



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



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Handwritten note on lined paper:

Hi I'm writing to you about the election. I'm writing to you because I think you should be the best person to be the president of the union. I think you should be the best person to be the president of the union because you are the best person to be the president of the union.

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EDITORIAL

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Printed by Mortons Media
Group, Boston Road,
Horncastle, Lincolnshire

Registered Newspaper
ISSN 1040-0711

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Centrefold 1, 3 // Taja Strle
Front Cover // Joseph
O'Connell-Danes, edit by Taja
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International Women's Day: A Tribute

Henry Alman – Felix Editor



For you Tenacious D fans out there, I want you to know: yes, I was very tempted to write a bastardised version of their lyrics for this article, based on the title. I thought, however, that might undermine the message. A pity, for sure.

This year, International Women's Day falls on a Sunday – which is awfully inconvenient for us trying to provide coverage, as we publish on a Friday. I decided to split the conversation over this issue and the next. I've written this editorial this week, and next week we will feature an extensive Throwback section.

That section will feature a fascinating range of stories on women at Imperial, that we discovered in the Felix archives during the Union's Diving into Imperial's HerStory event, which we hosted down in the office this past Monday. Credit goes to Yani up at the Union for putting that together, and to Jia Qi Tan, one of our Books and TV editors – two women who put a good deal of effort into recognising the women in our community.

On the back of that, I was inspired to write a little tribute to the women in my life here.

Firstly, a bit of the history of IWD: it truly is an international story. The March 8th date was originally proposed in 1910 by Clara Zetkin, a German revolutionary (according to Wikipedia), who was inspired by a Women's Day in New York by the Socialist Part of America in 1909. The first to pick it up as a national holiday was, unsurprisingly given its origin, Soviet Russia in 1917 – and this adoption

actually was driven by a city-wide demonstration by women textile workers in Petrograd, which constituted a major moment in the overall Russian Revolution.

IWD remained predominantly a communist holiday until 1967, when it was picked up by second-wave feminists – returning to its roots as a catalyst for activism. Although in the modern day, it has been corporatised to an extent, suffering the same fate as many other social causes under the current commercialised climate, it remains a powerful symbol for change.

Weirdly, reading up about all this, I was reminded of several of the women in my life: namely my mother, as well as her mother and her sister – my grandmother and aunt. They are each matriarchs of their zones, staunch feminists, and shaped me immensely growing up. They each also lived in many countries, experiencing truly international lives – and in particular ones that threw into sharp relief the varied experiences of women around the globe.

In particular, the stories my mother and aunt have of living in Saudi Arabia as children are fascinating, and I think helped to shape their perspective on women's rights at a young

age.

I love my family, but I don't want this to be about sentimentality, or to turn it into being about me and my relationship with them. So forgive me for glossing over that part. Suffice to say that I think are the perfect representatives of what feminism should be. Self-assured, confident women who have each achieved very highly and attuned much wisdom in their lives, and who raised me and my brother to be feminists by empathy and understanding rather than by doctrine.

My grandmother on my father's side has, without delving into her or my personal life too much, taught me much about both generosity and strength in life – and all the varied forms this can take, outside of the male-dominated one we are constantly presented with via every form of media and social conditioning one could imagine.

Of course, as I grew older, other women entered my life – in particular, my partner.

Well, what can I say without making it all about me, and without getting all sentimental. She's awesome; strength and kindness, independence and the act of sharing a life with another, and she's all the feelings that come with that incarnate.

She'd kick ass with or without me in her life, so I'm just happy to be along for the ride. She's what the modern world allows women to be – and what we should keep fighting to ensure the next generation can be.

In writing this, I've found that it can be difficult to talk about what makes each of these people paragons of all the positive aspects of womanhood without referring to myself and my relationship with them. I thought I'd add a little addendum to this article discussing this.

I feel like this is a trap that many men in this scenario – or, indeed, people in general in other scenarios – fall into. We are all locked within the silos of our own minds, and it can be hard to think about others outside of the confining boundaries of our own experiences with them.

But doing that inherently diminishes one's point, sometimes. It doesn't make a person kind to be nice to you specifically, and if one thinks about everything in those terms it is very easy to miss the point. Empathy breeds understanding, and you can't empathise by bringing the women in your life into your world. You have to step into theirs to understand them, their issues, their perspectives, and their lives.

I have no foolproof method for achieving this. It's a universal problem that, in many ways, we all live and die alone, inside our own minds. At the risk of sounding like a moron, that's why 'The Matrix' works as a concept. But it's something to remember and strive for.



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NEWS

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College Reveals Socially Responsible Investment Policy

The College has agreed to place limits on the investments of their Endowment Board, but with caveats that have left some students feeling the promises are hollow

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

On Monday 2nd March, the College revealed their Socially Responsible Investment Policy, which directs what areas their Endowment Board – which controls the investment portfolio – can directly or indirectly invest into.

The new policy ensures that “any investment decisions take into account the same social, environmental and governance concerns as the College”, according to the College website. Specifically, it mandates the College

and their fund managers to sign the UN Principles of Responsible Investment, and then for the Endowment Board to use “engagement”, or in other words to utilise the College’s financial influence, to encourage changes in their investment partners. Should these partners not demonstrate change, the College has promised to also use other areas of influence – such as research – to further encourage positive development.

Divestment will follow only if the cause is deemed hopeless – if the company in question refuses to change after every avenue of influence has been exhausted. The metric by which a willingness to change is to be measured is not specified,

“Despite restricting investment in companies engaged in tar sand and thermal coal extraction, the Provost clarified that this does not apply to companies with larger portfolios”

other than reference to the Paris Agreement targets as an end-goal.

Specific restrictions also exist atop the above general policy: the College has promised not to invest in tobacco, illegal munitions manufacture, or, regarding fossil fuels, to “divest from direct and indirect investments in companies engaged in [thermal coal and tar sand extraction].”

Despite this last restriction, however, an email sent from the Provost to Divest Imperial – a student campaign that has been pushing for full divestment from fossil fuels for several years – said that this would not include larger fossil fuel corporations such as BP or Chevron, despite these

companies directly engaging in those activities.

Specifically, it said: “companies whose sole business is coal or tar sands would not meet [Paris agreement targets]. Companies including some of those [Divest] note have both larger portfolios and intention (with action) to move towards the Paris targets and thus we would not rule those out for our engagement.”

In a response, Divest noted that the wording of the other restrictions is similar, and thus that if this is the interpretation then the College can presumably continue to invest in any tobacco- or illegal munitions-producing companies so long as those companies also have some other broader

“The policy is 'effectively useless and nothing more than greenwashing”

portfolio. A further statement said that as a result, the policy is “effectively useless and nothing more than greenwashing.”

Summer Ball Headliner Revealed: The Hoosiers

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

The Summer Ball’s headline act was revealed on Monday 2nd March to be The Hoosiers. This represents a departure from DJs of previous years by returning to a live act.

The Hoosiers are a well-known pop-rock band whose debut album, *The Trick to Life*, hit number one on the UK

album charts on release in October 2007, and are likely most famous for the songs ‘Goodbye Mr. A’ and ‘Worried About Rey’ from that same album.

Student reactions have broadly been positive, with those canvassed by Felix glad of the return of a live act with a high profile.

The decision to bring back a live act was made by the Summer Ball committee, a group of students who – for the first time – are running the Summer Ball as a student-led event.

Fifi Henry, the Union’s Deputy President of Finance and Services, and Chair of the committee, said:

“The Summer Ball Committee selected the Hoosiers in the later half of first term 2019. We had already agreed to move from a DJ (as we have always had in the past) to a live performance from a well known and popular artist. We felt that the Hoosiers were an amazing fit, with songs that lots of students will instantly recognise, and could put on an excellent show!”



Imperial's own Goodbye Mr. A...// Sophie Smith, Wikimedia

NEWS

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Wednesday's 'Meet the Candidates' Elections Debate

The 'Meet the Candidates' debate gave students an opportunity to gain insight into the campaign promises of election candidates

NEWS

Henry Alman
Editor-in-Chief

The 'Meet the Candidates' debate was hosted live in Metric on Wednesday 4th March and livestreamed on the Union Facebook page. The purpose was to give students a greater insight into the manifesto promises of those who have nominated themselves for major Union positions.

The positions included were the Felix Editor, the Union President, and the Deputy Presidents of Welfare (DPW), Clubs and Societies (DPCS), Finance and Services (DPFS), and Education (DPE).

The debate took place shortly after the opening of campaigning, following a briefing from the Union on campaign guidelines to each candidate, meaning that it was the first opportunity for an in-depth look at future potential sabbatical officers' views and perspectives. Campaigning will run from now, through the opening of voting on the 9th of March, and until voting closes on Thursday the 12th. Results will be

"It was the first opportunity for an in-depth look at future potential sabbatical officers' views and perspectives"

announced on the 13th at a Results Party in Metric.

The event, hosted by the Felix Deputy Editor Charlie Titmuss and co-hosted by the Arts and Entertainment Management Chair Joseph O'Connell-Danes, had heavy technical support from Imperial College Television, as well as publicity support from the Union's communications team.

For several roles – namely the DPFS, Felix Editor, DPCS, and DPE – only one candidate is either running or was able to attend the debate, leaving individual candidates to be grilled by the host on their manifestos and broader queries regarding their plans for the

role. For the other roles, there was strong debate between each candidate.

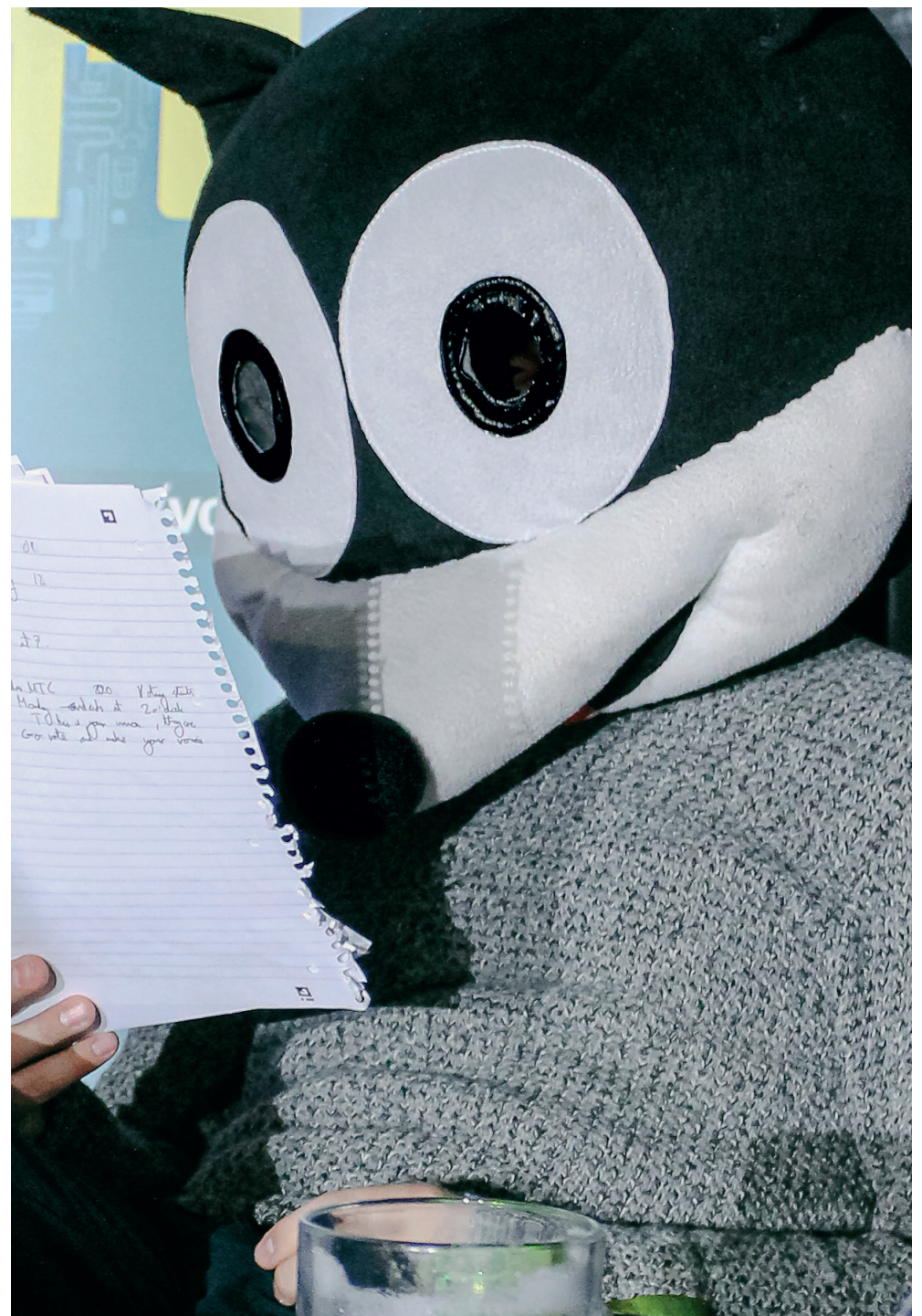
Additionally, questions were posed by the audience via the livestream comment section, further pushing candidates on the issues that mattered most to the students watching.

Between debates, the co-host along with a panel of guest pundits offered student perspective and commentary on the responses of each candidate.

The election results will be revealed on Friday the 13th, after voting closes, at a Results Party in Metric.

Editor's note: manifestos for major Union roles have been reproduced in the Manifesto Pullout in this issue of Felix.

I have chosen not to offer commentary or analysis on the content of the debates in an effort to remain impartial and not influence the election before voting closes. I highly suggest every student watches the debate prior to voting on the included roles; candidates gave thoughtful and insightful answers, and each answer shows directly how your student experience will be shaped.



Felix Deputy Editor Charlie Titmuss enjoying a Wednesday grill // Joe O'Connell-Danes

Imperial 'Cut the Rent' Launch

NEWS

Henry Alman
Editor-in-Chief

The 'Imperial Cut the Rent' campaign has officially launched as of Monday 2nd March. The campaign takes its

name from the UCL campaign, which peaked in 2016/2017 with rent strikes after two years of other campaign strategies.

The launch comes following the College's decision to move ahead with steep rent increases over the next five years, which will result in a room in South Kensington

costing approximately £300 per week by 2024/25.

This figure is in spite of a £3 million reduction in the total revenue expected across the five-year period, as a result of Union negotiations.

The campaign will seek to elect a committee of interested students to lead in

the coming months before the end of term. The Union President and Deputy President (Welfare) will not be directly leading the campaign, instead liaising with the student leaders.

The UCL campaign eventually resulted in a sizable bursary for less well-off students, as well as a freeze on prices for

the subsequent academic year. It was followed by a wave of 'Cut the Rent' campaigns across the country, resulting in successful slashes to rent prices at Goldsmiths, Liverpool, and other universities.

A CONVERSATION WITH...

felix@imperial.ac.uk

This week, Felix spoke with the Deputy President (Finance & Services), Fifi Henry, to ask about updates on hbar, 568, the Services & Sustainability Board, and the Summer Ball

Felix: What is the situation with hbar?

FH: I was invited alongside Abhijay (President), Mohit (GSU President), Head of Student Experience and Operations Manager to a meeting mid-Feb with Campus Services and College staff about the future of h-bar. There were many very valid points raised about how the space and atmosphere are not quite fit for purpose, what postgrads and staff would like from the space (both in terms of food, furniture and events) and where we go moving forward. Part of this conversation did focus on the food offering, and how we can work together to provide the best service. As there are now conversations about the bigger picture and long term future of h-bar, the equipment that needed to be purchased was put on hold indefinitely, awaiting progress updates.

Felix: How is the 568 reopening going, and do we have financial data on the effect of the closure?

FH: It's going well! After a few blips at the start (mostly running-out-of-cheese related), we are back in full swing, and always looking for potential to improve. Of course, the kitchens being closed for 2.5 months has had a significant impact on our finances, in the region of £40k loss on dry alone, but we know this also had an impact on the wet sales and student experience too, which affects the finances on the day and loss of regular custom respectively.

Felix: What has been happening with the block grant negotiations?

FH: The senior managers at the Union are working through Department Operating plans to ensure that all teams work as effectively and efficiently as possible. This not only helps us define what is core for the Union, but also shows that we have a plan for a successful year, and the Block Grant should support x,y,z activities to achieve this. These plans are being pulled together

in order for the Finance & Risk committee and Board of Trustees to have oversight before finalising the proposal for College.

Felix: Could you speak a bit about the Services & Sustainability Board and Greening Imperial?

FH: The Services & Sustainability Board are currently going through a review for how the committee should be run, and have already had a meeting around what currently doesn't quite work and what may work better. We had a plan to run a sustainability campaign throughout February, but the demands on an already highly-engaged group of students was evidently too much, and it was deemed reasonable to reassess how we move forward. It is the first year this committee has existed, and so I am not surprised that it is not flawless first time around. I am excited about the amount of potential it holds, and know it can do a lot of good for students, the Union and Imperial overall, and

I hope that I can reform the foundations to solidly support this growth.

Felix: Have you figured out a better way to deal with contracts yet as spoken about previously?

FH: The eActivities route (to have an un-editable format with pre-written clauses from me that a CSP can pick and choose from) is a working progress. I am looking to do a bigger role of the DPFS role to remove admin, as this is a massive time drain that doesn't allow whomever is in post to work on larger projects and achieve more on their manifesto, and contracts may fall under that, but it is very much a "watch this space!" project at the moment!

Felix: Do you have any other general comments, such as on other things you've been working on, or just anything you want to talk about?

FH: The Summer Ball

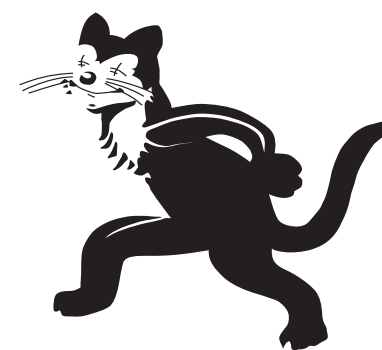
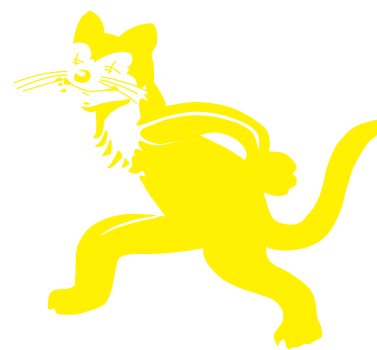
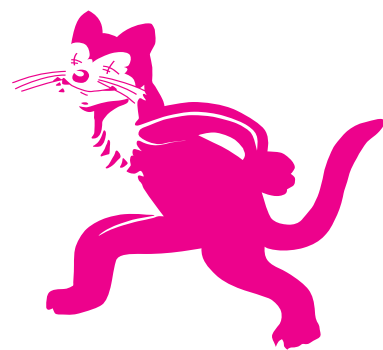
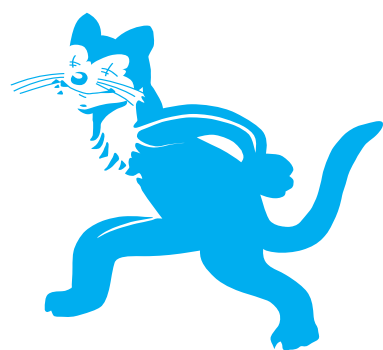
Committee selected the Hoosiers in the later half of first term 2019. We had already agreed to move from a DJ (as we have always had in the past) to a live performance from a

well known and popular artist. We felt that the Hoosiers were an amazing fit, with songs that lots of students will instantly recognise, and could put on an excellent show!



Fifi Henry, the DPFS //ICU

Felix is recruiting!



We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk

POLITICS

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Twilight of the Old Order in China's Most International City

An analysis of the political situation in Hong Kong with the help of HKU Professor John Carroll

POLITICS

Luca Ramelli

Politics Writer

As the Coronavirus epidemic takes lead in the news, everything else seems to have diminished importance. This is particularly true for a city that has endured a troublesome period in the last year. Hong Kong, a city unique for its history and identity, marked by cultural exchanges between East and West, whose streets have witnessed overcrowding and tear gas and unreal emptiness in the span of less than 12 months.

While this unreal quietness has blanketed the city in the midst of the epidemic, what was known as the Fragrant Harbour will certainly not succumb to the crisis it faces. Fights and political bipolarism have only been set aside, awaiting the right moment for a rampant comeback.

In order to better understand the peculiar situation of Britain's last colony, I analysed an instructive lecture that was recently delivered by Lord Patten, HK's last Governor. Then I also had an illuminating talk with Professor John Carroll, who currently teaches History at Hong Kong University. Below are the principal points we

discussed.

The Handover

One thing I was particularly eager to consider was the issue of Hong Kong's handover to China.

China and the United Kingdom agreed to an orderly restitution of the territory from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1984. The document concretising this decision was signed in that year by UK PM Margaret Thatcher and her Chinese counterpart Zhao Ziyang. The reason behind this agreement was the approaching expiry, in 1997, of the 99 years lease of the New Territories, a significant part of what by that time Hong Kong had become. The land was originally ceded by Imperial China as a consequence of its defeat in the Third Opium War. The negotiations concerning the terms of the restitution did not involve any participation from the people of Hong Kong, who had to accept passively the decisions others were making for them.

The question of why Hong Kong was not offered any referendum, as for other countries in the British Empire, is therefore noteworthy. Professor Carroll underlined that in Hong Kong although such a scenario may have been prospected by some activists in the 1950s, there was actually



Hong Kong skyline // Pixabay

no mass movement towards this goal. He noted, however, that secret plans about a referendum may be elucidated by the British Government, but the only way we can find out is through declassified files that are periodically released by the governments.

The other side of the coin is that China would never have allowed such an act of self-determination and China's rise was indeed a fact that could not be underestimated. This was already common knowledge in 1967, a violent year for Hong Kong marked with frenzied clashes, when the UK instructed its officials in the Colony not to excessively repress dissenting Communists, fearing to anger China. By 1984, Prof. Carroll says, "China was the bigger picture" economically speaking; in other words, was having a better relationship with

China or was holding Hong Kong better for the interests of the UK?

The answer appeared clear to Margaret Thatcher who "was not committed to democracy" and rather "hated Communism", and so, ironically, I would add, ended up giving one of the greatest gifts a Communist country has ever received.

Prof. Carroll was however keen to underline that nonetheless, the handover also marked the end of British colonialism, a reality that for most of history meant suffering and oppression. Only its last exponent, namely Lord Patten, tried to implement some sort of democratic reform, while until that point the UK had basically never granted any form of public participation for Hong Kong citizens in decision making. For this approach, Lord Patten became a controversial figure in

Hong Kong politics: he has been praised by some, demonised by others. As Prof. Carroll recalled, he was even given some derogatory nicknames, e.g. "the Prostitute of the Millennium".

Lord Patten's democratic reforms were in

particular coldly received by China, which maintained that after the Joint Declaration, no further change in the government structure of the colony should have been made. The last Governor claimed instead that no political establishment



Hong Kong districts map. New Territories makes up the majority of land area // Wikimedia

"Whose streets have witnessed overcrowding and tear gas and unreal emptiness in the span of less than 12 months"

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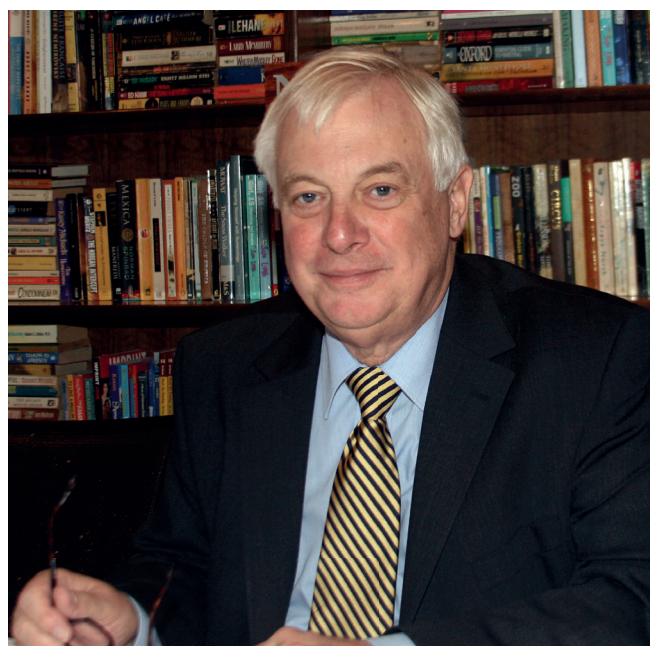
was perpetually stable and that reforms were an ineluctable attribute of the act of governing.

China's not so invisible hand in HK's affairs

As Prof. Carroll explains, while this attitude meant that Lord Pattern had a very tense relationship with China for the first years of his mandate, things then gradually improved. This is in stark contrast with his predecessor and only other former HK Governor still alive, Lord Wilson. He has always used quieter tones with respect to China and his administration has been generally appreciated by the PRC. That is why it is interesting to underline their differing thoughts concerning Chinese meddling in Hong Kong's affairs. Lord Wilson has recently claimed in a debate in the House of Lords, that the only overt violation of the "one country, two systems" principle established in the Joint Declaration has been the kidnapping of Lee Bo and other booksellers in the last decade. On the flip side, Lord Patten delivered a lecture at the beginning of February in which he affirmed, that while China was overall abiding to such principles until 2012, things changed when Xi Jinping becoming Secretary of Chinese Communist Party.

After that year, a meddling campaign had clearly begun, and it was that one of the main reasons that sparked the 2014 and 2019 protests. I was therefore interested in Prof. Carroll's opinion on these diverging views.

His reply was that most Hong Kong people do believe that several forms of meddling actually happened, starting even in the 2000s. However, he stated that the definition



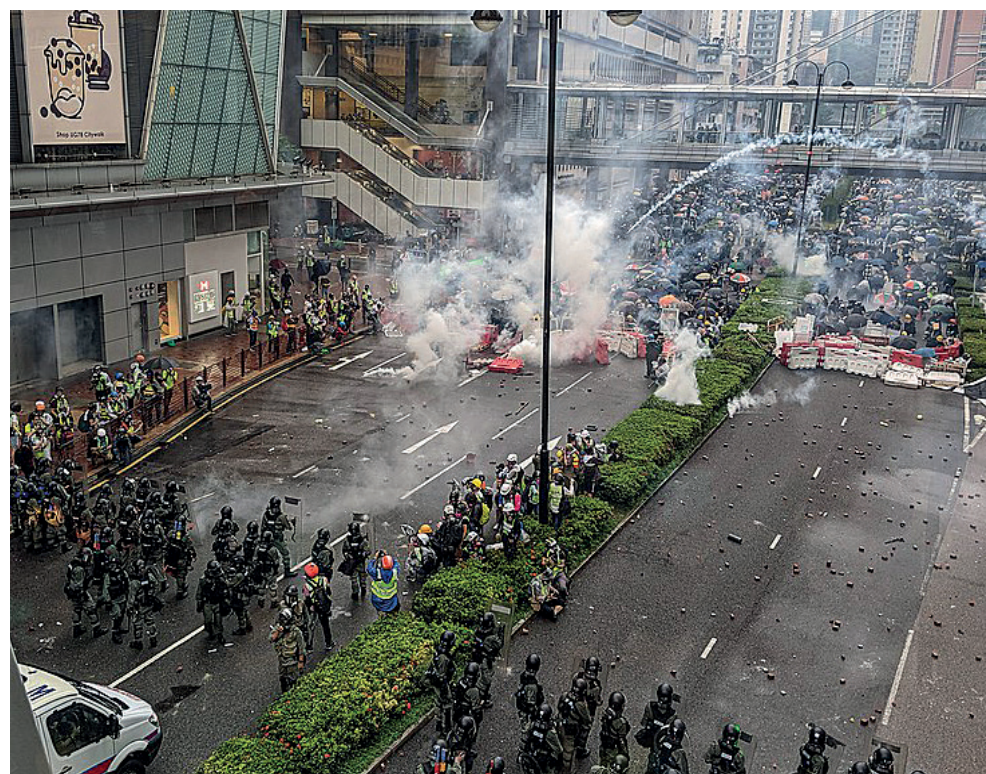
The Rt Hon. The Lord Patten of Barnes, last Governor of Hong Kong from 1992 to 1997 // Wikimedia

of meddling is not easy to define as the Joint Declaration is indeed a loose agreement, even though it was the object of prolonged negotiations. It was the fruit of a complex compromise between the UK and China. The result, he said, is that today, in Hong Kong's bipolar political scene, the pro-democracy camp says that the pro-China camp "only understands one country", and vice versa,

"While Hong Kong is embattled in reflections protests, its neighbour Macau remains silent"



Map of Macau // Wikimedia



2019 protests marked by harsh fights between protesters and police // Wikimedia

the latter believes that the former "only understands two systems".

The comparison with Macau

While Hong Kong is embattled in reflections and deeply shaken by protests, its most notable neighbour, Macau, remained silent. Macau nonetheless shares a background of European colonialism as well. I was hence interested in the reason behind this difference in behaviour. For addressing this issue my interlocutor was especially useful, given the fact that one of his main areas of interest, along with HK's history, is colonialism in Asia.

He explained to me how the political structure of Macau was very different to that of Hong Kong. Indeed, it was created by the Portuguese to serve as a commercial outpost and was not even a colony until the late 19th Century. There, Chinese judges retained their role and local authorities remained very influential: in other words, it was a type of colony the British did not want to emulate when establishing Hong Kong

after the First Opium War.

When in 1974 the Carnation Revolution brought an abrupt end to the fascist regime which was ruling over Portugal, they began the process of decolonisation. Although formally relinquishing the sovereignty of Macau to China, Portugal was encouraged by China to maintain the administration of it for some time whilst it negotiated the restitution of Hong Kong. Then after the Joint Declaration was signed, China came back to the issue of Macau.

Originally, the PRC wanted HK and Macau to be handed over at the same date, but Portugal advanced some counter-proposals. It asked indeed for Macau to be given back to China in 1999 instead of 1997 as Hong Kong was, in order to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the acknowledgement by the Chinese Empire of Portuguese presence in China, which occurred in 1749. But then, Portugal required that a new airport be built in Macau, that the Catholic Church be granted a special status in the region, and that Portuguese citizenship had to be given to Macanese

people (i.e. people of mixed Portuguese and Asian descent).

China's initial answer, Prof. Carroll explained, was a refusal of all these requests. China was indeed already building an airport in the nearby city of Zhuhai. It also neither wanted to concede privileges to the Church, given its tense relationship with the Vatican, nor allow a part of Macau population to hold a second passport, since China allows its citizens to have only one nationality.

Eventually Portugal got everything it wanted, without even having a Chinese-speaking person at their Foreign Office at that time. The reason, Prof. Carroll states, was probably because of the Tiananmen Square massacre and the consequent international isolation China was subjected to.

Furthermore, a parallel between Macau and Hong Kong, he says, is both useful and useless at the same time due also to the size of Macau (about 600,000 people, in contrast to the over 7 million of Hong Kong) and the different attitudes

POLITICS

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Twilight of the Old Order in China's Most International City (cont.)

of their people, rooted in their different history. Different attitudes from these two regions would probably even be present in the case of a hypothetical disaster: "If Beijing gave money to Macau after a typhoon hit Macau, people would be grateful, if Beijing gave money to Hong Kong, people would complain. They would say you are trying to get something out of us". A different behaviour with respect to the two realities is shown also by the authorities. On this note, Prof. Carroll told me an interesting anecdote: "If you go to Macau today, you can see a small body of water that divides Macau from Zhuhai. I once asked a government official: don't you worry about people swimming over to escape? He said: why do they need to swim? They can just walk over. It doesn't really matter".

Hong Kong people, on the other hand, are very worried about immigration and the arrival of an overwhelming number of individuals with pro-Beijing views.

The protests

Another interesting question to address, due to its potential developments, is that of the recent protests in HK, the Umbrella Movement of 2014 and those sparked by the proposed Extradition Bill of last year.

While the 2014 protests lasted for around two months before evaporating, without obtaining any of the democratic reforms they sought, the 2019 ones lasted much longer. They continued indeed until the Coronavirus emergency hit the city. Prof. Carroll opinion is that once this



Hong Kong Umbrella Movement in 2014 // Flickr

"His opinion is that once this exceptional epidemic situation is over, the protests will resume"

exceptional situation will be over, the protests will actually resume, due to several reasons.

Firstly, unlike the Umbrella Movement, these protests have been characterised by extremely harsh fights between the protesters and the police. The disproportionate violence exercised by the police force was worse than even that of the 1967 protests, and for that reason he thinks that the police have never been hated as much as they are as now. This attitude towards the police and exacerbation of the repression was also mentioned by Lord Patten in his lecture last February.

Secondly, this emergency, although momentarily halting protests, has increased the dissatisfaction of Hong Kong people towards the government. People think indeed that the borders with China have been closed too late, facilitating the spread of the virus, and that the government did not act sufficiently to limit the

price of face masks and other goods now deemed important. To the question of whether Beijing will still have faith in Carrie Lam as Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Prof. Carroll replied that there is no way to know. The internal matters of the Chinese Communist Party are secret to the extent that we don't even know how many times Mrs Lam goes to mainland China. Right now, Hong Kong people don't want to renounce their desire of a more democratic system, while on the other side Beijing doesn't want to give in to them, therefore a way in which the situation could be resolved is not foreseeable.

Personal experiences

As my interlocutor was born in the 60s in Hong Kong and was brought up there, I thought it would be noteworthy to ask him about his relationship with the place. He told me that, although he had been invited to the handover

ceremony, he could not attend because he was in the United States for personal reasons. He nonetheless watched it on TV and found it quite emotional, and that while it was the ultimate concretisation of decolonisation, it was not perceived so at the time.

Looking back, however, he believes Hong Kong's decolonisation has been the most successful to have occurred. This is because it was planned 13 years ahead and occurred in a very smooth fashion, maintaining for instance their same *laissez-faire* economical system. The opposite scenario took place in India, where decolonisation was pushed through in the summer of 1947 and was followed by an unstable international situation in that region of Asia. Furthermore, people who worked for the British began simply to work for the Chinese, without accusations of collaboration which led to summary executions as in other colonies. Nobody could accuse anybody else of that, because they all worked for the same people.

Concerning the recent protests, I asked him whether he felt worried that some of his students

could have been there, risking their lives. He replied that he was indeed worried, even if the students of his faculty were not as involved in the protests as those of other faculties, e.g. Law. While now, because of coronavirus, lecturers can only teach online, he is worried about what will happen when the normal schedule resumes. This political situation would indeed see a further polarisation in the universities, where students may be involved in the protests on one hand, and on the other the mainland community may face discrimination by HK students. The important thing, Prof. Carroll states, is to guarantee a safe environment for all students independent of their background and that academic freedom remains as vital as it is today..

Some reflections

Having been given this wonderful insight into the issue I consider as Asia's most singular and interesting city, I was only encouraged to further explore its history and all its faces. What is most shocking is that in Hong Kong almost every year an era seems to have come to an end, and another seems about to begin. One

occurred in 1997 with the handover, one seems to happen each time a cycle of protest begins, one will probably take place in 2047, when Hong Kong's status as a Special Administrative Region will expire. This would be an end, or more poetically a twilight, like that in "Twilight in the Forbidden City", sinologist Sir Reginald Johnston's book about China's last years as an empire. I hope that the people of Hong Kong, some of whom I had the luck to meet, will not be left with an unbearable sense of alienation afterwards. I think, however, that for many of them this possibility is already being actualised.

A special thanks goes to Professor John Carroll for the marvellous conversation we had and to The Rt Hon. The Lord Patten of Barnes for sending me his recent lecture.

COMMENT

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Is the College's Socially Responsible Investment Policy Green Washing?

College decides to quit investments in tobacco, but fails to kick dependence on fossil fuels and arms

COMMENT

Artur Donaldson

Comment Writer

At first glance the college's announcement of its Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) strategy this Monday seems positive, with policies on its investments into tobacco, arms and fossil fuels. There is good news and there is bad news. The bad news – it has decided to continue ties with fossil fuel and arms companies, and has failed to define clear quantitative targets or time frames. The way the policy is loosely worded draw concerns over whether there will be real change, and responses to emails suggest the college is already going back even on these policies.

The good news is that the College has decided to stop all investments into tobacco companies, including withdrawal of indirect investments, such as through investment funds. Divestment from tobacco will not only benefit Imperial's conscience, it will benefit wider society - the cost of smoking-related diseases to the NHS was £2.6 bn in 2015. Another commendable step the college has taken is to pledge that its fund managers will become a signatories to the UN Principles of Responsible Investment, which is underpinned by six guidelines for investment.

Unfortunately it is not all good news. Thermal coal and tar sands are

some of the most polluting fossil fuels. BP, Shell and Chevron all continue to engage in their extraction. Chevron, which employs Imperial's president Alice Gast, has recently opened up a new tar sands project in Venezuela. In the announcement emailed to all members the college, it was announced that the College will "divest from direct and indirect investments in companies engaged in these activities [coal and tar sands]". Yet in an informal clarification from the Provost in response to a request for clarification, made available by Divest Imperial, he allegedly stated that the college would not be divesting from BP, Chevron, or Shell, claiming that the policy only applies to organisations "whose sole business is coal or tar sands". This explicitly goes against the policy which members of the public would read, and this treatment of its policies if true, can at best

"Letting companies whose primary purpose is to extract fossil fuels influence which skills are taught does not seem congruent with a carbon neutral world"



It's easy to make investments look green // Algarabia

be described greenwashing by the college.

Furthermore, it is not clear how the college will treat non-financial ties and avoid locking graduates into career paths in fossil-fuel extraction which have limited future prospects. The College suggests that it will affect companies, among other means, through its "influence as a world-leading university" and its "educational programmes". Call me naive, but I believe letting companies whose primary purpose is to extract fossil fuels have easy-access to graduates and influence which skills are taught at the highest impact universities in the world does not seem congruent with a carbon neutral world. Not because people who work at such companies are uninformed or evil, because they aren't, but because they are obliged by the a broken system to spend their days as cogs in a machine that is driving unprecedented damage to climate. As much as we need investment in education, we also need freedom for people with the skills and creativity to make renewables into

a reality at the immense scale required. Teaching students skills to extract fossil fuels and hosting career fairs with large fossil fuel companies gives students a distorted picture of where their talent can be applied.

College has decided to "divest from arms manufacturers who manufacture illegal weapons". At first glance this seems like a good policy, but read it again. Illegal? Unless the college has, until now, been investing into illegal weapons such as biological weaponry or proliferation of nuclear arms, this policy is barely worth the paper it is written on because few companies involved in illegal arms manufacturing would publicise it. From a recent freedom of information request, we know that the college invests into Lockheed Martin, the largest arms manufacturer in the US and which went through a number of bribery scandals in the 1950s - 1970s. Lockheed Martin in the UK manufactures Trident nuclear warheads loaded on submarines. Rather than relying on the government to ascertain which invest-

ments are permitted, the College should be decide itself whether investments into instruments designed to kill is socially responsible.

Given how loosely worded the statement is, as well as failing to set targets for which it can be held accountable, it is yet to be seen what real change in fossil fuel investment the college will take. In a UCU debate on Imperial and Climate earlier this week, it was clear that this policy will involve

"The College should be decide itself whether investments into instruments designed to kill is socially responsible."

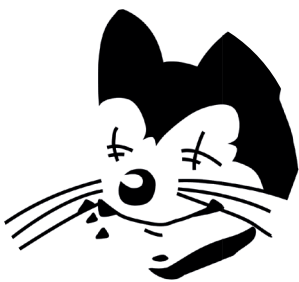
reliance on controversial and risky Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Some within the college who defend the claim that increasing extraction present two myths. Firstly, if fossil fuel prices increase there will necessarily be civil unrest. In theory when supply of limited resources such as oil and gas drops, prices will rise and, until shale gas and fracking flooded the market with unsustainable oil, prices at petrol stations were rising without social collapse.

Furthermore, we already we have more proven reserves more oil and gas than we are able to burn without causing catastrophic climate change of more than 2 degrees Celsius. The second claim is that CCS technologies, such as pumping carbon into depleted oil wells will mitigate the effects. While undeniably CCS will play a part in increase our chances of avoiding catastrophic climate change, it cannot do so alone and renewable energy sources have been decreasing in cost far more rapidly. CCS is not a mature enough technology at scales required and can only work where there are geologically stable places to store carbon without it being released in tectonic activity. Investing in companies that hedge their bets on CCS sometime in the future to justify exploration of new oil fields is not a socially responsible investment strategy.

The SRI policy has opened up engagement in a way we appreciate and is a step in the right direction, but it is journey that is far from over. The college asserts it will regularly review the policy and its investments, which is also one of the key components of the UN Principles of Responsible Investment, however it has yet to define the timeframe for these. It should also be consistent divestment strategy.

COMMENT

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A Response to “How dare I?”, on Ecological Misconception

Julio Garcia-Perez (mathematics) argues that Alberto Begue’s piece (Sustainability, Felix 1745) paints a strawman fairy-tale of Greta Thunberg’s ideology

COMMENT

Julio Garcia Perez

Comment Writer

Last week, Alberto Begue wrote an article on the ecological movement represented by Greta Thunberg. The goal of the article seemed to be to “destroy” what the author believes to be the ideas most ecologists support with facts and logic. After reading it I was somewhat confused, as what he was writing against does not really represent the movement and barely any reasoned arguments against ecologism were provided. In this article I will show how Alberto’s idea of climate activists is mistaken, what some of our (my) real ideas are, superficially dispute the eco-neoliberal fairy-tale (for the nth time) and talk about the reactionary figure of the “politically incorrect knight” in our times.

At the beginning of the article, the author states in some way that he is concerned with the environment. To do this he highlights his love for numerous animals, flowers and all those sorts of things that do just one thing: infantilise and trivialise the ecological cause. By associating climate activists like Greta with people who, for some reason, really like nature you are equating it to a hobby. Would someone dare compare our sacred economy with coin collecting? No. So I would suggest that if the author wants to be taken (not

saying that he is not) as someone concerned by the climate crisis (yes, crisis, not change), he could at avoid this unnecessary trivialising remark. Again, being ecologically concious is not about having a passion for the wonders of mother earth, but to see that if we keep going like we are, we are all fucked; and I cannot think of something more critical to his own concerns.

After this self-recognition as a nature lover (which is more than I can assert), Alberto proceeds to present to us what he believes the “Greta cult” (what many reactionaries would probably call ecologists these days) mean by ecologism. Central to this insulting caricature is the idea of overpopulation and what he calls “mass suicide” (plausible if Seneca was a top selling author). Alberto’s incorrect claim that this is something most ecologists advocate is precisely a bastard idea of the neoliberalism he so much loves and social Malthusian ideas (that the Nazis so happily inherited). Capitalism has for decades imposed an individualist conception of ecological conscience based on blaming each of us for our lack of “green” behaviour in our day to day life. Yes, that is right, you, who uses plastic straws, are as responsible as Shell for the climate crisis. Once accepted this personal responsibility, it is (not so) reasonable to jump, as Alberto does, to population control and genocide, which, as I mentioned are usually

present in reactionary far right sectors, as the ideal way of ending with each of us eco-sinners. Individual eco-shame is yet another effort by the

“He highlights his love for numerous animals, flowers ... that infantilise and trivialise the ecological cause”

establishment to avoid the masses from realising that a hundred companies are responsible for 70% of the contamination of the planet, and genocide is just an alternative measure that punishes (kills!) the powerless instead of the powerful.

After the above considerations, you can probably understand why I was confused when I read that I am “obviously the heir of those who wanted to sterilise populations”. A movement that challenges a threat to the survival of humans cannot argue for their extermination! Maybe the author has yet to realise that the climate crisis does not only kill cute animals like the dolphins and elephants he cites, but also humans, especially the destitute. It is, indeed, the “third” world (it exists!) that is suffering the most the consequences of the wrongdoing of the usual suspects. This is the



The environmental movement is more profound than a hobby for those who “really like nature” //Wikimedia

reason why movements like Extinction Rebellion put emphasis in showing the ecological issues that these countries experience and the West cannot be bothered with (unless it is to despoil them or enslave them). We, or at least I, argue is that it is a few companies in the (un) developed Western world, supported by the political class and the privileges of the (un)free market that are responsible for our current crisis. Note that this is a shift from the individualist eco-shaming invented by neoliberalism to a structural critique of the system, one that most of us can adhere to. Once this different critique has been established, we

could jump, like Alberto did, to the different conclusion that we should destroy these few companies or even destroy the system, instead of destroying every human. This is again a caricature that so many economy lovers love to criticise. But the truth is we are not even asking for a system destruction (the wettest of my anti capitalist dreams), but for a system change.

The other main idea Alberto seems to assign to the “Greta cult” is “degrowth”. The term itself is curious enough, as like anything that challenges the sacred cow that is the economy, it had to be coined in a negative fashion as the antagonism

of “growth”, and we all know that “growth” is good, or do we? According to Alberto, the closest synonym of economic growth would be technological progress. I am slightly sceptical of this, the neoliberal world is not known for putting technological progress first, but profit maximization (or so my Mathematics of Economics module suggests). This is a point that is sometimes difficult to come to terms with: technological progress is only a by-product of companies’ goal to make cash, and therefore, subjected and obstructed by it. The development of technology would be better focused and more

COMMENT

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efficient if it was not a slave to marketable trends (selfie stick, iPhone 10, iPhone 10 S, iPhone 10 SS, iPhone 10 SSHH...) and elitism that only a few can afford but directed towards the real necessities of the people. What growth really refers to is growth of contamination rates, growth of inequality, growth of precarious jobs, growth of the market against the environment and against the people. This is the point where Alberto and I differ, he believes growth and ecologism are compatible, what is more, he seems to declare them best friends, so he would probably not agree with my previous rant about “growth”. But let us talk about degrowth.

Degrowth does not mean a decrease in the quality of life or that you will have to live in dark green forests; that is just the picture painted by, again, the usual suspects. Degrowth is a set of policies and measures directed towards the achievement of a society where contamination degrows, inequality degrows and the importance of the omnipresent market degrows. Degrowth is (not paradoxically) also about growth: growth of green jobs, growth of public services and property, growth of civil participation and decision making, growth of small business, growth of biodiversity... This is precisely the system change I was talking about, one that puts people first and, like parents with their kids, tells big business when they are crossing the line. So, I think Alberto should have at least mentioned how degrowth “takes away: teachers, hospitals, doctors and even freedom”, as it seems to me to be quite the opposite case. I recommend Naomi Klein’s “This Changes Everything” for a well-researched (better written) introduction to many



Clearly satan in disguise, with an EU halo // Wikimedia

topics regarding capitalism, ecologism and green

“Degrowth is [...] directed towards the achievement of a society where contamination degrows, inequality degrows and importance of the market degrows”

alternative approaches to neoliberalism in our time.

After telling us about his affinity for rats, misidentifying the arguments of the “Greta cult” and stating that degrowth is the devil in disguise, Alberto claims that the only alternative to ecologists’ miserable and apocalyptic solution to our miserable and apocalyptic future is the same capitalism (i.e. our miserable and soon to be apocalyptic present) that precisely led us to this situation. To back this bold claim, he presents the example of the river Thames, which he argues is at its most biodiverse for centuries! This is true, it was even declared biologically dead in 1957 and biodiversity has improved since the industrial revolution, but saying that it is thanks to our friend capitalism is a bit of a stretch. The end on the British Empire

meant a huge decrease of usage of the river and the displacement of heavy industry from London to the periphery helped a lot. About companies cleaning the river because it is in their interest, as far as research has led me this was because of stricter changes in the legislation, not the company’s “generous” nature. Regardless, we should not be thanking a company for cleaning, even voluntarily, what they dirty (at least I do not thank my dirty flatmate for cleaning his shit). He also mentions how this is a solution found within the capitalist framework, it is true as well, and it matches very well with degrowth’s legislation over companies. Maybe, Alberto, you agree with the “Greta cult” more than you think! Being more

rigorous now, one cannot present a Thames example as a “proof” that capitalism eco-rocks, when capitalism is, as I have already said, the cause of the climate crisis (maybe you would like to argue against that too). Regarding democracy, I believe no Greta is threatening democracy, but rather trying to make our current liberal democracies more participative and closer to the people, so I cannot see how democracy is antagonistic to ecologism and degrowth. What I can see is how ecologism challenges political systems that do not represent their people, in who sovereignty lies, and how that can be an issue for the usual suspects; but that is not surprising.

Lastly, I wanted to talk about a figure that I have noticed has emerged

parallel to the far right globally, that of the “politically incorrect knight”. Reading Alberto’s article made me think more about this idea, so I will use it to exemplify the concept. Opposite to the well-known online “white knight” who fights for progressive causes such as (especially) feminism, LGBTB+ movement, ecologism... in a saviour-like manner, the “politically incorrect knights” are those individuals who fight against these progressive ideas in a rather insulting, direct or merciless way, hence the politically incorrect. This role comes from the threat perceived by some sectors of society in progressive ideas becoming hegemonic in our culture. In order to attack them without looking reactionary or archaic, they raise in their discourse these progressive ideas to hegemonic (when they are far from it), widely accepted or politically correct so that they can then charge against them as a revolutionary act against the establishment. In the case of this article, Alberto identified ecologism as hegemonic, even saying that most parties have made it its number one priority. This is far from true and not even left parties pay nearly enough importance to ecologism, the priority for parties remains numbers that say something about the sacred economy (or Brexit in the case of the UK). The title of his article also illuminates the revolutionary aspect of the act (yes I know it is also a pun), as he presents his text as one daring to stand up against Greta the eco-dictator, stealing the girl her dreams in his last paragraph. Well, Alberto, I will not be the one to steal your dreams, but I can assure you that not even you, or a few fat companies will be able to steal our dream for a better society.

MUSIC

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After Half A Decade Caribou Suddenly Returns

MUSIC

Suddenly



Artist: Caribou. **Label:** Merge Records. **Top Tracks:** You and I, New Jade, Home, Magpie. **For Fans Of:** Four Tet; Nicholas Jaar; Bonobo. *43 minutes*

Guthrie Ruby

Music Editor

Five long years have passed and finally Dan Snaith has made a return under his moniker Caribou. *Suddenly* is the fifth release from the Canadian musician and this most recent project is distinctly more personal than Snaith's previous releases.

Change is the central theme of the album, as Snaith has decided

to tell stories from personal relationships. For example, the opener "Sister" explores difficulties Snaith has with his siblings and "Home" about a friend of his who ended a toxic relationship.

In *Suddenly* Snaith demonstrates the mastery he has achieved over his distinct contemporary style, combining synthetic and acoustic elements resulting an exceptionally soulful electronica sound. As he's been known to do, Snaith avoids quantising his music too much, allowing irregularities that in most electronic music would be considered "errors". The slight lack of rigidity only adds to the album's character.

The intimacy of topics in the album is amplified by the way in which Snaith uses his voice throughout. Ever so softly, slightly held back, like being at a private show just for

you. However, Snaith's vocals are never too timid to be pushed down by the instrumental. Even on the track "You and I", amongst jarring beat switches and a beautifully crisp wailing guitar, Snaith's tempered voice still holds its place.

While a more personal touch has been taken, the album is not lacking in infectious energetic moments. "New Jade" packs a tidy punch with busy percussion and glitchy vocals. The track "Never Come Back" feels like a contemporary take on the house style of 808's, catchy piano riffs and soulful vocals.

Tracks-by-track there is a lack of flow. The album has been constructed in a patchwork style where there is a distinct sonic shade being presented (much like the block colour artwork of the single releases). One of the clearest shades painted is



Caribou the human, not the animal // Billboard

in the lead single "Home". The style is a take on old school hip-hop sample centred beats. Snaith has commented on how he arranged the sampled vocals to act as a sort of duo/call-and-response, two people returning home to their loved ones. It's wonderfully melan-

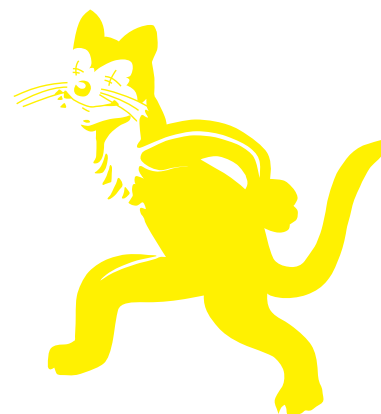
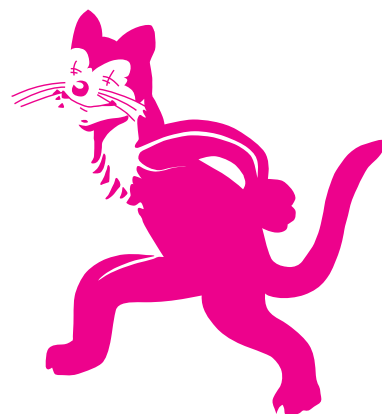
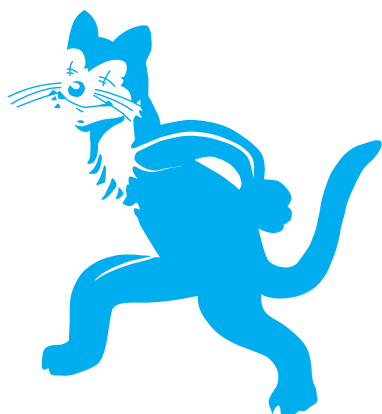
cholic, the kind of song you imagine reconnecting with an old friend over.

The patchwork assembly of the album can do it a bit of a disservice at times. Listening through the whole album, transitions from one song can leave an aftertaste that spoils the next. However,

this is a relatively minor disruption as the character of each track is so distinct it's hard not to get lost back into the music.

Suddenly is an exceptional return for Snaith and well worth the wait. We can only hope that the next release is a bit more sudden than this one.

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MUSIC

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Why the world needed Riot Grrrls

The rise of the feminist movement known as Riot Grrrl is thought to be the start of modern day feminism as we know it - Felix takes a look at a movement which was more punk than actual punk.

MUSIC

Emily Freeman

Music Editor

Picture this: it's the early 90s and it's assumed that the feminist movement is over. The feminists have got what they wanted, namely the right to vote and the expansion of reproductive rights. They've tired themselves out from discussing sexual liberality and so now feminism has become a scholarly topic, resigned to discussion within lecture halls amongst top academics. The second wave of feminism, which ushered in new debates about topics such as domestic violence, marital rape and legal inequalities had diminished and dwindled, until it was no more. This is the era of post-feminism.

Picture this: it's the early 90s and young punk women are harassed in a subculture that has progressively made it difficult for them to be part of. The dregs of punk leftover from the 70s are now oppressively macho, with many women assaulted at gigs; punk bands containing women often

don't succeed as well as their male counterparts. One of the most radical socialist movement to have existed became toxic to some of its most proliferate supporters. So, these supporters spoke up, and created a space to safely speak freely about being a female punk rocker: fan zines. These were DIY leaflets and

"The use of 'rrr' was to regain the meaning of 'girl' and turn it into something that grows back"

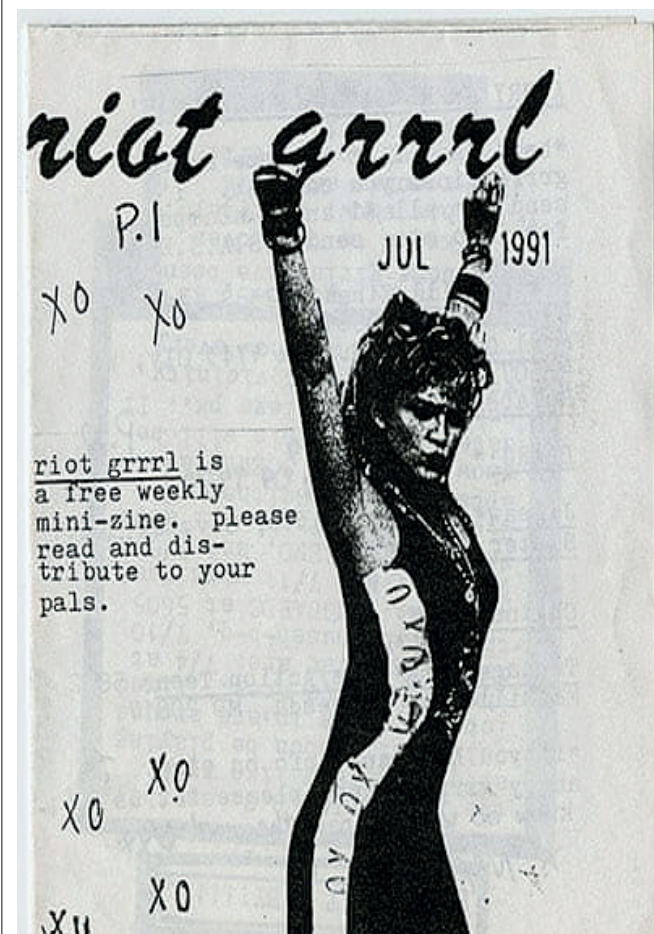
booklets addressing the culture woman and the queer community faced and creating and discussing their own culture in response. Notably, Tobi Vail and Kathleen Hanna, two women living in Washington began their own DIY zine, called Bikini Kill. They decided, along with two other female zine-producers, that to fully spread their message to the punk com-

munity, they needed to express it in the only way punks really knew how: through music. Bikini Kill the fan zine became Bikini Kill the band.

Bikini Kill were soon joined by more: Bratmobile, Babes in Toyland, Huggy Bear, 7 Year Bitch, L7 and Jack Off Jill, to name a few, were instrumental in the newly found Riot Grrrl movement. The term Riot Grrrl came from numerous sources, but reflected the need for a "girl riot", with grrrl representing firstly the empowerment of being a girl before growing up and having patriarchal expectations placed upon them, and secondly the use of the "rrr", used to regain the meaning of the word into something that could bite back and growl at the system. The second issue of Bikini Kill (the fan zine) published the 'riot grrrl manifesto'. This put into words what the movement was acting for and trying to achieve: "[we] seek to create revolution in our own lives every single day by envisioning and creating alternatives to the bullshit capitalist way of doing things" and that "we don't wanna assimilate to someone else's (boy) standards of what is or isn't". The Riot Grrrl movement of course took on the punk philosophy of the DIY scene, relying only on themselves and being self-sufficient. It also produced its own look, drawing from the strong looks of punk culture but making it unapologetically feminine to promote its principles visually. The Riot Grrrl movement quickly became its own subculture, associated

with a particular sound, style and politics.

The movement discussed views on issues revolving around sexuality, rape, domestic abuse and female empowerment. This comes across strongly in many of the lyrics of some of the Riot Grrrl bands, such as in Bikini Kill's most famous song 'Rebel Girl': "In her kiss, I taste the revolution/...They say she's a dyke but I know/she is my best friend yeah", and also in L7's song 'Pretend We're Dead': "Turn the tables with our unity/ They neither moral nor majority/Wake up and smell the coffee/Or just say no to individuality". The themes Riot Grrrls discussed were often seen as unseemly, however this was (and still is) the reason for talking about these issues, as by highlighting the problem and then giving women and the queer community platforms from which to share their experiences it can aid in stopping it from happening. Often at Riot Grrrl gigs young women were given microphones so they could share their experiences of sexual assault to the rest of the audience in an attempt to open up the discussion surrounding these issues. Kathleen Hanna famously introduced the 'girls to the front' concept as well, by encouraging women to the front and even personally enforcing the rejection of men from venues who had sexually assaulted female audience members. Despite the worldwide media hype around alternative rock music in the northern states at the start of the 90s (i.e. Nirvana), Riot Grrrl bands managed to mostly remain under-



First mention of Riot Grrrl in a zine // Fales Library NYU

ground, probably due to their discussion around difficult issues which mainstream media did not want to publish, especially in a time where feminism seemed to be over. The little media attention given to them was often provoked by picking up on Riot Grrrl acts but without mentioning the why the artist was doing it, such as writing 'slut' on the performing artist's body to reclaim the word. The movement often got wrongly attributed to some bands, such as those who were non-political or female-fronted. The media's response meant that the Riot Grrrl movement didn't take off worldwide, and by the mid-90s had died out, although some bands kept going such as Sleater-Kinney. Girl-power, as promoted by Riot Grrrls, did eventually hit

the media through artists such as The Spice Girls becoming popularised.

Looking back, the Riot Grrrl movement is now attributed to the beginning of third wave feminism, where feminists sought to change the systems that the first two waves of feminism gained rights from, and break down the ideologies that gave men permission to decide on women's issues and that trained women to be subservient to them. It also built on the idea of promoting individuality and opening up feminism to women of colour and transgender women. While Riot Grrrl may be long gone, many of its principles live on in modern-day feminism – surely social media is just an updated zine?



7 Year Bitch showing off the Riot Grrrl style // Wikimedia

ARTS

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Madam Butterfly – Gorgeous yet Problematic

ARTS



Where? The Coliseum
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How Much? From £10

Ozibil Ege Dumenci
Arts Editor

In a world where cultural appropriation is not only frowned upon, but actively fought against, it is beyond me that opera critics and viewers alike have seemingly given *Madam Butterfly* a pass for their portrayal of Japanese characters by non-Asian actors.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Madam Butterfly is one of Puccini's most famous works next to *La Bohème*, and probably rightfully

so. It follows the fifteen-year-old Cio-Cio San (Natalya Romaniw) who gets leased to marry the American naval officer Pinkerton (Dimitri Pittas).

The first of the three acts is by far the weakest, as the plot is cluttered with explanations and set-ups, only to mildly pay off with a romantic scene near the end of the act. The sentiment is there, but its heart gets lost in the translation, making it drag. The remaining two acts, thanks to a major revelation and a flash forward in time, are superb. They are as beautiful as they are gut-wrenching, in no small part thanks to Romaniw, who soars as Cio-Cio San, demonstrating a masterclass in singing and emoting.

Apart from Romaniw's performance, it is the lighting that elevates

Madam Butterfly. The bright pastel colour scheme is absolutely perfect. The lighting colour scheme evolves with the changing mood of the play, adding yet another layer of depth to the production. There is also some puppetry throughout the show, which is definitely adorable, but in no way innovative or irreplaceable.

Madam Butterfly is a show about love, devotion, betrayal and desperation. But make no mistake, it is also deeply political, touching on topics such as East versus West and the American Dream. At times this is done through words, but at other times, it is simply through the integration of pan-Asian motifs as well as direct references to the Star-Spangled Banner,



The butterfly takes flight // Jane Hobson

while firmly staying rooted in its classical style.

Overall, although cluttered with exposition at first, *Madam Butterfly* is deeply engaging, lending itself to a rich and satisfying climax and conclusion, both musically and story-wise. It is a timeless piece with universal themes, and it is clear how it has had a direct influ-

ence on the 20th century musicals. In fact, various musical motifs used are reminiscent of some of the more tender moments in *Les Miserables*, which came around 81 years after *Madam Butterfly*.

However, regardless of how amazing the cast may be, I can't bring myself to believe that there were no suitable Asian opera performers who could do

just as good a job, not only as the lead role, but also various supporting roles. Given the number of diverse roles that have been stolen from the BAME community over centuries, I can't quite get past this overlook in this day and age.

ICSM Drama Presents: TRAP

ARTS



Where? Beit Quad
When? Until 29th Feb
How Much? £8, £6 students

Ozibil Ege Dumenci
Arts Editor

During my time at Imperial, becoming a part of ICSM Drama has been one of the greatest joys of my university life. Unfortunately, for the last couple of years, I haven't been able to be nearly as involved as I would have liked to be, because, you know, life got in the way.

Regardless of my participation, over the years

I have witnessed ICSM Drama greatly diversify their repertoire. Gone are the days of staging classics like *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Crucible* (both of which were fantastic productions, having produced the latter one myself). ICSM Drama has opted for surrealist interpretations of Lorca's *Blood Wedding* last year, and most recently, a documentary-style supernatural thriller in the form of *TRAP*.

TRAP takes place in a town where all audience and cast members of a local high school play have fallen unconscious. The mystery behind this strange occurrence is slowly unravelled through documentary-style interviews with witnesses, first responders and more, as

well as re-enactments of the events leading up to the performance night.

The first act is almost

“The addition of immersive elements dotted throughout the second act also helps elevate the show, giving it a more fresh and exciting feel”

exclusively made up of brief monologues by those involved in the incident in one way or another. Although a promising idea, this makes it hard to care about the characters' experiences of the events, as each small monologue feels disconnected from the rest, and is a bit too brief to dig deep into the characters' psyche.

The second act is considerably more exciting as the characters start engaging in the action and solving the mystery rather than simply providing monologue after monologue. The addition of immersive elements dotted throughout the second act also helps elevate the show, giving it a more fresh and exciting feel.

Near the end, the show gets very meta, and

perhaps painfully so. A lot of it is quite predictable, and perhaps a little cheesy. However, there are some carefully planted seeds and tricks that pay off wonderfully.

This is in no small part thanks to Alexandra Santos' skillful direction. Santos employs excellent use of the UCH stage, brings the best out of her cast and makes the most out of the underwhelming script. The cast is excellent; some highlights include Max Fursman who is both hilarious and vulnerable and Frankii Watson, who shines in every scene she is in. Both Ceara Harper and Rania Selim also display incredible dedication to ICSM Drama, with a committed fall that looked like it would mess up the

knees, and a vocal-cord rupturing scream which deafened me for a good thirty seconds.

The lighting team were exquisite working to produce by far the most ambitious and challenging lighting design ICSM Drama has ever attempted. This all pays off, as the result completely elevates the play.

In short, *TRAP* is a gorgeously staged, directed and acted play. It is a shame that the script, which has some excellent elements, doesn't quite match up with the talent on display. Regardless, ICSM Drama deserved to be applauded for taking risks with their choices of play and following through with these choices to result in a fresh, original end product.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Past is Out to Get You!

DramSoc pulls off a blinder in their recent adaptation of Henrik Isben's Ghosts.

ARTS



Where? Union Building
When? 26th Feb - 29th Feb
How Much? £3 - £6

**Vaidhiswaran
 Ramesh**
Arts Editor

There is a certain expectation in the air, when you choose to spend the leap day viewing a play, as opposed to the various other things that your non-existent social life would have liked you to indulge in. This expectation is only heightened, when you learn that the play is an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts and

"Ghosts, when it first premiered in 1882, was met with controversy and outright disdain"

that it is being staged in the tiny Meeting Room 5 in Union building. While the former was enticing enough, the opportunity to see a play intimately staged in a room that can at best accommodate 25 people, was an offer I could not refuse.

Ghosts, when it first premiered in 1882, was met with controversy and outright disdain. Perhaps because many of the social themes addressed, including incest and extra-martial affairs, were in hindsight a touch too progressive for the time. The play follows widow Helen Alving, played in this adaptation by a singular Nan Fletcher-Lloyd, as she struggles to come to terms with her past, which unravels itself in the most unfortunate of circumstances, hurting all around her.

The production is heavily reliant on acting prowess and in this instance, did not disappoint. The tiny room was astutely adapted to seat the sizable audience while

providing a spacious and well decorated set for the actors. The set design and lighting, given the close quarters, deserves particular credit, faithfully transforming yet another unimaginative piece of uniquely Imperial archi-

"Other notable performances include Max Davies's tragic portrayal of Oswald Alving losing his grasp on reality"

tecture into a convincing English residence.

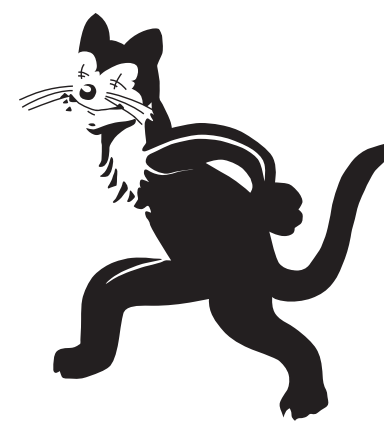
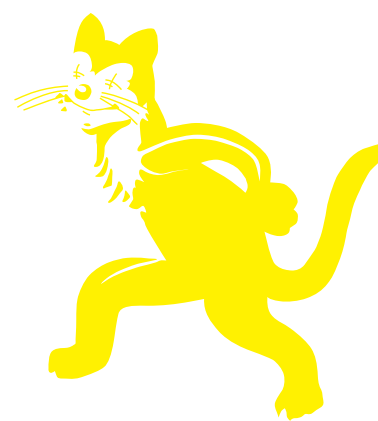
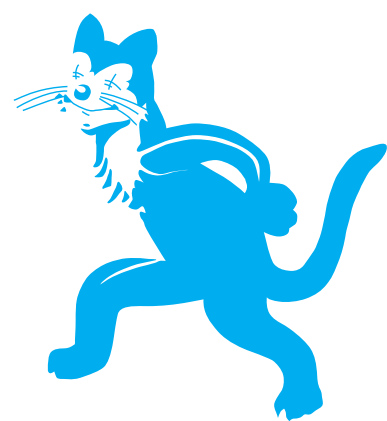
The members of the small cast each gave organic performances, holding back at the right time and capturing the stage in their moment. The chilling exchange between Helen Alving (Lloyd) and Catherine Manders (Sandrine Chausson) leading up to the end of Act 1 is certainly the highlight of the play. Other notable performances include Max Davies's tragic portrayal of Oswald Alving losing his grasp on reality towards the end of the play and Jesidhn Pillai's convincingly cunning performance as Jacob Engstrand.

The adaptation managed to capture the

depth of despair reflected in Isben's original work while bringing a certain contemporary flavour to the events and the dialogue.

Though not as controversial today as it once was, the production proves yet again that the play is staged with the right set of talent on and off stage is quite capable of captivating modern audiences. The strained accents and patchy sound work notwithstanding, this was an amazing performance put forth against great odds; one that deserved better in every way, from a larger production budget to a bigger audience and more importantly, a prolonged standing ovation at the end.

Felix is recruiting!



We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Portrait of a Lady on Fire (2020)

An 18th Century lesbian romance everyone must see

FILM
PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE



Dir: Céline Sciamma.
Script: Céline Sciamma.
Starring: Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel
Language: French
120 minutes

Charlotte Arrand
Film Editor

Before I get into this review, I'd like to first say I can do nothing but respect Céline Sciamma's feminism that she so unmistakably displays in both her film-making and life. Here I am of course referencing her, along with the rest of the crew's, walkout of the César Awards ceremony after (convicted paedophile) Roman Polanski's win. It is refreshing to see people within the film industry refuse to be complicit as they so often are. I know this had nothing to do with the film, but for me it added some more authenticity to the story and characters and was an important moment for film.

Portrait of a Lady on Fire is an 18th century period piece telling the story of Marianne, a young artist hired to paint a wedding portrait of Héloïse, an aristocrat set to be married off to a man in Milan against her will. The film begins with a student asking Marianne about a painting of hers; this invokes a clear emotional response in Marianne and she tells her student the painting, titled '*Portrait de la jeune fille en feu*', was made many years ago. We then take a dive into Marianne's

memories and flashback to her sailing to an isolated island in Brittany. Once there, she is informed that Héloïse is defiant; she does not want to be married and hence refuses to sit for her portrait. Instead, Marianne must pretend she has been hired as a walking companion for her. She spends her days stealing glances at her subject's features and her nights painting them from memory.

Having only just returned from the convent, we see Héloïse enjoy her first spell of freedom in her lifetime. These happy scenes of her swimming for the first time and enjoying music that Marianne plays for her, amongst many others, are accompanied with a feeling of melancholy, as it will also be her last before her wedding. She knows this, too. This is particularly thought-pro-

"The film is quite slow and isn't very thick with plot, yet manages to pack a punch"

voking when in response to Marianne suggesting there will be good times in Milan, Héloïse essentially says that it doesn't matter when she does not have the freedom of choice – these things will just be there to 'console' her. There are various moments like this scattered throughout the film that more explicitly display director and writer Sciamma's point, but overall, there are overarching themes of women in love, friendships in art,



Noémie Merlant and Adèle Haenel embracing on the beach // *Lilies Films*

as well as women's liberation, that are quietly displayed in each and every scene. Even though these themes are in the context of the 18th century, they are still resonant in society today. It is noteworthy that there was not a single male character in this entire film and hence we were all spared of having a male view imposed on any of these characters.

Spending each day with one another, an inevitable bond is formed. There is a pivotal moment in the film in which Marianne's true purpose on the island is revealed and rather than being angry, Héloïse agrees to pose for her. From this moment forward, their intimacy and attraction towards each other blossom and a romance between the two women begins. One of the things I loved most about this romance was the balance between the couple. Neither had more power over the other, which is what you may expect between artist and model. This theme was touched upon in one scene where Héloïse

tells Marianne she does not hate being watched by the painter, as this entire time she has been observing Marianne too. The portrait becomes a collaborative piece of work, however, being the 1700's, we (audience and characters alike) were all aware that the faster it approaches completion, the sooner this relationship between the two women must end. Watching this, you are devastated for them. Because of this, I was completely expecting the ending to be sad, but personally I found it surprisingly happy; though the final scene is certainly poignant enough to be moved to tears.

The film is quite slow and isn't very thick with plot, yet manages to pack a punch. This is heavily due to the cinematography employed throughout. We don't explicitly need dialogue or scenes of intimacy between the characters to realise that they have fallen in love, instead we have clever camerawork that depicts the way they gaze at one another - full of love

and desire. The use of lighting and framing is perfect throughout. And if you're someone like me who has an eye for all things pretty, you can do nothing but appreciate the videography and visuals of cinematographer Claire Mathon. The colour palette and landscapes used in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* were gorgeous.

The two actresses leading this film, Noémie Merlant (Marianne) and Adèle Haenel (Héloïse) played their parts exceptionally. I realised walking out of the cinema that the film was only set over a couple of weeks and yet the perhaps once in a lifetime love between these two characters was totally believable. I believe this is mostly due to the two actresses, who both melted into their roles and each other. Also, whilst there were no explicit sex scenes in the film, it was still sensual and there was enough on-screen chemistry between the pair that you felt the passion just from their looks and body language.

From writing to acting,

direction to costume design, cinematography to editing, I would describe this film as perfect. I cannot believe it wasn't nominated for an Oscar. It is a beautiful and genuine romance expressed in the most picturesque way, and I was truly moved whilst watching it. As a testament to how good the film is, upon watching *Portrait*

"Despite being set over only two weeks, the once in a lifetime love between the characters was totally believable"

of *a Lady on Fire*, I have decided I must go back and watch everything Céline Sciamma has worked on and everything she will work on in the future.

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Uncut Gems (2020)

FILM

UNCUT GEMS



Dir: Josh Safdie, Benny Safdie **Script:** Josh Safdie, Benny Safdie **Starring:** Adam Sandler, Kevin Garnett, Julia Fox, LaKeith Stanfield. 160 minutes

Dominic Ede

Film Editor

If you haven't seen it advertised by Netflix already, *Uncut Gems* stars Adam Sandler as New York jewelry dealer, Howard Ratner, in-debt to just about every man in the Manhattan diamond district. It's the fifth feature film of the quickly rising Safdie brothers, comprised of Josh and Benny, with their most recent work gaining

praise from critics and audiences alike; *Uncut Gems* no exception to the rule.

Having only seen their prior film, *Good Time* (2017), I had some idea what I was getting myself in for with this; a fast-paced, tense and gritty drama centered around one character. Although this was true, I was still not prepared for the sheer relentless pace and tension this film created.

It is by no means exaggeration when I say that this film gave me near heart palpitations. The way the film follows Sandler through every decision he makes shows us the full extent to how downward his life is spiraling. He gets by from encounter to encounter, just about keeping afloat, and his sheer character alone is what keeps him

from self-combusting at any moment. This expertly crafted script from the duo was at the very forefront of this film, with Sandler's performance only elevating the words on the paper to the screen.

The way that the Safdie brothers put you right in the middle of the confrontations, the clubs, the shouting, the arguments; it comes as such a release when we're treated to anything other than pure restlessness, and you forget what it is to live normally. The constant high octane, uncompromising show simply is Howard's life, and nothing seems to go right for him. But then it does. And now he throws it away. This is the constant cycle that Howard creates, and it is just bonkers to watch. Never before have



A diamond Ferby is the height of fashion //A24

I rooted for a character so much, yet completely questioned every decision he made.

The continually mounting tension left me wanting Howard to just get a break more than anything, and the end of the film provided

this for me. Something finally goes right for him. The boot that the Safdie brothers have been pressing into my temple is finally lifted, and as the film ends, you're left wondering how 160 minutes have just passed.

If you're complaining

that there are no good films on Netflix, and you're yet to watch *Uncut Gems*, look no further for a way to spend your evening.

Would You Rather There Was An Advert Here?

FILM

Dominic Ede

Film Editor

There probably would have been an advert here. We don't have another article this week, and we'd normally just put 'Felix is recruiting!' at the bottom.

It would look really strange if it was just blank. It could have been blank, or if I change a letter, black. Like a cut to black. Like a cut to black by Bergman. I'm writing in 11pt Times New Roman, he wrote in 104pt Florida. Sometimes he wrote in EF Windsor. But Windsor was wistfully whisked away by Woody. (Allen of course). It's very recognisable.

You'd definitely know it if you saw it; it's that sort of flowery posh font that's in all his films. I quite like it. I would show you what it looked like here, but I don't know if I'm allowed to change the font. That's Felix's fastidious font fiat.

Is the font consistency through films a requirement to be an auteur? Wes and his Futura that he borrowed from Kubrick. Very recognisable. It looks nice but who really cares if it's the same. Godard danced about in Helvetica and Univers, Tarkovsky in Pump. They're just f**ing fonts.

Bong Joon-ho's got everyone talking; he's very deserving of the praise really. *Parasite* was a great film. It didn't grate on me at all. I can't lie and say I've been a fan of his for years, I mean I'd only

seen *Okja*, but I've heard he's very good. I've even read it.

He met Oscar a few weeks ago and everyone was surprised. Everyone loved that their meeting was unexpected, and everyone was so quick to congratulate him. 'A landmark in cinema', the first foreign film to win the Best Picture Oscar. What mark has it left? Are we going to have more and more foreign films streaming through the main media. It would be nice if that were the case.

People like good films. People like films that other people say are good. Reviews mean a lot more now than they did a few years ago. Their score on Rotten Tomatoes, their rating on Metacritic. This film is 100% rotten. That sounds like an excellent

film. I'll write to Fellini telling him that 8½ was 98% rotten. I'm sure he'd like that, to know just how rotten his film was.

If a film is 20% rotten it's a bad film. I know because other people have told me. I don't need to watch this film because I know that it is only 20% rotten, it's only 44 on Metacritic. We're all guilty of it, looking at the reviews and making up our minds already.

Maybe we should make a secret pact to all go see a film and give it terrible reviews. We'll say it's 0% rotten and 22 on Metacritic. Then no one else will go and see it. We'll have our own little film that we all know is amazing, but people say oh that's a terrible film, and we'll agree.

I wonder if reviews

have that cascade effect. If people start saying that something's really good and everybody agrees. They give it good reviews and it amplifies and grows. Now everyone is saying it's a great film, but really it was just a good film. Those fools. They can't tell the difference between a good film and a great film. I can't tell the difference either.

Have you read the book? No, but I've watched the film. That's not the same. Why's it not? The book has more detail and it's more enjoyable. That's a good point.

Which of the two took more time though. Did it take longer to write the book or make the film. I mean all of it. The script, the production, the editing. If you added up all the hours of all the

people involved with the film would it be longer than the book? So which is more impressive, the book or the film. Depends on the book, I guess.

Someone told me naming directors makes me more qualified to write for the film section. From Bertolucci to Bong Joon-ho, now to Fellini and Tarantino, Terrence Mallick work your magic, here's Jacques Demy and Tarkovsky, there goes Varda working harder, than Godard the avant-garde, Kurosawa had great power, while Buster Keaton never beaten, I could list another name but in the end they're all the f**ing same.

Or would you rather there was an advert here?

Underwater Hockey





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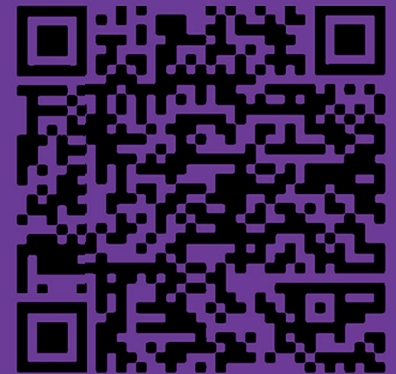


IMPERIAL

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#icuElections



CANDIDATES

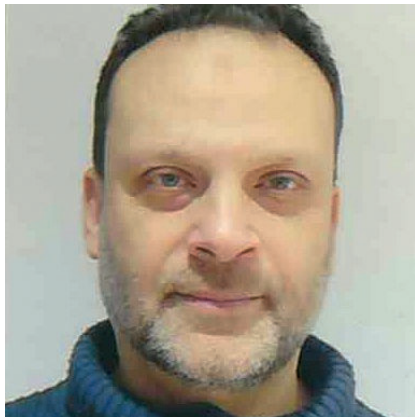
imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Inside this supplement are the manifestos for candidates in key positions.
To see all manifestos, visit **imperialcollegeunion.org/manifestos**.

All information enclosed came directly from the candidates, has not
been altered, and any views expressed are entirely their own.

All information correct at the time of print.

Candidate Manifestos: Union President



Haitham Idriss

Hello,
My name is Haitham, I am a masters student at the faculty of medicine. I believe I have what it takes to successfully lead this union, I know my way around the college very well. I graduated with a PhD in biophysics in 1990 and was offered a place for clinical medicine at the college's medical school in 2002. I am currently pursuing a Global Masters in Public Health on a college scholarship. Standing up for this role is my way of saying 'thank you' to the college for believing in me!

Here are some of the things I would like to

ask the college for:

1. Free hot daily meal for every student of the college.
2. With the current Covid-19 world outbreak, I want to make sure the college is doing all it can to ensure students are safe.
3. I want to review work conditions and work pay for students working for the college to make sure they get the wages and work conditions they deserve.
4. Distant/overseas students should have the opportunity to get free B&B college accommodation for a week to visit/host their parents in London during the summer vacations.

I am a nice, understanding and approachable

person, yet when the going gets tough I do get going. Here is an article about my experience in the USA back in 2004, (<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2004/10/unexpected-detour>). I am a practising Moslem and was born in Lebanon to Palestinian parents.

I am seconded by a Lebanese student, Aline Sarkis.



Nia Davies

No manifesto submitted.



Ramana Sabapathy

My name is Ramana Sabapathy, and I am running to be your next Union President. I've worked in many different groups across college; as the AeroSoc Industrial Liaisons Officer, I've learnt to connect with authenticity, allowing me to organise numerous talks and tours, and forge major partnerships with industry. As a Senior President's Ambassador and director of a theatrical production at Imperial, I have learnt to think out of the box and tackle issues in creative ways. Having had significant experience during my army days in organising large-scale events that require

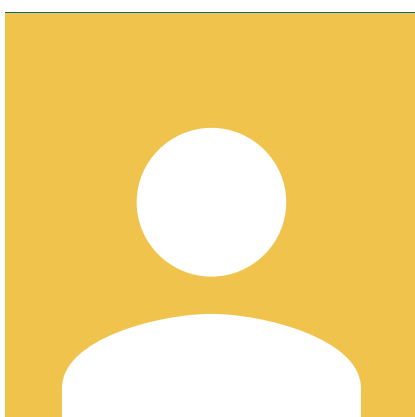
strong leadership, teamwork, and soft skills, I know what it takes to bring people together. As the current CGCU Communications Chair, I've organised events, created marketing campaigns, and promoted the activities of both the CGCU and its clubs, most importantly learning to work effectively and efficiently with various people.

I believe that the Union needs reform – it has been on a steady decline. As one of the most reputable universities worldwide, this needs to change. It is time you, the student body, had YOUR say in how the Union is run.

As President, I aim to achieve the following:

- Restructure the messy, inefficient room booking system

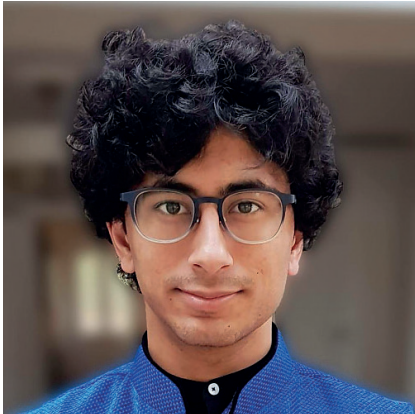
- Ensure student staff are paid the London living wage
 - Implement a Welfare Support System to expand mental health support
 - Represent and integrate graduate students with the wider student community
 - Create a termly stand for students to voice feedback on Union's activities
 - Make training for C&S officers mandatory
- Vote for Ram, vote for Reform.



Benjamin Russell

No manifesto submitted.

Candidate Manifestos: Union President



Abhijay Sood

I'm Abs, your Union President. This year, I've been working hard to change things at Imperial. For the first time, we've:

- Resisted proposed increases to halls rent, securing a £3m reduction from the College and kick-starting a campaign to fight for further changes.
- Successfully pressured the College to consider the ethics of their investments.
- Actively communicated with students, with regular interviews in Felix, more direct communication through the email newsletter, and stalls across our campuses.

We're also fixing systems and processes inside the Union, so clubs and reps get better support and training, more decisions

can be led by students, especially around major events, and the long-standing failures that led to the kitchens closing never happen again.

Re-elect me so that we can:

- Keep challenging the College; from our curricula to the cost of food and rent, decisions shouldn't be made without us
- Protect the Union services students care about most when tough financial decisions have to be made
- Make sure the Union has a support staff structure that works
- Initiate a wholesale review of our offer for postgraduates
- Complete the work-in-progress automating the room-booking system

- Guarantee a living wage for student staff in future funding bids

After 7 months as President, and 4 years as a student rep, I've learned how Imperial works. I can spend the summer working for you, rather than in training, and lead a team that gets the best out of every Deputy President.

To keep fixing the Union, and challenging the College, re-elect Abs.



Milun Nair

It's ya boi Millie, back at it again running for president. Yeah, that's it. Plz don't vote me xoxoxox

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Finance & Services)



Sam Lee

Hi, I'm Sam. As DramSoc Technical Director I have managed numerous successful events and have extensive experience in managing both finances and people. I have done paid work on the Union's Systems and understand where changes are required. I successfully managed the technical aspects of last years Summer Ball, despite the decreased budget and time given to me, and this has allowed me to push the Summer Ball to be more Student-focused and better allocate money to the correct areas. I oversee all the Arts and Entertainments Society budgets and have helped manage the creation of the new Arts Nights.

My plans are:

FOCUS UNION SERVICES ON STUDENTS

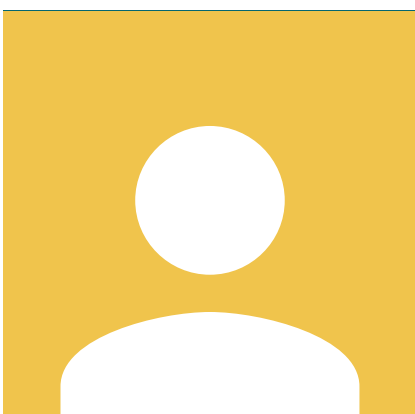
- Re-assess the effectiveness of the approval chain of eActivities finances to speed up claims and event budget approval
- Allow students to have control over Union events by pulling together a Student-based Committee to oversee them
- Incentivise CSP events by providing management support and training
- Introduce development training for all Student Staff and Volunteers
- Provide Union presence at other campuses and get the Union involved on White City development plans so Student spaces can

be expanded

INVEST IN THE UNION

- Automate services such as Room Bookings so CSPs are not left waiting for responses and to be able to view current bookings of the Union's rooms
- Introduce and enforce Maintenance Plans for Union equipment so the Union building and other campuses are fit for purpose in the future
- Introduce and enforce a Health and Safety management tool

Vote Sam for DPFS



Elena Meganck

No manifesto submitted.

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Education)



Michaela Flegrova

In my 4 years as a rep, it has become clear to me that there are fundamental issues both within the College and academic representation. I have a plan to address these.

Improve Parity

Your experience at this university varies greatly depending on which department you are in, or who your supervisor is. Now is the time for real action on key issues such as:

- Poor quality of feedback and transparency of marking
- Large variation in quality of supervision, and absence of mechanisms for dealing

with problematic supervisors

- Lack of student spaces and services in some departments, particularly at non-South Kensington campuses

Strengthen the Rep Network

Only a strong rep network will be able to implement real change. To make representation more effective, we must:

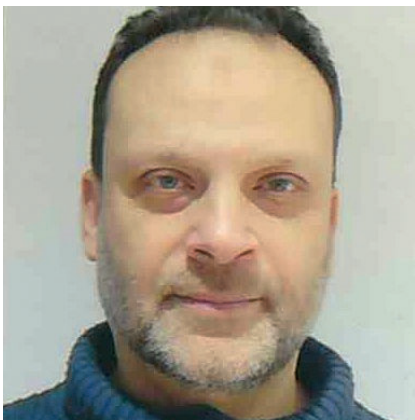
- Improve training to make it more practical and role-specific, to make reps better prepared for their job
- Develop the rep community for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, by increasing opportunities for cross-departmental interaction and sharing of good ideas

- Better support individual reps, increasing the number of contact hours with the DPE and Union support staff

Make Change Happen

Every year, the College and the Union respond to student feedback by writing lists of proposed changes, but little is done to ensure these are actually followed through. I will work with the relevant College staff to finally see these plans implemented, using the rep network to make sure no department is left out.

Improve parity. Strengthen the rep network. Make change happen. Vote Michaela for DPE.



Haitham Idriss

Hello,

My name is Haitham, I am a masters student in the faculty of medicine. I believe I have what it takes to successfully lead this union, I know my way around the college very well. I graduated with a PhD in biophysics in 1990 and was offered a place for clinical medicine at the college's medical school in 2002. I am currently pursuing a Global Masters in Public Health on a college scholarship. Standing up for this role is my way of saying 'thank you' to the college for believing in me!

Here are some of the things I would like to ask the college for:

1. Free hot daily meal for every student of the college.
2. Free Chromebook for every student of the college.
3. Review UG/PG syllabi to ensure state of the art material is being delivered.
4. Increase opportunities for PG students to engage in paid UG students.
5. Lobby for the introduction of a dual-track PhD/MBBS or MBBS/PhD science/medicine study options.
6. Overseas and distant learning students should have the opportunity to get free B&B college accommodation for a week

to visit or host parents during the summer vacations.

I am a nice, understanding, transparent and approachable person, yet when the going gets tough I do get going. Here is an article about my experience in the USA back in 2004, (<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2004/10/unexpected-detour>). I am a practising Moslem and was born in Lebanon to Palestinian parents. I am seconded by a Lebanese student, Aline Sarkis.

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)



Ross Unwin

With my experience and your vote I'm confident we can make significant, positive changes.

Some of these are:

OVERHAUL ALL UNION TRAINING

Provide any elected student with position-specific introductory training packs; enable you to develop relevant skills recognised by employers; and empower you to have greater impacts as volunteers.

MAKE SPORT CHEAPER and MORE ACCESSIBLE

to everyone across college. I have been

working with Move Imperial and the union to shape the future of an athletics union, and I want to carry on this work to secure kit deals, contracts, and venues to benefit you.

IMPROVE UNION FACILITIES and SPACES

The union has the opportunity to invest in their students and create space on multiple campuses. This will improve student life, improve the facilities we use, and improve the locations we run our clubs in. I want to develop a long-term strategy with College for the continual improvement of these.

INTRODUCE A HAPPY HOUR on

Wednesday and Friday afternoons in the

union to promote integration of different clubs and societies in a space where students want to spend time.

ENSURE THE UNION OFFICE IS FULLY STAFFED.

This affects everything from room bookings and minibuses to welcome fair and sponsorship, and when this doesn't happen, all students are impacted.

From holding DepSoc and sports committee roles, to CGCU vice-pres and now as ACC Chair, I have always put students at the heart of every decision I've made. And I don't intend on changing that now.



Thomas Fernandez Debets

I'm Thomas, a Bioengineering graduate and your Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). Over the last two years, I have also been a Bar Manager and your Sport (ACC) Chair. Extra-curricular activities are a key part of the student experience, yet our volunteers aren't supported enough, nor do they have sufficient resources to shape clubs the way students want.

This year, I've initiated a complete review of the volunteer training, empowered clubs and societies to shape the upcoming Summer Ball and rolled out a new budgeting system for all 360+ clubs. Much still needs doing and, over the coming year,

here's what I will focus on:

- *UPGRADING SPACES AND IMPROVING PROCESSES*
- Ensure student-led delivery of a £430,000 redevelopment of the Union Concert Hall
- Roll-out of automated room booking system
- Work with White City students to ensure Union presence/representation at growing student hubs
- *STUDENT-CENTRIC UNION COMMUNICATIONS*
- Increase club activity posts to 50% of Union social media output
- Organise regular Union-update meetings for senior volunteers to weigh in on key decisions

- Continue building strong relationships between volunteers and staff members
- *BETTER STUDENT CONSULTATION/ INCLUSION*

- Lead a student 'Events Committee' to decide on what takes place in our social spaces
- Shape Welcome Week by working with elected senior volunteers
- Work with all campuses and postgrad students to deliver activities and events
- *DELIVER ON THE ATHLETIC UNION*
- Introduce 30 more clubs to the Sports Hub
- Create student-led committees for the internal Varsity and a new LSE Varsity
- Continue improving Harlington and push to secure new sports grounds

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Welfare)



Dmitrii Usynin

Not your typical “union is failing” type of manifesto. There are a lot of wellbeing issues that college has not addressed: counseling queues are incredibly long, most engineering departments do not have a dedicated wellbeing advisor. It would be unfair to blame an understaffed and underpaid union, when college refuses to cooperate in almost any way shape or form. Students are struggling financially? Lets increase rent! Student reports that they have been assaulted? We will quietly investigate and make sure nothing happens to the abuser publicly, so we do not gain any bad reputation. Union does not have

enough money to keep a consistent number of full-paid staff? Well the president, who is on the board of directors of Chevron (cough divest cough) surely does (plus many other perks). What was the response to these? There wasn't: neither college, nor the current wellbeing team has done anything about it except for censoring student-run facebook pages, trying to be silent about students being assaulted and continue to make life more difficult for those who try to change this.

What is the point of this rant? How will it help me get elected? It probably wont. But for the past years my campaigns have achieved exactly what I wanted it to achieve: there are now more qualified people running

than ever that genuinely care and want to make a difference. Maybe this year they will also begin to be open about the real college wide issues, not just “union is shit”



Shervin Sabeghi

Hi! I'm Shervin, your Deputy President (Welfare) this year and, beforehand, the RCSU's Welfare Officer for two years. It's been a pleasure to represent and advocate for students at Imperial and I've immensely enjoyed working on projects with volunteers to bring about change. My biggest achievements so far have been co-leading halls rent negotiations producing a £3 million reduction for students, reforming Liberation and Community to better advocate for underrepresented students, and refreshing the training of welfare volunteers to better equip them in their roles. With a second year as DPW, I

will:

IMPROVE SUPPORT AND CULTURE:

- Continue to stand up for students on key issues like halls rent
- Tackle sexual harassment and misconduct at Imperial
- Improve support structures for postgraduate research students, addressing systemic supervision issues

- Work with clubs and societies to promote positive, inclusive cultures
- ### EMPOWER STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES:

- Review the Union's offering at non-South Kensington campuses to ensure all students are considered and build a unified Imperial community

- See through the Liberation and Community reform, establishing advocacy networks for underrepresented students
- Complete actions from the ongoing review of the Wellbeing Representation Network to strengthen its impact on the student experience

- Improve mechanisms to raise issues through rep structures so all voices are heard

As the Union continues changing for the better, a second year will allow me to embed a culture of transparency, inclusivity and care - one that keeps the needs of students at the heart of all we do. To keep this change going, #KeepShervin.



Danitza Iniesta

I'm Danitza, a third-year biologist whose aim is to implement a holistic approach to improving wellbeing on campus. During the past year as wellbeing Dep Rep, I have noticed how the focus has been straying away from the more concerning welfare matters and towards less significant issues. Don't get me wrong - small changes do help. But this isn't enough anymore; we're stuck in a treadmill - taking steps forward without actually moving. This is especially true for mental health. Whether its the one-off panic attack or a lifelong mental disorder, Imperial is not providing the necessary resources to promote a healthy state of

mind for all. For these reasons, I want to step up to a position where I can enact large-scale change that will mark a positive difference in students' lives.

Some proposals:

- Organize a mental health awareness campaign (We Need to Talk), focused on spreading information, such as how to detect and deal with deteriorating mental health (in yourself and others), as well as tackling the stigmas surrounding most disorders.
- Train staff to tackle sensitive situations appropriately, and facilitate struggling students' access to counseling services and mitigating circumstances.
- Implement schemes to encourage all

students to join a society, especially sports clubs.

- Promote union-run socials and make them more inclusive and accessible to all.
- Improve knowledge surrounding the college's available resources for students in difficult financial situations.
- Host seminars on managing debt, decreasing bill expenses, budgeting, saving, and building credit.
- Increase greenery throughout campus.
- Challenge labs to become more sustainable.

Candidate Manifestos: Council Chair



SIWEI Xie

No manifesto submitted.



Alex Auyang

Council is meant to represent the voice of students when making the policies of our Union. While it does this for the most part, significant changes must be made to improve Council's ability to fulfil this aim. As this year's RCSU president, I've spent my fair share of time on Union Council and its subcommittees. The issue with Council is that the student body, which it is meant to represent, knows little of its activities or decisions. This shouldn't be the case, especially given that the Union's policies affect us all, and the implementation of new policy can enact

great positive change. I want to amplify the common student's ability to shape our Union by spreading awareness of Council and its associated policies. In addition, I will ensure that Council runs smoothly using my experience as a senior volunteer and Council member.

- To increase participation, I would:
- Improve accessibility of Union policy for all students to view.
 - Enact a strategy to increase student awareness of Union Council and its activities, while also encouraging more students to submit papers.
 - Increase training of Council

members and provide extensive supplementary documentation.

- In addition, I resolve to:
- Hold sabbatical officers to account, and ensure that they are serving the wider student body.
 - Run productive Council meetings, focusing on the key issues that students face.

As Council chair, I believe that I can make real change, fostering a more inclusive, fair, and effective student democracy. Thank you for reading my manifesto.

Candidate Manifestos: Felix Editor



Calum Drysdale

About me
I have been involved in Felix from the beginning of my degree and have been involved in lots of roles:

- As a Comment editor this year and a copy editor last year
- As a writer for 5 sections
- As a frequent contributor of articles and horoscopes to the Hangman section.

I've been involved in every step of Felix's publishing, from the initial planning of each week's paper to sending the final versions to print, and I want to see it flourish.

Outside of Imperial, I am also currently pursuing a career in journalism and have worked with both British and foreign newspapers, spending a month working for a daily paper in Ghana last summer. As Editor I pledge to:

- Make the paper a more useful and interesting part of student life.

This ranges from improving the quality of news by creating a dedicated team of news writers, to printing a social calendar that will allow students to conveniently see the huge variety of events available to them and for societies to more easily publicise their events.

- Fix the Felix website so that students can access it anywhere and bring in more functionality.
- Bring the editorial schedule up a day, so every article gets the attention it deserves and goes to print in the best possible condition.

Candidate Manifestos: Student Trustees (x2)



Christopher Carter

During my time at Imperial, I've seen the Union from every perspective; as a student, a bar worker, a CSP volunteer and as President of the Royal School of Mines Union. I've seen the good work that the Union can do when it works democratically, efficiently and transparently for the benefit of the students.

This year, I've worked with Faculties, Departments, CSPs and other Constituent Unions to ensure that the Union provides an experience we can all look back on fondly. Whether rejecting the College's proposed rent increases, reforming the Liberation and Community Networks or representing

students at Faculty levels, the Union and its subsets have the power to positively impact the student experience, and student volunteers are an essential part of that.

As Student Trustee, I'd jump right in and speak up for students who too often feel the Union doesn't work for them. I will:

- Provide a strong, independent, student-focused voice on the Board of Trustees when discussing important financial or administrative matters
- Prioritise transparency when making decisions, ensuring all major decisions incorporate an appropriate level of student consultation
- Ensure Constituent Unions

are afforded the support and resources necessary to work for students, as CUs have a greater understanding of the needs of the communities they represent

Over the past few years, I've shown that I have the experience, dedication and understanding to serve as a Student Trustee of ICU. I hope you'll give me your vote so we can build a Union that works for you.

Chris

Candidate Manifestos: Student Trustees (x2)



Lei Shen

Hey there! I want to serve as your next Student Trustee because I want to achieve the full potential of what Imperial College Union (ICU) can offer. As your student union, ICU must be held accountable for how we implement our financial and physical resources, and I believe there are many ways we can transform your experience at Imperial. Some of my key goals for ICU include:

-Running more events that are accessible to the entire student population, like pushing to invite celebs to come perform at Imperial!

-Increasing the freedom and flexibility of room bookings and union personal resources (financial, advisory and project services)
-Implementing easy and relatively hassle-free ways of collecting your feedback and acting on it in a timely fashion
-Making the reimbursement and financial e-activities system of individual societies more efficient and straightforward

Personally, my experience has amply prepared me for this role. I have worked within the Union before as Biochemistry first year Wellbeing Rep and have been trained in effective leadership and

representation. From organising major events on the Finance Soc committee, I personally understand how frustrating the union's room booking, catering and financial claims systems can be. In addition, I am a proud Christian and wish to launch more non-alcohol events that are inclusive and celebrate our diversity. Finally, serving as Marketing Director in the Social Innovation Academy has taught me effective methods to improve transparency and to better implement your feedback.

As Student Trustee, I will work to improve our university experience!



Zhidong Zuo

Hey friends, my name is Zhidong Zuo.

Who am I?

I am a Doer, I believe in action. I talk less, but do more and fast because I believe the only way to accomplish your goal and make changes is to do the real thing. I have valuable experience in Imperial College. I am a Council Representative for Undergraduate Natural Science students. Therefore, I have many opportunities to observe how the Student Union works. I always read the reports carefully, never miss any meeting in the Council, and thoughtfully

vote for the choice which would maximize the benefits for Natural Science students I represent. Besides, I am also a student representative of first-year physics students. I solve lots of problems. Particularly, I promote the improvement of the new curriculum, seminar, with my teammates. I also strongly protest in the department for the discriminatory speech towards Chinese students about Coronavirus Pneumonia. All of my friends are satisfied with what I did.

What can I do for you?
Depending on my experience, I not only understand the overall business operated

by Union, but also comprehend what students usually concern. Thus, I believe in myself I can do the best for students and always protect our standpoints to ensure every policy or action hold by Student Union is good for the benefit of students. I will question, reject, stop any unfair policy against students and approve, propose positive policy.

Please Vote for Me!
Please Vote for ZZ!



Afaaf Azreen

Hi, my name is Afaaf Azreen and I am a first year Chemistry student and I am running for the position of the Student Trustee. I believe I am suited for this position because I can offer insight about student experience as an International student and can also offer unbiased opinions regarding various subjects. Having held positions of various levels of responsibility and multiple positions of leadership such as Vice House Captain and President of the Islamic Society at school, I am aware that I will be able to adapt to exactly what is required of me as a student trustee. I am also keen in helping

uphold the Union's values and will strive to achieve this. I will work towards providing insight that will improve student welfare by acting as a middle person in taking any feedback on offer. I think my experience with working with charities will help me reaching the goals of being a student trustee. As a trustee I will further the effort being made by the union to increase sustainability through the university. Thank you for reading my manifesto and if you have any questions you can contact me on my college email.



Lloyd James

As a current member of the Union's Board of Trustees, I've come to learn the following:
-That the organisation has long-standing structural issues, the symptoms of which include the forced closing of the FiveSixEight kitchens, and the shambles of room bookings this year.
-That there is no current long-term strategy for dealing with these issues.
-That the organisational and financial models of the Union are in desperate need of a whole-scale rethink.
I have had 6 years of experience in a broad set of Union volunteer roles, such as:

academic rep, club committee member, Constituent Union President, and Chair of the Union Council. This has given me insight into the various workings of the Union from a variety of student volunteer perspectives. At a time when the Union will be going through significant upheaval and restructure, it is imperative that the views of ordinary student volunteers are represented, and decisions are not left exclusively to staff and sabbatical officers.
On Trustee Board this year, I've:
- Pushed the Union to make more activities, such as the Summer Ball, principally student-organised.
- Brought up-to-date the quagmire of

outdated Union Policies.
- Stressed the importance of a well-developed strategy and appropriate performance metrics.
If re-appointed, I will:
- Ensure all aspects of the next Union Strategy are shaped in partnership with student volunteers.
- Keep sabbatical officers accountable by properly scrutinising their reports.
- Resist cuts to essential student services.
So re-appoint Lloyd to the Board of Trustees, to secure a genuinely member-led Students' Union.



The
**Leadership
Elections**
2020



imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

1 WEEK TO GO





Men's and Women's Rugby – Imperial vs LSE

Saturday 14th March

@ Rosslyn Park

Doors Open 17:00

After-party @ Clapham Grand



BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Big Brain Revolution: Artificial Intelligence Spy or Saviour by Dr Michelle Tempest

What role might artificial intelligence play in the future? Big Brain Revolution explores the intersection between artificial intelligence and psychology - how it impacts our brain.

BOOKS

Jonah Beaudin

Books Writer

Michelle Tempest guides the reader through AI technology and how it has the potential of bring about a paradigm shift in the use technology to drive innovation, however she also reveals future risks and ethical implications that we must address before it is too late. **BIG BRAIN EVOLUTION** is an insightful glimpse into the world of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Dr. Tempest, a Cambridge University lecturer of medical law and ethics and long time management consultant draws from her vast experience in medicine and technology to introduce laymen-readers to the technology.

The potential of AI as a constructive societal force highlights the vast amount of untapped potential and opportunity which lies within the capabilities of the technology. For example the genetic home-testing company 23andme now owned by Alphabet, i.e. Google, is collecting genetic information of hundreds of thousands of people. The combination of one of the largest global tech companies and a treasure trove of genetic data may enable data scientists to unlock the mystery of the genetic code. An alternative use of the technology lies in drug discovery with companies like BenevolentAI, which focus on the

developing new pharmaceuticals. BenevolentAI plans on leveraging their expertise in computer science to develop an AI based platform for drug discovery. With high throughput testing being the standard method for drug discovery, AI may offer a method to cut down the need of testing thousands of compounds for efficacy.

Dr. Tempest describes how the data driven Obama campaign and how it changed the way in which presidential campaigns are run today. While Obama was the most consequential American president of this millennium, in the future we may encounter digital candidates, and I do not mean Hilary Clinton. The

“The system hopes to deliver bias free policy on central issues like healthcare, climate change, and education”

digital presidential candidate AI Alice received 25,000 votes in Russia’s presidential election. The system hopes to deliver bias free policy on central issues such as healthcare, climate change and education. Tempest does not shy away from demonstrating to the reader how some



Artificial intelligence // Piqsels

companies take advantage of AI technology instead of using it for altruistically.

Tempest also writes about those who are unfortunately taking advantage of AI technology, using it for nefarious purposes. One of the most famous examples being Cambridge Analytica illegitimately taking the data of millions of Facebook users to support Donald Trump’s presidential campaign. Users’ unfazed by privacy concerns are creating loopholes for data broker companies to collect personal and intrusive data on individuals, which they are permitted to sell on to 3rd parties. “Data brokers operate behind a veil of secrecy” Tempest warns,

with advertisers and politicians taking advantage of potentially vulnerable consumers.

“An individual’s Facebook likes may represent a better familiarity with a person than their spouse would show”

It is postulated that an individual’s Facebook

likes may represent a better familiarity with a person than their own spouse would show. As consumers, Tempest writes, we interact with machine learning algorithms on a daily basis, be it through Instagram, Spotify or Amazon. While individual algorithms dictate what music we listen to, the news we read and what products we buy the future may become even more intrusive.

The neurotechnology company Neuralink for example is currently developing implantable brain machine interfaces. According to its founder Elon Musk one of the central issues facing people today is the limited speed at which we can transmit and receive data.

Imagine moving away from your two thumbs or 10 fingers to having your whole brain operating electronic devices. While the prospects of having improved brain-machine interfaces sounds tempting, it inevitably will expose even more human vulnerabilities to those willing to exploit them.

Any well informed citizens we must be made aware of the potential benefits and risks that lie in artificial intelligence and technology, because awareness is the only way reduce its future misuse.

Tempest therefore outlines both sides of the argument and allowing for the reader to draw their own conclusions on the subject.

BOOKS

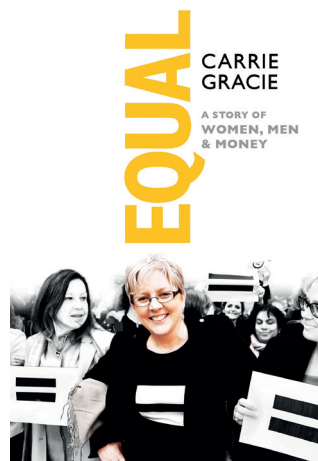
books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix recommends - Books to make your blood boil

In celebration of the upcoming International Women's Day, Felix recommends a selection of rage-inducing reads for the occasion (if you're in that kind of mood)

BOOKS

Jia Qi Tan
Books Editor



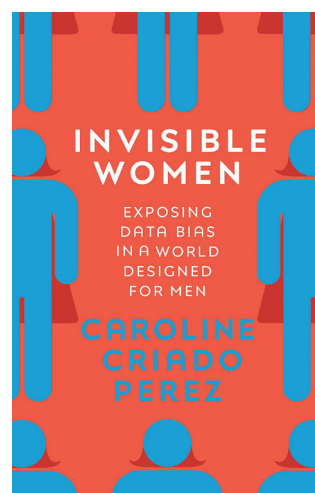
Equal: How we fix the gender pay gap by Carrie Grace

This book entails Carrie Grace's account of her challenging unequal pay at BBC. It started in the summer of 2017 when a list of the top-earners in BBC was released, with white men dominating the top of the list. This came as a surprise to Carrie Grace, the China editor of BBC News, who discovered she was underpaid in comparison to fellow international editors - the only thing she demanded when taking on the role was to be paid equally as the North American editor - whom now she found out - earned double. Thus sparked her quest of equal pay in BBC, her resignation, and BBC's eventual apology.

The culture of pay secrecy gives way to pay discrimination - if you do not know how much your peers are making, how do you know if you're paid equally? The topic of unequal pay is not a new one, but I have never had

the chance to learn much beyond the legislation and statistics (most of which centers around gender pay gap, which is not the same thing), and the natural assumption that with the laws implemented this is no longer an issue. However, there's more to that needs to be done to make the world listen. This book sheds light upon more details on the subject matter, most of which center around Grace's case, but it also includes a practical guide and resources to respond to workplace inequality near the end of the book.

In short, Equal is a deep, gripping read on the topic of equal pay. In many parts, it's almost infuriating to see how difficult it could be to be heard, and how difficult it is to ask for something to demand an inherent human right.



Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men by Caroline Criado-Perez

Invisible Women, as the title suggests, covers



Three women smiling // Pexels

the systematic gender data bias in the history of our knowledge, which is the root of perpetual discrimination against women. It's profound, provocative, and depressing in many ways. The book encompasses a vast range of topics, from the public transport system to toilets, from scientific research to architecture. It's eye-opening to see for the sake of convenience how often women are ignored and neglected, with males being "the default human." It really shows how our everyday life can be and is affected by the decisions made with that assumption - it doesn't tell you things you already know. Despite its wide coverage, the book maintains a well-organised structure and coherence throughout that makes it easy to read.

Last summer when I worked with laboratory rats as an in vivo model for drug development purposes, I noticed that only male rats are used - because female rats have menstruation and

are "harder to manage," because that's the way the model is, because that's just the way things are. I could not help but wonder its implications of this widely accepted practice in biological research - the extrapolation of this data onto humans. This inspired me to pick up the book as soon as it's released, and in it, Criado-Perez addressed this issue alongside many others that need to be looked into.

Criado-Perez has written a compelling narrative on a very significant matter. It's an ambitious project to take on, but she has executed it flawlessly. The level of research and statistics included are incredible. It's a long battle to fight, and I do hope those in positions of influence can read this book.

No One Is Too Small to Make A Difference by Greta Thunberg

No One Is Too Small

to Make A Difference by Greta Thunberg has taken the bookstore display windows by storm upon its release. It is a collection of eleven speeches from Thunberg, a Swedish teenager who protests for climate change outside the Swedish parliament. The central idea surrounds the urgency of climate change and the need for radical changes to be made. She also explained the straightforward logic behind her school strike and civil disobedience. Her speech may be somewhat repetitive but is nevertheless very powerful. As the forefront of the climate movement, Thunberg has unbelievable influence and also been the target of critics - whether she was used is another topic for later.

One thing to note is that Thunberg insisted that we already know what to do, the urgent call now is to do the right thing. In the future, I hope Thunberg goes more in-depth with the details as to what kind of changes we want to make - is it only the duty

of politicians? Aren't sustainable business models and changes in decision making within industries more impactful? Below is an excerpt from the book for you to have a feel of Thunberg's passion:

"Adults keep saying: 'We owe it to the young people to given them hope.' But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is."

GRETA THUNBERG

NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



GAMES

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Riot has Revealed Further Details of ‘Project A’ – Valorant – Including Release Date!

During Riot Games’ 10 Year Anniversary broadcast, they shocked the gaming sphere by announcing a litany of new games under development – and one might be coming sooner than we thought

GAMES

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

I’m a massive League of Legends nerd, and so was extraordinarily excited when Riot revealed a myriad of games during their 10th anniversary broadcast a few months back – splurging two whole pages of fanboyism into this Games section as a result. So, imagine the paroxysms of joy I fell into when they revealed this week that the previously mysterious ‘Project A’ would be coming this summer already.

With a newly-revealed title, Valorant looks to be an exciting addition to a genre of games which often seems over-saturated: first person shooters. They are perhaps the most popular format for triple-A gaming releases, due to their high-octane action, relatively intuitive control schemes, ease of execution on both console and PC, and – above all – their variety in tone from ultra-competitive esports titles to single-player casual experiences.

From the information revealed this week, Valorant seems to lean towards the former. Riot has taken strong cues from both Counterstrike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) – the oldschool tactical shooter that maintains one of the world’s biggest esports scenes – and from Overwatch (OW), the 2017 hero-shooter title which, despite recent fall-offs and glaring mistakes made by developers Blizzard, was

still hugely impactful on the industry as a whole.

They seem to be prioritising the tight-knit, high-precision gunplay of CS:GO in terms of core gameplay, stressing over and over that a clean, competitive style was their focus. Although the player does pick a ‘hero’ character with abilities – each distinct from one another – abilities (as well as weapons) have to be ‘bought’ with an economy system, similarly to CS:GO’s economy mechanics. So while on a surface level the hero-shooter element is more reminiscent of OW, the mechanics of how it works – the way they’ve executed the concept – still leans closer to CS:GO in this regard. The abilities

“Riot has taken strong cues from CS:GO, prioritising tight-knit high-precision gunplay”

themselves are relatively low-power, more similar to buying equipment such as smoke grenades than to the flashy and explosive ults that define OW or LoL.

This also reflects in the big industry names they’ve been consulting with – rumours are abundant that high-profile streamers and esports pros from the shooter scene, such as Shroud, have been

invited to Riot’s studios for feedback sessions.

They’ve taken other lessons from their success with LoL, however, including the importance of resource-unintensive design – in other words, you can run this game on a freaking toaster. Where their experience developing the world’s most popular competitive game really shines, however, is in their dedication to behind-the-scenes development.

As you can tell from the above, Valorant’s core gameplay cycles are not highly original. It’s easy to draw comparisons to other games, meaning it fits neatly into a unique niche that nonetheless is sandwiched by industry giants. What is truly exceptional is this behind-the-scenes stuff. So let’s dive into what separates Valorant from its stiff competition.

For starters, it will run on a 128-tickrate server. In simple terms, that means the server speaks to your computer 128 times a second. This is double that of its closest competitors, CS:GO and Rainbow Six: Siege (RSS), and up to six times that of other games such as Apex Legends. It’s clear why this is beneficial to any gamer – the more regularly information is being shared between different players’ computers and the server, the less ‘lag’ there will be between different inputs and outputs (such as you, or an enemy, shooting at and killing each other.)

Of course, this is expensive to run. You flat-out need more and better servers to handle it.



Valorant drops this Summer, a CS:GO + OW hybrid with better netcode // Riot Games

Lucky, then, that Riot is – and I quote some random on Reddit – “rich af” from developing and peddling LoL for a solid decade.

Another piggyback from their LoL experience is that Valorant will also use the internet infrastructure set up by Riot for their LoL servers. Without delving into detail, Riot has cut lots of deals with ISPs to prioritise their internet traffic, ensuring lower ping for players.

Ping describes the length of time it takes a packet of information to get from your computer to the server and back. The higher your ping, the laggier the game. Reducing it, then, is essential to competitive integrity.

This also has a huge affect on ‘peeker’s advantage’ – and I reference you to PC Gamer’s “Riot is on a crusade to eradicate ‘peeker’s advantage’ in its new FPS Valorant” article here to get a good explanation of how that works. In short, due to the lag in information between your computer, which transfers

to the server, which then transfers to an opposing player’s computer, often the first player to move into the line of sight of another has a strong advantage over that other player. This has been a nightmare for shooter players for years.

That aforementioned term – ‘competitive integrity’ – really seems to be Riot’s ultimate priority here, and is the basis on which they hope to steal market share from competitors which have historically been plagued by dodgy servers... or, more nefariously, by h4x0rz. Hax. Hacks.

This is where things get really sweet. Riot have designed their own anti-cheat systems right into the code of the game. I’ll borrow an example from a PC Gamer article I referenced while writing this up:

Wallhacks – where players trick the game into letting them see through walls and thus knowing where everyone on the map is at all times – have been targeted by

implementing a ‘fog of war’ system, which is another borrow from LoL. In that game, you can’t see enemies until they’re a certain distance from you or a friendly unit. While that isn’t the case in Valorant – don’t worry, you can still camp sniper alley – what they have done is make it so the server doesn’t even tell your computer where enemies are until just before they’re visible to you. Even if you can see through walls, it won’t help, because your computer won’t know where anyone is.

Sick stuff.

We’ll have to wait and see whether just having a fairer, more competitive game will be enough to distinguish Valorant from its rivals – rivals which are deeply established in the gaming industry and community. The gameplay itself, I fear, will not be unique enough – but despite that, I’m keen to try it out in just a few months.

INVESTMENT

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Emerging Markets vs Developed Markets

INVESTMENT

Igor Fomenkov

ICIS

Investment Student Writer

It is common to hear economists speaking about the world markets in two main groups – developed and emerging economies. Their usage can completely disrupt the context of a sentence – for example, a 4% annual GDP growth would be a dream for the U.S.A. and a horrifying nightmare for China. But what exactly do these words entail and what do investors mean when referring to developed and emerging economies? This article is dedicated to getting the reader's head around these widely used labels.

First, let's jump into a short (and rather simplistic) history of the world economy. Since the beginning of the 16th century, capitalism started to develop in Western Europe and gradually spread across the globe. This meant that, instead of using the goods produced

internally within the community (known as a subsistence economy), people's main goal shifted towards profiting by sale of those goods. The type and sophistication of goods sold increased steadily over time, from agricultural products to more complex machinery and to the modern service sector.

However, not all economies advanced at the same pace, which resulted in a development gap arising between them. There were many root-causes of such segregation, ranging from political in(dependence) of a certain country to its geographical location. Regardless of the reasons

"[...] a 4% annual GDP growth would be a dream for the U.S.A. and a horrifying nightmare for China"

behind this, the present result is clear enough – there is a group of 'developed' countries, and the rest that are trying to catch up with them. Economists still argue about the exact list of 'developed' countries, but most agree on about twenty-five of them, which include most of Western Europe, Northern European countries, U.S.A, Canada, South Korea and several more. So which unique qualities contribute to the sorting of developed economies from the emerging ones? Again, there are no strict criteria's for that, but usually the following key factors are taken into consideration:

1. Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: the total worth of goods being produced inside a country per its population size.

2. High standards of living: usually measured via the United Nations' Human Development Index

3. Well-run stock market – in terms of number of trades being executed daily, its liquidity and the range of financial solutions being

offered

4. (Mostly) Free trade – a bit of an 'optional' criteria, which implies almost full absence of trade tariffs (this 'rule' is quite often violated nowadays, evident by the U.S.-China trade war)

Focusing on any singular criteria hardly paints an accurate image. For example, a country rich in natural resources may have an abnormally high GDP per capita and thus be considered a developed country if judged solely on the first criterion. Instead, all factors should be considered simultaneously, to build a holistic assessment of the country's development.

At this juncture, it could be misguided to think that emerging economies are just a more politically correct way of saying 'under-developed'. Despite a degree of truth in that label, emerging markets remain hugely attractive for potential investments, and the main reason behind that are the returns, which are unseen in developed markets. The underlying cause is simple – it is much easier to grow when your economy

is still not 'saturated' and there is still room for expansion. Simultaneously, this higher growth rate also comes with higher volatility, which is, in turn, linked with a higher risk of losses for investors. It may also be easily observed that while countries in the developed group are similar in terms of economies, those in the emerging category can vary quite a lot. There are several sub-parties within this segment. To begin with, all emerging countries could be split up into frontier and regular emerging markets, with the former still at a lower stage of development. Moreover, many countries with similar economic structures are grouped into a single category, a famous example is the so-called 'BRIC' (which combines Brazil, Russia, India and China, and was especially popular in the early 2000-s for its extremely fast pace of growth). Another one is BEM – 10 biggest emerging economies in the world. When developing markets would ever catch up and even compete with its developed peers is

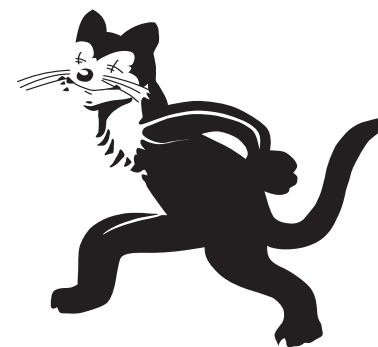
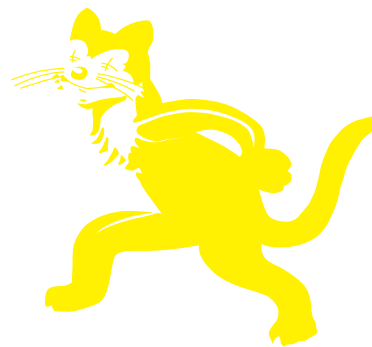
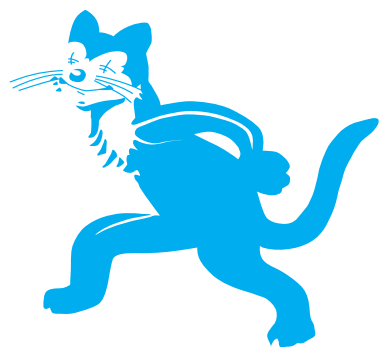
"[...] it could be misguided to think that emerging economies are just a more politically correct way of saying under-developed"

a huge question only time can answer. However, one thing is certain – both camps, with their unique traits will continue to drive the world economy in years to come.

**Although market and economy are not always the same, in the context of this article, the two words are used interchangeably due to their close meaning.*

***The author recommends readers the article titled 'Does investing in emerging markets still make sense?' by the Financial Times.*

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SCIENCE

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It's a New Dawn, it's a New Day, it's a New...Planet? How About Seventeen!

The new set of seventeen exoplanets discovered by a PhD student at the University of British Columbia even includes a rare 'Earth-like' candidate

SCIENCE

Christine Parry
Science Editor

Not one, but seventeen new planets outside our solar system have been discovered by astronomy PhD student Michelle Kunimoto. Her find adds both a possible 'Goldilocks' candidate to the current 'exoplanet' catalogue, and one that claims the title of the 16th smallest on that 4126-long list.

Capitalising on data gathered by NASA's Kepler missions, which explore the universe, searching for planets outside of our solar system, Kunimoto analysed information spanning almost 200,000 stars. She used the transit method to identify these exoplanets, a technique which monitors light patterns around stars to

determine if they are interrupted by an orbiting body, such as a planetary candidate.

"Every time a planet passes in front of a star, it blocks a portion of that star's light and causes a temporary decrease in the star's brightness," said Kunimoto, who studies at the University of British Columbia in Canada. "By finding these dips, known as transits, you can start to piece together information about the planet, such as its size and how long it takes to orbit."

The transit discovery method is one of several that can be used to identify planets – and it is one of the most fruitful, with over 3,100 exoplanets confirmed using this approach alone. The next bountiful approach, the radial velocity method, can only claim around 700 exoplanets, watching instead for a change in the starlight wavelength that orbiting planets cause.

However, Kunimoto

took a different approach to previous Kepler analyses. "My search looked for planets with slightly lower signal-to-noise-ratios - weaker indications of planets - than the Kepler team and many previous independent searches." Unlike the Kepler analysis, Kunimoto applied a Box-Least Squares (BLS) algorithm to the Kepler data with an associated signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio to sift the significant results from background noise, rather than Kepler's wavelength-based algorithm with its Multiple Event Statistics (MES) detection method. The BLS algorithm allowed her to lower the noise floor, set at an S/N value of > 6 compared with the Kepler MES ratio of 7.1. "This improved my pipeline's sensitivity to candidates that are both small and have long orbital periods."

And it paid off with the discovery of KIC-

11350118c, which measures in at just slightly bigger than Mars and is one of the smallest to be identified – the sixteenth smallest identified from the Kepler data so far. But it wasn't as easy as all that sounds; Kunimoto's initial analysis found 130,312 signals that met the S/N criteria, which needed to be whittled down to those final 17 planets, by subjecting them to a barrage of vetting procedures, digital and manual, to discard the false positives.

Kunimoto also teamed up with a UBC alumni, Henry Ngo, to use Near InfraRed imaging captured by the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii on the stars of interest. By taking high-resolution adaptive optics images of the stars, Kunimoto had the resolution to differentiate between clusters of stars and individual light sources, something the Kepler data, taken with a lower resolution telescope, could not do. This allowed her to rule out false positive transit signals, like those from eclipsing binary stars – a set of two stars that appear, at low resolution, as a single point of light, but can eclipse each other and mistakenly be read as a transit signal like that of an orbiting planet.

Something of a veteran planet hunter, Kunimoto has already notched up four planet discoveries in her undergraduate days. Bringing her total up to 21, the findings, recently published in *The Astronomical Journal*, identify 17 new exoplanets – and one of particular interest. Catchily named KIC-

7340288b, it joins the handful of exoplanets discovered to date that tick the vital 'Goldilocks' boxes; like Earth, based on its radius, it's likely rocky instead of gaseous (like the gas giant Jupiter), and also sits within the habitable zone of its star,

"An important result will be finding a terrestrial habitable zone planet occurrence rate, explains Prof. Jaymie Matthews from the University of British Columbia"

meaning temperatures that could allow liquid water at the surface. As Kunimoto describes it, "this is a really exciting find, since there have only been 15 small, confirmed planets in the habitable zone found in Kepler data so far."

About 1.5 times the size of Earth, KIC-7340288b sits 0.444 astronomical units from its star (about the distance of Mercury from the Sun) and completes an orbit in just 142.5 Earth days. The largest of these 17 new exoplanets is eight times the size of the earth, while at

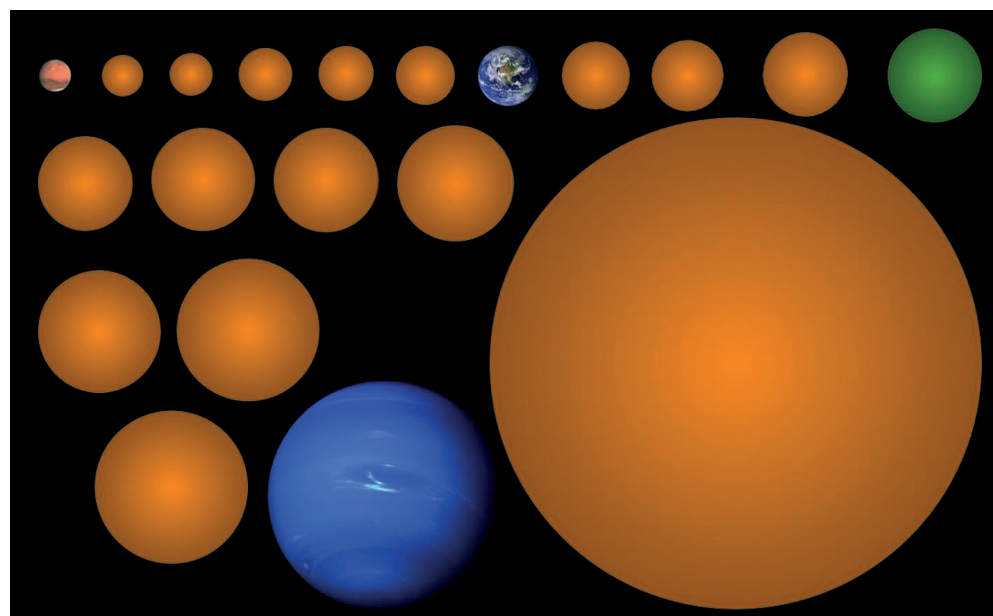
the other end of the scale, five measure up smaller than Earth, rounding up with KIC-11350118c as the smallest.

The Kepler mission was started primarily to identify more of these Goldilocks planets. Kunimoto and her PhD supervisor hope to continue using Kunimoto's approach to re-analyse the Kepler census of current exoplanets, adding a much-needed layer of confirmation. In the future, however, they want to start drilling into the data for more than just confirmation purposes.

"We'll be estimating how many planets are expected for stars with different temperatures. A particularly important result will be finding a terrestrial habitable zone planet occurrence rate.", explains Professor Jaymie Matthews, Kunimoto's PhD supervisor. "How many Earth-like planets are there?"

With data like that, NASA can optimize future space surveying projects, and, importantly, plan a more targeted mission to gather data on a habitable zone exoplanet. As Kepler gathered data on very distant stars, once the occurrence rate for a habitable zone planet is known, NASA can judge the likelihood of finding one in a much nearer location – and plan for that rather than a mission to a planet thousands of light years away.

With findings like these, that mission might not be all that far, far away after all.



The 17 newly discovered planets, with Mars, Earth, and Neptune included for scale. The green planet is the habitable zone planet KIC-7340288b. // Michelle Kunimoto

SUSTAINABILITY

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Plastics are bad, but switching to paper is worse

Plastics are painted as the ultimate villain in the environment world, but the truth is of course more complicated

SUSTAINABILITY

Xiuchen Xu

Sustainability Editor

Plastics are created by the devil, those nonbiodegradable monsters will infiltrate every corner of the planet in varying sizes, from nanoparticles in your body to giant mutated blobs that colonize landfills. When you try to kill it with fire, they spew poisonous gases, and when you cut them, they become more numerous, but are never destroyed. Plastics have certainly been demonized in the media, and images of plastics in the oceans and stuck on animals are stuck in our minds.

You would be rightfully concerned about plastic damaging the environment, but many of our first instincts are to immediately switch from plastic to using paper or other types of packaging. Now that is not such a great idea, and this article will go in detail to explain why.

Now when thinking about why we might want to use paper instead of plastic, the main reason is that plastic is not biodegradable, while paper is... or is it? Here is the thing, many people are not aware that although paper is biodegradable, it needs the correct conditions. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) paper takes just as long as plastic to break down in landfills. There is however the advantage that paper will much more likely be recycled, and never end up in a landfill, furthermore, paper can be recycled an infinite amount of times, while for plastic it is limited.

This is also an advantage for other materials such as glass and metals over plastic.

Here is the thing, there is also a significant disadvantage of energy usage when you compare any material to plastic. It is estimated that paper bags take four times as much energy than plastic bags to manufacture and use twenty times as much water. From this perspective paper is much worse. Furthermore, in the case of bags you can reuse plastic bags many times, as they are very durable,

“paper being better for the environment is a common misconception”

paper bags are less likely to last a long time.

Paper being better for the environment is a common misconception, and it is because we never question how bad paper is for the environment. With plastic always being slammed in the media, we wrongly assume that every other material is better. In reality, as with every environmental issue, we should do our own research before deciding on anything.

In reality, switching to paper is worse for the environment, and companies are doing this for greenwashing. Erasing consumer guilt is a strategy to make people spend more money. It is definitely not a sustainable initiative, instead it is an initiative to seem sustainable. Look at brands such a



Plastics get a bad rep, but are the alternatives that much better? // Wikimedia

Primark, H&M and Boots who have adopted paper bags, while polluting the planet with the products they sell in those paper bags (and those products are probably made from polyester or wrapped in plastic).

The solution would be to not use single-use packaging. Plastic is a durable material and can make wonderful things that can be used for years, it is only when it becomes a single use item that it becomes problematic. We should all aspire to stay away from all-things single use, whether plastic or paper, but of course that is more easily said than done. As someone who has attempted a zero-waste lifestyle, I've got to be honest and say it is not compatible with being a busy ass Imperial student. However, I've learnt over time that the movement is not about being a perfectionist, and we should each do what we can. I believe that the central philosophy to the zero-waste movement

is very powerful and important, and we should all try and incorporate it into our lives, wherever possible. The main lesson I learnt from zero-waste is to consume more consciously, and think

“Recycling is good in theory, but in reality, companies only recycle if it is profitable”

about everything you buy, whether you really need it, and on top of the economic cost for you, what are the externalities and costs to the planet and others. Secondly, another important lesson is that reducing, and reusing are the most powerful sustainable day-to-day practices you can have. Recycling is good in theory, but in reality, companies only recycle if it is profitable,

for example, only 9% of plastic bottles actually get recycled.

Of course, the responsibility shouldn't fall all upon the consumer's shoulders, the government should start pressuring companies to abolish the unsustainable practice of over packaging and make unpackaged produce more readily available to everyone. This is the only way forward to make change on a bigger scale.

In conclusion, whenever you next see cutlery made from bamboo, or bags made from paper, please remember that they are to help with consumer guilt, and not the environment. Single use packaging is wasteful and unsustainable no matter the material. So, if you truly want to save the planet, bring your own lunchbox and cutlery to Fusion next time, I don't care if it's plastic. Another point I hope you learn from this article is that everything has an environmental cost, and sustainability

choices are not always straight forward, meaning that intuition is not the way to go. The world is full of misinformation, and it is best to do your own research and spread awareness to others.

Felix Sustainability was founded to create a platform for discussion about environmental issues and sustainable development. We are open to articles from all points of view.

Please get in touch if you would like to write for us using the email address in the header.

THROWBACK

felix@imperial.ac.uk

SSDD: Looks like things never really change around here. During the 'Delving into Imperial's HerStory' event in the Felix office this past Monday, we also came across a whole wide range of articles dating back years about rent disputes at Imperial, from this article in 1997 to stories of rent strikes in 1985. We're sure they go back further as well...

6 NEWS

FELIX FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 1997

Are Imperial College students

Simon Wistow and his cohorts of mackintosh-clad investigators turn their skills to Imperial's housing problem...

The differences between the various Halls of Residence of Imperial College were recently brought to my attention. A resident of Fisher Hall commented to me that on a recent visit to Holbein Hall he had been amazed at the difference between the standards of repair. He gushed on about the mirrors, the pastel shaded walls and the up-lighting, then said: "God, they must be paying a fortune." This sounded like a challenge to me, so after a bit of wrangling I managed to get hold of all the rents for the halls (see table below).

Like me you'll probably have noticed that Holbein and Fisher Halls have the same prices, as do the halls in Prince's Gardens. But why should this be so? Why is Garden Hall cheaper than the rest of Prince's Gardens? Time for a quick call to the Accommodation Office. Sadly this was not too useful. Sharine Brown, the Residences Manager gave the new prices for halls next year. Those costing £47.53 are going up to £49.00 and the halls costing £58.31 will go up to £60.06, except Fisher which has been reduced to £53.13, but apart from that, nothing, nada, zip, zilch.

I was referred to Piers Williams on the grounds that she didn't "know enough about (the subject)" and "only wanted to deal with facts". Piers explained that this year the accommodation levels were being set by himself and the Union Accommodation Officer. They had duly traipsed round all the halls and set the levels accordingly.

Fisher Hall was apparently refurbished 7 years ago and Holbein, 3. These cosmetic renovations have justified an increase in rent. Speaking as someone who didn't get a choice into which hall I went into, I find it a little unfair that. Why should I be forced to pay £10 pw more than other residents in Evelyn Gardens for no noticeable difference? The rooms are generally accepted to be smaller and, to quote a visiting friend, "crap". Frankly speaking, the whole building is in a state of disrepair. I cannot actually recall having seen a wall with paint not discoloured and peeling off.

If Fisher is better than Southwell and Willis Jackson then I don't mind paying more but I REALLY object to paying as much as Prince's Gardens. What does Evelyn Gardens have compared to Southside? A shop? A Pizza place? A student bar? Proximity to college? Connections to the college Computer network? No. The only link to College is the single telephone line up to the main campus, but since the internal phones don't work with the ACC discount phone cards it is of no use.

Suitably riled, my partner and I

'acquired' a copy of the Confidential Strategy for the Future Development and Management of Student Residences. We began to skim read through it looking for juicy titbits to highlight....

Interestingly enough, the Powers that be seem to be aware of the problems, concerning Imperial's bedstock, as well they should. To quote the

report, Imperial College is aware that the rents are high "relative to competitors, both London based and provincial". They also accept that IC halls offer "questionable value for money in certain residences where there is a severe maintenance backlog."

Back in 1993, however, an exhaustive plan to "overcome perceived competitive weaknesses in the physical condition of the residences and excessive variations in standards of maintenance between residences and increase value for money" was drawn up.

This resolved to "establish minimum acceptable and targeted standards for all student accommodation in terms of furnishings, equipment, decorative order, cleanliness and all round value for money, and ensure that all existing residence meet the minimum standard by the end of 1993/4 and targeted standards by 1995/6". Included in this is a "rolling programme of redecoration - three year internal cycle, five years external". Hmm, has this happened? First impressions say not.

On a more serious note, Fisher Hall (together with other halls in Evelyn Gardens) is under Leasehold for the next 50 years. Although the report resolved to begin negotiation with the relevant landlord for outright purchase, the report also highlights the College's relative lack of funds and inability to raise finance at acceptable rates. This may explain the discrepancy between the 'three year plan' and reality. Worryingly, they seem to be overly concerned that the poor condition of halls reduces their chances of "profitable disposal". In other words, they seem to give priority to getting halls in a condition fit to sell, rather than fit to live in. Furthermore, sections discussing the possibility of halls being forced to close if they could not meet Health and Safety standards (and forming suitable contingency plans) does nothing to inspire confidence in housing standards.

Through further acquisitive activities, we found ourselves in possession of the NUS Accommodation Costs Survey 1996/97, which covers private sector and university rents at all universities in the UK. The main findings were as follows:

•The average weekly costs across all types of institutional accommodation in 1996/97 was £48.37.



Welcome to my home

IC HALLS OF RESIDENCE WEEKLY RENT LEVELS: 1996-97			
HALL	SINGLE	TWIN	TRIPLE
Prince's Gardens			
Beit (old hostel)	£47.53		
Beit (new hostel)	£58.31		
Falmouth Keogh	£58.31		
Selkirk	£58.31		
Tizard	£58.31		
Weeks	£58.31		
Garden	£47.53	£33.32	£23.80
Linstead (catered)	£58.31+meals	£40.81+meals	
Evelyn Gardens			
Bernard Sunley	£47.53	£33.32	£23.80
Fisher	£58.31	£40.81	£23.80
Holbein	£58.31	£40.81	
Southwell	£47.53	£33.32	
Willis Jackson	£47.53	£33.32	
Postgraduate Halls			
Montpelier (upgraded)	£48.65		
Montpelier (non-upgraded)	£47.53		
Olave House	£56.49	£39.55	£28.28
Goldsmiths' House	£51.59	£36.33	
Clayponds Village			
Room A	£42.35		
Room B	£52.71		
Room C	£60.90		
Ensuite	£63.21		
Small bedsit	£79.17		
Medium bedsit	£107.52		
Wilson House			
Pre-clinical room	£49.28		
Clinical room	£48.23		
Extra nominal charges: Insurance: 7p per day; Washing machine hire: 21p per day			
Amenities: At the discretion of the hall warden, approximately £2 per week			

THROWBACK

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paying too much for their rent?



PHOTO: SIMON

The inviting interior of Fisher Hall's showers. Students share their daily ablutions with flakes of paint, mould and mushrooms.

- The average weekly rent for private accommodation in 1996/97 was £40.12.
- The average cost of institutional accommodation increased by 4.7% between 1995/96 and 1996/97 (actually Imperial only increased by 2.6%, hurrah).
- Average, non-institutional rents increased by 3.8% between 1995/96 and 1996/97.
- A student living in institutional accommodation in receipt of a full grant and student loan did, on average, spend 63% of their weekly income on rent.
- A student living in the private rented sector did, on average spend 52% of his her weekly income on rent.

My conclusion is mixed. Imperial College is aware of the problems they face with their bed-stock. Union input into accommodation charges may help matters. Given the exclusivity (read cost) of our Kensington location and the crippling lack of funds, things could be worse. On a more subjective note, however, there is a need to address the imbalance of rents charged within Imperial's halls. Perhaps some money should be spent on the residences that need sprucing up. After all, happy halls = happy students = happy uni!



TOGETHER AT LAST....

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WELFARE

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Diversity Week: Race in Academia

WELFARE

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Have you ever looked around campus and felt like, despite being an international university in the heart of London, there's virtually no diversity here at all? We definitely have. On our respective courses (medicine, bioengineering and mechanical engineering), Black students in particular are a minority within the minority of students of colour. It's not just the shockingly low numbers of Black and minority ethnic (BAME) students at Imperial that warrants discussion, but the wider issue of race in academia that we as Liberation & Community Officers (LCOs) hope to address.

You may have heard of the 'Decolonise the curriculum' campaign. Inspired by the Rhodes Must Fall protests in South Africa, the campaign calls for universities to include more BAME academics in their curricula. We have heard countless times that Imperial, being a STEM university, is immune to academic racism and other biases, rendering race an irrelevant issue that only affects humanities. It's this narrow view that has, in part, contributed to the underrepresentation of BAME students at Imperial.

Race impacts your

education, whether you are conscious of it or not. Currently, the access gap between Black and White students is 46.5% and the rate of non-continuation into second year amongst Black students is almost double that of White students. The proportion of Black entrants (4.98%)

"Currently, the access gap between Black and White students is 46.5%"

is also very low relative to London's Black population. As the College aims to increase admission of BAME students, it must also consider its responsibility to give those students equal opportunities to flourish once they arrive. This includes responding to BAME students' reports of alienation that are reflected in the numbers. The ways in which we are taught the history of science and technology at Imperial often centre on Western discoveries and innovations and ignore the meaningful contribution of scientists from other parts of the world, past and present. Decolonising is about rethinking, re-

"talking about race is to inform, not attack"

framing and reconstructing the current curriculum to make it more inclusive and to expand our notions of good scientific practice. Universities should be

places of intellectual confrontation; students should be taught to challenge the canon and consider alternatives from different cultural perspectives.

We want to stress that talking about race is to inform, not attack. Decolonising the curriculum is not about completely eliminating white men from our lectures. It's about identifying the omissions in our teaching that limit our understanding of science. Including BAME academics isn't just a token act of tolerance; deconstructing these biases will make us better clinicians, scientists and engineers.

Curriculum decolonisation requires a sustained commitment to identifying and challenging colonial systems and structures. It needs the commitment of both students and staff, BAME and non-BAME alike. So, we're starting a conversation about race at Imperial and we want your input. In the last week of term (March 16th-20th) we're hosting the Decolonising the Curriculum at Imperial launch event to allow students and staff to express their views on what needs to change. This will be alongside a range of panel discussions and other events intended to celebrate our diversity and seek solutions to discrimination in academia. Watch this space for venue confirmation!

Events:

**March 16th:
18:00-21:00 -
Black Women Can**

An expert-led networking evening targeted at BAME women. A place to share experiences of being BAME and female in academia.

**March 17th:
18:00-21:00 -**

Decolonising the Curriculum at Imperial

The launch event of Decolonising the Curriculum, an open discussion of academic racism. Following this, a working group of students and staff from each Faculty will be formed to review and improve the curricula.

**March 18th:
11:00-16:00 -
Cultural Celebration**

A showcase celebrating Imperial's cultural diversity.

**March 19th:
18:00-21:00 -
Islamophobia Panel**

A panel discussion seeking solutions to rising Islamophobia in Britain.

**March 20th:
18:00-21:00 -
Black History in Islam**

An expert-led talk highlighting the important

"conversation about race at Imperial and we want your input"

contributions of Black Muslims, a group at the intersection of two minority identities.

The College is also keen to change how race and racism operate within our cultures and structures. Take part in a Race and Equality Charter (REC) focus group on Wednesday 18th March (Group 1: 13:00-14:30 or Group 2: 15:00-16:30) which is open to all Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students at Imperial to tell the College about your experience of studying here, the good and the bad. If we don't speak up about the problems, it is unlikely anything will change or get better. This is a golden opportunity to talk about issues affecting you in a safe space. Your input will provide valuable information on the student experience and will shape the Action Plan formulated to address the issues raised.

Participation is entirely confidential - no Imperial College staff are involved in running the focus groups. The facilitators include David Woodger, Head

of Community Studies and a Lecturer in Social Science, Community Development and Youth Work at Goldsmiths, University of London. His research area is race and racism with a focus that enables professionals and managers to critically reflect on practice, policy and interventions tackling institutional racism. Lara Paquete Pereira will also facilitate; she is a Youth & Community Worker and anti-racism activist, having been involved with the recent anti-racism student occupation GARA (Goldsmiths Anti-Racism Action). She is part of several anti-racism working groups at Goldsmiths, University of London, having a voice in shaping mandatory anti-racism training for staff at the university. The facilitators will provide an anonymised report to the REC Equality Self-Assessment Team. To participate, please contact the facilitator David Woodger directly: D.Woodger@gold.ac.uk



Diversity week kicks off on 16th March // Pixabay

CONSTITUENT UNION

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What side are you on? DepSocs Vs CUs

RCSU

Aishwarya Chidambaram

RCSU Sponsorship and Alumni Officer

Having read the title, I have no doubt that readers will have already made up their minds. Whether you're already involved in your DepSoc, enjoy going to the smaller events and find the careers support invaluable, or you don't really have an active DepSoc, and you prefer the bar nights, club nights and other niche events your CU organises.

As someone who is highly involved in both my DepSoc, MathSoc, and the RCSU, if you asked me which is better or has a greater impact, I wouldn't be able to give you a straight answer. Therefore I'm not even going to try to convince you that one's better than the other, because that's not the case. Instead I'm going to try to show you how both need to work together harmoniously in order to maximise their potential and serve their

student members.

If you're reading this now then you're one of the CU section's most committed readers. Despite the comments about how we're not engaging our DepSocs enough from last week's issue, the RCSU has come a long way in making sure that it is not competing with its DepSocs this year.

For example, whenever the RCSU hosts an event, such as Roaring Revel, the RCSU makes sure that all of the DepSocs are firstly aware of the event, so they don't schedule their own events at the same time, and secondly engaging DepSoc members by encouraging DepSocs to publicise RCSU events. This has been particularly successful with events such as the Mums and Dads Pub Crawl, Autumn Ball, Revel and using the DepReps to publicise RCSYou.

The advantage that DepSocs have is that they are able to engage their freshers easily through welcome events such as Mums and Dads, leading students to immediately identify with their DepSoc. CUs find it harder to engage students in Freshers week without

using DepSocs.

However, CUs can manage a couple of things DepSocs would struggle to achieve:

a) Larger events like Revel and Autumn Ball, that small DepSocs would not be able to drum up a large attendance for.

b) Niche events like yoga and gardening as seen in our Welfare Week, RCSYou, which only attract 5-10 people from each department of FoNS. However if the RCSU runs them, then collectively there is a sufficient interest in these events

c) Engage multiple societies in events, encouraging interdisciplinary engagement

The role of a CU is to support its societies, rather than compete with them. It should not run events that could otherwise be easily organised by the DepSocs or compete with existing DepSoc events, such as Christmas Dinners or movie/games nights.

Applying this philosophy in practice, we have seen an increase in the amount of interaction between the RCSU and its 5 constituent DepSocs this year. The DepSocs have actively publicised RCSU events while

the RCSU has stuck to not competing with its DepSocs. However, when the RCSU has run an event that should have been run by a DepSoc, we have seen the error of our ways and learnt from our mistakes going forward. With what can only be described as one of the most successful Revels in recent years we were pleased to have engaged many members from

across all 4 departments. This wouldn't have been possible without DepSocs' support in publicising and making people aware of the event.

Going forward I believe that the relationship between the RCSU and its component DepSocs will only get stronger. By talking more and supporting each other, things can only get better and after the positive changes

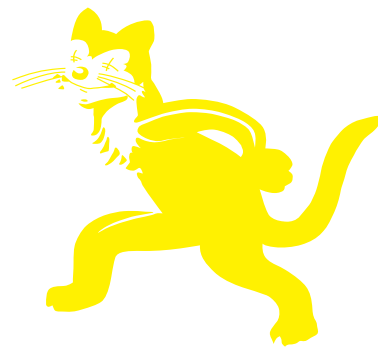
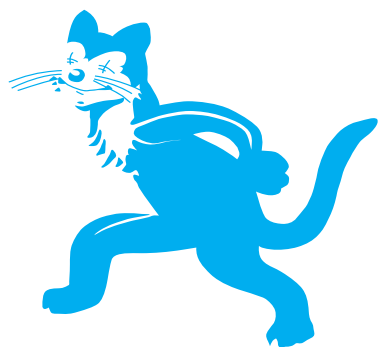
we've seen this year I suspect this won't be too hard to implement in the coming years.

So, don't choose a side. Be both. Cherish your DepSoc of course, but also remember what CU you're a part of. The Constituent Unions are steeped in a century of history and form a valuable community that we are lucky to be a part of. Lets all take advantage of that!



All your Spanner are belong to us // RCSU

Felix is recruiting!



We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know.

If you're interested, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk

Union Page



#icuElections

VOTE

imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Voting opens noon, Monday 9 March

Get ready to vote

You can now view all the candidates running in this year's Leadership Elections and read their manifestos at imperialcollegeunion.org/manifestos. Find out more about each candidate and get to know their ideas to help you choose who you want to lead the Union and shape life at Imperial next academic year.

By voting in these elections, you are using your voice to determine who will represent you in all aspects of Imperial student life. Elected reps will have the ability to lobby College, and some even sit on significant decision making

bodies which can effect great change. The Union is here for you, so make sure you have your say over who leads it, and vote for the candidates you believe can make a difference.

Vote: noon, Monday 9 March to 14:00, Thursday 12 March
imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



Results Party

Friday 13 March | 19:00 | Metric

Celebrate the results

Join the candidates and your fellow voters as we find out who will lead the change at Imperial next academic year. Major positions, including Council Chair, Student Trustees, Felix Editor, Liberation & Community Officers, Constituent Union Presidents, and the Officer Trustees (President and four Deputy Presidents), will be announced live at the party.

The results for Departmental Reps, Constituent Unions and DepSoc Committees will be shown on screen at the the party, while CSP results will be released online. Entry is free and there will be a live DJ.

Results Party: 19:00 onwards, Friday 13 March
Metric (South Kensington Campus)

imperialcollegeunion.org





The
**Leadership
Elections**
2020

Results Party

Friday 13 March | 19:00 - 02:00
Metric & FiveSixEight, free entry

6 March, Friday

Thank Goodness it's Friday
Metric | 21:00 - 02:00

Karaoke
h-bar | 19:30 - 23:00

10 March, Tuesday

Super Quiz
FiveSixEight | 20:00-22:00

Games Night
h-bar | 19:30-23:00

11 March, Wednesday

CSP Wednesday
Metric | 19:00-01:00

12 March, Thursday

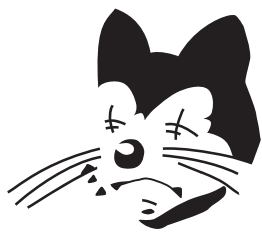
Pub Quiz
h-bar | 19:30 - 21:30

Battle of the Bands: Final
Metric | 19:30 - 23:00

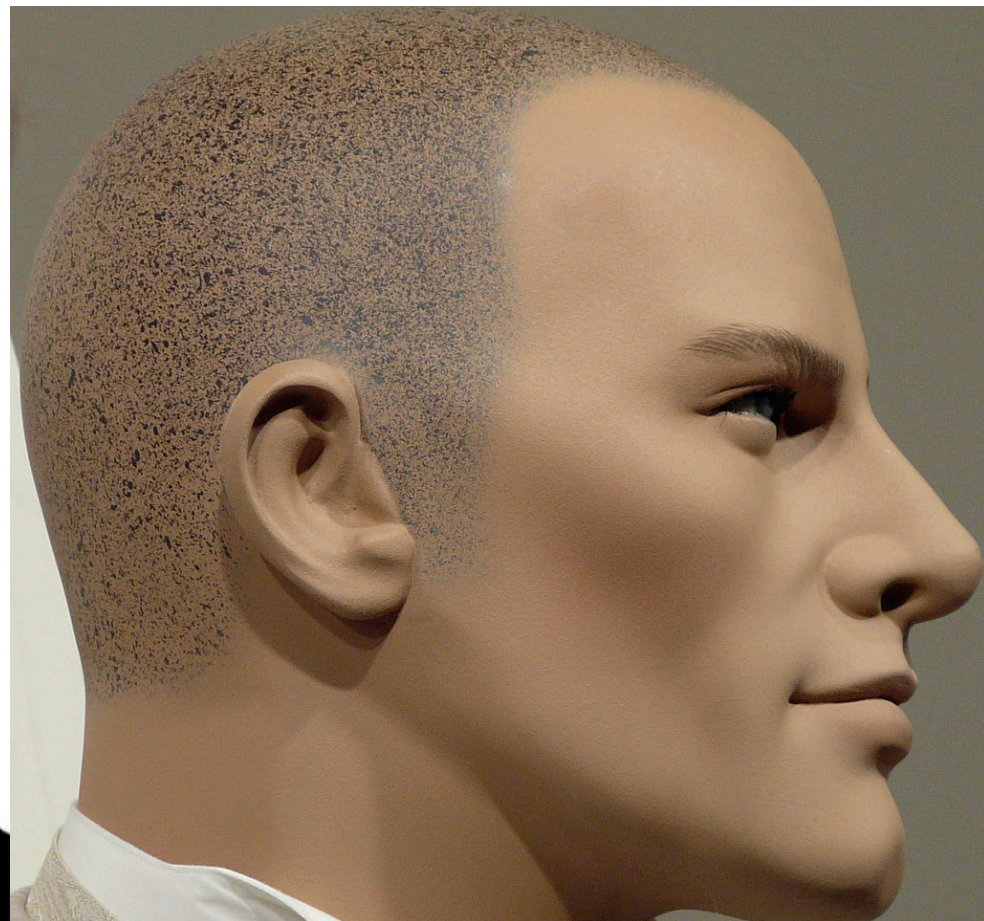
13 March, Friday

Elections Results Party
Metric | 21:00 - 02:00

 [beitbars](#)  [hbarpub](#)  [reynoldsbarcx](#)



Hangman



Professor Button before and after new Imperial Red Lanyard treatment // HalloweenExpress/NeedPix

Dermatologists hate them!

Studies show that wearing a red lanyard can make you look 18 again!

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

A revolutionarily simple beauty routine discovered by researchers at Imperial College London has taken the cosmetics industry by storm by allowing people to take decades off of their appearance.

Initially treated as a waste product, the red lanyards issued to first year students upon arrival at Imperial were treated with contempt and often discarded. On any day in South Kensington one could expect to see several lanyards blowing in the wind, caught on railings or on gutters.

All this changed when research assistant and manhole cover collector Feb Senton discovered the nigh on magical properties of the lanyard.

According to the paper published last week in the Journal of the American Society of Whitehead Squeezers the discovery was a matter of chance. Senton, after suffering a particularly bad attack of his periodic and debilitating acne while at work in Blackett and struggling to carry the mountains of undergraduate problem sheets and notes to the incinerator, grabbed a lanyard to hold his card. He needn't have bothered. As he walked, contrary to his normal experience, doors were held open for him, people in lifts didn't

block him from entering and no one spat on him as they walked by. Instead he was greeted warmly by the very first year undergraduates whose notes he was going to destroy. They asked him what course he was doing, how he was finding his first year and whether he agreed that Feb Senton was a disgusting hunch-backed one-eyed wretch that stank more like rotting flesh than Mexico City's waterways during election season. The paper does not record Senton's reply but it does note that the first year students were entirely taken in by the cuckoo among them.

Unfortunately Senton was not able to benefit from his discovery. After reporting it to his

superiors the lanyard was snatched off him.

In an interview with Negafelix Senton admitted that he tried to attend the underwater touch-rugby game that he had been invited to by the undergraduate friends he made but they had driven him away by throwing stones at him.

The discovery has prompted an extraordinary surge in entrepreneurship among both staff and students and a thriving black market in the now valuable commodities. However, this discovery has also made some freshers worry for their safety.

Scandal shook the Chemistry department after a cabal of senior lecturers were brought

in for questioning after being accused of using expensive lab equipment and fake offers of UROPs to round up students and nick their lanyards. A spokesman issued a statement to the press on the steps of Sherfield after the group were released from the security office on bail. "I can categorically tell everyone assembled here that my clients are not guilty of any crime other than trying to educate keen young students". Her point was somewhat undermined by the fact that two of the alleged undergraduate trappers were being held in the arms of babysitters and had to have their nappies changed during the trial.

The Senior Management of the College

welcomed the publishing of the paper calling it "more evidence of Imperial's world class status as a centre of research excellence." The press conference took a turn for the worse, however, after it was announced that the university aspect of the Imperial brand would be being wound down. "We are looking forward to diversifying the Imperial portfolio and feel that it is not in our interests to remain in the tertiary education market. After all we are going to make so much money off this lanyard discovery we don't have to waste our time on your losers".

Editors note: They are shutting us down! but Negafelix will never die! Join the resistance!

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Dress for success!

5 outfits to wear for collecting your fat paycheck at noon and attending the Chevron board meeting at 3

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

The skin of your enemies

Leather is really in right now and as long as your security keeps the pesky animal protest people away you will really wow the crowd. Pro tip: anger some gingers for that extra special I need to put sunscreen on my trousers look.

Plastic bags

Want to show how much you care for the

planet and the oceans by wearing plastic clothes? The new Gucci plastic collection gets the best oil and refines it specially to make long lasting chic clothes. Unfortunately a local air-conditioning unit is required as well to prevent the wearer sweating to death. Who said fashion comes cheap?

Baby seal pelts

For a great corporate weekend away go and club the seals yourself! With a spa and a duty free shop at the resort this one is sure to please your employees. With clubbing in the morning, you can fit in

a team building exercise over lunch before going into the workshops for classes on skinning and sewing lead by genuine Inuits! Embroidery of the company logo is also available for extra.

Congolese cotton

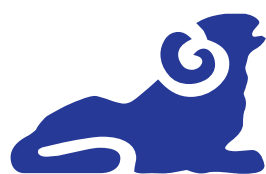
Congolese cotton is the name of the new material that fashionistas in the city are going mad for. Made completely out of conflict diamonds this one is sure to impress. After all, no one else is buying them so get them while they are still cheap!

Fast Fashion™ subscription box

Keep things fresh with the newest and hottest subscription service on the block. This company doesn't send you new clothes every month or every week. For the price of one of your Horcruxes you will be guaranteed delivery of a fresh set of clothes every hour, on the hour. Our patented delivery drones will also deliver a changing area that cuts off the old outdated outfit with lasers to speed up the changing process. This product will ensure you never fall behind the competition.



Already spotted with oil, just the way you like it
// Ruvim Miksanskiy, Pexels



ARIES

This week the complexity of your housemates' cleaning routine results in you hoovering the sink while taking out next week's bins



TAURUS

This week you realise that Donald Trump wasn't referring to an actual swamp



GEMINI

This week you mercilessly bully your child in the hopes that Hugh Jackman will give you free tickets to something



CANCER

This week you change your name to Deputy President Finance and Services
-
Maybe now your purchase order will get approved



LEO

This week you spend 500 million on winning the Presidential Elections only to drop out when McDonalds returns your emails



VIRGO

This week you get your offer for a PhD
-
Glutton for punishment I see



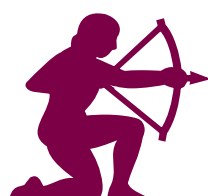
LIBRA

This week you become TikTok famous for snorting the ashes of your PhD thesis at your viva
-
It was worth the look on your supervisor's face



SCORPIO

This week you decide to come in early to get some work done
-
Alice Gast comes past after a night out carrying her heels in one hand and



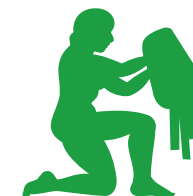
SAGITTARIUS

This week it is Women's Day
-
Which you think is odd, as you think there should be women every day



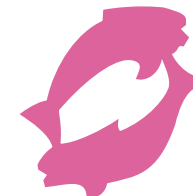
CAPRICORN

This week, you feel a strangely magnetic attraction to your new lecturer, Professor Araculd Uosferatn
-
Why are they wearing a red lanyard..?



AQUARIUS

This week, you misread 'Meet the Candidates' as 'Yeet the Candidates'
-
Security aren't buying it

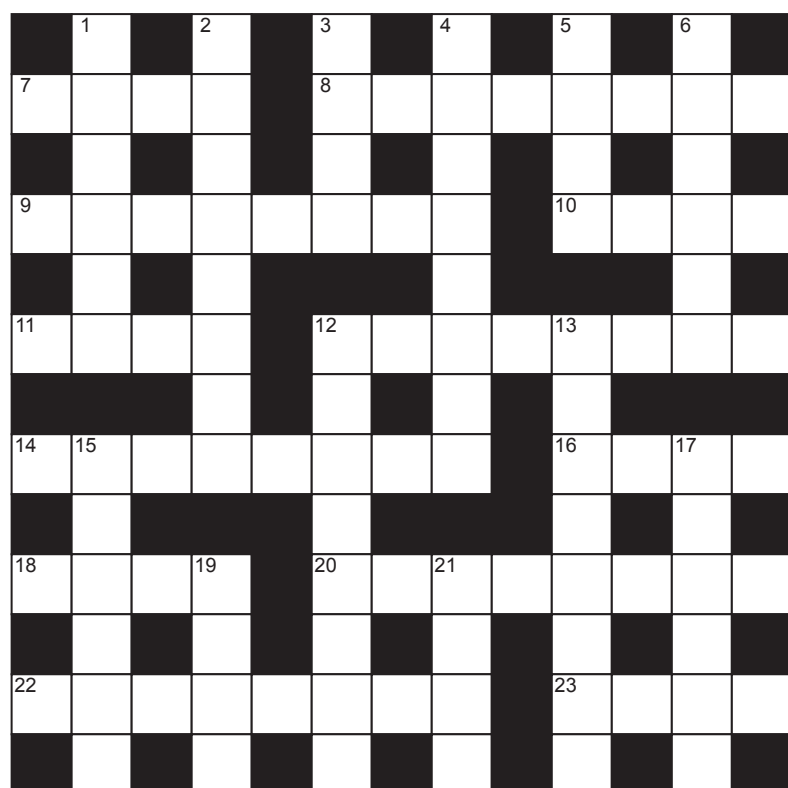


PISCES

This week you inform everyone around you that actually, the disease is called Covid-19, and the virus is called corona virus.
-
Just stop.

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



Across

- 7. Capital of Samoa (4)
- 8. To absolutely waste heat, energy and plastic to make paper glossy (8)
- 9. Illegal (8)
- 10. What you need about you (4)
- 11. Abbreviation for firepower (4)
- 12. What one gets at graduation (8)
- 14. Plane named after the Flying Elephant (5,3)
- 16. Loan (4)
- 18. Sink or ____ (4)
- 20. -ism being curtailed by Union's new Working Class Officer (8)
- 22. False claim, make-believe (8)
- 23. Mother's father's sister's nephew's wife (4)

Down

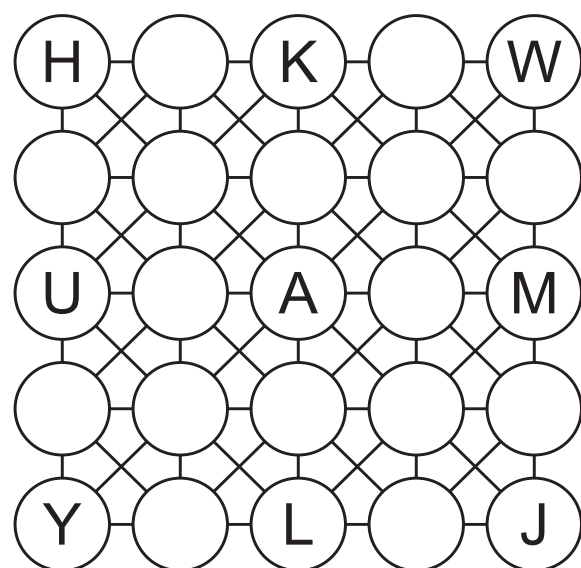
- 1. Ampere, Biro, Condorcet method, for example (6)
- 2. Basement graveyard (8)
- 3. Musical sybmol used to indicate pitch (4)
- 4. Not directly expressed, but suggested (8)
- 5. Sense, realise, notice (4)
- 6. Declared (6)
- 12. Next to (8)
- 13. Inspirational figure or celestial body serving as a compass (8)
- 15. Careless, heedless (6)
- 17. Severn, Humber, Solway Tweed , e.g. (6)
- 19. Legend (4)
- 21. Climax (4)

CLUES:

- BRIM
- CIRQUE
- FLOP
- FOLDS
- GHERKIN
- HEAVY
- JOAN
- PARK
- POX
- TIRE
- TRIM

NONOGRAM

Colour in some of the squares to make a picture. Each number represents a block of consecutive black squares within that row/column. Each block needs to be separated by at least one white square.

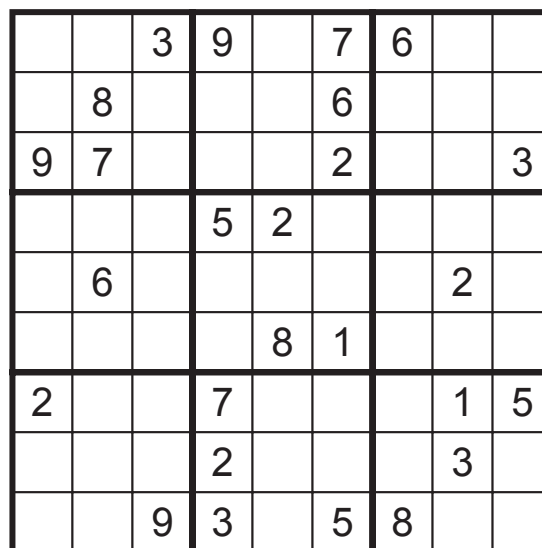


GOGEN

Fill in the grid with letters from A-Y to make the words given. Words can be formed by following any neighbouring letters!

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid with the numbers 1-9 such that each row, column, and 3x3 box has no duplicates.



FUCWIT

1	Lochy Monsters	120
2	DQ	117
2	StandWithHK_Fight4Freedom	117
4	RIP Pat	116.5
5	F***URhys	116
7	Front Row Squad	61

Points available

Crossword	3
Sudoku	3
Gogen	1
Nonogram	2
Mastermind	2
Minesweeper	1
Cryptogram	1
Shikaku	1

Total 14

Send your solutions to *fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk* before Wednesday noon to take part in the leaderboard!

Hi! Would the PhotoSoc/Physics person that came to find us in the Felix office about Sudoku code please email us/come back to the office this Tuesday afternoon between 1-5pm? You know who you are, and we would like to meet you.

Special thanks to Duncan White for the Mastermind, and crauswords.com for the sudoku minesweeper, and shikaku puzzles!

1 4 2
3 1 1 3 1 4
2 4 1 1 1 1 1 5 2
2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2
2 2 8 5 4 2 2 1 1 3 4 8 2 2
1 2 4 4 5 5 6 6 4 3 10 3 4 4 4 5 4 6 3 1

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

MASTERMIND

Special thanks goes to DoC's Duncan White, who has very kindly developed the code to generate Mastermind puzzles like these, along with their relevant graphics for us to use!

Try to guess a secret code of colours in a specific order.

A black peg indicates a correct colour in the correct position. Of course, you are not told with position(s) contain the correct colour, simply how many positions contain the correct colour.

A white peg indicates a misplaced colour - the correct colour but in a different position! A few guesses have already been given, leading to a unique solution! There are easier variations with more examples at:

<https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~dcw/Mastermind.pdf>

Here are the colours available:



1	Y	P	R	G	B	T	T
2	Y	G	G	R	R	T	T
3						T	T

It would be very helpful if you could also tell us how long it took for you to complete this puzzle!

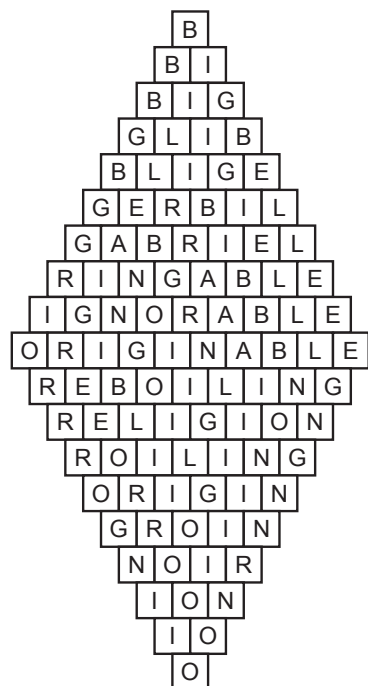
CRYPTOGRAM

The letters of the alphabet have been scrambled and numbered 0 to 25. A quote has been hidden for you to decode, and a grid has been provided to help you out.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25

10 19 25 20 6 22 19 0 20 3 23 17 4 5 20 4 17 24 5 12 1 17 8 10 12 17 3 20 15 12 17 25 6 2 20 24 3 20 17 1 19 10.

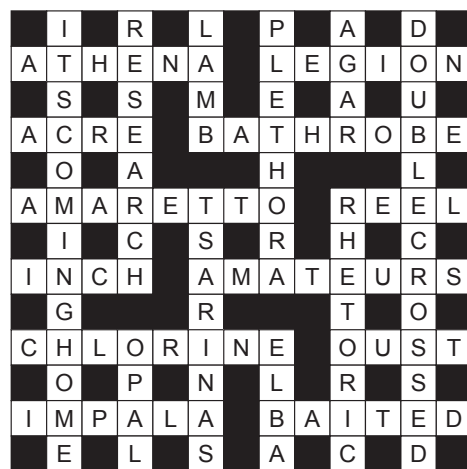
Last week's solutions



3	2			
5				
4			20	5
4		8	3	
	12	4		10
		2	2	6
				3



2	9	6	7	5	4	3	1	8
3	5	4	6	1	8	2	9	7
7	8	1	2	9	3	4	6	5
8	7	3	9	4	2	6	5	1
9	6	2	1	3	5	7	8	4
1	4	5	8	6	7	9	3	2
5	1	9	4	2	6	8	7	3
6	2	7	3	8	1	5	4	9
4	3	8	5	7	9	1	2	6



MINESWEEPER

The number in a cell represents the number of mines adjacent to that square (up/down, left/right, diagonal). Find and mark all of the mines to clear the board.

			1	1	1	1			1	1	
2	2	1				2	2			1	1
				1					1		
1		1		1	1	2		2			2
									1		1
	1	2		1	1			1	1	2	2
							1	2		1	1
1			1			1			2		
					1	1	2			1	
	1	1	2	2						2	1
				1	1	1				1	1
	1					1			2	1	
1	1		1			1	2	1			1
	1	1								1	

SHIKAKU

Divide the square into rectangles, such that each rectangle contains exactly one number. The numbers given represent the area of the containing rectangle.

	18							
	10			3	2		3	
				4			6	
		5	4		5		2	
			4					
8						5	12	
	2	4						
3								

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Taekwondo BUCSess at Winter Championships

SPORTS

Lucy Lei

IC Taekwondo PO

14th February 2020 was a Valentines like no other. Storming North with Dennis was Imperial's team of 17 indomitable fighters after enduring two months of hard training, harrowing exams and deadlines. Disembarking the coach at Nottingham after a three-hour journey, the

team settled down for the night in preparation for the big day ahead – British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Winter Championships.

An unimaginably early awakening on the 15th saw them join 42 rival universities from across the nation at David Ross Sports Village, Nottingham. This is the second competition of the series, which together constitutes Western Europe's largest student martial art and

combat competition.

Competitors accrue points for their University

“All athletes competed incredibly, winning a total of 10 medals for Imperial”

for every single sparring match win. Patterns round progressed at every event in the tournament series towards their club's Overall Student National Taekwondo Championships ranking at the end of the year. The club with the highest total points following the Series Finals are crowned overall National Champions!

All athletes competed incredibly, winning a total of 10 medals for Imperial. Gold medalists – George Doran and Menghan Liu in sparring and poomsae respectively. Silver medalists – Joon-Ho Son, Sharmila Rana, Tara Sassel all sparring. Bronze medalists – Angela Sun, Jaafar Rammal (first time competitor!), Sojin Park, Wenbo Chen and Wim Geberbauer, all in sparring.

Special congratulations go to George Doran for his gold achievement in the A class category sparring, returning to the sport after more than two years and Jaafar Rammal for his bronze medal in his first ever Taekwondo competition having only joined the club this academic year.

First-time fighters Charmaine Chue, Judy Kim, Nicholas Yap and



Wholesomeness was had by all //ICTS

Winnie Chang all fought with strong spirits, looking forward to win medals in the next championship. Special mentions to Syazana Hisham who sadly missed out on a medal and Nesha Vruti, Xinyu Bai and Leona Li who kindly volunteered to help on the day.

Imperial Taekwondo currently sits at 3rd place for Indomitable Team Trophy and 4th Overall Championships Results. We thank our instructors and coaches, instructor Christopher Dancel, for their continuous support throughout the years for this achievement.



The victorious team //ICTS

Synchronised swimming show 2020 – for family and friends

SPORTS

Monica Fiorevanti

IC Synchronised Swimming PO

The synchronised swimming team look back on a successful afternoon spent with teams from Bristol and Nottingham.

How beautiful is it to gather with friends and family to show them what you love doing?

That is exactly what happened last Saturday! We had an amazing show at Ethos swimming pool



Our Imperial mermaids //ICSSS

for our friends and family (full house!!), we also invited the synchronised swimming teams from the University of Nottingham

and University of Bristol. What a treasured experience it was to show and see routines from all the clubs, from beginners

and more advanced swimmers, and celebrate afterwards with all the guests. They all had the chance to join us in the

water for a synchro tester session!

Being in the club for a few months now, it was so incredible to hear the loud

cheers and the clap of the teams for one another. This sport has brought us together, to laugh together and support one another!



Three teams come together //ICSSS