

Community Conference
“Reloading the EFB Community”
September 25th, 2020

Biographies

Wolfgang Merkel is Professor of Comparative Political Science and Policy Research at the Humboldt University of Berlin, and serves as Director of the research unit on “Democracy and Democratization” at the [Berlin Social Science Center \(WZB\)](#). He is the author and co-author of a number of books, including most recently *Nur schöner Schein? Demokratische Innovationen in Theorie und Praxis* (2015) and most recently in English, *The Future of Representative Democracy* (2011).

He has written a number of scholarly articles on issues of democratization, dictatorship, political parties, social justice and democratic crises, and he is a frequent commentator on democracy in the German media. He has spoken at CES in the past on the compatibility of capitalism and democracy, and will present on “The Crisis of Democracy in the EU” during his visit as a John F. Kennedy Memorial Policy Kennedy Fellow.

Merkel was the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship in 1988.

Dr. Bernd-Friedrich Voigt is founder and owner of Managing Organizations, an internationally acknowledged consulting, training, and researching company that engages in fields such as organisational psychology, executive leadership development, strategic management, new forms of organising, competence-portfolio-management, and diversity management.

Next to his consulting experience, Bernd-Friedrich Voigt has a substantive scientific researching and teaching background in the fields of Human Resources and Work Process Management, Leadership, Change-Management and Solution Business.

His research focuses on the effective management of heterogeneous human resources as modern organisations are becoming more and more complex and dynamic. His teaching responsibilities cover topics such as leadership, competence management, project management or change management.

Ivar Björkman is the Executive Director of Openlab Stockholm - one of the leading co-creation open innovation platforms that focus on societal challenges. He has a broad experience and expertise on design thinking methods in different contexts.

With a Phd in managing creative industry and a long track record of managing for example the largest art and design university in Sweden and several design companies, Ivar has during the last 8 years focused on how to build and manage co-creating interdisciplinary organizations that focus on how to innovate for a better society.

Danica Bojić is an emerging design thinker, manager in art and culture and social entrepreneur. As a young activist she served on various task forces shaping youth education policy in Serbia and the EU.

Right after graduating from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts she started working at the Faculty of Applied Arts, connecting and empowering young talents and professionals as an Expert for International Relations and Projects. As a founding partner of art & design start-up Stiglo, she leads its Project and Creative Management, creating space for artistic collaboration and innovative branding. After discovering design thinking and having obtained most relevant certification in the field, Danica founded Design

Thinkers and committed herself to converging all her passions and interests in order to interface the civil sector with design and art.

She keeps connecting young talents and referenced experts with an aim of meaningful social transformation for making Serbia and the world a better place.

Milica Bojić is an architect, entrepreneur, trainer and business coach with multidisciplinary international experience, who dedicates her work to helping people become better by working together.

She has been involved in creating positive impact through empowering mindful leadership, sustainable community education and purpose driven business development. For over a decade Milica has been working with communities, startups, and businesses helping them build agile, resilient systems, engage employees and create culture grounded in (com)passionate collaboration.

She is passionate about solving complex problems and building strategies that utilise the power of participative design. Milica is a founder of two ethical fashion startups - Cotton Flower and Artful Scout - based out of India and USA, as well as a family education centre Ganga Learning Centre. In recent years she has been more focused on project management and employee engagement in the IT sector as a co-founder of Rokada Ecosystems.