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Othmar M. Lehner

AI and Resilience in Times of Uncertainty

What top research says about your next decisions, from a speaker who has made them himself.

Keynotes in English or German, on stage or online, for company events, leadership meetings and congresses, from a boardroom to a hall of two thousand.

Top 2%

of researchers worldwide, Stanford and Elsevier list, 2024 and 2025

7,016

citations, Google Scholar, September 2026

40+

keynotes since 2020, from Brussels and Atlanta to Munich, Helsinki and Venice

KPMG, Citi

previously Director at KPMG and senior risk manager at Citigroup; more than ten years in industry

Five signature keynotes

Each keynote is shaped with the organiser around the audience and the decision at stake. The five below show the range.

- 1 Winning When AI Changes Everything**
Strategy and transformation. Pilots are easy, changing how a company works is not. The talk separates automation, augmentation and reinvention, shows which use cases are worth the effort and how to measure value beyond activity. Leaders leave with a route from experiments to lasting advantage.
- 2 AI in Finance: From Output to Evidence**
Finance and audit. A confident answer is not evidence. The talk follows an AI output through data, controls, accountability and judgement to sign-off, from someone who audits these systems. CFOs leave with a way to scale AI without losing traceability or challenge.
- 3 Governing AI: The EU AI Act in the Boardroom**
Boards and governance. The Act raises the stakes, but compliance alone will not govern shadow AI, vendor dependence or models that change every quarter. Boards learn how to assign decision rights, keep a usable inventory, set escalation triggers and demand an evidence trail.
- 4 Leading and Deciding in a VUCA World**
Leadership and resilience. When forecasts break down, more data can create false confidence. Scenario thinking, reversible decisions and Finnish sisu show where AI sharpens judgement and where it quietly replaces it. Leaders leave with a disciplined way to act before certainty arrives.
- 5 Will Universities Still Exist as We Know Them in Ten Years?**
Higher education. Students already use AI for assessed work; institutions are catching up. What in teaching, assessment and research should scale digitally, and what still depends on people meeting in a place? University leaders leave knowing what to change and what to keep.

Keynote

30 to 60 minutes, on stage or online, with or without Q&A.

Fireside and panel

A conversation with your host, or a panel with your own experts.

Executive briefing

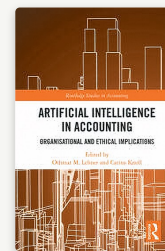
A half day for a board or leadership team, your own cases.

Grounded in practice

The talks are not theory. More than ten years in industry, in senior roles as CFO and in risk management, including in the banking sector; from 2023 to 2026 Director and authorised signatory at KPMG alongside the professorship. As a Certified Public Accountant he evaluates AI and risk systems in audit engagements.

Research on AI

He directs the Hanken Centre for Accounting, Finance and Governance, leads large EU-funded projects and spent more than five years at Oxford.



The research behind the keynotes

Artificial Intelligence in Accounting. Routledge, 2023.

What organisers say

“Prof. Othmar Lehner brings world-class research, substantial executive experience and a commanding presence to the stage. He challenged conventional thinking, fully engaged our audience and delivered practical insights participants could take back to their organizations. I recommend him without hesitation.”

Dr. Christoph Eisl
Board Member, Internationaler Controller Verein (ICV)

Bring a real decision. Leave with a better way to make it.

To book, write with the date, the audience and the format.
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