

Philanthropy track

moderated by Lucy Bernholz

Essayist Arundhati Roy poignantly referred to the Covid-19 pandemic as a “portal” – a characterisation which necessitates a pause and reflection on what we want to take forward and the preferred future philanthropy and civil society need to shape. The Philanthropy track will consider philanthropy’s actions at three levels of analysis:

- Philanthropy’s legitimacy within democracies
- Its responsibilities regarding closing civic space (especially where digital dependencies play a role)
- The behaviours and practices that individual foundations mainstreamed during the pandemic which offer new opportunities for the future

At the highest level – the question of philanthropic legitimacy in democracies – the track provides an opportunity for constructive engagement with critics. With regard to civic space and digital dependencies the track looks specifically at the ways in which the dynamics of governance and governments are shifting in a world of corporate powerhouses. And from the perspective of organisational operating practices we will highlight changes from the past year that demonstrate the ability to respond quickly and engage deeply with communities.