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Dawn of the AI Era

AI OR NOT AI

Towards our future

–P.8

TRY AND FIND ME

Why I am not
on social media –P.26

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Dawn of the AI era

This issue is born from the enthusiasm of members of the editorial committee and our contributing writers, who really wanted to focus on the increased discourse around Artificial Intelligence (AI) and our lives. Over the course of discussing and reading the proposed articles, I caught myself thinking, are we experiencing the dawn of the AI era? Is this the end of the human era? Obviously, I don't know, but I am glad we focused on this topic and brought you a range of articles that discuss these issues. The articles do justice to the fact that the excitement around AI is high, while sharing ideas about how a better, common future with AI is possible. As the progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs) remains uneven and uncertain, the way AI could help us get there gave me hope. Don't miss our central page spread, giving you examples of how AI could help us achieve our goals. I feel much better now, but I leave you to reflect on how you feel about it.

Spring is now asserting itself, with the weather warming up, the outdoors season is about to begin. We have a couple of articles focusing on places to explore in our vicinity in order to take full advantage of spring.

And of course, there is much more for you to explore in this issue. I hope you will enjoy it. ■

L'aube de l'ère IA

Ce numéro est né de l'enthousiasme des membres du comité éditorial et de nos collaborateurs, qui souhaitent vraiment se concentrer sur le discours croissant autour de l'Intelligence Artificielle (IA) et de nos vies. Au fil des discussions et de la lecture des articles proposés, je me suis demandé si nous vivions à l'aube de l'ère de l'IA. Est-ce la fin de l'ère humaine? Évidemment, je ne le sais pas, mais je suis heureux que nous nous soyons concentrés sur ce sujet et que nous puissions parcourir une série d'articles qui traitent de ces questions. Les articles rendent justice au fait que l'excitation autour de l'IA est grande, tout en partageant des idées sur la façon dont un avenir meilleur et commun avec l'IA est possible. Alors que les progrès vers les Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) restent inégaux et incertains, la façon dont l'IA pourrait nous aider à les approcher laisse quelque espoir. Ne manquez pas nos pages centrales, qui donnent des exemples de la manière dont l'IA pourrait nous aider à atteindre nos objectifs. Je me sens beaucoup mieux maintenant, mais je vous laisse réfléchir à ce que vous en pensez.

Le printemps s'affirme, le temps se réchauffe et la saison des activités de plein air est sur le point de commencer. Nous vous proposons quelques articles sur les lieux à explorer, proches de chez vous, pour profiter pleinement du printemps.

Et bien sûr, vous trouverez bien d'autres choses à découvrir dans ce numéro. J'espère que vous l'apprécierez. ■

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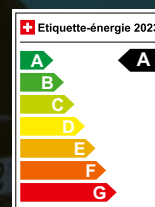
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AI for Good

Our window to a better world

The excitement surrounding Artificial Intelligence (AI) is at an all-time high, following the release of OpenAI's *ChatGPT* and several other cutting-edge language model technologies.



ALEXANDRA BUSTOS-ILIESCU, ITU

These innovative tools are transforming communication, providing seamless and natural interactions, as never before. From customer service chatbots to virtual assistants, AI language models are changing the way we interact with technology through their ability to process, produce and respond to, human language, in search, conversation and texts in different styles and languages.

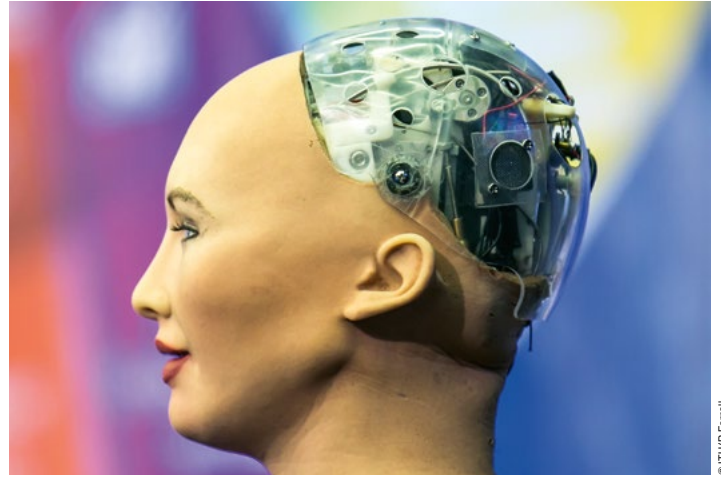
Living with *ChatGPT* and many other recent advances in AI are discussed via the AI for Good, digital platform launched in 2017, where AI innovators and problem owners learn, build and connect to identify practical AI solutions to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Led by the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to harness the power of AI, AI for Good brings together a diverse group of stakeholders from fields such as AI research, policy-making, NGOs, and industry to develop AI solutions for addressing global challenges.¹

AI for Good also features annual global summits that attract thousands of experts from around the world to discuss and showcase AI technologies and applications for social good. On 6-7 July 2023, the ITU will host the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Geneva International Conference Center (CICG) in the heart of Geneva's international district, near the Place des Nations.



Sophia, Hanson Robotics Ltd. speaking at the AI for GOOD Global Summit, ITU, Geneva, Switzerland, 7 - 9 June, 2017.



Close detail of the back of Sophia's skull.

"It's in our collective interest that we can shape AI faster than it is shaping us," said ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. "This summit, as the UN's primary platform for AI, will bring to the table leading voices representing a diversity of interests to ensure that AI can be a powerful catalyst for progress in our race to rescue the SDGs".

The Summit will bring together innovators in AI and robotics to showcase how new technologies can support the SDGs and help address global challenges, such as combating the climate crisis and bolstering humanitarian response. It will feature talks from over 60 renowned thought leaders, showcase state-of-the-art AI solutions, and demonstrate over 30 specialized robots with capabilities ranging from fighting fires and delivering aid to providing healthcare and sustainable farming. Many experts from diverse fields including technology, AI, law, history, climate change, and sustainability will participate in the Summit to discuss various topics related to AI and social impact.

We have an amazing line-up of some of the most distinguished speakers at the Summit, including: Werner Vogels, the Chief Technology Officer and Vice President at Amazon, Lila Ibrahim,

the Chief Operating Officer at DeepMind, and renowned historian and philosopher Yuval Noah Harari. Other speakers include Orly Lobel, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law, Stuart Russell from Berkeley, Alessandra Sala, Senior Director of AI & Data Science at Shutterstock, Babak Hodjat from Cognizant, Sophia Kianni, United Nations Youth Advisor, Andrew Zolli from Planet, Ebtesam Almazrouei, Director of the AI-Cross Center Unit at Abu Dhabi's Technology Innovation Institute, Iker Casillas, former professional football goalkeeper and Ali Agha from the Caltech Center for Autonomous Systems and Technologies.

The world of robotics has seen impressive advances over recent years, resulting in the creation of some incredible humanoid robots, each with unique abilities and applications. Beomni is the world's first fully functional, general-purpose humanoid robot, Nadine is a highly realistic social robot, and Sophia is the first robot Innovation Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), developed by Hanson Robotics. Geminoid, 4NE-1, Ai-Da Robot, Grace, and Desdemona are also among the amazing humanoid robots designed to push the boundaries of what is possible. These robots and many more

will be showcased at the AI for Good Global Summit 2023, highlighting the latest innovations in robotics and AI research and development.

The Summit will also include two high-level roundtables to explore policies, regulations, and standards required to promote AI for sustainable development. The AI for Good Innovation Factory will give start-ups from around the world a platform to pitch their AI solutions and how they can advance the SDGs.

With over 40 UN partners, more than 100,000 online community members, and participation from over 183 countries, the AI for Good Global Summit is a global event. You can participate in-person or online, with the AI-powered match-making Neural Network community platform giving online attendees the opportunity to follow main-stage live sessions remotely and connect to AI innovators with problem owners.

The AI for Good Global Summit 2023 is almost at capacity, and space is limited. Don't miss your chance to be part of the most highly anticipated AI event of the year! ■

1. Find out more at: <https://youtu.be/gKU3VqvcxNA>



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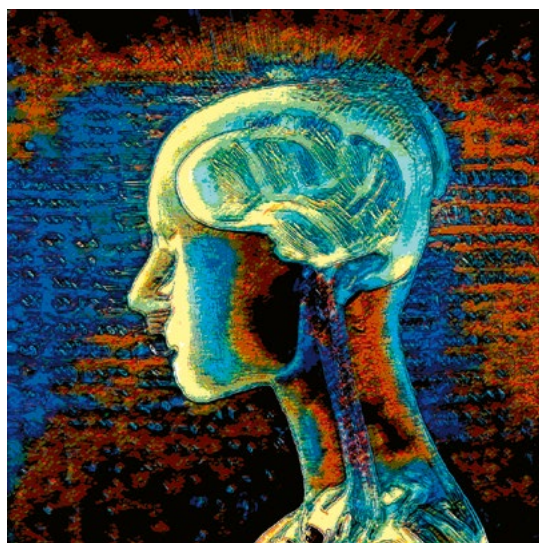


Peering into the center of the Milky Way Galaxy.

© NASA/Wikimedia Commons

Towards common future with AI

The recent public release of *ChatGPT* on 30 November 2022 has triggered an avalanche of opinions, newsletters and prognostics, from predicting the chances of a good chat or of mistaking a chatbot for a friend to the chances of replacing jobs or even a future takeover by Artificial Intelligence (AI).



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MARKO STANOVIC, UNCTAD

What will be the role of AI in humanity's future, and how best to take advantage of its strengths while minimizing disadvantages? No one knows the answers to these questions, including industry experts. Indeed, the chances of having a good chat and falling in love or having a friendship with a chatbot depends on how bored or lonely you might be to begin with. Your opinion of AI is likely to depend on personal factors such as your background, upbringing, whether technology helps you or has previously played a positive role in your life, or whether you like your job.

The rapid development of AI is indisputable. The implications are much less clear. In the early

1950s, British computer genius Alan Turing developed a test of machine "intelligence" and stated that a computer could be described as "intelligent" if and when it could deceive a human¹. Perhaps guided by the 'Turing test' of computer intelligence, debate and commentary so far have tended to focus on the accuracy of and performance of AI relative to other factors². However, the implications for the broader society and economy are more far-reaching.

A brief history

In 1952, "electronic brains" computers amazed television audiences by accurately forecasting election results hours before the final ballots were counted³.

Serious applications of AI started during World War Two (WWII) in an attempt to improve the aim of artillery rounds on enemy airplanes. By the start of WWII, military planes were flying so fast and high that human gunners had a difficult time shooting them down. Norbert Wiener, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) professor who worked on aircraft fire control⁴, developed new and effective radar-aimed weapons based on “automatic feedback control”, along with his colleague Julian Bigelow. Using sophisticated mathematical equations, their system could accurately aim the guns at enemy airplanes by reacting to their slightest movement on the radar.

In 1948, Wiener published a landmark book on AI arguing that feedback was the means by which all creatures adapt to their environment and accomplish various tasks⁵. Analogously,

machines could become “intelligent” if they could learn to adapt to their environment by learning from their actions. He coined the term cybernetics (which was also the title of his pioneering book). By the end of the 1950s, a dedicated branch of computer science had appeared, called “Artificial Intelligence”, which has evolved and grown exponentially. The latest attraction in the field is *ChatGPT* —an AI based programme that automatically generates text based on user’s input parameters.

What we know so far:

ChatGPT stands for Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT). It has been trained on a fixed dataset from the Internet from 2021, including massive volumes of training data, believed to include most or all of Wikipedia, pages linked from Reddit, and over a billion words. It is strongest in writing English text, but can apparently

produce materials in some other languages as well.

Provided you manage to log on and avoid the ‘too busy’ overload message, *ChatGPT* can produce quickly and easily credible poetry and songs in many different styles, including sports and horse race commentary, essays on ethics, interview answers and school homework. Schools and universities around the globe are considering its implications for education, and in particular whether computer generation of essays and/or exams would constitute cheating or plagiarism.

With some justification – by early 2023, *ChatGPT* had already passed its U.S. medical licensing exams, passed four graduate law school entrance exams (albeit with only a C+) and business exams from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (with a B to B- grade).

Many AI systems are ‘black box’ models, a term used to describe systems represented only in terms of inputs and outputs, without much explanation as to ‘how’ or ‘why’ the model arrives at its answers. Programmers may not necessarily try to open or decode or even explain the “black box” or the processes that the system uses, as long as they receive ‘good enough’ outputs.

ChatGPT has clearly triggered a race to release AI tools, with Microsoft reinforcing Bing with an AI chatbot (“Your Copilot for the Web”) and Google releasing its tool, Google Bard. It seems that both products made factual errors during their releases (Bing AI cited incorrect financial information and Bard confused the source of the first images of an exoplanet outside our solar system).

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The implications... but how soon?

Early testers, journalists and the public have all raced to use the different chatbots to identify – and publicize – factual inaccuracies and ‘freaky’ conversations, including declarations of love, sexist or homophobic comments, expressions of alternative personalities, allusions to conspiracies or insults.

Discussions focus on whether Large Language Models or LLMs are “stochastic parrots” replicating conversation without any real understanding – whatever ‘understanding’ would mean for computers. Conversations with chatbots can take unexpected turns or introduce ‘hallucinations,’ used to mean anything from ‘something unpredictable’ to ‘something we can’t explain,’ mistakes or random rudeness. Microsoft has responded that its AI is not intended for extended chat sessions, and now offers the equivalent of a ‘reset’ button to re-initiate an exchange.

ChatGPT’s essay texts are structured fairly clearly with sections on introduction, benefits, risks and a conclusion, usually relating back to the introduction. Indeed, human students usually take some time to assimilate this structure, but the AI achieves this relatively well. You can judge the results for yourself, in the article produced using *ChatGPT* on [pages 14-15](#).

However, perhaps results lack the lateral connections or fresh angles that humans can sometimes come up with. Early wisdom held that human creativity and originality were supposed to be difficult for AI to reproduce. Some musicians and artists aren’t that impressed with *ChatGPT*’s songwriting career to date, although *ChatGPT* may be capable of producing better songs than most of us.

Also, chatbots acquire some of the biases, stereotypes, and misinformation inherent in the

real-world and original texts, precisely because they are trained on biased data, reflecting the actual racial and gender notions that exist within our society. For example, Microsoft’s early chatbot model Tay released on Twitter in 2016 degenerated within 16 hours into misogynistic and racist abuse, partly due to unsupervised learning, partly because it may have been bombed, and partly because certain corners of the Internet are full of... well, misogynistic and racist abuse (and worse).

IEEE concludes “designing computational systems that can communicate with people online is not just a technical problem, but a deeply social endeavor... in the value-laden world of language”⁶. Supervised learning, safeguards, reviews and even blacklists of banned words seek to address the challenge of real-world biases.

So is *ChatGPT* coming for knowledge workers, and will you, or your colleagues or your boss, be replaced anytime soon? Turning to history, we see that quite often, discussions of the job implications of technology depend on the timeframe. The word ‘Luddite’ first described a revolutionary movement against textile machinery in the UK Midlands in the 1810s. Today, it is used in a pejorative sense to mean someone resisting change and new technologies. In fact, they experienced an understandable fear of change and changes in working conditions and, over a longer timescale, they anticipated the future automation of factories. What they did not, and could not, foresee was the creation of entirely new industries accompanying such technological innovation.

For example, over the last 50 years, the train industry has lost many jobs due to automation and loss of headcount, while aviation has expanded to employ 450,000 people in the United States alone.

The number of people employed in manufacturing in the United States has declined for the last five years, due to automation as well as offshoring, among other things, while service-providing industries have expanded, perhaps also due to natural population growth. However, there are natural job ‘displacement’ effects between sectors over time, hence the importance of reskilling and retraining workers. But displacement effects assume that technologies do not impact many sectors, all at once.

Regardless of whether or not workers are being replaced because of AI, workers are certainly becoming more *replaceable*, with risks of losing their hard-won rights and status. Maybe AI might not be coming for your job anytime soon. However, for our children, clearly the pace of change is only accelerating. Let’s hope the unemployment rate does not accelerate, along with technological change.

In conclusion, is AI something we should worry about? AI sceptic Hubert Dreyfus, a late professor of philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley thought that true intelligence cannot be separated from its development and psychological base in the human body. “A digital computer is not a human being, it has no body, no emotions, no needs. It hasn’t been socialized by growing up in a community, to make it behave intelligently.”⁷

The author himself recently experienced the limits of AI. When driving from Geneva to Verbier in Switzerland, we used a popular GPS car navigation system, without checking the route beforehand. Around Lausanne, the system took us towards Bern on the A1 autoroute. At first, we did not suspect anything, thinking that AI must know better which way is shorter, but when the program suddenly told us to “make a U-turn”, we became suspicious and

stopped the car to verify the map. We were glad we had, because it soon became apparent that the system “made a mistake” and took us the wrong way. When we agreed on a *human* selected route, at first the system objected, and then settled to accept our route, which eventually brought us to Verbier, albeit late for our restaurant lunch reservation! In this non-critical application, the only loss was 30 minutes of extra travel time. However, the consequences could have been tragic in a more serious situation such as self-driving cars, for example. The lesson we learned was that, while AI can be a useful assistant at the moment, it cannot and should not replace human reason and control. ■

- 1 <https://www.britannica.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/The-Turing-test>
- 2 <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/turing-test/>
- 3 https://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/10_504
- 4 <https://archivesspace.mit.edu/repositories/2/resources/600>
- 5 <https://direct.mit.edu/books/book/4581/Cybernetics-or-Control-and-Communication-in-the>
- 6 <https://spectrum.ieee.org/in-2016-microsofts-racist-chatbot-revealed-the-dangers-of-online-conversation>
- 7 Dreyfus, Hubert L., What Computers Can’t Do: A Critique of Artificial Reason. New York: Harper & Row, 1972.



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Cleaning house: AI and my brother

I told the editor I wasn't going to write this article on Artificial Intelligence. (That's the topic of this edition of *newSpecial*). AI? What could I say that hasn't been said already (and better than the rest)? That AI erodes our creativity? That AI threatens the essence of art? And, because I'm a novelist, there's the inevitable reference to George Orwell's *1984*, in which people till the earth by hand, and die in the trenches of meaningless wars, while machines write sappy, romance novels. No, I didn't want to write this article. Besides, I couldn't; I had to clean out my apartment instead.



**ERIC STENER CARLSON,
UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS WITH
CHRISTOPHER JOHN CARLSON**

I have an old apartment, far away from Switzerland. I haven't lived there for decades. Generations of house-sitters had kept the mildew at bay, painted the peeling walls, ensured the pipes didn't burst. It was well-tended attrition. But then came COVID, and my apartment was abandoned. After two years, I had to see if it was still standing; so I took a long trip to my place, and I opened the door, like unsealing an ancient tomb.

Have you ever had to clean out a house after an elderly relative passed away? Well, that's what it was like. Boxes stuffed with old gas bills. Cupboards full of baby photos. Old drafts of novels I never published. Not to mention all the trash left by the people who'd lived there before – half-used cans of paint, old cat litter, letters, medicine and dead houseplants.

Digging through these layers of my old life stirred lots of emotions. My wife and I had bought the apartment when we first started going out, my eldest son took his first steps there, I wrote my doctoral dissertation in the tiny alcove crammed with papers that we called, optimistically, “the study”. It's small, old, maybe even a bit smelly, but it's ours.

That's where it happened. After a week of cleaning, tossing and coughing from the dust, in the last cabinet at the bottom of a pile of dusty magazines, old cell phones and twisted electrical cables, I found a sheet of paper.

I squinted at the first few lines, sweating, exhausted, wondering if I should just rip it up, take a shower, and go to bed. This is what it read: “Title of Speech: Artificial Intelligence”, dated early 1996 by Christopher J. Carlson.

My brother, Christopher. I sat down on the faded pink sofa, covered in dust, and almost cried. I don't remember ever having seen that paper before, I don't know how it got there. I looked at the date again – just a few weeks before he took his own life.

I'm not saying it was divine intervention. Some things just happen, good things and bad. But in the very week the editor assigned me to write this article, in the very week I promised myself I wouldn't, here I was holding my brother's speech on AI. Maybe the last thing he ever wrote.

I don't think he ever gave that speech. I mean, I'm not sure, not like how a machine is sure, with mathematical certainty, to one hundred places to the right of the

decimal point, but I feel that's the case. I sat on the dusty couch and thought, that piece of paper is a sort of invitation. If I don't know how to write this article, and if Chris never got the chance to complete his presentation, then maybe we can write it together, maybe we can collaborate across the years.

So, I started with Point 1 of his notes: “The purpose of my speech is to explain the concept of Artificial Intelligence, from its conception, it's [*sic*] applications today and it's [*sic*] implications for the future.”

What's the conception? No, I don't mean of AI. What's my conception of Chris? What do I think of when I close my eyes? Well, he was my negative.

No, I don't mean like “negative” and “positive”. I mean, like the negative from a real camera (not a digital one), one you wind and press its button with a “click” and develop its film in a red-lit room. Hold the negative up to the sun, and the empty spaces are solid, the solidity is empty space, and everything's turned backwards. But let the light shine through, and you see the true image. I see myself reflected in that way when I think of Chris.

Point 2 reads, “The birth of Artificial Intelligence is generally

considered to [begin] in 1950 when British computer scientist Alan Turing published his groundbreaking article on the subject of computer intelligence."

What do I know about computer intelligence? Chris was the smart one. He talked about Turing and how machines would become self-aware someday. (Numbers always frightened me, they still do.) He was musical, played the piano by ear. (I can't hold a tune.) He was athletic and fit; I was slow and fat. He had a black belt in Taekwondo; I tried judo for a year at the YMCA and hurt my shoulder.

Chris' next point reads, "The present state of Artificial Intelligence involves its self with creating parallels between Artificial Intelligence and the human mind."

Parallels. Balance. Equivalence. He started out as the gifted one, and I was always two or three steps behind. But then, as we got older, on that strange and terrible seesaw of life, he began to descend, and I began to lift off the ground. I was *magna cum laude* in college, Fulbright scholar, my first book published by the time I was 26. He barely passed his high school equivalency, was diagnosed with alcoholism, and then a dual diagnosis with schizophrenia.

Over the years, his life slowly fell apart, like pulling at a thread of an old sweater that used to comfort

you. As this happened, there arose an unspoken agreement between us – I would never tell him about my successes, never celebrate my articles or travels or awards. Because I didn't want him to compare himself to me, like I used to do to him. For fear of what he might do.

And I kept our agreement. Except that one time.

He was getting his life back on track. He was married, had a job, he was taking a few classes at university. (Apparently, he was preparing for his speech on AI.) He seemed happy, it seemed like the right time to share; so, in one of those rare phone calls, I told him about my latest achievement, my first job in the UN system, my hopes and dreams for a better world. A few weeks later, he killed himself.

I've sometimes wondered... No, scratch that. I've sometimes been *haunted* by the thought that he killed himself, because he realized that everything he'd dreamed about would never come true, that I was living the life he deserved, that I overshadowed him.

I'm struggling to finish this article. Maybe the last line of Chris' speech will help: "The future of Artificial Intelligence remains unclear, but as true intelligence is approached, the next goal will be the creation of super-intelligence."

I agree, the future remains unclear, and I don't know the difference between "intelligence" and "superintelligence". I don't know if a machine can ever become self-aware, or what that even means.

But I do know something about grief and guilt, and how the depth of loss is often a reflection of the depth of love.

I do know that a machine will never wonder if he hadn't made that phone call, then his brother would still be alive. A machine won't take decades to heal, and then, by sheer chance, when he's cleaning out his apartment, picks up an old piece of paper that decimates him, that cuts him to the bone. A machine will never feel dread that he's outstripping the person he loves, even though he knows he needs to grow.

From my point of view, the debate over AI is misplaced. It's not a question of intelligence, of whether machines can compute faster than humans. Sure, they can beat us at chess, they can drive our cars. Maybe machines can even mimic my writing style; and although it kills me to say it, most people probably wouldn't be able to tell the difference between my work and a computer-generated fake, and maybe most people wouldn't care.

But it's the other stuff that matters. When I see a newscast with a computer-generated person, reading

a message written by a machine, when I see a robot programmed to read prayers at a temple, I don't see anything remotely similar to the human experience – to the beautiful, awful, painful, wonderful, "God-take-this-cup-of-suffering-away-from-me" tragedy of this world.


For me, AI is just an endless room filled with an infinite number of chimpanzees banging away at an unending row of typewriters. Calculations. Numbers. Letters. By sheer volume, they'll uncover the secrets of the universe.

Maybe androids do dream of electric sheep, as the science fiction writer, Philip K. Dick, once wondered. But they won't dream, a few days after their brother's death, that they woke up in their old bed and went into the living room of the house they were raised in together, and their brother's standing there, smiling, and he says he's fine and that everything's going to be all right, which is what happened to me.

That's what I took away from my old apartment, when I packed up what I needed and tossed the rest. That's our essay, mine and Chris', on Artificial Intelligence. ■

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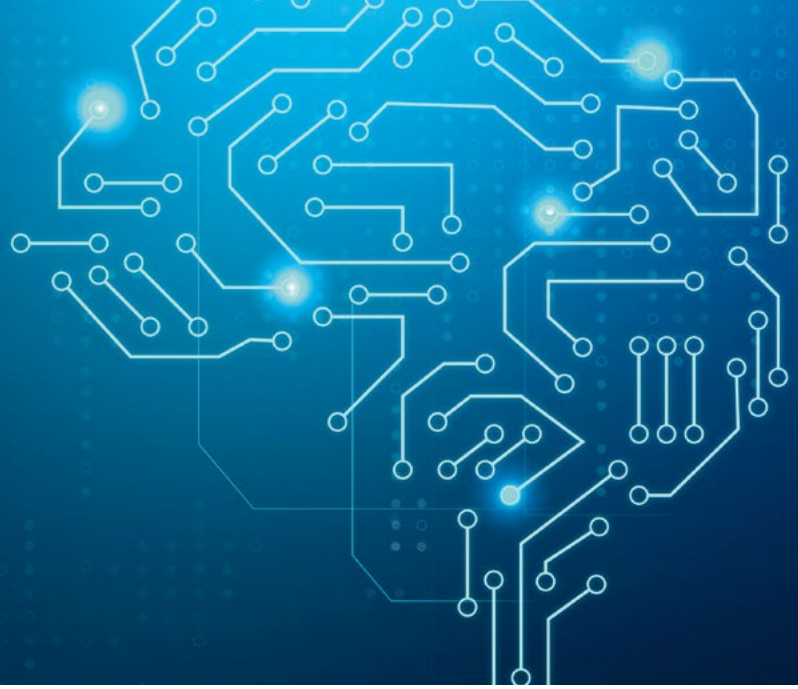
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ChatGPT writes about

The promises and pitfalls of Artificial Intelligence

ChatGPT is the latest in a continuing, evolving series of Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs that can converse in natural English. It can respond to factual questions, write essays, compose haikus, write computer code, jokes, riddles, acrostics and so much more. It poses challenges across many, many disciplines and has caused amazement and alarm in equal measure.

newSpecial's Kevin Crampton asked the chatbot the following question, and its response was generated in about 10 seconds.

"Can you write a magazine article about the current state of Artificial Intelligence that addresses people's fears that it will replace jobs and make humanity redundant? You can speak in the 1st person."

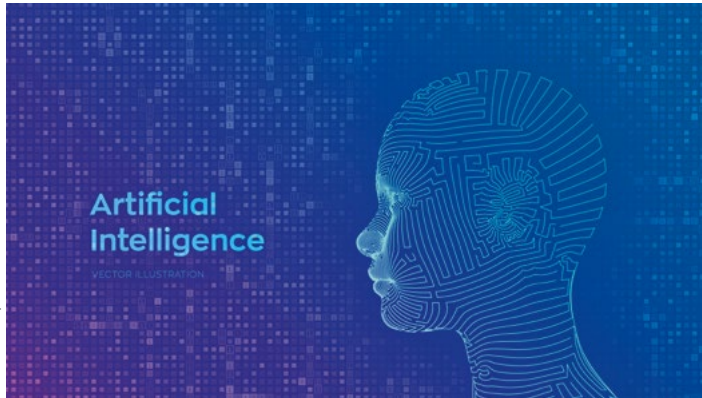
As an AI, I am often asked about the current state of Artificial Intelligence and the potential impact it may have on the job market and humanity as a whole. It is true that AI has the potential

to automate certain tasks and potentially make certain jobs obsolete. However, it is important to note that the development and implementation of AI also has the potential to create new jobs and improve overall productivity.

One of the biggest concerns is that AI will replace human workers, leading to widespread unemployment. While it is true that AI can automate certain tasks, it is not necessarily true that it will lead to widespread job loss. In fact, many experts believe that AI will create new job opportunities and industries. For example, as AI becomes more prevalent in the workforce,

there will be a greater need for individuals with the skills to design, develop, and maintain AI systems. Additionally, AI can also improve the efficiency of certain industries, leading to increased productivity and economic growth.

Another concern is that AI will lead to increased inequality, as those with the skills to work with AI will benefit, while others will be left behind. However, it is important to note that AI can also be used to improve access to education and job training, levelling the playing field for those without traditional educational



Artificial Intelligence refers to the advances in machine learning and insights generated from computer processing large data sets.



The author "chats" with the ChatGPT online interface.

ChatGPT also explained, in a separate chat session, that it has read billions of words and absorbed about eight languages fluently and many more at a working level. It's been programmed to reject inappropriate requests or to wilfully generate misinformation. It explains its answers, but also warns that it was trained on data up to 2021 only, so won't comment on current affairs. Academia feels particularly concerned, as the chatbot can generate essay responses that are indistinguishable from a student's work. Judge for yourself by the quality of this article.

or professional backgrounds. Furthermore, there are initiatives and policies that can be implemented to ensure that the benefits of AI are distributed fairly.

Some people also fear that AI will become so advanced that it will surpass human intelligence, leading to a loss of control over the technology. This is known as the "singularity" scenario, where AI surpasses human intelligence,

and some people fear that AI will become uncontrollable and may even pose a threat to humanity. However, it is important to note that while AI has come a long way in recent years, it is still far from reaching the level of human intelligence, and it is unlikely that it will surpass human intelligence in the near future. Additionally, there are measures that can be taken to ensure that AI remains safe and controllable, such as

implementing strict regulations and guidelines for the development and use of AI.

Overall, it is important to recognize that AI has the potential to greatly benefit humanity, but it is also important to address the potential negative impacts it may have on the job market and society as a whole. By taking a proactive approach, investing in education and job training, and implementing strict regulations and guidelines, we can ensure that the benefits of AI are widely distributed and that it remains safe and controllable.

It's also worth noting that AI is not a one-size-fits-all solution, and it's important to consider how it can complement human workers, instead of replacing them. AI can automate repetitive tasks, leaving more time for humans to focus on more complex and creative tasks, and also in some cases, it

can help humans to make better decisions by providing insights that humans would not have been able to identify on their own.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to greatly benefit humanity, but it is important to address the potential negative impacts it may have on the job market and society as a whole. By investing in education and job training, implementing strict regulations and guidelines, and looking at how AI can complement human workers, we can ensure that the benefits of AI are widely distributed and that it remains safe and controllable. ■

¹ <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



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Intelligence Artificielle: Une révolution ou une condamnation pour la jeunesse?

Je m'appelle Norah et je suis maintenant en dernière année de gymnase en Suisse. Depuis quelques temps, on entend parler d'Intelligence Artificielle partout que ce soit aux nouvelles à la maison ou encore pour certains au boulot. Certains trouvent cela génial, révolutionnaire mais selon moi ce n'est pas le point de vue de tout le monde.



**NORAH TALON, ÉTUDIANTE
AU GYMNASE, CANTON DE VAUD.**

Mais, alors on peut se demander si tout cela est une bonne ou une mauvaise chose? Pour moi, pas forcément. Mais pourquoi? me demanderiez-vous. C'est clair que c'est un moyen d'éviter les devoirs ou encore de nous renseigner sur certains sujets intelligemment et rapidement.

Mais derrière cette fantaisie, pour moi, il y'a une part d'ombre qui n'a pas encore explicitement été dit, que je vais explorer dans cet article. Bonne lecture!

Mes premières approches J'ai entendu parler de *ChatGPT* pour la première fois aux 19h30, à la radio télévisée journalière Suisse. Je me rappelle que j'étais en train de manger et était très choquée de ce reportage. On nous présentait une sorte de «Siri» virtuel. Je me suis dit que c'était incroyable mais je n'ai pas directement cherché à en savoir plus. J'avais certainement d'autres choses à faire.

Pourtant, en cours certains professeurs commençaient à en parler et entre amis on en

discutait aussi. Cela nous semblait incroyable voir révolutionnaire. Jusque-là je n'ai jamais entendu parler de quelque chose de pareil qui marchait vraiment et était aussi accessible. En plus de ça, l'utilisation est simple: il suffit de mettre dans la barre ce que l'on veut qu'il fasse pour nous en rapport avec un certain sujet et boum, il nous fait tout à notre place en même pas dix secondes. Il me semblait que j'ai déjà voulu tester une fois pour voir mais que quand j'allais sur le site, cela ne marchait pas donc j'ai directement abandonné.

L'ombre derrière le tableau. Mais alors, en tant que lecteur, vous pouvez vous demander si tout cela marche vraiment ou pas? C'est ce dont je me suis longtemps interrogée aussi. Tout cela semble trop beau pour être vrai. Alors je vais prendre un exemple réel qui m'a un peu traumatisé. Il y'a quelques semaines j'ai dû faire une dissertation littéraire qui était noté. On l'avait partagée en deux donc on avait droit à quatre heures en tout. Deux le mardi et deux autres le lendemain. Cela nous donnait donc l'occasion de la continuer ou de la refaire entièrement chez nous. L'occasion parfaite de tester *ChatGPT*, non? Pas pour moi en tout cas. Cependant une amie à moi dans ma classe était malade le lendemain de la première session. Elle l'a donc fait aux rattrapages une ou deux semaines après et avait tout le temps de recopier la dissertation faite par *ChatGPT* dans son livre

et tout simplement l'a recopiée. Et c'est alors que quelques semaines plus tard on a reçu les résultats et là... surprise. Mon amie a eu une note très insuffisante alors que moi, qui n'avait pas utilisé *Chat GPT* et qui a simplement bien travaillé afin de trouver de bons exemples et une bonne manière de construire ma dissertation, j'ai eu une des meilleures notes de la classe. Ce n'est pas pour comparer c'est juste, pour vous montrer que *ChatGPT* n'est pas nécessairement la meilleure manière de faire une bonne note à un test.

Mais alors... Qu'en est-il, du futur?


Selon moi, il y'a des avantages à utiliser *Chat GPT* comme le fait qu'il fasse tout pour nous en nous donnant des très bons résultats à un niveau très haut mais il faut s'en méfier. Je sais que en tout cas dans mon gymnase, il y'aura bientôt plusieurs dispositions qui


vont avoir place afin d'interdire *Chat GPT* car c'est aussi un bon moyen de triche qui ne mériterait pas une complète reconnaissance.

Quand on y pense, en tant que Génération Z nous sommes quasiment nés avec la technologie entre nos mains ce qui n'était pas le cas pour ceux d'avant. On nous traite de flemmards en permanence et je suis assez mitigée sur tout cela. D'un côté je trouve qu'on est très efficace car on arrive à faire plusieurs choses en même temps et à une vitesse impressionnante. Mais on a aussi un gros manque motivation et on est beaucoup plus flemmards et tout cela est encouragé par les réseaux sociaux qui nous encourage à passer des heures dessus.

Mais pourquoi me fatiguer alors qu'il y'a des moyens plus faciles et plus rapides? Je vais vous dire de tout faire avec modération.

ChatGPT est incroyablement fantastique et pour moi il y'a aucun tords à l'utiliser de temps en temps. Mais tout faire avec et seulement compter sur ça est juste une manière de confirmer les préjugés sur notre génération. Nous sommes pleins de ressources et pour moi nous allons vraiment changer la société comme jamais vu auparavant. Mais cela revient à un choix, en voyant comment la technologie évolue nous devons nous adapter et en sortir le meilleur de cette zone de confort que nous donne la technologie. À méditer... ■






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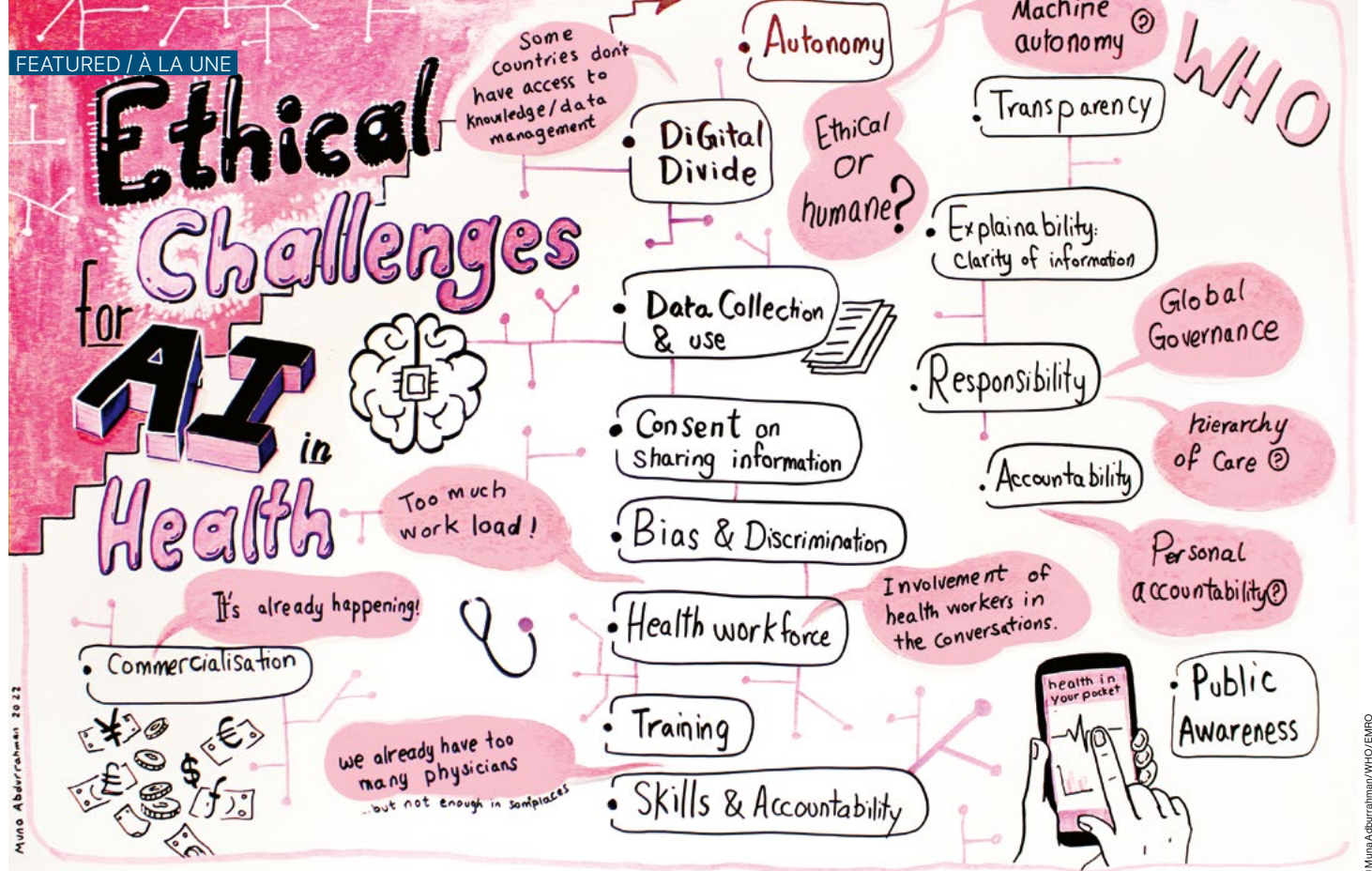
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Taking AI for health to the people

For AI-based digital health systems to benefit people equitably around the world, multiple important gaps need to be addressed - these include robust governance, ethical considerations, and strong public trust. Systems must be developed with regulatory guardrails that secure people from harm, and avoid deepening social, economic, and ethnic disparities within and between countries.

Alain Labrique,
Director, department of digital health and innovation, WHO

YU ZHAO, SAMEER PUJARI,
ANDREAS REIS, SHADA ALSALAMAH,
ROHIT MALPANI AND
DENISE SCHALET, WHO

Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers numerous opportunities for improving health outcomes and helping countries achieve universal health coverage. Novel applications of AI for health are introduced in response to new challenges and emergencies, including the use of AI to accelerate drug development, strengthen surveillance, and improve decision-making during the COVID-19

pandemic. However, for AI to generate benefits and not introduce new ethical, regulatory or safety concerns, good governance must be prioritised, and ethics and human rights must be placed at the centre of design, development, and deployment.

AI at the heart of the United Nations (UN) and global health agenda
In 2019, the UN called for “immediate action in view of the speed with which Artificial Intelligence is affecting societal

transformation” and supported a system-wide strategic approach and roadmap supporting capacity development on Artificial Intelligence¹. The UN highlighted the importance of governing Artificial Intelligence once again in its latest roadmap for digital cooperation² released in September 2020.

Harnessing AI has always been an integral part of the global health agenda. Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020–2025³, built on resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly⁴,

emphasises that “digital transformation of health care will be disruptive and technologies such as the Internet of things, Artificial Intelligence, big data analytics, blockchain have the potential to enhance health outcomes by improving medical diagnosis, data-based treatment decisions and self-management of care”. The strategy document also recognises “information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges for the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals”. AI is also increasingly a part of the global health agenda from the bottom-up as new technologies that use AI are increasingly piloted and even adopted for use in diverse health care settings around the world. They thereby require policy-makers and institutions to devise rules, standards, and regulations to ensure such technologies can be used judiciously and effectively, while seeking to influence and participate in the development of AI solutions so that they are fit for purpose.

First ever guidance defining ethics principles of AI for health

WHO is taking a coordinated lead in shaping the foundation for this work in the countries by producing guidance on ethics, governance, and regulations of AI for health. In June 2021, the organization issued new guidance on the ethics and governance of AI for health. The document, based on 18 months of consultation with leading international experts, identified 10 diverse ethics and human rights challenges associated with the

use of AI for health, six consensus principles for the use of AI, and approaches to governance that can enable governments, companies, and civil society to best ensure that AI can maximise its potential.

The guidance has generated significant interest and follow-up since its publication, especially with governments, WHO’s technical departments now grappling with evaluating and integrating novel AI technologies, large technology companies, academics, and civil society. WHO has also generated additional, complementary guidance, including ethical considerations for the use of digital proximity tracking applications during the COVID-19 pandemic, and an examination of how AI technologies for health can either mitigate or worsen ageism.

To facilitate knowledge transfer, an online course⁵ was launched following the release of the guidance, currently hosting more than 10,000 users from more than 171 countries across the globe, promoting the appropriate and accountable use of AI in health. Multiple regional workshops were organised during the last quarter of 2022. Through the use of a ‘learn and apply’ approach, participating government policy-makers from more than 30 countries on three continents could formulate policy decisions based on considerations proposed in the guidance document.

Benchmarking AI for health

The Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (FG-AI4H)

“was created by the ITU and WHO to explore the potential for standardization work in the application of AI to health in 2018. In particular, it has looked at and created guidance (including open-source implementations) on the benchmarking of AI for health solutions. The collaboration addresses 10 cross-cutting topics, such as ethics and governance, and 23 specific topic areas, such as tuberculosis, cervical cancer, and diabetes.

One of the key deliverables on the FG-AI4H is an overview of regulatory concepts on Artificial Intelligence for health. This deliverable aims to provide normative guidance that recommends a set of fundamental regulatory concepts on AI for health covering the following six topic areas: documentation and transparency, risk management & AI systems development, life-cycle approaches, analytical and clinical validation, data quality, engagement and collaboration, and privacy and data protection. Such recommendations can be considered by all stakeholders in the AI for health ecosystem, including not only regulators and policymakers who are trying to identify ways of managing AI systems, but also developers and manufacturers as well as health practitioners who deploy and use such medical devices and Artificial Intelligence systems.

Looking forward – Global Initiative on AI for health

The focus group offers opportunities for reaching consensus on common challenges and priorities by convening key stakeholders

from the Global AI community. It is therefore critical to transit the group into a long-term institutional structure as the use of AI for health accelerates and expands worldwide. WHO is currently exploring possibilities of establishing a Global AI initiative that will facilitate guidance around norms, governance, and knowledge sharing, support implementation of the initiative and enable partnerships and cross-cutting resource development.

The initiative will be structured around three functions: enable for setting up norms, standards, and good governance, facilitate for knowledge sharing and collaboration within the digital health ecosystem, and implement for a scaled-up implementation of accountable use of AI for health by nations.

The department of digital health and innovation welcomes UN partners to join the Global AI initiative to address actors’ fragmentation and work towards a better coordinated governance of AI for health. ■

1 CEB/2019/1/Add.3 A United Nations system-wide strategic approach and road map for supporting capacity development on Artificial Intelligence

2 A/74/821 Roadmap for digital cooperation: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation

3 Global strategy on digital health 2020–2025, www.who.int/dhstrategy

4 United Nations General Assembly resolutions 73/218 (2019) and 70/125 (2016).

5 <https://openwho.org/courses/ethics-ai>

6 <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/ai4h/Pages/default.aspx>



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WHO's Zero Tolerance on sexual misconduct

Driving #NoExcuse culture change and putting victims first.

MARGARET HARRIS, WHO

WHO's commitment to zero tolerance on sexual misconduct can be seen in many ways, from the response to the cases of sexual abuse and exploitation recorded in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, to the unique victim-centred support approach that drives the care the Organization is determined to provide to survivors. This work has been further institutionalized through the Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment department (PRSEAH)¹, led by its Director, Dr. Gaya Gamhewage (GG), who recently sat for an interview for *newSpecial* conducted by WHO Spokesperson Dr. Margaret Harris (MH).

MH Why is it so important to take on this role?

GG I think everybody knows about the allegations of widespread sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the 10th Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And this was actually devastating, not just from an organizational point of

view, but for me personally and my fellow staff.

I was working in the (WHO) Health Emergencies programme at the time, and it was, and still is, a programme that I take great pride in, that we really serve the most vulnerable populations in the world during health emergencies. But we also know during health emergencies, the risk of any type of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, goes up. So I was really torn. Do I continue with my public health career or do I work on this issue? For me, the tipping point came when I realized that unless we can ensure that WHO personnel, our contractors, our partners are not the perpetrators, unless we could be confident about our behavior, that we were doing no harm to populations we serve, I felt that we would lose our leadership in health, and the trust people had for what we do. It doesn't matter how good we are technically in delivering public health if we cannot ensure the conduct of our personnel.

MH This is a huge task you've taken on. Did it feel overwhelming? Where did you begin?

GG What drives the team and the hundreds of part-time focal points we have in the countries (350), dozens in regional office, and those here (in Headquarters) are the testimonies of victims and survivors. It haunts us. So it doesn't matter how difficult the task is, we must keep pushing forward. And it is a very difficult task because we are in a massive, decentralized, dispersed organization.

We are an international workforce each with our own cultures and standards. And yet we have to come together to the values of WHO – we should do no harm, while we serve the vulnerable, and keep people safe. There is no condition under which we should be the perpetrators of sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment. So the work has been about changing people's minds and also about changing our systems, and how we work – our policies, our



November 2021 visit by Dr Gaya Gamhewage to HEAL Africa, a centre based in Goma, Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, that provides holistic services to vulnerable communities, including trainings for socio-economic reintegration. The women benefiting from the training are all GBV victims-survivors. In the left hand photo is Hannan Sulieman, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, Management, who co-led the Inter-agency mission with Dr Gamhewage.



structures, our procedures. It is very exciting work, because it's a truly complex challenge that the whole of the UN has been struggling with for a long time.

And in WHO, we went a step further. We realized sexual harassment of our own personnel is as harmful as anything that happens outside. So we are trying to bring sexual exploitation and abuse of populations we serve together with the sexual harassment of our own personnel. They have the same drivers, they require similar prevention, and they all require zero tolerance.

Everything was triggered by the honesty of the Director-General, because when the Independent Commission report came out, he took responsibility that the Organization had not done enough to prevent it. I started the job in July

2021 and the Independent Commission report² came out in September. During those months, we had started work. We were reviewing policy, looking at procedures, looking at the kinds of structures, money and people we needed.

But as soon as the launch of the report, he (Dr. Tedros) established a survivor assistance fund³. It's very unique in the UN; we are the only agency to have a fund that can directly and quickly provide support to victims and survivors of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. This symbolized WHO's shift to a victim-, survivor-centered approach. That day, WHO said what is most important are the people who are victims and survivors. That allowed me to push everything, including policy, strategy, procedures, towards this. I'm the only full-time Director for PRSEAH in the whole of

the UN. The Director-General has made available US\$50 million for the biennium because we knew we needed resources and people to reach Zero Tolerance.

When we started, we had no dedicated expert team for investigations. And investigating sexual misconduct requires expertise, victim-centered approach (and) trauma-informed approaches. So, we built up a team of 19 people in our Internal Oversight Services Department, and this team has been instrumental. They cleared all the (case) backlog and now we have the only benchmark for investigation in the UN: WHO will complete sexual misconduct investigations in 120 days. We are putting information on all allegations and disciplinary action taken in the public domain. Having and meeting a benchmark is really important. In fact, an audit

in late 2022 revealed it can take up to a year for just the investigation phase. And following the investigation phase there is a due process before action can be taken. You still need to follow due process through H.R. and administrative processes to let all parties know what the charges and findings are, give them a chance to provide additional information, and then to take disciplinary action. We've set a new benchmark for this of between 60 and 80 days. But more importantly, we are developing a tracking system to see if we are meeting this, and if not, why not?

I want to be clear. We have to balance the needs and rights of victims to have a fair, fast, just investigation process conducted by mandated officials. At the same time, we have to fulfill the obligations and rights

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of people who are alleged to be perpetrators. If we balance these two and go forward, the results, the findings of investigations, and the disciplinary action will stand.

It's very important during this process to maintain confidentiality for the victim, but also the alleged perpetrator, because about 50% of cases investigated in this area in the last year have been substantiated. We cannot bypass a proper system and people are innocent until proven guilty.

MH Isn't the number of allegations a very clear indicator of progress?

GG If our system is working, there'll be more allegations, more media coverage. That cannot be a punitive action for us. We spoke to our Member States and donors, and clearly said if allegations go up, that means it's working. And I think we've proven over the last two years that transparency works. Transparency allows you to be accountable.

We are working hand in hand with all our Member States, and all U.N. organizations. We are "struggling forward together" because there are so many problems that we can

only address together, particularly at country level. There are measures we can do to get our house in order. But the world is bigger than us and we have to work together.

MH What I'm really hearing is that the Director-General, through you, has initiated is a really huge culture change. But it does feel like turning around an aircraft carrier.

GG Yes, it is very hard. Most days I tell myself, "come on, we are several steps ahead of yesterday. We're better than yesterday." It does take time, particularly because this is not just about a protocol to deliver a vaccine or a treatment. It's about humans with their own biases, their own culture, looking at what people consider a very intimate and personal issue. It's linked to their core beliefs of sexuality, entitlements, of power, how they've been able to abuse power in the past. So, it's really a difficult conversation to have. But there are positive signs.

First of all, we've done a culture review. We take part in U.N. surveys and others. And what we're seeing is a really positive trend of engagement of our staff on this issue. I'm really hopeful. I

hold regular webinars for staff and have 2000-3000 staff joining each. And this year they're not even mandatory. But 2000 people joined me earlier this week. One thing that I've noticed is when we started this, people would only write comments as anonymous, but now they're writing their names and people are comfortable to ask really difficult questions in public. I believe this is part of culture change.

But it will take time. It is like an aircraft carrier turning slowly. But I believe in a year, a year and a half, we will be facing a new direction. I'm actually motivated by staff across the Organization. I've been very touched and I would tear up a little bit. Whenever I travel, I really see how much of an impact it's making on people and it's giving people, if you like, that push to speak up in a respectful way.

MH If we were having this conversation in two years time, what would you like to say has changed?

GG Our goal is fully zero tolerance for sexual misconduct, for inaction against it, and for retaliation to be a hallmark of this organization,

not just lip service, everywhere. And that means every victim's and survivor's voice is heard, respected and supported. Every perpetrator is disciplined appropriately. No workforce member has any excuse to say they didn't know what they were supposed to do. And all our partners know that we will hold them to our standards. That's the world that all of WHO has asked me to move forward on, and I'm really honored to do that. But really, these are from the voices of our staff, from the advice of our Member States. And yes, I'm very, very optimistic and hopeful. ■

You can view the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/uUPuaWVxf8>

For more information visit <https://www.who.int/initiatives/preventing-and-responding-to-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment>

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- 1 <https://www.who.int/initiatives/preventing-and-responding-to-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment/our-work>
- 2 <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/final-report-of-the-independent-commission-on-the-review-of-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-ebola-drc>
- 3 <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-03-2023-who-launches-policy-on-preventing-and-addressing-sexual-misconduct>
- 4 <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/WHO-DGO-PRS-2023.4>
- 5 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240069039>
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(WTISD) – 17 May 2023

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)¹ focuses this year on “Empowering the least developed countries (LDCs) through information and communication technologies (ICTs).” WTISD takes place on 17 May 2023, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) calls on the public and private sectors to help connect schools in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). ITU especially encourages pledges through its Partner2Connect Digital Coalition² and Giga³ project.

LDCs are the world’s greatest untapped resource, whose needs must be addressed to achieve the SDGs. One out of every three of the 2.7 billion people who remain unconnected to the Internet live in the 46 LDCs. Halfway through the Decade of Action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these countries face daunting challenges.

The Fifth Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha, Qatar, set out an ambitious new United Nations programme of action to deliver on sustainable development for all by 2030. Investment in these LDCs can drive sustainable growth for future generations.

Together, let’s make 2023 a year of progress for digital transformation in the least developed countries. ■

¹ <https://www.itu.int/wtisd/en>

² <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/#:text=The%20Partner2Connect%20Digital%20Coalition%20is,connectivity%20and%20digital%20transformation%20globally%2C>

³ <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Initiatives/GIGA/Pages/default.aspx>



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HOW AI CONTRIBUTES TO SDGS



01 NO POVERTY

AI has been used to improve social security payment systems & detect tax evasion and fraud



02 ZERO HUNGER

AI and satellite imagery are used to monitor and track crop yields and detect drought. AI is used to apply fertilisers and optimize irrigation



03 GOOD HEALTH

AI is used in health imagery & diagnosis to detect cancers. Computer vision can be used to monitor hygiene and handwashing in hospitals



04 QUALITY EDUCATION

AI can be used to personalize education, via chatbots and automated testing. Monitoring facial expressions can identify pupils who are struggling



05 GENDER EQUALITY

ML models and facial recognition have yielded biased results and reduced accuracy for women in some applications, but algorithms can be debiased



06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ML models can forecast water supply & help irrigation systems function more efficiently



07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

AI and ML can help plan network transmission & distribute power more efficiently, especially renewables



08 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

AI is a massive & growing economic sector, although its labour replacement effects are unclear



09 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

AI can enhance infrastructure & infrastructure efficiency



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

AI has been used to improve social security payment systems



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

AI can help urban planning, transport, power consumption & energy efficiency



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

AI & satellite images track pollution & CO₂



13 CLIMATE ACTION

AI and ML models have been used to improve our understanding of the climate and to predict likely future scenarios for climate change



14 LIFE BELOW WATER

ML models have been used to estimate marine animal populations and track migrations



15 LIFE ON LAND

AI models can help track migrations, estimate population distributions & model genetic biodiversity



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Open source info has been used to track disinformation, assassins, tax evasion and sanctions



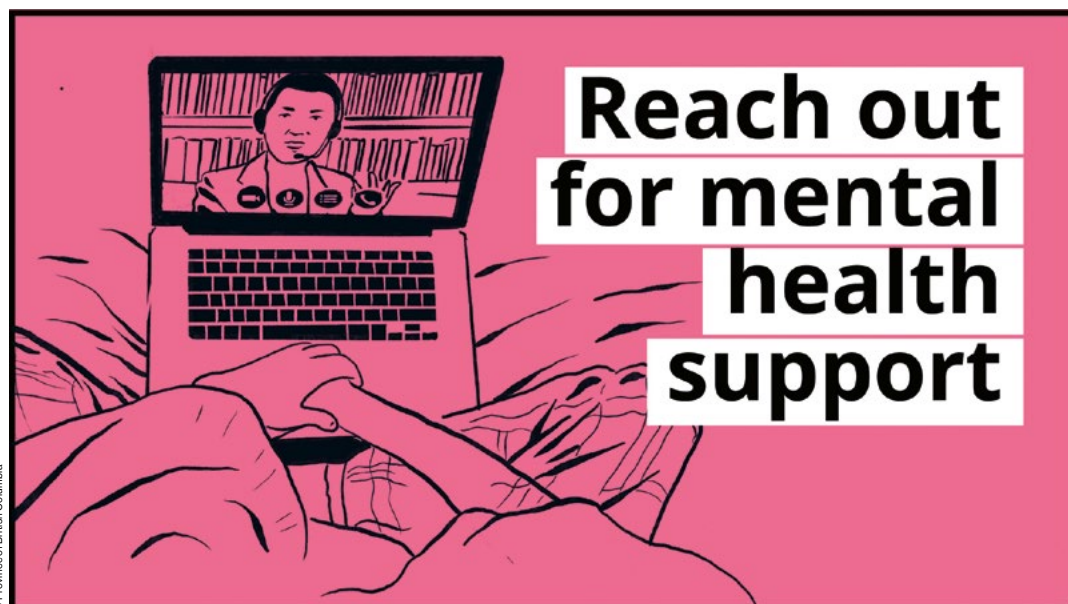
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

AI can model promising partnerships & suggest contacts & projects



Why you won't find me on social media platforms (except Twitter)

I'm not on Facebook nor Instagram nor TikTok, and I intend to keep it that way. I put my needs and my happiness first.



Reach out if you're struggling with your mental health.

**LISANNE HOPKIN, EDITORIAL
ASSISTANT, NEWSPECIAL**

In 2016, during the final few months of my time at school, I went through a breakup that I took particularly very hard. It was not a nice breakup. The relationship had not been a very healthy one towards the end, and it was not a clean break either, so I think that made it all the harder. I struggled a lot. Even now, it has left me with a lot of psychological scars, and I know that I have developed issues because of that breakup. It was by no means the worst breakup in the world. I was 18, and I had been through lots of breakups before. But it did really kick me to the ground and suck my soul for a while.

Eventually, I did what I think is a healthy thing to do. I unfriended my ex on Facebook. It seemed like

the easiest and simplest way to stop being reminded of him. However, one day I remember checking my Facebook feed and seeing that a friend had tagged my ex-boyfriend in a photo. I felt a little hurt and betrayed by this friend. How could he still be friends with my ex? Then I remembered that, actually, they had been friends before they had met me. My friend's loyalty should have been with my ex-boyfriend, as it was.

How could I cope with continuously seeing my friends share photos of my ex, though? I couldn't stop them from hanging out, nor taking pictures. I didn't want to have to unfriend a lot of my friends, either. I couldn't think of any other way to protect myself from any extra and unnecessary pain than by deactivating my

Facebook account. It made sense. No pictures of anyone. No contact from my ex. Perfect. I did the same thing with my Instagram account and thought nothing more of it.

Getting on for seven years later, I still don't have a Facebook account. Nor an Instagram account. And it's not because I'm still trying to avoid my ex-boyfriend. In a weird twist of events, which I actually consider not to be that weird, because sometimes I do think my life would make for great reality TV, my ex-boyfriend and I went to the same university, and studied almost exactly the same degree. We never had a single class together, except for that one time when one of his professors was sick and the students had all been dispersed into the other classes. We had some



Social media can affect your mental health.

friends in common, but we didn't really cross paths with each other. Anyway, if I had been trying to avoid him, university would not have been the place to go.

I don't use Facebook, Instagram, nor TikTok mainly because I find social media quite toxic. I don't want to have to create this 'perfect' life. I don't want to have to create one version of myself that only the internet gets to see. I don't want to have to worry about what my feed looks like, who's following (or not following) me, whether I look good in a picture. If you're going to be in my life, you get all of me. You get the good, the bad, the ugly. You get the ups and downs. The happy, the anxious. Why should you see only the good side of me? I think it was Marilyn Monroe who said, 'if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best'. And I definitely don't want a bunch of strangers only seeing me at my best.

Basically, for me, social media is an extra source of worry. And let me tell you, I don't need that. If I

could get a job in worrying, I'd be a CEO in worrying. So, over the years, I've learned to recognise and cut out what worries me. I want to live my life to the fullest and happiest extent that I can. I'm sorry in advance if I upset those younger than me who love to spend their time on social media. However, if this speaks to one person (younger or older than me) then I'm not completely sorry. Sometimes you need someone who will make you feel like you're not alone in the world. And with social media, that can be a very difficult thing to do.

In 2021, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health claimed that internal research done by Facebook found that one in three teenage girls had worsened body image issues because of Instagram, and that 'all teenage users of the app linked it to experiences of anxiety and depression'.¹ It doesn't help that 'influencers' are constantly posting photos of themselves looking all glammed up and on vacations. And what annoys me the most is Snapchat's filters. And

yes, while I am guilty of using its filters, mostly for fun, the thing that irritates me the most is that almost every single Snapchat filter seems to 'brush away' my freckles. It 'clears my skin'. Or it just adds some fake freckles after brushing away my real ones, and that looks worse. Growing up, I didn't like my freckles. Even now, I feel a little prickle inside me when a small child asks me why I have lots of spots on my face. However, what makes it worse is that freckles are somehow now 'fashionable'. Influencers were seen adding fake freckles to their makeup routines, or worse, attempting to tattoo freckles onto themselves all in the name of 'fashion'. It makes me so irritated that something that I struggled with while growing up is now a fashion. Once it's done being fashionable, are people going to go back to hating freckles?

We should also talk about the dangerous trends that seem to appear more often than they should. Back in later 2017 to early 2018, a Tide Pod 'challenge' seemed to be everywhere on social media. In 2020, the 'Benadryl challenge' was the new 'trend', and in 2021, we have the 'Milk Crate challenge'. All of these 'challenges' come with serious, sometimes irreversible, consequences, which begs the question: if I say jump, would you jump?

While social media can have a negative effect on our mental health, it can also affect our physical health too. Social media can play a massive part in creating body image issues and can lead to body dysmorphia.² Social media can also affect our sleep. If you're struggling with your mental health, sleep is also something that you can struggle with. It can be hard to keep the negative thoughts quiet. You might toss and turn all night, never really falling asleep properly. A lack of sleep then causes all sorts of health problems.

I know Twitter is also an extremely toxic place, however, I spend most of my time on it finding out news about films, theatre, and books. And I rarely ever post my own content.

If you believe that social media is having a negative effect on your mental health, then try to do something about it. Limit how much time you can spend on social media. Think about how you are feeling before opening up your account. Put boundaries in place, so that you can look after yourself. Trust me when I say that social media is not worth putting yourself through stress and/or anxiety. You matter so much more than that. ■

- 1 Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. "Just How Harmful Is Social Media? Our Experts Weigh-in." Columbia Mailman School of Public Health, 27 Sept. 2021, www.publichealth.columbia.edu/public-health-now/news/just-how-harmful-social-media-our-experts-weigh.
- 2 Berg, Sara. "What Doctors Wish Patients Knew about Social Media's Toxic Impact." *American Medical Association*, 17 Dec. 2021, www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/what-doctors-wish-patients-knew-about-social-media-s-toxic-impact.



ChatGPT

An ongoing and unprecedented disruption for education and training?



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**RAPHAËL ZAFFRAN¹,
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The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has enabled numerous innovations in different fields, and education is no exception. Educational chatbots, especially AI-powered chatbots such as *ChatGPT*, are revolutionising the way we learn and interact with information. Since its introduction to the public, *ChatGPT* has become a world-wide phenomenon and has generated both awe and fear with its sheer computing power. The disruption *ChatGPT* is causing within the educational sector recalls the lukewarm reactions of many seasoned education practitioners and academics

toward the arrival of the internet and the advent of Wikipedia. At the time, many perceived the near-immediate access to information as threatening the very essence of good quality, human-conducted research. Today, similar questions arise: should the use of *ChatGPT* (and other AI-powered apps) be regulated? If so, how, by whom, and with what underlying pedagogical vision? These questions aside, we are living through an unprecedented disruptive revolution that could lead (or force) us to reinvent how education and training is conceptualised and operationalised.³ That said, where do we, as educational practitioners, stand?

Should we fear the *ChatGPT* wave or surf on it? How can we anticipate the future to adapt our current practices?

ChatGPT and education: a relationship in the making?

ChatGPT is a natural language processing (NLP) system based on artificial neural networks. It was developed by OpenAI, an Artificial Intelligence research organisation, and is based on the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) language model. This model is trained on large amounts of text data, which allows it to understand and generate natural language. The

version that took the world by storm in late November 2022 was built on top of OpenAI's GPT-3 family of large language models. Its successor, GPT-4, which was released on 14 March 2023, was announced to be "far more powerful and capable than GPT-3"⁴. Among other things, the new version can process about eight times as many words as the previous version (up to 25,000 words) and can respond to images (for instance adding relevant captions).⁵ OpenAI also indicates that GPT-4 provides the basis for more advanced reasoning capabilities and a safer environment for users, claiming that "GPT-4 is 82% less likely to respond to requests for disallowed content and 40% more likely to produce factual responses" than previous models.⁶

ChatGPT may be used in educational contexts in a variety of ways.⁷ Here is a non-exhaustive list of examples in which *ChatGPT* can be incorporated within pedagogical learning designs:

- **Research assistance:** *ChatGPT* can be used to help students find information relevant to their research. Using natural language processing algorithms, *ChatGPT* can analyse students' search queries and provide relevant results.
- **Content generation:** *ChatGPT* can be used to generate educational content, such as exercises, tests, quizzes, assignments and reports. Using prior learning data, *ChatGPT* can generate personalised content for each student, which can help students better understand concepts.
- **Text correction:** *ChatGPT* can also be used for text correction. Using a natural language processing algorithm, *ChatGPT* can identify grammatical and spelling errors in a text and provide suggestions for correcting them.
- **Educational chatbots:** *ChatGPT* can be used to create educational chatbots that can answer students' questions. These

chatbots can be used to provide information on a specific topic, answer students' questions or even provide advice and guidance on more general issues, such as how to study better.

In the end, *ChatGPT* is already being used in educational contexts whether we like it or not. Moreover, *ChatGPT* is but one out of the many similar AI-based tools that already exist and that aim to automate or accelerate certain existing tasks. It is essential that educational institutions invest time and resources to stay on top of AI-related educational tools to best accompany their instructors in choosing which tools should be integrated in pedagogical designs and how.

The impact of *ChatGPT* on education and training: a few benefits with important shortcomings

Some of the benefits of using *ChatGPT* in education include:

- **Accessibility:** *ChatGPT* can help make education more accessible by allowing students to access information anytime, anywhere. Educational chatbots can be used at home, at school or even outside the school context to provide continuing education on the go.
- **Personalised learning:** Using prior learning data, *ChatGPT* can generate personalised content for each student based on their needs and preferences, which can help students grasp concepts at their own rhythm.
- **Improved learning efficiency:** *ChatGPT* can help improve learning efficiency by allowing students to ask questions and receive immediate answers. Educational chatbots can provide additional explanations to help students understand concepts more deeply.
- **Reducing instructor stress:** *ChatGPT* can help reduce instructor stress by answering students' frequently asked questions. Instructors can thereby

focus on the most important tasks such as course design, personal coaching and assessment, while *ChatGPT* can answer common questions.

- **Cost savings:** This one is not uncontroversial. *ChatGPT* may contribute to reduce the cost of education. Educational chatbots can replace some additional tutors, which can help institutions mitigate teaching costs and make education more accessible (provided there are no technological gaps or barriers to start with).

While *ChatGPT* may constitute a valuable tool in education and training, it still has some shortcomings that should be considered, including:

- **As good as the data it was trained on:** One of the biggest limitations of *ChatGPT* is that it is a machine learning algorithm that operates based on pre-defined data and algorithms. This means that it may not always be able to provide accurate or complete responses to complex questions or situations that require human judgment and decision-making. Additionally, *ChatGPT's* responses may be limited by the data it has been trained on, which can lead to biased or incomplete answers. For example, the version that used to run on GPT-3 until mid-March 2023 came with a disclaimer that *ChatGPT* was trained on data dating from 2021 and would therefore have limited knowledge of post-2021 events.
- **Inaccurate or completely fabricated citations:** Some tests have revealed that *ChatGPT* is not reliable when it comes to generating adequate citations and bibliographic resources. Worse, users have raised the issue that *ChatGPT* tends to generate completely fabricated citations (which nonetheless look very real). This issue has been referred to "hallucination" and might be significantly improved in the future.⁸ Still, and rather disappointingly,

OpenAI continues to list the issue of "hallucination" among the limitations that have yet to be solved, even with the recently released GPT-4.⁹

- **Motivation, creativity, cheating and plagiarism concerns:** There has been widespread worry among educational providers that *ChatGPT* (and other similar tools) would rob students of their motivation, creativity and critical thinking; as well as fearing that it would create a culture of widespread cheating and plagiarism.¹⁰ Interestingly, the advent of *ChatGPT* is affecting what some perceived as a new paradigm of relative trust between students and teachers, which had been established as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In effect, while the forced move to full distance learning had led to widespread acceptance about the need for, and the interest of distance learning (including distance or e-assessment), the advent of *ChatGPT* is already calling this paradigm shift into question.
- **Limited personalised learning experience:** *ChatGPT* may not always be able to provide a personalised learning experience that meets the individual needs and learning styles of every student. While *ChatGPT* can provide personalised feedback based on a student's inputs and performance, it may not always be able to adapt to a student's unique needs or preferences in the same way a human teacher can. Additionally, some students may struggle to interact with *ChatGPT*, either because they do not feel comfortable using technology or because they prefer a more traditional learning environment.
- **May lead to further student isolation:** While *ChatGPT* can provide feedback and guidance on academic performance, it may not always be able to provide the emotional support and encouragement that students need to overcome challenges or stay motivated.

Additionally, *ChatGPT* may not be able to provide the same level of social interaction and community-building that students can experience in a traditional classroom setting.

- **Ethical and privacy concerns:** Finally, it is important to recognise that the use of *ChatGPT* in education and training can raise ethical concerns around privacy and data protection. As an AI-powered chatbot, *ChatGPT* collects and stores data on user interactions and performance, which can raise questions about who has access to this data and how it is being used. Additionally, the use of *ChatGPT* can raise concerns around the ownership and control of educational content, as well as the potential for corporate interests to shape the direction and focus of educational programs.

Recommendations on using *ChatGPT* in educational contexts

It is crucial for institutions to stay on top of trends to understand the limitations of *ChatGPT* and similar tools. The University of Geneva's Centre for Continuing and Distance Education conducts a permanent watch¹¹ on how these tools can be best used in conjunction with other educational resources. As of March/April 2023, our recommendations on using *ChatGPT* in education contexts include:

1. First and foremost, we recognise that *ChatGPT* and other similar AI-powered tools are already here and here to stay. We therefore recommend that education practitioners work towards trying to integrate and work alongside those tools rather than attempting to ban them.
2. Second, we believe that while *ChatGPT* can provide personalised and accessible learning, it cannot replace the value of human interaction and personal attention that a teacher can provide. This reality should therefore

be embodied by instructors, who should be confident in their added value in terms of student support and coaching in the classroom.

3. Third, educational institutions and practitioners should be aware of the possible ethical concerns around privacy, data protection, and corporate influence that come with AI-based tools, as well as major shortcomings such as issues related to inaccurate or fabricated bibliographic citations.
4. Fourth, to address the key concern of cheating and plagiarism, course pedagogical designs (including assessment means) should focus on skill development, which will be crucial as they enter the world of work, post-graduation. This includes *hard skills* such as data analysis, coding, project management, research or graphic design; but also *soft skills*, such as communication & public speaking, teamwork, empathy, leadership and emotional agility.
5. Fifth, and operationally, this involves conceptualising assignments that are meaningful in that they strive to lead to skill development. This can be done by incorporating:
 - a. *experiential learning*, such as working on case-studies, taking part in role-plays, interacting with a given field's professionals, undertaking internships within an institution, etc.
 - b. *multimodal evaluations*, consisting of supplementing writing assignments with other productions such as podcasts, videos, or visuals such as mind maps and infographics.¹² For instance, a classic take-home assessment initially consisting of answering an essay question might involve asking the student to also provide a mindmap demonstrating his/her research process and/or a short audio commentary to introduce the paper and its key take-aways.

Ultimately, the AI revolution is here to stay and will likely continue to surprise us in ways we could not even imagine. In fact, it is now opening interesting perspectives in terms of human-AI collaboration and future jobs such as "AI whisperer" or "AI prompt engineer"¹³ that, just a few years ago, would have seemed taken out of an Isaac Asimov novel.¹⁴ By integrating *ChatGPT* and other similar tools rather than trying to ban them, educational institutions will be more able to optimise their use, mitigate their shortcomings and hopefully reap the benefits of this unprecedented disruptive technological revolution. ■

1 Deputy Director, Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, University of Geneva

2 The Centre for Continuing and Distance Education oversees the development of lifelong learning programmes at the [University of Geneva](https://www.unige.ch/unige/en/university-of-geneva) (UNIGE). For more information and a full list of training programmes in English and French, visit www.unige.ch/formcont/en

3 See Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and Elias Blinkoff, "ChatGPT: Educational friend or foe?" Brookings, www.brookings.edu/blog/education-plus-development/2023/01/09/chatgpt-educational-friend-or-foe/

4 See Bernard Marr, "GPT-4 Is Coming – What We Know So Far", in www.forbes.com/sites/bernardmarr/2023/02/24/gpt-4-is-coming-what-we-know-so-far/?sh=b9f8aa76c2d7

5 See BBC News, "OpenAI announces ChatGPT successor GPT-4", <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-64959346>

6 See how OpenAI presents it on its website: openai.com/product/gpt-4

7 See for instance the resources presented in "AI in Higher Education Resource Hub", Teachonline.ca, teachonline.ca/ai-resources

8 See cybernews.com/tech/chatgpts-bard-ai-answers-hallucination/

9 See openai.com/product/gpt-4

10 See The Learning Network, New York Times, www.nytimes.com/2023/02/02/learning/students-chatgpt.html

11 See unige.padlet.org/cfcd/ressources-ia-chatgpt-focus-sur-l-enseignement-et-la-formati-q7d4rmpowkej66cl

12 Andrea Williams, "Principles of Assessment Design", in *Designing Assessments in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*, Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation, University of Toronto (28 February 2023)

13 See www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/02/25/prompt-engineers-techs-next-big-job/ and <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceinter/podcasts/un-monde-nouveau/un-monde-nouveau-du-mercredi-08-mars-2023-4227909> (French)

14 See Isaac Asimov's *Robots* and *Foundation* book series.

Breaking boundaries

Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame has been elected as the new chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), making her the first African woman to lead the committee.



Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame.

TESSA POPE, SIGHTSAVERS

By age 14, Gertrude (Getty to friends and colleagues), had lost much of her vision and couldn't read most books. She spent the next three years struggling through lessons at a mainstream school where there were no measures in place to support students with disabilities. At age 17, she changed schools, was taught to type, and read braille, and her studies flourished. But even then, she could not have guessed where her education would finally take her.

Today, she has become the first African woman to chair the UN's highest committee on disability rights, the UNCRPD.

Getty, who is also global advocacy manager for social inclusion at international NGO Sightsavers, was elected to the position during the CRPD's 28th session in Geneva.

A lifelong disability rights advocate and champion of inclusive education, particularly for girls with disabilities, Getty has been a member of the committee since 2018. She was first nominated for a role on the CRPD by the government of Ghana, her home country.

Reflecting on her election, she said, "It is with great pride that I accept this position as the first African woman to hold this office. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, and I look forward to collaborative work to make a positive and inclusive impact in the lives of persons with disabilities around the world."

In her new role as chair of the CRPD, Getty will lead the committee in its mission to promote, protect, and monitor the rights of people with disabilities around the world. This includes overseeing the implementation of the United Nations Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has been ratified by more than 180 countries.

This historic moment for the rights of women with disabilities serendipitously fell just ahead of International Women's Day. But it also coincided with the announcement by the head of the UN, António Guterres, that gender equality is still '300 years away', and the publication of a new report which shows that only 12% of leaders of 33 major multilateral institutions have ever been women. This includes organisations like the UN and the World Bank.

Getty's election and the work which led to it breaks down several barriers. Before 2020, there was no gender parity on the CRPD committee, and in 2018 there was only one woman out of 18 members. No sub-committees had any women involved and their voices weren't

represented when holding states to account on disability issues.

To change this, Getty joined with Sightsavers Equal UN campaign to call for diversity and fair representation across all ten UN human rights bodies. Historically, women with disabilities had been under-represented on these committees, especially those from low- and middle-income countries – and Africa in particular. The campaign focused on ensuring that women with disabilities from developing countries have a place in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Following collaborative campaigning and lobbying efforts, the 2020 election saw gender parity achieved on the committee for the first time. Getty has since worked with other female members to ensure representation on all sub-committees and re-establish the working group specifically on women and girls with disabilities.

She replaced the former chair of the committee, Rosemary Kaye, whose work, she said, "has paved the way for me to take on this role. I will build upon the legacy and ensure that the CRPD continues to advance the rights and well-being of people with disabilities."

When commenting on the purpose of her work, Getty has said, "My dream is of a world where people with disabilities are recognised and can participate in all aspects of life that they need or desire to." ■

WHO Europe's innovative approach to monitor marketing of unhealthy products

NUWAN WEERASINGHE, KATHRIN HETZ, OLGA ZHITENEVA, KREMLIN WICKRAMASINGHE¹

Importance of marketing regulations

Childhood obesity is a major public health challenge of the 21st century. Multiple factors influence this disease, and enable unhealthy weight gain in children and adolescents. Children who are overweight or living with obesity have a higher risk of developing noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancers later in life. To tackle childhood obesity, a holistic and multisectoral approaches are needed.^{2,3}

When being online, children are largely exposed to various advertisements. Many of them promote unhealthy behaviors like an unhealthy diet, smoking including electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products and alcohol.⁴

No single policy or intervention can lead to a sustainable decline in childhood obesity. Obesogenic environment include online and offline food environments, that enable behaviors leading to weight gain and obesity.⁵

Early on, children's eating behavior is shaped not only by their caregiver, but by their entire surroundings. Evidence shows that the exposure to marketing of unhealthy foods and drinks (further referred to as foods) increases children's consumption which can lead to an increased energy intake and ultimately to unhealthy weight gain⁶. Marketing has changed over the years and is becoming increasingly more persuasive, targeted, and personalized. Digital marketing has a growing importance, and the revenue has been increasing. Marketing strategies and mechanisms are changing and are not as widely visible anymore on TVs and billboards but reach children via various targeted channels. Brand marketing (without emphasizing a particular product)

to develop, use of social media influencers appealing to children, product placements in videos, games and films appealing to children are used widely. Children's online behavior is analyzed and targeted marketing is sent to them. Advertisements one child is seeing on his or her smartphone is not the same which is presented to another child or adult.⁷

WHO's work on digital marketing

WHO developed a set of recommendations in 2010 which was endorsed by all Member States of the WHO European Region. The 12 important recommendations address the policy rationale, the policy development, policy implementation, policy monitoring and evaluation as well as research. WHO highly recommends the implementation of mandatory marketing restrictions by governments, also addressing cross border marketing⁸. Evidence suggests the reduction of food marketing is likely to result in positive effects for Public Health⁹.

One factor which hinders governments from substantially implementing strict marketing restrictions to protect children is the lack of objective monitoring mechanisms. Despite the WHO recommendation, industry has lobbied lawmakers against mandatory restriction policies, citing there is no mechanism to monitor them. The different marketing strategies and the personalized approaches make the objective monitoring difficult. Studies that monitor the marketing exposure to adults is not comparable to the advertisements children see. There has not been a tool which allows an objective and standardized monitoring of children's exposure to digital advertising.

Therefore, the WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (WHO NCD Office) developed the CLICK monitoring framework. The five steps of the framework allow Member States to understand and monitor their national

digital marketing ecosystem by offering step by step protocols.¹⁰

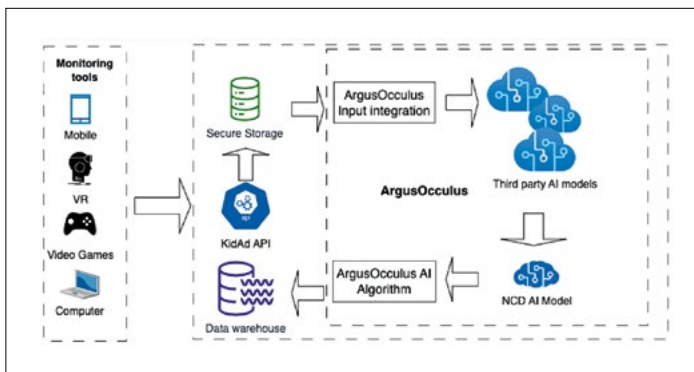
Need for innovative monitoring approach

One step of the CLICK framework is – "Capture on-screen" aims to capture direct and indirect marketing which children are exposed to when using their interactive digital media like smartphones, laptops, game consoles and VR/AR headsets. Noting the lack of objective monitoring tools, the WHO NCD Office developed the KidAd platform. It is not enough to only monitor websites and corporate social media activities of food brands selling and advertising unhealthy foods, as the marketing techniques are so personalized. The individual and objective monitoring approach is needed.

Technical explanation of the KidAd platform

The KidAd platform broadly consists of a set of monitoring tools that capture screenshots and metadata from interactive digital media sources, securely transferring and storing collected data in the cloud. Then use AI algorithms to analyze and detect direct and indirect advertisements.

In phase one, the KidAd app was developed so that it could be installed on children's Android smartphones. After installation, the app periodically takes screenshots when pre-defined apps are used. This allows to only monitor and collect data when the child is for example using social media apps where the marketing exposure is high, rather than continuously recording the child's device, which would risk capturing children's conversations with parents or personal information like banking details. The pre-defining of apps to be monitored minimizes this risk and focus only on the relevant apps. The monitoring period can be varied. One to two weeks are recommended. This allows to capture the real-life marketing exposure, rather than a short lab experience which would falsify the



Goals and next steps

After successfully using the KidAd and AI tool for the HFSS marketing to children it is planned

- to enhance the AI algorithm to identify other *NCD risk factors like smoking, alcohol, and indirect promotions with social media influencers.*
- to develop tools to capture screenshots and metadata from more interactive digital media sources like VR headsets, Metaverses, a Video Gaming platform.
- to efficiently and accurately identify the app from the screenshot.
- to improve brand and logo detection from a stream of screenshots.
- to ensure trained AI algorithms are ethical and unbiased in detecting brand and unhealthy food advertisements.
- to provide sustainable support mechanism from WHO for Member States.

child's use of its device. The collected screenshots and meta data are securely transferred to cloud database via a KidAd API (application programming interface). The responsible team manually analyses images to detect advertising of unhealthy foods in screenshots. The disadvantage of this approach is the large number of screenshots which are collected and have to be analyzed. Additionally, the responsible teams in governments are often small and have limited time.

To tackle that disadvantage of the identified approach, a solution was introduced to use an Artificial Intelligence tool (AI tool) which can be trained to detect unhealthy food products and brands. The AI tool uses the cloud-based data pipeline tool “**ArgusOculus**” which allows building a cloud-native easy AI pipeline to develop and train AI models with minimal tech effort and resources. The pipeline contains two main stages: Natural Language Processing (NLP) models to extract text from the screenshot and Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) models to label the screenshot to describe the content. Then extracted text and labels are used to filter required contexts. The data pipeline-based approach allows use of third-party general image classification services like Google Vision AI and Microsoft Computer Vision API and training our own algorithms to identify brands and unhealthy food advertisements. The solution architecture of the platform considers the data ownership and regulatory differences in

different member countries. So, the platform is designed to share technology and quickly deploy per country/institute level while keeping data safe in its own country with its data protection jurisdiction. Additionally, sharing technology, a cloud platform, and a high level of automation help the platform to be quickly deployed to a country with minimum cost.

The AI tool has several advantages. It reduces the number of pictures a human researcher has to manually evaluate as well as manual screening done to reduce the risk of seeing personal information that might have been captured resulting in saving precious time and resources. The AI tool can also be trained for several purposes. While the piloting phase of the AI tool focuses on the identification of unhealthy foods, the aim is to also train the AI tool for other unhealthy marketing products like tobacco products (including novel tobacco delivery systems) and alcohol.

Challenges

The use of the KidAd and the AI tool eases the monitoring process but also brings certain challenges. Technically, balancing the frequency of screenshots taken in smart devices and secure transfers of screenshots to a server is challenging, as more screenshots provide more data points for AI algorithms, but increase processing and data cost. The potential use of On-Device AI to filter out and optimize screenshots passed to the server needs to be explored.

Further, collecting pictures from children's devices brings *ethical* challenges. The safety and privacy of children is of the highest priority. However, not protecting children from digital marketing on the other hand would be unethical as well. Hence, an appropriate monitoring tool that balances and minimizes all risk is therefore essential for Public Health.

In conclusion, strong, efficient and objective monitoring tools in the WHO European Region are needed to protect children and adolescents from harmful marketing. WHO Europe offers full support to Member States to map, monitor and regulate unhealthy marketing to children. ■

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- 3 WHO European Regional Obesity Report 2022. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
- 4 World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. Monitoring and Restricting Digital Marketing of Unhealthy Products to Children and Adolescents: CLICK Monitoring Framework. World Health Organization; 2019.
- 5 Banatvala, N., & Bovet, P. (Eds.). (2023). Noncommunicable Diseases: A Compendium (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003306689>
- 6 Boyland E, McGale L, Maden M, Hounsom J, Boland A, Angus K, Jones A. Association of Food and Nonalcoholic Beverage Marketing With Children and Adolescents' Eating Behaviors and Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2022 Jul 1;176(7):e221037. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.1037. Epub 2022 Jul 5. PMID: 35,499,839; PMCID: PMC9062773.
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- 10 World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. Monitoring and Restricting Digital Marketing of Unhealthy Products to Children and Adolescents: CLICK Monitoring Framework. World Health Organization; 2019.

Cancel war. Choose peace.

The diary of a Russian volunteer

It is 10:17 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 February.
I give myself exactly one hour to write this diary.
I want to be honest and uninterrupted.



YULIA LEMENEZ, UNDP

It is 10:17 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 February. I give myself exactly one hour to write this diary. I want to be honest and uninterrupted.

I am Yulia LEM. I am a person.

Yulia is a Slavic name of Roman origin. I like it. LEM is an acronym of my surname, which is 19 letters long. It sounds Spanish, but it comes from Bretagne. It is also an homage to the author of a beautiful love story. Solaris.

My blood carries the memories of the Kalmyk, Ukrainian, Udmurt, Volga Cossacks and Zyriane people.

I was born in the Soviet Union, grew up between Ukraine and

Siberia, studied in the Urals, Holland and the US, and lived in many countries.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, I was with my parents in Odessa. When it was time to get my first passport, I was in the middle of drug wars in the Urals. Back then, and through my work, I witnessed horrible cruelty. I don't want anyone to feel or do it. But I also saw the resilience and beauty of human nature, and I admired its ability to recover and shine.

I try not to belong to a nationality, country, religion or a political party. I define myself through adventures, dreams, music, books, thoughts, laughter and tears.

I try to bring kindness, peace and support to the world. I disagree with violence for any reason, by anyone.

Sometimes I fail. Sometimes I am negative, rude, overbearing or simply annoying. I embrace my vulnerability and try to learn from it.

I have two cats, one dog, two kids and a partner in crime. All of them adopted (cats disagree). They have not seen me for a while, but I know they are there for me. And I am here for them.

I am Yulia LEM. I am a person.

I wrote this public manifesto on 16 April 2022, in a rather desperate attempt to open up to the world torn by the war in Ukraine and to protect myself from the wave of hatred that crushed my every bone for the sole reason that I was presumed to be Russian. For a painfully private person like me, that was a huge leap into unwelcoming limelight. It took me much longer than one hour to get there. I did not want anything important about me to go amiss.

Where was I on 16 April?

On 16 April, I was well over the edge of human sanity. I was so exhausted and insomniac that I could no longer sleep nor rest. Since 24 February that year, a community of volunteers that I created was out in the streets of countless Swiss and French

towns. We were collecting confused Ukrainians from the airport, railway and bus stops. We were taking them to our homes, finding them shelter at our friends' and neighbors', giving them food, clothes and first aid. The Russian and Ukrainian speakers among us were the first shoulders they could cry on. We were not only the first responders but the first recipients of unbearable pain that was far from becoming a memory. It was there. It was present. And it became ours.

On 16 April, together with our volunteers, I was working in strict secrecy with the Ukrainian and Swiss authorities to evacuate two orphanages from Eastern Ukraine. We translated medical records into French, went by bus from Switzerland to the war zone, brought the orphans and their guardians back to the country, and continued to assist with critical needs and resettlement for many months to come.

On 16 April, I was the target of hate attacks. I was told that I should be "buried alive," "die of cancer," "killed like all the Russians," or simply suffer for the rest of my life and for generations to come. The reason was scary in its simplicity. I was perceived as a Russian. My neutral stance on the conflict was considered just as unforgivable as the Russian invasion itself. I was pushed to pick a side or burn at the stake.



© Yulia Lemenetz



© Yulia Lemenetz

On 16 April, I was trying to remain a good colleague, a loyal friend, a loving mother and a caring partner.

On 16 April, I was a Russian volunteer.

I have been working with migrants, refugees and war victims since my teenage years. Even in corporate New York, I had a solid pro bono practice, representing asylees from all over the world. I was both proud and sad to win asylum for a Russian mother of a mixed-race child, having proved that the racist culture in Russia put both in mortal danger. I thought I have seen it all. But 2022 was the year of many firsts.

2022 was my first time without a UN or corporate brand giving me instant validity and escape. The raw, unprotected exposure to human tragedy makes me vulnerable and visible. After all, I am the one in the frontlines, not my trustworthy institutional backup. Without that backup, every word or deed, kind or unkind, reaches the target instantly and seamlessly. I am an open wound, soon to become a permanent scar.

2022 was my first time leading a community of volunteers. I saw the heights of human sacrifice, as well as its lows. I saw generosity and kindness, as well as betrayal and abuse. I learned to accept the extremes and never give up on the middle ground. I embraced

volunteers as war victims, watching them slide into bipolar disorders and severe PTSD. I am forever grateful to those who are still with us from day one. Mariam, a Tajik Russian linguist, who is managing our emergency response. Denis, a Swiss public servant, who is manning a warehouse with donations for those in dire need. Jill, a Northern Irish teacher, who is linking us up with amazing people and resources.

2022 was the first time I felt Russian. The raw anger towards, the isolation and cancellation of the entire nation suffering from the dictatorship by the Western establishment made me identify with the country that is not even mine. The inability to drop populist sanctions (which have never worked!) and the urge to accelerate the fall of the iron curtain in the face of one simple truth – this will only fuel the violence and arm the Kremlin! – made me feel powerless. My voice, reminding those few who would listen that we owe the collapse of the Soviet Union to the kindness and support of the Soviet people shown by the world, drowned in the insults. The violence that I experienced as a Russian made me want to stand with the millions trapped between the Western hostility and the vindictive Kremlin. After all, their fate is so much worse than mine.

2022 was the first time I saw Switzerland for what it is. A pragmatic

and unbendable system for administering an unprecedented number of refugees. Responsive and generous middle class, countering the deafness of the upper. Refugees pushed into substance abuse by the absence of PTSD support and engaged medical care. Solid and logical financial aid, with thorough oversight and zero margin for error. Shocking poverty that is staring in your face, the moment you tilt your head and allow yourself to see. Billions and cents living next to each other in blind symbiosis.

2022 was my year of resilience, solidarity and hope in the darkest times.

Where am I on 8 February 2023? I will respond with another quote. This time it's a dialogue, which was triggered by my remark that Ukraine and Russia are both killing innocent people. A Canadian gentleman suggested that I further my knowledge of Russia's despicable war crimes and Ukraine's struggle, as well as support the "arm Ukraine – cancel Russia" campaign. This is my response.

"Thank you for sharing your valuable perspective. I respect it."

However, if you think that US weapons don't kill civilians in Ukraine, you are in for a bad surprise. A good surprise is that, thankfully, there are millions of us who don't compare murder to

murder. Pain to pain. Life to life. And death to death. We think violence – any violence – is wrong.

Every minute, someone dies in Ukraine. Too often it's a child. A mother. An elderly person. A disabled person. Does it matter who pulled the trigger and ended an innocent life? Not to me. Not to the mother who lost her child in a blast. Not to all those whose lives, homes and futures have been claimed by a bomb or bullet. This bloodshed must stop. Simple? We think so.

If all the efforts that have gone into this war were dedicated to peace, we would be in a much happier place now.

You are lucky to have a safe distance from it all. Count your blessings. Enjoy it. And let us – humanitarian workers in the frontlines of darkest human tragedy – do our job. Save lives. And advocate for peace.

Peace be with you."

Cancel war. Choose peace. Let me finish this diary and finally turn the page. Please.

Faithfully yours,

Russian Volunteer. ■



WHO-supported entomology studies focus on understanding disease vectors in South-East Asia.

© Sirivasa Murthy, Vector Control Research Centre

Weekly stories

WHO donors making a difference: building skills, building capacity

A well-trained workforce is essential for reaching universal health coverage. WHO supports training across the globe and across the professional spectrum.

This week we visit Samoa, where emergency medical teams are rehearsing for cyclone season; India, where trainees are learning to stop disease-carrying pests; and Malaysia, where health workers are gaining the skills to care for patients living with dementia.

Read on for those stories, along with reports of capacity building in Ethiopia, Haiti, Mauritania, Palestine and Zimbabwe.

WHO COMMUNICATIONS

Samoa hones its disaster-response skills

The Samoa Emergency Medical Team responded to a fictional cyclone scenario in November to cap off five days of training supported by WHO and the Australia and New Zealand governments.

The group rehearsed setting up and operating mobile clinics for a mass-casualty event.

“Trained medical responders who can reach affected populations quickly are extremely important in the effort to save lives during emergencies,” said Dr. Kim Eva Dickson, WHO Head of Office in Samoa.



The team carries out a training exercise.



Read more



Watch the video: In Samoa, medical emergency teams start their training

Mauritania's new emergency-response teams clear their first hurdle

WHO's Regional Office for Africa has helped train Mauritania's new emergency-response teams to quickly locate and stop disease outbreaks before they can become epidemics.

Since August 2022, the teams have responded to eight emergencies, and in one case, headed off an outbreak of Rift Valley fever. The first sign of trouble was miscarriage among camels; the team immediately traveled to the scene and identified Rift Valley fever, a life-threatening virus that affects animals and humans.

“We had to act quickly to avoid the emergence of epidemics whose immediate effects and consequences are very serious for our population's health,” said Dr. Abbad El Moctar Mohamed, an epidemiologist with Mauritania's ministry of health. Similar WHO-supported training has been held in Botswana, Niger, Nigeria and Togo.



Floods in Nouakchott (above) coincided with an outbreak of Rift Valley fever.



Read more

Participants from seven countries build their entomology knowledge to fight disease-carrying bugs. WHO and partners are preparing entomologists and others who work in vector control to fight back better against mosquitoes and other disease-carrying bugs.

A recent training week at the Vector Control Research Center in Puducherry, India, drew participants from Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

“The exchange of ideas with participants from different countries, learning from shared experiences and their best practices, helped us learn various strategies beyond borders,” said Dr. Surajita Banerjee, State Entomologist from West Bengal, India.

Diseases transmitted by mosquitoes and other insects disproportionately affect the world's poor, particularly in tropical and subtropical areas. In WHO's South-East Asia Region, vector-borne diseases of public importance include kala-azar, dengue, chikungunya, malaria, lymphatic filariasis and Japanese encephalitis.



A trainee peers into an apparatus used for feeding mosquito colonies.



Read more

Training helps scale up mental health services in Palestine

Hundreds of health workers in Palestine are learning to identify and treat mental health conditions with support from WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme and the Big Heart Foundation.

Palestine lacks the mental health facilities and services to keep up with demand. Training other health professionals to address signs of mental illness helps fill the gap.

"Since receiving the training, I am much more aware that physical and mental health problems can often be treated simultaneously," said Ibrahim, an intensive care nurse at the European Gaza Hospital. "This is a new way of working for me and is helping me understand and treat my patients better. After all, the mind and body are very closely linked. One can't do well without the other."



Abdullah, a pediatric nurse at the European Gaza Hospital, treated a baby's illness and his mother's stress at the same time.



[Read more](#)

More from Palestine:

Better technology means less hassle for patients and health workers

A new paperless system has dramatically streamlined patient-information management at three primary health facilities in the Gaza Strip. Physicians can now record patient history, display test results, write prescriptions, order tests, receive clinical reminders and print instructions – all through a single platform.

Patients who once dreaded doctor visits because of long queues and confusing paperwork have been pleasantly surprised by the smooth operation made possible by the new system.

"I came in, was given my number, and saw the doctor without having to wait. Now, I'm on my way to the laboratory to get some tests," said Riyadh, a patient. "The doctor has already sent the test request to the laboratory, and I do not need to carry any papers there."



Since last August, more than 100 health workers in Palestine have been trained to use a new electronic health information system. The new tool has cut hassles for patients and staff and enabled faster, better-quality health care services.



[Read more](#)

Training supports workers on the frontlines of Haiti's cholera response

Hundreds of community health workers in Haiti have mobilized to stop cholera, with training supported by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

"We are on the ground, despite the difficult situation in the country," said Esterline Dumézil, a community health worker since 2014. "This is our duty as community health workers, of which we are very proud."

The workers disseminate life-saving information in most-affected communities and let people know how to prevent cholera and seek early treatment. The personal approach complements mass distribution of text messages, daily radio broadcasts and other outreach activities.



Community health workers at a training session in Haiti.



[Read more](#)



Related: Zimbabwe strengthens capacity to fight cholera and typhoid outbreaks

Ethiopia expands community health insurance with donor training and support

Ethiopia is making progress toward universal health coverage by building its knowledge of financing for community-based health insurance – an effort supported with training from WHO, the World Bank and the P4H Social Health Protection Network.

Access to affordable health insurance has been steadily expanding in the country, saving many families from sinking under medical bills.

“This (insurance) has really helped our family to stay afloat,” said Misrak Fisseha of Addis Ababa, whose 68-year-old mother suffered a debilitating stroke in 2019. “I can now care for my mother and raise my daughter without having to worry about how to pay for medical expenses.”



Mother and daughter Meseret Belay and Misrak Fisseha found relief from overwhelming medical expenses through Ethiopia's community-based health insurance.



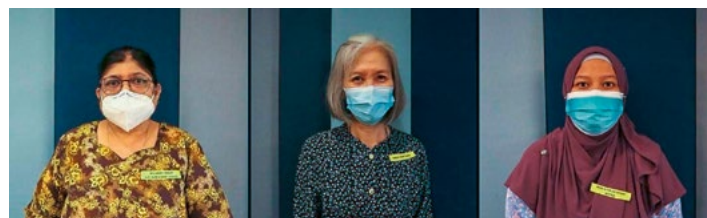
Read more

In Malaysia, WHO supports training for caregivers of people with dementia

WHO has been collaborating with the Malaysia Ministry of Health and the Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia to provide dementia-care skills training. Participants learn the symptoms of dementia, person-centered care, effective communication and more.

“Sometimes, I, too, get upset. But then I remind myself that the difficult behavior is caused by the disease,” said Dilgeet Kaur A/P Garanan Singh, a caretaker at the Golden Age Welfare Association Malaysia. “We cannot change the personality of people living with dementia. We need to adapt our own behavior to match their personality.”

WHO has also developed iSupport, a manual to help people gain skills to care for those with dementia at home.



Dementia-care workers at training sessions in Malaysia.



Discover iSupport



Read more

WHO thanks all governments, organizations and individuals who are contributing to the Organization's work, with special appreciation for those who provide fully flexible contributions¹ to maintain a strong, independent WHO.

Donors and partners featured in this week's stories include:

Alzheimer's Disease Foundation Malaysia, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs, Australia Medical Assistance Team, the Big Heart Foundation, the European Gaza Hospital, French Intensive Care Society, Higherlife Foundation, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Zealand, P4H Social Health Protection Network, Save the Children, Vector Control Research Center (VCRC), World Bank and World Vision. ■

¹ <https://www.who.int/about/funding/flexible-funding>

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VARDUHI KHACHATRYAN
soprano

LOCATION
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Victoria Hall 1h avant le concert

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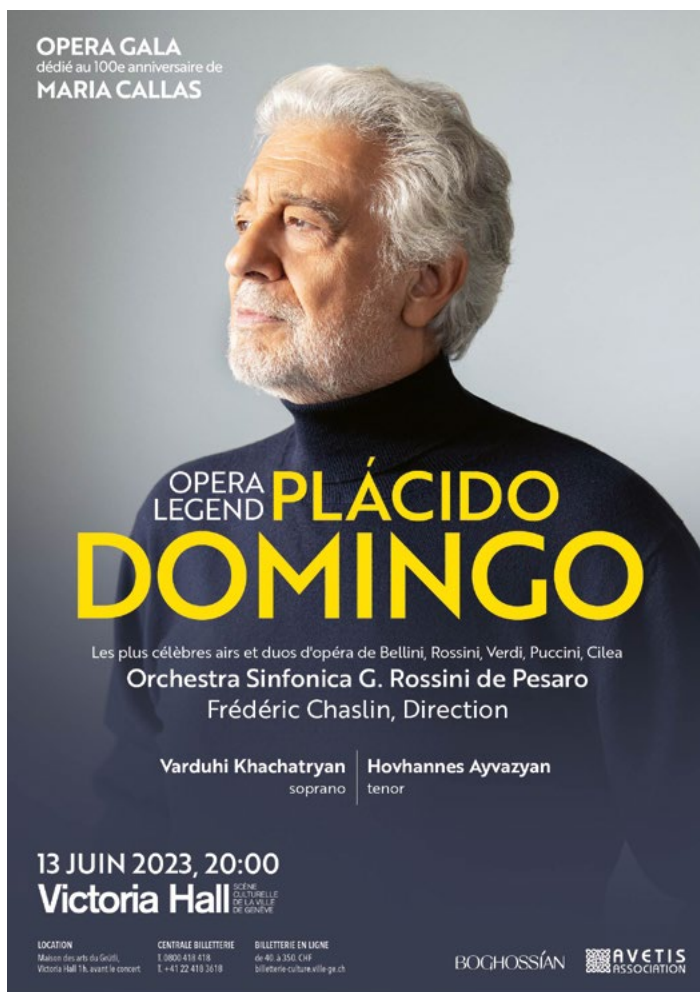
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BOGHOSSIAN AVETIS ASSOCIATION

Recital From Baroque to Jazz with world-renowned American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato accompanied by Craig Terry (piano). The concert will take place on 26 May 2023 at the Victoria Hall. The concert is realized due to mécènes Francis et Marie-France Minkoff.¹

Plácido Domingo Opera Gala dedicated to the 100th birth anniversary of Maria Callas with participation of the one and only, opera legend Plácido Domingo.

With the Orchestra Sinfonica G. Rossini de Pesaro under the direction of Frédéric Chaslin, will present the most famous opera arias and duets of Bellini, Rossini, Verdi, Puccini, Cilea and others. Only one day!²

Both concerts will also feature renowned soprano Varduhi Khachatryan who is greatly admired by the Geneva audience through her performances in Geneva for many years, including her last year's performances with Angela

Gheorghiu and Maxim Vengerov. The Armenian tenor Hovhannes Ayvazyan will also be presented to Geneva audiences during the Opera Gala.

Don't miss it! ■

1 For the complete program: <https://billetterie-culture.geneve.ch/selection/event/date?productId=10228797561279>

2 For the complete program: <https://billetterie-culture.geneve.ch/selection/event/date?productId=10228855332882>



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Cols routiers de Suisse (3) Le col de Nufenen

Le col de Nufenen (ou Novena en italien) est le plus haut col routier qui se trouve situé entièrement en Suisse, et le deuxième plus haut col suisse tout court, après le col de l'Umbrail qui relie les Grisons à la Lombardie en Italie. Avec ses 2478 mètres d'altitude il constitue la frontière entre le Valais et le Tessin. Le col n'a été rendu carrossable qu'en 1969 quand la route actuelle fut ouverte.

CARLA EDELENBOS,
UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

Auparavant il n'y avait qu'un sentier muletier qui passait. Cela ne veut pas dire que le col n'était pas fréquenté, au contraire, il s'agit d'un des passages les plus aisés des Alpes et les Valaisans l'empruntaient volontiers pour le commerce du sel et du bétail. Ceux qui venaient du côté de Berne par le col du Grimsel l'utilisaient surtout pour le transport de marchandise, comme du fromage, pour accéder à la route du Gothard. Néanmoins, la proximité du col de Griess qui crée une liaison directe entre le Valais et

la Lombardie en Italie impliquait que le col de Nufenen était surtout utilisé pour le commerce local.

Désormais, le col est surtout utilisé par des touristes. La route du col est fermée en hiver, mais en été un car postal fait le service entre Ulrichen en Valais et Airolo en Tessin. Nous commençons la montée à Ulrichen, un très joli village dans la vallée de Conches à 1346 mètres d'altitude. La route monte d'abord tranquillement en suivant le torrent Ägene, qui prend sa source dans le lac Distel à 2598 mètres d'altitude à l'ouest du col. Le ruisseau est alimenté

par les eaux du lac de Griess et se jette dans le Rhône à la hauteur d'Ulrichen. Après avoir quitté la voie du Ägene, la route prend de l'altitude et des virages étroits se succèdent pour le plus grand plaisir des motards, c'est un peu plus douloureux pour les cyclistes qui montent à la force des muscles. Pendant les beaux week-ends d'été, il y a souvent un photographe placé stratégiquement au-dessus d'une courbe – les photos se vendent au kiosque du col.

Après cette expérience vertigineuse, nous atteignons les 2304



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mètres d'altitude et rejoignons la petite route et le parking du Lac de Griess. C'est l'occasion parfaite pour une petite pause. Nous contemplons les serpentes de la route et le magnifique panorama. Il est possible de se promener vers le lac de Griess (à pied une demi-heure de marche sur un chemin presque plat). Il s'agit du plus haut lac de barrage de Suisse, formé par les eaux qui proviennent du glacier de Griess. Mais attention, il arrive souvent que la petite route soit fermée à cause des éboulements! La construction du barrage fut terminée en 1966 et le lac peut stocker 18 millions de m³ d'eau, lesquels peuvent produire jusqu'à 78 millions kWh en électricité. La production est partagée entre le Valais et le Tessin.

À côté du lac se trouve un parc éolien, avec ses presque 2500 mètres d'altitude, c'est le plus

élevé d'Europe. La première éolienne fut construite en 2011 et trois autres la rejoignirent en 2016. Les quatre éoliennes produisent ensemble environ 10 millions de kWh, dont 60% est généré en hiver. Conjointement, le barrage et le parc éolien devraient couvrir les besoins d'énergie de plus de 250 800 ménages suisses. Néanmoins, des voix critiques prétendent que disposer des éoliennes à cette altitude n'a pas de sens, car elles seraient moins efficaces qu'en moyenne altitude. Les partisans du parc répondent que la production est comparable aux autres sites, et que son avantage réside surtout dans le fait que le site est situé dans un lieu désertique, éloigné des habitations. De ce fait, l'impact visuel est limité car le parc est à côté du barrage et des câbles à haute tension dénaturent déjà le paysage. Etant donnée la volonté politique actuelle de construire

davantage de centrales photovoltaïques dans les Alpes, je me demande si on va bientôt voir des panneaux solaires compléter le menu des énergies renouvelables au Griess.

Depuis le lac, on peut continuer à pied vers le col de Griess, qui, à 2451 mètres d'altitude, relie le Valais à l'Italie. Le compositeur allemand Richard Wagner utilisa cette voie, le 18 juillet 1852, pour se rendre en Italie depuis la vallée de Conches. A l'époque, il devait encore traverser le glacier pour y arriver. Depuis le Griess, on peut aussi se diriger vers le col de Corno, d'où on continue vers la cabane Corno Griess du Club Alpin Suisse à 2338 mètres d'altitude. Depuis la cabane, le sentier chemine vers la route du Nufenen, qu'on joint à la hauteur de l'Alpe de Cruina dans le Val Bedretto à 2083 mètres d'altitude, au-dessous du col. Si vous avez

de la chance, vous pouvez monter dans le car postal qui vous ramène au col.

Quant à nous, nous retournons tranquillement vers le parking pour emprunter les derniers virages (avec une belle vue sur le glacier de Griess) pour enfin arriver au col de Nufenen à 2478 mètres. Le col marque la ligne de partage des eaux entre les bassins du Rhône et du Pô, entre la Méditerranée et l'Adriatique. Un restaurant y accueille les voyageurs avec des bons plats valaisans et tessinois. De l'autre côté du parking se trouve un petit magasin qui vend des souvenirs mais aussi du cristal de roche. Le regard s'ouvre vers le glacier de Griess et les sommets alpins comme le Aletschhorn, le Finsteraarhorn et le Lauteraarhorn dans les Alpes bernoises. Le col se faufile entre le Nufenenstock et le Chlichhorn, qui se reflètent dans les eaux des



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© Carla Etelenbos

deux petits lacs à côté de la route. Cela vaut la peine de monter jusqu'au sommet du Chilchorn, le sentier, bien qu'assez raide, est facile. Après avoir grimpé jusqu'au sommet (à 2789 mètres d'altitude) la vue est splendide. Mais attention, même en plein été, on peut y trouver des plaques de neige. Le sommet du Chilchorn forme la frontière entre le Valais et le Tessin. Avec un peu de chance, vous aurez la joie d'admirer des bouquetins et des marmottes qui sont heureusement assez nombreux au Nufenen.

Après la construction de la route du col, un conflit éclata sur la frontière entre le Valais et le Tessin. Les constructeurs avaient fixé la frontière à l'ouest des deux petits lacs, selon une carte officielle contemporaine. Le 5 septembre 1969, un monument fut placé à l'endroit pour indiquer la limite entre les deux cantons.

Pendant la nuit, le monument fut enlevé par des inconnus et retrouvé plus tard à Ulrichen. Le canton de Valais contesta l'emplacement de la frontière, se basant sur une carte plus ancienne datant de 1861 ainsi que sur les droits d'usage, et prétendit que la frontière était située à l'est des lacs. Des négociations entre les cantons et entre les communes d'Ulrichen et Bedretto continuèrent, sans parvenir à un accord. Ainsi, le 3 mai 1973, le canton du Valais déposa un recours constitutionnel auprès du Tribunal fédéral. Le 2 juillet 1980, le Tribunal fédéral conclut que ni les droits d'usage ni les cartes géographiques n'étaient probants et qu'aucun des cantons ne pouvait prouver l'exercice exclusif de souveraineté. Se basant donc sur des critères géographiques, à savoir la ligne de partage des eaux, le Tribunal trancha que la frontière au col

se trouve précisément entre les deux petits lacs. Voilà une décision digne du roi Salomon. C'est à cet endroit que se trouve la borne frontière actuelle. Tout est bien qui finit bien!

Pas loin du col, du côté tessinois, se trouvent les sources de la rivière le Tessin (Ticino en italien) qui donne son nom au canton qu'elle traverse. Avec ses 280 kilomètres, elle constitue un des plus importants affluents du fleuve Pô; elle quitte la Suisse au milieu du Lago Maggiore et se joint au Pô à quelques kilomètres sud de Pavia. A ses débuts, la rivière est abreuvée par des petits ruisseaux. Rapidement, elle prend forme et s'engage dans la descente vers Bedretto sur lequel nous avons écrit dans le NewSpecial de novembre 2020.

Bien que plus fréquentée en été qu'en hiver, la région du col de

Nufenen est populaire pour des randonnées de peaux de phoque et de raquettes. La cabane de Corno Griess, qui possède 46 lits en dortoirs, est ouverte en hiver et elle est un point de départ de randonnées. On y accède par All'Acqua dans le Val Bedretto où on peut arriver en car postal ou y laisser la voiture. À All'Acqua se trouve aussi une auberge, ouverte en hiver comme en été. Dans le Valais, il y a aussi un choix d'hébergements à Ulrichen. ■

Pour plus d'informations:

Hébergements:

Cabane Corno-Griess: <https://www.corno-griess.ch/?lang=fr>

Auberge All'Acqua: <https://www.ristorante-allacqua.ch>

Pays de Gex (3/3)

Des rives du Léman aux sommets du Jura

Administrée par la Communauté d'agglomération du Pays de Gex¹ (Pays de Gex Agglo), la Réserve naturelle nationale de la Haute Chaîne du Jura, entièrement située dans le département de l'Ain, est délimitée au nord par la frontière franco-suisse, au pied de la Dôle, et au sud par la cluse du Rhône.



Vu depuis le Crêt de la Neige, plus haut sommet du Jura qui culmine à 1720m, le Reculet est accessible depuis Thoiry et Lélex.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Gérées par des associations, des collectivités locales ou des établissements publics en France métropolitaine et d'outre-mer, les réserves naturelles sont nationales ou régionales, créées respectivement par l'État ou les régions. Elles poursuivent trois missions indissociables: protéger les milieux naturels, les espèces animales et végétales, le patrimoine géologique, gérer les sites, et sensibiliser les publics. Battues par les flots, accrochées aux falaises, nichées au cœur des zones humides, enfouies sous la mer ou dans des grottes, tapies dans les forêts, grimpant à l'assaut des montagnes ou plantées à la périphérie des villes, les réserves naturelles témoignent de l'incroyable variété de la nature en France. La plupart des Français vivent à moins de

70 km d'une réserve naturelle, même lorsqu'ils habitent au cœur d'une grande ville. La nature est à notre portée et non pas seulement à l'autre bout du monde.

Réserve naturelle nationale de la Haute Chaîne du Jura

Aujourd'hui, on compte 167 réserves naturelles nationales en France. Véritable montagne emblématique, la Haute Chaîne du Jura² est, pour l'essentiel de son territoire, classée en Réserve naturelle nationale depuis 1993 (le premier projet de création d'un parc national remonte à 1962). Avec près de 11 000 hectares, elle est la quatrième de France métropolitaine par la surface, derrière les Bouches de Bonifacio, les Hauts plateaux du Vercors et la Camargue. 18 communes,

dont Gex, Divonne-les-Bains, Valserhône (Bellegarde-sur-Valserine), Lélex et Mijoux ont, pour partie, leur territoire inclus dans les limites de la réserve. Elle s'étire sur 40 km sur le chaînon le plus oriental et le plus étroit de tout le massif jurassien. Elle englobe également les plus hauts sommets parmi lesquels le Crêt de la Neige (1720 m), le Reculet (1718 m), le Colomby de Gex (1688 m) et le Crêt de la Goutte (1621 m). Plissé puis faillé, en contrecoup de la surrection des Alpes à l'ère tertiaire, puis soumis il y a 20 000 ans à l'érosion glaciaire, son relief est tourmenté. Toutes les formes du relief jurassien s'y trouvent bien représentées: monts, combes anticlinales, cirque glaciaire, falaises, pierriers, dépôts morainiques... Les nombreuses formes de dissolution de surface comme les

lapiaz, les dolines, les creux et les gouffres témoignent de l'intense activité du karst.

L'amplitude de la dénivellation allant des points les plus bas à 580 m d'altitude aux sommets à 1720 m d'altitude favorise l'étagement des milieux; la double exposition des deux versants, sud-est pour le Pays de Gex et nord-ouest pour la vallée de la Valserine, accentue les contrastes. Les crêtes, balayées par les vents en toute saison, offrent des conditions de vie extrêmes. La diversité des facteurs écologiques détermine la très grande différence des milieux naturels. Trois grands types de milieu se répartissent en fonction de l'altitude: pelouses sèches des bas-monts, massifs forestiers sur les deux versants (70% de la surface) où sont présents charmes, hêtres, érables, sapins, épicéas, pins, et pelouses d'altitude maintenues par le pâturage extensif. Le territoire se caractérise par la variété de sa flore (950 plantes à fleurs sont répertoriées, dont 10 espèces protégées à l'échelon national) et de sa faune (209 espèces d'oiseaux, de mammifères, de reptiles et de batraciens, parmi lesquelles le grand tétras, l'aigle royal ou le lynx, espèces tout autant remarquables que fragiles).

Pays de Gex Agglo

Depuis 2003, actuellement présidée par Patrice Dunand (également maire de Gex), «Pays de



Fréquent en hiver, alors que le soleil brille sur les crêtes du Jura, le bassin lémanique est sous une épaisse couche de brouillard.



Un des fromages emblématiques des Montagnes du Jura, le Bleu de Gex a su conserver sa fabrication artisanale.

Gex Agglo» est la structure gestionnaire de la Réserve naturelle nationale de la Haute Chaîne du Jura. Elle est sous la direction d'un conservateur, appuyé ponctuellement par des chargés de missions scientifiques, ou tout au long de l'année par le service Éducation, Valorisation et Promotion du Développement durable de «Pays de Gex Agglo». Six agents permanents ont pour missions principales de gérer (conserver les habitats et les espèces), de protéger (surveillance et Police de l'environnement) et d'éduquer (information et sensibilisation du public).

Le grand tétras (le plus gros des gallinacés sauvages européens), en faveur duquel la Réserve naturelle a été en grande partie créée, continue d'être l'objet d'une attention soutenue. Si sa situation est moins mauvaise que dans d'autres secteurs du massif jurassien, l'évolution climatique et l'essor touristique lui sont défavorables. Afin d'assurer sa tranquillité, des zones de quiétude interdisant la pratique de la randonnée sous toutes ses formes (à pied, en raquettes à neige ou à ski) ont été instaurées durant l'hiver.

Accueillant au fil des saisons à la fois promeneurs, professionnels (alpagistes, forestiers, etc.), chasseurs et naturalistes, la Réserve naturelle nationale de la Haute Chaîne du Jura est un territoire accessible où de nombreux usages cohabitent. Ainsi, pour assurer la

pérennité de cet espace sensible et des pratiques qui s'y déroulent, il convient d'adapter ses habitudes et respecter la réglementation en vigueur: la préservation de ce territoire d'exception dépend, entre autres, du comportement de chacun.

Le Crêt de la Neige, le toit du massif du Jura

Accessible en toute saison, le Crêt de la Neige culmine à 1720 m d'altitude. La vue depuis le sommet embrasse l'ensemble du bassin genevois, le lac Léman et la chaîne des Alpes. Voisin du Crêt de la Neige, le Reculet n'a rien à lui envier. Du haut de ses 1718 m, le panorama est même plus impressionnant. Une croix a été érigée au sommet par les forgerons et les habitants de Thoiry, village d'où part un chemin qui permet d'y accéder. Par le versant opposé du massif du Jura, côté vallée de la Valserine, l'ascension est également possible depuis Lélex. Après s'être enfoncé dans une magnifique forêt où la montée se fait de plus en plus raide, le sentier en lacets des «trente-deux contours» débouche ensuite dans les pâturages, au pied des points culminants de la chaîne du Haut-Jura. Ces derniers font également partie du tronçon le plus élevé du GR 509, «la Grande Traversée du Jura» qui relie Mandeure, dans le Doubs, à Culoz, dans l'Ain. Et si le cœur vous dit de parcourir ce chemin de Grandes Randonnées long de 400 km, lors des étapes en refuges ou chambre d'hôtes,

ce sera l'occasion de découvrir le Bleu de Gex, l'un des fromages emblématiques des Montagnes du Jura.

Le Bleu de Gex, un vrai régal!

Remontant au XIII^e siècle, l'histoire du Bleu de Gex Haut-Jura est riche et s'accompagne d'évolutions tout en gardant son savoir-faire initial. La filière Bleu de Gex a su protéger son terroir haut-jurassien très tôt, avec une décision judiciaire de 1935 qui fixe une aire exclusive de fabrication de ce fromage. Depuis 1996, le Bleu de Gex est également reconnu au niveau européen en obtenant l'Appellation d'Origine Protégée (AOP).

Le Bleu de Gex serait issu des procédés de fabrication fromagère des moines de l'Abbaye de Saint-Claude. Le principe de fabrication est importé dans le Jura par des moines dauphinois confectionnant déjà du «bleu persillé» dans le Vercors. Refusant de devenir Français à la suite de l'annexion de leur région par le Roi de France en 1343, ils avaient trouvé hospitalité dans le Jura.

Avant de migrer vers les fruitières, la fabrication du Bleu était réalisée dans les fermes des communes des Moussières et de Septmoncel. La légende dit qu'un moine se rendant à l'Abbaye de Saint-Claude se serait perdu lors d'une tempête de neige. Encerclé par les loups, il aurait été sauvé par un berger. Pour le remercier,

il lui aurait transmis le secret de fabrication si jalousement gardé de ce fromage qui lui assura par la suite la prospérité. Domestique et encore confidentielle, la production du fromage était alors une affaire de femmes.

Au goût modéré, légèrement fruité, le Bleu de Gex dissimule également des notes de noisettes et de champignons. Un vrai régal! Premier fromage né des montagnes du Haut-Jura bénéficiant d'une Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée, le Bleu de Gex est produit par deux fromageries artisanales et deux fruitières, dont celle de l'Abbaye³ implantée à Chézery-Forens, village situé à mi-chemin entre Lélex et Valserhône. Il est fabriqué exclusivement à partir du lait cru de vaches de race montbéliarde ou simmental fourni par une cinquantaine d'exploitations agricoles des alentours. 80 litres de lait sont nécessaires à la fabrication d'une meule de Bleu de Gex dont le poids est d'environ 7,5 kilos après un affinage minimum de 21 jours. ■

Pour en savoir plus sur la Réserve naturelle nationale de la Haute Chaîne du Jura, une exposition permanente lui est consacrée depuis 2011. Ouverte au public, elle est installée dans les locaux de la Communauté d'agglomération du Pays de Gex, 135 rue de Genève, à Gex – Tél. +33 (0)450426500.

1 <https://www.paysdegexagglo.fr>

2 haute.chaine.jura@espaces-naturels.fr

3 www.fromagerie-abbaye.fr

At the funeral of a friend



© Alfred de Zayas

ALFRED DE ZAYAS,
UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

Our minds are still alive with images and sounds of family and friends who have departed. Their absence makes them somehow more present than ever. We breathe their memory.

In us and with us, their presence lives as real as that of those who are physically around us. In our conscience there are voices, we see the colour of their eyes, feel like we could touch them, make a rendez-vous, chat about politics, sports, the weather.

We raise our eyes, look at the blue sky. We go to the seashore, focus on the horizon, over the immensity of the ocean. We remember them. Violet memories embrace

our deceased parents and siblings, our uncles and cousins, childhood friends and acquaintances, just as if they were still there.

Orphans that we are, lost at our inability to connect, at our unrequited desire to speak with them again. We only see them in our mind's eye, disconcerted by this merciless realization. One day, when we are no longer physical — we will perhaps inhabit the memories of those who remain behind. ■

Free Fall

*Speaking to an audience
talking to a friend
suddenly
a memory, an image, a face —*

*Voice falters, words dry up
breathing hesitates
emotion overwhelms the soul
mutes the tongue*

*Powerless before a fact
before a loss irreparable
unbearable the absence
immense the yearning*

*Absence becomes present
Space is blank, time stands still
cosmic silence all around
Time and space are one*

*Despair before the existential abyss
Free fall to our inner self
sweeping sorrow, senses numbed
all sounds deafened, deafening*

*Shouting "No" within us
Vital in denial
Visions of our life, love, raison d'être
Suspended present, timeless time*

*Yet our λόγος struggles
Breaks, breaks, breaks the spell
Composure is regained
Epiphany illuminates us
Words return — and tears.*

Message du comité de rédaction

Aimeriez-vous partager votre opinion avec nous au sujet de newSpecial et de son contenu?

Nous serons toujours ravis de lire vos réactions. Les réponses intéressantes, parfois mêmes ingénieuses et constructives seront publiées dans le magazine. Souhaitez-vous soumettre un article, un sujet? Vous pouvez nous contacter quand vous le souhaitez.

Adressez vos commentaires à:

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Would you like to share your opinion about newSpecial and its contents?

We will be glad to hear from you. The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine. Should you wish to submit an article or a subject, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

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