

Dan Breznitz

Innovation Strategist | Global Policy Advisor | Bestselling Author

INNOVATION POLICY · ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT · INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY · SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE · GLOBALIZATION · INCLUSIVE GROWTH

THE PITCH

A policy-grounded innovation strategist translating how regions, firms, and supply chains actually build prosperity—and who gets left behind.

FULL BIO

Dan Breznitz is a University Professor and Munk Chair of Innovation Studies at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto, with a cross-appointment in the Department of Political Science. He also serves as Co-Director of the Innovation Policy Lab and is a Senior Fellow at Massey College.

He is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), where he co-created and co-directs the Innovation, Equity and the Future of Prosperity program—a bold, multidisciplinary initiative spanning the humanities, law, social science, and engineering, aimed at building a new field of inquiry.

Breznitz is a globally recognized expert on rapid-innovation-based industries and their globalization, as well as the distributional effects of innovation policies. He has served on several boards and advised multinational corporations, governments, and international organizations on science, technology, and innovation strategies. In 2021–22, he served as the Clifford Clark Economist—the Canadian federal Department of Finance’s top external advisor—leading new thinking on the restructuring of the Canadian economy and helping to establish new national innovation agencies.

He is the recipient of numerous scholarly and policy awards, including the GTRC 75th Anniversary Innovation Award for Public Service, Leadership, and Policy, and was named a Sloan Industry Studies Fellow. Prior to joining the University of Toronto, Breznitz spent eight years at Georgia Tech, holding appointments in the Scheller College of Business, the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, and the School of Public Policy. Earlier in his career, he founded and served as CEO of a software startup.

Breznitz is also an award-winning author. His first book, *Innovation and the State: Political Choice and Strategies for Growth in Israel, Taiwan, and Ireland*, won the Don K. Price Award for best book on science and technology in 2008. His second book, *The Run of the Red Queen: Government, Innovation, Globalization, and Economic Growth in China* (co-authored with Michael Murphree), was named the 2012 Susan Strange Best Book in International Studies and featured in *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, and *Forbes*.

His most recent book, *Innovation in Real Places: Strategies for Prosperity in an Unforgiving World*, was selected by the *Financial Times* as one of the best books of 2021. It is the only title to win both of Canada’s top public policy awards: the Donner Prize and the Balsillie Prize for Public Policy.

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SIGNATURE KEYNOTES**Innovation in Real Places: Rethinking Growth for Prosperity and Equity.**

For decades, the Silicon Valley model has dominated the global conversation around innovation. But what if that model is not only unsustainable for most places—but actively harmful? In this provocative and deeply researched keynote, Dan Breznitz dismantles the one-size-fits-all approach to innovation and outlines alternative models that have proven successful around the world. Drawing from years of fieldwork and policy advising, he explores how different communities—from small towns to mid-sized cities—can design innovation ecosystems that match their unique capabilities, workforce, and values. Attendees will walk away with a clearer understanding of how to build localized strategies that drive sustained economic growth while promoting equality, resilience, and long-term prosperity.

From Fragile Supply Chains to Resilient Economies: Innovation in a Globalized World.

Today's global production and innovation networks are more complex—and more vulnerable—than ever. In this compelling keynote, Dan Breznitz explores the critical connection between innovation, production, and economic sovereignty. He explains how current global systems were built, where they fall short, and what governments, companies, and communities can do to regain control. Offering concrete case studies and original insights, Breznitz shows how different regions can carve out strategic roles in global value chains—not just as consumers or outsourced labor hubs, but as creators, producers, and innovation leaders. This session is ideal for organizations and policymakers looking to future-proof their strategies in an era of economic uncertainty and transformation.

Inclusive Innovation: The Role of Communities, Policy, and Universities in Shared Prosperity.

Innovation is often treated as the domain of elite universities and global tech hubs—but it doesn't have to be. In this forward-thinking keynote, Dan Breznitz challenges the traditional power centers of innovation and asks: What if the true engines of prosperity are rooted in local communities, smaller institutions, and collaborative policy frameworks? He dives into the evolving role of research universities, the expectations communities should rightfully have of them, and how public policy can support inclusive innovation that uplifts everyone—not just the usual beneficiaries. With sharp insight and practical takeaways, Breznitz outlines a vision for innovation that is not only smarter, but fairer—anchored in the belief that prosperity should be shared.

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PORTRAIT



STAGE

BOOK THIS SPEAKER

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Full digital profile, video reel, and additional press-kit assets: spokenartists.com/speakers/dan-breznitz