



THE SUPERVISORY BOARD
Elected April 10, 2020

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Ayodele Arigbabu

Nigeria

<https://www.dadaenterprises.net/about-dada>

Link to video (if existing)



Bio

I'm a writer, architect and creative technologist with over 15 years' experience working on diverse projects in architecture, design, film, digital media, publishing, event production and curation; and the development of digital and interactive arts and applications.

I published (in 2013) and edited LAGOS_2060, an anthology of science fiction from Africa, and was curator of African Futures: Lagos, a festival on diverse future perspectives of the African continent, produced by Goethe Institut in three African Cities in 2015, with a concluding conference in Berlin in 2016. I am the founding director of Design And Dream Arts (DADA) Enterprises, and Design & Applied Digital Arts Studios, the creative vehicles through which my practice in design and the arts find convergence in digital space, alongside my practice as an architect in Lagos, Nigeria.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I see potential in the U+ charter and feel I can contribute to its development with my background and experience.

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 and work in Lagos, a teeming African city of over 20 million perspectives, and engage the world from there like many others.



PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION - 2020

Jorge Camacho

Mexico

<http://diagonal.studio/>

Link to video (if existing)

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. Both in terms of its mission and its globally networked configuration, U+ is the perfect project to intervene in this context and moment.

Personally, U+ has allowed me to connect with a tight community of like-minded people that have influenced my outlook, plans and actions in a myriad ways. All of this has been a gift from a small group of committed individuals that have put work and resources without expecting anything in return. Serving as a board member is the 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 been able to fully participate 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.

Mary Anne Mohanraj

United States

www.maryannemohanraj.com

Link to video (if existing)



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. www.maryannemohanraj.com

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

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 bisexual Sri Lankan American Tamil woman, currently 48 years old.

Mimi Mondal

United States

<https://mimimondal.com/>

Link to video (if existing)



Bio

Mimi Mondal is a Hugo- and Nebula Award-nominated author of science fiction and fantasy and a columnist writing about history, politics, technology and futures. Her novelette *His Footsteps, Through Darkness and Light* is currently a finalist for the Nebula Award. Her first book, *Luminescent Threads: Connections to Octavia E. Butler*, co-edited with Alexandra Pierce, received the Locus Award in Non-fiction and was a finalist for the Hugo Award in Best Related Work and the British Fantasy Award in Non-fiction in 2018. Mimi has also been the Poetry and Reprint Editor of *Uncanny Magazine*, a three-times-Hugo-Award-winning magazine of science fiction and fantasy, and an editor at Penguin Random House India.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I was on the interim board and would like to continue supporting U+ with my ideas. It is also a space for me to discuss, brainstorm and receive ideas for my own work projects.

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 member of the underprivileged Dalit community from India (previously known as the untouchables), and possibly the only writer from this group in the world working explicitly within futurism. Dalit futurism is a critique of existing power structures, including the nation-state of India that continues to become more oppressive and authoritarian. I hope I manage to bring a global antifascist subaltern perspective to the U+ network.

Huiying Ng

Singapore

<http://cargocollective.com/huiyingng>

Link to video (if existing)



Bio

Huiying is a researcher exploring knowledge transmission towards socioecological alternatives. As a graduate student at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore from 2016-2018, she completed the first (research) phase of longer-term action research on the imagination and nurturing of agroecological futures. In 2019-2020 she is focusing on developing the action phase of this work: drawing on the earlier research to develop unlearning tools publicly, and applying some of the themes to a soil regeneration project. From 2021, she will embark on the second research phase of this work, at the Rachel Carson Centre. She supports the work done by the Southeast Asia Neighborhoods Network based at the IIAS.

She has presented a mixture of individual and collective work on commons and food in the Netherlands, Canada, and the Substation and NTU Centre for Contemporary Art in Singapore.

She is part of several groups in Singapore: Foodscape Collective, a community working towards a fair and inclusive circular food system, and Tanah, a duo that creates food-art interventions. She is also a member of soft/WALL/studs, a collaborative project in Singapore involving several artists, writers, film makers, art workers, and researchers. Its projects include exhibitions, acts of amplification, hosting, fugitivity, counter-rhythm generation, support, resource gathering, research, writing, detournement, game-making, teaching, collaboration, and maintenance...

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

Spaces for alternative knowledge building and dissemination are much needed, that cross the arts, academic spaces, and practice spaces. 2020 marks a year with the potential for change, but also more global tensions arising (which we can see forming). Having worked in three groups/collectives in the last 5 years since 2015, I've found the transformation that a group of people can go through together, and the importance of working with other views at the table. And I see the importance of cultivating communities that expand into overlapping networks.

When I was invited to U+ last year, I found myself inspired by the dedication of the U+ team that put together the Many Tomorrows Festival. Working and coordinating across space and time is challenging, but the need for strong networks will only grow more important. I also feel the need for conversations located in more global north conversation areas and topics, to implode a little and connect with other conversations. I don't see this as an either/or, us/them but an ongoing set of interrelations. I'd like to work within my circles to expand these circles a little, or a lot, and help them reach one another more intuitively and compassionately.

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 based in Singapore and may be relocating to Germany at the end of 2020. May - because nothing is ever certain!

I will speak for women, the difficulty of fighting patriarchy and its intersection with ecological destruction, and consumerism in authoritarian paternalist neocapitalist places. I will also speak about the ways and funding streams through which knowledge production aimed at Southeast Asia has created certain topologies of (in)visibility about people, lands, aspirations and understandings of productive economy. I hope to find ways -- perhaps within the U+ network and its forthcoming work, to work against such market-oriented knowledge production, towards more equitable, mutual recognition.

Salik Shah

India

<https://salikshah.com>

Link to video (if existing)



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

I would like to help Plurality U+ Network to be effective in shaping active interest in science fiction and futures research and communication around the world.

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.

Ketty Steward

France

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

Link to video (if existing)



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 the chairperson on U+'s Interim board.

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 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/>

Link to video (if existing)



Bio

I'm an art historian and independent curator based in the Netherlands. In the early 90's I started a continuing research into the representation of the daily reality of war in art, resulting in exhibitions like *Soft Target. War as a Daily, First-Hand Reality* in 2005 in Basis Actuele Kunst (BAK) in Utrecht and *War Zone Amsterdam* (2007–2009), as well as many lectures, workshops and essays on the subject within the Netherlands and abroad. My war research led to the current online and offline platform *Other Futures*, with work of makers and thinkers from all over the world who use speculative fiction to envision and build other futures. The first edition kicked off with an exhibition, a storytelling event on climate action and a three-day multidisciplinary festival in 2018 in Amsterdam. The programme *CT Curated by Other Futures – A Multispecies Experiment* in 2019 was a sneak peek of the second edition of *Other Futures*, that will take place in fall 2020.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

I have been part of the interim board and will gladly step back as soon as a member from the Global South wishes to be part of the board, but till then I'll stay on for the continuity.

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 grew up in the very segregated society of Australia in the sixties, and returned with my family to the seemingly more mixed culture of Amsterdam in the seventies, only to learn that the typical Dutch tolerance didn't mean equality. 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. My role is curating, mediating, allying and joining people and projects.

PLURALITY UNIVERSITY BOARD ELECTION

Regina Kanyu Wang

China

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/regina-kanyu-wang-931a1a23/>

Link to video (if existing)



Bio

Born in 1990, Regina Kanyu Wang is a bilingual writer from Shanghai who writes both in Chinese and English, graduate of Fudan University's MFA program, member of Shanghai Writers' Association, Shanghai Popular Science Writers' Association, World Chinese Science Fiction Association and Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association of America. She has won SF Comet international short story competition and multiple Xingyun Award for Global Chinese SF.

She is also a co-founder of SF AppleCore and Asia SF Association, Overseas Market Director of Storycom, dedicated to promote Chinese and Asian SF internationally.

Why I wish to serve on U+'s board

Pourquoi je suis candidat-e

What U+ does have been amazing. It would be great to join you making more futures 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+ ?

I am a Chinese woman based in Shanghai.