

Center for Computational Engineering

2017 *Student Symposium*

MIT Samberg Conference Center
4-7pm | March 16th

4:15pm Keynote | 5:15pm Poster session | 6:00pm Reception



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Samuel Arbesman

Author of “Overcomplicated: Technology at the limits of comprehension”

Abstract: From the power grid to the stock market to the latest iOS, complex systems are plagued by unintended glitches, unpredictable behavior, and unexplainable system failures. Why can't we make things simpler? Is technological complexity

inevitable? And how are we supposed to deal with technology that nobody can understand anymore? This talk explores the forces that lead us to continue to make systems more complicated and more incomprehensible, despite our desire for them to be more coherent. A framework for thinking about and handling these complex systems is provided, which involves numerous approaches, including importing ideas from biology and philosophy into the realm of technology, as well as how to rekindle generalists in the face of ever-increasing specialization.

