

# Safeguarding against the ‘destruction of future value’

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How can society and organisations mitigate for the accelerating rate of change and global threats to the current status quo? Daria Krivonos, CEO of The Copenhagen Institute for Future Studies is a keynote speaker at OUTLOOK 2019. EDANA’s Director of Communications, Seán Kerrigan, spoke with her recently on the unprecedented challenges to living conditions and business models we have long taken for granted.

**Seán Kerrigan:** In Athens you will give a presentation on the crumbling of ‘four key pillars’ of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that threaten the global status quo. What are these pillars and how are we witnessing them falter? (This presentation reflects the thesis and findings of the recent CIFS report “Crumbling Pillars”)

**Daria Krivonos :** *When we talk about ‘pillars’ we of course recognise that there is more to the last century than the four aspects we have picked. But at the same time, looking back at the developments since the early 1900s, we believe that there are clear trends of i) expansion and strengthening of liberal democracies, ii) a strong momentum in the globalisation movement driven by the western world and iii) a series of significant technological advancements also lead by the West. These three trajectories have shaped the world as we have come to know it, including its institutions, international rules, trading flows etc. The fourth pillar is the climate, which until relatively recently is not something we have taken for granted. I think it’s fair to say, that all four pillars, are now showing signs of fatigue or need for concern.*

## The New Now

**SK:** When we spoke recently, you raised the point that there are few moments in history that people did not feel were unique or turbulent to them at the time. And, of course, historic review backs this up in hindsight. What seems unknown or extraordinary about the way change is occurring now? Are we simply more aware, or is the scale unique?

**DK:** *No doubt, going back to earlier epochs we will find multiple examples of time of upheaval, change and deep societal transformation. What seems different this time is the velocity and acceleration of change. Additionally, the synchronisation of trends, driven by the new age of telecommunications and the internet, are unprecedented. When the students protested in China in 1989, the rest of the world didn’t have a live feed in real time. The progress of information technology means that we instantly partake in something that is*

