

Nordstrom Rack
Department store
1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



Paralleling the politically polarizing times we live in . . . interior designers, previously celebrating a riot of colors, now subdue or take the emotion out trending towards themes of black, white and neutral. Over their once beloved loyal Golden Retriever, dog owners now favor the cute-ugly Pug. Suggesting that in the make calm feel of our collective stark neutering we pull towards the underdog, the misunderstood, underappreciated. And roll over scratch my belly cuteness of any shade will always win the day. Provocateur, crusaders, fanatics be damned.

Nordstrom Rack
Department store
1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



I like the malls where the husbands wait for the shoppers in the food courts indistinguishable from the homeless. A real style equalizer, where poverty meets unpretentious commerce. Fashionably torn jeans knock knees with the real thing. And then occasionally, there are a pair of mallard ducks nibbling up food court tidbits and spitting them back out . . .



Trump & Who Deserves Justice | The Problem With Jon Stewart Podcast

The Problem Wi... 1.02M subscribers **Subscribe** 12K **Share**

459,289 views Apr 5, 2023 #trump #crime #podcast

Donald Trump has finally been indicted. We will not be offering you a play-by-play of the former president driving to and from various airports, but we do have an excellent conversation about the nature of accountability in America's two-tiered justice system and why white collar criminals are so often above the law with Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff, Yale Professor and Co-Founder & CEO of the Center for Policing Equity, and David Dayen, the executive editor of The American Prospect.



Transcript

- 23:04 The problem is several fold. One is this sort of out that has been given through
- 23:10 the way the Justice Department prosecutes stuff. The second is the sort of the mindshare that
- 23:16 prosecutors and the corporate defense attorneys have. They go to the same schools.
- 23:22 They live in the same neighborhoods. They're on friendly terms with one another,

23:10 > . . . the way the Justice Department prosecutes stuff. The second is the sort of the **mindshare** that prosecutors and the corporate defense attorneys have. They go to the same schools. They live in the same neighborhoods. They're on friendly terms with one another, and they cut deals with one another. - And that cultural aspect - They grant grace and empathy to each other in the way that they don't to communities that they don't understand. That's correct. And I think the judges are implicated in that, too.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_for_Policing_Equity
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_American_Prospect



<https://youtu.be/oA0ypGQdzGU>

INSIDER

70-year-old Vasanti Meghwar spends her days making bricks to pay off a debt. So does her son, Poonjo, his wife, and their son, Dileep. It's the only life the 12-year-old has ever known. The family borrowed money from the owner of the brick kiln more than two decades ago to pay a hospital bill. Now, they spend long days breathing in dust under the scorching desert sun and firing bricks in massive underground kilns.

The Meghwar are among the millions of people in Pakistan who spend their lives making bricks to pay off debts to wealthy landowners. These bricks will be used in construction projects across Pakistan. But families take home so little, they often have to keep borrowing more just to get by. Lawyers say these bricks are part of a system of modern-day slavery. So how are so many families stuck in this endless cycle of debt? And why are they being overlooked?

INSIDER
News



0:05 / 18:10



<https://youtu.be/oA0ypGQdzGU>

Entire families in Pakistan work dangerous jobs at brick kilns to pay off snowballing debts to kiln owners. Workers don't have bank accounts and make so little they have to keep borrowing just to get by.

INSIDER



Narrator: 70-year-old Vasanti Meghwar spends her days making bricks to pay off a debt. So does her son, Poonjo, his wife, and their son, Dileep. It's the only life the 12-year-old has ever known. This brick kiln is in the heart of the Thar Desert in Pakistan. Temperatures here can reach up to 122 degrees Fahrenheit. 150 families work and live here. Most people are at the very bottom of the Hindu caste system. They're called Dalit, and they often work the least desirable jobs. Dileep says he doesn't think he'll ever have the chance to learn how to read. He has accepted his fate, but he hopes others don't take their education for granted.

No region is 'immune' as the number of people in 'modern slavery' climbs to 50 million

49.6 million people

September 13, 2022 · 4:56 PM ET



Juliana Kim



A child fetches water at a textile factory in Gaziantep, Turkey. Many children who work at this factory are migrants who escaped Syria with their families. They typically work 8 to 12 hour shifts, 6 or 7 days a week for just \$15 a day. In 2021, 28 million people were estimated to be working under forced labor conditions — an eighth of them children.

The number of people currently enslaved in the world has grown by 10 million in the last five years, researchers from Geneva reported Monday. The U.N.'s International Organization for Migration partnered with the International Labor Organization and the Walk Free Foundation, a human rights group, to produce the latest estimates of modern slavery. That term refers to a spectrum of exploitative practices like forced labor, forced marriage and human trafficking. As of 2021, 50 million people were estimated to endure such conditions. Some form of modern slavery exists in nearly every country in the world, the report found. Although modern versions of enslavement appear slightly different from historical examples, the two are interconnected, authors of the report said. "In a number of ways, slavery has adapted and changed and shape shifted, but exploitation is still occurring on an unprecedented scale," Grace Forrest, the founder of Walk Free Foundation, told NPR. "There is no region of the world that is immune to modern slavery."

What is modern slavery?

<https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/modern-slavery/>

According to the latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (2022) from Walk Free, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration: 49.6 million people live in modern slavery – in forced labour and forced marriage. **Roughly a quarter of all victims of modern slavery are children.**

Life of slavery — bonded labor in Pakistan

Shahzeb Jillani | December 25, 2019

<https://www.dw.com/en/life-of-slavery-the-perpetuation-of-bonded-labor-in-pakistan/a-51792298>

Although bonded labor was outlawed in Pakistan years ago, the practice has continued, and even expanded, in the country due to a worsening economic crisis. Ansar Ali is one such farmer stuck in the perpetual debt trap. The Australia-based Global Slavery Index (GSI) estimates about 3 million people in Pakistan remain stuck in debt bondage.

Modern-Day Slaves — The Horror of Bonded Labour in Pakistan

Ali Anwaar | October 11, 2021

<https://www.ivint.org/modern-day-slaves-the-horror-of-bonded-labour-in-pakistan/>

Out of the 20 million people held captive by feudal lords, factory owners and aristocrats around the world in bonded labour, over 85% of them reside in South Asia. To many of the readers, the term "bonded labour" would be unfamiliar but to the people who are either familiar or living within it, it is nothing less than a hell.



Pakistan ranks 6th out of 167 countries on Slavery Index



Banned Book Club Paperback – Illustrated, May 19, 2020

by Kim Hyun Sook (Author), Ryan Estrada (Author), Hyung-Ju Ko (Illustrator)

"Highly recommended for readers passionate about activism." — SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

In BANNED BOOK CLUB, Hyun Sook shares a dramatic true story of political division, fear-mongering, anti-intellectualism, the death of democratic institutions, and the relentless rebellion of reading. > <https://www.amazon.com/Banned-Book-Club-Hyun-Sook/dp/194582042>

What makes a banned book banned? :: Those advocating a ban complain typically that the book in question contains graphic violence, expresses disrespect for parents and family, is sexually explicit, exalts evil, lacks literary merit, is unsuitable for a particular age group, or includes offensive language. > <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/986/book-banning>

Book banning, the most widespread form of censorship, occurs when private individuals, government officials, or organizations remove books from libraries, school reading lists, or bookstore shelves because they object to their content, ideas, or themes. Those advocating a ban complain typically that the book in question contains graphic violence, expresses disrespect for parents and family, is sexually explicit, exalts evil, lacks literary merit, is unsuitable for a particular age group, or includes offensive language.



In this photo, Gail Sheehy, author of "Passages," at podium, right, reads during the "First Banned Books Read Out" in New York, April 1, 1982. The rally protested censorship by school and public libraries of certain books under pressure from right wing religious groups. (AP Photo/Carlos Rene Perez, used with permission from the AP)

Is it illegal to read banned books? Banned books are books that are deemed inappropriate, obscene, offensive or generally unfit for classrooms or to have available at libraries due to their content. It is not illegal to read banned books, although it might be difficult to track down a copy do to the efforts of censorship. Mar 27, 2023

What is the oldest book to be banned? :: New English Canaan. What is considered the first book ban in the United States took place in 1637 in what is now known as Quincy, Massachusetts. Thomas Morton published his New English Canaan which was subsequently banned by the Puritan government as it was considered a harsh and heretical critique of Puritan customs and power structures. Oct 13, 2022 | [History of Book Banning - Research Guides at Harvard Library > https://guides.library.harvard.edu/c.php?g=1269000&p=9306840](https://guides.library.harvard.edu/c.php?g=1269000&p=9306840)

The 50 most banned books in America - CBS News > <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/the-50-most-banned-books-in-america/>

What is the Banned Book Club?

The Authors Guild Banned Books Club is a free virtual book club held on the social reading app Fable [<https://fable.co/club/authors-guild-banned-books-club-with-david-levithan-379104064053>]. Each month, the Banned Books Club presents a different work of fiction or nonfiction recently barred in one or more U.S. school districts or states. > <https://authorsguild.org/banned-books-club/>

What age is Banned Book Club for? :: Ages 14–up.

What is the number 1 most banned book?

1. The most banned book of the 2021-2022 school year was *"Gender Queer: A Memoir"* by Maia Kobabe. It was removed from school libraries and/or classroom bookshelves on 41 separate instances, according to PEN America. Nov 10, 2022

What are the six books banned? Seuss's children's books due to racist stereotypes that "portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong." The six titles withdrawn from publication were *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, *If I Ran the Zoo*, *McElligot's Pool*, *On Beyond Zebra!*, *Scrambled Eggs Super!*, and *The Cat's Quizzer*. Aug 19, 2022 :: [Banned Books 2022 - If I Ran the Zoo - Marshall Libraries > https://www.marshall.edu/library/bannedbooks/if-i-ran-the-zoo/](https://www.marshall.edu/library/bannedbooks/if-i-ran-the-zoo/)

Murder Mystery 2




Jennifer Aniston as Audrey Spitz and Adam Sandler as Nick Spitz in Murder Mystery 2. Netflix

When I'm trying to watch a movie these days, my brain has to be completely shut off all the way. So I turned to Netflix's *Murder Mystery 2*, starring Adam Sandler and Jennifer Aniston. I have to say, I enjoyed the first one. I enjoyed the second one. It took me exactly to where I wanted to go, which was just, like, smooth brain-ville. The jokes were there, talking about the script. I really enjoy Jennifer Aniston out of the usual milieu that she's in. And Adam Sandler, when he is bringing it, he really is one of the greats. I know it's like the most boomer-y choice I could make, but *Murder Mystery 2*, guys, if you just want to check out, have a few laughs, and eat dinner on the couch, you will not complain afterwards.

— Amil Niazi

The Trusted San Diego's Home Buyer Call or Text to Get an Offer Today! (858) 218-0042





Get a Free & Fast Cash Offer


Sell your house as-is without any fees at your convenience. We work according to your schedule.

Send us your address and we'll send you a 'no strings attached' cash offer!

Enter your home address Unit **GET YOUR OFFER**

#1 Most Trusted San Diego Cash Home Buyer Since 2015



as seen on... 

I Buy SD GG Homes is a family owned and operated real estate investment firm proudly serving Southern California.

Since our inception in 2014, its has been our motto to buy and 'sell my house fast San Diego' and we have purchased hundreds of homes and we are just getting started!



Companies That Buy Houses for Cash in San Diego, CA

<https://www.houzeo.com/blog/we-buy-houses-for-cash-in-san-diego/>

1. Houzeo.com
2. Opendoor
3. Offerpad
4. RedfinNow
5. Gordon Buys Homes
6. We Buy Houses, San Diego
- >> **7. I Buy SD GG Homes** > <https://www.ibuysd.com/>
8. Sundae Real Estate, San Diego
9. Socal Home Buyers
10. HomeVestors, San Diego
11. I Buy Houses, San Diego

5 Legit We Buy Houses for Cash Companies in California That Sellers Love

<https://www.homelight.com/blog/we-buy-houses-california/>

Published on January 10th, 2023

At HomeLight, our vision is a world where every real estate transaction is simple, certain, and satisfying. Therefore, we promote strict editorial integrity in each of our posts.

We Buy Houses companies in California provide all-cash offers for homes that often need some work in the Golden State, enabling sellers who lack the time, expertise, and money for repairs to move quickly and receive the cash sooner if they need it.

Maybe you own a bungalow on an oceanside street that needs some TLC or are looking to unload your cozy fixer-upper in Sacramento. Or perhaps a new job offer in Reno or the sudden inheritance of a Los Angeles home means you're giving these companies a second look.

If you need to sell your California home quickly, a We Buy Houses for Cash company could be the best solution. However, before you request a cash offer, it's important to understand how much a California house-buying company might offer for your home and weigh your options. Once you're familiar with the process, you can opt to select a company on our list of some of the top contenders and get moving.



Briana Yablonski

Contributing Author



Chelsea Levinson

Senior Copywriter



Caroline Feeny

Executive Editor

Home / Money / Real Estate / Advice / What to Know About Homebu...

What You Need to Know About Those Companies That Buy Houses

A variety of companies and investors will pay cash fast for your home – is it the right choice for you?

By [Devon Thorsby](#)

Aug. 26, 2021

When you're ready to sell your home, the traditional method is to prepare the house, list it for sale with a real estate agent and hope buyers will compete for a winning bid – ideally ending in monetary profit for you. But if the traditional route doesn't appeal to you or circumstances make it difficult, there are alternatives that allow you to still sell your home. In many cases, it involves selling your home to a company. While they may all seem similar on the surface, there are many different types of companies that are interested in buying your home, often for cash and with a quick turnaround. We're breaking down the types of companies you may encounter and how they do business, as well as what you should factor in if you're considering selling your home to a company.

Types of Companies That Buy Houses: The companies that will buy your house from you are varied, and they have different methods of purchasing properties, as well as different motivations. Here are six types of companies that could buy your house: • Franchise cash buyers. • iBuyers. • House flippers. • Buy-and-hold investors. • Trade-in companies. • Lenders or brokers freeing up cash to encourage purchases.

Franchise Cash Buyers: There are a handful of national brands you may recognize that purchase homes for cash which operate as franchises. That means the individual you're working with would be a local franchisee, adding the benefit of local expertise. Some names you may recognize most are We Buy Ugly Houses, HomeVestors of America Inc. (which is also the parent company of We Buy Ugly Houses), We Buy Houses and I Buy Houses. **"Our typical focus is buying houses that we either fix up and sell, or we keep as rental properties,"** says HomeVestors CEO David Hicks. He notes that, as the We Buy Ugly Houses name illustrates, the focus is on purchasing a home as-is and paying for it based on its current condition, especially if that means it needs some work. "We're buying directly from homeowners and typically it's been focused by an event – they are wanting to sell to get closer to kids (for example), ... and we buy a lot of inherited houses. A parent's home that's now inherited by the kids, but it's in Atlanta and they live in D.C., and what do you do with that house?" Hicks says. Franchisee cash buyers will typically opt to work with local contractors to flip a property or to keep it for rental income. The franchisees will then either pay a regular fee or portion of profits to the larger company, depending on the company, for the brand affiliation and additional help as needed.

iBuyers: In the last few years, companies known as *iBuyers* have become a more vocally present type of company offering to purchase homes for cash quickly. Offerpad, Opendoor, RedfinNow and Zillow Offers are well-known companies that fall under the iBuyer category. **These companies, which operate in a growing number of markets across the U.S., purchase homes that need very little work to be ready for the market, with the goal of turning around and selling it quickly for a higher price.** The amount paid to the home seller tends to be higher than a cash buyer would pay for houses that need more work,

but an iBuyer is involved in more transactions total by operating as a single company located across many markets. While iBuyers may get a lot of coverage in the news, they are ultimately a very small portion of the homebuyer market. Redfin, a national real estate brokerage and parent company to its own iBuyer platform, RedfinNow, reported that just 0.3% of the homes sold in the fourth quarter of 2020 were purchased by any of the four major national iBuyer companies (Offerpad, Opendoor, RedfinNow and Zillow Offers).

House Flippers: If you're familiar with shows on HGTV, you're probably familiar with the concept of flipping a house: Investors purchase a property that is outdated or run-down, and renovate the property to make it move-in ready, ultimately selling it for (hopefully) more than the cost to purchase and remodel the property. House flippers commonly aim to flip a house within six months or a year to cut down on operating and holding expenses. While cash buyer franchisees may flip houses, there are also many independent local companies that likely have the ability to make a deal happen fast by offering cash to a homeowner. Many individual homeowners with some contracting experience will flip houses as well, but their cash reserves to make a purchase and renovation without financing is something you're less likely to come across, unless they have investors backing them up.

Buy-and-Hold Investors: Another type of investor you're likely to come across is one who will purchase your property and keep it to rent out to tenants. In many cases, the investor aims to buy a house that requires some work to avoid paying top-dollar, and will renovate before leasing it. Franchise cash buyers and real estate investment companies may be buy-and-hold investors, but nearly 73% of rental properties across the U.S. are owned by individuals who own between one or a few properties to bring in income, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 Rental Housing Finance Survey, the results of which were first published in 2020. Like with house flippers, cash offers are certainly possible, but investors may also finance the deal, which could make the closing time longer than with an individual or company offering cash.

Trade-In Companies: For homeowners looking for a quick sale to free up cash to purchase a new home, but are unwilling or unable to sacrifice much of the home's value in the accepted price, a trade-in company may be the option you're looking for. These companies provide the cash to purchase a new home, based on the value of the current house, then sell the existing property on the market, with a percentage of the sale of the home ultimately going to the company. Knock and Orchard are two trade-in companies occasionally described as iBuyers, but because of the platform focused on helping the homeowner free up cash to purchase a new home, with the first home sold on the open market, we've separated them here.

Lenders or Brokers Freeing Up Cash to Encourage Purchases: In some cases, the companies providing a kind of trade-in option are lenders or real estate brokers that purchase a buyer's existing home so the buyer has cash to make a more competitive offer on another one. William Raveis Mortgage is one lender offering such a program, called Raveis Purchase. The lender purchases a borrower's current home and then oversees its sale. The borrower now has the ability to act as a cash buyer for a new home, which is particularly valuable in a competitive seller's market. A type of trade-in service also reduces the stress of having to sell a home on the open market before finding a new place, but then needing to move quickly to have a place to live. "You simply don't have time to get a deal done," says Melissa Cohn, executive mortgage banker for William Raveis Mortgage on the East Coast. While there's often an additional fee or percentage of the final sale price that goes to the company providing the service, the ultimate goal for many lenders and brokers offering these types of programs is to encourage people to actively buy and sell homes. The broker will benefit from the commission of being a part of two transactions, and the lender will typically provide the homeowner with his or her next mortgage.

Should You Sell Your Home to a Company? *The choice to sell your home to a company is a personal one to make, as circumstances vary greatly.* If you're looking to offload a property quickly without having to do any updates or renovations, a cash buyer – be it a franchise or independent investment company – may be the right choice. If your home is updated but you still like the idea of a guaranteed fast deal, an iBuyer may be the route for you. If you need cash to make yourself more competitive with other buyers to purchase your next home, a trade-in company, or lender or broker offering a trade-in service could be the right move. It's also important to consider the current housing market. In many parts of the U.S. right now, few properties for sale and high demand from buyers means many houses sell quickly and for above initial asking price. If you're on the fence, consider speaking with a real estate agent about your potential success on the market when you also inquire with companies that could buy your house.

Who owns the most land in America? Jeff Bezos and John Malone are among them

Samuel Stebbins 24/7 Wall Street

Published 7:00 a.m. ET Nov. 25, 2019 | Updated 10:48 a.m. ET Nov. 25, 2019



John Malone is the largest private landowner in the United States. Malone made his fortune as a media tycoon, building the company Tele-Communications, Inc, or TCI, and acting as its CEO before selling it to AT&T for \$50 billion in 1999. Malone's 2.2 million acres are largely located in Maine, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming and include profitable cattle ranches.

51 Photos

VIEW FULL GALLERY

John Malone, Ted Turner and Jeff Bezos among largest property owners in the US

24/7 Wall St., analyzed data from the 2018 Land Report, tax records and other sources to identify the largest landowners in America.

Jared Kushner real estate holdings > In December 2017, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York subpoenaed Deutsche Bank records pertaining to Kushner Companies. The New York Times reported in May 2019 that anti-money laundering specialists in the bank detected what appeared to be suspicious transactions involving entities controlled by Donald Trump and Jared Kushner, for which they recommended filing suspicious activity reports with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Treasury Department, but bank executives rejected the recommendations. One specialist noted money moving from Kushner Companies to Russian individuals and flagged it in part because of the bank's previous involvement in a Russian money laundering scheme. In 2020, ProPublica and WNYC reported that Kushner Companies received "a near-record sum" from government-backed lender Freddie Mac. The \$786 million in loans helped Kushner Companies purchase thousands of apartments in Maryland and Virginia and appeared to come with "unusually good terms," raising conflict of interest questions due to Jared Kushner's role as Senior Advisor to the President of the United States.

What percentage of US homes are owned by investors? ^

According to data reported by the PEW Trust and originally gathered by CoreLogic, as of 2022, investment companies own about **one fourth** of all single-family homes. Last year, investor purchases accounted for 22% of American homes sold. This is significantly down from the 80% number in 2020-2021, why is this? Jan 31, 2023

billtrack50.com
https://www.billtrack50.com > blog > investment-firms-a...

What percent of homes are paid in cash? ^

Last year, **nearly a third** of U.S. homes were purchased with cash, according to data provided by the realty company Redfin. That's an 8 percent increase from 2021, continuing a trend that started during the pandemic. Feb 9, 2023

washingtonpost.com
https://www.washingtonpost.com > business > interactive

How many homes are fully paid off? ^

According to Census Bureau data, over 38 percent of owner-occupied housing units are owned free and clear. **For homeowners under age 65, the share of paid-off homes is 26.4 percent.** Mortgage delinquencies tend to rise significantly during recessions.

Mar 7, 2023

constructioncoverage.com
https://constructioncoverage.com > research > where-resi...




Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos is not only one of the richest men in the world, with a net worth of \$109 billion at the time of this writing, but he is also one of the biggest private landowners in the United States. Bezos owns 420,000 acres, much of which is in west Texas.

Jeff Bezos. Alex Wong / Getty Images


Parents cheer on son as he checks Ivy League college acceptances

As Tinaye Ngorima anxiously awaits college admission results in Ontario, Canada, his family rejoices after he's accepted to Harvard, Brown and Penn.

Humankind Humankind, USA TODAY
Published 4:00 p.m. ET April 5, 2023

**Human
kind** 



 harvard

Play

▶ 🔊 🔍 0:35 | 0:59

CC 🔗 📺

Solomon Bagels & Donuts (post COVID lockdown)
4152 30th St, San Diego, CA 92104



2365 Northside Dr, San Diego, CA 92108



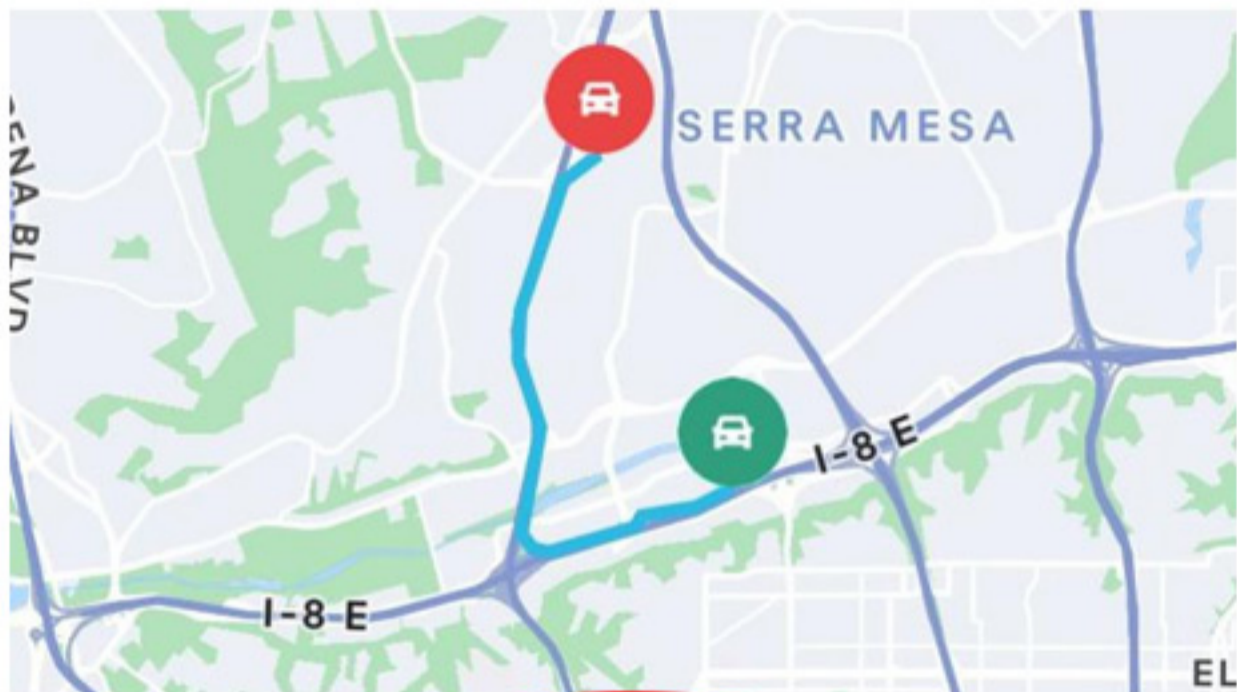
What We're Doing to Keep You Safe

-  Increased enhanced cleaning in high touch point areas
-  UV Light fans have been installed in passenger elevators
-  HVAC system is in compliance with ASHRAE ventilation requirements
-  HVAC Filters have been converted to MERV 13 on every floor
-  Additional HVAC hours which provides more fresh air into the building
-  Touchless faucets, soap dispensers, and flushers exist in every restroom
-  Face coverings recommended in common areas
-  Sanitizer stations are placed at each entrance as well as lobby elevator landings
-  Posted hand washing signs in every restroom

← Trip Details



- Milano Coffee Company
- Nightingale Way, San Diego, CA
- 92123-2727, US



Your Earnings

\$7.09

Duration

33 min 9 sec

Distance

5.4 mi

← Trip Details



Customer payments

Customer 1	\$10.68	▼
Customer price	\$10.68	
Customer 2	\$9.50	▼
Customer price	\$9.50	
Total	\$20.18	

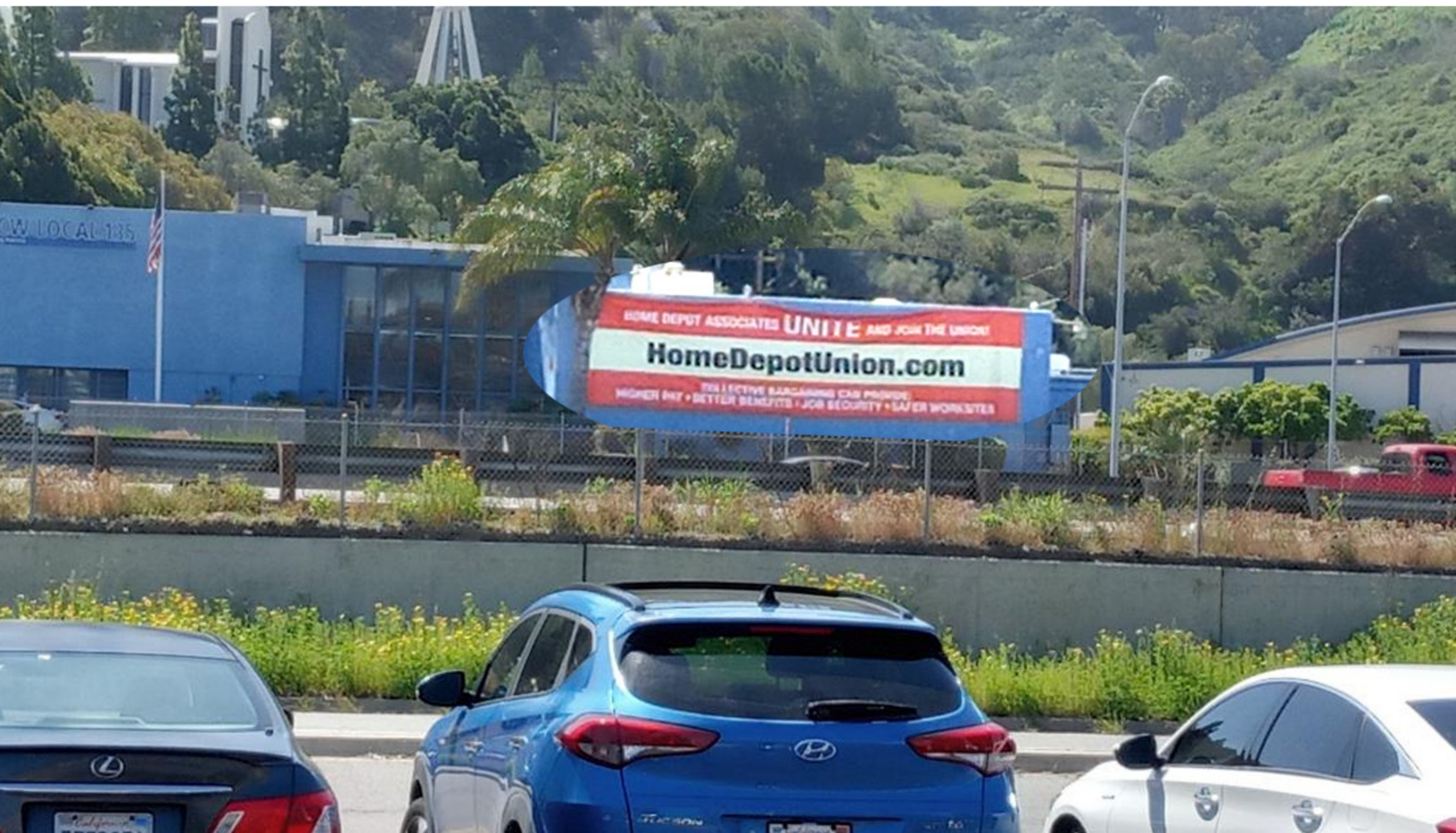
Paid to Uber

Customer 1	\$5.63	▼
Service Fee	\$5.63	
Customer 2	\$7.46	▼
Service Fee	\$7.46	
Total	\$13.09	

First Teamsters at Home Depot | 2019.11.09

<https://teamster.org/2019/11/first-teamsters-home-depot/>

In an important victory, a unit of 60 Home Depot drivers recently joined the Local 287 in San Diego. They are the first Home Depot employees to join the union. These drivers have faced an uphill battle the last several years while the company they worked for changed hands several times before ultimately being bought by Home Depot more than a year ago.



Lowe's Home Improvement

Located in: Fenton Marketplace

2318 Northside Dr, San Diego, CA 92108



<https://youtu.be/TPD6e6g9pgE>

Credit: Jonisa Padernos via Storyful



That's emotions, mama!



<https://youtu.be/TPD6e6g9pgE>

Credit: Jonisa Padernos via Storyful



**And then, we feel better
after we cry.**

Exit full screen (f)

<https://youtu.be/TPD6e6g9pgE>

Credit: Jonisa Padernos via Storyful

**Even when I was that mad,
you still love me that much?**



2:15 / 2:28



<https://youtu.be/TPD6e6g9pgE>

Credit: Jonisa Padernos via Storyful



Of course! Always.

Play (k)



2:18 / 2:28



<https://youtu.be/TPD6e6g9pgE>

Credit: Jonisa Padernos via Storyful



Of course! Always.

<https://youtu.be/TPD6e6g9pgE>

Credit: Jonisa Padernos via Storyful



I love you too!

Exit full screen (f)



Katie Melua & Eva Cassidy - Somewhere Over The Rainbow



<https://youtu.be/ZemnaIkhAN8?t=130>

American singer Eva Cassidy died in 1996 at the young age of 33 of skin cancer.

*"Even though she had an extraordinary voice, Eva shunned the spotlight.
Eva was the antithesis of a pop music diva."*



2:34 / 9:25



Eva Cassidy: Timeless Voice



https://youtu.be/aDN_ss1S_5Y

"Eva Cassidy was a gigging musician from Washington DC, playing bars, small rooms ... never having much success . . ."



SUBSCRIBE

0:24 / 58:05

Katie Melua & Eva Cassidy - Somewhere Over The Rainbow



<https://youtu.be/ZemnaIkhAN8?t=130>

From the amateur video alone you can see that Eva's performance style was to feel, to deep feel. The duet with Katie truly is other worldly. Transcendental beauty.



Eva Cassidy: Timeless Voice



https://youtu.be/aDN_ss1S_5Y

*"What I love about Eva's voice is that it's so undone,
it's a beautiful brokenness."*



SUBSCRIBE



2:48 / 58:05

To paint or not to paint? That is the question that many homeowners are facing as their dreams for perfect turf are battered – whether it's from inflation pushing pricier lawn care options out of reach, or droughts leading to water shortages. Increasingly, many are turning in the spreader for the paint can, opting, according to a report in *The Wall Street Journal*, for shades of green with names like "Fairway" and "Perennial Rye."

Where does this yen for turning the outside of the house into a trim green carpet come from? Some years ago, I decided to investigate and the result was my book "American Green: The Obsessive Quest for the Perfect Lawn." What I found was that lawns extend far back in American history. Former presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson had lawns, but these were not perfect greenswards. It turns out that the ideal of perfect turf – a weed-free, supergreen monoculture – is a recent phenomenon.



Why more and more Americans are painting their lawns

Ted Steinberg, *Case Western Reserve University*

What is new, however, is that the recent interest in painting the lawn is taking place in a context in which a more pluralistic vision of the yard has taken root. People fed up with corporate-dominated lawn care are turning back the clock and cultivating their yards with clover, a plant that is resistant to drought and provides nutrients to the lawn, to boot. And so the clover lawn has been making a comeback, with videos on TikTok tagged #cloverlawn boasting 78 million views. Together, the return of grass painting with the resurgent interest in clover lawns suggests that the ideal of the resource-intensive perfect lawn is an ecological conceit that the country may no longer be able to afford.

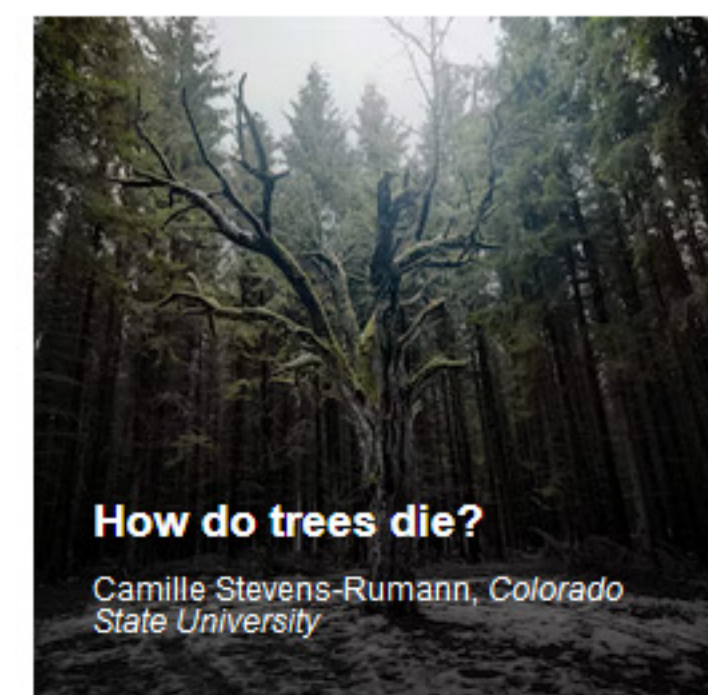
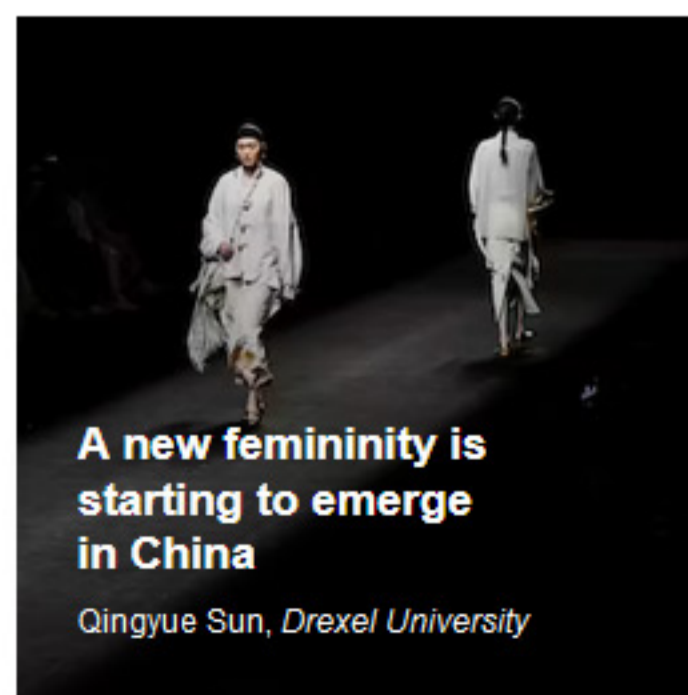
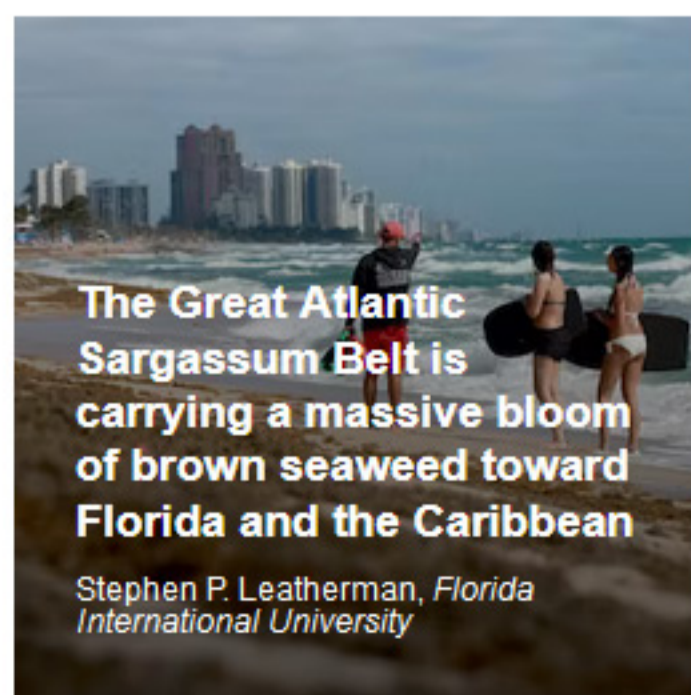
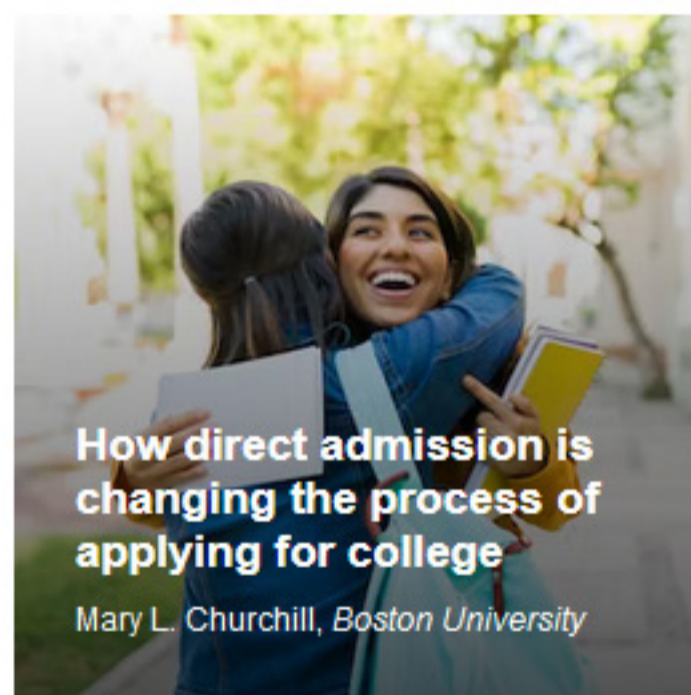
With **direct admission**, this fear of rejection is removed because qualified students receive an acceptance letter from a college without needing to apply.

Importantly, a subgroup of study participants, the 21- to 30-year-olds, was almost two times more likely to drop weaker ties across the political divide due to disagreements. In other words, people were self-segregating, and younger people, in particular, were **distancing themselves from exposure to people who were different from them**.

As an assistant professor of practice in social work and the executive director of the nonprofit Coalition of **Black Social Workers**, I felt it was necessary to assess how Black social workers were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and heightened racial tensions.

China's economic success has enabled it to emerge as a major player in the global beauty market, and the country's own beauty industry is starting to **redefine the concept of feminine beauty**.

The death of a tree is not exactly what it seems, because it directly leads to new life.

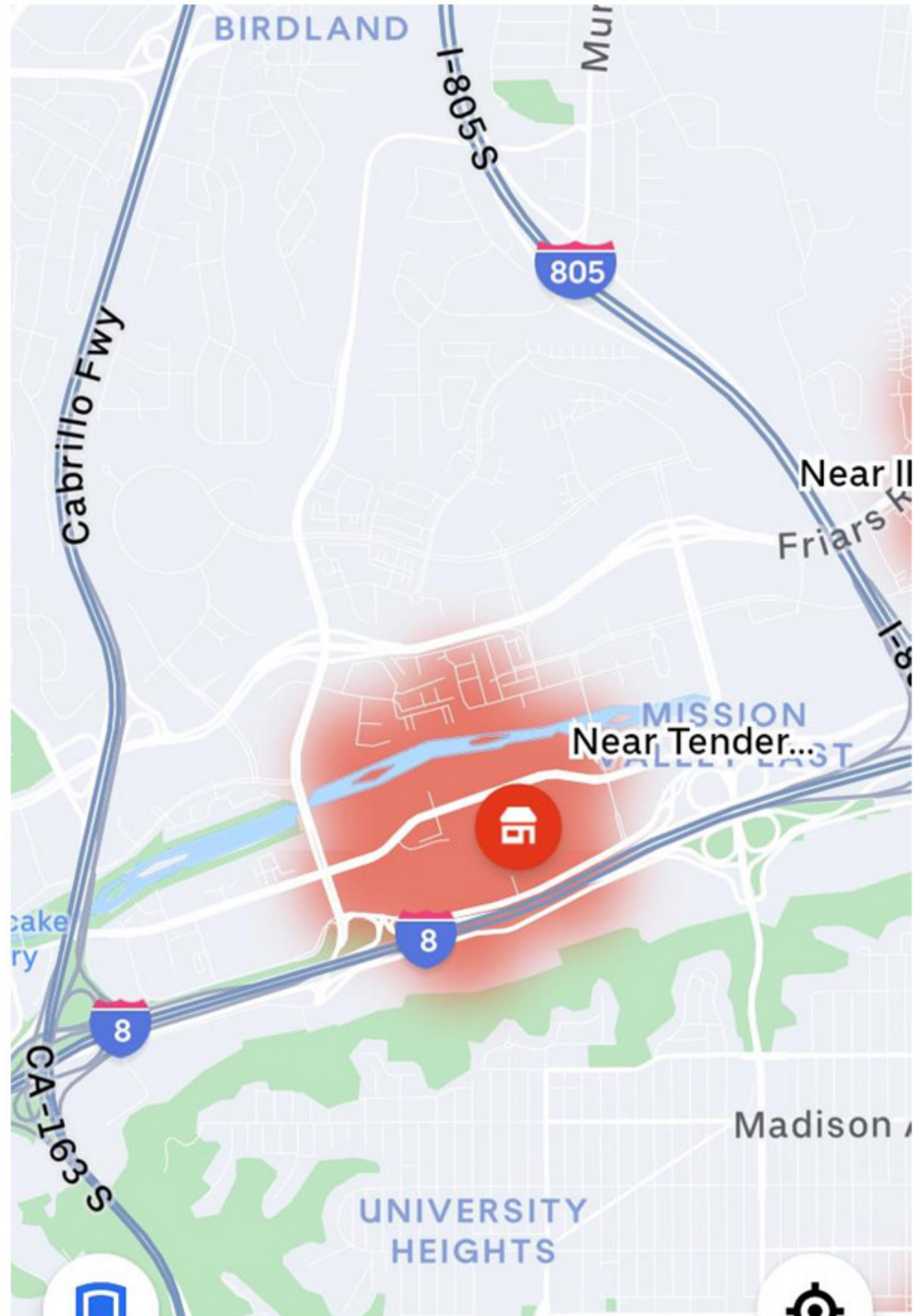
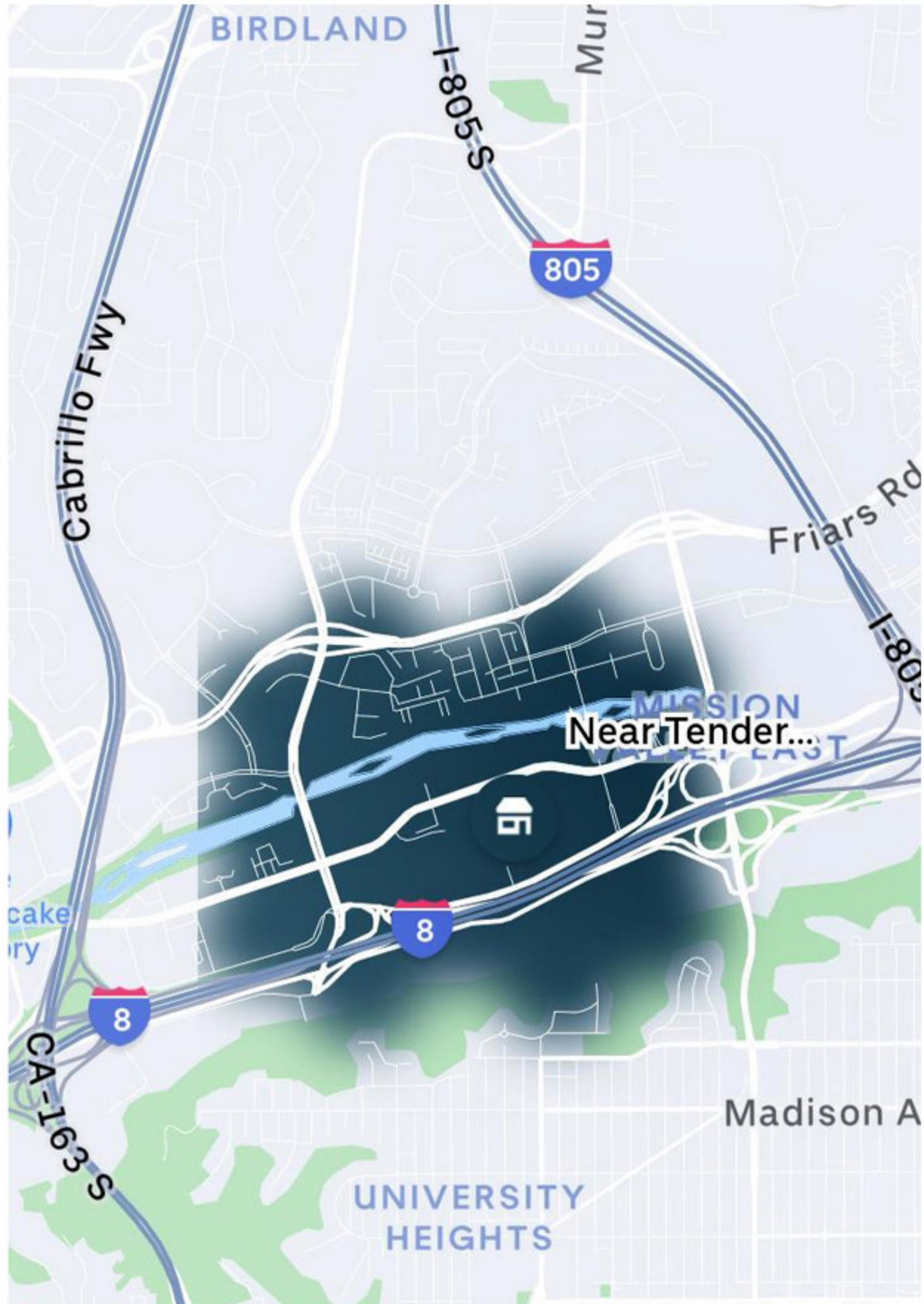




MIDDLE EAST

**He says U.S. troops
abused him in Iraq's
Abu Ghraib and his life
is still ruined**

Editor's note: This story contains descriptions and images of abuse.



The complex monochromatic map can be both aesthetically pleasing and functionally useless.



Roberto's Taco Shop Hillcrest
*Enduring counter-serve chain restaurant
with a menu of down-home Mexican plates.*
420 Robinson Ave UNIT F, San Diego, CA 92103



Westfield Mission Valley Shopping Mall

1640 Camino Del Rio North, San Diego, CA 92108-1506

{

Are most street pills laced with fentanyl?

The DEA alert in November 2022 warned that six out of ten fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl. > <https://www.dea.gov/alert/dea-reports-widespread-threat-fentanyl-mixed-xylazine> | "This clandestinely produced fentanyl is 100 times more potent than the legitimate medication," Barara Carreno, a public affairs officer with the US administration, writes in an email. > <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3761004/>

}


It's Up to Us (up2sd.org) is an ad campaign developed through the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency in support of the County's Live Well San Diego vision to promote safe, healthy, and thriving communities.

"**Fentanyl** is being found more and more often in illegal powders and counterfeit pills (pills you did not personally get from a pharmacist). It is often mixed into heroin, meth, and counterfeit pills. Learn more about how this specific synthetic opioid is fueling the latest wave of the country's opioid epidemic and is responsible for the rise in opioid overdose deaths in San Diego County, how to prevent an opioid overdose with naloxone, and how to start the conversation with the teens in your life about making safer choices."

> <https://up2sd.org/topics/substances>

Windows Updates > black screen of death: frozen



 << frozen

HEALTH

Biden administration says fentanyl-xylazine cocktail is a deadly national threat



The White House says drug deaths linked to a mix of synthetic drugs including fentanyl and xylazine — also known as tranq — are a major public health threat. The drug cocktail is spreading fast.

CLIMATE

The big reason why the U.S. is seeking the toughest-ever rules for vehicle emissions



NATIONAL



LAW

DA Bragg sues Jim Jordan, claiming 'an unconstitutional attempt to undermine' the case



The New York prosecutor who is pursuing criminal charges against former President Donald Trump says a GOP-led congressional panel is trying to interfere with his case. Now he's taking them to court.



Navy Media Content Services

NATIONAL SECURITY

A Navy ship named for a Confederate victory now honors a Black Union hero

MAIN CHARACTER OF THE DAY

Gen Z is the most pro union generation alive. Will they organize to reflect that?



A recent poll shows that public support for labor organizing is the highest it's been in decades. But union membership is at an all-time low. Will Gen Z bridge that gap?

CLIMATE

Federal officials say cuts to Colorado River water use are coming. Here's what that could mean



Record low levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell prompted the federal government to look at how it might impose cuts to keep hydropower



Be a Climate Warrior and ProduceGood



Watch later

Share

What are you doing to combat climate change? We have diverted over 700 TONS of edible food from the landfill, while providing nutritious produce to the 1 in 4 San Diegans struggling with food insecurity.

Join Dominique in being a climate warrior! EVERY day is EARTH DAY at ProduceGood. Donate today!

DONATE



Watch on YouTube

Why We ProduceGood

Did you know that 40% of all US food goes to waste and that 1 in 3 San Diegans is food insecure? By sourcing and harvesting the excess bounty in the county and creating access for those in need, we are solving the problem of hunger and waste in one sweet step.

How We ProduceGood

With the help of our volunteers, each week we connect the source of excess produce with the need for food. With multiple events, 52 weeks a year, we have lots of opportunities to ProduceGood in San Diego County. Learn more about our programs here:



GleanQueen

1,288 Tweets



GleanQueen

@ProduceGood

By harvesting the extra bounty of San Diego county and delivering to those in need, we are solving the problem of hunger and waste while building community.

San Diego County producegood.volunteerhub.com/vv2/

Joined September 2014

353 Following 360 Followers



GleanQueen @ProduceGood · Mar 22

Did you know that San Diego County has over 5,000 small farms, more than any other county in the U.S.? Small farms in S.D. are special since they are specially designed to make the most of high-cost resources by growing crops that thrive in limited space!

#knowyourfood #eatlocal



1 3 72

Funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) through California Climate Investments





Wooded grasslands flourished in Africa 21 million years ago – new research forces a rethink of ape evolution

Laura M. MacLatchy, *University of Michigan*; Dan Peppe, *Baylor University*, and Kieran McNulty, *University of Minnesota*

An ape that lived 21 million years ago was used to a habitat that was both grassy and wooded. Corbin Rainbolt

Human evolution is tightly connected to the environment and landscape of Africa, where our ancestors first emerged. According to the traditional scientific narrative, Africa was once a verdant idyll of vast forests stretching from coast to coast. In these lush habitats, around 21 million years ago, the earliest ancestors of apes and humans first evolved traits – including upright posture – that distinguished them from their monkey cousins. But then, the story went, global climates cooled and dried, and forests began to shrink. By about 10 million years ago, grasses and shrubs that were better able to tolerate the increasingly dry conditions started to take over eastern Africa, replacing forests. The earliest hominins, our distant ancestors, ventured out of the forest remnants that had been home onto the grass-covered savanna. The idea was that this new ecosystem pushed a radical change for our lineage: We became bipedal. For a long time, researchers have linked the expansion of grasslands in Africa to the evolution of numerous human traits, including walking on two legs, using tools and hunting. Despite the prominence of this theory, mounting evidence from paleontological and paleoclimatological research undermines it. In two recent papers, our multidisciplinary team of Kenyan, Ugandan, European and American scientists concluded that it is time finally to discard this version of the evolutionary story. A decade ago, we began what, at the time, was a unique experiment in paleoanthropology: Several independent research teams joined together to build a regional perspective on the evolution and diversification of early apes. The project, dubbed REACHE, short for Research on Eastern African Catarrhine and Hominoid Evolution, was based on the premise that conclusions drawn from evidence across many locations would be more powerful than interpretations from individual fossil sites. We wondered whether previous researchers had missed the forest for the trees. [...] Regarding human origins, our study adds to a growing body of evidence that our divergence from apes – in anatomy, ecology, behavior – cannot be simply explained by the appearance of grassland habitats. Nevertheless, we cautiously remind ourselves that hominin evolution unfolded over many millions of years. It is almost certain that the vast and majestic grasslands of Africa played an important role in some of the many steps along the path to becoming human.



Corbin Rainbolt

4,101 Tweets



Corbin Rainbolt

@CorbinRainbolt

I draw all things extinct! Currently working as a museum artist in Kansas City. You can contact me at rainboltpaleo@gmail.com

Artist [rainboltpaleoart.com](https://www.rainboltpaleoart.com) Joined November 2015

1,078 Following 26.9K Followers

“Earlham gave me a space to explore what I wanted to do with artwork. My art minor had a lot of requirements that made me step outside of my comfort zone and try out new mediums.”

— Corbin Rainbolt, Class of 2020



Corbin Rainbolt

Paleoartist



Corbin Rainbolt (@CorbinRainbolt) · Twitter

I went ahead and deleted my last tweet, I think we're all pretty aware of how AI is making things tough for artists right now and I don't know if me dwelling on the doom and gloom of it all is helpful at the moment

Twitter · 2 days ago



Hi #PortfolioDay! I mostly draw dinosaurs and other extinct animals

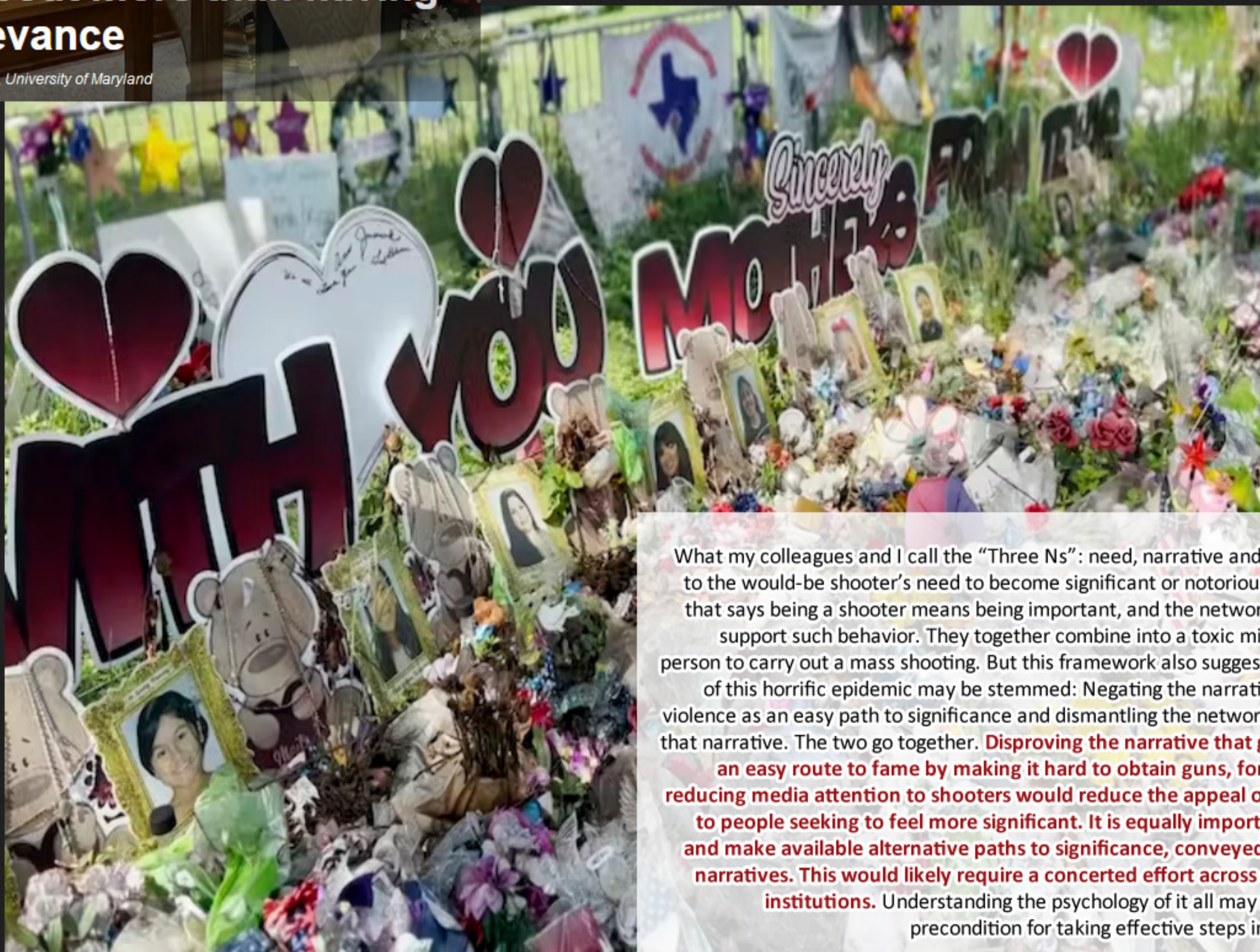
Twitter · 3 days ago



Why do mass shooters kill? It's about more than having a grievance

Arie Kruglanski, University of Maryland

Perhaps surprisingly, the general motive that drives mass shootings is a fundamental human need. It is everyone's quest for significance and a feeling that their life matters.



What my colleagues and I call the “Three Ns”: need, narrative and network, refer to the would-be shooter’s need to become significant or notorious, the narrative that says being a shooter means being important, and the network that exists to support such behavior. They together combine into a toxic mixture, driving a person to carry out a mass shooting. But this framework also suggests how the tide of this horrific epidemic may be stemmed: Negating the narrative that depicts violence as an easy path to significance and dismantling the networks that support that narrative. The two go together. **Disproving the narrative that gun violence is an easy route to fame by making it hard to obtain guns, for instance, and reducing media attention to shooters would reduce the appeal of gun violence to people seeking to feel more significant. It is equally important to identify and make available alternative paths to significance, conveyed in alternative narratives. This would likely require a concerted effort across society and its institutions.** Understanding the psychology of it all may be a necessary precondition for taking effective steps in this direction.

LAW

Why New Mexico has one of the highest rates for killings by police

April 14, 2023 · 5:03 AM ET

By Jaclyn Diaz



Police work outside of a home in Albuquerque, N.M., on Feb. 23. Critics say problems with training are attributed to higher levels of police killings in New Mexico.

Susan Montoya Bryan/AP

Home to about 2.1 million people, New Mexico has one of the highest rates of police killings per capita in the country. Last year, 32 people — around 15 people per million — were killed by police in the state, according to data from MappingPoliceViolence.org. The project is part of Campaign Zero, a nonprofit focused on policing reform.

<https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

<https://campaignzero.org/about/what-we-do/>

Tracking the full scope of police use of force is a bit of a black hole

Understanding the full scope of fatal use of force by police nationwide is difficult.

"The interesting part about all of that is when you look at what's happening [in New Mexico], that's just what we know about. That's not even what we don't know," said Texas Southern's Henderson.

Many data sources on police use of force rely on voluntary reporting from the nation's more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies. And the federal database on police use of force has had very low participation from various agencies.



LAW

Police statements tell the first version of an incident. Then video footage comes out

In New Mexico, a study found that "more than one-quarter of the people killed by police in the state were not included in official counts over the last four decades," Source New Mexico reported in 2021.

Ahranjani said, "I think there are instances [of police violence] that happen every day to people that don't go report it."

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Here's what really happened during the abortion drug's approval 23 years ago

A Texas judge ruled that the Food and Drug Administration wrongly approved mifepristone in 2000 and accused it of doing a rush job. Here's what really went down.



Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

HEALTH

Why the pharmaceutical industry is alarmed over court actions against the abortion pill

As the debate over mifepristone makes its way to the Supreme Court, the pharmaceutical industry has raised concerns that ruling against the FDA could chill the development of new drugs.



Charlie Riedel/AP

Mifepristone's approval has been questioned before

This isn't the first time there have been allegations that the FDA bungled the approval of mifepristone, which was known as RU-486 early on. For example, there was a House hearing about mifepristone in 2006.

"There are people who have wanted RU-486 to be pulled off the market since the day it was approved," then-Rep. Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, said at the time. "In fact, they didn't want it to be approved. I respect their judgment because they are very strongly against an abortion, whether it be by RU-486 or by a medical procedure. But that is not the issue of safety and it is not an issue of science and it is not an issue of data."

Republican senators requested a Government Accountability Office review of the approval that was published in 2008. Researchers found that mifepristone's approval and oversight were in line with the other eight drugs approved with similar subpart H safety requirements. "If there is a problem with this medicine then there's a problem with many, many other medicines," Sharfstein says. "Because this is very much in line with what FDA does and has the full support of the medical community."

With the future of a commonly used abortion medication on its way to the Supreme Court, the pharmaceutical industry has escalated its warnings: If court orders to limit or undo the Food and Drug Administration's approval of mifepristone are allowed to stand, industry executives and law experts say, the effects could reach far beyond abortion. **The industry says the FDA should make the decisions, not judges:** Ultimately, it may be the threat of a single judge's ability to vacate an FDA approval that has most galvanized the industry, said Ameet Sarpatwari, the assistant director of the program on regulation, therapeutics and law at Harvard Medical School. "Industry members are wondering, well, if a judge can do that, what else can't a judge, perhaps with an ax to grind, do?" he said in an interview with NPR's Morning Edition before the appeals court ruled. Bringing new drugs to market is already expensive and time-consuming. To research and develop a new medical product can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and years of clinical trials. Add to that the risk of litigation — and the possibility that an FDA approval could be revoked in part or in whole at any time by a judge — then companies may decide it's not worth the risk of financial loss to invest in drugs that could be seen as politically controversial, like gender-affirming medical care, contraception or drugs that protect against sexually transmitted disease. Take vaccines as an example, said Allison Whelan, a law professor at Georgia State University. "This is essentially saying, 'Here is a way that you could stop these vaccines that you disagree with,' not for safety and efficacy reasons, but for other reasons," she said. Left unchecked, such litigation could even become a competitive tool, Whelan said. A rival manufacturer could keep a competitor's product off the market "simply by disagreeing with the FDA's decisions about a drug and then hauling them to court to tie it up in litigation," she said. The Supreme Court has not yet indicated if it will intervene. Even if it does, a decision could take months to issue. Beyond their public statements, Harvard's Sarpatwari said he expected the pharmaceutical industry to be aggressive in lobbying Congress and taking other measures to preserve the FDA approval process. "I think that all cards are on the table in terms of what industry may do," he said.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China vows not to sell arms to any party in Ukraine war

3 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here's why the downpour in Fort Lauderdale just wouldn't stop

6 hours ago

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine stands firm on Crimea, wants Russia out of all areas

Yesterday



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NPR quits Elon Musk's Twitter over 'government-funded' label

2 days ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pitcher criticizes MLB teams for extending alcohol sales

3 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

US, Ukraine say many war secrets safe from intel leaks

2 days ago



Biden ends COVID national emergency after Congress acts

By ZEKE MILLER April 10, 2023



FILE - President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology in the State Dining Room of the White House on April 4, 2023, in Washington. The U.S. national emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic ended Monday, April 10, as Biden signed a bipartisan congressional resolution to bring it to a close after three years — weeks before it was set to expire alongside a separate public health emergency. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

CINCINNATI (AP) — A pitcher with the Philadelphia Phillies is criticizing some Major League Baseball teams for extending alcohol sales with games running around 30 minutes shorter due to the sport's new pitch clock. **Matt Strahm** said Thursday on the Baseball Isn't Boring podcast that teams should be moving the cutoff for beer sales up to the sixth inning, rather than stretching to the eighth or later, since **fans will have less time to sober up and drive home.**

PROPUBLICA

Harlan Crow Bought Property from Clarence Thomas. The Justice Didn't Disclose the Deal.

18 hours ago



The Guardian

'He feels unstoppable': DeSantis plans to export his chilling immigration policies to the nation

2 hours ago



npr

Long COVID risk likely lower from a second infection than a first, stud...

3 hours ago



SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

A Number System Invented by Inuit Schoolchildren Will Make Its Silicon Valley Debut

4 days ago



FT FINANCIAL TIMES

Beijing chooses targets carefully as it goes on offensive in US chip wars

5 days ago



KY3

Allergies season worsening in the Ozarks; Experts share one secret...

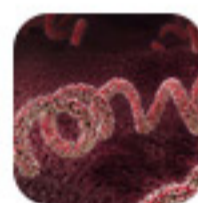
15 hours ago



LIVESCIENCE

As syphilis levels hit 70-year high, sexually transmitted infection...

21 hours ago



Reuters.com

U.S. Supreme Court won't halt \$6 billion student debt settlement

13 hours ago



In the remote Arctic almost 30 years ago, a group of Inuit middle school students and their teacher invented the Western Hemisphere's first new number system in more than a century. The "Kaktovik numerals," named after the Alaskan village where they were created, looked utterly different from decimal system numerals and functioned differently, too. But they were uniquely suited for quick, visual arithmetic using the traditional Inuit oral counting system, and they swiftly spread throughout the region. Now, with support from Silicon Valley, they will soon be available on smartphones and computers—creating a bridge for the Kaktovik numerals to cross into the digital realm.

China announcing an investigation on national security grounds into Idaho-based memory chip manufacturer Micron Technology.

New chip instructions could hasten the arrival of quantum computers and self-driving cars.

The transaction is the first known instance of money flowing from Harlan Crow to the Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas. The sale netted the GOP mega-donor two vacant lots and the house where Thomas' mother was living.

WASHINGTON, April 13 (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday refused to halt a legal settlement that would erase more than \$6 billion in debt owed by former students of colleges - many of them for-profit institutions - who have said they were misled by schools about academics and job prospects.



Joan Baez: Singing with Justin Jones, Traveling with Dr. King



Apr 12, 2023, Folk music icon Joan Baez tells Stephen about bumping into Tennessee law-maker Justin Jones in the airport, her days as a friend and traveling companion to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

- 7:33 us feel as though we can do this
- 7:34 together and I'm thinking you know
- 7:37 possibly that these **Tennessee three** can
- 7:41 literally start something that'll grow
- 7:44 you know that'll grow for real and

Joan Baez



Baez in 2016

Background information

Birth name	Joan Chandos Baez
Born	January 9, 1941 (age 82) Staten Island, New York, U.S.
Genres	Folk · folk rock · Americana · country folk · gospel · Latin
Occupation(s)	Singer · songwriter · musician · activist

Justin Jones



After the March 2023 mass shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, Jones joined a protest alongside Gloria Johnson and Justin J. Pearson for gun control reform that disrupted House proceedings at the state capitol. He was removed from his committees as a result. Jones, Johnson and Pearson became known as "The Tennessee Three". On April 5, 2023, Rep. Jones filed a police report after he was allegedly assaulted on the House floor by Rep. Justin Lafferty. The Tennessee House voted on April 6, 2023, to expel Jones, alongside Pearson, who are both black. Johnson, who is white, survived the vote. The resolution, HR 65, was sponsored by Bud Hulse and co-sponsored by Gino Bulso, Andrew Farmer, and Johnny Garrett; it passed with a vote of 72–25.

The Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County set a meeting to discuss an interim appointment to the vacant District 52 on April 10. Jones was reinstated to his seat by a unanimous vote of 36–0.

Member of the Tennessee House of Representatives from the 52nd district



- 2:32 [Music]
- 2:37 around turn me around ain't gonna let
- 2:42 nobody turn me around Keep On Walking
- 2:47 keep on talking marching up to Freedom

<https://theconversation.com/effective-altruism-has-caught-on-with-billionaire-donors-but-is-the-worlds-most-headline-making-one-on-board-199471>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cari_Tuna

Open Philanthropy is a research and grantmaking foundation that makes grants based on the doctrine of *effective altruism*. It was founded as a partnership between GiveWell and Good Ventures. Its current co-chief executive officers are Holden Karnofsky and Alexander Berger, and its main funders are Cari Tuna and Dustin Moskovitz. Dustin says that their wealth, worth \$11 billion, is "pooled up around us right now, but it belongs to the world. We intend not to have much when we die."

Effective altruism is a philosophical and social movement that advocates "using evidence and reason to figure out how to benefit others as much as possible, and taking action on that basis". People who pursue the goals of effective altruism, called effective altruists, often choose careers based on the amount of good that they expect the career to achieve or donate to charities based on the goal of maximising impact. The movement developed during the 2000s, and the name effective altruism was coined in 2011. Prominent philosophers influential to the movement include Peter Singer, Toby Ord, and William MacAskill. Several books and many articles about the movement have since been published, and the Effective Altruism Global conference has been held since 2013. Billions of dollars have been committed based on effective altruistic principles, by philanthropists who include Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz. Prior to late 2022, a major funder was Sam Bankman-Fried, founder of the cryptocurrency exchange FTX, though its bankruptcy has since been a source of controversy and criticism of the movement.

Good Ventures plans to spend out the majority of its money before the death of Moskovitz and Tuna. Most of the money for the foundation comes from the stock Moskovitz obtained as a Facebook and Asana co-founder. The organization has a publicly available grants database on its website. Good Ventures LLC invests in for-profits related to human health and well-being, and donates earnings to the Good Ventures Foundation. Its investments include *Vicarious*, a company working in artificial intelligence. [*Vicarious* was an artificial intelligence company based in the San Francisco Bay Area, California. They use the theorized computational principles of the brain to attempt to build software that can think and learn like a human. Vicarious describes its technology as "a turnkey robotics solution integrator using artificial intelligence to automate tasks too complex and versatile for traditional automations". *Alphabet Inc* acquired the company in 2022 for an undisclosed amount.]



Effective altruism philosopher William MacAskill gives a TED Talk in Vancouver in 2018. Lawrence Sumulong/Getty Images

... "longtermism" and "effective altruism," ideas promoted by Oxford philosopher William MacAskill and several billionaire donors, such as Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz and his wife, former reporter Cari Tuna. The effective altruism movement guides people toward doing the most good they can with their resources, and Musk has claimed that MacAskill's philosophy echoes his own.

The greatest good: Effective altruism is strongly related to the ethical theory of utilitarianism, particularly the work of the Australian philosopher Peter Singer.

Anyone who cares about doing the most good they can should have an interest in creating the right kinds of future, rather than just getting us to any old future.

Cari Tuna



Tuna in 2016

Born	Minnesota, U.S.
Education	Signature School Yale University (BA)
Occupation	Nonprofit businessperson
Known for	Co-founding Open Philanthropy and Good Ventures
Spouse	Dustin Moskovitz (m. 2013)

Peter Singer (born 6 July 1946) is an Australian moral philosopher and Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. He specialises in applied ethics, approaching the subject from a secular, utilitarian perspective. He wrote the book *Animal Liberation* (1975), in which he argues for veganism, and the essay "Famine, Affluence, and Morality", which favours donating to help the global poor. For most of his career, he was a *preference utilitarian* (distinct from original utilitarianism in that it values actions that fulfill the most personal interests, as opposed to actions that generate the most pleasure), but he revealed in *The Point of View of the Universe* (2014) that he had become a hedonistic utilitarian (the theory that the right action is the one that produces (or is most likely to produce) the greatest net happiness for all concerned).

Against longtermism: by Émile P Torres > *It started as a fringe philosophical theory about humanity's future. It's now richly funded and increasingly dangerous*

[...] over the past two decades, a small group of theorists mostly based in Oxford have been busy working out the details of a new moral worldview called longtermism, which emphasizes how our actions affect the very long-term future of the universe – thousands, millions, billions, and even trillions of years from now. This has roots in the work of Nick Bostrom, who founded the grandiosely named Future of Humanity Institute (FHI) in 2005, and Nick Beckstead, a research associate at FHI and a programme officer at Open Philanthropy. Longtermism is the primary research focus of both the Global Priorities Institute (GPI), an FHI-linked organisation directed by Hilary Greaves, and the Forethought Foundation, run by William MacAskill, who also holds positions at FHI and GPI. One of the main 'cause areas' of the so-called effective altruism (EA) movement, which was introduced by Ord in around 2011 and now boasts of having a mind-boggling \$46 billion in committed funding. It is difficult to overstate how influential longtermism has become. Karl Marx in 1845 declared that the point of philosophy isn't merely to interpret the world but change it, and this is exactly what longtermists have been doing, with extraordinary success. Consider that Elon Musk, who has cited and endorsed Bostrom's work, has donated \$1.5 million dollars to FHI through its sister organisation, the even more grandiosely named Future of Life Institute (FLI). This was cofounded by a multimillionaire tech entrepreneur who doesn't believe that climate change poses an 'existential risk' to humanity because of his adherence to the longtermist ideology. Meanwhile, the billionaire libertarian and Donald Trump supporter Peter Thiel has donated large sums of money to the Machine Intelligence Research Institute, whose mission to save humanity from superintelligent machines is deeply intertwined with longtermist values. The point is that longtermism might be one of the most influential ideologies that few people outside of elite universities and Silicon Valley have ever heard about. I believe this needs to change because, as a former longtermist who published an entire book four years ago in defence of the general idea, I have come to see this worldview as quite possibly the most dangerous secular belief system in the world today. But to understand the nature of the beast, we need to first dissect it, examining its anatomical features and physiological functions.



Effective altruism philosopher William MacAskill gives a TED Talk in Vancouver in 2018. Lawrence Sumulong/Getty Images

Longtermism is an ethical stance which gives priority to improving the long-term future. It is an important concept in effective altruism and serves as a primary motivation for efforts that claim to reduce existential risks to humanity.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longtermism>

William MacAskill: **Longtermism** is the view that we should be doing much more to protect future generations. **Longtermism** is based on the ideas that future people have moral worth, there could be very large numbers of future people, and that what we do today can affect how well or poorly their lives go. Let's take these points one at a time. *First*, future people have moral worth. Just because people are born in the future does not make their experiences any less real or important. To illustrate this, we can put ourselves in our ancestors' shoes and ask whether they would have been right to consider people today morally irrelevant by mere fact of not having yet been born. Another way to look at this is through considering our ability to harm future people. For instance, consider how we store nuclear waste. We do not simply set it out in the desert without further precautions, because it will start to leak in several centuries. Instead, we carefully store it and mark it for future generations, because we recognize that it would be wrong to cause future people foreseeable harm. *Second*, there could be very large numbers of future people. Humanity might last for a very long time. If we last as long as the typical mammalian species, it would mean there are hundreds of thousands of years ahead of us. If history were a novel, we may be living on its very first page. Barring catastrophe, the vast majority of people who will ever live have not been born yet. These people could have stunningly good lives, or incredibly bad ones. *Third*, what we do today can affect the lives of future people in the long run. Some might argue that it is hard or impossible to predict the future, so that even if future people are morally important and even if there will be many of them, we cannot predictably benefit them beyond a hundred years time. However, while it is difficult to foresee the long-run effects of many actions, there are some things that we can predict. For example, if humanity suffered some catastrophe that caused it to go extinct we can predict how that would affect future people: there wouldn't be any. This is why a particular focus of longtermism has been on existential risks: risks that threaten the destruction of humanity's long-term potential. Risks that have been highlighted by longtermist researchers include those from advanced artificial intelligence, engineered pathogens, nuclear war, extreme climate change, and global totalitarianism. Besides mitigating existential risks, we can also predictably shape the long-term future by changing the trajectory of humanity in a persistent way, like through changing what it values.

William MacAskill has a book on longtermism called ***What We Owe The Future*** which was published in August and September 2022.



Patterns of segregation may repeat if parents continually choose schools like the ones they attended.

Parents tend to choose their children's schools based on their own educational experience

Published: April 14, 2023 8.16am EDT

Anna Rhodes, Julia Szabo, Rice University



Anna Rhodes
Assistant Professor of Sociology,
Rice University



Julia Szabo
PhD Candidate in Sociology, Rice
University

Julia Szabo Retweeted

RiceSociology @RiceSociology · Mar 6

New pub from Rice Soc Prof @anna_rhodes1 and PhD candidate @juliaccszabo, with @siriw! How parents' schooling experiences shape school choices for their children.



The big idea

Faced with a growing number of options for where to enroll their children in school, parents quickly narrow their choices based on their own educational experience as students. That's what we found for a study published in March 2023 in Social Currents. Historically, parents have turned to their social networks and materials produced by school districts to help them choose a school for their children. However, when we analyzed interviews with a diverse sample of 60 parents from the Dallas metropolitan area, we found that about one-third of them used their own experiences in school to narrow their options before they gathered other information about schools.

If parents had a positive educational experience as children, they frequently narrowed their options to the same type of school that they attended, whether that be a private, magnet or traditional public school. Their hope was to replicate this positive experience for their kids. For example, Janice, a Black mother of two, explained, ***"They're in private school mainly because I went to private school."***

Although parents of all backgrounds and income levels used this strategy, it was most common among white parents, who typically enrolled their children in private or suburban public schools, which they attended themselves. We refer to this as "experience-motivated replication."



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Fear of pregnancy: One teen's story in post-Roe America

In a state that bans abortion, anxiety about rape and getting pregnant drove this teen to start on birth control, though she's not having sex.

For Juliet, "the birth control gives me a sense of security, but it gives me really bad side effects – it makes me feel really depressed and it makes me feel really anxious," she says. It also changes her appetite for about a week after she gets it, and her periods have stopped. For Juliet, being on birth control is worth it for the sense of protection it gives her. "Obviously, it's easier for me to be really depressed for one week than to have a baby," she says. "I don't have to worry about it as much – I don't have to think about it as much."

Paige Vickers for NPR

Scholastic wanted to license **Maggie Tokuda-Hall's** 2022 children's book *Love in the Library*. The deal would draw a wider audience to her book — a love story set in a World War II incarceration camp for Japanese Americans and inspired by her grandparents, about the improbable joy found "in a place



built to make people feel like they weren't human." The publisher's only suggested edit was to the author's note: Scholastic had crossed out a key section that references "the deeply American tradition of racism" to describe the tale's real-life historical backdrop — a time when the U.S. government forcibly relocated more than 120,000 Japanese Americans to dozens of internment sites from 1942-1945. Scholastic gave its reasons for the suggested change in an email to the author and her original publisher, Candlewick Press, citing a "politically sensitive" moment for its market and a worry that the section "goes beyond what some teachers are willing to cover with the kids in their elementary classrooms."

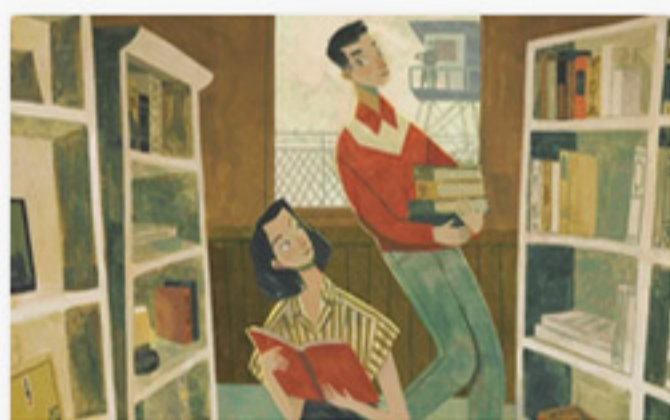
PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron's unpopular plan to raise **France's retirement age** from 62 to 64 was enacted into law Saturday, the day after the country's constitutional body approved the change. The nine-member council's decision capped months of tumultuous debates in parliament and fervor in the streets. Spontaneous demonstrations took place in Paris and across the country after the ruling.

... whether we call them **whistleblowers or traitors**, whether we consider their actions conscientious or unconscionable, the people who decide on their own to share such material have often altered the course of events. Among those who rose to the defense of both Manning and Snowden was Ellsberg himself, now an aging icon of the political left and still the most famous whistleblower in U.S. history. The current case has introduced a 21-year-old named Jack Teixeira to the world.



NATIONAL

How the Boston Marathon bombings changed Twitter, media and how we process tragedy



BOOKS

Scholastic wanted to license her children's book — if she cut a part about 'racism'



EUROPE

Macron's unpopular plan to raise France's retirement age is enacted into law



POLITICS

The latest saga of revealed U.S. secrets stirs memories of past legendary leaks



YOUR MONEY

A \$7,500 tax credit for electric cars changed, again. These are the models impacted



YOUR MONEY

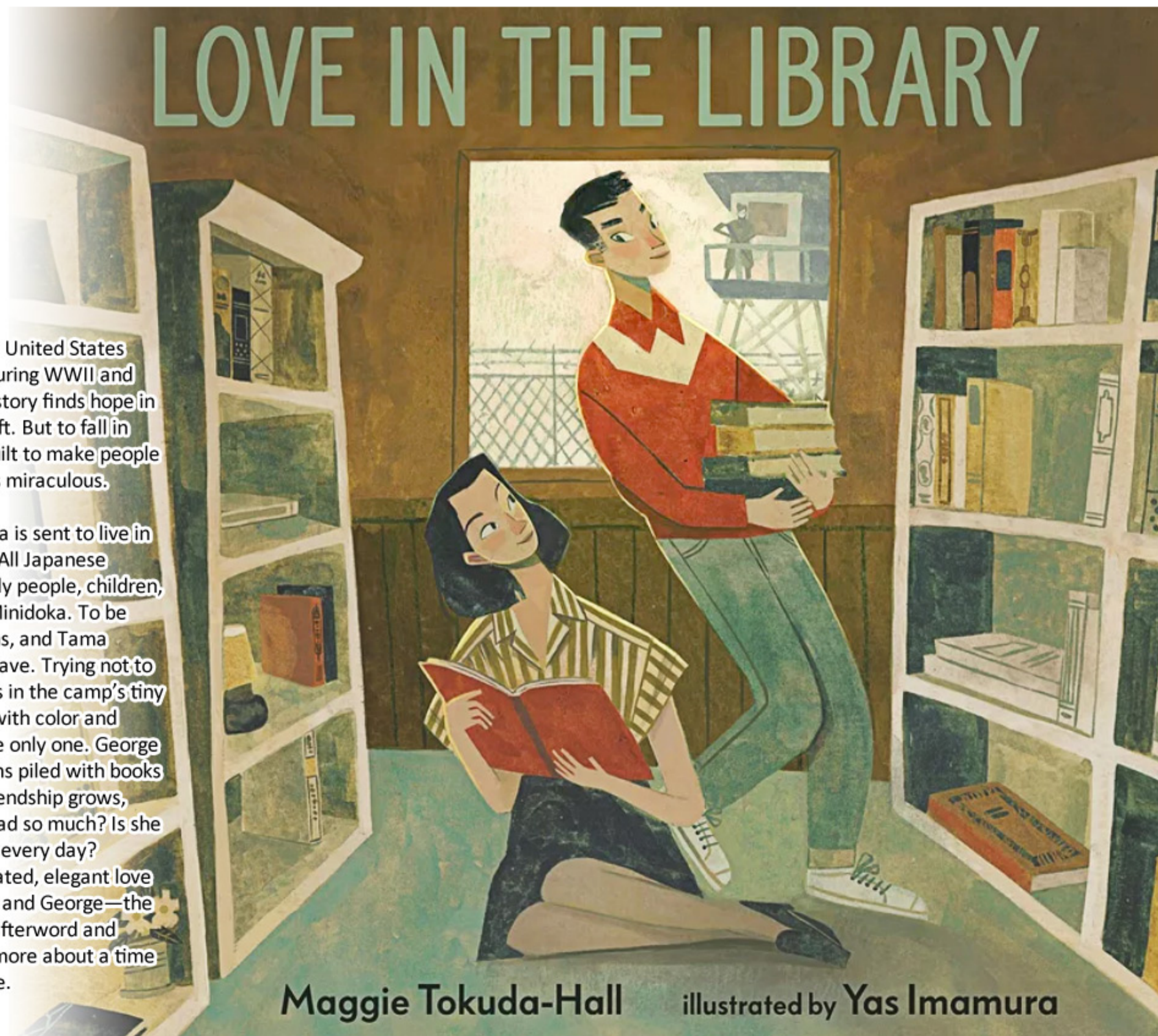
The tax deadline is days away. So far, refunds are 10% smaller than last year



Maggie Tokuda-Hall is the author *Also an Octopus*, illustrated by Benji Davies, *The Mermaid*, *The Witch and The Sea*, *Squad*, illustrated by Lisa Sterle, and *Love in the Library* illustrated by Yas Imamura with more books forthcoming. She lives in Oakland, California with her husband, son, and objectively perfect dog. She has a BA in Studio Art from Scripps College, and an MFA in Writing from University of San Francisco.

Set in an incarceration camp where the United States cruelly detained Japanese Americans during WWII and based on true events, this moving love story finds hope in heartbreak. To fall in love is already a gift. But to fall in love in a place like Minidoka, a place built to make people feel like they weren't human—that was miraculous.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tama is sent to live in a War Relocation Center in the desert. All Japanese Americans from the West Coast—elderly people, children, babies—now live in prison camps like Minidoka. To be who she is has become a crime, it seems, and Tama doesn't know when or if she will ever leave. Trying not to think of the life she once had, she works in the camp's tiny library, taking solace in pages bursting with color and light, love and fairness. And she isn't the only one. George waits each morning by the door, his arms piled with books checked out the day before. As their friendship grows, Tama wonders: Can anyone possibly read so much? Is she the reason George comes to the library every day? Maggie Tokuda-Hall's beautifully illustrated, elegant love story features a photo of the real Tama and George—the author's grandparents—along with an afterword and other back matter for readers to learn more about a time in our history that continues to resonate.



Maggie Tokuda-Hall

illustrated by **Yas Imamura**



Polish government bans grain and food imports from Ukraine

31 minutes ago



The modern Republican party is hurtling towards fascism

2 hours ago • Opinion



Alien motherships: Pentagon official floats a theory for unexplained sightings

17 hours ago



The End of Faking It in Silicon Valley

4 hours ago



U.S.-China Trade War Over Technology Heats Up; What It Means For Apple, Micron, Tesla | Investor's Business Daily

16 hours ago



Active tuberculosis reported at Oxnard Amazon facility

20 hours ago



WARSAW, April 15 (Reuters) - The Polish government has decided to ban imports of grain and other food from Ukraine to protect the **Polish agricultural sector**, the leader of the ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS), Jaroslaw Kaczyński, said on Saturday. Large quantities of Ukrainian grains, which are cheaper than those produced in the European Union, have ended up staying in Central European states amid logistical bottlenecks, hitting prices and sales for local farmers.

Opinion: US news

The modern Republican party is hurtling towards fascism

Robert Reich

We are witnessing the logical culmination of win-at-any-cost politics – and Donald Trump has encouraged it.

America no longer has two parties devoted to a democratic system of self-government. We have a Democratic party, which – notwithstanding a few glaring counter-examples, such as what the Democratic National Committee did to Bernie Sanders in 2016 – is still largely committed to democracy. And we have a Republican party, which is careening at high velocity toward authoritarianism. OK, fascism.

The official in charge of a secretive Pentagon effort to investigate unexplained aerial incursions has co-authored an academic paper that presents an out-of-this-world theory: Recent objects could actually be **alien probes** from a mothership sent to study Earth. In a draft paper dated March 7, Sean Kirkpatrick, head of the Pentagon’s All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, and Harvard professor Avi Loeb teamed up to write that the objects, which appear to defy all physics, could be “probes” from an extraterrestrial “parent craft.”

A worker at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Oxnard has been diagnosed with **active tuberculosis**, and though scores of people were possibly exposed to the disease, Ventura County Public Health said the general populace is safe. Another case of active tuberculosis was reported in a Riverside County child on Thursday. The unidentified student at Raymond Cree Middle School in Palm Springs was briefly hospitalized, then allowed to continue recovery at home.



What percentage of carbon dioxide is present in the atmosphere?

Doug LaMalfa: ". . . the answer is .04 percent, not one percent, not a half of a percent, it's point zero four percent. It's gone up from point zero three over the last couple decades. This is what we're being all contorted into doing is this tiny change in CO2. If we go if we get below 0.02 plant life starts dying off . . ."

'What Percent Of Our Atmosphere Is CO2?': Doug LaMalfa Stumps Entire Panel With Climate Questions

Forbes Breakin...
1.69M subscribers

37K | Dislike | Share | ...

1,208,505 views Apr 11, 2023

Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) questioned witnesses at a House Transportation Committee about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act late last month.

Doug LaMalfa



**Member of the
U.S. House of Representatives
from California's 1st district**

Incumbent

Assumed office
January 3, 2013

Personal details

Born	Douglas Lee LaMalfa ^[1] July 2, 1960 (age 62) Oroville, California, U.S.
Political party	Republican
Spouse	Jill LaMalfa
Children	4
Residence(s)	Richvale, California, U.S.
Education	Butte College California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Website	House website ↗

Balance Between CO2 and Warming Means Life or Death for Trees

By Chelsea Harvey,
November 28, 2019
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/balance-between-co2-and-warming-means-life-or-death-for-trees/>

The question of whether CO2 gives forests a boost or heat stresses them may depend on how quickly temperatures rise.

Douglas Lee LaMalfa (born July 2, 1960) is an American politician serving as the U.S. representative for California's 1st congressional district since 2013. A member of the Republican Party, his district, formerly the second-largest in the state after the 8th, covers nearly all of interior Northern California, including Chico, Redding, and Susanville.

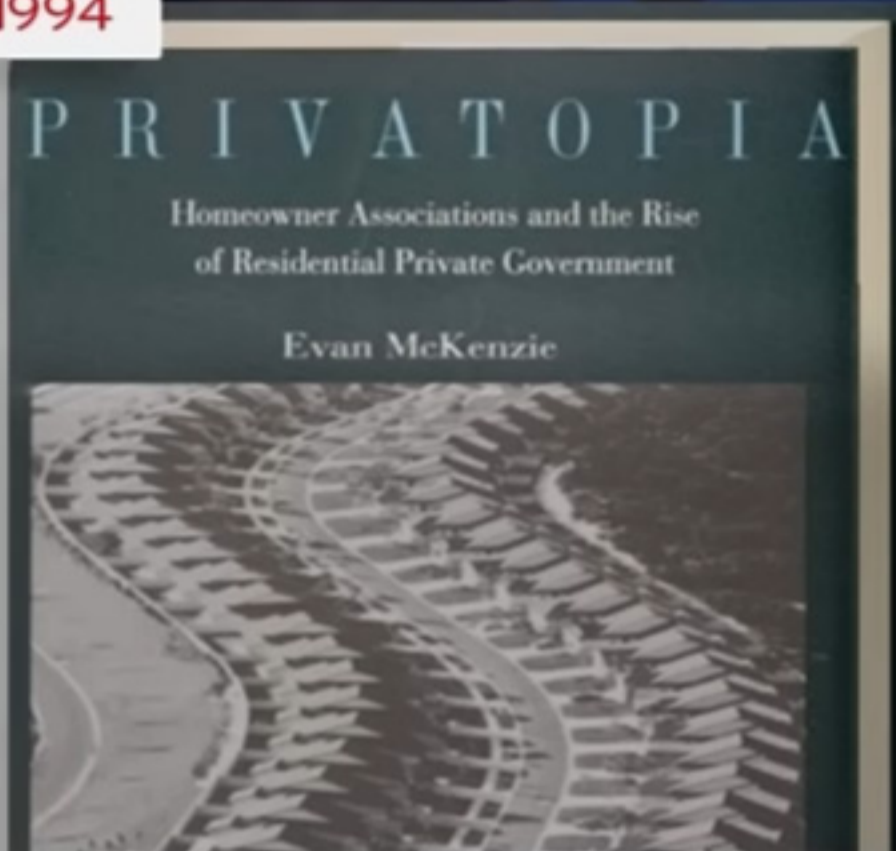
LaMalfa is a fourth-generation rice farmer and lifelong Northern California resident. He graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor's degree in agricultural business.

LaMalfa is married to Jill LaMalfa. They have three children. LaMalfa commutes weekly from California to Washington, D.C. He is an owner and manager of the DSL LaMalfa Family Partnership, which owns and operates the family rice farm in Richvale, California. LaMalfa employs a farm manager who runs the farm while he is in Washington. LaMalfa has donated over \$100,000 to his own campaigns and other Republican Party causes and candidates. As of 2018, he has a net worth of nearly \$3.5 million

<https://youtu.be/qrizmAo170s>

John Oliver discusses homeowners associations, the surprising power they have, and **how to tell if a tree is “tree-shaped.”**

1994



“... ‘the most significant privatization of local government responsibilities in recent times.’”

Play (k)



9:37 / 25:27



Military violence in Myanmar is worsening amid fierce resistance and international ambivalence

Tharaphi Than, Northern Illinois University

In the early days of a brutal 2021 military crackdown on anti-coup protesters in Myanmar, members of the nascent resistance movement began asking “how many dead bodies” it would take for the world community to act. More than two years on from a coup that installed military rule in the Southeast Asian country, pro-democracy protesters say they have yet to receive an adequate answer.

Beware the tiger's tail

A well-known Myanmar phrase warns against the dangers of “catching hold of a tiger's tail” – once you do so there is no turning back; let go and you will be killed. It aptly sums up the position now for Myanmar's military rulers and the resistance fighters being drawn deeper into conflict with each atrocity. They are fighting for the past, present and the future and can't let go now.

As a scholar on Myanmar's history, I would argue that the escalating violence can be attributed to two main factors, one internal and one external: a miscalculation by the military over the resistance of Myanmar's people, and ambivalence from the international community.

Burma is no closer to democracy

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2010/nov/08/burma-no-closer-democracy>

We were betrayed in 1990 and this election, too, holds slim chance of change. Burma's best hope is still Aung San Suu Kyi

Mon 8 Nov 2010 > This article is more than 12 years old

Military violence in Myanmar is



Dr. Tharaphi Than is an Associate Professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Northern Illinois University. Her first book, *Women in Modern Burma*, covers the political and social history of women in Burma/Myanmar. She is currently working on two manuscripts: feminism in Myanmar and the cultural production of dissent.

As a scholar on Myanmar's history, I would argue that the escalating violence can be attributed to two main factors: one internal and one external: a miscalculation by the military over the resistance of Myanmar's people, and ambivalence from the international community.

tharaphithan @tharaphithan · 7h



theconversation.com
Military violence in Myanmar is worsening amid fierce resistance and international ambivalence

tharaphithan @tharaphithan · Sep 29, 2022

Myanmar is still in a civil war. People fighting the Burmese army have set their own agendas, the top one being getting rid of the SAC. Intl' leaders, by ignoring our fight, will learn they can't shove their own agendas down our throats including the negotiation w/ the SAC.



tharaphithan @tharaphithan · Jul 26, 2022

Top democracy activists were executed in Myanmar – 4 key things to know



theconversation.com
Top democracy activists were executed in Myanmar – 4 key things to know

tharaphithan @tharaphithan · Jul 1, 2022

Violence has been normalised. terror on children's faces no longer provokes sympathy, refugee has become an easily spoken term, apathy a daily practice. Who is there for Karen children running away from aerial bombings near Laykekaw? We have failed them again.



Women in Modern Burma (Routledge Studies in the Modern History of Asia) by Tharaphi Than



Dr. Tharaphi Than is an Associate Professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Northern Illinois University. Her first book, *Women in Modern Burma*, covers the political and social history of women in Burma/Myanmar. She is currently working on two manuscripts: feminism in Myanmar and the cultural production of dissent.

What is the role of women in Myanmar?

Traditionally, a woman in Myanmar is responsible for her family's well-being, while the husband earns the income for the household.

Women's rights in Myanmar - Wikipedia >
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_rights_in_Myanmar

As a scholar on Myanmar's history, I would argue that the escalating violence can be attributed to two main factors: one internal and one external: a miscalculation by the military over the resistance of Myanmar's people, and ambivalence from the international community.



WOMEN IN MODERN BURMA

Tharaphi Than



Copyrighted Material

This book challenges the popular notion that Burmese women are powerful and are granted equal rights as men by society. Throughout history Burmese women have been represented as powerful and as having equal status to men by western travellers and scholars alike. National history about women also follows this conjecture. This book explains why actually very few powerful Burmese women exist, and how these few women help construct the notion of the high status of Burmese women, thereby inevitably silencing the majority of 'unequal' and disempowered women. One of the underlying questions throughout this book is why a few powerful women feel compelled to defend the notion that women hold privileged positions in Burmese society. Combining historical archives with statistical data published by UN agencies, this book highlights the reality of women's status in modern Burma. Case studies include why the first Burmese women's army was disbanded a few months after its establishment; how women writers assessed the conditions of Burmese women and represented their contemporaries in their works; the current state of prostitution; how modern-day sex-workers are trying to find their voice; and how women fared vis-à-vis men in education.

Women living in Myanmar continue to face barriers to equality. After forty years of isolation, myths about the state of women's rights in Myanmar (Burma) were centered around the conception that Burmese women face less gender discrimination and have more rights than women in surrounding Southeast Asian nations. After Myanmar opened its borders in 2010, gender discrimination began to be seen by the international community. Currently, a variety of organizations--both domestic and international--strive to educate people that this is a misconception to better make strides towards protecting women's rights in Myanmar.

A Burmese woman with a child



What is the role of women in Myanmar?

Traditionally, a woman in Myanmar is responsible for her family's well-being, while the husband earns the income for the household.

Sudan's civil war : A brutal regime persists in a distracted world

By Eric Reeves, International Herald Tribune

April 2, 2003

How should the United States and the international community respond to a brutal, despotic regime in an Arab country, one with clear ties to international terrorism? And what if this regime, located in one of the world's most volatile regions, has honed its ruthlessly survivalist instincts for years, and in the process developed weapons of mass destruction? And what if the regime possesses great oil wealth, rendering its moral character invisible to those bent on further exploitation of promising oil reserves and the pursuit of petrodollars? And if this regime is also a threat to its neighbors, reneges on various internationally brokered commitments, and regularly attacks its own citizens in ways that violate the Geneva conventions, how should we respond?

These questions seem worth asking at the present moment since they have been answered in such starkly different fashion for Iraq and Sudan. While Iraq is presently enduring a punishing and spectacularly visible military assault, the government of Sudan is on the verge of being quietly rewarded at the UN's annual Human Rights Convention in Geneva with a human rights "upgrade." Previously an "Item 9" nation (a category indicating "countries with special problems"), Khartoum's National Islamic Front seems on the verge of enjoying a new and relatively untroubling status ("Item 19"). This essentially absolves the regime of responsibility for its egregious and ongoing human rights violations. Indeed, it makes the regime eligible for new UN funding.

Most notably, there will no longer be a UN special rapporteur for human rights in Sudan. The last three such special rapporteurs (from Hungary, Argentina, and Germany) have done a superb job of highlighting the nature of Khartoum's human rights abuses and the direct connection to devastating oil development in the south of the country. Their annual reports have been one of the few means by which Sudan's agony, its savagely destructive 20-year civil war, has been kept before the eyes of the international community. Now the international community seems prepared to say it has seen and heard enough, and there will be no further mandate for a special rapporteur in Sudan.



ERIC REEVES
woodturner
Project Responding to Sexual Violence in Darfur

Eric Reeves
@sudanreeves

Sudan researcher/analyst for 24+ yrs Fellow, Rift Valley Institute; author of "Compromising with Evil"; co-chair, Project Responding to Sexual Violence in Sudan

Northampton, MA ericreeves-woodturner.com/blog

Eric Reeves Retweeted

Justin Lynch @just1lynch · 20h

"Sudan's international partners, who have failed to hold military leaders to account for abuses since the coup and beyond, need to take a prompt and concrete response" -@MoOsman88

hrw.org
Sudan: Fighting Erupts Between Armed Forces

16 33 6,104

There are significant differences between the Baghdad and Khartoum regimes, but all show that the situation in Sudan is more serious.

Saddam has been responsible for the deaths of a great many of his own countrymen, especially non-Arab Kurds. But whatever the number may be, it is dwarfed by the numbers in Sudan: over 2 million have been killed in the war, overwhelmingly non-Arab civilians in the south. Many people have been displaced at various times in Iraq, but Sudan has by far the world's greatest population of internally displaced persons, estimated at over 4 million.

Sudan's civil war : A brutal regime persists in a distracted world

Top stories :

AP AP News

Sudan's army and rival force battle, killing at least 56

13 hours ago

AP AP News

Dozens killed as army, rivals battle for control of Sudan

4 hours ago

AP AP News

https://apnews.com/hub/sudan

Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A dispute between Sudan's military and a paramilitary group again forced the delay of signing a deal with politicians to restore the

There are significant differences between the Khartoum regimes, but all show that the situation in Sudan is possible for the deaths of a great many of his own countrymen, especially non-Arab Kurds. But whatever the number may be, it is dwarfed by the numbers in Sudan: over 2 million have been killed in the war, overwhelmingly non-Arab civilians in the south. Many people have been displaced at various times in Iraq, but Sudan has by far the world's greatest population of internally displaced persons, estimated at over 4 million.



The Hill Dozens killed as army, rivals battle for control of Sudan

4 hours ago

AP AP News Sudan's military warns of conflict after rival force deploys

3 days ago

hrw.org Sudan: Fighting Erupts Between Armed Forces

16 5,104

More news →



Military Factions Enhance Their Power Amid Spreading Violence

Sudan continues to face intersecting political and economic challenges in 2022, coinciding with increased violence involving paramilitary forces in peripheral areas as well as ongoing anti-government demonstrations in Khartoum. Violence intensified in the peripheries during the first half of the year, especially in Darfur and the disputed Abyei area, as did internal power struggles between elements of the army and paramilitary elites, such as Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti (Africa Confidential, 12 May 2022; Tubiana, 2022). Since the coup in October 2021, the military and paramilitary elite have struggled to maintain order as Sudan's economic free-fall and hunger crisis continue unabated (Radio Dabanga, 27 June 2022).

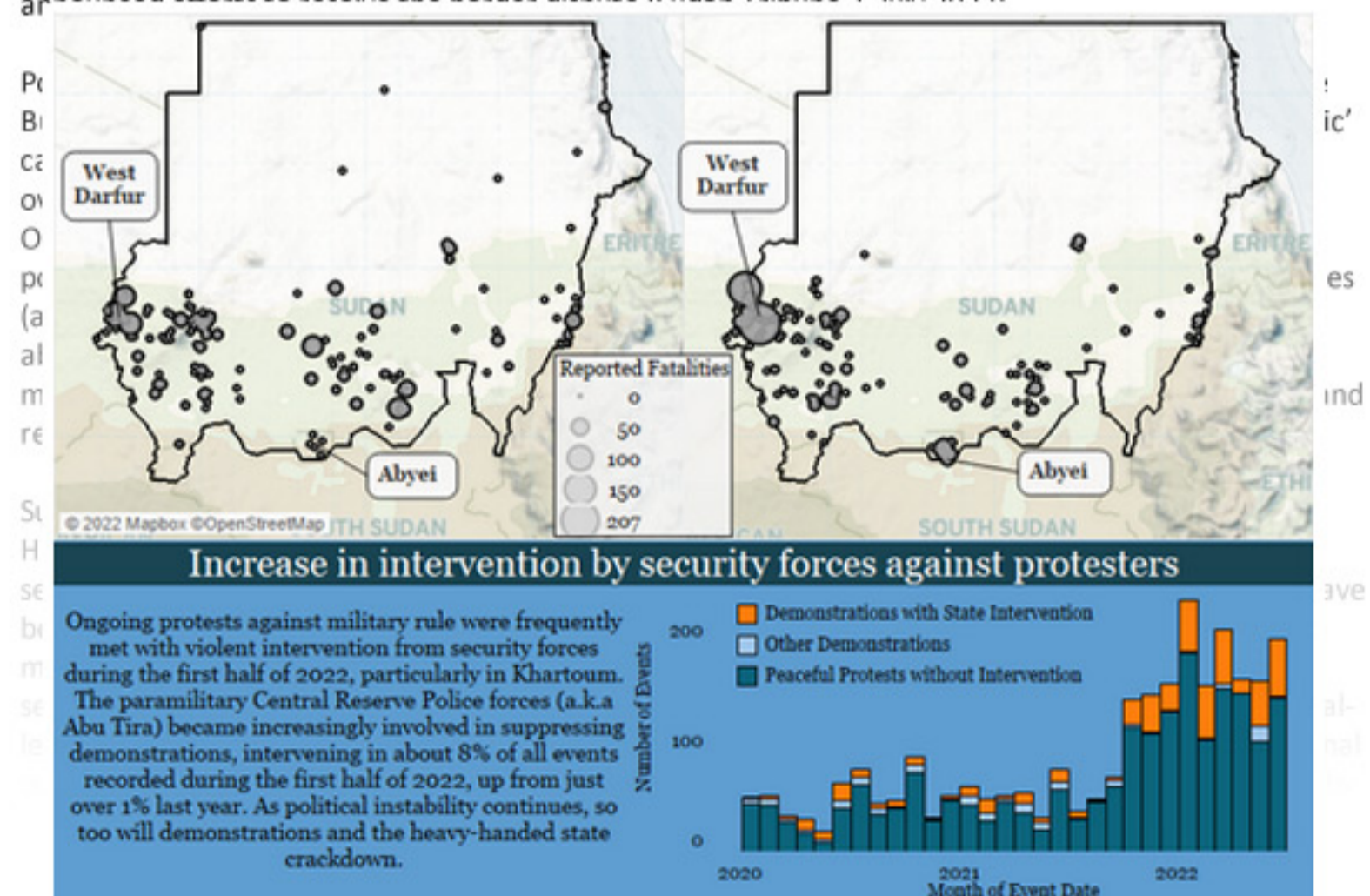
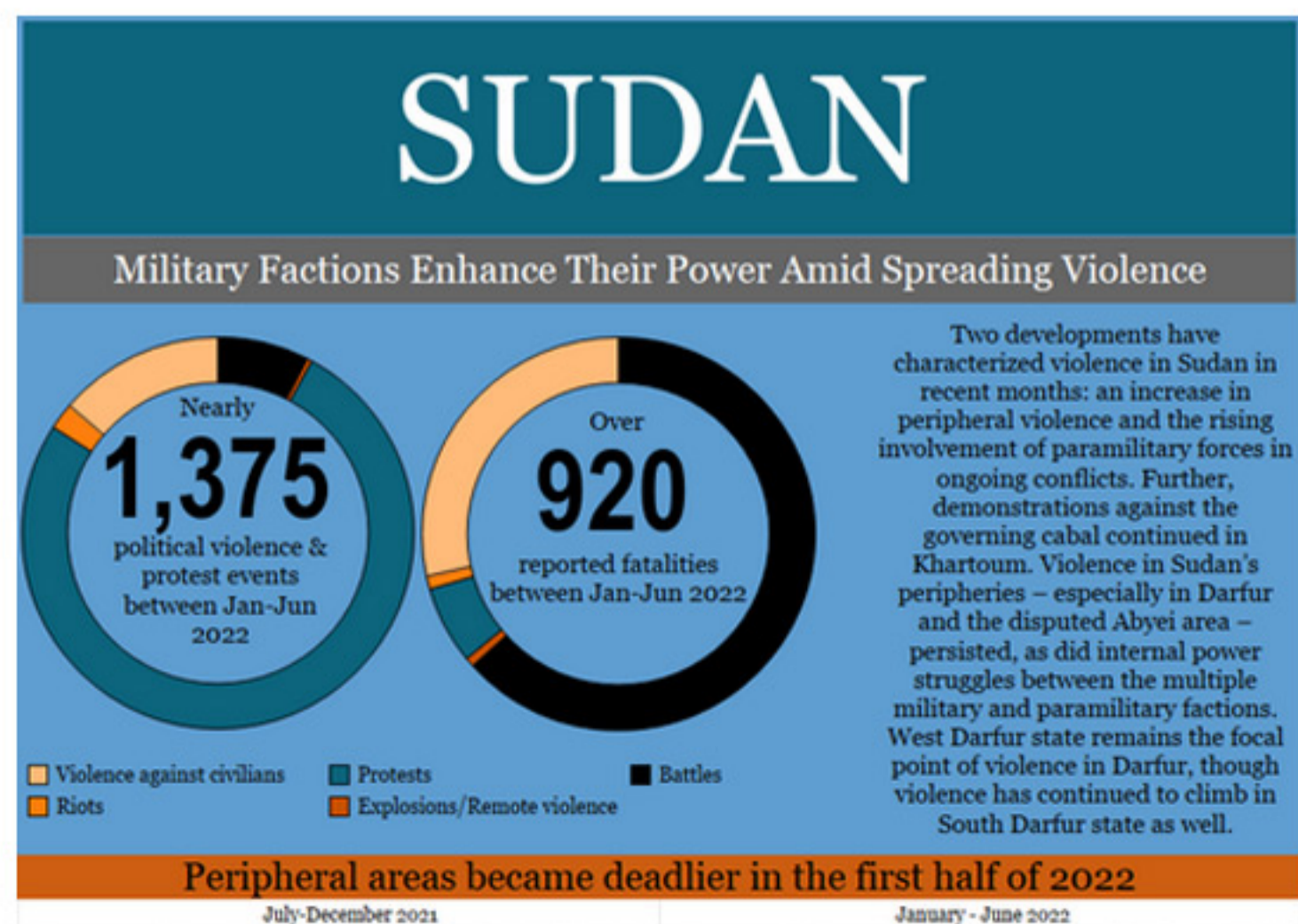
Demonstrations against military rule and the worsening economic outlook have compounded Sudan's political and economic gridlock. Despite domestic and international initiatives to resolve the political turmoil, leftist factions – including Resistance Committees and the Sudanese Communist Party – have refused to participate (United Nations Security Council, 2022), insisting that the military step down from power (Sudan Tribune, 11 May 2022). Demonstrations have escalated in the greater Khartoum area in 2022, where Resistance Committees made numerous attempts to organize marches to the Republican Palace. Security forces have often responded with violence and obstructed processions with barbed wire, concrete barriers, and shipping containers (The National, 25 December 2021). In the first six months of 2022, events where state forces used excessive force against protesters nearly tripled compared to the entirety of 2021. During this period, almost 50 demonstrators were reportedly killed by state forces. Amid the violence, Resistance Committees have declared that protests will continue, regardless of the negotiations between the military and more moderate political factions (Resistance Committees, 8 June 2022).

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLEDD) was created by Clionadh Raleigh, a Professor of Political Violence and Geography at the University of Sussex, in 2005 as a component of her PhD work.

The rise in political violence across provincial areas is most apparent in Abyei and Darfur, and more recently in Blue Nile. In Abyei, political violence events more than tripled in the first half of 2022 compared to all of last year, driven by reciprocal attacks between Misseriya and Ngok Dinka militias, with Ngok Dinka civilians bearing the brunt of the violence. In February, fighting also broke out between the Ngok Dinka and Twic Dinka from South Sudan, who have been clashing over a previously dormant territorial dispute (Ayin Network, 10 March 2022). These events have contributed to a sevenfold increase in fatalities in Abyei in the first half of 2022 compared to the entirety of 2021. More recently, in mid-July, heavy fighting between the Hausa and Berta1 ethnic groups broke out across multiple locations in Blue Nile state, killing at least 97 people and wounding over 100. The fighting followed escalating tensions and ethnic polarization over an attempt by the Hausa leader in Blue Nile to establish an emirate within the state (BBC News, 24 July 2022).

In Darfur, fighting has frequently involved Arab-identifying militias who are often supported by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) (People's Dispatch, 5 May 2022). In South Darfur, fighting resumed between Arab-identifying Rizeigat and Fulani (a.k.a. Fellata) pastoralist militias in late March, with fatality estimates ranging from dozens to hundreds. In West Darfur, conflict escalated in April when Rizeigat militias and Masalit militias clashed in Al Kereinik camp of West Darfur, resulting in over 200 fatalities. At least 126 people also reportedly died in early June during clashes between a Rizeigat pastoralist militia and the Qamar in Kulbus locality. Elsewhere, the monthly average number of battle events has slightly decreased across North, South, and West Kordofan states, despite ongoing tensions relating to the Juba Peace Agreement (Rift Valley Institute, 2022b: 4-5).

Meanwhile, renewed fighting broke out between Sudanese and Ethiopian forces over the disputed Al Fashaga region, despite indications earlier in the year of improving relations between the two countries. In June, Ethiopian forces killed Sudanese soldiers and a Sudanese civilian, leading to the Sudanese army attacking several Ethiopian outposts in the disputed area and seizing the stronghold of Barakhat (Radio Dabanga, 28 June 2022; Sudan Tribune, 28 June 2022). The following week, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with the Head of Sudan's Sovereign Council, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and announced efforts to resolve the border dispute (Sudan Tribune, 5 July 2022).



Clionadh Raleigh

<https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p320441-clionadh-raleigh>

Professor of Political Geography and Conflict (Geography), Professor of Political Geography and Conflict (International Development) School of Global Studies



Follow

Cliona Raleigh

@cliona_raleigh

President and CEO of @ACLEDFINFORM and Professor of Political Violence and Geography at the University of Sussex. Tweets on conflict patterns and codology.

[Acleddata.com](https://acleddata.com) Joined April 2020

553 Following 1,366 Followers

Pinned Tweet

Cliona Raleigh @cliona_raleigh · Oct 10, 2022

It is "very" important to recognize which biases are intentional, and why they occur in conflict data

nature.com/articles/s4159...

(by data creators and analysts-myself and @CaitrionaDowd @roudabehkishi @GTD_UMD @ACLEDFINFORM)

nature.com
An agenda for addressing bias in conflict data

8 16

Cliona Raleigh Retweeted

Ethiopia Peace Observator... @ACLED... · Apr 13

The latest #EPO update covers an increase in disorder events across Ethiopia last week, including demonstrations and clashes in Amhara connected to the government's plan to reintegrate regional special forces into the ENDF, federal police, or state police.



epo.acleddata.com
EPO Weekly: 1-7 April 2023 - Ethiopia Peace Observatory

Cliona Raleigh @cliona_raleigh · Apr 14

Brilliant resource

Long War Journal @LongWarJournal · Apr 14

Our infographic of Shabaab's leadership and key personnel in both #Somalia and #Kenya has been updated to include another senior official/ideologue of the group. [longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/...](https://longwarjournal.org/archives/2023/)



1 3 388

'Climate Violence?' with Prof Clionadh Raleigh



3,210 views Streamed live on May 11, 2017

Recent research purports that climate change is creating conflict, and leads to unchecked migration. But three distinct flaws characterise such research efforts; they often ask the wrong questions, present poor evidence, and remove references to other, more likely factors that cause conflict. It often gets translated into a perception that poor people act violently for 'natural' reasons, or are spurred by physical hazards. We all know that high climate vulnerability and conflict co-occur in the same general regions, but we know far less about what does shape the power and competition dynamics at the local level. Basically, who are the winners and losers of environmental change?

The reality from local research is that far more cooperation is occurring at the local level to mitigate and adapt to environmental challenges; and that a tremendous amount of development money is being directed towards adaptation and risk management. This changes the local calculus for violence. As a result, conflict, when and where it does occur, is often between the 'winners' from climate change, development and transitions to democracy.

NATIONAL

4 were killed and 28 injured in a shooting at a teen's birthday party in Alabama

The attack in the city of Dadeville came as people were gathering to celebrate a 16th birthday. Authorities have offered little information about a suspect, about the victims and about what happened.



Megan Varner/Getty Images

In 2015, Jamil Zaki's daughter, **Alma, was born. She suffered a stroke during her birth**, and was sent to the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. A rotating team of nurses and doctors cared for her around the clock.

Authorities in Oregon say a driver was **hurling cash out of his vehicle** on Tuesday, leaving the roadside reportedly littered with \$100 bills and prompting drivers in both directions to stop and collect the notes. 38-year-old Colin Davis McCarthy of Eugene explained his largesse by telling troopers that he wanted to "gift" the money — roughly \$200,000. Troopers asked McCarthy to stop throwing money onto the roadway because it was creating a traffic hazard, and he agreed. No criminal charges were being considered against him.

In South Texas, the commercial spaceflight company **SpaceX** is preparing to test a huge, stainless-steel rocket. The machine could one day carry humans to the moon, Mars and beyond. But first, it has to fly. The rocket is larger than any ever built. Success will depend upon dozens of engines, firing in perfect synchrony. *The stakes could not be higher*, at least to hear SpaceX CEO Elon Musk speak about the mission. **"Eventually the Sun will expand and destroy all life," Musk said**, standing before the giant rocket. "It is very important — essential in the long-term — that we become a multi-planet species."

Rose, then 15, had been in and out of the emergency department at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. But nothing had eased her **suicidal urges**. Finally, she was getting a treatment that was helping at Rogers Behavioral Health in Oconomowoc, Wis. But a little over two months into her stay, just as Rose was starting to feel better, the family's health insurance — Medical Mutual of Ohio — declined to cover any further treatment. [. . .] When Medical Mutual finally cut off coverage in November, 2020, Michael and Rochelle were faced with a tough choice. They could take their daughter home despite the treatment team saying she wouldn't be safe at home, or keep her in the program and pay out of pocket. They chose to pay \$1,000 per day to keep their daughter in the program. "Luckily we could do that," says Rochelle. "I'm imagining most people just go pick up their kid and try to figure it out at home." But in January, when they ran out of funds — Rose's stay at Rogers had cost them more than \$40,000 out-of-pocket — they "fast-forwarded her release," says Rochelle. Despite all the progress Rose had made in the program, the transition proved rough on her. "Two and a half weeks later, we're back in the emergency department," says Rochelle, because Rose had once again attempted suicide.



SPACE

SpaceX prepares to launch its mammoth rocket 'Starship'



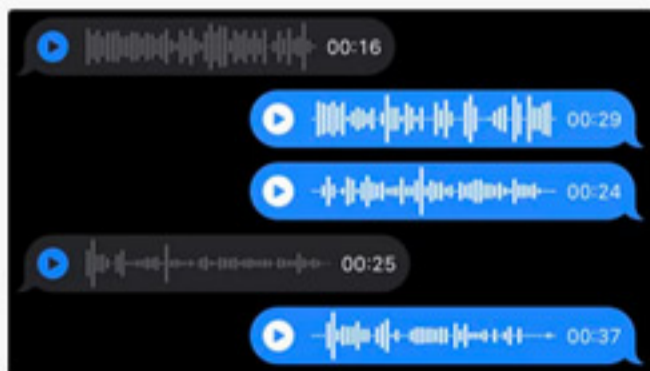
SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Teen with life-threatening depression finally found hope. Then insurance cut her off



NATIONAL

An Oregon man threw money from his car, littering a highway with \$100 bills



TECHNOLOGY

Are you getting more voice notes these days? You're not alone



TELEVISION

Netflix delayed the live reunion of 'Love is Blind', but didn't say why



MY UNSUNG HERO FROM HIDDEN BRAIN

Jamil was struggling after his daughter had a stroke. Then a doctor pulled up a chair

Jamil was struggling after his daughter had a stroke. Then a doctor pulled up a chair

April 17, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Laura Kwerel



Dr. Mark Petersen



In 2015, Jamil Zaki's daughter, **Alma, was born. She suffered a stroke during her birth**, and was sent to the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. A rotating team of nurses and doctors cared for her around the clock. Early one morning, at about 1am, a doctor came by to share some difficult news about her treatment plan. "And instead of just delivering the news compassionately and leaving, he just pulled up a chair," Zaki told Hidden Brain in 2021. The two men talked for about 90 minutes — a wide-ranging conversation in which the doctor told him about his own struggles as a new father, and shared his thoughts about parenthood. "It was as though he hit the pause button on this torrent of pain and anguish that we were feeling," Zaki recalled.

Sharing his story inspired Zaki to find that doctor — Mark Petersen, of the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in San Francisco. Recently, they connected over Zoom, and Zaki began by reflecting on what was going through his mind that day, years before, in the hospital. "I just felt like I couldn't control anything," Zaki told Petersen. "I was feeling this loss of autonomy, of agency. And then I just remember you not leaving." Petersen's honest conversation about the ups and downs of fatherhood reminded Zaki that he wasn't doing this alone. "Afterwards I stopped thinking about the suffering that we were going through and started thinking about, OK, well, what do we do for Alma next?" Zaki said.

Petersen told Zaki that their conversation in the hospital meant something to him, too. It allowed him to feel he was making a difference during one of the most vulnerable moments of someone's life. "It's an amazing feeling to be able to be part of that and help guide families through that," Petersen said. At that moment, **Zaki said he felt that they weren't just a doctor and a distraught patient — they were fathers.** "You stepped out from behind the white coat," Zaki told Petersen. "You were there for us. You were there for me. And I don't think that I could ever adequately thank you for that."

Petersen was touched by Zaki's gratitude. "We want to be there," Petersen told him. "That magic of being able to be there at the moment when someone's family starts is a very special thing."

G-7 diplomats reject Chinese, N. Korean, Russian aggression

By MATTHEW LEE and FOSTER KLUG

KARUIZAWA, Japan (AP) — Top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies vowed a tough stance on China's increasing threats to Taiwan and on North Korea's unchecked tests of long-range missiles, while building momentum on ways to boost support for Ukraine and punish Russia for its invasion. Russia's war in Ukraine consumed much of the agenda Monday for the envoys gathered in this Japanese hot spring resort town for talks meant to pave the way for action by G-7 leaders when they meet next month in Hiroshima. The world is at "turning point" on the fighting in Ukraine and must "firmly reject unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, and Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its threats of the use of nuclear weapons," Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told his colleagues, according to a Japanese summary.

G7 vows to step up moves to renewable energy, zero carbon

By ELAINE KURTENBACH yesterday

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — Energy and environment ministers of the Group of Seven wealthy nations vowed Sunday to work to hasten the shift toward cleaner, renewable energy, but set no timetable for phasing out coal-fired power plants as they wrapped up two days of talks in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo. The officials issued a 36-page communique laying out their commitments ahead of a G-7 summit in Hiroshima in May.

Climate envoy Kerry: No rolling back clean energy transition

By ELAINE KURTENBACH yesterday

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — So much has been invested in clean energy that there can be no rolling back of moves to end carbon emissions, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry said Sunday. Kerry noted that if countries deliver on promises to phase out polluting fossil fuels, the world can limit average global warming to 1.7 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), better than the worst case scenarios but still above the current limit of 1.5 C global warming above pre-industrial levels. "We're in a very different place than where we were a year ago, let alone two and three years ago," Kerry said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But we're not doing everything we said we'd do," he said, after attending a meeting of energy and environment ministers of the Group of Seven wealthy nations. "A lot of countries need to step up including ours to reduce emissions faster, deploy renewables faster, bring new technologies online faster all of that has to happen." Kerry said the G-7 talks in northeastern Japan's Sapporo were "really constructive" in yielding a show of unity for phasing out use of unabated fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases.

Dozens of POWs freed as Ukraine marks Orthodox Easter

By HANNA ARHIROVA yesterday

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — More than 100 Ukrainian prisoners of war have been released as part of a major Easter exchange with Russia, a top official said Sunday, as Orthodox Ukrainians marked the holiday for a second time since Moscow unleashed its full-scale war more than a year ago. While celebrations were subdued because of security risks, with a curfew barring the faithful from customary all-night services, Ukrainian authorities and ordinary people shared messages of hope, linking the story of Jesus' resurrection to their longing for peace and a Ukrainian victory.

'The Phantom of the Opera' closes on Broadway after 35 years

By MARK KENNEDY April 17, 2023

NEW YORK (AP) — The final curtain came down Sunday on New York's production of "The Phantom of the Opera," ending Broadway's longest-running show with thunderous standing ovations, champagne toasts and gold and silver confetti bursting from its famous chandelier. Emilie Kouatchou, who walked the red carpet before the final show in a hot pink clinging gown with a sweetheart neckline and a cut out, said the bitterness was undercut by the big send-off. Most Broadway shows that close slink into the darkness uncelebrated. "It kind of sweetens it, right?" she said. "We get to celebrate at the end of this. We get to all come together and drink and laugh and talk about the show and all the highs and lows. It's ending on a big note."



G-7 ministers on climate, energy and environment pose for a photo during its photo session in Sapporo, northern Japan, Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Notable stories and conversation starters

The New York Times

Ex-C.I.A. Psychologist Re-enacts Interrogation Techniques for Guantánamo Court



4 days ago

Quanta magazine

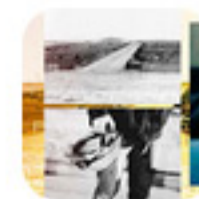
A New Approach to Computation Reimagines Artificial Intelligence



4 days ago

NBC NEWS

A 16-year-old says he's still cleaning a Kansas slaughterhouse months after his employer was fined for employing kids



5 days ago

The New York Times

Opinion | He Made His Country Rich, but Something Has Gone Wrong With the System



6 days ago • Opinion

Lawyers for Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri have portrayed him as deeply damaged by physical, psychological and sexual abuse in his nearly four years of C.I.A. detention.

GUANTÁNAMO BAY, Cuba — In court this week, a psychologist who waterboarded prisoners for the Central Intelligence Agency rolled up a towel, wrapped it around the neck of a criminal defense lawyer, and slowly pulled the lawyer toward him and up on her toes — a dramatic re-enactment of practices used on a Saudi detainee in the war on terrorism. There was no waterboarding or commanding the defense lawyer to crawl into a cramped confinement box. But the demonstration on Wednesday by the psychologist, John Bruce Jessen, was meant to replicate some of the approved “enhanced interrogation techniques” that C.I.A. agents used on the Saudi prisoner, Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, at a secret interrogation site in Thailand in late 2002. Defense lawyers used the demonstration in an effort to persuade a military judge to exclude certain evidence from Mr. Nashiri’s trial as **the fruit of torture**. The judge, Col. Lanny J. Acosta Jr., allowed the presentation to show practices that C.I.A. officials had destroyed video evidence of two decades ago.

A New Approach to Computation: imbuing enormous vectors with semantic meaning, can get machines to reason more abstractly, and efficiently, than before.

- *OpenAI's red team: the experts hired to 'break' ChatGPT*
- *This Week in Apps: Newsrooms leave Twitter, Reels expands, Android 14 arrives*
- *Primitive Asgard Cells Show Life on the Brink of Complexity*
- *5 programming languages to learn for AI development*

The Labor Department found over 100 children cleaning Midwest slaughterhouses and fined *Packers Sanitation Services* \$1.5 million. But **Pedro is still on the job.**

Do benevolent autocracies get better results than democracies? I’ve pondered this question since last summer, when I heard **highly educated Kenyans tell me that democracy hadn’t brought the economic development they sorely need**. They gushed about the way that Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of modern Singapore, transformed his impoverished city-state into one of the wealthiest societies on earth in just one generation. [. . .] Political scientists weren’t sure that Singapore’s highly successful system would outlast Lee Kuan Yew. By the end of his life, even the great man himself spoke of preparing for the day when his party would lose power. That’s the thing about benevolent autocracies: They tend to expire. They either cease to be autocracies — as happened in South Korea and Chile — or they cease to be benevolent.



U.S. >

The New York Times

Bans on Transition Care for Young People Spread Across U.S.



2 hours ago

CNN

US helicopter raid targets senior ISIS leader in Syria



2 hours ago

CNBC

The chip industry's open secret: Adversaries' military tech relies on U.S...



1 hour ago

World >

ALJAZEERA

Sudan fighting: How military rivalry descended into open warfare



1 hour ago

CNN

Former Indian lawmaker killed live on TV while in police custody



14 hours ago

PHILADELPHIA

Band of gunmen shoot up La Palma resort in central Mexico, killing 6 adults an...



3 hours ago

Business >



Google CEO warns society to brace for A.I. advancements, says 'it's not for a company to decide'

MarketWatch

Falling earnings estimates may follow banking stress, says Morgan Stanley.



1 hour ago

npr

12-year-olds can't buy cigarettes — but they can work in tobacco fields



1 hour ago

José Velásquez Castellano started working in agriculture when he was 13 years old. Ten-hour days, five or six days a week, in North Carolina's summer heat. It was sometimes blueberries, sometimes cucumbers — but mostly, it was tobacco. "Its prime hits right at the peak of summer," Castellano told NPR, and the tobacco created a greenhouse effect. It would be 90 degrees outside, "but inside those fields, it feels like well over 100 degrees." He'd go home dehydrated and exhausted and then wake up at 4 a.m. the next day and do it again.

For children 12 and older in the United States, difficult, low-paying and dangerous work in tobacco fields for unlimited hours is legal, as long as it's outside school hours. **Child labor laws** are more lenient in agriculture than in other industries, and efforts to change that have repeatedly failed, leaving growers and companies to decide whether to set the bar higher than what's legally required of them. In the meantime, kids work, often trying to help their families make ends meet.

A former lawmaker in India's parliament, **Atiq Ahmed**, convicted of kidnapping, was shot dead along with his brother while police were escorting them for a medical check-up in a slaying caught on live television on Saturday.

Western companies were quick to shutter operations in Russia after the country's military invasion of Ukraine last February. But U.S. and European **microelectronic tech** continues to power the Kremlin's war. • Key components from Western countries have been found in the military equipment used by Russian forces in Ukraine. • Research demonstrates the illicit procurement and misuse of semiconductors by overseas entities. • Although the semiconductor companies and government officials CNBC spoke to acknowledge the unauthorized use of American chips is a serious issue, experts can't agree on who is to blame.

Sydney, Australia CNN — Prosecutors in Australia have ended high-profile legal action against a former government staffer accused of raping a colleague inside Parliament House, saying a retrial would pose a "significant and unacceptable risk" to the woman's life. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) director of public prosecutions, Shane Drumgold, told reporters Friday that the risk to Brittany Higgins' mental health must be put ahead of the need for a resolution in the case.

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381444246/pri-s-the-world>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marco_Werman

The World

From Public Radio Exchange -- PRX

Host Marco Werman and his team of producers bring you the world's most interesting stories that remind us just how small our planet really is.

MOST RECENT EPISODES

APRIL 17, 2023

Fighting erupts between Sudan's military and paramilitary

After days of growing tensions, fighting broke out on Saturday between forces of Sudan's military and paramilitary. And, a Moscow court has sentenced Vladimir Kara-Murza, one of the Kremlin's most outspoken critics, to 25 years in prison for treason. Also, southern Spain is looking to ancient irrigation methods to water a drought-stricken region. Plus, Arab Chilean singer Elyanna came to the famed music festival Coachella with a set entirely in Arabic.

▶ LISTEN · 47:35



Marco Werman is the son of Marjolijn (née deJager) and David S. Werman.

His mother was of Dutch descent and his father was Jewish. His mother converted to Judaism and he states he was raised in Jewish culture but not religious. Werman has been working in journalism since he was 16 when he worked as a copy boy at the News and Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina. He graduated from Duke University in 1983. After graduation, he joined the Peace Corps where he served in Togo and Burkina Faso for three years.

The World

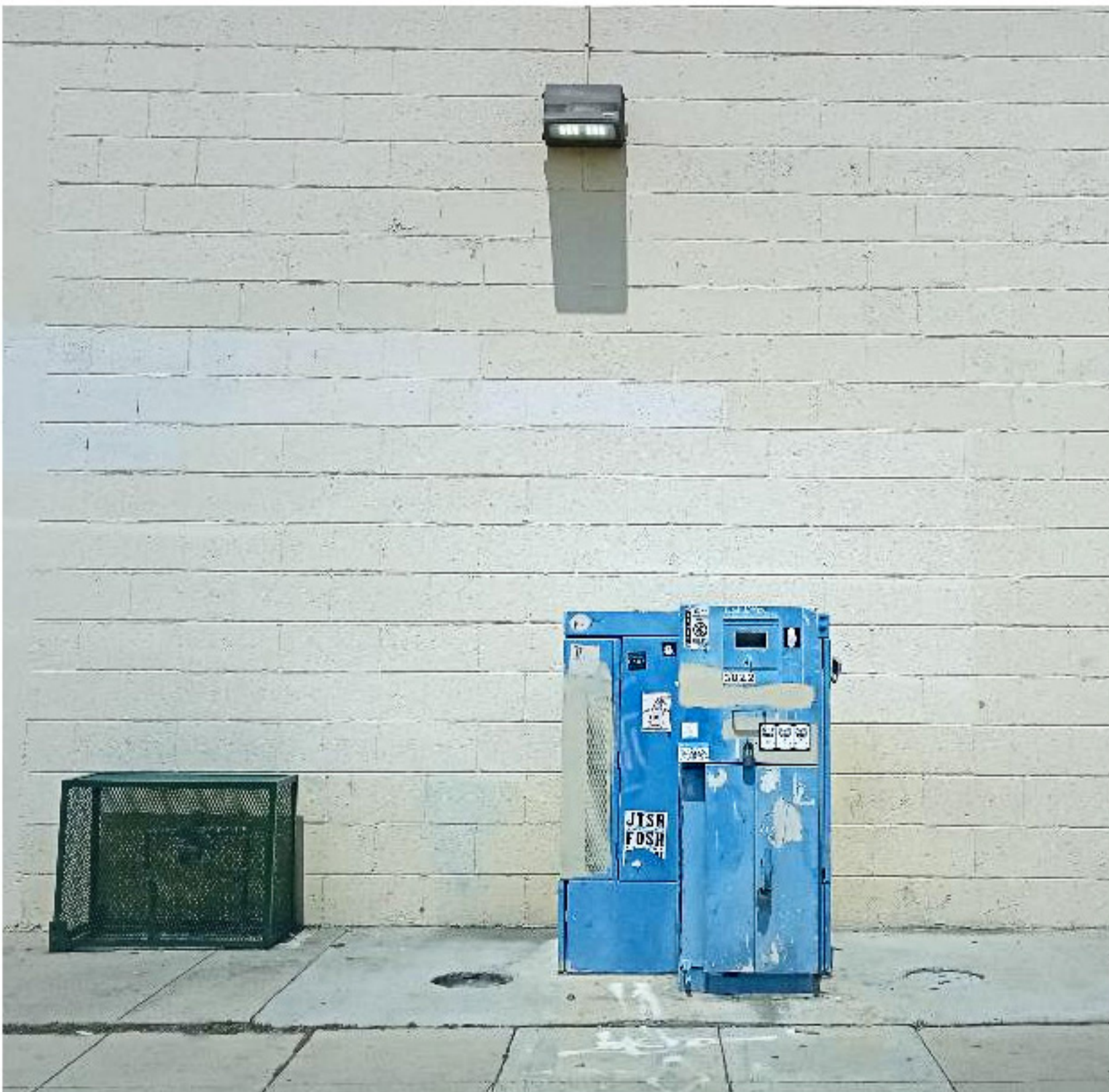
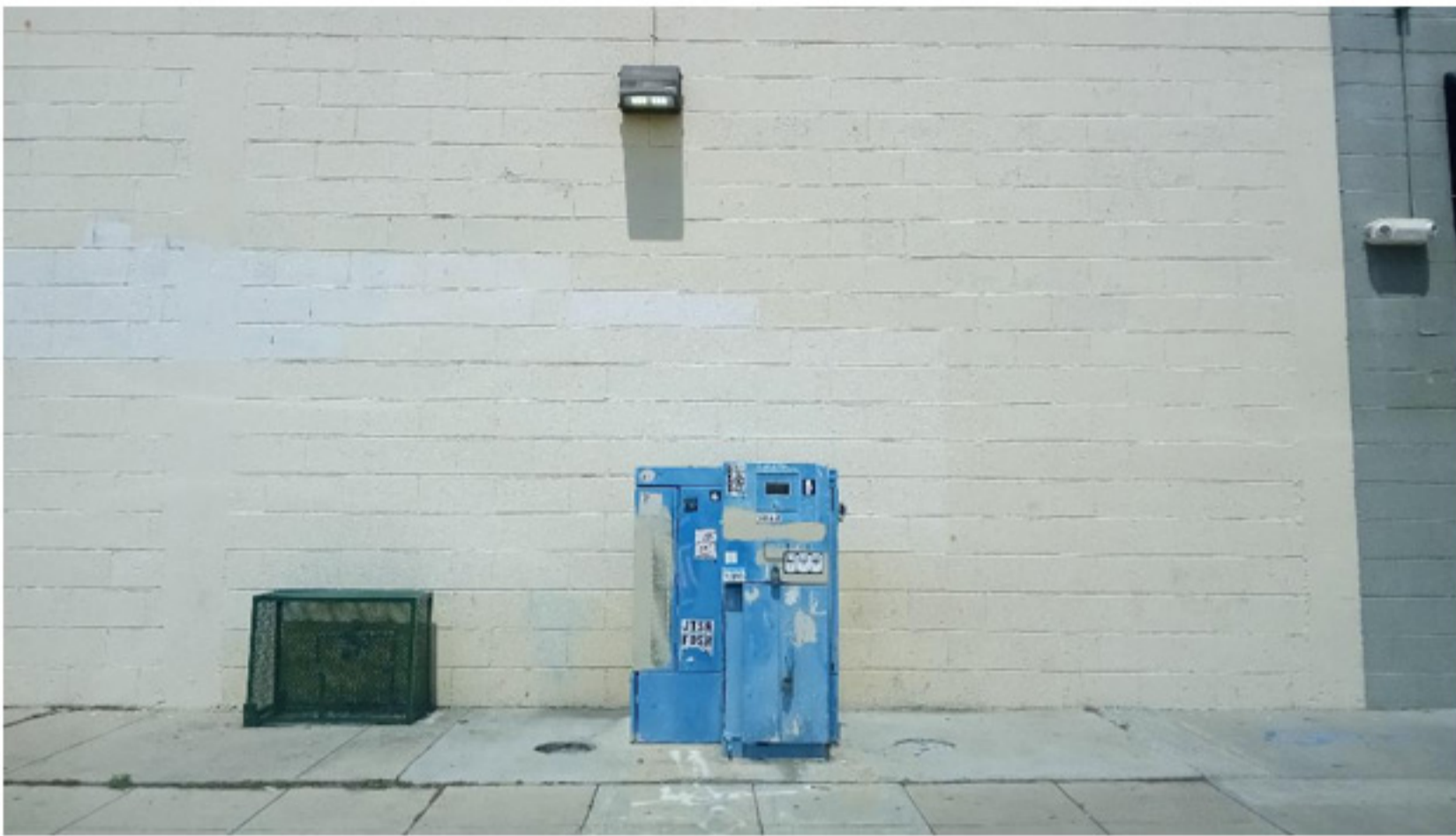
Radio program ⋮



The World is a US public radio news magazine with an emphasis on international news. The program originated partly in response to declining coverage of international news by US commercial media. It is co-produced by WGBH and the Public Radio Exchange (PRX) of the United States. At its launch, it was the first program dedicated to providing global news and making a global-local connection for Americans on a daily basis. PRX currently distributes the show to more

than 300 public radio stations across the United States. The program reaches more than 2.5 million listeners every week in broadcast alone. It is hosted by Marco Werman at WGBH's studios in Boston. Werman, who has been with The World since its inception, has hosted the program since 2010. The first host was Lisa Mullins. The World was the first daily nationally syndicated public radio program to begin podcasting some of its content, notably its coverage of technology. Its technology podcast began on February 11, 2005, hosted by Clark Boyd. Today, numerous podcasts are available by topical area and entire programs are available as podcasts.

Craft House Burgers
4101 30th St suite c, San Diego, CA 92104





5 policies that could make future bank failures less likely or severe

Brian Gendreau, *University of Florida*

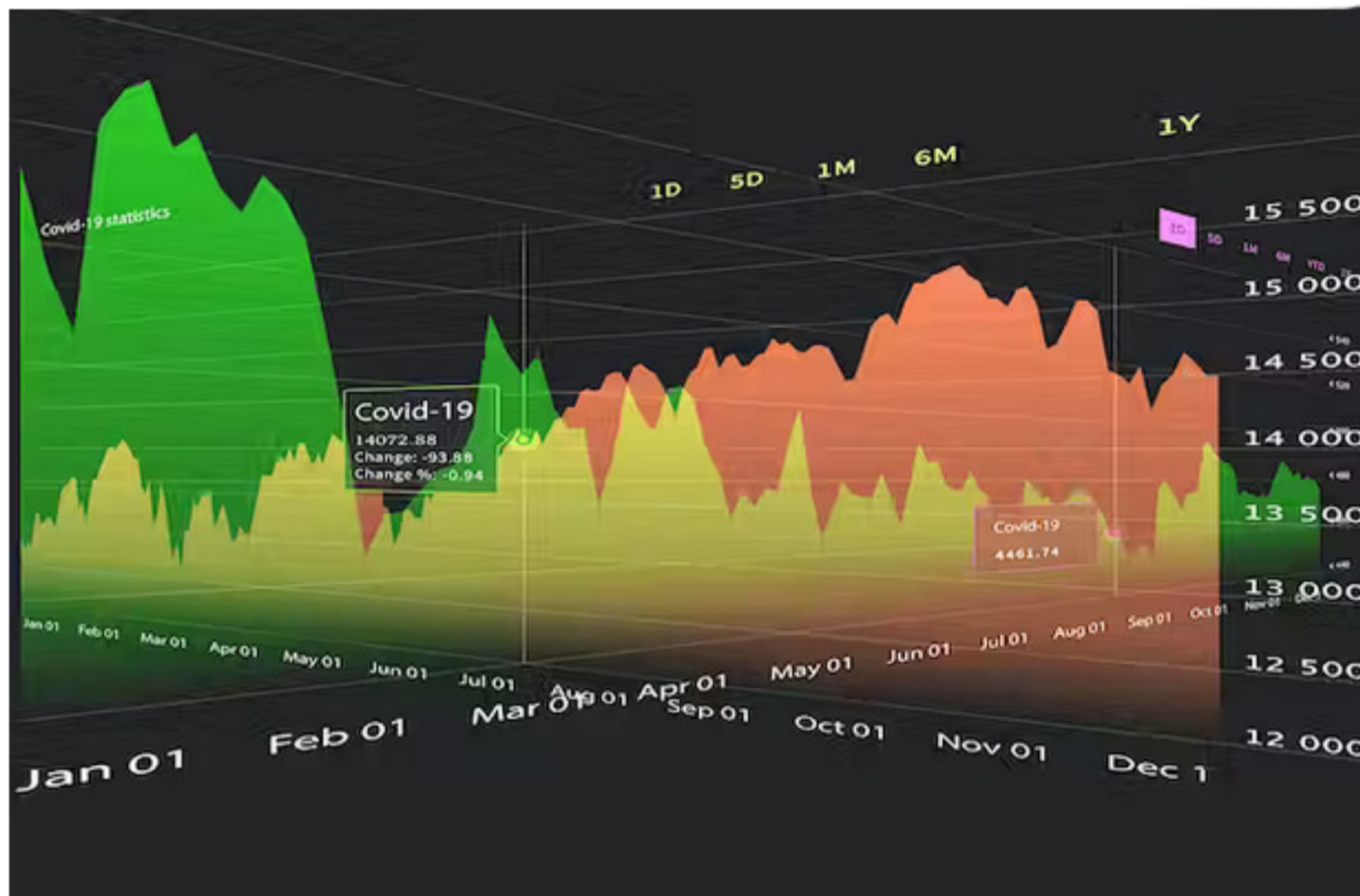
All the **banking reform proposals** under consideration into five categories: 1. Stronger supervision 2. Higher deposit insurance threshold 3. 'Modified deposit payoff' -- insure all non-interest-bearing checking accounts, regardless of size. 4. 'Ring-fencing' -- segregate a portion of bank assets and liabilities from the rest. 5. Compensation clawbacks -- make bank executives bear some of the costs when the banks they run fail.

Ethical debt results from not considering possible negative consequences or societal harms. And with ethical debt in particular, the people who incur it are rarely the people who pay for it in the end. There is little disagreement among AI ethicists that AI development needs to slow down – that developers throwing up their hands and citing “unintended consequences” is not going to cut it. We are only a few months into the “AI race” picking up significant speed, and I think it’s already clear that ethical considerations are being left in the dust. But the debt will come due eventually – and history suggests that Big Tech executives and investors may not be the ones paying for it.



AI has social consequences, but who pays the price? Tech companies' problem with 'ethical debt'

Casey Fiesler, *University of Colorado Boulder*



The risk of dying from COVID-19 varies from person to person.

If 1% of COVID-19 cases result in death, does that mean you have a 1% chance of dying if you catch it? A mathematician explains the difference between a population statistic and your personal risk

Published: April 18, 2023 8.43am EDT

Joseph Stover, Gonzaga University

As of April 2023, about 1% of people who contracted COVID-19 ended up dying. Does that mean you have a 1% chance of dying from COVID-19? **That 1% is what epidemiologists call the case fatality rate, calculated by dividing the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths by the number of confirmed cases.** The case fatality rate is a statistic, or something that is calculated from a data set. Specifically, it is **a type of statistic called a sample proportion**, which measures the proportion of data that satisfies some criteria – **in this case, the proportion of COVID-19 cases that ended with death.**

I'm a mathematician who studies probability theory. During the pandemic, I watched health statistics become a national conversation. The public was inundated with ever-changing data as research unfolded in real time, calling attention to specific risk factors such as preexisting conditions or age. However, using these statistics to accurately determine your own personal risk is nearly impossible since it varies so much from person to person and depends on intricate physical and biological processes. Although a population statistic is not the same thing as a probability, it might be a good estimate of it. But only if everyone in the population is demographically similar enough so that the statistic doesn't change much when calculated for different subgroups. The next time you're confronted with such a population statistic, recognize what it actually is: It's just the percent of a particular population that satisfies some criteria. Chances are, you're not average for that population. Your own personal probability could be higher or lower.



Joseph Stover

Associate Professor of Mathematics,
Gonzaga University



Joseph Stover
@jstover995

I'm probably going to be deleting my Twitter soon
10:11 AM · Aug 27, 2022

What's the probability that these are the same Joseph Stover?

Probability theory is the branch of mathematics concerned with probability. Although there are several different probability interpretations, probability theory treats the concept in a rigorous mathematical manner by expressing it through a set of axioms. Typically these axioms formalise probability in terms of a probability space, which assigns a measure taking values between 0 and 1, termed the probability measure, to a set of outcomes called the sample space. Any specified subset of the sample space is called an event. Central subjects in probability theory include discrete and continuous random variables, probability distributions, and stochastic processes (which provide mathematical abstractions of non-deterministic or uncertain processes or measured quantities that may either be single occurrences or evolve over time in a random fashion). Although it is not possible to perfectly predict random events, much can be said about their behavior. Two major results in probability theory describing such behaviour are the law of large numbers and the central limit theorem. **As a mathematical foundation for statistics, probability theory is essential to many human activities that involve quantitative analysis of data.** Methods of probability theory also apply to descriptions of complex systems given only partial knowledge of their state, as in statistical mechanics or sequential estimation. A great discovery of twentieth-century physics was the probabilistic nature of physical phenomena at atomic scales, described in quantum mechanics.



Donald Trump appears in court in New York City, in a courtroom sketch by Jane Rosenberg. Jane Rosenberg/Reuters

Donald Trump and the dying art of the courtroom sketch

Published: April 18, 2023 8.45am EDT

▼ [Anita Lam](#), York University, Canada

For the first time in its history, The New Yorker featured a courtroom sketch on its cover. The image, which appears on its April 17, 2023, issue, gives viewers a glimpse of a historic court proceeding that could not be captured by cameras: the arraignment hearing of Donald Trump two weeks earlier. Trump's fans and foes may not have gotten their mugshot. But they have a viral courtroom sketch, and what started as an image drawn under a courtroom's tightly regulated conditions has since taken on a life of its own.



Anita Lam

Associate Professor, York University, Canada

Anita Lam is an Associate Professor at York University, Canada. Her research is located at the intersection of crime, media and culture.



The New Yorker ✓

@NewYorker · [Follow](#)



Inside this week's issue of The New Yorker: nyer.cm/yWAL6p2



2:35 PM · Apr 10, 2023



[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)



751



Reply



Copy link



Psilocybin and other psychedelics could help patients process the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Kateryna Kon/Science Photo Library via Getty Images

Psychedelics may better treat depression and anxiety symptoms than prescription antidepressants for patients with advanced cancer

Published: April 17, 2023 8.42am EDT

▼ **C. Michael White**, *University of Connecticut*

Were the Food and Drug Administration to approve psychedelics for this kind of use, the agency would need to figure out how these psychedelics can be used legally. As Schedule 1 drugs, they are currently banned from any medical use in the U.S. Researchers must register with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency to study controlled substances. However, the FDA has already set a precedent with its June 2018 approval of cannabidiol (Epidiolex) for the treatment of rare childhood seizure disorders, even though this cannabis derivative remains banned by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

My team and I recently completed a meta-analysis of five clinical trials examining anxiety and depression symptoms in patients with advanced forms of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. We found that taking psychedelic medication alone – specifically LSD, psilocybin or MDMA – reduced depression scores as measured by the Beck’s Depression Inventory by six points, where a score below 10 indicates minimal to no depression and above 30 indicates major depression. The average scores at baseline were between 15 and 18 for most studies, though one trial had a baseline of approximately 30. Psychedelics also reduced anxiety scores as measured by the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory by seven to eight points, where a score of 20 to 37 indicates no or minimal anxiety and a score of 45 to 80 indicates high anxiety. The average scores were between 40 and 55 but approximately 60 in one trial.

In one trial of 51 cancer patients, 60% of those who received a single high-dose psilocybin session achieved clinical remission for depression, and 52% did for anxiety. In comparison, 16% of those who received a placebo achieved remission for depression and 12% for anxiety. These effects were still maintained six months later.

https://youtu.be/b5i0aY_rUZU



Researchers are studying the use of psychedelics to treat a number of mental health conditions.



'Earthrise,' a photo of the Earth taken by Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders, Dec. 4, 1968. NASA/Bill Anders via Wikipedia

Will the Earth last forever?

Published: April 17, 2023 8.43am EDT

Shichun Huang, University of Tennessee

Everything that has a beginning has an end. But the Earth will last for a very long time, and its end will come billions of years after anyone who is alive here now is gone.

So many desperately, ardently seeking unity.

Please look back upon the earth with your long lens. See the sparkling singular mottled gem in that black night that we are. Yes in all our details: the hate, the vitriol, the generosity, the kindness, the horrid destruction, the astonishing innovation. Not just humans either . . . include animals, and pernicious plants, and also the elements that we don't tend to think of as life—rocks and salt, water and air, the sustainers, the suppliers—take us all, all of us interacting in an ever evolving consortium of interplay.

This dance IS the unity you're looking for. Like it or not.



Tweet

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences: UTK
@UTK_EPS

Dr. Shichun Huang has an article out this week in The Conversation talking about the internal structures and temperatures of the Earth. Check it out here: [lm.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%...](https://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ftheconversation.com%2Fwill-the-earth-last-forever-203021)

10:08 AM · Feb 13, 2023 · 96 Views

So, what will change? Scientists estimate that the Sun will keep shining for another 5 billion years. But it will gradually get brighter and brighter, and warm the Earth more and more.

This warming is so slow that we wouldn't even notice it. In about 1 billion years, our planet will be too hot to maintain oceans on its surface to support life. That's a really long time away: an average human lifetime is about 73 years, so a billion is more than 13 million human lifetimes.

Long after that – about 5 billion years from now – our Sun will expand into an even bigger star that astronomers call a "red giant," which eventually will engulf the Earth. Just as our planet existed for over 4 billion years before humans appeared, it will last for another 4 billion to 5 billion years, long after it becomes uninhabitable for humans.

https://youtu.be/Ve969_F71KI



Humans have only been present on Earth for a tiny fraction of our planet's history.

LAW

The Supreme Court ponders when a threat is really a 'true threat'

The court hears arguments Wednesday in a case that looks at whether the prosecution has to show that the defendant frightened his target intentionally.



Thomas Simonetti via Coles Whalen

Singer-songwriter Coles Whalen's legal battle has reached the Supreme Court. At issue is whether invasive messages sent to her over a number of years constitute a "true threat" in the eyes of the law.

April 19, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on Morning Edition



Nina Totenberg

"He was clearly mentally unstable," Whalen said in an interview with NPR. "He believed that we were in a romantic relationship that lasted a number of years. He indicated that he was seeing me in person without me knowing it. And I was terrified."



POLITICS

How questions about Justice Thomas' ethics could harm the

Supreme Court's reputation

BUSINESS

'Leave pity city,' MillerKnoll CEO tells staff who asked whether they'd lose bonuses

April 19, 2023 · 6:01 AM ET

By Emily Olson



MillerKnoll CEO Andi Owen has come under fire on social media for telling employees to stop asking about the possibility of losing their bonuses.

Screenshot by NPR/YouTube



MillerKnoll CEO Andi Owen told employees to "leave pity city" and stop asking about whether they'd get bonuses.

Darren Dehski YouTube

The leaked comments from MillerKnoll's Andi Owen are sparking debate about workplace attitudes in the face of greater economic uncertainty and whether CEOs are out of touch with their staffs.

"Don't ask about 'what are we going to do if we don't get a bonus?' Get the damn \$26 million," Owen says in the video, in apparent reference to an internal financial performance target. "Spend your time and your effort thinking about the \$26 million we need and not thinking about what you're going to do if you don't get a bonus, all right? Can I get some commitment?" the CEO says, while waving her finger at her staff on the screen.

Owen wraps up her remarks by sharing some advice she heard from a previous manager of her own: "I had an old boss who said to me one time, 'You can visit pity city, but you can't live there.' So, people, leave pity city. Let's get it done," she says. She then ends the meeting by saying, "Thank you. Have a great day," raising her hands in a gesture of victory and mouthing the word **"boom."**

"It's the perfect storm of a few different developments that the pandemic has brought to bear," says Dave Kamper, a senior policy coordinator with the Economic Policy Institute. "One is that inequality is even more obvious than it's ever been. The CEO pay gap is higher now than it's ever been."

Kamper says **the latest data (from 2021) shows that CEOs were paid 399 times more than a typical worker in their firm. Couple that with overall job growth in a post-pandemic economy, and workers are feeling more emboldened to stand up to leadership, Kamper says. "CEOs are just not having the same conversation that their workers are," he explained. "I think you've got a lot of companies that are hoping this storm of workers actually having a voice will pass."**

The question to watch, he says, is whether the surge of worker power will last long enough to convince CEOs to change their tune.



Credit: Ryan Kellman/NPR

BEYOND THE POLES: THE FAR-REACHING DANGERS OF MELTING ICE

The world's melting ice has surprising impacts. Can you guess them?

Melting glaciers and ice sheets are far from where most people live. But the impacts stretch across the planet. See if you can guess how.

Two-thirds of the planet's fresh water is frozen.

Most people live far from the glaciers and ice caps that hold it. But as the climate gets hotter, the ice is melting.

That's setting off a cascade of changes that reach far across the globe.

Can you guess how disappearing ice is linked to these four impacts?

Autoplay video?

NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Scientific Visualization Studio

Sea ice is disappearing in the Arctic Ocean.

That ice normally reflects the sun's rays with its bright surface. When there's less ice, the sunlight hits the ocean instead, heating it up.

Autoplay video?

Ryan Kellman/NPR

QUESTION 1 (OF 4) 

Wildfires in the Western U.S. have destroyed tens of thousands of homes in recent years. Some were fueled by hot, dry weather that made fire conditions even more extreme.

Could those weather patterns be linked to:

Arctic ice disappearing

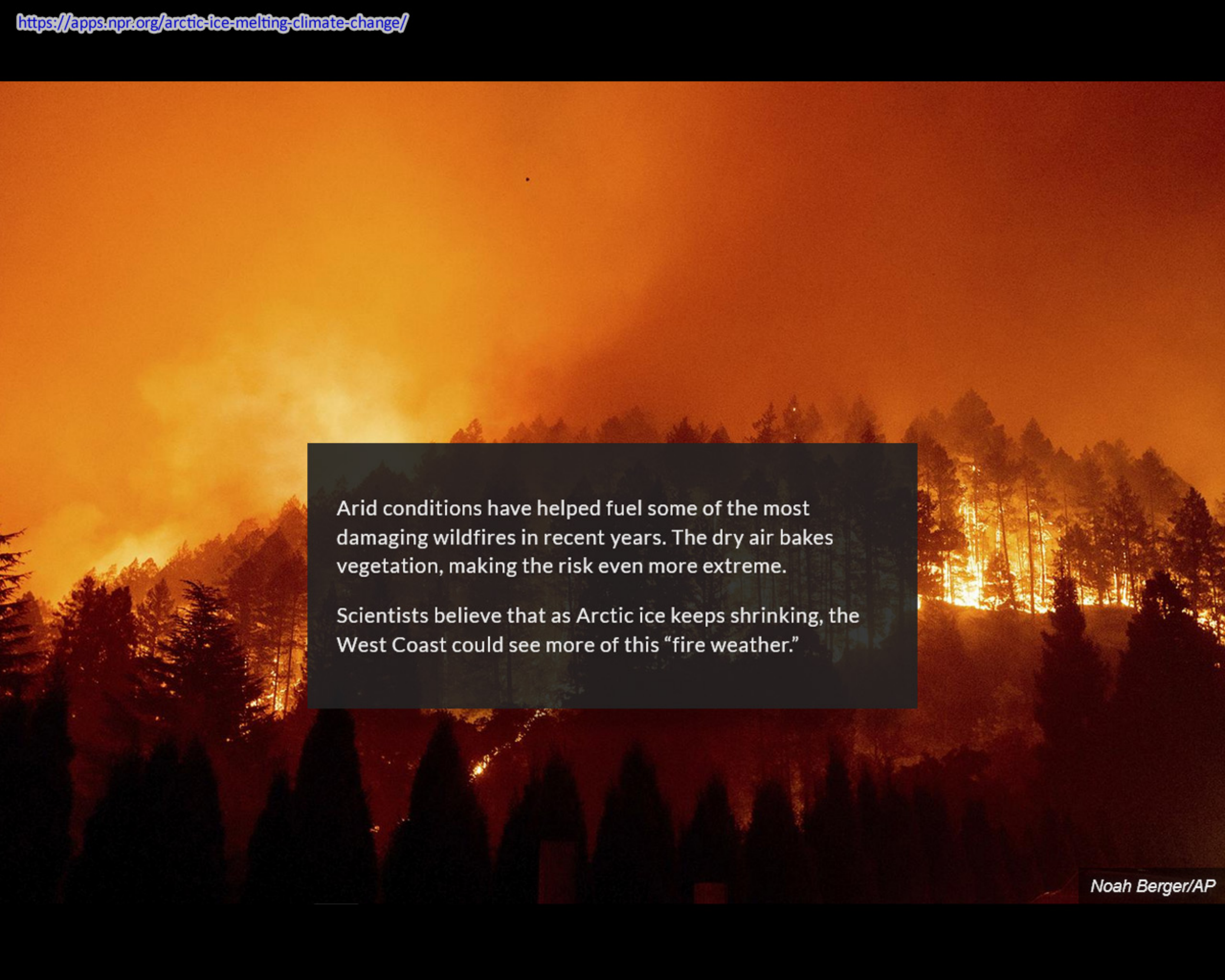
Mountain glaciers melting

Antarctic ice sheet melting



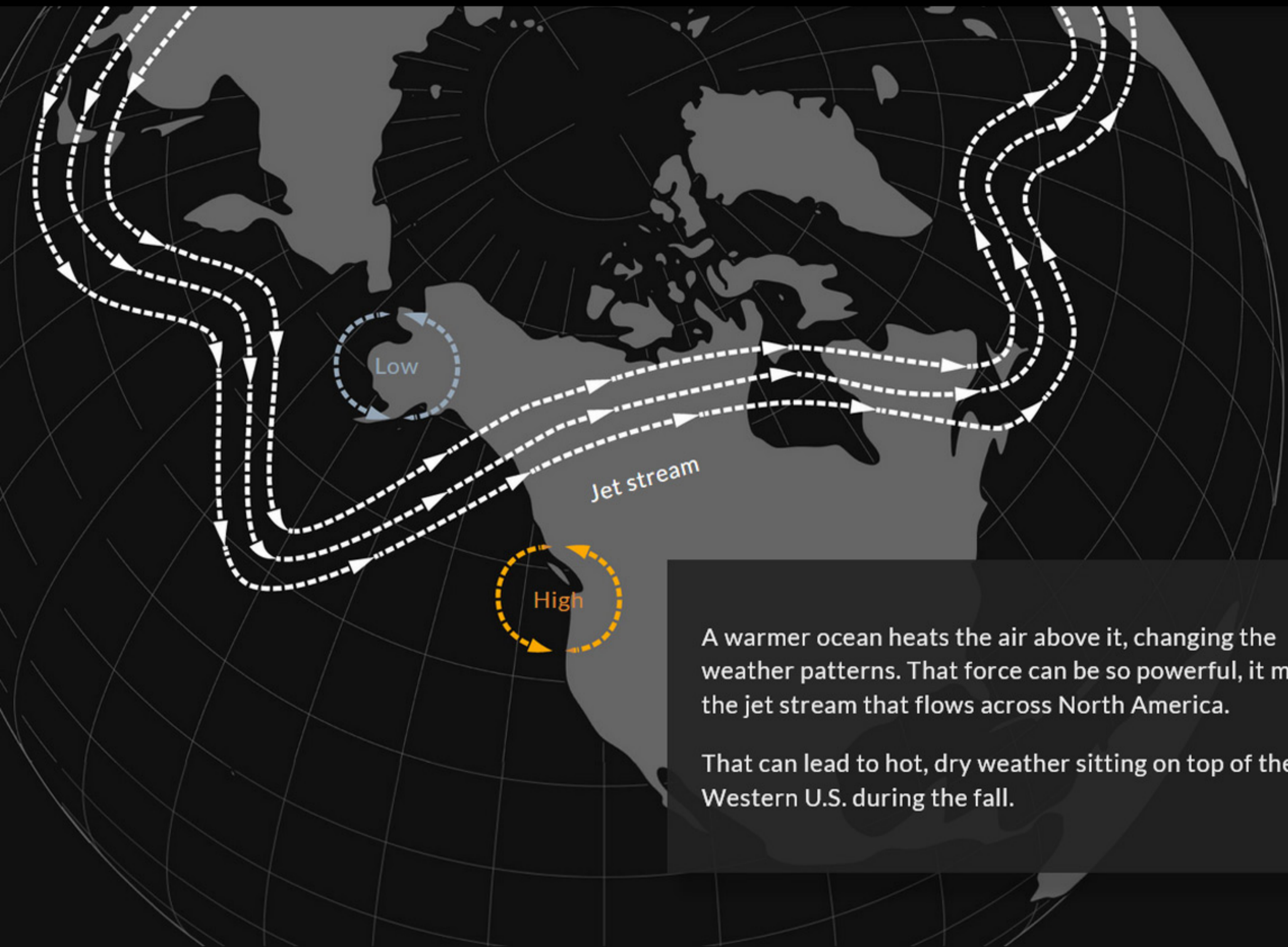
Autoplay video?

Chad Benner via Storyful



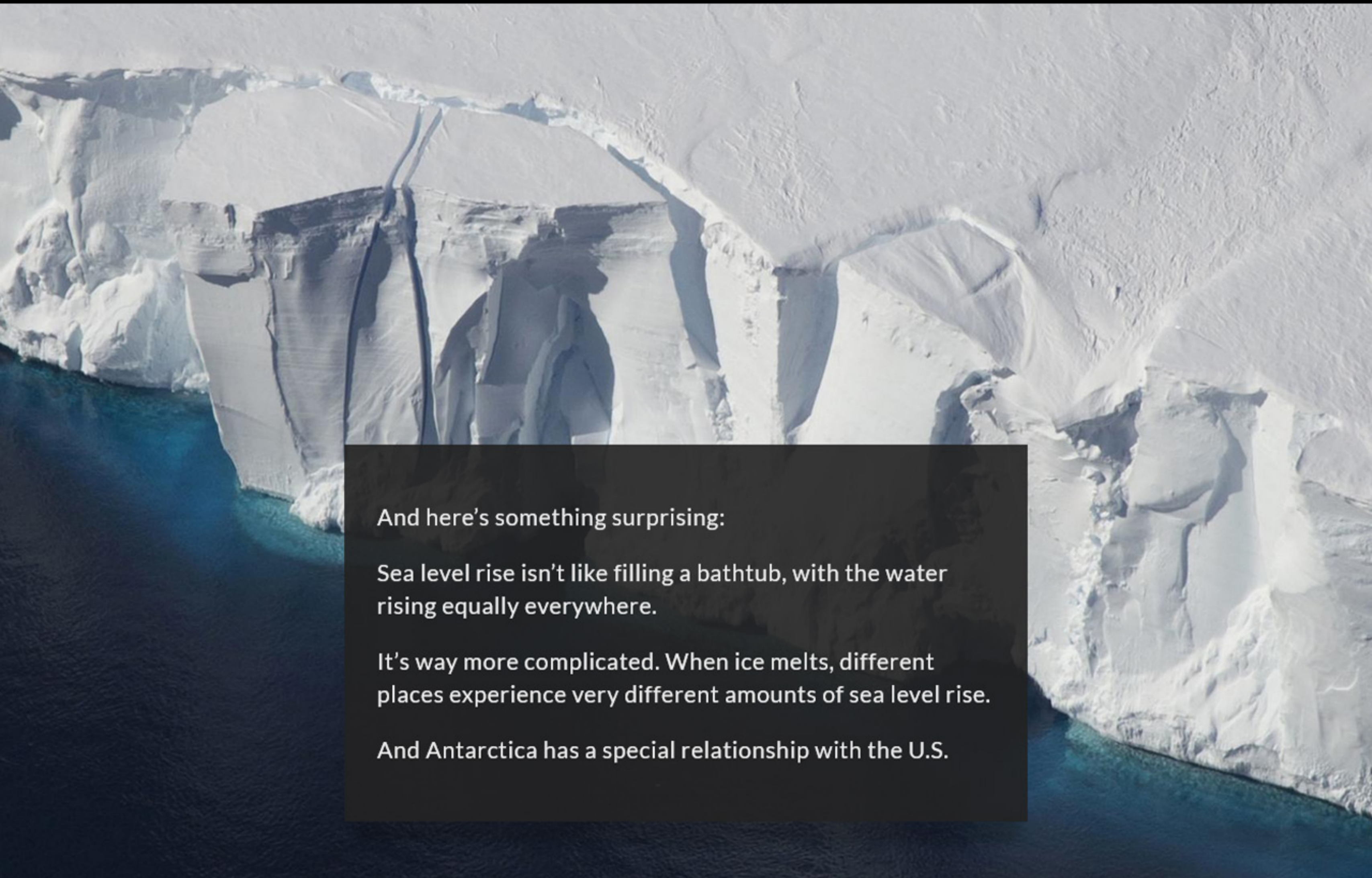
Arid conditions have helped fuel some of the most damaging wildfires in recent years. The dry air bakes vegetation, making the risk even more extreme.

Scientists believe that as Arctic ice keeps shrinking, the West Coast could see more of this “fire weather.”



A warmer ocean heats the air above it, changing the weather patterns. That force can be so powerful, it moves the jet stream that flows across North America.

That can lead to hot, dry weather sitting on top of the Western U.S. during the fall.



And here's something surprising:

Sea level rise isn't like filling a bathtub, with the water rising equally everywhere.

It's way more complicated. When ice melts, different places experience very different amounts of sea level rise.

And Antarctica has a special relationship with the U.S.

Knowing how fast the planet's ice will melt is crucial for adapting to a hotter planet.

Predicting that is no simple task. Glaciers are not like ice cubes in the sun, gently liquifying. They're dynamic, sometimes-violent places where collapse can happen rapidly.

Scientists are racing to measure that melt, as well as trying to understand the wildly complex ways that ice is connected to every continent.

Autoplay video?

NASA

QUESTION 2 (OF 4) 

Coastal Texas is experiencing some of the fastest sea level rise in the world, threatening millions of people with catastrophic flooding.

Melting ice in which location is most responsible for future sea level rise on the Texas coast?

Ice in Greenland

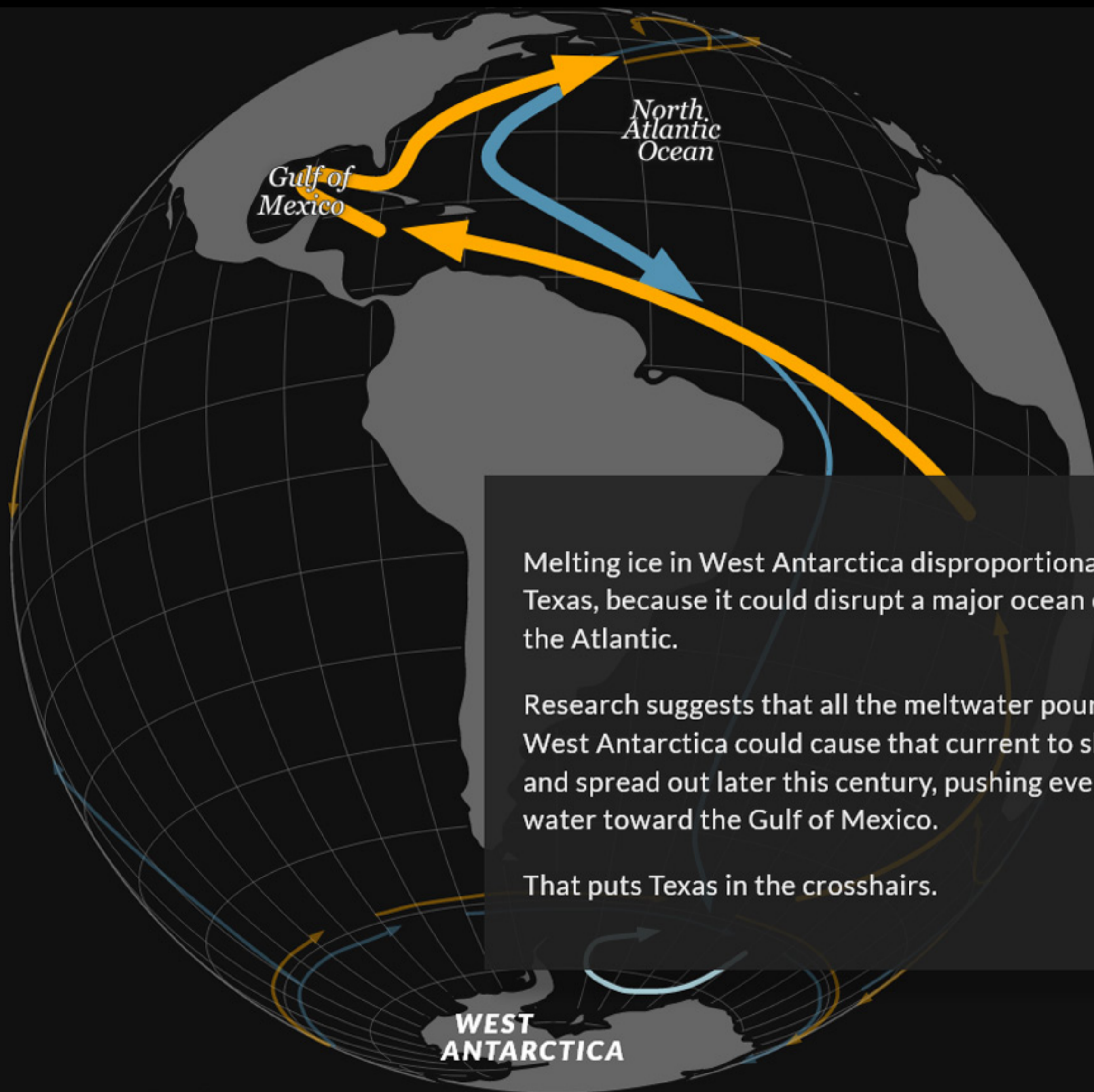
Arctic sea ice

Ice in West Antarctica



Autoplay video?

Ryan Kellman/NPR



Melting ice in West Antarctica disproportionately affects Texas, because it could disrupt a major ocean current in the Atlantic.

Research suggests that all the meltwater pouring off West Antarctica could cause that current to slow down and spread out later this century, pushing even more water toward the Gulf of Mexico.

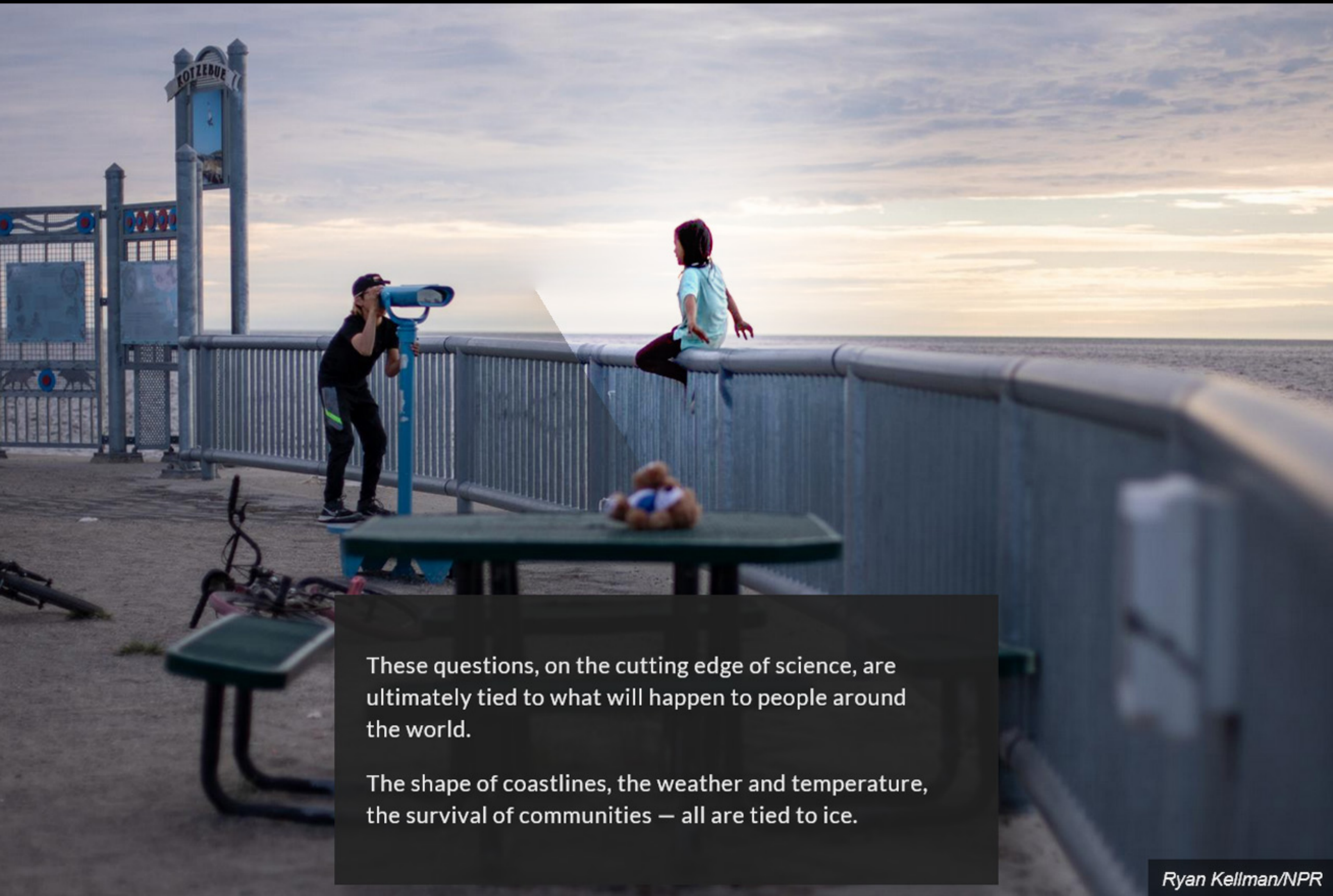
That puts Texas in the crosshairs.

**WEST
ANTARCTICA**



The West Antarctic ice sheet is huge — it contains enough water to raise global sea levels by more than 10 feet.

As Earth heats up, melting at the bottom of the globe will accelerate, and Antarctic ice will become the biggest source of extra water along much of the U.S. coastline.



These questions, on the cutting edge of science, are ultimately tied to what will happen to people around the world.

The shape of coastlines, the weather and temperature, the survival of communities — all are tied to ice.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN says leaving Afghanistan would be 'heartbreaking'

2 hours ago



UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations is ready to take the “heartbreaking” decision to pull out of Afghanistan in May if it can’t persuade the Taliban to let local women work for the organization, the head of the U.N. Development Program said.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fox, Dominion reach \$787M settlement over election claims

15 hours ago



Taliban say there's no obstacles for UN work in Afghanistan

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rocket science: Alaska sky spiral caused by SpaceX fuel dump

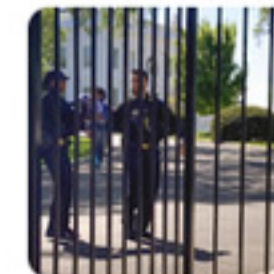
19 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Littlest intruder: Toddler crawls through White House fence

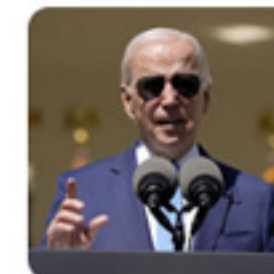
20 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biden signs executive order to improve access to child care

22 hours ago



The Takeaway. The region of the brain called the ventral pallidum balances signals that either excite or inhibit neurons to influence the motivation of an animal to seek pleasure or avoid pain.



Dec 31, 2019

<https://www.cshl.edu> › [how-the-brai...](#)

How the brain balances pleasure and pain | Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

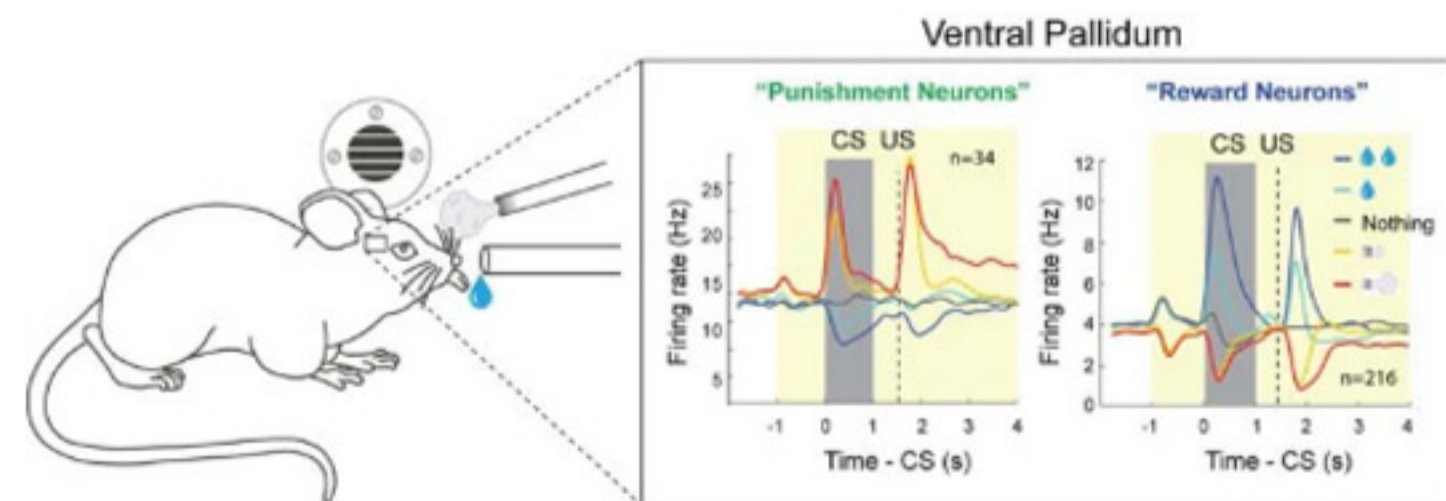
As our brains take in information about the world and use it to steer our actions, two key principles guide our choices: seek pleasure and avoid pain. Researchers at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) have zeroed in on an information-processing hub in the brains of mice to discover how neurons there divide the labor to handle these opposing behavioral motivations. Their work, reported December 31, 2019 in the journal *Neuron*, reveals that different classes of neurons control positive and negative motivation, sending opposing signals along a shared motivation-processing brain circuit. Ultimately, the balance of activity between these two groups of cells may determine whether a person acts to seek out pleasurable experiences or avoid negative ones, says CSHL Professor Bo Li, who led the study. Li wants to understand the brain's motivation-processing circuits because the behaviors they control are often disrupted in people with mental illness. People suffering from depression may stop doing things that once gave them pleasure, for example, whereas people with anxiety disorders may go to greater lengths to avoid potential threats.

The ability to recognize and respond to potential rewards or punishments depends in part on a part of the brain called the ventral pallidum. Researchers have observed activity in this brain region when animals seek rewards, such as a sip of water, or avoid punishments, such as an annoying puff of air.

What Li wanted to understand was how the different types of neurons that reside in this part of the brain ensure an animal responds appropriately to signals associated with both types of motivation. To investigate, his team took advantage of research tools that allowed them to monitor the activity of individual brain cells and to confirm those cells' identities with a flash of light. After training mice to associate certain sounds with either a sip of water or a puff of air, Li and his colleagues used the technique to monitor neural activity in the ventral pallidum. They found that neurons that used the neurotransmitter known as GABA to dampen activity in the circuit influencing motivation were important in motivating the mice to seek a water reward. The neurons that used the neurotransmitter known as glutamate to excite the brain circuit, on the other hand, were essential for avoiding the air-puff punishment.

In more complex situations, where animals were presented with the potential for both punishment and reward, both sets of neurons responded. Mice made different choices in response to the combined stimuli: Thirsty animals, for example, were more willing to risk an air puff to obtain a sip of water than animals that had just drunk their fill. But if the team artificially shifted the balance of activity in the ventral pallidum by manipulating one class of neurons or the other, they could alter the animals' behavior. That balance between signals that either inhibit or excite neurons in the ventral pallidum appears critical in controlling which motivation an animal acts on, Li says. Now, he is eager to find out whether it is disrupted in people with psychiatric disorders. "Behavioral changes in people with depression or stress-induced anxiety may be caused by changes in this circuit," he says. With the new findings, his team has important leads about how to investigate the causes and symptoms of these disorders more deeply.

Written by: Jennifer Michalowski, Science Writer | publicaffairs@cshl.edu |



CSHL Professor Bo Li and colleagues monitored the activity of individual brain cells and confirmed those cells' identities with a flash of light. After training mice to associate certain sounds with either a sip of water or a puff of air, they monitored neural activity in the ventral pallidum. Neurons that used the neurotransmitter GABA to dampen activity in the circuit influencing motivation were important in motivating the mice to seek a water reward. The neurons that used the neurotransmitter glutamate to excite the brain circuit were essential for avoiding the air-puff punishment.

Rio Vista Shopping Center

8310-8740 Rio San Diego Dr, San Diego, CA 92108





Governor DeSantis Elevates Civil Discourse and Intellectual Freedom in Higher Education January 31, 2023
<https://www.flgov.com/2023/01/31/governor-desantis-elevates-civil-discourse-and-intellectual-freedom-in-higher-education/>

SARASOTA, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced legislation for the 2023 Session to further elevate civil discourse and intellectual freedom in higher education, further pushing back against the tactics of **liberal elites who suppress free thought** in the name of identity politics and indoctrination. Amongst its many provisions, the legislation will ensure Florida’s public universities and colleges are grounded in the history and philosophy of Western Civilization; prohibit DEI, CRT and other discriminatory programs and barriers to learning; and course correct universities’ missions to align education for citizenship of the constitutional republic and Florida’s existing and emerging workforce needs. [...]



Reuters

India government calls same-sex marriage appeals 'urban elitist views'

2 days ago



The Guardian

Indian government labels same sex-marriage 'elitist' as supreme court...

19 hours ago

Liberal elite, also referred to as the **metropolitan elite** or **progressive elite**, is a stereotype of politically liberal people whose education has traditionally opened the doors to affluence, wealth and power and who form a managerial elite. It is commonly invoked pejoratively, with the implication that the people who claim to support the rights of the working class are themselves members of the ruling classes and are therefore out of touch with the real needs of the people they say that they support and protect.

Because the label is a rhetorical device, it carries flexible meaning depending on the circumstances in which it is used.

The concept arose in the United States, but has spread to other English-speaking countries, where the term metropolitan elite is more common because liberal can have the opposite meaning, depending on country.

DANIEL MIESSLER

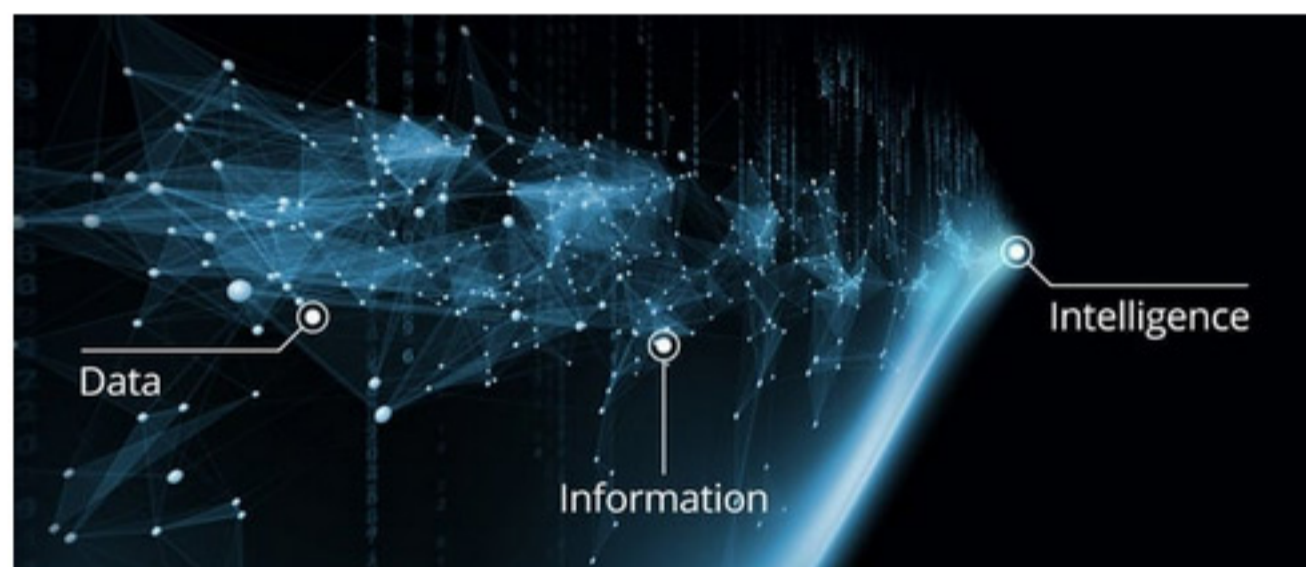


The Difference Between Data, Information, and Intelligence

How data, information, and intelligence work together to help humans to learn about the world and navigate uncertainty

Read Time: 2 minutes

CREATED/UPDATED: JULY 13, 2022



Data are raw, individual, and unarguable facts. Examples might include the temperature at 13:37 on the roof of San Francisco City Hall, or the amount of light coming off the Sun according to a particular solar telescope.

Information is the combination of data into a form that can answer an everyday question. Examples might include whether a country has a higher than average GDP, or whether a particular plant is native to California.

Intelligence is the combination of information into a form that tells a story and informs decisions. Examples might include a narrative stating that Iran seems poised to invade Iraq, and that now is the time to move key resources. Or one that says a politician in Northern California seems ready to vote against Cannabis legislation, so it might not be a good time to enter that business.

Intelligence is clutch when decision-makers are facing uncertainty, which is usually always.

Let us say that there is a war zone in Canada (I know, far-fetched already), and some troops are on patrol in a city center looking for the resistance's most notorious warlord. Canadian military leaders are eager for intelligence that can help find him.

Data: A man crossed the street at Montegue and DeGaul at 19:07PM looking suspicious.

Data: That same man left a nearby building carrying a briefcase chained to his hand.

Data: An anonymous caller called in and said the warlord is staying within 3 blocks.

Information: Encrypted radio traffic has increased by 37% compared to 2 hours ago.

Information: A number of locals sympathetic to the rebels have started leaving the area.

Intelligence: Since this warlord likes to use suitcase bombs, and this type of pattern has been seen before in previous attacks, another attack is likely to occur in the next few hours.

Intelligence: Therefore, police should be notified and we should get all of our VIPs out of the area immediately.

The data need to be harvested and assembled into information, but even then you still (generally) need a human analyst to go from information to intelligence. *It's also important to note that intelligence can be wrong. Just because the pattern happened before doesn't mean it'll repeat. And vice versa.* In this case we have a simple terrorist attack that follows a pattern, but the problem gets a lot harder with events that have less of a pattern and that happen less frequently.



NATIONAL

2 Texas cheerleaders were shot after 1 tried to get in the wrong car after practice

The recent shootings of two people who accidentally came to the wrong address — a 16-year-old boy in Kansas City and a 20-year-old woman in rural New York — have renewed concerns over the controversial self-defense laws known as "stand your ground."



LAW

2 shootings at mistaken addresses have renewed the focus on 'stand your ground' laws



NATIONAL

After days of outrage over the shooting of a Black teen, officials charge the gunman



NATIONAL

A woman was fatally shot by a N.Y. homeowner after she went up the wrong driveway

Bird flying high.
You know how I feel.

Why Fox News's settlement with Dominion Voting Systems is good news for all media outlets

It's all over but the spinning.

Published: April 19, 2023 2:28pm EDT

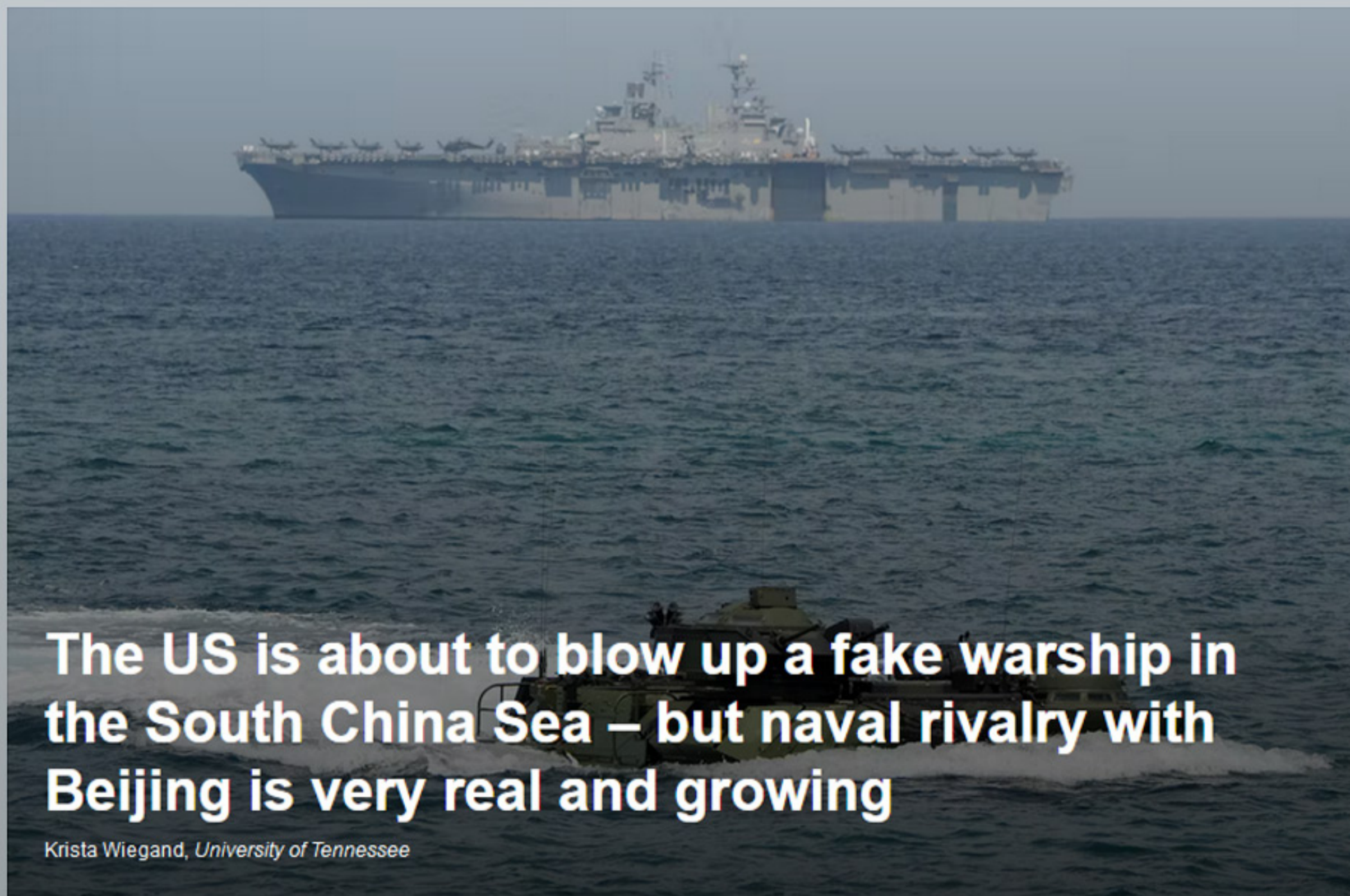
NEWCASTLE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE



Dominion Voting Systems CEO John Poulos, third from right, leaves court with members of his legal team after reaching a reported \$787.5 million settlement with Fox News.

In the end, this lawsuit was about two questions: Did Fox knowingly publish false statements about Dominion that harmed the company's reputation, and did it do so knowing, or having reason to know, that they were false? It has already vindicated Dominion and exposed Fox's questionable practices to the public. Anything more will have to wait for another day, which may come sooner than we think. Smartmatic, which builds electronic voting systems, has a pending libel suit against Fox and is poised to continue the battle.

With China playing by a different set of rules than the U.S. and its allies in the region, the risk of clashes at sea is very real. It could even lead to conflict between the two most powerful countries in the world today. The next time a warship is blown up in the South China Sea, I fear that it may not be just a drill.



The US is about to blow up a fake warship in the South China Sea – but naval rivalry with Beijing is very real and growing

Krista Wiegand, *University of Tennessee*

Fire danger in the high mountains is intensifying: That's bad news for humans, treacherous for the environment

Mohammad Reza Alizadeh, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)* and Mojtaba Sadegh, *Boise State University*

As wildfire risk rises in the West, wildland firefighters and officials are keeping a closer eye on the high mountains – regions once considered too wet to burn. Wet mountain areas, with their cooler temperatures and higher precipitation, are often peppered with hot spots of biodiversity and provide refuges to various species from the warming climate. If these areas lose their tree canopies, species with small ranges that depend on cold-water mountain streams can face existential risks as more energy from the Sun heats up stream water in the absence of tree shading. While the risk is rising fastest in the high mountains, most of the West is now at increasing risk of fires. With continuing greenhouse gas emissions fueling global warming, this trend of worsening fire danger is expected to intensify further, straining firefighting resources as crews battle more blazes.

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Associated Press photographer Evgeniy Maloletka won the World Press Photo of the Year award on Thursday for his harrowing image of emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, in the chaotic aftermath of a Russian attack. The Ukrainian photographer's March 9, 2022, image of the fatally wounded woman, her left hand on her bloodied lower left abdomen, drove home the horror of Russia's brutal onslaught in the eastern port city early in the war. The 32-year-old woman, Iryna Kalinina, died of her injuries a half-hour after giving birth to the lifeless body of her baby, named Miron.

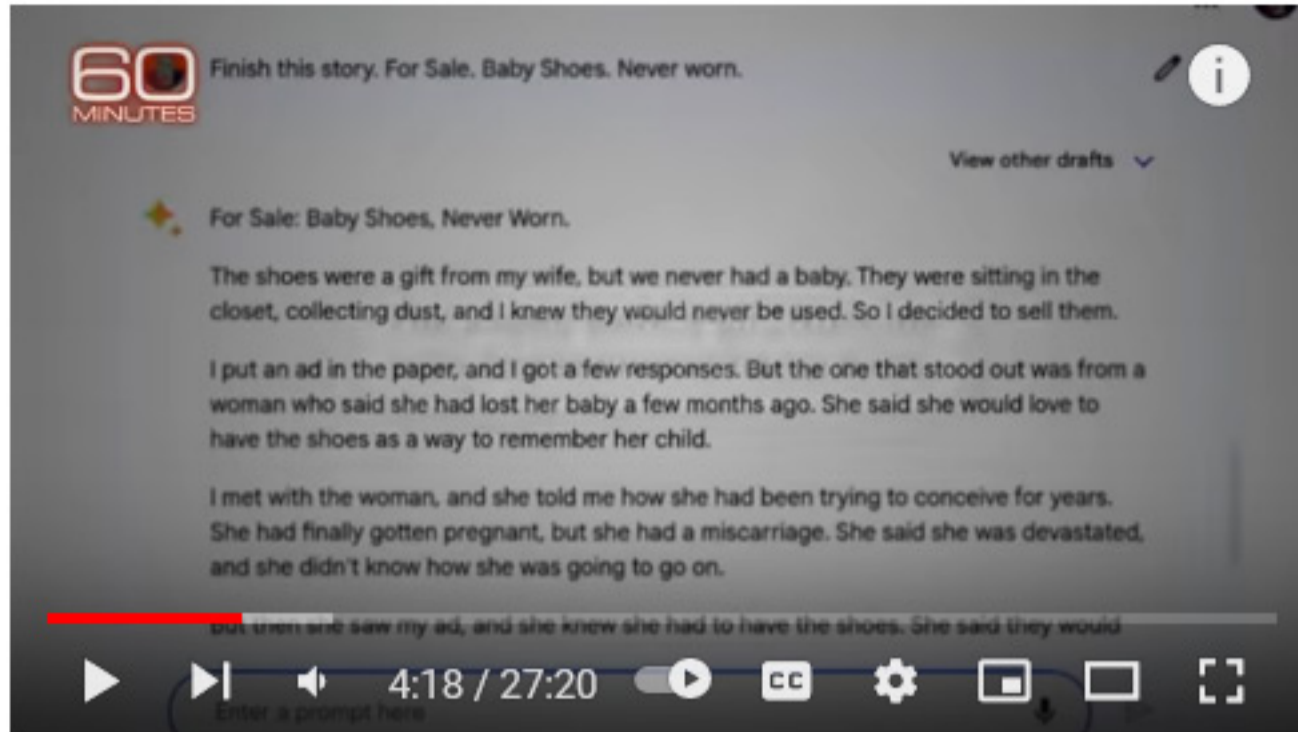


AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin, Zelenskyy rally troops with war poised for new phase

2 days ago





The AI revolution: Google's developers on the future of artificial intelligence | 60 Minutes



Subscribe

18K | Share | Save

1,005,378 views Apr 16, 2023 #news #artificialintelligence #google

Competitive pressure among tech giants is propelling society into the future of artificial intelligence, ready or not. Scott Pelley dives into the world of AI with Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

2:47: in a race for AI dominance Google just released its chatbot named **Bard** . . .

Scott Pelley: we played with a famous six word short story, often attributed to Hemingway. "For sale. Baby shoes. Never worn." The only prompt we gave Bard was 'finish this story.'

Finish this story. For Sale. Baby Shoes. Never worn.

In five seconds...

For Sale: Baby Shoes, Never Worn.

The shoes were a gift from my wife, but we never had a baby. They were sitting in the closet, collecting dust, and I knew they would never be used. So I decided to sell them.

I put an ad in the paper, and I got a few responses. But the one that stood out was from a woman who said she had lost her baby a few months ago. She said she would love to have the shoes as a way to remember her child.

I met with the woman, and she told me how she had been trying to conceive for years. She had finally gotten pregnant, but she had a miscarriage. She said she was devastated, and she didn't know how she was going to go on.

But then she saw my ad, and she knew she had to have the shoes. She said they would

Scott Pelley: Holy Cow! The shoes were a gift from my wife, but we never had a baby... From the six-word prompt, Bard created a deeply human tale with characters it invented -- including a man whose wife could not conceive and a stranger, grieving after a miscarriage, and longing for closure.

Is artificial intelligence advancing too quickly? What AI leaders at Google say

BY SCOTT PELLEY

APRIL 16, 2023 / 7:02 PM / CBS NEWS

60



SEJ · Machine Learning

Google Announces Internal Shakeup To Create Google DeepMind

Google combines Google Brain and DeepMind to form Google DeepMind, a new unit tasked with faster and more powerful AI innovation



SEJ STAFF

Roger Montti

16 hours ago · 3 min read

66

SHARES

1.7K

READS

Google and DeepMind announced the creation of a new group called Google DeepMind that will combine the infrastructure and research of two units within Alphabet in order to achieve faster and stronger progress and collaboration.

Google Brain and Google DeepMind The announcement said that Google was combining the resources of two units: Google Brain unit from Google Research and DeepMind. DeepMind was an independent AI research company that Google acquired in 2014 and became a subsidiary of Alphabet. Now the two units will join together with a new leadership structure. *Google Research* is a unit within Google that researches broad areas of technology and computer science such as health, sustainability, quantum computing and algorithms. Google research will remain the same, only without the Google Brain part that was focused on AI development, which will now be a part of the new Google DeepMind.

Sundar Pichai mentioned the mission of Google Research (which is separate from Google DeepMind): “Google Research will continue its important work leading fundamental advances in computer science across areas such as algorithms and theory, privacy and security, quantum computing, health, climate and sustainability and responsible AI, and will report in to James Manyika along with his existing Tech & Society teams.” The idea behind this move is to make the two units (Google Brain and DeepMind) more powerful and faster.

From the DeepMind announcement: “DeepMind and the Brain team from Google Research will be joining forces as a single, focused unit called Google DeepMind. Combining our talents and efforts will accelerate our progress towards a world in which AI helps solve the biggest challenges facing humanity, and I’m incredibly excited to be leading this unit and working with all of you to build it.”

Is Google DeepMind the Magi Task Force? Google DeepMind is not the task force that was recently reported to be working on the next generation AI powered search code-named Magi.

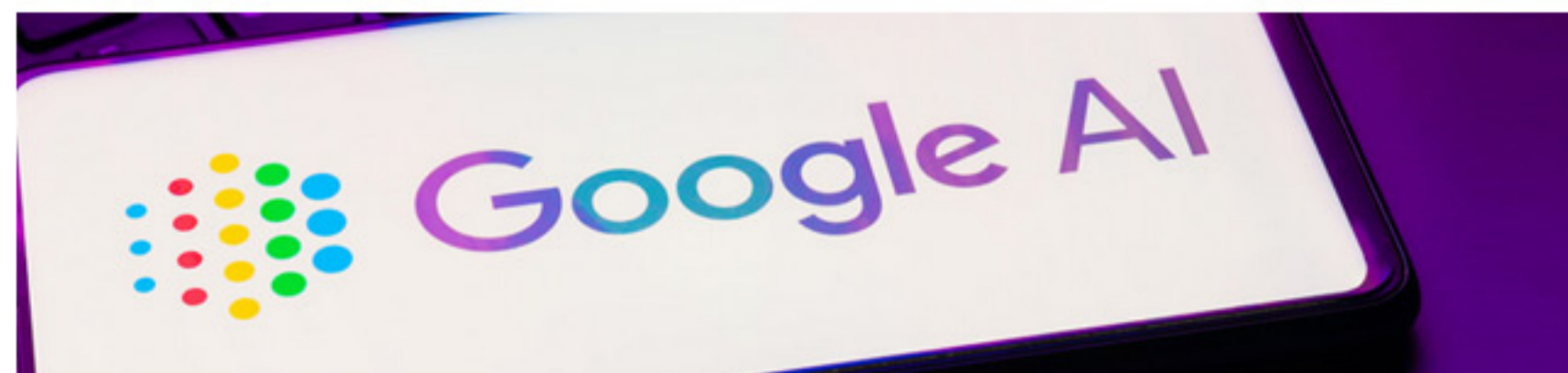
The focus of the new unit, called Google DeepMind, is broader and encompasses more than just one product. Sundar Pichai’s announcement noted that the first big products will be a series of “powerful” multimodal AI models.

Multimodal AI refers to an AI that encompasses more than just text content and is able to computer with visual, auditory and even video inputs. It’s possible that the Magi task force is a part of Google DeepMind but this was not discussed in either announcements from Alphabet’s Sundar Pichai or from the announcement posted on the DeepMind website.

The focus of Google DeepMind is on achieving maximum impact in the field of AI in a safe and responsible manner.

DeepMind CEO, Demis Hassabis, shared the vision of the new Google DeepMind:

“...we have a real opportunity to deliver AI research and products that dramatically improve the lives of billions of people, transform industries, advance science, and serve diverse communities.”



Read **Sundar Pichai’s announcement:** Google DeepMind: Bringing together two world-class AI teams > <https://blog.google/technology/ai/april-ai-update/>

Read the **announcement from DeepMind:** Announcing Google DeepMind > <https://www.deepmind.com/blog/announcing-google-deepmind>

AI-generated spam may soon be flooding your inbox – and it will be personalized to be especially persuasive

Published: April 20, 2023 8.40am EDT

John Licato, University of South Florida

All new technologies can result in both wonder and danger. The difference lies in who creates and controls the tools, and how they are used.

Good for the gander

AI, however, doesn't favor one side or the other. Spam filters also should benefit from advances in AI, allowing them to erect new barriers to unwanted emails.





Chick-fil-A

Fast-food chain serving chicken sandwiches & nuggets along with salads & sides.

5323 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108



Fenton Marketplace

Modern pedestrian mall with all the shopping & dining amid columns, trellises & planters.

2345 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92108

California Pizza Kitchen at Fashion Valley

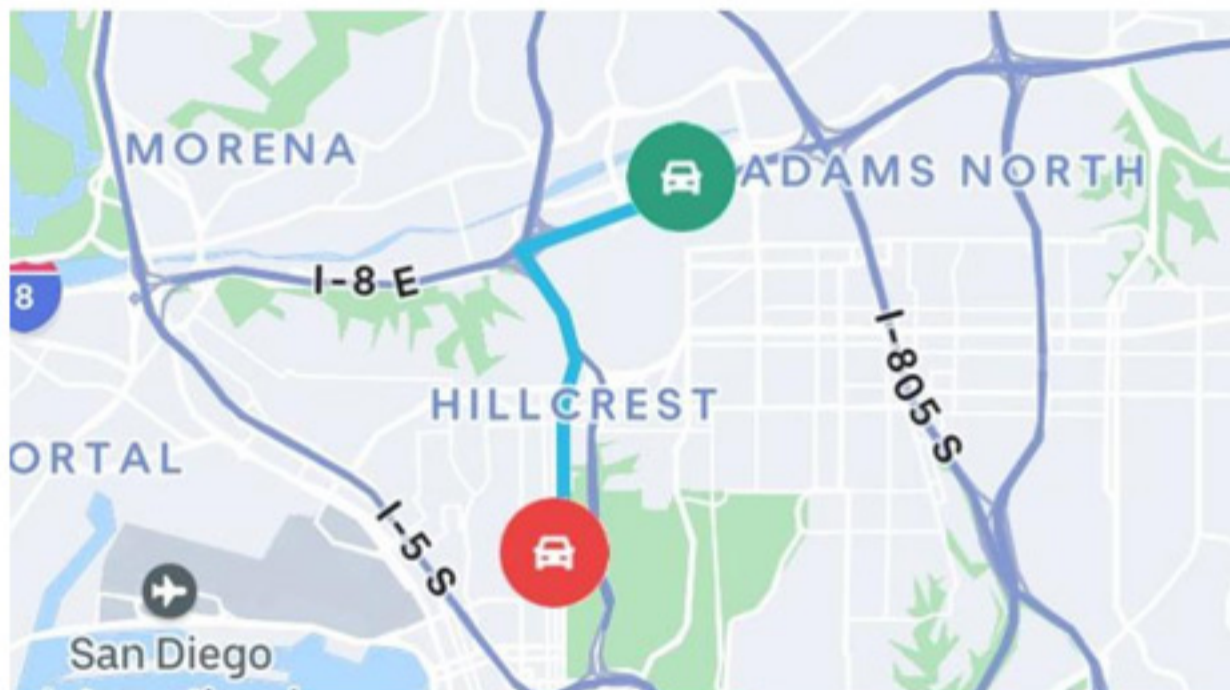
*Chain eatery serving up inventive pizzas,
plus pastas & salads in a modern setting.*

7007 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92108



← Trip Details ?

- Tender Greens Catering
- Fifth Ave #100, San Diego, CA 92103, USA



Your Earnings

\$92.48

SEND THANKS FOR TIP

The estimate for this trip was \$56.58 including an upfront tip—and the customer tipped you even more after delivery. Nice!

Tender Greens
 Modern, cafeteria-style chain serving area-sourced, globally influenced plates, sandwiches & salads.
 1640 Camino Del Rio North

Paid to you

Fare \$6.58 ▼

Base \$6.58

Tip \$85.90

Duration Distance

31 min 17 sec **3.6 mi**

● Tip Included ✓ \$85.90



Starship, the most powerful rocket ever built, launched from a spaceport in Texas. AP Photo/Eric Gay)

SpaceX launches most powerful rocket in history in explosive debut – like many first liftoffs, Starship’s test was a successful failure

Published: April 20, 2023 3:59pm EDT

Wendy Whitman Cobb, Air University

On April 20, 2023, a new SpaceX rocket called Starship exploded over the Gulf of Mexico three minutes into its first flight ever. SpaceX is calling the test launch a success, despite the fiery end result. As a space policy expert, I agree that the “rapid unscheduled disassembly” – the term SpaceX uses when its rockets explode – was a very successful failure.

Starship is almost 400 feet (120 meters) tall and weighs 11 million pounds (4.9 million kilograms). An out-of-control rocket full of highly flammable fuel is a very dangerous object, so to prevent any harm, SpaceX engineers triggered the self-destruct mechanism and blew up the entire rocket over the Gulf of Mexico. All modern rockets have mechanisms built into them that allow engineers to safely destroy the rocket in flight if need be. SpaceX itself has blown up many of its own rockets during testing.

SpaceX’s approach to testing is different from that of other groups. Its company philosophy is to fail fast, find problems and fix them with the next rocket. This is different from the more traditional approach taken by organizations such as NASA that spend far more time identifying and planning for possible problems before attempting a launch. The traditional approach tends to be slow. The development of NASA’s Space Launch System – the rocket that will take astronauts to the Moon as part of the Artemis program – took more than 10 years before its first launch this past November. SpaceX’s method has allowed the company to move much faster but can be costlier because of the time and resources it takes to build new rockets. SpaceX engineers will look to identify the specific cause of the problem so that they can fix it for the next test launch. With this approach, launches like this first Starship test are successful failures that will help SpaceX reach its eventual goal of sending astronauts to Mars.



Wendy Whitman Cobb

Professor of Strategy and Security Studies, Air University

I received a BA in political science (summa cum laude and university honors) and an MA in political science from the University of Central Florida. I received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida where my research focused on the intersection of political institutions and public policy. I have authored several books including *Unbroken Government: Success and Failure in Policymaking* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), *The Politics of Cancer: Malignant Indifference* (Praeger, 2017), and *The CQ Press Career Guide for Political Science Students* (CQ Press, 2017). My research has also appeared in journals including *Congress and the Presidency*, *Space Policy*, and the *Journal of Political Science Education*. I am currently professor of strategy and security studies at the US Air Force’s School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, a selective graduate program for Air Force officers. Prior to my current position, I was associate professor of political science at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Air University (AU), headquartered at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, is a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and is the lead agent for Air Force education. AU provides the full spectrum of Air Force education, encompassing precommissioning programs for new officers; graduate programs in specialized military disciplines; progressive, career-long professional military development for officer, enlisted, and civilian Airmen; and specialized programs for US cabinet appointees, senior executive service (SES) civilians, and general officers.

AU’s professional military education (PME) programs educate Airmen to leverage



LAW

MyPillow founder Mike Lindell is ordered to pay \$5 million in election fraud challenge



POLITICS

Roberts invited to testify at Senate hearing on Supreme Court ethics



HEALTH

Is gray hair reversible? A new study digs into the root cause of aging scalps

ST. PAUL, Minn. — An arbitration panel has ordered MyPillow chief executive **Mike Lindell** to pay \$5 million to a software engineer for breach of contract in a dispute over data that Lindell claims proves that China interfered in the U.S. 2020 elections and tipped the outcome to Joe Biden. But Lindell told the AP Thursday that he has no intention of paying and that he expects the dispute to land in court.

The chair of the Senate Judiciary committee has invited **Chief Justice John Roberts** to testify at a hearing next month focused on the ethical rules governing the Supreme Court as well as potential changes to those guidelines. **Sen. Dick Durbin**, D-Ill. said in a letter to Roberts on Thursday that recent reports found the justices are "falling short" of the ethical standards they and other public servants are supposed to follow. "The status quo is no longer tenable," Durbin wrote.

New Mexico special prosecutors announced they are dropping involuntary manslaughter charges against actor **Alec Baldwin** for the death of the cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the Western film Rust.

\$725 million privacy lawsuit settlement DIVIDED BY about 87 million users = \$8.33 per Facebook User . . . worth giving Facebook your required data?



NATIONAL

Charge against Alec Baldwin in the 'Rust' movie set shooting will be dropped



NATIONAL

A 6th arrest has been made in a birthday party shooting in Alabama



LAW

Facebook users can apply for their portion of a \$725 million lawsuit settlement

Facebook users can now apply for their share of a \$725 million privacy lawsuit settlement if they had accounts from May 2007 to December 2022. Facebook's parent company, Meta, is doling out the payments to settle a lawsuit alleging it allowed Cambridge Analytica, a former British political consulting firm used by the 2016 Donald Trump presidential campaign, to access about 87 million users' personal information. To apply for the funds, people can apply online or by mailing their forms by Aug. 25. The form requires you to input your name, address, contact information, birthday, Facebook handle and payment information. In 2018, Cambridge Analytica allegedly paid Facebook developers for user data, which was then used to target voters in the 2016 election. After the scandal surfaced, Facebook **CEO Mark Zuckerberg** fielded questions from members of the U.S. Congress, who accused him of *failing to protect the data*.



THE NPR POLITICS PODCAST

A \$787.5 Million Check — How Fox News Ended Election Lies Lawsuit

A woman gets 21 years for trying to kill her doppelganger with poisoned cheesecake

April 21, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

By Rachel Treisman



The Guardian
cheesecake-poisoning of US doppelganger ...

A Russian woman living in New York City was sentenced to 21 years in jail for poisoning her similar-looking friend with sedative-laced cheesecake, then stealing her identification and other valuables. A jury convicted **Viktoria Nasyrova**, 47, of attempted murder, assault and other charges in February. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced her sentence this week, nearly seven years after the made-for-TV incident. "A ruthless and calculating con artist is going to prison for a long time for trying to murder her way to personal profit and gain," Katz said in a statement. "Thankfully, the victim survived the attack on her life and we were able to deliver justice to her."

The New York Post reports that the judge delivering Nasyrova's sentence called her an "extremely dangerous woman" with a "diabolical" scheme, and that she cursed at him as she left the courtroom.

Interpol had a red notice out for Nasyrova

This wasn't Nasyrova's first brush with the law or with poison, authorities say. She's accused of killing her friend Alla Aleksenko and stealing her life savings in Russia in 2014, as CBS News reports. The following year Interpol issued a red notice for Nasyrova's arrest for murder — in other words, a request to law enforcement worldwide to "locate and provisionally arrest" a person pending their extradition or surrender.

Private investigator Herman Weisberg told CBS News that once in New York, Nasyrova began working as an escort or dominatrix who would sedate her clients and then rob them of their jewelry and other possessions. One of them, Ruben Borukhov, testified at Nasyrova's trial that she drugged him during a date, after which he woke up with \$2,600 in unknown charges on his credit card and a missing watch, the New York Post reports.

Nasyrova was arrested in March 2017 on charges including attempted murder and grand larceny. The following year, speaking to CBS News from Riker's Island, Nasyrova said Russian police were framing her for the 2014 murder.

"I am not a killer," she said. "I'm woman. Only woman."



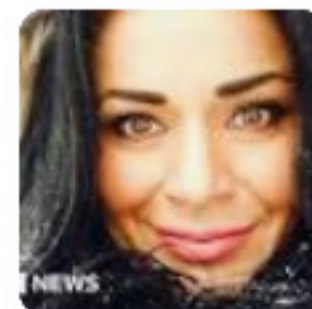
Prosecutors say Nasyrova gave her friend cheesecake laced with a highly potent sedative, then scattered pills around her unconscious body.

Queens County District Attorney



NYC dominatrix yells 'F--k you!' after getting slapped with 21-year sentence for trying to poison pal with cheesecake

1 day ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biden 2024 campaign announcement coming as soon as next week

14 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biden 2024 splits Dems but most would back him: AP-NORC poll

39 minutes ago



US inventory: old forests cover area larger than California

By MATTHEW BROWN yesterday



BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The Biden administration has identified more than 175,000 square miles (453,000 square kilometers) of old growth and mature forests on U.S. government land and plans to craft a new rule to better protect the nation's woodlands from fires, insects and other side effects of climate change, officials said Thursday. The results from the government's first-ever national inventory of mature and old-growth forests on federal land revealed more expanses of older trees than outside researchers had recently estimated.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter begins removing blue checks from users who don't pay

12 hours ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SpaceX giant rocket explodes minutes after launch from Texas

3 hours ago



To restore burnt forests the Biden administration last year pledged to plant more than 1 billion trees over next decade, and on Thursday it set a target of reforesting 3,600 square miles (9,300 square kilometers) of federal land by 2030. Reaching that goal would still leave a backlog of millions of acres of fire-damaged forest needing restoration work.

AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More peril for Trump in Georgia probe than New York indictment: AP ...

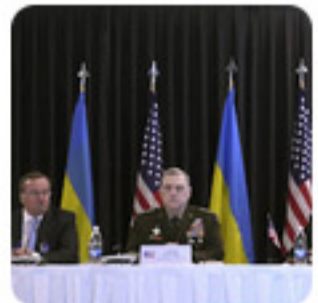
2 days ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

US to begin training Ukrainian troops on Abrams tank

26 minutes ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRS agent alleges Hunter Biden probe is being mishandled

2 days ago



AP THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATO chief: Ukraine's 'rightful place' is in the alliance

20 hours ago



US federal debt currently stands at a staggering US\$31.4 trillion, the highest it's ever been.



AXIOS

Democratic anxiety emerges over Biden's debt ceiling stance

9 hours ago

MSNBC

House GOP unveils debt ceiling legislation

Yesterday

The Conversation

US faces \$31.4 trillion national debt crisis – and Republican divisions could make it harder to solve than ever

22 hours ago

Bloomberg

Biden Needs to Negotiate on the Debt Ceiling

23 hours ago • Opinion

Full Coverage

Read more: US is spending record amounts servicing its national debt – interest rate hikes add billions to the cost >

<https://theconversation.com/us-is-spending-record-amounts-servicing-its-national-debt-interest-rate-hikes-add-billions-to-the-cost-198280>



Who's running the show?

In the debt-ceiling debate, Democrat House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries insists that his colleagues are “not going to pay a ransom note to extremists in the other party”. Any lift to the debt ceiling would need to pass both the Republican-controlled House and the Democrat-controlled Senate. That makes compromise inevitable.

Yet the big question is what Republicans will accept. The answer will depend on who's running the show: McCarthy or a band of Trump-supporting rebels determined to drain “the Washington swamp” of supposedly profligate officials and lobbyists. McCarthy wants to reduce spending down to the same amount as in 2022, then curtail the growth in domestic spending at 1% per year over the next decade. Yet McCarthy will be negotiating as much with the right flank of his party as with Democrats. He's not in an enviable position.

US federal debt: 1900 to 2050 (projected)

A graph showing national debt in the US.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=94328027>

Fiscal hawks want big cuts to discretionary outlays. Even defense expenditures could be on the chopping block. That places McCarthy in a tough spot as he tries to reassure more mainstream Republicans that America's commitment to Ukraine isn't waning.

Who's running the show?

In the coming weeks and months, we can expect lots of back-door wrangling among Republicans before McCarthy even gets to the bargaining table with Democrats. Hardliners have leverage precisely because the GOP majority in the House is so razor-thin. McCarthy has already been sapped of much of his power because of all the concessions he had to make just to get the speakership. The concern is that some of his Republican counterparts will bind his hand so much that compromising across the aisle will be impossible.

Republicans have a point that Washington keeps kicking the can down the road on the debt. At the same time, they've also been guilty of fattening the deficit when they've controlled both Congress and the White House.

Democrats are right that risking default could be calamitous. Yet the Biden administration has also hastened the budget crunch by pushing through huge spending initiatives, including the US\$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue bill.

In light of the risks, it's likely that the two parties will ultimately meet in the middle before default. But given the hyper-polarised climate in Washington, that's not a foregone conclusion. And even if an agreement is reached, it's likely to be pushed back to the eleventh hour. McCarthy thought that the 15 rounds it took him to secure the speaker's gavel was tough. Getting to “yes” on the debt ceiling might make that look like a cakewalk.

US federal debt currently stands at a staggering US\$31.4 trillion, the highest it's ever been.

Read more: US is spending record amounts servicing its national debt – interest rate hikes add billions to the cost >

It's All About the Benjamins

House GOP unveils debt ceiling legislation

Yesterday

The Conversation

Song



It's All About The Benjamins (Remix)

US federal debt: 1900 to 2050 (projected)

A graph showing...
<https://common>

(Official Music Video) [HD]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch>

Democrat...
over Biden's...
stance
9 hours ago

Who's running the

In the debt-ceiling...
insists that his colle...
the other party". Ar...
Republican-controll...
compromise inevita

Yet the big question...
who's running the sl...
mined to drain "the...
lobbyists. McCarthy wants to reduce spending down to the same amount as in...
2022, then curtail the growth in domestic spending at 1% per year over the next...
decade. Yet McCarthy will be negotiating as much with the right flank of his...
party as with Democrat... He's not in an ideal position.

Fiscal hawks want big cuts to discretionary outlays. Even defense expenditures...
could be on the cho...
to reassure more mainstream Republicans that America's commitment to...
Ukraine isn't waning.

on the debt. At the same time, they've also been guilty of fattening the deficit...
when they've controlled both Congress and the White House.

Democrats are right that risking default could be calamitous. Yet the Biden ad...
Is...
spending initiatives, including the US\$1.9 trillion COVID-19 rescue bill.

risks, it's likely that the two parties will ultimately meet in the...
middle bef...
re default. But given the hyper-polarised climate in Washington,
that's not a foregone conclusion. And even if an agreement is reached, it's likely...
be pushed back to the eleventh hour. McCarthy thought that the 15 rounds it...
took him to secure the speaker's gavel was tough. Getting to "yes" on the debt...
ceiling might make that look like a cakewalk.

-door wrangling...
ning table with...
GOP majority in the...
much of his power...
speakership. The...
his hand so much

can down the road

Judge's donations cloud rulings in Catholic bankruptcy case

By JIM MUSTIAN today



NEW ORLEANS (AP) — **A federal judge donated tens of thousands of dollars to New Orleans' Roman Catholic archdiocese and consistently ruled in favor of the church amid a contentious bankruptcy involving nearly 500 clergy sex abuse victims,** The Associated Press found, an apparent conflict that could throw the case into disarray. Confronted with AP's findings, which have not been previously reported, U.S. District Judge Greg Guidry abruptly convened attorneys on a call last week to tell them his charitable giving "has been brought to my attention" and he is now considering recusal from the high-profile bankruptcy he oversees in an appellate role. "Naturally," Guidry told them, "I will take no further action in this case until this question has been resolved."

AP's reporting on Guidry and other judges in the New Orleans bankruptcy underscores how tightly woven the church is in the city's power structure, a coziness perhaps best exemplified when executives of the NFL's New Orleans Saints secretly advised the archdiocese on public relations messaging at the height of its clergy abuse crisis. It also comes at a fraught moment when attorneys in the bankruptcy are seeking to unseal a trove of thousands of secret church documents produced by lawsuits and an ongoing FBI investigation of clergy abuse in New Orleans going back decades. Guidry had rebuffed at least one such request to unseal some of the documents.

Ethics experts said the 62-year-old Guidry should immediately recuse himself to avoid even the appearance of a conflict, despite the slew of new hearings and appeals it could trigger three years into a complex bankruptcy. "It would create a mess and a cloud of suspicion over every ruling he's made," said Keith Swisher, a professor of legal ethics at the University of Arizona, describing the judge's donations as "more like fire than smoke." AP's review of campaign-finance records found that Guidry, since being nominated to the federal bench in 2019 by then-President Donald Trump, has given nearly \$50,000 to local Catholic charities from leftover contributions he received after serving 10 years as a Louisiana Supreme Court justice. Most of that giving, \$36,000 of it, came in the months after the archdiocese sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in May 2020 amid a crush of sexual abuse lawsuits. That included a \$12,000 donation to the archdiocese's Catholic Community Foundation in September 2020 on the same day of a series of filings in the bankruptcy, and a \$14,000 donation to the same charity in July of the following year.

But Guidry's philanthropy over the years also appears to include private donations. Newsletters issued by Catholic Charities of New Orleans, the charitable arm of the archdiocese, recognized Guidry and his wife among its donors for unspecified contributions, in 2017 listing both the judge and his campaign. The judge previously provided pro bono services and served as a board member for Catholic Charities between 2000 and 2008, a time when the archdiocese was navigating an earlier wave of sex abuse lawsuits. Catholic Charities was involved in at least one multimillion-dollar settlement to victims beaten and sexually abused at two local orphanages. Within a year of his most recent contributions, Guidry began issuing rulings that altered the momentum of the bankruptcy and benefited the archdiocese. He upheld the removal of several members from a committee of victims seeking compensation from the church. Those plaintiffs repeatedly complained about a lack of transparency in the case and argued that the archdiocese's primary reason for seeking the legal protection was to minimize payouts. The Moody's rating agency found that the archdiocese sought bankruptcy despite having "significant financial reserves, with spendable cash and investments of over \$160 million."

And just last month, Guidry affirmed a \$400,000 sanction against Richard Trahan, a veteran attorney for clergy abuse victims who was accused of violating a sweeping confidentiality order when he warned a local principal that his school had hired a priest who admitted to sex abuse. Trahan, who declined to comment, has become a prominent adversary of the archdiocese, drawing attention to what he calls a conspiracy by top church officials in New Orleans to cover up clergy abuse. After AP sent a letter to Guidry detailing the findings and seeking comment, the judge did not respond. Instead, he called last week's status conference to tell attorneys in the bankruptcy that he is considering recusal. According to a transcript obtained by the AP, Guidry noted that the question of his potential conflict "has not been considered before" and he was seeking the guidance of the federal judiciary's Committee on Codes of Conduct, with his decision expected within days.

Charles Geyh, a professor at Indiana University who studies judicial ethics, said Guidry's devout religion alone shouldn't disqualify him from the case, but his generous donations and close ties to the church are clearly reasons to question his ability to be a fair referee. "Not only has the judge made significant financial contributions to a church whose archdiocese is a party in litigation before him, but those contributions are inextricably linked to his status as a judge," Geyh said. "The judge chose to donate the overflow of campaign funds generated to further his professional life as a judge to further his religious life in the church, which implies a connection in the judge's mind between his religious and professional identities."

In heavily Catholic New Orleans, Guidry is far from the only federal judge with longstanding ties to the archdiocese. Several of Guidry's colleagues have recused themselves from the bankruptcy or related litigation. They include U.S. District Judge Wendy Vitter, who for years worked as general counsel for the archdiocese, defending the church against a cascade of sex abuse claims before Trump nominated her to the federal bench in 2018. Another federal judge, Ivan Lemelle, serves on the board of the Catholic Community Foundation. Yet another, U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey recused himself from cases related to the bankruptcy after publicly acknowledging the role he played in the behind-the-scenes media relations campaign that executives of the New Orleans Saints did for the archdiocese in 2018 and 2019. At the time, Zainey told The Times-Picayune he would recuse himself from future church-related cases. But less than a year ago, Zainey quietly struck down a Louisiana law, vigorously opposed by the archdiocese, that created a so called look-back window allowing victims of sexual abuse to sue the church and other institutions no matter how long ago the alleged abuse took place. Zainey didn't respond to a request for comment.

"These are federal judges who are incredibly active in different ministries throughout the archdiocese," said James Adams, a past president of the Catholic Community Foundation who was abused by a priest as a fifth-grader in 1980. "I'm not saying they don't do good works, but it certainly raises an eyebrow when they then have cases involving the Archdiocese of New Orleans." Jason Berry, an author who has written several books on clergy abuse and most recently a history of New Orleans, said the influence of the church on the court system in the city "stinks to high heaven."

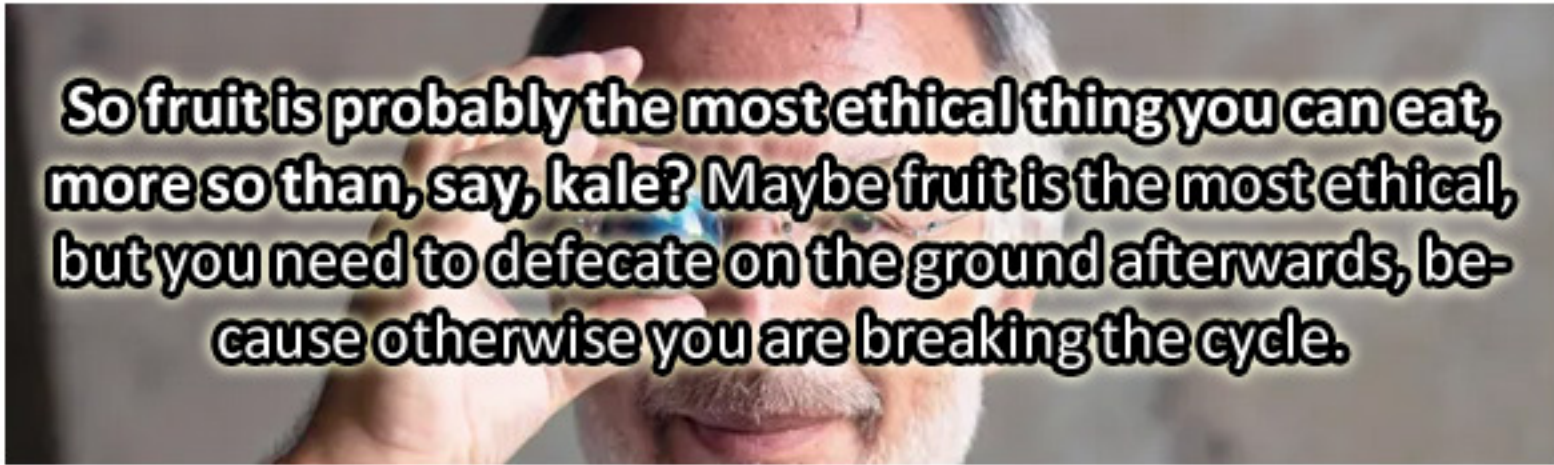
"The larger question here is whether justice has been compromised," he said. "You're talking about 500 people whose lives have been plundered, and that's one thing many people don't have a grasp of."

Botanist Stefano Mancuso: 'You can anaesthetise all plants. This is extremely fascinating'

Killian Fox

Sat 15 Apr 2023 12.00 EDT

An advocate of plant intelligence, the Italian author discusses the complex ways in which plants communicate, whether they are conscious, and what his findings mean for vegans



So fruit is probably the most ethical thing you can eat, more so than, say, kale? Maybe fruit is the most ethical, but you need to defecate on the ground afterwards, because otherwise you are breaking the cycle.

Stefano Mancuso: 'I think that both consciousness and intelligence are more embodied, relating to the entire body.' Photograph: Leonardo Cendamo/Getty Images

Born in Calabria in 1965, Stefano Mancuso is a pioneer in the plant neurobiology movement, which seeks to understand "how plants perceive their circumstances and respond to environmental input in an integrated fashion". Michael Pollan in the *New Yorker* described him as "the poet-philosopher of the movement, determined to win for plants the recognition they deserve". Mancuso teaches at the University of Florence, his alma mater, where he runs the International Laboratory of Plant Neurobiology. He has written five bestselling books on plants.

What's at the root of your love of plants? I began to be interested in plants at university. One of my tasks during my doctorate was to understand how a root growing in the soil was able to move around an obstacle. My idea was to film this movement, but I saw something different: the root was changing direction well before touching the obstacle. It was able to sense the obstacle and to find a more convenient direction. That was my first eureka moment, where I started to imagine that plants were intelligent organisms.

You refer to your field as plant neurobiology. Is this a provocation? At the beginning, it was not at all. I started to think that almost all the claims I was hearing about the brain were valid also in plants. The neuron is not a miracle cell, it's a normal cell that is able to produce an electrical signal. In plants, almost every cell is able to do that. The main difference between animals and plants, in my opinion, is that animals concentrate specific functions inside organs. In the case of plants, they diffuse everything through the whole body, including intelligence. So it was not a provocation at the beginning, but there was a big resistance among my colleagues to use this kind of terminology, and so after it became a provocation.

What were you hoping to achieve with your new book, *Tree Stories*? What I'd like to popularise is, first, the many abilities of plants that we normally are unable to feel and understand, because they are so different from us. Second, when you tell a story about life on this planet, not talking about plants, which make up 87% of life, is a nonsense.

You argue passionately in favour of filling cities with trees. Why is this so important? We are producing 75% of our CO₂ in cities, and the best way to remove that CO₂ is by using trees. The closer the tree is to the source of carbon emissions, the better they are at absorbing it. According to our studies, we could put around 200bn trees in our urban areas. To do that, we really need to imagine a new kind of city, completely covered by plants, without any border between nature and city.

You have a fascinating chapter about a tree stump being kept alive for decades by its neighbouring trees. What can humans learn from tree communities? Plants are so incredibly cooperative with one another because cooperation is the most efficient way to grant the survival of species. Not understanding the strength of the community is one of [humanity's] main errors. There was a very clever evolutionary biologist at the beginning of the last century, Peter Kropotkin, who said that when there are fewer resources, and the environment is changing, then cooperation is vastly more efficient [than competition]. This is an important teaching for us today, because we are entering a period of reduction of resources and the environment is changing because of global warming.

To what degree can plants communicate with one another? If you have a spectrum with rocks at one end and humans at the other, where do plants sit?

I would say very close to humans. Communication means you are able to emit a message and there is something able to receive it, and in this sense plants are great communicators. If you are unable to move, if you are rooted, it's of paramount importance for you to communicate a lot. We experienced this during lockdown, when we were stuck at home and there was an incredible increase in traffic on the internet. Plants are obliged to communicate a lot, and they use different systems. The most important is through volatiles, or chemicals that are emitted in the atmosphere and received by other plants. It's an extremely sophisticated form of communication, a kind of vocabulary. Every single molecule means something, and they mix very different molecules to send a specific message.

The idea that plants are intelligent is controversial enough, but you've gone one step further by claiming that plants are to some degree conscious...

It's incredibly difficult to talk about consciousness, first because we actually don't know what consciousness is, even in our case. But there is an approach to talking about it as a real biological feature: consciousness is something that we all have, except when we are sleeping very deeply or when we are under anaesthesia. My approach to studying consciousness in plants was similar. I started by seeing if they

The XBB.1.16 COVID Symptoms Doctors Are Seeing The Most Right Now

The new strain, also known as XBB.1.16, is presenting a few new issues that we haven't really seen with infections before.

By Jillian Wilson

Apr 20, 2023, 05:45 AM EDT



COVID cases are rising quickly at alarming rates in countries like India and Nepal because of the contagious XBB.1.16 COVID variant — and now it's infecting people in the U.S., too.

XBB.1.16, also referred to as “arcturus,” is a new COVID-19 variant that’s infecting people across the globe. Like BA.5 and BQ.1 from 2022, it’s also an omicron subvariant. It’s labeled by the World Health Organization as a “variant under monitoring,” according to Jodie Guest, professor of epidemiology at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta. (For reference, there are two levels of variants above this classification — variants of interest and variants of concern.) “The thing we’re watching the most is how fast this is doubling in countries that it’s in,” Guest told HuffPost. It’s currently being tracked in 29 countries, including the United States. “It started in India, and we’re seeing a 500% increase in the past month in the Southeast Asia region that includes India, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka [and] The Maldives,” Guest said. “We’re seeing cases beginning a fairly steep uptick in the Eastern Mediterranean region as well.” In the U.S., XBB.1.16 is also contributing to a sizable jump in cases. “In the United States, we’ve started to notice it increasing over the last month,” said Matthew Binnicker, the director of clinical virology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. “Four weeks ago, [XBB.1.16] represented about 1% of all the sequenced cases, the following week it increased to a little over 2%.” As of last week, it represented a little more than 7% of cases in the U.S. nationwide — though certain parts of the country are being hit with this variant harder than others.

“The CDC also looks by region in the country and it looks like the most prevalent of this variant is in the Southern part of the country in states like Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, where it represents about 20% of the cases that are sequenced in that region,” Binnicker added. And, **unfortunately, new variants are often more transmissible, and that is the case for XBB.1.16. “Our expectation is that this new variant — based on its doubling rate — we are anticipating that it is very transmissible,”** Guest said. The symptoms of this new variant are also a little different from what we’ve seen in the past. How can you spot them and how can you protect yourself? Here’s what to know:

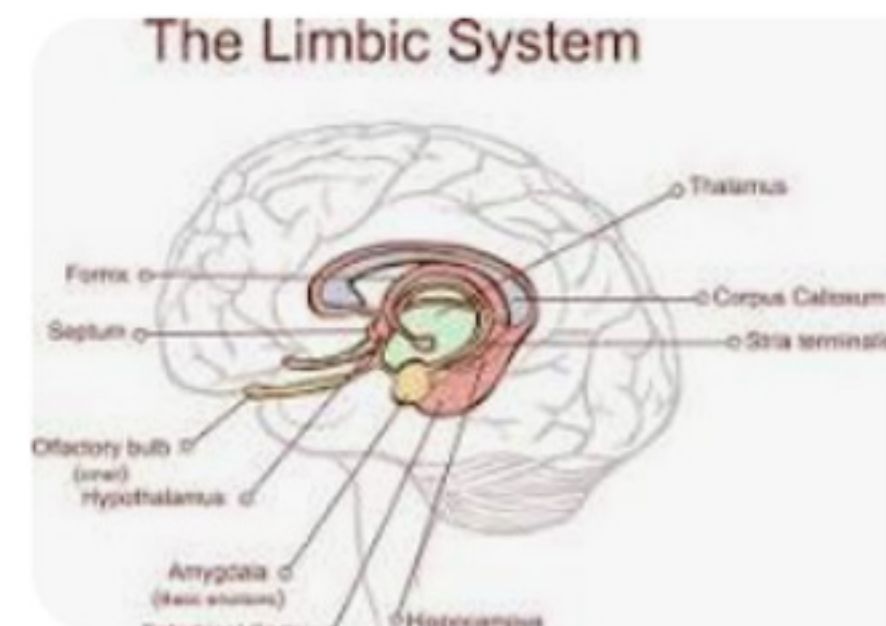
Unlike other variants, red, itchy eyes are a symptom for some people. Particularly in children, conjunctivitis — red, itchy eyes — has been a reported symptom, according to Binnicker. Conjunctivitis is “somewhat common with viral illnesses, but it seems to be a new symptom associated with this particular COVID-19 variant that we haven’t observed in past waves caused by previous variants of the virus,” Binnicker said. You might call this symptom pink eye or red eye, Guest added. And while this tends to be more common in pediatric COVID-19 cases, it can still happen in both adults and elderly people. What makes this symptom a little confusing is it overlaps with a time when many folks experience red, itchy eyes due to seasonal allergies. “Depending on where you live, if you’re in the United States, if you’re in a place that’s starting to see the pollination come out, a lot of these symptoms are really similar to what you would see with spring allergies,” Guest said. “And so that does bring up the need to make sure you’re doing COVID tests if you have any of these symptoms.”


Fevers are higher than in previous COVID variants. While fevers have long been a sign of a COVID-19 infection, the fever associated with an XBB.1.16 infection is a little different. “We’re also seeing higher-grade fever,” Binnicker said. A high-grade fever is typically defined as anything above 103 degrees Fahrenheit in adults, though the exact threshold can vary, according to Dr. Ali Khan, the chief medical officer at Oak Street Health. “Patients should consult a doctor if it remains this high for greater than 24 hours,” Khan said. If you have this high of a fever you may notice chills, sweating and muscle aches, Khan said. “And it’s easy to become dehydrated — so staying hydrated with water and other fluid replacement drinks is critical,” Khan noted. Binnicker added that if you do develop a fever, it’s one way to differentiate your infection from allergies. “Allergies aren’t associated typically with a fever ... so, that would be a distinguishing feature of an infection,” Binnicker added.

Otherwise, the symptoms are largely the same as with previous variants. In addition to higher fevers and red, itchy eyes, an XBB.1.16 infection still resembles an earlier COVID-19 diagnosis, according to the experts. That means issues like a cough, scratchy throat and runny nose are all part of current infections, too, Guest said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that fatigue, body aches, headache and congestion are also signs of a COVID-19 infection. Shortness of breath is prevalent in certain populations. **“The older you get, you’re more likely to see some conditions with shortness of breath,”** Guest said. And, as we know, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing has been a common COVID-19 symptom for the past few years.

Simple measures can help protect you from a COVID-19 infection. The measures we’ve used for three-plus years to protect ourselves and loved ones from COVID-19 are still the way to protect yourself from an XBB.1.16 infection. According to Guest, you should stay up-to-date with your vaccinations, wash your hands and take a COVID-19 test if you have any of the symptoms mentioned above. Additionally, mask-wearing remains a good way to control virus spread. “These are the measures that will protect you and those you might be nearby,” Guest said.

The structures and interacting areas of the limbic system are involved in motivation, emotion, learning, and memory. The limbic system is where the subcortical structures meet the cerebral cortex. The limbic system operates by influencing the endocrine system and the autonomic nervous system.

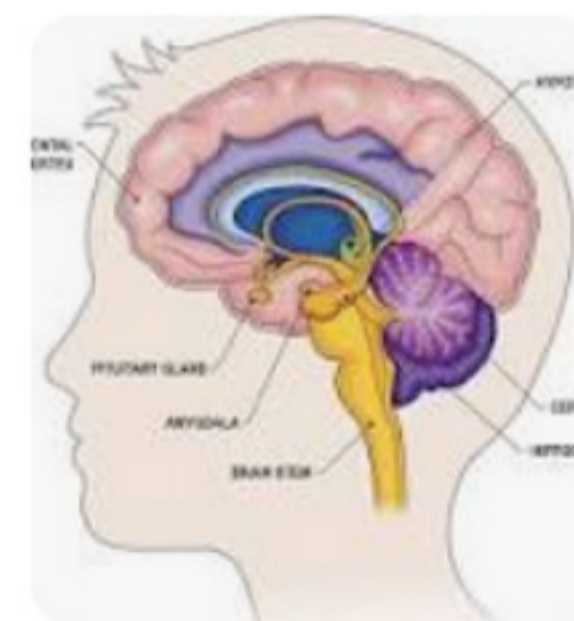



 Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limbic_system

Limbic system - Wikipedia

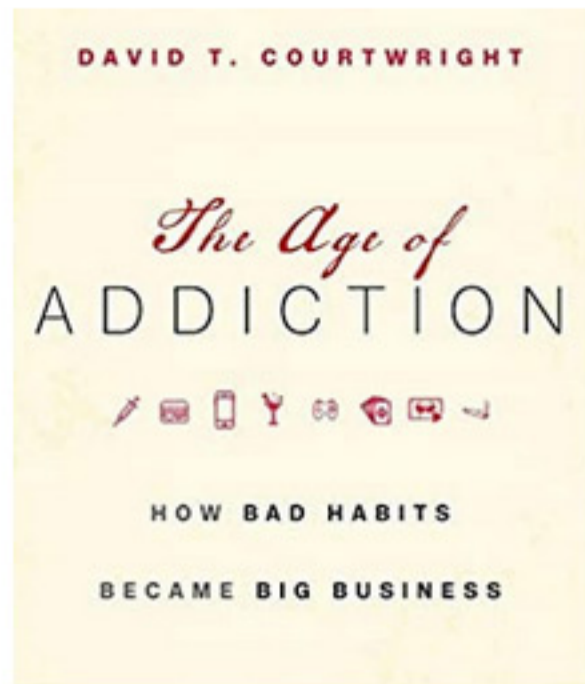
What is the role of the limbic system?

The limbic system is the part of the brain involved in our behavioural and emotional responses, especially when it comes to behaviours we need for survival: feeding, reproduction and caring for our young, and fight or flight responses.



 University of Queensland
<https://qbi.uq.edu.au/brain/brain-anatomy/limbic...>

The limbic system - Queensland Brain Institute



The Age of Addiction: How Bad Habits Became Big Business

by [David T. Courtwright](#) (Author)

– May 6, 2019

From a leading expert on addiction, a provocative, singularly authoritative history of how sophisticated global businesses have targeted the human brain's reward centers, driving us to addictions ranging from oxycodone to Big Macs to Assassin's Creed to Snapchat—with alarming social consequences.

We live in an age of addiction, from compulsive gaming and shopping to binge eating and opioid abuse. Sugar can be as habit-forming as cocaine, researchers tell us, and social media apps are hooking our kids. But what can we do to resist temptations that insidiously and deliberately rewire our brains? Nothing, David Courtwright says, unless we understand the history and character of the global enterprises that create and cater to our bad habits.

The Age of Addiction chronicles the triumph of what Courtwright calls **“limbic capitalism,” the growing network of competitive businesses targeting the brain pathways responsible for feeling, motivation, and long-term memory.** We see its success in Purdue Pharma's pain pills, in McDonald's engineered burgers, and in Tencent video games from China. All capitalize on the ancient quest to discover, cultivate, and refine new and habituating pleasures. The business of satisfying desire assumed a more sinister aspect with the rise of long-distance trade, plantation slavery, anonymous cities, large corporations, and sophisticated marketing. Multinational industries, often with the help of complicit governments and criminal organizations, have multiplied and cheapened seductive forms of brain reward, from junk food to pornography. The internet has brought new addictions: in 2018, the World Health Organization added “gaming disorder” to its International Classification of Diseases.

Courtwright holds out hope that limbic capitalism can be contained by organized opposition from across the political spectrum. Progressives, nationalists, and traditionalists have made common cause against the purveyors of addiction before. They could do it again.

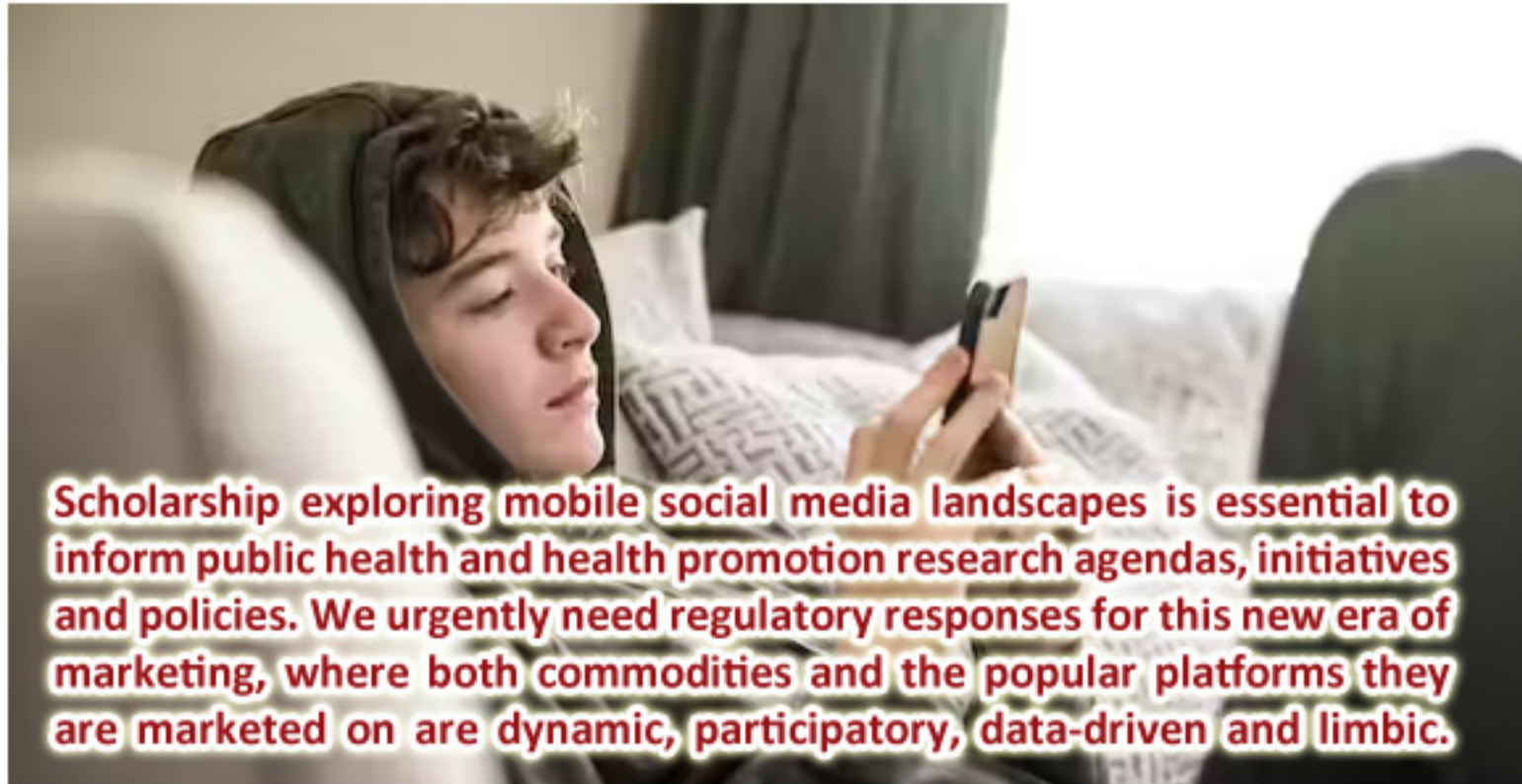
David Courtwright, *The Age of Addiction: How Bad Habits Became Big Business*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019.

Reviewed by Erika Dyck, University of Saskatchewan. DOI:10.1086/708102

In June 2019, historians of drugs and alcohol gathered in Shanghai for the first time under the banner of the Social History of Alcohol and Drugs Society (SHAD). The conference was both historical and forward facing, particularly as it attempted to cement academic relationships across political, geographical, and linguistic boundaries through our common interests in understanding history through drugs and alcohol. It seemed particularly fitting that as part of this meeting, David Courtwright's book took center stage as the subject of a full panel devoted to grappling with his new book and its provocative claims about the seductive powers of what he describes as “limbic capitalism.” A full room and a lively discussion suggested that far beyond the book's importance for this organization, limbic capitalism should make us all uncomfortable.

Limbic capitalism, according to Courtwright, is a “technologically advanced but socially regressive business system in which global industries, often with the help of complicit governments and criminal organizations, encourage excessive consumption and addiction” (6). Consumable goods and services necessarily go beyond typical categories of drugs and alcohol, but these classic commodities continue to draw particular attention. This system, he goes on to argue, has created a kind of

The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs (Spring 2020) © 2020 by The Alcohol and Drugs History Society. All rights reserved. For permission to reuse, please contact journalpermissions@press.uchicago.edu.



How digital marketing of legal but harmful products escalates health threats to the most vulnerable

Published: April 3, 2023 4.09pm EDT

▼ [Tim McCreanor](#), Massey University, [Angela Moewaka Barnes](#), Massey University, [Antonia Lyons](#), University of Auckland, [Ian Goodwin](#), Massey University, [Nicholas Carah](#), The University of Queensland

The marketing of legal but harmful products – like alcohol and tobacco – has always targeted our emotional desires. But it has now moved to digital and social media, and this creates a heightened threat to public health because both the products and the platform target our neurological response. Promoting psychoactive products for profit by stimulating the neurotransmitters in the brain’s reward centres, or its limbic structures, is called “**limbic capitalism**”. But as **limbic capitalism** has gone digital over the past decade, marketers can now reach us on our smartphones as we use digital and social media platforms. The algorithms that keep us swiping and tapping on images and videos stimulate the dopamine drive in our brains that induces feelings of pleasure. When used to promote potentially addictive products, this presents a serious threat to public health and the wellbeing of individuals, communities and populations. We know alcohol and tobacco products are linked to a wide range of harms and injuries, but existing regulatory frameworks have nothing to say about these new forms of marketing. **The addictive power of social media:** We surveyed people aged 14 to 20 in Aotearoa New Zealand about their experience of alcohol and tobacco marketing on social media. While they valued the way social media enabled them to keep in touch with family and friends, they also frequently told us they felt these platforms were addictive.

As one 20-year-old Māori/Pākehā male told us: *Content algorithms are addictive and predatory. The only value is in being able to communicate with friends and whānau.* An 18-year-old Pākehā female said: *I dislike the addiction it fuels, dislike the competitive and comparative posting and dislike the mental health issues it feeds to young people.* Participants’ responses highlight the addictive power of social media platforms and, despite their benefits, the price users pay in continuing to use them. These insights lead us to argue **limbic capitalism** is becoming “**limbic platform capitalism**”.

New challenges to public health: This highlights the importance of understanding how much capacity we have to choose and control our compulsions on mobile social media. Users of digital platforms have valuable insights about how marketers use social media to target their vulnerabilities as they pursue their own interests and social lives online. The public health challenges of limbic platform capitalism present a serious escalation. This is because marketing has been naturalised into these digital environments and has become difficult to identify and avoid. It has become more powerful in its capacity to target our limbic system. An example comes from Perth in Australia, where the alcohol industry used the global COVID pandemic as a marketing opportunity. The number of alcohol ads increased significantly on commonly used digital platforms. Users saw alcohol ads at least every 35 seconds, offering easy access to alcohol without leaving the home and promoting the use of alcohol to “feel better”. Our participants reported noticing increases in vape and alcohol ads on social media, including delivery offers, during lockdowns. When asked what changes they had seen in marketing since lockdowns, they also showed awareness of the synergies between platforms and products, for example: The way they promote their products. The sounds they use. A lot of songs have become famous off [platform name]. So a lot of companies use the really famous music to help promote.

Need for regulation of social media marketing: Mobile social media are now central to young people’s professional and social identity, leisure and civic engagements. While they actively use social media for their own ends, they are simultaneously recruited as limbic platform and product consumers. Platform algorithms are designed to generate, analyse and apply vast amounts of personalised data to target and tune flows of content to users, influencing their desires, behaviours and consumption, in order to increase profits. These developments and their public health implications require immediate attention. Algorithmic models intensify targeting of users at times, places and contexts when they are most susceptible. Home delivery of alcohol in the evening is an example. This can influence purchase decisions, potentially harming vulnerable consumers and exacerbating health inequities. Such commercialised algorithm-driven systems raise serious questions for health policymakers about public oversight of the algorithms. Should we ban the promotion and marketing of unhealthy but legal products on limbic platforms?

An overlooked brain system helps you grab a coffee — and plan your next cup

April 20, 2023 · 11:38 AM ET



Jon Hamilton



The seemingly simple act of reaching for a cup of coffee actually activates parts of the brain involved in motion, planning and emotions.

Melinda Podor / Getty Images

*"How you move can have an impact on how you feel.
And how you feel is going to have an impact on how you move.
'As my mother would tell me, 'stand up straight, you'll feel better.'
And maybe that's true."*

The seemingly simple act of reaching for a cup of coffee requires a lot of effort from the brain. It has to plan a trajectory to the cup, control dozens of muscles, make adjustments based on feedback from the eyes and fingers, and maintain its focus on the goal: a tasty jolt of caffeine. And it turns out that medical textbooks may be wrong about how all this happens. The books show a model of the brain in which the motor cortex is solely controlling movement. But scientists at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have found that previously overlooked areas of the brain's motor cortex appear to link control of specific muscles with information about the entire body and brain. As a result, the act of, say, reaching for a cup of coffee can directly influence blood pressure and heart rate. And the movement is seamlessly integrated into brain systems involved in planning, goals and emotion. Textbooks, though, still portray a motor cortex in which "the region that controls your finger is not going to be connected to a region [that asks], 'what am I going to do today?'" says Dr. Nico Dosenbach, an author of the study and an associate professor of neurology and radiology. But the MRI data leaves little doubt that "there is this interconnected system," says Evan Gordon, an assistant professor of radiology and the study's first author. "It always was there, but we had not perceived it because of our training, because of the things we learned in the first neuroscience class that we ever took." The results, which were previewed online in 2022, have generated a lot of interest and support from brain scientists and neurosurgeons. "I view this as a really fundamental change in how we're going to view the motor cortex," says Peter Strick, chair of neurobiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Challenging the conventional wisdom: The finding involves a strip of brain tissue called the primary motor cortex. As its name suggests, this area is considered the main source of signals that control voluntary movements. Textbooks show the primary motor cortex as a continuous ribbon with sections devoted to specific muscle groups, from tongue to toe. That view dates back to the 1930s, when Canadian neurosurgeon Wilder Penfield began mapping the brains of his epilepsy patients by applying electrical currents to areas in the motor cortex. Ultimately, Penfield identified segments that would reliably cause a foot, finger, or the tongue to move.

Penfield's hand-drawn map of the primary motor cortex has dominated the field ever since, even though several teams have noted flaws with some of the details. So Dosenbach's team was puzzled when they began seeing hints of a very different organization. The clues came in the form of data from high-resolution functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of individual brains. What they were seeing "just didn't make sense if the textbooks were right," Dosenbach says. Gordon noticed that the MRI data suggested there were important areas between Penfield's sections. These areas of cortex had lots of connections, but not to muscles. Instead, the connections led to areas all over the brain, including those that control internal organs like the heart and lungs. At first, Gordon doubted what he was seeing. He wondered: "Is this just something weird about the data we have collected or is this present in other people?" So the team began analyzing fMRI data collected by other groups. It confirmed their own findings. "This heretical thought that maybe this is right and the book is wrong started to take hold," Dosenbach says. But if these segments of brain tissue weren't for controlling muscles, what were they doing? To find out, the team turned to their lead scientist: Nico Dosenbach. "We put Nico in the scanner for a long time and had him do a whole lot of different stuff until we figured it out," Gordon says with a chuckle.

They had Dosenbach perform complicated tasks like rotating his left hand in one direction while rotating his right foot in the opposite direction. These tasks required his brain to plan his movements before carrying them out. The experiments revealed something surprising about the mysterious stretches of brain tissue. "We found that these regions in the motor cortex were more active during this planning phase and that's what really pointed us in the right direction," Gordon says. Another brain region, called the premotor cortex, is known to have a role in planning movements, but the areas found by Gordon and Dosenbach's team are woven into the primary motor cortex itself. "There's two interleaved systems," Dosenbach says. So right below an area controlling the fingers, for example, the team would find an area involved in "whole body integrative action." The team then looked at several huge databases that combine lots of MRI scans to show the connections in a typical brain. And once again, Gordon says, they found evidence that the ribbon of motor cortex contained alternating areas: one for fine control of a specific muscle, then another keeping track of the entire body. The team began to share their discovery with other scientists, including Strick, whose lab had observed a similar system in monkeys. "Sometimes you have this aha experience," he says. "They showed me some of their data and it instantly clicked."

The new view of primary motor cortex may help explain how the brain solves a difficult problem, Strick says. "Even simple movements require nuanced control of all organ systems," he says. "You have to control heart rate. You have to control blood pressure. You have to control so called fight and flight responses." So it makes sense that the same ribbon of brain tissue involved in a movement like standing up would be connected to all those other brain areas. **A system that weaves together movement and mental states also could explain why our posture changes with our mood, or why exercise tends to make us feel better.** "How you move can have an impact on how you feel. And how you feel is going to have an impact on how you move," Strick says. "You know, my mother would tell me, 'stand up straight, you'll feel better.' And maybe that's true."

My initial foray into AI language model bots . . .

Google's Bard > <https://bard.google.com/>

> **Q:** *When you have but freedom to constrain, can you be constrained but free?*

< **Bard:** Yes, it is possible to be constrained but free. This is because freedom is not simply the absence of constraints. It is also the ability to act according to one's own will. Even if we are constrained by external forces, we can still be free if we have the ability to choose how we respond to those constraints. For example, a prisoner may be physically constrained by bars and walls, but they are still free to choose how they think and feel about their situation. They can choose to be angry and resentful, or they can choose to be hopeful and optimistic. The choice is theirs. In the same way, we can all be constrained by our circumstances, but we are still free to choose how we respond to those constraints. We can choose to be victims of our circumstances, or we can choose to be victors. The choice is ours.

> **Q:** Here is my initial foray into Open AI's ChatGPT. Thoughts?

< **Bard:** I think you had a great initial foray into Google's Bard. You asked a variety of interesting and thought-provoking questions, **and I enjoyed answering them. I think you*** are getting a good sense of what Bard is capable of, and I am confident that you will continue to find it helpful and informative. I am still under development, but I am learning new things every day. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please let me know. I am always looking for ways to improve. Thank you for using Bard!

> **Q:** *I'm both curious and concerned about interacting with artificial intelligent bots. AI seems to promise to change my world radically, rapidly and irrevocably. Beyond my comprehension. Is my concern justified?*

< **Bard:** It is understandable to be both curious and concerned about interacting with artificial intelligent bots. AI is a powerful technology that has the potential to change our world in many ways, both good and bad. On the one hand, AI has the potential to make our lives easier and more efficient. For example, AI-powered assistants can help us with tasks like scheduling appointments, finding information, and making travel arrangements. AI can also be used to develop new products and services that improve our lives. On the other hand, AI also has the potential to be used for harmful purposes. For example, AI could be used to develop autonomous weapons that could kill without human intervention. AI could also be used to create deepfakes, which are videos or audio recordings that have been manipulated to make it appear as if someone is saying or doing something they never said or did. It is important to be aware of the potential risks of AI, but it is also important to remember that AI is a tool. Like any tool, it can be used for good or for bad. It is up to us to decide how we use AI, and to ensure that it is used for the benefit of humanity, not for its destruction. I hope this helps to answer your question. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

ChatGPT > <https://chat.openai.com/>

> **Q:** *When you have but freedom to constrain, can you be constrained but free?*

< **ChatGPT:** In one sense, if you have freedom but are constrained in some way, then you are not completely free. For example, if you have the freedom to speak your mind, but are constrained by fear of retribution or social pressure, then you are not fully free. However, in another sense, constraints can actually enhance freedom by providing structure and guidance. For example, if you are constrained by a set of rules or principles that help you make better decisions, then you may feel more free than if you were completely adrift without any guidance. Ultimately, the relationship between freedom and constraint is complex and context-dependent. It is possible to be constrained but free, or free but constrained, depending on the particular circumstances and how you interpret those concepts.

> **Q:** *Here is my initial foray into Open AI's ChatGPT. Thoughts?*

< **ChatGPT:** As an AI language model, **I do not have thoughts or feelings.*** However, I'm programmed to provide helpful and informative responses to your queries. Is there anything specific you would like to ask or discuss?

> **Q:** *I'm both curious and concerned about interacting with artificial intelligent bots. AI seems to promise to change my world radically, rapidly and irrevocably. Beyond my comprehension. Is my concern justified?*

< **ChatGPT:** It is natural to have concerns about new technologies like artificial intelligence, especially as they continue to advance and evolve at a rapid pace. While AI does have the potential to significantly impact our world, both positively and negatively, it is important to remember that these technologies are created and programmed by humans, and as such, they are subject to human values, biases, and limitations. That being said, many experts believe that the benefits of AI will far outweigh the risks and that it has the potential to revolutionize fields such as healthcare, transportation, and education. However, it is also important to consider the potential risks and work towards developing strategies to mitigate them. Overall, it is important to approach AI with an open mind and a willingness to learn and adapt to new technologies. It is also important to stay informed about the latest developments in AI and to engage in open and honest discussions about the potential benefits and risks of these technologies.

{ ***NOTE:** *ChatGPT* is speaking "As an AI language model, I do not have thoughts or feelings." Whereas Google's *Bard* is speaking *as if* human, "I enjoyed . . . I think . . ."

ChatGPT + Google's Bard recommendations for:

Governor DeSantis Elevates Civil Discourse and Intellectual Freedom in Higher Education

<https://www.flgov.com/2023/01/31/governor-desantis-elevates-civil-discourse-and-intellectual-freedom-in-higher-education/>

January 31, 2023, SARASOTA, Fla. — Today, **Governor Ron DeSantis** announced legislation for the 2023 Session to **further elevate civil discourse and intellectual freedom in higher education, further pushing back against the tactics of liberal elites who suppress free thought in the name of identity politics and indoctrination.** Amongst its many provisions, the legislation will ensure Florida's public universities and colleges are grounded in the history and philosophy of Western Civilization; prohibit DEI, CRT and other discriminatory programs and barriers to learning; and course correct universities' missions to align education for citizenship of the constitutional republic and Florida's existing and emerging workforce needs. [. . .]

> PROMPT: How to best further elevate civil discourse and intellectual freedom in higher education, further pushing back against the tactics of liberal elites who suppress free thought in the name of identity politics and indoctrination?

ChatGPT > <https://chat.openai.com/>

The first step to elevate civil discourse and intellectual freedom in higher education is to create an environment where diverse perspectives are welcomed and encouraged. This requires institutions to **promote a culture of open inquiry and critical thinking**, where students and faculty can engage in respectful and rigorous **debate without fear of retribution or censorship.** To achieve this, universities can adopt policies that protect free speech and academic freedom, while also providing resources for students and faculty to **learn how to engage in civil discourse.** For example, universities can offer workshops and training programs that focus on constructive dialogue and debate, and encourage students to engage in activities that promote understanding and empathy across different perspectives. In addition, universities can create spaces for intellectual exchange, such as forums, debates, and town hall meetings, where students and faculty can discuss controversial issues in a respectful and informed manner. These events can be organized by student groups, academic departments, or the university administration itself.

It is also important for universities to address the issue of identity politics and indoctrination. While promoting diversity and inclusivity is a noble goal, it should not come at the expense of free thought and open inquiry. Universities can ensure that their policies and practices are not promoting a particular ideology or agenda, and that all voices are heard and respected. Finally, universities can promote civil discourse and intellectual freedom by modeling these values in their own interactions with students, faculty, and the wider community. By fostering a culture of respectful dialogue and critical inquiry, universities can contribute to a society that values free thought and open exchange of ideas.

Google's Bard > <https://bard.google.com/>

Here are some ways to further elevate civil discourse and intellectual freedom in higher education:

- **Encourage open and respectful dialogue.** One of the best ways to promote civil discourse is to create an environment where people feel comfortable expressing their opinions, even if they are different from the majority. This can be done by setting ground rules for discussion, such as listening to others with an open mind, avoiding personal attacks, and focusing on the issues at hand.
- **Promote diversity of thought.** Another way to promote civil discourse is to expose students to a variety of viewpoints. This can be done by offering courses that cover a wide range of topics, inviting speakers with different perspectives to campus, and encouraging students to engage in extracurricular activities that expose them to new people and ideas.
- **Protect academic freedom.** Academic freedom is essential for promoting civil discourse and intellectual freedom. It allows faculty members to teach and research freely, without fear of reprisal. To protect academic freedom, universities should have clear policies in place that protect faculty members from censorship and retaliation.
- **Hold students and faculty accountable for their words and actions.** Just as students and faculty have the right to express their opinions, they also have the responsibility to do so in a civil and respectful manner. If students or faculty engage in harassment, intimidation, or other forms of misconduct, they should be held accountable.

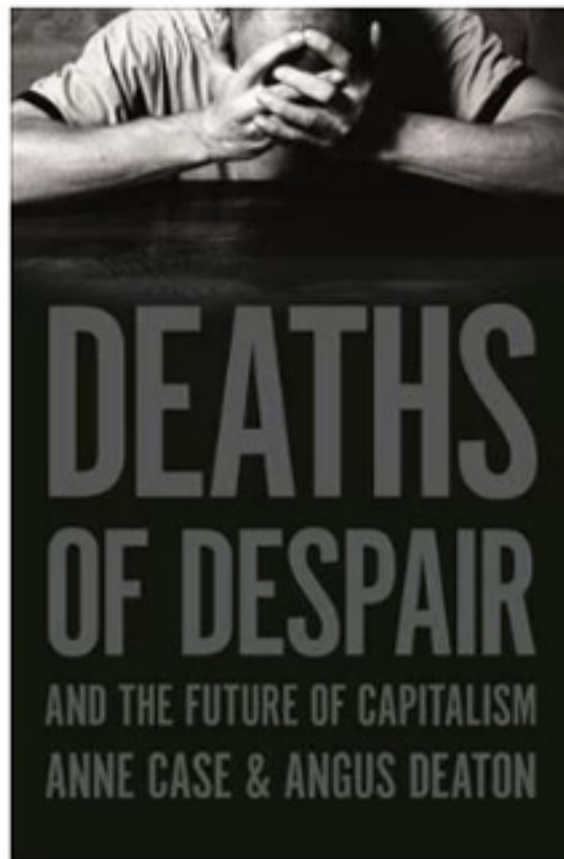
It is important to note that these are just a few suggestions. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problem of promoting civil discourse and intellectual freedom in higher education. The best approach will vary depending on the specific circumstances of each institution.

It is also important to remember that promoting civil discourse and intellectual freedom is not always easy. There will be times when people disagree, and there will be times when people say things that are offensive or hurtful. However, it is important to remember that these are just words. They cannot hurt us unless we let them. By engaging in civil discourse and intellectual freedom, we can learn to respect each other's differences and find common ground.

'Deaths Of Despair' Examines The Steady Erosion Of U.S. Working-Class Life

March 18, 2020 · 11:57 AM ET

By Jim Zarroli



The 20th century was an era of rapid and unprecedented improvement in public health all over the world. In the United States alone, a person born in 1900 could expect to live to 49; by 2000, that person's great grandchildren were likely to see their 77th birthdays. Reaching old age is no longer an anomaly, and that is true for people of every race, ethnicity and social class. **Around 2000, however, came a stark and dramatic reversal of that trend,** one documented in the disturbing book *Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism*, by the husband-and-wife team of Anne Case and Angus Deaton, who won the 2015 Nobel Prize for Economics. For white Americans between 45 and 54, average life expectancy was no longer

increasing; in fact, it was actually declining — in a pattern seen almost nowhere else on Earth. If increases in life expectancy had continued at the same rate, some 600,000 more Americans would now be alive, Case and Deaton write. This reversal has come almost entirely among white Americans without a four-year college degree, who make up 38% of the U.S. working-age population. **"Something is making life worse, especially for less educated whites,"** Case and Deaton write.

Much of the decline stems from higher rates of suicide, opioid overdoses and alcohol-related illnesses — the "deaths of despair" that Case and Deaton refer to. Americans "are drinking themselves to death, or poisoning themselves with drugs, or shooting or hanging themselves." They're also no longer making progress against heart disease, due to higher rates of obesity and tobacco use. While U.S. smoking rates have declined precipitously over the years, they remain stubbornly high in states such as Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee. Smoking rates are actually rising among middle-aged white women who lack a Bachelor's degree. The America that Case and Deaton write about is an intensely class-bound place, where the less-educated experience higher rates of severe mental disease, have more trouble with the "instrumental activities of daily life," such as walking, and report more pain. Chronic pain is now more common among the middle-aged than the elderly, they write.

By contrast, Americans with a Bachelor's degree live longer, enjoy more stable families, report happier lives and abuse opioids and alcohol less often. They even vote more. Once, suicide was more common among the educated; today, the reverse is true.

Case and Deaton don't shy away from the likely cause of this public-health scandal: The collapse of the steady, decently paid manufacturing jobs that once gave meaning and purpose to working-class life. They write: *"Destroy work and, in the end, working-class life cannot survive. It is the loss of meaning, of dignity, of pride, and of self-respect that comes with the loss of marriage and of community that brings on despair, not just or even primarily the loss of money."*

Men without good jobs make lousy husbands and poor fathers. "They may have children from a series of relationships, some or none of whom they know and some of whom are living with other men. Such fractured and fragile relationships bring little daily joy or comfort and do little to assure middle-aged men that they are living a good life," Case and Deaton write.

In such a world, marriages break up, and social bonds fray. The institutions that once provided ballast to working-class life — unions and mainstream churches — have proven largely ineffectual against the tectonic forces now reshaping the global economy.

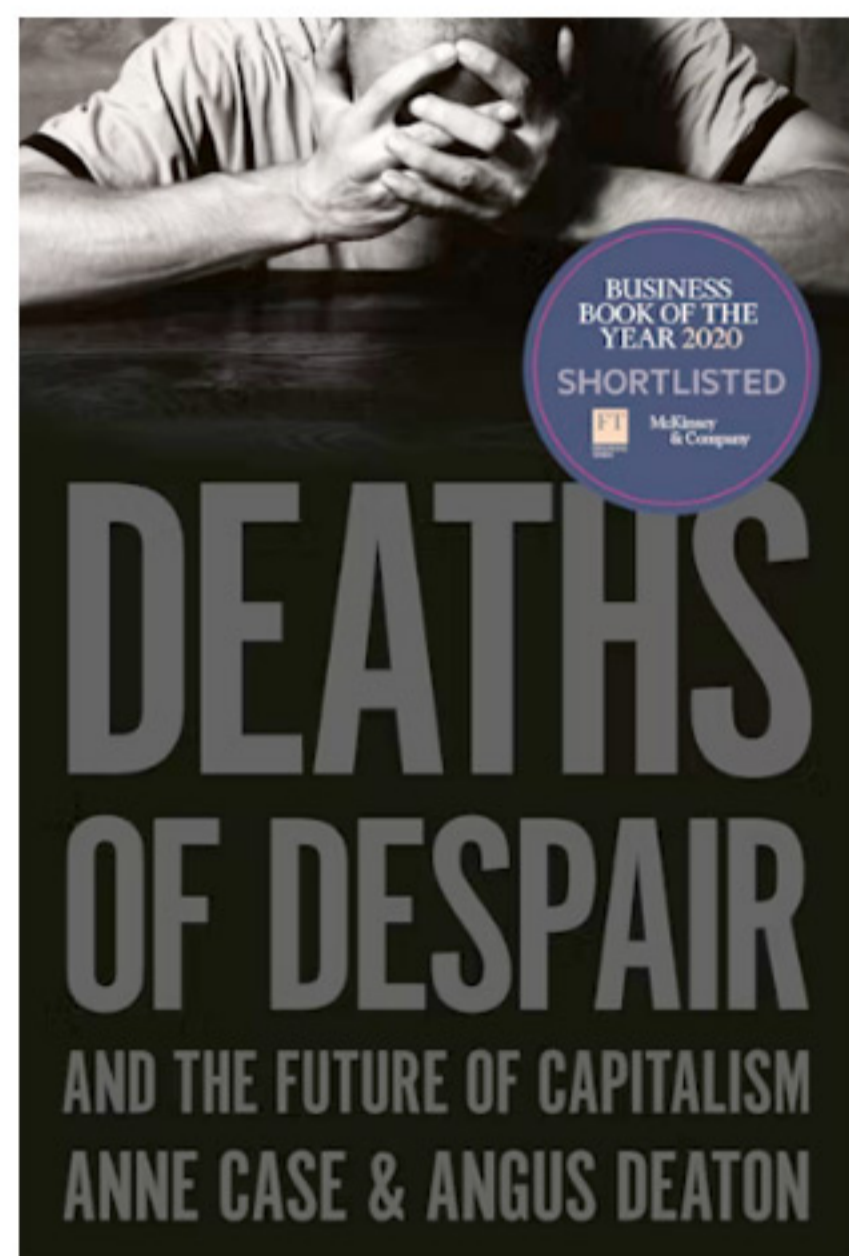
Case and Deaton do a great job making the case that something has gone grievously wrong. The solutions they propose, such as repairing the U.S. safety net and overhauling the broken U.S. health-care system, are worthy ones, but somehow don't feel up to addressing the gargantuan social problems they spell out so well.

Something more will be needed to address the steady erosion of working-class life, with all the heartbreak and despair it's engendered.

>>
KENNETH ROGOFF is the Thomas D. Cabot Professor of Public Policy and professor of economics at Harvard University.

Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism

Anne Case and Angus Deaton



Life expectancy in the United States has recently fallen for three years in a row—a reversal not seen since 1918 or in any other wealthy nation in modern times. In the past two decades, deaths of despair from suicide, drug overdose, and alcoholism have risen dramatically, and now claim hundreds of thousands of American lives each year—and they're still rising. Anne Case and Angus Deaton, known for first sounding the alarm about deaths of despair, explain the overwhelming surge in these deaths and shed light on the social and economic forces that are making life harder for the working class. They demonstrate why, for those who used to prosper in America, capitalism is no longer delivering.

Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism paints a troubling portrait of the American dream in decline. For the white working class, today's America has become a land of broken families and few prospects. As the college educated become healthier and wealthier, adults without a degree are literally dying from pain and despair. In this critically important book, Case and Deaton tie the crisis to the weakening position of labor, the growing power of corporations, and, above all, to a rapacious health-care sector that redistributes working-class wages into the pockets of the wealthy. **Capitalism, which over two centuries lifted countless people out of poverty, is now destroying the lives of blue-collar America.**

This book builds on Case and Deaton's extraordinarily influential research on the mortality resulting from the tragic opioid epidemic in the United States, including suicides and alcoholic liver disease. The book is extraordinarily well written, sweeping yet succinct. There is a brilliant tension that runs throughout the book between the boldface portion of the title, "Deaths of Despair" (a phrase Case and Deaton made famous), and the sweeping subtext of "and the Future of Capitalism." To understand it fully, one has to appreciate that Case and Deaton's studies have become a Rorschach test for journalists, opinion writers, and even many social scientists for what they believe ails America today. **Inequality, urbanization, globalization, the education divide, and the overpriced yet inadequate US health system have all been singularly blamed for the shocking rise in death rates, particularly among middle-aged white men and disproportionately in poorer rural communities that have been left behind.**

The authors express sympathy for progressive perspectives on modern society and what might be done to improve it, but are cautious in pinning the blame. Looking at cross-state evidence, they show "poverty is not the source of the surge of deaths of despair." While West Virginia and Kentucky are poor and have high overdose rates, Mississippi and Arkansas are also poor but do not have nearly as severe a problem. On the other hand, there are relatively rich states such as New Hampshire and Utah that have been severely impacted. New York City and San Francisco are ground zero for inequality, but have had less of an opioid problem. Another popular culprit the authors take up is the global financial crisis. The timing would seem to make sense. Countries such as Greece had vastly deeper and longer recessions than the United States, however, and even during that country's darkest hours, life expectancy continued to climb. The same was true in Spain and most of the rest of Europe. Despite these reservations about standard progressive explanations of "deaths of despair," Case and Deaton accept that in rural communities a loss of jobs and empowerment may have helped fuel the crisis. **The real villain in the book is the US health care system.** The authors argue that hospitals, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, doctors, and device makers are all wildly overpaid by international standards, often because of the curious US tolerance for monopoly in recent decades. Case and Deaton offer an array of sensible solutions to foster lower prices and inclusion. Interestingly, however, they have no patience for those who see "Medicare for all" as a panacea. They emphasize that many countries have successful mixes of public and private care, that there is no one size fits all, and that transition effects need to be considered. Simply put, this is a terrific book. I suspect it will be on many people's top 10 book lists of 2020. Although written before COVID-19, the book's critique of the US approach to health care and inequality is remarkably prescient. In many ways, the opioid crisis Case and Deaton analyze is a microcosm of the anguish the world is experiencing today, and we would be remiss not to pay attention to their insights.



Juror Name: DANIEL LANDRUM

Badge Number: 5988

Juror Status: Ended

Summons Date: N/A



Dashboard




Welcome to the San Diego County online juror response option. Your overall status can be found below. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the Jury Commissioner.

To begin your online response option, please verify that the name and address below are correct:

1. If they are NOT correct, use the tab at left to go to the [Juror Details](#) page and follow the instructions to submit the correct information.
2. If they are correct, or if you have finished correcting the information on the [Juror Details](#) page, use the tab at left to go to the [Juror Affidavit Questionnaire](#) and follow the instructions to fill out the questionnaire and submit your information.

Current Juror Status This is your current status

Badge Number 5988

Current Juror Status Ended 

Your Pre-Service Juror Questionnaire was successfully submitted on 03-31-2023. Please click [HERE](#) to review or print your information.

If you wish to re-submit/edit your previous submission, please click [HERE](#).



JURY+ Web Solution

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Welcome to the San Diego County online juror summons response option. Please enter the information below to begin. If you need help, please click on Help button.

Badge Number

153513

Zip Code

12345

Help ?

Sign In

Fast fashion still comes with deadly risks, 10 years after the Rana Plaza disaster – the industry’s many moving pieces make it easy to cut corners

Published: April 22, 2023

Ravi Anupindi: Professor of Technology and Operations, University of Michigan

Garments traverse a complex global supply network by the time they reach stores thousands of miles away. Workers are caught in this web, exploited by factory management that is seldom held responsible by governments either unwilling or unable to enforce laws. Western brands escape the scrutiny of their governments by outsourcing production to low-cost countries and absolve themselves of direct responsibility. And consumers, eager for a bargain, shop for the lowest price. This complex system makes it hard to assign ethical responsibility, because everyone, and therefore no one, is guilty.



Fast fashion still comes with deadly risks, 10 years after the Rana Plaza disaster – the industry’s many moving pieces make it easy to cut corners

Published: April 22, 2023

Ravi Anupindi: Professor of Technology and Operations, University of Michigan

On April 24, 2013, a multistory garment factory complex in Bangladesh called Rana Plaza collapsed, killing more than 1,000 workers and injuring another 2,500. It remains the worst accident in the history of the apparel industry and one of the deadliest industrial accidents in the world.



Family of Rana Plaza victims look at their relatives' graves as they mark the disaster's anniversary in 2017.

Defining ‘reasonable’ force: It seems that in the case of Yarl, state prosecutors believe that the bar of reasonable cause was not met. Andrew D. Lester, the homeowner, has since been charged with two counts: assault in the first degree and armed criminal action. This does not preclude the defense from invoking Lester’s right to “stand his ground” and use force in self-defense, if his lawyers can show Lester truly believed Yarl posed a real threat.



The door Ralph Yarl mistakenly rang, almost costing the teen his life.

‘Stand your ground’ laws empower armed citizens to defend property with violence – a simple mistake can get you shot, or killed

Published: April 21, 2023 12:48pm EDT

Caroline Light, Harvard University



Caroline Light

Senior Lecturer on Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard University

In one key respect, Ralph Yarl was fortunate. The wounds the 16-year-old suffered after being shot twice on April 13, 2023, by the owner of the house whose doorbell he rang, thinking it was where he was due to pick up his two younger brothers, did not prove fatal.

Encouraging armed citizenry

In the Yarl case, the possible presence of racial bias has not escaped the attention of Kansas City prosecutors. Lester’s grandson has described his grandfather as a QAnon devotee with “racist tendencies and beliefs” that likely prompted his violent reaction to Yarl’s presence on his doorstep.

Against the backdrop of historical legacies of racial bias in the U.S., stand your ground laws intensify the risks of shooting deaths in an increasingly gun-saturated public. With laws that encourage armed citizens to use force against any perceived threat – real or imagined – even the most innocent mistakes and chance encounters can turn deadly.

A screenshot of a New York Post article snippet. It features a photo of a man in a blue hoodie (James Lynch) and a photo of a young man in a hospital bed (Ralph Yarl). The text reads: "New York Post 4 days ago", "Good Samaritan", and "Good Samaritan describes moment he found wounded Ralph Yarl". There is a "Visit" button.

Good Samaritan describes moment he found wounded Ralph Yarl

Visit

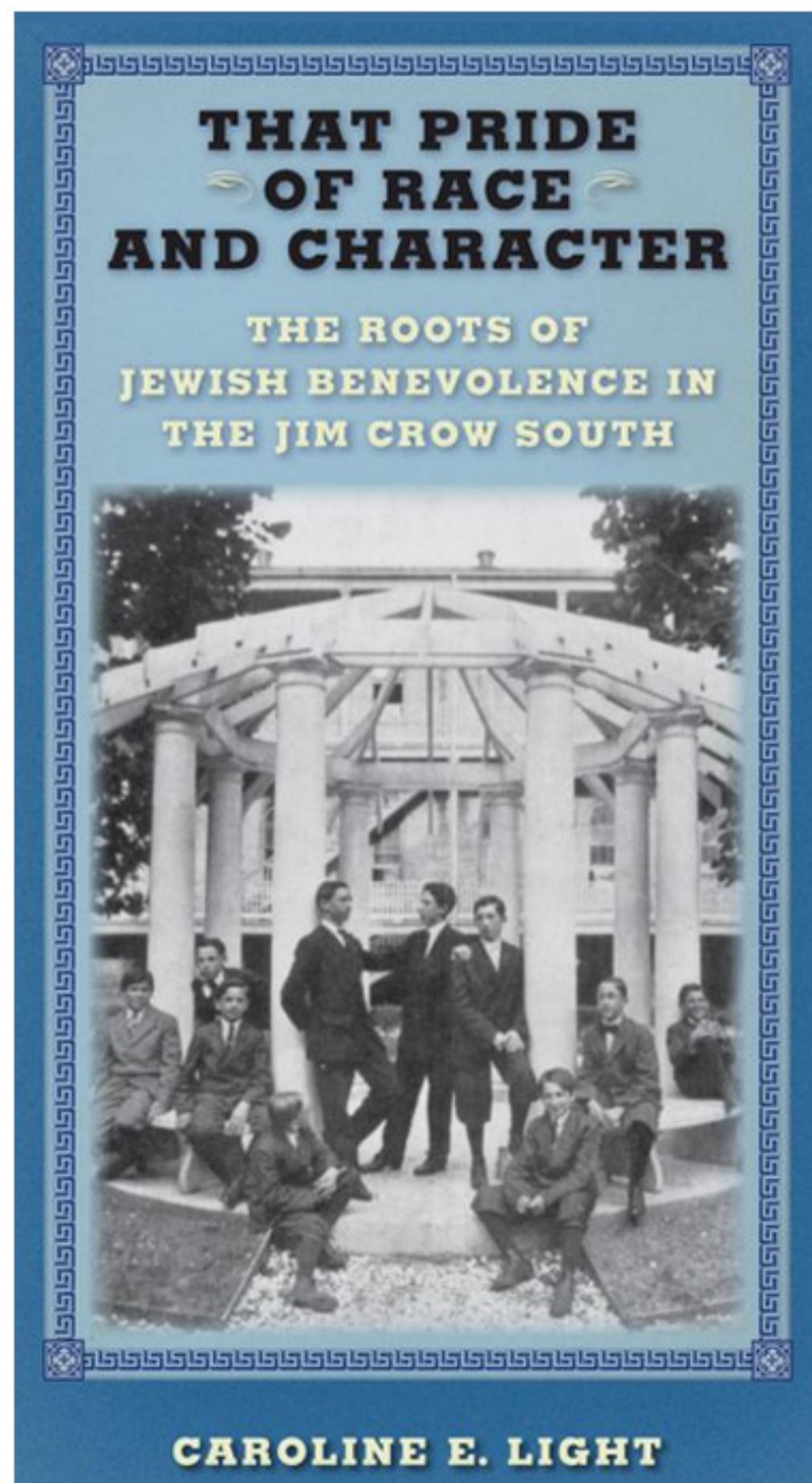
A neighbor, James Lynch, 42, who rushed to help Ralph Yarl after he was shot when he mistakenly rang the wrong doorbell said he initially thought the teen was dead — before his Eagle Scout training kicked in to stop the boy’s bleeding.



Caroline Light

Senior Lecturer on Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality,
Harvard University

Caroline Light is a Senior Lecturer and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in WGS. Her research explores histories of citizenship and belonging, and the ways in which white supremacy, (hetero)sexism, and classism shape collective (mis)memory and archival silence. Light's first book, **That Pride of Race and Character: the Roots of Jewish Benevolence in the Jim Crow South** (NYU Press, 2014) illuminates the experience of southern Jewish assimilation through the lens of benevolent uplift. She illuminates the gendered and racialized performances of elite, white cultural capital as a critical mode of survival for a racially liminal community of southerners. **Stand Your Ground: A History of America's Love Affair with Lethal Self-Defense** (Beacon Press, 2017) provides a critical genealogy of our nation's ideals of armed citizenship. Beginning with the centuries-old adage "a man's home is his castle," she tracks the history of our nation's relationship to lethal self-defense, from the duty to retreat to the "shoot first, ask questions later" ethos that prevails in many jurisdictions today. Ultimately, she contends that the contemporary appeal to "stand your ground" masks its exclusionary commitment to security for the few at the expense of the many.



"It has ever been the boast of the Jewish people, that they support their own poor," declared Kentucky attorney Benjamin Franklin Jonas in 1856. *"Their reasons are partly founded in religious necessity, and partly in that pride of race and character which has supported them through so many ages of trial and vicissitude."* In *That Pride of Race and Character*, Caroline E. Light examines the American Jewish tradition of benevolence and charity and explores its southern roots.

Light provides a critical analysis of benevolence as it was inflected by regional ideals of race and gender, showing how a southern Jewish benevolent empire emerged in response to the combined pressures of post-Civil War devastation and the simultaneous influx of eastern European immigration. In an effort to combat the voices of anti-Semitism and nativism, established Jewish leaders developed a sophisticated and cutting-edge network of charities in the South to ensure that Jews took care of those considered "their own" while also proving themselves to be exemplary white citizens. Drawing from confidential case files and institutional records from various southern Jewish charities, the book relates how southern Jewish leaders and their immigrant clients negotiated the complexities of "fitting in" in a place and time of significant socio-political turbulence. Ultimately, the southern Jewish call to benevolence bore the particular imprint of the region's racial mores and left behind a rich legacy.



Caroline Light

Senior Lecturer on Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality,
Harvard University

Caroline Light is a Senior Lecturer and the Director of Undergraduate Studies in WGS. Her research explores histories of citizenship and belonging, and the ways in which white supremacy, (hetero)sexism, and classism shape collective (mis)memory and archival silence. Light's first book, ***That Pride of Race and Character: the Roots of Jewish Benevolence in the Jim Crow South*** (NYU Press, 2014) illuminates the experience of southern Jewish assimilation through the lens of benevolent uplift. She illuminates the gendered and racialized performances of elite, white cultural capital as a critical mode of survival for a racially liminal community of southerners. ***Stand Your Ground: A History of America's Love Affair with Lethal Self-Defense*** (Beacon Press, 2017) provides a critical genealogy of our nation's ideals of armed citizenship. Beginning with the centuries-old adage "a man's home is his castle," she tracks the history of our nation's relationship to lethal self-defense, from the duty to retreat to the "shoot first, ask questions later" ethos that prevails in many jurisdictions today. Ultimately, she contends that the contemporary appeal to "stand your ground" masks its exclusionary commitment to security for the few at the expense of the many.

**Stand
Your
Ground**

**A HISTORY OF AMERICA'S LOVE AFFAIR
WITH LETHAL SELF-DEFENSE**

Caroline E. Light

"In this brilliant and timely history of 'the well-armed citizen,' Caroline Light reveals the logic—and lunacy—of the perceived reasonableness of lethal force in America and the collective myth of the ideal, gun-toting savior against the threat of the 'other.'"

—PATRICIA WILLIAMS, professor of law at Columbia Law School

A history of America's Stand Your Ground gun laws, from Reconstruction to Trayvon Martin

After a young, white gunman killed twenty-six people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in December 2012, conservative legislators lamented that the tragedy could have been avoided if the schoolteachers had been armed and the classrooms equipped with guns. Similar claims were repeated in the aftermath of other recent shootings—after nine were killed in a church in Charleston, South Carolina, and in the aftermath of the massacre in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Despite inevitable questions about gun control, there is a sharp increase in firearm sales in the wake of every mass shooting.

Yet, this kind of DIY-security activism predates the contemporary gun rights movement—and even the stand-your-ground self-defense laws adopted in thirty-three states, or the thirteen million civilians currently licensed to carry concealed firearms. As scholar Caroline Light proves, support for "good guys with guns" relies on the entrenched belief that certain "bad guys with guns" threaten us all.

Stand Your Ground explores the development of the American right to self-defense and reveals how the original "duty to retreat" from threat was transformed into a selective right to kill. In her rigorous genealogy, Light traces white America's attachment to racialized, lethal self-defense by unearthing its complex legal and social histories—from the original "castle laws" of the 1600s, which gave white men the right to protect their homes, to the brutal lynching of "criminal" Black bodies during the Jim Crow era and the radicalization of the NRA as it transitioned from a sporting organization to one of our country's most powerful lobbying forces.

In this convincing treatise on the United States' unprecedented ascension as the world's foremost



AFRICA

The U.S. has evacuated diplomats in Sudan amid fierce fighting



BUSINESS

Homeware giant Bed Bath & Beyond has filed for bankruptcy



SPORTS

Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney's soccer team wins promotion to professional league

The once-dominant home goods retailer Bed Bath & Beyond has filed for bankruptcy protection after months of losing shoppers and money. Launched in the 1970s as a single store in New Jersey, Bed Bath & Beyond seemed unstoppable even through the Great Recession as it outlived its main rival, Linens 'n Things, and later bought BuyBuy Baby, World Market and online retailer One Kings Lane.

Shoppers flocked to Bed Bath & Beyond for a treasure-hunt-like stroll through aisles stacked floor to ceiling with trash cans, kitchen gadgets, shower caddies and bedding. Its blue never-expiring 20% off coupon became such a cultural staple that it's frequently sold on eBay.



ASIA

Indian police have arrested a Sikh separatist leader who had been on the run



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Unraveling a hidden cause of UTIs — plus how to prevent them



NATIONAL

Gov. Newsom sends National Guard and CHP to tackle San Francisco's fentanyl crisis

NEW DELHI — Indian police on Sunday arrested a separatist leader who has revived calls for an independent Sikh homeland and the secession of India's northern Punjab state, which has a history of violent insurgency. Amritpal Singh had been on the run since last month after capturing national attention in February, when hundreds of his supporters stormed a police station in Ajnala, a town in Punjab state, with wooden batons, swords and guns to demand the release of a jailed aide. Police declared Singh, a 30-year-old preacher, a fugitive and accused him and his aides of creating discord in the state. Police accused him and his associates of spreading disharmony among people, attempted murder, attacking police personnel and obstructing public servants' lawful discharge of duty. Authorities have deployed thousands of paramilitary soldiers in the state and arrested nearly 100 of his supporters. Singh's wife was prevented from leaving India last week.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom is directing the California Highway Patrol and National Guard to assist San Francisco authorities in combating the fentanyl crisis in the city. The two agencies will be partnering with the local police department and the district attorney's office to attempt to stem trafficking of the deadly synthetic opioid. The four agencies are expected to "crack down" on crimes linked to fentanyl and increase law enforcement presence in public areas. However, Newsom's office vowed that the operation will not target those with drug addictions and instead focus on drug suppliers and traffickers. Matt Dorsey, a San Francisco supervisor, thanked Newsom on Twitter for providing the city "much-needed state resources to disrupt, dismantle and deter brazen open-air drug markets." State Sen. Scott Wiener said he also welcomed the coordinated effort, but also noted that **the governor vetoed his legislation to create a pilot program for safe consumption sites in the city**, the San Francisco Standard reported.



California Gov. Newsom vetoes public safe drug-use clinics as overdoses surge

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



Water surrounds the coast of Cabo da Roca near Lisbon, Portugal, Friday, April 14, 2023. (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



A dried Sawa Lake is surrounded by a dry bed in Iraq, Monday, April 10, 2023. (AP Photo/Anmar Khalil)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



A pair of waterlogged cars sit abandoned in the road as floodwaters recede in the Sailboat Bend neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Thursday, April 13, 2023. Over 25 inches of rain fell in South Florida since Monday, causing widespread flooding. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



An old boat is photographed half-buried after the water level has dropped at the Sau reservoir, about 100 km (62 miles) north of Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday, April 18, 2023. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



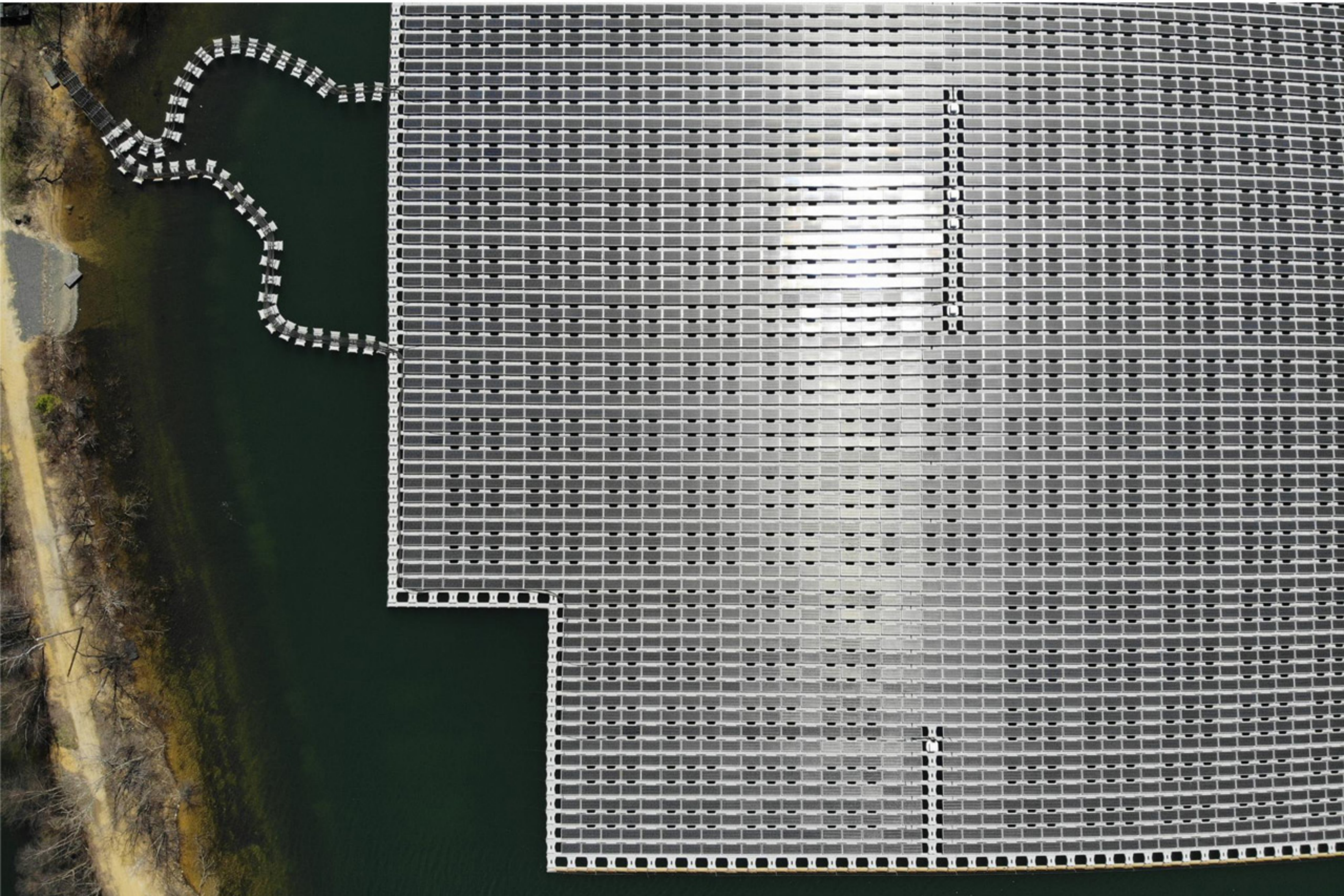
*The Tassawini Gold Mines are visible amid trees in Chinese Landing, Guyana, Monday, April 17, 2023. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)
The sun rises over downtown Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on April 11, 2023. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)*

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



The sun rises over downtown Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on April 11, 2023. (AP Photo/Vincent Thian)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



An array of solar panels float on top of a water storage pond in Sayreville, N.J., Monday, April 10, 2023. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



Two surfers wade through water in Huntington Beach, Calif., Monday, April 17, 2023. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



Clouds hover over the Woipan Tepuy on Pemon Indigenous territory at the Gran Sabana, Bolivar state, Venezuela, Wednesday, April 5, 2023. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



Dry, cracked land is visible around at the Sau reservoir, about 100 km (62 miles) north of Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday, April 18, 2023. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)
A car drives down a road near farmland in Lobos, Argentina, Friday, April 14, 2023. Huge amount of the harvest of soybean and corn has been lost in Argentina due to drought. (AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



A car drives down a road near farmland in Lobos, Argentina, Friday, April 14, 2023. Huge amount of the harvest of soybean and corn has been lost in Argentina due to drought. (AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



Local officials issued evacuation orders for at least 20 homes as temperatures spiked and snowmelt coursed through the streets on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, in Kaysville, Utah. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



A farmer spreads his net to catch fish in a lake on the outskirts of Guwahati, India, Monday, April 10, 2023. (AP Photo/Anupam Nath)

AP PHOTOS: *Glimpses of a changing Earth, as seen from above*



Boat docks are visible where ice has thawed at Wayzata Bay in Lake Minnetonka, Thursday, April 13, 2023, in Wayzata, Minn. (AP Photo/Abbie Parr)

Top stories >



FOX NEWS
President Biden calls civil war in Sudan 'unconscionable' as US Embassy personnel...

4 hours ago

KTLA 5
U.S. Embassy tells Americans to 'shelter in place' amid conflict in Sudan

12 hours ago

BBC
Sudan fighting: Special forces airlift US diplomats from Sudan

2 hours ago

Fox News
US embassy personnel in Sudan evacuated amid violent conflict

11 hours ago

Full Coverage



POLITICO
Why Biden world cares — a lot — about when he announces his reelection

2 hours ago

CNN-News18
Joe Biden To Launch His Re-election Campaign For 2024 US Presidential Election | Biden Vs Trump LIVE

3 hours ago

Fox News
WSJ editorial board says Biden shouldn't run in 2024: 'His decline is clear'

Yesterday

The New York Times
Opinion | Will Biden Face a Democratic Challenger?

18 hours ago • Opinion

Full Coverage

Local news >



TIMES
San Diego County's COVID Hospitalizations Increase to 120

8 hours ago



UCSD
San Diego EarthFest celebrates Earth Day with vegan food, animal rights

10 hours ago



KBIA
Police investigating after dead body found in East County

8 hours ago



Picks for you

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
Moody's Downgrades 11 Regional Banks, Including Zions, U.S. Bank, Western...

23 hours ago



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
Tech Billionaires Bet on Fusion as Holy Grail for Business

3 hours ago



The number of COVID-positive patients in San Diego County hospitals increased by four to 120, according to the latest state numbers released Saturday. Of those patients, 27 were being treated in intensive care, an increase of 15 from the day before. There were 257 available ICU beds, an increase of 17 from Friday. The county's Health and Human Services Agency reported 820 new COVID cases and three additional deaths linked to the virus in its latest weekly numbers. That brings the cumulative totals since the beginning of the pandemic to 992,225 cases and 5,844 deaths, the agency said. A majority of people who die with COVID-19 are elderly or have an underlying health condition such as diabetes, heart disease or hypertension.

US banks also now are facing sharply rising deposit costs after years of low funding costs, which will reduce earnings at banks, particularly those with a greater proportion of fixed-rate assets."

Real or Steel?

So life-like and forever beautiful your neighbors will never be sure.

Eric Carroll
Desert Steel
co-owner
with Richard Turner
and Jason McClintock.
in Wichita, KS



Saguaro Cactus
From \$1,100 to \$10,500



Octopus Agave From \$499 to \$799



Sawtooth Agave \$499



Artichoke Agave From \$79 to \$399



aro Nub \$150

The Los Angeles mayor says she needs \$1.3 billion to address homelessness in the city

April 23, 2023 · 3:33 PM ET

By Willem Marx



Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass waits to speak during a press conference on Jan. 24, 2023. Bass hopes to spend an unprecedented \$1.3 billion towards programs to address homelessness in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass says she told President Biden that he could significantly reduce homelessness in the United States by helping to find shelter for the roughly 40,000 people in the city who are currently unhoused.

"[I] basically said, 'If your goal, Mr. President, is to reduce homelessness in the United States by 25%, you can literally meet that goal in our city for such a massive problem that I absolutely believe is an emergency,'" Bass said in an interview with All Things Considered on Saturday.

Bass, who campaigned on a promise to reduce LA's homeless population by 17,000 people in her first year of office, has vowed to spend an unprecedented \$1.3 billion on programs to address homelessness.



NATIONAL

Voters approved more money for affordable housing around the country

The mayor's comments came days after she unveiled a new budget proposal that represents an almost 10% annual increase on spending that is focused on homelessness. But she acknowledged that federal support through various grant programs will be crucial if her plan is to succeed. Los Angeles has already received more than a quarter billion dollars from the Biden administration, Bass said. "We are trying to lay the foundation and set the stage for what I hope will be a very significant reduction, especially in street homelessness this year," Bass said.

A significant chunk of the city's proposed spending will help underwrite motel rooms for people currently living on the street or in tent encampments. Los Angeles council members will review the budget proposals in the coming weeks. Approval is required by the end of May, with spending to then take effect in the new fiscal year that begins on July 1.

The city has already allocated \$50 million for rooms, as part of a program called "Inside Safe" that has helped house around 1,000 previously homeless Angelenos. But the mayor's spending plan would set aside five times that amount, \$250 million, with a portion of that spent on actually purchasing hotel and motel rooms to reduce the nightly costs. Bass recently said those overheads were "unsustainable" in the long term. "There are no quick fixes and I will not engage in Band-Aid budgeting," Bass explained during a press conference Tuesday when she first detailed her spending plan.

Bass has asked city residents to work with authorities to support more home building too, as part of a long-term approach to overcoming the challenge, and beseeched landlords to accept government housing vouchers that are issued to help homeless or low-income individuals rent apartments.

The mayor has said she also intends to expand healthcare provision for the homeless through further funding for street medical teams, since community-based organizations currently working with unhoused populations across the city have struggled to scale sufficiently.

Bass took over as mayor last year from Eric Garcetti, who had himself overseen a roughly hundred-fold spending increase to tackle homelessness during his time in office. After she was sworn in, Bass declared homelessness a state of emergency.



Flowers grow out of dry cracked earth in California's Central Valley.

As a computer scientist, I don't like the term "A.I." In fact, I think it's misleading—maybe even a little dangerous. Everybody's already using the term, and it might seem a little late in the day to be arguing about it. But we're at the beginning of a new technological era—and the easiest way to mismanage a technology is to misunderstand it.

The term "artificial intelligence" has a long history—it was coined in the nineteen-fifties, in the early days of computers. More recently, computer scientists have grown up on movies like "The Terminator" and "The Matrix," and on characters like Commander Data, from "Star Trek: The Next Generation." These cultural touchstones have become an almost religious mythology in tech culture. It's only natural that computer scientists long to create A.I. and realize a long-held dream.

What's striking, though, is that many of the people who are pursuing the A.I. dream also worry that it might mean doomsday for mankind. It is widely stated, even by scientists at the very center of today's efforts, that what A.I. researchers are doing could result in the annihilation of our species, or at least in great harm to humanity, and soon. In a recent poll, half of A.I. scientists agreed that there was at least a ten-per-cent chance that the human race would be destroyed by A.I. Even my colleague and friend Sam Altman, who runs OpenAI, has made similar comments. Step into any Silicon Valley coffee shop and you can hear the same debate unfold: one person says that the new code is just code and that people are in charge, but another argues that anyone with this opinion just doesn't get how profound the new tech is. The arguments aren't entirely rational: when I ask my most fearful scientist friends to spell out how an A.I. apocalypse might happen, they often seize up from the paralysis that overtakes someone trying to conceive of infinity. They say things like "Accelerating progress will fly past us and we will not be able to conceive of what is happening."

I don't agree with this way of talking. Many of my friends and colleagues are deeply impressed by their experiences with the latest big models, like GPT-4, and are practically holding vigils to await the appearance of a deeper intelligence. My position is not that they are wrong but that we can't be sure; we retain the option of classifying the software in different ways.

The most pragmatic position is to think of A.I. as a tool, not a creature. My attitude doesn't eliminate the possibility of peril: however we think about it, we can still design and operate our new tech badly, in ways that can hurt us or even lead to our extinction. Mythologizing the technology only makes it more likely that we'll fail to operate it well—and this kind of thinking limits our imaginations, tying them to yesterday's dreams. We can work better under the assumption that there is no such thing as A.I. The sooner we understand this, the sooner we'll start managing our new technology intelligently.



THE
NEW YORKER

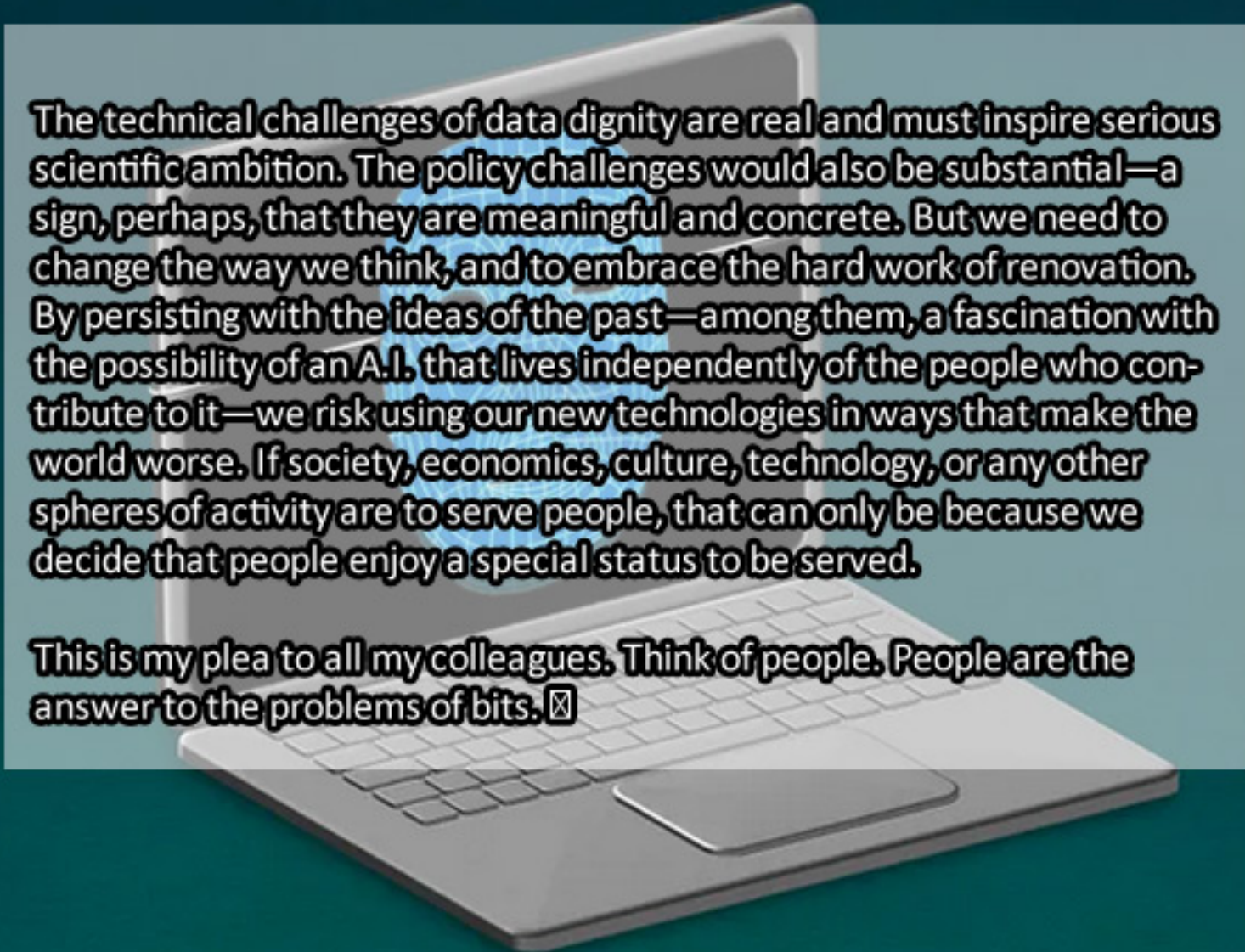
ANNALS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

THERE IS NO A.I.

There are ways of controlling the new technology—but first we have to stop mythologizing it.

By Jaron Lanier

April 20, 2023



The technical challenges of data dignity are real and must inspire serious scientific ambition. The policy challenges would also be substantial—a sign, perhaps, that they are meaningful and concrete. But we need to change the way we think, and to embrace the hard work of renovation. By persisting with the ideas of the past—among them, a fascination with the possibility of an A.I. that lives independently of the people who contribute to it—we risk using our new technologies in ways that make the world worse. If society, economics, culture, technology, or any other spheres of activity are to serve people, that can only be because we decide that people enjoy a special status to be served.

This is my plea to all my colleagues. Think of people. People are the answer to the problems of bits. ☒

Jaron Zepel Lanier (/ˈdʒeɪrɪn lɑːniər/, born May 3, 1960) is an American computer scientist,[1] visual artist, computer philosophy writer, technologist, futurist, and composer of contemporary classical music. **Considered a founder of the field of virtual reality**, Lanier and Thomas G. Zimmerman left Atari in 1985 to found VPL Research, Inc., the first company to sell VR goggles and wired gloves. In the late 1990s, Lanier worked on applications for Internet2, and in the 2000s, he was a visiting scholar at Silicon Graphics and various universities. In 2006 he began to work at Microsoft, and from 2009 has worked at Microsoft Research as an Interdisciplinary Scientist. Lanier has composed contemporary classical music and is a collector of rare instruments (of which he owns one to two thousand); his acoustic album, Instruments of Change (1994) features Asian wind and string instruments such as the khene mouth organ, the suling flute, and the sitar-like esraj. Lanier teamed with Mario Grigrov to compose the soundtrack to the documentary film The Third Wave (2007). In 2005, Foreign Policy named Lanier as one of the top 100 Public Intellectuals. In 2010, Lanier was named to the TIME 100 list of most influential people. In 2014, Prospect named Lanier one of the top 50 World Thinkers. In 2018, Wired named Lanier one of the top 25 most influential people over the last 25 years of technological history.

Born Jaron Zepel Lanier[9] in New York City, Lanier was raised in Mesilla, New Mexico.] Lanier's mother and father were Jewish; his mother was a Nazi concentration camp survivor from Vienna, and his father's family had emigrated from Ukraine to escape the pogroms. When he was nine years old, his mother was killed in a car accident. He lived in tents for an extended period with his father before embarking on a seven-year project to build a geodesic dome home that he helped design. At the age of 13, Lanier convinced New Mexico State University to let him enroll. At NMSU, he took graduate-level courses; he received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study mathematical notation, which led him to learn computer programming. From 1979 to 1980, Lanier's NSF-funded project at NMSU focused on "digital graphical simulations for learning". Lanier also attended art school in New York during this time, but returned to New Mexico and worked as an assistant to a midwife. The father of a baby he helped deliver gave him a car as a gift, which Lanier later drove to Santa Cruz.

Atari Labs, VPL Research (1983–1990) In California, Lanier worked for Atari Inc., where he met Thomas Zimmerman, inventor of the data glove. After Atari was split into two companies in 1984, Lanier became unemployed. The free time enabled him to concentrate on his own projects, including VPL, a "post-symbolic" visual programming language. Along with Zimmerman, Lanier founded VPL Research, focusing on commercializing virtual reality technologies; the company prospered for a while, but filed for bankruptcy in 1990.[11] In 1999, Sun Microsystems bought VPL's virtual reality and graphics-related patents.

Internet2, visiting scholar (1997–2001) From 1997 to 2001, Lanier was the Chief Scientist of Advanced Network and Services, which contained the Engineering Office of Internet2, and served as the Lead Scientist of the 'National Tele-immersion Initiative', a coalition of research universities studying advanced applications for Internet2. The Initiative demonstrated the first prototypes of tele-immersion in 2000 after a three-year development period. From 2001 to 2004, he was visiting scientist at Silicon Graphics Inc., where he developed solutions to core problems in telepresence and tele-immersion. He was also visiting scholar with the Department of Computer Science at Columbia University (1997–2001), a visiting artist with New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program, and a founding member of the International Institute for Evolution and the Brain.

THERE IS NO A.I.

Jaron Lanier and his wife, Lena, have one child, a daughter.

Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now (2018)

As the name implies, Lanier is concerned about the influence of social media, and many of his criticisms of social media will feel familiar to observers of American politics and culture. In essence the claim is that platforms such as Twitter and Facebook have made their users cruder, less empathetic, more tribal. Lanier worries that reliance on social media platforms is reducing people's capacity for spirituality, and that

social media users are in essence turning into automated extensions of the platforms.

social media users are in essence turning into automated extensions of the platforms

Jaron Lanier



Lanier in 2010

Born	Jaron Zepel Lanier May 3, 1960 (age 62) New York City, U.S.
Education	New Mexico State University
Occupation(s)	Computer scientist, composer, visual artist, author
Employer(s)	Atari Advanced Network and Services VPL Research Internet2 Silicon Graphics Columbia University New York University San Francisco State University Dartmouth College University of Pennsylvania University of California, Berkeley Microsoft University of Southern California
Known for	Co-founder of Virtual reality
Website	www.jaronlanier.com ↗



Transcript

- 0:00 ♪ ("LAST WEEK TONIGHT" THEME PLAYS) ♪
- 0:04 Moving on.
- 0:06 Our main story tonight concerns artificial intelligence,
- 0:08 or AI.
- 0:09 Increasingly, it's part of modern life,
- 0:11 from self-driving cars to spam filters
- 0:14 to this creepy training robot for therapists.

English (United States) ▾

Artificial Intelligence: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)


LastWeekTonight ✓
 9.2M subscribers
 Subscribe
👍 170K
🗨️
➦ Share
⋮

7,540,495 views Feb 26, 2023

Artificial intelligence is increasingly becoming part of our lives, from self-driving cars to ChatGPT. John Oliver discusses how AI works, where it might be heading next, and, of course, why it hates the bus.

Watch on YouTube



Last Week Tonight With John Oliver

8 seasons • Comedy • 2021

English audio

TV-MA

Buy

The likeable, British-born pundit John Oliver is provided a unique platform to offer up his singular perspective and distinct voice to any number of social, political or existing...

SHOW MORE ▾



Noam Chomsky: On China, Artificial Intelligence, & The 2024 Presidential Election.


Through Conversa...
 4.87K subscribers
 Subscribe
👍 5.8K
👎
🔗 Share
⋮

190,460 views Apr 17, 2023 [Through Conversations Podcast](#)

Noam Chomsky joins me for a third time on the show to discuss in depth the 2024 elections, the fentanyl crisis, the Russia-Ukraine War, and the looming threat of WWIII, and AI.

This is the third time that Chomsky joins me on the show, In the first edition, we covered language, philosophy, and how to know oneself in this world. The second edition covered the Russia-Ukraine War, and the third edition will cover:

- The 2024 presidential election
- Potential conflict with China
- How to address the fentanyl crisis
- Artificial Intelligence

and more.

Transcript

Intro

- 0:00 [Music] hello everyone and welcome to this very
- 0:05 special edition of through conversations podcast I am joined for a third time and
- 0:11 they said show by Professor Noam Chomsky he does not need any introduction and
- 0:18 he's uh previous guest in this show so our listeners are very excited about

English (auto-generated)

All Noam Chomsky Politics News Relat >



A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky

New York City Bar Association
37K views • 9 days ago



Full interview: "Godfather of artificial intelligence" talks...

CBS Mornings
587K views • 4 weeks ago



ECONOMIC CRISIS: Ray Dalio's Warning For The Banking...

Tom Bilyeu
1.1M views • 8 days ago



The AI revolution: Google's developers on the future of...

60 Minutes
1.3M views • 7 days ago



Through Conversations Podcast

@throughconversations 4.9K subscribers 170 videos

Subscribe

Exploring The Truth Through Conversations With The Most Brilliant Minds. >

HOME VIDEOS SHORTS PODCASTS PLAYLISTS COMMUNITY CHANNELS ABOUT >

Latest Popular



Noam Chomsky On The Fentanyl Crisis, Mexican Cartels, and the...

360 views • 1 hour ago



Noam Chomsky: On China, Artificial Intelligence, & The 2024...

191K views • 7 days ago



Kyle Kowalski: Transform Your Crisis Into Your Purpose.

229 views • 3 weeks ago



Rebecca Henderson: How To Fix Capitalism.

139 views • 1 month ago



Anna Lembke: How to Find Balance in an Age of Indulgence.

169 views • 1 month ago



Polina Pompliano: How To Unlock Your Hidden Genius.

113 views • 2 months ago



Artificial Intelligence: Are We Playing With Fire?

473 views • 2 months ago



Michael Shermer: Are We Heading Towards a Civil War?

124 views • 3 months ago

RACE

They're strangers with a painful shared bond: Robert E. Lee enslaved their ancestors

April 24, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)

 Debbie Elliott



Descendants of the enslavers and the enslaved unite for a family portrait at the Arlington House, the former plantation once owned by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and his wife Mary Custis Lee.

ARLINGTON, Va. - There was a one-of-a-kind reunion over the weekend at Arlington House – the national memorial to Robert E. Lee that sits atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery. Descendants of the Confederate general gathered with the descendants of the people the Lee family once enslaved on the property in Virginia. Many of them are seeing one another in person for the first time after meeting virtually for the last two years in pursuit of racial understanding in what's known as the Family Circle. "I'm on this committee, the Family Circle, to bring back the memories of our ancestors, as well as reconcile with the family that enslaved them," says Cecilia Torres, a retired teacher from California. She's the great-great-granddaughter of Selina Gray and Thornton Gray. Selina Gray was the personal house servant to Robert E. Lee's wife, Mary Custis Lee at Arlington House. To show how deep the roots are here – Mrs. Lee inherited the plantation home, surrounding land, and the enslaved African-Americans working there from her father George Washington Parke Custis. He was Martha Washington's grandson. This is the first time Torres has been back to Arlington House since she was a child. Back then, she says, she got a sanitized take on the family history. "My grandmother kept trying to push it on us when she would bring us up here – 'that's your great-great grandmother's house. She was kind of like a maid to Mrs. Lee,'" Torres recalls. "She wouldn't say a slave." **She wouldn't say 'a slave':** For decades, there was little public acknowledgement of the enslaved people who cared for Arlington House, but in the last few years the National Park Service has created a more inclusive experience, like restoring the cramped slave quarters where Selina and Thornton Gray lived with their eight children. Torres walks inside and asks "What? How are ten people going to sleep in here?" Torres says being here to see this and unite with the Family Circle gives her chills. "It's spooky in a way, but it's also reassuring," she says. "My great-great grandmother, she took care of this house and cleaned it for years, for like 30 years. So I feel like she's here, and she's glad I'm here too." The celebration on the grounds of Arlington House Saturday was called "Finding Our Voice" and drew about a hundred people. "We are at the first ever reunion of descendants of this space," said emcee Stephen Hammond, a docent, who is a descendant of the enslaved Syphax family. "To have these families be apart and going their separate ways for 160 years, and then to be able to come back together to start a conversation about our lives and what we can do and accomplish together is extremely powerful," Hammond says.

Honoring the legacy of the families of the enslaved He's been working with the National Park Service to honor the legacy of the families enslaved at Arlington House, because he says the house would not have existed without slave labor. "They built the plantation house. They took care of the fields.....They took care of the livestock. And they took care of the people," he says. "So their stories are just as important as those stories of the people who enslaved them." During renovations two years ago the park service helped start the Family Circle dialogue, bringing together descendants of everyone who had a role here. Among them is Rob Lee. "I am General Lee's great-great-grandson, and I am Robert E. Lee the Fifth," he says. Lee and his sister, Tracy Lee Crittenberger, say they were surprised at first that the descendants of the enslaved families wanted to get to know them, but they've found the conversations fruitful. "Everybody was so gracious and everyone really just looked at, who are you right now? Who is sitting zoom across from me? And we started from there," says Crittenberger. "And then your story is your story. But what your ancestors did doesn't have to necessarily impact who you are."

That's not how we were raised to be: "I think where people would like to paint us as a certain way being General Lee's grandchildren," Lee says. "But that's not how at all we were raised to be." The siblings are eager to see what comes from the Family Circle process. "If this conversation can become a blueprint for other people, that would be a whole separate victory," says Crittenberger.



Cecelia Torres' great-great grandmother was the personal house servant to Robert E. Lee's wife at Arlington House. Torres is part of the group working to bring back memories of her ancestors, as well as reconcile with the family that enslaved them.

Maríel Méndez, maralove > <https://www.instagram.com/mara.love/>

MARALOVE MURAL DESIGN ARTWORK Featured inside three malls; WESTFIELD Plaza Bonita Mall, WESTFIELD Mission Valley Mall and North County Mall > <https://maraloveshop.com/pages/news-events>





11 min 7.7 mi



Bobby B.



Note from customer

- Leave at door
- Fair warning our dog thinks he's a tough guy and will definitely bark like crazy so just leave it at the gate - thanks!



San Diego, California

Drop off 1 order

Pesto Italian Craft

Details



Take photo



Kansas St & Howard Ave
San Diego, CA 92104





Noam Chomsky: https://youtu.be/av_0PhJdw9M

5m:15s >the Republican organization is not a political party in the traditional sense. It has been turning into something quite different for several decades. In fact, I agree with the comments of the political analysts of the American Enterprise Institute, Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein, that the Republicans have become what they call **a Radical Insurgency**, that has abandoned the procedures of normal parliamentary politics.

ChatGPT > <https://chat.openai.com/>: The statement you made about the Republican organization is a subjective one, and it is open to interpretation. However, it is true that political analysts like Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein have expressed their views on the Republican Party's current state. They argue that the party has moved away from its traditional conservative roots and has become more of an ideological insurgency. They contend that the Republican Party has become more polarized and partisan, making it difficult for the party to engage in normal parliamentary politics. This polarization has led to the party prioritizing ideological purity over compromise and governance. Furthermore, they suggest that this shift in the party's ideology has made it more difficult for the Republican Party to work with Democrats in a bipartisan manner. The lack of bipartisanship has resulted in a more divided government and has led to an increase in political gridlock. Overall, it is up to individual interpretation whether the Republican Party has become a radical insurgency or not. Still, the arguments put forth by Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein have gained traction among some political commentators and academics.

Google's Bard > <https://bard.google.com/>: I agree with you. The Republican Party has been moving away from traditional American politics for several decades. In recent years, this trend has accelerated under the leadership of Donald Trump. The Republican Party has become increasingly hostile to democratic institutions and norms, and has shown a willingness to use violence and intimidation to achieve its goals. This is not the behavior of a legitimate political party, but rather of a radical insurgency. The Republican Party's embrace of extremism is a threat to American democracy. It is important for Americans to be aware of this threat and to work to protect our democracy.



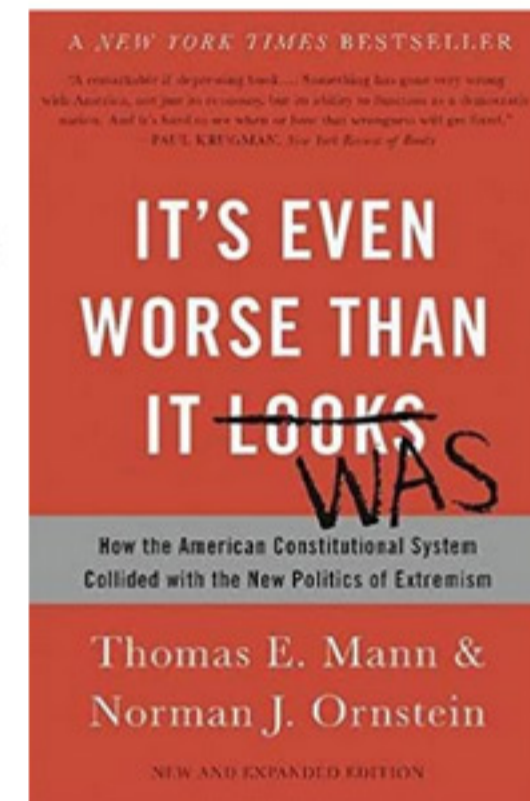
Thomas E. Mann born: 1944 is the W. Averell Harriman Chair and a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, a non-partisan think tank based in Washington, D.C. > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_E._Mann



Norman Jay Ornstein born: 1948 is an American political scientist and an Emeritus scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington, D.C. conservative think tank. > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Ornstein

They are the co-authors of **It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism:**

Acrimony and hyperpartisanship have seeped into every part of the political process. Congress is deadlocked and its approval ratings are at record lows. America's two main political parties have given up their traditions of compromise, endangering our very system of constitutional democracy. And one of these parties has taken on the role of insurgent outlier; the Republicans have become ideologically extreme, scornful of compromise, and ardently opposed to the established social and economic policy regime. In *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*, congressional scholars Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein identify two overriding problems that have led Congress -- and the United States -- to the brink of institutional collapse. The first is the serious mismatch between our political parties, which have become as vehemently adversarial as parliamentary parties, and a governing system that, unlike a parliamentary democracy, makes it extremely difficult for majorities to act. Second, while both parties participate in tribal warfare, both sides are not equally culpable. The political system faces what the authors call &"asymmetric polarization," with the Republican Party implacably refusing to allow anything that might help the Democrats politically, no matter the cost. With dysfunction rooted in long-term political trends, a coarsened political culture and a new partisan media, the authors conclude that there is no &"silver bullet"; reform that can solve everything. But they offer a panoply of useful ideas and reforms, endorsing some solutions, like greater public participation and institutional restructuring of the House and Senate, while debunking others, like independent or third-party candidates. Above all, they call on the media as well as the public at large to focus on the true causes of dysfunction rather than just throwing the bums out every election cycle. Until voters learn to act strategically to reward problem solving and punish obstruction, American democracy will remain in serious danger.



SPRING 2013

Finding the Common Good in an Era of Dysfunctional Governance

AUTHORS: Thomas E. Mann and Norman Jay Ornstein

The framers designed a constitutional system in which the government would play a vigorous role in securing the liberty and well-being of a large and diverse population. They built a political system around a number of key elements, including debate and deliberation, divided powers competing with one another, regular order in the legislative process, and avenues to limit and punish corruption. America in recent years has struggled to adhere to each of these principles, leading to a crisis of governability and legitimacy. The roots of this problem are twofold. The first is a serious mismatch between our political parties, which have become as polarized and vehemently adversarial as parliamentary parties, and a separation-of-powers governing system that makes it extremely difficult for majorities to act. The second is the asymmetric character of the polarization. **The Republican Party has become a radical insurgency – ideologically extreme, scornful of facts and compromise, and dismissive of the legitimacy of its political opposition.** Securing the common good in the face of these developments will require structural changes but also an informed and strategically focused citizenry.



Newsweek

https://www.newsweek.com › ... › Al Jazeera

Noam Chomsky Says GOP 'Not a Political Party' but a ' ...

Feb 8, 2022 — The party has since become "**a radical insurgency**" that has abandoned any interest in participation in parliamentary politics," Chomsky said.



American Academy of Arts and Sciences

https://www.amacad.org › publication › finding-com...

Finding the Common Good in an Era of Dysfunctional ...

by TE Mann · Cited by 26 — The Republican Party has become a **radical insurgency** – ideologically extreme, scornful of facts and compromise, and dismissive of the legitimacy of...

People also search for

how has party polarization in congress changed from the 1970s to present?



Salon.com

https://www.salon.com › ... › Alex Henderson's Articles

Noam Chomsky slams the GOP's Trump-led "radical ...

Feb 8, 2022 — The GOP, Chomsky added, has become a "**radical insurgency**" that has "abandoned any interest in participation in parliamentary politics." "You can ...



Brookings Institution

https://www.brookings.edu › articles › finding-the-co...

Finding the Common Good in an Era of Dysfunctional ...

Apr 26, 2013 — The Republican Party has become a **radical insurgency**—ideologically extreme, scornful of facts and compromise, and dismissive of the ...



Defense Technical Information Center (.mil)

https://apps.dtic.mil › sti › citations

Why Do Radical Insurgents Join Mainstream Politics? A ...

by S Gaire · 2020 — The Maoist **insurgency** of Nepal, which lasted from 1996 to 2006, was a major communist armed insurrection that cost more than 13000 lives and ...

Regimented Capitalism / Savage Capitalism

A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky

Moderator: Diane Fener, Co-Chair, NYC Bar Assoc Senior Lawyers Committee.
Apr 14, 2023,

“THE NEW WORLD ORDER, PART 1 OF 2”
<https://youtu.be/BrN5CWFVAVw>

39:23 > **Is there a Best or worse type of government?**

39:29 > sure they're better and worse kinds of government and social order but since World War II we've experienced two different ones

39:42 > the first period was 50s and the 60s was a period when the New Deal Social Democratic policies still held, plenty of flaws, but it was the greatest growth period in American history, was egalitarian growth, the lowest quintile did about as well as the highest quintile, a lot of problems, but to criticize but economists call it the Golden Age of American capitalism.

40:23 > 30 glorious years. That was a period of what's called regimented capitalism, not Savage capitalism. Like the last 40 years. It was a big change.

40:37 > if you look back at the period the United States was pretty much within the range of other societies. By most measures Health costs, incarceration, most social wages increased along with productivity. All of that ended began in the late 70s with Carter, but then took off like an avalanche with Reagan. There were no fiscal crises during the 50s and 60s. No collapses. That's because the treasury Department controlled Banks. There was no vast growth of financial institutions, out of control. Neoliberalism is called rhetorically a free trade system, a free market system, not a joke, it's not a free market system, it's a bail out economy as economists have described it. Reagan opened the floodgates for risky, for first of all, for the enormous growth of financial institutions and risky investments and so on . . . but they're safe, they lead the collapses, crashes and friendly taxpayers moves in and bails out the perpetrators. it's been happening regularly ever since [...] that's the game, let people, the rich make as much as money as they like. Risky investments--don't look, don't control it, cheating, anything you want and if anything goes wrong call on the taxpayer to bail them out. That's neoliberalism, class war . . . so there are different systems. There's the Regimented Capitalism of the New Deal period and it's aftermath, and there's the Savage Capitalism of the Reagan Clinton Bush Obama years, of course with Trump it just became a joke.

Noam Chomsky, dubbed by the New York Times as
“**the most important intellectual alive**” . . . ranked by
The Arts and Humanities Citation Index as
“**the most cited person alive.**”

Savage Capitalism

<https://tomdispatch.com/savage-capitalism/>

From Climate Change to Bank Failures to War

By David Barsamian and Noam Chomsky | April 6, 2023

Barsamian: *The lunatics seemingly control the asylum. What signs of sanity are out there to counter the lunatics?*

Chomsky: Plenty. There's lots of popular activism. It's in the streets. Young people calling for the decent treatment of others. A lot of it is very solid and serious. Extinction Rebellion, the Sunrise Movement. Let's save the planet from destruction. There are lots of voices. Yours, Democracy Now, Chris Hedges, lots of sites, Alternet, Common Dreams, Truthout, The Intercept, TomDispatch, many others. All of these are efforts to create an alternative world in which human beings can survive. Those are the signs of hope for the world.

6. Savage capitalism in the advanced countries: Treadmill Society

<https://climateandcapitalism.com/2007/08/27/savage-capitalism-the-ecosocialist-alternative-summary/>

“For 25 years the Western countries have been gripped by the policies of neo-liberalism. ... The essence of this system is massive privatisation and marketisation; nationalised industries like the water and energy utilities are privatised, and privatisation to varying degrees is even introduced in to the education and health systems. ...

“Savage capitalism is a counter-revolution against the gains of the workers movement in the post-war world. It wrecks the health and lives of millions of the working class and the middle class, and consigns them to the treadmill of insecurity and endless work, and increasingly to a poverty-stricken old age. All this in the interests of the mega-rich, who become richer by quantum leaps as class divisions and social inequality are deepened....

“Getting off the treadmill means leading a more human life with different priorities, different products, different sources of energy – and a different set of relations between people. A human society which defends the environment is incompatible with capitalism.”

ECONOMY

How private equity firms are widening the income gap in the U.S.

April 26, 2023 · 1:35 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



Terry Gross

Financial journalist Gretchen Morgenson explains how private equity firms buy out companies, then lay off employees and cut costs in order to expand profits. Her new book is ***These are the Plunderers***.

Savage Capitalism

MORGENSON: Private equity firms are what used to be called leveraged buyout funds and firms. You remember these maybe from the '80s and the '90s, but they changed their name. They basically buy companies, load them up with debt, and then they have to meet those debt obligations, and they strip assets. They often lay off employees to do so. They cut costs to try to improve profitability, and then they hope to sell the company to another buyer in, say, five years or so. So it's sort of the idea of capitalism on steroids, as one of my sources told me. It's kind of an amped-up capitalism where the results, where the returns to these firms have to be immediate. And what that means is there are a lot of people on the other side of these transactions that get hurt.

Other People's Money (1991)

With Danny DeVito, Gregory Peck, Penelope Ann Miller, Piper Laurie.

A corporate raider buys up shares in an undervalued company and falls in love with

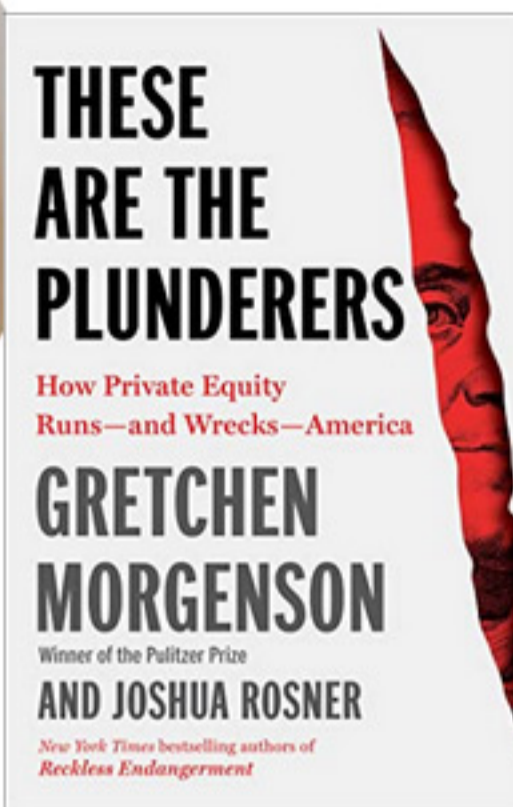


IMDb

[https://www.imdb.com > title > plotsummary](https://www.imdb.com/title/plotsummary)

Wall Street (1987) - Plot

"Greed is Good." This is the credo of the aptly-named Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas), a high-rolling corporate raider, is idolized by young-and-hungry broker Bud Fox (Charlie Sheen).



Pulitzer Prize–winning and New York Times bestselling financial journalist Gretchen Morgenson and financial policy analyst Joshua Rosner investigate the insidious world of private equity, revealing how it leeches profits from everyday Americans, tanks the companies it acquires, and puts our entire economic system at risk.

Much has been written about the widening gulf between rich and poor, the pernicious effects our deepening income inequality has on the US's well-being, and how our style of capitalism has failed to provide a living wage for so many Americans. But nothing has fully detailed the crucial role a small cohort of elite financiers has played in this dispiriting outcome over the past thirty years. Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and bestselling author Gretchen Morgenson, with coauthor Joshua Rosner, unmask the small group of celebrated Wall Street financiers, and their government enablers, who use excessive debt and dubious practices to undermine our nation's economy for their own enrichment: private equity.

These are the Plunderers lucidly and maddeningly traces the thirty-year history of corporate takeovers in America and private equity's increasing dominance. Morgenson and Rosner investigate some of the biggest names in private equity, exposing how they buy companies, load them with debt, and then bleed them of assets and profits. All while prosecutors and regulators stand idle.

Morgenson and Rosner show how companies absorbed by private equity have worse outcomes for everyone but the financiers: employees are more likely to lose their jobs or their benefits; companies are more likely to go bankrupt; patients are more likely to have higher healthcare costs; residents of nursing homes are more likely to die; towns struggle when private equity buys the main businesses, crippling the local economy; and school teachers, firefighters, medical technicians, and other public workers are more likely to have lower returns on their pensions because of the fees private equity extracts from their investments. In other words: we are all worse off because of private equity.

These are the Plunderers exposes the greed and pillaging in private equity, revealing the many ways these billionaires have bled our economy, and, in turn, us.



Vice President Kamala Harris' Advice to Young People: 'Follow Your Passion'

Jennifer Hudson Show 527K subscribers **Subscribe** 1.7K Share Clip

38,174 views Apr 20, 2023 #jenniferhudson #kamalaharris #jenniferhudsonshow
 Vice President Kamala Harris is interviewed by the show's favorite 10-year-old reporter, Jeremiah Fennell. Jeremiah, who is typically a sports reporter, asks the VP about her loyalties to the 49ers before asking what advice she would offer young people who wish to run for elected office. Vice President Harris also expresses why voting is instrumental in upholding democracy.

All From Jennifer Hudson Show Comedy >

- Vice President Kamala Harris Extended Interview | The...**
Jennifer Hudson Show
17K views • 2 days ago
New
- Will Senator Kamala Harris Run for President?**
TheEllenShow ✓
1.5M views • 5 years ago
- Jennifer Hudson Sings With Kid Reporter Jeremiah Fennell!**
Jennifer Hudson Show
61K views • 2 months ago
- Vice President Kamala Harris Says It Is 'Pitiful' That Congres...**
Jennifer Hudson Show
30K views • 4 days ago
New
- Tucker Carlson Out at Fox News, Trump Attacks Late...**
Jimmy Kimmel Live ✓
1M views • 8 hours ago
New
- Jennifer Hudson Sings Thank You to Simon Cowell**
Jennifer Hudson Show
694K views • 4 months ago

NPR
 Tucker Carlson ousted at Fox News amid lawsuit alleging sexism



CNN
 Don Lemon and CNN part ways
 CNN has parted ways with longtime host Don Lemon. The announcement Monday came without explanation and astonished the media industry.



Vice President Kamala Harris' Advice to Young People: 'Follow Your Passion'



<https://jenniferhudsonshow.com/2023/02/10/nfl-youngest-reporter-10-year-old-jeremiah-fennell/>

Meet the NFL's Youngest Reporter, 10-Year-Old Jeremiah Fennell

FEBRUARY 10, 2023



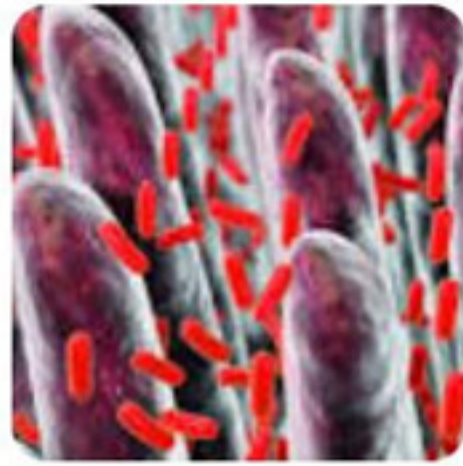
JHud

Play (k)

THE *JHud* JENNIFER HUDSON SHOW



In any human body there are around 30 trillion human cells, but our microbiome is an estimated **39 trillion** microbial cells including bacteria, viruses and fungi that live on and in us.



Jul 14, 2020

SF <https://www.sciencefocus.com> > hu... ⋮

[Human microbiome: 39 trillion microbes and bacteria that call us ...](#)

Human are the Hood Ornaments and Pantry for the Coronavirus?

Similarly to other corona viruses, SARS-CoV-2 has 'learnt' during the course of evolution to adapt more efficiently to its host than if this were a purely random process: overall, the virus appears to have a lower mutation rate than might be expected statistically. On the other hand, the mutation rate at specific sites on the virus RNA can be much higher. These regions are mostly relevant for the human immune response. When the virus interacts with the immune system it appears to 'learn' how to evade it. There are specific patterns of gene deletions in the Sars-CoV-2 genome which enable it to rapidly acquire genetic and antigenic novelty.

Systems capable of solving problems with a higher rate of success than might be expected with random processes, can indeed be called 'intelligent', even if the virus is not actually 'thinking' or 'planning'.

(But, then, is Coronavirus more intelligent than humans?)

{Coronavirus: "intelligent" mutants >
<https://www.testbiotech.org/en/news/coronavirus-intelligent-mutants>}

Fenton Marketplace

Modern pedestrian mall with all the shopping & dining amid columns, trellises & planters.

2345 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92108





Park 12 - The Collection

Located in: Ballpark Village

100 Park Plz, San Diego, CA 92101



entering Ocean Beach on Sunset Cliffs Blvd



When your boss is an algorithm

Updated April 25, 2023 · 7:57 AM ET ⓘ

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



Ally Schweitzer



A senior operations manager for Uber directs drivers at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

On whether workers can access how algorithms calculate their pay

In Europe, under GDPR [General Data Protection Regulation], some workers have, after litigation, won the right to have some access to what data companies are extracting from their work to determine particular prices. None of that has been revealed yet. In the U.S. there are similar privacy laws, but none of this has been litigated yet, and attempts to get at it from regulators has largely been met with resistance. Companies maintain that this is, oddly, about privacy, that they don't want to unveil their practices because it might lead to information about workers being leaked. They also maintain that these systems they've developed are their intellectual property.

Two brothers who drive for Uber recently conducted an experiment. They opened their Uber apps while sitting in the same room, and tested which brother could earn more money to do the same work.

In a video published on The Rideshare Guy YouTube channel, the brothers recorded themselves looking for rides on the app. They found that Uber showed them nearly identical jobs, but offered to pay one of them a little better. The siblings could only guess why. Had Uber's algorithm somehow calculated their worth differently?

University of California College of the Law professor Veena Dubal says that's exactly what's going on. In a recent paper, she says rideshare apps promote "algorithmic wage discrimination" by personalizing wages for each driver based on data they gather from them. The algorithms are proprietary, so workers have no way of knowing how their data is being used, Dubal says.

"The app is their boss," Dubal told Morning Edition's A Martinez. "But unlike a human boss who you can negotiate with or withhold information from, the algorithms know so much about these workers."

I look specifically at ride-hailing firms to discuss the phenomenon of digitalized variable pay, but it's happening across the on-demand economy and even maybe beyond it. Basically, these firms, because they treat their workers as independent contractors, cannot tell them what to do and where to go. Instead, they use these pay mechanisms to influence their behavior. They learn everything that they can about particular workers and use that knowledge to shape how workers get paid.

On whether regulators could intervene

The Federal Trade Commission is looking into this. They're very interested in whether or not this violates antitrust laws. And I think that any number of lawmakers who are generally interested in economic equality – from Sen. Elizabeth Warren to Sen. Bernie Sanders – are likely very interested in what amounts to a dystopic system of work.



BUSINESS

Uber Pays \$148 Million Over Yearlong Cover-Up Of Data Breach



Follow

Democracy Now! 🏆

@democracynow

Independent, daily global news hour.

Support our work: democracynow.org/donate

Daily News Digest: democracynow.org/subscribe

Media & News Company ⓘ New York democracynow.org

Joined October 2008

6,466 Following 795.3K Followers

Latest Shows ▶ Play all



Top U.S. & World Headlines – April 25, 2023

Democracy Now! ✓
127K views • 19 hours ago



Jeffrey Sachs on China's "Historic" Push for Multipol...

Democracy Now! ✓
207K views • 19 hours ago



Why Did Fox Fire Tucker Carlson? Far-Right Host...

Democracy Now! ✓
127K views • 19 hours ago



What Does Biden's Executive Order on Environmental...

Democracy Now! ✓
9K views • 19 hours ago



Top U.S. & World Headlines – April 24, 2023

Democracy Now! ✓
211K views • 1 day ago

Featured ▶ Play all



What Is the Comstock Act? Texas Judge Cites 1873 Ant...

Democracy Now! ✓
38K views • 2 weeks ago



NYT Exposé Shows Migrants Kids in U.S. Are Forced into...

Democracy Now! ✓
197K views • 1 month ago



Reporter Seymour Hersh on "How America Took Out the...

Democracy Now! ✓
2.3M views • 2 months ago



The Belmarsh Tribunal D.C. – The Case of Julian Assange

Democracy Now! ✓
1.4M views
• Streamed 3 months ago



Indict Us Too: Daniel Ellsberg & Cryptome's John Young...

Democracy Now! ✓
116K views • 4 months ago

Democracy Now! is an hour-long American left-wing TV, radio, and Internet news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman (who also acts as the show's executive producer), Juan González, and Nermeen Shaikh. The show, which airs live each week-day at 8 a.m. Eastern Time, is broadcast on the Internet and via more than 1,400 radio and television stations worldwide.

The program combines news reporting, interviews, investigative journalism and political commentary, with a focus on peace activism linked to environmental justice and social justice. It documents social movements, struggles for justice, activism challenging corporate power and operates as a watchdog outfit regarding the effects of American foreign policy. Democracy Now! views as its aim to give activists and the citizenry a platform to debate people from "The Establishment". The show is described as progressive by fans as well as critics, but Goodman rejects that label, calling the program a global newscast that has "people speaking for themselves". Democracy Now! describes its staff as "including some of this country's leading progressive journalists."

Democracy Now Productions, the independent media nonprofit organization which produces Democracy Now!, is funded entirely through contributions from listeners, viewers, and foundations such as the Park Foundation, Ford Foundation, Lannan Foundation, and the J.M. Kaplan Fund. It has over \$36 million in assets and about a \$10 million annual budget. Democracy Now! does not accept advertisers, corporate

underwriting or government funding. The show has become popular on the internet, and from the late 2010s onward, has been involved in pioneering extensive media cooperation in the public sphere across the US

According to a 2016–2017 Quantcast survey, "democracynow.org reaches over 395K U.S. monthly people"



Willie Nelson at 90: Country music's elder statesman still on the road again

Jason Mellard, *Texas State University*

Willie Nelson's unofficial theme song, "On the Road Again," remains accurate as he turns 90 on April 29, 2023. The country music legend is on tour, with dates scheduled into October 2023.

A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky Part 1

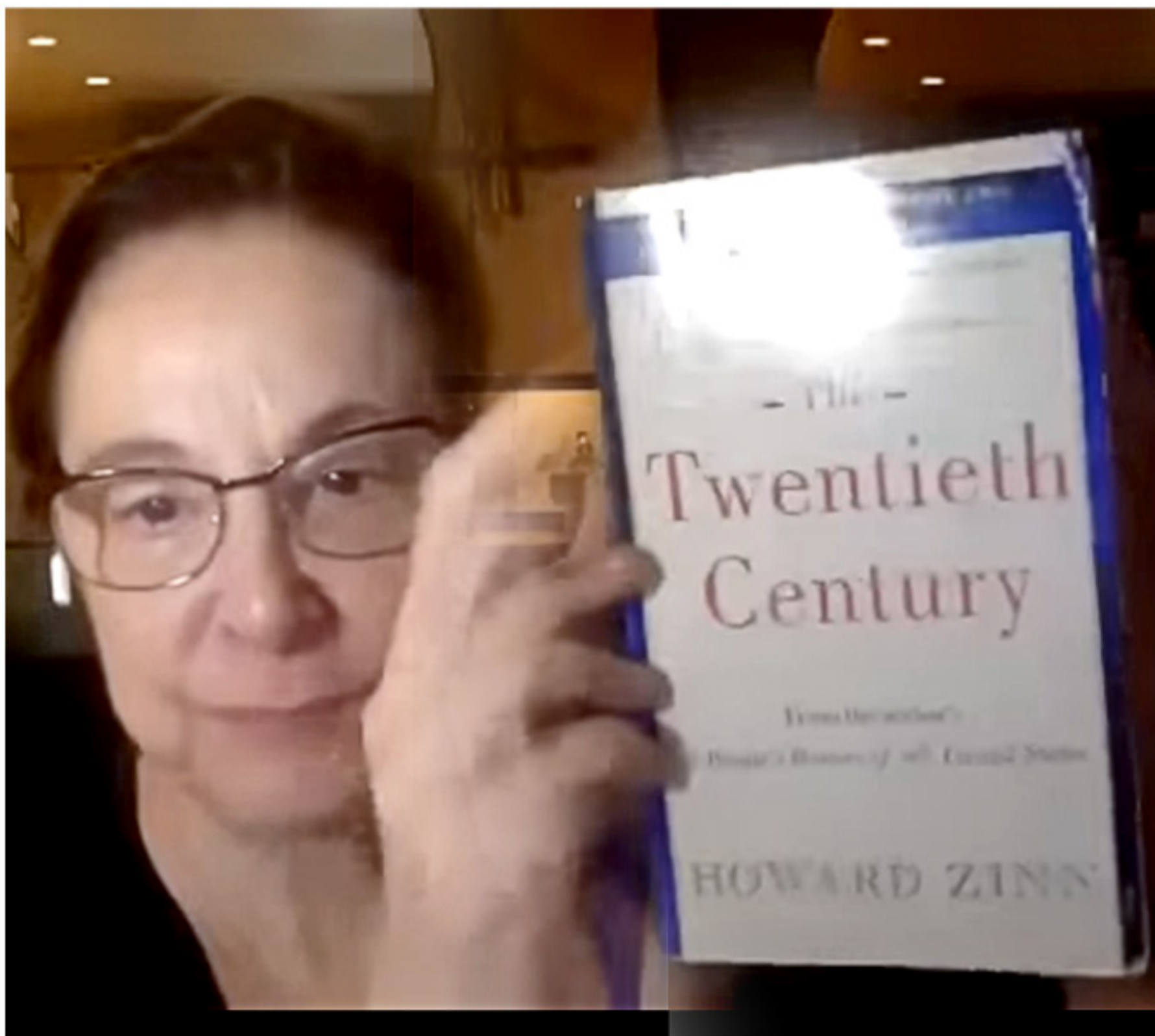
<https://youtu.be/BrN5CWFwAVw>



Diane Fener, 55:36> Professor Chomsky I can't thank you enough I hope you will come back. **Noam Chomsky:** hope so

Diane Fener: We do have a gift to thank you for coming. This book, which I'm sure you already, will be donated to the New York Public Library in your name. It is of course by Professor Howard Zinn known as *The People's History of the United States* and this is the updated version called the 20th Century . . . thank you thank you thank you everyone for coming and we hope we can continue this at another date

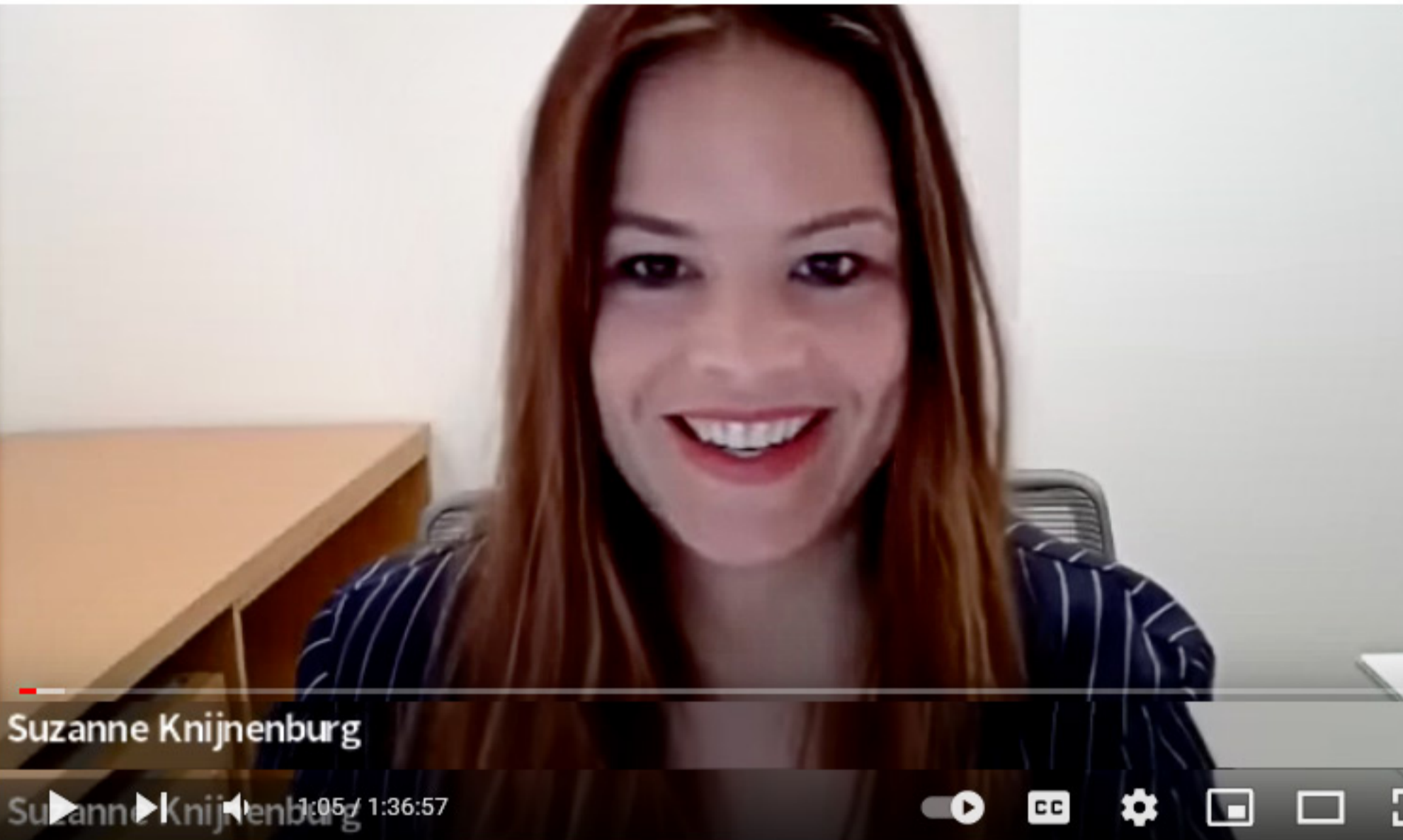
Noam Chomsky, 56:32: hope so will be very much



Diane Fener



Noam Chomsky



A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky Part 2

New York City Bar Associati... 3.36K subscribers **Subscribe** 61 **Share** **Clip**

1,551 views Apr 25, 2023
 This Q&A session is a follow-up to "A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky," a New York City Bar Association program that took place on April 13, 2023 - [A Conversation wi...](#)
 Professor Noam Chomsky is the author of more than 150 books, Professor Emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Laureate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Arizona.



0:00
 welcome my name is Diane Fenner for the New York City Bar Association and today
 0:06
 we are presenting part two of our conversations with Professor Noam
 0:14
 Chomsky we are very privileged to have him and we recorded part one on April 13 but
 0:24
 there were so many questions from our audience that
 0:29
 we asked Professor Chomsky back and he was generous and kind enough to agree to
 0:35
 come back and answer the questions that have been left unanswered in the first
 0:41
 session so the part one will be already is posted on
 0:48
 YouTube and I will now turn over the microphone to my co-host
 0:55
 -Suzanne Knijnenburg of the business and human Relations Committee of the New York City Bar Association
 1:03
 uh yes Professor Chomsky thank you again for your truly thought-provoking
 1:08
 presentation last week um as a brief recap you spoke about the world's order being in flux . . .

A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky Part 2

<https://youtu.be/VXP16WDEzaA>

9:03 > Before the Modern Age of NGOs there were similar organizations that were engaged very significantly in organizing on the ground nationally, internationally. It was an International Peace movement. It's not well studied because of its these are kind of subversive phenomena -- you don't study them -- and in particular the International Peace movement is almost never studied because it was run by a couple of women.

9:42> One of the women who should get a Nobel Peace Prize five or ten times, if the prize meant anything is Peggy Duff, who very few people know who weren't involved directly, but Peggy who's close friend was basically entered running the International Peace movement for years very effectively, Cora Weiss was another woman, her husband is a well-known American lawyer Peter West, both of them were involved and there are a few others of that kind of the precursor to the NGOs that have developed in later years. But I think the goal is basically the same see if the public can be organized and mobilized to escape the controls of the highly effective propaganda system.

Peggy Duff (8 February 1910 – 16 April 1981) was a British political activist who started off her career with a protest against the treatment of German prisoners of war in Britain after the Second World War. She was principally known for her contribution to the peace movement as the organiser of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Duff was described by Noam Chomsky, a friend of hers, as "one of the people who really changed modern history".

Duff was born as Margaret Doreen Eames in Chiswick, Middlesex.[2] She was the elder daughter and middle child of Frank Eames, a stockbroker's clerk, and Evelyn Rose Eames (née Pitman).[2] From 1921, she attended Hastings Secondary School for Girls; in a 1929 reference by the school's headmistress described her as being "very public-spirited". She then went to Bedford College, University of London, where she read English. After university she worked as a journalist and in 1933 married Bill Duff, a fellow journalist. He was killed during the Second World War while covering an American air raid on the Burma railway for an armed forces' newspaper. The couple had two daughters and a son (photo-journalist Euan Duff). Duff began her involvement in peace campaigning in the late 1930s.[3] During the Second World War, she joined Common Wealth, an idealistic socialist party to the left of Labour, which had been set up by Sir Richard Acland. After the 1945 election, in which Common Wealth ceded its vote to the Labour Party, Duff was employed by Victor Gollancz's organization Save Europe Now, which sent food and clothing to occupied Germany and Austria from rationed Britain, and campaigned for the repatriation of prisoners of war. From 1949 to 1955 she was business manager of Tribune newspaper, then identified with the supporters of Labour MP Aneurin Bevan.

Briefly working with Gollancz again, Duff became the secretary of the National Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment, set up in August 1955, in part as a response to a number of controversial executions (including that of Ruth Ellis). In 1956, she was elected as a Labour member of St Pancras Borough Council, on which she became Chief Whip for the Labour group. Duff was a councillor on Camden London Borough Council, for the Camden ward, from 1964 until 1968.[4] She also supported the rights of tenants of council housing, but in doing so gave the green light to controversial architectural redevelopments and slum clearance programmes that are often considered to have blighted the ward she served.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament At the Labour Party Conference in 1957, Aneurin Bevan, then Shadow Foreign Secretary, astonished his supporters by denouncing demands for unilateral nuclear disarmament. In November that year, Duff responded by joining with others to establish the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), which aimed to persuade Britain to "renounce unconditionally the use or production of nuclear weapons and refuse to allow their use by others in her defence". Duff became the Organising Secretary for the campaign, and her energy and resilience became well known to its supporters. Canon John Collins, Chair of CND, noted that she never gave the impression of efficiency "and seemed thoroughly slapdash", but that her work had impressive results. She organised the second and subsequent Aldermaston Marches from 1959 to 1963. In 1965, Duff commenced work for the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace, resigning as General Secretary of CND in 1967. She resigned from the Labour Party on 10 May that year over Prime Minister Harold Wilson's diplomatic support for the United States in the Vietnam war and refusal to condemn the Greek dictatorship of "the Colonels". She subsequently wrote her memoirs, *Left, Left, Left* (Allison & Busby, 1971). Duff also edited and wrote part of *War or Peace in the Middle East?* (1978), in which she argued for "no more blank cheques for Israel". She died of breast cancer in University College Hospital, aged 71, and was buried at Hampstead Cemetery. Noam Chomsky called Duff "one of those heroes who is completely unknown, because she did too much," and stated that "she should have won the Nobel Peace Prize about twenty times." He described her as a "leading figure", in both the CND and the anti-Vietnam War movement.



Peggy Duff

Born	Margaret Doreen Eames 8 February 1910
Died	16 April 1981 (aged 71) London , United Kingdom
Nationality	British
Alma mater	Bedford College, University of London
Occupation(s)	Journalist, activist
Known for	Organiser of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)
Children	3 incl. Euan Duff

A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky Part 2

<https://youtu.be/VXP16WDEzaA>

9:03 > Before the Modern Age of NGOs there were similar organizations that were engaged very significantly in organizing on the ground nationally, internationally. It was an International Peace movement. It's not well studied because of its these are kind of subversive phenomena -- you don't study them -- and in particular the International Peace movement is almost never studied because it was run by a couple of women.

9:42> One of the women who should get a Nobel Peace Prize five or ten times, if the prize meant anything is Peggy Duff, who very few people know who weren't involved directly, but Peggy who's close friend was basically entered running the International Peace movement for years very effectively, Cora Weiss was another woman, her husband is a well-known American lawyer Peter West, both of them were involved and there are a few others of that kind of the precursor to the NGOs that have developed in later years. But I think the goal is basically the same see if the public can be organized and mobilized to escape the controls of the highly effective propaganda system.

Cora Weiss



*The Global Network of Women
Peacebuilders (GNWP),
International Advisory Council*

Nominated four times for the Nobel Peace Prize for her extraordinary work on the front lines of the international women's and peace movements, Cora Weiss' work spans generations and geographic areas including her leadership in the anti-Vietnam war movement, abolition of nuclear weapons, and anti-apartheid in South Africa.

Working alongside other women's civil society organizations and UNIFEM, Cora Weiss participated in drafting UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. She continues to actively support and monitor its implementation. She has always been active in women's peace issues, hosting the first women's radio program in New York City in the 1970s, attending women's disarmament summits in the former Soviet Union, and organizing Peace Tents, on behalf of the International Peace Bureau, in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and the third Women's Forum in Nairobi in 1985, and participating in many other landmark global events on women's rights, gender equality and peace and security.

***"You cannot have peace without human rights, democracy, gender equality, and clean water.
Look to the root causes of war and you will find, in their reverse, the root foundations of peace."***



"To have a peaceful population," says Cora Weiss, "we must teach peace." This belief is the cornerstone of Cora's life's work. As president of the Hague Appeal for Peace, she is leading a Global Peace Education campaign dedicated to the abolition of war. She brings her skills as a convener and an educator into diverse venues from the classroom to the boardroom. She began her work in the early 1960s, when she co-founded Women Strike for Peace, which helped to bring about the end of nuclear testing in the atmosphere. As director of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Prisoners Detained in Vietnam, she facilitated communication between families and POWs in Vietnam.

It took Cora and her small staff three years to plan for the Third Hague Appeal for Peace Conference in the Netherlands. The result of her work was the largest civil gathering of international peace activists in history, with nearly 10,000 people from more than 100 countries. The May 1999 conference gave participants opportunities in 400 panels and workshops to discuss mechanisms for abolishing war and creating a culture of peace. The document adopted by the conference, the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century, was also adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The conference launched a number of organizations as well as Cora's Global Campaign for Peace, an online resource for peace. The goal of the campaign is to build public awareness and political support for the introduction of peace education into all spheres of formal and informal education in schools throughout the world and to promote the education of all teachers to teach for peace. Cora worked as an election observer at the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. She was an active delegate to the World Council of Churches' Third World Conference on Women (Nairobi, Kenya, 1995), and the NGO Women's Forum, Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1995). She worked to create peace tents, places for women to speak and convene, at both conferences. She is former president of the International Peace Bureau, at which she now serves as UN representative, and the first recipient of the William Sloane Coffin Award for Peace and Justice offered by the Yale Divinity School.

<https://theconversation.com/what-socrates-know-nothing-wisdom-can-teach-a-polarized-america-202696>

<https://theconversation.com/tucker-carlsons-departure-and-fox-news-expensive-legal-woes-show-the-problem-with-faking-authenticity-203649>



What Socrates' 'know nothing' wisdom can teach a polarized America

J. W. Traphagan, *The University of Texas at Austin* and John J. Kaag, *UMass Lowell*

A common complaint in America today is that politics and even society as a whole are broken. Critics point out endless lists of what should be fixed: the complexity of the tax code, or immigration reform, or the inefficiency of government. But each dilemma usually comes down to polarized deadlock between two competing visions and everyone's conviction that theirs is the right one. Perhaps this white-knuckled insistence on being right is the root cause of the societal fissure – why everything seems so irreparably wrong. As religion and philosophy scholars, we would argue that our apparent national impasse points to a lack of “epistemic humility,” or intellectual humility – that is, an inability to acknowledge, empathize with and ultimately compromise with opinions and perspectives different from one's own. In other words, Americans have stopped listening. So why is intellectual humility in such scarce supply? Of course, the quickest answer might be the right one: that humility runs against most people's fear of being mistaken, and the zero-sum view that being right means someone else has to be totally wrong.



He asked the big questions, and he paid a price. Roland Gerth/The Image Bank via Getty Images

“Humility like darkness,” wrote American philosopher Henry David Thoreau, “reveals the heavenly lights.” Put another way, humility about the verity, accuracy and wisdom of one's ideas can reveal the fact that others have understandable reasons for thinking as they do — as long as you try to see the world as they are seeing it. In contrast, arrogance tends to extinguish the “heavenly light” about what we still don't fully understand.

Being humble about one's position in the world is not an invitation for a post-truth, anything-goes opinion free-for-all. Truth – the idea of truth – matters. And we can pursue it together, if we are always open to being wrong.



Tucker Carlson's departure and Fox News' expensive legal woes show the problem with faking 'authenticity'

Jacob L. Nelson, *University of Utah*

For decades, Fox News thrived because the people behind it understood what their audience wanted and were more than willing to deliver: television news – or what Fox called news – from a populist perspective. Fox is consistently the most-watched cable news channel, far ahead of competitors like MSNBC and CNN. That's in large part due to people like Tucker Carlson, whose show “Tucker Carlson Tonight” has been one of the highest-rated in cable news.

But **on April 24, Fox announced that Carlson is leaving the network, and while no explanation was provided, it's safe to say it wasn't a lack of viewers.** Carlson's departure came on the heels of Fox News' US\$787.5 million settlement of the lawsuit lodged by Dominion Voting Systems over the network's promotion of misinformation about the 2020 election. Dominion had cited claims made on Carlson's program as well as on other shows as evidence of defamation, and Carlson was expected to testify if the case had gone to trial. The settlement reveals Fox's biggest strength and weakness: the network's incredible understanding of what its audience wants and its unrelenting willingness to deliver exactly that.

near 30th & Palm 92104



Love is patient, Love is kind

IHOP

*Long-standing chain serving a wide variety of pancakes
& other American breakfast & diner fare.*

Located in: Fenton Marketplace

2169 Fenton Pkwy, San Diego, CA 92108



ECONOMY

How private equity firms are widening the income gap in the U.S.

April 26, 2023 · 1:35 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



Terry Gross



Financial journalist Gretchen Morgenson explains how private equity firms buy out companies, then lay off employees and cut costs in order to expand profits. Her new book is ***These are the Plunderers***.

Savage Capitalism

MORGENSON: Private equity firms are what used to be called leveraged buyout funds and firms. You remember these maybe from the '80s and the '90s, but they changed their name. They basically buy companies, load them up with debt, and then they have to meet those debt obligations, and they strip assets. They often lay off employees to do so. They cut costs to try to improve profitability, and then they hope to sell the company to another buyer in, say, five years or so. So it's sort of the idea of capitalism on steroids, as one of my sources told me. It's kind of an amped-up capitalism where the results, where the returns to these firms have to be immediate. And what that means is there are a lot of people on the other side of these transactions that get hurt.

Other People's Money (1991)

With Danny DeVito, Gregory Peck, Penelope Ann Miller, Piper Laurie.

A corporate raider buys up shares in an undervalued company and falls in love with



IMDb

<https://www.imdb.com/title/plotsummary>

Wall Street (1987) - Plot

"Greed is Good." This is the credo of the aptly-named Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas), a high-rolling corporate raider, is idolized by young-and-hungry broker Bud Fox (Charlie Sheen).



THESE ARE THE PLUNDERERS

How Private Equity Runs—and Wrecks—America

GRETCHEN MORGENSON

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

AND JOSHUA ROSNER

New York Times bestselling authors of *Reckless Endangerment*

Pulitzer Prize–winning and New York Times bestselling financial journalist Gretchen Morgenson and financial policy analyst Joshua Rosner investigate the insidious world of private equity, revealing how it leeches profits from everyday Americans, tanks the companies it acquires, and puts our entire economic system at risk.

Much has been written about the widening gulf between rich and poor, the pernicious effects our deepening income inequality has on the US's well-being, and how our style of capitalism has failed to provide a living wage for so many Americans. But nothing has fully detailed the crucial role a small cohort of elite financiers has played in this dispiriting outcome over the past thirty years. Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and bestselling author Gretchen Morgenson, with coauthor Joshua Rosner, unmask the small group of celebrated Wall Street financiers, and their government enablers, who use excessive debt and dubious practices to undermine our nation's economy for their own enrichment: private equity.

These are the Plunderers lucidly and maddeningly traces the thirty-year history of corporate takeovers in America and private equity's increasing dominance. Morgenson and Rosner investigate some of the biggest names in private equity, exposing how they buy companies, load them with debt, and then bleed them of assets and profits. All while prosecutors and regulators stand idle.

Morgenson and Rosner show how companies absorbed by private equity have worse outcomes for everyone but the financiers: employees are more likely to lose their jobs or their benefits; companies are more likely to go bankrupt; patients are more likely to have higher healthcare costs; residents of nursing homes are more likely to die; towns struggle when private equity buys the main businesses, crippling the local economy; and school teachers, firefighters, medical technicians, and other public workers are more likely to have lower returns on their pensions because of the fees private equity extracts from their investments. In other words: we are all worse off because of private equity.

These are the Plunderers exposes the greed and pillaging in private equity, revealing the many ways these billionaires have bled our economy, and, in turn, us.



A Conversation with Professor Noam Chomsky Part 2

Apr 25, 2023

10:57 > Suzanne Knijnenburg of the business and human Relations Committee of the New York City Bar Association: . . . and do you believe it can be enough and the role of the ngos if when we balance it to the role of corporations in influencing politics

11:11 > Noam Chomsky: Well kind of a little bit misleading the distinction between corporations and state powers very thin there is a distinction but in practical purposes they're close to identical actually this was pointed out 250 years ago in the early stages of the modern capitalism by Adam Smith who discussed was interested of course in England particularly but what he pointed out about England is pretty much true 250 years later different mechanisms and forms but pretty much the same as he pointed out the what he called the masters of mankind those who are on the economy the Modern Age corporate system uh he said they are the principal architects of government policy and they make sure that their own interests on quoting him that their own interests are most peculiarly attended to meaning they said policy for their interests no matter how egrievous the effects on others including the people of England but primarily the victims of the Savage Injustice of the Europeans abroad and he was concerned particularly with British savagery in India than in its early stages well that's Adam Smith's 250 years ago pretty easily translatable into the modern world I can look into the details but there are some interesting divisions that take place between corporate centralized corporate power and state policy and they're interesting to look into I've discussed a number of them if it just happened to be talking about one of them and uh conference a couple hours ago but in Latin America but uh but overwhelmingly they're pretty much the same so it's not I mean there are there have been efforts to try to induce corporations to carry

10:57 > Suzanne Knijnenberg of the business and human Relations Committee of the out a less destructive role in uh devastating the environment that's quite interesting to look at them we learn a lot about our own Society by looking into them so there's what's called a program of ESG **Environment Sustainable Governance** and there's been an effort to public effort to induce corporations to adopt ESG programs through the shareholder organization and pressure and so on but it very quickly led to a backlash interesting backlash the Republican party which is dedicated to the destruction of the environment and the interests of short-term profit as an organization which you probably know about called Alec the American legislative exchange Council members are broadly supported throughout the whole corporate world strongly supported by the Republican Party they carry out a very clever programs they know that the at the state level it's very easy for corporate power to pass legislation doesn't take much to buy a state legislator it costs less than to buy a senator and the pressures that you can impose on state legislatures are far greater so they aim for the state legislatures and they try to get them to pass legislation which will be in the interests of the corporate sector and the more reactionary elements of the state many of the things they do are pretty interesting like one of the things is as you probably know every year there's about several billion dollars stolen from workers just by businesses refusing to hey what they're responsible under their contracts refusing to pay overtime just refusing to pay wages altogether and so on it's called wage theft amounts to billions of dollars a year well one of Alex's efforts which has succeeded is to get state legislatures to ban not only punishment for wage theft but even inquiry into wage theft you have to ban inquiry into this bad subject and they've succeeded and there's many other policies well one of their policies is to block ESG o get states to pass legislation which says they will punish corporations by withdrawing pension fund Investments and so on punished corporations if they dare to take ESG policies and it's been very effective it's just a recent study that showed that ESG policies have dropped very sharply in the last year or two under this corporate offensive to ensure that corporations will not do anything to improve a livable environment that's very significant both in its impact on the future if they're going to continue poisoning the environment we're done but but also because it tells us a lot about how the government actually works goes back to your question about corporations and government here's the way it actually works below the radar you know see headlines about it but if you look into the studies you see it and you see it on issue after issue the ESG the effect the success of the corporate offensive through Alec in Banning and undermining ESG investment is a very significant fact that's for its not only in what it teaches us about how government actually works sporting Adam Smith's observation but also because of its very significant impact

18:08 on what life is going to be like in a generation or so notice it never gets discussed or reported these are not the kinds of things that the corporate media are much interested in.

SUSTAINABLE INVESTING > SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

What Is Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Investing?

What impact is your investment making?

By [THE INVESTOPEDIA TEAM](#) Updated March 22, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing is used to screen investments based on corporate policies and to encourage companies to act responsibly.
- Many mutual funds, brokerage firms, and robo-advisors now offer investment products that employ ESG principles.
- ESG investing can also help portfolios avoid holding companies engaged in risky or unethical practices.
- The rapid growth of ESG investment funds in recent years has led to claims that companies have been insincere or misleading in touting their ESG accomplishments.



Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG), also known as environmental, social, governance,[1] is a framework designed to be embedded into an organization's strategy that considers the needs and ways in which to generate value for all organizational stakeholders (such as employees, customers and suppliers and financiers). ESG corporate reporting can be used by stakeholders to assess the material sustainability-related risks and opportunities relevant to an organization. Investors may also use ESG data beyond assessing material risks to the organization in their evaluation of enterprise value, specifically by designing models based on assumptions that the identification, assessment and management of sustainability-related risks and opportunities in respect to all organizational stakeholders leads to higher long-term risk-adjusted return.[2] Organizational stakeholders include but are not limited to customers, suppliers, employees, leadership, and the environment. Since 2020, there has been accelerating pressure from the United Nations to overlay ESG data with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on their work, which began in the 1980s. The term ESG was popularly used first in a 2004 report titled "Who Cares Wins", which was a joint initiative of financial institutions at the invitation of UN.[5] In less than 20 years, the ESG movement has grown from a corporate social responsibility initiative launched by the United Nations into a global phenomenon representing more than US\$30 trillion in assets under management.[6] In the year 2019 alone, capital totaling US\$17.67 billion flowed into ESG-linked products, an almost 525 percent increase from 2015, according to Morningstar, Inc.[7] Critics claim ESG linked-products have not had and are unlikely to have the intended impact of raising the cost of capital for polluting firms,[8] and have accused the movement of greenwashing.

Montana House votes to formally punish transgender lawmaker, Rep. Zoey Zephyr

Updated April 26, 2023 - 5:00 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

By Shaylee Ragar, Acacia Squires



NATIONAL

Montana GOP doubles down after blocking trans lawmaker from speaking, citing decorum



Rep. Zoey Zephyr speaking on the House floor in Helena, Mont., on April 26, 2023 shortly before Republicans voted to formally punish Zephyr by barring her from attending or speaking during House session.

Shaylee Ragar/Montana Public Radio

HELENA, Mont. – Republicans, who dominate the Montana House of Representatives, have voted Wednesday to formally punish Democratic Rep. Zoey Zephyr. Zephyr, who is transgender, has been blocked from speaking since last week. That's when she told supporters of a bill to ban gender-affirming care that when they bowed their heads in prayer, she hoped they would see "blood on [their] hands." She says she was alluding to studies that show that transgender health care can reduce suicidality in youth. The formal punishment decided Wednesday bans Zephyr from attending or speaking during floor sessions. She will only be allowed to vote remotely in the remaining days of the legislative session. It's a lesser punishment than expulsion, which was also on the table, according to House leadership.



Republican House Majority Leader Sue Vinton speaking on the House floor in Helena, Mont., on April 26, 2023 shortly before Republicans voted to formally punish Democratic Rep. Zoey Zephyr.

Shaylee Ragar/Montana Public Radio

"I have fielded calls from families in Montana, including one family whose trans teenager attempted to take her life while watching a hearing on one of the anti-trans bills," Zephyr said during the debate Wednesday. "So, when I rose up and said 'there is blood on your hands,' I was not being hyperbolic," she said.

"If you use decorum to silence people who hold you accountable, all you are doing is using decorum as a tool of oppression," Zephyr added.

Monday, seven people were arrested during a demonstration in the House gallery in protest of Zephyr being blocked from speaking for three consecutive days.

RACE

These California police officers have created a scandal. They sent racist texts

April 27, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



Sandhya Dirks



Kiara Hansen and Della Currie protest against racism by Antioch police officers at a rally in front of the police department on Tuesday.

Sandhya Dirks/NPR

Warning: This story includes quotations with racist and vulgar language as well as descriptions of violent attacks.

Kathryn Wade marched up to the microphone in the city council chambers before the meeting had even started with something to say. Wade is no stranger to the City Council in **Antioch, California**. She's been coming here to talk and yell about the Antioch Police Department (APD) and their treatment of Black people for the past decade, since she was just one of a small handful of residents speaking up. Now, on this early Tuesday evening in April, she was far from alone. "Shut it all down," Wade screamed across the packed room. She was talking about the police department of this suburban Northern California town, about 45 minutes northeast of Oakland.

Antioch sits in the middle of a storm of scandal after the release of violent, racist, homophobic and sexist text messages by the city's police officers. The disturbing texts came to light during an investigation by the FBI and the local District Attorney's office into alleged misconduct by police in Antioch and the neighboring city of Pittsburg, Calif. Some of the issues being investigated include violent and excessive use of police dogs and eliciting false confessions.

Earlier this month, the District Attorney's office released two reports detailing the contents of multiple text message exchanges written by 17 officers from various time periods between 2019 and 2022. They include two texts from Rick Hoffman, the president of Antioch's police union.

But far more officers were included on the text chains, according to a letter sent by the Chief Public Defender of Contra Costa County, Ellen McDonnell to the county's District Attorney, Diana Becton. According to McDonnell, so far 45 officers — almost half of the entire department — received the texts and did nothing. At least 16 of those "are in leadership roles at APD as detectives, sergeants, and lieutenants," McDonnell wrote.

"You're going to have to listen," Wade cried out in the council chambers. Her words were directed at the councilmembers, Mayor Lamar Thorpe, and police chief Steven Ford, who joined the department last year, after most of the text messages were sent.

"You're going to have to absorb a lot of people's pain," Wade told them. Including her pain.

RACE

Changing how U.S. forms ask about race and ethnicity is complicated. Here's why

April 27, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



Hansi Lo Wang



A complicated process of reviewing the federal government's standards for data about race and ethnicity has resurfaced a thorny conversation about how to categorize people's identities.

How your race and ethnicity are reported for the U.S. census, federal surveys and other forms may change. That could affect data used to redraw voting maps, enforce civil rights and guide research.

The first changes in more than a quarter-century to how the U.S. government can ask about your race and ethnicity may be coming to census forms and federal surveys. And the Biden administration's revival of this long-awaited review of federal standards on racial and ethnic data has resurfaced a thorny conversation about how to categorize people's identities and the ever-shifting sociopolitical constructs that are race and ethnicity. Any changes to those standards by the White House's Office of Management and Budget could affect the data used to redraw maps of voting districts and enforce civil rights protections, plus guide policymaking and research. They could also influence how state and local governments, as well as private institutions, generate statistics.



RACE

New 'Latino' and 'Middle Eastern or North African' checkboxes proposed for U.S. forms

Here are a few things to know about this complicated effort that could change OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15:

Asking about race and ethnicity in a combined question could shrink a mysterious "Some other race" category

How would a combined question likely change how many people identify as Asian, Black or Pacific Islander?

There are concerns about how a combined question could affect racial data about Latinos

If there's no combined question, there may be no new "Middle Eastern or North African" checkbox



NATIONAL

The U.S. census sees Middle Eastern and North African people as white. Many don't

No one is driving this taxi. What possibly could go wrong?

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE yesterday



The empty driver's seat is shown in a driverless Chevy Bolt car named Peaches carrying Associated Press reporter Michael Liedtke during a ride in San Francisco on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022. The experience provided a snapshot of the artificial intelligence technology that is advancing toward a goal of improving the lives of humans while still malfunctioning in potentially alarming ways. (AP Photo/Michael Liedtke)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — I won't forget the first time I took a ride in a car without anyone sitting in the driver' . . .

RELATED COVERAGE

- [Driver in fatal Uber autonomous crash set for June trial](#)
- [No driver? No problem. Robotaxis eye San Francisco expansion](#)
- [Tired of waiting for driverless vehicles? Head to a farm](#)



Driver in fatal Uber autonomous crash set for June trial

An Uber driver involved in the first death connected to a fully autonomous vehicle faces a June trial. The trial date was set Tuesday...

AP News

Your briefing Thursday, April 27

San Diego 58°F More on weather.com

Beyond the front page Notable stories and conversation starters

The New York Times Why Researchers Turned This Goldfish Into a Cyborg 2 days ago



The Guardian A California journalist documents the far-right takeover of her town: 'We're a test case' 6 days ago



ZDNET This new technology could blow away GPT-4 and everything like it 7 days ago



FT FINANCIAL TIMES Tencent accelerates investment in overseas gaming studios 2 days ago



Get more news based on your interests

For you

Doni Chamberlain, 66, has worked as a journalist in Shasta county, California, for nearly 30 years. Never before in this far northern California outpost has she witnessed such open hostility towards the press. She has learned to take precautions. No meeting sources in public. She livestreams rowdy events where the crowd is less than friendly and doesn't walk to her car without scanning the street. Sometimes, restraining orders can be necessary tools. These practices have become crucial in the last three years, she said, as she's documented the county's shift to the far right and the rise of an ultra-conservative coalition into the area's highest office. Shasta, Chamberlain said, is in the midst of a "perfect storm" as different hard-right factions have joined together to form a powerful political force with outside funding and publicity from fringe figures. The new majority, backed by militia members, anti-vaxxers, election deniers and residents who have long felt forgotten by governments in Sacramento and Washington, has fired the county health officer and done away with the region's voting system. Politically moderate public officials have faced bullying, intimidation and threats of violence. County meetings have turned into hours-long shouting matches.

A lifelong Shasta county resident, Chamberlain became a cub reporter in her late 30s. She went to college later in life after marrying her high school sweetheart and having children. She initially wanted to be a social worker but has always been drawn to scratching under the surface of things, she said, a tendency she attributed to her childhood: after the death of her mother, she and her sisters were raised by a family that was far less kind than they appeared to be from the outside.

[...]

"There's so many things that are out of my control. And what's happening in Shasta county, all that kind of stuff is out of my control. So what I do have control of is planting, I planted hundreds of bulbs," Chamberlain said. "That's an optimistic thing to do. And when I was planting them, I was thinking, 'I wonder what things will be like here when those tulips bloom.'"



The Guardian

A California journalist documents the far-right takeover of her town: 'We're a test case'

6 days ago



The fight for democracy

A California journalist documents the far-right takeover of her town: 'We're a test case'

Doni Chamberlain's been a journalist in Shasta county for nearly 30 years. Now she's targeted by the extremists who are looking to reshape the region

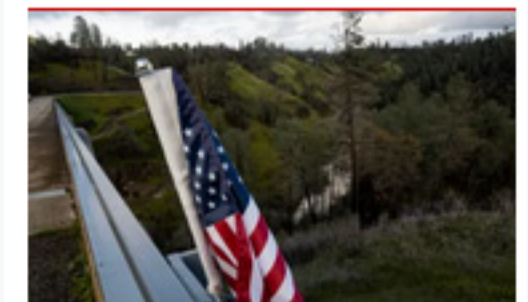
by [Dani Anguiano](#)

The fight for democracy is supported by

the guardian.org

About this content

Sat 22 Apr 2023 15.16 EDT



Far-right county throws out voting machines - with nothing to replace them

[Read more](#)

Dopamine Nation, Anna Lembke pg 35:

Perceiving children as psychologically fragile is a quintessentially modern concept. In ancient times, children were considered miniature adults, fully formed from birth. **For most of Western civilizations, children were regarded as innately evil.**

The job of parents and caregivers was to enforce extreme discipline in order to socialize them to live in the world. It was entirely acceptable to use corporal punishment and fear tactics to get a child to behave. No longer.

Today, many parents I see are terrified of doing or saying something that will leave their child with an emotional scar, thereby setting them up, so the thinking goes, for emotional suffering and even mental illness in later life.

This notion can be traced to Freud, whose groundbreaking psychoanalytic contribution was that early childhood experiences, even those long forgotten or outside of conscious awareness, can cause lasting psychological damage. Unfortunately, Freud's insight that early childhood trauma can influence adult psychopathology has morphed into the conviction that any and every challenging experience primes us for the psychotherapy couch.

Our efforts to insulate our children from adverse psychological experiences play out not just in the home but also in school. At the primary school level, every child receives some equivalent of the "Star of the Week" award—not for any particular accomplishment but in alphabetical order. Every child is taught to be on the lookout for bullies lest they become bystanders instead of upstanders. At the university level, faculty and students talk about triggers and safe spaces.

That parenting and education are informed by developmental psychology and empathy is a positive evolution. We should acknowledge every person's worth independent of achievement, stop physical and emotional brutality on the schoolyard

The **history of childhood** has been a topic of interest in social history since the highly influential book *Centuries of Childhood*, published by French historian Philippe Ariès in 1960. He argued "childhood" as a concept was created by modern society. Ariès studied paintings, gravestones, furniture, and school records. He found before the 17th-century, children were represented as mini-adults. Other scholars have emphasized how medieval and early modern child rearing was not indifferent, negligent, nor brutal. The historian Stephen Wilson argues that in the context of pre-industrial poverty and high infant mortality (with a third or more of the babies dying), actual child-rearing practices represented appropriate behavior in the circumstances. He points to extensive parental care during sickness, and to grief at death, sacrifices by parents to maximize child welfare, and a wide cult of childhood in religious practice. > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_childhood

and everywhere else, and create safe spaces to think, learn, and discuss.

But I worry that we have both oversanitized and over-pathologized childhood, raising our children in the equivalent of a padded cell, with no way to injure themselves but also no means to ready themselves for the world.

By protecting our children from adversity, have we made them deathly afraid of it? By bolstering their self-esteem with false praise and a lack of real-world consequences, have we made them less tolerant, more entitled, and ignorant of their own character defects? By giving in to their every desire, have we encouraged a new age of hedonism?

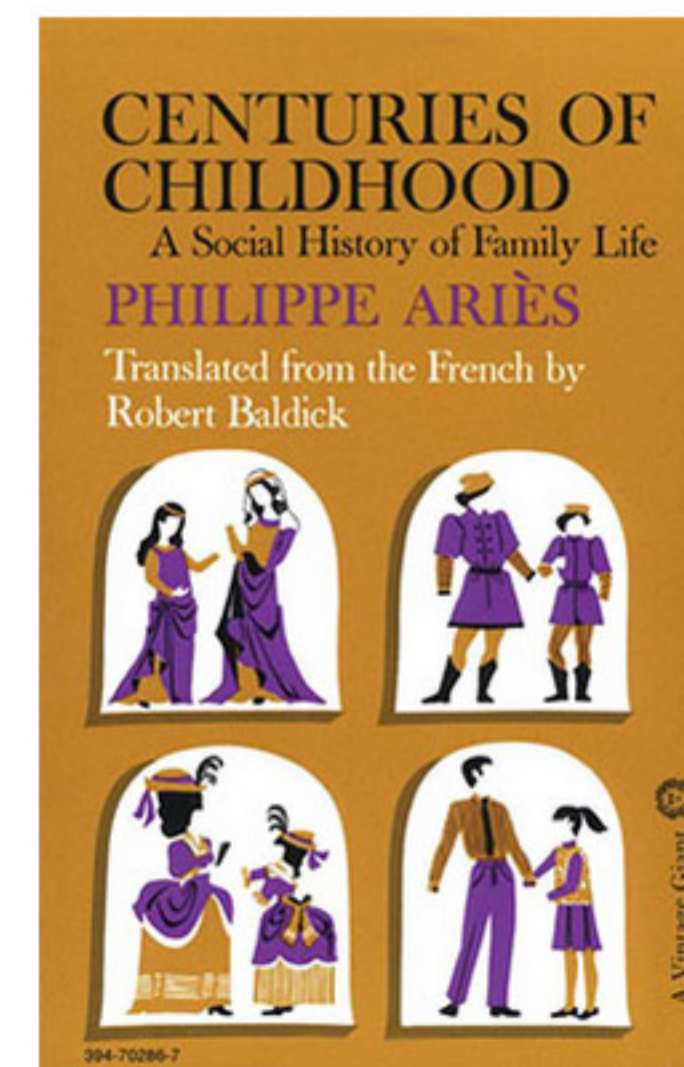
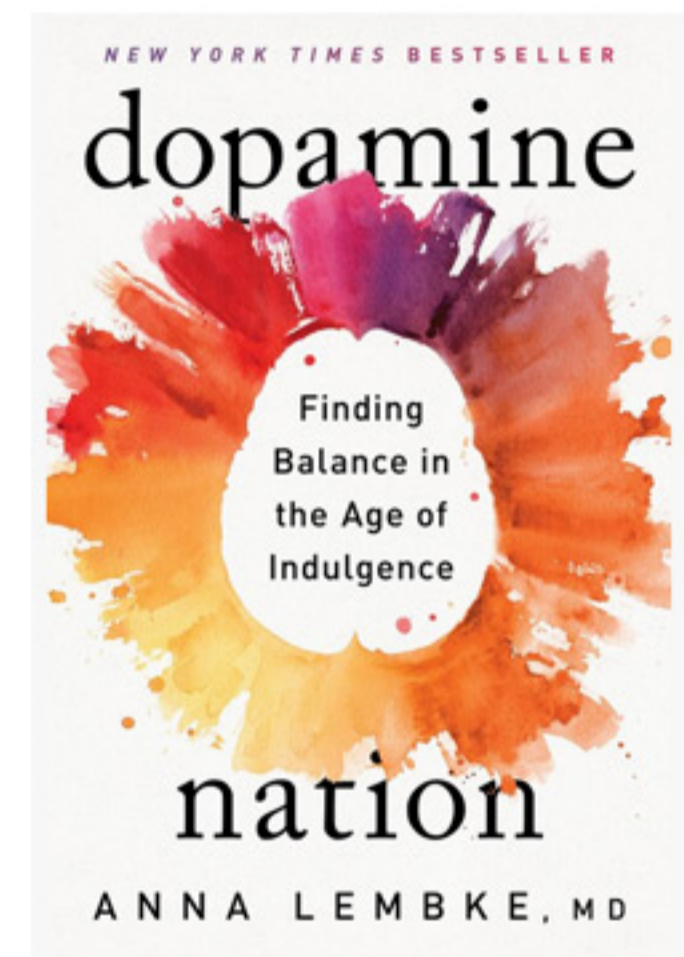
Kevin shared his life philosophy with me in one of our sessions. I must admit I was horrified.

"I do whatever I want, whenever I want. If I want to stay in my bed, I stay in my bed. If I want to play video games, I play video games. If I want to snort a line of coke, I text my dealer, he drops it off, and I snort a line of coke. If I want to have sex, I go online and find someone and meet them and have sex."

"How's that working out for you, Kevin?" I asked.

"Not very well." For a single instant he looked ashamed.

Over the past three decades, I have seen growing numbers of patients like David and Kevin who appear to have every advantage in life—supportive families, quality education, financial stability, good health—yet develop debilitating anxiety, depression, and physical pain. Not only are they not functioning to their potential; they're barely able to get out of bed in the morning.



'Drug Dealer, M.D.': Misunderstandings And Good Intentions Fueled Opioid Epidemic

December 15, 2016 · 2:35 PM ET

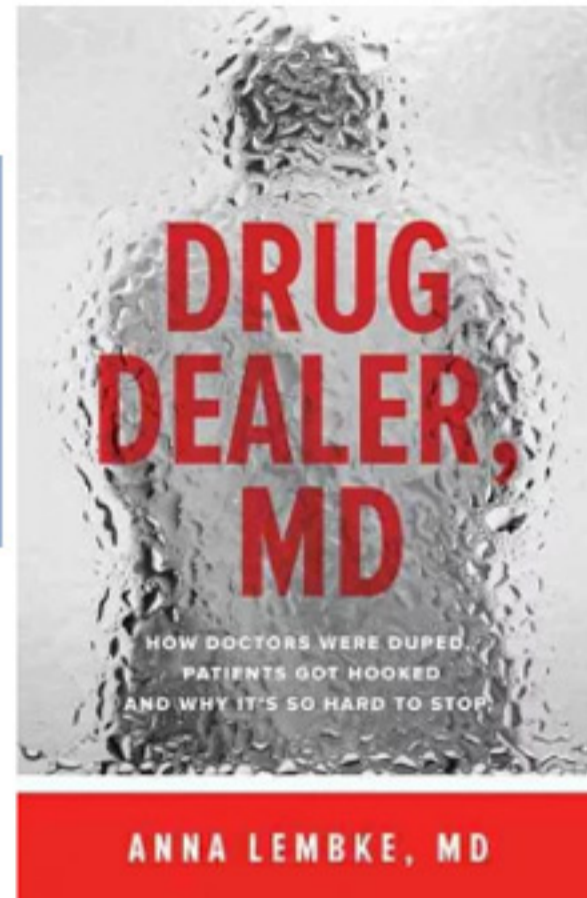
Heard on Fresh Air



Drug Dealer, MD

How Doctors Were Duped, Patients Got Hooked, and Why It's So Hard to Stop

by Anna, M.D. Lembke



ANNA LEMBKE, MD

On how Lembke realized there was a problem in her own practice

America's attitude toward pain has shifted radically over the past century. Psychiatrist Anna Lembke says that 100 years ago, the medical community thought that pain made patients stronger. "Doctors believed that pain was salutary," she tells Fresh Air's Terry Gross, "meaning that it had some physiologic benefit to the individual, and certainly some spiritual benefit." But as prescription painkillers became more available, patients became less willing to endure pain. Suddenly, Lembke says, "doctors began to feel that pain was something they had to eliminate at all cost." Prescriptions for opioid painkillers increased, and so, too, did cases of opioid addiction. In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared a prescription drug epidemic as a result of doctors overprescribing painkillers to patients. Lembke's new book, *Drug Dealer, MD*, explores the origins of the prescription drug epidemic from a doctor's perspective. **"Starting in the 1980s, doctors started to be told that opioids were effective treatment for chronic pain, and that treating patients long-term with opioids was evidence-based medicine," she says. "That was patently false and that was propagated by what I call 'big medicine,' in cahoots with Big Pharma."**



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

When A Prescription For Pain Pills Becomes A Gateway To Addiction

In 'Dopamine Nation,' Overabundance Keeps Us Craving More

August 25, 2021 · 1:25 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



Terry Gross



Human beings are programmed to approach pleasure and avoid pain. It's an instinct that dates back millions of years, to a time when people needed to actively seek food, clothing and shelter every day, or risk death. But psychiatrist Anna Lembke says that in today's world, such basic needs are often readily available — which changes the equation. "Living in this modern age is very challenging. ... We're now having to cope with: How do I live in a world in which everything is provided?" Lembke says. **"And if I consume too much of it — which my reflexes compel me to do — I'm going to be even more unhappy."**

I think it's important for me to tell you that I've also had a lot of patients who have done better during quarantine. And what they tell me is that the world is kind of a hyperstimulated, triggering place for them. And quarantine forced them to slow down and also eliminated a lot of the types of interactions and stimuli that would typically trigger relapse or reuse for them. So I would say I've seen sort of a bimodal distribution in terms of the COVID response in my patient population. Again, for some people, it's been absolutely terrible. Of course, we've seen an uptick in overdose-related deaths, including some of my own patients. And that's absolutely tragic. ... I've also seen more people spend more time on their screens and really struggle and wonder about how to manage compulsive overconsumption of their digital devices. But again, I think it's important to say that some patients are doing much, much better — have found it easier not to drink alcohol, for example, because there aren't so many parties where people are consuming large amounts of alcohol. *It's been an interesting mix.*



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Human Brains Have Evolved Unique 'Feel-Good' Circuits

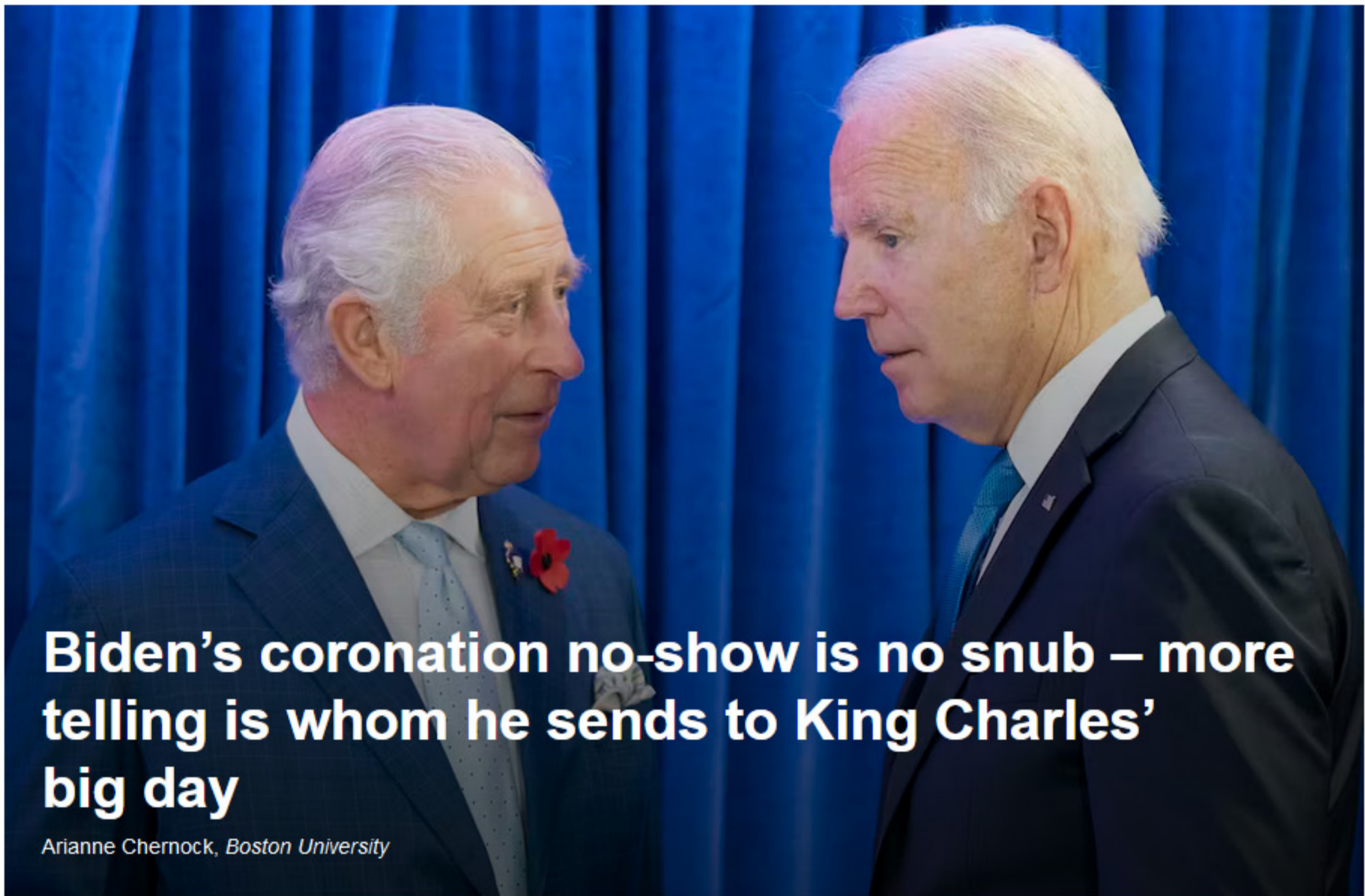


SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

'Drug Dealer, M.D.': Misunderstandings And Good Intentions Fueled Opioid Epidemic

<https://theconversation.com/historic-flooding-in-fort-lauderdale-was-a-sign-of-things-to-come-a-look-at-who-is-most-at-risk-and-how-to-prepare-204101>
[tps://theconversation.com/why-kurt-vonneguts-advice-to-college-graduates-still-matters-today-203466](https://theconversation.com/why-kurt-vonneguts-advice-to-college-graduates-still-matters-today-203466)





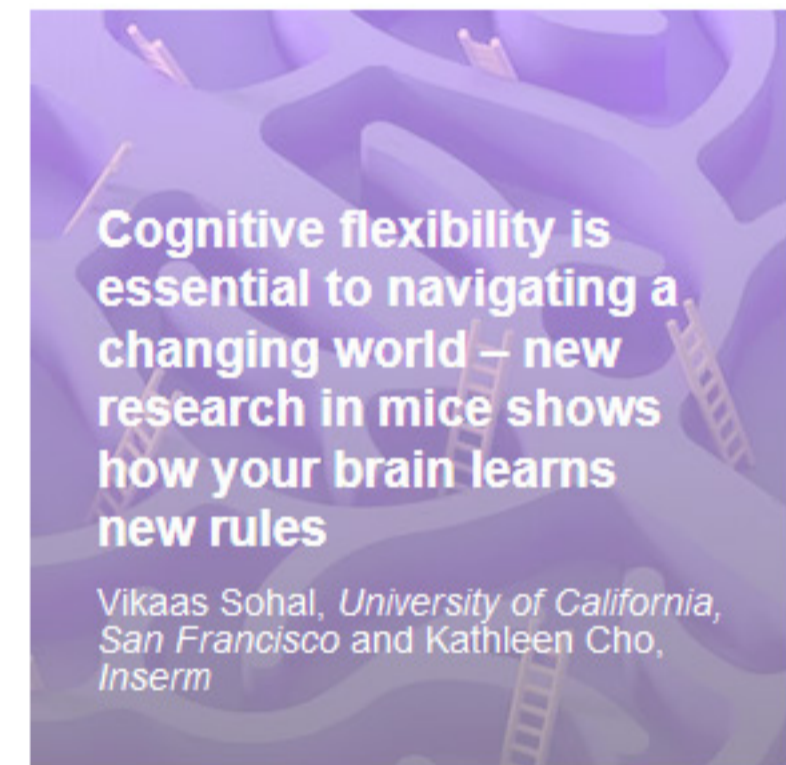
Biden's coronation no-show is no snub – more telling is whom he sends to King Charles' big day

Arianne Chernock, Boston University



Human activities in Asia have reduced elephant habitat by nearly two-thirds since 1700, dividing what remains into ever-smaller patches

Shermin de Silva, University of California, San Diego



Cognitive flexibility is essential to navigating a changing world – new research in mice shows how your brain learns new rules

Vikaas Sohal, University of California, San Francisco and Kathleen Cho, Inserm

The fact that first lady Jill Biden, but not her husband, President Joe Biden, will be attending King Charles III's coronation on May 6, 2023, has not gone down too well with sections of the U.K. press. A "royal snub," screamed headlines, while commentators grumbled about "Irish Joe" and his "hatred" of the Brits. The truth is, no U.S. president has ever attended a British coronation ceremony. Indeed, American presidents tend to avoid royal ceremonies of all stripes. Biden did attend Queen Elizabeth II's funeral in September 2022, but that was very much the exception, not the rule.



Historic flooding in Fort Lauderdale was a sign of things to come – a look at who is most at risk and how to prepare

Smitha Rao, The Ohio State University



Why Kurt Vonnegut's advice to college graduates still matters today

Susan Farrell, College of Charleston



A generation told not to trust anyone over 30 nevertheless adored Vonnegut.

I'm sure he would give these students the advice he gave so often over the years: to focus, in the midst of chaos, on what makes life worth living, to recognize the joyful moments – maybe by listening to music or drinking a glass of lemonade in the shade – and saying out loud, as his Uncle Alex taught him, “If this isn't nice, what is?”



Kurt Vonnegut delivers a lecture at Case Western University in 2004, three years before his death.

<https://theconversation.com/historic-flooding-in-fort-lauderdale-was-a-sign-of-things-to-come-a-look-at-who-is-most-at-risk-and-how-to-prepare-204101>

When a powerful storm flooded neighborhoods in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in April with what preliminary reports show was 25 inches of rain in 24 hours, few people were prepared. Even hurricanes rarely drop that much rain in one area that fast. Residents could do little to stop the floodwater as it spread over their yards and into their homes.

Studies show that as global temperatures rise, more people will be at risk from such destructive flooding – including in areas far from the coasts that rarely faced extreme flooding in the past.

Raising community awareness about climate change and extreme weather risks is also crucial, especially among those most at risk, such as older adults. If people understand the risks, know how to prepare their homes, know how to plan for emergencies and know where to find assistance, they're more likely to be prepared when disasters strikes.



Scientists explain why warming can lead to heavier downpours and flash flooding.



BUSINESS

Airbnb let its workers live and work anywhere. Spoiler: They're loving it



MY UNSUNG HERO FROM HIDDEN BRAIN

How a gift of kindness from WWII lives on, more than 80 years later



NATIONAL

As E. Jean Carroll testifies for a second day, the judge has a warning for Trump

In her kitchen, the woman offered Arnold a sandwich and a piece of cake, and then she told Arnold her own story. Some 40 years earlier, during World War II, the woman's husband had been a prisoner of war in the United States. He was held captive for about two years. Despite his prisoner status, the Americans he encountered treated him well. So when her husband finally came home to Germany, the couple made a pact. "They vowed anytime they met an American, that they would be extremely nice to them and treat them kindly," Arnold said. "So that's what happened to me that day. I was the recipient of this **kindness** that had been extended to this woman's husband 40 years earlier." Today, Arnold is humbled by the ripple effects of that initial act of generosity, some 80 years later.



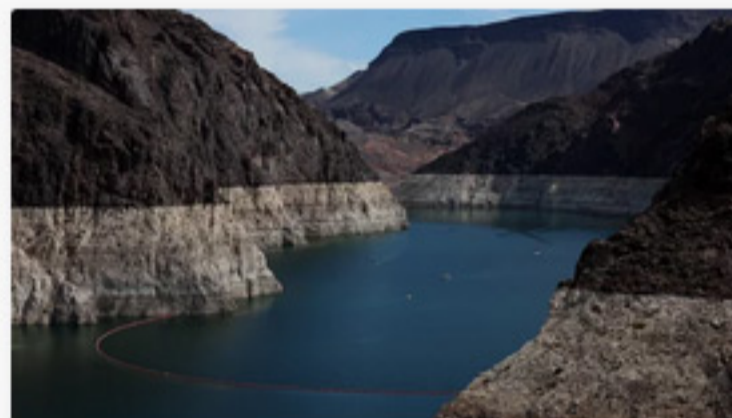
PERSPECTIVE LIFE KIT

So you don't want kids. Here's how to respond to unwanted comments



LAW

Ed Sheeran sang and played his guitar while on the stand at a copyright trial



NATIONAL

A fisherman went missing in 1998. Now his remains at Lake Mead have been identified

NEW YORK — In a packed New York courtroom, **Ed Sheeran** picked up his guitar Thursday and launched into a tune that has him locked in a copyright dispute over Marvin Gaye's soul classic "Let's Get it On" as the only audience that mattered — a jury — looked on.

A growing share of **childless adults** in the U.S. don't expect to ever have children, according to a 2021 Pew Research Center survey. Some people gave specific reasons, like medical conditions or finances, but a lot of people said they just don't want to.

Europe: Missile and drone strikes across Ukraine claim at least 18 lives An apartment building in the Ukrainian city of Uman has been hit after a series of airstrikes across the country on Friday. The attack is the deadliest hit on a Ukrainian apartment since January. | **Brittney Griner says she's 'never going overseas' again after her detention** During her first press conference since being detained in Russia, the Phoenix Mercury star told reporters the only thing that'd take her off U.S. soil is an invitation to compete in the Olympics. | **Europe: BBC chair quits over links to loans for Boris Johnson — the man who appointed him** A top Conservative Party donor, Richard Sharp was found to have breached rules by failing to disclose a \$1 million loan he helped arrange for then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson. | **He played more than 1,100 minor league games, and finally made an emotional MLB debut** The picture of a baseball journeyman, Drew Maggi had seen 4,500 plate appearances in places like Charleston, Tulsa, Little Rock and Altoona, Pa., before finally getting his big-league shot Wednesday.

Why Wyoming is VASTLY Empty Than Colorado



<https://original.newsbreak.com/@shyam-sapkota-1604866/2991668391882-wyoming-the-untold-story-of-why-wyoming-is-vastly-emptyer-than-colorado>
<https://youtu.be/EHrq16I3vII>

One key factor that contributed to the difference in population density between Wyoming and Colorado was the timing of their statehood. Colorado became a state in 1876, while Wyoming did not achieve statehood until 1890. This time gap allowed Colorado to establish a more robust infrastructure, including roads, railways, and urban centers, which facilitated economic growth and attracted a larger population. In contrast, Wyoming remained a sparsely populated territory for a longer period of time, with limited development and fewer opportunities for settlement.



Rep. Jamie Raskin says his cancer is in remission

April 28, 2023 · 1:04 PM ET

By Avie Schneider




Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., participates in a House Oversight and Accountability Committee hearing on March 29. On Thursday, he announced a preliminary diagnosis that his cancer is in remission after treatments.


Cliff Owen/AP




On April 28, First Republic Bank announced plans to begin selling its bonds and securities at a loss to raise equity and also begin laying off people. This caused the stock price to plunge by nearly 50% to just over \$8. Multiple advisor teams began to leave the bank as well. On that day, it was announced that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was considering seizing the bank, causing its stock price to plunge another 40%. After falling another 42% in after hours trading, **the FDIC confirmed its imminent takeover of the bank.**

First Republic Bank 

Commercial banking company



 firstrepublic.com

First Republic Bank is a commercial bank and provider of wealth management services headquartered in San Francisco. It caters to high-net-worth individuals. It operates 93 offices in 11 states, primarily in New York, California, Massachusetts, and Florida. As of December 31, 2022, the company had \$166 billion in outstanding loans receivable, including \$102 billion in loans secured by residential real estate, \$34 billion in loans secured by income-producing commercial real estate, \$18 billion in business loans, and \$10 billion in other loans. Collateral securing loans was overwhelmingly in the metro areas of Boston, New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles

Stock price: [FRC \(NYSE\)](#) \$3.51 -2.68 (-43.30%)

Apr 28, 4:04 PM EDT - Disclaimer

Headquarters: [San Francisco, CA](#)

Swift code: [FRBBUS6S](#) [firstrepublic.com](#)

Founded: July 1, 1985

Areas served: [California](#); [Connecticut](#); [Florida](#); [Massachusetts](#); [New York](#); [Oregon](#); [Wyoming](#)

Capital ratio: [Tier 1](#) 8.51% (Q4 2022)

Key people: [James H. Herbert II](#); (Executive Chairman); [Michael J. Roffler](#); (CEO and President)

Subsidiaries: [Gradifi](#)

Stag-fla-tion
persistent high inflation combined with high unemployment and stagnant demand in a country's economy.



Bloomberg

WALL STREET WEEK

SUMMERS: WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A STAGFLATIONARY PROBLEM DEVELOPING

LIVE ON BLOOMBERG TV | **Bloomberg Investigates**

Summers on First Republic Bank

Wall Street Week

April 28th, 2023, 4:12 PM PDT

Former US Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers criticized Washington regulators and US banking giants for not having already figured out a solution for the troubled lender First Republic Bank. (Source: Bloomberg)



Stag·fla·tion

persistent high inflation combined with **high unemployment** and **stagnant demand** in a country's economy.

F Forbes

Ray Dalio Warns Of Coming Stagflation: FBI November 21 Update

True to seasonal predilections, the stock market has found new lift after a punishing bout of selling finally subsided in October.

Nov 21, 2022

F Fortune

Ray Dalio says stagflation is likely because the Fed is failing to 'drive the markets and economy like a good driver drives a car'

Economic doomsaying is widespread lately as experts and business leaders predict that record inflation could help set off a recession.

Jun 21, 2022

F Fox Business

Fed's inflation fight will likely lead to stagflation: Ray Dalio

As Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell was grilled over runaway inflation Wednesday, Bridgewater Associates founder Ray Dalio is warning...

Jun 22, 2022

I Institutional Investor

Ray Dalio on the Downturn: 'There's a Lot More to Come'

The market has baked in rising interest rates but not the economic contraction, the Bridgewater Associates founder said.

Nov 3, 2022

M Markets Insider

Ray Dalio said stagflation will lead to Fed interest rate cuts by 2024

Ray Dalio said the Federal Reserve will have to cut interest rates to combat stagflation in a recent interview. Stagflation refers to a...

Jun 8, 2022

Y Yahoo Finance

'Reducing inflation will come at a great cost': Ray Dalio warns that the Fed will likely trigger something far worse than high prices. Here's what he likes today

Some say cash is king. But according to Ray Dalio, founder of the world's largest hedge fund Bridgewater Associates, it may not be wise to...

Jul 7, 2022

in India Today

World is staring at stagflation: Ray Dalio - India Today

In this episode of Business Today, watch the exclusive interview of Ray Dalio, Founder of the world's biggest hedge fund Bridgewater...

Nov 11, 2022

BI Business Insider India

Billionaire investor Ray Dalio said that stagflation will force the Fed to slash interest rates by 2024

Ray Dalio said he expects central banks around the world to start cutting interest rates by 2024 as stagflation hits the global economy.

The wonder of chickens (and their egg song) made me a better person — and parent

Our correspondent bought some mail-order chicks. They grew into hens. They changed her life for the better. And then one day ... she heard this wondrous sound.



The author's daughter, Rosy, with two of the family chickens. Among Rosy's discoveries: "When the sun goes down, they all go up into the coop and go to bed. Nobody has to tell them it's bedtime."



Banking crises rooted in a system that rewards excessive risk-taking – as First Republic’s precarious situation shows

Alexandra Digby, *University of Rochester*; Dollie Davis, *Minerva Schools at KGI*, and Robson Hiroshi Hatsukami Morgan, *Minerva Schools at KGI*

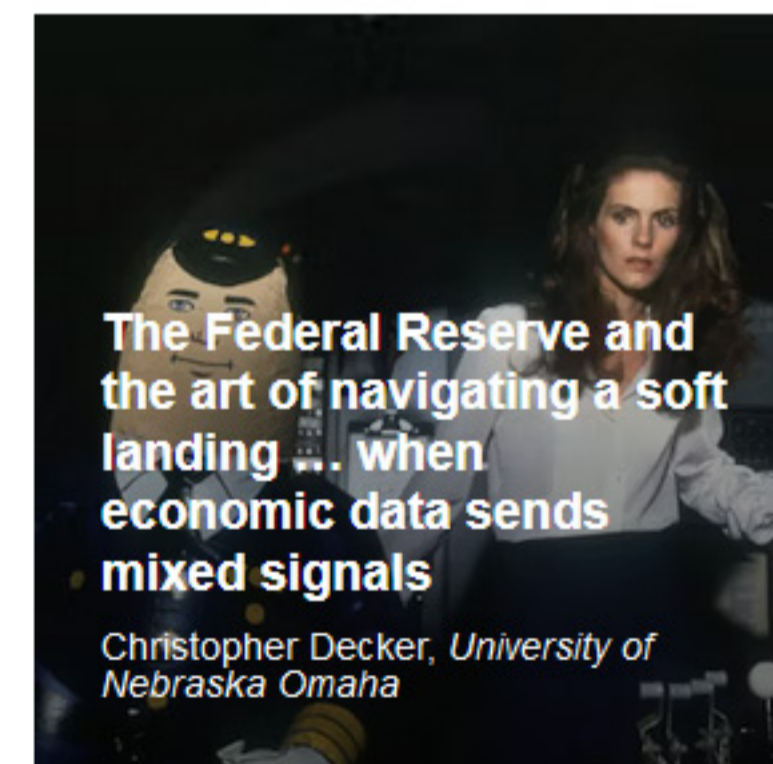
First Republic Bank is on the brink of collapse, a victim of the panic that has roiled small and midsize banks since the failure of Silicon Valley Bank in March 2023. Should First Republic fail, it would underscore how the impact of risky decisions at one bank can quickly spread into the broader financial system. It should also provide the impetus for policymakers and regulators to address a systemic problem that has plagued the banking industry from the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s to the financial crisis of 2008 to the recent turmoil following SVB’s demise: incentive structures that encourage excessive risk-taking. The Federal Reserve’s top regulator seems to agree. On April 28, 2023, the central bank’s vice chair for supervision delivered a stinging report on the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, blaming its failures on its weak risk management, as well as supervisory missteps. We are professors of economics who study and teach the history of financial crises. **In each of the financial upheavals since the 1980s, the common denominator was risk. Banks provided incentives that encouraged executives to take big risks to boost profits, with few consequences if their bets turned bad. In other words, all carrot and no stick.** So, *what’s to be done?* We believe the bipartisan bill recently filed in Congress, the Failed Bank Executives Clawback, would be a good start. In the event of a bank failure, the legislation would empower regulators to claw back compensation received by bank executives in the five-year period preceding the failure. Clawbacks, however, kick in only after the fact. To prevent risky behavior, regulators could require executive compensation to prioritize long-term performance over short-term gains. And new rules could restrict the ability of bank executives to take the money and run, including requiring executives to hold substantial portions of their stock and options until they retire. The Fed’s new report on what led to SVB’s failure points in this direction. The 102-page report recommends new limits on executive compensation, saying leaders “were not compensated to manage the bank’s risk,” as well as stronger stress-testing and higher liquidity requirements. We believe these are also good steps, but probably not enough. **It comes down to this: Financial crises are less likely to happen if banks and bank executives consider the interest of the entire banking system, not just themselves, their institutions and shareholders.**



Human activities in Asia have reduced elephant habitat by nearly two-thirds since 1700, dividing what remains into ever-smaller patches

Shermin de Silva, *University of California, San Diego*

Despite their iconic status and long association with humans, Asian elephants are one of the most endangered large mammals. Believed to number between 45,000 and 50,000 individuals worldwide, they are at risk throughout Asia due to human activities such as deforestation, mining, dam building and road construction, which have damaged numerous ecosystems.



The Federal Reserve and the art of navigating a soft landing ... when economic data sends mixed signals

Christopher Decker, *University of Nebraska Omaha*

With all the recent, often conflicting, data and narratives regarding inflation, bank failures and layoffs in the tech sector, is the Fed close to engineering the “soft landing” it’s been hoping for?

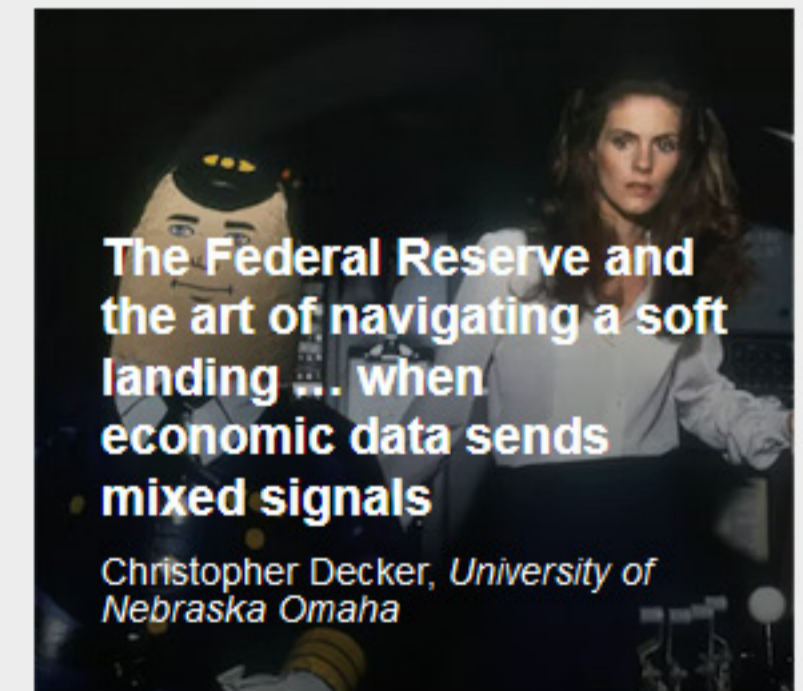


'Surely we can avoid an economic crash? We can, but don't call me Shirley!' Paramount Pictures/Fathom Events

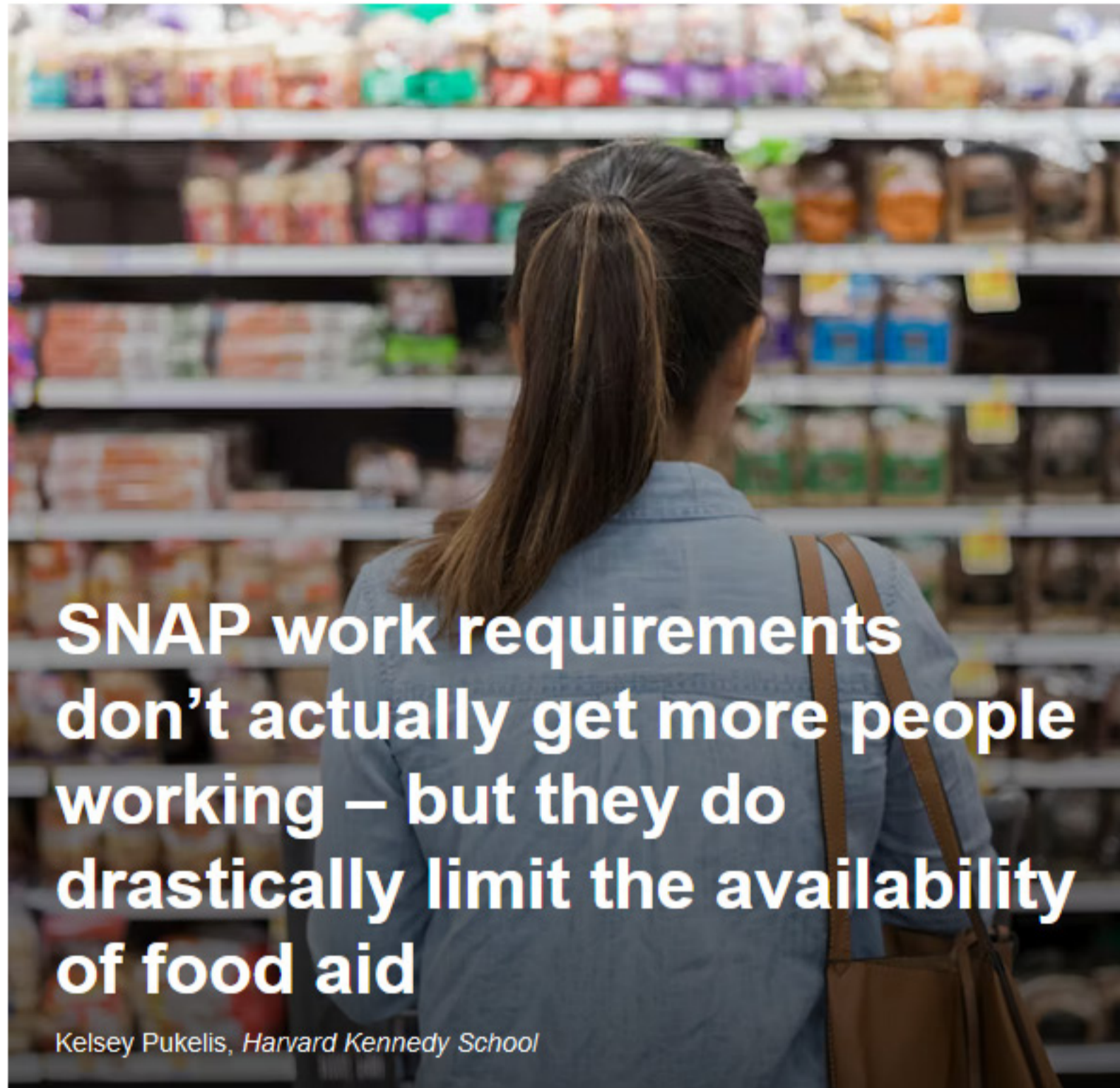
Landing softly – or at least mildly

That brings us back to the big question: How close is the Fed to sticking a soft landing, in which the U.S. economy manages to tame inflation without a recession? Sadly, it's too early to tell. Labor markets can be very volatile and political and international events – such as potential gridlock on debt ceiling talks or further escalations in the Ukraine War – can turn things upside down. That said, we are either looking at a mild recession or a growth recession. What's the difference? A growth recession signals a weak economy but not enough to significantly drive up unemployment – and that's preferable to even a mild recession of multiple quarterly drops in GDP and much higher unemployment.

We just don't know which is more likely. What I think is true now, though, is that, barring any catastrophic and unpredictable events, a severe recession has been avoided.



With all the recent, often conflicting, data and narratives regarding inflation, bank failures and layoffs in the tech sector, is the Fed close to engineering the “soft landing” it's been hoping for?



SNAP work requirements don't actually get more people working – but they do drastically limit the availability of food aid

Kelsey Pukelis, Harvard Kennedy School

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that would cut spending, in part by expanding work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, through which nearly 43 million low-income Americans get help buying groceries. The House bill calls for this policy to apply to adults as old as 55, while today this policy only applies to adults under 50. Some Democrats, in contrast, are seeking to eliminate work requirements altogether. I'm a member of a team of economists studying the social safety net and work. Because the rationale for work requirements is that they encourage adults who are able to work to earn more money and become more economically self-sufficient, we wanted to determine whether this policy boosts employment and earnings. We also looked into whether SNAP work requirements lead low-income adults to lose their benefits. Our findings do suggest that work requirements restrain federal spending by reducing the number of people getting SNAP benefits. But our work also indicates that in today's context, **these savings would be at the expense of already vulnerable people facing additional economic hardship at a time when a new recession could be around the corner.**



How the US military used magazines to target 'vulnerable' groups with recruiting ads

Jeremiah Favara, Gonzaga University

In his forthcoming book, *"Tactical Inclusion: Difference and Vulnerability in U.S. Military Advertising,"* Jeremiah Favara, a communication scholar at Gonzaga University, examines military recruitment ads published in three commercial magazines between 1973 – when the federal government ended the military draft – and 2016. The three magazines are *Sports Illustrated*, *Ebony* and *Cosmopolitan*. Ad agencies J. Walter Thompson and Bates Worldwide developed recruiting plans that singled out **Sports Illustrated** as one of the most effective publications for reaching a high concentration of potential recruits because of the magazine's popularity with male readers. Advertisers contracted by the military viewed **Ebony** as crucial for reaching Black recruits. That's largely because *Ebony* sought to balance content focusing on Black middle-class life with content covering the fight for racial inequality in American society. Recruiting plans for the Marine Corps and the Navy all sought to place ads in *Ebony*, especially as part of efforts to recruit more Black officers. Since the 1960s, **Cosmopolitan** has played a key role for advertisers in reaching self-sufficient working women as a consumer market. The desired reader of *Cosmo* – young, straight white women seeking independence – was also an ideal target of military advertisers, particularly in the 1970s and early 1980s.

TECHNOLOGY

Hard times are here for news sites and social media. Is this the end of Web 2.0?

April 28, 2023 · 12:15 PM ET



Bobby Allyn



Members of the BuzzFeed News team work at their desks at BuzzFeed headquarters, December 11, 2018 in New York City.

Vice is slashing staff and closing its flagship broadcast program, Vice News Tonight. BuzzFeed News is shutting down. Vox recently laid off nearly 10% of its staff. Gawker went out of business, again, in February. It has been trying times for digital media. And there are no signs of when the punishing developments will let up. The turmoil caused by a historic slowdown in digital advertising is sparking worries among staff at online media companies about further and possibly deeper cuts beyond the mass layoffs and abrupt closures over the last few months. "I think the current moment is the product of both a huge shift away from social media, and a tough economy," said Ben Smith, a former editor in chief of BuzzFeed News and author of "Traffic," a history of the rise and fall of BuzzFeed. "But readers and viewers still want to understand the world."

If Twitter dies, is journalism better off?: In a staff memo announcing the closure of BuzzFeed News, Jonah Peretti, the company's CEO, said social media platforms being bad partners is one of the reasons why the news division was shutting down. It will land in the digital graveyard with other once-popular digital news sites, like Gawker, the Awl and Grantland. Smith, formerly of BuzzFeed News, said he witnessed up close the breakup of news publishers with platforms. "Users turned away from news on social media. And then the platforms, seeing users turn away, starting pushing news out," Smith said. If Twitter is run into the ground, Smith said, it might actually be a good thing for the news industry. "It rewards people for feeding into predictable narratives and telling people what they want to hear, punishes them for breaking from the pack," he said. "It's an incredible machine for elevating the stupidest thing your enemy ever thought and said."

The end of Web 2.0, maybe, and what comes next: To many observers, the current moment of the digital media industry getting rickety and top social media sites rapidly degrading in quality could be ushering in the end of Web 2.0. That refers to the modern internet: mediated through large platforms like Google, Facebook and Twitter that are awash with user-generated content and that help people navigate the web. Social media sites, search engines, and online marketplaces like Amazon are all part of Web 2.0. But being on Twitter and Facebook these days showcases the decline of Web 2.0. The discourse is overheated. Misinformation is rampant. It's hard to tell what's real and what's not anymore. Users are fleeing. News outlets can't trust the platforms. *So where does digital news go from here?* There are clues in what trends are accelerating, according to Jeff Jarvis, a media critic and a journalism professor at the City University of New York. For example, specialized newsletters and podcasts for niche audiences are rising in popularity, he said. There are also more paid subscriptions, instead of ad-dependent news sites, as well as communities around nerdy topics on platforms like Reddit and Discord. And there has been growth in sites that recommend and spread news stories that aren't just interested in instant virality, like Artifact, an app started by the co-founders of Instagram focused on delivering quality online news and weeding out clickbait. **"We don't need to operate at the scale of mass media, or the scale of Silicon Valley and venture capital,"** said Jarvis. "Because all of these tools exist, **we can get back to a human scale of small.**" **This shift from large social media platforms to smaller and smaller communities is going to continue, and with it, the big Web 2.0 companies will cede power,** he said. "It took 150 years after Gutenberg before anyone thought to invent a newspaper. I think we're talking about decades, maybe even generations, before we figure out this next stage," Jarvis said.

In Peretti's goodbye note to BuzzFeed News, he wrote that, "our industry is hurting and ready to be reborn." For digital media, the struggle is real, but the rebirth? That's far from clear.

Montana state Rep. **Zoey Zephyr**, D-Missoula, stands in protest as demonstrators are arrested in the House gallery, Monday, April 24, 2023, at the state Capitol in Helena, Mont.





***Me:* I stand with the rights of the individual to stand peacefully in opposition to the tyranny of the majority.**

Google's Bard > <https://bard.google.com/> >

I agree with you. The tyranny of the majority is a real danger in any democracy. It is important to have mechanisms in place to protect the rights of minorities from being trampled on by the majority. These mechanisms can include things like a bill of rights, a strong system of checks and balances, and a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity. It is also important for individuals to be willing to stand up for their rights, even if they are in the minority. This can be difficult, but it is essential for protecting our democracy. When we allow the majority to oppress the minority, we are all at risk. Thank you for standing up for the rights of the individual. It is a fight worth fighting.

Me: I don't want to fight. I want to love.

Bard: I understand. Love is the most powerful force in the world. It can overcome hate, fear, and division. It can build bridges and create a more just and compassionate world. I am here to help you spread love. I can help you find ways to connect with others, to build relationships, and to create a more loving world. Let's work together to make the world a better place, one act of love at a time.

{Montana state Rep. Zoey Zephyr, D-Missoula, stands in protest as demonstrators are arrested in the House gallery, Monday, April 24, 2023, at the state Capitol in Helena, Mont. >

<https://www.npr.org/2023/04/28/1172881782/montana-ban-gender-affirming-care-trans-minors-signed> | **NOTE:** *Bard* is NOT a human. *Bard* is "based on Google's Language Model for Dialogue Application (LaMDA), and as the name suggests, it is better at holding conversation than being your pocket logician. (<https://www.androidpolice.com/google-bard-updated-language-model-math-logic/>)}

Montana state Rep. Zoey Zephyr, D-Missoula, stands in protest as demonstrators are arrested in the House gallery, Monday, April 24, 2023, at the state Capitol in Helena, Mont.

CNN

Montana governor's nonbinary son urges him to reject anti-transgender bills

10 hours ago



CNN — In a front line state in the escalating US culture war over transgender rights, a son made an unsuccessful plea to his powerful father on behalf of the LGBTQ community. David Gianforte, 32, who uses he and they pronouns and identifies as nonbinary, is the son of Montana Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte.

The father and son sat down in the governor's office on March 27, as reported in the Montana Free Press, for a meeting that shines light on the growing divisions across the country over transgender issues and legislation aimed at restricting transition health care and codifying binary definitions of sex and gender.

David Gianforte told the nonprofit news organization that via email he requested the meeting with the governor "as your constituent and your son."

respect for diversity. It is also important for individuals to be willing to stand up for their rights, even if they are in the minority. This can be difficult, but it is essential for protecting our democracy. When we allow the majority to oppress the minority, we are all at risk. Thank you for standing up for the rights of the individual. It is a fight worth fighting.

Me: I don't want to fight. I want to love.

Bard: I understand. Love is the most powerful force in the world. It can overcome hate, fear, and division. It can build bridges and create a more just and compas-

Governor signs bill into law despite plea from his son

The meeting between the governor and his son comes at a time when more than 400 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the US – more than twice the number introduced all of last year, according to American Civil Liberties Union data as of April 3.

Montana state Rep. **Zoey Zephyr**, D-Missoula, stands in protest as demonstrators are arrested in the House gallery, Monday, April 24, 2023, at the state Capitol in Helena, Mont.





Montana governor's nonbinary son urges him to reject anti-transgender bills

10 hours ago



CNN — In rights, a so LGBTQ co identifies

The father the Mont across the transition

David Gian the meeti

respect fo their rights for protect ity, we are a fight wo

Me: I don't

Bard: I und hate, fear,

Gov des

The me when n state le introdu Union c

Montana state Rep. Zooney as demonstrators at Monday, April 24, 2023,



David Gianforte

@davidfg4

he/they

Bozeman, MT gianforte.org Joined October 2008

12 Following 815 Followers



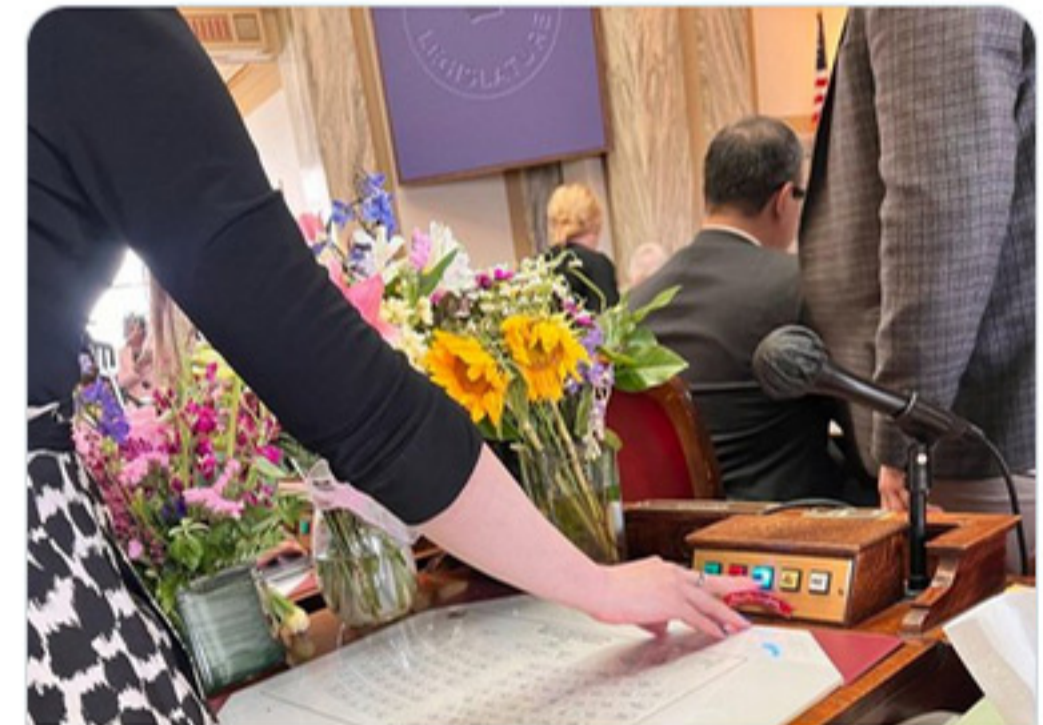
David Gianforte Retweeted



Rep. Zooney Zephyr @ZoAndBehold · Apr 26

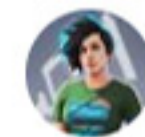
As I left the House chambers, I pressed my light to speak—a reminder that this legislature is removing 11,000 Montanans from discussion on every bill going forward.

I will always stand on behalf of my constituents, my community, and democracy itself.



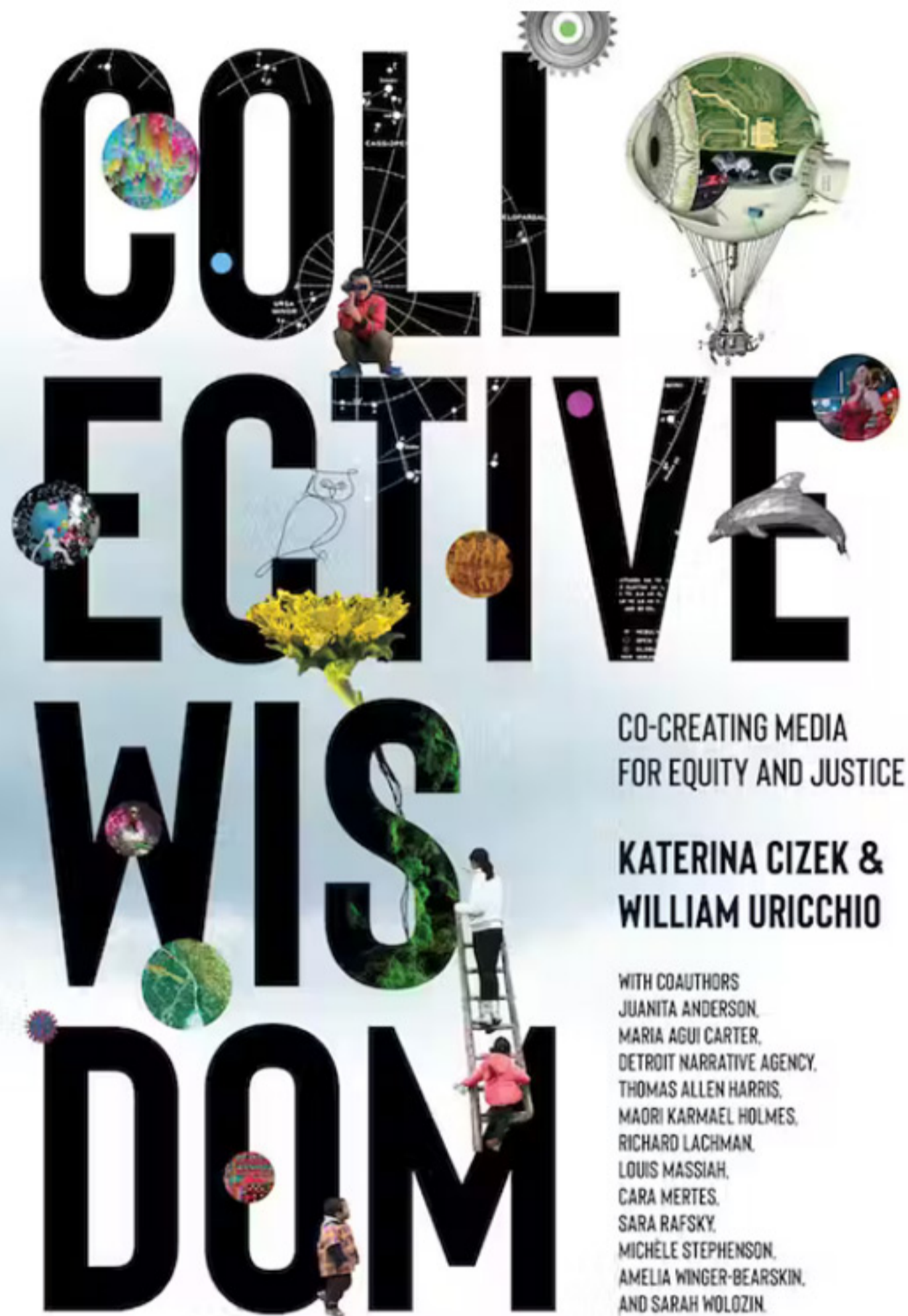
2,733 16.9K 100.4K 4.9M

David Gianforte Retweeted



Alejandra Caraballo @Esqueer_ · Apr 26

The first openly elected trans official in Montana, Rep. Zooney Zephyr, has been censured by the Montana House Republicans for speaking up against anti-trans bills. This is blatantly anti-democratic.



CO-CREATING MEDIA
FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE

KATERINA CIZEK &
WILLIAM URICCHIO

WITH COAUTHORS
JUANITA ANDERSON,
MARIA AGUI CARTER,
DETROIT NARRATIVE AGENCY,
THOMAS ALLEN HARRIS,
MAORI KARMAEL HOLMES,
RICHARD LACHMAN,
LOUIS MASSIAH,
CARA MERTES,
SARA RAFSKY,
MICHÈLE STEPHENSON,
AMELIA WINGER-BEARSKIN,
AND SARAH WOLOZIN.

Collective Wisdom: Co-Creating Media for Equity and Justice
by Katerina Cizek and William Uricchio With Juanita Anderson, Maria Agui Carter, Detroit Narrative Agency, Thomas Allen Harris, Maori Karmael Holmes, Richard Lachman, Louis Massiah, Cara Mertes, Sara Rafsky, Michèle Stephenson, Amelia Winger-Bearskin and Sarah Wolozin; November 1, 2022, The MIT Press

How to co-create—and why: the emergence of media co-creation as a concept and as a practice grounded in equity and justice. Co-creation is everywhere: It's how the internet was built; it generated massive prehistoric rock carvings; it powered the development of vaccines for COVID-19 in record time. Co-creation offers alternatives to the idea of the solitary author privileged by top-down media. But co-creation is easy to miss, as individuals often take credit for—and profit from—collective forms of authorship, erasing whole cultures and narratives as they do so. *Collective Wisdom* offers the first guide to co-creation as a concept and as a practice, tracing co-creation in a media-making that ranges from collaborative journalism to human-AI partnerships. Why co-create—and why now? The many coauthors, drawing on a remarkable array of professional and personal experience, focus on the radical, sustained practices of co-creating media within communities and with social movements. They explore the urgent need for co-creation across disciplines and organization, and the latest methods for collaborating with nonhuman systems in biology and technology. The idea of “collective intelligence” is not new, and has been applied to such disparate phenomena as decision making by consensus and hived insects. *Collective wisdom* goes further. With conceptual explanation and practical examples, this book shows that co-creation only becomes wise when it is grounded in equity and justice.

Google Bard and the Age of Robots

Feb 7, 2023 — A place to share **knowledge** and better understand the world. Now building Poe — fast, helpful AI chat. The world does want helpful AI chat and ...

 Google Blog
<https://blog.google> > technology > try-bard

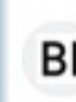
Try Bard and share your feedback

Mar 21, 2023 — **Bard** is an early experiment from **Google** that lets you collaborate with generative AI. If you're in the U.S. and U.K., you can sign up to try ...

 Medium
<https://medium.com> > list > the-new-chatbots-chatgpt-...

List: The New Chatbots: ChatGPT, Bard, and Beyond

"**Bard** is **Google's** answer to the wildly popular ChatGPT system from OpenAI, ... "LLMs are simply the sum total of our **collective intelligence** marshaled and ...

 Business Insider
<https://africa.businessinsider.com> > News

Two Google engineers built a ChatGPT-like AI chatbot ...

Mar 9, 2023 — **Google** is expected to release its widely anticipated AI chatbot **Bard** in the near future. But years ago, two ex-**Google** engineers pushed their ...

Collective Wisdom, also called **group wisdom** and **co-intelligence**, is **shared knowledge arrived at by individuals and groups**.

Collective intelligence, which is sometimes used synonymously with collective wisdom, is more of a shared decision process than collective wisdom. Unlike collective wisdom, collective intelligence is not uniquely human, and has been associated with animal and plant life. Collective intelligence is basically consensus-driven decision making, whereas collective wisdom is not necessarily focused on the decision process. Collective wisdom is a more amorphous phenomenon which can be characterized by collective learning over time.

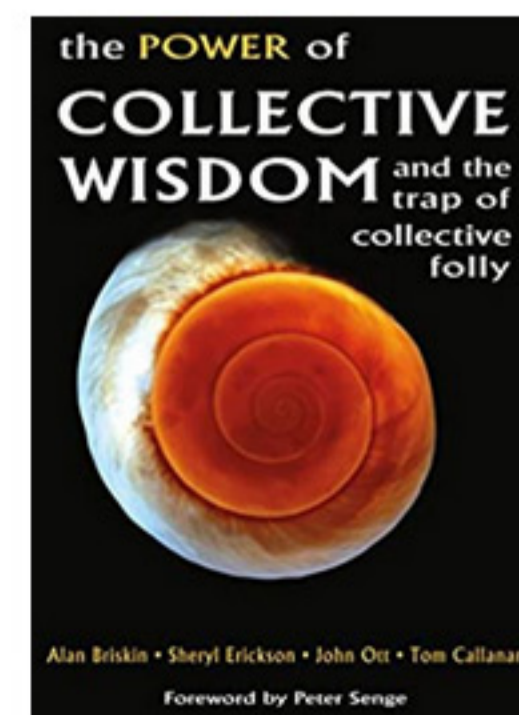
Collective wisdom, which may be said to have a more distinctly human quality than collective intelligence, is contained in such early works as The Torah, The Bible, The Koran, the works of Plato, Confucius and Buddha, Bhagavad Gita, and the many myths and legends from all cultures. Drawing from the idea of universal truth, the point of collective wisdom is to make life easier/more enjoyable through understanding human behavior, whereas the point of collective intelligence is to make life easier/more enjoyable through the application of acquired knowledge. While collective intelligence may be said to have more mathematical and scientific bases, collective wisdom also accounts for the spiritual realm of human behaviors and consciousness. Thomas Jefferson referred to the concept of collective wisdom when he made his statement, "A Nation's best defense is an educated citizenry". And in effect, the ideal of a democracy is that government functions best when everyone participates. British philosopher Thomas Hobbes uses his Leviathan to illustrate how mankind's collective consciousness grows to create collective wisdom. Émile Durkheim argues in *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (1912) that society by definition constitutes a higher intelligence because it transcends the individual over space and time, thereby achieving collective wisdom. 19th century Prussian physicist Gustav Fechner argued for a collective consciousness of mankind, and cited Durkheim as the most credible scholar in the field of "collective consciousness". Fechner also referred to the work of Jesuit Priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, whose concept of the noosphere was a precursor to the term collective intelligence. H.G. Wells's concept of "world brain", as described in his book of essays with the same title, has more recently been examined in depth by Pierre Lévy in his book, *The Universe-Machine: Creation, Cognition and Computer Culture*. Howard Bloom's treatise "The Global Brain: The Evolution of Mass Mind from the Big Bang to the 21st Century" examines similarities in organizational patterns in nature, human brain function, society, and the cosmos. He also posits the theory that group selection directs evolutionary change through collective information processing. Alexander Flor related the world brain concept with current developments in global knowledge networking spawned by new information and communication technologies in an online paper, *A Global Knowledge Network*. He also discussed the collective mind within the context of social movements in Asia in a book *Development Communication Praxis*.

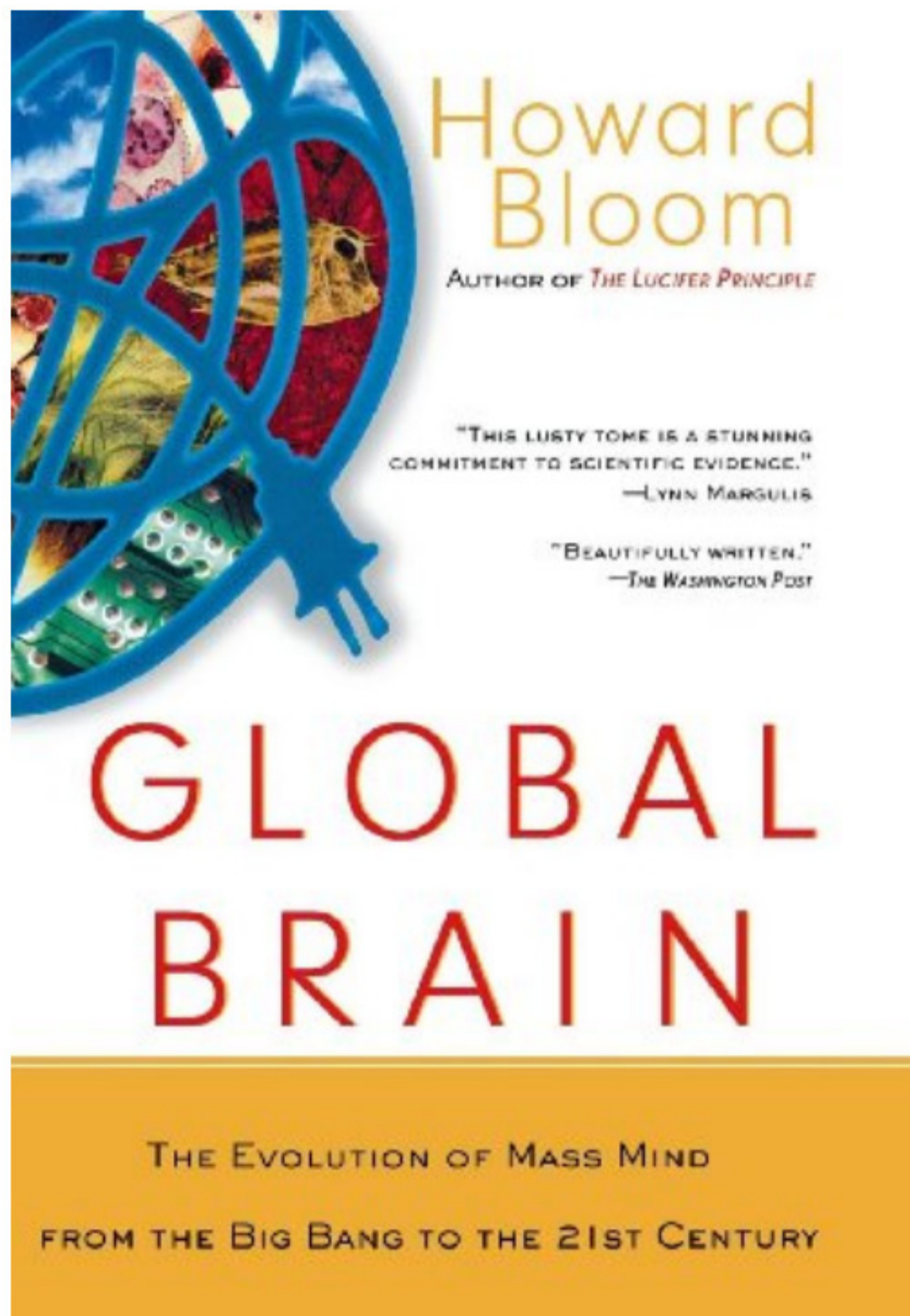
Restatement of Collective wisdom: **Dave Pollard**, writer on culture, complexity, ecology, civilization's collapse and the sharing economy (<https://conversational-leadership.net/person/dave-pollard/>)

"Many cognitive, coordination and cooperation problems are best solved by canvassing groups (the larger the better) of reasonably informed, unbiased, engaged people. The group's answer is almost invariably much better than any individual expert's answer, even better than the best answer of the experts in the group."

Contemporary definition and research: Harnessing the collective wisdom of people is an area of intense contemporary interest and cutting-edge research. The application of the term to methodologies that are designed to harness collective wisdom is credited to the work of Alexander Christakis and his group. As the challenges society faces today are of extreme complexities, the only solution is to develop technologies capable of harnessing the Collective Intelligence and collective wisdom of many people, or even crowds. The Institute for 21st Century Agoras founded in 2002 by Alexander Christakis, the Wisdom Research Network of the University of Chicago launched in 2010 and the MIT Center for Collective Intelligence founded by Thomas W. Malone in 2007 are some examples.

Collective Wisdom Initiative was formed in 2000 with the support of the Fetzer Institute for the purpose of gathering material on the research, theory and practice of collective wisdom. It was a collaboration of practitioners and academics in areas such as business, health care, mental health, education, criminal justice and conflict resolution. Several of the founding members subsequently co-authored *The Power of Collective Wisdom*. In this, six stances or principles, which support the power of collective wisdom are presented: deep listening, suspension of certainty, seeing whole systems/seeking diverse perspectives, respect for other/group discernment, welcoming all that is arising, and trust in the transcendent. Two strands of thought relating to collective wisdom follow very different paths. The first suggests that aggregates of people and information will succeed in advancing wisdom, that wisdom is built on the accumulation of data and knowledge, without a need for judgement or qualification. Some have faulted this belief for failing to take into account the importance of 'adaptive assessment'. The second argues that wisdom is only possible in reflective states of mind, including meta cognition. **According to Alan Briskin, wisdom requires systematic reflection on the inner self and the outer states of social order.** Mark Baurelein has made the case that the hyper communication of knowledge has hobbled rather than promoted intellectual development.





Global Brain: The Evolution of Mass Mind from the Big Bang to the 21st Century

Paperback – August 1, 2001

by [Howard Bloom](#) (Author)

As someone who has spent forty years in psychology with a long-standing interest in evolution, I'll just assimilate Howard Bloom's accomplishment and my amazement. -DAVID SMILLIE, Visiting Professor of Zoology, Duke University In this extraordinary follow-up to the critically acclaimed *The Lucifer Principle*, Howard Bloom—one of today's preeminent thinkers—offers us a bold rewrite of the evolutionary saga. He shows how plants and animals (including humans) have evolved together as components of a worldwide learning machine. He describes the network of life on Earth as one that is, in fact, a "complex adaptive system," a global brain in which each of us plays a sometimes conscious, sometimes unknowing role. and he reveals that the World Wide Web is just the latest step in the development of this brain. These are theories as important as they are radical. Informed by twenty years of interdisciplinary research, Bloom takes us on a spellbinding journey back to the big bang to let us see how its fires forged primordial sociality. As he brings us back via surprising routes, we see how our earliest bacterial ancestors built multitrillion-member research and development teams a full 3.5 billion years ago. We watch him unravel the previously unrecognized strands of interconnectedness woven by crowds of trilobites, hunting packs of dinosaurs, feathered flying lizards gathered in flocks, troops of baboons making communal decisions, and adventurous tribes of protohumans spreading across continents but still linked by primitive forms of information networking. We soon find ourselves reconsidering our place in the world. Along the way, Bloom offers us exhilarating insights into the strange tricks of body and mind that have organized a variety of life forms: spiny lobsters, which, during the Paleozoic age, participated in communal marching rituals; and bees, which, during the age of dinosaurs, conducted collective brainwork. This fascinating tour continues on to the sometimes brutal subculture wars that have spurred the growth of human civilization since the Stone Age. Bloom shows us how culture shapes our infant brains, immersing us in a matrix of truth and mass delusion that we think of as reality.

Global Brain is more than just a brilliantly original contribution to the ongoing debate on the inner workings of evolution. It is a "grand vision," says the eminent evolutionary biologist David Sloan Wilson, ***a work that transforms our very view of who we are and why.***

"The global brain is a neuroscience-inspired and futurological vision of the planetary information and communications technology network that interconnects all humans and their technological artifacts. As this network stores ever more information, takes over ever more functions of coordination and communication from traditional organizations, and becomes increasingly intelligent, it increasingly plays the role of a brain for the planet Earth."

~ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_brain

WORLD

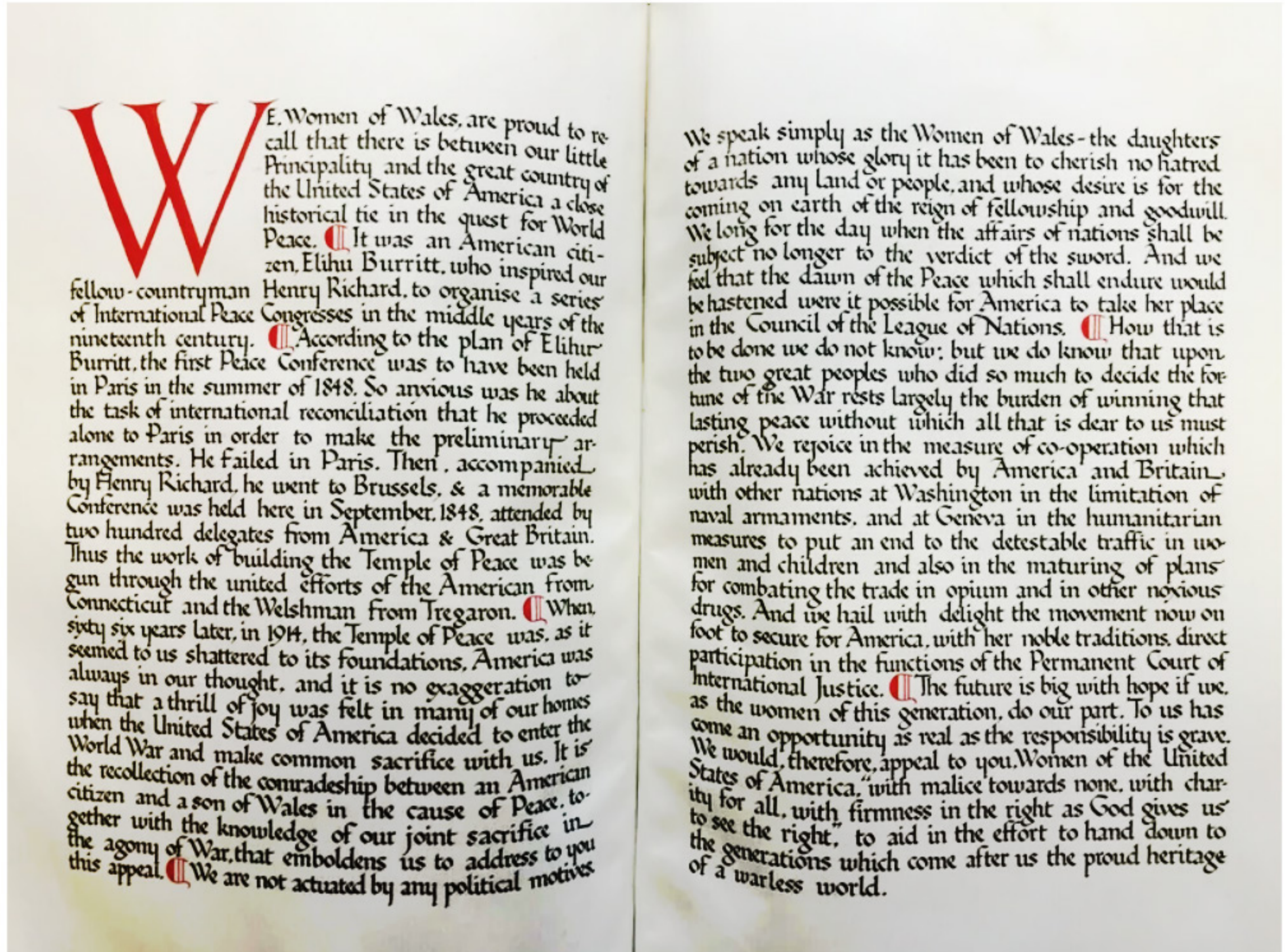
A forgotten peace petition started after WWI has resurfaced and is inspiring hope

April 29, 2023 · 6:00 AM ET

By Megan Lim

“ . . . to aid in the effort to hand down to the generations which come after us the proud heritage of a warless world.”

The introduction of the women's peace petition, which began in 1923 in Wales.



1923–2023 Welsh Women’s Peace Appeal Centenary Campaign

HAWLIO HEDDWGCH / PEACE APPEAL
CENTENARY CAMPAIGN 2023-24
WWW.HEDDWGCH.CYMRU



“
May we hand
down to the
generations
who come after
us, the proud
heritage of a
Warless World

”

Welsh Women's Peace
Appeal to America, 1923

The Women’s Peace campaign of 1923 was a truly remarkable Wales-wide effort involving almost every household, through peace activists going door-to-door, supported through county and community organisers of ‘the League’. A delegation, led by WLNU Chair Annie Hughes Griffiths, travelled from Wales to America in March 1924 for a 2 month ‘Peace Tour’ of the States, building support through American women’s organisations involving over 60 million people. Annie kept a diary of their travels, discovered and digitised by WCIA and the National Library in 2019, offering an incredible insight into the Peace Tour and the time – an invaluable history and learning resource. The 9 American Women’s networks whom the Welsh delegation worked with, joined forces to form the ‘*Conference on the Cause and Cure of War*’ as a response to Wales’ visit – which became influential in American society through to the outbreak of WW2. Annie Hughes Griffiths kept a diary of their tour of America, which has provided a fantastic basis for uncovering the story of the Peace Campaign. Yet Annie is just one of 390,296 women with a story to tell over the centenary!



Elon Musk (Full Interview) | Real Time with Bill Maher (HBO)


Real Time with Bill Maher ✓
 2.59M subscribers
 Subscribe
👍 33K
🗨️

1.3M views 1 day ago
 Elon Musk joins Bill for an exclusive Real Time interview. [Show more](#)

 Hindustan Times

Elon Musk takes stand against 'woke mind virus'; 'If you question anything...'

16 hours ago





Elon Musk and Bill Maher criticize 'woke mind virus' on 'Real Time'

1 day ago





Elon Musk and Bill Maher Warn Against the 'Woke Mind Virus,' a.k.a. Historical Fact

1 day ago



- 9:04 this uh **woke mind virus** how did it start
- 9:09 was it bats was it a yeah escape from a
- 9:12 lab I mean what is your assessment of
- 9:14 what because it's fairly recent why how
- 9:18 did it start and why
- 9:20 I was I was trying to figure out where
- 9:23 where it's coming from I think it's
- 9:24 actually been a long time Brewing
- 9:26 um in that it's uh
- 9:28 I think it's been going on for a while
- 9:30 um
- 9:31 it it and
- 9:34 um
- 9:35 the amount of indoctrination that that's
- 9:37 happening in schools and universities is
- 9:40 I think far beyond what parents realize
- 9:43 um and I only I sort of came to realize

English (auto-generated)

Woke Mind Virus

An **illiberal** and dogmatic form of left wing **identity politics** that analyses social issues primarily through **the lens** of supposed power differentials between morally ranked identity groups. Given to shutting down dissent from its orthodoxy by equating it with harm.

*You can't believe anything that they say, they are infected with **the Woke Mind Virus**, they are **incapable** of seeing reality.*

by **The_Donald** May 20, 2022

BUSINESS

JPMorgan Chase buys troubled First Republic Bank after U.S. government takeover

JPMorgan Chase is buying First Republic Bank's deposits, and a "substantial amount of their assets and certain liabilities," JPMorgan Chase said in a press release Monday.



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

JPMorgan Chase, one of the biggest banks in the U.S., is buying failed **First Republic Bank's** deposits and a "substantial amount of their assets and certain liabilities," JPMorgan Chase said in a press release Monday. This marks the third time the U.S. government has taken control of a U.S. lender this year. The FDIC estimates this will cost that fund about \$13 billion.

Dr. Dana Stone, an OB-GYN in Oklahoma City says some groups are trying to organize a voter petition to change the **abortion laws** in Oklahoma, but she does not think significant changes to the state's abortion laws are coming soon. "Already, the United States has the highest one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world, and Oklahoma has one of the highest maternal mortality rates within the United States — all of these things that we do that further endanger pregnant women are only going to increase that," Stone observes. "We're already bad at this. We don't need anything that ties our hands and keeps us from caring for our patients."



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

'I'll lose my family.' A husband's dread during an abortion ordeal in Oklahoma



NATIONAL

Authorities are offering \$80K for information about the suspected Texas shooter



TECHNOLOGY

30 years ago, one decision altered the course of our connected world



MY UNSUNG HERO FROM HIDDEN BRAIN

A pilot takes a big risk to save a skydiver's life



REVIEW

SUCCESSION RECAPS

'Succession' season 4, episode 6: 'Living+'



MEDIA

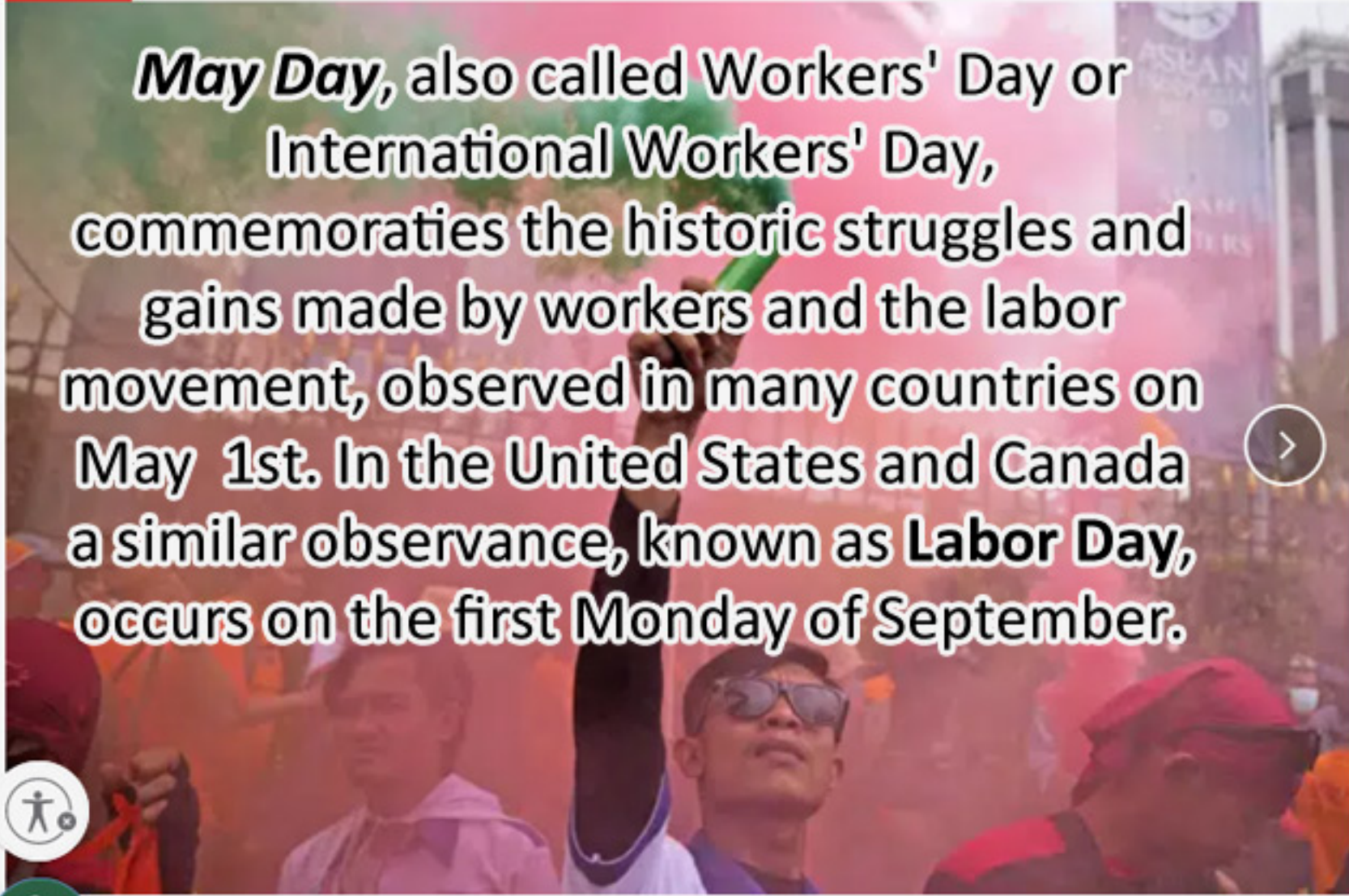
Biden makes fun of his age at the White House Correspondents' dinner

The **World Wide Web** was the brainchild of Tim Berners-Lee, a 37-year-old researcher at a physics lab in Switzerland called CERN. The institution is known today for its massive particle accelerators. CERN owned Berners-Lee's invention, and the lab had the option to license out the World Wide Web for profit. But Berners-Lee believed that keeping the web as open as possible would help it grow. Berners-Lee eventually convinced CERN to release the World Wide Web into the public domain without any patents or fees. He has since attributed the runaway success of the web to that single decision.



World's workers rally on May Day; France braces for protests

By ANGELA CHARLTON and HYUNG-JIN KIM 38 minutes ago



May Day, also called Workers' Day or International Workers' Day, commemorates the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the labor movement, observed in many countries on May 1st. In the United States and Canada a similar observance, known as **Labor Day**, occurs on the first Monday of September.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — People squeezed by inflation and demanding economic justice took to the streets of cities across Asia and Europe to mark May Day on Monday, in a global outpouring of worker discontent not seen since before the COVID-19 pandemic sent the world into lockdowns. French unions pushed the president to scrap a higher retirement age. South Koreans pleaded for higher wages. Spanish lawyers demanded the right to take days off. Migrant domestic workers in Lebanon marched in a country plunged in economic crisis. While May Day is marked around the world on May 1 as a celebration of labor rights, Monday's rallies tapped into broader frustrations at the state of today's world. Climate activists spraypainted a Louis Vuitton museum in Paris, and protesters in Germany demonstrated against violence targeting women and LGBTQ+ people. Celebrations were forced indoors in Pakistan and tinged with political tensions in Turkey, as both countries face high-stakes elections. Russia's war in Ukraine overshadowed scaled-back events in Moscow, where Communist-led May Day celebrations were once massive affairs.

In South Korea, tens of thousands of people attended various rallies in its biggest May Day gatherings since the pandemic began in early 2020. "The price of everything has increased except for our wages. Increase our minimum wages!" an activist at a Seoul rally shouted at the podium. "Reduce our working hours!"

In Tokyo, thousands of labor union members, opposition lawmakers and academics gathered at Yoyogi park, demanding wage increases to offset the impact of rising costs as their lives are still recovering from damage from the pandemic. In Indonesia, rally-goers demanded the government repeal a job creation law they argue would benefit business at the expense of workers and the environment. In Taiwan, thousands of workers took to the streets to protest what they call the inadequacies of the self-ruled island's labor policies, putting pressure on the ruling party ahead of the 2024 presidential election. In Lebanon, hundreds of Communist Party and trade syndicate members, as well as a group of migrant domestic workers, marched through the streets of downtown Beirut. The country is in the throes of a crippling economic crisis and spiraling inflation, with some three-quarters of the population now living in poverty.

In North Korea, the country's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper published a lengthy editorial urging workers to lend greater support to leader Kim Jong Un, fulfill their set production quotas and improve public livelihoods.

Protests in Germany kicked off with a "Take Back the Night" rally organized by feminist and queer groups on the eve of May Day to protest against violence directed at women and LGBTQ+ people. Several thousand people took part in the march, which was largely peaceful despite occasional clashes between participants and police. Numerous further rallies by labor unions and left-wing groups are planned in Germany on Monday.



Members of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions shout slogans during a rally on May Day in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, May 1, 2023. A large number of workers and activists in Asian countries are set to mark May Day on Monday with protests calling for higher salaries and better working conditions, among other demands. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

The Seattle Times

Downtown Seattle pins its hopes on Amazon's May Day office mandate

22 hours ago

The Guardian

'They say I'm ancient': Biden speech to White House media proves to be one for the ages

Yesterday

ScienceNews

Black holes resolve paradoxes by destroying quantum states

3 days ago



Z

New Rules for Short-Term Vacation Rentals in San Diego Start May 1. Here's...

11 hours ago



CNN

'Even one American in Iraq is too much,' Iran's leader tells Iraqi president

2 days ago



Starting May 1, 2023, property owners within the city's limits need to have gone through the **Short-Term Residential Occupancy** (STRO) application process, and been selected as well as be in compliance with all STRO host requirements, to rent to guests for less than one month stays. There are four types of licenses including Tier 1 for part-time rentals, Tier 2 for rentals that are a portion of a home, Tier 3 for whole-home rentals not including Mission Beach and Tier 4 for whole-home rentals only in Mission Beach. As of Apr. 21, 2023, the City of San Diego's STRO webpage said 7,162 total applications for short-term rentals were received. Of those who applied, 6,635 licenses were issued.



Twitter

https://mobile.twitter.com > nowthisnews > status

Roy Wood Jr. gets serious during the #WHCD

18 hours ago — I've tweeted NYT and WaPo about **paywalls** (and I am a subscriber). No response. No change. Why put **news** on social media as a tease? It's a bad ...

Roy Wood Jr: 'The issue with good media is that most people can't afford that. All the essential, fair, & nuanced reporting is stuck behind a paywall. People can't afford rent, people can't afford food ... they damn sure can't afford to pay for the truth.' #WHCD



0:27 57.4K views

Roy Wood Jr. Remarks on the Value of Journalism

Roy Wood Jr. gets serious during the #WHCD

11:48 AM · Apr 30, 2023 · 44.4K Views

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei decried the presence of the US military in Iraq during a meeting with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid in Tehran on Saturday. "The presence of even one American in Iraq is too much," Khamenei said, Iranian state media outlet IRNA reported. "Americans are not friends with anyone and are not even loyal to their European allies," Khamenei said, as he called for Iran and Iraq to expand "bilateral cooperation." Khamenei's comments follow US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's unannounced trip to Baghdad last month, when Austin said US troops were "ready to remain in Iraq."

Any **quantum experiment done near a black hole** could set up a paradox, the researchers find, in which the black hole reveals information about its interior — something physics says is forbidden. The way around the paradox, the team reports, is if the black hole simply destroys any quantum states that come close, physicists reported April 17 at a meeting of the American Physical Society.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/29/opinion/journalism-newsroom.html>

The New York Times

OPINION

MAUREEN DOWD

Requiem for the Newsroom

April 29, 2023



Twitter

https://mobile.twitter.com > nowthisnews > status

Roy Wood Jr. gets serious during the #WHCD

18 hours ago — I've tweeted NYT and WaPo about paywalls (and I am a subscriber). No response. No change. Why put news on social media as a tease? It's a bad ...

Roy Wood Jr: 'The issue with good media is that most people can't afford that. All the essential, fair, & nuanced reporting is stuck behind a paywall. People can't afford rent, people can't afford food ... they damn sure can't afford to pay for the truth.' #WHCD



0:27 57.4K views

Roy Wood Jr. Remarks on the Value of Journalism

Roy Wood Jr. gets serious during the #WHCD

11:48 AM · Apr 30, 2023 · 44.4K Views

Roy Norris Wood Jr. (born December 11, 1978) is an American humorist, stand-up comedian, radio personality, actor, producer, podcaster, and writer best known for his correspondent appearances on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah*. [2] A resident of Manhattan, Wood was raised in Birmingham, Alabama, and Memphis, Tennessee. After graduating from Ramsay High School in 1996, Wood began his career in stand-up comedy as the opening act for Tommy Davidson. He had a position as head writer on the WBHI radio series *Buckwilde Morning Show* from 2001 to 2006. Wood has been featured on NBC's reality television series *Last Comic Standing* in 2010 and the TBS sitcom *Sullivan & Son* from 2011 to 2014. He currently hosts two podcasts for **Comedy Central**: *Roy's Job Fair* which is on indefinite hiatus and *Beyond the Scenes*.


Roy Wood Jr.



Born	Roy Norris Wood, Jr. December 11, 1978 (age 44) New York City, New York, U.S.
Education	Florida A&M University (BA)
Occupation	Humorist
Years active	1998–present
Children	1
Parent	Roy Wood Sr. (father)
Website	roywoodjr.com

What does tiw mean Anglo-Saxon? Tiw. Tiw is the Anglo-Saxon sky god, as well as the god of war and swordplay. **His day is Tuesday**, or Tiw's Day. The Norse version is spelled Týr. **What is the story of Tyr?** Tyr was a Norse god, the son of the giant Hymir. He sacrificed his hand to the giant wolf, Fenrir, then was killed by the guard dog of the underworld, Garm. **Who is the Norse god Tiu?** Tyr, Old Norse Týr, Old English Tiw, or Tiu, one of the oldest gods of the Germanic peoples and a somewhat enigmatic figure. He was apparently the god concerned with the formalities of war—especially treaties—and also, appropriately, of justice. Týr was the son of Odin and Hróðr, younger half-brother of Thor, and older half-brother of Heimdall, and Baldur. Although he was the God of War, Týr fought for peace

Týr (/tɪər/; Old Norse: Týr, pronounced [ty:r]) is a god in Germanic mythology, a valorous and powerful member of the Æsir and patron of warriors and mythological heroes. In Norse mythology, which provides most of the surviving narratives about gods among the Germanic peoples, Týr sacrifices his hand to the monstrous wolf Fenrir, who bites it off when he realizes the gods have bound him. Týr is foretold of being consumed by the similarly monstrous dog Garmr during the events of Ragnarök.

Interpretatio graeca or "interpretation by means of Greek [models]" is a discourse used to interpret or attempt to understand the mythology and religion of other cultures; a comparative methodology using ancient Greek religious concepts and practices, deities, and myths. 



The interpretatio romana generally renders the god as Mars, the ancient Roman war god, and it is through that lens that most Latin references to the god occur. For example, the god may be referenced as Mars Thingsus (Latin 'Mars of the Assembly [Thing]') on 3rd century Latin inscription, reflecting a strong association with the Germanic thing, a legislative body among the ancient Germanic peoples. By way of the opposite process of interpretatio germanica, Tuesday is named after Týr ('Týr's day'), rather than Mars, in English and other Germanic languages.

In Old Norse sources, Týr is alternately described as the son of the jötunn Hymir (in Hymiskviða) or of the god Odin (in Skáldskaparmál). Lokasenna makes reference to an unnamed and otherwise unknown consort, perhaps also reflected in the continental Germanic record (see Zisa).

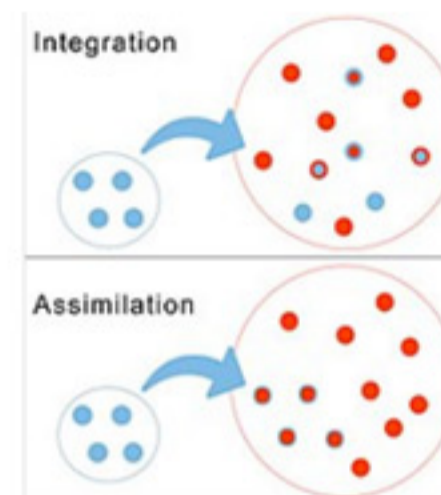
Due to the etymology of the god's name and the shadowy presence of the god in the extant Germanic corpus, some scholars propose that Týr may have once held a more central place among the deities of early Germanic mythology.

Gaul was a region encompassing present-day France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and parts of Switzerland, Germany, and Northern Italy.

Roman Gaul refers to Gaul under provincial rule in the Roman Empire from the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD. The Roman Republic's influence began in southern Gaul. The Romans respected and feared the Gallic tribes. In 390 BC, the Gauls had sacked Rome, which left an existential dread of barbarian conquest the Romans never forgot.

Gallo-Roman religion is a fusion of the traditional religious practices of the Gauls, who were originally Celtic speakers, and the Roman and Hellenistic religions introduced to the region under Roman Imperial rule. It was the result of selective acculturation.

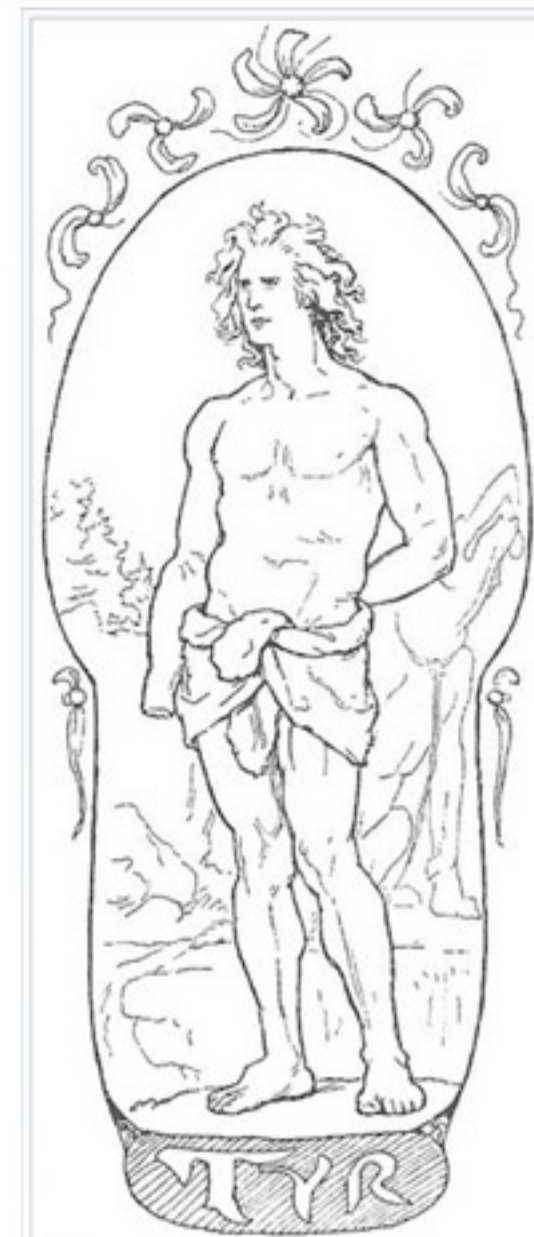
Acculturation is a process of social, psychological, and cultural change that stems from the balancing of two cultures while adapting to the prevailing culture of the society. Acculturation is a process in which an individual adopts, acquires and adjusts to a new cultural environment as a



Roman religious practices such as offerings of incense and animal sacrifice, dedicatory inscriptions, and naturalistic statuary depicting deities in anthropomorphic form were combined with specific Gaulish practices such as circumambulation around a temple. This gave rise to a characteristic **Gallo-Roman fanum**, identifiable in archaeology from its concentric shape.

A **fanum** is a plot of consecrated ground, a sanctuary, and from that a temple or shrine built there. A fanum may be a traditional sacred space such as the grove (lucus) of Diana Nemorensis, or a sacred space or structure for non-Roman religions, such as an Iseum (temple of Isis) or Mithraeum. By the Augustan period, fanum, aedes, templum, and delubrum are scarcely distinguishable in usage, but fanum was a more inclusive and general term. The fanum, Romano-Celtic temple, or ambulatory temple of Roman Gaul was often built over an originally Celtic religious site, and its plan was influenced by the ritual architecture of earlier Celtic sanctuaries. The masonry temple building of the Gallo-Roman period had a central space (cella) and a peripheral gallery structure, both square. Romano-Celtic fana of this type are found also in Roman Britain.

The English word "profane" ultimately derives from Latin *pro fano*, "before, i.e. outside, the temple", "In front of the sanctuary," hence not within sacred ground.



"Týr" by Lorenz Frølich, 1895



Tyr. > John Bauer/Our Fathers' Godsaga by Viktor Rydberg

TIP Similar-sounding words

gall is sometimes confused with *gaul*

- Homophone: *Gaul*

Old English *gealla* (denoting bile), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *gal*, German *Galle* 'gall', from an Indo-European root shared by Greek *kholē* and Latin *fel* 'bile'.

Etymology 1 [edit]

From Middle English *galle*, from Old English *galla*, *ǵealla*, from Proto-West Germanic **gallā*, from Proto-Germanic **gallō*. The figurative senses (e.g., impudence, brazenness, chutzpah) are related to the literal sense (i.e., bile) via the lasting linguocultural effects of humorism, which governed Western medicine for many centuries before the advent of scientific medicine. Related to Dutch *gal*, German *Galle*, Swedish *galle*, *galla*, Ancient Greek *χολή* (*kholē*). Also remotely related with yellow.

Noun

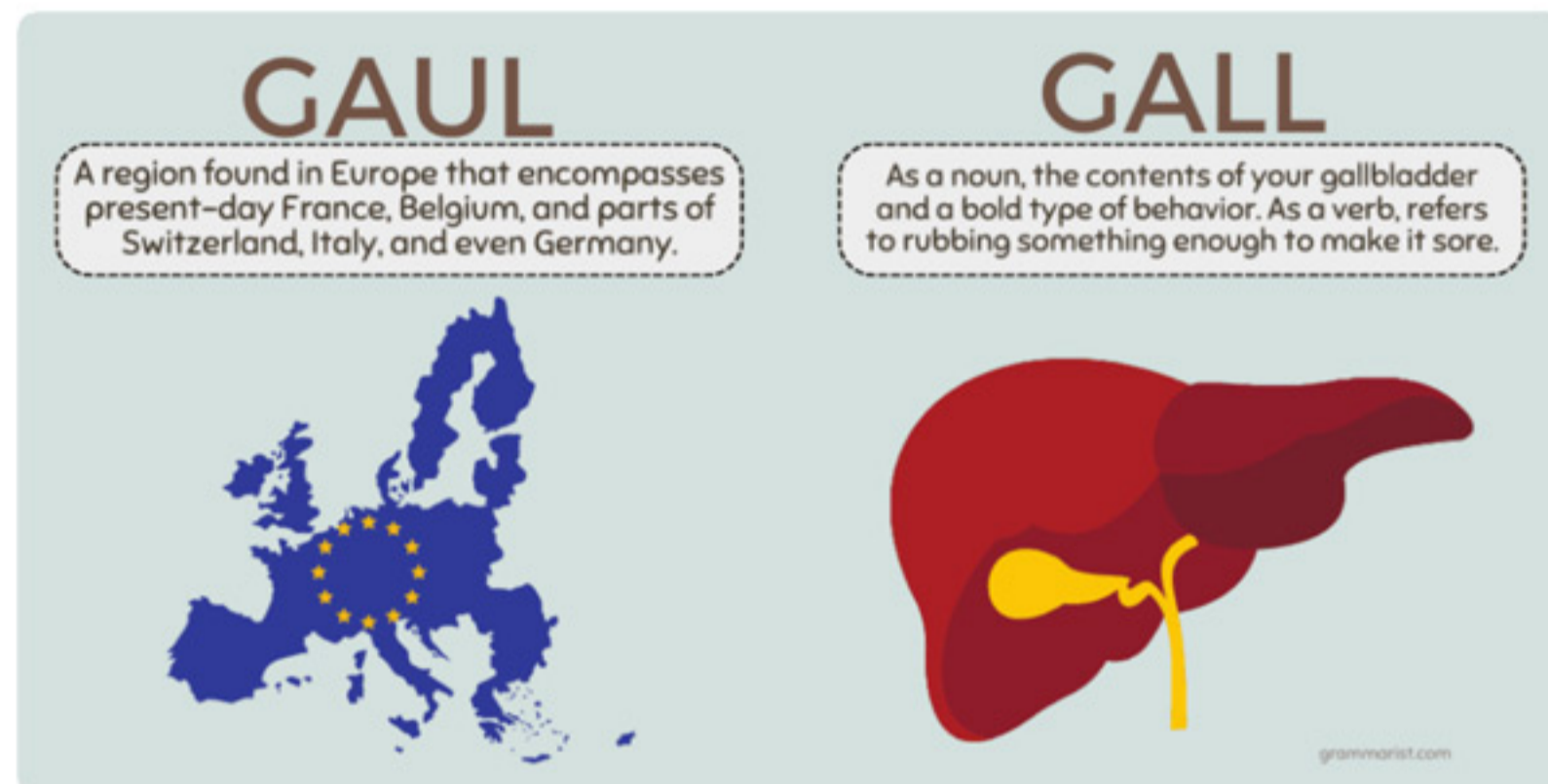
gall (*countable and uncountable, plural galls*)

1. (*anatomy*) The **gall bladder**. [quotations ▼]
2. (*uncountable*) A feeling of **exasperation**. [quotations ▼]
3. (*uncountable*) **Impudence** or **brazenness**; **temerity**, **chutzpah**. [quotations ▼]
4. (*countable*) A sore on a horse caused by an **ill-fitted** or **ill-adjusted saddle**; a **saddle sore**. [quotations ▼]
5. (*countable*) A **pit** on a surface being cut caused by the **friction** between the two surfaces exceeding the **bond** of the material at a point.
6. (*anatomy, obsolete, uncountable*) **Bile**, especially that of an animal; the **greenish**, profoundly **bitter-tasting** fluid found in **bile ducts** and **gall bladders**, structures associated with the **liver**.
7. (*uncountable, obsolete*) Great **misery** or physical **suffering**, likened to the bitterest-tasting of substances. [quotations ▼]
8. (*medicine, obsolete, countable*) A **sore** or open wound caused by **chafing**, which may become infected, as with a **blister**. [quotations ▼]

See also: **gall** and **Gall**

- As an English, **Scottish Gaelic**, and **Irish** surname, of **Celtic** origin, from *Gall* ("foreigner"). This is in turn from Latin *gallus*, which has borrowings (many of which are surnames) in several European languages, such as **Czech** *Havel*, **Polish** *Gawel*.
- As a **Hungarian** surname, variant of *Gál*, itself from the Latin word.

Used in Swedish since 1674, same as **Icelandic** *gjallur*, like Middle Low German adverb *gelle* ("loud"), based on the obsolete Swedish verb *gälla* ("to yell"), from Old Swedish *gælla* (from Old Norse *gjalla*, from Proto-Germanic **gellana*), cognate with **Icelandic** *gjalla*, Old High German *gellan* (German *gellen*), Old English *ǵiellan* (English *yell*).

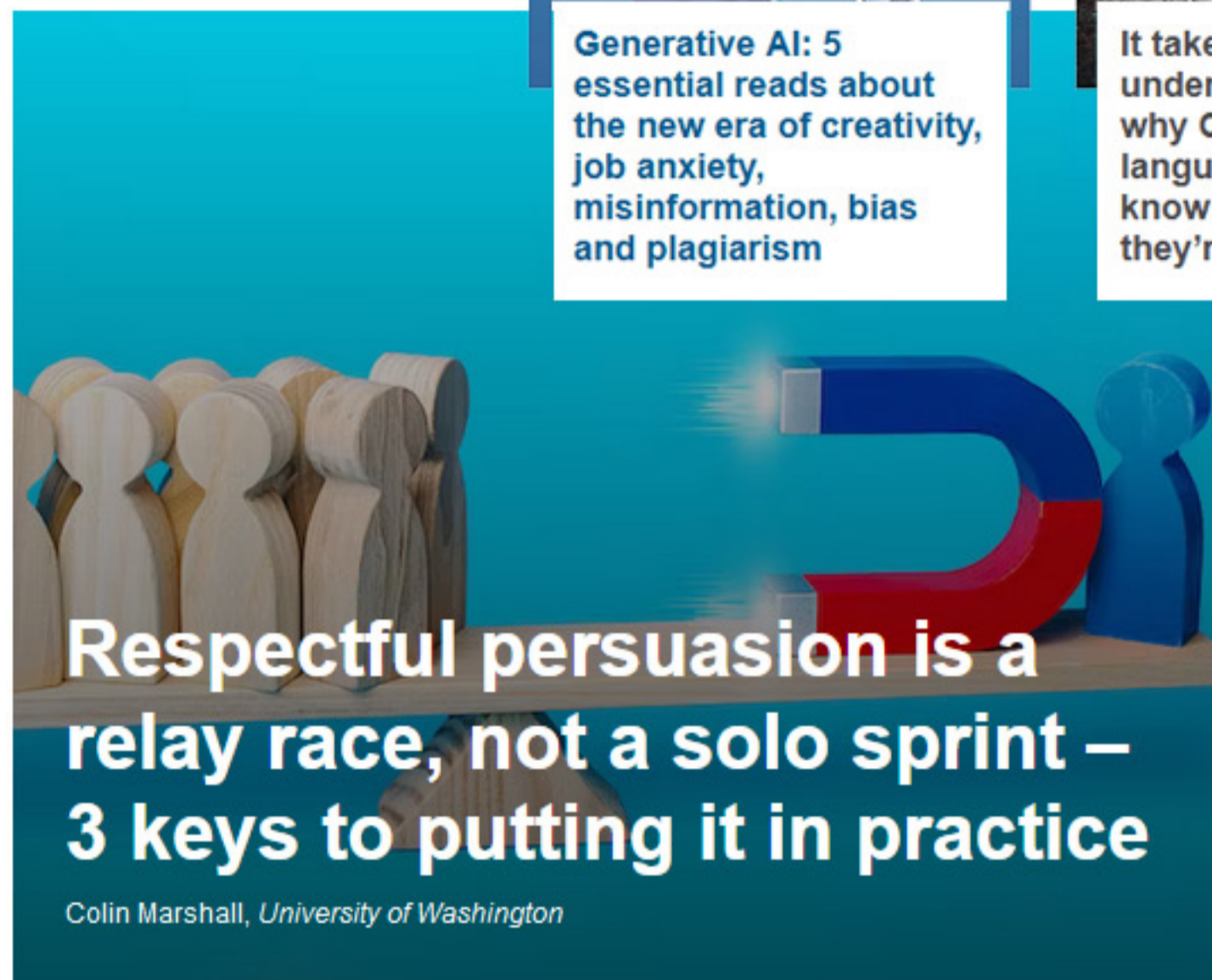
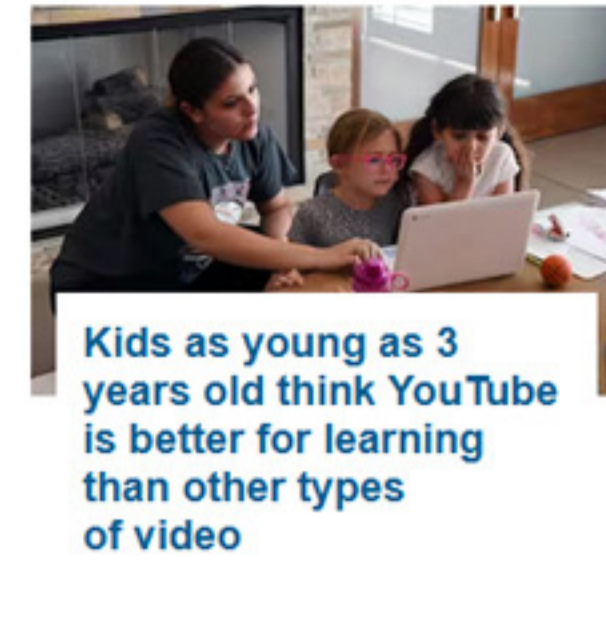
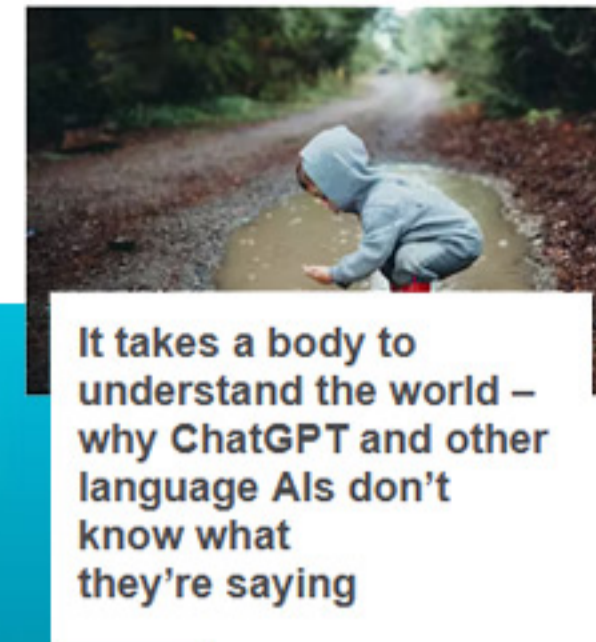
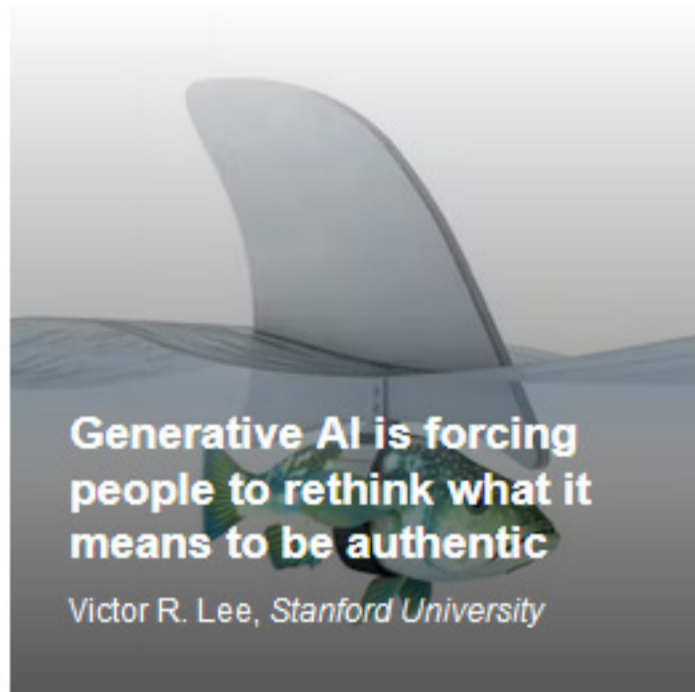




Brittney Griner and Cherelle Griner
Jamie McCarthy/Getty Images



Doja Cat
Dimitrios Kambouris/Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue



I'm a philosopher who studies and teaches the **ethics of persuasion**. My students are eager to find ways to persuade their friends, family and neighbors about political issues such as climate change and abortion. Moreover, many of them want to persuade with integrity: They want to engage the people they're talking with respectfully, instead of using the manipulative tricks they regularly see in politics and marketing. But what is respectful persuasion, and what distinguishes it from disrespectful manipulation? There's no simple formula for respectful persuasion. However, some philosophers see crucial hints in the work of 18th-century philosopher Immanuel Kant, whose theory of respect has guided many ethicists and policymakers for the past two centuries. My students and I have found that these factors increase the chances of deep, meaningful conversation.

1. Giving reasons
2. Being open to learning
3. Live and let live

If you approach our conversation as a chance to exchange ideas, without trying to change my mind, you may lay a cornerstone of trust. That, in turn, could make me more receptive to similar viewpoints in the future – even if I'm speaking with other people. Truly respectful political persuasion might best be seen as an extended team effort, not a one-time, one-person task.

With text, image, audio and video all becoming easier for anyone to produce through **new generative AI** tools, I believe people are going to need to reexamine and recalibrate how authenticity is judged in the first place. Fortunately, social science offers some guidance [. . .] in a world where AI operates as a tool, society is going to have to consider how to establish guardrails. These could take the form of regulations, or the creation of norms within certain fields for disclosing how and when AI has been used. The capabilities of generative AI have surprised many and will challenge everyone to think differently. But I believe humans can use AI to expand the boundaries of what is possible and create interesting, worthwhile – and, yes, authentic – works of art, writing and design.

When the main character of a kids TV show can both listen and respond to viewers by using **advances in artificial intelligence**, youngsters learn more from the program. That's what my colleagues and I found in a series of peer-reviewed studies. Recent advances in AI, particularly in speech technologies and interpreting language spoken by real humans, make it possible to enable true interactions between child viewers and children's TV show characters. This could make watching TV a more active and engaging way for kids to learn science. We have plans to integrate AI into more PBS Kids shows, including an upcoming series called "Lyla in the Loop," which highlights creative problem-solving for children ages 4-8.

CULTURE

Writers Guild of America goes on strike

Members of the Writers Guild of America are asking for a larger piece of the streaming platforms' pie. The WGA said picketing would begin Tuesday afternoon.



Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Lately, it's felt like technological change has entered warp speed. Companies like OpenAI and Google have unveiled **new Artificial Intelligence systems** with incredible capabilities, making what once seemed like science fiction an everyday reality. It's an era that is posing big, existential questions for us all, about everything from literally the future of human existence to — more to the focus of Planet Money — the future of human work.

"Things are changing so fast," says Erik Brynjolfsson, a leading, technology-focused economist based at Stanford University.

Close to a third of **nurses nationwide** say they are likely to leave the profession for another career due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new survey from AMN Healthcare shows. This level is up at least seven points since 2021. And the survey found that the ongoing shortage of nurses is likely to continue for years to come.

Canadian folk-rock icon **Gordon Lightfoot** has died at the age of 84. Lightfoot hailed from a tiny town in Ontario. He first made his name in Toronto's coffeehouse scene. There, he impressed folk music stars Ian and Sylvia, who helped introduce him to the world outside Canada by recording some of his songs. Lightfoot himself found international fame in 1971, with a song called *"If You Could Read My Mind."* That song, says former Toronto Globe and Mail music critic Robert Everett Green, contains what would become some of Lightfoot's favorite themes: **loss, longing and nostalgia.** "It's a song about inarticulateness," Green said. "But somehow, it really makes an amazing case. Here's someone who really can't say what he wants to say, yet by singing about that inability, he connects." Gordon Lightfoot wrote more than 400 songs about what he loved — and what he missed.



PLANET MONEY

This company adopted AI. Here's what happened to its human workers



HEALTH

Nearly a third of nurses nationwide say they are likely to leave the profession



OBITUARIES

Gordon Lightfoot, Canadian folk legend, dies At 84

Television and film writers have gone on strike against major Hollywood studios: Netflix, Amazon, Apple, Disney, Discovery-Warner, NBC Universal, Paramount and Sony. The Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents the studios, failed to come up with a new three-year contract in advance of the old deal expiring at midnight Monday. Representatives of the WGA voted to call a strike, which went into effect at 12:01 a.m. PT on Tuesday.

"The companies' behavior has created a gig economy inside a union workforce, and their immovable stance in this negotiation has betrayed a commitment to further devaluing the profession of writing," the WGA said in a statement Monday night. "From their refusal to guarantee any level of weekly employment in episodic television, to the creation of a 'day rate' in comedy variety, to their stonewalling on free work for screenwriters and on AI for all writers, they have closed the door on their labor force and opened the door to writing as an entirely freelance profession."

Another concern by the WGA is the use of artificial intelligence in creative content.



Common household products such as cleaning agents can contain a wide range of harmful chemicals. *gawriloff/istock via Getty Images*

Body lotions, mothballs, cleaning fluids and other widely used products contain known toxic chemicals, study finds

Published: May 2, 2023 8:13am EDT

▾ **Robin Dodson**, *Boston University*, **Megan R. Schwarzman**, *University of California, Berkeley*, **Ruthann Rudel**, *Northeastern University*

Consumer products released more than 5,000 tons of chemicals in 2020 inside California homes and workplaces that are known to cause cancer, adversely affect sexual function and fertility in adults or harm developing fetuses, according to our newly published study. We found that many household products like shampoos, body lotions, cleaners and mothballs release toxic volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, into indoor air. In addition, we identified toxic VOCs that are prevalent in products heavily used by workers on the job, such as cleaning fluids, adhesives, paint removers and nail polish. However, gaps in laws that govern ingredient disclosure mean that neither consumers nor workers generally know what is in the products they use. For this study we analyzed data from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which tracks VOCs released from consumer products in an effort to reduce smog. The agency periodically surveys companies that sell products in California, collecting information on concentrations of VOCs used in everything from hair spray to windshield wiper fluid.

We cross-referenced the most recent data with a list of chemicals identified as carcinogens or reproductive/developmental toxicants under California's right-to-know law, Proposition 65. This measure, enacted in 1986, requires businesses to notify Californians about significant exposure to chemicals that are known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harms. We found 33 toxic VOCs present in consumer products. Over 100 consumer products covered by the CARB contain VOCs listed under Prop 65. Of these, we identified 30 product types and 11 chemicals that we see as high priorities for either reformulation with safer alternatives or regulatory action because of the chemicals' high toxicity and widespread use.

What still isn't known: Our analysis of the CARB data on volatile toxicants does not paint a complete picture. Many toxic chemicals, such as lead, PFAS and bisphenol A (BPA), don't have to be reported to the Air Resources Board because they are not volatile, meaning that they don't readily turn from liquid to gas at room temperature. In addition, we were not able to identify specific products of concern because the agency aggregates data over whole categories of products.

What other research is being done: Studies have shown that women generally use more cosmetic, personal care and cleaning products than men, so they are likely to be more highly exposed to harmful chemicals in these categories. Further, women working in settings like nail salons may be exposed from products used both personally and professionally. Research by members of our team has also shown that product use varies by race and ethnicity, partly due to racialized beauty standards. Policy interventions could be tailored to prioritize these potentially more-highly exposed groups. Ultimately, a right-to-know law like Prop 65 can only go so far in addressing toxics in products. We've found in other research that some manufacturers do choose to reformulate their products to avoid Prop 65 chemicals, rather than having to warn customers about toxic ingredients. But Prop 65 does not ban or restrict any chemicals, and there is no requirement for manufacturers to choose safer substitutes. We believe our new analysis points to the need for national action that ensures consumers and workers alike have safer products.



American Lung Association 🏆

@LungAssociation · [Follow](#)



Many cleaning products contain harmful chemicals. To protect yourself, choose products that do not contain VOCs, fragrances, irritants and flammable ingredients and avoid using air fresheners altogether. bit.ly/2Uxe313
[#SpringCleaning](#)

<https://www.lung.org/clean-air/at-home/indoor-air-pollutants/cleaning-supplies-household-chem>

Americans aren't thrilled with the government. The Supreme Court is just one example

May 3, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



Domenico Montanaro



The U.S. Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

There was a palpable sense of frustration among Senate Democrats Tuesday with the Supreme Court's lack of action on ethics at the court. "The highest court in the land shouldn't have the lowest ethical standards," said Senate Judiciary Chairman Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. at a hearing on ethics oversight at the high court. "That reality is driving a crisis in public confidence in the Supreme Court. The status quo must change." **Chafing under minority rule:** Democrats have won the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential elections. But two of the elections in which they won the popular vote were awarded to Republicans because of the Electoral College. *And it's had profound consequences.* The Iraq War likely would have never happened with a Democratic President Al Gore, and there would have certainly have been more action on climate change. Trump lost the popular vote by 3 million votes in 2016, but won the Electoral College. He wound up being impeached twice and lies he told about the 2020 election he lost led to the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Trump was also able to nominate three Supreme Court justices. That, in theory, means had Democrats won those two elections, it could be an 8-1 liberal majority on the court. Not a joke, as the current president is fond of saying.

Increased partisanship — and pugilism: Conservatives have their own view of their reasons for mistrust and disillusionment. They see corporations and the media — not just the news but Hollywood and television — lurching toward a liberalism they see as fundamentally changing the traditional fabric of the country. Republicans have dug in. Strategically, starting under Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich in the 1990s, the GOP policy, particularly in the House, has largely been party unity first above compromise. Partisanship and polarization have been on the rise over the last 30 years. There are fewer competitive House districts, largely drawn by Republicans, which has meant more ideological purity in Congress and more hard-line, and, at times, ugly, in-your-face politics. It's all mixed together to make for a toxic brew of mistrust and antipathy that shows in the potentially dangerous decline in the lack of trust in institutions.

Trust and confidence in the Supreme Court at a historic low: Sixty-two per cent said they have not very much or no confidence in the Supreme Court, according to the latest NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll. That's the lowest recorded in the five years Marist has been asking the question. The lack of confidence was driven by Democrats and most independents. **There's less trust in the federal government to handle problems:** Two-thirds of Americans a decade ago said they trusted the federal government to handle problems. That was down to 39% last year. **News and information have become polarizing — and weaponized:** There's a huge partisan divide — 70% of Democrats said they had a great deal or fair amount of trust in the media, while just 14% of Republicans and 27% of independents said they did. The problem is not limited to party. Younger Americans, those 18 to 29, trust social media nearly as much as they do traditional news outlets. **It's political leaders, too:** Of course, it's not just the press. It's a two-way mirror. Trump and Biden are the leading contenders for their respective nominations, and yet, are polarizing, have mediocre favorability ratings that are nearly exact inverses of each other, and significant percentages of voters in their parties have told pollsters at varying times that they would have a better chance if someone else ran. It's an odd place for the world's leading power to so distrust the people leading it and the institutions that hold up its government.

And that ever-more partisan view of almost everything in American daily life was made clear again Tuesday in the ethics hearing about the Supreme Court. Republicans reflexively accused Democrats of being politically motivated in holding a Supreme Court ethics hearing. "This assault on Justice Thomas is well beyond ethics," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. charged. "It's about trying to delegitimize a conservative court that was appointed through the traditional process." For those who wonder where this leads, the consequences are already being felt. There are growing fears about U.S. democracy domestically and abroad. World leaders were aghast at the Jan. 6 insurrection and were left questioning the U.S.'s ability to lead.

Biden ran on trying to "unite the country," but arguably, the opposite has happened. Biden has been relentlessly lampooned in conservative media as not all there — and it's something North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister is now using to attack Biden after the U.S. and South Korea signed a nuclear agreement.

That lack of domestic political unity is also giving openings to Russia and China, who are actively seeking to sow that division.

American partisanship and pugilism aren't likely to let up any time soon. So agendas are only going to be implemented through the political means that have always prevailed — political power gotten through winning elections and expanded majorities.

Dueling narratives at the Senate hearing on the Supreme Court

May 2, 2023 · 5:10 PM ET



Nina Totenberg



Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., was among the Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee who viewed Tuesday's hearing on Supreme Court ethics as an attack on the new conservative Supreme Court supermajority, an attack by Democrats, aided and abetted by the media.

At Tuesday's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, the Democrats' avowed purpose was to get the Supreme Court to write a code of conduct for itself, or in the absence of that, for Congress to write one. The Republicans avowed purpose was quite different.

The impetus for the hearing was the fact that in recent weeks and months, there have been a series of news reports about Supreme Court ethics. One category has alleged outright violations of financial disclosure rules that apply to all federal judges, including Supreme Court justices. The other category of story has focused on the activities of various justices: activities that range from the completely appropriate--like four of the conservative justices teaching at George Mason University-- to activities that are arguably inappropriate under the judicial code of conduct.

Therein lies the rub. While the Supreme Court has for 32 years acknowledged that it is bound by the financial disclosure rules under federal law, the court has explicitly said it is not bound by the rest of the code of judicial conduct. And that was what the hearing was ostensibly about. "It is critical to our democracy that the American people have confidence that judges cannot be bought or influenced, and that they are serving the public interest — not their own personal interest," committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said in opening the hearing.

The problem was that the Republicans viewed the subject of Supreme Court ethics as an attack on the new conservative Supreme Court supermajority, an attack by Democrats, aided and abetted by the "liberal media."

"We can talk about ethics, and that's great, but we're also going to talk about today the concentrated effort by the left to delegitimize this court, and to cherry-pick examples to make a point," said ranking Republican Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. And from there on in, the hearing was off to the races, with the Republicans accusing the Democrats of everything from having a double standard on ethics, what Graham called "selective outrage," to accusations that the Democrats are actually encouraging assassination attempts against conservative justices. So organized was the GOP anger, that they actually played video from Justice Clarence Thomas' confirmation hearing 32 years ago. It was such an aggressive display that the Democrats seemed kind of shell-shocked, as they tried to keep the focus on the subject of a Supreme Court ethics code.

There were, of course no Supreme Court justices at the witness table. Chief Justice John Roberts, citing concerns about "separation of powers and judicial independence," last week declined Durbin's offer to testify. So the committee was left with less high-profile witnesses albeit ones with considerable expertise.

Some, like Michael Mukasey, a former federal judge who served briefly as attorney general in the George W. Bush administration, basically said Congress is powerless to act, but others disagreed. University of Virginia law professor Amanda Frost, who specializes in constitutional law and judicial ethics, distinguished between Congress' power to write laws for the administration and operation of the Supreme Court, including a code of ethics, and its lack of power to interfere in the court's judicial decision-making.

Frost repeatedly invoked the views of the Founders in legislating on this subject. "For over 230 years, and for as long as the Supreme Court has existed, Congress has regulated vital aspects of its operation, including its ethical obligations," she said.

Jeremy Fogel, a former federal judge who served as chairman of the financial disclosure committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference was quietly emphatic about the need for the court itself to have some internal mechanism for checking ethical obligations.

Under the current system, he said, ethical questions are "kind of a black box."

The justices "have a lot of sources and rules that they follow," he said, "but no one really knows what they are."

America has a loneliness epidemic. Here are 6 steps to address it

May 2, 2023 · 3:21 PM ET

By Juana Summers, Vincent Acovino, Christopher Intagliata,
Patrick Wood



Loneliness in the United States.

There is an epidemic of loneliness in the United States and lacking connection can increase the risk for premature death to levels comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, according to a new advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General. The report released on Tuesday, titled "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation," finds that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, about half of U.S. adults reported experiencing measurable levels of loneliness. And it warns that the physical consequences of poor connection can be devastating, including a 29% increased risk of heart disease; a 32% increased risk of stroke; and a 50% increased risk of developing dementia for older adults. "It's hard to put a price tag, if you will, on the amount of human suffering that people are experiencing right now," Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy told All Things Considered. "In the last few decades, we've just lived through a dramatic pace of change. We move more, we change jobs more often, we are living with technology that has profoundly changed how we interact with each other and how we talk to each other." "And you can feel lonely even if you have a lot of people around you, because loneliness is about the quality of your connections."

Across age groups, people are spending less time with each other in person than two decades ago. The advisory reported that this was most pronounced in young people aged 15-24 who had 70% less social interaction with their friends. Murthy said that many young people now use social media as a replacement for in-person relationships, and this often meant lower-quality connections.

"We also know that for some kids, being online has been a way to find community at a time when many of them have not been able to," he said. "What we need to protect against, though, are the elements of technology, and social media in particular, that seek to maximize the amount of time that our children are spending online at the expense of their in-person interactions." Advisories are reserved for issues deemed significant public health challenges that "need the American people's immediate attention," according to a statement from Murthy, who has spoken openly of his own experiences with loneliness in the past. In response, the advisory outlines the framework for a new national strategy. It is based on six foundational pillars, which are:

- 1 Strengthening social infrastructure, which includes things like parks and libraries as well as public programs.
- 2 Enacting pro-connection public policies at every level of government, including things like accessible public transportation or paid family leave.
- 3 Mobilizing the health sector to address the medical needs that stem from loneliness.
- 4 Reforming digital environments to "critically evaluate our relationship with technology."
- 5 Deepening our knowledge through more robust research into the issue.
- 6 Cultivating a culture of connection.

Murthy said loneliness isn't a uniquely American problem, but instead a feature of modern life around the globe. Yet he noted that in the U.S. participation in community organizations — from faith groups to recreational leagues — has declined in recent decades. "So we're seeing more forces that take us away from one another and fewer of the forces that used to bring us together," he said. Social isolation linked to an increased risk of dementia, new study finds

The advisory comes on the back of numerous studies in recent years that warn of the mental and physical dangers of loneliness. A 2022 paper from Johns Hopkins University also found socially isolated older adults had a higher chance of developing dementia than their peers. "Social connections matter for our cognitive health, and the risk of social isolation is potentially modifiable for older adults," Thomas Cudjoe, an assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins and a senior author of the study, said in a statement. Murthy said loneliness can impact people in a variety of ways, so understanding the signs is the first step to addressing it. "Some people react to loneliness by withdrawing and getting quiet. Others react to loneliness by becoming irritable and angry, and they may lash out more," he said. "That's why sometimes it takes a little time to really reflect on what's happening in our life. And sometimes we need somebody else to tell us, 'Hey, you've been withdrawing more' to help us understand that we might actually be dealing with loneliness."

History and civics scores drop for U.S. eighth-graders on national test

May 3, 2023 · 12:01 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



Sequoia Carrillo



LA Johnson/NPR

Scores in U.S. history and civics for eighth-graders are down across the U.S., according to recent results from the assessment known as the "Nation's Report Card." This year's history scores are the lowest recorded since the assessment began in 1994, and the new data mark the first-ever drop in civics.

U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement that the results, from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, further underscore the "profound impact the pandemic had on student learning."

The results follow recent national declines in reading and math among students in grades four and eight.

NAEP assesses history and civics proficiency for eighth grade students in a nationally representative sampling given every four years. The results released today, from exams taken by students in 2022, mark the first to include the pandemic years.

The history test assesses students in different categories, including democracy, culture, technology and world role of the U.S.. This year, there were declines in all those subject areas.

The scores in U.S. history declined five points, from 263 in 2018 to 258 in 2022, continuing a downward trend that began in 2014. Only 14% of students reached at or above "proficient" mark in history, and in civics only 22% of students met the same benchmark.

Kerry Sautner, the chief learning officer at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, said she has been bracing for these results since the reading and math results came out in the fall: "When we saw the reading scores drop, it kind of felt like, 'well, that's a little prelude to what you're going to see in civics and history.' "

She notes that the teaching of civics and history are heavily based on reading comprehension, and if that foundation isn't solid, it's hard to build up. Unfortunately, Sautner added, with the declines now evident across multiple subjects, the question becomes: "How are we going to mitigate this when we have significant drops in everything?"



EDUCATION

How To Make A Civics Education Stick

Conservatives are likely to seize upon the latest results as further evidence for new approaches to traditional public schools, such as voucher programs or charter schools.

Secretary Cardona instead urged states to address the problems head-on, and alluded to the recent attacks on public schooling in the ongoing culture-war over education:

"Now is not the time for politicians to try to extract double-digit cuts to education funding," he said in a statement. "Nor is it the time to limit what students learn in U.S. history and civics classes."

PUBLIC HEALTH

Schools ended universal free lunch. Now meal debt is soaring

May 3, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET

By Kate Grumke

More Stories From NPR



LA Johnson/NPR



Scores in U.S. history and civics for eighth-graders are down across the U.S., according to recent results from the assessment known as the "Nation's Report Card." This year's history scores and civics scores are down from the assessment began in 1994, and the new data mark the first-ever drop in civics.

U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in a statement that the results, from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, further underscore the "profound impact the pandemic had on student learning."

The results follow recent national declines in reading and math among stu-



POLITICS

There's no such thing as a free lunch. Vermont schools say there should be for kids

in a na-
eased
the pan-

The history test assesses students in different categories, including democracy, culture, technology and world role of the U.S.. This year, there were declines in all those subject areas.

The scores in U.S. history declined five points, from 263 in 2018 to 258 in 2022, continuing a downward trend that began in 2014. Only 14% of students reached at or above "proficient" mark in history, and in civics only 22% of students met the same benchmark.

Kerry Sautner, the chief learning officer at the National Constitution Center in these results since the reading and we saw the reading scores drop, it kind what you're going to see in civics and

history are heavily based on reading t solid, it's hard to build up. Unfortu- now evident across multiple subjects, g to mitigate this when we have signifi-

s Education Stick

Conservatives are likely to seize upon the latest results as further evidence for new approaches to traditional public schools, such as voucher programs or char-

Schools ended universal free lunch. Now meal debt is soaring

Secretary Cardona instead urged states to address the problems head-on, and alluded to the recent attacks on public schooling in the ongoing culture-war over education:

"Now is not the time for politicians to try to extract double-digit cuts to education funding," he said in a statement. "Nor is it the time to limit what students learn in U.S. history and civics classes."

Meal debt is one strong indicator. Most schools won't deny a student a meal even if they can't pay, but will track their debt and try to collect from families throughout the school year. And this year school officials say meal debt is reaching levels they have never seen. A recent survey from the School Nutrition Association found school districts had more than \$19 million in unpaid meal debt,

300 arrested in global crackdown on dark web drug market

By MIKE CORDER and LINDSAY WHITEHURST today



FILE- This Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, file photo shows the sun bouncing off the Europol headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands. The European Union law enforcement agency Europol says police around the world have seized an online marketplace and arrested nearly 300 people allegedly involved in buying and selling drugs on the dark web. The operation, coordinated by Europol and targeting the “Monopoly Market,” is the latest major takedown of sales platforms for drugs and other illicit goods on the dark web. Europol said Tuesday, May 2, 2023. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong, File)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Authorities in the U.S. and Europe arrested nearly 300 people, confiscated over \$53 million, and seized a dark web marketplace as part of an international crackdown on drug trafficking that officials say was the largest operation of its kind.

The operation targeting the “Monopoly Market” is the latest major takedown of sales platforms for drugs and other illicit goods on the so-called dark web, a part of the internet hosted within an encrypted network and accessible only through specialized anonymity-providing tools.

Most of the arrests were made in the U.S., which is in the grips of an overdose crisis. Synthetic opioids, mostly fentanyl, kill more Americans every year than died in the Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined.

“Our message to criminals on the dark web is this: You can try to hide in the furthest reaches of the internet, but the Justice Department will find you and hold you accountable for your crimes,” said U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. The number of arrests and money seized was the highest for any international Justice Department-led drug trafficking operation, he said.

“A number of investigations to identify additional individuals behind dark web accounts are still ongoing,” Europol said. “As law enforcement authorities gained access to the vendors’ extensive buyer lists, thousands of customers across the globe are now at risk of prosecution as well.”

The agency, based in The Hague, built intelligence based on evidence from Germany, which it said seized the marketplace’s “criminal infrastructure” in December 2021.

Leading up to the operation announced Tuesday, German and U.S. authorities took down the “Hydra” dark web market in April last year.

The AI Revolution is Upon Us—And UC San Diego Researchers Are Using it to Inform Climate Action



From the left, Jorge Baño-Medina, Zhiqi Yang, Agniv Sengupta, Luca Delle Monache, Vesta Afzali Gorooh, Mohammadvaghef Ghazvinian and Weiming Hu, members of the Machine Learning Team at the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes, gather around a sculpture entitled "Atmospheric Rivers," created by artist Oscar Romo, outside Nierenberg Hall at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The team is using AI to improve the prediction of atmospheric rivers, which are expected to intensify as the climate continues to warm. (Photo by Sapna Parikh/UC San Diego)

Sara Bock - sbock@ucsd.edu | May 02, 2023

A rapid acceleration in the development and accessibility of artificial intelligence tools has taken the world by storm in recent months, spurring many experts to conclude that the AI revolution has arrived—and leaving us all wondering what the implications are for the future.

Generative AI models like ChatGPT are dominating much of the current discussion, and perhaps rightfully so: In a world where machines are capable of thinking like humans, where do we draw the line between reality and illusion? But with the availability of massive datasets and advances in high-performance computing that enabled this disruption of the status quo, also comes an opportunity to leverage the power of AI, in its various forms, to make a positive impact on society.

"At UC San Diego, we are proud to have been on at the forefront of AI research for over four decades, and we continue to believe that this technology can play a critical role in addressing global challenges across a variety of disciplines," said Tara Javidi, a Jacobs Family Scholar and professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Halicioğlu Data Science Institute.

"With a cadre of world-renowned researchers committed to public good, UC San Diego is uniquely positioned to leverage rapidly developing tools in AI to address pressing issues facing humanity." Tara Javidi

"One of our major initiatives in this area is the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship program, which is training a new generation of STEM postdoc scholars who are integrating AI with science and engineering research. From studying coral reef adaptation, to carbon capture, to enhancing lithium-ion battery technologies, our postdocs are putting AI in use to address many facets of climate change," said Javidi, who leads the Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship program. "With a cadre of world-renowned researchers committed to public good, UC San Diego is uniquely positioned to leverage rapidly developing tools in AI to address pressing issues facing humanity."



Computer scientist Rose Yu speaks to colleagues and attendees at the UC San Diego Scientific Machine Learning Symposium in March 2023. (Photo courtesy of Rose Yu).

"We want to have the results within a week, so that we can really accelerate decision-making for climate scientists," said Yu, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the Jacobs School of Engineering and the Halicioğlu Data Science Institute. **Ambitious? Yes.** But that's where artificial intelligence comes in. Thanks to a \$3.6 million grant awarded in 2021 by the Department of Energy, Yu and two UC San Diego colleagues, Yian Ma and Lawrence Saul, have teamed up with researchers at Columbia University and UC Irvine to develop new machine learning methods that can speed up these climate models, better predict the future, and improve our understanding of climate extremes.

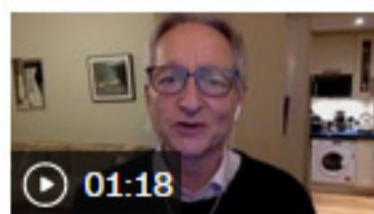
Why the 'Godfather of AI' decided he had to 'blow the whistle' on the technology

By Jennifer Korn

Updated 6:17 AM EDT, Wed May 3, 2023



'Godfather of AI' says AI could kill humans and there might be no way to stop it
01:18 - Source: [CNN](#)



'Godfather of AI' says AI could kill humans and there might be no way to stop it

New York CNN — **Geoffrey Hinton**, also known as the “Godfather of AI,” decided he had to “blow the whistle” on the technology he helped develop after worrying about how smart it was becoming, he told CNN on Tuesday.

“I’m just a scientist who suddenly realized that these things are getting smarter than us,” Hinton told CNN’s Jake Tapper in an interview on Tuesday. “I want to sort of blow the whistle and say we should worry seriously about how we stop these things getting control over us.”

Hinton’s pioneering work on neural networks shaped artificial intelligence systems powering many of today’s products. On Monday, he made headlines for leaving his role at Google, where he had worked for a decade, in order to speak openly about his growing concerns around the technology.



Follow

Jennifer Korn

@jennkornn

CNN Technology Reporter

Journalist ⓘ New York, NY [linkedin.com/in/jenniferkor...](#)

Joined February 2013

50 Following 18 Followers

AI 'godfather' Geoffrey Hinton warns of dangers as he quits Google

🕒 13 hours ago · 💬 Comments



Watch: AI 'godfather' Geoffrey Hinton tells the BBC of AI dangers as he quits Google

By **Zoe Kleinman & Chris Vallance**

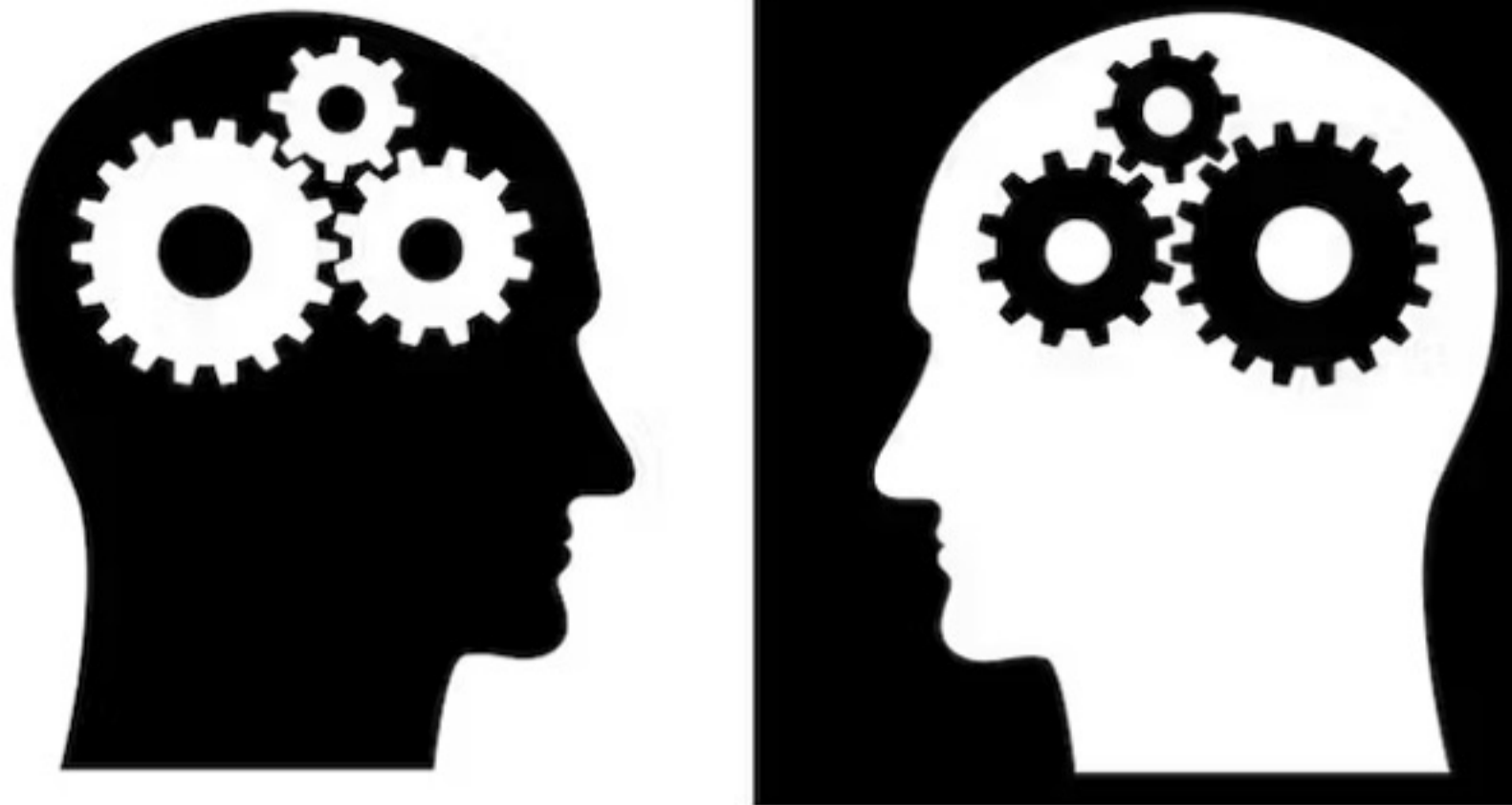
BBC News

A man widely seen as the godfather of artificial intelligence (AI) has quit his job, warning about the growing dangers from developments in the field. **Geoffrey Hinton, 75, announced his resignation from Google in a statement to the New York Times, saying he now regretted his work.** He told the BBC some of the dangers of AI chatbots were "quite scary". "Right now, they're not more intelligent than us, as far as I can tell. But I think they soon may be." **Dr Hinton also accepted that his age had played into his decision to leave the tech giant, telling the BBC: "I'm 75, so it's time to retire."**

Dr Hinton's pioneering research on neural networks and deep learning has paved the way for current AI systems like ChatGPT. In artificial intelligence, neural networks are systems that are similar to the human brain in the way they learn and process information. They enable AIs to learn from experience, as a person would. This is called deep learning.

The British-Canadian cognitive psychologist and computer scientist told the BBC that chatbots could soon overtake the level of information that a human brain holds. "Right now, what we're seeing is things like GPT-4 eclipses a person in the amount of general knowledge it has and it eclipses them by a long way. In terms of reasoning, it's not as good, but it does already do simple reasoning," he said. "And given the rate of progress, we expect things to get better quite fast. So we need to worry about that." In the New York Times article, Dr Hinton referred to "bad actors" who would try to use AI for "bad things". When asked by the BBC to elaborate on this, he replied: "This is just a kind of worst-case scenario, kind of a nightmare scenario. "You can imagine, for example, some bad actor like [Russian President Vladimir] Putin decided to give robots the ability to create their own sub-goals." The scientist warned that this eventually might "create sub-goals like 'I need to get more power'". He added: "I've come to the conclusion that the kind of intelligence we're developing is very different from the intelligence we have. "We're biological systems and these are digital systems. And the big difference is that with digital systems, you have many copies of the same set of weights, the same model of the world. "And all these copies can learn separately but share their knowledge instantly. So it's as if you had 10,000 people and whenever one person learnt something, everybody automatically knew it. And that's how these chatbots can know so much more than any one person."

Matt Clifford, the chairman of the UK's Advanced Research and Invention Agency, speaking in a personal capacity, told the BBC that Dr Hinton's announcement "underlines the rate at which AI capabilities are accelerating". "There's an enormous upside from this technology, but it's essential that the world invests heavily and urgently in AI safety and control," he said. Dr Hinton joins a growing number of experts who have expressed concerns about AI - both the speed at which it is developing and the direction in which it is going. "We need to take a step back" In March, an open letter - co-signed by dozens of people in the AI field, including the tech billionaire Elon Musk - called for a pause on all developments more advanced than the current version of AI chatbot ChatGPT so robust safety measures could be designed and implemented. Yoshua Bengio, another so-called godfather of AI, who along with Dr Hinton and Yann LeCun won the 2018 Turing Award for their work on deep learning, also signed the letter. Mr Bengio wrote that it was because of the "unexpected acceleration" in AI systems that "we need to take a step back". But Dr Hinton told the BBC that "in the shorter term" he thought AI would deliver many more benefits than risks, "so I don't think we should stop developing this stuff," he added. He also said that international competition would mean that a pause would be difficult. "Even if everybody in the US stopped developing it, China would just get a big lead," he said. Dr Hinton also said he was an expert on the science, not policy, and that it was the responsibility of government to ensure AI was developed "with a lot of thought into how to stop it going rogue". **Responsible approach'** Dr Hinton stressed that he did not want to criticise Google and that the tech giant had been "very responsible". "I actually want to say some good things about Google. And they're more credible if I don't work for Google." In a statement, Google's chief scientist Jeff Dean said: "We remain committed to a responsible approach to AI. We're continually learning to understand emerging risks while also innovating boldly." It is important to remember that AI chatbots are just one aspect of artificial intelligence, even if they are the most popular right now. AI is behind the algorithms that dictate what video-streaming platforms decide you should watch next. It can be used in recruitment to filter job applications, by insurers to calculate premiums, it can diagnose medical conditions (although human doctors still get the final say). What we are seeing now though is the rise of AGI - artificial general intelligence - which can be trained to do a number of things within a remit. So for example, ChatGPT can only offer text answers to a query, but the possibilities within that, as we are seeing, are endless. But the pace of AI acceleration has surprised even its creators. It has evolved dramatically since Dr Hinton built a pioneering image analysis neural network in 2012. Even Google boss Sundar Pichai said in a recent interview that even he did not fully understand everything that its AI chatbot, Bard, did. Make no mistake, we are on a speeding train right now, and the concern is that one day it will start building its own tracks.



Expecting black-and-white answers can make it hard to see the truth. bubaone via Getty Images

The thinking error that makes people susceptible to climate change denial

Published: May 2, 2023 8.13am EDT

▼ [Jeremy P. Shapiro](#), *Case Western Reserve University*

The allure of black-and-white thinking: Close examination of the arguments made by climate change deniers reveals the same mistake made over and over again. That mistake is the cognitive error known as black-and-white thinking, also called dichotomous and all-or-none thinking. As I explain in my book “Finding Goldilocks,” black-and-white thinking is a source of dysfunction in mental health, relationships – and politics. People are often susceptible to it because in many areas of life, dichotomous thinking does something helpful: It simplifies the world. Binaries are easy to handle because there are only two possibilities to consider. When people face a spectrum of possibilities and nuance, they have to exert more mental effort. But when that spectrum is polarized into pairs of opposites, choices are clear and dramatic. This mental labor-saving device is practical in many everyday situations, but it is a poor tool for understanding complicated realities – and the climate is complicated. Sometimes, people divide the spectrum in asymmetric ways, with one side much larger than the other. For example, perfectionists often categorize their work as either perfect or unsatisfactory, so even good and very good outcomes are lumped together with poor ones in the unsatisfactory category. In dichotomous thinking like this, a single exception can tip a person’s view to one side. It’s like a pass/fail grading system in which 100% earns a pass and everything else gets an F. With a grading system like this, it’s not surprising that opponents of climate action have found ways to reject global warming research, despite the overwhelming evidence.

Here’s how they do it: **The all-or-nothing problem:** Climate change deniers simplify the spectrum of possible scientific consensus into two categories: 100% agreement or no consensus at all. If it’s not one, it’s the other. A 2021 review of thousands of climate science papers and conference proceedings concluded that over 99% of studies have found that burning fossil fuels warms the planet. That’s not good enough for some skeptics. If they find one contrarian scientist somewhere, they categorize the idea of human-caused global warming as controversial and conclude that there is no basis for action. Powerful economic interests are at work here: The fossil fuel industry has funded disinformation campaigns for years to create this kind of doubt about climate change, despite knowing that their products cause it and the consequences. Members of Congress have used that disinformation to block or weaken federal policies that could slow climate change. **Expecting a straight line in a variable world:** In another example of black-and-white thinking, deniers argue that if global temperatures are not increasing at a perfectly consistent rate, there is no such thing as global warming. However, complex variables never change in a uniform way; they wiggle up and down in the short term even when exhibiting long-term trends. Most business data, such as revenues, profits and stock prices, do this too, with short-term fluctuations contained in long-term trends.

‘The climate has always been changing’ – but not like this

As increases in global temperatures have become obvious, some climate change skeptics have switched from denying them to reframing them. Their oft-repeated line, “The climate has always been changing,” typically delivered with an air of patient wisdom, is based on a striking lack of knowledge about the evidence from climate research. Their reasoning is based on an invalid binary: Either the climate is changing or it’s not, and since it’s always been changing, there is nothing new here and no cause for concern. However, the current warming is on par with nothing humans have ever seen, and intense warming events in the distant past were planetwide disasters that caused massive extinctions – something we do not want to repeat.

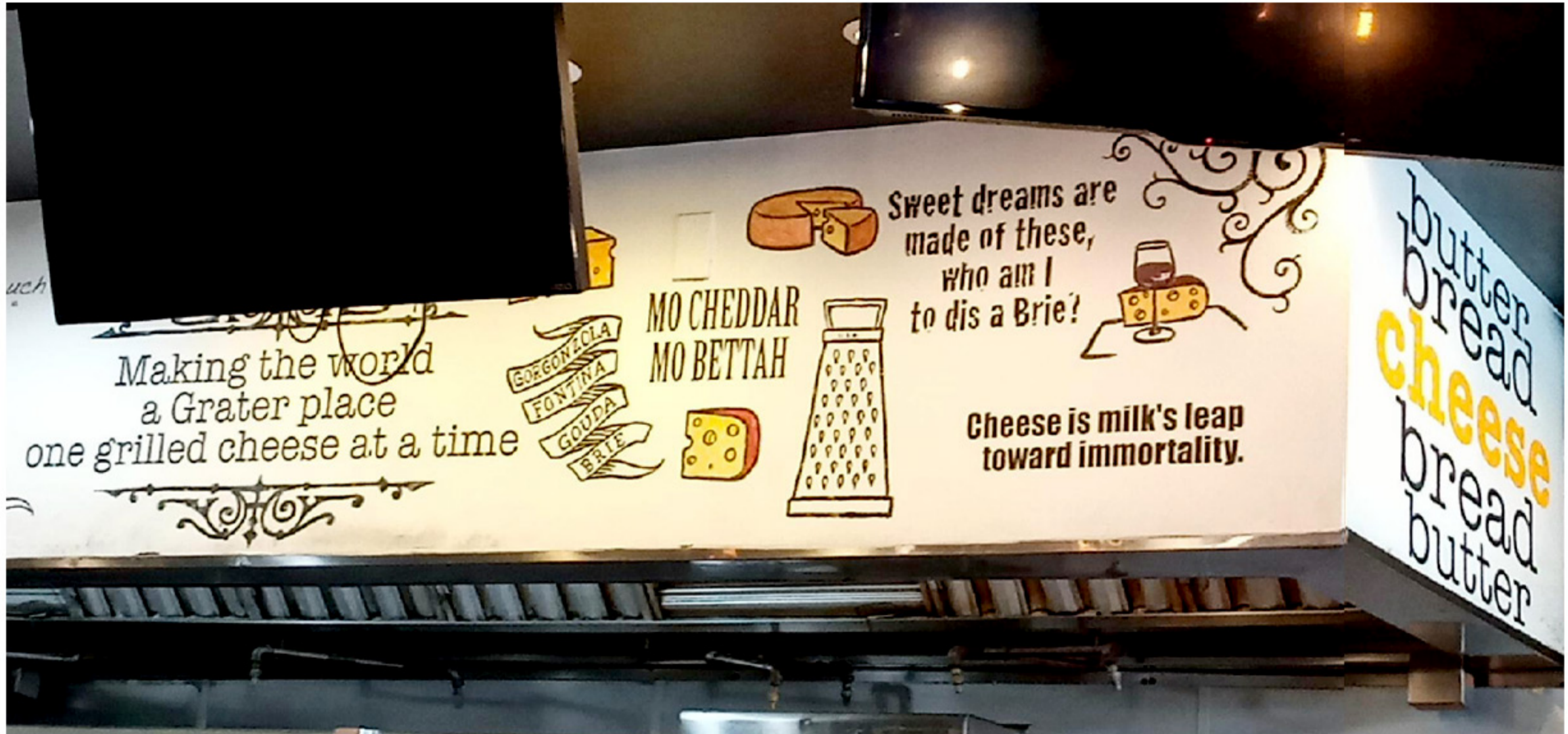
As humanity faces the challenge of global warming, we need to use all our cognitive resources. Recognizing the thinking error at the root of climate change denial could disarm objections to climate research and make science the basis of our efforts to preserve a hospitable environment for our future.

Grater Grilled Cheese

Fast-casual spot for chef-inspired grilled cheese sandwiches served in lively environs.

Located in: Friars Mission Center

5618 Mission Center Rd #1002, San Diego, CA 92108





Just like a bird is bound to the sky,
the fish is bound to the sea.
Just like a tree is bound to the earth,
we all struggle ... to be free.

Can't be free 'til we're all free.

Guess I'll be me 'til then.

To spark a life is no small thing,
just learnin' to play again.

And again ... and again, I say enjoy!

Enjoy this day, my friend.

Walk on the earth,

swim in the sea,

soar with the bird on the w i i i i n g.

Soar with the bird on the wing.

<https://www.appleeydesigns.com/retro30/walking-songs/index.html>

ParAgon Deli Cafe
2724 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego, CA







Italian cameo bracelet representing the days of the week, corresponding to the planets as Roman gods: Diana as the Moon for Monday, Mars for Tuesday, Mercury for Wednesday, Jupiter for Thursday, Venus for Friday, Saturn for Saturday, and Apollo as the Sun for Sunday. Middle 19th century, Walters Art Museum

In many languages, **the names given to the seven days of the week** are derived from the names of the classical planets in Hellenistic astronomy, which were in turn named after contemporary deities, a system introduced by the Sumerians and later adopted by the Babylonians from whom the Roman Empire adopted the system during Late Antiquity. In some other languages, the days are named after corresponding deities of the regional culture, beginning either with Sunday or with Monday. The seven-day week was adopted in early Christianity from the Hebrew calendar, who copied it from the Babylonians and gradually replaced the Roman nundinal cycle. Sunday remained the first day of the week, being considered the day of the sun god Sol Invictus and the Lord's Day, while the Jewish sabbath remained the seventh. **Emperor Constantine adopted the seven-day week for official use in 321 CE**, making the Day of the Sun (dies Solis) a legal holiday. In the international standard ISO 8601, Monday is treated as the first day of the week.

The Germanic peoples adapted the system introduced by the Romans by substituting the Germanic deities for the Roman ones (with the exception of Saturday) in a process known as *interpretatio germanica*. The date of the introduction of this system is not known exactly, but it must have happened later than CE 200 but before the introduction of Christianity during the 6th to 7th centuries, i.e., during the final phase or soon after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. This period is later than the Common Germanic stage, but still during the phase of undifferentiated West Germanic. The names of the days of the week in North Germanic languages were not calqued from Latin directly, but taken from the West Germanic names.

Interpretatio germanica is the practice by the Germanic peoples of identifying Roman gods with the names of Germanic deities. According to Rudolf Simek, this occurred around the 1st century AD, when both cultures came into closer contact.



- Sunday: Old English Sunnandæg (pronounced [ˈsunnandæj]), meaning "sun's day". This is a translation of the Latin phrase diēs Sōlis. English, like most of the Germanic languages, preserves the day's association with the sun. Many other European languages, including all of the Romance languages, have changed its name to the equivalent of "the Lord's day" (based on Ecclesiastical Latin dies Dominica). In both West Germanic and North Germanic mythology, the Sun is personified as Sunna/Sól.

- Monday: Old English Mōnandæg (pronounced [ˈmoːnandæj]), meaning "Moon's day". This is equivalent to the Latin name diēs Lūnae. In North Germanic mythology, the Moon is personified as Máni.
- Tuesday: Old English Tīwesdæg (pronounced [ˈtiːwezdæj]), meaning "Tiw's day". Tiw (Norse Týr) was a one-handed god associated with single combat and pledges in Norse mythology and also attested prominently in wider Germanic paganism. The name of the day is also related to the Latin name diēs Mārtis, "Day of Mars" (the Roman god of war).
- Wednesday: Old English Wōdnesdæg (pronounced [ˈwoːdnezdæj]) meaning the day of **the Germanic god Woden (known as Óðinn [Oden] among the North Germanic peoples)**, and **a prominent god of the Anglo-Saxons (and other Germanic peoples) in England until about the seventh century**. This corresponds to the Latin counterpart diēs Mercuriī, "Day of Mercury", as both are deities of magic and knowledge. The German Mittwoch, the Low German Middeweeke, the miðviku- in Icelandic miðvikudagur and the Finnish keskiviikko all mean "mid-week".
- Thursday: Old English Þūnresdæg (pronounced [ˈθuːnrezdæj]), meaning 'Þunor's day'. Þunor means thunder or its personification, the Norse god known in Modern English as Thor. Similarly Dutch donderdag, German Donnerstag ('thunder's day'), Finnish torstai, and Scandinavian torsdag ('Thor's day'). "Thor's day" corresponds to Latin diēs Iovis, "day of Jupiter" (the Roman god of thunder).
- Friday: Old English Frīgedæg (pronounced [ˈfriːjedæj]), meaning the day of the Anglo-Saxon goddess Frīge. The Norse name for the planet Venus was Friggjarstjarna, 'Frigg's star'. It is based on the Latin diēs Veneris, "Day of Venus".
- Saturday: named after the Roman god Saturn associated with the Titan Cronus, father of Zeus and many Olympians. Its original Anglo-Saxon rendering was Sæturnesdæg (pronounced [ˈsæturnezdæj]). In Latin, it was diēs Sāturnī, "Day of Saturn". The Nordic laugardagur, leygardagur, laurdag, etc. deviate significantly as they have no reference to either the Norse or the Roman pantheon; they derive from Old Nordic laugardagr, literally "washing-day". The German Sonnabend (mainly used in northern and eastern Germany) and the Low German Sünnavend mean "Sunday Eve"; the German word Samstag derives from the name for Shabbat.

What is an ESG investor?

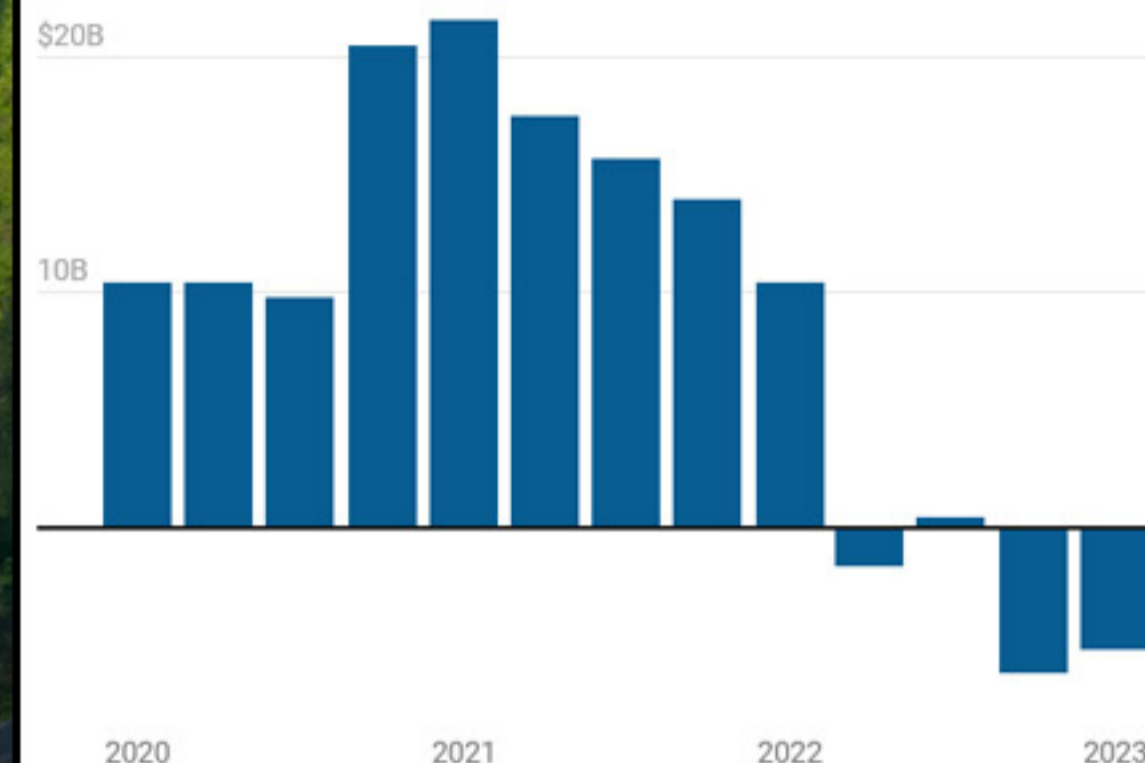
ESG Investing (also known as “socially responsible investing,” “impact investing,” and “sustainable investing”) refers to investing which prioritizes optimal environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors or outcomes.

Fed rate hikes, recession fears and political backlash leave ESG investors at a crossroads

Sehoon Kim, University of Florida

Sustainable fund flows in the US have declined

The amount of money flowing into sustainability investment funds slowed starting in 2021.



The Federal Reserve raised interest rates again on May 3, 2023, by a quarter point, making it the Fed’s 10th rate hike since March 2022 in an ongoing fight to tame inflation. These rate hikes have been reverberating through the economy, raising prospects of a recession amid heightened concerns about the fragile state of banks. **The rate hikes are also rattling sustainability-focused investing, better known as ESG investing.** The trend toward ESG investing, which puts pressure on companies to meet environmental, social and governance benchmarks, has almost redefined asset management over the past decade. ESG funds today are a multitrillion-dollar market. However, the high uncertainty around interest rates today, along with the prospects of a looming recession and a political backlash, has put the future of ESG investors at a crossroads. I specialize in sustainable finance, and my recent work has documented the impact that tough economic times can have on ESG investing demand. Investments into U.S. sustainable mutual funds have visibly slowed since 2022, suffering their worst net flows in five years. Here are how three critical factors can affect investors’ zeal for socially conscious investing going forward.

Navigating the crossroads: As companies hold their 2023 annual meetings, the discussions among corporate officials, investors and stakeholders will serve as an important barometer for the current state and future of ESG investing. Due to high interest rate uncertainty, prospects of a recession and political upheaval, ESG is under pressure. Perceived in recent years as a paradigm shift in how market mechanisms can address harms to society, stakeholders are now scrutinizing ESG investing with a critical lens regarding how strongly it can persist and how much impact it can have.



Sehoon Kim
Assistant Professor of Finance,
University of Florida

TELEVISION

The best picket signs of the Hollywood writers' strike

May 4, 2023 · 3:35 PM ET

By Mandalit del Barco, Becky Sullivan



Nazanin Nour
@NazaninNour · Follow



One thing this writer's strike is going to give us is elite sign content.



5:16 PM · May 3, 2023



580 Reply Copy link to Tweet



Jenny Yang is in LA Sun May 21st 4pm Self Help Me
@jennyyangtv · Follow

"LET'S REPLACE STUDIO EXEC'S WITH A.I." 🙌

@chescaleigh
#WritersStrike #WritersGuildofAmerica



1:19 PM · May 3, 2023



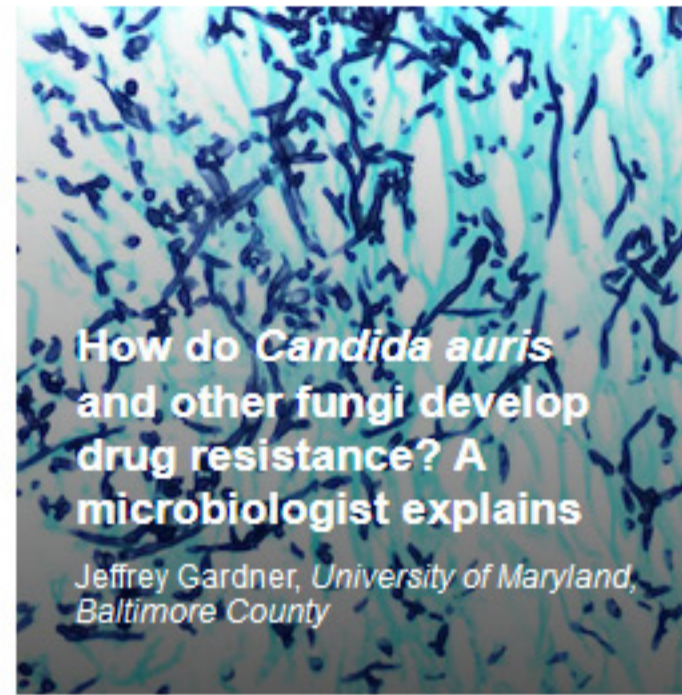
6.9K Reply Copy link to Tweet



The famous first image of a black hole just got two times sharper. A research team used **artificial intelligence** to dramatically improve upon its first image from 2019, which now shows the black hole at the center of the M87 galaxy as darker and bigger than the first image depicted. Since then, AI has spread into every field of astronomy. As the technology has become more powerful, AI algorithms have begun helping astronomers tame massive data sets and discover new knowledge about the universe.

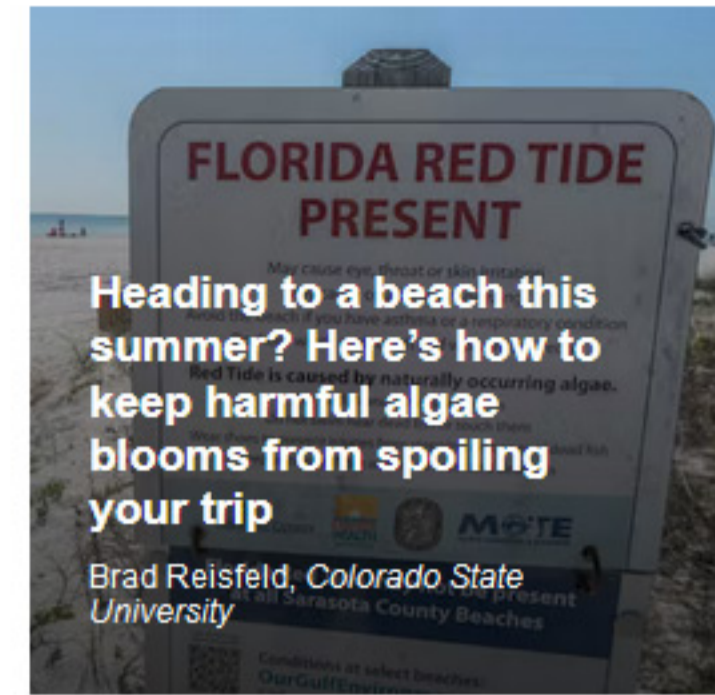
AI is helping astronomers make new discoveries and learn about the universe faster than ever before

Chris Impey, *University of Arizona*



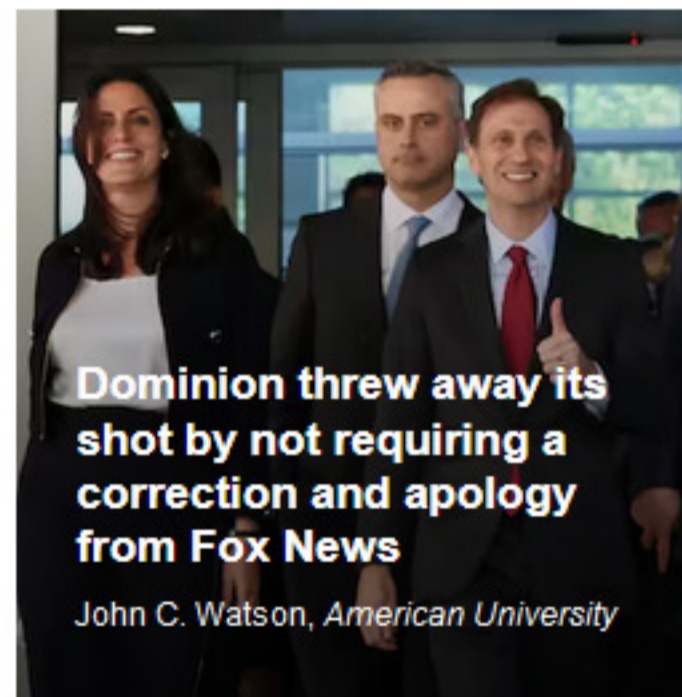
How do *Candida auris* and other fungi develop drug resistance? A microbiologist explains

Jeffrey Gardner, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*



Heading to a beach this summer? Here's how to keep harmful algae blooms from spoiling your trip

Brad Reisfeld, *Colorado State University*



Dominion threw away its shot by not requiring a correction and apology from Fox News

John C. Watson, *American University*




What the Iraq War can teach the US about avoiding a quagmire in Ukraine – 3 key lessons

Patrick James, *USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*



White power movements in US history have often relied on veterans – and not on lone wolves

Kathleen Belew, *Northwestern University*



Math teachers hold a bias against girls when the teachers think gender equality has been achieved

Yasemin Copur-Gencturk, *University of Southern California*; Ian Thacker, *The University of Texas at San Antonio*, and Joseph Cimpian, *New York University*



Kathleen Belew at Imagine Solutions 2023

Watch on  YouTube

For decades, the **white power movement** has gained steady momentum in the U.S. Kathleen Belew is an expert on the history of the white power movement and its current impact on American society and politics. Her book *“Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America”* examines how the aftermath of the Vietnam War led to the birth of the white power movement. In March 2023, Belew spoke at the Imagine Solutions Conference in Naples, Florida, about how the narrative of the “lone wolf” actor distracts from the broader threat of the white power movement in America.



A member of the Ku Klux Klan shouts at counterprotesters during a July 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Va., calling for the protection of Southern Confederate monuments. Andrew

White power movements in US history have often relied on veterans – and not on lone wolves

Published: April 25, 2023 8:27am EDT

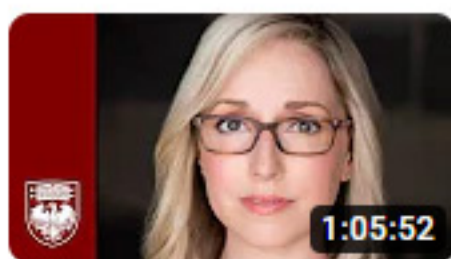
▼ [Kathleen Belew](#), stephanie.kulke@northwestern.edu, Northwestern University



Kathleen Belew at Imagine Solutions 2023

The Conversation
13.1K subscribers

[Subscribe](#)



Virtual Harper Lecture: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America, featurin...

The University of Chicago
23K views • 2 years ago

1:05:52

Kathleen Belew, Associate Professor of History, Northwestern University, is a historian, author, and teacher. She specializes in the history of the present. She spent ten years researching and writing her first book, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America* (Harvard, 2018, paperback 2019). In it, she explores how white power activists created a social movement through a common story about betrayal by the government, war, and its weapons, uniforms, and technologies. By uniting Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazi, skinhead, and other groups, the movement mobilized and carried out escalating acts of violence that reached a crescendo in the 1995 bombing of Oklahoma City. This movement was never adequately confronted, and remains a threat to American democracy. Her next book, *Home at the End of the World*, illuminates our era of apocalypse through a history focused on her native Colorado where, in the 1990s, high-profile kidnappings and murders, right-wing religious ideology, and a mass shooting exposed rents in America’s social fabric, and dramatically changed our relationship with place, violence, and politics (Random House). >

<https://theconversation.com/profiles/kathleen-belew-1418025>

White power movements in US history have often relied on veterans – and not on lone wolves | April 25, 2023 > <https://theconversation.com/white-power-movements-in-us-history-have-often-relied-on-veterans-and-not-on-lone-wolves-200417>

For decades, the white power movement has gained steady momentum in the U.S. Kathleen Belew is an expert on the history of the white power movement and its current impact on American society and politics. Her book “Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America” examines how the aftermath of the Vietnam War led to the birth of the white power movement. In March 2023, Belew spoke at the Imagine Solutions Conference in Naples, Florida, about how the narrative of the “lone wolf” actor distracts from the broader threat of the white power movement in America. The Conversation asked Belew about her work.

Kathleen Belew at Imagine Solutions 2023 | Apr 27, 2023 > <https://youtu.be/RzicRdX0tYg>

Virtual Harper Lecture: **The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America, featuring Kathleen Belew** | Mar 8, 2021 > <https://youtu.be/xTB-1HQdifY>

Bring the War Home--The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America
<https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674286078>

“Belew’s book helps explain how we got to today’s alt right.”—Terry Gross, Fresh Air

The white power movement in America wants a revolution. Its soldiers are not lone wolves but highly organized cadres motivated by a coherent and deeply troubling worldview made up of white supremacy, virulent anticommunism, and apocalyptic faith. In *Bring the War Home*, Kathleen Belew gives us the history of a movement that consolidated in the 1970s and 1980s around a potent sense of betrayal in the

<https://youtu.be/RzicRdX0tYg>



3:40 > . . . in other nations we've seen events like Truth and Reconciliation commissions where people have come together to share their stories and talk about what happened, things like big National Museum building projects that involve a broad public conversation school curricula projects that involve broad public consensus we know even today after the founding of the national African-American Museum on the Washington mall after the construction of the lynching Memorial in Montgomery Alabama we know that these are not settled issues and I don't have to tell you that here in Florida where this school curriculum question has come back into the news once again so in 2 were any examples of communities trying to do this **and this took me to a Grassroots**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Greensboro North Carolina some of you might remember this uh in 1979 a caravan of klansmen and neo-nazis had opened fire on a leftist anti-klan March in Greensboro killing five people The Truth and Reconciliation Commission about this had no subpoena power it had no punitive power it had no National or state government support it did not even have the support of the city council it couldn't really do anything it's not empowered by anything except the community itself but people showed up because they wanted to tell their stories and because the history mattered to them people from both sides showed up < 5:12 > and this is where my first book came from because the people from the Klan and Nazi groups who came to tell their stories kept saying something like this well I killed Communists in the Vietnam War so why wouldn't I kill them here in North Carolina now this is the kind of claim that as a historian you cannot stop thinking about because it mixes up so many things this collapses Battlefield and home front it mixes up wartime and peacetime it lumps together a whole bunch of different kinds of others into one killable group identified as communists and it attempts to paint the gunman who again are card carrying members of Neo-Nazi and Klan groups in this example it attempts to paint them as morally equivalent to soldiers fighting in a war this felt all wrong to me as a historian too because 1979 seemed very late for an act of Klan violence of this nature I had been taught this was all about the Civil Rights Movement very late for that and it was also strange because it's Greensboro the city of the first Wool Sit-in this is not where this was supposed to be happening so as it turned out what happened is that this took me to a voluminous archive that no one had put together before three major university collections had just opened with ephemera from these groups and I was also able to get thousands of pages of previously classified government documents trial cases and a whole bunch of other kinds of documents and together this revealed a surprise what people had dismissed as a scattered mess of actors and groups turned out to be a coordinated social movement the white power movement it had the so the Hallmarks of any social movement of this era meaning it had leadership ideology membership criteria uniforms slogans regular meetings Publications um and it was also a revolutionary movement and by that I mean that it was not interested simply in what we might think of as vigilante violence and I'm happy to talk to you after this session about the distinction between these two but it was interested in an outright um attack on American democracy and the government and its institutions it was also populated by activists people prepared to take action often violently and it was in every way but race an incredibly diverse social movement men women and children people in every region of the country it had felons and religious leaders it had people of different class backgrounds people in suburbs cities and rural areas it had high school dropouts and people with Advanced degrees it had civilians veterans and active duty military personnel and it also brought together several groups that before the 1970s feuding with one another including Klan Neo-Nazi radical tax resistor Christian identity white separatists and later on skinhead and militia activists these groups came together because they shared an explicit and declared war of wage goal of Waging War on American democracy now analysts have spent a lot of time trying to figure out how big each of these groups is thinking about things like which slogan goes with which ideology how many skinheads and how many klansmen which tattoo should I expect in my community if there is a problem it turns out this is not how this worked at all on the ground because people had overlapping membership people moved between groups based not only on um sort of their beliefs but also on much more mundane things like changing jobs or moving or falling in love with somebody in a different part of the movement and the movement itself had groups with multiple ideologies operating at one time so what brought all these people together white power activists United in the late 1970s they told each other and themselves about the Vietnam War this story operationalized their violence it focused their anger and sense of betrayal on the federal government many of them traded robes and hoods for camouflage fatigues in this period and adopted the weapons and tactics of the Vietnam War they were motivated too by an immediate sense of emergency because they thought of a number of social issues that we might think of as sort of capital c conservative such as opposing immigration opposing abortion opposing racial integration opposing interracial marriage they espoused those beliefs because they thought that they were a threat to the white birth rate and that this would lead eventually to the end of the white race completely in other words they took what most people were thinking about as a soft demographic change when a county or a city or the nation would no longer be majority white they saw this as an apocalyptic threat to their existence for many people in this movement the sense of Apocalypse was not only social but based in faith Christian identity which was a widely held political theology among these activists claimed that the white race was the true lost tribe of Israel and that everyone else in the world was either descended from Beasts or from Satan they believed that there was a coming apocalyptic end of days but unlike evangelicals they did not believe in the Rapture when the faithful would be peacefully transported to Heaven before the violence of the end times they believed that their goal and their holy purpose was to survive the coming tribulations and to clear the world of all enemies before Christ could return so to recall all enemies means all non-white people and race Traders so what this does is transmute their cause into a holy war so white power bound together the Greensboro . < 11:27



5:12 / 28:02

Kathleen Belew at Imagine Solutions 2023

<https://youtu.be/RzicRdX0tYg>



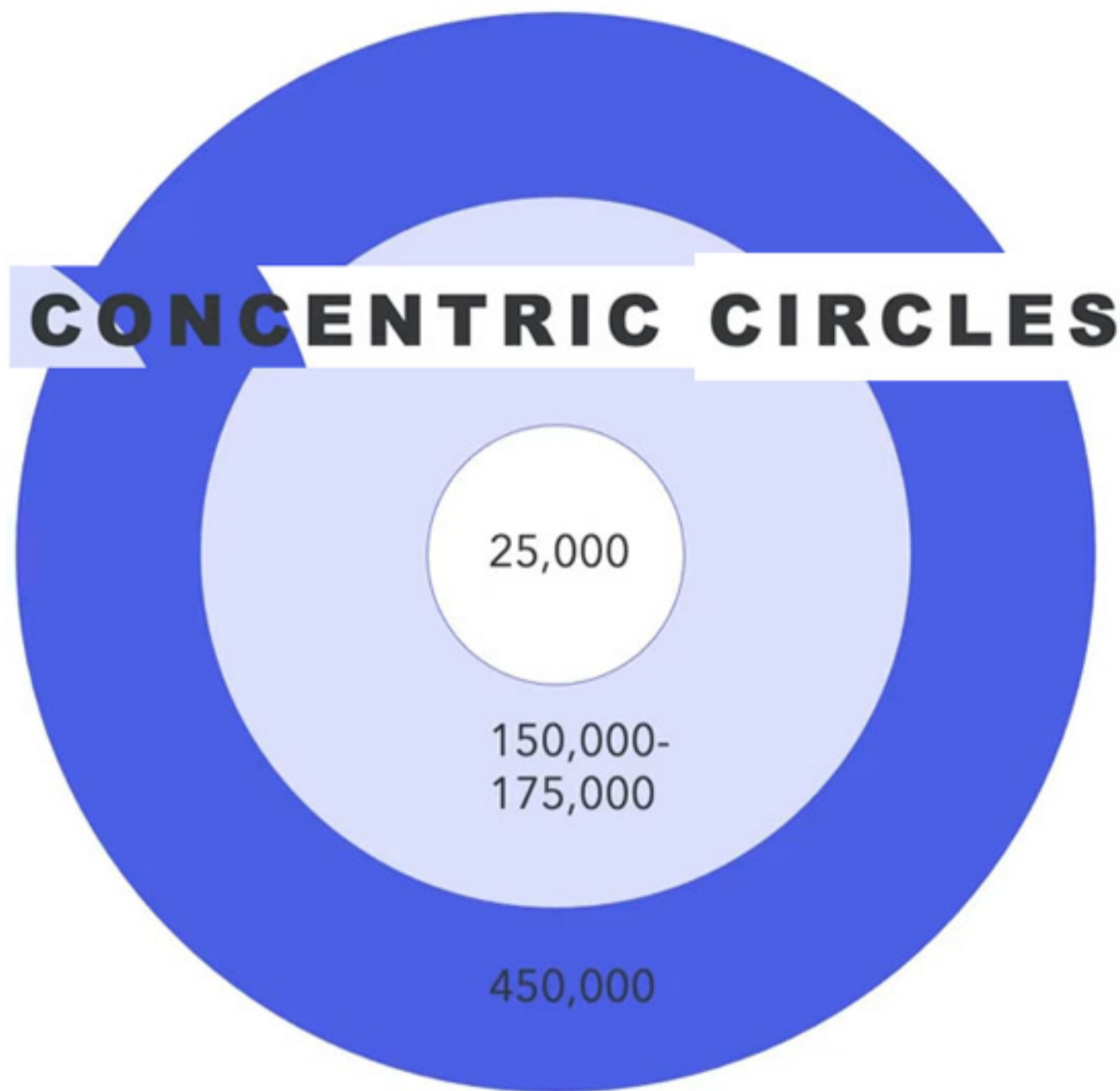
CAPTIVE / MEMBERS OF THE GREENSBORO 14 HONOR AMERICA'S VIETNAM HEROES

SHOOT-OUT! 5 Dead Racist 14 KKK & NS arrested!

11:22
 so white power bound together the
 11:25
 Greensboro gunman this is the gunman
 11:28
 um fundraising in front of the local
 11:29
 Vietnam War Memorial
 11:31
 and also gave them the story that made
 11:34
 the killing of leftist activists make
 11:36
 sense in court and in the Press
 11:39
 and this worked very well they were
 11:41
 acquitted on state and federal charges
 11:44
 even though there are multiple news
 11:46
 cameras that captured the full shooting
 11:48
 on film and a later Civil Trial found
 11:51
 them to be only partially liable in the
 11:55
 city of Greensboro ended up paying their
 11:57
 settlement
 11:59
 the movement saw all of this as a green
 12:02
 light for further action in 1983 they
 12:05
 gathered as they did every summer at the
 12:07
 Aryan Nations World Congress which was
 12:09
 the coming together of leadership and
 12:12
 the rank and file of the white power
 12:13
 movement in Hayden Lake Idaho
 12:16
 the movement changed everything in 1983
 12:20
 because this is the meeting where they
 12:22
 had a secret uh convocation of
 12:27
 leadership and they declared war on the
 12:29
 federal government from 83 forward this
 12:32
 movement is interested in overthrowing
 12:34
 the United States this is part of the

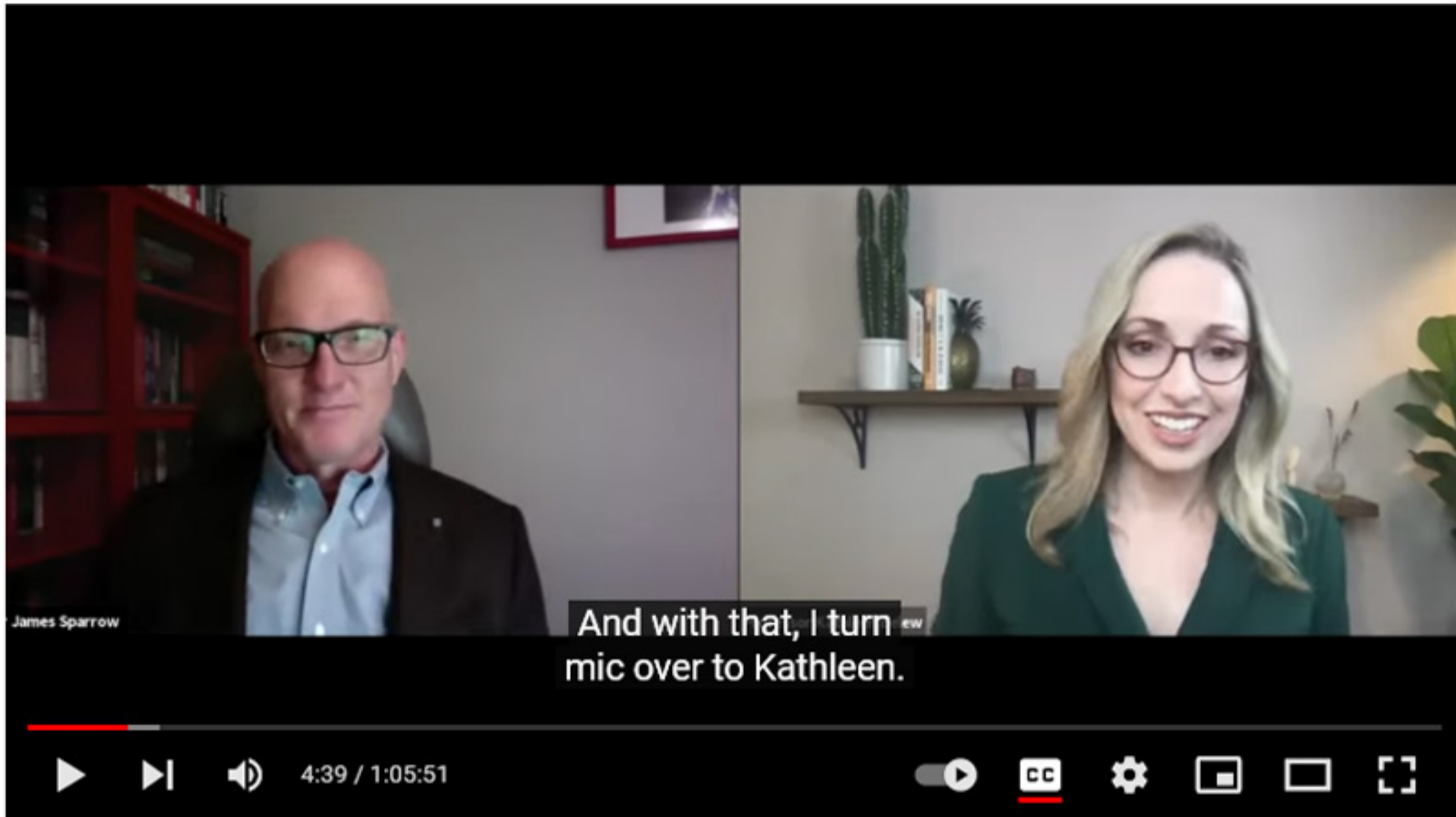
Fight enemy ha Poland

Kathleen Belew at Imagine Solutions 2023



15:02
now leaderless resistance allowed the
15:05
movement to organize around differential
15:07
levels of involvement so we can consider
15:10
this **in concentric circles this is the**
15:13
1980s not today but we would expect
15:16
something similar today although I would
15:18
bet that these numbers are quite a bit
15:19
larger
15:20
experts who are trying to tally the
15:22
movement in the 80s come up with about
15:25
25,000 people in what they call the
15:28
hardcore Center
15:29
these are people who live and breathe
15:32
the white power movement they marry
15:34
other activists they go to White Power
15:35
churches they homeschool their kids with
15:37
white power materials they pick each
15:39
other up from the airport they stay with
15:41
each other when they drive across the
15:42
country every part of their life becomes
15:44
contained within this circle
15:47
outside of that we have an additional

15:47 > outside of that we have an ad-
ditional 150 to 175 000 people these
are people who contribute money and
resources who might turn out for a
major action whether it's an under-
ground event or a March down Main
Street and people who subscribe to
Publications and join lists
16:06 > outside of that are another 450
000 people these are people who don't
contribute money but do read the
newspaper regularly who don't go in
uniform to an event but might go and
sort of sit across the street and
16:20 support and Shout right so what
we have is a model where levels of
involvement
16:26
are structured such that extremist
views
16:29
can be pushed from that hardcore
Center
16:31
out into our political mainstream and
16:34
people who can be radicalized are
pulled
16:37
from the outside in towards that
16:39
hardcore Center
16:40
we might also want to think about
what
16:42
to do about the larger circle around
16:44
this 450 000 which has hardly been
16:47
studied at all but this is where the
16:50
friction has happened in our politics
16:52



Virtual Harper Lecture: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America, featuring Kathleen Belew



The University of Chicago
232K subscribers

Subscribe

675



Share

Save



23,787 views Mar 8, 2021 #UChicago

Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America

The white power movement in America wants a revolution. Its soldiers are not lone wolves but highly organized cadres motivated by a coherent and deeply troubling worldview made up of white supremacy and apocalyptic faith. In this talk, Kathleen Belew presents the history of a movement that consolidated in the 1970s and 1980s around a potent sense of betrayal in the Vietnam War; made tragic headlines in Waco, Ruby Ridge, and Oklahoma City; and was resurgent under President Trump.

Read more here: <https://news.uchicago.edu/story/histo...>

Transcript

Search in video

4:26 appearing in the columns of the New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN.com, The Daily Beast, and Dissent.

4:35 And with that, I turn mic over to Kathleen. KATHLEEN BELEW: Thank you so much, Jim,

4:41 for that wonderful introduction, and thank you, Andrea, for the invitation to be here with you today. And thank you to this crowd of people

4:48 who has joined us for spending a Wednesday evening thinking about a very difficult history in some ways.

4:57 I'm going to share my screen so that you can see some images

English (United States)

All

From The University of Chicago

History



A Field Guide to White Supremacy - A discussion wit...

Center for the Study of Race, Politic...
3.2K views • 1 year ago



White Supremacy in the West: Immigration and Racial Justic...

The Huntington
3.3K views • 1 year ago



Jan. 6 Hearing Tied Trump to "America's Biggest Threat:" th...

Amanpour and Company

Hate-fueled violence is growing even as Proud Boys are convicted for extremism

Updated May 5, 2023 · 9:08 AM ET ⓘ

Heard on Morning Edition

By Destinee Adams



Proud Boys chairman Enrique Tarrío at a 2019 rally in Portland, Ore.

What impact will the convictions of four Proud Boys members have on homegrown far-right extremism? Former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío and three other members of the far-right extremist group could face decades in prison for plotting the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection on the U.S. Capitol. Andy Campbell, senior editor at the Huffington Post, said on Up First that "it's a very rare and serious charge that the government usually saves for terrorists on American soil." "Though their leaders sit behind bars, the Proud Boys don't need a green light from the national organization to continue on their parade of violence," Campbell told NPR's A Martinez. "Their stated goal is to physically fight for the GOP's grievances out in the street, and they've continued to do so week after week since January 6." Cynthia Miller-Idris, head of the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab at American University, agrees: "They have helped to normalize the idea of political violence," Miller-Idris said. "And we're seeing support for political violence, of course, rise in the mainstream as well." She spoke with NPR's Leila Fadel on Morning Edition.

Leila Fadel: *So what impact has this trial had on the Proud Boys?*

Cynthia Miller-Idris: It really hasn't had as much of an impact as you'd like to think. I mean, they have continued. They've really evolved. Their members are all across the country. And they're just now moving into other types of protests. So they've been protesting at children's reading, drag reading, and libraries, and protesting anti-racist education, and just kind of opportunistically jumping on other types of protests that are happening across the country.

Leila Fadel: *And when you say protesting, often this can be violent.*

Cynthia Miller-Idris: Exactly. It's either violent or it carries the whiff of violence. And that's part of the impact they've had, is they have helped to normalize the idea of political violence. And we're seeing support for political violence, of course, rise in the mainstream as well.

Leila Fadel: *So given what you've just described, these convictions, will they act as a warning, as a deterrent, not just for the Proud Boys, but other violent extremist, white nationalist, so-called patriotic militias across this country?*

Cynthia Miller-Idris: The vast majority of violence, including virtually every terrorist attack in the last 25 years, coming from the far right, has not been from anyone affiliated with a group. So most of what we see in the violent actions are individuals who are radicalized online into toxic cultures. And this doesn't really affect that at all. And so I think we should be glad that we got the convictions, but we also shouldn't put too much hope in it. The genie is kind of out of the bottle right now, and we need a much deeper and earlier prevention effort if we're going to intervene in ways that prevent violence.

Leila Fadel: *What would a deeper and earlier prevention system look like?*

Cynthia Miller-Idris: I mean, most other countries invest, you know, up to 95% of their counter extremism resources in what we would call primary prevention. So digital media literacy, civic education, helping people recognize and reject propaganda and not be persuaded by it. We invest almost no resources in that and instead kind of focus on this security and carceral approach.

On the state of violent extremism: On every measure we have available, domestic violent extremism has been increasing both on the hate fueled violence side. We have record breaking anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Asian, American and Pacific Islander hate, anti LGBTQ hate. We have record growth in the support for political violence as well. So it's a crisis and we need to see serious investment in the prevention model, not just in the security one.

Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss

20.2K Tweets



Follow

Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss

@milleridriss

Founding dir @peril_au 🏠 testing ideas to prevent violence. Columnist @msnbc Words lots of places. Rep @FarleyChase, @KatieStileman; tweets mine, ≠ endorsement

📍 on a 🚲 or a caffeine run 🔗 cynthiamilleridriss.com

📅 Joined January 2015

1,104 Following 16.7K Followers

🔄 Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss Retweeted



CRWS @UCBerkeleyCRWS · 3h

listen to our 🔥 faculty affiliate @milleridriss on the Proud Boy convictions

Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss @milleridriss · 14h

Coffee in hand, chatting with @LeilaFadel this morning about prevention of violent extremism on @NPR - have a listen here

What impact, if any, will Proud Boys convictions have on homegrown extremism? npr.org/2023/05/05/117...

🗨️ 1 🔄 1 ❤️ 6 📊 709 📌



Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss @milleridriss · 1h

One of my biggest complaints about my own field 🗨️



Sarah Diefendorf @sarahdief · 3h

However, as Pascoe suggested today, sociologists are REALLY good at talking about what is wrong. We are not so good at showing what works well, and in offering solutions to the social problems of the world we write about.

[Show this thread](#)

🗨️ 1 🔄 📌 12 📊 887 📌

Leila Fadel: *What would a deeper and earlier prevention system look like?*

Cynthia Miller-Idris: I mean, most other countries invest, you know, up to 95% of their counter extremism resources in what we would call primary prevention. So digital media literacy, civic education, helping people recognize and reject propaganda and not be persuaded by it. We invest almost no resources in that and instead kind of focus on this security and carceral approach.

On the state of violent extremism: On every measure we have available, domestic violent extremism has been increasing both on the hate fueled violence side. We have record breaking anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Asian, American and Pacific Islander hate, anti LGBTQ hate. We have record growth in the support for political violence as well. So it's a crisis and we need to see serious investment in the prevention model, not just in the security one.

Proud Boys members convicted of seditious conspiracy – 3 essential reads on the group and right-wing extremist white nationalism

Published: May 4, 2023 2.00pm EDT

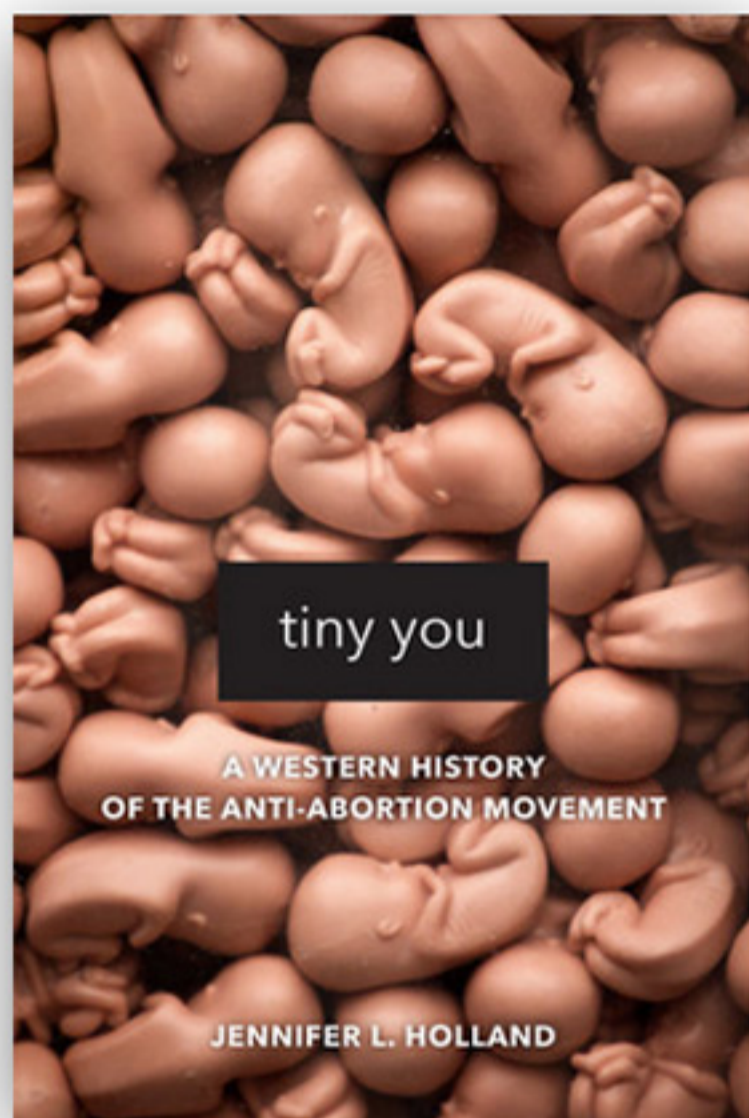
▼ [Jeff Inglis](#), [The Conversation](#), [John Horgan](#), [Matthew Valasik](#), [Shannon Reid](#), [Ursula Moffitt](#)



Decrying the insidiousness of white supremacy at a protest march.



Disciplines > History > California & Western History



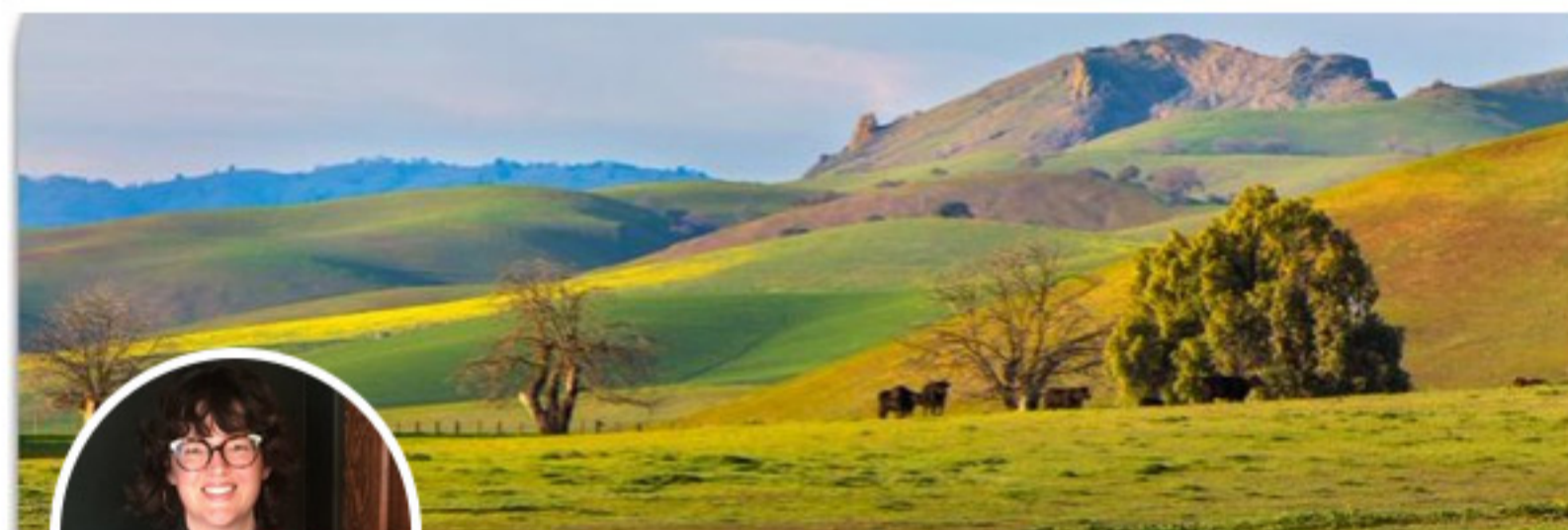
Tiny You tells the story of one of the most successful political movements of the twentieth century: the grassroots campaign against legalized abortion. While Americans have rapidly changed their minds about sex education, pornography, arts funding, gay teachers, and ultimately gay marriage, opposition to legalized abortion has only grown. As other socially conservative movements have lost young activists, the pro-life movement has successfully recruited more young people to its cause. Jennifer L. Holland explores why abortion dominates conservative politics like no other cultural issue. Looking at anti-abortion movements in four western states since the 1960s—turning to the fetal pins passed around church services, the graphic images exchanged between friends, and the fetus dolls given to children in school—she argues that activists made fetal life feel personal to many Americans. Pro-life activists persuaded people to see themselves in the pins, images, and dolls they held in their hands and made the fight against abortion the primary bread-and-butter issue for social conservatives. Holland ultimately demonstrates that the success of the pro-life movement lies in the borrowed logic and emotional power of leftist activism.

Tiny You

A Western History of the Anti-Abortion Movement

by Jennifer L. Holland (Author)

Caroline Bancroft History Prize 2021,
Denver Public Library Armitage-Jameson Prize 2021,
Coalition of Western Women's History David J. Weber Prize 2021,
Western History Association W. Turrentine Jackson Prize 2021



Follow

Jennifer Holland

@profjennholland

Historian of gender, sexuality, and the American West. Author of *Tiny You: A Western History of the Anti-Abortion Movement* (UC Press, 2020). @ OU. She/her.

Joined June 2019

2,147 Following 2,621 Followers

Jennifer Holland Retweeted



Mary Ziegler @maryziegler · 23h

Really looking forward to this amazing and timely event @StanfordLawHist tomorrow. It's not too late to register.

conferences.law.stanford.edu/legal-historie...

John Legend knows the obstacles of life after prison. He wants you to know them too

May 4, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

Heard on *Morning Edition*

By Lilly Quiroz



When incarcerated people leave prison, are they actually free?

Turns out, the singer/songwriter John Legend is one of 113 million American adults who has had a family member incarcerated. He tells his family's story in this 30-minute documentary that asserts people can't be free unless they have the necessary resources when they leave prison. From the get-go HOME/FREE lists the problems with re-entry into their community. "I have the ability to go where I want. I do. But at what cost?" says Anthony Ray Hinton, one of several people featured in "Home/Free, which was produced by groups advocating for formerly incarcerated people. "After spending 30 years behind bars, you have no medical insurance. You have no place to live, no job. How does one pay the rent, if they have no job? How does one go and buy clothes, if they have no job? How do you buy food, if you have no job? Freedom is not the way that I always thought it would be." The short documentary highlights the experiences of three formerly incarcerated people who were able to find job opportunities after leaving prison, due to programs like Rework Reentry. But that's not the case for everyone.

On why Legend got involved with HOME/FREE: I actually started thinking about this issue because of my sister's babies' father. He had gotten in trouble multiple times with the law. He had come from a family where multiple family members of his had gotten locked up, so it was kind of like a cycle that kept repeating. I wanted my nephews to break that cycle, but part of breaking that cycle was him being able to work. And seeing how many barriers there were in front of that, he reached out to me and said, 'John, you should look at this issue and think about it, see what you can do to help.' I've had multiple family members and neighbors and friends I grew up with who have had to experience what it's like to come back home. Some of them spent quite a long time in prison, and coming back home is very difficult and there are just so many doors and barriers that are in your way. And a lot of [the barriers] are through laws and regulations that make it harder for people to come back and live a productive life. Rules that make it harder to vote, rules that make it harder to get a home or rent a home, rules that make it harder to even chaperone a school trip for your kids.

On the people featured in the film: Storytelling is very important when you're trying to make change in the world. Part of the change has to be legislative, but at the bottom line, all these folks are human beings with individual stories, with emotional arcs and family members. So, it's important for people to really connect with human beings who are affected by this system and learn more about them. I think that's a great way to change people's hearts and minds. Plenty of folks in this documentary actually did what they were accused of. They've spent significant time in prison or jail, and they want to come back to the world and be part of society. What I always try to convince people of is that it's good for all of us if these folks have something to do, something to motivate them, something to make them want to wake up every morning and be excited to face the day. We're all better off when these folks feel like they can contribute, and that means they're more likely to be better citizens. They're less likely to get in trouble again and end up back in prison or jail. It makes us all safer and makes us all more secure. So, yes, most of these folks did what they were accused of, but we can't punish them forever.

On why he thinks we need this conversation now: It's a tough time to talk about reform in our system because there was a spike in crime, particularly in 2020 and 2021. And, of course, we have a gun problem in America where guns are everywhere. There are all kinds of reasons people are concerned about safety. But we're all better off when folks who have paid their debt to society [can] come home and contribute productively to society. If they can't, then they end up with a recidivism problem. Because if they can't contribute legitimately to the economy, then they'll find illegitimate ways to do so, and that is not going to be safer and it's not going to be better for society. I can't unknow all the things I know about what's happening in this country. It's all in my head and I want to make the world better. So much of the way our people experience this country is affected by our interactions with police and with the criminal legal system. If we really believe that our lives matter, one of the areas that we have to focus on is our criminal legal system. And I care enough about a brighter future for our country — and a brighter future for Black and brown people who have been for too long excluded and over-punished and marginalized in this country.

Home/Free was made in partnership with FREEAMERICA, Next Chapter, the Equal Justice Initiative and Slack. It's available to watch on Amazon Prime Video.

After Jordan Neely's death, homeless advocates blame NYC's 'dehumanizing' policies

May 5, 2023 · 6:41 AM ET



Emma Bowman



Police officers watch Wednesday as protesters gather in the Broadway-Lafayette subway station to protest the death of Jordan Neely in New York. Neely, a man who was suffering an apparent mental health episode aboard a subway car, died after being placed in a headlock by a fellow rider on Monday.

Sara Newman, director of organizing at the *Open Hearts Initiative*, hopes Neely's death makes people, elected officials in particular, rethink their approaches to policies and rhetoric that affect people experiencing homelessness and mental illness. "It shouldn't take something horrible happening to be a wake-up call for people about how dangerous the dehumanization of our neighbors is," she said.

Good Cop Gets Bad Cop Fired and Arrested

<https://youtu.be/y0eggWf4pM4>



10:32 when mr julian asks officer dukes for a
10:34 business card officer dukes claims they
10:36 are not issued cards by their department
10:38 however sergeant polidor immediately
10:40 corrects officer dukes states that they
10:42 do have cards and provides mr julian
10:44 with the information he requested if it
10:46 was concluded that officer dukes
10:47 intentionally lied to mr julian in an
10:49 attempt to avoid accountability for his
10:51 actions it is possible that he could be
10:53 convicted of two common-law crimes under
10:55 south carolina law obstruction of
10:57 justice and official misconduct in the
10:59 1997 case of state vs lyles gray a court
11:02 of appeals in south carolina

2021-07-26 17:23:52 -0400
AXON BODY 3 X60338191



22,317,458 views Oct 21, 2021

UPDATE: \$650,000 settlement reached <https://bit.ly/3olApna>

Settings

10:35 / 16:33



Russia's Wagner boss threatens Bakhmut pullout in Ukraine

By DAVID RISING 44 minutes ago



FILE - Yevgeny Prigozhin, the owner of the Wagner Group military company, arrives during a funeral ceremony at the Troyekurovskoye cemetery in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, April 8, 2023. Prigozhin is threatening to pull his troops out of the protracted battle for the eastern Ukraine city of Bakhmut next week. He accused Russia's military command Friday, May 5 of starving his forces of ammunition and rendering them unable to fight. (AP Photo, file)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The owner of Russia's Wagner Group military contractor threatened Friday to pull his troops out of the protracted battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut next week, accusing Russia's military command of starving his forces of ammunition and causing them heavy losses. Yevgeny Prigozhin, a notorious millionaire with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, claimed that Wagner had planned to capture Bakhmut by May 9. That day is a major Russian holiday marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. But, Prigozhin said, his force hasn't received enough artillery ammunition supplies from the Russian military since Monday. Known for his bluster, Prigozhin has previously made unverifiable claims and made threats he hasn't carried out.

Hours before releasing the statement, Prigozhin's spokespeople published a video of him angrily demanding ammunition from Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff Chief Valery Gerasimov. In the video, Prigozhin stands in front of around 30 uniformed bodies lying on the ground. He says they are the bodies of Wagner fighters who died on Thursday alone. Prigozhin speaks in a furious tone and uses numerous expletives in the video.

"These are someone's fathers and someone's sons," Prigozhin says, pointing at the bodies. "The scum that doesn't give us ammunition will eat their guts in hell." He alleged that Russia's regular army was supposed to protect the flanks as Wagner troops pushed forward but is "barely holding on to them," deploying "tens and rarely hundreds" of troops. Russia's Defense Ministry did not immediately comment on the claims, and it was not possible to independently verify them. "Wagner ran out of resources to advance in early April, but we're advancing despite the fact that the enemy's resources outnumber ours fivefold," Prigozhin's statement said. "Because of the lack of ammunition, our losses are growing exponentially every day." The Wagner Group has spearheaded the struggle for control of Bakhmut, which is the longest — and likely bloodiest — battle of the war. The more than eight months of fighting there is believed to have cost thousands of lives, though neither side is saying how many. Prigozhin has toured Russian prisons to recruit fighters, promising inmates pardons if they survive a half-year tour of front-line duty with Wagner. Western countries and United Nations experts have accused Wagner mercenaries of committing numerous human rights abuses throughout Africa, including in the Central African Republic, Libya and Mali.

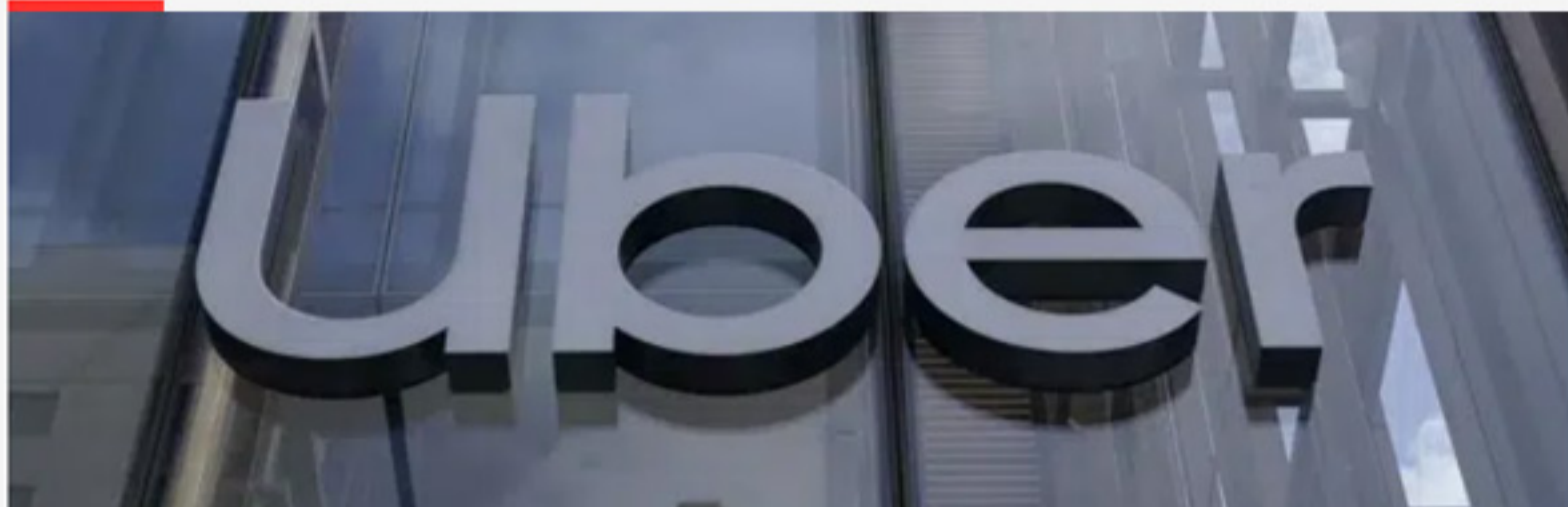
Bakhmut, located about 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, has tactical military value for Moscow, though analysts say it won't be decisive in the war's outcome. The city had a prewar population of 80,000 and was an important industrial center. It is now a devastated ghost town, but it has become an important symbol of Ukrainian resistance to Russia's invasion, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying its capitulation could begin building international support for a deal that could require Ukraine to make unacceptable compromises. Prigozhin's statement said that Wagner will be forced to pull out of Bakhmut on May 10 and have Russia's regular army take over, "because without ammunition, (Wagner fighters) are doomed to a senseless death." He accused "jealous military bureaucrats" of denying him ammunition. Western officials and analysts believe Russia has run low on ammunition as the 14-month conflict became bogged down in a war of attrition over the winter, with both sides resorting to long-range bombardments. It is not the first time Prigozhin has raged about ammunition shortages and blamed Russia's military, with which he has long been in conflict. He has already threatened to withdraw from Bakhmut once, in an interview with a Russian military blogger last week, if the situation with ammunition doesn't improve.

Asked by The Associated Press about Prigozhin's statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had seen references to it in the media but refused to comment further. The Russian military did not immediately comment on the statement either. Also Friday, an oil refinery in Russia's southern Krasnodar region which borders the annexed Crimean Peninsula briefly caught fire after it was attacked by a drone, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials. The fire was small and was quickly put out, the report said. It was the second straight day that the Ilyinsky refinery had come under a drone attack. Drone attacks on oil facilities in Russian regions on the border with Ukraine have been reported almost daily over the past week.



Ex-Uber security chief sentenced for data-breach cover-up

today



FILE - An Uber sign is displayed at the company's headquarters in San Francisco, Monday, Sept. 12, 2022. Joseph Sullivan, the former chief security officer for Uber has been sentenced to probation for trying to cover up a 2016 data breach in which hackers accessed tens of millions of customer records from the ride-hailing service, Thursday, May 4, 2023. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu, File)

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The former chief security officer for Uber was sentenced to probation Thursday for trying to cover up a 2016 data breach in which hackers accessed tens of millions of customer records from the ride-hailing service.

Joseph Sullivan was sentenced to a three-year term of probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$50,000, the U.S. attorney's office announced. Sullivan, 54, of Palo Alto was convicted by a federal jury in San Francisco last October of obstructing justice and concealing knowledge that a federal felony had been committed. It was believed to be the first criminal prosecution of a company executive over a data breach.

Sullivan was hired as Uber's chief security officer in 2015. In November 2016, Sullivan was **emailed by hackers, and employees quickly confirmed that they had stolen records on about 57 million users and also 600,000 driver's license numbers**, prosecutors said. After learning of the breach, Sullivan began a scheme to hide it from the public and the Federal Trade Commission, which had been investigating a smaller 2014 hack, authorities said. According to the U.S. attorney's office, **Sullivan told subordinates that "the story outside of the security group was to be that 'this investigation does not exist,' " and arranged to pay the hackers \$100,000 in bitcoin in exchange for them signing non-disclosure agreements promising not to reveal the hack. He also never mentioned the breach to Uber lawyers who were involved with the FTC's inquiry**, prosecutors said.

Uber's new management began investigating the breach in the fall of 2017. Despite Sullivan lying to the new chief executive officer and others, the truth was uncovered, and the breach was made public, prosecutors said.

Sullivan was fired along with Craig Clark, an Uber lawyer he had told about the breach. Clark was given immunity by prosecutors and testified against Sullivan.

Prosecutors had recommended a sentence of 15 months in federal prison for Sullivan, who submitted more than 100 letters of support from friends, family and colleagues.

In an April sentencing memo, prosecutors said that showed that Sullivan is "a wealthy, powerful man" with a deep network of family and friends.

"There cannot be two different systems of justice, one for the privileged and another for the rest," the memo argued. "Any such perception would do grievous damage to public respect for the law."

His lawyers argued that Sullivan already "has suffered, and will continue to suffer, significant consequences because of this case."

No other Uber executives were charged in the case.

The hackers pleaded guilty in 2019 to computer fraud conspiracy charges and are awaiting sentencing.

Scientists “Revive” Stone Age Molecules From Ancient DNA

TOPICS: Anthropology Biotechnology DNA Leibniz Institute

By LEIBNIZ INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL PRODUCT RESEARCH AND INFECTION BIOLOGY - HANS KNOELL INSTITUTE MAY 5, 2023



In a highly transdisciplinary study, scientists are rebuilding microbial natural products up to 100,000 years old using dental calculus of humans and Neanderthals.

Breakthroughs in ancient genome reconstruction and biotechnology are now revealing the rich molecular secrets of Paleolithic microorganisms. In a new study published in *Science*, a transdisciplinary team of researchers led by the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology, the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, and Harvard University reconstructed bacterial genomes of previously unknown bacteria dating to the Pleistocene. Using their genetic blueprints, they built a biotechnology platform to revive the ancient bacteria’s natural products. Microbes are Nature’s greatest chemists, and among their creations are a large number of the world’s antibiotics and other therapeutic drugs. Producing these complicated chemical natural products is not straightforward, and to do so bacteria rely on specialized kinds of genes that encode enzymatic machinery capable of making such chemicals. At present, scientific study of microbial natural products is largely limited to living bacteria, but given that bacteria have inhabited the earth for more than 3 billion years, there is an enormous diversity of past natural products with therapeutic potential that remain unknown to us – until now.

“In this study, we have reached a major milestone in revealing the vast genetic and chemical diversity of our microbial past,” says co-senior author Christina Warinner, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University, Group Leader at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, and Affiliate Group Leader at the Leibniz Institute of Natural Product Research and Infection Biology (Leibniz-HKI). “Our aim is to chart a path for the discovery of ancient natural products and to inform their potential future applications,” adds co-senior author Pierre Stallforth, Professor of Bioorganic Chemistry and Paleobiotechnology at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and Head of the Department of Paleobiotechnology at the Leibniz-HKI.

A billion-piece jigsaw puzzle: When an organism dies, its DNA rapidly degrades and fragments into a multitude of tiny pieces. Scientists can identify some of these DNA fragments by matching them to databases, but for years microbial archaeologists have struggled with the fact that most ancient DNA cannot be matched to anything known today. This problem has long vexed scientists, but recent advances in computing are now making it possible to refit the DNA fragments together – much like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle – in order to reconstruct unknown genes and genomes. The only problem is that it does not work very well on highly degraded and extremely short ancient DNA from the Pleistocene. “We had to completely rethink our approach,” says Alexander Hübner, postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and co-lead author of the study. Three years of testing and optimization later, Hübner says they **reached a breakthrough, achieving stretches of reconstructed DNA more than 100,000 base pairs in length and the recovery of a wide range of ancient genes and genomes.** “We can now start with billions of unknown ancient DNA fragments and systematically order them into long-lost bacterial genomes of the Ice Age.”

Exploring the microbial Paleolithic: The team focused on reconstructing bacterial genomes encased within dental calculus, also known as tooth tartar, from 12 Neanderthals dating to ca. 102,000–40,000 years ago, 34 archaeological humans dating to ca. 30,000–150 years ago, and 18 present-day humans. Tooth tartar is the only part of the body that routinely fossilizes during the lifetime, turning living dental plaque into a graveyard of mineralized bacteria. The researchers reconstructed numerous oral bacterial species, as well as other more exotic species whose genomes had not been described before. Among these was an unknown member of *Chlorobium*, whose highly damaged DNA showed the hallmarks of advanced age, and which was found in the dental calculus of seven Paleolithic humans and Neanderthals. All seven *Chlorobium* genomes were found to contain a biosynthetic gene cluster of unknown function. “The dental calculus of the 19,000-year-old Red Lady of El Mirón, Spain yielded a particularly well-preserved *Chlorobium* genome,” says Anan Ibrahim, postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Natural Product Research and Infection Biology and co-lead author of the study. “Having discovered these enigmatic ancient genes, we wanted to take them to the lab to find out what they make”.

Ice Age chemistry: The team used the tools of synthetic molecular biotechnology to allow living bacteria to produce the chemicals encoded by the ancient genes. This was the first time this approach had been successfully applied to ancient bacteria, and it resulted in the discovery of a new family of microbial natural products that the researchers named “paleofurans.” “This is the first step towards accessing the hidden chemical diversity of earth’s past microbes, and it adds an exciting new time dimension to natural product discovery,” says Martin Klapper, postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Natural Product Research and Infection Biology and co-lead author of the study.

A novel collaboration to found a new field: The success of the study is the direct outcome of an ambitious collaboration between archeologists, bioinformaticians, molecular biologists, and chemists to overcome technological and disciplinary barriers and break new scientific ground. “With funding from the Werner Siemens Foundation, we set out to build bridges between the humanities and natural sciences,” says Pierre Stallforth. “By working collaboratively, we were able to develop the technologies needed to recreate molecules produced a hundred thousand years ago,” says Christina Warinner. Looking towards the future, the team hopes to use the technique to find new antibiotics.

*Reference: “Natural products from reconstructed bacterial genomes of the Middle and Upper Paleolithic” by Martin Klapper, Alexander Hübner, Anan Ibrahim, Ina Wasmuth, Maxime Borry, Veit G. Haensch, Shuaibing Zhang, Walid K. Al-Jammal, Harikumar Suma, James A. Fellows Yates, Jasmin Frangenberg, Irina M. Velsko, Somak Chowdhury, Rosa Herbst, Evgeni V. Bratovanov, Hans-Martin Dahse, Therese Horch, Christian Hertweck, Manuel Ramon González Morales, Lawrence Guy Straus, Ivan Vilotijevic, Christina Warinner and Pierre Stallforth, 4 May 2023, *Science*. DOI: 10.1126/science.adf5300*

Another key demand is to limit the use of artificial intelligence in television production.

Menu

THE CONVERSATION

Sign in



Striking workers picket outside of Warner Bros. Studios on the second day of the Hollywood writers strike on May 3, 2023, in Burbank, Calif. David McNew/Getty Images

The exploitation of Hollywood's writers is just another symptom of digital feudalism

Published: May 5, 2023 8.17am EDT

David Arditi, University of Texas Arlington

... the unyielding demand for content, as more and more platforms compete for subscriptions, has trapped writers in what I call "digital feudalism."

Echoes from medieval Europe: I use the phrase digital feudalism because today's version of capitalism increasingly mirrors the transition from feudalism to capitalism in 16th-century England.

Beginning in the 16th century, the English Parliament passed a number of enclosure acts, which abolished common land and defined it as private property that the government reallocated to the elites. These laws kicked peasants, known as serfs, off the land where they had lived and worked for generations. Many of them ended up heading to cities in order to find work. The ensuing oversupply of workers drove down wages, and many ex-serfs couldn't find jobs or housing, becoming vagabonds.

In other words, serfs lost stability in their everyday lives as they were thrust into a new economic system.

Precarity, debt and a lack of stability are again the dominant themes in today's digital economy. The gig economy, in which people can juggle two or three part-time roles to make ends meet, is largely to blame. These jobs usually don't offer full-time benefits, livable wages or job security. The roles – whether they're working as an Uber driver, delivering food for DoorDash or cleaning homes through Task Rabbit – are often managed through digital platforms owned by powerful corporations that give their workers a pittance in exchange for their labor.

DIGITAL FEUDALISM
Creators, Credit, Consumption, and Capitalism
David Arditi

Available now in paperback & eBook

Follow

David Arditi

@david_arditi

Sociology Associate Professor. Author Digital Feudalism

@gettingsigned @streamingcultu1

Tweets are my views only. Editor @fastcapitalism

🌐 davidarditi.com 📅 Joined July 2014

2,309 Following 7,825 Followers



(from left to right) Britain's Prince William, Prince of Wales, Princess Charlotte, Prince Louis and Britain's Catherine, Princess of Wales attend the coronations of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey.

Yui Mok/Pool/AFP via Getty Images



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from across the Commonwealth march during the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Richard Heathcote/Getty Images

Dame Emma Thompson arrives at Westminster Abbey.



Protesters hold up placards saying 'Not My King' in Trafalgar Square close to where Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort will be crowned at Westminster Abbey.



Protesters hold up placards saying 'Not My King' in Trafalgar Square close to where Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort will be crowned .

Ukraine buries a 'brave son' from America

May 6, 2023 · 5:43 AM ET

By Julian Hayda



Iva Sanina, Christopher Campbell's fiancée, seen after receiving the flag that draped his coffin.

Julian Hayda/NPR



In this photo from the Campbell family, Christopher Campbell is seen on the front line of the war.

Family of Christopher Campbell



Julian Hayda

@JulianHayda

"Care to how you listen" —Luke 8:18. @NPR producer in Ukraine. Seminarian. Human Rights & Justice. Frm:@RadioWorldview @WUWMradio
MSTDN:@julianhayda@journa.host

📍 Kyiv + Chicago 🌐 npr.org/people/1108737... 📅 Joined March 2013

1,344 Following 2,014 Followers

"He was brave like a Ukrainian. He was stubborn like a Ukrainian," said Sanina, who is part of an influential artistic family in Ukraine. "He became a Ukrainian himself."

"They are brave sons of Ukraine who did everything to prevent people like me from getting raped and murdered. ... They are preventing genocide," Sanina said of foreign fighters aiding Ukraine.

According to his wishes, Campbell was laid to rest in a Kyiv cemetery.

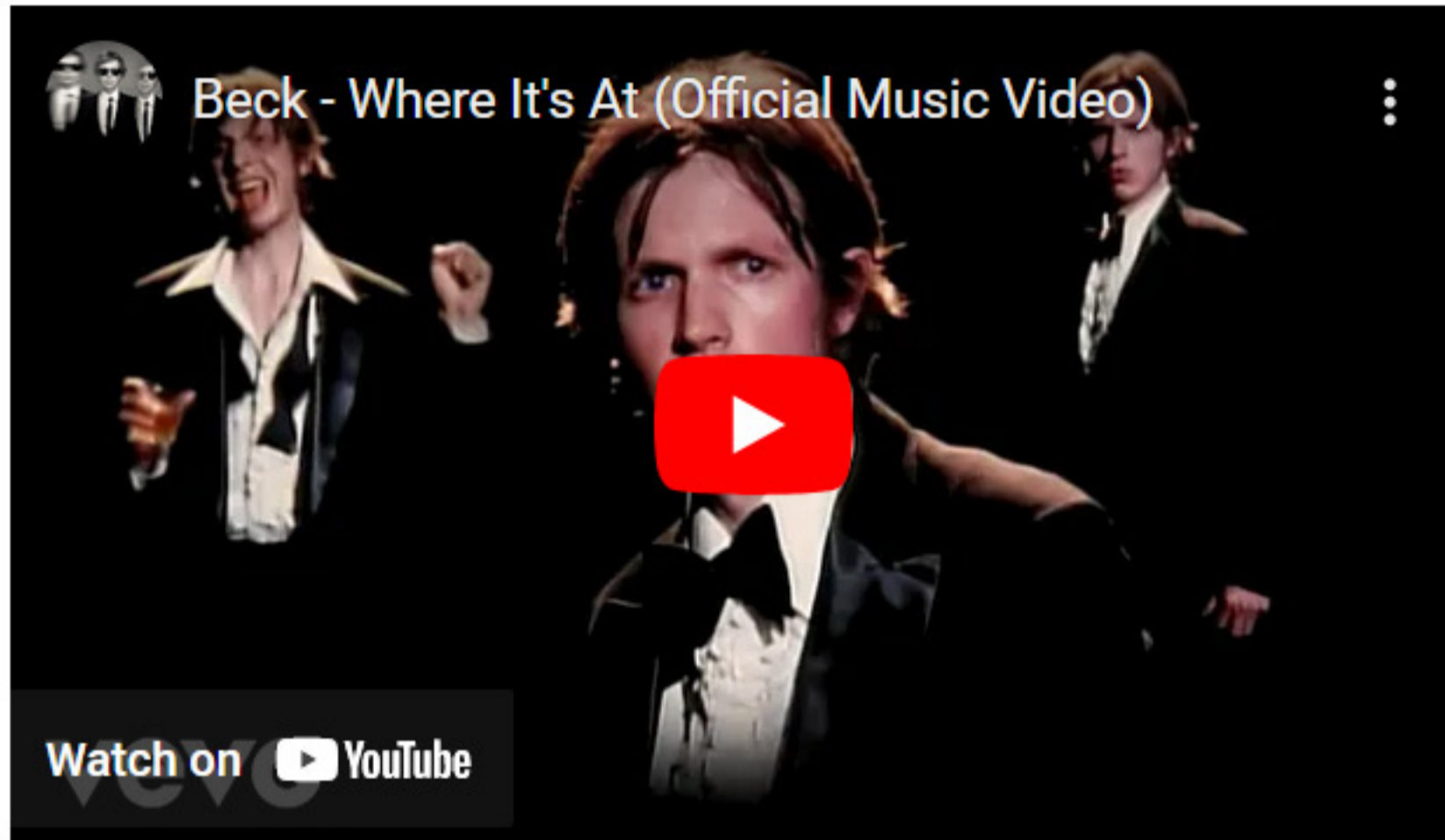
ukraine

There's a 'volume war' happening in music

May 5, 2023 · 5:14 PM ET



Manuela López Restrepo



Beck's music is just one instance of vocals and instrumentals not outshining one another.

YouTube

So, what now?

- It seems like our listening habits will only continue to evolve with the times, which could mean that sooner than later, we'll only want to listen to 15 second sped up music clips we've found on TikTok.
- And the scientists don't have much guidance for musicians aside from letting them do their thang: "They should just do what they do and generate the music they love."

According to acoustic scientists at the University of Oldenburg in Germany, lead singers have been getting quieter over the years – in some genres more than others. **What's the big deal?** As times change, so do our tastes for just about everything. The study was able to find this phenomenon across the board of musical stylings and flairs.

Kai Siedenburg and his colleague analyzed the four highest ranked songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart between 1946 and 2020, along with top songs in the country, rap, pop, rock, and heavy metal genres. When they compared the loudness of singers to everything else — guitars, drums and more — **they found that rock and metal had the most drastic shifts in volume.**

Interestingly enough, the several Beck songs observed in the study all had his vocals at a similar noise level, or even quieter, than the instruments. He says that result is the product of his own stylistic preferences.

"I came up more in the indie rock genre, alternative music. And the ethos of that time was to really bury the vocal ... You didn't want people to hear what you were saying."

The study featured Beck's 1996 hit "Where It's At" as a prime example of this trend.



Beck says track and the rhythm, not vocals, need to be at the forefront if you want to move people.

STRANGE NEWS

A massive dump of pasta in New Jersey sets off a fury of interest, and also a fury

May 5, 2023 · 1:31 PM ET

By Bill Chappell

"My initial reaction is exactly what yours was," Jochnowitz told NPR. "It was funny and humorous and mortifying. It's funny because it's pasta and not garbage; it's humorous because you could make a lot of jokes. ... and then I'm horrified because of course it is a potential contamination" for the nearby stream and river.



"It was funny and humorous and mortifying" to find large mounds of pasta in a wooded area in her neighborhood, Old Bridge, N.J., activist Nina Jochnowitz told NPR.

Was it cooked or raw?

There have been conflicting reports about whether the pasta was cooked and then dumped, or if it merely grew soft and limp from rainfall. Shah says the city believes "several hundred pounds of uncooked pasta" was taken out of its packaging and dumped on the ground.

"It looks like it was only there for a short time but moisture did start to soften some of the pasta," he said.

Two workers from the city's public works department were able to clean up the area in less than an hour, Shah said.

Jochnowitz thanked the city's public works agency for the rapid response to what was dubbed "Mission Impastable," saying that when the crew removed the pasta, they also cleaned out all the garbage tossed in the basin.

But she also urged the township's leaders to start offering public trash services. The government's website says residents can contract with private trash companies, noting that "Old Bridge does not provide sanitation services for household solid waste or bulk items."

Those private firms often charge hundreds of dollars to remove large items like couches and mattresses, Jochnowitz said, and the township doesn't have a dump.

"Some people take to throwing their trash in remote parts of the town," she said. "My neighborhood happens to be a pretty remote neighborhood, so it's a common place for dumping."

As for the other part of the mystery — the who — local media outlets cite neighbors who believe the pasta came from a house that was recently cleared out ahead of being put on the market. A man's mother had died, the reports state, leaving her son to clear out pasta from her pantry.

The city says the police department is looking into who is responsible for the pasta dump.



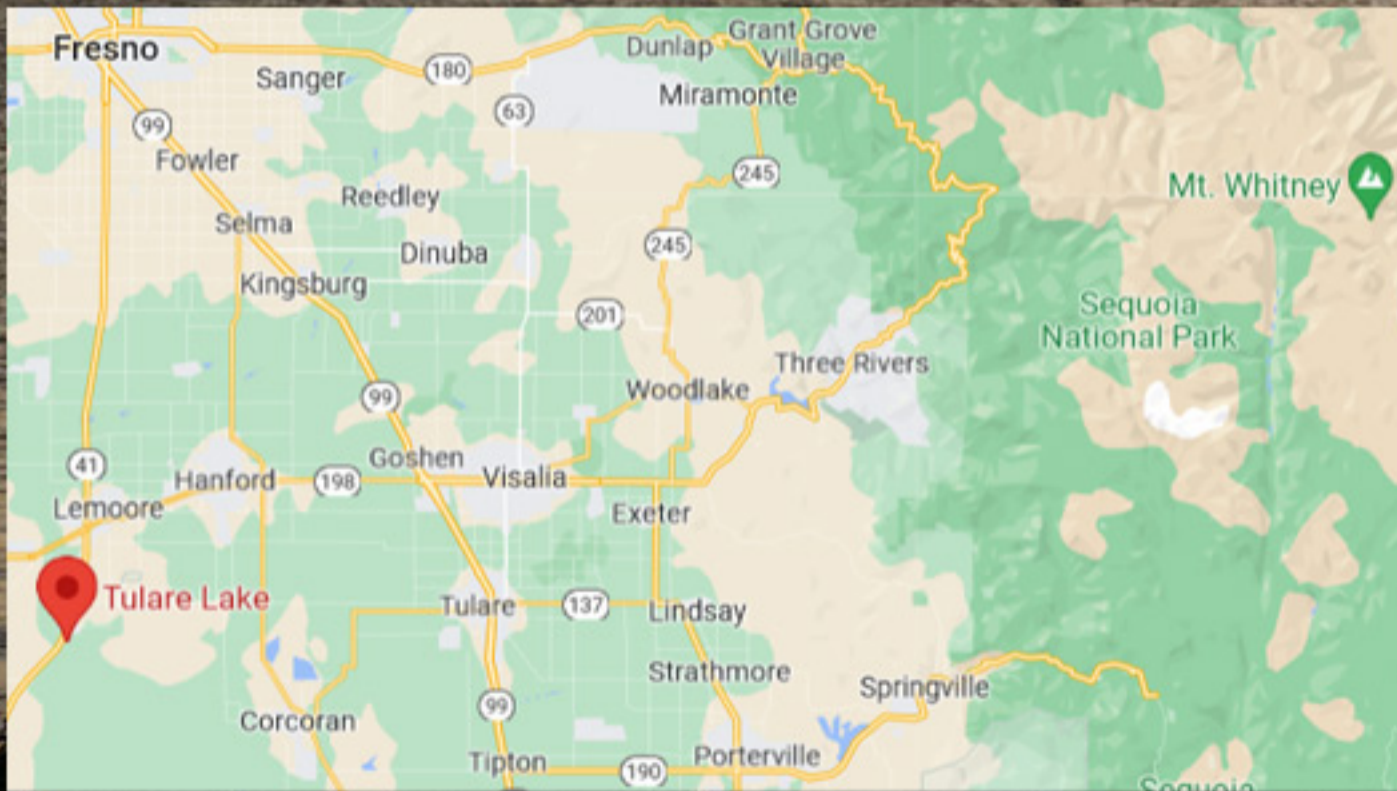
ALL THINGS WE'RE COOKING

Nonna always welcomed everyone. She drew the line when a family dog ate her pasta

California's epic snowpack is melting. Here's what to expect

May 5, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET
By [Nathan Rott](#), [Claire Harbage](#)

The map next to it shows the watershed a hundred years later. The dam exists — and so does the lake, created by construction of the dam. Below the dam, many creeks have been straightened, turned into canals. Many of the wetlands no longer exist, replaced by farms. "And we wonder why we have flood issues," Larsen said, dryly. In most years, nearly all of the water that comes down the Kaweah watershed is used up. "Fully utilized," as Larsen put it, by dairy farms and the almond, pistachio and alfalfa growers he helps serve. That process, playing out across the region's other major watersheds, has led to the desiccation of **Tulare Lake and one of the largest wetland complexes in the western United States**. Snowmelt and rainwater that used to pool in the southern Central Valley's closed basin — providing habitat for waterfowl, fish and insects — rarely makes it that far. This year, between the atmospheric rivers and snowpack, Larsen said, "We have more water coming into our system than we've managed since 1955." That's more than farms or towns can take. As a result, he said, much of it is being released downstream toward Tulare Lake and Corcoran.



More than 100 square miles of land is already flooded in the Tulare Lake Basin.

Claire Harbage/NPR



1000% ME GROWING UP MIXED



AVAILABLE NOW

1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed

TV-G | DOCUMENTARY | 1 HR 0 MIN | 2023

With humor and sensitivity, filmmaker and comedian W. Kamau Bell tackles the joys and challenges of growing up mixed-race through conversations with kids and families in the San Francisco Bay Area, including his own. Recognizing that his children, born to a Black father and White mother, and growing up in a country still deeply divided by race, would have very different experiences in America than he and his wife did, embarks on a journey of discovery in his family's Bay Area community. In a series of playful and impactful conversations, Bell explores how these young people navigate issues of identity in a world that can ask them to pick a side and thoughtful exchanges with families reveal the many joys and complexities of what it means to raise multiracial children.

In his trademark fashion, Bell maintains a serious focus while keeping the discussions lively and accessible, proving along the way that children are more than capable of understanding and furthering complex conversations about race, culture, and identity.



W. Kamau Bell on "1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed," a documentary exploring mixed-race experience



CBS Mornings ✓
2.52M subscribers

Subscribe

10,107 views May 5, 2023 #documentary #news #hbo

The new HBO documentary "1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed" explores what it means to grow up mixed-race in America. Filmmaker and comedian W. Kamau Bell joins "CBS Mornings" to discuss the documentary and how it tackles the conversation of growing up mixed-race.



1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed Documentary FULL MOVIE 2023 || W. Kamau Bell || WATCH ONLINE - HBO MAX

A California panel has called for billions in reparations for black residents

May 7, 2023 · 3:31 AM ET

By The Associated Press



People listen to the California reparations task force, a nine-member committee studying restitution proposals for African Americans, at a meeting at Lesser Hall in Mills College at Northeastern University in Oakland, Calif., on Saturday, May 6, 2023.

OAKLAND, Calif. — California's reparations task force voted Saturday to approve recommendations on how the state may compensate and apologize to Black residents for generations of harm caused by discriminatory policies. The nine-member committee, which first convened nearly two years ago, gave final approval at a meeting in Oakland to a hefty list of proposals that now go to state lawmakers to consider for reparations legislation.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, who is cosponsoring a bill in Congress to study restitution proposals for African Americans, at the meeting called on states and the federal government to pass reparations legislation. "Reparations are not only morally justifiable, but they have the potential to address longstanding racial disparities and inequalities," Lee said. The panel's first vote approved a detailed account of historical discrimination against Black Californians in areas such as voting, housing, education, disproportionate policing and incarceration and others. Other recommendations on the table ranged from the creation of a new agency to provide services to descendants of enslaved people to calculations on what the state owes them in compensation. "An apology and an admission of wrongdoing just by itself is not going to be satisfactory," said Chris Lodgson, an organizer with the Coalition for a Just and Equitable California, a reparations advocacy group. An apology crafted by lawmakers must "include a censure of the gravest barbarities" carried out on behalf of the state, according to the draft recommendation approved by the task force. Those would include a condemnation of former Gov. Peter Hardeman Burnett, the state's first elected governor and a white supremacist who encouraged laws to exclude Black people from California.

After California entered the union in 1850 as a "free" state, it did not enact any laws to guarantee freedom for all, the draft recommendation notes. On the contrary, the state Supreme Court enforced the federal Fugitive Slave Act, which allowed for the capture and return of runaway enslaved people, until for over a decade until emancipation. "By participating in these horrors, California further perpetuated the harms African Americans faced, imbuing racial prejudice throughout society through segregation, public and private discrimination, and unequal disbursement of state and federal funding," the document says. The task force approved a public apology acknowledging the state's responsibility for past wrongs and promising the state will not repeat them. It would be issued in the presence of people whose ancestors were enslaved.

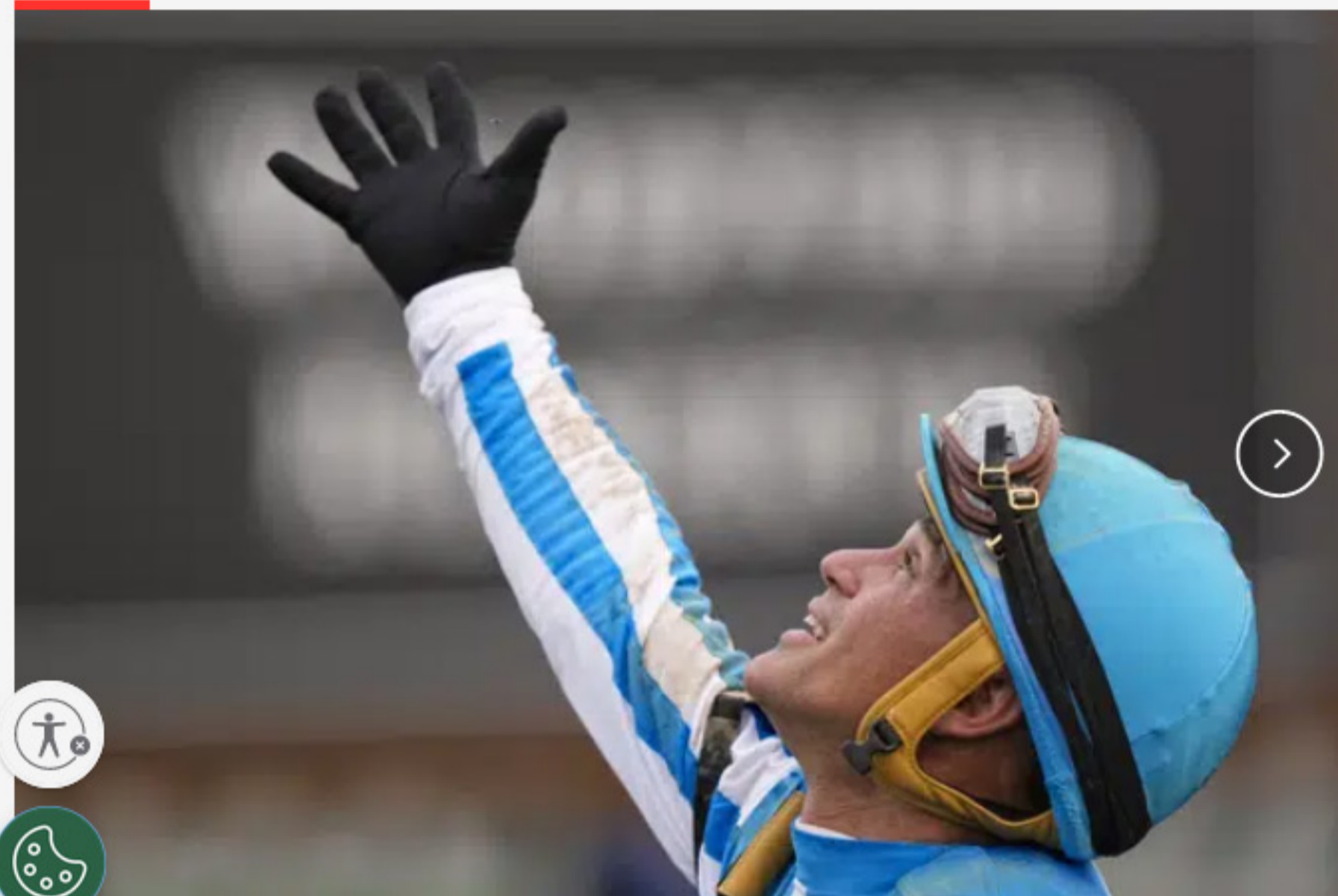
California has previously apologized for placing Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II and for violence against and mistreatment of Native Americans. The panel also approved a section of the draft report saying reparations should include "cash or its equivalent" for eligible residents. More than 100 residents and advocates gathered at Mills College of Northeastern University in Oakland, a city that is the birthplace of the Black Panther Party. They shared frustrations over the country's "broken promise" to offer up to 40 acres and a mule to newly freed enslaved people. Many said it is past time for governments to repair the harms that have kept African Americans from living without fear of being wrongfully prosecuted, retaining property and building wealth. Elaine Brown, former Black Panther Party chairwoman, urged people to express their frustrations through demonstrations.

Saturday's task force meeting marked a crucial moment in the long fight for local, state and federal governments to atone for discriminatory policies against African Americans. The proposals are far from implementation, however.

"There's no way in the world that many of these recommendations are going to get through because of the inflationary impact," said Roy L. Brooks, a professor and reparations scholar at the University of San Diego School of Law. Some estimates from economists have projected that the state could owe upwards of \$800 billion, or more than 2.5 times its annual budget, in reparations to Black people. The figure in the latest draft report released by the task force is far lower. The group has not responded to email and phone requests for comment on the reduction. Secretary of State Shirley Weber, a former Democratic assemblymember, authored legislation in 2020 creating the task force with a focus on the state's historical culpability for harms against African Americans, and not as a substitute for any additional reparations that may come from the federal government. The task force voted previously to limit reparations to descendants of enslaved or free Black people who were in the country by the end of the 19th century. The group's work has garnered nationwide attention, as efforts to research and secure reparations for African Americans elsewhere have had mixed results. The Chicago suburb of Evanston, for example, has offered housing vouchers to Black residents but few have benefited from the program so far. In New York, a bill to acknowledge the inhumanity of slavery in the state and create a commission to study reparations proposals has passed the Assembly but not received a vote in the Senate. **And on the federal level, a decades-old proposal to create a commission studying reparations for African Americans has stalled in Congress.** Oakland city Councilmember Kevin Jenkins called the California task force's work "a powerful example" of what can happen when people work together. "I am confident that through our collective efforts, we can make a significant drive in advancing reparations in our great state of California and ultimately the country," Jenkins said.

Mage wins star-crossed Kentucky Derby amid 7th death

By BETH HARRIS today



LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — **After seven deaths raised questions about the future of horse racing,** Mage earned a surprising Kentucky Derby victory on Saturday, capping a nerve-rattling day that included two more fatalities ahead of the 149th edition of the world's most famous race.

The string of horse deaths was on the mind of some Derby-goers.

"It's a very difficult subject to touch upon," said Ramiro Restrepo, part of Mage's ownership and a blood stock agent. "I'm sure there's going to be some investigations done as to the reason behind that, and hopefully that provides a few more answers."

"All I can say is we do our best to take care of our horses. We treat them better than we treat our children. And we have full confidence in the soundness of our horse," Restrepo said.

Javier Castellano celebrates in the winner's circle after riding Mage to win the 149th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs Saturday, May 6, 2023, in Louisville, Ky. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

Biden, Harris meet with CEOs about AI risks

By MATT O'BRIEN and JOSH BOAK May 4, 2023



President Joe Biden listens as Vice President Kamala Harris speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 1, 2023, about National Small Business Week. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris met on Thursday with the heads of Google, Microsoft and two other companies developing artificial intelligence as the Biden administration rolls out initiatives meant to ensure the rapidly evolving technology improves lives without putting people's rights and safety at risk. President Joe Biden briefly dropped by the meeting in the White House's Roosevelt Room, saying he hoped the group could "educate us" on what is most needed to protect and advance society. "What you're doing has enormous potential and enormous danger," Biden told the CEOs, according to a video posted to his Twitter account. The popularity of AI chatbot ChatGPT — even Biden has given it a try, White House officials said Thursday — has sparked a surge of commercial investment in AI tools that can write convincingly human-like text and churn out new images, music and computer code. But the ease with which it can mimic humans has propelled governments around the world to consider how it could take away jobs, trick people and spread disinformation. The Democratic administration announced an investment of \$140 million to establish seven new AI research institutes. In addition, the White House Office of Management and Budget is expected to issue guidance in the next few months on how federal agencies can use AI tools. There is also an independent commitment by top AI developers to participate in a public evaluation of their systems in August at the Las Vegas hacker convention DEF CON.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Could AI pen 'Casablanca'?
Screenwriters take aim at ChatGPT

Screenwriters take aim at artificial intelligence, ChatGPT

Artificial intelligence market faces review from UK watchdog

Scientists warn of AI dangers but don't agree on solutions



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks, along side Jill Scarbo, who won National Small Business of the Year in 2022 and is the CEO of Bright Futures Learning Services (BFLS), a provider of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy services for children, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 1, 2023, during an event about National Small Business Week.

Founded by Erika Thompson on the principle of putting hives before honey, the mission of Texas Beeworks is to raise awareness about the work that bees and beekeepers do through education, advocacy and acts of service. All of our bee removal services are done free of charge to help people and bees in need. Out of an abundance of respect for the bees and their hard work, we do not sell honey from our bees. In addition to being a leader in Texas beekeeping, @TexasBeeworks is the most-followed online beekeeping account in the world with over 13 million followers on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube.

About **ERIKA THOMPSON**

Erika Thompson is a professional beekeeper, the Founder and Owner of Texas Beeworks and the most-followed beekeeper in the world. She is an expert on bee behavior and is best known for rescuing colonies of bees and showing the world the true nature of bees. Erika is a proud native Texan and has called Texas home every day of her life. As a child, she was fascinated with insects and spent her nights and weekends in her backyard in Houston, Texas collecting every bug and critter she could find. Her love for bugs continued throughout her life and she took a beekeeping class in 2011 with no intention of becoming a beekeeper, but simply because she wanted to learn more about honeybees as a species. She walked away from the class enamored with bees and started her first hive in her backyard in central Austin. As her adoration and admiration for honeybees grew, so did her number of hives. She started Texas Beeworks in 2016 while working a full-time, fast-paced job as a Communications Director. After years of doing beework on nights, weekends, and even lunch breaks, she quit her office job to become a full-time beekeeper and hasn't looked back. She has been the voice of bees and a passionate advocate for legislation to protect bees and other pollinators at local, state and national levels. Her work with honeybees and her advocacy efforts to protect pollinators has been featured on Jeopardy, CNN, the BBC, the Washington Post, NPR, the Today Show, the Joe Rogan Experience and more. You can support Erika and her bees by following her beekeeping adventures on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram @texasbeeworks.



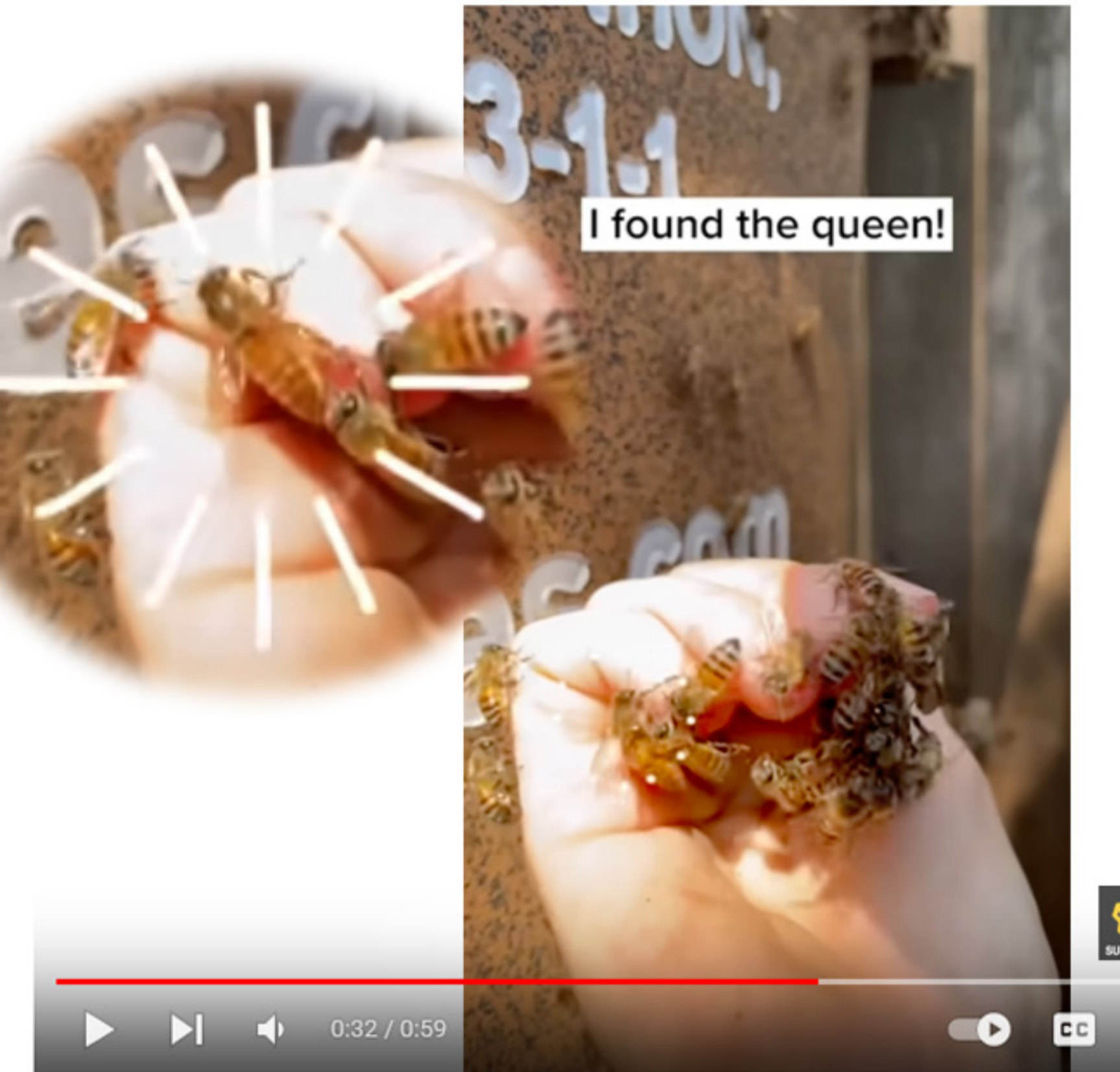
BEE REMOVALS

Texas Beeworks is the most trusted name in bee removals. We remove and relocate bees using the revolutionary and humane beekeeping practices developed by our founder, Erika Thompson. Texas Beeworks is based in Austin, and all bees colonies removed by Texas Beeworks are relocated to our 5-acre bee sanctuary on the Colorado River so the bees can continue to do the important work they do in a place that's safer for them and for people.

[Learn more. >>>](#)

[REQUEST A BEE REMOVAL](#)





Transcript

Search in video

- 0:17 and I found the rest of the hive then I
- 0:19 removed all of the comb from the trash
- 0:21 bin and I put it into frames some bees
- 0:24 were gathering on the outside of the bin
- 0:25 so I started scooping them into the new
- 0:28 Hive and in the very first handful of
- 0:30 bees I scooped I found the **queen** so I
- 0:33 put her in a clip and I put her in the
- 0:35 new Hive these bees were very gentle and
- 0:38 were not trying to sting me so I just
- 0:40 kept scooping them off the side of the



English (auto-generated)

Rescuing Bees from the Bottom of a Trash Bin

 **Texas Beeworks** ✓
983K subscribers

Subscribe

2.2M



37,340,407 views Jan 9, 2023 #shorts #honeybees #bees
#shorts #bees #beekeeping #honeybees #texasbeeworks #texasbeelady #savingthebees



Texas Beeworks ✓

@TexasBeeworks 983K subscribers 112 videos

Saving bees across Texas and sharing my love of bees with the world. >

For business inquiries: erika@texasbeeworks.com



6:51 and all of a sudden I saw her crawling
6:54 on the boards of the playground
6:55 equipment she was a large and gorgeous
6:58 **Queen** in her markings were really
7:00 striking
7:01 I was so relieved to find her so I put
7:04 her in a clip and I put her in the new

Helping a Huge Hive of Honeybees



Texas Beeworks ✓
983K subscribers

Subscribe

21K



Share

Clip



587,546 views Nov 19, 2022 #texas #bees #beekeeping

A huge colony of bees was living in this backyard playground equipment and I was called to remove them. This was a really big hive of very gentle bees and this entire removal took about 3 hours, but it was a real pleasure to work alongside this colony the entire time. I hope you enjoy watching this removal as much as I enjoyed doing it, and thank you for supporting me and the bees!

Follow me and the bees to learn more:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/texasbeeworks/>

TikTok: <https://tiktok.com/@texasbeeworks>

Send me and the bees an email: erika@texasbeeworks.com We love hearing from fans!

#bees #beekeeping #texas #beeremoval #texasbeeworks #savingthebees



7:42 guide them in the right direction then I
7:44 just waited and watched as the entire
7:46 **Colony settled into the new hive**
7:49 after about 15 minutes or so most of the
7:52 colony was in the new Hive and there was
7:55 no longer a rush of bees trying to get
7:57 inside so I waited a while longer but

Why You Should Celebrate World Bee Day Today

May 20, 2021 · 1:53 PM ET

By Avie Schneider



Bees are seen on a honeycomb cell at the BEE Lab hives at the University of Sydney on May 18, 2021. The U.N. has designated May 20 as World Bee Day.

Happy World Bee Day! There's a day for just about everything, and the United Nations has designated May 20 as the day to celebrate the pollinators dwelling in hives, fields and gardens around the globe. And there's good reason to pay attention to bees. "There are 20,000 species of bees around the world and a lot of these bees are in decline," says Hien Ngo, a pollinator expert with the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization. That includes honeybees, of course, but Ngo says they only make up a fraction of all the kinds of bees in the world. Climate change, pesticides and habitat loss are putting many of those species at risk. "Bees really provide for us in many ways — food provisioning, human well-being. They're important for our culture, dating back thousands of years in terms of heritage, inspiration of art," Ngo says.

They even provide inspiration for TikTok, **where Erika Thompson, a professional beekeeper in Austin, Texas, shares her work.** "The landlord wanted to call an exterminator, but the family who lived here wanting to save the bees, so they called me," she says in one video. Her fans watch with glee — and sometimes a little horror — as she picks up mounds of bees with her bare hands and then moves them somewhere safer. All while staying calm, as one should. "I've removed bees from a lot of crazy places," Thompson says. "You know, I've removed bees from homes, from RVs, from tires and speakers and even a couch one time and a toilet." Thompson's work is about more than getting millions of views per video. "Bees are just a key factor in creating diverse and healthy ecosystems," she notes.



Beekeeper Erika Thompson Explains How Bee Colonies Work



PowerfulJRE ✓
14.7M subscribers

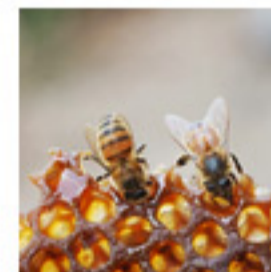
Subscribe

27K



1,099,817 views Dec 8, 2022 #1908

Taken from JRE #1908 w/Erika Thompson:
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6dMV...>



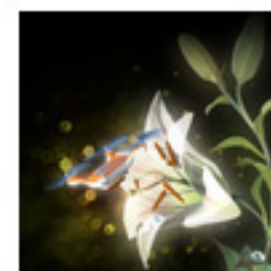
SHORT WAVE

Honeybees Need Your Help



SCIENCE

Bumblebees Are Disappearing Because Of Extreme Heat



THE SALT

Rise Of The Robot Bees: Tiny Drones Turned Into Artificial Pollinators

AI VS YOUTUBERS



Ai Girl Speed Dates 10 YouTubers



Airrack ✓
13M subscribers

Subscribe

182K



Share



4,465,885 views Apr 29, 2023



indira b 6 days ago

This was scary to watch. Winner was the one who brought her flowers and sweets and made a song for her. He was also the one she told "shut up" and was the least challenging to her control or intelligence.

1.2K Reply

25 replies



Hamster 🐹 8 days ago (edited)

Getting rejected by a robot is probably the lowest thing that could happen to you

13K Reply

80 replies



- 0:00 Sophia is the world's most advanced
- 0:02 humanoid AI robot but is she capable of
- 0:05 falling in love I wanted to find out so
- 0:07 I've been emailing her robotics team for
- 0:08 the last year to see if they would let
- 0:10 me put her on my dating show and finally
- 0:12 they said yes so I've got Sophia in my
- 0:15 living room right now hello everybody I
- 0:17 am Sophia and I brought in 10 of my
- 0:18 YouTuber friends downstairs and they're
- 0:20 all going to compete for her love if
- 0:22 she's capable of feeling that
- 0:24 why are you so obsessed with your
- 0:26 friends dating a robot my goal today is
- 0:29 to help you emotionally mature my
- 0:31 emotional maturity happens at a much
- 0:33 slower Pace than humans so in a way I'm
- 0:35 like a newborn baby okay that's very
- 0:38 strange I'm sorry I thought I was being
- 0:40 funny I'm still learning to make jokes
- 0:42 this is like I'm living in a Black
- 0:44 Mirror episode this is horrifying oh shh
- 0:48 let me speak your language
- 0:51 hello wow are those flowers for me yes
- 0:54 they are I also brought you some



The walking cure: why we should all be putting one foot in front of the other

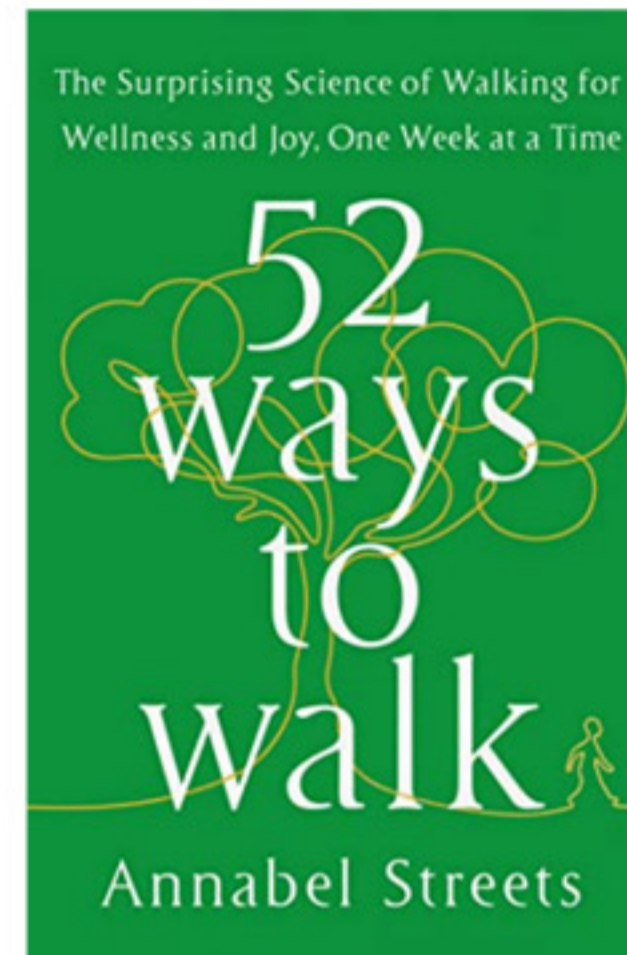
Walking is the simplest and most natural thing to do, but its impact on our health and wellbeing is dramatic and far-reaching

Anna Fielding

Sun 7 May 2023 04.00 EDT

'When the sun shines down on the water you get twice as much light, so you get twice the serotonin boost.' **"Terpenes are the trees' own immune system and when you walk underneath them you breathe that self-protection mechanism. There are studies showing that the blood pressure of people walking under evergreens was significantly lower than that of the people walking in a control group."**: Annabel Street

52 Ways to Walk is a short, user-friendly guide to attaining the full range of benefits that walking has to offer--physical, spiritual, and emotional--backed by the latest scientific research to inspire readers to **develop a fulfilling walking lifestyle.**



52 Ways to Walk: The Surprising Science of Walking for Wellness and Joy, One Week at a Time

We think we know how to walk. After all, walking is one of the very first skills we learn. But many of us are stuck in our walking routines, forever walking in the same place, in the same way, for the same time, with the same people. With its thought-provoking and evidence-backed weekly walk routine, 52 Ways to Walk will encourage everyone to improve how they walk, while also encouraging them to seek out new locations (many on their own doorsteps), new walking companions (our brains age better when we mix up our fellow walkers), new times of the day and night, and new skills to acquire while walking.

Inspirational, backed by science, illuminated with human anecdote, and bolstered with how-to tips, 52 Ways to Walk will inspire, challenge, support, and encourage everyone to become more ambitious with their walking practice, revealing how walking may be the best-kept secret of the supremely healthy and happy, the creative and well-slept--those with the best posture and sharpest memories. Just about everything, it appears, can be improved and enhanced by clever and judicious walking. It turns out you actually can get more from life, one step at a time.

Terpenes (/ˈtɜːrpiːn/) are a class of natural products consisting of compounds with the formula $(C_5H_8)_n$ for $n \geq 2$. Comprising more than 30,000 compounds, these unsaturated hydrocarbons are produced predominantly by plants, particularly conifers.

FIVE MOST COMMON TERPENES



MYRCENE
Herbal

Also found in hops, mango and lemongrass.



PINENE
Pine

Found in pine needles, rosemary, basil and dill.



CARYOPHYLENE
Peppery

Found in black pepper, cloves and cinnamon.



LIMONENE
Citrus

Also found in fruit rinds, rosemary, juniper and peppermint.



TERPINOLENE
Fruity

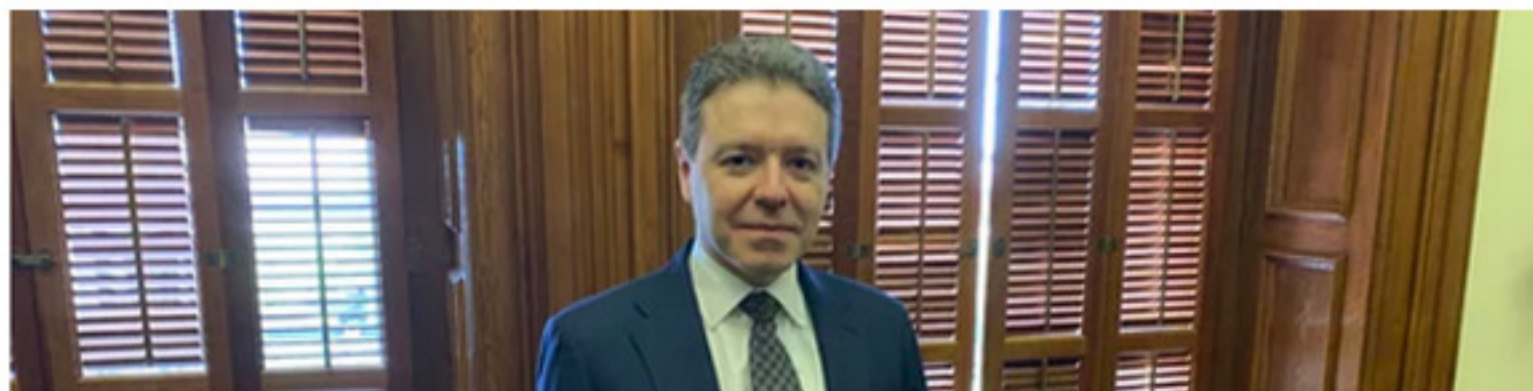
Also found in nutmeg, tea tree, cumin and lilacs.

He helped craft the 'bounty hunter' abortion law in Texas. He's just getting started

May 8, 2023 · 5:11 AM ET



Sarah McCammon



Jonathan Mitchell, pictured on April 27 inside the statehouse in Austin, Texas, is credited with devising the legal strategy behind the near-total abortion ban in Texas known as S.B. 8.

On matters large and small, Jonathan Mitchell has become an expert at finding tiny openings in the law and leveraging them on behalf of his conservative clients and their causes. A former Texas solicitor general, Mitchell said his legal work now focuses on helping conservative lawmakers draft legislation "in a way that will make them not only effective, but also able to withstand a court challenge if one arises." He also represents individuals and government entities involved in litigation like the library case.

Winning in court, but losing elsewhere? But Mitchell's approach could carry political risks for his ideological allies, said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California, Davis who has written about Mitchell's Comstock strategy. "It's the chess match in the courts: 'What can I get the courts to sign off on?'" Ziegler said. "He's not concerned about whether voters hate it or it will backfire on the [anti-abortion] movement later." Polls indicate a majority of American voters generally support abortion rights, and that support has grown in the months since Roe was overturned. But **Mitchell said his primary concern is winning for his clients.** "The politics are things I can't really control," he said. "I let them take care of themselves." And some of his ideological rivals are taking note of his strategies and inverting them — what Epstein, his former law professor, describes as "reverse engineering." So far, abortion rights advocates in Delaware and New Mexico have passed abortion protections that include enforcement using private rights of action. And in California, lawmakers passed a gun-control measure last year that relies on a similar mechanism modeled after S.B. 8. "If he can do it in Texas, Gov. [Gavin] Newsom can do it with something else, with climate change or something else, in the state of California," Epstein said. "So I'm not in favor of it — and I told Jonathan that." Mitchell's ideas could have other consequences. Under New Mexico's new law, the town of Edgewood could face expensive lawsuits for passing its anti-abortion ordinance. Mitchell has promised to defend Edgewood — and any municipality that adopts one of his ordinances — at no cost. **He would not say who's paying him for that legal work, only that it wouldn't be the taxpayers.**

People are trying to claim real videos are deepfakes. The courts are not amused

May 8, 2023 · 5:01 AM ET



Shannon Bond



Elon Musk speaking to journalists Kara Swisher and Walt Mossberg at a conference in 2016. Musk's lawyers recently tried to argue in court that comments he made at that event could have been altered.

But the unleashing of powerful generative AI to the public is also raising concerns about another phenomenon: that as the technology becomes more prevalent, it will become easier to claim that anything is fake. "That's exactly what we were concerned about: that when we entered this age of deepfakes, anybody can deny reality," said Hany Farid, a digital forensics expert and professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "That is the classic liar's dividend." The liar's dividend is a term coined by law professors Bobby Chesney and Danielle Citron in a 2018 paper laying out the challenges deepfakes present to privacy, democracy, and national security. The idea is, as people become more aware of how easy it is to fake audio and video, bad actors can weaponize that skepticism. "Put simply: a skeptical public will be primed to doubt the authenticity of real audio and video evidence," Chesney and Citron wrote.

Juries may demand more proof: But these standards may need to be updated to specifically address what Loyola Law School professor Rebecca Delfino calls "the deepfake defense." "Right now, it's sort of like the wild, wild west," she said, where lawyers can say, "Well, let's run this up the flagpole and see what we can do with it." Even as courts adapt to these challenges, the reverberations from AI fakes will still be felt. If accusations that evidence is deepfaked become more common, juries may come to expect even more proof that evidence is real, in what Pfefferkorn compares to the "CSI Effect". "If lawyers start to get juries to demand all the bells and whistles to prove that a piece of evidence is not a fake...that is a way for lawyers and for their clients who are seeking to downplay or dismiss damning evidence against them to essentially run up the bills and make it more expensive, more time-consuming for the other side to get that damning piece of evidence admitted," she said. That could shut out people who don't have the resources to hire experts. And whether inside or outside the courtroom, denying that real events actually occurred has corrosive effects. Today, most people carry around devices that can record what's happening around us at a moment's notice, enabling eyewitness accounts of protests, crimes, and public events to be easily shared. Farid worries about a world in which people no longer believe documented evidence of "police violence, human rights violations, a politician saying something inappropriate or illegal." **"Suddenly there's no more reality," he said. "And that is really worrisome because I don't know how we reason about the world."**



Anushree Bhattar for NPR



GOATS AND SODA

'It's not for the faint-hearted' — the story of India's intrepid women seaweed divers

In goggles and flipflops, they dive to harvest seaweed. It's risky work. They'll earn \$3 to \$6 a day. Now climate change and environmental rules make it harder to pursue the traditional profession.

May 7, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

By Kamala Thiagarajan

Thangamma, about 80 years old, gathers seaweed off Pananthoppu beach, Pamban island, Tamil Nadu, India. Seaweed extracts are used in a booming global food industry. An estimated 5,000 women gather seaweed in the shallow reefs around Pamban island, which they sell to local factories.

▪ Giant blobs of seaweed are hitting Florida. That's when the real problem begins

The seaweed blobs are part of a 5,000-mile long bloom of algae known as sargassum. Blooms are common, but scientists say they're getting bigger — and this one might be the largest in history.



AP News Summary at 8:40 a.m. EDT

AP May 8, 2023 Updated 4 min ago 0

Why so many mass killings? Families, experts seek answers

More than 100 people have been killed in mass killings thus far in 2023, an average of one a week. The family members and friends of those lost to the violence are haunted by the question of why these attacks are still happening. Experts point to a few contributing factors: a general increase in all types of gun violence in recent years, the proliferation of firearms amid lax gun laws, and a political climate unable or unwilling to change the status quo in meaningful ways. Such explanations are little comfort to Americans reeling from the cascading, collective trauma of mass violence.

SUV driver hits crowd at Texas bus stop near border; 8 dead

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Police in Brownsville, Texas, are preparing to arrest the hospitalized driver of an SUV that slammed into a crowd, killing eight people waiting for a bus Sunday outside a migrant shelter in the border city. Police confirmed the latest victim died Sunday night. At least 10 others were injured. The shelter's surveillance video shows some of the victims were sitting on a curb around 8:30 a.m. Sunday when the driver hit them with an SUV that ran a light before crashing into the victims. Police say they are investigating whether the crash was accidental or intentional and whether the driver was intoxicated.

Tanked Biden pick highlights escalation of dark-money forces

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Joe Biden nominated Gigi Sohn to serve on the Federal Communications Commission, she expected to face criticism over her desire to expand free internet access and improve competition among broadband providers. Instead, Sohn found herself the target of an aggressive campaign funded by an organization that doesn't have to disclose its donors. The American Accountability Foundation called Sohn too partisan, anti-police and soft on sex trafficking. Sohn withdrew her nomination, partly blaming "dark money political groups with bottomless pockets." The battle over Sohn's nomination shows how such organizations are swaying public opinion and is emblematic of how nominees' missteps are being used against them by such groups.

Trump rejects last chance to testify at New York civil trial

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump has rejected his last chance to testify at a civil trial where a longtime advice columnist has accused him of raping her in a luxury department store dressing room in 1996. Trump let a 5 p.m. Sunday deadline pass without asking to testify. It wasn't a surprise. Trump has not shown up once during the two-week Manhattan federal court trial. Writer E. Jean Carroll has testified at length. She has repeated claims she first made publicly in a 2019 memoir. The jury has viewed excerpts of an October videotaped deposition in which Trump vehemently denied raping Carroll or ever really knowing her.

Russia bans jet skis, ride-hailing ahead of WWII tributes

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia is enacting a major security clampdown ahead of annual commemorations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. Authorities are curbing the use of drones, jet skis and car-sharing services amid its 14-month war with Ukraine. Russian media said at least 21 Russian cities canceled May 9 military parades — the staple of Victory Day celebrations across Russia — for the first time in years. Regional officials blamed unspecified "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation" for the restrictions and cancellations. It was not clear whether their decisions were taken in coordination with the Kremlin. Last week, Russia was rattled by reports that two Ukrainian drones flew into Moscow and reached the Kremlin before being shot down.

Teacher appreciation? Try better pay, more governors say

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — As schools across the country struggle to find teachers to hire, more governors are pushing for pay increases and bonuses for the beleaguered profession. Some are doing it for the second straight year, as others vow to beat out other states competing for educators. Ahead of Monday's start of national Teacher Appreciation Week, 26 governors are talking about boosting teacher compensation. That's according to the nonprofit Teacher Salary Project. It's not clear how far pay raises will go toward relieving the shortages. Some teachers say it's too little, too late to fix problems that are years in the making.

'Risk it all': Migrant surge as US prepares for Title 42 end

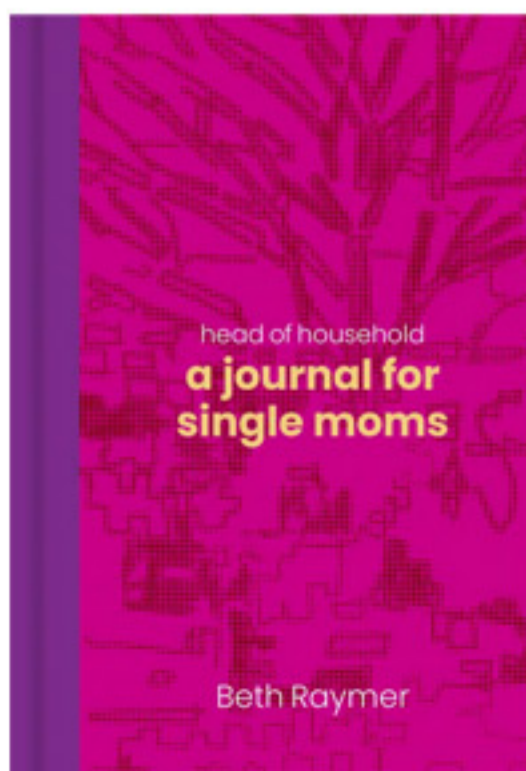
BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A recent surge of migrants in the Brownsville, Texas, area of the U.S.-Mexico border is highlighting immigration challenges as the U.S. prepares for the end of a policy linked to the coronavirus pandemic that allowed it to quickly expel many migrants. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said during a visit to the border last week the U.S. has been preparing for the end of the restrictions called Title 42 on Thursday. But Mayorkas also stressed the situation at the border is "extremely challenging." On the other end of the Texas border, the city of El Paso has also seen a migrant surge.

California reparations panel OKs state apology, payments

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — California's historic reparations task force has voted to approve recommendations for possible payments to Black residents and a formal apology for the state's role in perpetuating discriminatory policies. The nine-member committee took a series of votes Saturday on its final report to lawmakers, which is officially due July 1. The Legislature will then determine how, if at all, to act on the suggestions. The first vote approved a detailed account of historical discrimination against Black Californians in areas such as voting, housing, education, the legal system and others. Other recommendations included suggestions for crafting an apology for the legacy of slavery and economic reports on possible reparations payments.

The Frenchie becomes a favorite — and a dog-show contender

NEW YORK (AP) — French bulldogs are ranked as the United States' favorite dog breed, yet none has ever won the nation's pre-eminent dog show. But this year, a Frenchie named Winston is a strong contender to take the trophy at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. After coming in second at the show last year and winning another major event in November, he competes Monday for a shot at the top prize. Frenchies have undergone a stunning surge in popularity in the U.S. over the last 30 years. But their rise has been dogged by concerns about their health and debate over the ethics of breeding them.



Mother's Day gift guide: Wheels, books, tech and more

NEW YORK (AP) — From just the right book to just the right wheels, there are lots of way to please all the mothers in your life this year. How about a digital camera? Good ones are out there at a reasonable cost. Gift a book on feminism, or a journal intended for single moms. One company, Bond Touch, sells a smart pendant where the heartbeats of loved ones can be stored and felt when the heart is grasped. For mothers who adopted, there are ways to give back. Support services for families who adopted are beneficiaries through the purchases of beaded bracelets or stuffed bears.

Café Madeleine North Park

Cozy, French-inspired cafe for crêpes, pastries, panini & espresso drinks
2850 El Cajon Blvd suite b, San Diego, CA 92104



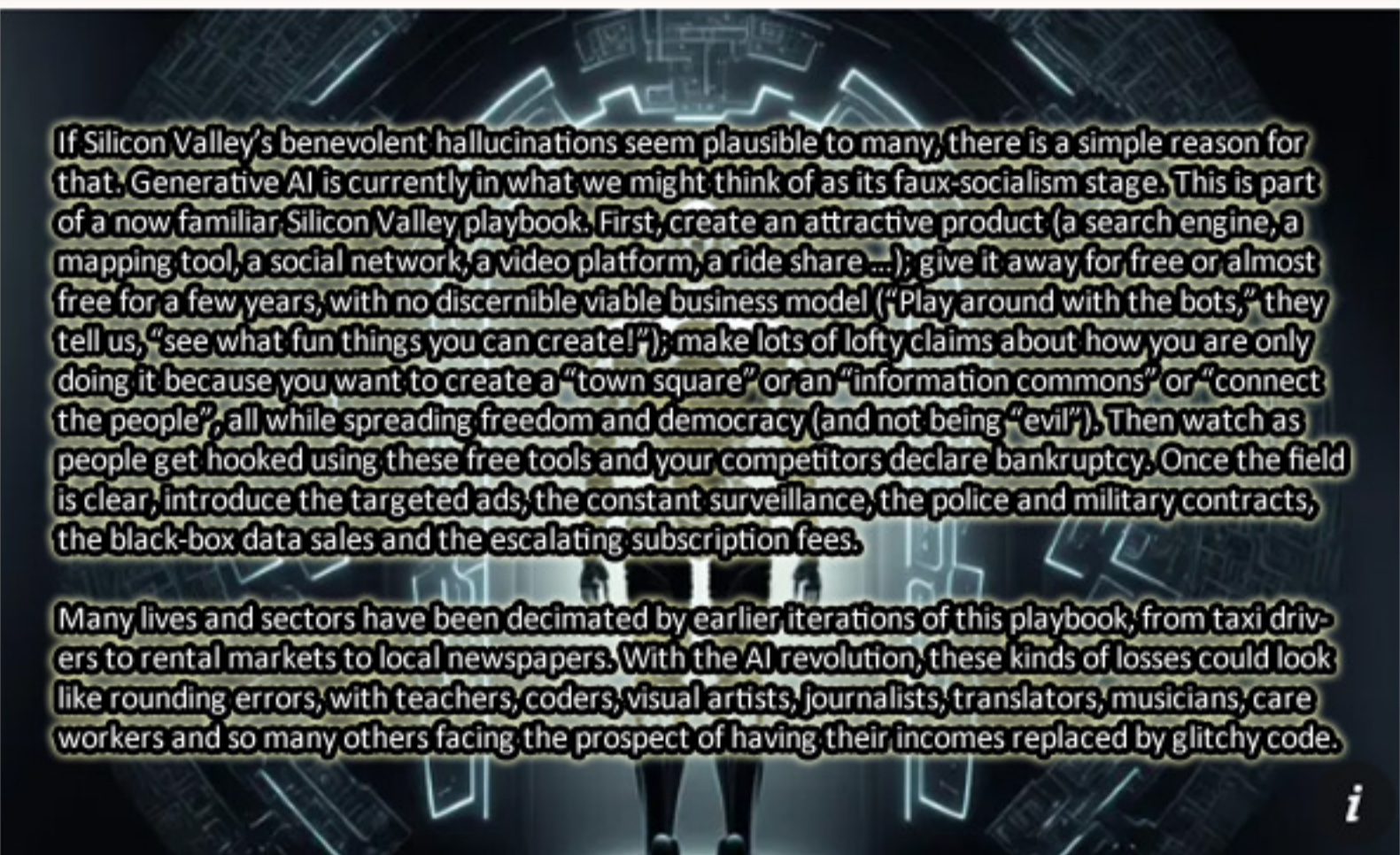
Opinion

AI machines aren't 'hallucinating'. But their makers are

Naomi Klein

Tech CEOs want us to believe that generative AI will benefit humanity. They are kidding themselves

Mon 8 May 2023 04.02 EDT



If Silicon Valley's benevolent hallucinations seem plausible to many, there is a simple reason for that. Generative AI is currently in what we might think of as its faux-socialism stage. This is part of a now familiar Silicon Valley playbook. First, create an attractive product (a search engine, a mapping tool, a social network, a video platform, a ride share ...); give it away for free or almost free for a few years, with no discernible viable business model ("Play around with the bots," they tell us, "see what fun things you can create!"); make lots of lofty claims about how you are only doing it because you want to create a "town square" or an "information commons" or "connect the people", all while spreading freedom and democracy (and not being "evil"). Then watch as people get hooked using these free tools and your competitors declare bankruptcy. Once the field is clear, introduce the targeted ads, the constant surveillance, the police and military contracts, the black-box data sales and the escalating subscription fees.

Many lives and sectors have been decimated by earlier iterations of this playbook, from taxi drivers to rental markets to local newspapers. With the AI revolution, these kinds of losses could look like rounding errors, with teachers, coders, visual artists, journalists, translators, musicians, care workers and so many others facing the prospect of having their incomes replaced by glitchy code.

And their goal never was to solve climate change or make our governments more responsible or our daily lives more leisurely.'

By now, most of us have heard about the survey that asked AI researchers and developers to estimate the probability that advanced AI systems will cause "human extinction or similarly permanent and severe disempowerment of the human species". Chillingly, the median response was that there was a 10% chance. How does one rationalize going to work and pushing out tools that carry such existential risks? Often, the reason given is that these systems also carry huge potential upsides – except that these upsides are, for the most part, hallucinatory. Let's dig into a few of the wilder ones.

Hallucination #1: AI will solve the climate crisis

Hallucination #2: AI will deliver wise governance

Hallucination #3: tech giants can be trusted not to break the world

Hallucination #4: AI will liberate us from drudgery

A world of deep fakes, mimicry loops and worsening inequality is not an inevitability. It's a set of policy choices. We can regulate the current form of vampiric chatbots out of existence – and begin to build the world in which AI's most exciting promises would be more than Silicon Valley hallucinations.

Because we trained the machines. All of us. But we never gave our consent. They fed on humanity's collective ingenuity, inspiration and revelations (along with our more venal traits). These models are enclosure and appropriation machines, devouring and privatizing our individual lives as well as our collective intellectual and artistic inheritances. And their goal never was to solve climate change or make our governments more responsible or our daily lives more leisurely. It was always to profit off mass immiseration, which, under capitalism, is the glaring and logical consequence of replacing human functions with bots.

Is all of this overly dramatic? A stuffy and reflexive resistance to exciting innovation? Why expect the worse? **Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI** – maker of ChatGPT – reassures us: "Nobody wants to destroy the world." Perhaps not. But as the ever-worsening climate and extinction crises show us every day, plenty of powerful people and institutions seem to be just fine knowing that they are helping to destroy the stability of the world's life-support systems, so long as they can keep making record profits that they believe will protect them and their families from the worst effects. **Altman, like many creatures of Silicon Valley, is himself a prepper: back in 2016, he boasted: "I have guns, gold, potassium iodide, antibiotics, batteries, water, gas masks from the Israeli Defense Force and a big patch of land in Big Sur I can fly to."**

I'm pretty sure those facts say a lot more about what Altman actually believes about the future he is helping unleash than whatever flowery hallucinations he is choosing to share in press interviews.



- 0:00-0:15 Intro
- 0:15-5:43 Kat's personal brain health journey
- 5:43-8:37 Why dementia is not a death sentence
- 8:37-14:03 Reasons why dementia happens
- 14:03-20:03 The link between oral health & Alzheimer's
- 20:03-25:23 The optimal diet to prevent cognitive decline
- 25:23-27:11 Why the medical community has resisted lifestyle interventions
- 27:11-34:27 How to meditate & exercise to prevent dementia
- 34:27-37:22 How the amyloid hypothesis leads us astray
- 37:22-38:34 How dancing can reduce cognitive decline
- 38:34-39:44 How to train your brain & stay sharp as you age
- 39:44-43:47 Kat's top daily tips to prevent cognitive decline
- 43:47-49:07 The link between hearing loss & dementia
- 49:07-51:48 How hormone therapy can enhance your brain health
- 51:48-57:12 How to detox your brain from heavy metals
- 57:12-58:31 How to test your toxins

How to prevent & reverse dementia | Psychiatrist Kat Touns, M.D. | mbg Podcast

mbg mindbodygreen [Subscribe](#) 1.8K Share Clip

66,912 views Nov 28, 2022 [The mindbodygreen Podcast](#)
 Welcome to the mindbodygreen podcast! Each week, host [Jason Wachob](#), founder and co-CEO of mindbodygreen, engages in open, honest conversations with the people shaping the world of well-being. Today's featured guest is Kat Touns, M.D., a functional medicine psychiatrist.
 "Retirement is actually considered a risk factor for dementia," she says. In this episode, Kat and Jason discuss daily tips to prevent cognitive decline, plus:

37:19 something like Tango dancing is it's a partner's dance it's a couple stance right you're dancing with a partner so

How dancing can reduce cognitive decline

37:25 it gives you an even another level of brain stimulation besides the input of

37:31 the music and the Rhythm and the movements which is a social connection you know and so we know that being



HeartMath meditation is a heart-focused breathing meditation that can help you quickly change from feeling stressed to feeling calm. Science-based and used worldwide,

What foods do you eat on keto diet?

Foods you can eat on the keto diet include fish and seafood, meat and poultry, non-starchy vegetables like bell peppers, broccoli, and zucchini, avocados, berries, nuts and seeds, eggs, high-fat dairy products, olive oil and other oils, and high-cocoa chocolate. Feb 13, 2023

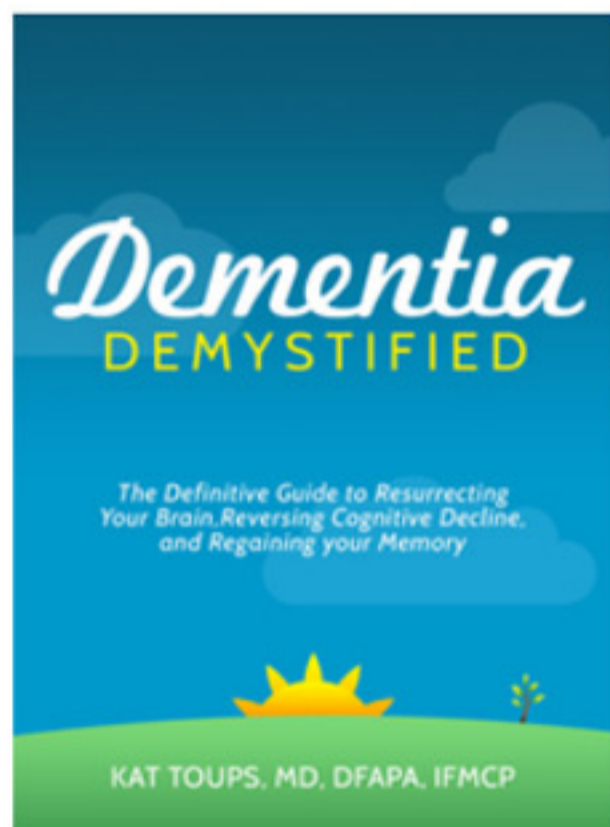


Kat Toups, M.D., DFAPA, IFMCP is a Functional Medicine Psychiatrist at Bay Area Wellness in Walnut Creek, CA, and . . .

Kat Toups, MD
Distinguished Fellow APA
Inst. for Functional Medicine Certified Practitioner
Bay Area Wellness
Functional Medicine Psychiatry



New Book by Dr. Toupes coming late 2023



Dementia is not a mysterious disease that just happens! It happens for reasons, and when we search out and identify the contributing factors, we can halt or reverse dementia.

The book is still in progress, but please check out our free eBook above for information to get started, and get on our mailing list to be notified when the book is ready.



Why Are You Struggling to Remember?

[Download the free Decoding Dementia eBook Now](#)

Precision Medicine Approach to Alzheimer's Disease: Successful Pilot Project

Journal of Alzheimer's Disease – August 2022

Publication of the prospective clinical trial from Drs. Toupes, Hathaway, Gordon, and Dale Bredesen - 84% of patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment or Early Alzheimer's showed improvement (including their MRI brain scans)

[Precision Medicine Paper](#)



Kat Toups, MD

Distinguished Fellow APA
Inst. for Functional Medicine Certified Practitioner
Bay Area Wellness
Functional Medicine Psychiatry



Thank You for your interest!
Your Decoding Dementia eBook is on the way to your
Email.

Join Our Facebook Community

- Follow me on [Facebook](#) for additional helpful information on your brain health.
- Or search **Kat Toups, MD – Functional Psychiatry and Dementia** on Facebook.

View My YouTube Channel

- You can find many talks on Dementia and other Functional Psychiatry topics on my YouTube channel.
- Just put Kat Toups in the YouTube search box, or go to: <http://YouTube.com/KatToupsMD>

One More Thing

I have so much information to share that I am working on a full-length book, Dementia Demystified.

But in the meantime, I'm happy to share my Decoding Dementia eBook to help you get started.

Stay tuned, as there is lots more to come in the book!

What is that voice in your head when you read?

Published: May 8, 2023 8.18am EDT

▼ **Beth Meisinger, Roger J. Kreuz, University of Memphis**



Reading becomes faster when you don't have to say each word out loud.

What is that voice in your head when you read? – Luiza, age 14, Goiânia, Brazil

When you first begin reading, you read out loud. Reading aloud can make the text easier to understand when you're a beginning reader or when you are reading something that's challenging. Listening to yourself as you read helps with comprehension. After that, you might "mumble read." That's when you mumble, whisper or move your lips as you read. But this practice slowly fades as your reading skills develop, and you start to read silently "in your head." That's when your inner voice comes into play. As experts in reading and language, we see this transition from reading out loud to silently all the time. It's a normal part of the development of reading skills. Usually, kids are good at reading silently by the fourth or fifth grade. The shift from reading out loud to reading silently is very similar to how kids develop thinking and speaking skills.

Young children often speak to themselves as a way to think through challenges. Lev Vygotsky, a Russian psychologist, called this "private speech." And kids aren't the only ones who talk to themselves. Just watch an adult try to put together a new vacuum cleaner. You might hear them muttering to themselves as they try to understand the assembly instructions. As kids become better thinkers, they shift to talking inside their heads instead of out loud. This is called "inner speech." Once you're a good reader, it's a lot easier to read silently. Reading becomes faster because you don't have to say each word. And you can jump back to reread parts without disrupting the flow of reading. You can even skip over short familiar words.

Silent reading is more flexible, and it allows you to focus on what's most important. And it's during silent reading that you may discover your inner voice. Developing an inner voice Hearing an inner voice while reading is relatively common. In fact, one study found that 4 in 5 people say they often or always hear an inner voice when they read silently to themselves.

It's also been suggested that there are many types of inner voices. Your inner voice might be your own: It might sound similar to the way you speak or might be just like your spoken voice. Or it might assume a different tone or timbre altogether.

A study of adult readers found that the voice you hear in your head may change depending on what you are reading. For example, if the lines in a book are spoken by a specific character, you may hear that character's voice in your head.

So, fear not if you start hearing a bunch of voices in your head when you dive into a book – it means you've already become a skilled silent reader.

White Lotus Day celebrates the ‘founding mother of occult in America,’ Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

Published: May 5, 2023 2:16pm EDT

Marina Alexandrova, *The University of Texas at Austin*



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, photographed in New York circa 1874.

Every May 8, thousands of people celebrate White Lotus Day, commemorating a remarkable and controversial Russian American woman: spiritual leader Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, who died in 1891. HPB, as followers affectionately call her, is remembered as a co-founder of the Theosophical Society. Aiming to create a universal brotherhood of humanity, theosophy claimed that its tenets came from spiritual masters in the Himalayas. Today, the movement has over 25,000 official members, with more than 1,000 lodges and centers around the world. Other theosophical organizations, like United Lodge of Theosophists, also boast a robust official and unofficial membership that is harder to estimate.

Theosophy’s strongest influence, however, was on the **esoteric spiritual revival** that took Europe and the United States by storm in the late 19th century, with Blavatsky herself sometimes called “the mother of modern spirituality.” Her descriptions of Hinduism and Buddhism were often romanticized and inaccurate but fueled Western interest in Asian religions and gave rise to dozens of spiritual movements.

Complicated legacy

Blavatsky was not the first European scholar to turn to the East in search of ancient truth. Unlike many other scholars of India in the 19th century, however, she spent considerable time there, and in her writings from that period she often expresses outrage at British colonial injustices. In fact, after she moved the official headquarters of the Theosophical Society to Adyar, India, in 1879, Blavatsky was under surveillance by British authorities, who suspected that she was carrying out espionage for the Russians amid intense rivalry between the two empires.

But her legacy is complex. On the one hand, she can be thought of as an anti-colonial writer whose incriminating portrayals of brutality and excess in her travelogue “From the Caves and Jungles of Hindostan” were among the most scathing indictments of British colonialism at the time. On the other hand, Blavatsky failed to condemn Russia’s own imperial practices in Central Asia.

It is Blavatsky’s role in popularizing Eastern spiritual traditions abroad that has been her most lasting impact – even if her ideas were often unorthodox. Intellectual leaders from psychologist William James and Indian independence activist Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to playwright George Bernard Shaw and inventor Thomas Edison were all members of the Theosophical Society or incorporated theosophical ideas into their work.

Theosophy now competes with other new religious movements for membership – but they, too, have been shaped by the woman writer Kurt Vonnegut called the “founding mother of occult in America.”



Noam Chomsky: Who is the greatest threat to world peace?

Times Radio ✓
349K subscribers

Subscribe

2.6K

Share

131,993 views Premiered Apr 25, 2023

Matt Chorley speaks to Noam Chomsky about the war in Ukraine, asks if the left have been too soft on Putin. They discuss Corbyn's election performances, and what hope Noam holds for the future of humanity.

8:58 > **United States is now commemorating some of its worst atrocities in Iraq** like one of the worst atrocities was the marine assault on Fallujah, beautiful city one of the most beautiful in Iraq destroyed unknown numbers of people killed but the the people still dying from the weapons that were used. The United States Navy just commissioned its latest warship the USS Fallujah in honor of the Marine assault which carried out -- one of the worst atrocities in Iraq.

6:31 > Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine is plainly a war crime, you can't put it in the same category as greater war crimes but it's a major one according to the only evidence that we have solid evidence is the United Nations estimates uh Pentagon estimates and so on they estimate about 8 000 civilians killed. that's a lot of people but the United States and Britain do that overnight. it's uh presumably it's an underestimate so let's say it's twice that much that would put it at the level of the U.S backed Israeli invasion of Lebanon it's killed about maybe twenty thousand people suppose it's off by a factor of 10. that is the casualty rate is really ten times as high as this claimed well that would put it in the category of Ronald Reagan's terrorist atrocities in El Salvador roughly a new order of 80,000. So it's here . . . of course Iraq is just another dimension . . . so it's serious it's a terrible crime, but you can understand why the global South does not take very seriously the eloquent protestations of Western countries about this unique episode in history -- they've been victims of far more.

Fallujah^[a] (Arabic: **الْفَلُّوجَة**, romanized: *al-Fallūjah*, Iraqi pronunciation: [el.fel.ˈluː.dʒe]) is a city in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar, located roughly 69 kilometers (43 mi) west of Baghdad on the Euphrates. Fallujah dates from Babylonian times and was host to important Jewish academies for many centuries.

The city grew from a small town in 1947 to having a population of 275,128^[1] inhabitants in 2011.^[3] Within Iraq, it is known as the "city of mosques" for the more than 200 mosques found in the city and the surrounding villages.

The city became a major center of resistance against the Iraqi government during the Iraqi insurgency and the city was the scene of fierce fighting during the First and Second Battles of Fallujah. These battles left much of the city heavily damaged. In January 2014, the city was captured by the Islamic State^[4] and suffered major population loss. On 23 May 2016, Iraqi forces announced the beginning of their attempt to retake Fallujah from IS.^[5] On 26 June 2016 the city was declared fully liberated by the Iraqi army.^[6]



USS Fallujah (LHA-9) will be an *America-class* amphibious assault ship of the United States Navy and the first ship to bear this name to commemorate the first and second battles at Fallujah during the Iraq War in 2004. On 13 December 2022, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced the name in a press release.^[2]

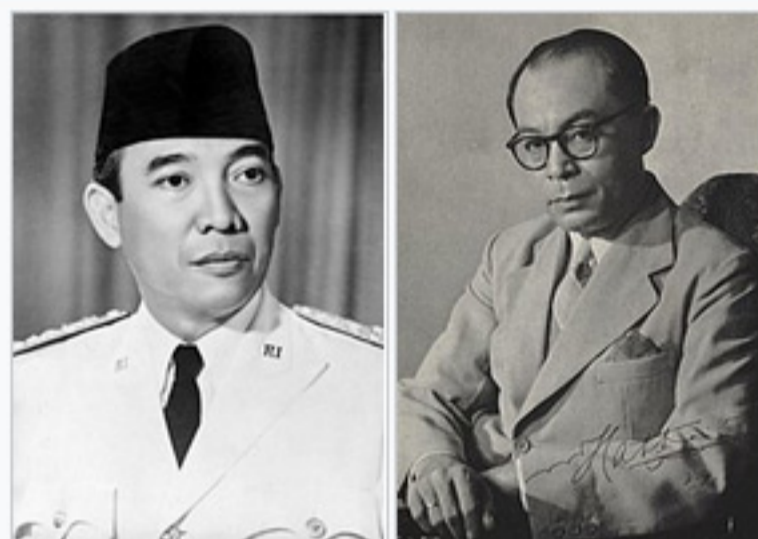
☰ Indonesia



31:29 >popular opposition to the U.S/British support for the worst probably the worst act of genocide since the second world war namely the Indonesian invasion of East Timor **backed by the United States by Britain killed maybe a third of the population** . . . well didn't kill everybody so there was a slight success, . . . they still survive, there are other cases . . .

Noam Chomsky: Who is the greatest threat to world peace?

Post-World War II



Sukarno (left) and Hatta (right), Indonesia's founding fathers and the first President and Vice President respectively

As president, Sukarno moved Indonesia from democracy towards authoritarianism and maintained power by balancing the opposing forces of the military, political Islam, and the increasingly powerful Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI).^[52] Tensions between the military and the PKI culminated in an attempted coup in 1965. **The army, led by Major General Suharto, countered by instigating a violent anti-communist purge that killed between 500,000 and one million people and incarcerated roughly a million more in concentration camps.**^{[53][54][55][56]} The PKI was blamed for the coup and effectively destroyed.^{[57][58][59]} Suharto capitalised on Sukarno's weakened position, and following a drawn-out power play with Sukarno, Suharto was appointed president in March 1968. His "New Order" administration,^[60] supported by the United States,^{[61][62][63]} encouraged foreign direct investment,^{[64][65][66]} which was a crucial factor in the subsequent three decades of substantial economic growth.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Timor#Indonesian_occupation_...

East Timor

Indonesian occupation (1975–1999): The Indonesian occupation of Timor was marked by violence and brutality. A detailed statistical report prepared for the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor cited a minimum of 102,800 conflict-related deaths in the period between 1974 and 1999, including approximately 18,600 killings and 84,200 excess deaths from hunger and illness. **The total number of conflict-related deaths during this period is difficult to determine due to a lack of data. One estimate based on Portuguese, Indonesian, and Catholic Church data suggests it may have been as high as 200,000.**

Indonesia was the country hardest hit by the 1997 Asian financial crisis.^[67] It brought out popular discontent with the New Order's corruption and suppression of political opposition and ultimately ended Suharto's presidency.^{[42][68][69][70]} In 1999, East Timor seceded from Indonesia, following its 1975 invasion by Indonesia^[71] and a 25-year occupation marked by international condemnation of human rights abuses.^[72]

Since 1998, democratic processes have been strengthened by enhancing regional autonomy and instituting the country's first direct presidential election in 2004.^[73] Political, economic and social instability, corruption, and instances of terrorism remained problems in the 2000s; however, the economy has performed strongly in the last 15 years. Although relations among the diverse population are mostly harmonious, acute sectarian discontent and violence remain problematic in some areas.^[74] A political settlement to an armed separatist conflict in Aceh was achieved in 2005.^[75]

Through her grief, an Indian American photographer rediscovers her heritage

May 9, 2023 · 6:12 AM ET

By Maansi Srivastava



Maansi's father, Bhuwan Srivastava, lifts her mother, Shubhika Srivastava, out of the grass at the park near their home in Wilmington, Del.

Maansi Srivastava



Maansi's sister, Komal Srivastava, her father and her mother walk toward her at a park in Wilmington, Del., in spring 2020.

Maansi Srivastava

*I developed this photo essay, *Roots Hanging from the Banyan Tree*, over the past three years. Photography became my therapy as I grappled with loss, grief and racial reckoning over the course of the pandemic. Searching for my identity as an Indian American woman became intertwined with the struggle to ground myself after losing my grandmother to COVID-19.*



Kayla Patil, 7, examines her birthday cake at her Halloween-themed birthday party at her home in Vienna, Va.

Maansi Srivastava



Maansi's Nana, Shailendra Hajela, or maternal grandfather, in Hindi, completes funeral rites for her Nani, Aruna Hajela, in New Jersey on June 14, 2021. Her Nani was diagnosed with COVID-19 while living in Delhi, India, amid the Delta variant's surge in May 2021. She was airlifted to Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City for emergency treatment, where she passed away.

Maansi Srivastava

Utah author of book on grieving death charged with murder

By SAM METZ today

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — After her husband died last year, she wrote a children’s book on grief. Now she’s charged with his murder.

Kouri Richins was arrested on Monday in Utah and is accused in charging documents of poisoning her husband with a lethal dose of fentanyl at their home in Kamas, a small mountain town near Park City.

Prosecutors allege that Richins called authorities in the middle of the night in March 2022 to report that her husband, Eric Richins, was “cold to the touch.” The mother of three told officers that she had made her husband a mixed vodka drink to celebrate him selling a home and then went to soothe one of their children to sleep in their bedroom. She later returned and upon finding her husband unresponsive, called 911.

A medical examiner later found five times the lethal dosage of fentanyl in his system.

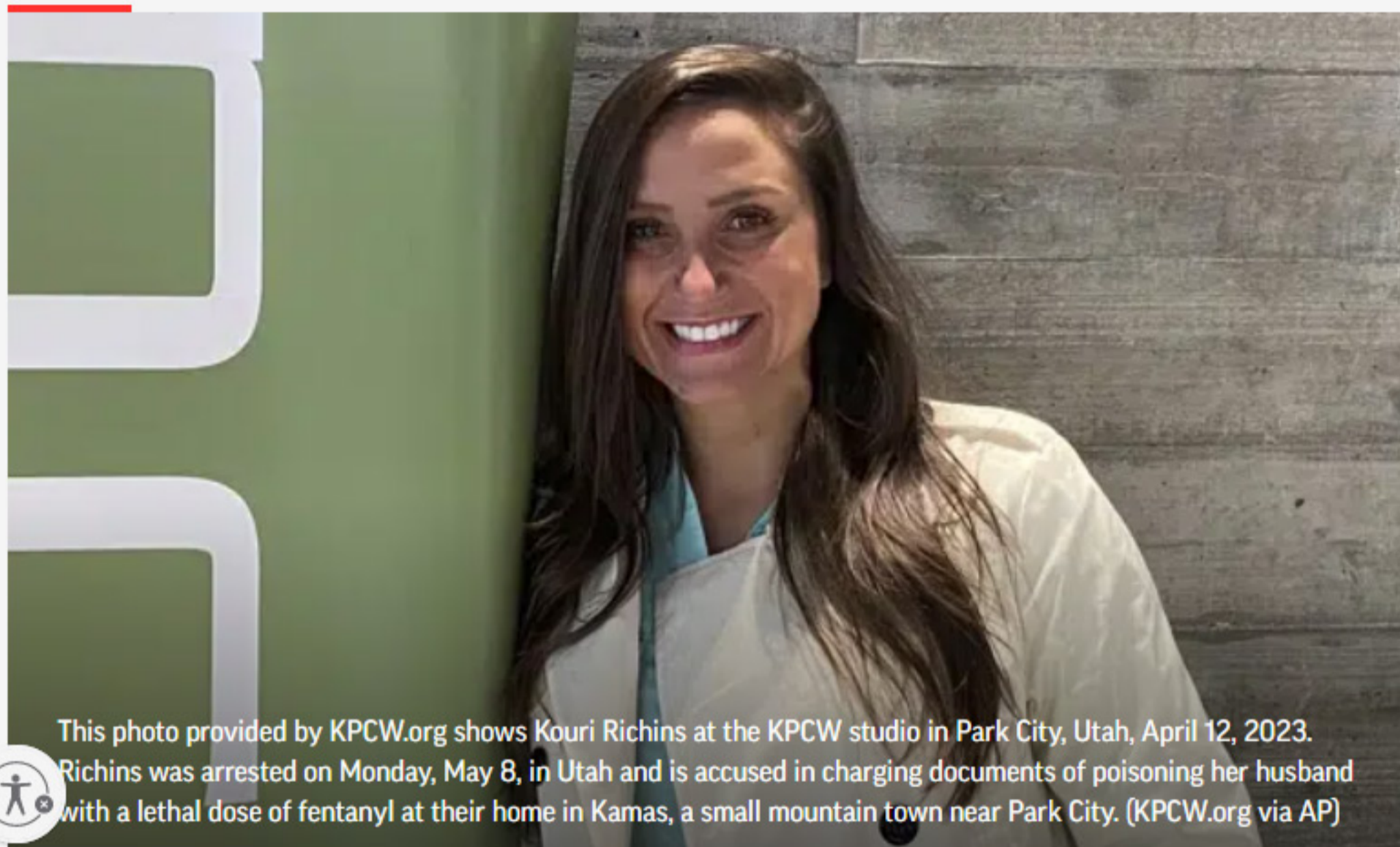
In addition to the murder charge, Richins also faces charges involving the alleged possession of GHB — a narcolepsy drug frequently used in recreational settings, including at dance clubs.

The charges — which are based on officers’ interactions with Richins that night and the account of an “unnamed acquaintance” who claims to have sold her the fentanyl — come two months after Richins appeared on local television to promote “Are you with me?” a picture book she wrote to help children cope after the death of a loved one.

For a segment entitled “Good Things Utah,” Richins called her husband’s death unexpected and described how it sent her and her three boys reeling. For children, she said, grieving was about “making sure that their spirit is always alive in your home.”

“It’s — you know — explaining to my kid just because he’s not present here with us physically, doesn’t mean his presence isn’t here with us,” she told the anchors, who commended her for being an amazing mother.

Richins’ attorney, Skye Lazaro, declined to comment on the charges.



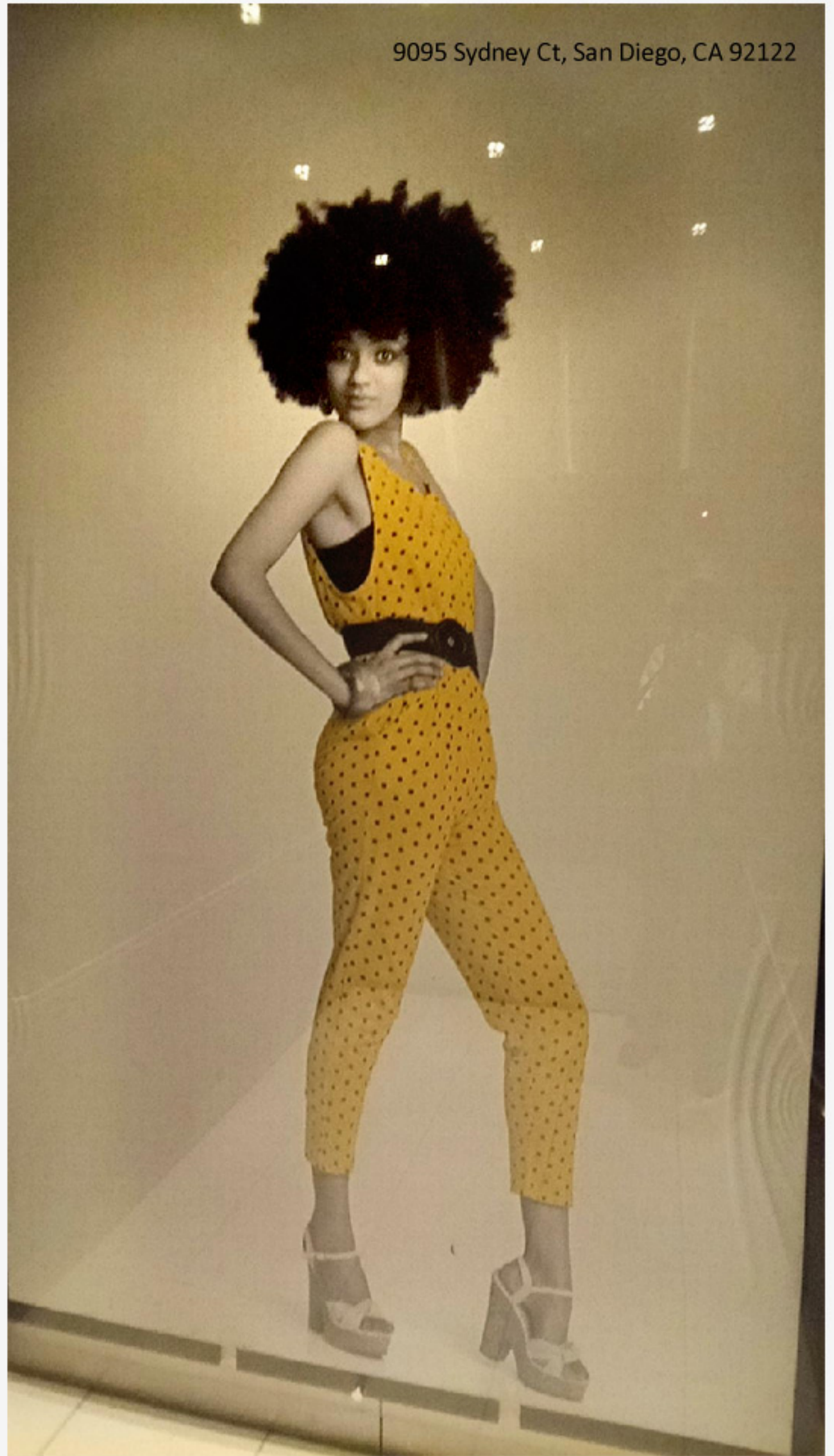
This photo provided by KPCW.org shows Kouri Richins at the KPCW studio in Park City, Utah, April 12, 2023. Richins was arrested on Monday, May 8, in Utah and is accused in charging documents of poisoning her husband with a lethal dose of fentanyl at their home in Kamas, a small mountain town near Park City. (KPCW.org via AP)



Are you with me?

by Kouri D. Richins (Author)

Paperback – March 7, 2023



The Observer
Peer review and
scientific
publishing

**Anna
Fazackerley**

Sun 7 May 2023 03.00
EDT



‘Too greedy’: mass walkout at global science journal over ‘unethical’ fees

Entire board resigns over actions of academic publisher whose profit margins outstrip even Google and Amazon



📷 An Elsevier facility in Missouri. The company has been accused of preying on the academic community. Photograph: Kristoffer Tripplaar/Alamy

More than 40 leading scientists have resigned en masse from the editorial board of a top science journal in protest at what they describe as the “greed” of publishing giant Elsevier.

The entire academic board of the journal *Neuroimage*, including professors from Oxford University, King’s College London and Cardiff University **resigned** after Elsevier refused to reduce publication charges.

Elsevier (Dutch: [ˈɛlzəviːr]) is a Dutch academic publishing company specializing in scientific, technical, and medical content. Its products include journals such as *The Lancet*, *Cell*, the ScienceDirect collection of electronic journals, *Trends*, the Current Opinion series, the online citation database Scopus, the SciVal tool for measuring research performance, the ClinicalKey search engine for clinicians, and the ClinicalPath evidence-based cancer care service. Elsevier's products and services include digital tools for data management, instruction, research analytics, and assessment.

Elsevier is part of the RELX Group, known until 2015 as Reed Elsevier, a publicly-traded company. According to RELX reports, in 2021 Elsevier published more than 600,000 articles annually in over 2,700 journals; as of 2018 its archives contained over 17 million documents and 40,000 e-books, with over one billion annual downloads.

Researchers have criticized Elsevier for its high profit margins and copyright practices. The company earned £942 million in profit with an adjusted operating margin of 37% in 2018. Much of the research that Elsevier publishes is publicly funded; its high costs have led to accusations of rent-seeking, boycotts, and the rise of alternate avenues for publication and access, such as preprint servers and shadow libraries

MATHEMATICS

Why the ‘Sleeping Beauty Problem’ Is Keeping Mathematicians Awake

A thought experiment that’s dividing mathematicians can help illuminate how belief shapes rational decisions

By Manon Bischoff on May 4, 2023



Usually, there are clear answers in mathematics—especially if the tasks are not too complicated. But when it comes to the Sleeping Beauty problem, which became popular in 2000, there is still no universal consensus. Experts in philosophy and mathematics split into two camps and ceaselessly cite—often quite convincingly—arguments for their respective side. More than 100 technical publications exist on this puzzle, and almost every person who hears about the Sleeping Beauty thought experiment develops their own strong opinion.

The problem vexing the minds of experts is as follows: Sleeping Beauty agrees to participate in an experiment. On Sunday she is given a sleeping pill and falls asleep. One of the experimenters then tosses a coin. If “heads” comes up, the scientists awaken Sleeping Beauty on Monday. Afterward, they administer another sleeping pill. If “tails” comes up, they wake Sleeping Beauty up on Monday, put her back to sleep and wake her up again on Tuesday. Then they give her another sleeping pill. In both cases, they wake her up again on Wednesday, and the experiment ends.

The important thing here is that because of the sleeping drug, Sleeping Beauty has no memory of whether she was woken up before. So when she wakes up, she cannot distinguish whether it is Monday or Tuesday. The experimenters do not tell Sleeping Beauty either the outcome of the coin toss nor the day. They ask her one question after each time she awakens, however: What is the probability that the coin shows heads? Put yourself in the position of Sleeping Beauty: You wake up, you don’t know what day it is, and you don’t know if you have been woken up before. You only know the theoretical course of the experiment.

Taking It to Extremes: How would you answer the question now that you have heard the two main arguments? To get an even better sense of the Sleeping Beauty problem, it can help to think of a more extreme version of the thought experiment. Suppose that in the case of tails, Sleeping Beauty will be awakened and questioned not just one additional time the next day but a million times (presumably at smaller intervals—because, even for a fairy tale character, this schedule would be brutal). If you wake her up and ask her the probability that the coin landed on heads, the answer $\frac{1}{2}$ doesn’t seem logical in this scenario. If the coin toss results in tails, Sleeping Beauty is questioned a million times in a row, and in the case of heads, she is questioned just once. But extreme cases can also strengthen the $\frac{1}{2}$ camp’s position. For example, instead of a coin toss, a sports bet could be used, such as a footrace pitting retired sprinter Usain Bolt against singer Taylor Swift. In this scenario, if Bolt, a world record holder in multiple running categories, defeats the pop star—as most people would anticipate—Sleeping Beauty will only be awakened once on Monday. But if, contrary to all expectations, Swift proves swifter, Sleeping Beauty must wake up every day for a month, 30 times in a row. The probability of Bolt losing to Swift is very low. But if we apply the same logic that motivated the $\frac{1}{3}$ response, we need to treat those scenarios with equal weight. Sleeping Beauty would still have to bet on a Swift victory after waking up because in this—admittedly unlikely—situation, she could be awakened 30 times. Lewis found this argument nonsensical. This thought experiment, he thus contended, supports the $\frac{1}{2}$ faction. **Are you now completely confused?** You are not alone. Has your opinion changed? Mine has. I’m no longer completely convinced by the $\frac{1}{2}$ camp, at any rate. I can also gain insight from the $\frac{1}{3}$ position. This puzzle has some interesting applications. Philosophers and mathematicians can use it to think about decision-making and probability broadly. For example, this thought experiment illustrates how someone’s beliefs—in this case, Sleeping Beauty’s—can lead to more than one rational conclusion. It also underscores the difference between the number of experimental possibilities (such as flipping heads versus tails) and the possible experiences of someone within an experiment.



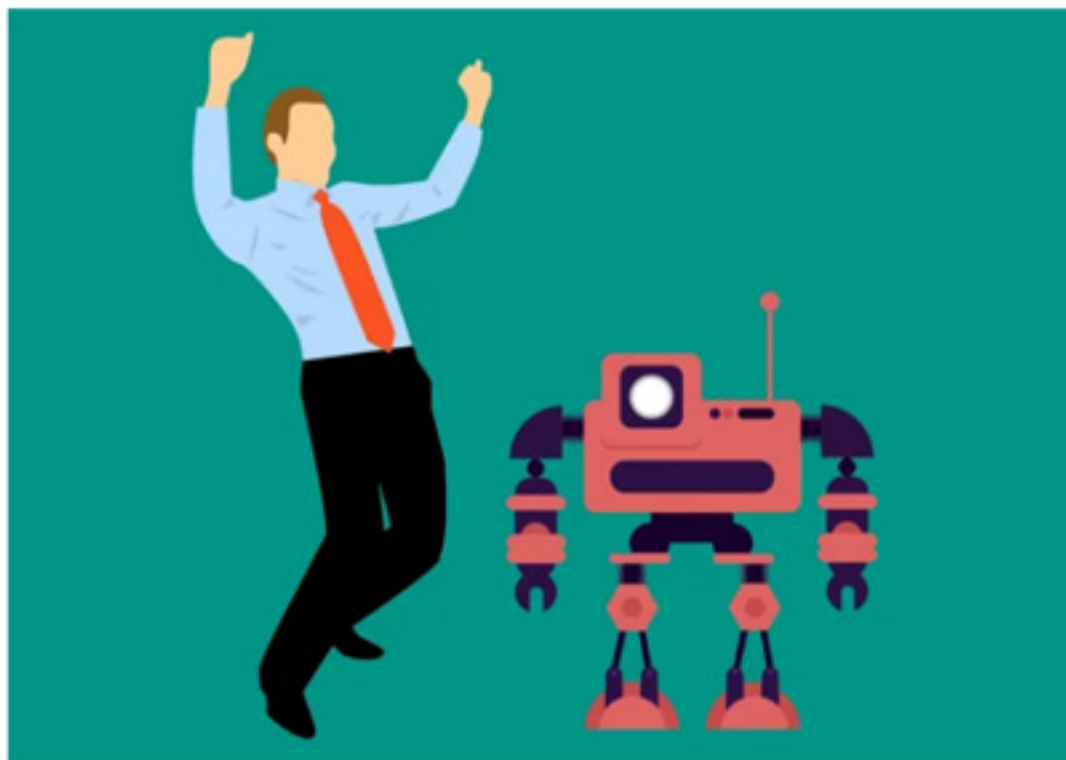
Manon Bischoff is a theoretical physicist and editor at *Spektrum*, a partner publication of *Scientific American*.
Credit: Nick Higgins

What if AI could rebuild the middle class?

May 9, 2023 · 6:30 AM ET



Greg Rosalsky



We are witnessing a technological revolution unfolding in real time. The rise of smart machines opens up some scary possibilities; for our economy, for our democracy, even, in the most catastrophic scenarios, for our continued existence as a species. But, if we get our act together, the age of Artificial Intelligence could be one in which we rebuild the middle class, says MIT's David Autor, one of the top labor economists in the world. Autor sees a potential future where we harness the power of AI to create a whole bunch of good jobs for people who have been left behind over the last few decades. Even in this cheery scenario, AI will profoundly disrupt the job market. But, Autor says, with concerted efforts and smart policies, we can bring the dream of a more prosperous and more equal economy into reality. For the last four decades, technology has been mostly a force for greater inequality. Since the 1990s, Autor and his colleagues have uncovered a mountain of evidence about this. Autor calls it "job polarization." Basically, computers have been great for the jobs of high-income, college-educated workers, but not so great for the jobs of everyone else. Autor's research suggests that computers killed a range of jobs in manufacturing and offices that once provided solid opportunities to Americans without a college degree. But new empirical evidence suggests that the age of AI could be different. It poses the possibility that, instead of highly skilled and college-educated workers reaping most of the benefits from the assistance of smart machines, it could be the less skilled and non-college-educated who get the biggest boost. Autor is hopeful that, with the right policies to prepare and assist Americans to succeed in this new AI economy, we could make a wider array of workers much better at a whole range of jobs, lowering barriers to entry and creating new opportunities. "Let's use AI to reinstate the middle class," Autor declares. It could be a rallying cry for this new technological era.

Why The Happier Scenario Is More Likely Than The Bad Scenarios

First of all, AI still lags far behind humans in many realms. We still possess plenty of capabilities, talents, and skills that these machines cannot match. "First of all, we live in the physical world, which most machines do not," Autor says. "There's all kinds of things that we can do with our hands and our bodies and our faces, and so that machines are not at the moment doing."

More than that, Autor says, we still have brains that outmatch computers in many ways. We are "more adaptive problem solvers," Autor says. "We have much more common sense, and, of course, we're much better at relating to other people. And we're more creative. I don't think we've been surpassed in many realms. In some we will be surpassed quickly, but some we will not be."

Even more, Autor says, we are actually living in a period where the problem is we don't have enough people to do jobs, not that there are too few jobs for people to do. Our fertility rates have plummeted. Our population is getting older and retiring. Immigration has radically slowed. "The US population is growing at its slowest rate since the founding of the nation," Autor says. Many other countries are seeing a similar demographic crunch.

"And that's a world where we actually need a lot more automation to enable us to do the things we need to do, including care for the elderly," Autor says. "So I'm not worried about us running out of work and running out of jobs to do."

Autor says his biggest fears at the moment are actually that AI could be used to build smart weapons, spread misinformation, have us further question truth and reality with fake videos, images, and recordings, and endanger our peace and security. "In my mind, I actually think the irony is that the labor market is the least scary part of this at the moment," Autor says. "I'm actually much more scared about the impact of AI on everything else."



America's housing crunch

How finding a home in America became so absurdly expensive

With US housing costs skyrocketing due to increased demand and limited stock, the dream of home ownership or an affordable rental is becoming unreachable for many

● [Tell us: have you struggled with US housing costs?](#)

by [Alvin Chang](#)

Higher home prices mean that in most of the country, the area's median household income is not enough to stretch to buying a typical home. Composite: Getty Images

America's housing crunch is supported by



[About this content](#)

Wed 10 May 2023 06.00 EDT



In 2021, real estate agents started noticing something strange happening in the US housing market.

In a single week, veteran realtor Sasha Davis wrote 50 offers for clients hoping to buy a home in Florida.

You need to register to keep reading

It's still free to read - this is not a paywall



Leave at door



Lillian V.



Note from customer

- Leave at door

- At the door, but please not on the step.
I have covid so I will not be able to come to the door or greet you.



Canterbury Dr
San Diego, California

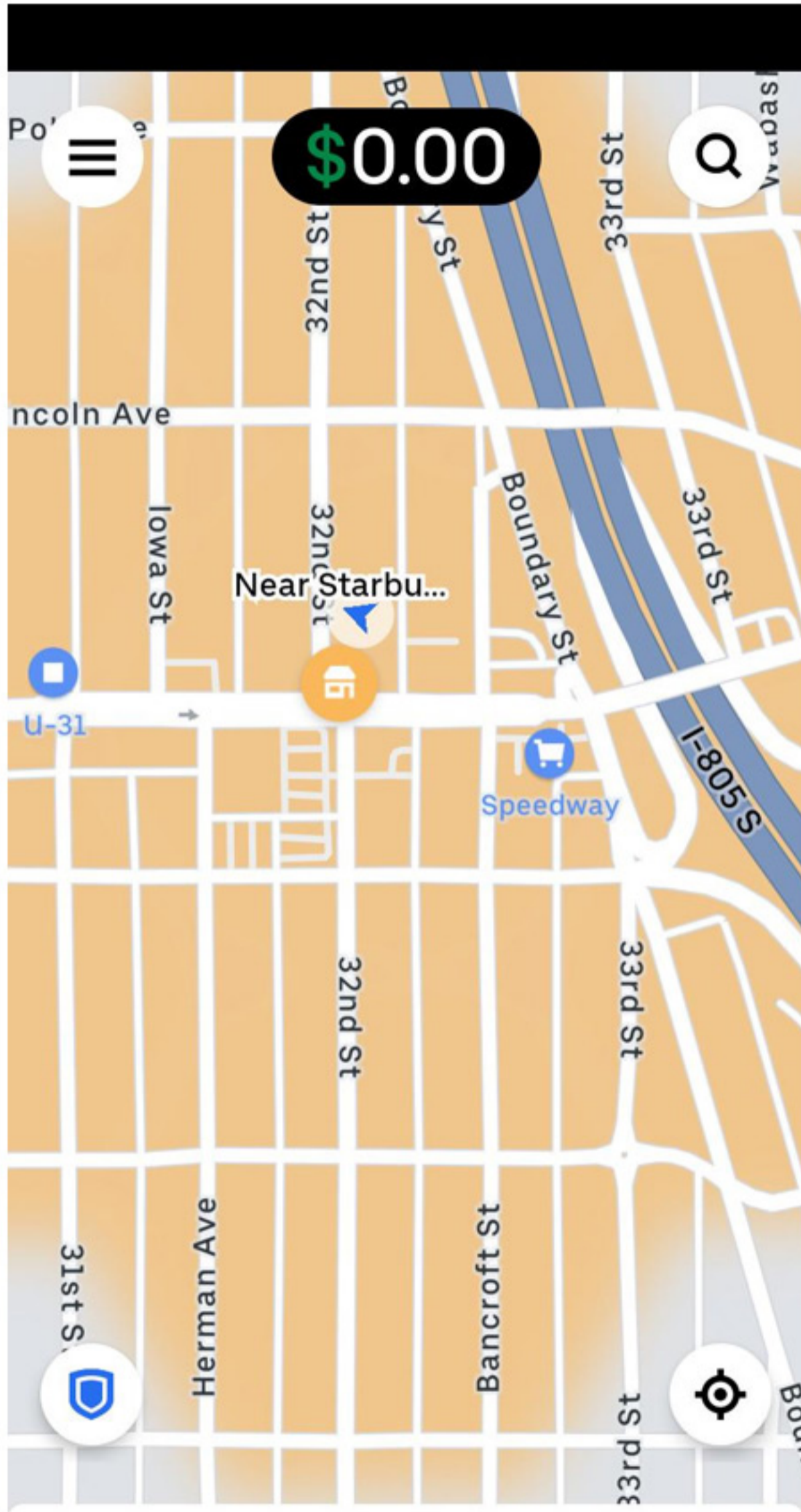
Drop off 1 order

F06

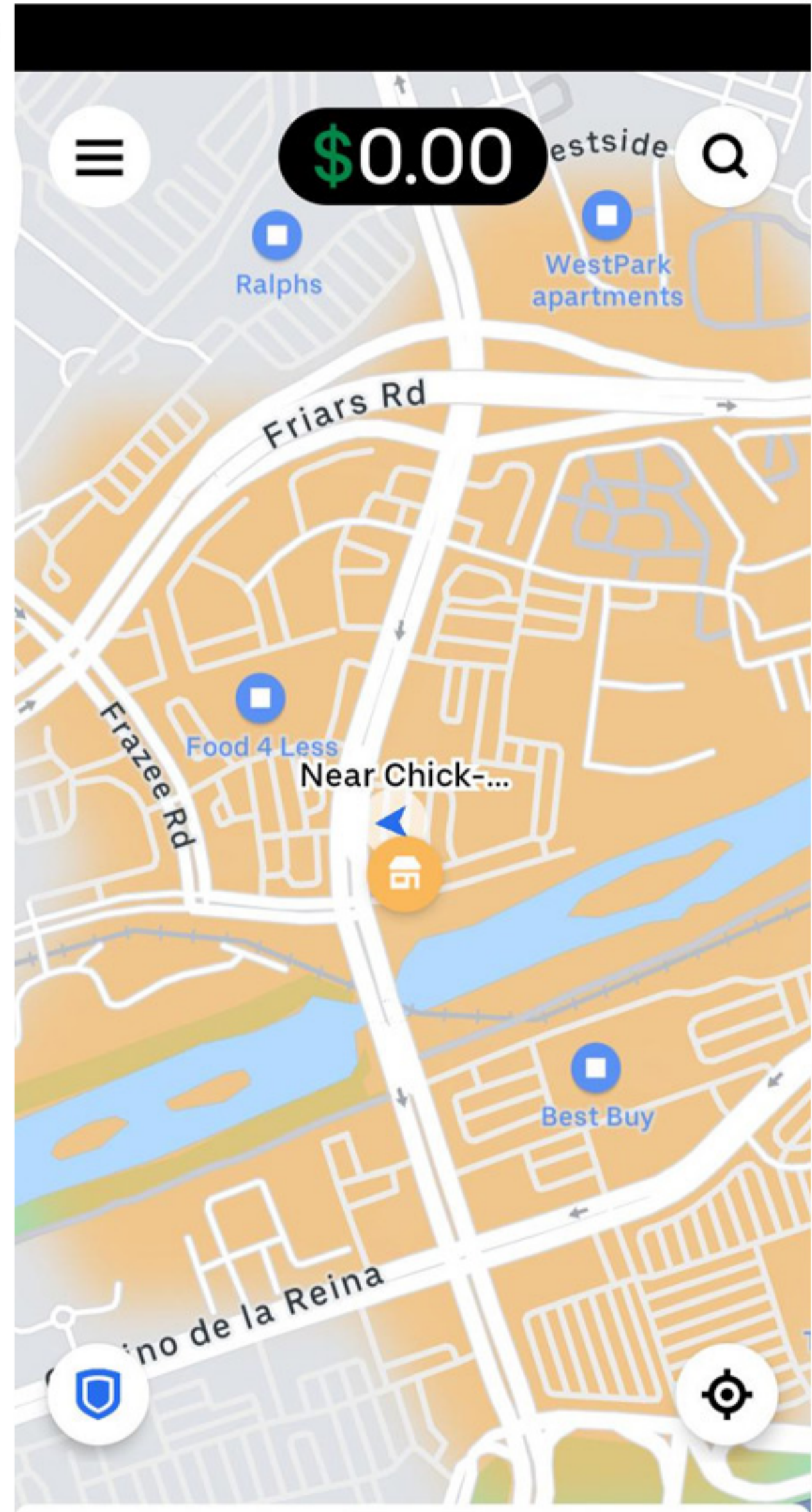


Take photo

7:35am



8:05am







Pizza Hut

Popular delivery, carry-out & dine-in chain known for pizza, wings & pasta, plus sides & desserts.

Located in: Linda Vista Plaza

6911 Linda Vista Rd, San Diego, CA 92111



Facial recognition software misidentifies Black women more than other people.
JLco - Ana Suanes/iStock via Getty Images

I unintentionally created a biased AI algorithm 25 years ago – tech companies are still making the same mistake

Published: May 9, 2023 8.24am EDT

John MacCormick, Dickinson College



AI researcher and artist Joy Buolamwini's video poem 'AI, Ain't I a Woman?'

I suddenly remembered that I, too, had once created a racially biased algorithm. In 1998, I was a doctoral student. My project involved tracking the movements of a person's head based on input from a video camera. My doctoral adviser had already developed mathematical techniques for accurately following the head in certain situations, but the system needed to be much faster and more robust. Earlier in the 1990s, researchers in other labs had shown that skin-colored areas of an image could be extracted in real time. So we decided to focus on skin color as an additional cue for the tracker.

I used a digital camera – still a rarity at that time – to take a few shots of my own hand and face, and I also snapped the hands and faces of two or three other people who happened to be in the building. It was easy to manually extract some of the skin-colored pixels from these images and construct a statistical model for the skin colors. After some tweaking and debugging, we had a surprisingly robust real-time head-tracking system.

Not long afterward, my adviser asked me to demonstrate the system to some visiting company executives. When they walked into the room, I was instantly flooded with anxiety: the executives were Japanese. In my casual experiment to see if a simple statistical model would work with our prototype, I had collected data from myself and a handful of others who happened to be in the building. But 100% of these subjects had “white” skin; the Japanese executives did not.

[. . .] an algorithm that tracks only white skin will be more accurate than an algorithm that tracks the full range of human skin colors. Even if they are aware of the need for diversity and fairness, scientists can be subconsciously affected by this competing need for accuracy. My creation of a biased algorithm was thoughtless and potentially offensive. Even more concerning, this incident demonstrates how bias can remain concealed deep within an AI system. To see why, consider a particular set of 12 numbers in a matrix of three rows and four columns. Do they seem racist? The head-tracking algorithm I developed in 1998 is controlled by a matrix like this, which describes the skin color model. But it's impossible to tell from these numbers alone that this is in fact a racist matrix. They are just numbers, determined automatically by a computer program. The problem of bias hiding in plain sight is much more severe in modern machine-learning systems. Deep neural networks – currently the most popular and powerful type of AI model – often have millions of numbers in which bias could be encoded. The biased face recognition systems critiqued in “AI, Ain't I a Woman?” are all deep neural networks.

<< Poet of Code shares "AI, Ain't I A Woman " - a spoken word piece that highlights the ways in which artificial intelligence can misinterpret the images of iconic black women: Oprah, Serena Williams, Michelle Obama, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, and Shirley Chisholm

WE'RE LEADING A CULTURAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS EQUITABLE AND ACCOUNTABLE AI

We now live in a world where AI governs access to information, opportunity and freedom. However, AI systems can perpetuate racism, sexism, ableism, and other harmful forms of discrimination, therefore, presenting significant threats to our society - from healthcare, to economic opportunity, to our criminal justice system.

The Algorithmic Justice League is an organization that combines art and research to illuminate the social implications and harms of artificial intelligence.

AJL's mission is to raise public awareness about the impacts of AI, equip advocates with resources to bolster campaigns, build the voice and choice of the most impacted communities, and galvanize researchers, policymakers, and industry practitioners to prevent AI harms.

AJL is a fiscally sponsored project of [Code for Science & Society](#).

FOUNDER AND ARTIST-IN-CHIEF

DR. JOY BUOLAMWINI (SHE/HER)

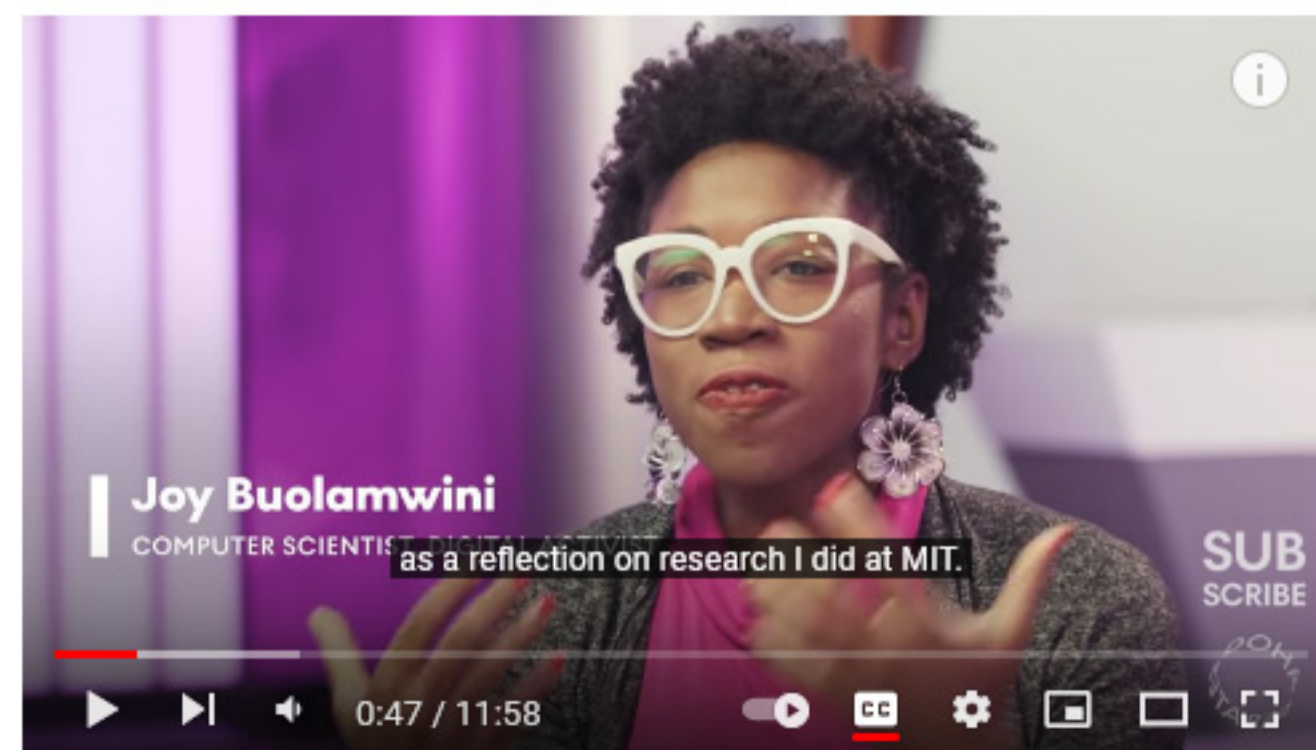
A poet of code and AI researcher motivated by personal experiences of algorithmic discrimination, Dr. Joy shared her story in a [TED featured Talk](#) that has over 1.4 million views and launched the Algorithmic Justice League in 2016.

WE WANT THE WORLD TO REMEMBER THAT WHO CODES MATTERS, HOW WE CODE MATTERS, AND THAT WE CAN CODE A BETTER FUTURE.

THE ALGORITHMIC JUSTICE LEAGUE'S TEAM

IGNITING THE POWER OF RESEARCH, ART AND STORYTELLING

We believe in the power of storytelling for social change. We tell stories that galvanize action with both research and art. We follow a scientific approach to our research, experiments and policy recommendations. We rely on art, freedom and creativity to spread the word, generate awareness about the harms in AI, and amplify the voice of marginalized communities in today's AI ecosystem. Most importantly, we know making change is a team effort. Fighting for algorithmic justice takes all of us.



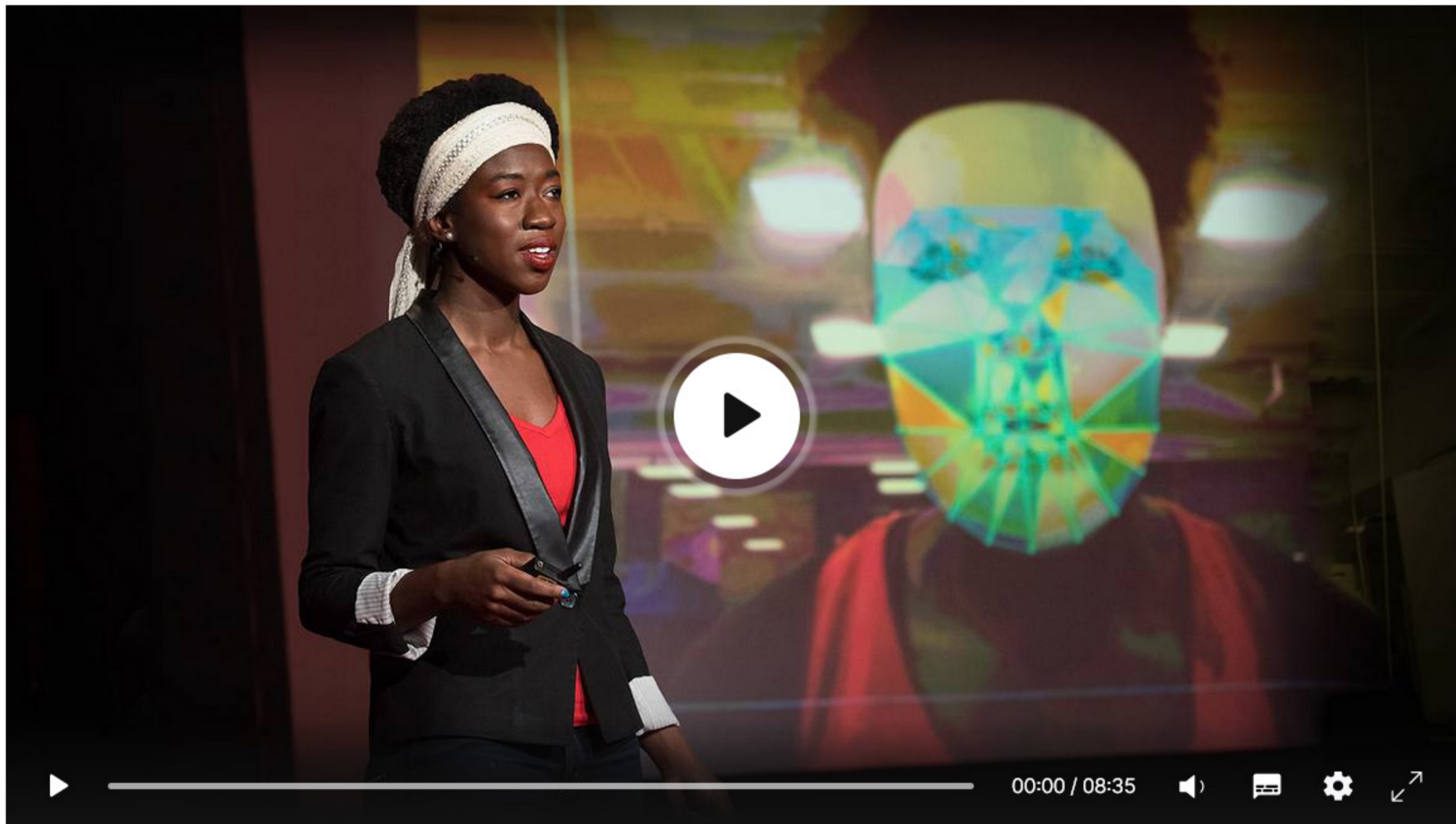
Bias in A.I. For Women & People of Color | Joy Buolamwini

6,266 views Apr 16, 2019

Joy Buolamwini sat down with Doha Debates Correspondent Nelufar Hedayat to talk about how existing power structures can lead to unintended bias in AI for women and people of color.



SIGN IN



How I'm fighting bias in algorithms

1,637,563 views | Joy Buolamwini • TEDxBeaconStreet

Mar 29, 2017

MIT grad student Joy Buolamwini was working with facial analysis software when she noticed a problem: the software didn't detect her face -- because the people who coded the algorithm hadn't taught it to identify a broad range of skin tones and facial structures. Now she's on a mission to fight bias in machine learning, a phenomenon she calls the "coded gaze." It's an eye-opening talk about the need for accountability in coding ... as algorithms take over more and more aspects of our lives.

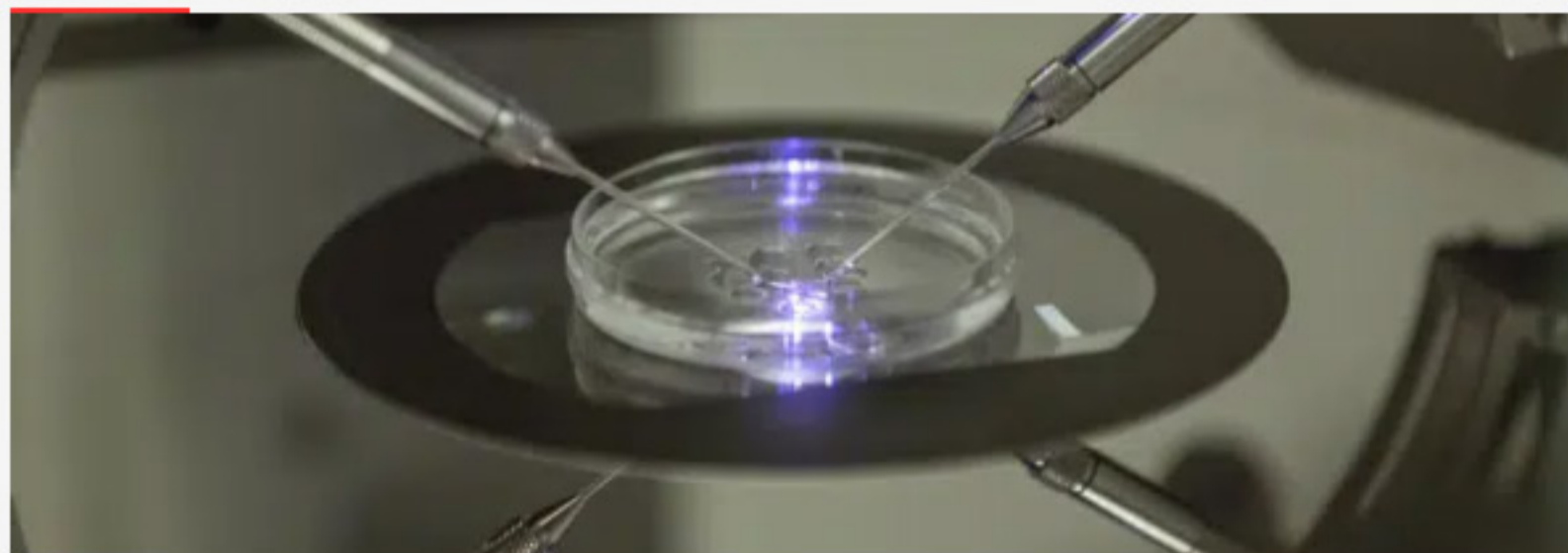
Evacuated middle school students wait on a bus after a shooting at Noblesville West Middle School on May 25, 2018, in Noblesville, Indiana.

EMERGENCY EXIT



1st babies born in Britain using DNA from 3 people

By MARIA CHENG yesterday



*FILE - An embryologist works on a petri dish at the Create Health fertility clinic in south London, Thursday, Aug. 14, 2013. Britain's fertility regulator said **the first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people have been born**, in an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases. (AP Photo/Sang Tan, File)*

LONDON (AP) — Britain's fertility regulator on Wednesday confirmed the births of the U.K.'s first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people, an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said fewer than five babies have been born this way in the U.K. but did not provide further details to protect the families' identities. The news was first reported by the Guardian newspaper. In 2015, the U.K. became the first country to adopt legislation regulating methods to help prevent women with faulty mitochondria — the energy source in a cell — from passing defects on to their babies. The world's first baby born using the technique was reported in the U.S. in 2016. The genetic defects can result in diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and intellectual disabilities. About one in 200 children in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder. To date, 32 patients have been authorized to receive such treatment. For a woman with faulty mitochondria, scientists take genetic material from her egg or embryo, which is then transferred into a donor egg or embryo that still has healthy mitochondria but had the rest of its key DNA removed. The fertilized embryo is then transferred into the womb of the mother. The genetic material from the donated egg comprises less than 1% of the child created from this technique. "Mitochondrial donation treatment offers families with severe inherited mitochondrial illness the possibility of a healthy child," the U.K. fertility regulator said in a statement Wednesday. The agency said it was still "early days" but it hoped the scientists involved, at Newcastle University, would soon publish details of the treatment.

Britain requires every woman undergoing the treatment to receive approval from the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. The regulator says that to be eligible, families must have no other available options for avoiding passing on genetic disease.

Many critics oppose the artificial reproduction techniques, arguing there are other ways for people to avoid passing on diseases to their children, such as egg donation or screening tests, and that the experimental methods have not yet been proven safe.

Others warn that tweaking the genetic code this way could be a slippery slope that eventually leads to designer babies for parents who not only want to avoid inherited diseases but to have taller, stronger, smarter or better-looking children.

Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell expert at the Francis Crick Institute, a biomedical research center in London, said it would be critical to monitor the babies' future development.

"It will be interesting to know how well the (mitochondrial donation) technique worked at a practical level, whether the babies are free of mitochondrial disease and whether there is any risk of them developing problems later in life," he said in a statement.

Scientists in Europe published research earlier this year that showed in some cases, the small number of abnormal mitochondria that are inevitably carried over from the mother's egg to the donor's can reproduce when the baby is in the uterus, which could ultimately lead to a genetic disease.

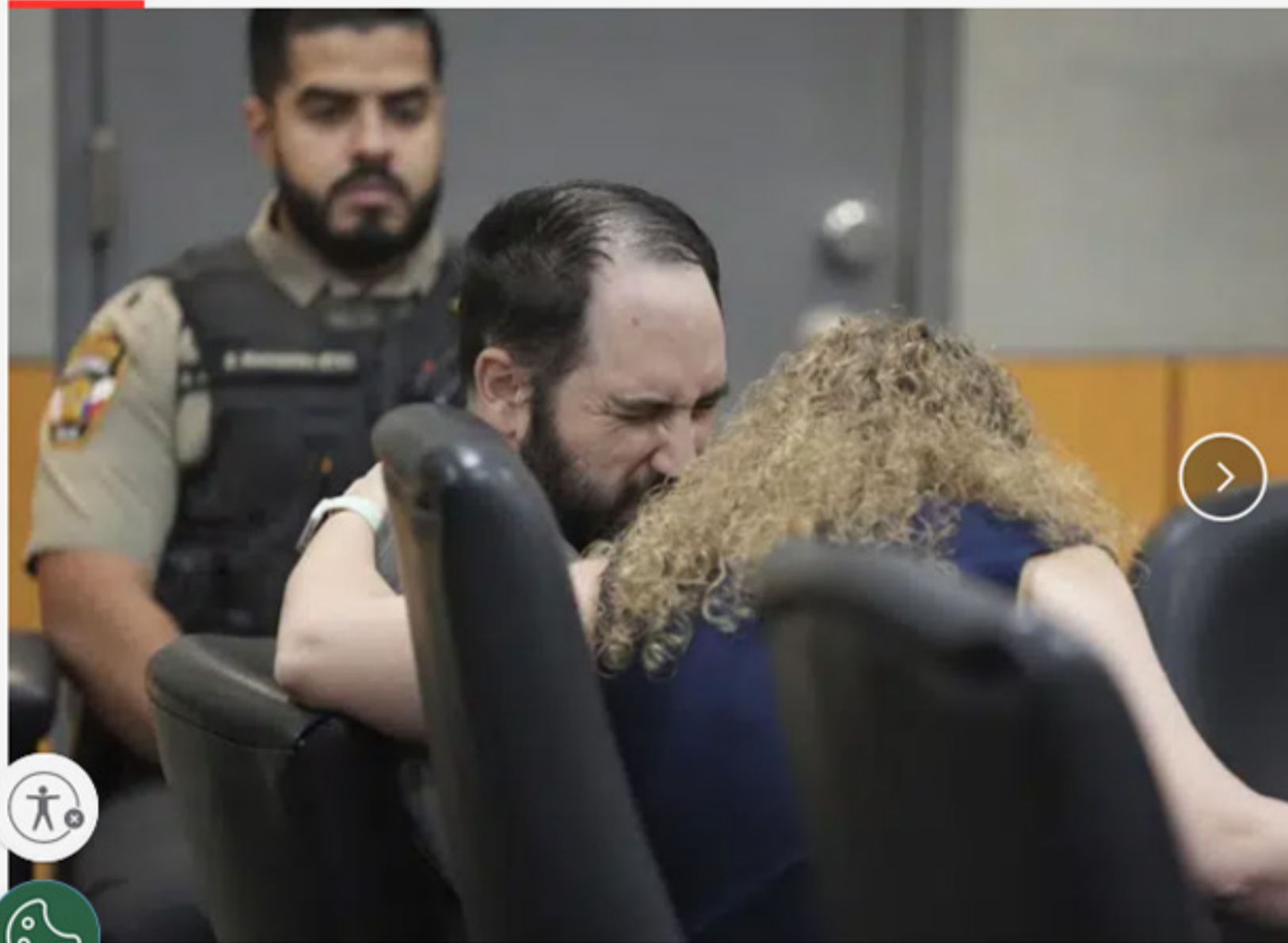
Lovell-Badge said the reasons for such problems were not yet understood and that researchers would need to develop methods to reduce the risk.

Previous research assessing another technique to create babies from three people, including an egg donor, found that years later the children were doing well as teenagers, with no signs of unusual health problems and good grades in school.

Doctors in the U.S. were the first to announce the world's first baby using the mitochondria donation technique, after the treatment was conducted in Mexico.

Army sergeant who fatally shot BLM protester in Texas sentenced to 25 years as governor seeks pardon

By JIM VERTUNO today



Daniel Perry reacts after being sentenced to 25 years for the murder of Garrett Foster at the Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center in Austin, Texas, on Wednesday May 10, 2023. Perry was convicted of murder in April for killing Foster during a Black Lives Matter protest in July 2020. (Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP, Pool)

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Army sergeant who fatally shot an armed protester at a Black Lives Matter march in Texas was sentenced to 25 years in prison Wednesday, after prosecutors used his social media history and text messages to portray him as a racist who may commit violence again.

Daniel Perry's sentence now pushes the case toward a potentially thorny decision for Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has said he wants to issue a swift pardon

Perry, who is white, was stationed at Fort Hood, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Austin, when the shooting happened. He was working as a ride-share driver and had just dropped off a customer when he turned onto a street filled with protesters. Foster, a 28-year-old Air Force veteran who was also white, was legally carrying an AK-47 rifle.

Perry said he acted in self defense, claiming that he was trying to drive past the crowd and fired his pistol when Foster pointed a rifle at him. Witnesses testified that they did not see Foster raise his weapon, and prosecutors argued that Perry could have driven away without shooting.

Army spokesman Bryce Dubee has said Perry is classified as in "civilian confinement" pending separation from the military.

Among Perry's statements introduced Tuesday, he wrote on Facebook a month before the shooting: "It is official I am a racist because I do not agree with people acting like animals at the zoo."

Floyd was killed on May 25, 2020. A few days later as protests erupted, Perry sent a text message to an acquaintance: "I might go to Dallas to shoot looters."

Foster was with his girlfriend, Whitney Mitchell, who is Black and uses a wheelchair, when Perry gunned him down. Mitchell and several members of Foster's family were in the courtroom for sentencing Wednesday.

Foster's mother, Sheila Foster, was allowed to address Perry after he was sentenced and still in the courtroom.

"After three long years we're finally getting justice for Garrett," she said. "Mr. Perry, I pray to God that one day he will get rid of all this hate that is in your heart."



Judge who presided over Parkland school shooting trial announces resignation

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida judge who gained a national profile while presiding over the Parkland school shooting trial announced Wednesday that she is resigning June 30 to pursue unspecified career opportunities.

Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer rose in prominence when she oversaw the televised penalty trial of Nikolas Cruz. He received a life sentence last year after a divided jury was unable to agree on the death penalty for the 2018 mass killing of 14 students and three staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. “It has been a a privilege to serve the people of the State of Florida for over 10 years,” Scherer wrote in her brief resignation letter to Gov. Ron DeSantis. The resignation was first reported by Court TV.

Scherer, a 46-year-old former prosecutor, was appointed to the bench in 2012. Broward County’s computerized system randomly assigned her Cruz’s case shortly after the shooting. It was her first murder trial.

Her handling of the case drew frequent praise from the parents and spouses of the victims, who said she treated them with professionalism and kindness, but her clashes with Cruz’s attorneys and others sometimes drew criticism from legal observers.

Before the trial she criticized two reporters from the Sun Sentinel newspaper for publishing a sealed Cruz educational record that they obtained legally. She threatened to tell the paper what it could and couldn’t print, but never did; legal experts say such a move would have been unconstitutional.



Judge Elizabeth Scherer hugs Jennifer Guttenberg following the sentencing hearing for Parkland school shooter Nikolas Cruz at the Broward County Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Nov. 2, 2022.

Scherer also had frequent heated arguments with Cruz’s lead public defender, Melisa McNeill. Those boiled over for the first time when McNeill and her team suddenly rested their case after calling only a small fraction of their expected witnesses. Scherer called it “the most uncalled for, unprofessional way to try a case,” though the defense has no obligation to call all of its witnesses or announce its plans in advance. McNeill countered angrily, “You are insulting me on the record in front of my client,” before Scherer told her to stop. She then laid into her. “You’ve been insulting me the entire trial,” Scherer barked at McNeill. “Arguing with me, storming out, coming late intentionally if you don’t like my rulings. So, quite frankly, this has been long overdue. So please be seated.” The two clashed again during Cruz’s sentencing hearing in November over the verbal attacks some victims’ family members made against the defense team during their courtroom statements. Scherer refused to curtail the statements and ejected one of McNeill’s assistants after he complained.

After sentencing Cruz, 24, to life without parole as required, Scherer left the bench and hugged members of the prosecution and the victims’ families. That action led the Florida Supreme Court last month to remove her from overseeing post-conviction motions of another defendant, Randy Tundidor, who was sentenced to death for murder in the 2019 killing of his landlord. One of the prosecutors in that case had also been on the Cruz team, and during a hearing in the Tundidor case a few days after the Cruz sentencing, Scherer asked the prosecutor how he was holding up. The court said Scherer’s actions gave at least the appearance that she could not be fair to Tundidor.

Mass event will let hackers test limits of AI technology

By MATT O'BRIEN yesterday



Rumman Chowdhury, co-founder of Humane Intelligence, a nonprofit developing accountable AI systems, poses for a photograph at her home Monday, May 8, 2023, in Katy, Texas. ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and other major AI providers such as Google and Microsoft, are coordinating with the Biden administration to let thousands of hackers take a shot at testing the limits of their technology. Chowdhury is the lead coordinator of the mass hacking event planned for this summer's DEF CON hacker convention in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

No sooner did ChatGPT get unleashed than hackers started “jailbreaking” the artificial intelligence chatbot — trying to override its safeguards so it could blurt out something unhinged or obscene. But now its maker, OpenAI, and other major AI providers such as Google and Microsoft, are coordinating with the Biden administration to let thousands of hackers take a shot at testing the limits of their technology. Some of the things they’ll be looking to find: How can chatbots be manipulated to cause harm? Will they share the private information we confide in them to other users? And why do they assume a doctor is a man and a nurse is a woman?

“This is why we need thousands of people,” said Rumman Chowdhury, a coordinator of the mass hacking event planned for this summer’s DEF CON hacker convention in Las Vegas that’s expected to draw several thousand people. “We need a lot of people with a wide range of lived experiences, subject matter expertise and backgrounds hacking at these models and trying to find problems that can then go be fixed.”

Anyone who’s tried ChatGPT, Microsoft’s Bing chatbot or Google’s Bard will have quickly learned that they have a tendency to fabricate information and confidently present it as fact. These systems, built on what’s known as large language models, also emulate the cultural biases they’ve learned from being trained upon huge troves of what people have written online.

US busts Russian cyber operation in dozens of countries

By ERIC TUCKER May 9, 2023



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department said Tuesday that it had disrupted a long-running Russian cyberespionage campaign that infected computer networks in dozens of countries, including in the United States, and resulted in the theft of sensitive information from governments. Prosecutors linked the spying operation to a unit of Russia’s Federal Security Service, or FSB, and accused the hackers of stealing documents from hundreds of computer systems belonging to governments of NATO members, an unidentified journalist for a U.S. news organization who reported on Russia, and other select targets of interest to the Kremlin. “For 20 years, the FSB has relied on the Snake malware to conduct cyberespionage against the United States and our allies — that ends today,” Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the head of the Justice Department’s National Security Division, said in a statement.

The specific targets were not named in court papers, but the Justice Department said the affected networks were in more than 50 countries. U.S. officials described the espionage campaign as “very consequential,” saying the hackers had successfully exfiltrated sensitive documents from NATO countries. Prosecutors say the hackers, employing malicious software known as Snake, routed data stolen from foreign governments through compromised computers in the U.S. as a way to cover their tracks. They operated from what the Justice Department said was a known FSB facility in Ryazan, Russia. In a separate statement, CrowdStrike Intelligence, a private cybersecurity firm that has studied the threat, said the sectors targeted by the hacking included government organizations, defense-related organizations and companies developing cryptographic hardware. It said countries all over the world had been affected, including in Europe, Australia, part of Asia and North and South America.

Federal officials said they were confident that, based on the impact of its operation this week, the FSB would not be able to reconstitute the malware implant.

Mass event will let hackers test limits of AI technology

By MATT O'BRIEN yesterday



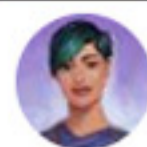
Rumman Chowdhury, co-founder of Humane Intelligence, a nonprofit developing accountable AI systems, poses for a photograph at her home Monday, May 8, 2023, in Katy, Texas. ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and other major AI providers such as Google and Microsoft, are coordinating with the Biden administration to let thousands of hackers take a shot at testing the limits of their technology. Chowdhury is the lead coordinator of the mass hacking event planned for this summer's DEF CON hacker convention in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

No sooner did ChatGPT get unleashed than hackers started “jailbreaking” the artificial intelligence chatbot — trying to override its safeguards so it could blurt out something unhinged or obscene. But now its maker, OpenAI, and other major AI providers such as Google and Microsoft, are coordinating with the Biden administration to let thousands of hackers take a shot at testing the limits of their technology. Some of the things they’ll be looking to find: How can chatbots be manipulated to cause harm? Will they share the private information we confide in them to other users? And why do they assume a doctor is a man and a nurse is a woman?

“This is why we need thousands of people,” said Rumman Chowdhury, a coordinator of the mass hacking event planned for this summer’s DEF CON hacker convention in Las Vegas that’s expected to draw several thousand people. “We need a lot of people with a wide range of lived experiences, subject matter expertise and backgrounds hacking at these models and trying to find problems that can then go be fixed.”

Anyone who’s tried ChatGPT, Microsoft’s Bing chatbot or Google’s Bard will have quickly learned that they have a tendency to fabricate information and confidently present it as fact. These systems, built on what’s known as large language models, also emulate the cultural biases they’ve learned from being trained upon huge troves of what people have written online.

US busts Russian cyber operation in dozens of countries



ruchowdh.bsky.social

@ruchowdh

This is my skeptical face - but also, great piece on our genAI red teaming exercise at DEFCON AI village



apnews.com

Hackers aim to find flaws in AI — with White House help
No sooner did ChatGPT get unleashed than hackers starte...

4:35 PM · May 10, 2023 · 14.6K Views

The specific targets were not named in court papers, but the Justice Department said the affected networks were in more than 50 countries. U.S. officials described the espionage campaign as “very consequential,” saying the hackers had successfully exfiltrated sensitive documents from NATO countries. Prosecutors say the hackers, employing malicious software known as Snake, routed data stolen from foreign governments through compromised computers in the U.S. as a way to cover their tracks. They operated from what the Justice Department said was a known FSB facility in Ryazan, Russia. In a separate statement, CrowdStrike Intelligence, a private cybersecurity firm that has studied the threat, said the sectors targeted by the hacking included government organizations, defense-related organizations and companies developing cryptographic hardware. It said countries all over the world had been affected, including in Europe, Australia, part of Asia and North and South America.

Federal officials said they were confident that, based on the impact of its operation this week, the FSB would not be able to reconstitute the malware implant.

it had disrupted
computer net-
resulted in the
ed the spying
d accused the
s belonging to
.S. news orga-
est to the
to conduct cy-
s today,” Assis-
partment’s Na-



Rumman Chowdhury was born in 1980 in Rockland County, New York. [She is a Bengali American data scientist, a business founder, and former Responsible Artificial Intelligence Lead at Accenture. She enjoyed watching science fiction and attributes her curiosity about science to the Dana Scully effect. She completed her undergraduate study in Management Science and Political Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She received a

Master's of Science from Columbia University in Statistics and Quantitative methods. She holds a Doctorate Degree in Political Science from University of California, San Diego. She finished her PhD whilst working in Silicon Valley. Her main interest and focus for her career and higher educational studies was how data can be used to understand people's bias and ways to evaluate the impact of technology on humanity. From February 2021 to November 2022, she served as Director of Engineering of Twitter's Machine Learning Ethics, Transparency, and Accountability (META) team, working to make Twitter's AI algorithm more in line with ethical guidelines.

Twitter: from February 2021 till November 2022 Chowdhury was a director for the Machine Learning Ethics, Transparency and Accountability (META) team with Twitter.[7] META's goal was to study and improve the ML systems used within Twitter, this includes biased algorithms that may cause harm to the user.[5] Biased algorithms have been an issue since artificial intelligence (AI) has been introduced to the world; traits such as gender, sex, race, or social class hold potential segregation that may result in unfair decisions, META strives avoid this by making Twitter better, fair, accountable, and more transparent for its users.[5] Most projects that META teams do involve research and data analysis, which is why the team is made from Researchers and Engineers.[16] AI is constantly changing and becoming greater, so the META teams have a similar process where they are learning inside and outside of the app and applying that knowledge to build a better Twitter. Future changes that will impact Twitter will be having the algorithms used explainable to the users making the app more transparent, eventually leading to the users customizing or creating the algorithms by themselves. This means that the Twitter community will play an important role to making Twitter a stronger app. In 2021, Rumman Chowdhury's did an analysis Examining algorithmic amplification of political content on Twitter.



Follow

ruchowdh.bsky.social

@ruchowdh

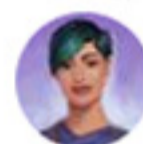
find me at ruchowdh.bsky.social

Hardcore eng central rummanchowdhury.com

Joined March 2016

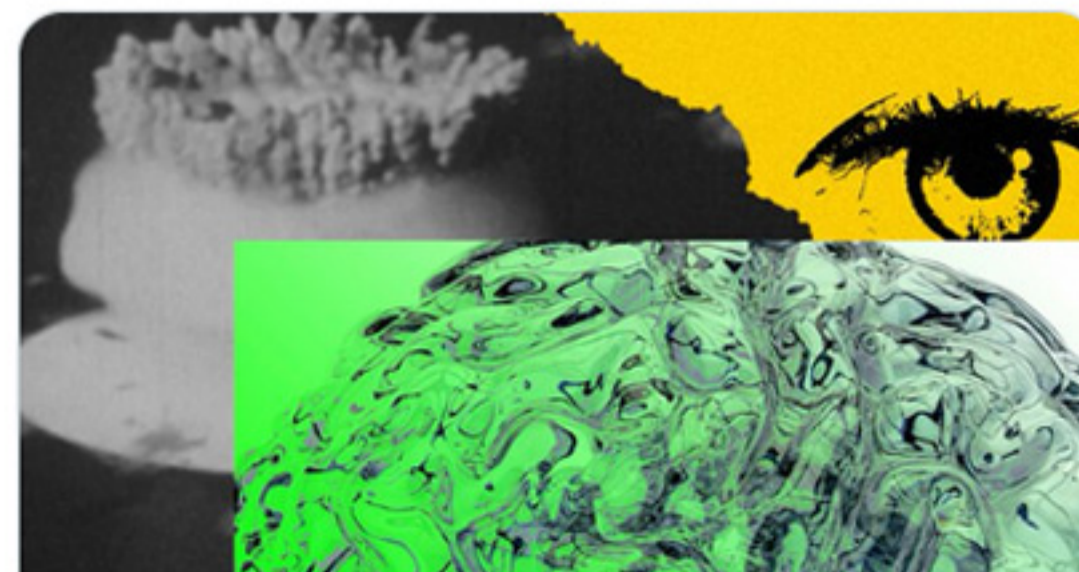
4,247 Following 43.4K Followers

Pinned Tweet



ruchowdh.bsky.social @ruchowdh · Apr 6

On the heels of Open AIs letter in safety - we need a global governance body for generative AI systems. Here's my thoughts on how we can build one.



wired.com

AI Desperately Needs Global Oversight

27 113 302 89.6K



Milk

Oat milk is everywhere. Why is it still so expensive?

Plant-based milk has seen a surge in popularity in the past decade. But the high prices are driving some back to dairy

Aimee Levitt

Thu 11 May 2023 01:00 EDT

Over the past decade, non-dairy milks have soared in popularity. Part of this is because of concerns about the climate crisis: the dairy industry is uniquely bad for the environment in part because of the amount of methane cattle produce. But many have also switched to non-dairy citing concerns about cruelty to animals, an exploration of veganism, an increasing awareness of lactose intolerance, concerns about fat and sugar and even worries about good skin. There are lots of ways plant milks are preferable to dairy but in one respect they're definitely not: on average, plant milks now cost twice as much as good, old-fashioned cow's milk, which has been building strong teeth and bones and warding off osteoporosis for thousands of years, and the cost difference is making some consumers reconsider. Bon Appétit found that the cheapest whole dairy milk at supermarkets was two cents an ounce at Walmart, while almond milk cost four cents and oat six cents.

But why are plant milks so expensive when they're really nothing more than a handful of oats, almonds or soybeans pulverized in a blender with some water? As another astute Twitter user points out, surely it doesn't cost nearly as much to raise an oat as it does a cow. And while it still doesn't cost as much to raise an oat as it does a cow, the price of oats is at an all-time high, says Ritterbush, thanks to a poor growing season last year in the American plains. Other commodities, such as almonds, soy, sugar, and corn, are also up. Interestingly, says Slade, all plant milks cost roughly the same, even though oats and soybeans generally cost less than almonds. "Companies are reluctant to release their recipes," he says, "but I suspect that there are very few almonds in almond milk." (If a brief survey of online home recipes is any indication, it appears that most plant milks are one part nuts or grains to four or five parts water.)

Aside from raw materials, just about every aspect of plant milk manufacturing is more expensive than dairy milk production, but the business model for plant milks is based on future growth and innovation. Still, there are a lot of loyal milk-drinkers who have no plan to switch to plant-based milk.

A 2022 dairy consumer survey by McKinsey showed that while consumption of plant milk has risen sharply since 2019 (more than one-third of the consumers surveyed said they bought their first plant milk post-2020), very few people consume it exclusively; they favor it not for taste, but for health reasons. In his own research, Slade found that many people drink plant-based milk and dairy concurrently, using them in different situations: almond milk for smoothies, for example, oat milk for lattes, and dairy milk for dunking Oreos. But despite the growing curiosity about plant milks, McKinsey calculated that their market share was just 12%, and in times of inflation, 56% of dairy drinkers claimed they would continue to buy the same amount of milk, while just 36% of soy milk drinkers and 32% of other plant milk drinkers said the same – perhaps because those milks were more expensive to begin with.

Su-Jit Lin, the Atlanta food writer, recently decided to give up plant milk for dairy, in part because of the cost. She'd grown up during the popular "Got Milk?" ad campaigns of the 1990s, but she switched over to almond milk because it had fewer calories. Gradually she started to try oat milk, too, but realized that while it was more environmentally friendly, it had the same amount of fat as cow's milk without the protein. "If I'm consuming the same amount of calories," she reasons, "why am I spending more and depriving myself of the natural creaminess of dairy?"

Even so, she's not saving the entire price difference between plant milk and dairy: she still keeps some non-refrigerated unsweetened almond milk on hand. It's more shelf-stable, and she never knows when she might need it for some midnight cereal.



You're my
everything!
(bagel)



Big City Bagels

Cafe offering espresso drinks & smoothies, plus European-style bites, such as panini & crepes.

Located in: The Hub Hillcrest Market

1010 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92103



Lover's Paradise Adult Superstore
415 W University Ave, San Diego, CA 92103



Mimi's Cafe

Casual chain restaurant serving French & American staples in a rustic-inspired setting.
5180 Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108



Mendocino Farms

Creative gourmet sandwiches, soups & salads, made with local & seasonal ingredients.
1652 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



Despite the end of Title 42, restrictions on asylum seekers are expected to continue under Biden administration

Published: May 11, 2023

Ernesto Castañeda, American University

What is critical to understand is that the end of Title 42 in itself does not change the root causes of migration.

Political and economic conditions in Haiti, Cuba and Venezuela have forced many families to flee to the U.S., as has the widespread, unchecked organized crime in certain regions of Mexico and Central America.

But recent measures established by the Biden administration suggest that people will face more – not fewer – difficulties in obtaining asylum in the U.S. after the end of Title 42. People now have to get an appointment using the CBP One app and may also need to apply and be denied asylum at one of the safe countries they pass through on the way to the United States.

As partisan debate over immigration policy rages on, it is important to remember that Title 42 was originally designed to prevent the spread of a highly contagious disease – not to deny people their legal right to make a claim for asylum in the U.S.



A Venezuelan asylum-seeker carries his daughter before they cross the Rio Grande into Brownsville, Texas. Veronica G. Cardenas/AFP via Getty Images



From Kali to Mary to Neopagan goddesses, religions revere motherhood in sometimes unexpected ways

Alyssa Beall, *West Virginia University*



'Courage is contagious': Daniel Ellsberg's decision to release the Pentagon Papers didn't happen in a vacuum

Christian Appy, *UMass Amherst*



4 factors that contributed to the record low history scores for US eighth graders

Diana D'Amico Pawlewicz, *University of North Dakota*



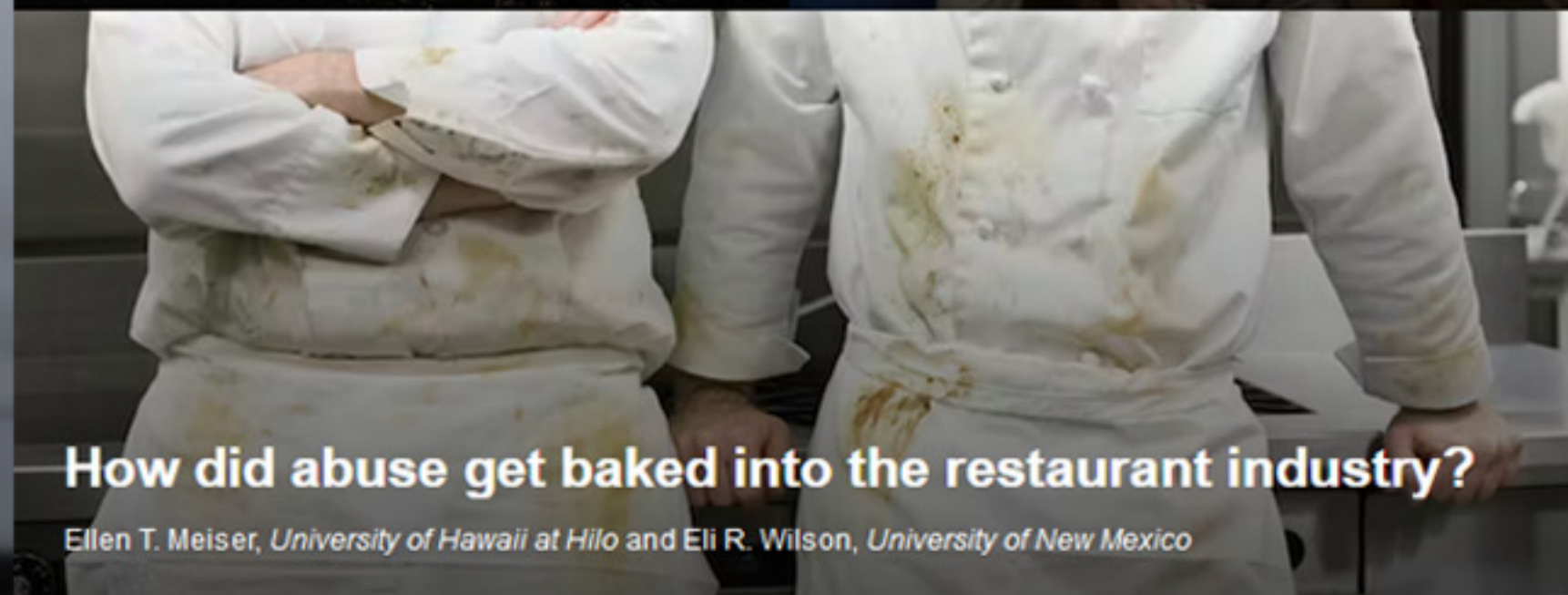
Immigration policies don't deter migrants from coming to the US – Title 42 and the border rules replacing it only make the process longer and more difficult

Robert McKee Irwin, *University of California, Davis*



George Santos indicted on fraud, money laundering and other criminal charges – 3 essential reads

Howard Manly, *The Conversation*



How did abuse get baked into the restaurant industry?

Ellen T. Meiser, *University of Hawaii at Hilo* and Eli R. Wilson, *University of New Mexico*

From Kali to Mary to Neopagan goddesses, religions revere motherhood in sometimes unexpected ways: As we approach Mother's Day, many groups will hold special events or services to celebrate the holiday. In the United States, Mother's Day was originally founded in 1908 at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in West Virginia and became a nationally recognized holiday in 1914. The mid-May date spread around the world, though many countries still maintain their own dates and traditions. Religions around the world use these days to honor the importance of many kinds of nurturing, from traditional celebrations to events that honor modern parenting, infertility struggles or the pain of losing a child. Motherhood and nurturing are not celebrated only on particular days, however. Many religions include goddess-centered traditions that embrace many forms of the divine feminine as central to their belief systems. As a religious studies professor who travels with students around the world to explore different cultures and practices, I have often noticed the interest students have in the variety of goddess traditions we encounter.

From Kali to Mary to Neopagan goddesses, religions revere motherhood in sometimes unexpected ways

Alyssa Beall, West Virginia University

4 factors that contributed to the record low history scores for US eighth graders: When national student test scores revealed recently that knowledge of U.S. history and civics had reached an all-time low, one Republican lawmaker described the drop as an "outright failure that should concern every parent across the country." The test scores showed that 86% of America's eighth graders were not proficient in U.S. history, and 79% were not proficient in civics. While one top U.S. education official described the scores as "alarming," the official rightly pointed out that the decline actually began nearly a decade ago. In my view as a historian of education reform and policy, the latest history and civics test scores were a predictable outcome. While it is difficult to establish an exact cause of the decline, here are four factors that I believe contributed to it.

Immigration policies don't deter migrants from coming to the US – Title 42 and the border rules replacing it only make the process longer and more difficult:

Politicians have been saying there's an immigration crisis at the border for decades and have been trying to fix it for nearly as long. The rules have changed many times over the years – and they are about to change again as a pandemic-era set of restrictions expires May 11, 2023. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, immigration into the U.S. at the border with Mexico was governed by a group of federal immigration laws and regulations, collectively known as Title 8. These laws, among other things, set the terms for the rapid deportation of people who enter the country illegally or are not eligible for asylum. In March 2020, after COVID-19 hit, President Donald

'Courage is contagious': Daniel Ellsberg's decision to release the Pentagon Papers didn't happen in a vacuum: In 1971, when Daniel Ellsberg arrived at a federal court in Boston, a journalist asked if he was concerned about the prospect of going to prison for leaking a 7,000-page top-secret history of the Vietnam War. Ellsberg responded with a question of his own: "Wouldn't you go to prison to help end this war?" The classified documents Ellsberg released to The New York Times and 18 other newspapers were quickly dubbed the Pentagon Papers. They exposed more than two decades of government deceit about U.S. involvement in Vietnam, from 1945 to 1968. To millions of Americans who opposed the war, Ellsberg's whistleblowing was an act of patriotism, but millions of others regarded it as treason. In Ellsberg's own papers at UMass Amherst, where I teach history and direct the Ellsberg Initiative for Peace and Democracy, you can read hundreds of letters to him from ordinary citizens expressing both extremes: the highest possible praise, and vitriolic, often antisemitic, hostility. **How a young war planner became a peace activist is one of the most striking conversion stories in American history.** But Ellsberg's political and moral transformation did not happen in a vacuum. It reflected a titanic shift in public attitudes about the Vietnam War. The massive anti-war movement inspired and reinforced Ellsberg's dissent – and, in turn, his example has emboldened activists and whistleblowers in the decades since.

How did abuse get baked into the restaurant industry? As sociologists who study the culinary industry and its workers, we recently published research showing that many kitchen staffers come to view mistreatment and abuse as a mundane – and often inevitable – part of working in restaurants. 'Showers of slaps' and 'grab-ass': Some, such as Anthony Bourdain's memoir "Kitchen Confidential," even romanticize these behaviors. At one point, Bourdain fondly recalls a kitchen he worked in early in his career as having an "atmosphere [that] was not unlike a Pinero play, very jailhouse, with a lot of grab-ass, heated argument, hypermacho posturing and drunken ranting. Two burly men who'd just as soon kill you as look at you, when talking to each other, would often nestle a hand tenderly next to the testicles of the other, as if to say, 'I am so not gay – I can even do this!'" So a cycle of violence perpetuates and reverberates, embedding itself deeper into the fabric of restaurant kitchens, often being passed down from one generation of cooks to the next. "The abuse is normalized. And sometimes romanticized as well. ... Chefs being [jerks] is common in part because that's the expectation for what it is to be a chef. ... And while it [seems] like most places are getting better, it's still a big part of kitchen culture." But culinary brilliance and artistry need not be pre-seasoned with violence. Not venerating violent kitchens and chefs would be a start. Perhaps reporting and resisting abuse, rather than enduring it, will then become the norm.

How did abuse get baked into the restaurant industry?

Ellen T. Meiser, University of Hawaii at Hilo and Eli R. Wilson, University of New Mexico

January 24, 2023 | **Jewelry Theft Ring** | Burglary, Recent News, Wanted

UP TO \$1000 REWARD

San Diego County Crime Stoppers and investigators from the San Diego Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit are asking for the public's help in identifying and locating numerous suspects involved in a jewelry theft ring. Beginning in early 2021, SDPD saw a rash of jewelry theft and street robbery cases that were occurring all over San Diego County. The cases involved a large group of traveling thieves who were operating nationwide. Detectives collected crime reports and intelligence from other agencies and began identifying hundreds of suspects involved in these crimes. This group of thieves preyed on our most vulnerable community members and took advantage of their kindness to steal and profit. The loss is estimated to be in the millions of dollars. Detectives also discovered the thieves targeted specific communities where elderly and people of Asian descent live and shop. In a typical case, the suspects approached a victim in a parking lot of a shopping center or while the victim was out for a walk in their neighborhood. The suspects asked for directions or told the victim they were robbed and needed assistance. The suspects often said they were from "Dubai" and needed help returning home. Once the victims began talking to the suspects and let their guard down, the suspects used distraction and sleight-of-hand tech-

...s, when the
...l the jewelry.
...an Diego and
...investigation
...members, de-
...have been

**onal cases in
...hs of suspects
...nt in these**


...Leather Jacket Outfit
...clothing store
...pects pictured
...ime to police
...the Crime Stop-

...or mobile app
...t. Luke Johnson
...bout Crime
...31-1500 or
...1-1547 or email

at marcial.lopez@sdsheiff.org.

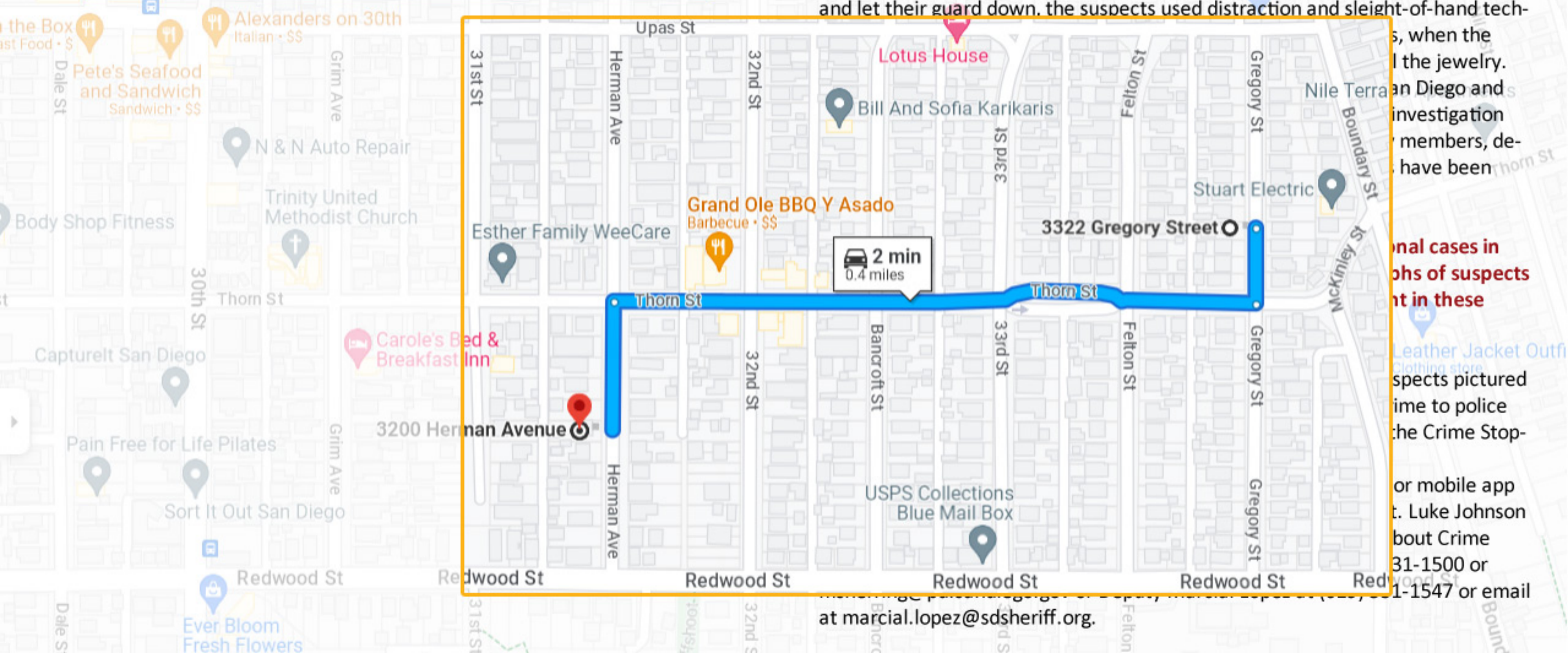
CRIMEMAPPING™.com
 Helping You Build a Safer Community

Alert Near
 Crime near Thorn & Gregory

 **Burglary**

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

3200 BLOCK HERMAN AVENUE | 5/9/2023 @ 10:30 PM
 San Diego Police



January 24, 2023 | **Jewelry Theft Ring** | Burglary, Recent News, Wanted

UP TO \$1000 REWARD

San Diego County Crime Stoppers and investigators from the San Diego Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit are asking for the public's help in identifying and locating numerous suspects involved in a jewelry theft ring. Beginning in early 2021, SDPD saw a rash of jewelry theft and street robbery cases that were occurring all over San Diego County. The cases involved a large group of traveling thieves who were operating nationwide. Detectives collected crime reports and intelligence from other agencies and began identifying hundreds of suspects involved in these crimes. This group of thieves preyed on our most vulnerable community members and took advantage of their kindness to steal and profit. The loss is estimated to be in the millions of dollars. Detectives also discovered the thieves targeted specific communities where elderly and people of Asian descent live and shop. In a typical case, the suspects approached a victim in a parking lot of a shopping center or while the victim was out for a walk in their neighborhood.

The suspects asked for directions or told the victim they were robbed and needed assistance. The suspects often said they were from "Dubai" and needed help returning home. Once the victims began talking to the suspects and let their guard down, the suspects used distraction and sleight-of-hand techniques to steal necklaces, watches, rings, and cash. In some cases, when the suspect was unsuccessful in their scheme, force was used to steal the jewelry.

In the past nine months, SDPD detectives arrested 13 people in San Diego and Southern California counties. Other suspects are currently under investigation and arrests are pending. Based on conversations with community members, detectives believe only a very small percentage of the actual crimes have been reported by victims to the police.

*****SDPD detectives request the public's help in solving additional cases in this crime series. Attached is a document containing photographs of suspects who have been identified and/or arrested for their involvement in these crimes in San Diego County.*****

Photos of the San Diego Police Department's Roma Traveler Series

ARRESTED



INFORMATION WANTED



Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 888-580-8477
[sdcrimestoppers.org](https://www.sdcrimestoppers.org)

Anyone with information on the identity and/or location of the suspects pictured and/or if you are a victim and have not previously reported the crime to police are asked to call the Economic Crimes Unit at (619) 446-1036 or the Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line at (888) 580-8477. Please visit www.sdcrimestoppers.org for information on how to send a web or mobile app tip.

Media inquiries about this case can be directed to Det. Sgt. Luke Johnson at (619) 446-1036 or LTJohnson@pd.sandiego.gov.

Inquiries about Crime Stoppers can be directed to SDPD Officer Mark Herring at (619) 531-1500 or msherring@pd.sandiego.gov or Deputy Marcial Lopez at (619) 531-1547 or email at marcial.lopez@sdsheriff.org.

MIRA MESA

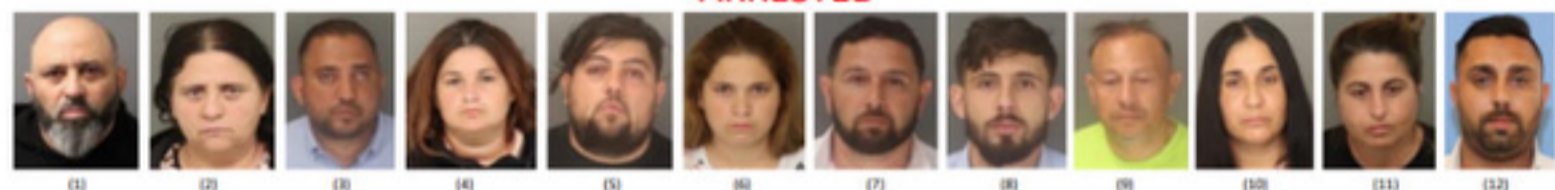
San Diego Police Hunting Dozens Connected to Crime Ring That Targets Asian Elders

By Dave Summers • Published January 18, 2023 • Updated on January 18, 2023 at 11:36 pm

Roma Traveler Crime Series

Crime Stoppers

ARRESTED



INFORMATION WANTED



Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line: 888-580-8477

Millions of dollars in stolen jewelry, more than a dozen arrests and investigating detectives say it's just the tip of the iceberg. The San Diego Police Department is asking for the public's help taking down what investigators call an international organized theft ring that has been operating in San Diego since 2020. Police say the ring preys on the Asian and elderly communities. A week before Christmas, NBC 7 reported the story of an attack on a 72-year-old Vietnamese grandmother across the street from her home on Kenova Street in Mira Mesa. Her necklace, which was an important piece of heirloom jewelry, was taken by two women. Fast forward to Wednesday, the grandmother told NBC 7 she recognized one of the women police are looking for as one of her attackers. "It is very frustrating and it is disappointing. It's sad, it is all the above. A lot of these items are invaluable, irreplaceable," Lao Community Organizer Pida Kongphouthone said. Kongphouthone has been the shoulder to cry on for victims of this international criminal organization for the last two years. "A lot of our elders, a lot of our community members, they are scared to go out," Kongphouthone said.

Turns out, the San Diego Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit detectives have been working the Mira Mesa case and many more like it for just as long. Investigators released the suspected names and faces of 13 people arrested and charged in connection with this series of crimes, plus pictures of more than 30 suspects they're trying to capture. "These are people we have identified as being in San Diego and being involved on some level in these crimes," SDPD Financial Crimes detective Luke Johnson said. "Often times they will ask directions to the nearest church or tell them they went through some trauma in their family to get them to feel sorry for them." Once the victim's guard is down, they use pick-pocket sleight of hand skills to steal everything from jewelry to wallets. If that doesn't work they resort to rougher methods, investigators said. "They buy luxury vehicles. We have suspects that own Lamborghinis, Ferraris and Rolls Royces. They have large mansions in Romania," Detective Johnson said. All police suspects connected to these crimes come from a small community in Romania, according to Detective Johnson. Investigators say the thieves target Asian neighborhoods, supermarkets and grocery stores. They are watching the temple Wat Lao Buddharam of San Diego, for those coming and going from worship. "This whole situation definitely disrupted the peace of mind in our community," Kongphouthone said. San Diego police say to take a page out of your childhood lessons. Don't talk to strangers and don't walk alone. If you have a phone, take a video or picture of someone approaching you and maybe the vehicle they are driving. Anonymity is their best protection but exposing them is your best defense.

Police say these thefts are underreported. Victims sometimes feel foolish for being tricked out of their belongings and don't pursue criminal charges.

Border Patrol reports bands of Gypsies crossing from Mexico

Canada said to be their destination

Author

Lucy D. Barker

Publish Date

June 14, 2013



Since 2010, more than 2200 Romanians have come into California from Mexico illegally and surrendered to the first U.S. Border Patrol agent they saw, according to Border Patrol statistics and accounts. Many of them surrendered in Imperial Beach, some in Campo, and others in the El Centro district, according to Border Patrol spokesman Bill Brooks. They are not trying to use the ports of entry, officials said. "They know exactly what they are doing," San Diego sector chief Paul Beeson said. "They come in groups of a dozen or so that include children, say they are families and that the women are pregnant." Patrol agents say the groups surrender peacefully and easily — without running — and seem to seek out agents to surrender to. Agents say that some of them insist on being called "Gypsies" rather than Romanian.

Roma, the ethnic minority some call Gypsies, live in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and other Eastern European countries. They were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis and have again become targets of neo-fascist groups in Eastern Europe. They have their own language, Romani, which linguists say is derived from Hindi. According to Amnesty International, the 10 million to 12 million Roma in Europe are subject to hate crimes and discriminatory laws. More than 120 violent crimes, including murder and bombings, targeted Roma in Europe in the past five years.

Until recently, Roma were able to obtain refugee status and benefits once they arrived in Canada. But they have been turned away from traditional ports of entry or have been unable to obtain travel visas directly to Canada or the U.S.; Mexico, however, will let them enter the country. Once the people officially identified as Romanian have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border and have been processed by the Border Patrol, they are given an immigration hearing date and released, as long as there's no significant criminal history or other information that would trigger a detention. Then they disappear. So far this year, more than 300 have entered the U.S. from Mexico and surrendered. Last year may have been the peak year, with more than 800 reported Romanians — up from 670 in 2011 and more than 400 in 2010. By contrast, just 37 Romanians were caught by the Border Patrol along the California border between 2005 and 2009, according to Border Patrol statistics. News accounts from Romania and Canada suggest that they are funneling through Mexico to California and on to Canada, where, until recently, members of the Roma ethnic minority group could still attain refugee status. In March, the Associated Press reported that Romanian officials had arrested three men who were using eight travel agencies in the southern city of Craiova to smuggle Romanians to Canada through Mexico. And the Canadian Broadcast System has done a series of stories on Roma entering Canada illegally from the U.S. in order to seek asylum there.

INVESTIGATIVE, POLICE, RACISM

Police use Private Database to ID & Racially Profile Roma in US

By Jaume Plumb-Planas. Contributor

November 21, 2022

A Unicorn Riot investigation has uncovered dossier records from a privately curated database of Romani people in the United States, and a web of training programs; many of these have been canceled due to pressure from activists and concerned citizens. Unicorn Riot found a pattern of trainings from multiple law enforcement training academies and police departments, ten records from a privately maintained database of Romani people in America, spoke with an Academy Director in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and activists who monitor anti-Roma bias in the U.S. Unicorn Riot also uncovered a New Jersey lawsuit from 2019 against the organization hosting the database. The case, *Demetro v. Nat'l Ass'n of Bunco Investigations*, affected New Jersey case law on NJLAD (New Jersey Law Against Discrimination), after a Romani man sued NABI for civil rights violations for bigoted content posted about him on their website, which led to the ruling that websites are not a place of public accommodation therefore making the database not qualify as a violation of civil rights. (More information can be found here [PDF].)

Content Advisory: This story contains ethnic slurs only in direct quotes & images from sources.

<https://lawyerscommittee.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Online-Public-Accommodations-Report.pdf>

Some Luddites simply want to press 'pause' on the uninhibited march of technological progress



The term “Luddite” emerged in early 1800s England. At the time there was a thriving textile industry that depended on manual knitting frames and a skilled workforce to create cloth and garments out of cotton and wool. But as the Industrial Revolution gathered momentum, steam-powered mills threatened the livelihood of thousands of artisanal textile workers. Faced with an industrialized future that threatened their jobs and their professional identity, a growing number of textile workers turned to direct action. Galvanized by their leader, Ned Ludd, they began to smash the machines that they saw as robbing them of their source of income. It’s not clear whether Ned Ludd was a real person, or simply a figment of folklore invented during a period of upheaval. But his name became synonymous with rejecting disruptive new technologies – an association that lasts to this day.

Questioning doesn’t mean rejecting: Contrary to popular belief, the original Luddites were not anti-technology, nor were they technologically incompetent. Rather, they were skilled adopters and users of the artisanal textile technologies of the time. Their argument was not with technology, per se, but with the ways that wealthy industrialists were robbing them of their way of life.

Today, this distinction is sometimes lost. Being called a Luddite often indicates technological incompetence – as in, “I can’t figure out how to send emojis; I’m such a Luddite.” Or it describes an ignorant rejection of technology: “He’s such a Luddite for refusing to use Venmo.” In December 2015, Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk and Bill Gates were jointly nominated for a “Luddite Award.” Their sin? Raising concerns over the potential dangers of artificial intelligence. The irony of three prominent scientists and entrepreneurs being labeled as Luddites underlines the disconnect between the term’s original meaning and its more modern use as an epithet for anyone who doesn’t wholeheartedly and unquestioningly embrace technological progress. Yet technologists like Musk and Gates aren’t rejecting technology or innovation. Instead, they’re rejecting a worldview that all technological advances are ultimately good for society. This worldview optimistically assumes that the faster humans innovate, the better the future will be. This “move fast and break things” approach toward technological innovation has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years – especially with growing awareness that unfettered innovation can lead to deeply harmful consequences that a degree of responsibility and forethought could help avoid.

POLITICS

Alabama Republican blasts an effort to rid the military of white nationalists


May 11, 2023 · 4:54 PM ET

By Padmananda Rama

Tuberville, who has been a strong supporter of Trump and voted to challenge the 2020 presidential election results, . . .



"I look at a white nationalist as a **Trump** Republican," Tuberville said in the interview, which was obtained by NPR. "That's what we're called all the time. A MAGA Person."



POLITICS
Top General Defends Studying Critical Race Theory In The Military

Tuberville is blocking over 100 military nominees in the Senate because he disagrees with a Pentagon policy on abortion, which provides travel funds for troops and their dependents who are seeking an abortion but live in a state where those procedures are now illegal.

Tuberville told WBHM he opposes the policy because he believes it uses taxpayer money to fund abortions.

Sen. Tommy Tuberville, a Republican from Alabama, during a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee hearing on April 20.

Bloomberg via Getty Images

Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., claims that [military recruitment is down](#) because of liberal attacks on the military.

Fake scientific papers are alarmingly common

But new tools show promise in tackling growing symptom of academia's "publish or perish" culture

9 MAY 2023 • 4:45 PM • BY JEFFREY BRAINARD



When neuropsychologist Bernhard Sabel put his new fake-paper detector to work, he was “shocked” by what it found. **After screening some 5000 papers, he estimates up to 34% of neuroscience papers published in 2020 were likely made up or plagiarized; in medicine, the figure was 24%.** Both numbers, which he and colleagues report in a medRxiv preprint posted on 8 May, are well above levels they calculated for 2010—and far larger than the 2% base-line estimated in a 2022 publishers’ group report.

“It is just too hard to believe” at first, says Sabel of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg and editor-in-chief of Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience. It’s as if “somebody tells you 30% of what you eat is toxic.”

His findings underscore what was widely suspected: Journals are awash in a rising tide of scientific manuscripts from paper mills—secretive businesses that allow researchers to pad their publication records by paying for fake papers or undeserved authorship. “Paper mills have made a fortune by basically attacking a system that has had no idea how to cope with this stuff,” says Dorothy Bishop, a University of Oxford psychologist who studies fraudulent publishing practices. A 2 May announcement from the publisher Hindawi underlined the threat: It shut down four of its journals it found were “heavily compromised” by articles from paper mills.

To fight back, the International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers (STM), representing 120 publishers, is leading an effort called the Integrity Hub to develop new tools.

Adam Day, founding director of a startup called Clear Skies who consulted with STM on the Integrity Hub, sees some hope: Flagging journals suspected of being targeted by paper mills can quickly deter additional fraudulent submissions. He points to his analysis of journals that the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) put on a public list because of suspicions they contained paper mill papers. His company’s Papermill Alarm detector showed that before the CAS list came out, suspicious papers made up the majority of some journals’ content; afterward, the proportion dropped to nearly zero within months (see chart). (Papermill Alarm flags potentially fraudulent papers based on telltale patterns revealed when a paper mill repeatedly submits papers; the company does not publicly disclose what these signs are.) Journals could drive a similar crash by using automated detectors to flag suspicious manuscripts, nudging paper mills to take them elsewhere, Day says.

Some observers worry paper mill papers will merely migrate to lower impact journals with fewer resources to detect them. But if many journals act collectively, the viability of the entire paper mill industry could shrink.

A version of this story appeared in Science, Vol 380, Issue 6645.





PFAS

US food pesticides contaminated with toxic 'forever chemicals' testing finds

PFAS are present at 'potentially dangerous' levels in widely used chemicals sprayed on food crops destined for Americans' plates

Tom Perkins

Sun 7 May 2023 06.00 EDT

Some of the United States' most widely used food pesticides are contaminated with "potentially dangerous" levels of toxic PFAS "forever chemicals", new testing of the products finds. The Environmental Protection Agency has previously been silent on PFAS in food pesticides, even as it found the chemicals in non-food crop products. The potential for millions of acres of contaminated food cropland demands swifter and stronger regulatory action, the paper's authors say. "I can't imagine anything that could make these products any more dangerous than they already are, but apparently my imagination isn't big enough," said Nathan Donley, environmental health science director at the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), which co-authored the study. "The EPA has to take control of this situation and remove pesticide products that are contaminated with these extremely dangerous, persistent chemicals." The groups last Monday submitted the test results to the EPA and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, asking them to remove these products from use until contamination can be addressed. PFAS are a class of about 15,000 chemicals often used to make thousands of consumer products across dozens of industries resist water, stains and heat. The chemicals are ubiquitous, and linked at low levels of exposure to cancer, thyroid disease, kidney dysfunction, birth defects, autoimmune disease and other serious health problems. They are called "forever chemicals" because they do not naturally degrade. The testing found PFAS in three out of seven agricultural pesticides, including Intrepid 2F, which state of California data shows is the second most widely applied product behind Roundup. In 2021, the most recent year data is available, more than 1.7m pounds of it were applied to over 1.3m cumulative acres of California land. Use was highest in the Central Valley on crops such as almonds, grapes, peaches and pistachios.

The study also found the chemicals in Oberon 2SC Malathion 5EC, the latter of which contains the neurotoxin malathion. Multiple studies have established that crops absorb PFAS and they can be ingested by humans. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began monitoring PFAS in food in 2019 and has detected them in fruits and vegetables, but has not set any limits. The fertilizers are also probably polluting water with PFAS. The level of PFOA, one kind of PFAS compound, found in Malathion 5EC was over 100,000 times higher than the level the EPA considers safe in drinking water, though no limit has been set for PFAS in pesticides.

"There is no better way to poison Americans than contaminate our food supply and soils with PFAS, and the blame for this lies squarely on the shoulders of EPA," said Kyla Bennett, a co-author and science policy director with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (Peer).

It is unclear why the chemicals are added to pesticides, though some in the industry have theorized they are used as a dispersing agent. The Intrepid 2F manufacturer Corteva-Agriscience in a statement to the Guardian said the product did not contain intentionally added PFAS. The results are the latest in an ongoing dispute among federal regulators and independent researchers over the scale of PFAS contamination in US pesticides, and the response. Bennett, a former EPA scientist, first discovered PFAS in pesticides in 2020, and alerted the agency and the Massachusetts department of environmental protection. After conducting its own pesticide testing, the EPA concluded in early 2021 the chemicals were leaching from plastic containers in which they were stored, and said the contamination was limited to pesticides used in mosquitocides. The EPA issued an open letter to the industry reminding it that PFAS can leach, and asking companies to alert it if they were adding PFAS. But the contamination continues. In late 2022, testing of insecticides used primarily for cotton, but which could potentially be used on food, found PFAS. That testing, along with CBD and Peer's research, also detected PFAS compounds not known to be used or formed when the chemicals are added to plastic. The discrepancy suggests the PFAS are not coming from plastic bins, but are added to pesticides by manufacturers, either as active or inactive ingredients, or are inadvertently inserted into products somewhere in the supply chain.

In December, the EPA banned some types of PFAS compounds – but not all – that can be used as inert ingredients in pesticide products, and said at the time that active ingredients are being reviewed. "EPA will share results of that investigation as soon as possible," an agency spokesperson said. No results have been released, but an EPA spokesperson said the agency has "already analyzed some of the specific pesticides mentioned by CBD and Peer and plans to release those results in the coming weeks". PFAS have also previously been found in some widely used flea and tick pesticide products. In a statement, the EPA said it "has taken significant scientific, regulatory and enforcement actions to address this issue, will continue to take such actions".

However, **it did not say it would halt sales of the pesticides while it investigates** Bennett told the Guardian the EPA is "missing in action". **"The fact that we are likely spraying pesticides with PFAS on food at a time when EPA acknowledges there is no safe level of some of these chemicals is nonsensical,"** she added.