

## The Franklin Lecturer 2023: Michael Mainelli



**The Worshipful Company Of Educators are delighted that Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli MStJ PhD BA FCCA FCSI (Hon) FBCS will be delivering the 2023 Franklin Lecture.**

A citizen of the world, Michael Raymond Mainelli was born in 1958 to an Italian American father, an Irish American mother with a German paternal grandmother. He moved with his family to Italy from the USA when he was a toddler and back to the States when he was five years old. With two grandfathers who were engineers, science and technology ran in his blood and his mathematical and technological aptitudes led him to being educated at Harvard, Trinity College Dublin and the LSE.

At a breathtakingly young age Michael built himself a reputation in the embryonic field of digital cartography. In the summer of 1979, before having completed his studies at Harvard, Michael was invited to work at Petroconsultants in Geneva which brought him to work in the company's London offices. Between 1979 to 1984 Michael's scientific training combined with his research in aerospace and computer graphics led to him starting Swiss companies in seismology, cartography and energy information. He conceived and produced the first complete digital map of the world in 1983, Mundocart, as well taking on the lead role in the \$20 million Geodat cartography project - and all this before he had reached the age of 30! Michael subsequently undertook work in management consultancy, first with Arthur Andersen and then as a partner in BDO Binder Hamlyn. Subsequently he became director of the Ministry of Defence's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency which he grew, transformed and eventually privatised.

In 1995 Michael co-founded Z/Yen a company that helps its clients to make better decisions by applying risk/reward methodologies. Z/Yen's Long Finance initiative seeks to improve society's understanding and use of finance over the long term and as part of this work Z/Yen has created research projects including the Global Financial Centres Index and the London Accord to introduce policymakers and non-governmental organisations to financial services thinking on how to tackle climate change. The Accord now includes an open source library donated by more than 60 institutions that assists policymakers to understand how the financial services sector can help society to become more sustainable. A recent area of research encompasses the Distributed Futures research programme. Michael frequently lectures on 'smart ledgers' (aka blockchains) and related technologies.

Michael has a lifelong commitment to education not only his own but those who work for him insisting that every professional who joins Z/Yen who hasn't programmed must complete the freely available Harvard Introduction to Computer Science course. He feels similarly about the critical need for a greater understanding of finance - and not just those who work in financial services. How prescient Michael is!

A true polyglot, Michael has published over 50 journal articles, 200 commercial articles and four books. He is also a chartered certified accountant, computer specialist, securities professional and management consultant. He is a Fellow and Trustee of Gresham College, having lectured and published on commerce there and is both a visiting Professor at UCL's Bartlett School, Honorary Fellow of King's College London, and a former visiting professor of the London School of Economics.

Michael has a longstanding connections with the City and Livery. Michael is Past Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders, an honorary liveryman of the Furniture Makers, Water Conservators, Marketors, Tax Advisers, and International Bankers, a craft-owning Freeman of the Watermen & Lightermen. An Alderman for Broad Street Ward in the City of London since 2013, Michael was elected Aldermanic Sheriff on 24 June 2019 serving an extended term until September 2021. As an honorary Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Educators Michael is eminently qualified to deliver the 2023 Franklin Lecture.