



Kjell A Nordström

Kjell A Nordström is one of Europe's most influential business thinkers and a globally acclaimed futurist. His powerful keynotes challenge and inspire leaders to embrace change, harness innovation, and reimagine the future of work, leadership and global business.

KEY TOPICS

- The Future of Business in a Post-Global World
- Urbanisation, Innovation and the Rise of Megacities
- Diversity as a Competitive Advantage
- Leadership in Times of Turbulence
- The Impact of Technology, War and Climate on the Global Economy

BIOGRAPHY

Introduction

Kjell A Nordström is a world-renowned economist, futurist and global business strategist known for his bold predictions, charismatic stage presence and deep insight into global change. Described as one of the most original voices in modern business thinking, he has spent three decades advising corporations, governments and leaders on how to navigate disruption and capitalise on transformation. As one of Europe's leading management thinkers, Kjell blends academic rigour with visionary foresight, offering audiences a compelling glimpse into the forces reshaping business, society and leadership. His lectures challenge assumptions, spark debate and leave audiences inspired to act.

Professional Background & Credentials

Kjell holds a Doctorate in International Business from the Stockholm School of Economics, where he also played a central role at the prestigious Institute for International Business. He co-founded the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at the school, an elite executive programme that attracted top Scandinavian leaders. Throughout his distinguished career, Kjell has worked as a researcher, consultant and adviser to multinational companies and national governments. His global perspective is grounded in first-hand experience, including research conducted in Lahore and Beijing, and his involvement in post-Soviet reconstruction efforts in Ukraine during the 1990s. His ability to anticipate trends and translate complex dynamics into actionable strategies has made him a trusted advisor to senior executives and a keynote speaker at major global events. He has appeared on CNN, CNBC, and in international business media including The Economist and Harvard Business Review.

Books and Publications

Kjell A. Nordström's influence extends far beyond the stage through his bestselling books, which have shaped global management thinking over the past two decades. His international breakthrough came with *Funky Business* (1999), co-authored with Jonas Ridderstråle, a landmark work that redefined the new economy at the turn of the millennium. He followed this success with *Karaoke Capitalism* (2003) and *Funky Business Forever* (2007), exploring creativity, innovation and individuality in business. His later collaborations with Per Schlingmann, including *Urban Express* (2014), *Corona Express* (2021) and *Momentum* (2022), analyse the intersection of global crises, leadership and urban transformation. His latest book, *The Monkey and the Money* (2023), continues his exploration of how human behaviour, finance and technology intertwine in a rapidly evolving world. His works have been translated into multiple languages and remain essential reading for leaders navigating complexity and change.

Speaking Style & Audience Value

Kjell's speaking style is a masterful blend of intellect, storytelling and theatrical flair. Known for his electrifying presence and wit, he captures audiences with sharp insights delivered through elegant simplicity and humour. His keynotes are intellectually provocative yet deeply practical, helping organisations uncover opportunities in global markets, embrace diversity as a strategic asset, and prepare for future challenges. Whether addressing thousands at an international conference or facilitating an intimate leadership retreat, Kjell's ability to connect ideas with action makes him one of the most engaging and thought-provoking speakers on the world stage.

Beyond the Stage

Outside his professional life, Kjell is an active entrepreneur, investor and lover of the arts. He runs a renowned Shakespeare theatre group on the Swedish island of Gotland and serves as a trusted adviser to international companies. His unique combination of intellectual depth, creative energy and real-world experience continues to inspire audiences across the globe. [Contact us now](#) for more information on how Kjell can help your organisation anticipate global trends, embrace innovation, and thrive in an age of transformation.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"It was incredibly powerful, immensely forward looking and visionary. We are also full of admiration for your superb and inspirational facilitation techniques."

— Rudolf H. Messinger, Chief, Career Management Section, UNICEF Headquarters

"Your presentation received some fantastic feedback. Attendees described it as refreshing, entertaining and truly inspiring. It really put the emphasis of the conference on new thinking which was exactly what we wanted to achieve. We continue to get so many positive comments about your talk. It was excellent and helped people to think differently."

— Sylvia DeVoge, HayGroup, London

"You have been a very nice Swedish surprise to us. It has been quite some time ago that I can remember that a lecture has been so inspiring, though provoking, personal, humorous and entertaining. Without any exception I have received similar feedback from my fellow partners, including our global team."

— Pieter J.A.M. Jongstra, AABS Managing Partner Central Europé, Ernst & Young ®

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