Group 3

Social theory Design thinking

17/08/2025

section 1

Self introduction

1. Treechawa Kongpathomporn (Cheetah)

My name is Treechawa Kongpathomporn, but you can call me Cheetah. I graduated from ████████████ of Bangkok. I was born in ████████████. I can speak only 2 languages , Thai and English, but I used to have basic knowledge of Japanese and Chinese. My interest in politics started one night in July 2022, when I remembered a conversation I had with my Ukrainian friend during my study abroad two years earlier in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. She moved to study in the UK because Ukraine was no longer liveable after a severe political conflict. Her family was spread apart, living in different countries. With the international cooperation between the United Kingdom and Ukraine, the UK government has granted asylum to many Ukrainians. This cooperation provides a future and an opportunity for many students and people to live. I believe in human rights, and people do not deserve to have their lives taken away by a group of people. I noticed the importance of politics and international relations as governance is not only for a group of people but also for the ling standards of the people of a whole country. Also, I was interested in policy implementation. Whenever I studied economics, I was fascinated by those policy implementations, their uses, and their effects, such as addressing embargoes to prevent material that could threaten national security from entering the country. On the other hand, an international conflict or a sanction could happen as an effect. Hence, I chose to study a double degree in PGS as it could also be beneficial to my future. Moreover, My friends describe me as a creative person who always comes up with unique ideas, and I aim to apply this talent by combining this skill with knowledge gained from this course to contribute to developing new solutions. For my working style, personally, I prefer working individually, as it allows me to have full control over the outcome and fully express my ideas. However, when it comes to group work, I prefer working in a small team.

2. Bhirada Yongpiyanon (Lina)

"Politics is a far-fetched topic for me" was what I thought when I heard my parents' conversation at the dinner table where I tended to lay low and occupied my mind with something more amusing.

Born in Bangkok and lived in this busy and rapidly changing city for ▉▉▉▉, I had never considered politics as an interesting topic to be talked about. In a room full of subjects, politics would be the last subject I choose apart from math. I'm Lina, Bhirada Yongpiyanon, once an ignorant girl who has zero interest in politics. Even my father's high level of interest in politics did nothing to my low fascination for this boring topic. However, my whole life changed on my 15th summer when my dad came back home and brought the news that shook the whole house.

▉▉

▉▉ I was terrible at speaking English, which was when I realized how impractical English lessons in Thai education were.

I only knew grammar but can barely arrange them into sentences quick enough to answer new friends. I was always so confident in my English back in middle school but the new school shattered

all my confidence. My top priority school did not even accept me with the reason that my English level was too low. ██ This fueled me to try even harder and finally, the effort paid off. In my second year, ████████████████ ████████████████████████████ I was over the moon but that ignited one question in my mind " Was it my fault or the education system that made me struggle? "

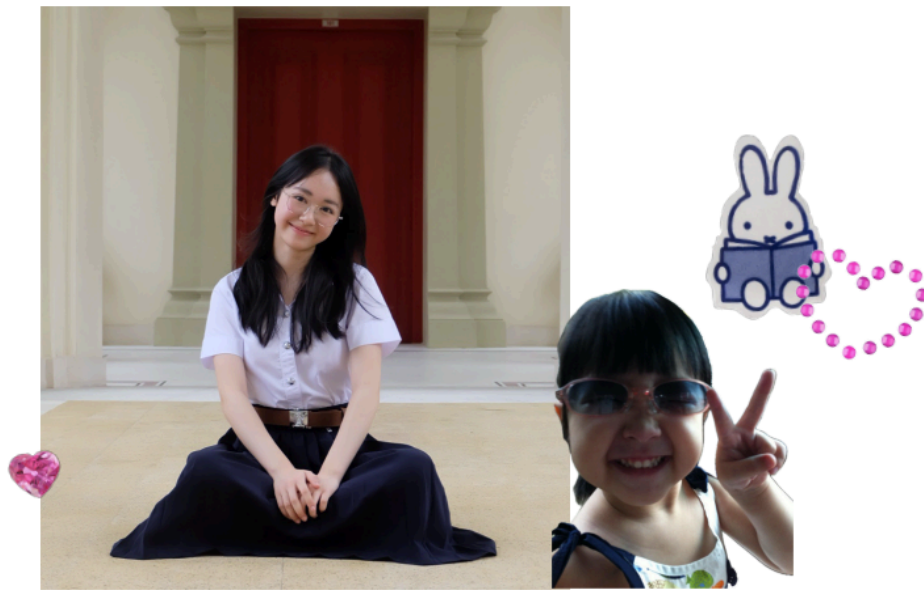██ ██ ██ ██ I have encountered how important politics is and how enjoyable it can be in learning.

████████████████████ I realized there were many political aspects in my life that I overlooked as a kid. ██ ████████████████████ Both my elementary and middle school ████████████████████ ████ are located in the centre of the city, however, as a kid, I have never considered why I have to leave my house early every morning just to not get caught in traffic. Why is the system designed that way? Why is it acceptable for Bangkok to have this severe traffic jam? Even the small things in life that I encountered I started questioning in the political way and that was when I realized everything is connected to politics and politics is what shapes our lives.

As a person transitioning from a democratic to a socialistic society, one of the most unfamiliar aspects of my new environment was the political system. Three years in a socialist country demonstrated different distinctions between different political systems in the world. Despite being in the same region, ████████████████ lifestyles and cultures can be different and similar at the same time. I understand more about the world's distinctions, not only in politics but also in mentality. Hence, I believe that PGS's double degree program will offer a multicultural experience, and provide a valuable experience of studying abroad for me.

My dream career is to be a diplomat as I believe it is the career that I can perform my best with joy and I want to serve my country with pride like my father does. I appreciate that PGS's course made Thai politics and government the first subject in Year 1 because I think it is a good opportunity for me to learn more about my own country's politics before understanding other countries'. I also noticed through PGS's student council website and major facebook page through PGS's student council website and major facebook page that PGS offers a lot of experiential learning such as going to embassies. In conclusion, I believe that PGS will fulfill my dreams and allow me to give back to society in the near future.

3. Phanyapond Chaipibal (Fhuyin)

There was once a young girl who was endlessly fascinated by the way her dad spoke in the meetings. She would find a corner to sit quietly and listen to the discussions that were more than just business plans. Those discussions were about sharing ideas, understanding each other's perspectives, and working together toward the same goals. Through these moments, she has learned that true leadership isn't only about giving orders, but about inspiring others to work together in peace.
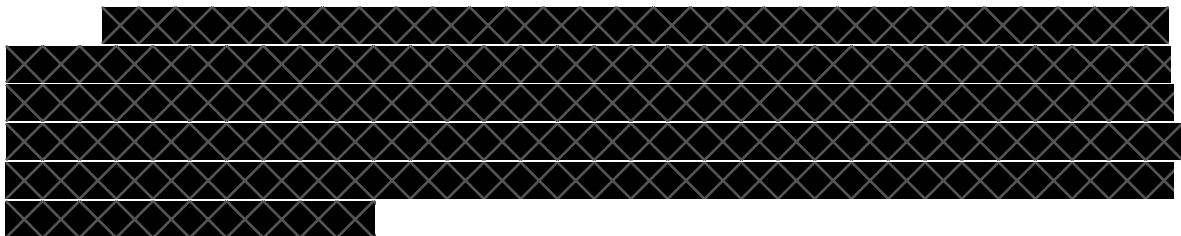
That girl is me, Phanyapond Chaipibal—or you may know me as Yin. I was born and raised in Chiang Mai, the heart of Northern Thailand. I studied at ▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆▆ from elementary to high school. It was there where I first experienced a very diverse culture since a lot of my classmates were international students. For 9 years, studying abroad was a dream that quietly grew within me, and with the support from my parents and my hard work that dream came true.

My journey took a big leap when I had the opportunity to study abroad as an exchange student in the United States. I joined the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee at my school; DEI is formed to promote fairness and embrace diversity in the school district. There, I organized a cultural event with the student body to celebrate the school's diversity. That time I recognized that bridging cultural divides and fostering mutual understanding in the community are what I wanted to do. That experience sparked a vision for my future: a world where diverse voices come together to solve global challenges.

Because of this, I chose to study in PGS as I believe that the program will give me the foundation to make that vision a reality. The dual program at PGS Chulalongkorn University is more than just a chance to study abroad—it's an opportunity to immerse myself in a new environment, connect with people from diverse cultures, and learn about different political systems and ways of life. I see this as a way to broaden my understanding of the world and how societies work together, which is something I've been wanting to do.

In the future, the career that I would like to pursue is a diplomat or a job in an international organization. I want to take what I've learned and apply it. Especially when PGS offers me hands-on experience including visiting the embassy. Whether it's working on policies that promote fairness or fostering partnerships between countries to solve real-world problems, I want to help build a more inclusive and connected world.

4. Sasaporn Tachasahapattana (Wawa)

The actual world is, of course, not easy, it's not a pink barbie dreamhouse; where anything can be created, not a Disney princess castle; with a prince to rescue you from any danger, and growing up, especially, is hard, is competitive, is not as safe (both physically and mentally) as living at home, where when you were younger, all you ever need is a family (atleast, for me). Growing up means to gain more experience, both good and bad ones, to bond and find new friends, teachers and meet new people, again, both good and bad too, and to compete, to try hard, to put in effort and to do your best to pursue your dreams.

In my life, I've never been in a more competitive race. I learned in a private school, where you do take tests, but just to determine which year you should be studying in and I've taken a piano exam, but the ABRSM (test centre) doesn't limit the number of students passing each grade. Therefore, getting into Chula is the most challenging, competitive, tiring and stressful challenge in my life, but at the same time, I found it's the most rewarding one as well.

I started my education journey at ▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨ where I spent all of my kindergarten and primary life for 9 years, got exposed to English, my now second language, got introduced to Thai dance, which later became one of my favorite clubs to join, and got the opportunity to be parts of the student council, to be an MC and to participate in many more activities. Alongside the in school activities, I started learning piano in kindergarten and violin when I was about 10. Before moving to ▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨ where I still carry all of my passion with me. On one hand, I still practiced Thai dance, not as a member of a club, but this time as a performer, to perform for Thai ceremony, I was a House leader and student council representative for 3 years, participated in a musical performance and was part of the school's wind symphony, choir and orchestra, where I started playing flute. On the other hand, I finished my 2 years IGCSE course, where I picked Art, Drama and Business as my chosen subjects.

The IGCSE exams finished mid July, meaning that I only had around 4 months to prepare for the 1st round university application, that's the beginning of the actual tough months, taking GED, IELTS and multiple SAT, all of this, not to get accepted for the first round. I still remember that day, I cried a lot, I was disappointed, I didn't want to talk to anyone and I didn't want to do this anymore, but regardless, life continues. After that one big heartbreak from the university results, I tried again. To apply for the 2nd round, more SAT exams were taken, more tutoring sessions were scheduled and it was also more stressful. However, this time, my hard work paid off, and I got into Chulalongkorn University's PGS program.

5. Praewa Paecharoen (Praewa)

I'm Praewa. I was born ▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨. I have lived in Bangkok my whole life. My favorite food is salmon sashimi; I always have salmon once a week or more. I want to have a white corn snake as my pet. My favorite is purple, I always have something purple with me.

I used to study in the art-math program, ▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨▨ When I was in high school, I used to be a cheerleader for my building; It was the best thing that I ever did in my high school life. Being in an art-math program meant I needed to learn mathematics, the same one that sci-math students needed to learn, and that made me know myself more that I was not that good at mathematics. I used to love Thai poetry class. In the class, I have to know the history of Thai poetry, how to write a verse, and each story of the poetry. My favorite Thai poem is Khun Chang Khun Phaen, a love triangle of Khun Chang, Khun Phaen, and Nang Wanthong which is based on a true story during the Ayutthaya period.

I chose PGS as my bachelor's degree because I have liked studying social studies since I was in elementary school and my future career goal is to work in the United Nations or some other international organization. Another reason that I want to pursue a bachelor's degree in PGS is because of its double degree; having second and third years in other universities which is a great opportunity for me to gain new experiences and new culture.

Moreover, I like to learn new languages. When I was young, I used to learn German and French but I did not have much time back then. However, at the present day, I am learning Chinese at the HSK3 level. I chose to learn Chinese as nowadays the Chinese language is commonly used and there are lots of Chinese tourists in Thailand; thus, I want to reach HSK4 at the end of 2025, after that, I am going to start learning Korean. I like the way Korean people talk, their accents are very cute. In the future, I want to go to Seoul, South Korea, to watch a K-POP concert. I want to easily understand what they are saying without subtitles or translation.

Lastly, nice to meet you Naka, byebye ka

section 2

Dystopia world assignment

Context: What happened? Who has power? What are the living conditions?

Topic: Zombie Apocalypse

      In the world where horror movies play out in real life, zombie virus has purged over half of the human population. Human society has now completely fallen into the biggest chaos in world history. The so-called zombie virus has broken free from the confidential laboratory. Zombie virus is deadly and infectious often by contact such as biting, causing death or severe cellular decay followed by reanimation into zombie-like beings who exhibit aggressive, uncontrollable behaviors and spread the infection further. Amidst despair, the survivors have gathered together and built a resistant city to fight against this virus with the goal of continuously expanding the city and finding treatment of this virus so that humanity can thrive again.

      In the world with zombie virus being everywhere, the people who hold true power are the people who have control over the vaccination and treatments developments. The fractions' political leaders and the scientist union are the major power holders. There are many fractions of power diffuse around the world who share the same goal after the major Anti-zombie conference held last decade convening experts and political leaders from each fractions together.

      The conference had come to an absolute conclusion that, in order to rebuild humanities, every fractions of power need to apply the most advanced technologies shared in the conference to their resilience city plan. For example, every city needs to have immigration checkpoints which are strict and effective with a clear isolation zone for people in risk of infection and a living zone for normal people. Each person in the city will obtain a watch which shows the infections in blood, if even a little zombie virus is detected in their body, the watch will sound automatically and the armed force of the city will quickly charge them. The city needs to be horizontally expanded in order to regain the human world quickly.
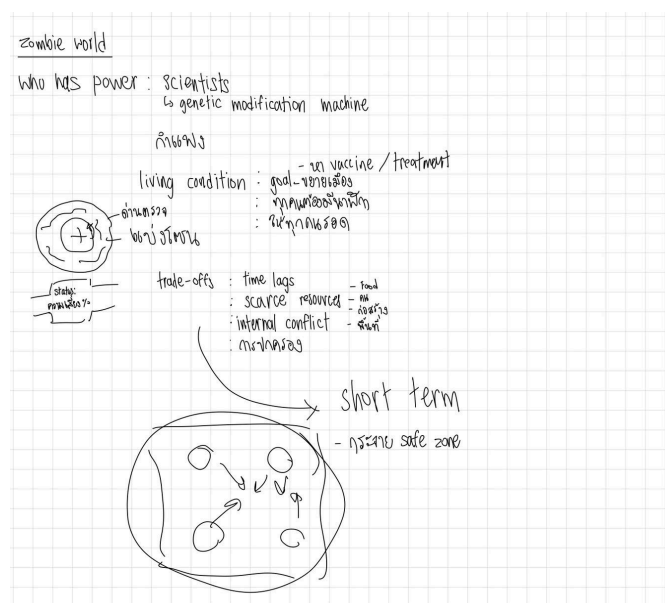

Figure 1: Brainstorming notes

Purpose and function of the design

The purpose of the design is to safely protect the remaining human population by separating the afflicted and the normal people. The goal is to expand the city and find treatment of this virus so that humanity can thrive again.

The city is divided into three main sectors: the non-infected area, the infected or high-risk area, and underground laboratories. At the Y-tube section, people are carefully screened using a scanning monitor that detects nano-level contagion to prevent any cross-contamination. The non-infected area is strictly reserved for uncontaminated individuals and is secured with rigorous hygiene protocols, guards rotating every six hours, advanced robots cleaning the space hourly, and air filtration systems to maintain healthy air quality. Within this zone, a large hydraulic garden grows essential crops such as potatoes, beans, rice, and amaranth to support survival. To protect scientists who develop cures and vaccines, underground laboratories are built with enhanced security and connect both to the non-infected and high-risk areas, facilitating safe transfer of resources and test subjects. An observation tower atop the facility allows monitoring of the environment for residents' safety. The infected or high-risk area, located on the other side of the Y-tube, is under strict surveillance and reserved for those infected or potentially exposed to the virus.
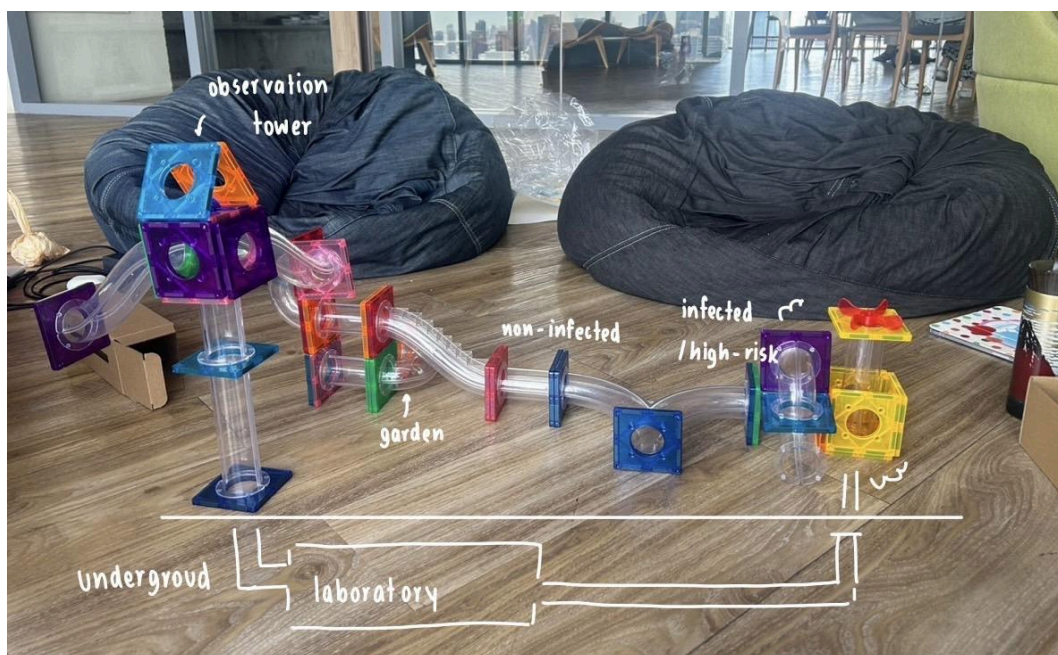

Figure 2: function of the design

Ethical questions / trade offs of the design

Despite the theoretical effectiveness of the design, it raises ethical concerns. For instance, if parents are infected and a child is left alone in the safe zone, who will care for them? This may require orphanages. There is also a debate on whether to legalize weapons for emergencies like zombie outbreaks, which could enhance safety but also increase crime due to wider access.

Additionally, several limitations and trade-offs could create long-term challenges. Resource scarcity is a major obstacle, as essential materials for construction are difficult to obtain, slowing the city's expansion. Inefficient food supply management could lead to starvation among residents. The absence of money as a functional medium reduces people's motivation to work, causing labor shortages and hindering development projects. These factors contribute to delays in the city's growth and infrastructure improvement. Furthermore, effective governance depends on a strong legal framework; without clear laws and enforcement, authorities struggle to maintain order. Social tensions may also arise within the diverse population, as some groups might receive preferential treatment, leading to discrimination and internal conflicts that threaten community cohesion.

Reflection: how the design can both oppress or empower in time of crisis

This city design can be oppressed by enforcing rigid segregation and surveillance, potentially restricting freedom and fostering fear or stigma around the infected, leading to social isolation and psychological distress. The strict controls and constant monitoring may also create a sense of paranoia and loss of privacy among residents. This could lead to potential internal crisis and protest within the city. However, it empowers by prioritizing human safety through advanced health screening and hygiene protocols, ensuring survival and preventing cross-contamination. The dedicated zones and underground labs foster collaboration for curing the virus, while secure environments protect scientists and civilians alike. Furthermore, this can increase the mental health of the surviving population and increase working capability to fight against the virus as well. Overall, it balances control with hope for humanity's recovery in a crisis.