

Kobayashi Memorial Socrates Program

The Aspen Institute's Socrates Program has 22 years of history and has provided forums for exploring contemporary issues through expert-moderated dialogue in and outside of the U.S. In early summer 2019, the fourth Kobayashi Memorial Socrates seminar will be held in Chiba, Japan, as one of the Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship-funded programs.

“How Technology is Changing Us: How We Think, Relate, and Live”

moderated by Stephen Balkam

Fri. 31 May - Sun. 2 June 2019

Digital technology has become imbedded into our lives, impacting how we think and remember, mediating our relationships and how we connect, communicate, and interact with each other. It is also having a profound impact on how we live, work, and play. Do our devices enlighten us or create an unhealthy dependence? Are Google, Facebook, and Instagram making us collectively more informed or distracted? What will be the overall effect on Millennials and the legacy of their generation? Are there grounds for optimism or is there an urgent need to wake up to how this tech tidal wave is overwhelming our lives and institutions? This seminar will explore the way our brains and relationships are being re-wired in the digital age, and the impact these fundamental changes are having on the future of work and how we make a living.



Stephen Balkam has had a wide range of leadership roles in the nonprofit sector in both the US and UK. He is currently the Founder and CEO of the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI), an international, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, DC. FOSI's mission is to make the online world safer for kids and their families. FOSI convenes the top thinkers and practitioners in government, industry and the nonprofit sectors to collaborate and innovate and to create a “culture of responsibility” in the online world. Prior to FOSI, Stephen was the Founder and CEO of the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) and led a team which developed the world's leading content labeling system on the web. While with ICRA, Stephen served on the US Child Online Protection Commission (COPA) in 2000 and was named one of the Top 50 UK Movers and Shakers, *Internet Magazine*, 2001.

A native of Washington, DC, Stephen spent many years in the UK and now has dual citizenship. He writes regularly for the *Huffington Post*, appears often on TV and has appeared on nationally syndicated TV and radio programs such as MSNBC, CNN, NPR and the BBC and has been interviewed by leading newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, radio and in the mainstream press. He has given presentations and spoken in 15 countries on 4 continents.

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Date : Fri May 31 - Sun June 2, 2019

Topic : How Technology is Changing Us: How We Think, Relate, and Live

Moderator : Stephen Balkam
Founder & CEO, Family Online Safety Institute

Location : Kazusa Akademia Hall
2-3-9 Kazusakamatari, Kisarazu, Chiba 292-0818, Japan
Tel: 81- 438-20-5555
<http://www.kap.co.jp/hall/>

Language : English

Preliminary schedule:

Day 1 (Fri.) 1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Introduction
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Seminar Session 1
Opening Ceremony

Day 2 (Sat.) 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Seminar Session 2
Lunch
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cultural Activity
Dinner

Day 3 (Sun.) 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Seminar Session 3
11:30 p.m. – 11:40 a.m. Closing Remarks
Adjourn

Eligible applicants:

Young leaders between the ages of 30 to 50 who are active or expected to be active in the fields of business, government and civil society. The regular seminar tuition* will be covered fully, if you are selected as the Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship recipient**.

*The regular seminar tuition is **\$3,000**, which includes lodging, materials, meals, and an excursion. The tuition does not include travel.

**Non-scholarship application with no age restriction is also available. Please contact us for details.

Application due date:

Please fill out and submit the application form by email to the Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship Office by **Monday, March 4, 2019**. The office will review the application and contact you with the result around one week after the application due.

Seminar readings:

Seminar readings will be provided to you approximately 2 months prior to the seminar.

Inquiries and applications:

For further information and the application form, please contact below:

scholarship@aspeninstitute.jp

Elina Akiyama

The Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship Office

The Aspen Institute Japan