

## *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 December 2019, the fifth Kobayashi Memorial Socrates seminar will be held in Nara, Japan, as one of the Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship-funded programs.

# *Order Amid Chaos: Major Trends Shaping the Future of Technology, Business and Society*

*moderated by William Powers*

*Fri Dec 6, 2019 – Sun Dec 8, 2019*

*Hotel Nikko Nara*

**Artificial intelligence** (AI) is radically changing life on earth. Everything we do, from raising families to running businesses to governing huge societies is currently being reshaped by these technologies. What are the most important coming changes and how can we prepare for them? How is AI altering the workplace and the roles humans play in it? We'll examine the rise of what some are calling "surveillance capitalism" as the dominant business tech model and consider its broader political and social implications. Finally, we'll consider the humanistic questions that these technologies are bringing to the fore. Are we on the path to a better world or have we gone down a dark alley? Are we losing touch with the qualitative, spiritual aspects of existence that make life worth living? Some believe that we can endow AI with human values and ideals that will ensure this revolution goes to a good place. Is this a realistic endeavor or a quixotic dream?



**William Powers** is a former Washington Post staff writer and author of the New York Times bestseller, *Hamlet's BlackBerry*. Widely praised for its insights on the digital future, the book grew out of research he did as a fellow at Harvard University's Shorenstein Center. Since 2014 he's been at the MIT Media Lab working on ways to ensure that artificial intelligence reflects human values and enables social progress.



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**Date :** Fri Dec 6, 2019 – Sun Dec 8, 2019

**Topic :** Order Amid Chaos: Major Trends Shaping the Future of Technology, Business and Society

**Moderator :** William Powers  
Writer, journalist and technologist

**Location :** Hotel Nikko Nara  
8-1 Sanjo-hommachi Nara-shi Nara 630-8122 Japan  
Tel: 81-742-35-8831  
<https://www.okura-nikko.com/japan/nara/hotel-nikko-nara/>

**Language :** English

### **Preliminary schedule:**

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

**Day 2 (Sat.)** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seminar Session 2  
Lunch  
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cultural Activity  
Dinner

**Day 3 (Sun.)** 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Seminar Session 3  
12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.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, September 2, 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:

[akiyama@aspeninstitute.jp](mailto:akiyama@aspeninstitute.jp)

Elina Akiyama

The Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship Office

The Aspen Institute Japan