

Vikram Mansharamani

Global Trend-Setter and Lecturer, Harvard and Yale Universities, Boombustology: Spotting Financial Bubbles Before They Burst

ZOOM OUT! – THE GENERALIST ADVANTAGE Every day, we are confronted with radical global uncertainty – new policies and regulations, the impact of populism and protectionism on global business, fluctuating commodity prices, shifting political influence, interest rate and currency risk, and a myriad of other trends. To cut through the noise and confusion, we have increasingly come to rely on hyper-specialized experts. This trend has helped us to solve important problems, but not without a cost. The result is that we live in a world that overvalues expertise and specialization. Has the pendulum swung too far? Vikram Mansharamani thinks it has – and it's impacted our ability to manage risk, navigate disruption and uncover hidden opportunities.

GLOBALIZATION: RETURNING WITH A VENGEANCE? Political upheavals are signaling a widespread rejection of globalization. And it's not just happening in the North Atlantic. Nationalist movements are popping up the world over. Meanwhile, global trade growth has been slowing. What's driving these seismic shifts, and how should we navigate the great uncertainty they generate?

CONSUMPTION BOOM AHEAD Every day, the media trumpets warnings of a global economic slowdown. The price of oil and other commodities have crashed, damaging emerging and developed economies alike that depend on them to be high. In a world of persistently low interest rates and easy money, people have struggled to find good investments. The IMF has downgraded its global growth forecasts. And as populism and nationalism rise, globalization and free trade are in retreat.

THE END OF CHEAP FOOD Food is emerging as one of the future's most volatile assets. Political, economic, climatic and societal change all factor into the equation. Vikram Mansharamani shows why the era of cheap food may soon be over and describes the geo-political and geo-economic ramifications of this possibility – from Wall Street to Pudong. The implications of land grabs, fertilizer availability, climate change, water scarcity, and price-related food (in)security will have profound impact on our world.

AVOID SURPRISES – SPOT BUBBLES BEFORE THEY BURST Vikram Mansharamani contends the ability to identify financial (and other) bubbles before they burst is easier if you step outside your expertise. Narrow focus can lead to tunnel vision. Instead, it's best to zoom out and look through multiple lenses – to art markets, architecture, popular culture, economics, politics and more. In this speech Vikram empowers audiences with practical tools and assures them that they don't need to be an expert to effectively anticipate the future.