

KEYNOTE
SPEAKERGAUTAM
MUKUNDAYale School of
Management Lecturer /
Executive Fellow /
Bestselling Author

Gautam Mukunda is an internationally recognized expert in leadership and innovation. He often jokes that his life's ambition is to have the world's most confusing resume and that he's most of the way there. He is an Executive Fellow and Lecturer in the Practice of Management at the Yale School of Management, faculty in the Senior Executive Fellows Program of the Harvard Kennedy School, an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a Senior Advisor to McKinsey & Company, and the author of *Indispensable: When Leaders Really Matter* (Harvard Business Review Press, 2012) and *Picking Presidents: How To Make The Most Consequential Decision in the World* (University of California Press, 2022). He is the Managing Director of the Two Rivers Group and a weekly columnist on leadership and innovation for Bloomberg News. He was an Assistant Professor of Management at Harvard Business School and Distinguished Visiting Professor at Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University, where he created and taught the leadership program for the first two classes of the Schwarzman Scholarship.

Gautam has published articles in Harvard Business Review, Foreign Policy, Security Studies, Slate, Fast Company, Parameters, Politics and the Life Sciences, and Systems and Synthetic Biology on topics including leadership, reforming the financial sector, military innovation, network-centric warfare, the policy implications of synthetic biology, and the TV show Mad Men. His work has been profiled in the New York Times, Atlantic, New Yorker, Economist, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and on All Things Considered. He regularly appears on Bloomberg, CNBC, and Yahoo! Finance among other major media outlets. He is the Exclusive Leadership Consultant to U.S. Soccer and a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was a Senior Advisor to America's Frontier Fund, the host of Nasdaq's podcast World Reimagined with Gautam Mukunda, and the regular guest host for GBH Television's Greater Boston.

He is on the Board of Directors of Alden Scientific, which simulates health from individual biology with unprecedented fidelity, and the Advisory Boards of Fount Bio, Backpack Networks, Bionic Solutions, and Atro. He is on the Board of Democracy House, a nonprofit devoted to strengthening American democracy by strengthening civic participation among young voters, and of The Upakar Foundation, a national non-profit that provides college scholarships to underprivileged students of South Asian descent.

Gautam was a Principal Investigator of the National Science Foundation's Synthetic Biology Engineering Research Center (SynBERC) and served on the Chief of Naval Operations' Executive Advisory Panel. He was Head of Research at Rose Park Advisors, an investment firm founded

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by his mentor Clayton Christensen. He was an Overseer of the Boston Ballet, a member of the New England Regional Selection Committee for the White House Fellowship, and on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on New Models of Leadership. Gautam received his PhD in Political Science from MIT with a focus in International Relations and Security Studies. There, he was a member of the Security Studies Program and the Program on Emerging Technologies, a Paul & Daisy Soros New American Fellow, an NSF IGERT Fellow, a Next Generation Fellow of The American Assembly, a Carnegie Endowment Biosecurity Fellow, and a Nuclear Security Fellow of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. He was the SynBERC Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT's Center for International Studies. He received his AB in Government from Harvard, magna cum laude. Before his academic career he was a consultant with McKinsey. He is also a Jeopardy! Champion.

Gautam will lead a fireside chat with Kelly Schulz, Maryland Tech Council's Chief Executive Officer, where he will share his take on bold leadership, disruptive innovation, and making tough calls, skills today's tech leaders need amid fast-moving change. His perspective, shaped by work across academia, industry, national security, and media, offers practical guidance for executives, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

EXPERIENCE THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE

EVENT DETAILS**March 12, 2026**

8:00AM – 5:00PM

The Hall at Maryland Live!
Hotel & Casino

The 7th Annual Technology Transformation Conference brings Maryland-based technology organizations and professionals together to educate one another regarding the newest and most exciting technologies of the day, as well as to discuss and find new ways to collaborate and apply this knowledge and these emerging technologies to their own business.

[Learn more and register at **mdtechcouncil.com**.](http://mdtechcouncil.com)