

TED Global Fellows 2012



Alexander
McLean



ANDREW
NEMR



BAHIA
SHEHAB



Cyrus Kabiru



IVANA
GADJANSKI



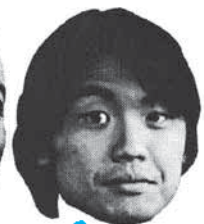
Noel
JACKSON



OLA
OREKUNRIN



Max
Little



Ed Ou



Christopher
Soghoian



Kristen
Markover



SALVATORE
IACONESI



HAKEEM
OLUSEYI



Elaine
Ng Yan Ling



BEL
PESCE



SHEREF
MANSY



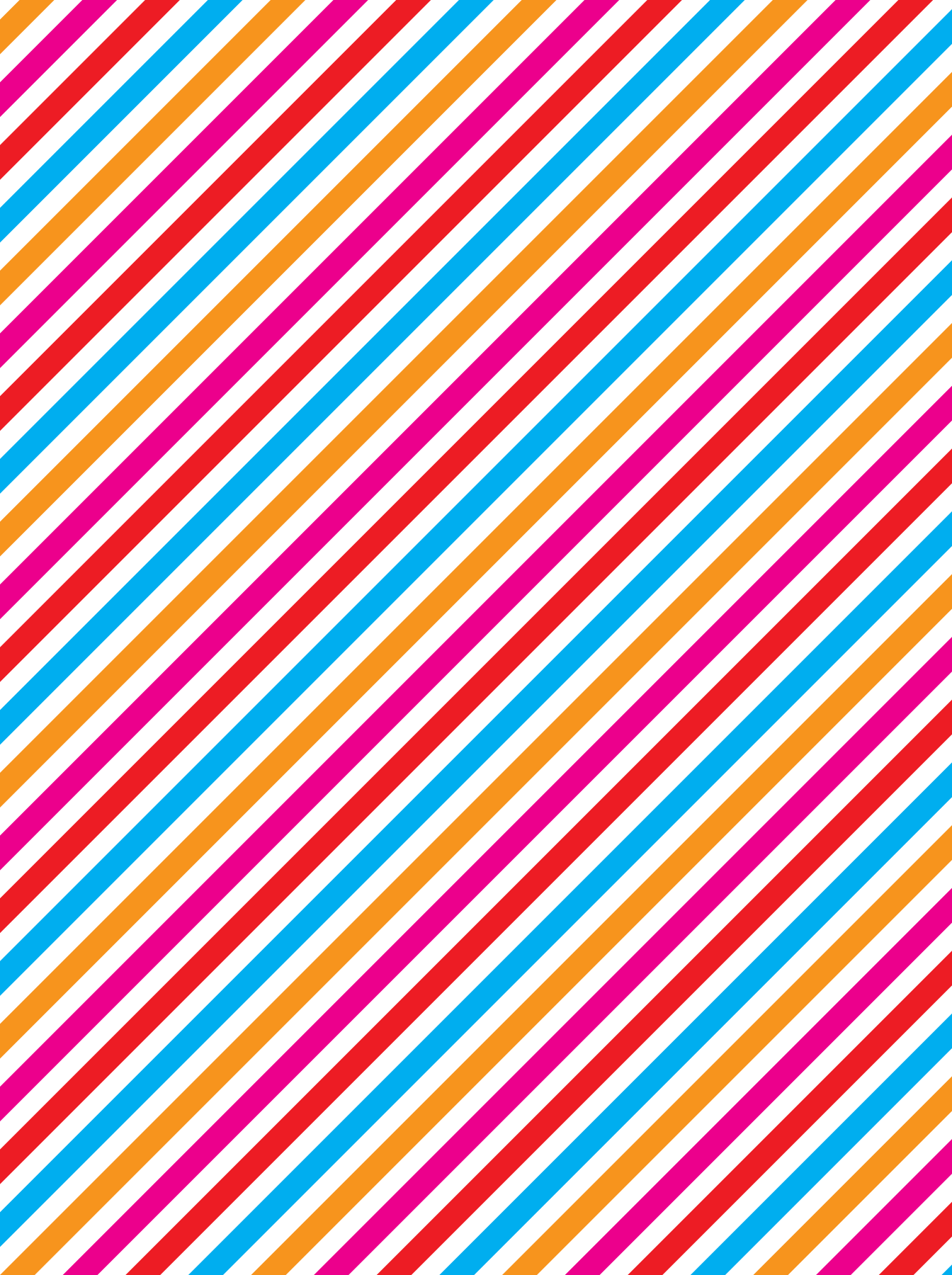
Awan
Mojadidi



Usman
Riaz



CATARINA
MOTA



TEDGlobal 2012

Welcome to Edinburgh, where we celebrate the fourth year of the TED Fellows program. When we began, we hoped to gather extraordinary young people from around the globe and add their unique voices to the TED community. We wanted the program to slingshot Fellows' careers, opportunities and relationships. We believe there is ample proof now of the program's success.

Here at TEDGlobal, we have 55 Fellows and Senior Fellows. So far, over the course of the program, we've fielded 288 Fellows from 76 countries* – including, this year, our first Fellows from Serbia, Curaçao, Portugal and Taiwan. There are many statistics we could share, but here's just one more: out of the 55 Fellows present, 12 have received a PhD, and five more are in progress.

Our Fellows truly embody this conference's theme, Radical Openness. This group includes open-source engineers, artists, research scientists, inventors, human rights activists, NGO founders and two coral reef specialists. We also have a mathematician who's created algorithms to detect early-stage Parkinson's from patients' voice recordings alone, an extraordinary tap dancer who has founded a museum to help preserve a 100-year-old tradition, a 2012 Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, a tissue-engineering researcher, a percussive guitarist, an architect who's designing a master plan for 2112's self-sufficient New York City and many more extraordinary people.

At TEDGlobal you'll also find the founders of organizations like Civic Center (urban design in New Orleans), Embrace (baby warmers), Working Villages (agriculture in eastern Congo), Ushahidi (open-source software tools to democratize information), Lemon (a digital finance organizer), *Gopher Illustrated* (an arts and culture magazine), Global Village Construction Set (a DIY civilization kit), AIDG (engineers helping in Haiti) and the African Prisons Project (human rights for prisoners in Uganda).

The Fellows have been featured in such internationally recognized publications as *Wired*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *Science*, *Nature*, *National Geographic*, *Fast Company*, *The Washington Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Technology Review*, *Huffington Post*, *Forbes*, *Esquire*, and *PCWorld*.


Many of you have asked, "How can I get in touch with or keep track of the Fellows' work?" The new Fellows Network (fellows.ted.com), contains detailed profiles on Fellows' projects and passions as well as their Twitter and Flickr feeds. You can contact any of them through the existing TED Profile system, as well as connect with those here at the conference using the TED Connect app.

The Fellows program is extremely grateful for the inaugural support of the Bezos Family, the Dhanam Foundation, Ann & John Doerr, the Harnisch Foundation, the Arcus Foundation, Chandra Jessee, Gerry Ohrstrom and others. We hope you will consider joining them and taking part in the Dhanam Foundation's outstanding challenge grant. Please contact fellows@ted.com if you're interested.

Finally, we invite you to meet as many of the Fellows as you can! You'll be so glad you did.

Have a great TED!

Tom Rielly & Logan McClure and the TED Fellows team



Launched at TED2009, the TED Fellows program brings outstanding individuals who have shown unusual accomplishment, exceptional courage and moral imagination into the TED community in order to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.



How it works

Each year, 20 Fellows attend the TED Conference in Long Beach, California, and 20 attend TEDGlobal in Edinburgh, Scotland, as full conference participants, with all expenses paid. They enjoy an exclusive Fellows pre-conference where they meet, share ideas, receive communication, fundraising and design training, and encounter a few surprises. They also have the opportunity to give a talk at TED, and potentially see their talks posted on TED.com. Throughout the rest of the year, they tell their ongoing stories on the TED Fellows Blog and YouTube channel, and receive personal coaching and mentoring.

The program focuses on individuals from six target regions: Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, though people from the rest of the world are also represented and welcome to apply. Fellows are drawn from the many disciplines that reflect the diversity of TED's members: technology, entertainment, design, the sciences, the humanities, the arts, NGOs, businesses and more. Though we target innovators aged 21 to 40, anyone over 18 is welcome to apply.

TED Senior Fellows

Of the 40 Fellows selected each year, roughly 10 individuals are invited to participate in the extended Senior Fellowship program, which begins the year after their initial Fellowship. Read more on page 44.

How you can get involved

You can help the TED Fellows in six ways:

- 1) donating to support the program
- 2) corporate underwriting
- 3) mentoring a Fellow
- 4) teaching at a Fellows event
- 5) nominating an excellent candidate
- 6) contributing in-kind goods and services

To learn more about the TED Fellows program,

visit: www.ted.com/fellows

contact: fellows@ted.com

follow: [@TEDFellow](https://twitter.com/TEDFellow)

Meet all of the Fellows: fellows.ted.com



TED Thanks

The Bezos Family

Dhanam Foundation*

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FOUNDATION**

Ann & John Doerr

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* The Dhanam Foundation has offered a matching grant for donations of \$50,000 and above. For more information, or to participate in the matching grant, please contact Logan McClure at logan@ted.com.



TED Thanks

Renee Freedman

Chandra Jessee

Karla & Steve Jurvetson

Colleen Keegan

Gerry Ohrstrom

Scott Wolf

Beth & Steve Varon

Special thanks to:

David Albertson, Angela Cheng, Samantha Dean, Karen Eng, Mike Femia, Michael Glass, Alexander Jutkowitz, Benjamin Kellogg, Sam Kelly, Sandy Leong, Anjali Mohan, Richard Mulholland, Mark O'Donnell, Emeka Okafor, Paul Torres, Mike Velings, Ladan Wise, Megan Wyatt and Diana Yousef

Finally, we would like to thank all of the TED Fellows. Not only have they been remarkable classes, but they have also provided invaluable feedback that continues to shape the program. To learn more about and connect with all of the TED Fellows, please visit the new TED Fellows Network: fellows.ted.com.

Ivana
Gadjanski
Neuroscientist + poet



Ivana is a Serbian neuroscientist and tissue engineer – and a poet. She studies how cells translate mechanical stimuli into biological signals, aiming to aid understanding of how to repair damaged tissues. Her poems – intricate meshes of words, connected in not easily detectable ways – serve as an analogy to the connections inside and between cells. Besides her scientific publications, Ivana has two books of poetry published in Serbian. After receiving her PhD in Goettingen on an animal model of multiple sclerosis, she worked at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and spent time in the US for a Fulbright Fellowship at Columbia University. She is now based in Serbia, where in her spare time, she practices yoga and krav maga.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I'm working on establishing a new laboratory for biomedical engineering in Serbia, which should provide new positions for young scientists. We aim to start using new technology for treating cartilage defects. I am also preparing the first textbook on stem cell biology in Serbian.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I go out with friends, ride a bike for miles, do yoga and krav maga, run. I also like to cook, read, go hiking. I still prefer to go out with someone to the movies than to sit at home and watch videos. Whatever I do, I like to share the experience with friends – yes, I'm a Facebook buff.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

When I was 2 years old, my parents took me to Greece. We spent two weeks at the seaside, in a house with a staircase down to the beach. My dad taught me how to swim and dive. On the last day, everything was packed, all ready to go. Then they noticed I was missing. They searched everywhere, my mom panicking. Then they saw me, down at the bottom of the staircase. I was staring at the sea, saying, "Thank you sea, and goodbye..."

GET IN TOUCH

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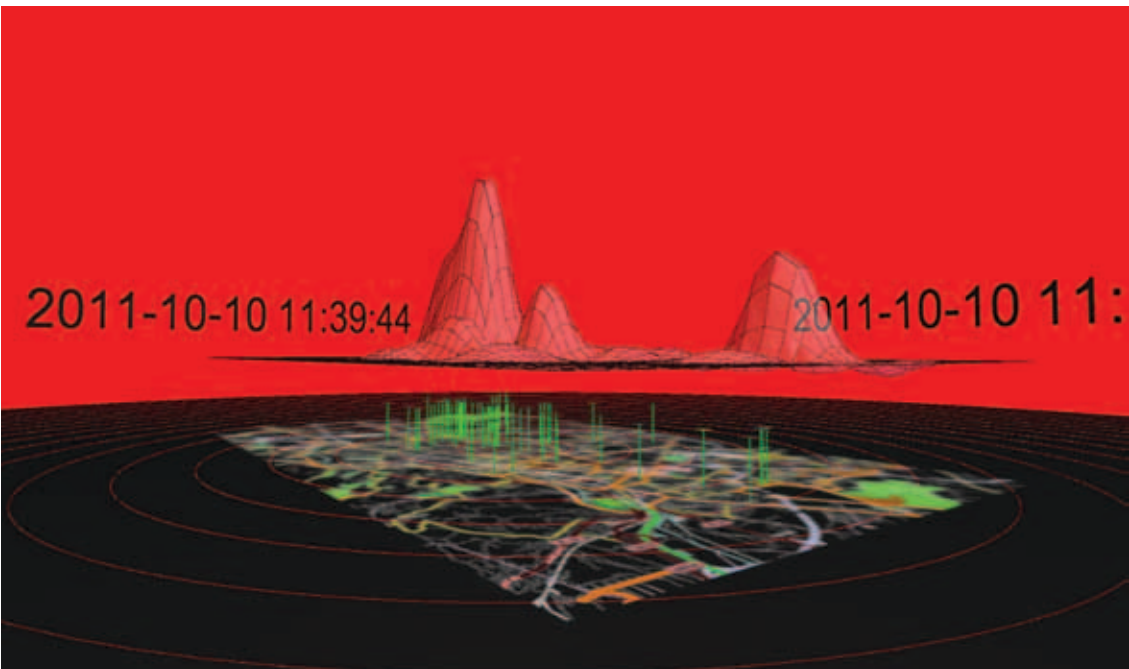
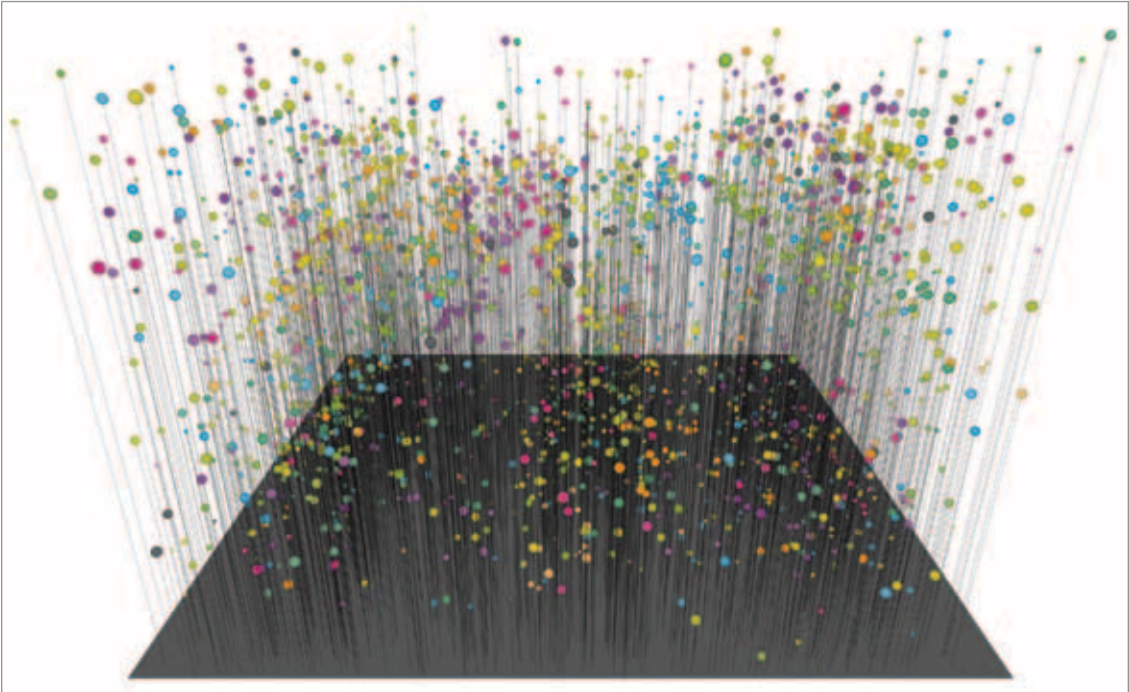
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R&D Center for Bioengineering BioIRC, Serbia
Lab for Stem Cells & Tissue Engineering Columbia University

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Salvatore Iaconesi

Open-source engineer + artist



Salvatore is a robotic engineer, artist, skateboarder, hacker and interaction designer. He produces urban interventions, wearable technologies and real-time information systems expressing the transformation of the lives of human beings, of communities and of the environment, as brought on by the rise of information and knowledge society. His projects cross the boundaries of arts, design, architecture, sciences and business, and address the possibility of reinventing the ways in which we work, learn, collaborate, relate, consume and have fun, suggesting a playful, positive attitude. Salvatore currently works with students in three universities to create innovative solutions through which citizens are able to collaborate in real time to create peer-to-peer urban planning, design and governance practices.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

Shhhh... This is a secret: I am building a collaborative environment called World Making incorporated. Imagine it as a company with millions of associates whose profits come from listening in real time to the desires, wishes, visions and ideas of everyone else, and using them as opportunities to organize, collaborate and act. It uses ubiquitous technologies, real-time information visualizations and multiple forms of natural interaction designed for our daily lives in public space.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I enjoy exploring the interstices of cities – locations that have seen a decline in their daily routines because of change in economy, urban development or social issues – and imagining and enacting alternative uses for them. Move over raves! It is time for happy urban interstitial picnics. You should definitely attend one, if you happen to pass by.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I once wrote a letter to a national newspaper using the name and writing style of a famous personality, engaging a very important social issue that was receiving wide attention from mass media. The letter made it to the front page of the paper and ignited a very influential public discussion. The “original” personality never complained. The year was 2008. The country was Italy. Let’s see if you can find it!

GET IN TOUCH

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Organizations

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FakePress Publishing
ISIA Design Florence

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Twitter: [@xdxd_vs_xdxd](https://twitter.com/xdxd_vs_xdxd)

Links

artisopensource.net

Joel
Jackson
Auto innovator



Joel is the founder and CEO of Mobius Motors, a venture that builds low-cost, high-function vehicles for Africa's mass market. Before Mobius, Joel worked on business strategy with an internationally acclaimed social enterprise in rural Kenya, where he first experienced the challenges facing millions of people throughout the continent without access to appropriate forms of transport. Joel has also worked as a management consultant, advising top Fortune 500 and FTSE 100 companies across Europe and North America. He is the recipient of the Echoing Green fellowship – a global social enterprise fund – and has presented the Mobius vision at several worldwide forums, including the UN.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

Mobius Motors designs, manufactures and sells highly functional, highly affordable vehicles as a transportation platform, empowering local entrepreneurs to mobilize the developing world. We reimagine the car – simplifying structure and eliminating costly technologies – and bundle this with business advice and access to financing. This enables our customers to operate a range of profitable transport businesses in their communities. The range of business-in-a-box services is vast – from public transport to mobile medical care to goods delivery and school buses.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I love to travel: adventure feels liberating and inspiring. I like to discover new places and meet cool people. I get a kick from the unknown. I like to understand the past but I find it more exciting to create the future. I stay active. I enjoy hiking, Frisbee, yoga, swimming, tennis and squash.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I founded Mobius with no prior automotive experience and only got my driving license just before moving to Kenya. It's been a steep learning curve, but I've now built a world-class team and advisory board to drive us towards our vision.

GET IN TOUCH

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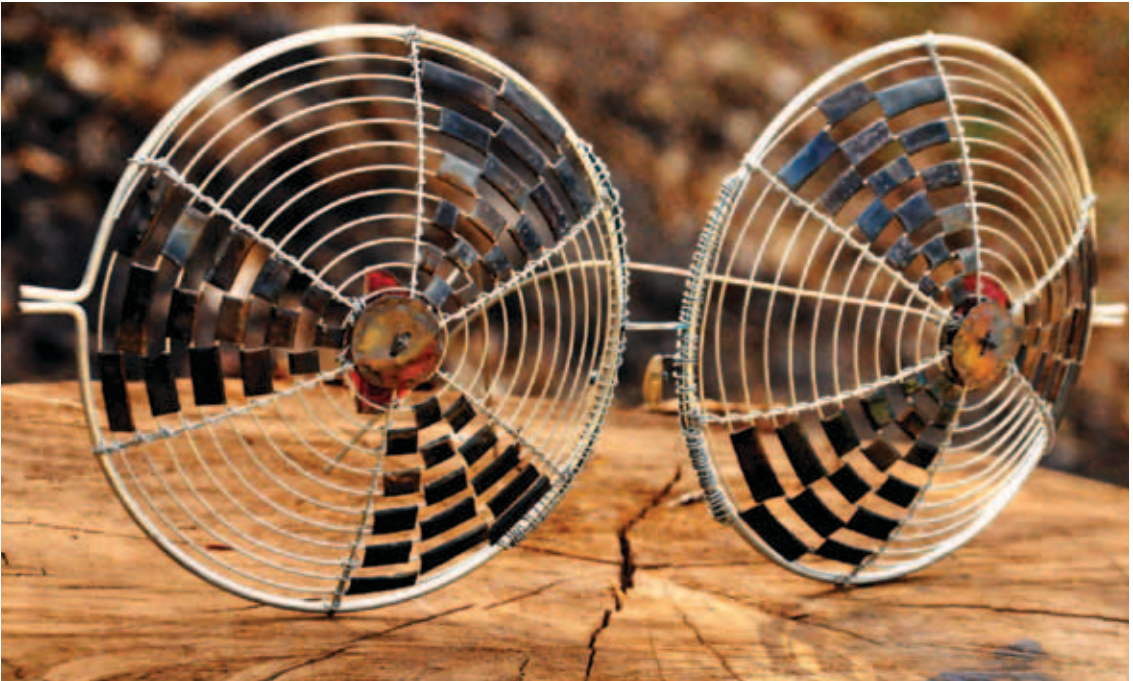
Organizations
Mobius Motors

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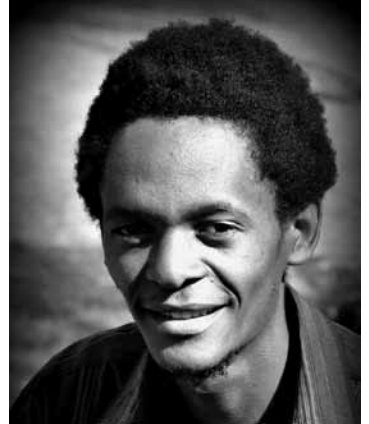
Links
mobiusmotors.com

Cyrus Kabiru

Found object artist



Cyrus is a self taught painter and sculptor. His paintings are often humorous portrayals of contemporary living within Kenya. He adopts the role of a flâneur – the observer, explorer, and loungeur using his paintings as the output for his experiences. His sculptural work embodies his role as a “collector” of Nairobi castoffs. Kabiru fashions and refashions waste, recycled and found materials into various forms. Currently he is focusing on a series that depicts African nature using thousands of bottle caps sewn together. He is perhaps best known for *cstunners*, an ongoing work in which Cyrus creates and wears artistic spectacles. The work sits at the juncture of fashion, wearable art, performance and one-of-a-kind commodity objects.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am currently working on a series of sculptural street musicians. This involves about ten life-size sculptures; each piece has a musical instrument embedded in it. I am also completing the boob series on *cstunners* eyewear.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I am a big fan of music, traveling and experiencing new things. People fascinate me: I enjoy meeting new people and learning from them.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

One evening, two friends and I were walking in the city clad in *cstunners*, attracting a lot of attention from the public. We were quickly stopped by the Kenyan police, forced into their truck and taken to the police station. This was quite a surprise as no one gave us a reason for the arrest. We were held for 8 hours. From the local newspaper they recognized me as I had been featured that day. Only then did they release me and my friends.

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Max Little

Applied mathematician



A data scientist with a background in math and stats, Max helps accelerate the search for cures for diseases such as Parkinson's by inventing radically simple, noninvasive technologies to measure symptoms outside the clinic. He developed algorithms that quantify Parkinson's symptoms using 30-second voice recordings, displacing expensive in-clinic physical exams. These algorithms detect Parkinson's in newly diagnosed patients to 98% accuracy, and work over the mobile phone network. Max is working to apply these algorithms to investigate the environmental causes of the disease: genetics is making extraordinary progress, but explains only a small part of the picture. By making these algorithms accessible to the global population, they could help fill the massive gap in medical understanding about why certain people become ill but others do not.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

Tackling the question: what really happens to disease symptoms in between clinical visits? We generally have no quantitative data about what happens outside the clinic. Symptoms can fluctuate wildly, but back in the clinic, there is no objective record of those fluctuations. My current research points to these fluctuations being more than just clinically irrelevant noise.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

Jogging around the Charles River basin in Cambridge to work off the calories from a particularly heavy lad's night out. Visiting museums and public parks with my son. Getting nerdy pleasure from learning new scientific concepts, particularly molecular biology and pure mathematics. Finding new musique concrète artists. Enjoying three days of entertainment, sunburn, no showers and mud at the Glastonbury festival in England.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

A few snippets: I once slept a night in a Japanese temple in Osaka, after having sung Beatles karaoke to the locals. I was educated at a Rudolf Steiner school and learned to perform eurythmy. I have taught math to prisoners. I composed music and sound effects for video games, television and radio. I used to know how to play the French horn. At the time, the horn was almost as big as me!

GET IN TOUCH

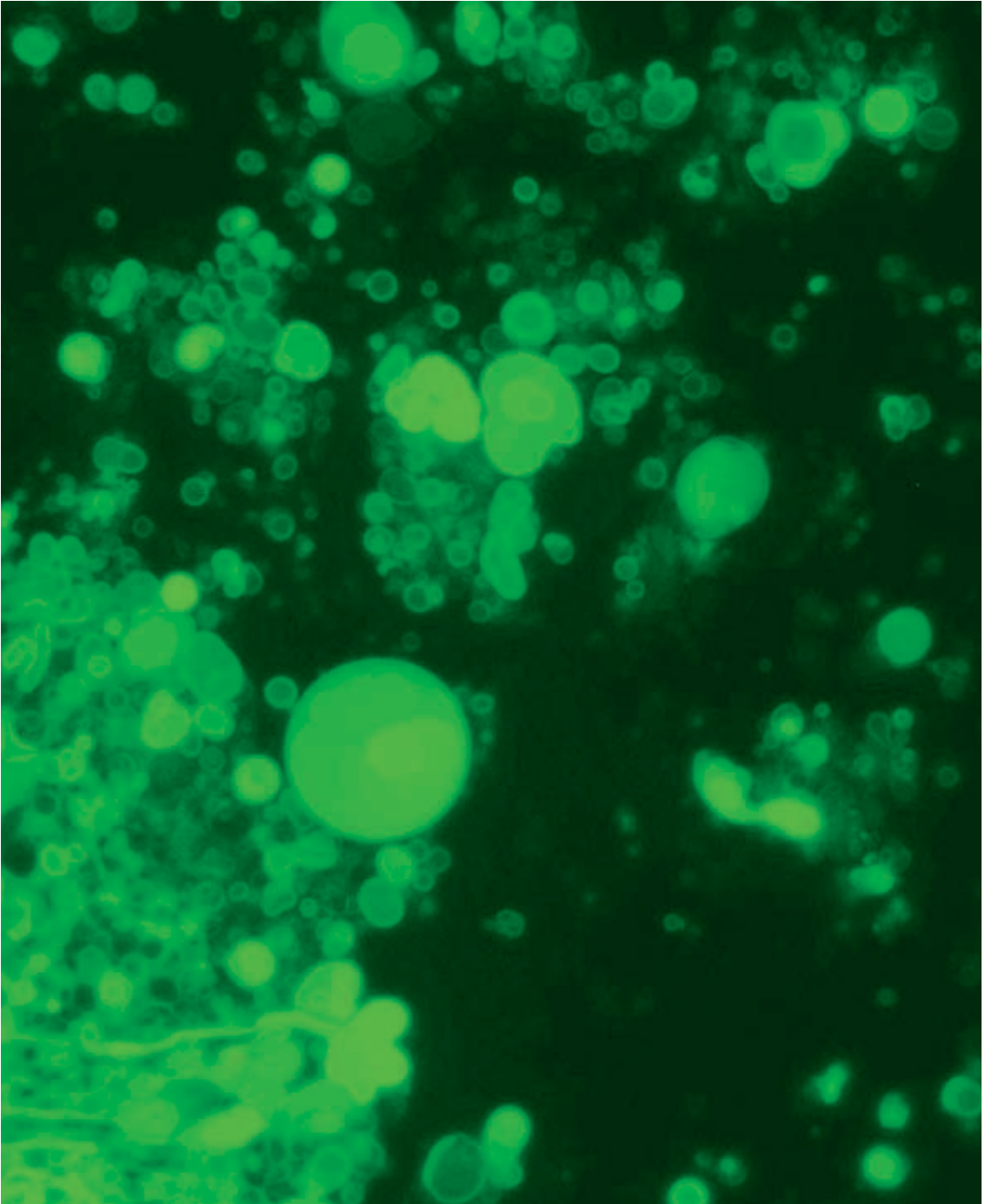
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Organizations
MIT Media Lab
University of Oxford
Wellcome Trust

Links
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Sheref
Mansy
Artificial-life scientist



Sheref was born in Oregon and raised in Ohio. He spent time in Florence, Italy, studying metalloproteins. Upon returning to Ohio, Sheref wanted to find a job in a city that could compete with the beautiful places of Italy. Fortunately, he ended up in Boston, where he began working on origins-of-life problems. He then learned of an opportunity to build a lab in Italy through the Armenise-Harvard Foundation. Today, his lab in Trento builds artificial chemical systems that mimic biological cells.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

What I am most interested in right now is to build nonliving systems that in some ways appear alive. The workings of life are still quite mysterious. We hope that by systematically building systems from scratch, we will begin to elucidate some of the hidden features of cellular function. Recently I've also begun exploring differences between machine-like life and life-like machines with artists through the Synthetic Aesthetics project run by the University of Edinburgh and Stanford University.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I really enjoy taking ice cream breaks with Cristina and Allegra, my wife and daughter. It's even more fun after a day of hiking in the beautiful Trentino mountains.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I teach a biochemistry course that covers metabolism. To make the subject more interesting, some teachers like to highlight the associations between metabolism and health. I think it's more fun to use a different perspective on metabolism that I call "fart biochemistry" – i.e., how the microorganisms within us participate in digestion. I particularly enjoy the reaction of the students when I ask them to tell me how to say "fart biochemistry" in Italian.

GET IN TOUCH

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Kristen
Marhaver
Coral reef biologist



Kristen is a biologist studying the larval behavior of Caribbean corals while working to improve how all scientific information is organized and communicated.

In her research, she conducts experiments with swimming coral larvae to identify the bacterial communities that affect their behavior, settlement and survivorship on the reef. The overall goal is to ensure that Caribbean reefs continue to attract juvenile corals, the reefs of the future. As an advocate for Open Science in the broadest sense, Kristen is campaigning to change how scientists communicate their knowledge. She argues that because the public trusts scientists to uncover powerful information about the world, scientists have an obligation to use the full power of the information age to make that knowledge freely available to the public, well-organized and well-explained.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I'm designing and building some new tools to help scientists communicate their research directly to the public, in formats that are more accessible and engaging than standard scientific journal articles. Science is rich with beautiful imagery and fascinating stories that the world is eager to devour. Thanks to the internet, the youngest generation of scientists is perfectly primed to make open communication an integral part of being a scientist.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

Underwater, you'll find me with my trusty, well-loved, very-scratched Lumix point-and-shoot camera, capturing photos of tiny creatures and watching out for new stories and scientific opportunities. On land, you'll find me searching for the experiences and treasures that make a place unique: usually this means great art, creative food, beautiful nature and loud music.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I was born in Kansas and usually spent family trips "at the lake" in Minnesota or New York, so the first time I saw the ocean, I was 13 years old. The water was so salty! I became a scuba diver two years later and became obsessed with corals shortly after that.

GET IN TOUCH

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Alexander McLean

African prison activist

UK
+
UGANDA



Alexander is the director general of the African Prisons Project (APP). APP works to bring dignity and hope to men, women and children in prisons in Africa through healthcare, education, access to justice and community reintegration. APP believes that time in prisons in Africa can be a time of positive transformation. APP's work ranges from construction of libraries and health centres to functional literacy and university degrees – and a lot in between. Alexander was called to the bar in 2010 at Lincoln's Inn, London. He is a magistrate in Nottingham, a member of the legal committee of the International Corrections and Prisons Association, a Clore Social Leadership Fellow, a member of the Tearfund Inspired Individuals Initiative, a PhD student and a law lecturer.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

We are working to develop a leadership program for senior prisons staff from around Africa, model/mobile libraries and clinics and a library of prison-staff training materials. I am working to finish my PhD and also to establish university courses relating to prisons management.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I love reading nonfiction, going to the cinema and the gym, and travel (my mum worked for an airline so I've been fortunate to be able to travel extensively – this was my real education). I love dancing, though I don't get to do it as much as I'd like now that I spend more time in the UK and less time in Africa. My wife and family are incredibly important to me, and I like to spend most of my free time with them.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

After spending time at a hospice in Uganda when I was 18, I was convinced that the way to make an impact in the world was to become a doctor. At 19, I started studying law in the UK, but also went to college to study science so that I could take medicine after completing my law degree. Science wasn't my thing, and after becoming a magistrate I understood how life-changing the law could be. So I shelved plans of becoming a doctor myself, and married one instead.

GET IN TOUCH

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Organizations
African Prisons Project

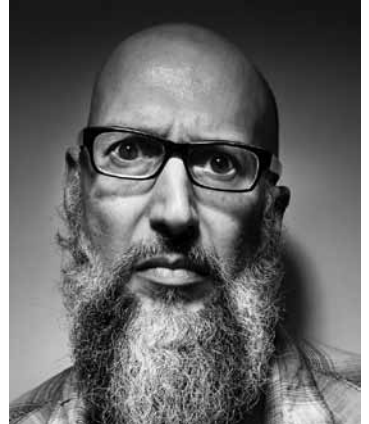
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Links
africanprisons.org

Amanullah
Mojadidi
Artist



A man's practice is based on his personal experiences and his curatorial and academic research in cultural studies. Having grown up as an American citizen, in a world that is simultaneously globalized and fractured, the Afghan artist combines traditional storylines and postmodern – often parodist – narrative strategies to approach such themes as belonging, identity politics, conflict and the push to modernize and resistance against it. Continuously exploring what he calls the “geography of self,” Aman travels through both mental and physical landscapes, intentionally blurring and merging the lines between them – as well as the boundaries between fact and fiction, documentation and imagination.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am working with Afghan and international artists implementing seminars and workshops in contemporary art while I develop two new installations of my own for dOCUMENTA (13). One looks at the complicated ways in which the experiences of Kabul and Kassel are intertwined, and the other at how family memories, though connected through blood ties, are often not compatible.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I am a voracious reader of fiction and nonfiction. I like Bikram yoga and hiking, and enjoy long dinners with friends where the world's problems are dissected and solved, at least for a night. I also very much enjoy good films, particularly foreign films and film noir or surrealist films. And, of course, producing art.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

The stereotype is that artists are very unorganized, but actually I am incredibly organized in all aspects of my life, including my artistic practice. In my atelier, I work with a whiteboard, keeping track of the pieces I'm working on, their status, work left to do, due dates, and so on. I think this organization principle borders on being slightly obsessive-compulsive – I segregate the different foods on my plate into piles as I eat!

GET IN TOUCH

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Organizations
dOCUMENTA

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Catarina Mota

Open-source advocate + researcher



As a maker of things and an open-source advocate, Catarina co-founded openMaterials.org, a collaborative project dedicated to do-it-yourself experimentation with smart materials, and altLab, a makerspace in Lisbon. She has taught numerous hands-on workshops on high-tech materials and simple circuitry with the goal of encouraging both young people and adults to take a proactive interest in science, technology and knowledge-sharing. Catarina is currently a PhD candidate researching the social impact of open and collaborative practices for the development of technologies, as well as co-chair of the Open Hardware Summit 2012 and a member of the maker collective NYC Resistor.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

My highest priority at the moment is finishing my PhD dissertation. I'm also working on a few programs for informing the public about open source practices and on organizing the Open Hardware Summit 2012. I'm continually developing new experiments and tutorials for open materials.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I read fiction, attend science and maker events, and do all sorts of nerdy things with my friends at NYC Resistor (often involving food, wine and tinkering of some kind).

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

As a child, some of my favorite activities were climbing coconut trees, feeding the crocodiles that lived in the public playground's "pond," making slingshots, and searching for our family's goat whenever it wandered out of the backyard.

GET IN TOUCH

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Andrew Nemr

Tap dancer



Andrew promotes the craft of tap dance by sharing his talents, experiences and understanding with as broad an audience as possible. Mentored by Gregory Hines, Henry LeTang, Jimmy Slyde and LeRoy Myers, among others, Andrew's work is rooted in an oral tradition that goes back 100 years. Through his tap dance company Cats Paying Dues/CPD PLUS, Andrew is creating a new and relevant tap dance repertoire and providing dancers with a unique opportunity to engage with the craft. In further support of the oral tradition, the Tap Legacy Foundation – which Andrew co-founded with Gregory Hines – is building a cultural center in New York City for the art of tap dance.



Photo credit: AK47 Division

Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am developing a teaching method for tap dancing that begins in the body (not the feet). It allows students to learn technique in a playful manner – without the burden of technical mastery – so that they can overcome the fear of judgment and learn to enjoy and explore the freedom of dancing,

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

My greatest joy is sharing moments with friends in music, in dance, in laughter, in trials and most of all in the discovery of my own humanness.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

My body weight can fluctuate with the wind. During one week of shows I lost 15 pounds, only to gain it back the following week. On a daily basis I am no better, with my weight swinging anywhere from 3 to 5 pounds over the course of a day (morning to evening). I resolved to purchase a scale to make sure that I never lost too much. So far so good.

GET IN TOUCH

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taplegacy.org

Elaine Ng Yan Ling

Smart materials artist + designer



Elaine explores how the behavior of natural elements can be manifested in man-made materials to enhance modern architecture and interior design. Elaine's design principle is based on biomimicry, focusing on hybrid materialization of craft and technology. By programming shape-memory materials, she explores how tectonic movement can be achieved through natural responses to heat, light and electricity. Woven and etched patterns respond to changes in environmental conditions such as light intensity or mechanical force. With a sustainable and eco-conscious design philosophy, she explores living urban textiles and their responses to sun, wind and rain. Her latest discovery, Techno-Naturology, is the use of artificial technology to activate and simulate natural reactions, evoking natural movement within an urban landscape.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

Recently I have been relocated to Beijing by Nokia Design Beijing as Senior Color and Material Design. I have also continued to develop my own Naturology Design collection: the latest piece is entitled *The Velcro Chained*. It is a flexible modular system that reacts to various light, heat and humidity conditions.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I enjoy exploring historical sites, such as the unknown historic "hutong" (alleyways). On a quiet day I enjoy design and do embroidery work with recycled offcuts of my laser-cut pieces, turning them into presents for my friends and family.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

My Mandarin is awful, so often in China people make the mistake of thinking I'm Korean or Japanese. I usually play along because my Mandarin is at such an elementary level, I'm too embarrassed to admit I am of Chinese descent. Really, I am British, but when I try to explain to the locals, they often get confused. Often this turns into a funny little drama!

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Hakeem Oluseyi

Astrophysicist + science educator



Hakeem is an internationally recognized astrophysicist, inventor, science communicator and humanitarian. He has addressed diverse problems in astrophysics including understanding the nature of the dark energy that accelerates our universe, the origin and evolution of the Milky Way, and the mechanisms by which magnetic fields heat and accelerate astrophysical plasmas. His work in technology development has included developing instruments for astrophysical research and new techniques for manufacturing computer chips. Hakeem is also passionately engaged in improving physics and astronomy research and education among poor communities in America and in the developing world.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

My astrophysics research activities are focused on measuring the structure and evolution of the Milky Way Galaxy, characterizing new planetary systems and understanding the process that heat and accelerate plasmas in the sun's atmosphere. My humanitarian work is currently focused on developing astronomy and physics research capacity on the African continent and the effort to place at least one research-grade astronomical observatory in every country in the world.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I absolutely love playing basketball. I'm also passionate about the outdoors. Visiting (and climbing on) volcanoes is fun, camping in the wilderness is fun, hanging out at the beach is fun. I also love to just hang out with old and new friends.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

Few people know that I am a distant relative of America's most famous voodoo priestess, Marie Laveau. Another surprising thing about me is that my family and I regularly ate the local wildlife when I was a kid in Mississippi, including squirrels, possums, raccoons, beavers, deer and rabbits. In fact, I just ate some raccoon this past December.

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Ola Orekunrin

Healthcare entrepreneur



Ola is a British-Nigerian critical care doctor, helicopter pilot and CEO of the Flying Doctors Nigeria. FDN is the first and only air ambulance company in the whole of West Africa that uses jets and helicopters to transport critically ill patients within the region and internationally for life-saving treatment. FDN has been involved in rescuing patients from some of the most challenging disasters to occur in Nigeria, including many terrorist bombings and mass shootings. FDN is also an essential resource for the West African region. Ola completed her undergraduate training at the University of York, then went on to train in Birmingham. She was then awarded the Japanese MEXT scholarship to conduct stem cell research in Tokyo before moving to Lagos, where she has received national and international accolades for her contributions to healthcare in Nigeria.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am working on growing FDN by training doctors and acquiring more aircrafts to meet a growing need.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I enjoy travel, food and flying helicopters.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

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Ed
Ou

Photojournalist



Ed is a culturally ambiguous Canadian photojournalist who has been bouncing around the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and Africa. His photography has so far taken him from dark eerie crypts in Madagascar to radioactive lakes in Kazakhstan, and from refugee boats in the Gulf of Aden to Tahrir Square in Egypt. He started his career as a teenager, covering the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and the fall of the Islamic Courts in Mogadishu, Somalia, while studying in the Middle East. He first worked for Reuters and the Associated Press, covering a wide range of news stories in the region. After university, he moved to Kazakhstan, where he documented the tragic consequences of Soviet nuclear weapons testing in Semipalatinsk. Recently, he has been covering the wave of uprisings that has rocked the Arab world, working regularly for *The New York Times*.



Photo credit: AK47 Division

Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I have been hopping from assignment to assignment, following populations affected by the wave of uprisings in the Arab Spring, from Egypt, Libya, to Bahrain, Yemen and onwards. In all my travels, I have focused on telling the stories of youth populations who have been the catalyst for many of the immense changes happening in the region.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

No matter where I am in the world, kids on the street follow me around and ask me to teach them karate. I teach them how to break-dance instead.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I once developed a secret language with a friend, with an entire alphabet and grammar. After a few months, we realized that we had a disproportionately large vocabulary for different foods, and actions for eating, cooking and drinking. But we never got to the point where we could do anything useful with it outside of a kitchen. I still use the secret alphabet to this day when I'm working in conflict zones and authoritarian countries, when I need to keep sensitive information safe.

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Bel Pesce

Entrepreneur + innovator



Bel is a Brazilian entrepreneur in love with business and technology. Over the past few years, she has tackled a variety of needs ranging from better cell phone coverage in Africa to more effective task-management tools. In her previous job, Bel helped make high-quality video available across a wide range of devices. She is now focusing her energy into Lemon (www.lemon.com), the open digital wallet. Bel received degrees from MIT in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Mathematics and Economics. She is also the author of a book about how entrepreneurship can change your life, which was downloaded over half a million times in one month.



Photo credit: Antonio Gamito

Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

With the help of an amazing team, I'm working on Lemon. My work has been focused on distribution, partnerships and other ways in which we can develop our business. This is a very exciting challenge for me.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I absolutely love learning new things, visiting new places, meeting new people. I love going to a new country and hanging out with local people in order to truly experience different cultures. Also, I can spend hours and hours brainstorming ideas, imagining the future or learning what matters to people. Trying to understand what drives people is fascinating to me.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I'm from a humble family in Brazil and learned about MIT a few days before the application deadline. I did a couple of things to run against the clock: I showed up at the house of an MIT alum with a box containing everything I had done in my life, and begged for an interview after the deadline. I also went to the SATs without having a spot. Never doubt that you can help the stars align – one person did not come to the exam!

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Usman
Riaz
Musician + artist



Usman hails from a family of creative and talented people. Influenced by the performers and artists surrounding him, Usman took up art and music at a very young age. He became interested in the piano at the age of 6. It was here that his love for classical music developed, and his skills and musical tastes were nurtured and shaped by his teacher. Usman took up guitar at the age of 16 and taught himself how to play. Known primarily as a guitarist and composer, Usman experiments with a wide array of instruments and believes people can accomplish anything they desire if they are determined. From his musical compositions, film-piece concepts to the artwork on his album sleeves, Usman loves being involved in every creative process.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I just completed a musical short film that I wrote and directed based on one of my instrumental pieces, “Ruckus,” which will soon be released. I am currently finishing my LP “Circus in the Sky”. The album contains my orchestral and instrumental pieces. I am also working on the artwork for the sleeve; I like to give everything a personal touch.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I feel calmest when I work. It relaxes me. When I absolutely need to take a break, I enjoy following the progression of technology, from the advancement of smart phones to the development of indie videogames. I love reading manga and watching anime. I find Japanese artwork and storytelling intriguing, and admire the philosophy that simplicity is the greatest form of sophistication.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I actually never would have picked up a guitar if it weren't for my best friend. He wanted to perform at our school's annual concert to impress the girls. No one agreed to play with him, so he grabbed me. I was primarily a pianist and had only tinkered with the guitar. I hesitantly agreed. Learning the song was easy and I did fall in love with the guitar, but the performance was so horrible it still makes me shudder. Although I never performed with him again, he did fuel the perfectionist that I am today.

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Bahia Shehab

Artist + creative director + Islamic art historian



Bahia is a creative director, Islamic art historian, artist and academic, and sprays graffiti on the walls of Cairo hoping for change. She is familiar with the jungles of advertising, having worked on many campaigns across the Arab world, and is an Arabic scriptoholic, dedicating a lot of time trying to understand its aesthetics. She investigates Islamic art history for visual solutions for present visual pollution. Bahia is trying to create awareness of visual problems in the Arab world by setting up a new graphic design program in the megalopolis of Cairo. Nine months after the Egyptian revolution, she found herself obliged to hit the streets of Cairo armed with a spray can. Her book, *A Thousand Times NO* was published in 2010.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am launching a new graphic design program for the American University in Cairo that I have developed with the first specialized courses ever on the History of Arab Design as a discipline. I am also working on a PhD on Fatimid epigraphy at Leiden University in the Netherlands. I'm developing an art project on the Arab Spring, a campaign on post revolution preservation of historic sites in Egypt as well as preparing to give a talk for the Aspen Institute in Tokyo on art as a vehicle for change during the revolution.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I stencil awareness campaigns on the streets of post-revolution Cairo. It is a nice change for me as an artist from the sanitary galleries of the art world. Writing these messages is a refreshing departure from my experience as a creative director working with clients. But most importantly, as a historian I have decided to contribute to changing history instead of just writing about it.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

I got invited to contribute a modern work of art at an exhibition celebrating 100 years of Islamic art in Europe. The only restriction was that I had to use the Arabic script in my work. This was my first major artwork and the chance for me to place a message on an international platform. I decided to say "No" a thousand different times, in Arabic. The installation stood 7 meters high at the Haus Der Kunst in Munich from September 2010, and was taken down on January 9, 2011. On January 25th, 2011, the revolution started in Cairo.

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Christopher Soghoian

Privacy researcher + activist

US



Dubbed “the Ralph Nader for the Internet Age” by *Wired*, Christopher is an academic researcher and advocate focused on improving privacy protections for individuals. He is particularly interested in documenting the ways in which companies choose to either resist or facilitate surveillance of their customers. He has used the Freedom of Information Act as well as several other, unconventional investigative methods to shed light on the scale and methods used by the US government to spy on internet communications and mobile telephones.



Q&A

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

I am currently building PrivacyReports.org, a site that will grade companies' privacy practices in language written for the layperson. Search engines, email providers, cell phone companies and online backup services will all be compared on the privacy and security practices that matter. My hope is that this project will help to kick-start an effective market for privacy, enabling companies to keep tabs on the ways in which they protect their customers.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

My two favorite activities are cooking and travel. I am happiest when I can combine the two. As a lifelong vegetarian, I tend to travel to veggie-friendly countries. India has been by far the easiest and enjoyable place to travel to. However, even when I go to places without vegetarian food on every street corner, I still try to pick up a few local cooking techniques, either by watching the locals or, preferably, by taking a cooking class.

TELL A SURPRISING ANECDOTE ABOUT YOURSELF THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

In 2009, I attended an invitation-only surveillance industry trade show, where I covertly recorded an executive from US wireless carrier Sprint Nextel talking about the assistance his company provided to law enforcement agencies. The firm had received so many requests from the US government that it created a self-help website where the police could log in and get real-time GPS data on specific Sprint subscribers. That website was used 8 million times in one year. The audio clip I recorded was subsequently played on *The Colbert Report*, a popular comedy news show, as well as cited by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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TED Senior Fellows

At TEDGlobal 2012 36 Senior Fellows join us from three different years — the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Senior Fellowship classes. While you may have met a few before, take a moment to read through the following pages to meet the newest class (2012) and say goodbye to the graduating 2010 and 2011 Senior Fellows.



About the program

Each year, 10 Fellows are selected for the TED Senior Fellows program, an extended two-year fellowship. Over the course of the fellowship, the Senior Fellows work on projects within their individual disciplines. Benefits to the Senior Fellows include attending four additional TED conferences (TED and TEDGlobal), participating in four Senior Fellows pre-conferences, the opportunity to deliver a talk on the TED University or main TED stage and the potential for that talk to be posted on TED.com. The Senior Fellows' responsibilities include mentoring the newer Fellows, holding TEDx events in their communities, posting on the TED Fellows blog and year-round participation in the TED community.

TEDGlobal 2012

At TEDGlobal 2012 we have three classes of Senior Fellows joining us: the most recently selected 2012 Senior Fellows, the graduating class of 2011 Senior Fellows and a few of the inaugural 2010 Senior Fellows.

To learn more about the TED Fellows program,
visit: www.ted.com/fellows
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Walid AL-SAQAF

ANTI-CENSORSHIP ACTIVIST / YEMEN + SWEDEN

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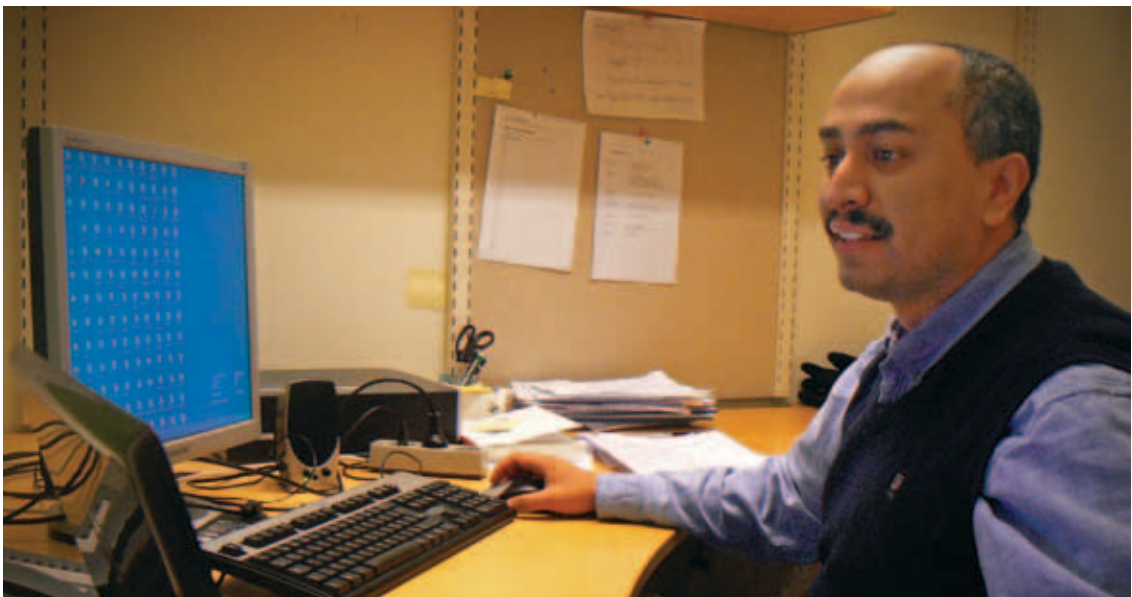
“Circumvention allows people to access the websites without detection even though the fear is still there.” – Walid in *PCWorld*

Biography

Yemeni programmer, founder of Yemen Portal, and creator of Alkasir – free software that gives individuals access to blocked websites.

What are you doing now?

I'm continuing my work researching internet censorship around the world through my software Alkasir. I'm also formulating a plan to launch a more concrete initiative around human resource development in my homeland, Yemen, in the area of internet security and access, and thinking about forming a network of interested people in Yemen and beyond. Also, I've launched Arabia Portal website (arabiaportal.net). It aims to focus on content shown on various news websites from Arab countries to increase Arabic content online, and to inform readers of major events and issues of relevance to them.





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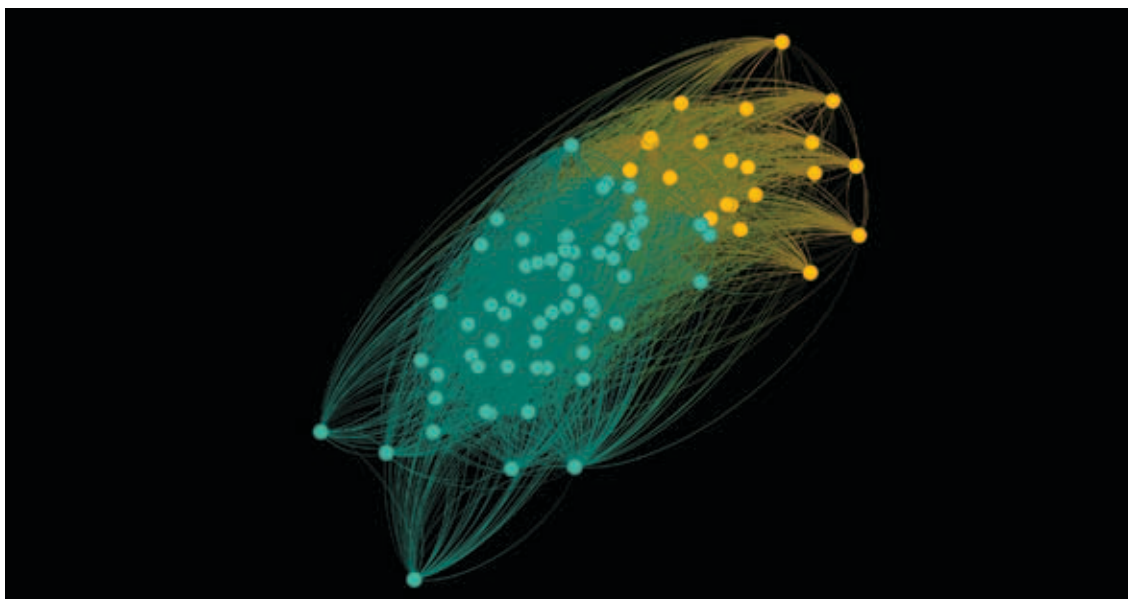
“On the one hand, one problem leads to many problems. But that also means that a single solution can cause many solutions.” – Eric on TED Blog

Biography

American ecologist and entrepreneur researching networks and environmental sustainability.

What are you doing now?

I am trying to understand the ecology of complex problems – whether Middle Eastern conflict, climate change or the challenge of democratizing data. How do all the mini-problems that make up big problems influence one another? How can we harness complexity to spark creative solutions where they can make the biggest impact? My collaborators and I recently created the first crowd-sourced map of a complex problem’s network structure – with over 6,500 links mapped in 10 days.





Jane CHEN

INFANT HEALTH ENTREPRENEUR / US + INDIA

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Featured as a “Big Idea” in *National Geographic* and a “Responsibility Pioneer” by *Time*.

Biography

Co-founder of Embrace, a social enterprise now shipping a low-cost infant warmer to Indian clinics.

What are you doing now?

Embrace has developed a low-cost infant warmer for premature and low birthweight babies in developing countries. Embrace costs a fraction of the price of existing solutions and works without a constant power source. The organization is distributing the product in South India, with small pilot programs in China and Somalia.





Lope
GUTIÉRREZ-RUIZ
CULTURE CURATOR / VENEZUELA + US

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Gopher Magazine: WOW! What else do you want from a magazine? – O.K. Festival, Netherlands

Biography

Venezuelan editor, writer and co-founder of *The Gopher Illustrated* magazine and the Plantanoverde Foundation, a platform for emerging artists.

What are you doing now?

I am working on the upcoming (and increasingly complex) editions of *Gopher Illustrated*, a visual arts, design and literature journal based in Austin, Texas. I am also developing LAT Lab and Gopher Projects, a network of Latin American art spaces. We are finding ways to bring amazing collaborative artwork to global audiences.





Meklit HADERO

SINGER + SONGWRITER / ETHIOPIA + US

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copperwiremusic.com

Meklit Hadero is one of those rare artists with the power to bridge genres, geography and generations. – Google Music

Biography

Ethiopian-American singer, songwriter and recording artist who is connecting the Ethiopian diaspora living in the United States with Ethiopians in their homeland through her organization The Arba Minch Collective.

What are you doing now?

I just returned from six weeks in East Africa for the Nile Project, my new initiative curating cross-cultural collaborations with musicians from the Nile region. This past April, I released and toured *Earthbound*, an Ethiopian sci-fi hip-hop album, as one third of the trio CopperWire. This September, I will release a self-titled collaborative record with soul singer Quinn Deveaux, which includes 12 originals and covers that look at the soul roots of indie and art rock. I'm busy writing new songs, touring and reading books about the Nile.





Marcin JAKUBOWSKI

OPEN-SOURCE INVENTOR / POLAND + US

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Jakubowski wants to decentralize technology so that all people can build their own high-quality, sustainable lifestyle. – *Huffington Post*

Biography

A Polish-American developing the Global Village Construction Set, a DIY, low-cost, high-performance platform of the 50 industrial machines necessary to build from scratch a small, sustainable civilization with modern comforts.

What are you doing now?

I'm currently recruiting and scaling Open Source Ecology operations. I just finished building the workshop and housing infrastructure at my facility, and am ready to expand to 10 permanent people on site to continue development on the Global Village Construction Set (GVCS). The next milestone is to optimize production of the initial GVCS products to make the operation self-funding as the pace of development accelerates.





Teru KUWAYAMA

CRISIS PHOTOGRAPHER / US + AFGHANISTAN

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With the ambition of a journalist and the subtlety of an artist, Kuwayama ventures where few photographers are willing to go. – *Esquire*

Biography

American photojournalist covering humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir and Iraq, and founder of Basetrack, an open-source embedded media project that changes the relationship between war news and the families of soldiers and Marines.

What are you doing now?

I continue to work on my decade-long project photographing and studying the conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as exploring remote areas of both nations, far from US military efforts and international media attention. My social media project Basetrack is evolving from an online journalism experiment and now includes iterations in university classrooms and on the theatrical stage.





Suzanne

LEE

FASHION DESIGNER / UK

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[Lee's] innovative, environmentally friendly vegan fabric is a step toward the future of fashion – Shemengo

Biography

British artist and fashion designer who grows clothing from bacteria.

What are you doing now?

I've just returned from speaking at the international conference "What Design Can Do" in Amsterdam, addressing how design can be a catalyst for change and present solutions to issues like resource scarcity. BioCouture, which began as a project growing clothing from bacteria, has progressed from academic research towards a start-up exploring a future manufacturing landscape that harnesses living microorganisms to grow eco-consumer goods. I've also been involved with visioning tomorrow's sustainable products for a global corporation, but if I told you more, I'd have to kill you!





Sey
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MEDIA ARTIST / KOREA

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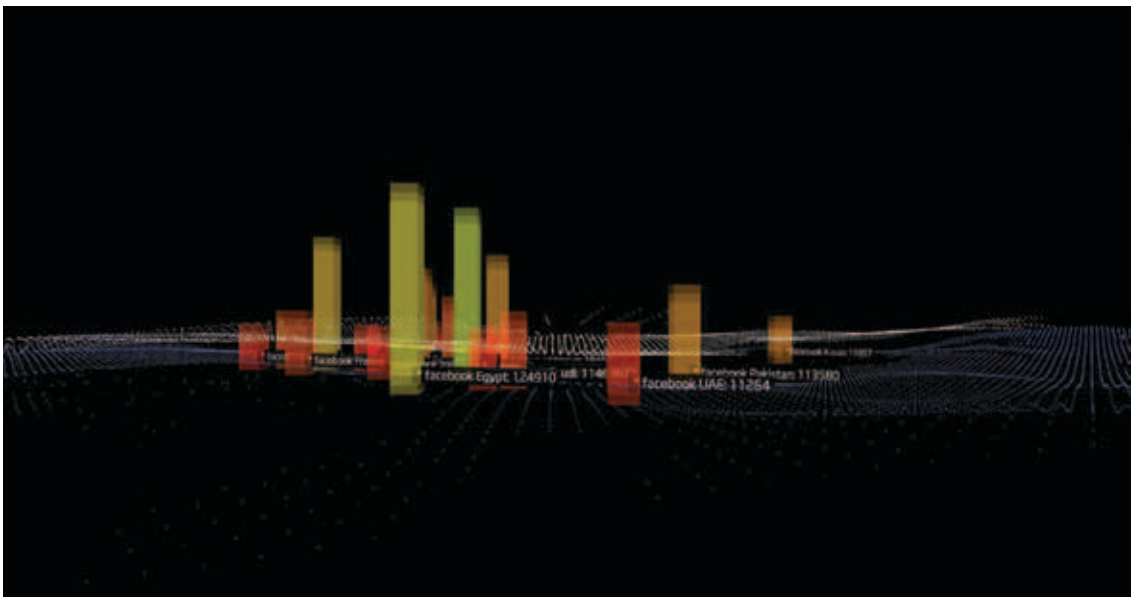
Sey works with live data sets ... to reimagine how humans relate to technology, society, cities, and environments. – *Huffington Post*

Biography

A Korean data-visualization designer who works with live data sets to creatively and accurately visualize information from data sets that otherwise would be indecipherable.

What are you doing now?

My recent project is about data consumption before and after the use of smart phones. Commissioned by SKT, one of South Korea's network system providers, it depicts how people have and haven't changed data usage behaviors since the advent of smart phones. It is being exhibited at Yeosu EXPO 2012 now.





Nina TANDON

TISSUE ENGINEERING RESEARCHER / US

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Named #26 of *Fast Company's* 100 Most Creative People in Business 2012.

Biography

An American electrical engineer and research scientist who explores how electrical stimulation encourages tissue growth.

What are you doing now?

I am researching the role of electrical signaling in cardiac and retinal tissue development, as well as skin regeneration, at Columbia University. I'm also an adjunct professor of electrical engineering at the Cooper Union in New York, teaching a course on bioelectricity. I incorporate unorthodox methods of teaching (e.g., meditation, social media and use of TED platforms) into my curriculum.

Photo credit: Mike McGregor





Skylar TIBBITS

ARCHITECT + COMPUTER SCIENTIST / US

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Tibbits' work illustrates ... “material computation”: getting the material or the structure itself to do all the work. – *Nature*

Biography

An American artist and computational architect working on “smart” components that can assemble themselves.

What are you doing now?

My research focuses on developing self-assembly construction techniques for large-scale structures. My latest installation, *The Self-Assembly Line*, was exhibited at TED2012. A collaboration with molecular biologist Arthur Olson, this interactive installation demonstrated virus self-assembly at human scales. The next installment of the tangible molecular self-assembly research will be exhibited at TEDGlobal 2012.





Anthony VIPIN DAS

EYE DOCTOR + ENTREPRENEUR / INDIA

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youtube.com/REPOrTProject
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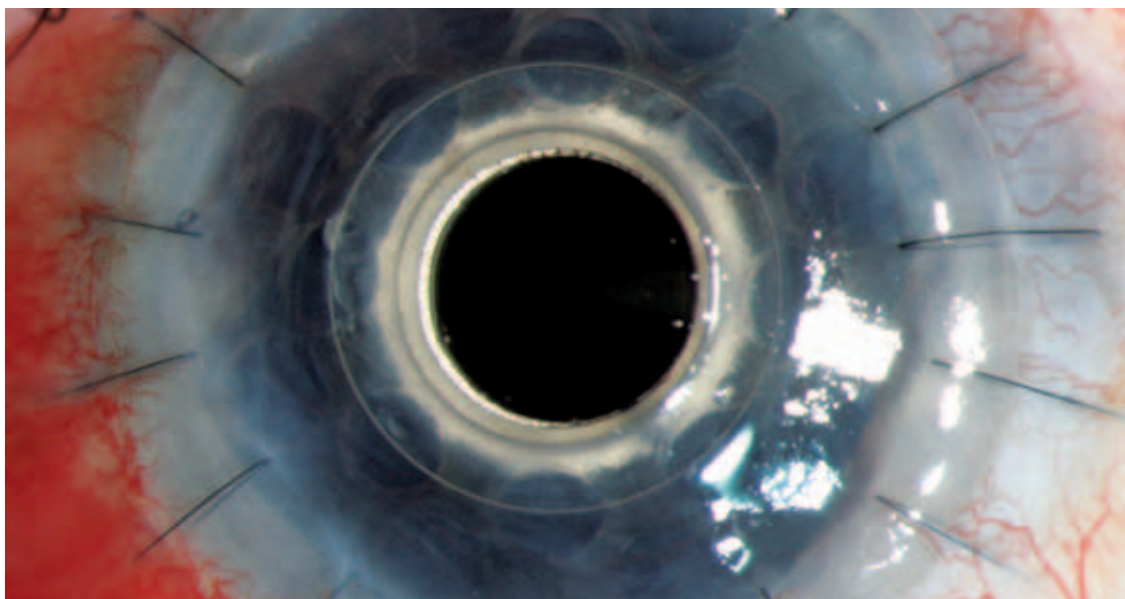
One of *Technology Review's* annual list of 35 Innovators Under 35.

Biography

Ophthalmologist and founder of REPOrT
– Rural Education and Prevention of Ocular
Trauma – focusing on preventing eye injuries.

What are you doing now?

I work on preventing eye injuries and building intelligent
IT Electronic Medical Record systems. I'm also doing
research on stem cells and eyeball transplantation.





Esra'a
AL SHAFEI
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Featured in *Fast Company's* 100 Most Creative People in Business 2012.

Biography

Bahraini human rights activist and founder of MideastYouth.com, a grassroots digital network facilitating the struggle against oppression in the Middle East and North Africa.

What are you doing now?

I'm working on an iPad application that takes users through the social justice movements of the past 100 years and their leaders in a highly interactive way.





Awab

ALVI

DENTIST + POLITICAL ACTIVIST / PAKISTAN

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teeth.com.pk/blog

Alvi is ... among a growing group of bloggers, tweeters using the web to influence Pakistani society and government. – *The Washington Times*

Biography

Pakistani dentist, orthodontist and author of *Teeth Maestro*, a prominent Pakistani political blog.

What are you doing now?

I am passionately engaged with a political party in an attempt to bring honest and credible leadership to Pakistan. I also at work on *Khancha* – Urdu slang for “bribe” – an anti-corruption portal that aims to crowdsource corruption reports by citizens about the bribes they are forced to pay.





Candy CHANG

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***Before I Die* is merely one of the most creative community projects ever.**
– *The Atlantic*

Biography

Public installation artist, designer, urban planner and co-founder of Civic Center, an urban design studio in New Orleans.

What are you doing now?

My public art project *Before I Die* has expanded to over 30 cities around the world, and a book about the project will be published in 2013. My online tool Neighborland raised seed-round funding from investors including The Obvious Corporation, True Ventures and SV Angel. I am also creating public art projects for the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas and the Venice Biennale about confessions and restoring perspective in our daily lives.





Saeed
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[The Runner] is a very important project. The story of the Western Sahara is one of the great untold stories of the present time. – Ken Loach

Biography

Documentary filmmaker, photographer and writer focusing on human rights in the Middle East and North Africa.

What are you doing now?

I am currently editing my first feature documentary, writing my first fiction film and preparing to return to the Norwegian Arctic to edit what I believe is the first science-fiction documentary.





Jessica GREEN

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Green's work on indoor ecosystems was featured in the February issue of *Science*.

Biography

Professor at the University of Oregon's Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, whose research focuses on microbial diversity.

What are you doing now?

I've been working with microbial DNA sampled from the skin of roller derby skaters to explore how human-to-human contact influences the transference of microbes. Results will be folded into a film, "Talk Derby to Me," in collaboration with TED Fellows Anita Doron and Adam Huggins. My ongoing research at the Biology and Built Environment (BioBE) Center maps the DNA blueprint of LEED-certified buildings.





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Gupta takes the responsibility upon himself to create a cultural activity for Skid Row. – *College News*

Biography

Indian American violinist and musical activist, and the youngest member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

What are you doing now?

I am the founder of Street Symphony, a classical music outreach initiative dedicated to reaching mentally ill individuals who live homeless or incarcerated. I'll be performing 15 Street Symphony events this summer at three Los Angeles prisons, and am creating a music performance curriculum for veterans with grievous injury and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). I'm also anxiously awaiting the launch of my debut world music album, "Suryodaya," which was recorded on a 1716 Stradivarius violin in Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Photo credit: Cooper Bates Photography





Cesar HARADA

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Protei has multiple facets anchored in Art, Design, Engineering, and Science. – ARS Electronica Prize

Biography

Coordinator of the Open_Sailing project, developing open-source technologies for the International_Ocean_Station and oil spill remediation robotics.

What are you doing now?

I'm working on a sailing robot that cleans the oceans, called Protei. It has no rudder or centerboard; it changes shape to steer itself autonomously pulling a long tail of payload. Swarms of Protei will be used to sense and clean up oil spills, measure radioactivity, collect plastic waste and monitor red tides, fisheries, coral reefs and more.





Mitchell
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Featured on *Wired's* Smart List: 15 People the Next President Should Listen To.

Biography

Professor at NYU and co-founder of Terreform ONE, a non-profit design group that promotes ecological design in cities.

What are you doing now?

I am working on a 100% self-sufficient and ecological City of New York master plan for 2112. I'm also running a school called ONE Lab: NY School for Design & Science in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. And I'm teaching as an associate professor of architecture and urban design at NYU.





Sharmeen

OBAID CHINOY

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Obaid Chinoy is ... shaping the dialogue on Pakistan. – *Time*, The Most Influential People in the World 2012

Biography

Academy Award winning documentary filmmaker and founder of The Citizens Archive of Pakistan, an educational institution established to preserve Pakistan's history.

What are you doing now?

I'm currently completing a six-episode mini-documentary series celebrating the unsung heroes of Pakistan. I'm also working on an animated children's show and planning my next documentary.





Manu PRAKASH

PHYSICIST + INVENTOR / INDIA + US

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stanford.edu/~manup/Oscan
foldscope.com

[Prakash understands that] one or two bits of computation can do powerful things in the right place. – Saul Griffith, MacArthur award winner

Biography

Indian physicist and inventor pursuing research in the field of physical biology at Stanford University.

What are you doing now?

I'm working on Foldscope, an origami-based microscope built with folded paper. Microscopy-based diagnostics are the gold standard for malaria, TB and Chagas', diarrheal and many other diseases that take a devastating toll on developing countries, but expensive research microscopes fail in harsh conditions and the costs cannot be scaled to serve the billions who need them the most. The Foldscope includes no mechanical moving parts, operates with no external power and is virtually indestructible. We are exploring the implications of a world where the micro-scale is visible to us all.





Aparna
RAO
ARTIST / INDIA

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[Pors & Rao] allow the complexity of the idea to unfold gradually and the whole process of “discovery” to evolve. – *Deccan Herald*

Biography

One of the Bangalore-based artist duo Pors & Rao, who work with electro-mechanical systems to create interactive installations.

What are you doing now?

I'm examining the effects of introducing a mischievous gnome into a television, which plays with and infiltrates TV content.





Alanna SHAIKH

HEALTH + DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST / US + TAJIKISTAN

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bloodandmilk.org

Never one to hold back, Alanna is a great person to read about controversial topics in global health. – Global health professor Karen Grepin

Biography

Global health and development specialist and author of the international development-focused blog, Blood and Milk.

What are you doing now?

I co-founded AidSource, the social network for aid workers, in February. I am also growing my consulting practice, How Not to Help. Recently, I published a TED Book on global health, called *What's Killing Us*.





Taghi
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imdb.com/name/nm2516405/#Director
taghiamirani.com

[Amirani] is a born miniaturist, and they are a valuable, rare, and endangered species. – *The Guardian*

Biography

Documentary filmmaker and co-founder of Amirani Films, now working on his latest film, “We Are Many,” about the February 15, 2003, march against the war in Iraq.

What are you doing now?

I am currently in development on “Coup 53,” a spy thriller based on a true story in Iran. I’m also executive producer on “We Are Many,” a feature documentary on the 2003 peace march against the invasion of Iraq, the biggest peace march in history. My company Amirani Media is currently producing “ARUP Legends,” a series of films about ARUP engineers who have built some of the most iconic buildings in the world – Sydney Opera House, Centre Pompidou, the Lloyds building and more.





Faisal CHOHAN

WEB ENTREPRENEUR / PAKISTAN

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“We convey the voice of the people to world.” – Faisal in *DW.de*

Biography

Web entrepreneur and founder of BrightSpyre, Pakistan’s largest online job portal.

What are you doing now?

At BrightSpyre.com, I focus on online recruitment. My work connects 1 million users with employment opportunities. I am extending the site to provide microtask-based job opportunities to people in the South Asian region. At pakreport.org, I’ve widened the scope of our work from disaster reporting and mapping to include open data mapping and building mobile applications on open data. I’m also passionate about building educational platforms using gamification and human computation.





Colleen FLANIGAN

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL ARTIST / US

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facebook.com/LivingSeaSculpture
globalcoral.org

The movement to preserve the planet with art just got a little bigger thanks to Colleen Flanigan's coral-rescuing Biorock. – *The Atlantic*

Biography

American visual, performing and environmental artist working to restore coral reefs around the world.

What are you doing now?

I'm in the midst of developing my third socio-ecological alter ego to complement previous characters Miss Snail Pail and Amphitrite. I am working on a multimedia interactive exhibit that will establish correlations between human health and coral health through immersive visceral and physical experiences. My coral restoration art concept, Living Sea Sculpture, has been recently shared at the American Museum of Natural History for an event about the Great Barrier Reef.





Gabriella
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The city's creative types have all heard of Tóxico, and everyone wants to be a part of it. – *The Economist*

Biography

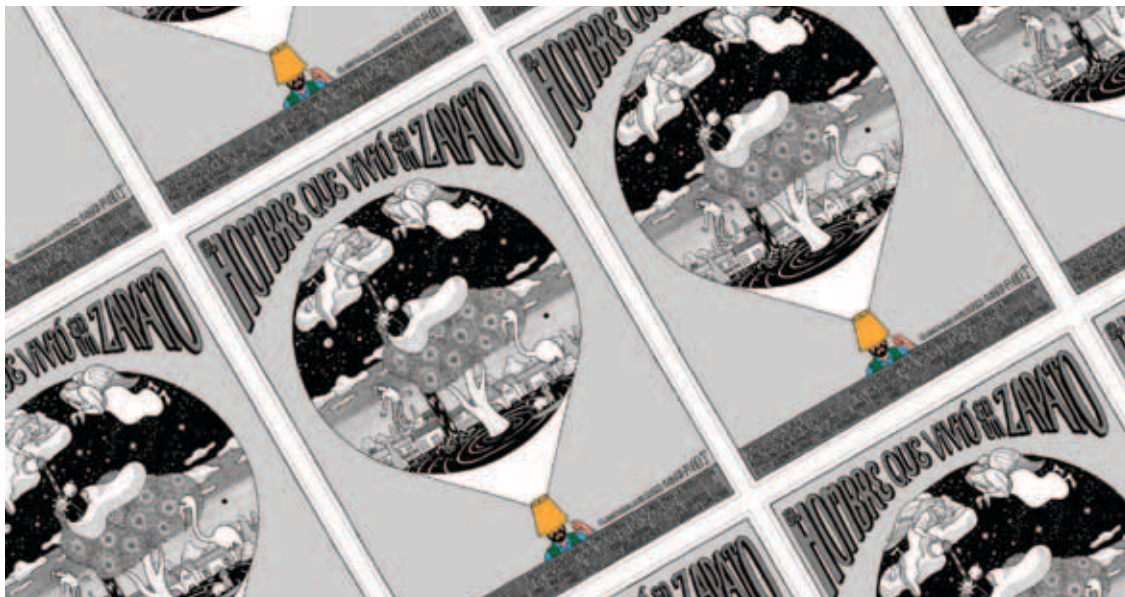
Founder of Tóxico Cultura, a Mexico City–based culture project and creative think tank.

What are you doing now?

Because I was named a Yale World Fellow 2012, Tóxico Cultura will be moving many of its events from Mexico City to the Yale campus for the next six months.

I am also setting up a Tóxico residency in Mexico City in 2013: a place of reunions and conversations for bold, playful, imaginative minds, TED Fellows, Yale Fellows and beyond.

Poster for Gabriella's first feature-length documentary, now touring the international film festival circuits. (Design by Joshua Ray)





Peter HAAS

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATOR / US + HAITI + GUATEMALA

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[I]f what they're developing ... is successful, [it] might just end up becoming a blueprint for the future of development work. – NPR

Biography

Founder of AIDG, a non-profit working to appropriately address development needs in Haiti and Guatemala.

What are you doing now?

We just announced the winner of our Guatemala green business plan competition, Guateverde. We also completed surveys of the enterprises we have supported and are for the first time passing the 100,000-persons-impacted threshold. In my spare time, I'm still consulting on product design for emerging markets.

Guatemalan ewaste at RECELCA, the ewaste recycling company AIDG gave seed financing to.





Juliette
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Juliette's ideas and vision are revolutionary and inspirational.
– Tom Uglow, Google Creative Lab

Biography

Education consultant, innovation facilitator and founder of Breaker, a project-based educational and entrepreneurial initiative based in New York City.

What are you doing now?

Having just completed a three-month Urban Agriculture Challenge with the Breaker team, which resulted in the launch of a new company called Farm Blocks, my new team and I are taking up the challenge of Technology for Civic Engagement. Stay tuned for results...





Juliana
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sosfauna.org
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fellows.ted.com/profiles/juliana-machado-ferreira

[A] shining light – not to mention a fierce and ever-persisting advocate.
– Ken Goddard, National Fish & Wildlife Forensics Laboratory

Biography

Biologist and PhD candidate working to prevent illegal bird trade in Brazil.

What are you doing now?

I've just finished my PhD dissertation, which documents how I used DNA to track the likely origin of poached wild birds. I'm working with SOS Fauna (sosfauna.org) on the release of 68 rehabilitated blue-fronted Amazons, which were seized from traffickers in 2006. Lastly, as the executive director of Freeland Brasil (freelandbrasil.org.br), I am working on various projects to combat wildlife trafficking – including the establishment of a Brazilian Independent Wildlife Forensics Laboratory.





Naomi
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Natale is working at the cutting edge of activism. – Oslo Freedom Forum

Biography

Artist and founder of One Million Bones, a large-scale social activism art installation working to bring awareness to genocide occurring around the world.

What are you doing now?

I've been working on the One Million Bones installation slated for the National Mall in Washington, DC, next year. This past year, my team has produced two 50,000-bone installations in New Mexico and Louisiana. Last month we produced 35 smaller installations in 35 state capitols.





Alexander PETROFF

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A genius ... Petroff is an economist who specializes in rural development and is the founder of an NGO in DRC. – *Maine Magazine*

Biography

Founder of Working Villages International, a non-profit organization with an innovative agricultural model working to bring people out of poverty in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

What are you doing now?

I'm currently starting a second farming project in Eastern Congo, rehabilitating over 2,000 hectares of land. Earlier this year I launched a major ox-training program.





Juliana ROTICH

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Featured on *Wired's* Smart List 2012 as one of today's Top World Achievers.

Biography

Co-founder and current executive director of Ushahidi – a non-profit tech company specializing in data collection, visualization and mapping – and prominent African blogger (Afromusing).

What are you doing now?

I lead Ushahidi – named *Fast Company's* fifth most innovative media company – and its global team. We're tackling one of the future's biggest challenges of the web, big data, with Swiftriver (swiftly.org). I also captain the ever-growing Ushahidi franchise of initiatives, including Crowdmap and iHub, Kenya's best tech, business and creative community, now 7,000+ strong. As the Kenyan adage goes, "Kazi ni kazi" – the work continues.





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[Tauheed's] ArchSociety.com ... allows architects to more effectively design for the "bottom billion." – *The Globe and Mail*

Biography

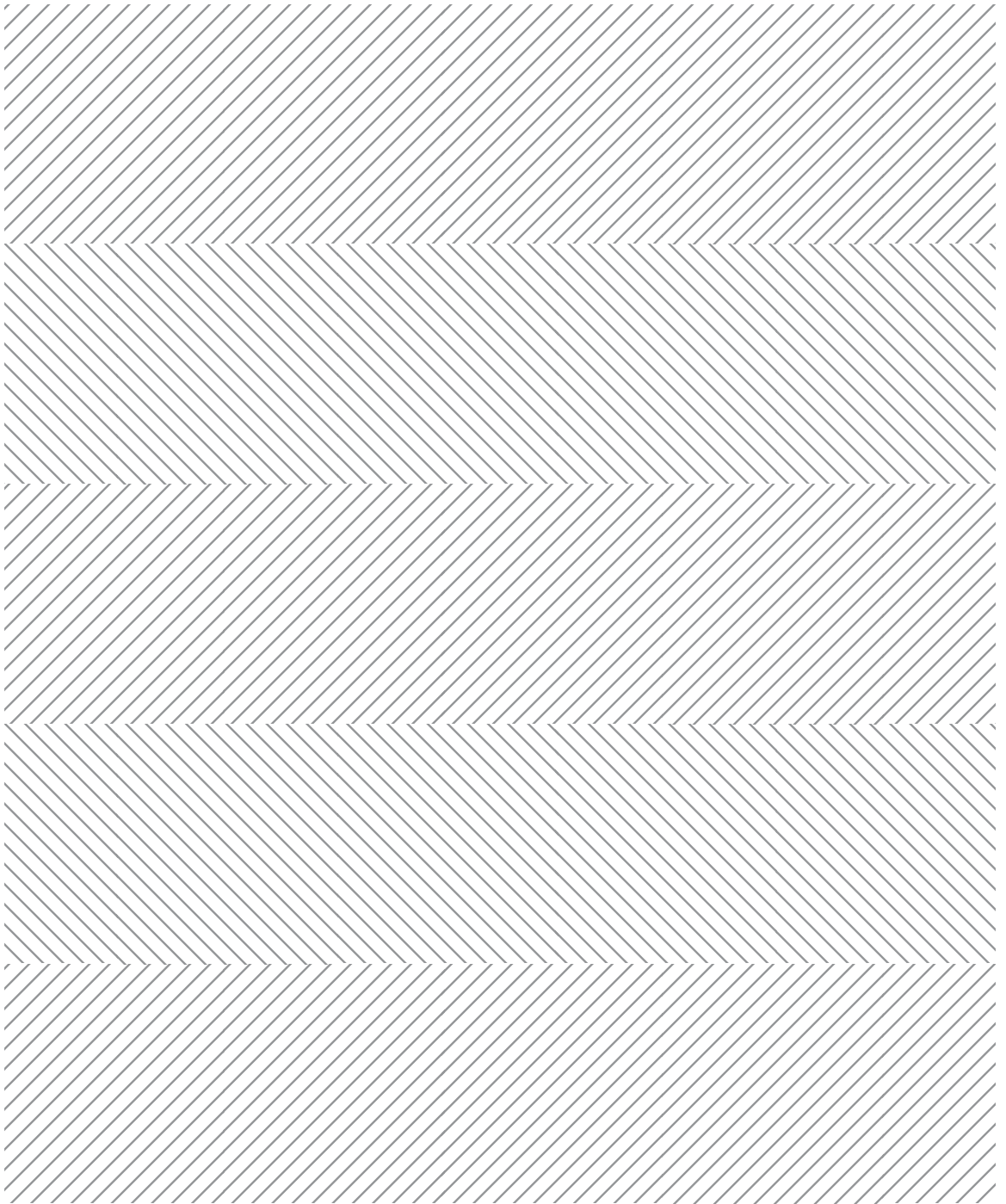
Bangladeshi architect and founder of ArchSociety, an online portal where architects connect and collaborate.

What are you doing now?

Right now I'm almost done with designing a mosque in a rural village in Bangladesh. I am changing the conventional design so that it may potentially become a community space. I also plan to launch a new website on urban planning and governance policy. I'm continuing the work of ArchSociety.com whilst in the midst of both troubles and possibilities.







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