MONIKA BIELSKYTE

Futurist and Expert on VR/AR
Advisor on Leading Hollywood Productions

As the Founder of Protopia Futures, Monika Bielskyte is the architect of a platform and a community to proactively prototype inspiring and actually livable future visions. Her journey as a nomadic explorer in over 100 countries has given her first-person experience of the interconnectedness between human cultural priorities and the unfolding future.

Monika was born in the Soviet Union, and grew up in the newly liberated Lithuania, before leaving the country at age 17. Her perspectives as a futurist have been shaped by the collapse of the physical boundaries of a totalitarian regime, and the opening up of the digital world – its opportunities and its harms. She currently resides in Johannesburg, South Africa – which gives her deeper insights into broader futures perspectives, beyond the imaginations of the Global North.

Monika started her career as a creative – working on movie sets in her late teens and progressively moving towards the bleeding edge of technological innovation and scientific research by her mid-20s. Her multicultural and multidisciplinary background, as well as an uncompromising focus on the intricate relationship between future fictions and real-life, have guided her on a journey that makes her voice clearly distinct in today's foresight industry.

Monika has worked not only with established global media, tech and lifestyle companies such as Universal, Google, Nike, BBC and the WEF, but also various governments and cities. Her contributions have resonated across both industry corridors and academia, from The Royal Society to CERN.

Monika is a futurist that doesn't just passively review existing trends. Drawing from global insights and a robust focus on inclusivity, she works to enable positive change. Her talks offer audiences pathways to innovative solutions and transformative perspectives. Listening to Monika, you don't just hear about the future – but learn how to shape it with your actions in a way that benefits your organization AND the world in the long-term.

Topics (Selection):
- Future of UX
- Future of Cities
- Emerging Technologies & Creativity
- Future of Media
- Arts
- Virtual Reality
- Artificial Intelligence

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