

55TH ST. GALLEN SYMPOSIUM
6 | 7 MAY 2026

DISRUPTED AGE



ST. GALLEN
SYMPOSIUM



Some Initial Thoughts...

For more than 55 years, the St. Gallen Symposium has provided a platform where leaders from all generations come together to exchange perspectives on the most pressing global issues. By connecting today's decision-makers with the ideas of tomorrow's leaders, we believe that thoughtful dialogue can inspire meaningful change and help address the economic, political and social challenges of our time.

At the heart of this initiative is the International Students' Committee (ISC) – 25 students who dedicate a full year to shaping the Symposium. In close collaboration with the St. Gallen Foundation for International Studies (SSIS), we curate the agenda, foster exchange throughout the year, and stay true to our vision: Lead with the Next Generation in Mind.

The world is undergoing rapid and far-reaching change. Technological innovation, geopolitical instability, and demographic shifts are reshaping how we live, work, and connect, with ripple effects felt across all sectors of society.

While disruption brings uncertainty, it also creates new opportunities. In such times, cross-generational dialogue is essential to foster understanding and develop innovative responses to global challenges.

As we adapt to this new reality, we must confront its risks while embracing its potential. That is why we have chosen “Disrupted Age” as this year's theme.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 55th St. Gallen Symposium on 6-7 May 2025. Your ideas and experience will spark the conversations that drive fresh perspectives and bold solutions in this disrupted age.

On behalf of the 55th International Students' Committee, we thank you for joining us on this journey. Your support makes the Symposium possible, and together we can build bridges that shape the future.



Fabiola Günther

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabiola'.



Jonas Wicki

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonas'.



Lena-Sophie Vogt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lena-Sophie'.

Presidents of the International Students' Committee



This is the St. Gallen Symposium

Since 1969, we foster cross-generational dialogue to achieve mutual understanding, enhance decision-making and invest in a better tomorrow. Then, now, and always, our commitment is simple:

Lead with the next generation in mind.



1969

The St. Gallen Symposium is founded by five students of the University of St. Gallen.

1970

First St. Gallen Symposium, formerly known as the "International Management Symposium" and the "ISC Symposium", takes place.

1972

Club of Rome study "Limits to Growth" is presented at the third Symposium.

1975

Establishment of the St. Gallen Foundation for International Studies to safeguard the continuity of the organisation.

The Platform for Cross-Generational Dialogue



Thought Leadership & Projects

Research and publications on cross-generational justice and long-term thinking.



University of St. Gallen



United Nations
Youth Office



St. Gallen Symposium

Our annual two-day flagship event with over 1,000 participants from more than 80 countries.



Year-Round Formats

Different initiatives to foster real impact and work on a better tomorrow.



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Zukunft-Fabrik²⁰⁵⁰
+Powered by HSG Alumni



THE 50
PERCENT

1979

Max Schmidheiny Freedom Prize presented at the St. Gallen Symposium for the first time.

1986

The St. Gallen Symposium is one of only three institutions in Switzerland running its own server.

1989

The first St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award – one of the largest student essay competitions worldwide – is issued.

1993

St. Gallen Symposium opens an office at Harvard University.



“The St. Gallen Symposium is a long-term commitment to cross-generational dialogue“

Karin Keller-Sutter

Federal Councillor of the Swiss Confederation

Roland Busch
CEO & President,
Siemens
ST.GALLEN SYMPOSIUM

Sabine Keller-Busse
resident,
UBS Switzerland
ST.GALLEN SYMPOSIUM

Prof. Bal Chong-En
Dean, School of
Economics and
Management,
Tsinghua University
ST.GALLEN SYMPOSIUM

2002

The ISC organises the International Federalism Conference, commissioned by the Swiss Federal Council.

2003

The ISC St. Gallen Club of Japan is established as an organisation to promote the Japanese participation in the Symposium.

2006

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, visits the University of St. Gallen to receive the Max Schmidheiny Freedom Prize awarded to him in 2003.

2010

The ISC organises an international conference on democracy and decentralism under the patronage of the Swiss Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Our Participants Community



High-profile speakers from business, politics and academia who join cross-generational dialogue on stage and are carefully selected based on the annual theme.



Senior Leaders at the St. Gallen Symposium represent companies as well as political and academic institutions, from all over the world. They challenge and get challenged by the younger generations on their ideas, and are the heart of change.



Aspiring Leaders represent the corporate world as potential future executive decision-makers or the entrepreneurial environment as founders. They pair experience with creativity and come up with practical ideas for transformation.



Leaders of Tomorrow are brilliant young minds from over 80 nations. They challenge the beliefs of all participants, spark ideas, and ignite actions. They are the drivers of transformation and change.



The St. Gallen Symposium is a **student-driven** initiative on a voluntary basis. The International Students' Committee is a group of 25 students working year-round. Together with 500+ student volunteers, they make the Symposium happen in May.

Accredited **media professionals** are present to report on the St. Gallen Symposium and conduct interviews with our attendees.

2012

To strengthen ties in Asia, the St. Gallen Symposium opens its Singapore Office.

2021

The St. Gallen Symposium celebrates its 50th anniversary in May 2021.

2023

Together with the Club of Rome, the St. Gallen Symposium launches the global, multi-year initiative for "A New Generational Contract".

2026

55th St. Gallen Symposium.

In Numbers

In order to tackle the pressing issues of our time, we have to think and act across cultures, sectors, and most importantly: across generations.

Fostering the dialogue between generations...



Yulia Navalnaya (2024)



Wladimir Klitschko (2024)



Panel on the Main Stage (2025)



Leaders of Tomorrow
Talk (2022)

... is our mission.



Impact Initiatives



Years of History



Sessions


1200
 Participants


114
 Speakers


200
 Leaders of Tomorrow


700
 Senior & Aspiring Leaders from
 Business & Politics

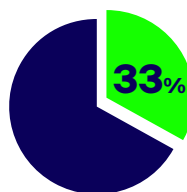

500
 Student Volunteers


50
 Journalists

Figures from the 54th
 St. Gallen Symposium in 2025

Dialogue Driven by the Next Generation

The International Students' Committee works year-round with over 300 international partner corporations and institutions, culminating in an event each May that brings 600 senior leaders to St. Gallen.



33% of our cross-generational sessions at the 54th St. Gallen Symposium were **open to the public**

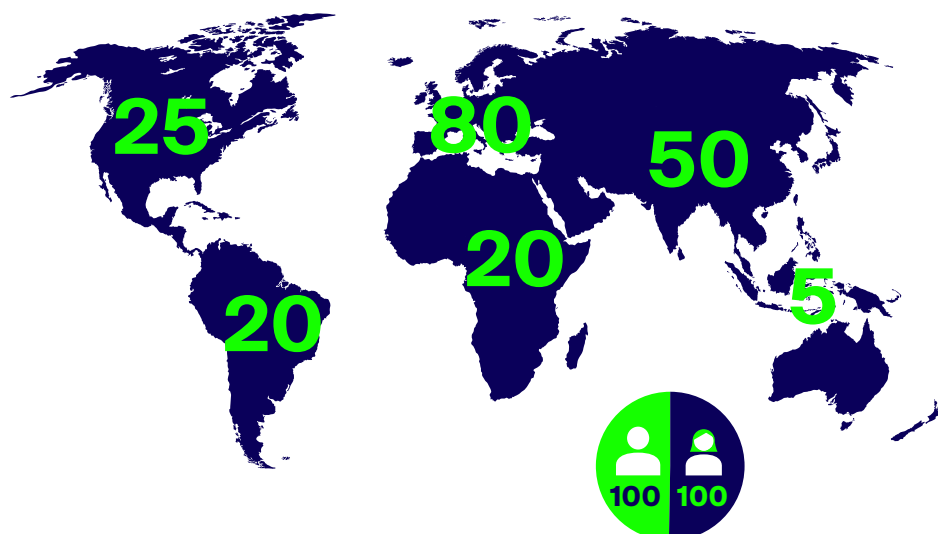
ST.GALLEN SYMPOSIUM in Town



Since 2023 we host the "St. Gallen Symposium in Town" with **5+ Public Sessions and 400+ regional participants**

Leaders of Tomorrow

The Leaders of Tomorrow, our globally selected young community, represent the next generation at the St. Gallen Symposium. Their diversity is evident in both gender and geography.



Disrupted Age

We live in a time of numerous disruptions – yet three stand out for their unparalleled pace, transformative impact, and global reach. They present both opportunities and challenges – not only in their nature, but also in how different societies experience and respond to them.



GEOPOLITICS



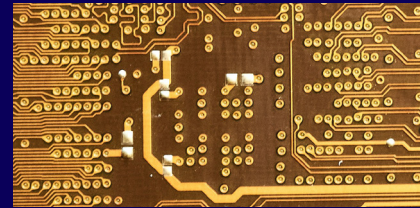
The global operating model is reshaping as alliances shift and economic uncertainty grows, driven by a retreat from free trade. As the U.S. recalibrates its global role, traditional security guarantees are being challenged. Europe is rearming under pressure and seeking a joint way forward. The BRICS bloc is gaining geopolitical weight, and Africa is claiming greater agency in global resource politics. India is asserting its rise, while China seeks to regain momentum. Defence budgets are surging, amplifying already high global inflationary pressures. Deterrence doctrines are being tested, and interstate conflict risks—once thought to be receding—are resurfacing.



DEMOGRAPHICS



The pace of population ageing is accelerating across much of the Global North, while fertility-driven youth surges are reshaping the Global South – predictably shifting centers of global productivity and economic potential. In most advanced economies, retirees outnumber the active workforce by more than two to one, putting pensions, healthcare systems, and fiscal stability under immense pressure. Ageing voter demographics will continue to shift political priorities. Demographic imbalances will further drive migration – projected to rise by 11% by 2030. While these trends demand critical reforms in some countries, they present significant development opportunities for others – albeit with rising emissions as a side effect of population growth.



TECHNOLOGY



AI and automation are transforming every aspect of life – from politics to medicine, from media to production processes and cyber security threats. Business models, public discourse, and the world of work are being redefined at record speed, often outpacing social adaptation and regulation. While this wave of technological progress raises countless ethical dilemmas and fuels societal anxiety and uncertainty, it also unlocks unlimited potential. Breakthroughs in AI, robotics, and smart digital infrastructure will be essential to addressing the great global challenges of our time – critically including the green transition.

These disruptive forces do not act in isolation – they reinforce and accelerate each other and are here to stay.

Trade slowdowns fuel the hunt for innovation and talent, migration reshapes societies and workforces, and the race for tech leadership is driven as much by demographics as by geopolitics. Yet while these forces move in months, democratic processes move in years, widening the gap between disruption and governance. The result is an age where opportunity and risk are deeply intertwined.

Speaker Line-Up Selection




Karin Keller-Sutter
Federal Councillor of the Swiss Confederation



Patrick Zhong
Managing Partner, M31 Capital




Philipp Navratil
CEO, Nestlé



Nicolas Peter
Chairman of the Supervisory Board, BMW




Thomas Schinecker
CEO, Roche Group



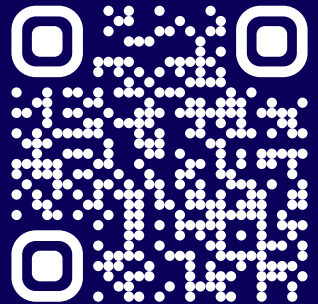
Sergio P. Ermotti
Group CEO & President of the Executive Board, UBS AG

Past Speakers include:



(LTR-TTB) Justin Trudeau, Friedrich Merz, Roland Busch, Christian Sewing, Yulia Navalnaya, André Hoffmann, Christine Lagarde, Wladimir Klitschko

Find the fully updated list of speakers here:

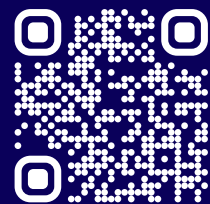


Two Days Full of Dialogue...



We are passionate about creating a unique experience during the St. Gallen Symposium

Find a fully updated programme here!



... with Diverse Formats

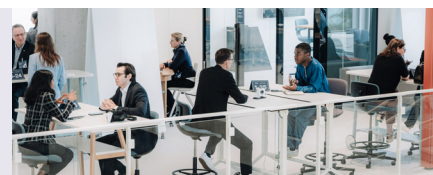


ST. GALLEN TEAM DEBATE

An Oxford-style debate where two teams – one arguing in favour of a statement, the other against – face off with bold arguments and direct responses. The audience plays a key role by testing assumptions, and deciding which side makes the most compelling case. Expect energy, controversy, and plenty to rethink.

CO-CREATION SESSIONS

Get off your seats and leverage the collective intelligence of participants from business, policy, academia & civil society. Together, you will co-create new approaches to cross-generational challenges in interactive workshop formats.



EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLES

Engage with a select group of experts on a key topic. In an exclusive and intimate working group setting, you will exchange best practices with your peers and co-create actionable ideas to tackle today's challenges.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Our panel discussions bring together diverse, cross-generational voices to explore key dimensions of our theme “Disrupted Age” from multiple angles. They take different shapes:

- Plenary Sessions convene the full community in cross-generational conversations on the main stage.
- Spotlight Sessions highlight specific aspects of our annual theme with larger audiences and interactive elements such as live voting.
- Insight Sessions provide a more intimate setting, enabling in-depth dialogue under Chatham House rules.



FLAT TALKS

Choose to have one of your dinners at a local student's apartment and dive into a conversation in a small hand-selected group.

LEADER OF TOMORROW TALKS

Engage in a cross-generational, off-the-record conversation. These dialogue formats match a senior executive with a group of Leaders of Tomorrow.



Our Impact

The St. Gallen Symposium strives to promote responsible and sustainable leadership with the next generation in mind. We create impact through educational insights, a platform of dialogue, collaboration, and tangible projects.

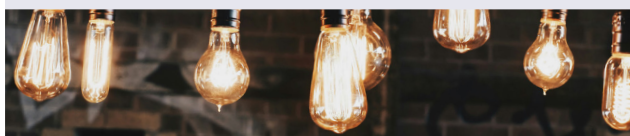


Empowering Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders



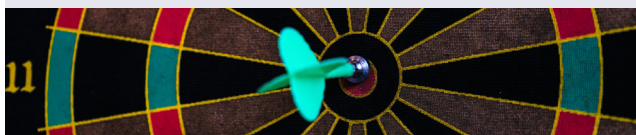
We promote responsible leadership for today's and future leaders, by providing an educational experience and opportunities for cross-generational mentorship.

Catalysing Innovative Solutions



In an interconnected world marked by rapid change, we actively enable solutions, by promoting, supporting and implementing tangible projects and initiatives.

Facilitating Strategic Partnerships



By connecting our business partners with the world's leading decision makers from business, politics, and science, we facilitate partnerships, start-ups, recruitment, and multi-stakeholder collaborations.

Cultivating Mutual Understanding



In a world that is becoming ever more polarised, we help to identify common ground and create empathy by facilitating open debates across generations, regions and worldviews.

Thought Leadership

We develop forward-thinking publications and projects around the topic of cross-generational equity together with various partners based on 50+ years of experience engaging in cross-generational challenges.

A New Generational Contract

The St. Gallen Symposium rests on the idea that cross-generational dialogue improves decision-making and is key to advance action on the critical challenges of our time. Our global initiative “A New Generational Contract” synthesises the key learnings and ideas emerging in our community and brings them to the global stage. Together with partners such as the Club of Rome, the UN Youth Office and BCG Henderson Institute, we raise awareness on the power of intergenerational leadership in global forums and through strategic media engagement.

Young Leaders on Board

Young Leaders on Board (YLoB) aims to bring young, outstanding leaders on the boards of forward-looking companies, to foster sustainability, digital skills and long-term thinking.



Publications



Voices of the Leaders of Tomorrow Report

In collaboration with the Nuremberg Institute for Market Decisions.



How Intergenerational Leadership Unlocks Innovation and Sustainability in Business

A joint report of the United Nations Youth Office, the St. Gallen Symposium and the Club of Rome that underlines the transformative potential of intergenerational leadership.

Year-Round Initiatives

With several initiatives throughout the year and around the globe, we continuously bring together different generations and keep the cross-generational dialogue running.

Global Receptions

Receptions are organized around the world with the aim to foster the dialogue with our international partners and present our annual St. Gallen Symposium theme to different regions of the world.



Singapore Forum

Enabled by the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA), the National University of Singapore, and the Swiss Embassy, a one-day event that addresses the annual theme is held in Singapore.

Global Leadership Challenge

The Global Leadership Challenge (GLO) is a joint initiative of the University of Oxford and the Symposium & aims to help emerging leaders to grow in the wisdom and character required for responsible leadership that makes a difference in the world – leadership that doesn't simply seek to fulfil personal ambition but furthers societies' sustainable development.



EcoOst

EcoOst seeks to transfer and apply the findings of the SGS to the civic community of Eastern Switzerland and constitutes a major regional networking event for SMEs and students across all sectors and disciplines.

Why Partner with the SGS?



Reach Young Talents

As a partner of the St. Gallen Symposium, you can enhance your employer brand and attract top talents by engaging with our carefully curated community of the brightest young minds of the next generation.

Stay Up To Date

As the guiding seismograph for the future of business, politics and society, partners of the St. Gallen Symposium receive a highly condensed learning experience.

Position Your Brand

As a partner, your brand gains visibility and credibility on an international stage. Through official recognition, targeted announcements, and association with a trusted platform, you expand your reach and strengthen awareness.



Build Partnerships

As a partner, you engage with leaders from various industries, generations and regions, allowing you to build long term partnerships or just informal connections.

Support an Important Cause

Being a partner of the St. Gallen Symposium means supporting our vision to “lead with the next generation in mind” and thus aiming for a better future for everyone.

Experience a Unique Journey

Partnering with us is more than just a business partnership; it's a unique, student-driven experience that encourages fresh perspectives, fosters innovative thinking, and pushes you out of your comfort zone.

Partnership Opportunities

Our collaboration opportunities are designed to match the ambitions of our partners – from joining the dialogue to shaping it at the highest level. Whether as a Member, Partner, or Preferred Partner, you **build unique relationships, gain powerful visibility, and make lasting impact**

Included Services	MEMBER	PARTNER	PREFERRED PARTNER
Overall Symposium invitations	1	2	4
Flexible transfer of access for Senior Leaders			
Global Year-Round Dialogue format invitations			
Listing on website, publications at the Symposium			
Possible Aspiring Leader Symposium participations		1	2
Exclusive Dinner for Partners invitations		1	2
Partnership announcement on the SGS communication channels			
Place internships and entry positions in the global SGS network			
Access to top-level Executive Roundtables during the Symposium			
Host an exclusive Leaders of Tomorrow Talk			
Bilateral meetings during the Symposium, facilitated by the SGS Team			
Joint marketing campaigns across the SGS channels throughout the year			
Further projects with the Symposium			

+ Do you want to take your partnership even further?

You can additionally sponsor one of our Leaders of Tomorrow. Contact us for more info.

Our Partners

A carefully selected group of over 300 renowned organisations supports us financially or materially. They are part of the dialogue between different generations of leaders throughout the year and at the Symposium.

Main Partners



Preferred Partners

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AXA Schweiz
Bain & Company
Switzerland, Inc.
Bank of America
Brenntag SE

Canton and City of St. Gallen (Host Region)
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Universität St.Gallen

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