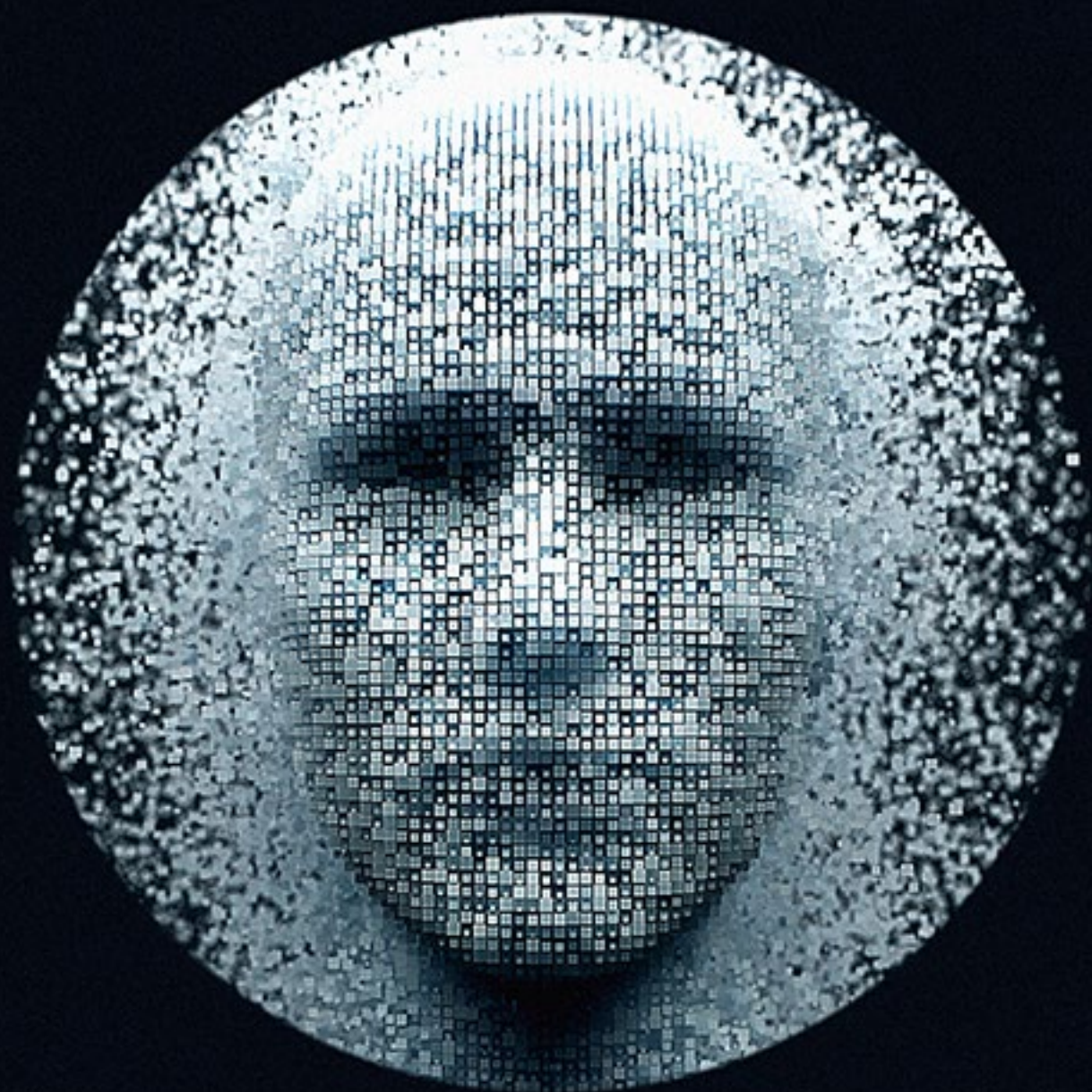


CATHERINE DUMONT

THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



Much more than a paradigm shift, a new way of conceiving the "human"

1. The Fusion of the Biological and the Digital

It is an irrefutable fact that technology is increasingly present in our lives. Digitization is everywhere, artificial intelligence begins to infiltrate the different areas of daily life and our dependence on devices, networks and systems is inevitable. Cell phones at first served just the same function as home telephones, only that they could be used anywhere, but today they allow to broadcast live to potentially huge audiences, do all kinds of transactions and even control some aspects of our health. Without a doubt, we are increasingly immersed in a digital and intelligent world.

But there is a group of power and influence that proposes the advent of a “fourth industrial revolution” and suggests that this is where we are heading. It is not about further digitization, or about technology invading more areas, it is about a new paradigm. In addition, this elite group raises the foundations on which that near future will be built, and they even propose to accelerate and organize the transition. This revolution would be, according to its main promoters Klaus Schwab and the World Economic Forum, a fusion of the biological, digital and physical spheres. So far, industrial revolutions implied certain innovations that allowed new productive models (and everything that entailed), but this revolution would also imply a new way of conceiving the “human”.

Any technology and everything that is usually called “progress”, generally comes along with promises of greater equality and greater freedom, promises of a more comfortable and simple life, promises of improvements in all possible aspects of life, from our health to the air we breathe. In short, promises of a better world. The fourth industrial revolution is also presented with promises, but if we take a better look at the whole plan, the chilling sensation is inevitable.

