

**THE 9 ELECTED MEMBERS /
LES 9 MEMBRES ÉLU·ES**

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PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Jorge Camacho

Mexico

https://medium.com/@j_camachor



Bio

Jorge Camacho is a strategic designer, foresight consultant, researcher and lecturer. He is a co-founder of Diagonal — a research, design, and futures studio based in Mexico City — as well as a Research Affiliate at Institute for the Future.

Jorge studied an MA Cybernetic Culture and a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies at the University of East London. As a researcher and lecturer, he's interested in design practices that aim to drive social change such as design futures, systemic design, and transition design. He currently teaches systems and futures thinking at the MA Design Studies and the Design of Tomorrow program at CENTRO (Mexico) and the MA Strategic Design and Innovation at IBERO Ciudad de México. He's lectured at Academia Mexicana de Creatividad, EGADE Business School, h2i institute (Madrid), Repensar Educativo and UTEC (Lima).

He has worked as creative director, strategist, and director of innovation at various companies including Flock (currently Isobar Mexico), Google and Uncommon. He has led projects in product and service design, as well as strategic foresight, for international companies such as Coca-Cola, Nissan, Ab InBev, Visa, as well as public organizations such as Mexico City's Laboratorio para la Ciudad.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

The world is going through a rough period of uncertainty and chaotic transformation. Like all systems, in this state, the world is in urgent need of new imaginaries of the future while, at the same time, being critically sensitive to the actions that follow from them. U+ is the perfect project to intervene in this context and moment in terms of its mission and its globally networked configuration.

Personally, U+ has allowed me to connect with a tight community of like-minded people that have influenced my outlook, plans, and actions in myriad ways. All of this has been a gift from a small group of committed individuals that have put in work and resources without expecting anything in return. Serving as a board member is an ideal opportunity for me to give back and pay it forward while fulfilling a personal purpose that perfectly aligns with U+'s mission."

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+ ?

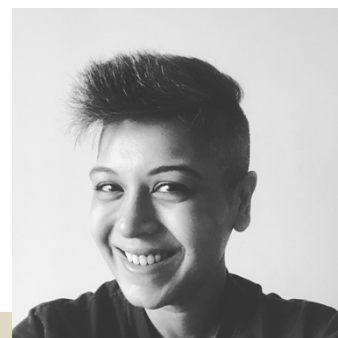
I believe it's important that all corners of the world are directly or indirectly represented in U+. Latin America is a region teeming with cultural resources for pluralizing images of the future. Unfortunately, as it pertains to the futures field, it has always been a sort of "grey area" that's never fully participated in global conversations about the future. No single individual has the capacity to speak for or represent a whole group let alone a whole continent. Moreover, we're all here for at least partially contingent reasons — someone else could easily be in my place. However, as a founding member of U+, I would like to take this opportunity to serve as a bridge between the network and a multiplicity of individuals and organizations working with similar aims in the Latin American region.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Adwaita Das

India

<https://linktr.ee/adwaita>



Bio

Adwaita Das is the author of *Colours of Shadow*, a novella and short fiction collection, as well as the books of poetry, *27 Stitches* and *Songs of Sanity*.

Adwaita's art features in *Young Mental Health: Mindscape Series*, *Divine Darkness: Black Bough Poetry* and *Brown Bodies: The Rights Collective*, amongst other publications and illustrated series. Global speaker and creative facilitator for inclusive and innovative mental healthcare, Adwaita applies sound and imagery to address trauma and share peace.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I wish to serve on the U board because I believe in your mission. I resonate with your purpose. Your intentions are my intentions. When I first came across the Plurality University Network and read your presentation, I felt seen, I felt heard. I felt like I had found people who understood the power of imagination and creativity the way I did. I felt part of a people, a community, something I haven't always experienced. I have been different and weird in a society that clings to stereotypes and old patterns.

Following your publications, joining the activities, participating in the U+Zines, it kept strengthening me. Knowing that there are those who listen to voices trying to come up with newer narratives, fresh perspectives, evolving languages, it gave me force to create more. Your presence nourished in me the desire to do more on these very nascent green paths of global wellness. It aligned with what I have been working on since always. I am a candidate because I want to share the tools of innovative mental healthcare, self-compassion and linguistic awareness as far and wide as I can. And with you, I think I can reach incredible minds and souls, who can take these tools, wield them farther and wider across the world, individually plus collectively, thus growing together towards the alternative futures and imaginaries, building them into tangible present spaces accessible for all.

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 am a gender-fluid person from India working for mental wellness-awareness-accessibility-safety-equality-inclusion in this nation where one glimpse at the statistics will show how unsafe it is for almost everyone living here except maybe a section of the privileged class-castes. To an extent, I belong to some of that privilege and it is my duty to put whatever power I have to positive use. There is a back story, if you'd like to know...

My father was a Hindu refugee from Bangladesh, his family having to run from their birthplace and come over to West Bengal after the partition when Muslims murdered Hindus in Bengal and Hindus butchered Muslims in Punjab. In his early childhood, he joined the RSS for protection, a Hindu supremacist organisation inspired by Adolf Hitler's SS army. He died in 2018, a leader of the Sanghis, EIC of their newspaper "Swastika", his heart giving up after chanting 'vandemataram'; and 'jai shri ram' for hours on independence day, marching and leading their RSS parade. And yet he was an incredible father. He is the reason I am the curious, liberal, poetic, dreamer person who loves literature and art and cinema and theatre. He was my mother. My mother is rather like a father. She is a Calcuttan, born into an old family of Kalighat near the Kali Calcuttawali temple. She made me a warrior in body, spirit and mind. She takes charge of every situation, just as Baba took care of everyone around. He cooked and cleaned for us, while she fixed the plumbing and the electricals. I never understood stereotypes because I saw them reversed. I also saw my parents struggle with their gender roles; because society refused to let them be who they were by nature. Society kept

battering them with old ideals and structures and they could never be themselves without being mocked and harassed by family-friends-peers-elders-strangers-et-al. They were even made to feel grateful and nostalgic for the abuse they faced since their infancy. And now my mother has joined the RSS as well, spewing religious hate. She had always been a bully towards fat people and dark people. I used to be a big child, a large teenager and I was suicidal from her daily disgust and his military discipline to make me thin. I thanked the Goddess for making me sort of fair-skinned or else I would have no sense of self in the face of even more repulsion.

This was the 80's and 90's. It was a crime to have or show feelings. I was born in a female body but also felt like a boy. I didn't fit into gender classifications and behavioural norms. Me having endometriosis made the hellscape a physical reality. Mental and menstrual care was near-medieval: the bits I tried out or was forced to receive made my health worsen, but no medical professional or near/dear person took responsibility, instead they blamed my imagination, criticised my questions about more information, and labelled me "unworthy of civilised society".

I broke apart. I fell to pieces. But despite the pain, I realised a truth...

That was not civilised society. A civilised society does not demean its own people for being different. A civilised society would care for its people, its individuals as well as groups who don't fit in ancient boxes. Which meant a civilised society had to be founded. It had to be seeded, nurtured and raised. We would have to do it. I would have to do all I could on my behalf. Undo the evils of my predecessors and ancestors. Heal their trauma inside me and outside. I am of course estranged from my blood family, unable to be a mute witness to continued generational trauma.

But in spite of the people who won't change, in my lifetime, I have seen the humans evolving. I have heard the languages shifting. I have experienced our kindness growing greater than it has ever existed amongst the homo sapiens before. I have gobbled as much history as I could.

We're not getting worse. We're getting better, especially in the recent years. From the cave cannibals we have come a long way towards collective conscious love. No, not the romantic stuff. Actual authentic love. Love for each other, for everyone, everywhere, love that is mutual respect, love that is passion for progress and fuel for innovation, love that is value for the whole planet who holds and carries us.

I am a very gender-fluid person, skin the shades of clay and grain, 5'4" body height, weight once 80+ kilograms, now in excellent healthy shape since I started practicing self-love, hair many sorts of grey, since I stopped trying to fit into the idea of beauty and stopped colouring it, legs-arms-arms-pits-etc unwaxed for the same self-caring reason. I was born in Calcutta, I have lived-studied-worked in multiple Indian cities and am currently in Mumbai. I believe in mathematical science and the cosmic musical multiversal Choreography; that is my Divine. I am still figuring out on a daily basis how to stay calm and not give in to severe anxiety, learning about possible neurodivergences. I want to travel the globe and deep space too. I share my stories in words and images. I use vocal modulation in soothing sessions of creative co-regulation.

This is what I have to contribute. My realistic yet optimistic perspectives, practices and processes. My genuine belief in a better world. My energy and my actions in alignment with this belief. My actual authentic love for this world.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Nicolas Gluzman

France

www.futursproches.com



Bio

I am French, from Paris, 40 years old soon. I have been living in Switzerland for 8 years now.

My professional paths led me to work:

- first in human resources consulting, sales and business developments and then i moved to corporate role in HR
- then as a freelance in different ways: collaborative innovation, collective intelligence workshops and HR. As an entrepreneur in creating and leading www.mygreentrip.com for 4 years.

For the last 2 years, I have been developing a concept called "Futurs Proches" ("Near Futures") which is about organising workshops (open for everyone) to co-imagine and co-write short stories about a desirable future. It is now a collective of 50 facilitators across Switzerland, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. I still work in HR part time.

Futurs Proches mainly does 4 activities:

- Workshops open to everyone mostly on themes like ecological transition, resilience and collapse
- Workshops in partnerships with other organisations when we want to explore some topics together
- Private mandates
- Exploration on the themes of fiction: right now, one is about transforming our stories in short film in a collaborative way, and the other is a quite big project about creating an interactive fiction on climate change.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I have been working in HR 100% for the 10 first year of my career, then I did a mix between HR and different projects in collective intelligence, sustainability and entrepreneurship. I want to focus during the next 10 years of my professional life on the topics of prospective, imagination, collaboration, fiction and how this can impact people perceptions of the world and future.

Therefore, I put a lot of energy in the development of futurs proches as I find it a good platform to explore these topics. Connecting with and engaging myself in other collectives is part of this path I want to build for myself.

What I can bring:

- an entrepreneurial mindset
- an experience from corporations
- a special focus on ecology
- an ability to network
- projects: for instance, I am thinking to open the interactive fiction project to other collective to join forces in making it happen.

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+ ?

Myself: I am a white, heterosexual, jew (but deeply atheist), 40 yo, educated man. So not very diverse for Europe :-)

My thoughts:

In Futurs Proches, we are attracting mainly participants who looks like us: educated, ecologist, white people. This is clearly identified as a problem in finding paths to different imaginaries and stories. How do we solve this? We are working with different partners to do our workshop in different contexts: in suburban areas or prisons, with strong

religious believers (we work with the some religious structures in Switzerland to plan something), migrants , young, old persons...

So my points: it is not them who should come to us, but we should come to them. And we reach out to them with the help of partners who play the role of prescriber.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Mary Anne Mohanraj

United States

www.maryannemohanraj.com



Bio

Mary Anne Mohanraj is author of *A Feast of Serendib*, *Bodies in Motion*, *The Stars Change*, and twelve other titles. Other recent publications include stories for George R.R. Martin's Wild Cards series, *Perennial: A Garden Romance (Tincture)*, stories at *Clarkesworld*, *Asimov's*, and *Lightspeed*, and an essay in Roxane Gay's *Unruly Bodies*.

Mohanraj founded Hugo-nominated and World Fantasy Award-winning speculative literature magazine *Strange Horizons*, and serves as Executive Director of both *DesiLit* (desilit.org) and the *Speculative Literature Foundation* (speclit.org). She is Clinical Associate Professor of fiction and literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I love the U+ mission, and I'd love to continue on the board to support what they do. I think it's important to have futurist visions represented from as diverse a population as possible.

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'm a Sri Lankan American Tamil queer (bisexual) woman.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Mimi Mondal

United States

<https://mimimondal.com/>



Bio

Mimi Mondal was a Nebula Award finalist in 2020 for her novelette *His Footsteps, Through Darkness and Light*, and a Locus Award winner and Hugo and British Fantasy Awards finalist in 2018 for her anthology *Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia E. Butler* in 2018. Mimi grew up in Kolkata, India, and currently lives in New York.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

Serving on the board for the first year has opened me up to a lot of cross-cultural ideas and projects, as well as people doing cutting-edge work in many futurisms. I would like to continue to support U+ in nurturing these diverse voices.

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 belong to the Dalit community in India, previously known as untouchables. Over the past few years I have been working with the concept of Dalit futurism, which is in line of future imaginaries from marginalized communities; climate change and conservation from rural and indigenous perspectives; queerness, genderfluidity, and non-normative gender roles in mainstream narratives; and increasingly about the intersection of diversity in abled societies. I hope I can bring some of these cross-connections into the U+ community, which will help us imagine a more equitable future for all.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Lara Orawski

UK

<https://www.instagram.com/laraorawski/>



Bio

Lara Orawski is an artist and educator. She has masters degree in Photography and Philosophy from Central Saint Martins, and a multidisciplinary background combining strategic digital project development expertise in arts, design and cultural institutions utilising collaborative and speculative methodologies.

Her work interrogates emerging social and environmental challenges through dialogues of evolution, intelligence and languages of the environment.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I would be delighted to be considered for the board of Plurality University and contribute to initiatives challenging and creating imagined alternative futures. I completed my Masters in Photography and Philosophy in 2019 at Central Saint Martins and a Bachelors in Psychology and Sociology at the University of Ottawa 2009. As an artist, producer, curator, and educator, my multidisciplinary background has driven my approach in developing and facilitating new opportunities for collective dialogues through practice. I seek to re-imagining the way we engage with knowledge, exploring expansive practices and speculative futures. I have initiated and produced cross-disciplinary residency programs and knowledge exchange initiatives to bridge inter-disciplinary conversations, interrogating inclusivity, connectivity, co-creation, and collaboration between students, lecturers, alumni and the public to expand narrative practice in approaching speculative and critical shifts resulting from environmental and social change. In addition to my educational practice, I have over a decade of experience working as a digital project manager and producer, developing strategy and overseeing complex projects in arts, design, and cultural institutions. This experience has allowed me to be a strong communicator, with open and exploratory methodologies to interrogate cross-disciplinary knowledge and bridges. I am interested in joining U+ to learn from, engage and contribute to deeper narrative development of the imaginary and plurality with an extraordinary set of professionals. I want to be amongst like minded professionals in engaging in extraordinary projects, facilitating new thought and facilitating new narratives for future generations.

I would be so honoured to be considered and I thank you very much for your time.

Kindly,
Lara.

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+ ?

As a Canadian, french speaking female identifying environmental artist. I am based in the United Kingdom.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Salik Shah

India

<https://salikshah.com>



Bio

Salik Shah is an Indian science fiction writer and filmmaker from New Delhi. His work has been nominated for Elgin, Toto and Kumaon Literary Festival's Fellows of Nature awards. One of his short stories appears in a course syllabus at SOAS University of London. He is the founding editor of Mithila Review, Asia's leading science fiction and fantasy journal. His poetry, fiction and nonfiction has appeared in leading publications around the world, including Asimov's Science Fiction, Strange Horizons, Open Democracy, Juggernaut, La.Lit, Vayavya and Himal Southasian.

Shah is a Future of India Fellow and The Seasteading Institute Ambassador to India. He is currently working to set up a research institute for science fiction and futures studies in New Delhi. His writings explore alternate futures, fluid identities and open movement across shifting geographies and borders. He is deeply interested in a range of issues including sustainable development, transparency, blockchain, universal basic assets and healthcare, privacy and freedom. He is the editor of a forthcoming anthology of speculative stories, "India 2049: Utopias & Dystopias," which explores urgent and critical issues that humanity is facing already: climate change, unemployment, hunger, water conflicts, data breach, hypernationalism and intolerance, erosion of privacy and freedom, etc.

Shah has a degree from Film and Television Institute of India, and has written a feature film, and produced videos and documentaries for channels like National Geographic. You can find him @salik on Twitter and on his website: <http://salikshah.com>.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

To continue to be part of its efforts to develop, promote and shape visions of alternative and possible futures.

As the founding editor of Mithila Review, Asia's leading journal of science fiction and fantasy, I have published work from emerging and award-winning writers around the world. Depending on our requirements, I could help Plurality University to crowdsource ideas and contributions from our global network of writers.

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 am an Indian national, who grew up in Kathmandu, and live in New Delhi. I speak English, Nepali, Hindi, and some Bengali, Newari and Urdu.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Ketty Steward

France

<http://www.ktsteward.net/>



Bio

Born in 1976 in Martinique, Ketty Steward is a writer, with more than 40 science-fiction short stories published as well as poetry and stories outside the Sci-Fi genre. Ketty Steward also gives conferences and courses, and has coordinated special issues of science-fiction magazines.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I've been a board member and chair person last year.

Taking part in the decision process and talking about U+ elsewhere was such a pleasure, that I'm ready to go on doing it.

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+ ?

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

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Brigitte van der Sande

Netherlands

<https://otherfutures.nl/en/>



Bio

I'm an art historian and independent curator, who grew up in the very segregated society of Australia in the sixties. We returned to the seemingly more mixed culture of Amsterdam in the seventies, only to learn that the typical Dutch tolerance didn't mean equality.

My specialisation is art and war as a daily, first-hand reality, but the past 7 years I have concentrated on the realisation of the online and offline platform for speculative makers & thinkers called Other Futures. My role is curating, mediating, allying and joining people and projects from different parts of the world.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I would like to serve for a second year on U+ board, before stepping back as the artistic director of Other Futures after the second edition in November 2021 for a new director with another cultural background. I gladly share my experience and large international network for U+ activities and publications for one more year.

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+ ?

From my early career as art historian and curator I've worked with makers and thinkers from all over the world, because I'm curious about different visions on society, and the future. I'm very much aware of the position I have as an ancient white woman who is still learning and unlearning, and trying to overcome my many flaws. My decades of experience in both practical and theoretical projects can be put to use for U+.