

## **SPRU Training Course: Innovation Policy in a Changing Global Context**

**18–22 June 2018**

### **Day 1: The Fourth Industrial Revolution**

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To prophesize the next industrial revolution is to recall an old trope that has been mobilised both for mundane sales pitches and utopian visions of a glorious future enabled by a succession of new technologies. This time around, [Klaus Schwab](#) (founder and leader of the World Economic Forum), uses the term 'The Fourth Industrial Revolution' (4IR) to promote a vision of transformative change that involves the merging of digital, biological and physical systems to create a cornucopia of new business opportunities that are accompanied by the uncertainties of major disruption and upheaval.

In the 4IR digital technologies enable the massive expansion of genetic design; artificial intelligence (AI) empowers self-starting robots and self-driving vehicles; and advances in the neurosciences blur the interface between humans and their creations. The growing salience of this 4IR vision demands a clear and critical response from those who are convinced that a deeper transformative change is required to create more sustainable and equitable civilisation. In this session, we will illustrate and discuss this vision and responses to it.

