



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES AND INFORMATION FOR 28 – 29 NOVEMBER 2023

Stu Richards (aka MetaMike)	Founder & CEO	SJMR Consulting and Development
<i>Agents as functional entities in the Metaverse</i>		
<p>Stu (aka MetaMike) is a tech consultant and virtual experience developer who focuses on the enablement of the open metaverse. Renowned for his work in 3D, XR, AI, VTubing, and game development, he's a tinkerer at heart, constantly exploring and advancing these technologies.</p> <p>After spending the better half of a decade as an integrated marketing lead at GroupM, he now helps clients strengthen their metaverse readiness and presence.</p> <p>www.linkedin.com/in/itsmetamike/</p>		
Dr Luc Julia	Chief Scientific Officer	Renault Group
<i>Fireside chat</i>		
<p>Dr Luc Julia is currently the Chief Scientific Officer at Renault Group, was CTO and Senior Vice President of Innovation for Samsung Electronics, directed Siri at Apple, was Chief Technologist at Hewlett-Packard and cofounded a number of start-ups in the Silicon Valley. While conducting research at SRI International, he was involved in the creation of Nuance Communications, now the world leader in speech recognition.</p> <p>A recipient of Légion d'Honneur, the highest order of France, and a member of its National Academy of Technologies, he holds degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris and earned a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications de Paris.</p> <p>He is the bestselling author of the book "There is no such thing as Artificial Intelligence", holds dozens of patents and is recognized as one of the top 100 most influential French developers in the digital world.</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/lucjulia</p>		

Martin Lindstrom	CEO	Lindstrom Company
<i>Engineering our dreams</i>		
<p>Martin Lindstrom is the founder and chairman of Lindstrom Company, a global branding & culture transformation firm, operations across five continents, and more than 30 countries.</p> <p>TIME Magazine has named Lindstrom one of the “World’s 100 Most Influential People,” and for eight years running, the prestigious Thinkers50 board has selected Lindstrom to be among the world’s top 50 business thinkers. December 2021 Lindstrom was selected as LinkedIN’s #1 influencer in the US. Among the companies he advises are Lidl, Maersk, Burger King, Lowes, Pepsi, UBER, Colgate Palmolive, Nestle and Google.</p> <p>Lindstrom is a New York Times best selling author of eight books translated into 60 languages. The Wall Street Journal praised his book Brand Sense as “one of the five best marketing books ever published,” his book Small Data as “revolutionary,” TIME called his book Buyology “a breakthrough in branding” and; The Ministry of Common Sense, was selected book of the month by Financial Times ranking #1 on the Wall Street Journal Best selling list.</p> <p>Lindstrom is a frequent writer for The New York Times and Financial Times. He is the host of NEWSWEEK’s “Why Do We ...?” as well as The Chief Executive Officer’s M&M show co hosted with Marshall Goldsmith. Lindstrom has appeared on NBC’s TODAY show more than twenty times as well as in Morgan Spurlock’s movie ‘The Greatest Movie Ever Sold’ and several times on ‘America’s Next Top Model’.</p> <p>He has delivered keynote addresses to Google, Kraft Heinz, Disney, UBER, Amazon, LEGO, Unilever, Hallmark, Adobe, Mattel and the World Economic Forum.</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindstromcompany/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Lindstrom</p>		
Martha Bennett	VP, Principal Analyst	Forrester Research
<i>The Metaverse: what’s myth, what’s reality, what should you do about it, and where are we?</i>		
<p>Martha serves CIOs and other executives, helping them understand the impact of emerging technologies on their organization. She also provides best practice guidance on how to assess and introduce new and emerging technologies. Martha’s current focus is on advising technology and business leaders on their strategy for (generative) AI, metaverse and related emerging technologies; she also provides in-depth coverage of blockchain technology and Web3.</p> <p>Prior to rejoining Forrester in early 2013, Martha provided custom research studies for tier 1 CIOs, covering topics ranging from big data to the role of the CIO in the transition to the digital economy. In the preceding years, she held a variety of senior management and individual contributor positions at Freeform Dynamics and various companies within the Informa Group, where her main focus area was financial services.</p> <p>Martha's first analyst role was as a vice president at Giga Information Group, which was later acquired by Forrester, where she became a research director for financial services. Before joining Giga, Martha's roles included head of advanced technology at Prudential and manager at Price Waterhouse's World Multimedia Unit.</p> <p>Martha earned an MA in English literature, American studies, and modern history from the</p>		

University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany. A qualified translator, Martha is fully bilingual in English and German.

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Nico Perony	Director of AI Research Unity	Unity
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Generative AI and Spatial Computing

Nico is an artificial intelligence researcher and behavioral scientist at Unity. He oversees various teams and applied research agendas to explore novel use cases for Generative AI within the Unity ecosystem.

Prior to Unity, he was the founder and CTO of OTO - an AI company acquired by Unity in 2021 - which enabled safe interactions in online games. Before OTO, Nico led the AI team at HyperloopTT, and held various data-oriented roles in industries ranging from blockchain to sustainability.

He's a leader with a techno-utopian bend – one of his driving passions is to enable a safe and sustainable future for humanity. Trained as an electrical engineer and behavioral scientist, Nico completed his doctoral and post-doctoral training at ETH Zurich in the study of complex social systems.

He has authored highly cited publications, published 2 books, given public talks at venues including TED and TEDx, and co-founded 3 companies and an NGO. He is passionate about making technology a force for good, and views the ongoing AI revolution as a critical juncture propelling humanity towards the next stage of its evolution.

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Alex Karim	Azure Innovation GTM Manager	Microsoft
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AI x Metaverse

Alex is a technology evangelist focused on blending physical and digital realities through Mixed Reality. He is currently the Azure Innovation GTM Manager at Microsoft UK, where he leads the strategy and go-to-market for the Azure Innovation portfolio, including AI Infrastructure and Quantum Computing.

Previously, he was the Metaverse Lead at Microsoft UK, where he accelerated the adoption of the Metaverse across various industries. Before joining Microsoft, Alex worked at McLaren, where he pioneered the use of HoloLens 2 in Automotive and Formula 1.

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Sylvain Ekel	Technology Strategy Director	Microsoft
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AI x Metaverse

Throughout his 20-year career at Microsoft, Sylvain Ekel has focused on developing teams and organizations to build joint solutions, expanding and nurturing the partner ecosystem, and engaging in strategic projects.

In his current role, Sylvain serves as the technology strategy interface between Microsoft and Capgemini, driving innovation, quality, and efficiency across all Microsoft solution areas, with a

focus on Industry and AI.

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Gabriel Vincent

**Virtualization and
visualization sales specialist**

NVIDIA

Why is the Metaverse transforming your industries?

Gabriel's role at Nvidia is focused on helping companies with their GPU virtualization, digital twin and industrial metaverse projects.

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Hervé Jeannin

**Delegate of CCMI & Member
of Board of Directors of
Capgemini**

Capgemini Group

What should be the future of the EU on Metaverse and virtual worlds?

Since May 2022, Herve has been an advisor to the European Commission on industrial transformation, mainly in the technological fields.

He is a delegate to The Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (known by its French acronym of CCMI - Advisor to the European Commission and Parliament).

The Consultative Commission on Industrial Change examines changes in industry across a wide range of sectors, keeping pace and tackling them according to the values of the European economic and social model.

www.capgemini.com/about-us/management-and-governance/board-of-directors/herve-jeannin/

Raphaël Bloch

Co-founder, Editor-in-Chief

The Big Whale

Web3 does not exist (but there is something)

Raphaël has been a journalist for 10 years. He started his career at Reuters, and then he worked at Echos and Express. He co-founded The Big Whale in 2022, which is an information and data platform on cryptos.

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Faisal Galaria

Chief Growth Officer

Magic Leap

Seeing through the hype

Faisal always wanted to be an athlete and competed as a British 400m sprinter, which is where he learnt the lessons of strategy, resilience and growth. Now, he has taken these learnings to scale some of the world's most disruptive consumer technology companies including Spotify, Kayak, Skype and now Magic Leap.

Faisal joined Magic Leap as an advisor in spring 2023, working closely with the CEO and Saudi based investors the PIF, before becoming the interim Chief Growth Officer. In this role he leads the commercial strategy and operations across the US, Europe, Middle East and Japan, partnerships including with ISVs and Systems Integrators, developer relations, customer support and the studio solutions.

He has also led the IPOs of Gocompare and Crypto1 and most recently worked on restructuring and turnarounds including Blippar the leading AR SaaS platform, which he took from bankruptcy in 2018 and losses of £34m to profitability in 2022.

Prior to Blippar, he was the Chief Strategy and Investments Officer of Gocompare, which he helped digitally transform and led the £310m IPO on the London Stock Exchange. Previously, he was a Senior Partner of Alvarez & Marsal, the world's largest turnaround and restructuring company where he built the European Digital and Media practice leading client engagements across online travel, entertainment, online classifieds, and banking.

Faisal joined Alvarez & Marsal from Spotify, where he was a Senior Vice President and launched and had responsibility for the P&L in seven countries, including the USA. He was also an early member of the Skype team, initially as Head of Global Business Development, and became the European Director after its acquisition by eBay in 2005 before joining Kayak.com as Managing Director, International to help grow the business in Europe and Asia prior to its IPO.

Faisal is a Non-Executive Director for Starling Bank and sits on the Advisory Board of Imperial College Business School. He is a graduate of UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology), holds an MBA from IESE and studied international economics at ETEA in Spain.

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Paulo Mendes

Expert in network architectures and protocols

Airbus

Metaverse: Vision and technical challenges

Paulo is an expert in Network Architectures and Design at Airbus Central Research and Technology (Munich). He is also an Associate Researcher of the Technical University of Munich and of the ISTAR-IUL research center in Lisbon.

His current research interests are: internet architectures and protocols; self-organized wireless networks; information-centric and service-centric networks; and quantum networking. Paulo holds over 100 peer-reviewed publications, 11 book chapters and 21 patents. He is an ACM member and an IEEE senior member.

His research career has developed in industrial and academic contexts. He co-founded COPELABS (2012-2019) research unit, where he was a senior researcher, and the start-up Senception Lda (2013) with focus on personal communication platforms.

Before COPELABS, Paulo was a senior researcher at INESC TEC (07-10), where he co-steered the "Internet Architectures and Networking" area. Between 2003 and 2007 he was a senior researcher in NTT Docomo research center in Munich, focusing on distributed mobile network architectures, self-organized 3G mobile core networks, and active networking solutions for programmable mobile networks.

Paulo holds a BEng in Informatics Engineering by the University of Coimbra (1993), and M.Sc. (1998) in Electronic and Computer Engineering by the Technical University of Lisbon, and a Ph.D. (2004) in Informatics by the University of Coimbra (Dr.-Ing., summa cum laude). During his PhD studies, he was a visiting scholar (2000-2003) at the Internet Real Time Laboratory at Columbia University in New York. In 2019 Paulo got his habilitation from University of Coimbra.

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Werner Soeteman	Senior Manager Fasttrack & Innovation, Head of XR Center of Excellence	Air France-KLM
<i>KLM's Metaversal journey: Transforming the future of training and simulation</i>		
<p>An experienced IT professional with a passion for technology and innovation. Currently serving as a Senior IT Manager for Fasttrack & Innovation at Air France-KLM, where he plays a key role in driving the company's digital transformation initiatives like Virtual Reality, Rapid Development and Robotics Process Automation.</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/wernersoeteman/</p>		
Vincent Grimond	President	Anthéma SAS
<i>METACINE: The ideal city of cinema</i>		
<p>Vincent Grimond graduated from ESSEC (1978) and began his career in 1979 as a Financial Analyst at Indosuez. In 1981, he joined Club Méditerranée where he successively held the positions of Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Chief Financial Officer for the Asia zone (based in Hong Kong) and then Group Chief Financial Officer until 1991, when he was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Cap Gemini Sogeti.</p> <p>In 1996, he joined Canal+ as Managing Director in charge of the "subsidiaries division". In this capacity, he reorganized the "subsidiaries division" and created StudioCanal, of which he became Chairman and CEO. During this period, he initiated several agreements with American studios or international producers, including Working Title (<i>Billy Elliot, Bridget Jones...</i>), Spyglass (<i>The Sixth Sense</i>)...</p> <p>In 2000, when Vivendi Canal+ took over Universal, Vincent Grimond became Senior Executive Vice President of Universal Studios in Los Angeles. In 2002, he co-founded Wild Bunch and was its President over 19 years. Under his leadership, Wild Bunch became a leading independent European film and TV series pan European distribution company that manages a library of more than 2,500 titles. Often awarded (8 golden palms, 4 Oscars, 2 Golden Lions...) Wild Bunch acquired or distributed successfully such movies or TV series as <i>The Artist, Blue is the Warmest Colour, Dheepan, Drive, The Emperor and the Assassin, Fahrenheit 9/11, The Grandmaster, Les Intouchables, The King Speech, Le Petit Nicolas, March of the Penguins, Medicis, Pan's Labyrinth, Sin City, Spirited Away, Two Lovers, Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Victoria, Wolf Totem....</i> Early 2022, Vincent Grimond created Anthéma, a consulting in strategy and investment company specialized in media and new technology.</p> <p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/vincent-grimond-015a0541/</p>		
Sophie Poulin	Client Director	Capgemini (frog)
<i>METACINE: The ideal city of cinema</i>		
<p>For the last 6 years, I've been helping my clients to create new business strategies by putting customer experience design at the heart of the thinking.</p> <p>I bring together our business strategists, experience designers, data scientists, creative technologists, brand strategists and other creatives to develop end-to-end projects and help my clients make their mark in a sustainable world.</p> <p>www.linkedin.com/in/sophie-poulin-81b6156a/</p>		