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Critical Reflection Number one

December 6, 2019

### Our Symbiotic life: An Exploration of Interspecies Relations

With tangible media, there can be an endless number of objects that can be created that can tackle human and environmental issues; such as climate change. In the article by Budinger and Heidmann, they talk about how they worked with different theories that are a “set of alternative futures of societal development known as shared socioeconomic pathways” also known as SSPs, and their relationships with plants, humans and technologies. SSPs are made up of five sections. The authors, Budinger and Headman only focus on four of the sections. The sections are; SSP1 - The Green Road, SSP3 - The Rock Road, SSP4 - A Road Divided and lastly SSP5 - The Highway. The main story line in the paper is to show how human needs and our values impact our relationship with plants and nature.

Some people might not understand how important plants are for humans. We go about everyday life being surrounded by artifacts that help us stay alive, “plants provide humans with oxygen through photosynthesis”<sup>1</sup>. Without plants we would not be here, plants are the reason that we get to do what we do every day. At the end of the article a quote that stood out to me, which was “nature is constantly adapting to human impact”, (Budinger and Heidmann ,1358). I was thinking why should plants be adapting to humans, why can't we as humans be adapting to plants. At the end of the day, why should plants have to make the sacrifice for us, we are supposed to live together with nature, right? If you really look at it plants and humans are supposed to be one, “our genome is important then the genomes of all those other organisms must be important for understanding that fabric of life, the ecology of the planet” (Johnson). What if the roles were switched? Humans can live as plants. How would the world be like then? Of course, it would seem that there are quite a lot of people who do everything to their best capabilities to protect plants and nature and live in harmony with the plants and the nature around us. For example, they can grow their own garden of flowers and grass like plants to show their support for nature. With that, they have the responsibility to water the plants or the grass, which is showcasing a support for nature.

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<sup>1</sup> “Why Do Humans Need Plants to Live?” Hunker, [www.hunker.com/13428193/why-do-humans-need-plants-to-live](http://www.hunker.com/13428193/why-do-humans-need-plants-to-live).

They can take their support a step further and even help plant trees for the environment. However, there are also those who do nothing for plants and nature. For those who do not have that natural instinct to take care of plants and nature, it would be a little harder to adapt to the way plants live or try to understand the impact nature has on the earth and humans.

What if we take technology and incorporate it into our world? To live as plants, do, to see what it is really like to live out in the environment, even if it is just for a day. For example, tree's structural adaptations, can be an interesting way to start, it "allow[s] plants to live in specific environments, as is seen in the stark contrast between the roots of terrestrial plants, which are firmly rooted in the ground, and plants that float on the surface of bodies of water" (Lichtenstein). Plants need a specific environmental background just to live, so if we take those aspects and created a room and have humans live in it for maybe a few days, then humans can get a feeling to what plants go through. We can build an environment like a in door greenhouse that will help represent the plant's world that us humans can live in. It would of course have to be safe for humans to live in. All the environment surroundings should be incorporated into the room, like the wind, the rain and the sun. Basically, we are creating the outside, inside. We can use Arduino to program the room. We can maybe take the moisture sensor for the soil; to test if we are getting enough water, we can take an automatic plant watering system for the rain like a sprinkler somehow connected from the ceiling, and we can use the temperature sensors to represent the humidity or the sun.

With all this work, humans have the opportunity to live as a plant and see just how precious nature is for people. As odd as it sounds, this project that I described (and made up, there might be somewhere a similar project but I did not find any) can give people a better understanding of what plants go through. I would imagine a little palm size plants would not quite make it through a heavy rain or wind storm. With the help of technology, the room can help imitate the environment so humans can live as a plant and to experience what helps keeps people alive.

### Work Cited

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