

# Science, Technology, Leisure, and Fear: A story of Interconnections

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## Abstract

It is well known that technological change causes social change, and vice versa. This talk examines that truth at a finer level of specificity, namely, that social perceptions of interconnectedness influence the progress of science and technology, and that conversely, as 21<sup>st</sup>-century technology makes us in fact more connected, society's attitudes shift. From the S&T side, we will look at interdisciplinary research, system and complexity theory, quantum tech, and the Internet, exploring how these interact and cause changes in social attitudes – fears, conspiracy theories, political polarization, and even entertainment trends – some of which are surprising, and some dangerous.