy

Tim Crane :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Philosophy at the Central European University

Hermann Hauser :

CSER Advisor, Silicon Fen entrepreneur and investor

Sean Holden :

CSER Advisor, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science

Adrian Kent :

CSER Advisor, Professor of Quantum Physics

Chris Lowe :

CSER Advisor, Emeritus Professor of Biotechnology

Adrian Weller :

CSER Advisor, Senior Research Fellow in Machine Learning

Vision

Mitigation of risks that could lead to human extinction or civilisational collapse

Mission

To study and mitigate existential risks

Values

Humanity

Civilization

Existential Risk

Reduce the risk of human extinction or civilizational collapse

Reduce risk ~ We aim to reduce the risk of human extinction or civilizational collapse.

1. Technologies & Activity

Understand risks associated with emerging technologies and human activity

Study risks ~ We work to understand extreme risks associated with emerging technologies and human activity; and to develop a methodological toolkit to aid us in identifying and evaluating future extreme risks.

2. Strategies

Develop prevention and mitigation strategies

Collaboration ~ We develop prevention and mitigation strategies in collaboration with academics, industry and policymakers, so we can gain the benefits and avoid the risks of technologic progress.

Stakeholder(s):

Academics

Policymakers

Industry

3. Community

Foster a reflective, interdisciplinary, global community

Community ~ We foster a reflective, interdisciplinary, global community of academics, technologists and policymakers examining individual aspects of existential risk and coming together to integrate their insights.

Stakeholder(s):

Academics

Policymakers

Technologists

Administrative Information

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