Robots are on the rise in all industries, from manufacturing to healthcare, agriculture and warehousing. Technological as well as socio-economic reasons are the driving force behind the change from the traditional one-arm-robot to the robotics systems employed at companies such as Amazon. This talk looks at the key drivers collaboration, connectivity and simplification that are changing businesses around the world. It is built on a lecture delivered at Wits Business School in Johannesburg, South Africa, which is currently developed as online material. The different perceptions of robotics, and ultimately automation, have a strong impact on the future of engineering jobs which are discussed here.