

Famous People

Ivana Ryabchikova



Russian-Baikonuri transport baroness. She made her fortune by starting Zvezdnyy Most (Star Bridge), a corporation selling transport, habitat space and associated services. Working closely with PSD she branched out into everything from habitat marketing to spacesickness medication and telepresence. Since the founding ZM has grown into a wildly diversified megacorp, loosely centered around Gagaringrad. Ivana no longer runs the corporation directly but instead lives a peripathetic life of visits to interesting habitats, cruises, grand charity projects and networking.

Xiaopei Pan

Current chairman of the board of directors of OTA. Born from Chinese internationalist refugees he grew up as a cosmopolitan lawyer. Serving on various corporate legal teams mid-century he became a space treaty expert. Eventually he was recruited to the OTA board and became its director in 2097. Pan is a dry, efficient legalist that tries to keep OTA out of politics. However, he is involved in the fraction of the organization resisting extending its powers (the minimalists)

beyond core competencies. This has led to some conflict with maximalist views among the OTA "shareholders", especially over his attempts to get OTA out of maintaining decrepit habitats.

Norman E. Baxandall



Figure 1: Norman Baxandall as RA chairman 2072. (Mladen Penev)

Interplanetary politician, probably the closest to a leader the movement has. His background was network design and policy, and he had largely settled into a role as protocol committee negotiator in GEO when the Spamocalypse occurred. He became an instrumental part in the teams that tried to protect GEO from software disaster, and later lent his considerable diplomatic skills to negotiating agreements with other habitats. He chaired the Restoration Authority for a few years before withdrawing, focusing on interplanetary politics. A prolific writer, lecturer, public intellectual and online politician he has driven interplanetary issues.

Dr Théodore Carpentier

Director-General of the Agence de l'immunité (AI). A well-renowned researcher on neogenetics and the Dragons, he was involved in the French success in harnessing neogenetics. As the Immunity was developed, he sketched out strategies for how it could be spread and applied. His predecessor as director-general, Paul Dufy, implemented them and achieved far more than anybody had hoped for. While Dufy got the accolades and criticism, Carpentier quietly worked to extend the power and security of the Immunity. He helped set up the Caliphate Immunity, and he formulated the biological policy visavi the African immunities. When Dufy stepped down Carpentier became Director-General. Less obviously expansionist and flamboyant, he keeps a low but carefully managed profile: whenever he makes an official pronouncement he can be sure to get a strong public reaction. His main interest is maintaining the French immunity in the face of external threats, but he is also a skilled administrator and politician – under his leadership the

AI has gained real control over nearly all neogenetics, ecological defense and advanced biotechnology across l'immunité.

Joann Massey-DeAngelo

Current habitat president of New Kansas and informally the voice of Heartland.

Louis Malek



Figure 2 (Julia Rrap, Overstepping)

The biodesigner of the moment. Their (Louis is a hermaphrodite) bodymorph plasmids are the most desired upgrades among the GEO jet set. The Louis Malek Clinic chain can be found in most upscale habitats, doing custom bodymodification.

Markab Zhe-Ramirez

Physicist from Zenda. As she grew up during the early days of space colonization she learned astrophysics at an early age, demonstrating an amazing affinity for theoretical analysis of complex engineering problems. When she was 20, she published her work on crossed spaces that made her famous. Turning to the practical problems of regulating complex systems, she has spent the last decades analyzing ecology, solar physics, neuroscience and the dracosphere, often coming up with useful applications although the grand unified theory of complexity eludes her. She famously remarked that the universe seems to be more organized by a conspiracy than an elegant law.

Izuma Doi

Japanese premier minister. Before his political career he was an antenna engineer and involved in building the secure networks of Luna.

Yasuhisa Katayama

The Japanese representative on the OTA Council. He is the "leader" of the maximalists in OTA who want to extend its remit and functions to other useful areas.

Mahmoud El-Gamal

Artlife entrepreneur, the man behind Platinum Life Inc. Originally in the ecoremediation business, selling various forms of biofibers and ready-biomes. When Kodiak Konnektomics, a biotech firm, crashed he bought the floundering company and reoriented it towards artlife. In 2085 it was merged with Normal ETL to form Platinum Life. El-Gamal is a large-scale promoter of artlife in space and on Earth, pushing for trials to demonstrate that it cannot be subverted by the Dracosphere and that it is a safe replicator. A very private man, little is known about his personal life. He has a family on his private habitat *Qusai* and is said to be an enthusiastic virtual reality gamer.

Auguste LaTorra

Co-founder of Banksville, leader of the widespread LaTorra political/financial clan. Originally an Earth banker supporting the move of Cayman Islands into space, he became one of the leaders during the initial turbulent years of the habitat. A principled libertarian and staunch defender of the right to privacy, he has through the last 60 years been a key player in internationalist politics. He is a power-broker, ideologue and sponsor of a variety of projects aiming at safeguarding the revolution he witnessed in his childhood. His family are widespread in orbit, often in positions of significant power.



Figure 3 (Sylvia Ji)

Alice B. Coon

Nobody knows whether Alice B. Coon really exists. But she seems to crop up in the most unexpected places across the Americas, reporting on what is going on and often digging up truly embarrassing information. Some think “ABC” is just a nym for a network team, others claim to have met the super-journalist.

India Salgado

First human to step on Mars.

Tong Jikun

First genetically modified person. Although his parents were wealthy, his life was surprisingly normal. After a career in physics he semi-retired in California as a quantum computing consultant, and these days live somewhere up in the Sierras.

Witoslaw Harek

French-Czech author. Rose to mega-prominence by his novel *Oui, C'est Moi*, which became an overnight sensation across the francophone world. A fierce defender of the value of culture and the "secret and unknown institutions of society" he has defended isolationists, indigenous groups and others under pressure for the need for immunization. He coined the term Spamocalypse, and (in)famously welcomed it.

Al-Ahad

The mysterious ringleader behind biological apostasy rings in Arabia and Egypt. Whether he exists, is a nym for some intelligence operative or online network, or is even human is debated.

Gabrielle Pritchett

Environmentalist, fighting for a unified American strategy to handle the ecological disruption. One of the most popular and outspoken Interplanetarists in America.

Irene Adler

Nym used by a syntronic network involved in large-scale subversion in the 2080's. Adler attempted to destabilize several habitat corporations and American states using memetic warfare and financial games. When it was discovered in 2087 it dissolved immediately and the attacks ceased.

Darya Vyacheslavovna

Foreign minister of the Baikonur Republic. Thanks to her radical, abrasive stand she is more well known than the more timid and sensible prime minister. She drives a hard line against Kazakhstan and all other local powers, almost threatening them with military action. She is also a loud critic of many OTA policies. Most neutral observers tend to think her bravado is largely a distraction, but some worry that Baikonur is becoming expansionist.

Santiago Ramela

The martyred and triply resurrected founder of the La Inmunidad de los Tres Salvadores and La Nueva Iglesia. His background as Brazilian playboy, artist and bon vivant is well documented up until 2034, when he had a religious conversion triggered by becoming Host. His subsequent religious preaching was also relatively well documented by his growing congregation and worried authorities. The September 10 nuclear detonation obliterated him, the followers present and a sizeable chunk of Sao Paolo. As he (or his successors, impostors or reincarnations, depending on view) re-emerged his/their lives became far more mysterious and hard to track. While the Three Saviors have made numerous appearances and pronouncements, they are distributed through the church, which acts as a shield of security and privacy for the divine leaders. Over the years the Santiagos have perfected the art of seemingly being everywhere and nowhere, informed of everything relevant going on. Sceptics are quick to consider syntronics, AI support, replacements and old-fashioned legerdemain, while believers simply know this is what Saviours should be.

In interviews, the Santiagos are evasive about their personal lives, preferring to speak about religion, ecology and social efforts.

Dr Clotilde Lothman von Saxe-Meningen

Head of the Immunedienst, the organisation maintaining das Immunität from Hamburg. Despite her extreme upper-class background and amazing scientific and administrative merits she is very popular across the Immunität as “Tante Clotho” – she regularly appears in media as a marterteral, friendly lady explaining the latest updates, problems and plans for the collective immunity.

Yusuf Lukman

Former president of “Greater Nigeria”, since the coup 2065 living hidden somewhere in exile. Numerous groups (especially the remnants of the House of Expansion) would like to get at him.

Kenneth Udoma

African human rights advocate and liberator. Coming from an internationalist upbringing in Sao Tome, California and New Zealand, he worked ceaselessly in the 2060's to spread Maponyo and untainted information infrastructures across Africa to block the expansion of Greater Nigeria. Imprisoned by president Lukman, he reputedly made contact with imprisoned members of the House of Expansion that helped him escape with the necessary keys to subvert the Iyë-iyanu. Striking rapidly and using clever misdirection he undermined the Nigerian power structure, triggering the “house of cards revolution” 2065.

Since then he has struggled to bring some order to the chaotic region. He became president of the Free Borno State in 2084, and has since then (together with various allies, ranging from orbital charities to the emirs of Kanem-Borno) used his position and reputation to bring together the squabbling immunities, economies, states and networks. His greatest success was the 2091 West African Co-Prosperity Sphere treaty, ending most of the violent hostilities.

Currently president Udoma is mainly concerned with the worrying growth of the Matonge immunity in Kongo, and trying to limit the spread of dangerous neogenetics from Sankuru.

President Zhao Yongkang

President of the Sichuan Republic. A military man, he was put into power by the Chengdu Army as it institutionalized a military republic.

General Du Rudai

Military ruler of the Yangtze Republic. A keen reader of Machiavelli, who has little use of people's love and plenty of use of their fear. A pioneer in the large scale use of neogenetically enhanced soldiers and creatures, he gained power within the Yangtze military thanks to his development of a neogenetic “monster army”. When the Sleepless Army won him North Wuhan some other officers moved against him, giving him an excellent pretext for seizing all government power. Since then he has worked hard on making Yangtze strong, dangerous and expansive.

President Nazurbayev VIII

The “president” of Kazakhstan is a de facto monarch.

Juhani Kauranen

The first spokesperson of the Voice of the Dragons. An internationalist backpacker of no particular skill or background, he was apparently infected with the Dragon pearl plasmid sometime in the early 2040's and began to develop a rapport with the dragons. Working along the African east coast he helped others link to the dragons and argued internationally that the dragons were sentient and peaceful. Despite several attempts on his life and harsh interrogation by NERD teams (different factions in the organization struggled over the issue of how to relate to the Dragons) he survived and saw the formation of the East African Dragon Zone. When he eventually suffered a neogenetic breakdown he had his body transported outside Mogadishu where he evolved into what is currently called Kauranen Castle. According to the Voices he is still present in the neural strata.

Web Ehura

The inventor of the Ehura assembler step, the key to hard nanotechnology.

Alexis Warburton

Senator for Texas in the late 2040's, from a major industrialist family. He made several profitable deals with PSD, and when the US federal government began to lose power he cleaved to them instead. Thanks to his lobbying his constituents got great deals for launch equipment and priority to orbit. He retired to *New Texas*.

Utility Kington

Daughter of Wambui Kington, the CEO of N-Space. One of the most flamboyant members of the interplanetary jet-set, holding court anywhere she wants to with whoever she wants.