HiCue speakers
Higher Content & Inspiration



MARIA FG

Former Senior Executive at Google and Meta. Global strategist and changemaker empowering organizations through leadership, innovation, and purpose-driven transformation

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- Former global product lead for Gmail at Google. She also held senior leadership roles at Meta, where she transformed Facebook's video ecosystem
- Renowned expert in organizational transformation and innovation strategy
- Advisor to Fortune 500 leaders and high-impact social enterprises
- Inspiring voice on purpose-driven leadership and inclusive growth
- Frequent speaker at global forums on sustainability, equity, and the future of work
- Recognized for bridging corporate strategy with social innovation

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Maria Fernandez Guajardo is a transformative product executive and entrepreneur with a 25-year track record of shaping the tech landscape from early-stage startups to global companies like Meta and Google. With a unique blend of technical depth and business acumen, she has led the development and global launch of consumer and enterprise products across industries and emerging technologies.

Maria is the creator of Inspirational Pragmatism, a leadership framework designed for organizations navigating extreme uncertainty. She helps companies move fast with purpose by empowering people, streamlining decisions, and crafting adaptable product visions that thrive in today's high-velocity environments.

Previously, Maria was the global product lead for Gmail at Google, where she led teams across business and consumer segments to deliver one of the company's first generative AI products at scale. Prior to that, she held senior leadership roles at Meta, where she transformed Facebook's video ecosystem (Reels, Watch, Live), launched new audio experiences (Podcasts, Music), and pioneered "VR for Work" with the introduction of Oculus for Business—Meta's first direct hardware offering for enterprises. She also oversaw core technology product management for Oculus, helping advance foundational mixed reality capabilities.

Maria has also served as Vice President of Product at Clear Labs, a biotech company focused on food safety through genomics, and RetailNext, a retail analytics pioneer using computer vision. Her career began in engineering, marketing, and business roles at Texas Instruments and Cadence Design Systems, working across the U.S. and Europe.

She is the co-author of Sail to Scale: Steering Startups Clear of Mistakes from Launch to Exit (2024), written with Heather Jerrehian and Mona Sabet to help founders navigate the pivotal decisions of startup growth.

Beyond her corporate work, Maria is committed to supporting women in tech and advancing STEM education. She founded the Silicon Valley Club de Ejecutivas Españolas and served on the board of Ignited Education. She has been named one of the top 40 leaders in the Bay Area by the Silicon Valley Business Journal and recognized by CNET as one of the most influential Latinos in tech.

Maria holds an Engineer's degree in Electronics from the University of Zaragoza (Spain) and from Enssat (France), and she has completed executive education at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. She is trilingual in English, Spanish, and French.

TEMAS

Maria tailors each presentation to the needs of her audience and is not limited to the topics listed below. Please ask us about any subject that interests you:

- Purpose-driven leadership in a changing world
- Innovation and transformation in the 21st century
- Inclusive economies and sustainable growth
- Women in leadership and equitable systems
- Navigating complexity: Strategy, foresight, and resilience

PROGRAMAS

Inspirational Pragmatism

Leadership in Times of Uncertainty and Speed

Disruption is the new constant but most teams are still operating with leadership models built for predictability. This keynote introduces Inspirational Pragmatism, a modern operating system for leading through uncertainty. With practical tools and a fresh mindset, I walk you through three pillars, Momentum, Velocity, and Limitless that help teams stay grounded, move fast, and scale ideas that stick. This is your roadmap to clarity, confidence, and impact. No matter how fast the world moves.

Ideal for: Executive teams, culture transformation initiatives, innovation offsites

The AI Advantage

What's Now, What's Next, and What Actually Works

AI is moving fast, and most leaders are stuck trying to separate hype from reality. This keynote delivers insights from the front lines of AI development, what's working, what's not, and how companies are solving the toughest challenges. Learn how organizations are integrating AI, reskilling teams, and moving fast without breaking trust. Plus, get a clear view of what's coming next and how to prepare. Whether you're just starting or scaling up, The AI Advantage gives you the clarity, context, and confidence to lead in an AI-powered world.

Ideal for:Executive teams, strategy leads, orgs under AI transformations

Leading with Purpose: Building Cultures of Meaning and Impact

Explores how authentic leadership and shared purpose can transform teams, organizations, and societal outcomes.

Innovating for Inclusion: The Future of Growth

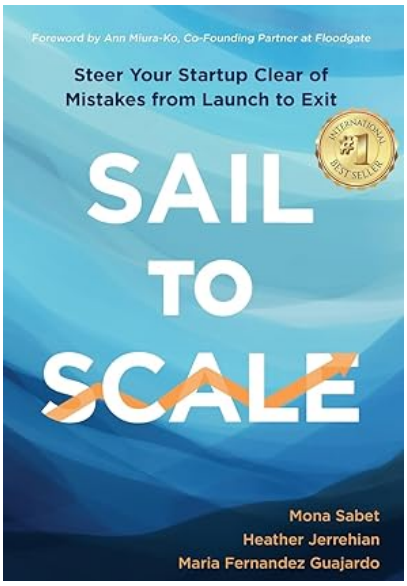
How organizations can scale innovation while embedding equity, sustainability, and resilience into their core DNA.

Thriving in Complexity: Strategic Foresight for a Disrupted World

A practical guide to navigating uncertainty through long-term thinking, adaptability, and ethical decision-making.

PUBLICACIONES

Libros



SAIL TO SCALE

TESTIMONIALES

“Maria commands a room. I could rely on her to energize and inspire our teams, driving clarity, motivation, and action. I’d recommend her to any organization looking to elevate its leadership impact."

Andrew Bosworth, CTO, Meta

“Maria doesn’t just share ideas; she lights a spark that drives teams to think bigger and act boldly. Her energy and creativity are unmatched.

Johanna Voolich, Chief Product Officer, YouTube

“Maria gives leaders a map for navigating uncertainty without slowing down. Her sessions spark innovation. You walk away thinking bigger and knowing exactly where to start.

Kate Berardo, VP Executive Development, Meta

"I’ve had the privilege of working with Maria for years and got to see first-hand the mountains that her entrepreneurial spirit could move. We are lucky that she now shares her wisdom and unique blend of grit + soul as a public speaker. Her insights are invaluable for builders and anyone who wants to be in the driver’s seat of innovation."

Fidji Simo [Future CEO of Open AI Apps], CEO and Chair at Instacart, Board Member at Shopify and OpenAI

""Maria Fernandez Guajardo was a keynote speaker at several events with hundreds or thousands of people in the audience and her sessions were transformative. She inspired our employees with powerful stories of real users, motivating them to think bigger and take action. Her passion and authenticity ignited a wave of change during a pivotal shift in our people and in our company strategy."

Nia Turan, HR Director, Waymo

"Maria is one of the best I've ever worked with. Her expertise would be enough to hook an audience, but it's her authenticity that's the most engaging. The audience can't help but to be pulled in, leaving inspired by how she's reframed the opportunities in their work/life."

Erin Green, VP Communications, Docusign

"Maria's dynamic and engaging presentation left our team inspired, energized, and equipped with new insights."

Jakob Jones, Manager, Custom Silicon Programs, Google

"Maria's talk was that rare mix of entertaining, insightful, and actionable. It is not often you find a speaker so engaging that everyone felt they were part of an incredible conversation. She had everyone—leadership to individual contributors across engineering, finance, even interns—laughing, thinking, and taking notes. Her stories delivered clear takeaways on how to inspire the next generation into STEM. I'd recommend her for any event that wants to move minds and spark real action."

Nita Espinosa, VP Global Sourcing, Cadence.

"It was incredible to have Maria Fernandez Guajardo at our conference and hearing her insights in the AI transformation. It's no surprise that her session was a standout. Her passion for helping businesses scale and the clarity of her message resonated with so many of us"

Kyle Maloney, Co-founder, Tech Beach Retreat

CONDICIONES

- **Travels from:** San Francisco, USA
- **Fee Range:** Please Inquire