

Panda Mery

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Almost too calm productive irritant, neurodivergent researcher, bricoleur and flâneur

Employment

- Research partner, *University of Glasgow*, on the project: *A society fit for autistics: overcoming the barriers, challenging stereotypes and enabling autistics to take their place in the world* (August 2017 to January 2020). This autistic-led two-year research project investigated the strategies used by autistic people to understand social situations and other people's reactions, and to empower themselves; and the barriers to using their strengths and appropriate strategies to participate in decision making, the economy and communities.
- Copywriter, hi-tech startup, London, UK (2018).
- Chief analyst, *Inpro Licensing*, London, UK (October 2010 to July 2012). Conducted technical and commercial research.
- Freelance journalist, London, UK (2005 to 2010). Wrote for *The Guardian* (2005), *The Register* (2007-2009), *Red Pepper* (2009), the *Campaign Against Criminalising Communities* (2009), the *Coalition Against Secret Evidence* (2009), and *Black Mental Health* (2010).
- Editor – Developer Program, *UIQ Technology*, London, UK & Ronneby, Sweden (May 2006 to July 2008). Managed the developer community portal and forums, the commissioning budget, and editorial projects at mobile phone user interface software company UIQ Technology. Wrote for the developer portal and partners' newsletters. Led discussion sessions on mobile user interfaces and user experience at the Mobile World Congress and Over the Air events.
- Technology editor, marketing strategy manager and developer outreach manager, *Symbian Software*, London, UK (January 2000 to April 2006). At the mobile phone operating system company Symbian Software, created a media plan, an editorial process, a developer strategy, a scheme for Symbian's engineers to publish open source applications and an award scheme. Commissioned, edited and wrote a monthly newsletter, brochures, white papers and articles. Co-chaired the Security Alert team. Managed relationships with community websites. Open sourced the OPL interpreted language. Organised twenty-two internal seminars.
- Editor, *EXE Magazine*, *Centaur*, London, UK (June 1994 to December 1999). Editorial and production responsibilities for the monthly software developers' *EXE Magazine* and its website.
- Freelance journalist, London, UK (July 1993 to June 1994). Wrote for *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *PC Direct*, *What Personal Computer*, *O1 Informatique*, *Le Journal du Téléphone*, *Byte European Reseller*, and *Eurotrade*.
- Senior editor, *PC Expert*, *Ziff-Davis*, Paris, France (December 1991 to January 1993). Responsible for the section on new technologies, operating systems and telecommunications.
- Software engineer, *P.N.B.*, Paris, France (June 1990 to December 1991). Developed a fax software in C and assembler at modem manufacturer P.N.B. Project leader of the Service d'Acces Micro contract with France Telecom.
- Research & development engineer and project leader, *Microformatic*, Paris, France and Moodus, Connecticut, USA (August 1989 to March 1990). Wrote communications software on OS/2 at software house Microformatic. In charge of the adaptation of the product to the American market.
- Visiting lecturer in telecommunications, *IBM*, Paris, France (1989 to 1990).
- Technical director, *Euratec*, Paris, France (September 1986 to February 1987). Participated in a study to transfer the development operation of an Ada compiler from Iceland to Paris. Negotiated support for the Ada compiler with DEC, Data General, Bull, Atari and Apple.
- Software developer, *Téléinformatique*, Paris, France (April 1985). Developed a terminal emulator resident in a PAD X.25, in 6809 assembler, for the Crédit Agricole bank.
- Computer course examiner, *Institut de Gestion Sociale*, Paris, France (1985).
- Software developer, *Caisses Centrales de Mutualité Sociale Agricole*, Paris, France (August 1984 to March 1985).
- Visiting lecturer in computer science, *Université Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris I)*, Paris, France (1984 to 1986).
- Computer instructor, *City of Paris InterClub 17*, Paris, France (1984 to 1985).
- Freelance journalist, Paris, France (1982 to 1991). Wrote for *PC-News*, *Info-PC* and *Décision Micro* (1989 to 1991), *Soft & Micro* (1987 to 1989), and *Génie Logiciel*, *Que Choisir*, *Goupil Revue* and *Microtel-Infos* (1982 to 1986).

Civil society

- Advisor to *Challenging the Criminalisation of Autistic People*, a support and campaign group set up to hold the government and other public bodies accountable for injustices and abuses against autistics (July 2017 to present).
- Team member (April 2018 to present) and director (February 2015 to April 2018), *AutAngel*, a Community interest company run by and for autistics to strengthen autistic community. Maintains the AutEvents calendar of autism-related events and the organisation's infrastructure.
- Member of the *Hackney Safer Neighbourhood Board* (January 2015 to present).
- Restarter (December 2012 to present) and London volunteer coordinator (January 2014 to May 2017), *The Restart Project*, a social enterprise that aims to change our relationship with technology and empower people to use their electronics longer. Organised fifteen skill share events for restarters, participated in many Restart Parties and appeared on Restart Radio.
- Vice-chair of the *Hackney & Tower Hamlets Independent Custody Visitor* (ICV) panel (from April 2015 to present), chair (June 2014 to April 2015) and vice-chair (March 2013 to June 2014) of the Hackney ICV panel, and visitor (August 2010 to present). ICVs conduct unannounced visits to police custody suites to check on the welfare of detainees.
- Member of the *Nottinghamshire Autism Police Partnership*, which aims to influence practice and policy to help detention officers better support autistic individuals in police custody (October 2018 to January 2020).
- Participant in the *Sheffield Autism Dialogues* (May 2018 to December 2018).
- Chair of publications, *Autscape*, a conference by and for autistic people. Proofread and edited some Autscape material (November 2015 to August 2018).
- Member, *London Borough of Hackney Autism Alliance Board* and of its Expert by Experience, Data, and Criminal Justice work groups (July 2016 to February 2019). Award for outstanding contributions to co-production with Adult Social Care Services in the London Borough of Hackney (July 2018).
- Advisory board *NO2ID*, a campaigning organisation focussed on the threat to liberty and privacy posed by the growth of the database state (April 2012 to June 2017).
- Advisory board, *Privacy International*, a charity organisation fighting for the right to privacy across the world (October 2011 to October 2015).
- Member of Islington Borough's stop and search monitoring group (2010 to 2011).
- Legal observer (2010).
- Member of *Amnesty International* (2006 to 2010).
- Member of *Liberty* (2005 to 2011).
- Founding member of the *Open Rights Group* (2005 to 2006).
- Participated in the creation of *Mobile Monday London* (2005).
- Associate member of the *Free Software Foundation* (2003 to 2015).
- Co-founder and co-sysop of the *OS/2 MANiA* association (1990 to 1992).
- Member of the *Association for Computing Machinery* (1987 to 2009)
- Member of the *Association Francaise pour la Cybernétique Economique et Technique* (1987 to 1989).
- Participated at local, regional and national level in the *Microtel* and *Adémir* associations (1980 to 1987).

Book chapters

- 'Calm, almost too calm' and 'Terminology' in Hearst, C. (ed.) *Being Autistic – Nine adults share their journeys from discovery to acceptance*, AutAngel 2015.

Academic publications

- Piccoli, G.B. and Mery, D., 2017. Sister earth, our common home: toward a sustainable, planet friendly approach to dialysis, a paradigm of high technology medicine. *Journal of Renal Nutrition*, 27(6), pp. 478-484.
- Mery, D.P., 2016. Does data cleaning disproportionately affect autistics? *Autism: the international journal of research and practice*.
- Mery, D., 2003. Why do mobile phones need a different operating system? *Computing and Control Engineering*, 14(6), pp. 20-25.

Speaking engagements

- Guest lecture on repair culture and the maintenance of electronics devices to BA Product Design students at Central Saint Martins, UK (2019).
- Presented at the The Politics of Autism conference on *Participatory and Autistic-led initiatives in the UK*, France (2019).
- Presented to a public meeting organised by ESTAS, a Korean autistic organisation, on several autistic initiatives in the UK, and spoke at its internal meeting, South Korea (2018).
- Presented at the PARC Autistic Fringe (Glasgow) on *About spoons and spudgers: community repair for neurodivergents*, UK (2018).
- Facilitated a session at Fixfest UK 2018 on *(Better) repair events for neurodivergents & anyone lacking spoons*, UK (2018).
- Facilitated a session at Fixfest 2017 on *Fixing events for and with neurodivergents and people with mental health issues*, UK (2017).
- Presented on the work of Independent Custody Visitors to the Hackney Safer Neighbourhood Board, UK (2016).
- Spoke at the V&A Friday Late on *Why and how to become a restarter with the Restart Project*, UK (2015).
- Spoke at the OpenTech session on *Why and how to become a restarter with the Restart Project*, UK (2013).
- Keynote speaker at the public debate *Surveillance, Politics and Civil Society*, UK (2010).
- Spoke at a workshop on *Fighting the law and winning* for the ten years of Indymedia, UK (2010).
- Guest speaker at a public meeting of the *Pan African Society Community Forum* on civil liberties, UK (2009).

Interviews

- Television and video: *Deutsche Welle, Focus on Europe*, Germany (2015), *WOWOW, Finding 1984*, Japan (2014); *National Autistic Society, Ask Autism*, UK (2014); *ORF, Welt Journal*, Austria (2012); *Sky News, Sunrise*, UK (2009); *Mega TV, The Files*, Greece (2007); *BBC One, Politics Show*, UK (2006); *Sky News, Today*, UK (2005).
- Radio: *BBC World Service, Discovery*, UK (2015); *Dissident Island Radio*, UK (2010); *Radio Adelaide, Breakfast with Peter Godfrey*, Australia (2005); *ABC Radio National, Late Night Live*, Australia (2005); *BBC Radio Four, Broadcasting House*, UK (2005); *BBC Radio Five Live, The Way Forward*, UK (2005); *RampART Radio, Indymedia*, UK (2005).
- Print and web: *The Establishment*, USA (2018), *The Independent* and *i*, UK (2015) *The Voice*, UK (2014), *AFP*, UK (2013); *Cageprisoners*, UK (2011); *Colors Magazine, 'Cease-Fear'*, Italy (2009); *I fought the law, 'Britain's Ten Worst Laws'* chapter, Bantam Press, UK (2007); *The Dallas Morning News*, USA (2005).

Education

- Support Brokerage, *London Brokerage Network*, London, UK (December 2014 to May 2015, awarded February 2016).
- Spoon carving, *Barn the Spoon*, London, UK (March 2014).
- Auditing MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice, *City University*, London, UK (September 2013 to April 2014).
- Independent Custody Visitors, *Metropolitan Police Authority*, London, UK (2010).
- Legal observing, *Network for Police Monitoring*, London, UK (2010).
- International human rights law, *CCJO.RenéCassin*, London, UK (2009).
- Human rights law, continuing education course, *City University*, London, UK (2007).
- Taught MPhil (AEA) in languages, algorithmic and programming; majors: object-oriented programming and Lisp dialects semantic, *Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI)*, Paris, France (1987 to 1988).
- MSc (Maîtrise) in computer science; majors: operating systems, telecommunications and software engineering, *Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI)*, Paris, France (1986 to 1987).
- BSc (License) in computer science, *Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI)*, Paris, France, (1985 to 1986).
- Undergraduate degree (DEUG) in mathematics, physics and computer science, *Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI)*, Paris, France (1982 to 1985).
- Baccalaureate (Baccalauréat S1) specialised in mathematics, *Ecole Alsacienne*, Paris, France (1977 to 1982).