



Saturday, April 16, 2016, 3pm
Wheeler Auditorium

Berkeley Talks

Co-presented by Cal Performances and UC Berkeley

Jaron Lanier



In Conversation with Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks

Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

BERKELEY TALKS is a new series of conversations that brings together international thought leaders, public scholars, creators, and innovators to examine the distinctive issues of our time. These luminaries will engage in dialogue at the sometimes surprising nexus between their area of expertise and the University's core mission, celebrating the Chancellor's vision of a vibrant, engaged, and forward-looking campus culture.

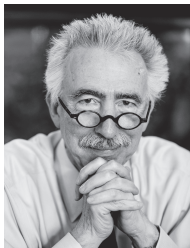
Jaron Lanier is a computer scientist, composer, artist, and author who writes on numerous topics, including high-technology business, the social impact of technology, the philosophy of consciousness and information, Internet politics, and the future of humanism. He offers a critical and insightful perspective on big data: who owns the data, what it all means for our society, and the quest for a sustainable digital economy. Lanier looks at the large patterns shaping the digital world, such as the 2008 financial crisis, NSA surveillance, and the implementation of healthcare.gov. His most recent book, *Who Owns the Future?*, an international best-seller, was declared the most important book of 2013 by Joe Nocera in *The New York Times*.

Lanier has always been on the cusp of technological innovation. A pioneer in virtual reality (a term he coined), he founded VPL Research, the first company to sell VR products, and led teams creating VR applications for medicine, design, and other fields. He has been named one of top 100 public intellectuals in the world by *Foreign Policy* magazine, and one of history's 300 or so greatest inventors in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. In 2009, Lanier received a Lifetime Career Award from the IEEE, the preeminent international engineering society.

Lanier's writing appears in *Discover*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Atlantic*, *Wired Magazine* (where he was a founding contributing editor), and *Scientific American*. He has appeared on numerous television programs and has been profiled multiple times on the front pages of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*.

Jaron Lanier is also a musician and artist. He is a pianist and a specialist in unusual and historical musical instruments, and maintains one of the largest and most varied collections of actively played instruments in the world. Lanier has performed with a wide range of musicians,

and his paintings and drawings have been exhibited in museums and galleries in the United States and Europe.



Nicholas B. Dirks became the 10th chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, on June 1, 2013. An internationally renowned historian and anthropologist, he is a leader in higher education and is well-known for his commitment to and advocacy for accessible, high-quality undergraduate education in the liberal arts and sciences, to the globalization of the university, and to innovation across the disciplines as well as in applied and basic fields.

Before coming to Berkeley, he was the executive vice president for the arts and sciences and dean of the faculty at Columbia University, where, in addition to his work on behalf of undergraduate programs, he improved and diversified the faculty, putting special emphasis on interdisciplinary and international initiatives. The Franz Boas Professor of Anthropology and History, Chancellor Dirks joined Columbia in 1997 as chair of the anthropology department. Prior to his appointment at Columbia, he was a professor of history and anthropology at the University of Michigan for 10 years, before which he taught Asian history and civilization at the California Institute of Technology.

Chancellor Dirks has held numerous fellowships and scholarships and received several scholarly honors, including a MacArthur Foundation residential fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, a Guggenheim fellowship, and the Lionel Trilling Award for his book *Castes of Mind*. He serves on numerous national and international bodies, as adviser or member of the board, and is a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.