

James Wong

Tech lawyer, policy futurist,
presenter and MC





The law can't keep up with new tech. The overarching challenge for the tech sector this decade is this: *taking the lead* in re-imagining our regulations, organisations and systems for the ways technology is re-imagining our world.

Talking points

▼ **The Fourth Industrial Revolution: implications for business, government and humanity**

The First Industrial Revolution changed the course of human history. Today, we are on the cusp of an even bigger transformation. The Fourth Industrial Revolution will see a fusion of physical, digital and biological systems and is unprecedented in velocity, scope and impact. We will see entire systems re-designed with important implications on business, government and what it means to be human. What questions do you need to ask to lead and succeed in this emerging paradigm?

▼ **Lawyers are being replaced by coders, not robots**

As technology becomes more pervasive (and intrusive), it plays an increasingly influential role in our lives. It defines the boundaries of permissible behaviour, shapes our perception of the world and regulates human decision-making. Lawyers and legislative drafters once wrote the rule book; today the rule book is embedded in the software silently running on our phones and in far-away server farms. This emerging reality is driving a convergence of two disparate professions – lawyers and software engineers. In the meantime, there are big moral and practical questions to be answered.

▼ **Surveying the future of privacy**

Privacy is about so much more than just compliance. Major law reform around the world is re-shaping the regulatory landscape but below the surface is a more fundamental transformation – a re-shaping of what privacy means to us. Given the way technology, attitudes and the roles of institutions are changing, will regulation become more prescriptive or can we expect to see more principles-based regimes? What reforms can we expect in major jurisdictions around the world? What does this mean for data-driven business models today?

▼ **Ethics at the frontier**

A small group of experts (hardly a representative cross-section of humanity) are training the non-human bureaucrats that will soon administer our daily lives – whether in relation to tax enforcement, the commute to work or investing decisions. Meanwhile, policy-makers and private-sector executives are racing to devise suitable frameworks for AI ethics and governance. Meet the motley line-up of companies, governments and NGOs pioneering at the frontier of technology governance.

▼ **Systems thinking for systems impact: how tech fits into the bigger picture**

Business and government is organised in linear processes. This harks back to the Second Industrial Revolution paradigm of production lines and looking for incremental efficiencies to improve productivity. A new way of thinking is needed for individuals and organisations to make an impact today. Systems thinking helps us see the bigger picture – including the present and future policy environment – and it's now essential for tech sector leaders who want to make an impact.

Trending topics

- ▼ Artificial Intelligence
- ▼ Privacy & Data Protection
- ▼ Data Ethics
- ▼ Blockchain & Distributed Ledger Technology
- ▼ Tech & Human Rights
- ▼ The Fourth Industrial Revolution
- ▼ The Future of Law

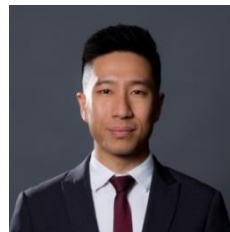




James has a very strong stage presence and there's something about his speaking style that really engages. It's as if he's telling a story and taking the audience with him. I was encouraging my staff to take note of the way he communicates.

– Valentine Nti FCMA CGMA FCM PMP MBA
South African entrepreneur

About James



James is an Associate in the Digital Law group at Mills Oakley, one of Australia's largest and oldest national law firms. In this role he helps clients navigate the legal and commercial opportunities and risks associated with the digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution including in relation to privacy, data protection, cybersecurity and emerging technologies.


In 2016, James co-founded Monash Future Thinkers, which exists to host the conversation about Australia's long-term future. The annual conference has featured leading thinkers across a range of fields—from medicine to economics to design—and was launched by the Chief Scientist of Australia, Dr Alan Finkel AO.


James is a World Economic Forum 'Global Shaper'.

Previous speaking engagements



Book James for your event

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