Humans, Machines, and the Future of Work

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AI Breakthroughs

- 2011: IBM’s Watson defeats the two greatest Jeopardy! champions, Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings, by a significant margin.
Race Against the Machine

Erik Brynjolfsson
Andrew McAfee

Race Against The Machine

How the Digital Revolution is Accelerating Innovation, Driving Productivity, and Irreversibly Transforming Employment and the Economy
Humans, Machines and Work: The Future is Now
Manufacturing: Output vs. Jobs

US Real Manufacturing Output vs. Employment, 1947 to 2014

- Manufacturing Output (billions of 2014 dollars)
- Manufacturing Employment (millions)
Labor-Force Participation - Men

Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
Shaded areas indicate US recessions - 2015 research.stlouisfed.org
An Academic Conference

Delange.rice.edu
Proposal: Information Technology and the Future of Work

Abstract: We proposed to hold a one-day summit on the subject of information technology and the future of work. The summit should be held in Washington, DC.
Summit -- Timing

- **Original proposal** - 2016

- **Postponement 1 → Spring 2017**
  - **Reason**: Washington will be busy with presidential politics

- **Postponement 2 → Fall 2017**
  - **Reason**: Democrats vs Republicans
Discussion

Question: Is the adverse impact of automation on labor now widely accepted?

Possible Answers:

- **Not yet**: Focus summit on impact of automation on labor
- **Yes**: Focus summit on policy response to said impact.
  - *WSJ, Jan. 4: ‘Routine’ Jobs Are Disappearing*