

*Interview with Thomas Friedman, Thursday, Dec 15, 2016*

***THE AVENUE: Why cities matter in an age of accelerations by Amy Liu***

*"If you want to be an optimist, stand on your head. The world looks a lot better from the bottom up than it does from the top down."* In that phrase, said at a recent Brookings event, Tom Friedman succinctly captures the nature of American democracy and governance in the 21st century.



The three-time Pulitzer Prize recipient and columnist for The New York Times Thomas Friedman asserts that we have entered an age of dizzying acceleration. His new book, [Thank You For Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations](#), serves as a field manual for how to think about and live in this era of technological and global shifts. The book makes the case for 'being late'—pausing to appreciate this amazing historical era and to reflect on its possibilities and dangers.

**LINK:** <https://www.brookings.edu/events/thank-you-for-being-late-a-conversation-with-thomas-l-friedman/>