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Nomination for CPHC Committee Member  
Nominated by Prof Sally Fincher

I hold the post of prof of computer science and human performance at the university of southampton. I teach in computer science, HCI in particular, and lead research projects, like the just awarded platform grant AutoTrust to look at designing a safe, human centred Internet of Vehicles (I am PI).

Anyone at this event appreciates that the work of computer science is only increasing in its impact on and transformation of social to industrial mechanisms. As our work gets translated into mission critical systems, pushing boundaries of AI and cyber security, the role of formal CS education should be increasingly clear and urgent. Hence CPHC's roll to provide support for leaders in CS in the University, and help grow up new leaders is essential.

That said, despite its growing ubiquity we all are also aware of issues in the discipline - from the seemingly immovable gender gap in terms of women entering the discipline (20% in the UK over the past decade), not helped by the pay gap for women professors (12-22% differences).

Machine learning is everywhere it seems - colleagues are teaching special courses for other disciplines - even though these tools have been around for some time - they are now the practice du jour. What other tools do we have that have been in the drawers for awhile that we could likewise be using? I would like to help explore this question.

Likewise, with so many disciplines getting to know us through ML and AI, is this also a time for us to grow brighter and better by reaching out to know them, to find out about their tools that could help us see further, reach higher, possibly together? In the states they are calling this "convergent disciplinarily" - On the CPHC this term i'd like to lead exploring this strand for the CPHC - growing out from some of the local work in my home patch in Southampton.

The GCRF has great examples of where for instance Arts and Humanities have contributed meaningfully on the ground in the Regions targeted by this massive x-council call. But there is very little cross-disciplinary work funded between what CP Snow once called the Two Solitudes. Part of my mission with the CPHC support will be to build up opportunities for us to get to connect better, where concepts like Critical Realism meet Cyber Security - and where Human Centered Design connects with the Archaeology of Devices in the Construction of our digital lives.

To close the circle, perhaps in this two year mandate as a CPHC director we can thereby find some interdisciplinary paths to close our UK gender gap in CS and enhance our horizons to see better our current focus in AI/ML/DATA towards new or untended landscapes around us - where gender/diversity finds an intellectual and social home to flourish.