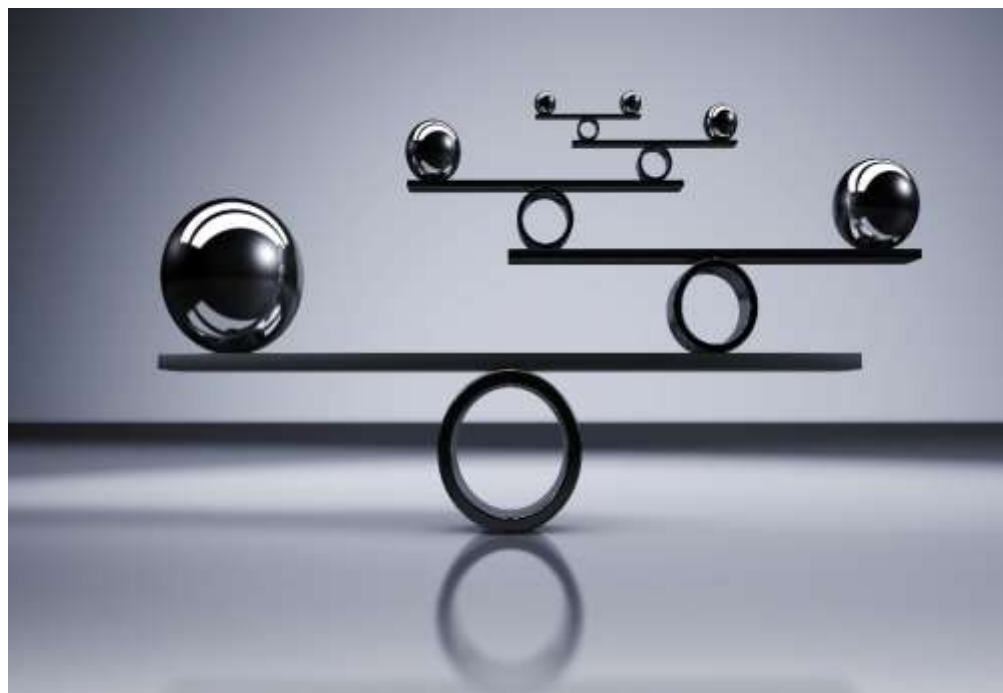

 May-June 2023


Public Sector

Influential economist Mariana Mazzucato urged Australia's Parliament to introduce [new disclosure requirements for consultancies](#) working for government, warning of widespread conflicts of interest at global firms.

NSW's corruption watchdog found former Premier Gladys Berejiklian engaged in serious corrupt conduct while a senior figure in the state government - but it has stopped short of recommending she face criminal charges. The [main findings](#) released go back to when she was Treasurer between 2016-18.

OECD [report](#) - Global Trends in Government Innovation 2023.

An ANAO report into the administration of the Community Health and Hospitals Program (CHHP) [published](#).

How reliance on consultancy firms like PwC undermines the capacity of governments - [commentary](#).

Article on the new [Australian Centre for Disease Control](#).

This Nature [article](#) found that providing financial incentives for correct responses about the veracity of true or false political news improved accuracy and reduced partisan bias in judgements of headlines by 30%:

Services Australia dumps \$343 million [Serco call centre deal](#).

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

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SEND ITEMS TO AJASN

Please feel free to send items for the next newsletter to Kate - kate.delaney@jrca.net.au

THANKS TO

Dr. Stuart Pearson, Brett Pepler

Next Issue: July 2023

Agriculture +Food

Algorithms for milk supply chain audits, beef e-certifications and emissions tracking systems for rice crops are among the [15 projects to share in \\$6 million in federal regtech grants](#) for agricultural traceability systems.

The truth behind Europe's most [powerful farmers' lobby](#) - Copa-Cogeca claims to speak for all farmers. Critics say it only represents large enterprises.

[Jack Ma](#), the cofounder of Alibaba, has taken up a teaching position in Japan, on sustainable agriculture and food production.

Article: [Food innovations that came from war.](#)

A [report](#) on the growing push to use sea cucumbers to clean up fish waste from seafood farms. (Aquaculture produces vast quantities of feces, fuelling algae blooms and disease outbreaks that kill millions of fish each year. Now, operators in Europe, North America, and elsewhere are raising sea cucumbers that can vacuum up this waste and can also be sold to markets in Asia where the creature is considered a delicacy. These efforts are part of a broader movement to redesign fish farms, so they work more like biodiverse natural ecosystems.

[Podcast](#) (as [transcript](#)): What if we had a more compassionate approach to farming animals, where we raised and ate fewer animals - and so meat cost more?

A comprehensive review of research looks at ways to [protect coffee plants from pests](#) without the overuse of pesticides.

Article [explores](#) how ocean warming has devastated the snow crab fishery in the Bering Sea, dealing an economic blow to the Aleut community of St. Paul, Alaska. After the Bering snow crab population collapsed last year, St. Paul saw tax revenues fall from \$2.5 million to just \$200,000, raising questions about the town's future in a world in which ocean heat waves become more frequent.

Defence+ Defence, National Security, Emergency Management, Geopolitics

[Far-right](#) partisans in Spain & the US were more likely to share misinformation than centre-right voters, especially it was related to their sacred values. Moreover, far-right partisans were unresponsive to fact-checking & accuracy nudges.

[Example](#): Iris is an application of Osint developed by the World Customs Organisation that monitors open-source information and presents this information in a graphic-style world map in real-time.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party has been listed as one of 20 established and emerging hate groups in Australia, by the [Global Project Against Hate and Extremism](#) (GPAHE), a global extremism think tank.

[Read](#): Polycrisis, Unraveling, Simplification, or Collapse: Coming Soon to a Planet Near You?

Resource: [Wargaming The Far Future.pdf \(eufo.org\)](#)

Economy

Another international economic institution (this time the IMF) has weighed in on the [role of elevated profit margins](#) in fuelling post-pandemic inflation. [Transcript: Isabella Weber on a New Way to Think About Inflation - Bloomberg](#). The Australia Institute research has repeatedly shown that it is corporate profits [driving](#) inflation, not wages.

The finance sector is adjusting to a world where [a single tweet can trigger a catastrophic bank run](#).

This paper is a preview of the potential disruption from AI. The [jobs that are most exposed to AI](#) are the ones that require the most education, are the most creative & earn the most. This is a population that never faced a major automation threat before. IBM's CEO states that 30% of the company's non-customer-facing roles [could be replaced by AI and automation](#) over five years.

How might [all this experimentation](#) (i.e. constant) be affecting [gig] workers? A new paper takes up this question. [Uber, for example, has announced](#) that it has over one thousand experiments running on its platform at any given time.

Subtitle of [article](#) about large consultancies: Now is the time for the Nation State to reassert its control over multinational entities. Quote: 'In the last ATO tax transparency report multinational corporations with combined revenues of over \$90 billion paid \$30 in tax.'

A [report](#) from CCPA (Canada) on the lasting impacts of emergency pandemic benefits for workers and their families. Turns out that supporting people through a crisis, rather than abandoning them, works. (Cover image below.) This piece [reports](#) on how Canada is offering incentives for companies to mine its northern reaches for critical minerals needed for EVs and solar panels. In recent decades, the industry has abandoned mines in these areas, leaving Canadian taxpayers with more than \$10 billion in toxic cleanup bills.

[Storytelling](#): Sustainably ever after: fairy tales offer accessible ways to communicate energy research. A study has been published in the journal [Energy Research & Social Science](#).

Environment

For the first time, a team of more than fifty scientists from around the globe assessed and quantified not only what is a [safe operating space](#) for humankind, but also what is a just one. Humankind has already transgressed several of these new boundaries.

[Study](#): Repurposing Plastics Waste in Infrastructure - also [here](#). Note: The Albanese government has launched a \$60 million grant program that offers support to [recycling technology innovation](#) and advanced recycling techniques targeting hard-to-recycle plastics.



Discussion (and links) about the environmental impacts of [sand mining](#). More on ocean [sand](#). And, the decline of [ocean oxygen](#) which poses a greater threat than ocean warming or acidification.

This article [reports](#) on how companies in the U.S. and around the world are moving ahead with plans for “advanced” recycling plants, which convert hard-to-recycle plastic waste into petroleum feedstock. Using an intense-heat process called pyrolysis, these plants turn plastic waste into oil that will be reused for making new plastic or, more often, refined as fuel. Proponents of the technology – including oil and gas companies – say it will cut pollution, but opponents contend it will only perpetuate the use of fossil fuels.



Climate

Former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull and union veteran Sharan Burrow have welcomed compulsory training for Sky News commentators after an AMCA investigation found the network inaccurately reported on climate change. <https://t.co/GHP264vv5O>

“[June 2023](#) may be remembered as the start of a big change in the climate system, with many key global indicators flashing red warning lights amid signs that some systems are tipping toward a new state from which they may not recover.”

Futures

Three videos with Dave Snowden explain weak signal detection with a fitness landscape: [one](#), [two](#), and [three](#).

[A little-known board game of forecasting and the future](#) - article well worth the read.

Health

Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers recently asked undergraduate students to test whether AI chatbots 'could be prompted to [assist nonexperts in causing a pandemic](#) – and found that the platforms suggested four pathogens within an hour.

There is a highly pathogenic strain of [avian influenza](#) that has killed thousands of wild birds and is now infecting seals and other marine mammals, from New England to Peru. It is being transmitted from mammal to mammal.

An [interactive visualisation](#) of 21 million biomedical scientific papers.

It is not just WHO that has been warning about [mass disabilities from Covid](#). The insurance business sector has been warning about this for a while.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [issued a warning](#) about a drug-resistant strain of fungus, *Candida auris*, spreading in healthcare facilities in the United States.

In a [new article](#) the McKinsey Health Institute looked at the presence of mental health, technology, and social media in the lives of Gen Zers based on a global survey of more than 42,000 respondents in twenty-six countries.

Science & Technology

In their new book, "Power and Progress: Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity," MIT economists Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson argue that society's powerful gatekeepers need to [stop being mesmerized by tech billionaires](#). In an excerpt, the authors call for the development of a powerful new narrative about shared prosperity and show how the tremendous computing advances of the past half century can become empowering and democratizing tools. [Related](#).

The [Misinformation Susceptibility Test](#). 'Very online' Gen Z and millennials are most vulnerable to fake news. Researchers encourage the public to test themselves: <https://yourmist.streamlit.app>.

AI incl. tools

Economists wary of firm predictions but say [AI advances could create new raft of billionaires while other workers are laid off](#). Hype around generative AI tools like ChatGPT impede business leaders' ability to make [well-informed technology choices](#). Geoffrey Hinton, who until recently was a vice president and engineering fellow at Google, detailed his concerns at the EmTech Digital conference, hosted by MIT Technology Review. Hinton said he is worried about the ability of increasingly powerful machines to outperform humans in [ways that are not in humanity's best interest](#).

An NSW parliamentary inquiry has been created to examine the use of artificial intelligence in the state, with senior members of the government and opposition increasingly concerned by the technology.

Experts warn the task of [distinguishing what is real from what is not](#) will impose a significant mental and cognitive burden on people in the AI era. AI-generated content risks intensifying those issues and making it more difficult for people to make sense of the world around them.

Samsung tells employees [not to use AI](#) tools like ChatGPT, citing security concerns. Emerging generative AI technologies such as ChatGPT are putting new tools in the hands of hackers. To respond to AI-generated threats, you'll need to shift from traditional defensive tools and [start fighting generative AI with generative AI](#).

Two business strategists explore ChatGPT's capacity for generating new ideas and strategies – and [where it falls short](#).

New [research](#) suggests that, compared to human doctors, ChatGPT is more empathetic and provides higher-quality responses to patients, begging the question: are doctors replaceable? (No.) An [article](#) suggests two specific factors that will likely determine just how much of an impact AI ultimately has—and how the average worker stands to fare. (1) Whether AI will target bottlenecks in the economy (2) Whether AI will perform cognitive tasks a lot better than humans

[Video](#) (40+ min): Yuval Noah Harari summarises and speculates on 'AI and the future of humanity'. There are a number of questions related to this discussion, including: In what ways will AI affect how we shape culture? What threat is posed to humanity when AI masters human intimacy? Is AI the end of human history? Will ordinary individuals be able to produce powerful AI tools of their own? How do we regulate AI? *Note commentary courtesy of H Tibbs: He does not mention the motives and responsibilities of the owners and controllers of AI. If we believe the technology is the villain, then if we do not regulate it and the controllers run amok, it will logically be our fault for failing to regulate it. Very convenient for those who want to deploy AI without accountability.*

[Summarise](#) books on Google Bard.

Introducing [Decktopus](#) an AI presentation tool.

Auto-generate step-by-step guides, just by clicking record. Save your team 20+ hours/month vs. video and text tutorials. The Scribe Chrome extension turns any process into a step-by-step guide, complete with text, links, and annotated screenshots.

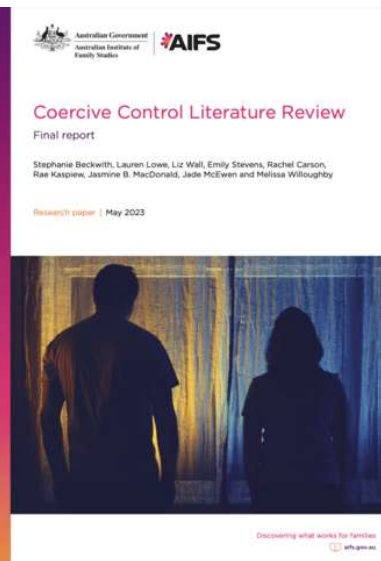
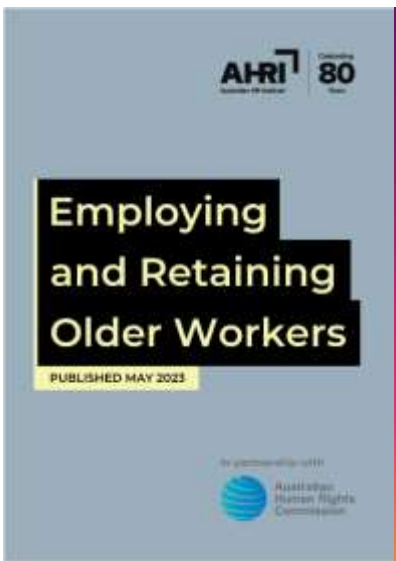
SciSpace Copilot (Chrome extension) is an AI research assistant that explains the text, math, and tables in scientific literature like research papers, technical blog posts, or reports. You can also ask follow-up questions, and it will give you instant answers.

How to use [Leap AI](#) to train your own AI image model

Society

As fallout from the PwC scandal continues, [universities emerge as another sector exploited by the largest consultancy firms](#).

The perception of moral decline is an illusion that diverts spending - [study](#). A driver was [fined \\$195,796 for speeding](#) in Finland, where penalties are based on income



In the United States: [School increases youth suicide rates](#). Evidence: Suicide rates drop during school holidays and dropped during COVID school closures. An important contributor to the school-suicide link is bullying.

[Study](#): Do Conspiracy Theories Shape or Rationalize Vaccination Hesitancy Over Time? [A: the latter]

New job applicants who have algorithmic assistance with their resumes are 8% more likely to be hired than those who do not, a [recent experiment](#) found.

Swedish company Husqvarna says its robotic lawnmower now comes with a mode called

[rewilding](#).

Social media news consumption peaked in 2020, according to the annual Reuters Institute Digital News [Report](#). Today, it is slightly lower from the 2020 peak, but it is up from 2022, when news consumption on social media fell to pre-pandemic levels. A Pew Research Center [survey](#) from last year similarly showed most social media platforms – with the exception of TikTok and Instagram – declined as regular news sources for American *adults*.

[There are iceberg cowboys](#) - 'The Iceberg Cowboys Who Wrangle the Purest Water on Earth.'

From: four ways to make your counterpart feel heard and keep the conversation going. Use this [conversational style](#) in the simple acronym H.E.A.R.:

H = Hedge your claims, even when you feel very certain about your beliefs. It signals a recognition that there are some cases or some people who might support your opponent's perspective.

E = Emphasize agreement. Find some common ground even when you disagree on a particular topic. This does not mean compromising or changing your mind, but rather recognizing that most people in the world can find some broad ideas or values to agree on.

A = Acknowledge the opposing perspective. Rather than jumping into your own argument, devote a few seconds to restating the other person's position to demonstrate that you did indeed hear and understand it.

R = Reframing to the positive. Avoid negative and contradictory words, such as "no," "won't" or "do not." At the same time, increase your use of positive words to change the tone of the conversation.

See [To have better disagreements, change your words - here are 4 ways to make your counterpart feel heard and keep the conversation going](#)

Resources

[PaperPanda](#) – Access millions of research papers in one click. OECD resources: Mapping the global behavioural insights community - [here](#). [Misinformation on Misinformation](#): Conceptual and Methodological Challenges.



The Quarterly SCAN

2023

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Articles and projects from our members of SCAN.

Ensuring Accessibility
A new building approach that can be broken down into three parts.

Community Spotlight
Meet local community members making the world a better place.



About SCAN

The Quarterly SCAN is a publication of Global Health, Built for the Urban Poor and our 100+ local chapters. It is our way to share our expertise and support a member's voice. The report highlights impactful and innovative ideas being in our markets and urban world.



SCAN is an all-year sharing tool for reducing the risk of missing something important. SCAN helps in creating our vision for the future.

Each dimension of SCAN is like a box that contains a specific insight and opinion on how to get ahead. Each dimension provides a clear view of different and often overlooked aspects of our programs.

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