



Heather McGowan

Strategic Consultant, Amazon Best-Selling Author, Speaker, LinkedIn's 2017 Top Influencer on Lifelong Learning & The Future of Work

Future-of-work strategist Heather E. McGowan helps leaders prepare their people and organizations for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Third Industrial Revolution was marked by computerization and automation of physical labor, laying the foundation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will be notable for the rapid advancement of technology tools into the domain of human knowledge work. In this world, humans must continuously learn and adapt, and with this transition comes information overload. Heather gives lucidity to this topic through her illuminating graphic frameworks and powerful metaphors, all backed by deep research. In 2017, LinkedIn ranked her as its number one global voice for education. Pulitzer Prize-winning NYT columnist Thomas Friedman frequently quotes Heather in his books and columns and describes her as “the oasis” when it comes to insights into the future of work. Heather’s sessions help employees and leaders alike prepare for and adapt to jobs that do not yet exist.

McGowan has provided keynote addresses for audiences from start-ups to government organizations to universities to publicly traded Fortune 500 companies, including AMP Financial, Financial Times, Siemens, Microsoft, Autodesk, Biogen, Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Accor Hotels, AARP, Zendesk, Tableau, Fidelity, and The World Bank. Often quoted in the media, notably in the New York Times, McGowan serves on the advisory board for Sparks & Honey, a New York-based culture-focused agency looking to the future for brands. McGowan’s academic work has included roles at Rhode Island School of Design, Becker College, and Jefferson University, where she was the strategic architect of the first undergraduate college focused exclusively on innovation.

McGowan helps leaders prepare their people and organizations for our VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) World. As a virtual keynote speaker, Heather gives lucidity to complex topics through her research rich, graphic frameworks and powerful metaphors. McGowan believes the global pandemic has accelerated our progress towards the future of work and is ushering in the Human Capital Era, a period

of time she predicts in which expenditure in human potential is the greatest opportunity for return on investment.

In 2019 Heather was appointed as a faculty member of the Swinburne University Centre For the New Workforce in Melbourne, Australia. Heather advises and gives keynote addresses for organizations all over the world and, with her colleagues, provides bespoke consulting to help organizations adapt to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Her think tank is called Work to Learn because McGowan believes that in the Third Industrial Revolution, we learned (once) in order to work and now, in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we will work in order to learn (continuously). McGowan is the co-editor and author of the book *Disrupt Together: How Teams Consistently Innovate* and a Forbes contributor. McGowan's latest book on the future of work, published in 2020: *The Adaptation Advantage: Let Go, Learn Fast, and Thrive in the Future of Work*, reached number three in business management books on Amazon and was recently named one of the best business books of 2021 by Soundview.

Education and Explorations:

- BFA Industrial Design (Design Thinking/Strategy) - Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
- RIMBA Entrepreneurship - Babson College, Wellesley
- MAImprov Training - Second City Training Center, Chicago, IL