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THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF FREEDOM

Turning Ideas into Action

Perth, Australia – December 6, 2018 – Perth-based Mannkal Economic Education Foundation (Mannkal) is sponsoring a new research project with leaders of innovative technology at RMIT in Melbourne to understand how new technologies such as block chain networks, automation, artificial intelligence, 5G, drones, nanotechnology and genetic engineering present remarkable opportunities to enhance individual rights.

After finalising the project agreement, Mannkal Chairman, Ron Manners said,

“We are working with some of the best free market minds in world and excited about sharing the benefits these technologies bring.”

Throughout history new technologies have revolutionised and enhanced our individual freedoms. From the dawn of the printing press to low cost telecommunications of the 1980s and growing realm of World Wide Web, individual freedoms have been liberated by the spread of information. With human society on the cusp of an even more dramatic wave of technological change, an esteemed team of RMIT innovators including Dr Chris Berg, Professor Sinclair Davidson, Professor Jason Potts, Dr Darcy Allen and Dr Mikayla Novak, question the dangers and opportunities new technologies deliver.

How will self-enforcing algorithms in artificial intelligence comply with the rule of law? How does block chain change the political economy relationships between individuals and governments? These are the questions Mannkal seeks to answer. Manners states

“We are presented with a unique and exciting opportunity through revolutionary technologies to reshape our institutions through permissionless innovation. This new project is paramount to linking actions to ideas and ensuring ground-breaking technologies will protect people and their livelihoods into the future.”

This project will have a particular focus on the local economy. Research will question how WA benefit from the new generation of high technology, specifically in relation to the states unique economy of a highly-skilled labour force and abundant natural resources.

This project originated in Spain at the Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting, an academic conference of liberal and libertarian scholars where [Manners described](#) the need for “effective bullets [for the libertarian and classical liberal intellectual movement] to fire.”* This research project is based on that insight. The protection of individual rights is not solely a public policy question. It is also a matter of giving individual citizens the tools and confidence in the absence of government support, or even when government and policymakers are hostile to individual liberties.

Mannkal Executive Director Andrew Pickford highlights that this project aligns with Mannkal’s mission to develop future free market leaders. “This exciting project complements our foundational *Leadership Development Program* that fully funds more than 400 WA students per year to travel the world and learn about free market principles, our support for a public choice unit with Notre Dame University and our on-campus activities – all of which expose WA students to free market ideas in a global context. The output of this project will be used by future scholars as they navigate the next phase of digital disruption.

The researchers will present at the LibertyWeek Conference in Perth during March 7th – 9th, 2019

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*Manners, R. 2018. ‘Liberty could be good for you too!’ Speech to the Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting, Gran Canaria, Spain, 30 September – 6 October. <https://www.mannwest.com/liberty-could-be-good-for-you-too/>