

# AJASN Newsletter

July 2021 (to Aug 19)

## Public Sector

This newspaper [article](#) cites a report that says a failure to implement a parliamentary code of conduct has made Australia's regulation of federal politicians' conduct the weakest among comparable nations. This [assessment](#) looked at whether the Government's proposed Commonwealth Integrity Commission would be able to investigate 40 recent scandals. The analysis found that scandal after scandal is occurring with no real consequence, and that the proposed CIC [would not have the jurisdiction](#) to investigate. The ALP released an outline of the [National Anti-Corruption Commission \(NACC\)](#) it would introduce if it were to come to power at the next federal election. It is based on the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in New South Wales. Independent Senator Rex Patrick won a [Fol case](#) (i.e. freedom of information) to release national cabinet records.

This [article](#) discusses how the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is introducing/using [a problem-centric approach](#) to regulation.

This [opinion](#) piece says the Australian Public Service is continuing to be militarised (*paywalled.*) Related [article](#).

This [review paper](#) looks at 137 experiments on government workers and finds that exposure to corrupted colleagues is a major predictor of unethical behaviour. Monitoring and a commitment to transparency can help. A paper on: [Spreading propaganda and disinformation using public funds](#). Twitter sees [jump in government demands to remove content](#) of reporters, news outlets.

This [article](#) describes three criteria for ranking policy failures (and successes.) The authors argue that the greatest policy failure of the Commonwealth Government is climate change. (The vaccine roll-out is rated a failure on all three criteria.) The first criterion is 'an assessment of how successfully the policy action ameliorates the problem it seeks to solve. This appraisal must take into account the consequences of that action. Consequences are often unintended and unanticipated. They might not become apparent for some time and can be difficult to quantify and link unequivocally to the policy in question.' John Daley's [final report](#) for the Grattan Institute examines what failed and successful reforms of the last ten years have had in common — and what that tells us about impediments to reform in Australia. (Also shown below.)

Interesting take on [the Intergenerational Report](#) and the proportion of discussion devoted to social programs vs, defence procurement. This opinion piece discusses what needs to be done to make [the next Intergenerational Report](#) more positive.

The OECD report [Government at a Glance 2021](#) provides new data on budgeting practices, regulatory governance, open government, digital government etc.

A study looked at the [impact of alternative innovation policies](#) on the short- and long-run performance of the economy, as well as on public finances.

[Reimagining Government](#) is a series of free (ANU+) webinars which look at government as a curator of a strong civil society (i.e. enabler), rather than as a problem solver on its own. The series was designed to contribute to conversations about what governments have learnt from COVID-19.

See [image](#) to the left (green) from 'The Equation: How to identify research that can sway policy makers.' Related [paper](#).

In a recent [paper](#) authors explore the incompatibility of 'Nudge' and 'Co-Design' as tools for policymaking. There is a [related blog post](#).

A [global score of 5.37](#) out of ten is the lowest recorded since The EIU's (The Economist) Democracy Index began in 2006.

## Inside

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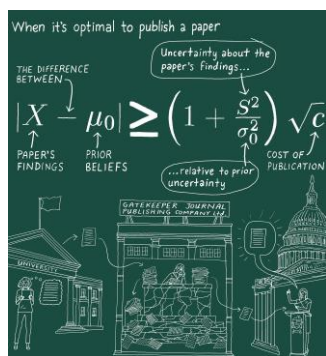
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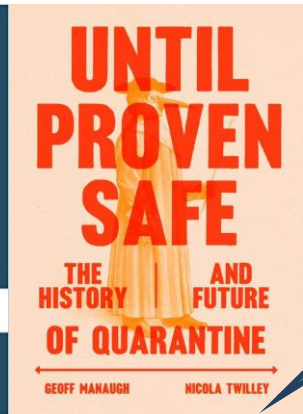
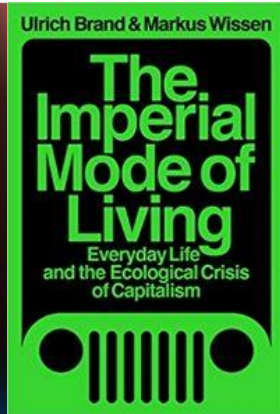
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## Next Meeting

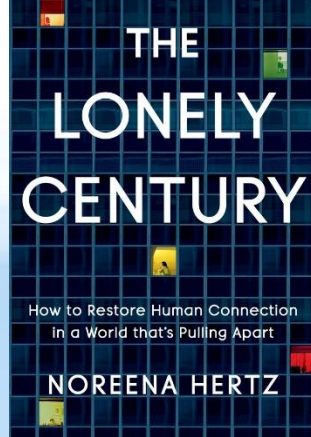
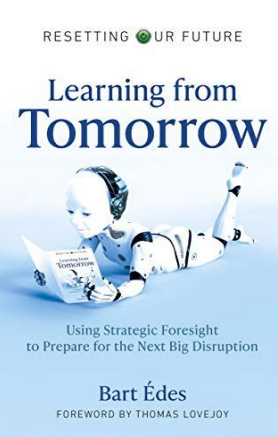
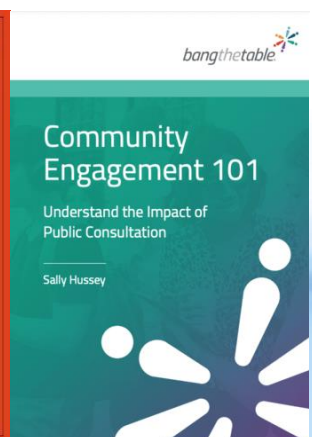
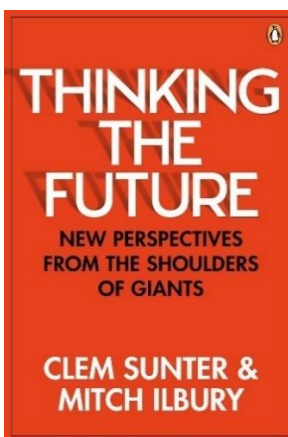
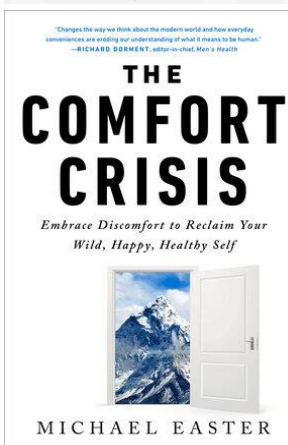
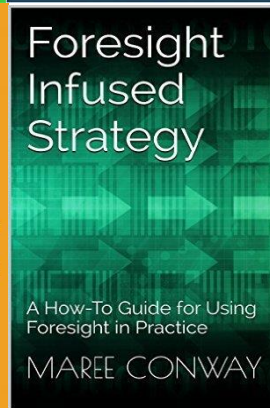
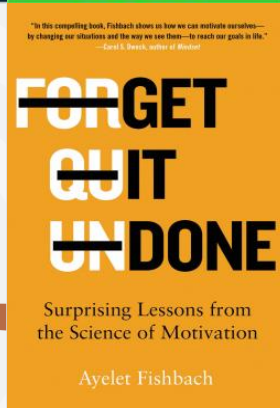
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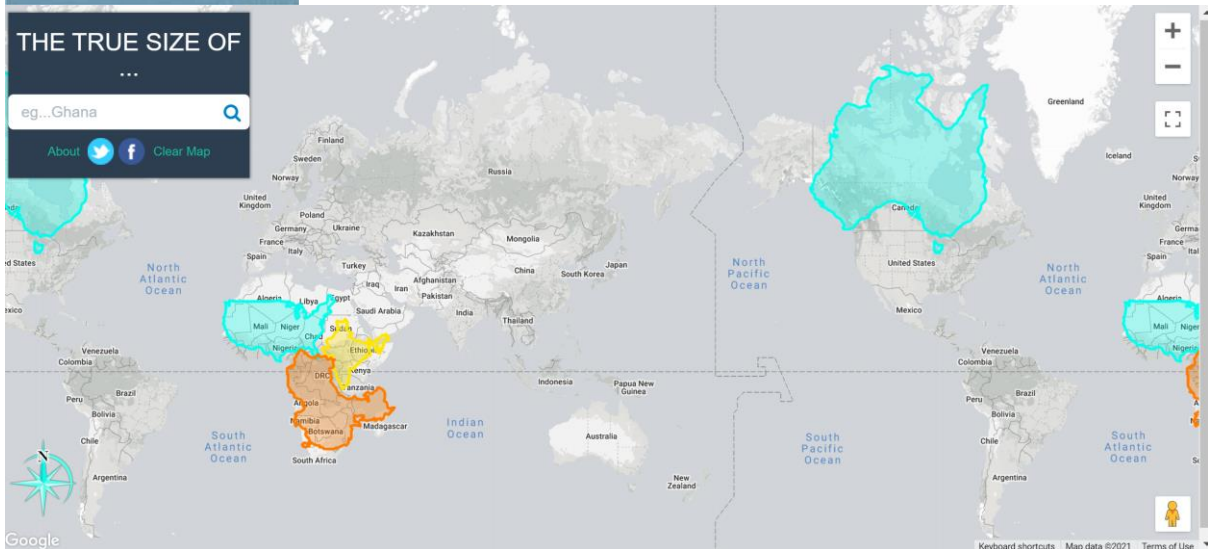
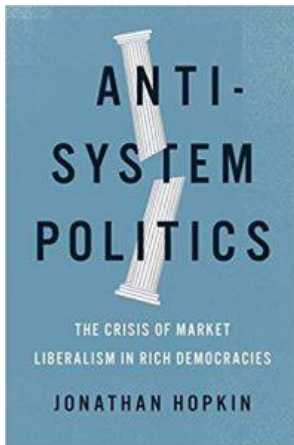
Thanks to Dr. Stuart Pearson and Mr. Brett Pepler for their contributions to the newsletter.





Click on each image to be taken to a relevant link!





**Note:** Further reading about the 'free speech' report - [here](#). New book – introductory video - [Richard Slaughter "Deleting Dystopia" intro](#)

### Agriculture, food ...

This [newspaper article](#) claims farmed salmon produces as much sewage as 2000 people. Farming salmon is said to be wiping out sea life in Tasmania. Salmon is also grown like this in Norway, Chile, Canada, Scotland, Ireland, and the Faroe Islands. This [study](#) says climate change threatens micronutrient fisheries yields in 40% of countries

This [paywalled article](#) speculates about why Australia's wool industry is booming, as other commodities, such as wine, lobster and coal, are caught in diplomatic crossfire.

On the Murray-Darling Basin, this [article](#) says 'external traders are extracting hundreds of millions of dollars annually. This is equivalent to building every year a well-equipped regional hospital, and then blowing it up. That should be the main story that is told about our water market.'

[Four seed companies](#) now control more than 60 percent of the global market, a seed policy expert argues that consolidation poses major risks to the U.S. food supply.

A [paper](#) (in Nature Food) offers the first comprehensive comparison of the most advanced international efforts to measure how nitrogen is managed in agriculture. Researchers identified the best combination of policies to feed everyone on the planet. A [new report](#) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicates global hunger levels are set to surge by about a third this year.

Molecular farming is using plants to synthesise medications and vaccines. In a new [perspective article](#) published in Science authors note plants have long been an overlooked resource for biomanufacturing. Canadian company [Medicago](#) produced a candidate Covid-19 vaccine that mimics the

outer layer of the virus to stimulate an immune response. In [one recent study](#), a Stanford team made 34 modifications to the yeast's DNA to chemically assemble a molecule with widespread effects on human muscles, glands, and tissue.

South Korea plans to amend its civil code to [grant animals a legal status](#). The amendment, which must still be approved by parliament, would recognise animals as beings, with a right to protection, enhanced welfare and respect for life.

Researchers used a machine learning tool to analyse more than half a million reports and studies and find the types of agriculture interventions – to end hunger, help small farmers and manage climate change – that governments should prioritise and how much they would cost to implement. The analysis took three years. They wrote [10 research papers](#) looking at different solutions. The [National Food Strategy](#) for England sets out a new vision for the food system, including a tax on salt and sugar in processed and restaurant foods and using the revenue to subsidise fruit and vegetables for lower-income families, and a three-compartment land use strategy that incorporates nature conservation, low-yield agroecological farming and high-yield intensive farming using technologies such as robotics and artificial intelligence. A new Rockefeller Foundation [report](#) adds heft to the concerns about the high costs of cheap food.

Police in Victoria are investigating an [alleged threat of food tampering](#) made against the first company in Australia to mandate COVID-19 vaccines – SPC – for all its staff.

A [study](#) co-sponsored by Britain's Foreign Office estimated that the likelihood of an extreme heatwave capable of wiping out the southern Chinese rice crop any given year was 1 in 100 under 1°C of warming, but one in ten under 2-3°C of warming,

A new research [article](#) says that bacteria in cow stomachs can be used to break down plastics.

Insect Farming is set to boom – this [article](#) asks about the welfare of farmed insects – i.e. don't farm bugs. [Lab grown meat](#) is less commercially imminent if you cut out the hype, according to this opinion.

The first cases of [African swine fever](#) have been confirmed in farm pigs in Germany. [Pest plants and animals](#) cost Australia around \$25 billion a year – and it will get worse. [Related](#).

### Corona virus/pandemics (not exhaustive)

A silver lining of the pandemic is [asthma attacks have plummeted](#). This requires a rethink about asthma.

[A recent review](#) shows information for the public about COVID vaccines is too complex to read, understand and act upon. It's even more complex than other COVID public health advice, such as for physical distancing or masks. Related [survey](#) discusses where people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities get their COVID information from. It says there is a need to tailor communications to these communities via channels people use.

More vaccinated people are dying of COVID than unvaccinated people, according to a recent [report](#) from Public Health England (PHE). This article discusses the risk of death even with vaccination – it is as expected. [Pop-up vaccination clinics](#) at homelessness services, drop-in centres, crisis accommodation facilities, and rooming houses commenced yesterday, ensuring some of our most vulnerable Victorians are protected against COVID-19. The European Medicines Agency recommended the [authorisation of Moderna's coronavirus vaccine for children](#) between the ages of 12 and 17. This is the first time that Moderna's shot has been approved for teens. In [Germany](#), more vaccination centres and doctors' offices are struggling to use their vaccine supplies before they expire. Federal authorities are looking for storage options and exploring ways to donate doses abroad. Quebec announced it will [introduce a vaccine passport](#), the first in Canada, to counter a fourth wave of the coronavirus and the spread of the Delta variant. In an Australian first, [SPC - the fruit and vegetable processor](#) - is mandating all its onsite staff and visitors be fully vaccinated by the end of November. By 15 November, [all Qantas frontline employees](#), including cabin crew, pilots, and airport workers, will need to be fully vaccinated, the airline announced.

A [Norwegian study](#) found more than half of young people with mild Covid-19 infections experienced 'Long Covid.' This piece discusses the emerging picture of [brain injury from COVID-19](#) and Long Covid (neurological complications.) Another [article](#) on Long Covid.

Israel is [denying access](#) to certain venues for unvaccinated citizens. Why Emmanuel Macron is pushing what is [effectively a vaccine passport](#). Related story – [France](#). This story discusses the possibility of [vaccine passports in Australia](#). In the United States [federal employees](#) will now face a choice: attest to their completed vaccination status, or test one or two times a week, wear masks, and face travel restrictions. More companies

are requiring [employee vaccination](#) – list from the United States – did not look for similar in Australia or elsewhere.

#### Papers:

- A [meta-analysis](#) & systemic review listing more than 50 long-term effects of COVID-19 published by Nature.
- Effect of the [covid-19 pandemic in 2020 on life expectancy](#) across populations in the USA and other high income countries: simulations of provisional mortality data. BMJ 2021; 373 (June 24, 2021).
- [Post-COVID syndrome and suiciderisk](#) - PubMed (nih.gov)

#### Defence, National Security, Geopolitics, Emergency Management, etc.

The [United States – Australia alliance](#) has become an unthinking custom and practice according to this opinion piece. This article is on a '[Book Review Roundtable](#)': America and Its Allies. The case for taking a different approach to writing NATO doctrine – [article](#).

This [interview](#) with Gen. John M. Murray, Commanding General of AFC, highlights his view about what Army Futures Command has gotten right & wrong since it was founded in 2017. '[The intelligence community](#) must make (open-source intelligence) OSINT a true intelligence discipline on par with the traditional functional disciplines.' [Open-source intelligence](#) is increasingly capable of questioning the narratives spread by states such as North Korea, China and Russia. A short [guide](#) to Defence acronyms prepared for a United States' global security summit.

This article discusses [online criminal organisations](#) (top 5.) This paper examines research and an 'established industry' concerned with [predicting future protests and labour organising activity](#) across global supply chains based on various publicly accessible data such as social media posts.

Several stories about this ... [the unrest, the worst in South Africa](#) in years.

Here is an [article](#) on what is fuelling wildfires (US wildfire researcher.) The leader of Ireland's military has a PhD in environmental and ecosystem governance. He says [climate change is the single biggest threat](#) to the country.

Dubai police are [using artificial intelligence](#) to predict crime and decrease response time to keep the city safe.

#### Economy

Ireland has said it will not sign onto the Biden administration/OECD/G-7 [minimum tax proposal](#). This [article](#) reports on the views of experts who were asked three questions about a global minimum corporate tax rate. A related [article](#).

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak issued a passionate endorsement of the [right-to-repair movement](#). A right to repair order for [farm equipment](#) in the United States.

A West Australian coal mine that supplies one of the state's largest power stations has invoked a so-called Act of God clause to [suspend operations](#), blaming a wetter-than-usual winter. [Origin Energy](#) slashed assets values (including of Australia's biggest coal-fired power plant) by more than \$1.5bn as cheap power from renewables floods the grid. [New research](#) finds Australia's offshore wind resources offer vast potential both for electricity generation and new jobs.

[Deep sea mining](#) (minerals mined from the ocean floor) is becoming more likely – this article talks about Nauru's intention to mine (and the possibility of a similar 'Pacific' surge elsewhere.) In a [report](#) published earlier this year, the International Energy Agency found that achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 would require six times more of certain minerals by 2040 than are being mined today. Related [article](#) on seabed mining.

This article discusses what happens to [coastal properties which are considered uninsurable](#) by private insurance companies. In NZ coastal properties will start to lose insurance cover within the next ten years. In California more [farms are being deemed too risky to insure](#) because of wildfires. Article notes 'The skyrocketing cost of fire insurance foreshadows a larger confrontation over so-called managed retreat.'

A report [Generation Stressed: House Prices and the Cost of Living in the 21st Century](#) shows a significant increase in the lifetime expenditure on the median mortgage over three decades, and a consequent reduction in the spending capacity of average Australian households.

[Research](#) suggests that people with less money or other resources think more clearly in terms of costs and trade-offs. Previous research conducted by the same team found that constraints force people to focus on the task at hand, at the expense of future, less urgent demands.

McKinsey has written insights about: '[Buy now, pay later](#): Five business models to compete.' Square announced [it acquired Afterpay](#), the pioneer of the buy now, pay later model

The four-day work week ... [The Rise Of The Four-Day Work Week](#). According to a McKinsey Global Institute [analysis](#), perhaps 20–25% of jobs in developed economies can be reasonably done remotely for 3–5 days per week. (Analysed for China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.) A second [article](#) on the four-day work week. Podcast on the [future of work](#). More on the [remote working issue](#) – why managers fear remote work. As a result of some successful experiences with remote work, the [US Air Force is redesigning](#) its on-base workspaces.

Research has shown that meetings correlate with a decline in workplace happiness, productivity, and even company market share. Can tech, like [automated scheduling tools & facial recognition](#) that measures who's paying attention, make them better?

Management [consultants Boston Consulting](#) make millions in Australia Government consulting contracts then manage to wipe out their tax by paying for expensive management consultants.

#### Read:

- Kellogg, K. C., Valentine, M. A., & Christin, A. (2020). [Algorithms at work: The new contested terrain of control](#). *Academy of Management Annals*, 14(1), 366-410.

#### Environment

A new [report](#) reviewed twelve published protocols used to generate soil carbon credits through carbon sequestration in croplands. It might be useful for policymakers.

Sustainability researcher Gaya Herrington made [headlines](#) when she examined claims from a 1972 MIT study predicting the end of civilization — and found that we're indeed on track for a collapse around the year 2040. She is standing by her grim [forecast](#). Business as usual will likely lead to economic and societal collapse. Herrington wrote a linked in [article](#) too. This is an important paper on how to accumulate/build deeper insights from multiple (harmonized) studies in [sustainability science](#). Seven [sustainability trends](#) to watch in 2021 (Supply Chain magazine.) Related [piece](#). Stanford University's first new school in 70 years will [address climate and sustainability](#).

- [Paper](#): A framework for analysing and informing Australia's National strategic natural resource management policies (i.e. evaluative framework.)
- Another [paper](#): The six dimensions of Collective Leadership that advance sustainability objectives.

A panel of lawyers unveiled a [legal definition for the crime of ecocide](#), the mass destruction of the environment. This definition has been created in the hope that the International Crimes Court (ICC) will adopt it. If this happens, it will put Ecocide on a par with war crimes.

Australian businesses are about to be whacked with a carbon tax. Not by Canberra, [but by Brussels and Washington with the increasing possibility that Ottawa, Tokyo and even London may follow suit](#), free trade agreements aside. In the United States, Democrats unveiled legislation that would [levy a fee on imported carbon-intensive goods](#), like steel and aluminium. Japan is considering a carbon border tax that would impose tariffs on imports from countries with insufficient environmental standards, the Nikkei newspaper [reported](#). This article looks at [carbon border taxes](#) – and arguments they would be unfair, risky, and marginally effective.

The [Australian Leadership Index](#) found environmental outcomes increasingly shape how voters view their political leaders. It suggests these differences may have electoral consequences.

Draft 1 of the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) is out now. FAO [report](#) on biodiversity for food and agriculture. A [paper](#) in Conservation Biology shows how scientists – for the first time – applied the IUCN Green Status of Species. This is a new Global Standard to measure how close a species' is to being fully ecologically functional across its range, and how much it has recovered thanks to conservation action. Preliminary IUCN Green Status assessments for 181 species are presented in the paper. A [new analysis](#) says the costs of battling invasive species in Australia is skyrocketing and has now hit about \$25 billion a year. (Actual [study](#).)

Discussion about the principles of [extended producer responsibility \(EPR\)](#) in the UK. EPR states that those who make the mess should pay to clean up the mess. EPR is an established policy approach that makes producers liable for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. (Producers are in the frame rather than consumers who don't dispose of used packaging responsibly.) It has been adopted successfully in Canada, South Korea, Japan, and several European countries.

A special issue of [Science Magazine is on plastics](#). Governments must prepare for the coming [tsunami of green trash](#) (from renewable energy and recycling.) A new [model tracking the vertical movement of algae-covered microplastic](#) particles (plastic waste in oceans) was developed. Reuters [examined dozens of advanced recycling projects](#) around the world and found most to be fighting a losing battle against logistical obstacles. A [paper](#) discusses a new method to solve the plastics sustainability problem

[Fish are becoming addicted to methamphetamines](#) seeping into rivers. A senior executive with the [Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative](#) at Fisheries and Oceans Canada [said](#) the decision to implement long-term closures to the commercial salmon fisheries is part of a broader, holistic strategy to protect wild salmon. Researchers in Japan have [cultured cells of the reef-building coral](#) *Acropora tenuis* into 20 distinct cell lines, all of which can be frozen and sent to scientists around the world.

A world-first [report](#) says that boycotting palm oil in foods and simply substituting it with another ingredient may lead to unintended negative consequences and increased environmental destruction elsewhere.

Scientific Reports presented work by international teams working in the [polar regions](#). [Iran is water bankrupt](#) after years of mismanagement under the regime, leading to shortages that have triggered deadly protests across the country and discontent in the wider Middle East.

Brussels will [ban diesel cars by 2030](#) and gasoline cars by 2035. The announcement by BHP, the world's second-largest mining company, that it will shift its oil and gas assets into a joint venture with Australian outfit Woodside is an indication BHP is [getting out of the carbon-based fuel industry](#).

### Myth?

The popular narrative about Easter Island could be mostly false. [New research](#) suggests that the narratives connecting environmental devastation to population decline are not accurate. A study found that while the Rapa Nui people did suffer environmental and climatic changes, they didn't suddenly dwindle in number but rather maintained 'stable and sustainable communities on the island' up until the point they encountered Europeans.

### Climate...

This [report](#) on the state of the climate paints a sobering picture. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that, without deep and immediate cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, the world is very likely headed for climate catastrophe. Here is a very [short, plain-language summary](#) of top takeaways from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report. NASA's Sea Level Change Team created a projection tool based on the latest data from the IPCC that lets you see what [sea levels](#) around the globe are expected to look like in the future. A [study](#) finds New Zealand, Australia, Iceland, Ireland, and the UK as potential places where nodes of complex civilization might be maintained in the event of climate-induced collapse. This [research](#) describes some possible costs of climate tipping points in an effort to add up the 'social cost of carbon,' an important metric for drafting policies like carbon pricing.

Degrees of Risk- Defining a Risk Management Framework for Climate Security – a [report](#).

A [story-map](#) derives from a [report](#): "Arctic Temperatures and Tensions Rise: A Case Study of Climate and Security Risk in the Arctic". To stop melting permafrost that threatens an Alaskan gas pipeline, they're [artificially freezing the ground](#).

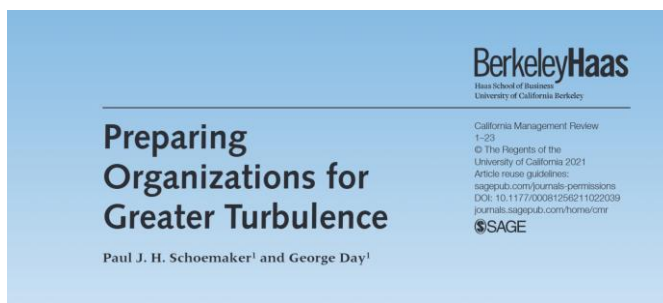
A [report](#) from Greenpeace Australia Pacific lays out a case against fossil fuels. It describes how burning fossil fuels – coal, oil, and gas – has created climate calamity, marked by the extreme heat, devastating floods, inundated coastlines and super-charged bushfire. An [admission](#) from Chevron highlights that carbon capture and storage in the fossil fuel sector is an expensive failure. An [ExxonMobil lobbyist](#) discussed the company's financing of 'shadow groups' to sow doubt in climate science. The left-leaning government of Greenland has decided to [suspend all oil exploration](#). A team calculated that a decarbonised world could lose 9.5 million fossil fuel jobs and [gain 17.4 million renewable jobs](#).

[No longer a carbon sink](#) but a source of emissions. Atmospheric measurements show that deforestation and rapid local warming have reduced or eliminated the capacity of the eastern Amazonian Forest to absorb carbon dioxide — with worrying implications for future global warming. Global warming may be triggering a [non-linear climate response](#), possibly involving drought magnifying the warming, to brew up extreme heat storms that exceed climate projections. [Extreme precipitation events](#) have become more common – using machine learning researchers determined that human activities, including burning fossil fuels, are to blame. The Met Office issued its first ever [weather warning](#) for [extreme heat](#) in the UK after a (July) weekend which saw the hottest day of the year across all four nations. Exceptionally long heatwaves and other hot events could become commonplace in the United States in the next 30 years, according to a new [study](#). The [combination](#) of the moon's wobble, sea level rise and more intense storms will bring worse tidal floods into coastal communities in the 2030s. This includes in Australia.

A new [report](#) rates as poor performances by numerous nations in addressing health issues in their emissions and adaptation goals as part of the Paris Agreement.

[Researchers calculated](#) that mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass meadows store roughly the equivalent of the annual carbon emissions of France—with an estimated value of \$190 billion per year (blue carbon.) A [study](#) found men's spending on goods causes 16% more climate-heating emissions than women's, despite the sum of money being very similar. The biggest difference was men's spending on petrol and diesel for their cars.

## Foresight



Interesting read: The Dangerous Ideas of "Longtermism" and "Existential Risk" Phil Torres in Current Affairs magazine. Also interesting is a [commentary](#) on the thin threads of power (political will and ability to achieve outcomes.)

[Tweet](#): Orgs saying 'we have no time to explore the future, there are urgent problems to solve' often miss the point: foresight helps you gain systemic insights necessary to avoid solving the wrong problems today. The 'solutionist hurry' is often what caused the now urgent problems.

This [article](#) discusses 'If machines make all our decisions, who's in charge?' with some distinctly dystopian views about the future and accountability.

The Future of Home e-book by the Australian Centre for Social Innovation – [download](#).

## Reminder

There are several WIPO [Patent Landscape Reports](#) that might be useful to scanners.

The [WIPO Manual on Open-Source Tools for Patent Analytics](#) provides information and step-by-step guidance for conducting various patent analysis tasks using a selection of open-source tools.



Futurists will be honoured in the Smithsonian's expansive [Futures exhibition in 2021](#) to mark the Institution's 175th anniversary.

[An Inca road](#) built in the 1400s is still affecting income, schooling, and land ownership -- here is the Economist's [take](#).

Health futures: [Strategic foresight to combat non-communicable diseases: The Pacific islands perspective](#) \* [Journal of Futures Studies \(jfsdigital.org\)](#)

## Health

In new [research](#) scientists divide all cancers into two groups, based on the presence or absence of a protein called the Yes-associated protein, or YAP. These findings could provide a new strategy for treating the most aggressive and untreatable forms of the disease.

The United States' CDC reports first cases of the [dangerous fungus Candida auris](#) where people have contracted pan-resistant strains — they aren't susceptible to any of the available drugs. This is not pan-resistance after treatment. It is pan-resistance from the jump.

Climate change is linked to [spread of parasitic diseases](#) in the United States. Studies reveal a drop in cold-related deaths but [growing numbers of people dying from heat](#). More than 5 million extra deaths a year can be attributed to abnormal hot and cold temperatures, according to a world first international [study](#). A recent survey shows that about 83% of [Gen Z Americans](#) (ages of 14 and 24) are concerned about the health of the planet and say that the quality of their environment affects their health and well-being.

An environmental toxicologist explains the [threat that wildfire smoke poses to human health](#).

## Science and Technology

People who trust science are more likely to be duped into believing and disseminating pseudoscience, new [paper](#).

Canada will require [detailed evaluations of university research partnerships](#) (i.e. risk assessments) in order to protect intellectual property rights and keep sensitive information out of the hands of foreign governments. This article suggests an alternative to the ['tarnished' practice of peer review](#).

[Digital 'smell' technologies](#) could potentially revolutionise a range of industries, from fragrances and food to the environmental and health care sectors. Also, advertising technology capable of [matching background music](#) to products to drive purchasing.

This [research](#) reviews the state of different geoengineering technologies, highlighting differences in technological development stage, price, time scales, and potential secondary effects. The paper looks at the geopolitical risks that may be introduced by geoengineering implementation. It also examines whether existing international governance mechanisms manage the geopolitical risks associated with geoengineering.

[What if](#) platforms (e.g. Google, Facebook) had a duty of care towards users? 'We share more information with technology platforms than we do with professionals for whom fiduciary obligations were developed. It is about time the law caught up with this reality.' This [article](#) says a fight for control threatens to destabilise and fragment the internet. Researchers at Stanford University just released the first peer-reviewed, psychological study of [Zoom fatigue](#). Causes and fixes mentioned. New term: [Internet of Behaviours](#) or IoB. Coined by Gartner, IoB is the extension of IoT but focusing on capturing, processing, and analysing the 'digital dust' of people's daily lives. Amazon. has been hit with a record €746 million (Euros) [European Union fine](#) for processing personal data in violation of the bloc's GDPR rules (privacy rules.)

The [world's first 3D-printed steel bridge](#) has opened in Amsterdam. And elsewhere a [concrete 3D printed bridge](#).

In a judicial world first — Australia's Federal Court ruled an [artificial intelligence system](#) can be named as an inventor.

## Society

This paper says [high school students around the world got lonelier](#) between 2012 and 2019. The only global trends that correlated with this was smartphone & social media adoption. Note, the research has been critiqued. A [study](#) of books over 125 years finds massive jump in depressed and anxious language in last 20 years (English, Spanish, and German books.) 'Our results point to the possibility that recent socioeconomic changes, new technology, and social media are associated with a surge of cognitive distortions.'

A new [report](#) says federal investment in 16,800 social housing units would result in immediate economic benefits worth \$15.3 billion and create 47,000 new jobs.

An [animal shelter](#) in Munich is putting lonely pets on the dating app Tinder to find them a home



### Misinformation

This [proof-of-principle experiment](#) shows that it is relatively easy to teach people to spot manipulative, targeted advertising.

It's a MAD Information War (mutually assured destruction) – interesting provocation about information 'warfare.'

## Resources

### a. Tools

Long term insight brief NZ [Long-term Insights Briefings | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

A [new app called SkipperScience](#) aims to bridge the gap between fishermen and scientists. Fishermen can log climate change observations on the water that will upload to a large database accessible by scientists.

[GovTEAMS](#) is a comprehensive whole-of-government collaboration service for the Australian Public Service

### b. Read



Yin, Yian, Jian Gao, Benjamin F. Jones, and Dashun Wang. 2021. [Coevolution of Policy and Science during the Pandemic](#). Science

Journal of Controversial Ideas [Journal of Controversial Ideas](#) edited by Peter Singer etc. it is interesting to note that authors can use pseudonyms not their real name. Another [look](#) at the Journal of Controversial Ideas. A new journal – [PNAS Nexus](#) might be worth following.

Speculating Futures [reading list](#).

### c. Watch

What would your day look like [living in a drastically hotter Berlin-Neukölln in 2039?](#) ... looking for storytellers, performers, improvisors and experience designers to join us for the Climate Futuring Weekend in Berlin on July 24&25!

### d. Play

A new study uses the [Divergent Association Task](#) (DAT), a 4-minute, 10-word test to measure one aspect of creative [potential](#). Study – [here](#).

### **Vortimo – new app for horizon scanning**

[Vortimo](#) saves all web pages you've visited locally on your hard drive – exactly how you saw them in your browser. Vortimo can be used by anyone that uses a browser to research a topic. This includes investigators that are profiling individuals or companies, intelligence analysts using open-source intelligence (OSINT), IT security personnel or even academics doing domain specific research. 'Vortimo organises information collected from your browser – so it does not matter if you're browsing the web, using social networks, or visiting your company's intranet.'