



**100 women in  
hedge funds®**

**Education Session No. 639:  
Disruptive Technology in Asset Management**

September 29, 2016 at 6:30 PM  
London

Technology has disrupted nearly every facet of the financial services industry. Mastering technology will be a key differentiator and prove a significant competitive advantage for firms that embrace and invest in it.

A new wave of innovation is re-shaping distribution models and putting more power, transparency and insight in the hands of investors. Join us as we explore the trends and opportunities driven by the rise in financial technologies. Bring questions to this lively discussion, which will be followed by informal networking over drinks.

**Participants**

**Geraldine Buckingham**, BlackRock  
**Thomas Fortin**, BlackRock  
**Romi Savova**, PensionBee  
**Poppy Allonby**, *Moderator*, BlackRock

**Event Details**

**Date:** September 29, 2016

**Time:** 6 PM Registration.

We will begin *promptly* at 6:30 PM; please arrive early. Since it is disruptive to everyone when latecomers enter the session, those arriving after an education session has begun will only be admitted at the discretion of 100WHF and the host. Please note the start time on this invite and plan to arrive early.

Networking and canapés will follow.

**Host:** BlackRock

**Location:** 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DL, United Kingdom

**RSVP:** [RSVP Now](#)

If you have any questions about this event, please contact the [London Education Events](#) committee.

**This event is NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION. All 100WHF events are private events and we require that no one reports publicly on any aspect of them.**

**Admission to this event is free, but there is a £20 charge if you register and do not attend (even if you cancel in advance). No-show proceeds will be donated to SkillForce, the beneficiary of 100WHF's most recent UK philanthropic initiatives.**

If you have no-show fees in arrears, the system cannot register you for an event. You can view and pay for any outstanding no-show fees online from your [Member Profile](#)

Space is limited. No walk-ins will be permitted.

## Biographies

**Geraldine Buckingham**, Senior Managing Director, Global Head of Corporate Strategy, BlackRock  
Dr. Buckingham is responsible for helping BlackRock develop and implement long-term goals and respond to the competitive financial services landscape. She previously served as Head of Americas Corporate Strategy. Dr. Buckingham is a member of the Global Executive Committee and the Global Operating Committee.

Prior to joining BlackRock in 2014, Dr. Buckingham was a partner with McKinsey & Company's financial services practice based in New York. She worked primarily with large global asset managers with additional experience in wealth management and private equity, as well as functional expertise in strategy and organization.

Dr. Buckingham received the Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University, where she earned a Master of Philosophy degree in Comparative Social Policy. She earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degrees from Monash University.

**Thomas Fortin**, Managing Director, Head of Retail Technology, BlackRock  
Mr. Fortin is Head of Retail Technology in the firm's Retail and iShares group where he is responsible for leveraging technology to enrich what BlackRock offers retail clients. He is also responsible for using technology and data to increase the effectiveness of the firm's retail distribution team globally. He is a member of BlackRock's Global Operating Committee, Human Capital Committee and Corporate Risk Management Committee.

Prior to assuming his current role in 2014, Mr. Fortin led the BlackRock Platform & Integration team where he was responsible for the enterprise integration of BlackRock's acquisitions of Merrill Lynch Investment Management and Barclays Global Investors. Mr. Fortin was formerly Chief Information Officer for the firm and led the Aladdin development team from 2002 to 2011 and technology infrastructure from 2009 to 2011. From 2001 to 2003, Mr. Fortin co-led the BlackRock Solutions Client Services Group, which was responsible for implementing Aladdin at large institutional clients.

Prior to joining BlackRock in 2001, Mr. Fortin spent ten years with Wall Street Systems in the development and implementation of a front-to-back integrated fixed income and FX trading system for global financial institutions. From 1988 to 1991, he traded FX and interest rate derivatives at Chemical Bank (now JP Morgan Chase) in New York. Through a joint engineering program, Mr. Fortin earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University and a BS degree in engineering from Providence College, and an MBA degree in Finance from New York University.

**Romi Savova**, CEO, PensionBee  
Ms. Savova is responsible for the overall strategic development and operational management at PensionBee. She has spent her career at Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, holding varied roles in investment banking, risk management and financial technology. Prior to founding PensionBee, Ms. Savova was Head of Corporate Development at Credit Benchmark, an Index Ventures portfolio company.

Ms. Savova holds an MBA from Harvard Business School, where she graduated as a George F. Baker scholar.

**Poppy Allonby**, Managing Director, BlackRock

Ms. Allonby is a member of BlackRock's Natural Resources Team and is responsible for approx. \$4 billion in global Energy investment funds. She manages investments in both the oil & gas sector and in businesses that are facilitating and benefiting from the transition to a lower carbon economy (for example: clean tech, renewable power, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility). Ms. Allonby's service with the firm dates back to 2000, including her years at Merrill Lynch Investment Managers.

Ms. Allonby serves as a Commissioner on the Energy Transitions Commission. In 2016, she was honoured by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader.

Ms. Allonby has a degree in Physics from Imperial College, London.

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**About BlackRock**

BlackRock is a global leader in investment management, risk management and advisory services for institutional and retail clients. At June 30, 2016, BlackRock's AUM was \$4.890 trillion. BlackRock helps clients around the world meet their goals and overcome challenges with a range of products that include separate accounts, mutual funds, iShares® (exchange-traded funds), and other pooled investment vehicles. BlackRock also offers risk management, advisory and enterprise investment system services to a broad base of institutional investors through BlackRock Solutions®. As of June 30, 2016, the firm had approximately 12,700 employees in more than 30 countries and a major presence in global markets, including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East and Africa. For additional information, please visit the Company's website at [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com) | Twitter: @blackrockUKnews

**About 100 Women in Hedge Funds** ([www.100womeninhedgefunds.org](http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org))

100 Women in Hedge Funds is a global, practitioner-driven non-profit organisation serving over 15,000 alternative investment management investors and finance professionals in 20 locations through educational, professional leverage and philanthropic initiatives. Formed in 2001, 100 Women in Hedge Funds has hosted more than 600 industry education events globally, connected more than 400 senior women through Peer Advisory Groups and raised over \$38 million gross for philanthropic causes in the areas of women's and family health, education and mentoring.