# Trust me, I’m a Human

##### Keynote Speech

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

The natural numbers predate the start of time. Along with every single piece of data, which are nothing but numbers, their existence spans a perpetuity unaffected by spacetime. History started some 14 billion years ago, when the Big Bang produced all of the material reality that will ever exist in the current universe. Then in the Early Middle Ages, the Anglo-Saxons invented the consent dialog, which the invention of the Web in the 1990s recently raised to a new level after GDPR took effect in 2018. Finally, ChatGPT arrived on earth in 2022 and obsoleted everything else. Trust me, I'm a human.

## Speaker

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| Ruben VerborghProfessor of Decentralized Web Technology, Ghent University and University of Oxford. [LinkedIn profile](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rubenverborgh/) | 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. |