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**ci'num**

**The Digital Civilizations Forum**

**2006**

**Stories to  
the Future**

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# THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND PLEASURE PAVILION

This pavilion features welcoming captors to ensure a personalized visit. It's a question of helping visitors understand the risks of the real world and the future in terms of health, safety and pleasure. The "implant that communicates with the body" is aimed at senior citizens and evaluates and facilitates the communication between different implants with the aim of detecting illnesses before they can develop and thus improve the efficacy of preventative medicine. Other health-linked objects are combined in the "interactive membrane implant", which stimulates aggressive and combative behaviour when there is a threat to personal or collective safety. The membrane can also be used to stimulate pleasure, but cannot equal this pavilion's main pleasure object, the "cybersex doll."



# THE PAVILION THAT NO LONGER EXISTS

This pavilion is divided into three spaces dedicated to things that have been lost or may become lost and the necessary measures to preserve them. The first is a generic theme park for tourists, with a hot dog stand, souvenir shops, etc. The second is a space of safety and isolation, surrounded by a wall or a fence you might find around a house or building. The third space that visitors walk through is a take on the role playing game, with a strictly limited number of choices.

The main point is that many things have been lost. Visitors are reminded that humans are by nature gregarious, and that they have a few natural desires, such as a need for private life and for selective connectivity with other people. The dialogue opens up the communication networks and maintains equilibrium by linking the heart and the mind.



# Robin D. Hanson

**Economist, engineer, thinker**

R. Hanson teaches economics at George Mason University in Virginia. His education is in Physics, Computing and Philosophy. As a creative and critical thinker, he defends new ideas, such as the “ideas market”, and studies the long-term impact of new scientific activities such as brain simulation.

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Our world and our economic models can be characterised by a strong degree of specialization. We make good use of the division of labour, knowledge and expertise from all countries. “This kind of specialization is, in all honesty, the biggest key to our wealth, influence and power today. And almost everything that we want to do now should be based on this independence, but we are not at ease



**The effort that goes into developing some future technologies reveals “the dreams of autarky or visions of independence” of contemporary society.**

with this situation.” We are wary of the way in which we depend on others. Some people want to compartmentalize their lives to protect their private lives from any kind of surveillance (videos, photos), thus remaining independent. “There are so many ears and eyes that are going to look at us and watch us, and people are very concerned about that.”

Some other people think that nanotechnologies will allow us to invent little, entirely autonomous machines that will be able to reproduce themselves, feed themselves, build, etc. or even automated factories and entities capable of judging and deciding. You can see evidence of this research in the artificial intelligence of more general machines, as supple and polyvalent as our brains, as intelligent, capable of asking questions, answering them, and dominating the world. On the other hand, the idea of constituting living communities in space or in the ocean depths seems very unlikely.

In any case, it is important to note that, in a general manner, these desires oppose current trends such as social networking and sharing... “The most progress in the years to come, as in the last few decades or centuries, will be due to more and more specialization and increasing interdependence. Perhaps we don’t like this idea, but we have to get used to it, because it is the key to all our dreams, and to our making them happen in the future.”

# References

www.cinum.org

## Interviews



Here is a reminder list of the interviews released by the media partners of Ci'Num 2006:

**Georges Amar**, from the futurology and innovation development department at RATP

« *La mobilité, un droit* » (*Sud-Ouest*)

**Jean-Claude Burgelman**, sociologist

« *Web, the community revolution* » (*Le Monde*)

**Daniela Cerqui**, anthropologist and professor at Lausanne University

« *Humankind runs the risk of disappearing* » (*Sud-Ouest*)

« *Allons-nous devenir autre chose qu'humain* » (*Fing - Internet Actu*)

**Régine Debatty**, blogger

« *The Technological U-turn* » (*Sud-Ouest*)

**Marcel Desvergne**, Délégué général de Ci'Num

« *Demain ne meurt jamais* » (*SPIRIT N°23*)

**Adam Greenfield**, digital designer

« *Everywhere* »: *for a humanist design of ambient technology* (*Fing - Internet Actu*)

**Robin D. Hanson**, professor of Economics at George Mason University in Virginia

« *Si même un petit nombre d'entre nous cherchait honnêtement la vérité, nous n'aurions plus de désaccords entre nous* » (*Fing - Internet Actu*)

**Derrick de Kerckhove**, professor at the University of Toronto

« *We are all globalised* » (*Sud-Ouest*)

**Françoise Roure**

« *The search for traceability is an integral part of the development of mobility* ». (*Fing - Internet Actu*)

## The Radio programmes

« *La rumeur du monde* »,

programme with Jean-Marie Colombani, Eric Le Boucher (*Le Monde*) and Jean-Claude Casanova (*Commentaire*), with Françoise Roure and Derrick de Kerckhove. Broadcasted October 7th on France Culture.



« *Domaine public* »,

programme with Alain Pagès (*Radio France Bleu Gironde*), Pierre Tillinac (*Sud Ouest*) and *L'Express*, with Derrick de Kerckhove and Daniela Cerqui. Broadcasted on October 12th at 6pm on RFBG.



« *Mouvements* »,

programme with Eric le Boucher (*Le Monde*), columnist. Broadcast on October 8 on Radio classique info.

