# PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION – 2022

# THE CANDIDATES / LES CANDIDATS

## How to vote? (May 23 to June 1)

- Head to https://forms.gle/mnBEhcVJhJwSPXRV7
- Page 1 requires you to vote on the 2020 Activity Report and Financial Statement (whose approval by members is required by French law)
- Page 2 lets you select 4 members among the candidates
- Done! The results will be posted before June 7.

## Comment voter ? (23 mai – 1er juin)

- Rendez-vous à https://forms.gle/mnBEhcVJhJwSPXRV7
- La p. 1 correspond au vote des rapports moral et financier
- La p. 2 vous demande de choisir 4 membres du CA parmi les candidat·es
- C'est fait ! Les résultats seront publiés avant le 7 juin.

# Petra Ardai
Hungary / Netherlands
www.spaceexplorers.nl

### BIO

Petra Ardai (1967 Budapest, Hungary) is a theater maker, teacher, and writer. She is artistic leader of the artists' collective SPACE, rooted in Amsterdam and Budapest.

Petra studied at the Amsterdam School of the Arts, Dartington College of Arts in England and at Das Arts, Advanced Research in Theatre and Dance Studies. She is a guest teacher at the Utrecht School of the Arts Internationalisering, Das Theatre Amsterdam and FreeSzfe Association in Budapest. Currently she is an advisor for the Amsterdam Fund for the Arts. Petra cooperates with various universities such as the VU, UvA, University of Siegen, Technical Information Library Hannover and Trinity College, Dublin.

Petra Ardai makes documentary theater and immersive collaborative storytelling in various media; interactive performances, storytelling games, installations and interventions in the public space and online. Her projects are always culture specific and balancing on the border between fiction and reality, making complex social issues relatable in a playful and unconventional manner. Topics such as polarization, inequality, migration and climate change are brought close through the politics of the personal. Petra asks herself, her fellow performers and the audience the question: What if this were to happen to us? What would we do in that situation?

"I believe that changes start from the inside. I am convinced that co-creative art experiences can cultivate cultural shifts, make fundamental changes and collaborations possible even under circumstances when nothing else seems to work anymore.»

### WHY I WISH TO SERVE ON U+'S BOARD
*Pourquoi je suis candidat·e*

U+ is a global network that mobilizes the imagination that envision inclusive and sustainable futures. That mission aligns with my goals in my work and life. I create immersive art experiences that raise awareness on the impact of narratives, empower participants to challenge, question, decolonize and depolarise (dominant) narratives.

Although it is increasingly evident how interdependent we are in virtually every aspect of our lives, it seems to make little difference how we think about ourselves in relation to our fellow beings and the environment. We have developed creative and destructive powers that have become global in scope. And yet we fail to cultivate a corresponding sense of responsibility. We feel powerless as if we lost the ownership of the story.

My work is an invitation to become a temporary community, uncover what we share without avoiding differences and reclaiming ownership of the stories that surround us.

U+ generates new inclusive narratives, embraces the local in the perspective of the global and brings together people of different backgrounds and expertise who use the power of imagination to create transformative storytelling practices. That is why I would like to be an active participant; to learn and get inspired, to share knowledge and network, to shape the policy and create change as soon as possible. The world needs healing regenerative stories that support collaboration.

### WHAT CONTRIBUTION TO/POINT OF VIEW ON DIVERSITY COULD YOU BRING TO U+ ?
*Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+?*

I live in Hungary and the Netherlands. Two very differently polarised countries having their particular ways of keeping a dominant white heteronormative culture alive. All my work with communities challenges this narrative. I am a fieldworker. I create safe and daring spaces where people who would otherwise never meet and seemingly don't share any values, connect, exchange and find common ground. Although we don't represent a marginalized group, the members of the SPACE team (my art collective) have all different cultural backgrounds. As everyone's, our life stories are also affected by narratives based on unprocessed historical pain on a daily basis. Narratives stored in the collective memory that work their way through to the present and the future like the colonial past, the position of Eastern Europe, being a newcomer, Western supremacy, racial and gender discrimination, the notion of being privileged or the ownership and exploitation of land. We are fieldworkers connecting people with diverse backgrounds giving space to unheard stories and unrecognized knowledge.

My contribution to U+ is my practical experience of working with diverse communities, bridging fragmented socio-economic bubbles, breaking through echo chambers, connecting different expertise and knowledge domains and facilitating dialogues between people of diverse backgrounds who believe they have conflicting interests.

# Lara Houston
United Kingdom
http://larahouston.co.uk/site/

### BIO

Lara Houston is a Research Fellow at the University of Sussex. She investigates how citizen-led and creative practices can inform sustainable transitions (as part of the CreaTures project, https://creatures-eu.org/).

She has previously held research positions at City, University of London, where she used interspecies live action role-play to create fairer visions of algorithmic food; Goldsmiths University where she helped citizens to monitor their air quality using low-cost DIY sensor systems (as part of Citizen Sense, https://citizensense.net/) and at Cornell University where she studied new movements in repair policy and activism for digital devices.

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I have recently co-organised a Repositories event with U+ as part of the Narratopias project. I was tremendously inspired by the U+ approach and as a result of this experience I would like to become a part of, and provide support to the U+ organisation.

I bring with me an understanding of collective community-led practices that aim towards environmental sustainability (e.g. in repair and citizen sensing), and a strong track record of project management in academic settings. Having recently started working on future-making practices, I would like to learn and exchange further with U+ on the links betwen individual and collective imaginations towards more sustainable futures.

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As a researcher in Science and Technology Studies, I explore the power relations across knowledge-making practices. I draw on feminist approaches that attend to multiple forms of marginalisation within my work, to ensure that marginalised world-views are not obscured or erased in dominant systems. My recent projects have been justice-focussed (e.g. the Algorithmic Food Justice project at City, University of London. I am committed to expanding plurality and diversity.

# Ketty Steward
France
http://www.ktsteward.net/

### BIO

Born in 1976 in Martinique, Ketty Steward writes poetry, fantastic, autobiographical and science fiction stories.

Since 2019, she has been the chair person for Plurality University Network, and has taken part of many workshops aiming to find and create alternative futures.

She is also a psychologist and Phd student, working on the use of narratives in mental health care.

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*Pourquoi je suis candidat·e*

I've been working with U+ from the beginning with Chloe and Daniel and I loved it. Taking part in the decision process and talking about U+ elsewhere was such a pleasure, that I'm ready to go on doing it.

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*Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?*

As a black writing woman, I'm concerned with diversity questions, although this is not my main subject of interest.

# Brigitte van der Sande
Netherlands
https://otherfutures.nl/en/

### BIO

I am a freelance art historian/curator and have worked on future projects since the nineties. The first few decades always in connection to war and justice, since 2014 as the founder/artistic director of the multidisciplinary online and offline platform for makers and thinkers of Other Futures. I have left Other Futures a few months ago, and am now working on The Cannibals, an experimental house for makers who do not fit into the rigid and obsolete codes of Dutch culture. At the moment I am learning to develop this new project without taking the lead, so my research extends into existing and new grass root models of organization and funding.

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I have been an active (interim) board member during the past two years, and hope I have contributed to the discussions as much as I have enjoyed them.
I would like to serve another two years, because I believe in the mission of U+.

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*Comment contribuerez-vous à (ou quel point de vue apportez-vous à propos de) la diversité au sein du Réseau U+ ?*

My network and experiences are based on and in cultures from the Middle East and Global South, even though I'm a Dutch, white woman.
The recurring question is how to find ways in which I can be an effective ally, in solidarity with underrepresented peoples. I am always aware of my privileged position, and invite U+ to make use of me and my network.