

# Nominations for IBHA Board of Directors



International  
Big History  
Association

## *Background*

The members of the IBHA Board of Directors hold staggered three year terms. Each year, a few seats become open. Since the IBHA was founded, there have been a number of Board members who have cycled off the Board, a number of new people who have joined it, and a number who have stayed on.

This year, four seats became open and need to be filled. An on-line ballot for the elections will be sent to IBHA members on July 15; the election will remain open until August 15, 2017. These four Board members' terms will run from August 15, 2017 through the beginning of the board meeting in 2020. The new board members will be announced immediately after the election is completed.

In the interest of fostering continuity, change, stability, and inclusivity, the IBHA selects Board candidates in two ways:

- (1) IBHA members identify names
- (2) and the existing Board proposes a list of names.

Between April and June 1, 2017, IBHA members could log on to the IBHA website and post the names of any members they recommended for Board membership. Nominees who were endorsed by at least 10% of IBHA membership before June 15, 2017 would become candidates. By June 15, the IBHA Board also discussed and decided on its list of candidates.

## *Two Sections of the Ballot*

### *Section 1*

The first section of the ballot will be for all IBHA members to vote on a board recommendation for amending the IBHA by-laws permitting the addition of a special seat to the board. As mentioned above, there are now four open seats, each for a term of three years. If at least two-thirds of those IBHA members voting approve of the following board recommendation, a fifth special seat will also be open, with a term of two years.

The board recommends that paragraph 3.1 of the current IBHA by-laws be amended to include ***the italicized bold text*** below

3.1 Board of Directors. The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed exclusively by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than twelve (12) persons, all but one of whom shall be elected by the members. The twelfth director shall be the immediate past

president of the Corporation, who, subject to earlier resignation or removal, shall serve as director for one (1) year following the election of his or her successor as president of the Corporation. ***In the event a past-president does not take the twelfth board seat, that seat will be put up for election to the IBHA membership to be occupied by all the rules of the IBHA until a new past-president takes that seat, or 3 years since election to that seat have elapsed, whichever is sooner. . . .***

At least two-thirds of members who vote in the election need to approve of this for it to be added to the by-laws and to open a fifth, special seat in the election.

### *Section 2*

The second section on the ballot will be in regards to choosing who will fill the open board seats. The four candidates receiving the most votes will fill the four regular seats. If the board recommendation is approved by the IBHA membership, the person with the fifth highest number of votes will fill the special seat.

It is a strength of the IBHA that there are many members who are highly capable of serving on the board, and this list is but a portion of them. It is also important for the health of the association that we choose among a variety of candidates. All these highly capable candidates, win or lose this particular election, have contributed significantly to big history and continue to do so, in part by having agreed to be included in this slate. We are all indebted to our candidates for their contributions to big history and their willingness to place their name on this slate.

As a result of this process for selecting nominees for the board, the slate of candidates for the IBHA board seats in 2017 is:

Javier Collado Ruano (Ecuador)  
Seohyung Kim (South Korea)  
J Daniel May (USA)  
John Mears (USA)  
Nobuo Tsujimura (Japan)  
Constance van Hall (Netherlands)  
Joseph Voros (Australia)  
Sun Yue (China)

Brief informaiton about each candidate is below:

**Javier Collado Ruano** is Titular Professor in the National University of Education (UNAE) in Ecuador. He is teacher on Global Citizenship Education, Sustainability, Philosophy of Education, Big History, and International Relations. He holds a PhD in Dissemination of Knowledge by the Federal University of Bahia (Brazil) and also a PhD in Philosophy by the University of Salamanca (Spain). Master Degree in Sociology of Education by the University of Seville (Spain) and Graduation in History by the University of Valencia (Spain) with specialization in International Relations and Archeology by the University of Palermo (Italy). He is founder and Director at **Global Education Magazine** (supported by UNESCO and UNHCR) and President at **Education for Life NGO**. He is also Academic Member of the **Big History Institute** (Australia), Academic Member at **CIRET** and **FLACSO**, Member at **World Biomimetic Foundation** (Spain), Member of the editorial board at the Journal of **International Society of Philosophy and Cosmology** (Ukraine), Advisory Board Member at **Shreeranya Renewable India**, Chief Advisor and Conferment of Fellowship Awards at **PAN African Institute for Entrepreneurship and Community Development** (Nigeria), and Education Advisor at **Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies** (USA). With one book and more than 25 published papers, his research interests are focused on Transdisciplinary, Biomimicry, Sustainable Development, Global Citizenship, E-learning, Cultural Anthropology, Culture of Peace, Spirituality, Emotional Intelligence, Sociology, Democracy and Governability, Poverty Eradication, Human Rights, Philosophy, Epistemology, Arts, Globalization, Co-evolution, Big History, Complexity, and Life. He won the 1st International Prize on Science and Spirituality Research 2016 by the **Columbia Foundation** (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and also the 2016 Extraordinary Prize of Doctorate in Philosophy by the **University of Salamanca** (Spain).



More information available in: [www.javiercolladoruano.com](http://www.javiercolladoruano.com)

His vision for the IBHA seeks to expand the IBHA to the Latin America region. He writes the first Spanish PhD theses on Big History. With experience as professor in different universities of Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador, he wants to spread IBHA for citizenship who speaks Spanish and Portuguese. How could indigenous worldview enrich the Big History? How to develop a scientific vision of the Big History using an epistemological perspective from the South? He considers that the first phase of consolidation and dissemination of the Big History has already been completed, and now starts a second phase where a huge epistemological diversification is required. Different readings of the Big History will enrich the debates. It is about creating an ecology of knowledge that combines all scientific and non-scientific disciplines, where arts, spirituality (free of dogmas), and ancestral wisdom (medicine, cosmovisions, etc.) are transdisciplinarily integrated through an inter-epistemological dialogue.

## Seohyung KIM

I am the first big historian in South Korea and in Asia. Since 2010, I had taught big history at Ewha Womans University for undergraduate students and graduate students and had collaborative works with David Christian. During this period, we made big history curriculum for Korean schools and tried to spread big history as the bridge between the natural sciences and the humanities. Two years ago, Korean scientists and I established Big History Academy and now we are doing many things for big history through Korea. The first thing is to write and translate big history books. I have published three big history books in Korean and two articles within edited books in English. The Second thing is to make big history curriculum in different levels of Korean schools. There are three high schools, which teach big history as the regular course and from this summer, Big History Academy held teachers' workshop to make regular big history course for middle schools.



In addition to these educational program, I am making big history VR for the first time in the world to emphasize big history as the scientific culture. We are going to renew Natural History Museum as big history museum and create many other cultural contents of big history with Korean scientists. This is one of the most important and powerful ways to spread big history as the general educational foundation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and I am sure these works will be so interesting agenda not only in Korea, but in other regions in the world. And this kind of activities will be helpful to develop International Big History Association by embracing different levels of big history contents and perspectives of interconnections based on the convergence of the natural sciences and the humanities within the largest and biggest frames in the universe.

## J Daniel May

It's an honor to be nominated to serve on the IBHA board. I began teaching Big History at Dominican University of California in 2011, and since 2014 have served as the program director for Dominican University's Big History Program, a required sequence of courses for all first-year students. I'm particularly interested in developing the pedagogy of Big History, both for its own sake, and as a framework for larger curricular design. I regard understanding of our universal history as essential foundational knowledge for any educated person in the 21st century.



I've been teaching a variety of English courses at Dominican University of California since 1996, including Linguistics, Writing, Literature, and English as a Second Language. No matter what subject I've taught, I've always seen the importance in making connections to other topics, bringing in bits of history, archaeology, hard science, and whatever else I thought could put a particular course into a larger context. Big History is as large a context as one could wish for, the ultimate opportunity to connect the dots and see the whole picture. I also have a passion for storytelling in its many forms: folklore, mythology, live theatre, film, literature, and more. Big History is the biggest story we can tell, and presents challenges and choices about how best to tell it, and how best to teach it.

If elected to the IBHA Board, I hope to further the practical pedagogy and applied knowledge of Big History.

## John Mears

John Mears received his undergraduate education at the University of Minnesota and his graduate training at the University of Chicago where he specialized in the history of early modern Europe with a particular interest in seventeenth century Austria. While retaining that primary interest throughout a fifty-three year career of research and teaching, his professional concerns gradually broadened, in part because of his avocational interests in astrophysics and anthropology, in part because of the impact that William H. McNeill and Marshall Hodgson had upon him during his years at the University of Chicago. As a result, Professor Mears joined the World History Association in 1984 and served as its president in mid-1990s. By that time, he was becoming interested in a much broader field of scholarly endeavor we now call big history. Having published a range of articles and essays on the subject of Big History, he joined the IBHA at its inception. By that time he had begun working on what has become a two-volume work tentatively entitled *To Be Human: A perspective on Our Common History*. As a member of the board, he would plan to concentrate on two things: the completion of this project and the development of the IBHA's new *Journal of Big History*, especially its book review section.



## Nobuo Tsujimura

It's my honor to be nominated for this board election. Over a decade, I have played a key role as a hub to promote Big History in Japan. Originally I learned International Relations at Soka University, Tokyo, where historian Osamu Nakanishi taught it as transdisciplinary studies from historical and cosmic viewpoints. Then I met with Big History. Since then, I have spread it, connected with all the big historians in Japan, and bridged them with foreign big historians. I have developed a series of Japanese big history books with the Institute for Global and Cosmic Peace (IGCP) in Yokohama, including *An Introduction to Big History* (2014); *Big History and the 21st Century's International Order* (2014); *Applying Big History: Nature, War and Peace* (2016); and *Universal Studies and the Modern World: Becoming Global and Cosmic Humanity* (forthcoming). Since last year, I have run the Oberlin Big History Project (OBHP) with Hirofumi Katayama and others at J.F. Oberlin University, the greater Tokyo. Also, I designed the IGCP books and the OBHP website. My interests moved from International Relations to wider historical and social theory until a cultural and artistic movement to practice Big History.



If I have a chance to be a board member, I will foster the following two activities. First of all, I want to develop the Big History movements not only as academic and educational ones but also broader cultural and artistic ones. My goal is to make big history as broad and as accessible as possible – to be lived and felt, to make us sense the world and the cosmos vividly, and by doing so, to vitalize our creativity to weave a new worldview together by involving all the people across all the genres. Otherwise, no people except scholars, teachers, and students could join, since most of the common people don't usually read academic writings or attend school. If we really want to spread ideas of Big History and unleash its creativity, we need to make the world full of Big History-like works and experiences through all kinds of expressions and activities: picture books, movies, dramas, paintings, photographs, novels, music, hiking, diving, travels, websites, virtual and augmented realities and so on. I, Katayama and the Oberlin students have already started the projects to make a Big History picture book and animated film, while I and Katayama have been writing a Big History article for a Japanese music magazine. In the future, we will involve more people and by doing so, we will spread Big History more in Japan and beyond. Secondly, I want to make Big History multi-civilizational. One of my interests is Japanese genealogy of Big History. To find and re-evaluate the pioneers and de-facto practitioners of Big History in Japan will diversify the foundations of Big History and make it more universal. At the same time, I plan to start international exchanges between the Oberlin students and foreign students learning Big History so that we can foster new and global identities, values and networks. Through these activities, I will do contribute to the Big History movements as a whole.

## Constance van Hall

What a great and exciting honour it is for me to be nominated for the IBHA board! I'm a teacher at a high school in Hilversum, The Netherlands. I studied philosophy and history at the University of Amsterdam, very interested in the history of ideas and the impact of (scientific) thinking on society. After graduating, I really wanted to get students excited for science and critical thinking, so I got my teaching degree and started teaching philosophy at A. Roland Holst College.



When I saw David's TEDtalk about the Big History Project, I was so impressed and immediately started to investigate how to implement this great course at our school, together with my colleague Joris Burmeister. We had all the 'goldilocks conditions' with us: it was possible to implement BHP in an already existing course at our school!

So, we started teaching Big History in 2012. At the time we were the first school in The Netherlands to take part in this incredible journey. And incredible it was, and still is. We soon realised this course is so inspiring and exciting, every high school student should be able to take it. So we started spreading the word - we spoke on lots of conferences, visited schools in the whole of our country (ok not such a huge deal - Holland is very small), even got on radio and tv and got published in the paper and on Vice. Now, in 2017 there are about 35 schools teaching Big History, my book for high school students got published, Joris and I got to meet a lot of big historians and colleague teachers, travelling to Sydney and Seattle... amazing!

So now I'm nominated to be part of the IBHA board, I hope to be of some help with my experiences helping Big History to spread to the next generation: our high school students - the future of our long journey of 13.8 billion years!

**Joseph Voros** is a professional futurist whose worldview since teenage has been informed by what he has always thought of as a “cosmic-evolutionary” – or what is now also known as a “Big History” – perspective, derived from such early influences as Asimov’s *Guide to Science* and Carl Sagan’s TV series (and book) *Cosmos*.



For many years this worldview underpinned his research and postgraduate teaching in Futures Studies and Strategic Foresight, leading to a research agenda based on using Big History to think seriously about the contours of the coming global future, and more recently to the establishment of an undergraduate course on *Big History*, which has been running since 2015, as well as a version of this at post-graduate level in the Master of Strategic Foresight at Swinburne in Melbourne, Australia. His recent publications and activity emphasise this use of Big History in order to “profile” the broad outline of what ‘Threshold 9’ might look like – such as speaking on this topic at the Big History Institute Anthropocene conference in Dec 2015, as well as a new book chapter in the *Handbook of Anticipation* (Springer International) now in press and due out in 2017, which is intended to introduce futurists to the Big History perspective.

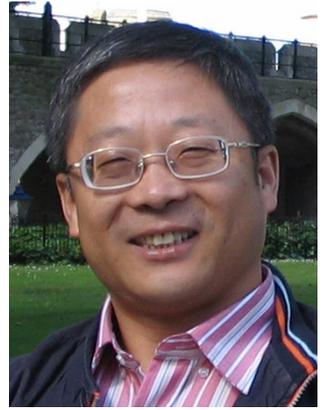
He sees his main contribution to the IBHA Board being to help bring a strong “futures” focus to the wider mission of the IBHA; to complement the many different perspectives and areas of specialty and expertise of other members, so that Big History can form a coherent perspective for humankind—to understand our shared cosmic origins, to steward our present technological planetary civilisation, and to navigate and shape our common future with as much wisdom and foresight as we can possibly muster.

University web page:

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/business-law/staff/profile/index.php?id=jvoros>

## Sun Yue, Capital Normal University, Beijing, PRC

I first became interested in big history around the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, receiving my copy of the *Maps of Time* (in Chinese!) in 2007 from David Christian himself while he was visiting CNU for a conference. Before that, I was reading bits here and there online. And you can see, not long after that, I became a long-standing devotee to Big History. I have published a number of papers on big history in high-profile academic journals and media publications in China, putting together China's first collection of big history papers in 2013. In 2014, I was elected into the IBHA Board.



If re-elected, I would work harder to get big history better publicized in China. Fortunately, China's high-profile CITIC Press has agreed to publish (in Chinese) all major big history publications, and I am personally translating Fred Spier's *Big History and the Future of Humanity* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2015) as part of this large project. And I am also enthusiastic in working to get the *Journal of Big History* (JBH) more diversifying in its transdisciplinary approach by inviting scholars from all conceivable scientific and humanities backgrounds to contribute. Since each culture has its own stories to tell about bridging nature (the universe now) and humanity, heavenly love and mutual benefits, why don't we invite them to tell their own stories as well? To be sure, my personal ambition is to amend the "science" of big history with "love" – to make it a big history of love as well!

Beginning and Ending of IBHA Board Members' Terms											
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Walter Alvarez	F		E								
Mojgan Behmand					E						
Craig Benjamin	F		E			E					
Cynthia Brown	F		E								
Eric Chaisson		A									
David Christian	F		E			E					
Lowell Gustafson	F		E	E			E				
Andrey Korotayev				E			E				
Lucy Laffitte							E				
Jonathan Markley					A	E					
Esther Quaedackers			A E		E						
Barry Rodrigue	F		E	E			E				
Kathy Schick			E								
Fred Spier	F		E	E							
Joseph Voros			A E		E						
Sun Yue					E						

F = Founding Member    E = Elected    A = Appointed

## ARTICLE III. DIRECTORS

### 3.1 Board of Directors.

The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed exclusively by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than twelve (12) persons, all but one of whom shall be elected by the members. The twelfth director shall be the immediate past president of the Corporation, who, subject to earlier resignation or removal, shall serve as director for one (1) year following the election of his or her successor as president of the Corporation. The initial directors shall consist of those individuals selected by mutual consent of the founders of the Corporation, all of whom are scholars involved in Big History, and specified by the incorporator as constituting the first Board of Directors. Thereafter, and until the first annual meeting of members, the Board may appoint additional directors. At the first annual meeting of members and thereafter, the number of directors shall be determined from time to time by action of the members. Commencing with the first annual meeting of the members in 2012, directors shall be elected for three-year terms at each annual members meeting; provided, however, that some directors may be elected to one or two year terms as the members may deem necessary in order to provide for a relatively balanced staggering of the terms of office, such that approximately one-third of directors' terms shall expire in any given year. Nominations for director shall be made by the then existing Board of Directors. Nominations may also be made by a written nomination signed by ten percent (10%) or more of the members and submitted to the Secretary of the Corporation at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the members. All nominations shall be presented by the Board to the membership for consideration at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of members. Directors shall serve until their respective terms expire and until their successors are appointed or until their earlier resignation or removal. Directors may serve for any number of successive terms.

### 3.2 Director Qualifications.

To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors, an individual must not be an "Interested Person." For purposes of this section, an "Interested Person" is defined as either (a) a person currently being compensated by the Corporation for services rendered to it within the previous twelve (12) months, whether as a full time or part time employee, independent contractor or otherwise; or (b) any brother, sister, ancestor, descendant, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, or mother-in-law on any person described in subpart (a).

### 3.3

Resignation and Removal. A director may resign by written notice to the Secretary of the Corporation, which resignation shall be effective upon receipt by the Corporation or at a subsequent time as set forth in the notice. Any director(s) or the entire Board of Directors may be removed, at any time with or without cause, by action of two-thirds of the members present in person or by proxy at a duly called meeting of the members.

### 3.4

Vacancies and Increase in Number. Vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring for any reason, including an increase in the number of directors, may but need not necessarily be filled by majority vote of the Board of Directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy occurring for any reason, including an increase in the number of directors, shall hold office until the next election of directors or until his or her earlier resignation or removal.