# Trust me, I’m a Human

##### Keynote Speech

#### Time: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 - 09:15 to 10:00

## Speaker

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| Ruben VerborghGhent University - imec | I’m a Professor of Decentralized Web Technology at [IDLab](http://idlab.ugent.be/) of [Ghent University](http://www.ugent.be/en) – [imec](https://www.imec-int.com/) and a Visiting Fellow at the [Oxford Martin School](https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/) within the [University of Oxford](https://www.ox.ac.uk/). I’m the Head of Data Interoperability at [Inrupt](https://www.inrupt.com/) and an advisor to other companies. From this hybrid academic and industrial perspective, my professional mission is to **support** [**Solid**](https://solidproject.org/) **in inspiring, transforming, and reshaping our data-driven society**.  As a computer scientist, I investigate how decentralized knowledge graphs on the Web can lead us into the post-Big Data era, where companies realize that data harvesting as a business model is a dead end. The future consists of lots of small data that is [*linked*](https://ruben.verborgh.org/blog/2018/12/28/designing-a-linked-data-developer-experience/#backend-independent). [**People will be in control**](https://ruben.verborgh.org/articles/redecentralizing-the-web/) **of *where* they store their data and with *whom* they share it**, independently of the services they use. I’m researching and implementing technologies that enable us to [effect this socio-economic change](https://ruben.verborgh.org/blog/2020/12/07/a-data-ecosystem-fosters-sustainable-innovation/) on both a local and a global scale. |