**Biography**

Named one of the “world’s ten most influential intellectuals” by MIT, Douglas Rushkoff is an author and documentarian who studies human autonomy in a digital age. His twenty books include the just-published *Team Human*, based on his podcast, as well as the bestsellers *Present Shock, Throwing Rocks at the Google Bus, Program or Be Programmed, Life Inc,* and *Media Virus*. He also made the PBS Frontline documentaries *Generation Like, The Persuaders,* and *Merchants of Cool*. His book *Coercion* won the Marshall McLuhan Award, and the Media Ecology Association honored him with the first Neil Postman Award for Career Achievement in Public Intellectual Activity. Rushkoff’s work explores how different technological environments change our relationship to narrative, money, power, and one another. He coined such concepts as “viral media,” “screenagers,” and “social currency,” and has been a leading voice for applying digital media toward social and economic justice. He is a research fellow of the Institute for the Future, and founder of the Laboratory for Digital Humanism at CUNY/Queens, where he is a Professor of Media Theory and Digital Economics. He is a columnist for Medium, and his novels and comics, *Ecstasy Club*, *A.D.D.*, and *Aleister & Adolf*, are all being developed for the screen.

**Abstract**

There is an anti-human agenda embedded in our markets and technologies, which has turned them from means of human connection into ones of isolation and repression. Our corporations and the culture they create glorify individualism at the expense of cooperation, threatening the sustainability not just of our economy but our species. In this talk, Rushkoff will reveal this agenda at work and invite us to remake society toward human ends rather than the end of humans. He will discuss how the intentional repression of humanity impacts diverse sectors of society, explaining how money went from being a means of transaction to a means of extraction and how education transformed from the ideal of learning into an extension of occupational training. Digital age technologies have only amplified these trends, making our systems more brittle and presenting the greatest challenges yet to our collective autonomy: robots taking our jobs, algorithms directing our attention, and social media influencing our votes. Rushkoff will argue that there’s still time to think before we hit the switch and automate ourselves out of existence. We must reconnect with our essentially social nature, assert a place for humans in the emerging landscape, and forge solidarity with the others who understand that being human is a team sport.

**Speaker**

**Doug Rushkoff**

Bestselling Author | Professor of Media Theory & Digital Economics at CUNY/Queens

**Title**

Team Human: Optimizing Technology for Human Beings (instead of the other way around)

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