

Futurologist Parag Khanna calls for rethink of new map of the world



Globalization specialist Parag Khanna described new world challenges as part of the “Inspire to Transform” lecture series to mark the Tec’s 80th Anniversary

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*“We find ourselves before a generation of young people with the greatest **capacity for mobility** seen in recent decades,”* said geopolitics and globalization specialist [**Parag Khanna**](#).

Khanna, who is also a **leading advisor on global strategy**, said there are **five driving forces** that foster this **mobility**, which are demographic **imbalances**, **political** agitation, **economic** dislocation, **technological** disruption, and **climate change**.

He shared the above during his talk **“The New Map of the World in 2030-2040,”** given as part of the **“Inspire to Transform”** lecture series organized by [**Tec de**](#)

Monterrey to celebrate its **80th anniversary**.

The globalization specialist shared the main current global challenges with the Tec community.



*"We're currently seeing that the oldest cities are those that **most need** young people, and this gap will widen.*

*"However, young people are looking to **move** to places where there is great quality of life, affordable housing with good connectivity, and that are sustainable," he explained in his **talk for students** given on **Wednesday, May 17**, at the Luis Elizondo Auditorium on Monterrey campus.*

"Connectivity is people's right to be connected, which is linked to mobility."

When discussing this panorama of **migration**, Khanna explained that **new generations** are not interested in **having children**, generating a **counter effect** to previous generations, which became increasingly **larger**.

Now, present and future generations will become **smaller**, thus triggering a **global war for talent**.

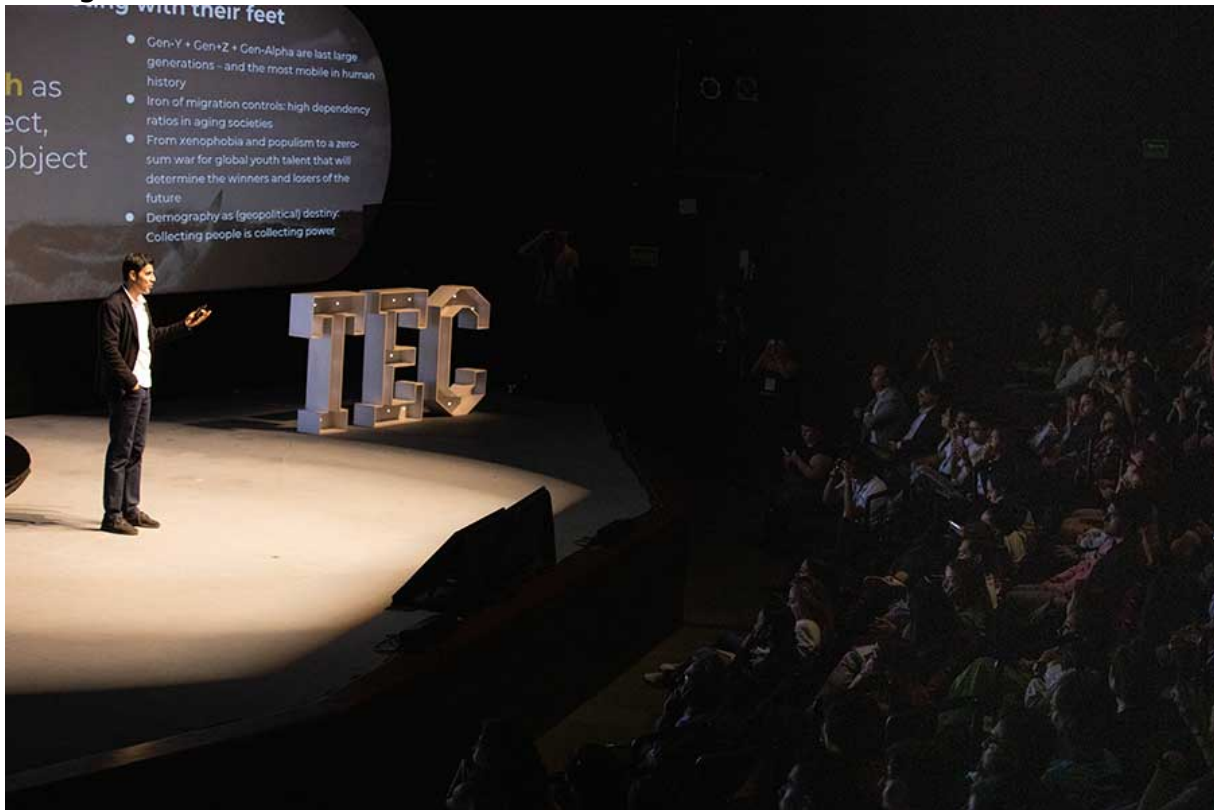
*"You young people are those who **will decide the future**; the decision as to which country wins and which loses lies in your hands.*

*"To make it very clear, the winners will be those countries that **attract** young people, and the losers will be those that young people are leaving," he said.*

He added that there is no **greater time** to be young than the one they are living in, a time in which they are experiencing a realignment of **borders, resources, and infrastructure**.

*"Connectivity is people's **right** to be connected, which is linked to mobility," he said.*

Parag Khanna was born in India and is the author of several bestsellers.



Born in **India**, Parag Khanna is also the author of several international bestsellers such as **Connectography**: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization and **Move**: The Forces Uprooting Us.

He is the founder and CEO of [Climate Alpha](#) and [FutureMap](#), a platform that provides data-driven **scenario planning** and **strategic** advisory for clients navigating the **dynamics of globalization**.

The world after COVID

Regarding the **global panorama** during the reactivation of all sectors **after the COVID-19 pandemic**, Parag Khanna acknowledged that **lockdown** was just a **pause** in global trends that have occurred for centuries, such as migration.

*"All these elements we've been talking about: emerging technology, climate change, politics, economics, and so on, they've always been **bigger** than COVID."*

*“What happened during reactivation is that all these problems are now being **amplified** and humanity is going to continue migrating, crossing borders,” he explained.*

“My advice to you young people is to be mobile; being mobile is an essential skill.”

He said that one way to overcome these challenges is to **move** people to where the resources are or to **move technology** to where the people are, to offer them a **better quality of life**.

*“We’re about to reach **humanity’s highest peak**, when there will be nine billion people worldwide, and there’s no strategy for what we’ll do when we reach that point.*

*“However, whatever you do or whatever career you choose, you should ensure as young people that your **contribution** to society is one of these two things: moving people or moving resources,” he said.*

Present at the event was **Iza Nikova Zermeño** from the [**Tec de Monterrey Federation of Students \(FETEC\)**](#), who **relayed** questions for the specialist from students participating **remotely**.



Khanna said that present and future generations will become smaller, thus triggering a global war for talent.

Where will young people migrate to in the future?

In an interview with **CONECTA**, Parag Khanna said that there are **several concerns** expressed by young people when **searching** for a new place to live.

*“First, they’re looking for **affordability** because the rents are high; second is skills development: education systems have to be aligned with the needs of society and the global economy; third is sustainability,”* he reiterated.

The specialist added that the **current sample of young people** tells us that the greatest number of young people are from the **Asian continent**. For the first time, we’re seeing a disproportionate number in which the young population is the **prevailing one worldwide**.



Prior to his talk at the Luis Elizondo Auditorium, Parag Khanna met with Tec students, faculty, and leaders in the Main Hall of the Rector's Building on Monterrey campus.

*"We're at a time of **constant change**, but I can say that the main movement will be from South to North," he said.*

He remarked that **North America, Europe, Central Asia, and Asia** will become the new **centers of civilization**.

When asked about **how global cities can adapt to absorb large populations**, the geopolitical expert said that **diversification** is key.

"We're about to reach humanity's highest peak, when there will be nine billion people worldwide."

*“Right now, **resilience** is worth its weight in gold; each country has its economic or industrial strengths, but the way they diversify their resources is key to quality of life,” he said.*

Finally, he said that it is essential for **universities** to work together with **industry** in order to address social needs.

*“My advice to you young people is to be mobile; **being mobile is an essential skill**. You also have to understand technology, economics, and politics at the same time,” he concluded.*

Inspire to Transform

Parag Khanna is the **second guest** in this lecture series organized by the institution in order to create **spaces for conversation** about the topics that are **transforming the world**.

A **series of talks** will be given at different Tec campuses over the course of 2023, which will include the participation of **renowned national and international leaders**.

*“Our students and Tec graduates form part of the **history of Mexico** and the world. At **Tec de Monterrey**, we understand and feel a great sense of responsibility for the impact we have on the lives of young people, their families, and the community around them.*

*“That’s why we’re celebrating **80 years of building legacies that transcend alongside our community in this anniversary year**,” said Mario Adrián Flores Castro, Vice President for Monterrey Region and Director-General of Monterrey campus.*

The next presentation will be on **May 31**, from **Alexandra Cousteau** with the talk “**This Blue Planet: Restoring Natural Abundance and Diversity to the Earth**” at **Mexico City campus**.

With information from Mónica Torres

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