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Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief
Ayla Yeoman

Editors
Chris Bae
Donovan Kelso
Frances Bobbitt
Harim Kim
Jess Cordes
Lydia Hayden
Ofa Soakimi
Ruby Sattler
Sarah Dreadon
Siena Thompson

Cover design
Chris Bae
Siena Thompson

EDITOR'S NOTE

We are delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of the Nomad Journal. This journal will present a collection of essays, articles, and creative works, and we are grateful for the commitment and dedication of our authors, creators, and editorial team, who worked hard to further the progress and traction of the Nomad Journal.

The fourth edition of the Nomad Journal explores the theme "Our Futures". We dive into our challenges as students and humans in this ever-changing world, trying to make the best decisions. The cover of this edition illustrates a sphere representing the globe with a peaceful image of a beautiful New Zealand landscape inside and upside down to represent the unknowns of each of our futures. This edition aims to provide readers insight, clarity, and advice for their futures.

This edition holds works from Global Studies and Area Studies students and editorial contributions. These papers discuss our positioning in the world and the future. This year, we have several area studies papers from Māori, Latin American, and European studies. We want to recognize and thank the authors who entrusted us with their work. Your contributions and support are deeply appreciated.

As this journal continues to grow, the Nomad Journal remains committed to showing the excellence of undergraduate students. We look forward to seeing the journal grow and influence the world.

Thank you for your continued support; we hope you enjoy the fourth edition of the Nomad Journal and find it inspiring.

<p style="text-align:center">- Nomad Journal Editorial Team -</p>

NOMAD

CONTENTS

UNRAVELLING THE TAPESTRY OF TOMORROW

A s it turns out, our future is unknowable—though not for lack of trying. People have spent millennia trying to predict the next chapter of our story, from wars in ancient Greece over control of the Oracle of Delphi to wars waged via textbooks over economic models and historical patterns. This, in itself, is a very human endeavour. We are naturally afraid of what we cannot know, so we take comfort in what little control we can wrest away from the jaws of time—even if that means being able to make plans knowing what the weather will be tomorrow.

A quick look back at this year's events certainly raises many questions about our future. At the time of writing, the war between Russia and Ukraine has passed its 500th day, leaving many to wonder about the future of those affected and the future of conflict in our world. February this year also saw the fifth-deadliest earthquake of this century strike Turkey and Syria. While on the West coast of Africa, Cyclone Freddy made headlines as the longest-lasting and most intense tropical cyclone ever recorded, fueling the concerns of environmentalists around the world about the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events and the implications for the future of our environment.

The World Health Organisation finally declared that COVID-19 was no longer a public health emergency in May. Although many countries had already chosen to relax or end public health restrictions, this signalled the official beginning of the future we were promised when millions worldwide went into lockdown over three years ago. Yet, we emerged to find that the world was not quite the same as when we left it. With the surge of remote work systems colliding at full force with the AI arms race, people from all walks of life strive to adapt to the 'future of work' in a post-COVID world.

Meanwhile, among all the crises and challenges of 2023, there are glimpses of humanity. In May, the EU adopted the Ljubljana-The Hague Convention, which promises to increase international cooperation in future investigations and prosecution of international crimes, such as genocide and crimes against humanity. Only a month later, the UN adopted the UN High Seas Treaty, which aims to protect marine biological diversity and was described by Greenpeace as 'the biggest conservation victory ever' (Flores, 2023). In Brazil, deforestation of the Amazon dropped by almost 70% under President Luiz Lula de Silva despite reaching record highs under Bolsonaro's previous administration. Finally, in a significant win for human rights and LGBTQI+ activists, Taiwan recently announced moves to allow same-sex marriage and joint adoption by same-sex couples.

In light of all of these global and local events, the team at Nomad decided that this year was the right time to tackle the Herculean task of exploring our future. While we regret to report that the future remains mysterious, this edition will nonetheless engage with a range of viewpoints and use a variety of lenses to address key questions about our future. Yes, the world will change, and the way those changes impact our future will look different depending on where you're standing. If you only see the bad news emerging from this year, it will be hard to hold on to any hope for the future. Similarly, if you look only to the good news and ignore the bad, you will miss the things that need to change. That is where Nomad comes in. From a unique, interdisciplinary position, this edition aims to respect all perspectives and acknowledge those voices that are excluded from traditional dialogues.

On the one hand, we recognise the importance of presenting a holistic picture of the future and examining the complex forces that shape our collective destiny. On the other hand, we also acknowledge the way that people think about the future as individuals: What will my future look like? How can I find my turangawaewae? How does my future fit in with the future of my whanau and community? We invite our readers to think about our future in new ways and to engage with the human side of academic research and publication. If you make it to the end of this journal, chances are you still will not know the future. But perhaps you might come to know yourself, or those around you, just a little bit more.

KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM
TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING

Ofa Soakimi

Preface

I am a first-generation Tongan who was born in New Zealand. I cannot speak for all Tongans or Pacific Islanders. My opinions are completely based on my values and observations made while navigating Western environments.

As with many other Pacific children and teens growing up in New Zealand, our experiences might differ greatly from those of our parents. This doesn't negate our experiences as first or even second generation New Zealand-born children, but it does highlight the difficulties we face. My biggest challenge is trying to maintain the cultural values that were instilled in me at home while figuring out how to fit in at a Western institution.

My parents migrated from the Kingdom of Tonga to New Zealand in search of better opportunities. Although Tonga is rich in resources and life is less stressful, my parents were searching for the range of occupations and the high standard of education that New Zealand offered. My parents suffered in New Zealand, working multiple jobs as well as sending their wages back to Tonga so they could provide for their families. Despite their inability to communicate confidently in English, my parents tried their best out of love for their family and the hope that their children would one day achieve better and be given more than what they could provide.

"Potopoto 'A Niumui"
(Tongan proverb)

Potopoto 'a niumui is translated as the wisdom of a young coconut tree. This proverb speaks to the wisdom and maturity that comes with time.

Growing up in New Zealand, I was appreciative of the opportunities that I was afforded but I also struggled to relate to my peers. Whilst trying to navigate the Western spaces, there were instances where I was looked down upon because I was a "fob" - a derogatory term that translates to 'fresh off the boat' and is referred to immigrants who are yet to assimilate to their host country's culture, language and behaviour and still continue with their ethnic cultures and practices. Yet, I was also labelled as a "fie palangi" by some Tongan people. This term translates to people of colour who want to be 'white' or want to be European by the way they act or think. This is the struggle that I continue to face whilst navigating my ethnic culture as well as the Western system. The more I navigated these spaces, the more I understood that it was not due to my cultural background but a "result of a western-dominant, culturally repressive system where practicing your culture meant exclusion and having a diasporic background meant living a double life."

Where to from here?

While endeavouring to maintain a balance between my Tongan and Western beliefs, I am constantly reminded of my parents' sacrifice for me. It also reminded me of the sacrifices made by other Pacific peoples in order for future generations to benefit from the increasing possibilities that New Zealand affords. It is a time where the New Zealand government is making an effort to produce equitable outcomes for Pacific peoples by providing additional resources and funding. It is also a time where many businesses are looking to be more inclusive and diverse in their hiring practices. However, I can only hope that these societal reforms are being implemented with the objective of alleviating the historical oppression that Pacific peoples were confronted with and empowering Pacific peoples to thrive in New Zealand.

With that in mind, I urge first generation people to embrace their ethnic backgrounds and to always remember that their 'differences' are what set them apart. Be authentic. Representation matters.

The Energy Crisis a 'Good' Thing?

In Pursuit of a sustainable economy: EU & Member State
Responses to the Energy Crisis and its Implications for the Future

Matthew Lei

INTRODUCTION

While the EU is still struggling to recover from the last couple of years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine brings new effects on their sustainable development goals. Food security, energy security, industrial supply chains, and environmental protection plans have faced roadblocks such as economic and supply shocks. This article will focus on the energy crisis resulting from the Russian invasion and, more importantly, the opportunity for Member States to accelerate the green transition. European integration has long been seen as secondary to national policy. In times of crisis, Member states revert to national approaches rather than a collective effort. This usually results in rapid responses that neglect the importance of long-term objectives and investments. Collective strategies represent the most credible solutions, thus the urgent need for new political narratives presenting joint efforts as the optimal approach. The energy crisis has exposed this need once again. A short analysis of the economic and environmental situation, revealing the EU dependency on Russian fossil fuels, places the Member states in a critical situation — either resort to short-term national fixes, or grasp the situation in hopes of a more resilient, sustainable future. Using Germany and France as case studies, a discussion consisting of these individual Member States' responses to the energy crisis, alongside EU responses, allows an analysis of Member State progress towards a sustainable economy compared to one another and the union. This will also provide insight into whether the actions taken were considered positive decisions for the future. What follows consists of the impact of the crisis, individual country responses, the EU response, and future implications.

IMPACTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS

The energy crisis has caused issues from the COVID-19 pandemic to resurface, most notably the energy price surge. With high energy prices fuelling an 8.5% annual inflation as of February 2023 (Carter, 2023), energy-hungry companies have faced a nearly three times higher energy bill in 2022. This is by far more prominent in countries with smaller economies.

For example, Slovalco, an aluminium smelter in Slovakia, was forced to shut down. From an outside perspective, Chen Xin states that Member States are acting in their own way resulting in an 'uncoordinated overall response', further stating that 'all the EU has done is to take emergency measures' (Smith, 2022). With energy prices already high due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's decision to stop or reduce gas exports to EU countries has effectively caused energy prices to skyrocket and price out consumers, with more than 30 million Europeans suffering from energy poverty.

As the fourth largest economy in the world, Germany is one of the countries most heavily impacted by the energy crisis. Many essential German companies have relied on cheap Russian pipeline gas and the higher gas prices threaten their long-term survival. Additionally, the German industry sector plays a vital role in their lunge towards a 'climate neutral, digital, and resilient economy' in pursuit of European and national climate targets. The energy crisis has put a 'dual pressure' on Germany; the threat of physical gas shortages, and cost pressure following price shocks in the market. Therefore, political attention towards frameworks that allow industries to continue producing locally and become less reliant on imports, while still aiming for sustainability, have drastically increased (Kyllmann, 2022). However, inflation rates are projected to reduce to 6.0% in 2023 compared to 7.9% the previous year, with hopes of a dodged recession.

Possessing a large nuclear power industry and hydroelectric fleet, France is far less reliant on Russian fossil fuels than Germany. Russian fossil fuel imports for France have been relatively steady, with just 6.3% in 2021, compared to Germany, which has been steadily treading up to 30.5%. However, the effects of the energy crisis have been highlighted for reasons unrelated to Russia. Out of 56 nuclear reactors, nearly have shut down due to corrosion issues in aging reactors, resulting in reduced output by a third. Following a long drought, hydroelectric dams have been operating at only 62% capacity (Colonna, 2022). These issues were strongly accentuated by the Russian invasion, which has caused a price surge in the energy market.

Therefore, countries facing similar crises may suffer from an uneven distribution of effects, thus emphasising the benefits of a balanced approach when policy making. The current energy crisis serves as a stark reminder of the importance of advanced sustainability, decoupling industries from Russia's energy imports in pursuit of a more resilient society.

RESPONSES

The EU has fundamentally advanced its policies in response to the energy crisis, refining their goals from just the climate to consider geopolitics, industrial competitiveness, and energy poverty. At the beginning of the Russian invasion, the EU imposed a 25% import ban on coal, effectively diminishing any chances of rebuilding an economic relationship. Thus, the EU developed RePowerEU to save energy, diversify energy supply, accelerate clean energy rollout, and invest and reform to reduce dependency on Russian energy imports. In May 2022, RePowerEU was presented as a long-term strategy for combating market discrepancies. As mentioned previously, despite many warnings, the EU has long relied on Russia as an energy exporter. Action is only now being taken due to the urgent crisis. As stated by the European Think Tanks Group (2022), the EU should 'make use of the momentum the crisis offers' to 'accelerate a green transition away from fossil energy across the continent'. This policy will strengthen economic growth, security, and climate action resilience for the EU and its Member States. To save energy, The European Commission has enhanced long-term energy efficiency measures, such as an increase from 9% to 13% of the Energy Efficiency Target under the European Green Deal (EGD). Additionally, behavioural changes and fiscal measures serve as short-term responses (European Commission, 2022). Liquid natural gas (LNG) has been the main form of diversifying supplies, alongside the EU External Energy Strategy, which aims to facilitate energy diversification through green technology research with partners. RePowerEU also addresses a massive scaling-up and speeding-up of renewable energy in power generation, industry, and infrastructure. By increasing the 2030 target for renewables from 40% to 45% under the EGD, the EU will boost independence, accelerate a green transition, and steadily reduce energy prices (European Commission, 2022).

For RePowerEU to succeed, the EU has also established short-term policies to alleviate urgent issues. Save Gas for a Safe Winter aims to reduce gas use by 15% by 31 March 2023.

To achieve this, the plan focuses on promoting non-critical gas for electricity and heating, and reducing industry and building consumption. In attempts to mitigate price inflation, the Emergency Intervention to address high energy prices implements a cap on market revenue for cheaper energy sources such as renewables, alongside solidarity contributions from the fossil industry. Profits derived from this will act as subsidiaries for affected households and commercial players (Dhand, 2023). Overall, the combination of RePowerEU and short-term policies prove to be sufficient steps toward the right path to a sustainable economy.

As one of the world's largest economies with a heavy reliance on Russian energy imports, the German response was swift and efficient. Upon breakout of the Russian invasion, the German government immediately attempted to access new sources of gas supply to combat energy price inflation. However, it was not until September 2022 that the government decided to dampen the effects of inflation by introducing the 'gas price break' (Weber, et al., 2023). In the years leading up to the war, Germany was presented with many opportunities to invest in green infrastructure and pioneer the green transition; however, the alternative budget was emphasised. Now, on the brink of collapse, Germany has chosen to search for alternatives. The 'gas price break' is a method to 'cap the price of households' basic consumption by fiscal means while leaving market prices to govern marginal consumption' (Weber, et al., 2023). This method is, therefore, a short-term means to buy time for economic transformations. Germany has taken a first step, announcing an increase in public support for energy efficiency in buildings from €8 to €14 billion, with total commitments reaching €9.6 billion between January and July 2022. Consequently, the country has been forced to resort to old methods, postponing its exit from nuclear energy by three months by keeping its three remaining plants functional until April 2023. Coal units that have been retired have also been temporarily restored. In attempts to diversify the country's energy supply, the construction of five LNG terminals has begun, with one already completed.

The French situation is much different to that of Germany, as internal issues form the root of the energy crisis, with the Russian invasion as an unexpected addition. Due to its already existing electricity crisis, France has been one of the first EU member states to implement an 'energy tariff shield', blocking regulated tariffs for electricity and gas (Rudinger, 2023).

Over 2022, the tariff shield has proven to be relatively successful from an economic standpoint. However, it does not efficiently address social justice and environmental sustainability factors. The tariff shield guarantees the same price level for all, regardless of individual income or consumption. Wealthier households have reported consuming nearly twice as much energy as poorer households, therefore receiving nearly twice the subsidy. Rudinger (2023) states that the narrative of the energy crisis, illustrating the EU's addition to cheap and imported fossil fuels, is a 'catalyst' to an accelerated green transition, which may not necessarily be true. Instead, it requires a 'balanced' approach between measures aimed at the social and economic urgencies of the crisis and measures aimed at an accelerated green transition. However, in the French case, they seemed to have missed the opportunity to stimulate investment to construct economic resilience. There has been no reinforcement of the 2030 renewable energy target and no additional funding for renewable sources.

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE?

The Russian invasion has undoubtedly had a profound effect across the continent, with the EU and its Member States scrambling to develop approaches that not only accomplish national goals but EU goals. As the European Commission president, Ursula Von der Leyen, quotes, "the more independent we become in Europe, the more independent we become from Russia."

The ultimate aim is an interconnected European market for clean energy. In response to the crisis, the EU has sufficiently developed a plan to advance the European Green Deal and the green transition. However the question remains whether RePowerEU could be realistic enough to reach 2030 goals. If the four main goals succeed, the plan should see Europe end its reliance on Russian energy by 2027, all the while accelerating the green transition (Tagliapietra, 2022). The Commission's estimate of a €210 billion investment between now and 2027 would be accompanied by a €100 billion return per year of fossil-fuel imports. In short, it would be a significant investment for a structural cost reduction. In theory, the plan would be essential to steer the EU out of the current crisis and any future crises. However, the success of the four goals relies on individual Member States and their coordination to propose suitable national measures. As shown by Germany and France, every Member State faces internal issues that determine their actions; consequently, it can be a difficult feat to achieve.

It is ultimately up to individual countries to strike a balance between alleviating urgent market discrepancies and accelerating the green transition to ensure resilience from future crises. For example, the French 'tariff shield' proved successful at only one of the policy 'trilemma' of economic, social, and environmental, and even that is not sustainable. In the face of crisis, countries tend to zone in on alleviating current struggles, where Rudinger (2023) best puts it, "...the tendency of policymakers to follow the lure of short term, 'quick and dirty' measures in the face of urgency, losing track of any long-term objectives and associated investment needs, even though they represent the most credible solutions to the crisis itself." Although facing internal struggles, Germany has placed some investments in energy efficiency sectors. In Germany, the 'price break' can only buy time for that urgently needed economic transformation to a greener industrial state. The success of the 'price break' will ultimately rely on whether the bought time was used to transform the economy's structure. Although investments have been made, much more is needed.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of German and French responses in relation to the EU response has provided valuable insight into the union's current progress and future implications. The Russian invasion arrived at a unique date which has caused or exacerbated crises in individual countries and their energy markets. The resulting inflation has placed these countries at a crossroad, where the opportunity to accelerate a green economic transition plays a significant role in policymaking. The Commission plan, RePowerEU, lays out a detailed plan with all the independence rules. However, it relies on individual Member States to conceive and deliver the goals. Countries need to take risks to embrace the opportunity of a more resilient society. Although there are numerous other cases, Germany and France serve as stark examples of differing internal conflicts, economic situations, and national thinking. In short, the current crisis and future crises will only be solved if countries are willing to take the next step in a sustainable future.

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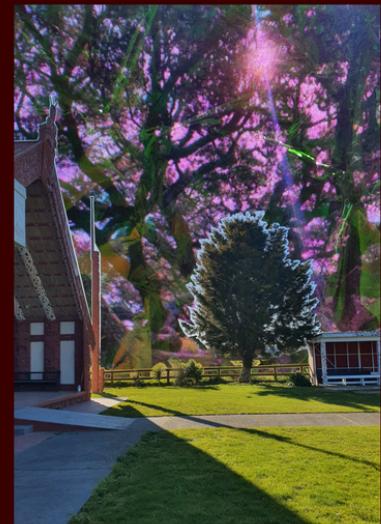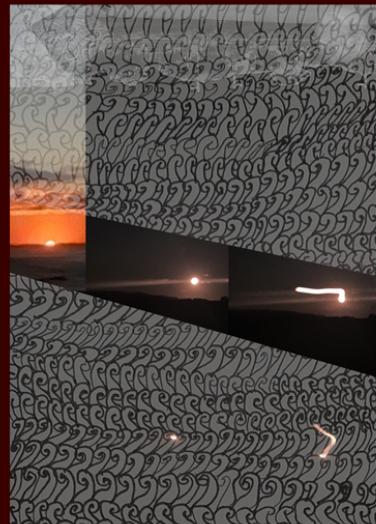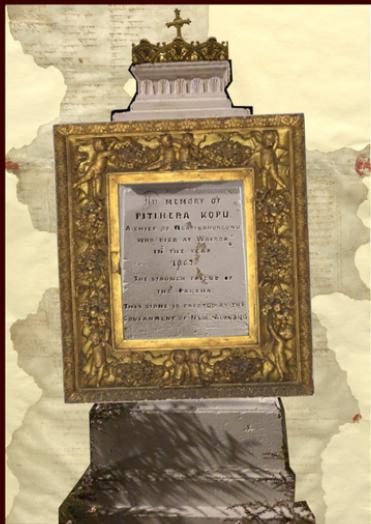
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TE KORE, TE PŌ, TE AO MĀRAMA

Kahlil Grocott

"These pieces were inspired by a recent trip to my tūrangawaewae of Wairoa in Te Matau-a-Māui, Hawkes Bay. They are each based on a different photograph from my time there and reflect the eternal cycle of Te Kore, Te Pō, and Te Ao Mārama present in the tāngata and whenua of these lands."

Future of Technology

Harim Kim, Donovan Kelso

No matter which generation you look at, the technology of the day continues to define each new era. The way we work, the way we relax, the way that we connect with other people - new technologies are constantly being woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. As many of us move towards the end of university and a turning point in our lives, it becomes increasingly important to think about the future and see ourselves as part of a bigger picture. What do new technologies mean for me, my whānau, and my community? How can we use technology to solve problems rather than create them? These are just some of the questions we will all need to answer as technology revolutionises the world. This article looks at four key spaces that will be affected by critical technological trends and highlights two emerging technologies that are likely to impact our future.

Future of Work

The job market of the future will undergo significant changes with the rise of automation and artificial intelligence (AI). While many of today's tasks will be automated, new opportunities and demand for specialised skills will emerge. According to a report by the World Economic Forum (2020), we will soon see a massive shift in job roles and skill requirements. To stay relevant in the workforce, people must adapt by embracing lifelong learning and developing a growth mindset. Continuous upskilling and reskilling will be crucial to keep pace with technological advancements and fill emerging roles that require creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence (World Economic Forum, 2018).

Moreover, the demand for jobs that require human interaction, empathy, and complex decision-making is expected to increase. New opportunities may arise in data science, cybersecurity, robotics, AI development, and industries related to renewable energy, healthcare, and sustainable technologies (World Economic Forum, 2020). Collaborating with intelligent machines and leveraging their capabilities will be key for individuals to thrive in the future job market. While automation and AI may reshape traditional job roles, they will also pave the way for exciting prospects and the potential for more fulfilling, innovative, and intellectually stimulating work.

Future of Education

With the increasing prevalence of AI technologies such as Chat GPT in classrooms, the role of teachers in the future will see a dramatic shift. According to a report by the World Economic Forum (2018), teachers will transition from mere knowledge providers to facilitators of learning, mentors, and guides in a technology-enhanced educational environment. They will leverage AI tools to personalise instruction, adapt to individual student needs, and provide real-time feedback (Darling-Hammond, et al., 2014). Education will transform itself to better prepare students for a rapidly changing world. The National Education Technology Plan (U.S. Department of Education, 2017) highlights the importance of teaching critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration — skills AI cannot easily replicate. Education will increasingly emphasise interdisciplinary learning, technology literacy, and digital citizenship (Blikstein, 2016). Project-based learning, experiential learning, and hands-on activities will gain prominence to foster practical skills and real-world applications (Bell, T & Bell, P., 2017). Lifelong learning will become integral part to education, emphasising continuous upskilling and reskilling to adapt to evolving technological advancements (UNESCO, 2020). In essence, the future of education will be characterised by a harmonious integration of AI and teacher-guided instruction, aiming to cultivate critical thinkers and lifelong learners capable of navigating a dynamic and interconnected world.

Future of Healthcare

In a future where AI technology is integrated into every hospital and clinic, the healthcare industry could witness a significant impact, particularly in personalised care. Technology like today's Chat GPT could empower doctors and nurses to provide tailored and individualised recommendations, treatment plans, and health education to their patients (Blease et al., 2021; Hoque et al., 2020). By leveraging advanced conversational AI systems, healthcare professionals could improve patient engagement and satisfaction while optimising their clinical decision-making processes. This technology has the potential to streamline administrative tasks, enhance the accuracy and efficiency of diagnoses, and support healthcare providers in delivering more personalised and efficient care (Abd-Alrazaq et al., 2020). However, implementing AI technology on a large scale may also bring forth certain challenges. Data privacy, security, and the ethical use of patient information must be addressed to ensure patient confidentiality and trust (Gomes et al., 2021). Healthcare professionals need adequate training to effectively integrate and utilise Chat GPT technology within their workflows (Blease et al., 2021). Moreover, striking the right balance between technology-driven care and maintaining the human touch in healthcare would be essential. Collaborative efforts involving regulatory bodies, healthcare providers, and technology developers would be required to navigate these challenges and ensure the responsible and effective implementation of Chat GPT technology in the healthcare industry.

Future of Mental Health Services

Technology can potentially enhance mental health through teletherapy and various resources, but it also introduces new challenges that must be addressed for its healthy and responsible use. Society must adapt by fostering digital literacy and promoting responsible online behaviour. Education and awareness programs can equip individuals with the necessary skills to navigate digital spaces safely and discern reliable sources of information. Policies and regulations should be established to address cyberbullying, online harassment, and personal data protection. Mental health professionals can play a crucial role by discussing healthy technology use and addressing the potential risks and benefits with their clients. Furthermore, technology companies are responsible for designing platforms and applications that prioritise user well-being, incorporating features that encourage healthy engagement and limit addictive behaviours. Collaboration between stakeholders, including government, educational institutions, mental health professionals, and technology companies, is vital to ensure that technology supports mental health and mitigates potential risks.

Technology Spotlight: Extended Reality

Another technological trend that is likely to have significant impacts on our future is extended reality (XR). Extended reality is a broad term for "any sort of technology that alters reality by adding digital elements to the physical or real-world environment" (Tremosa, 2023, What is Extended Reality section, para. 1___). Extended reality technologies include augmented reality (AR), mixed reality (MR), and virtual reality (VR). Augmented reality describes technology that overlays digital elements onto the natural/physical environment but with no interaction between the two. Mixed reality also overlaps digital elements in the real world but enables interaction with natural and digital elements. Finally, virtual reality describes any technology that creates an entirely digital environment.

People's imaginations only limit the future implications of XR technology. Today's most common association with XR is with the entertainment industry. XR is already being developed to enhance gaming experiences, concerts, sports games, or other live show events. However, XR technology has far more potential than simply revolutionising the way we play. Extended reality technologies are already being used in medical environments, such as AccuVein, which superimposes the heat signature of a patient's veins on top of their skin, increasing the success rate of injections by 350%. More and more businesses are investigating the feasibility of hosting professional training, client meetings, or even transferring the entire office setting into a digital environment. As we move into the future, XR technology will likely become more and more mainstream, transforming how we interact in professional, educational, and even social contexts.

Technology Spotlight: Autonomous Vehicles

A final piece of technology that bears mentioning is autonomous vehicles (AVs), more commonly known as self-driving cars. The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) 'Levels of Autonomous Driving' measures the degree of autonomy a self-driving system displays and sets a maximum level of five for a fully autonomous vehicle (where no driver input is required). The first approved SAE Level Three system was developed and released by Mercedes in 2022, representing the peak of self-driving technology available today. Most other currently available options operate at SAE Level Two, including Tesla, Ford, BMW, Nissan, and Volkswagen.

Looking at the future implications of AV technology, proponents of self-driving systems generally claim two significant benefits: first, AVs will reduce driver error and increase road safety; second, AVs will bring more equitable outcomes in urban planning and transport (Joshi, 2022). These equitable outcomes might include more accessible transport options for elderly and disabled people and people in areas with less access to public transport. Furthermore, AVs will lessen the burden of a long commute, reducing the need to live close to one's workplace and potentially mitigating disparities in economic opportunities between wealthy and poor areas.

In contrast, critics of AV technology argue that these benefits will only be seen if self-driving cars are made available to most of the population and criticise the high costs of current AV models. There is also strong opposition from the driving service and delivery industries, where there is widespread fear of job loss and redundancies. Ultimately, this encounters the issue faced by most important technological developments, where we must figure out how to pass on the benefits to everybody rather than the elite few.

Conclusion

As with any technological advancement, the equitable distribution of benefits to all members of society is a crucial consideration. It requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, educational institutions, professionals, and technology developers. By addressing ethical concerns, fostering digital literacy, and promoting responsible use, we can harness the power of technology to create a better future for individuals, families, and communities. Ultimately, the responsible and inclusive integration of technology will enable us to solve problems, enhance our lives, and navigate tomorrow's dynamic and interconnected world. Indeed, we are bound to be surpassed by future generations who comprehend these emerging technologies better than we do. Nevertheless, our responsibility lies in guaranteeing that our society never advances beyond our ability to show compassion and support for one another. By doing so, we delay a situation in which, as Einstein apprehensively envisioned, "our technology surpasses our humanity."

'He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata he tangata he tangata!'
What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people!"
- **Māori Proverb**

EMPOWERING THE STUDENT VOICE IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY

Frances Bobbitt

Aotearoa New Zealand is undergoing a cost of living crisis. Global events such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shaped global markets and capital. The impacts are intimately felt here in our corner of the Pacific, where many people are struggling to meet their basic needs. Students are one of these groups of people. The environment in which students live today is unlike anything we have seen before. While we are resilient and adaptable, it takes a toll on our mental health and our ability to succeed in a demandingly capitalist society. In 2022, the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand noticed our struggle and conducted a people's inquiry into student wellbeing (The Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand et al., 2022). This inquiry exposed the harsh reality that students experience; one that can be described as 'student poverty'. Every day, we make decisions forcing us to put our education second. Rather than attending lectures or finishing an assignment, many students must pick up an extra shift at work to have enough money to put food on our plates. Yet, because we are considered young and resilient, this way of life has 'normalised' our struggles, preventing them from being taken seriously. What does it take for our voices to be heard?

CAPITALISM AND THE MARKETISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Della Porta et al. (2020) highlight that to understand better the struggles felt by students, we must look at the interrelationship between the market and the state and how their policies influence student life. Capitalism is structured around economic growth rather than social, cultural, and environmental prosperity. Capitalism has built the foundations in which students live, transforming our institutions from a place of knowledge production to capital production. Governments have followed this market-based model through the progressive implementation of neoliberal policies. To generate more significant revenue, governments have reduced funding in tertiary education by placing the responsibility to gain higher education on individuals rather than the state.

This idea is influenced by the Chicago Boys School of thought, which believes "Individuals, not the state, should take responsibility for repeatedly investing in their education and skills to to sustain and improve their position in a fast-changing competitive and global labour market" (Wright & Shore, 2017, p. 9). Materially, this has turned student grants into student loans and significant increases in student fees. While these policies are justified because those who hold a degree are meant to gain more financially, Write and Shore's research discovered that "New Zealand, however, which has the seventh-highest university fees among developed countries, the OECD survey found that the value of a university degree in terms of earning power is the lowest in the world" (Wright & Shore, 2017, p. 10). Education is no longer seen as a right accessed by anyone but a privilege enjoyed by those who can afford it. The impacts of these political decisions have disrupted what it means to be a student today, and the impacts are not only felt here in Aotearoa New Zealand, but worldwide. In 2022, we saw the beginning of a student and tertiary workers movement in Aotearoa New Zealand, that attempted to hold decision makers accountable (RNZ, 2023). Students and lecturers at the University of Auckland protested for better pay as the multimillion-dollar institution failed to raise salaries to beat inflation. Students' grades were withheld, disrupting and causing stress to our 'world-class' education.

Other social movements around the world have experienced similar issues. Rios-Jara (n.d.) demonstrates that the marketisation of education in Chile occurred in 1980 following the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. During this time, the higher education system became decentralised, reducing grants and providing institutions with financial autonomy by implementing tuition fees for students. As institutions became privatised, student debt increased to the point where it would take beyond their lifetimes to pay back. In response, the Chilean Student movement rose against the state to oppose neoliberal policies through public demonstrations and protests. In the UK, the 1987 Education Reform Act changed higher education so that it became a semi-opened market system by implementing tuition fees, loans, and granting access to new for-profit providers (Rios-Jara, n.d.). Essentially, the state reduced its role in higher education by transferring the costs and responsibility of education from citizens to students (Rios-Jara, n.d.). The economic impact of this decision meant that students paid directly to private institutions, causing the state and citizens to lose sovereignty over education (Rios-Jara, n.d.). These student movements criticised the system and how the rise in fees and debt changed the dynamic of student life. Ultimately, the student movements aimed to establish equal access to education, reduce student debt, and increase public investment in both students and workers in tertiary education, hoping to achieve a more equitable education for all.

CONCLUSION

Student movements challenge the way institutions are governed and organised to demand more equitable and accessible education for all. The struggles students face here in Aotearoa New Zealand, are also felt in other places around the world where the desire for capital is valued more than social prosperity. However, through protest and collective action, change can be implemented to advance student interests and improve student life. To fulfil this vision, university and student communities must build stronger partnerships and work together to address these challenges in a way that holds our institutions accountable and critiques neoliberal policies. This way, we can ensure the future of higher education can be enjoyed and accessed by all.

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TE MANA O TE WAI

ARWYN WHAANGA

Kia ora tātou
Ko Arwyn Whaanga tōku ingoa
Nō Taranaki ahau

To me the best learning comes from being interactive, hands-on and expressive, so being given the space to do this in a creative work assignment in Māori 230: Te Ao Hurihuri / Te Tiriti o Waitangi, meant a lot to me :)

In this short film I aimed to capture the essence of the 'physical' colonisation that Aotearoa endures. The colonisation of nature and its processes through the likes of urbanisation and reductionist thinking. While I highlight the Waihorotiu stream that flows under Queen St from Myers Park to the harbour, the silencing of te taiao is a widespread problem.

If you didn't know that the ancient Waihorotiu awa flows in a piped prison under Queen St, don't worry. I was only introduced to Waihorotiu and the concept 'Te Mana o Te Wai' last year by Professor Gary Brierley in the class GEOG 101. Gary emphasised the need for dominant societies to respect the natural processes of our environments, to learn to live with nature rather than try to control it, and to acknowledge our equal place within nature. For him, te mana o te wai means to let the voice of the awa sing loud and be heard, to protect the rights of awa and respect the will of the water to flow where it wants, when it wants. It means to uplift ancient streams from their piped prisons and reconnect awa back to their ancient flood plains.

Throughout this piece I wanted to focus on the parallels between what was and what is now Waihorotiu in order to show how water has been regarded by urbanisation. Cities do not want water to be seen. As soon as it falls onto the roofs of buildings or the road it is immediately channelled towards drains and pipes, and when systems get overloaded like how we've seen recently, water can go from a life giver to a life destroyer just like that.

Flooding events while destructive to human infrastructure can also represent the mana of natural systems to reclaim their ancestral homes from the jaws of urbanisation. Like tāngata whenua and many other indigenous peoples, the colonisation of society and the colonisation of land is synonymous. Because of this, the decolonisation of social systems must be paired with the decolonisation of natural systems, through things like greater recognition and respect for te mana o te wai.

QR code to my video:

Link to video:
https://youtu.be/iJnsRqvyJfc

Stills from video:

TE MANA O TE WAI

The Inseparability of Global from Hyperlocal

Francesca Long

BGlobalSt/BCom: International Relations & Business, Asian Studies, Korean, Japanese

Thesis Statement & Introduction
In this era of globalisation, hyperlocal activities are inseparable from global changes.

With rising technology and the flow of people and knowledge across borders, globalisation has become the new norm. Our world's economy, politics, and environment have become increasingly interconnected (Nadrag & Bala, 2014). Disasters and innovations no longer impact hyperlocal communities in isolation but have become global phenomena. It is evident that complete de-globalisation is unachievable, with our subconscious reliance on such interconnectedness (Williamson, 2021). Alternatively, as Williamson states, we must understand the implications of such rapid growth and shared knowledge (2021).

Global issues can impact different spaces distinctively; such 'space' in global studies is commonly divided into local, national, regional, and global (Darian-Smith & McCarty, 2017). While 'local' refers to a particular city in a nation, 'hyperlocal' focuses on a particular neighbourhood (Safran, 2010). Each neighbourhood uniquely comprises different people and businesses, forming different combinations of knowledge, experiences, or subcultures that may vary from the prevalent parent-cultures (Arnold & Blackman, 2021). Therefore, the impacts of global phenomena are experienced differently by each neighbourhood, resulting in different responses. An interdisciplinary global studies approach is crucial in understanding the different factors behind particular neighbourhoods' reactions, (Darian-Smith & McCarty, 2017) and what implications this brings to the wider world. Through the success of Korea's hyperlocal-focused app– Karrot, and the hyperlocal tourist focused community of Jongno-gu, we will examine how in this era of globalisation, something hyperlocal is also inevitably global. Both case studies demonstrate how hyperlocal initiatives can be impacted by and simultaneously influence global change.

Case Study 1: Karrot

The coronavirus's (Covid-19) rapid spread in 2019 showed the world how an event occurring in another country could quickly become a global problem, impacting billions of people worldwide (Shuka, 2020).

The world faced a global health crisis, and the global economy was damaged by significant halts on global supply chains due to nationwide lockdowns (Shukla, 2020). Unlike other countries, South Korea did not implement a nationwide lockdown. Instead, utilising its experience with the SARS outbreak in 2015, South Korea's government implemented a co-existence approach with mass community testing, home isolation tracking technology, curfews for businesses, and limited gathering policies (Choi, 2020). Many Koreans, however, limited travel and avoided crowded places during this time, especially the elderly. Subsequently, consumer activity switched from offline to online. Korea's e commerce platforms saw a rise in users (Agri-Food Canada, 2022), and has become Asia's third-largest e-commerce market (Agri-Food Canada, 2022). However, due to this online switch, utilisation of face masks, and social distancing, South Koreans, like many others globally, now yearn for more face-to-face interactions, which is a fundamental need for humans (Grieco Calub, 2021).

Such background factors help explain the recent growth of Korea's most downloaded app – Karrot "the market in your neighbourhood" (Yang, 2021), which was founded by Gary and Paul Kim in 2015 (Park, 2021). Karrot operates like an online flea market, where locals of a particular community can purchase second-hand items or local fresh produce from other residents within a six-kilometre radius (Park & Kim, 2021). Karrot also acts like a bulletin board where residents can post upcoming events (Cho, 2022), share daily living videos (Park & Kim, 2021), or purchase essential local services like cleaning or education (Park, 2021). As of August 2022, Karrot has 30 million users (Cho, 2022), with more than 6,577 neighbourhoods included. In the densely populated community of Gangnam-gu, the app is used by 99.1% of residents aged 20–64 (Park & Kim, 2021).

Karrot uses a hyperlocal business model by combining offline and online business systems to shorten wait times, increasing hyperlocal customer satisfaction (Khatri & Ranjan, 2020). Karrot's e-commerce app system allows offline products to be promoted and sold online, making communication and purchasing processes much faster and convenient for locals. This model has found success, especially in South Korea, as it has a 'Ppali, Ppali' lifestyle,

where everything must be fast and efficient (Park, 2022). Furthermore, South Korea's densely populated neighbourhood structures allow for larger pools of users, creating a variety of content and a heightened need to keep updated with the latest hyperlocal news (Cho, 2022).

However, Karrot uniquely adds an offline element where hyperlocal residents must collect their purchases in person from their local seller (Yang, 2021). Instead of finding this inconvenient, Koreans have gladly embraced it, because it adds a crucial element of in person social interaction and community bonding which many lacked during Covid-19 (Park, 2021). This requirement has allowed Koreans to feel a sense of belonging as they become more involved and create new community friendships (Park, 2021). Such belonging has enabled residents to feel comfort, especially when many have reported feeling heightened loneliness, causing poor mental health during and post-pandemic (Lee et al., 2021).

Karrot has helped freely promote and connect independent local shop owners and their products with residents online, allowing residents to support community businesses which were negatively impacted by Covid-19. This urge to support neighbourhood businesses, instead of large conglomerates, is further driven by growing distrust towards chaebols due to their recent corruption and illegal influence on the South Korea's politics (Rim & Dong, 2018). Residents now prefer building stronger bonds with hyperlocal business owners, adding a sense of personalisation to shopping (Park & Kim, 2021). This amplifies Karrot's decision to not include professional retailers on their platform (Cho, 2022).

Furthermore, Karrot's success in using a hyperlocal model comes from South Korea's deeply rooted face-saving culture, where preserving your family's honour in public is vital (Lee, 1999), driving an obsession with promoting family reputation within tight-knit communities (Cho, 2022). It acts as a unique cultural governance, allowing Karrot's transactions to be trusted (Cho, 2022). With the growing global awareness towards climate change, many residents have seized the opportunity to give their unneeded items to other residents for free instead of throwing them away, creating a sense of community-based recycling while also increasing the resident's reputation of being a 'global citizen' and 'community contributor' (Cho, 2020).

The global pandemic has increased Karrot users due to increased hyperlocal activity. However, such an app modelled around the hyperlocal is also influencing global trends. Businesses have seen opportunities to expand globally with the success of Karrot, and the growing inclusion of e-commerce in hyperlocal activities worldwide. Karrot has already raised significant funds to expand overseas (Park, 2021). However, their success in South Korea may not necessarily be replicated in other countries, as Karrot's success is attributed to the various underlying cultural, political, social, and geographical factors unique to its hyperlocal communities. Therefore, understanding other countries' hyperlocal communities is crucial for businesses aiming to expand globally using a similar hyperlocal-focused model (Peng, 2015).

Case Study 2: Jongno-gu

With the growth of technology and globalisation, tourism has become more accessible worldwide (Sohn et at., 2021). However, Covid-19's rapid spread caused many countries to close their borders, halting international travel (Sohn et al., 2021). Though South Korea did not close its borders, other countries' policies drastically impacted its tourism industry. In 2020, South Korea's tourism sector fell by 38% (World Travel & Tourism Council, 2022). Consumer behaviour worldwide also changed, with streaming services, like Netflix, becoming increasingly popular (Rahman & Arif, 2021). In 2022, Netflix had over 230.75 million subscribers (Stoll, 2023) from over 190 countries (Park et al., 2022). As a result, Korean related media saw a surge in popularity, known as the new Hallyu (K-wave) (Park et al., 2022). K-beauty, K-entertainment, and K-cuisine have become world famous with the help of stronger global media collaborations (Park et al., 2022). Through the inspiration of media, and the growing desire to travel post-pandemic, South Korea has seen a surge in tourism in 2022-2023, with an estimated growth of 4.8% (World Travel & Tourism Council, 2022).

Cho Yonsoon is an elderly Korean lady who owns Gohyang Kalguksu, a Korean noodle stall in Korea's traditional Gwangjang Market. Due to intense competition and the decline in international and domestic consumers caused by Covid-19 restrictions, Yonsoon struggled to keep up with rent and pay back her family's debt (KoreaTravelPost, 2023). However, her inspirational story was captured by Netflix's popular docuseries Street Food.

Through such media exposure, her store has seen a dramatic increase in tourist consumers wanting to experience her Netflix-famous noodles (KoreaTravelPost, 2023). Gwangjang market is located in the famous tourist district of Jongno-gu. With this increased yearning for Korean cross-cultural experiences caused by direct and indirect promotion from various mass media (Jang & Park, 2020), Jongno-gu has faced a rise in gastronomic tourism (Yeon, 2017), as it is a unique hyperlocal community where people can experience South Korea's history, modernity (Jung et al., 2020), food and culture all at the same time (Yeon, 2017). Globalisation has caused an unprecedented rise in media consumption, and its powerful influence today has brought about various benefits to this hyperlocal community, but it has also caused 'over tourism' (Jang & Park, 2020).

Jongno-gu's residents have financially benefitted from the rise of tourism. Cho Yonsoon being an example, whose store now has the longest queues in the market, with wait times up to two hours (Ck Travels, 2022). Mrs Cho's rise in income helped her pay off her family debt and increased rent (KoreaTravelPost, 2023). Wanting to get a share in this booming industry, businesses and investors, such as hotels and tourist companies, continue to seize opportunities to relocate to Jongno-gu (Seo et al., 2021). As a result, hyperlocal residents experience a higher quality of life with increased wages and employment (Seo et al., 2021). South Korea's government has also recognised the importance of Jongno-gu in the tourism industry. It has provided financial support to owners of Hanok (traditional Korean styled) houses in Bukcheon village to renovate and preserve their traditional houses (Germier-Hamel, 2018). Such preservation of cultural, historical, and natural sites has led to better long-term living standards for locals.

However, media-driven tourism has brought uncontrollable waves of tourists (Seo et al., 2021). Over tourism has caused overcrowding in Jongno-gu (Jang & Park, 2020), causing severe traffic congestion leading to air pollution, excessive noise, littering (Germier-Hamel, 2018) and crime (Seo et al., 2021). These environmental and social problems have severely strained Jongno-gu's infrastructure, causing a decrease in the quality of life for residents (Seo et al., 2021). Residents' cost of living has also risen due to tourist-based pricings (Seo et al., 2021). The most prevalent disadvantage is tourism gentrification. The benefits of increased tourism have increased Jongno-gu's property values (Jung et al., 2020), and the government aims to turn Jongno-gu into a commercial district, forcing original middle-class residents to move elsewhere where rent is cheaper (Jung et al., 2020).

This has become stressful (Jung et al., 2020) for residents who have lived in Jongno-gu for generations and have developed a psychological attachment to their traditional houses and unique community (Seo et al., 2021). The rise in tourism has caused a 14% decline in residents in Bukcheon village over five years (Germier-Hamel, 2018). There are also increased invasions of residents' privacy, owner-tenant conflicts, and loss of community subcultures (Jung et al., 2020), causing many residents to become exceedingly unhappy (Seo et al., 2021).

Nevertheless, Jongno-gu, as a hyperlocal community, can also bring global changes. The problem of over tourism has urged many Jongno-gu residents to protest against such issues and safeguard their properties from tourism gentrification (Jung et al., 2020). Such movements have caused South Korea's government to consult with hyperlocal residents regarding ways to promote more sustainable and fair tourism. It has placed South Korea at the forefront of advocacy towards more sustainable tourism, partnering with other countries in their global campaign "Fair Travel Living Together" to raise awareness of problematic over tourism caused by mass media, which many other hyperlocal communities also face (Germier-Hamel, 2018). This demonstrates that through sharing their unique experiences, hyperlocal residents' experiences can also bring global change.

Conclusion & Limitation

The case studies of both Karrot and Jongno-gu have displayed how hyperlocal activities can *equally* be impacted by global disasters *and* influence global change, further proving that in today's globalised era, hyperlocal is inseparable from global. People should no longer be ignorant in thinking that events that occur in one part of the world will be isolated. We must change from being reactive to global changes to being active by continuously learning from global trends to prevent similar catastrophes from impacting our own hyperlocal communities. Additionally, we should learn to seize global opportunities to bring about hyperlocal growth, and vice versa.

However, I acknowledge that there are limitations to my arguments that are based on academic literature and first-person records, such as blogs or interviews available online. I acknowledge biases that may come from my positionality as someone who does not live in South Korea or is Korean. Instead, my reasoning comes from a third-party perspective, where there may be other factors that I may not have

included or be able to fully understand. Nonetheless, my arguments come from a position where I have also experienced the impacts such global phenomena have brought on a hyperlocal level. My interest in Korea's society and Korea's growth in popularity inspired me to examine how the same global phenomena have also impacted South Korea's hyperlocal communities, and how such hyperlocal communities have influenced the world. In the future, further studies from hyperlocal residents in South Korea would contribute new valuable perspectives to this topic.

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SOME Q&A'S FOR GOING ON EXCHANGE

Ayla Yeoman, Chris Bae, Jess Cordes, Lydia Hayden

Planning and applying to go on an exchange can be a very daunting task and there is always uncertainty when you are on your exchange. If you are looking at going on an exchange here are what past students had to say about their experience.

Where should I go?

We asked our interviewees how they decided on the country they visited and if there were any courses that they would recommend to students wanting to go on exchange. Bonnie, Emila, and Nur went to Taiwan, and this is what they said.

- Bonnie went to Taiwan National Cheng Kung University. She said, "I would 100% recommend applying to the Taiwan study abroad programme; all courses are organised by the host university. They include language courses and cultural classes, which are all very interesting and entertaining".

- Emila also went to Taiwan National Cheng Kung University. She said, "We were studying in the Chinese Language Centre where we had small group language classes every day as well as cultural classes and one-on-one lessons with tutors".

- Nur went to Taiwan and the National Cheng Kung University, where she completed Chinese language and cultural courses. She said it is "really good to immerse yourself, learn more about the culture and travel. Learning and travelling is a good combo".

Caitlin went to Mexico, Selena went to Spain, and Josh went to Chile to immerse themselves in Latin American culture and practice their Spanish fluency.

- Caitlin went to Mexico and plans to attend the University of Granada in Spain for semester two. "I highly recommend Tec de Monterrey's iWinter or iSummer programme. It doesn't matter if you've never learned about International Business because they cover everything. Tec organises heaps of company visits so that by the time you get to the end of your trip, you may come to dread (in a loving way) the words "business casual" or "group photo". The people are super lovely, and the course allows for a range of perspectives to be taught, as there are multiple teachers who will come in and lecture you".

- Selena went to the University of Salamanca in Spain. Selena completed the SPAN377 paper. "I only did the language paper for the study abroad as it was for summer school. It is such an immersive and fast way to learn Spanish".

- Josh went to Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Josh completed the Cine Queer; Vivienda y Barrio; Antropología del Parentesco y Género; and Sociología Digital courses and would recommend them all.

Fiona went to Japan, and Kat went to Korea.

- Fiona went to Japan at Keio University. Fiona did courses on Education in East Asian Societies, comparing and contrasting different societies and their education systems. She said it was "really interesting to hear about ideas from people around the world".

- Kat attended Korea University in Seoul and completed the 377/378 paper. Kat said, "Any Korean students studying Korean, I really recommend going on this course; it is a truly great experience… second-generation Korean students who want to strengthen their language and their identity, doing this course is a great way to do it".

Why should I go?

Our interviewees were asked why they went on exchange. They were asked what motivated them to travel during university and what benefits it gave them. They said:

- "I was extremely eager to travel to a new country and discover a new culture. I also really wanted to immerse myself in a Chinese-speaking environment to improve my language skills, and this exchange programme was an ideal opportunity to do it all!"

  – Bonnie

- "I went to Mexico because of the amazing opportunity I got through the PMSLA scholarship. However, after having been on it, it was a super awesome experience and gave me experience in travelling overseas without my family. I could also fit it into my degree!

  – Caitlin

- "I've always wanted to study abroad to improve my language abilities and immerse myself in new culture, food, and social norms. To also see the world for myself rather than textbooks and movies!"

  – Selena

- "You'll never have such a supported time to travel in your life". He discussed how an exchange experience boosts your CV, is a fun experience, can be a part of your degree, is a vacation, and is easier to travel now rather than after graduation.

  – Josh

- It is "a way to get out of your comfort zone, it's a good chance to push yourself and discover what you can do".

  – Nur

How do I prepare?

When deciding whether to go on an exchange or not, you always wonder what it will be like from the highs to the lows and what others who have been on an exchange would recommend doing to get the most out of studying abroad. We next asked the interviewees for a first-hand recount of their experiences, recommendations, and what they would do differently:

For those looking at the Prime Ministers Scholarship language immersion programme in Taiwan, Bonnie, Nur, and Emilia have all had the chance to go to Tainan – here's what they said:

- "I got injured very early on during my trip and one of my favourite experiences was going alone to the local doctor who practiced Chinese traditional medicine with his wife. We met up a few times a week and I got to practice my language skills and learn about the local practices first-hand."

  – Bonnie

- "Practice traditional characters! We knew that Taiwan used traditional characters (as opposed to simplified which I had learnt) however I wish I had familiarised myself with a few of the most common, so I wasn't so shocked when I arrived"

  – Emilia

- "It will be hard, be prepared for a lot of homework, be prepared for discomfort but definitely a worthwhile experience!"

<div align="right">– Nur</div>

Caitlin travelled to Mexico and one of her most memorable experiences was travelling from Queretaro to San Miguel:

- "It's quite a touristy town, and a lot of Americans (gringos) retire there. But when we went, we unknowingly stumbled upon their Independence Day parade! There were military everywhere (which was kind of freaky at first because we'd been told to stay away from them) but in the end the atmosphere was so much fun, and I really got the chance to make friendships with some of the students from around the world who were also on the trip".

If you are looking at going to Spain like Selena or Chile like Josh, here's what they have to say about their semester abroad.

- "Doing a presentation in Spanish on the consequences of Emotional Artificial intelligence in front of my Sociology class. My whole Spanish-learning career had been preparing me for that moment!!"

<div align="right">– Josh</div>

- "The day it snowed. We were sitting in class and suddenly my teacher stopped talking and ran to the window. We didn't expect to see snow as it was much warmer in Salamanca than in other parts of Spain. After school, my friend, and I decided to climb the Cathedral of Salamanca and the view was stunning. It was the most magical experience."

<div align="right">– Selena</div>

- "Take plenty of pineapple lumps, Chileans love them!"

<div align="right">– Josh</div>

Fiona visited Japan for her exchange and her favourite experience was "meeting people from all around the world, experience different campus experiences and travel!" She also recommends making Google Maps your best friend when navigating the Tokyo train system.

Kat travelled to Seoul, South Korea for her semester abroad. One of Kat's main takeaways is that the experience is what you make of it. Her cohort all had the same classes, but their experiences varied, some went to K-pop events, etc. Everyone made it their own.

- "I also loved my classmates and teachers. The environment was so cool."

Here are some extra tips to think about when on your exchange:

- "Something always goes wrong – it's travelling, and I wouldn't change anything for the world."

  – Josh

- "Be careful of the street food! I would not eat any guacamole that's been lying around on a table."

  – Caitlin

- "My best advice is to persevere and know that sometimes adaptation takes time, but it is the most rewarding experience."

  – Bonnie

- "Check your train tickets! One of the mistakes I found was some trains had specific seating arrangements and carriages and some didn't! Make sure to check or else you could get fined."

  – Selena

- "Establish a routine earlier on and make sure to rest enough. Don't let the excitement of being in a new country take over the study."

  – Nur

- "Don't stress out about course approval forms, it will all work out in the end."

  – Fiona

A daunting aspect of any exchange is the language barrier and the difficulty of taking courses in a second language. Many students who go on these exchanges take UOA courses in the language of their exchange country but how well do they prepare you? Here's what the group has to say:

- "I think they prepared me as much as they could have"

  – Nur

- "The language courses I took at UOA had sufficiently prepared me to get started but I learned a lot on the spot. I found that locals are extremely receptive and helpful when you try to immerse yourself and speak to them in their native tongue."

  – Bonnie

- "There's only so much university can teach you about a language. I found that while I could do Spanish readings, speaking and listening were tricky initially."

  – Josh

- "The courses are very writing and reading based."

Overall, past exchange students agree that the language courses at the University of Auckland do prepare you theoretically to get by but as mentioned there is only so much a course can teach you in becoming fluent in a second language.

Extra Tips

Still unsure about going on an exchange? Or still unsure about the application process? Here's some advice from past exchange students:

- "The 360 team prepares you quite well before departure but once you have left your country you will face many challenges and adaptation phases. All these moments are important, you shouldn't be afraid to ask when you don't know, participate to learn, and enjoy because this is a unique opportunity."

  – Bonnie

- "Culture shock is MASSIVE. Like I know that in the pre-departure sessions they talk about it and in INTBUS201 they talked about it too, but experiencing culture shock was so different. I regret that when I was in Mexico, not being more open to immerse myself in their culture and activities."

  – Caitlin

- "Bring things from home to decorate your room! This would be one of my biggest pieces of advice, as arriving in a foreign country can be daunting and you want to be as comfortable as possible. I brought photos of my family and friends, things to decorate the walls and my own sheets, which just made my dorm room feel more like home."

  – Emilia

- "Time goes by REALLY fast so make new friends, don't be afraid to talk even if you make mistakes."

  – Selena

Future Opportunities

Studying abroad gave Global Studies students new experiences and keys to open more opportunities for the future. Being surrounded by locals and exposure to new cultures aided students in broadening their horizons and rethinking their preconceived ideas. In terms of language-focused programmes, many students found that the immersive experience boosted their fluency too.

- "I now have much more knowledge of Taiwan and their customs. As I wish to work in International Relations in the future, learning about different cultures and how to communicate cross-culturally is a great skill to have."

  – Emilia

- "The exchange has offered me more interest in travelling, languages, international relations, and humanities... I met people from the USA, Canada, Brazil, Belgium, Germany, Japan and more! This offered a whole new perspective on people, culture, and the interconnectedness of international relations."

  – Selena

One of the main takeaways students said was the ability to build a global network of people they meet abroad. Generally, courses in the host universities are international and have a mix of students who are also exchange students from their respective countries. Selena said, "Not only was I surrounded by locals, but the international courses I was taking had people from all around the world."

Travel during exchanges was a plus, but students now have connections for their future travels and endeavours worldwide.

- 'I also now have friends in Taiwan, which is so nice!"

  – Emilia

- "I believe this exchange was beneficial not only because I got to improve my Mandarin but also because I have connected with a lot of interesting people and expanded my network. "

  – Bonnie

- If I ever want to go back to Mexico, I always have a home and help with the people I met at Tec! As well as the other students on the course from all different parts of the world! When I go to Spain, hopefully, I can travel to maybe Denmark, Germany or Switzerland for mini-trips to visit some of them so I can see more of the world!

  – Caitlin

- I was able to meet people all around the world and exposed to many more diversified ideas.

  – Fiona

Bonnie also mentioned, "This experience will also help boost my CV!".

How to I Apply?

Information sessions hosted by 360 are available throughout the year and serve as an excellent means to stay informed and connected regarding ongoing opportunities. Mostly helpful in the beginning stages of your application process.

UOA has a study abroad portal called "Via". This is where you apply for the various study abroad programmes and send in documents. Additionally, it offers extensive program information, aiding you in understanding the required paperwork and research leading up to your application. It also has a quick questionnaire that matches you with the programmes available, links to relevant information and pages, filters that help you determine what programmes fit you best etc.

A rule of thumb for applying for an application is that you should apply a year in advance to the semester that you want to go on exchange. The Semester One application period for the following year's exchange generally spans from January to June. For Semester Two, this ranges from July to December.

Prime Minister's Scholarship, on the other hand, has a slightly different timeline as programmes for this scholarship tend to be over the summer period. The application period for these programs usually opens in the middle of the year preceding the program commencement at the end of that year. The approved group programmes and individual programmes both follow a similar timeline once they have been announced.

The application process involves substantial paperwork after selecting your desired program, including writing a letter of application and making travel and accommodation arrangements.

Should you have concerns regarding applications, look to guidance provided by the Exchange 360 team and be sure to reach out to them for help with the administrative side of things. In terms of sorting out courses, communication with your faculty is key to help match your degree requirements to the courses offered by your host university.

Video Analysis: The Zapatista Uprising and a Long Night of Five Hundred Years

Caitlin Normanton

Introduction

The role of independent media and the creation of citizens' media is an important theme in the history of the Zapatistas since their uprising in Mexico on 1 January 1994. I shall highlight this through an analysis of two videos: Firstly, I will provide some historical background and the factors which lead to the Zapatista uprising. Secondly, I will describe the first video and outline the Zapatista cause and what they stand for. Finally, I will discuss the second video and the important role of independent media and the internet in the Zapatista uprising.

Historical Context: Grounds for an Indigenous Uprising

Post World War Two, Mexico's economy was based on the import substitution industrialisation model and temporarily saw prosperity and peace in the country. However, this would not last long as Mexico entered the 1980s with a large debt to the United States and so they eventually were forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan (Keens and Haynes, 300). A loan from the IMF, however, meant a set of conditions called 'Structural Adjustment Programmes' (SAPs) had to be met. Together with these SAP loans and their debt to the United States, welfare spending decreased and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) were privatised (Rochlin, 180). As part and parcel of the "Washington Consensus", saw the liberalisation of the Mexican economy, increased flow of trade, and foreign investment into the country. In other words, "fiscal-monetary prudence in the macroeconomic arena, trade liberalisation, privatisation, financial sector deepening and capital market-opening… as well as tax reform and property rights" (Walton, 168). Were included as the SAP reforms. Political corruption under President Salinas also proved to be one of the many factors which provoked the Zapatista uprising. The "lack of democracy under illegitimate dictatorship of President Salinas," (Rochlin,190) was, unfortunately, a common theme under the Partido Revolucionario Institucional's (PRI's) 71-year rule, where presidential candidates were hand-picked by the outgoing president ensuring their victorythrough electoral fraud (Gilbreth, 9).

The lack of government subsidy saw Mexico's poor indigenous populations become poorer, as cheaper American corn took over the market (Keen and Haynes, 305) posing "a threat to Mayan farmers" and their ability to earn a living (Gilbreth, 12). In addition to this, adjustments to Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution meant that "hundreds of thousands of Mexican farmers and peasants lost their land" (Keens and Haynes, 305), allowing large foreign corporations to buy them. To top it off, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada and Mexico, which came into effect on the 1 January 1994, was viewed as "death to Indigenous peoples" and served as a catalyst for indigenous populations to rise up for change (Democracy Now! 00:00:20-00:00:23). It reduced tariff barriers and import quotas on goods coming into the country and became the ruin of many small farmers across Mexico, in addition to the already free-market economic policies which had been imposed by the IMF (Keens and Haynes, 307). "...NAFTA, which is nothing more than a death sentence for the indigenous ethnicities of Mexico…" (Gilbreth, 11), proved to be the final straw for the Zapatista movement, as they initiated their uprising on 1 January 1994, the same day in which NAFTA came into force.

In summary: Mexico's debt crisis, economic liberalisation, political corruption, and the introduction of NAFTA over a period of 20 years meant that by 1 January 1994, the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN) were ready to challenge the government. The EZLN formed in 1983 as various revolutionary groups came together against the Mexican government's economic liberalisation and political corruption (Ferron, 148). Their main goal was advocating for indigenous rights (Rochlin,187), which grew into the promotion of participatory democracy after witnessing the corruption of the PRI (Swords, 78). The introduction of NAFTA sparked discussions about economic marginalisation and political exclusion of Mexico's poor, indigenous populations (Gilbreth, 28). In the end, the removal of the PRI was insufficient in achieving the EZLN goals of protecting indigenous people, peasants and other marginalised groups (Swords, 81), as subsequent governments continued to ignore the Zapatista question. In time, the internationalisation of the Zapatista cause would see figures like Subcomandante Marcos become global voices for the grassroots movement (Krasna Ya).

Zapatista Manifesto - 500 Years of Living in the Dark

In the beginning of the first video (Krasna Ya), Subcomandante Marcos says he is going to reveal his face by showing a picture of himself, and then holds up a small mirror to the camera as if to say that you must look in the mirror to see Marcos' identity. It then proceeds to show Marcos taking off his mask, which then blends into one person after another "the Zapatistas are a movement, the Zapatistas are a revolution, they are men, children, women and elders…farmers, they call the earth their mother and themselves the people of corn" (Schools for Chiapas, 00:00:17-00:00:43). This implies that Marcos' identity is all the faces we see in the video and that his own identity is unimportant because we never see his face. The video is voiced over by Marcos giving a speech about the Zapatista cause, where, at the end, lists off their wants and cuts to artworks which shows these key needs. They fight for those who have been forgotten in history, tired of dying in the shadows, their mission is for peace and to create a new world of their own (Schools for Chiapas, 00:03:13-00:03:38). The video outlines this clearly, as when we watch the various actors in the video taking off their masks, there is no discrimination, the face of the Zapatista movement is the people.

I will list four key Zapatista principles and practices which shall be mentioned throughout the essay: "construir y no destruir", "representar y no suplantar", "antipoder contra poder", and "quedamos un mundo donde quepan muchos mundos" (Zapatista Principles and Practices, UNIT 6).

"Construir y no destruir" is building power by convincing people towards just decisions without repressing those who disagree and is displayed through the creation of their own world (Zapatista Practices and Principles, UNIT 6). Their formation of the idea of "good government" or "buen gobierno" goes on to reflect their ideal of "representar y no suplantar" (Zapatista Practices and Principles, UNIT 6), that is to represent the needs of the community over the individual. This is achieved through a rotating council of leaders to ensure that many perspectives are heard. During the video, Marcos uses two important words: "night" and "fight" to describe the plight of the Zapatistas. "We were born of the night. We live in the night… Those who today weep at night for those who have been denied the day" (Krasna Ya, 00:00:45-00:00:58) and "a long night of five hundred years" are some important phrases that were used.

Here he describes the repression of indigenous people as being like the night, they are in the shadows, forgotten, they are not as important as the 'day'. His comment about a "long night of five hundred years" is also powerful, because he describes the repression of indigenous peoples as having started when Columbus landed in 1492, but the night has not ended. "Our fight is for a job which is just and dignified… Our fight is for life… Our fight is for justice… Our fight is for peace" (Krasna Ya, 00:01:04-00:01:36). Here we see the importance of the word 'fight' repeated numerous times. However, I think that the Spanish word 'lucha', that was used in the original speech, describes the Zapatista plight more aptly, as 'lucha' has connotations of struggle and pain behind it that the English word does not contain. "We want democracy, I mean the right of the people to choose the government… we want liberty… we want justice" (Manuel Alvarez), says Marcos to a CBS interviewer, which supports the video analysis, as it backs up the points being described. The Zapatistas want change in the realms of justice, democracy, liberty, and in their lives.

"The Zapatista movement supports autonomy within, not against, Mexican society," is a very important point which Cleaver (626) makes. The Zapatista uprising was about creating a better life for them, but they never did declare themselves to be against Mexican society, only the Mexican government, specifically the PRI. This autonomy subsequently evolved to become one of the first movements where the internet and media have played an important role. Not only in globalising the Zapatista movement, but also in initiating conversations on the role of media, media democratisation, freedom of expression and the right to a voice.

The Role of Independent Media: Citizens' Media and a Pathway Towards Change

This ten-minute-long video is a close up of Subcomandante Marcos as he talks about the role of media in advocating for the voices of indigenous rights and of grassroots movements. At the beginning of the video, Marcos takes a blow of his pipe before he starts talking, which is a signature part of his look as 'Subcomandante Marcos'. He speaks in a serious tone and due to using a mask, one straight away notices his eyes and the serious expression that follows his tone of voice.

He makes the audience want to listen to him and what he has to say. From what we can see in the background, Marcos appears to be in a rural village, there is a saddled horse standing behind him, which implies these people don't have access to cars but instead use horses as transport. We can hear the clicks of cameras every now and then as he records his speech, which could be media taking photos of him to send out to international organisations. His hat appears tattered showing that it is old, and Marcos has been through a great 'lucha' with it. At the end, the video pans towards two horses that are tied up, with their saddles on – again highlighting the rural nature of the village. Overall, he discusses the importance of independent media to fight the monopolies, the neoliberal conglomerates who spread lies through their control and privatisation of media so that indigenous people are left out of the picture.

"No catalyst for growth in electronic NGO networks has been more important than the 1994 indigenous Zapatista rebellion… computer networks supporting the rebellion have evolved from providing channels for the familiar, traditional work of solidarity… into an electronic fabric of opposition to much wider policies" (Cleaver, 622). This statement sums up the effect which the Zapatista uprising had in terms of the role the media has taken in globalising grassroots and indigenous movements. Due to this the term "Zapatista Effect" has been coined to refer to the role the internet had in globalising not only the Zapatista movement but also subsequent Latin American grassroots movements (Cleaver, 622). "For the communication giants and the neoliberal powers, the others, the excluded, only exist when they are dead or when they are in jail or in court" (00:02:35-00:02:45). This aligns back to what has been previously described the mass privatisation of Mexican SOEs according to the Western and capitalist agendas of the IMF and United States leaving indigenous people behind.

What was the role of the internet in the Zapatista uprising? "Early on, the Internet provided a means for the rapid dissemination of information and organisation through pre-existing circuits… these networks existed primarily at an international level" (Cleaver, 626) and the EZLN used journalists to spread their messages to an international audience, that is to say, the EZLN never had a direct role in the widespread use of the Internet when it came to globalising their plight (Cleaver, 628).

In the video, Marcos states:

"The work of independent media is to tell the history of social struggle in the world... independent media has been able to open spaces even within the mass media monopolies: to force them to acknowledge news of other social movements. The problem is not only to know what is occurring in the world, but to understand it and to derive lessons from it, just as if we were studying history, a history not of the past but of what is happening now in whatever part of the world" (00:04:21-00:05:14)

A powerful message about opening up spaces for ethnic minorities and be able to express themselves, and in an answer to this, the tools and methods the EZLN have used to give the people a voice. "From 1983-1994, the organisation used radio and the printed press as tools for internal information dissemination and liaison… printed publications… [were] intended for workers…for peasants… for militia members; and two clandestine publications reserved for executives and the insurgents…" (Ferron, 150). This backs up Marcos' point in the video about the necessity for "independent voices to exchange information and to broaden the channels to resist the spreading lies of the monopolies" (00:06:36-00:06:45) as well as media targeting those who have been forgotten in Mexican history. The Zapatistas in response proposed a media network called 'Red Intercontinental de Comunicación Alternativa' (RICA), or the 'Intercontinental Network of Alternative Communication' that would "...serve as a platform for the voices of all those who resist, a network by which all different resistances could communicate. RICA would not have an organised structure, central management, mandate or hierarchy" (Ferron, 152). This ties into the Zapatista principle of 'queremos un mundo donde quepan muchos mundos' – we want a world where many worlds fit (Zapatista Principles and Practices, UNIT 6).

Finally, the Zapatista uprising "...demonstrates that 'mediactivism' was systematically transformed into a relatively autonomous field of activism, with its own agents, collective practices, representations and trajectories" (Ferron, 154), which ties into another essential principle of 'antipoder contra poder', anti-power against power, to demonstrate alternative forms of power to challenge the status quo (Zapatista Principles and Practices, UNIT 6). Here we see this in the video where Marcos explains RICA as "...a network to resist the power of the lie that sells us this war" (00:07:25-00:07:28).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the historical factors of Mexico's debt crisis, economic liberalisation, political corruption, and NAFTA proved a perfect breeding ground that provided the motivation for the Zapatista uprising on 1 January 1994. The uprising was based upon indigenous rights, democracy and, subsequently, redefining the role media would play in grassroots movements. The first video sees Marcos describe the 'lucha' of the indigenous peoples of Mexico as a night of five hundred years, and we described the plight of the Zapatista uprising through their calls for participatory democracy and a redefinition of government through autonomy within Mexico. The second video portrays the face of the Zapatistas as being 'the people' and Subcomandante Marcos provides a voice for the people. The key message in this second video analysis is the role of independent media and the creation of new media networks to challenge the bureaucracy of private corporations who control media in Mexico to a Western agenda ending to leave the voices of the various indigenous groups unheard. He calls for the creation of RICA, where people have the freedom of expression and a right to a voice to create change for themselves.

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The Shifting Political Framework of the Pacific, a Global Studies Approach

Aniva Bell

Note: When referring to 'the Pacific' this essay is referring directly to peripheral nations in the Pacific Ocean, a combination of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia.

<u>Additional Question #4:</u> *In recent years (post-2017) China has become an increasing presence in the Pacific. Western powers, including New Zealand, have reacted to this with great concern. Provide context for the shifting political framework of the Pacific around this issue.*

Thesis Statement: *The Pacific is and has always been perceived as a valuable tool to continue Capitalism. The shifts in political framework of the Pacific, reflect the trends of competition between outside powers and the global politics surrounding the Pacific.*

### Section One: The Problem this Essay Addresses

The problem this essay addresses is the underlying reasons of the Pacific's shifting political framework. Therefore, the reasons as to why Western powers have reacted to China's increasing presence in the Pacific with concern.

A primary cause of these circumstances is the constant outside interest in the Pacific, either for the resources they offer or its geographical location. (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). Said interest has been shown by Core Nations since Western nations began colonising the Pacific (Kingi et al., n.d.). The earliest interaction between the Pacific and outsiders consisted of the perception from the West that Pacific Island peoples were "noble savages living in harmony with a bountiful nature" (Hau 'Ofa, 2019), holding the definition of the Pacific as 'South Seas'. This was gradually intruded with Western beliefs of development and the view that the Pacific was to be modified, in colonisation and their form of civilisation (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).

When the importance for security spread from Western interests in Asia, the Pacific became the 'South Pacific region' that held value as means to an end, providing this important sought after security (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). The Pacific was led to believe the West were genuine in their investment in the Pacific for the claim of 'development'; however, it came to light that true interests of the West were with security and in the form of danger inflicting experiments in the Pacific with no regard to the impacts on the islands or inhabitants (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). Currently, the Pacific islands region is of neocolonial dependency, while interests of security still largely linger, political and commercial interests have increasingly developed the value Core Nations have placed on the Pacific (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).

Location and Definition Determined Political Framework Shift of the Pacific

The Pacific, having been viewed as valuable due to its location (Kingi et al., n.d.)—the Pacific Ocean to be precise—drew interest from many Core Nations for the purpose of trade, military and, of course, politics (Kingi et al., n.d.). This generated a political framework of the Pacific that entailed nuclear testing by the United States, the United Kingdom and France from 1946 to 1996, the Cold War, (Kingi et al., n.d.) to take place in the Pacific as the islands were recognised as empty space suitable for testing (Kingi et al., n.d.). The multitude of tests conducted in attempt to protect the geopolitical, security and trade interests of the West also contributed to the power dynamic between Core Nations and periphery nations. By conducting nuclear testing in the Pacific and establishing reliance from Pacific islands to 'protect' and arrange aftercare procedures, the relationship between Core Nations and the Pacific strongly reflected that of neocolonialism. These powerful nations extended from the US, UK, and France to include Russia and China superpowers (Kingi et al., n.d.). To progress this power dynamic between powerful countries and islands in the Pacific and to ensure the continuation of the structure of capitalism, the Pacific has become a means to an end. Exemplified by the many definitions of the Pacific and the benefits provided with each definition. The Pacific is defined by outsiders in ways that benefits them (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). In the many ways it is defined, each definition supports the claim that the Pacific has become a means to an end.

Aniva Bell

The term 'South Seas' and 'South Pacific', are two of the definitions that have stuck around and provided benefits to those who brought them afloat. 'South Pacific' is a term that gained popular use after World War Two (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). Hau 'Ofa has narrowed the spread of the term to terminology of the Western Alliance military during WW2, which then became popularised by James Michener is his book "Tales of the South Pacific" (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). The term 'South Pacific' was notable because of Western interest in the East (Hau 'Ofa, 2019), which would shift the political framework of the Pacific to be less valued to the West (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).

Furthermore, the term 'Pacific Island region' emerged at the beginning of the postcolonial era. 'Pacific Islands region' is gradually becoming a replacement for 'South Pacific' to describe the region (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). Unlike the term 'South Pacific', the term 'Pacific Islands region' rules out the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand; this, as Epeli Hau 'Ofa wrote, "indicates more clearly than before the separation between us and them" (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).
This separation might be pinned down to a reflection of political sovereignty in the Pacific, (Hau 'Ofa, 2019) however, it blatantly exemplifies the decline in value the Pacific holds for the West and the increase in value the West holds for Asia (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).

The relevance of the interchangeable definitions reflects the "progressive marginalisation" (Hau 'Ofa, 2019) that the Pacific is experiencing. From being defined to either include Asia or to exclude it completely, the Pacific can be easily included or excluded from decisions regarding the Pacific. The term 'Asia-Pacific region' combines the Pacific and the vast demographic of Asia for the convenience of several international organisations, such as the United Nations be efficient in the administration of certain services (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).

On the other hand, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a term that explicitly excludes the Pacific Island region while including the rest of the Pacific Rim (Hau 'Ofa, 2019). The term APEC removes the Pacific Island region from any acknowledgement of existing, even when regarding 'the Pacific' (Hau 'Ofa, 2019) and developing schemes set within the Pacific. The former pursuing nations in the Pacific have evidently developed fresh relationships with the entire Pacific rim, excluding the Pacific Island region, which, to former suitors, is no longer perceived as valuable due to the Pacific's persistent dependence on them (Hau 'Ofa, 2019) and a suitable power dynamic being established to endure waves of changes in politics (Hau 'Ofa, 2019).

Dependence Shifting the Political Framework of the Pacific

There has been a strong relationship of dependence the Pacific has fatefully formed onto powerful nations. Many countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the USA have restricted the ability for islands in the Pacific to become completely independent—largely due to the destructive activities and detrimental initiatives they have set upon in the Pacific— and this dependence has generated a difficult relationship with the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the Pacific.

Efforts by Pacific leaders and people, beginning from their eventual inclusion in the Nuclear Free Pacific Conference in 1975 (Kingi et al., n.d.) and their main message "We, the People of the Pacific, want to make our position clear" being optimistic in the advancement towards their voices being considered, it has been a leisurely progression towards a Nuclear Free Pacific (Kingi et al., n.d.). With many opposing outsider interests regarding nuclear testing in the Pacific, after the creation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, the USA, Australia and France continue to refuse to sign under the claim that the treaty "would not serve their geopolitical, security and commercial interests as donor countries" (Kingi et al., n.d.). Yet, as a donor country, the USA left remaining nuclear waste under "the Dome" in the now uninhabitable Bikini Atoll back in 1970 without any further acknowledgement of the damages done (Kingi et al., n.d.).

Similarly, the people of Banaba gave up their island for the benefit of the British Empire in the claim that the atomic tests were for the benefit of all (Hau 'Ofa 2019). The people of Banaba consented largely due to the prospect that they did not have any choice and now those who benefited from their displacement are putting more effort into disregarding the population of Banaba than righting their wrongs (Hau 'Ofa 2019).

The issue here is the distinctive disregard for the Pacific, the Pacific people and their land. The USA in the Pacific aims to undermine China in the Pacific and vice versa (Hau 'Ofa, 2019), however, there is little to no acknowledgement of what lies in the Pacific (Kingi et al., n.d.). What the outside powers also do not let on is that they entirely acknowledge that without the Pacific, their capitalistic society and promise of Nation State would fall apart (Kingi et al., n.d.).

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Capitalism and the Promise of Nation State

The promise capitalism provides of 'Nation State' has been a driving force behind the political and military interest that Western powers and China compete for in the Pacific. 'Nation State' promises security, and for Western powers and China, who are mutually entangled in threatening each other's security, the Pacific provides a key route to establish security (Kingi et al., n.d.). Specifically for the United States and China, the promise of security has them pushing for power over the Pacific (O'Keefe, 2020).

In ensuring they have a military presence in the Pacific, the US and China are setting a baseline of control they each have over the movement of goods. By controlling the movement of goods throughout pathways in the Pacific, they have control over the trade that fuels capitalism (Arakaki et al., 2013). To accomplish this completely, one holds a threat upon the other to destroy the other's economy through the restriction of imports and exports (Kingi et al., n.d.).

Section Two: Global Studies, the Pacific, Capitalism and shifting political framework of the Pacific

The shifting political framework of the Pacific is entangled with Global Studies in many ways. It is a situation that can only be fully comprehended from a Global Studies lens, a perspective that incorporates all aspects available; identities, relationships, equality, development, the economy, time and space and science to understand with a broader perspective and create an effective solution.

What results from the competition between powerful nations to ensure Nation State (security) and to sustain capitalism, is a complex interconnectedness between Core Nations, the US and China, semi-periphery nations, specifically New Zealand and Australia, and the periphery nations in the Pacific. The complex relationships these countries have with one another encapsulates Global Studies through the entanglement of economics, geopolitics, regional alliances, and human rights.

The impact that these relationships have on the Pacific and on nations outside of the Pacific, for example, the United States continuously allocating taxpayer money simultaneously towards the growth and success of the US military (Kingi et al., n.d.) and the downfall of inhabitants of the Pacific (Hau 'Ofa 2019).

This brings a situation that, from the surface level, seems to only involve the Pacific and outsiders, to a global scale. On a global scale, the shifting political framework of the Pacific has involved various societies and politics, and this competition and pursuit for gain between powerful countries at the expense of many, primarily in the Pacific, creates Global issues linked to trade, human rights and of course; security (Kingi et al., n.d.).

It raises concerns towards human rights as had the circumstances been placed in another region of the World, there would be political repercussions for the exploitation undertaken by powerful nations (Hau 'Ofa 2019). However, the current situation reflects the lack of value for the Pacific people and land, and enforces the idea that the Pacific is merely a means to an end in the competition between powerful nations.

Section Three: Personal Statement:

I selected this question because of my positionality. I believe my positionality as a Samoan living in the diaspora creates a different kind of perspective on Core Nations in the Pacific. I know that my positionality provides me with the opportunity to view the Pacific as an outsider that has contributed to its challenges but also as an insider that understands and feels the detrimental impacts of the Core Nations in the Pacific. I feel the Pacific is undervalued in its genuine characteristics, indigenous knowledge and culture and is reduced to what outsiders can get from them. I know that this is easily dismissed behind the opposing state of affairs, and I can acknowledge that the Pacific has become somewhat of a means to an end.

I felt connected to this question as I hold a strong belief that Pacific voices must be heard in these issues regarding the political and economic interest in the Pacific as they have been belittled and used as a scapegoat from early on (Hau 'Ofa, 1994) and it seems to be easily overlooked. The Pacific has been and continues to be destroyed by Western ideologies of 'development' (Hau 'Ofa, 1994) and is taken advantage of consistently with the justification of being for the greater good (Hau 'Ofa, 2019), that being for the continuation of capitalism. Unfortunately, the Pacific is merely a foundation for trends of competition between Core Nations, and the shifting political framework of the Pacific reflects this.

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