I am a speaker for the Nature – as in "Mother Nature", or Nature as a Harsh Mistress, since the Nature will have a final word about our future.

I have 3 points to make in this talk: (post-singularity, post-Snowden, post-collapse)

1) technological "singularity" is fiction; post-singularity doubly so ;-)
2) post-Snowden issues with "the Internet" are well known, but I want to focus on the issues of neo-liberal capitalism as propagated & enforced by “the Internet”
3) what is interesting for me is post-collapse – – for me, series of collapses are a CERTAINTY: economical, energy, environmental/ecological – and the most worrying for me: extinction! what happens next?
Concept of Technological Singularity as a moment when machines get inter-connected to each other – and/or connect uploaded human “brains” to each other – to form planetary consciousness translates very well to the “Internet of Fungi”, where mycelium connects roots of trees to each other, and enables their communication, creating super-organisms that span forests, contents, and possibly the whole planet.

In this version of reality, we are already living in the post-singularity of mycelium.
Professionally, I work on “building the better Internet”, so this is the topic most familiar with me -- however, personally, this is the topic I want to spend the LEAST time on: there are many excellent resources available about the problems of surveillance, censorship, loss of privacy (&) : for example, BoF & BBA hackers-camp SHA2017 & HackFem. ((& corporatism/corruption, government regulation, censorship, malvertisements and commercialisation of personal data ...)}
I am a traitor to the Homo Sapiens, and I am a Speaker for Squirrels.

Squirrels are a symbol for natural world, for fellow inhabitants of our planet, for the “other”, for the “alien intelligence” that we are so eagerly searching for – – and they are also cute & furry and mostly invoke feelings of sympathy and joy.

The collapse is a CERTAINTY but what I would hate to happen is the extinction of squirrels – it was not their fault!
Instead of Artificial Intelligence, I believe in alternative definitions of intelligence, the one that is NOT anthropocentric!

For me, mycelium is part of the “planetary Internet” of fungi, plants and animals.
* Some humans have, at some point in our development, become very arrogant, and placed ourselves both OUTSIDE of community of living beings, and ABOVE / superior all the others, in the false ideas of exceptions (religious or scientific), hierarchies, progress.

* We -- in this room, in this city, in this country -- are descendants of those humans: so-called “takers” cultures; industrial-agriculture & monotheistic religions, that through “progress” led to “information society” -> and also towards the idea of “singularity”
We – descendants of cultures who have chosen expansion & violence as our way of living – have been causing mayor problems: climate change, oceans accidification, global pollution, deforestations, ice-melts, and – sixth mass extinction.

- ultimate risk is that we will make the planet un-inhabitable, leading to human extinction
  - – which to a traitor like me seems like a fair outcome

- what I would really be pissed off about is if we take SQUIRRELS with us! They are innocent and do not deserve to stop existing because of us!

One of the better outcomes is that, in her response to our activities, Nature will “take her course” and quickly lead to the series of collapses – first economic, then industrial, then civilisational – which would stop FURTHER destruction of biosphere. If this happens soon enough, there is still some hope for squirrels.
another way to describe this belief is: anthropocentrism

- based on that belief, we are first enslaving fellow living beings, then exploiting them, and finally killing them off — the whole ecosystems, the whole species, and possibly — the whole biosphere (including atmosphere, and oceans)

alternative IS possible — other cultures have been living in harmony with their environment and with other species of plants and animals.
Get a perspective: on our place in time

tip of the middle-finger of the “invisible hand” of time.
Crisis that we are living in is not new – there have been civilisations & collapses before our time too.

Possible outcomes are discussed by many authors; here is a handy chart.
Scientific modelling of the “resources use” and equality of social relations, leading towards collapses – or towards stable outcomes!

Modeling Inequality and Use of Resources in the Collapse or Sustainability of Societies
I think human consciousness is a tragic mis-step in evolution. We became too self-aware. Nature created an aspect of nature separate from itself.

The honorable thing for our species to do is to deny our programming. Stop reproducing. Walk hand in hand into extinction. One last midnight, brothers and sisters, opting out of a raw deal.

Philosophical / pessimistic view from popular culture
Even more pessimistic view: our is the culture of psychopaths
Which brings me to the Internet, and my issues with it – the connection between “Internet Industry” and free-market / neoliberal capitalism:
1) energy consumption
2) violent exploitation of environment & people
3) pollution
   from the electronic-waste
   as consequences of the energy production & use
   from the transport needed for its operations (not the least flying around the world of conference-goers ;-)
Internet was supposed to model the decentralisation, make communication & organising easier, bring freedom, spread knowledge, and enable sharing of knowledge.

Instead, we have this: pyramid...

oppression & violence
- perpetuating status quo;
- exploitation & dominance of people who are contributing to its operations
- deepening of inequalities (economic, gender, racial, national);
- reinforces existing power structures, hierarchies & centralised systems (of patriarchy, racism, economy, finance, industry, media, corporations, governments...)
- rich get richer: Silicon Valley is a new Wall Street; Apple not paying tax; Google & Facebook being richer than many countries

Internet became from the systems of oppression: neo-liberal capitalism, militarism, “science”, and industry; based on exploitative myths of growth and progress, and it is perpetuating structural violence that is characteristic of these systems of oppression that gave birth to it

[David Graeber, Derrick Jensen, Freddy Perlman, Heather Marsh]
Internet is deepening the divide between 1st & 3rd world:

For the first-world: shiny data-centres and server-farms (cloud ;-)  
For the 3rd world: children working in mines for precious metals, and sifting through OUR poisons discards and waste
Imagine if trees gave off wifi signals, we would be planting so many trees and we'd probably save the planet too.

Too bad they only produce the oxygen we breathe.

But that problem is going to solve itself.
Instead of “the internet of things”, there will still be “an Internet of trees”
Squirrels are helping
In search of Alien Intelligence, we are overlooking the fellow-species on this planet: pigs, parrots, dolphins, octopi, bacteria, fungi, forests, squirrels!
In the cultures of dominance, it is difficult to recognise our own privilege.

We are framing the changes that have to happen as GIVING UP our PRIVILEGE and that's why we are RELUCTANT to change, and RESISTING the change.
This is how radical equality looks like ;-)
While we think we are oppressed by “1%” or richest people on the planet, ALL the people on the planet are oppressing all the other living creatures, who are the true 99% ;-)
Mature cultures have found balance with Nature

Solution: to take our proper place in the symphony of Life, and play our proper part

some human societies have found the BALANCE, over the last 1.000.000 years.

only in the last 10.000 years some cultures have managed to forget those lessons, and to expand themselves to planetary boundaries — at the expense of all the other human cultures, and many plants & animals too. but that pattern of behaviour is impossible to sustain, and will end – which is Nature’s way of implementing this “law”.
“singularity” in itself follows this fallacy of linear progress, and (exponential) growth, and expansion – that is the characteristic of “adolescent stage” in the development of the person – and of culture & society.

* exponential function is one of the fundamental laws of nature & ecology: exponential growth can not be sustained. all other species are limited in their consumption of resources by this law; they have found ways to balance their own existence with the existence of other fellow species in the same living systems, in the same environments.

* some human societies/cultures have found those ways too, over the last 1.000.000 years. only in the last 10.000 years some cultures have managed to forget those lessons, and to expand themselves to planetary boundaries — at the expense of all the other human cultures, and many plants & animals too. but that pattern of behaviour is impossible to sustain, and will end – which is Nature’s way of implementing this “law”.
In order to prepare for the collapses:
1) prepare ourselves,
2) connect with nature
3) connect with each other
   - get in touch with our emotions
   - cultivate self-empathy
   - experience joy & grief

- Death is part of Life
- All we can do is to love
- This, too, shall pass
- Only love remains
- I am enough
- Love is all we have left
- realise that we depend on each other – human communities – NOT (only) individuals
  - cultivate empathy
  - care for each other
  - practice solidarity

take action: reach out, build new communities, raise awareness, share experiences, create new narratives
- realise and accept our connection with & being part of Nature
  - re-connect with Nature
  - take our proper place in the symphony of Life, and play our proper part
  - take care of the others – take care of squirrels