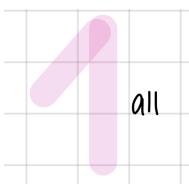


## **Assignment 1: Design for mobility**

**Goal:** increase accessibility for people with disabilities



**Name:** Train For All



**Functions:** First, there will be foldable ramps on the sides of the train for disabled people who use wheelchairs. See-through roofs and connected train pods will also be added to provide spaces and give a sense of comfort for people who are claustrophobic. The front part of the train will be shaped as a drill in order to increase the speed of the train and break through the crowds or traffic when there are any cases of emergency. Furthermore, supporting bars will also be added inside the train to create supports for visually impaired passengers and guide them to the seats. Additionally, the speaker that will be added could cause a special vibration that signals blind passengers which station they are at. If possible, some small robots can be added inside the train to provide assistance for the passengers.

**Users:** Disabled people, people who suffer from claustrophobia, and people with panic attacks or emergency cases.

### **Impacts:**

- Disabled people feel less excluded when using public transportation, as this vehicle is designed specifically for them, which creates safer and more convenient experiences.
- Encouraging empathy and raising awareness of how people with disabilities should be provided with good services that could support them on a daily basis.
- Ensuring guaranteed safety and direct accessibility to hospitals in emergency cases.

### **Reflection**

This design reflects on how the present-day transportations are not able to provide adequate care or entirely suitable for disabled passengers. Though the design could be perceived as unachievable in some parts due to how most of the design choices are modernistic and futuristic, many functions of this vehicle should be considered to be provided in the real world.

## **Assignment 2: Dystopia Design Challenge**

### **1. Define our dystopian world**

As a result of climate change, the entire world is now flooded. Capitalism has taken over society, and powerful companies rule over civilization. There is clear segregation of classes:

The rich live above the water surface, enjoying sunlight and fresh air while people who are 'poor' have to live underwater where they hardly get any sunlight or oxygen.

Although the rich control society, they still rely on the labor and resources of the poor to maintain their lifestyle. Without the work of the underwater workers, the city above could not survive.

### **2 and 3. Design explanation**



#### Context of the dystopia

The poor are forced to do exhausting labor to keep the city above functioning. Their main tasks are: Mining rare minerals from the sea floor. These materials are essential for the rich to manufacture their products, maintain infrastructure and industrial production. Second, the poor need to harvest energy that powers the city above. (This energy is sent upward through pipelines.) Lastly, they send resources upward, ensuring a constant flow of materials, fuel and products to the elite.

The work is very dangerous and wages are non-existent. The system is designed so that the poor do not have a chance and are chained up in this labour.

#### Purpose and function of the design

The design depicts the well-being of the people in this dystopian world through the segregation of the rich and the poor's residents: the rich living above the poor. Additionally, the design also provides a connection between the rich and the poor due to how the rich are still benefiting from the poor by relying on their labor and resources. This structure with the connection between the rich and the poor could also cause rebellion to rise among the poor, since there are pipes that connect the rich and the poor where the poor have to send their resources to the rich. Cutting of the pipe will be the spark of the poor's rebellion. Furthermore, the physical dependence in the design not only reflects inequality but also illustrates how the infrastructure of society is built upon this unfair relationship. The height of the structure emphasizes the power imbalance, while the use of pipes symbolizes force transparency where the poor can see what they're losing but are too powerless to stop. The design also reflects the instability of the system by depending entirely on the sufferers of others, the upper class builds its society on a fragile foundation.

#### Ethical questions or trade-offs

This design raises several ethical issues. First the inequality in living conditions. The poor live in an exhausting and threatening environment underwater, while the rich enjoy comfort, luxury, and health above. Secondly, dependence on exploitation because the upper class depends on the suffering of the lower class to stay alive. Lastly, the risk of rebellion. For example if the poor destroy the pipelines to fight for their freedom, both societies might collapse.

#### **4. Reflection**

This project of our dystopian world shows that design is never neutral. In current times of crisis and exploitation, systems can either increase oppression or enable empowerment. The same pipes that supply the rich could also become the means for the poor to break free from their suppression. This reflects how both physical and social structures can be used as tools of power or resistance. Our design shows that even in an oppressive world, there is potential for change. It encourages us to think about how even the smallest design elements, like a pipe, can symbolize both control and liberation depending on who uses it and why.

## Individual and group's free writing exercise

Ai's



My name is Pornchanid Piyamaeteewat but I would prefer to be called "Ai". I was born [REDACTED] I graduated high school from [REDACTED] alongside a few of my classmates here. [REDACTED] allows me to explore my interest through many electives, which I find myself drawn to social science subjects: political science, sociology, psychology, management, or even business. My experiences from these electives combined with how I enjoy debates and my dream of becoming a diplomat or working with international relations, I decided to pursue my bachelor's degree in PGS. Before [REDACTED], I spent my early years at [REDACTED]. This makes being in an international school and international program quite a big change for me. Even though I began to get used to it, there are still some parts of studying in an international program that make me a bit insecure. Yet I believe that being in PGS will improve me in many ways and help me to be more confident in what I'm doing while getting me closer to my dream.

When speaking of my interests or passion, art would be the first thing that I think of. Whether it is drawing, painting, or creative writing, these hobbies will always hold a special place in my heart and they are the things that I'm most confident in. As for my skills or characteristics, due to how my life mostly revolves around education, I developed many skills that became my traits, especially being a responsible person. I feel like once someone assigns me to do something, I should respect them and put my best effort on these responsibilities. Though this may seem like a good trait to possess, too much of it makes me stressed easily and even gets me afraid of failures.

Most of the time, I would be happy when I have the opportunity to do something I'm passionate about or share my moments with someone who is close to me, since it's the time that I feel like I can truly be myself. On the other hand, me being in the same environment as someone that has nothing in common with me or judges me, making mistakes, and letting someone down makes me anxious and unhappy. Lastly, besides being responsible, my strengths would be how I can tell which area I need to improve and how I am assertive. To

elaborate, I'm proud of myself that I know where I should improve because it keeps me improving continuously and becoming a better version of myself, which prevents me from making the same mistakes. Many people told me that I can be very straightforward sometimes, which honestly makes me happy that I can stand up for myself and speak for what's right or wrong.

## Eve's



Hi! My name is Noppakamon Phengphusa, and you can call me Eve. I was born and raised in Bangkok since [REDACTED] I graduated from [REDACTED], an international school in [REDACTED]. During high school, I lived in the school dormitory, which gave me the chance to explore new experiences and reflect on my interests. It was during this time that I discovered my passion for social sciences.

One key turning point was when I took Spanish, sociology, and psychology in high school. It sparked my interest in global education, social conflict and international politics. I've also been lucky to travel to many countries, and these experiences shaped my worldview. Living in London, I saw immigration issues and homelessness firsthand. In Australia, while visiting Gold Coast for a beach trip, I noticed the challenges of the housing crisis. These encounters made me more curious about social issues people face around the world. I found that solo travel is one of my biggest passions. It allows me to experience different cultures and observe how politics and society functions in various places. That's why I chose to join PGS programs at Chulalongkorn University. In the future, I hope to pursue a career that allows me to travel and work to support underprivileged communities.

Through my high school volunteering whether working with orphans or visiting slum communities. I saw real life problems that made me want to be a part of the solution. These experiences, along with my passion for traveling, shaped who I am today and my desire to create some sort of social change. Besides academics, I also enjoy partying, sushi, and listening to music. I believe it is a part of how I balance life and connect with people. I'm looking forward to exploring more in this class, as I believe it will help me better understand society and give me tools to design creative and effective solutions for the problems I care about.

## O2's



My name is Wasin Jupawang but most people call me O2. I was born on the [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. For middle school, I used to studied at [REDACTED] school where most of teaching was done through online meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For highschool, I graduated from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Even though I previously expressed some interest in political science, It is at this school where I first dealt into this field through electives courses that the school had offered. I had picked psychology and sociology as the electives that I wanted to study. It was during these courses that my passion for the studies of the human minds and its society became even deeper than before.

Originally, I was not an 'international student' as I have stated I attended a Thai school and studied mostly in Thai but that all changed once I entered high school. To be honest, the transition from studying in Thai to English was not that much of a challenge for me but what bothered me the most was how different the communities in the two schools were. In my first year, it was really hard for me to adjust, fortunately I had met many kind souls who guided me through these times and helped me find a place that I can be myself but also appropriate to my surroundings. After three years, I would say that my high school years were one of if not the most crucial part of my life as I have learned many new things and made me realize the complicated and fascinating nature of human society, which is one of the motivations that pushed me to pursue this field of study.

Although PGS is not my first choice of the faculties that i wanted to study in but after I have spent quite some time participating with the people and the activities that this faculty has to offer, I could gladly say that I bare no regrets at all.

## Caro's

My name is Caroline Petra Rechler, but I prefer to be called Caro. [REDACTED], and currently an exchange student at Chulalongkorn University. I was born and raised in Germany and graduated from a private school in [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] After completing my Abitur, I moved to Munich and spent a year doing voluntary service at a theater. This experience allowed me to explore my creativity and deepen my interest in arts and crafts, but it also made me realize that I wanted to pursue a direction in life that would allow me to make a more direct impact on people and society.

During my time in Munich, I developed a growing interest in politics, social structures, and education. I realized that I wanted to inspire and guide others through knowledge and critical thinking. This led me to enroll in a double degree program in Sociology and Pedagogy at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. My long-term goal is to become a university professor. I would like to teach, conduct research, and encourage students to think deeply about society, power relations, and human interactions.

Academically, I am drawn to specialized areas within sociology such as Human–Animal Studies and the Social Theory of Childbearing. These topics explore complex intersections between culture, society, and human life, which I believe are increasingly relevant in today's world. Here at Chulalongkorn University, I am especially looking forward to this course because it combines a strong theoretical foundation with practical and creative problem-solving skills.

The reason I chose Chulalongkorn University, and Thailand in general, is that I wanted to step far outside my comfort zone and immerse myself in a completely different cultural environment. I believe that personal and academic growth happens most when we challenge ourselves in unfamiliar situations. Studying here will not only broaden my academic perspective but will also evolve my cross-cultural communication skills and my ability to solve specific problems.

Joining the PGS program is an exciting opportunity for me because it aligns perfectly with my goals. It offers a platform to explore social issues from a global perspective, to learn from diverse viewpoints, and to contribute my own perspectives as a student from Europe. I am confident that my time here will not only deepen my academic knowledge but also help me grow as a person and prepare me to inspire others through teaching and research in the future.

## Tian's



My name is Naphat Sriudomporn, my nickname is “Tian”. Coming from a family of Chinese descent, my nickname is translated to “sky” in Chinese. Despite being Thai, I have spent most of my life abroad - living in China, Australia, and Taiwan where I had recently completed my high school education. There, I studied in a private international school called [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a closely knit school, consisting of a small community of students where everyone knows each other’s name. Even though the amount of interaction you have compared to other schools is certainly limited, it allowed me to form strong relationships with my classmates. This gave me unique connections with people across multiple cultures. During my time there, I was elected to the student council. It was that which had helped me develop essential skills and important life lessons such as adaptability, leadership, and communication; traits that made me effective in collaborating with my classmates whether it be academic projects, activities or just regular interaction. I was also fortunate enough to land an internship at a politician’s campaign for a month. By being able to work in a field of politics, I was taught the techniques and methods politicians use to captivate and inspire others into placing their trust in them.

Because of my academic background in different countries, I came to appreciate how interconnected the world is, how political decisions can affect people’s daily lives and

how governance influences societies. Living in China, Australia and Taiwan, gave me a first hand experience in how their different governments and cultures shape their communities. Seeing just how interconnected governments and societies are, I came to realize then that there was still so much more to learn about our planet and so sparked my newfound interest in how the whole world works, leading me to apply to PGS of Chulalongkorn University.

Moreover, my interest in Global Affairs not only gave me the path of what I want to study, it also gave me the aspiration of becoming a diplomat. I decided to pursue this path because after seeing how governance keeps peace around the globe, it makes me want to participate in this work field and have a meaningful impact on our society. I like to see myself in a future where I can contribute to our community and help solve global issues.