

# INVITATION

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The University of Johannesburg's Faculty of Humanities and the Library invite you to a Public Lecture with **Professor Alexander Broadbent**, Executive Dean: Faculty of Humanities on

## "Why the Fourth Industrial Revolution won't happen"

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** **Professor Alex Broadbent** is Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at UJ, founding Director of the African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science, and Professor of Philosophy. Before joining UJ in 2011, he held various research, teaching and visiting positions at Cambridge, Vienna, Athens and Harvard. Alex holds a B1 rating from the National Research Foundation of South Africa 2019-2025 (previously P-rated) and is an alumnus of the South African Young Academy of Sciences.

Alex is a philosopher of science, medicine and epidemiology, with particular interests in causal inference, explanation, and prediction. He was a founding figure in establishing philosophy of epidemiology of a field (his 2013 book on the topic is a landmark text), and is a leading philosopher of medicine globally.

**ABOUT THE TALK:** There is excellent scientific evidence that most human predictions are wrong, beyond our immediate physical and social environment. Bold, confident claims attract the most attention, yet these are the most likely to be wrong. For this reason, much of what you have probably heard about what the world will be like in or after 4IR is false. But in addition, there is good reason to doubt that counterfactual reasoning can be implemented on any computational platform. This means that machines will not be able to reason causally, to understand, or to predict, and thus that Strong AI is not possible. Without Strong AI, 4IR will not happen.

### FACILITATED CONVERSATION WITH:

**Prof Babu Paul**, Director of Institute for Intelligent Systems, UJ

**Dr Faeza Ballim**, Senior Lecturer in History, UJ

**Prof Brendon Barnes**, Head of Psychology, UJ

**DATE** 29 April 2019

**TIME** 17:00 for 17:30

**VENUE** **Chinua Achebe Auditorium** (6th Floor), APK Library  
University of Johannesburg  
(corner Kingsway and University Road, Auckland Park)

**RSVP** By Friday 26 April 2019 to Theodorah Modise on  
[licevents@uj.ac.za](mailto:licevents@uj.ac.za) / 011 559 2264

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