

Plurality University Network {u+}
Réseau Université de la Pluralité

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2018 - 2022

Activity Report and Action Plan

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How, concretely, can we use the arts and fiction to transform reality?

The Plurality University Network (U+) was created in 2018 with the goal of connecting people and organizations that mobilize the resources of the imagination to explore alternative futures.

In three years, we've accomplished a lot together. The network brings together 600 members on 5 continents and thousands of participants in its various projects. It has created methods and approaches for collective work, invented new format of events, workshops and publications and explored numerous and varied subjects.

Above all, our initial intuition - that we can only change reality by changing how we imagine it - is now widely shared. We no longer count the calls for "new narratives". Enterprises and administrations are testing these approaches. Research is interested in exploring them. Therefore, 2022 will be devoted to an essential question: How can we *concretely* use the arts and fiction to transform reality?

Internationally, U+ will reorganize itself as a "network of networks" with the objective of bringing together formal and informal groups experimenting with this question to share methods and results.

In France (mainly), U+ will focus on collective explorations and experiments in the field.

Join us on this transformational journey!

U+, 2018-2021

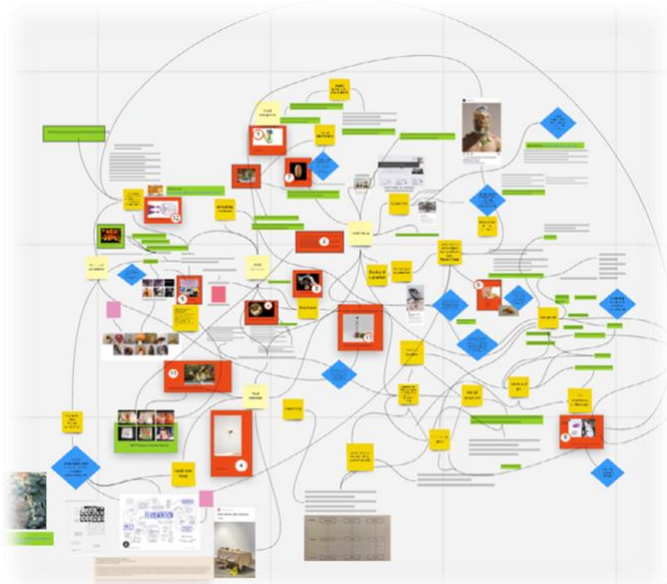
Events



- *Founders' Meeting* (Paris, November 2018): 100 people from all around the world lay the foundations of the Plurality University Network.
- *Many Tomorrows Festival* (everywhere, December 2019): in 15 cities around the world, events dedicated to imagination and futures.
- *"Futurs Pluriel"*: a cycle of conferences inviting researchers, actors, thinkers and artists to explore a facet of our futures from different angles.
- *"Quand, soudainement..."* (Paris, October 2021): an exhibition dedicated to the transformative power of narratives.
- Amsterdam workshop (Nov. 2021): in connection with the Other Futures festival, 40 participants draw the future of U+ together.

Thematic explorations

- *Work+*: Futures of work.
- *Moving On*: Futures of mobility.
- *The emerging enterprise*: The future of enterprise in an uncertain world.
- *U+ Zine*: a cycle of short explorations of alternative futures ("Relationship", "Future", "Enterprise", "Food", "History", "Health", "Clothing", "Regeneration" ...)



Collective Creative Practices

- *Writever*: a collective short fiction writing challenge on Twitter.
- *Les Imagineur-es*: a series of fiction podcasts written and produced by amateurs at the beginning of the first confinements.
- *The Narratopias Wall and game*: play with “transformative narratives”, extend them, project yourself inside them....



"New narratives" and their effects on reality

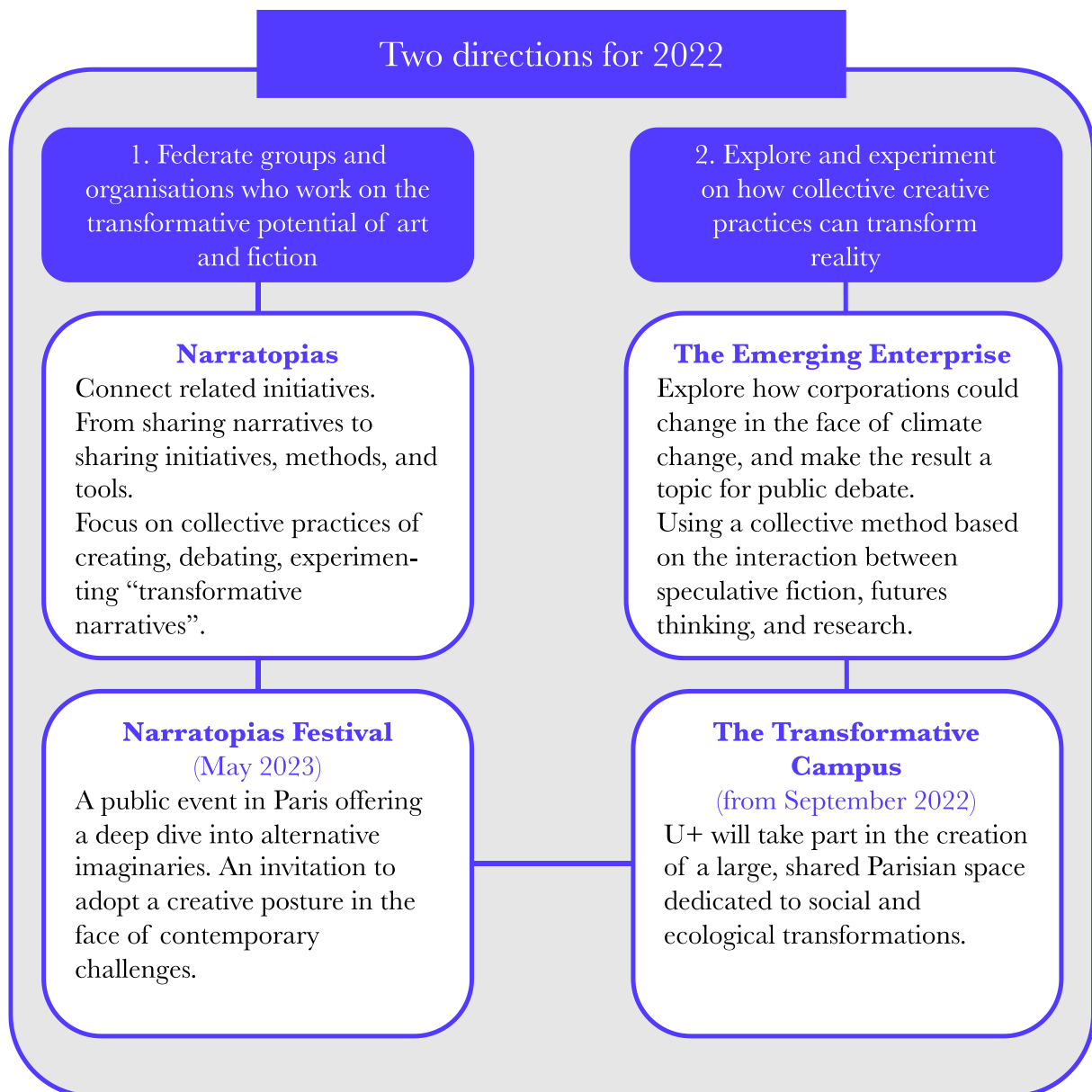


- *Interview Project*: a "chain of interviews" of people and practices that change futures.
- *Narratopias Library*: more than 250 "transformative narratives" from around the world.
- *Narratopias Agoras*: an international sharing of experience between initiatives that rely on stories to transform reality.

U+ 2022:

Collective Creative Practices to Transform Reality

In 2022, U+'s work will focus on the conditions under which working with imaginaries can act on reality: content (utopias, dystopias, others? Open, closed? Literary, visual, experiential...?), the conditions of production and reception (individual, collective? By whom, with whom, in what context...?), the link with other transformative approaches (foresight, strategic approaches, innovation, alternative experiments...), etc.



Zoom on Narratopias

The Narratopias project has set itself the goal of answering the recurring call for "new narratives."

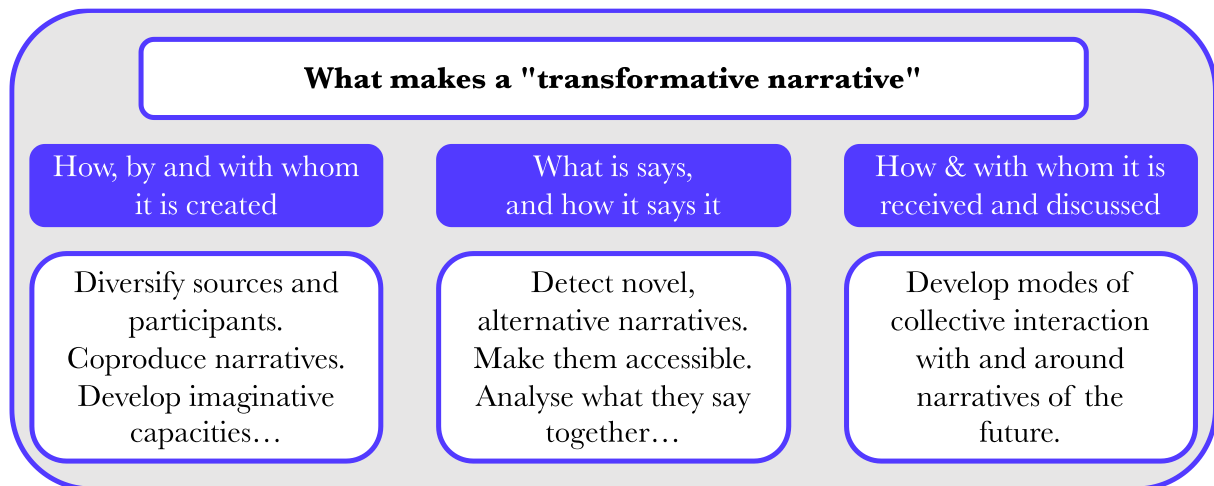
In 2021, the Narratopias project has:

- Created the "library of transformative narratives", with more than 250 references
- Organized a dozen workshops and meetings in France and abroad
- Created reusable devices to interact around the transformative narratives: the collection workshops, the "Narratopias Wall", the Narratopias game...

In 2022, Narratopias will focus on the conditions in which "new narratives" can play a transformative role:

- By connecting international initiatives that work in this spirit: co-production of speculative narratives, appropriation and discussion, narrative-based approaches to transformation...
- By developing and experimenting with participatory methods and tools with various publics: enterprises, administrations, youth...
- By creating a directory of applied methods and tools.

In mid-2023, in Paris, the Narratopias Festival will aim both to make "transformative stories" accessible to the general public and to bring together those who, all over the world, work in with the same shared enquiries.



How to participate?

- Organize "Narratopias workshops" in your organization, your community, your territory;
- Share your experience, your methods, your projects;
- Contribute to the library of transformative narratives...

Zoom on “The Emerging Enterprise”

Inventing the future of corporations in a changing world

The success of the Emerging Enterprise experience in 2021 leads us to plan a broader, more visible, more in-depth second phase of the project.

Together, we propose to imagine the enterprise of the future, to describe the paths that lead to them and to bring back from this journey challenges, courses of action and subjects to be debated today.

The objective is to make the metamorphosis of the enterprise, in the face of the transformations of the world, a central issue of public debate and collective action=

- By broadening the circle of participants and stakeholders: large enterprises, SMEs, start-ups, trade unions, researchers, etc.
- By opening up new perspectives through the interactions between speculative fiction, foresight, research and the field
- By creating a movement among individuals, in organizations and in society.

A project based on collective intelligence:

- That does not prescribe a specific model for corporations of the future, but helps participants invent new ones;
- That organizes the visibility of the work to stimulate debate: public events, publications, social networks, media partnerships...

This project will originally be led in French. However, the methods, tools, and outcomes, will all be translated into English.

