## **GERD LEONHARD**

Digital Content, Media and the Future





## **Topics**

- Business
- Communications
- Future
- Information
- Social Media

Gerd Leonhard is a well-known Futurist and Author of 5 books, a highly influential Keynote Speaker, Think-Tank Leader & Advisor, and – since late 2011 – the Founder of GreenFuturists.com. Gerd also serves as Visiting Professor at the Fundação Dom Cabral (São Paulo, Brazil). He is well-known as the Co-author of the influential book 'The Future of Music' (Berklee Press, 2005), and as the author of 'The End of Control' (2007), 'Music 2.0' (2008), 'Friction is Fiction' (2009, Lulu Publishing), and 'The Future of Content' (Kindle-only, 2011). His most recent book "From Ego to Eco" was released in 2012.

Gerd's background is in music and the music business; in 1985 he won Berklee College's 'Quincy Jones Award' and subsequently spend 10 years working as a professional guitar player, composer and producer. He then caught the Internet bug and became a digital media entrepreneur and start-up Internet CEO, based in San Francisco, for 7 years. In 2002, Gerd returned to Europe and started his career as a Futurist, Keynote Speaker and Strategic Advisor. He now travels around the globe and speaks at many major conferences and events, company retreats, seminars and in-house trainings on the Future of Business, Sustainability, Environmental Policy and Climate Change, Media, Content and Entertainment, Technology, Marketing, Advertising & Branding, Telecommunications etc. In late 2011, Gerd decided to widen the scope of his work to include some of the most pressing 'green' issues such as sustainability and sustainable capitalism, renewable energy, climate change and global warming.

Gerd is considered a leading expert on topics such as digital business models, the networked society, a sustainable business ecology, social media and social communications, TV & Radio 2.0, mobile content, innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship, consumer trends, UGC and peer production, copyright and IPR issues, next-generation advertising, marketing and branding, and recently the development of 'green futures' scenarios. In 2006, The Wall Street Journal called

Gerd 'one of the leading Media Futurists in the World'.

Gerd's keynotes, speeches and presentations are renowned for his hard-hitting and provocative yet inspiring, personal and intense motivational style. With over 1'300 engagements in 43 countries since 2003, Gerd has addressed over 200.000 executives and professionals, and is often considered a key influencer. His diverse client list includes Consumers International, Youtube, Nokia, The Guardian, Google, Sony-BMG, Telkom Indonesia, Siemens, RTL, ITV, the BBC, France Telecom, Orange, Deutsche Telekom, MTN, The Financial Times, DDB / TribalDDB, Ogilvy, Omnicom, the European Commission and many others.

Gerd is a fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts (London), a member of the World Future Society, and a visiting professor at the Fundação Dom Cabral in Brazil. A native German, he now resides in Basel, Switzerland.

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