IDENTITY IN THE METAVERSE

There are three themes that persistently thread through any considerations of human interactions in the Metaverse. These three themes are identity, sociality, and ethics.

Today, I’m going to be speaking to you about identity in virtual worlds. While VR is an important building block of the Metaverse, the Metaverse is not just about VR. In a "selfie generation" where image is everything and profiles are central, are we able to define ourselves beyond our physical appearance?

Arguably, in virtual worlds that closely mirror human relationships in the physical world, for example, a workplace, are we able to define ourselves beyond our physical appearance?
users choose a virtual representation of themselves that's closer to how they look in real life. Not all virtual worlds offer the same affordances in which we can express ourselves. Identity researchers believe that the most important aspect of our identity is the core self which remains constant over time. The unique "I." While there is a stable part of our identity, there's also the changing self, which may change because of our changing social connotations, our changing dispositions, and our changing beliefs in general. The multiple selves could coexist, but some are more salient than others at any given time. In this case, Sabrina the Gates scholar, was at some point Sabrina the psychologist, and is now Sabrina,
a Human Sciences Studio researcher in Accenture.

Sabrina who is currently a mum to a toddler shares the same core self as Sabrina, the child who fled Indonesia in 1998 racial riots.

But what if some features of my identity have not been expressed before, given the limitations of the physical world?

Suppose the song of my life is played on an instrument that hasn't been invented yet.

Indeed, the human personality is multifaceted and complex.

We choose to display parts of our identity through creative expressions and social interactions.

This is the core defining feature of being human.

What does it mean for my sense of self if I can be anything I like?

Is this aspirational representation of my self less authentic than how I dress?
when I meet you for coffee?

Or in fact this embodiment of my hidden identity helping me be and feel more "me."

And what does it mean for my interactions with other people?

Whether I can be a dragon

in my workplace Metaverse,

remains a question for HR.

But is there a way to claim unique ownership of my embodied self?

Perhaps we should consider that anonymity and pseudonymity can provide a sense of psychological safety in virtual worlds. But if I'm anonymous, I can't flex that NFT ownership.

So what makes me "me" in the Metaverse?