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832 - SEPT 2023

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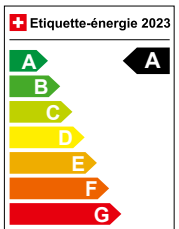
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What the future holds

As our readers and fans are returning to work from what we hope was a nice, but hot, holiday season, we thought we would look into the future.

I have grown weary of how we could get to our existing commitments including to the Sustainable Development Goals and how we can reinvigorate the multi-lateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives. By the time you are reading this issue, the report on the SDGs progress is further discussed and plans are made for the Summit of the Future in 2024. This may be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance and reaffirm existing commitments.

We have several articles that look at the future and foresight into it, how personal goals can help us focus on results and many other angles that add another dimension to this discussion. We hope to focus on these issues in the next 12 months on our pages to keep the conversation going and most importantly allow for an open exchange.

We have a wide range of articles for you to enjoy! ■

Le regard tourné vers l'avenir

Tandis que nos lecteurs et adeptes reprennent le travail après ce qui a été, nous l'espérons, un été agréable malgré les fortes chaleurs, nous avons décidé de nous tourner vers l'avenir.

J'en ai assez de me demander comment faire face à nos engagements actuels, tels que les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD), ou le renforcement d'un système de multilatéralisme qui permettrait d'impacter la vie des gens de manière positive. Au moment où vous lirez ce magazine, le rapport concernant les avancées des ODD fera l'objet de discussions et des plans seront élaborés en préparation du Sommet de l'avenir de 2024. Il pourrait s'agir d'une opportunité unique -de celles qui ne se présentent qu'une fois par génération- de renforcer la coopération autour de défis majeurs, de combler des lacunes en matière de gouvernance mondiale et de réaffirmer les engagements qui ont été pris jusque-là.

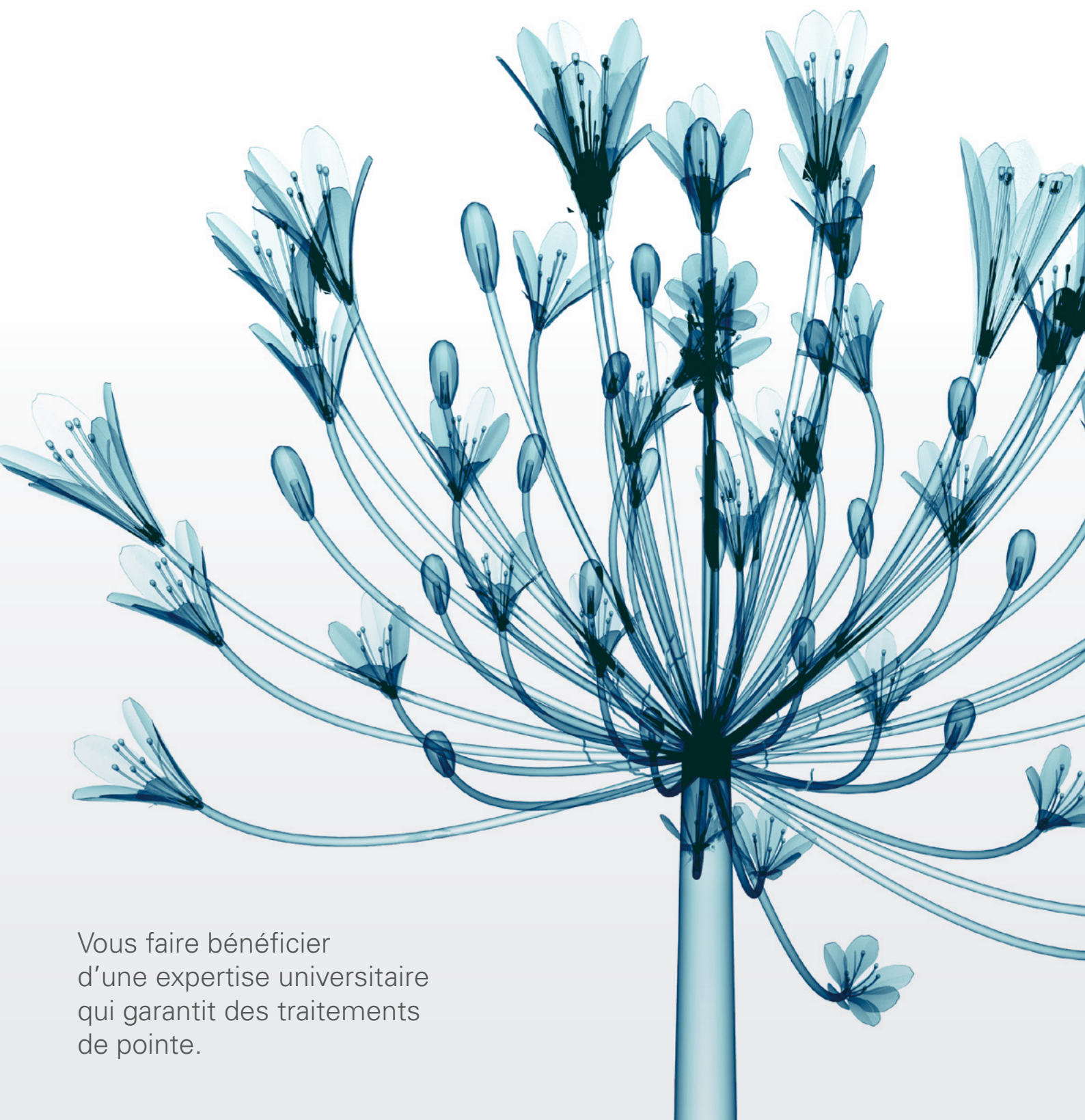
Ce numéro vous propose plusieurs articles de réflexion sur ces questions, ainsi que des projections vers le futur. Il vous permettra également de mieux comprendre comment nos objectifs personnels peuvent apporter une nouvelle dimension à ces discussions et contribuer à un résultat plus probant. Nous avons pour intention de poursuivre sur cette voie au cours des douze prochains mois afin d'enrichir le débat et, plus que tout, de permettre des échanges en toute liberté.

Nous vous souhaitons une bonne lecture parmi la large gamme d'articles proposés! ■

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Future generations and our goals

“We don’t inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”



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SDGs in Lima, Peru.

PHILLIPPA BIGGS, ITU

It is sometimes assumed that we do not know very much about future generations, as they are not yet alive and so cannot tell us what they need or think. In a world overly preoccupied by the present, the fact that unborn children do not yet exist does not preclude them from being taken into account already – morally, legally or in current decision-making. Morally, many people worry about children and future generations – often parents, but not exclusively. In the speech President Nelson Mandela gave when he launched the Children’s Fund in South Africa in May 1995, he said “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children”. He called children the rock on which our future will be built, and South Africa’s greatest asset as a nation.

Children who already exist are perhaps the most visible reminder of our obligation to the future. But people who do not yet exist can also be taken into account legally. It is widely practised that wills can be written to include ‘future children and beneficiaries’. Social security systems, insurance and pension fund projections also already take into account contributions by future workers, based on age dependency ratios and projected earnings. When taking the future into account suits us (or our social systems), we can apparently consider people who have not even been born yet!

Present decision-making also shows a tendency to take future inhabitants and members of society into account – again, when it suits us. The current fad for announcing that companies,

processes and systems will become carbon-neutral by 2050 effectively defers responsibility and puts a large amount of responsibility on the shoulders of children currently in kindergarten, just born or about to be born. Today’s people, systems and organizations sometimes recognize the need for the fearless enthusiasm, boundless energy and ‘imagination-without-limits’ of young people.

But young and future generations are not faceless, and they are not voiceless, and they are not without rights. In fact, we already know more about ‘future people’ than we might imagine.

Future generations are likely to be more mobile, ethnically mixed and interracial, than preceding generations have ever been. We also know that they are likely to



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Making Global Goals in the Middle East, Lebanon.

speak fewer languages, as the world is losing languages and local dialects at a very rapid rate (as a look at UNESCO’s World Language Atlas sadly confirms). Along with this loss of languages, we are losing different ways of doing things – and different ways of viewing the world.

Future generations will be much less integrated with nature and have far less exposure to the natural environment, animals, flora and even stars in the sky. Tragically, without major clean-up operations, future generations will also live in and suffer degraded ecosystems and chemical pollution, in air, water and from microplastics present throughout Earth’s ecosystems, as well as in human food supply and food chains.

Indeed, children born today are already likely to face seven times more extreme weather events than their grandparents, according to Thiery et al, reported in *Science & the Economist*¹. This is partly due to loss of habitat, increasing urbanization and expanding cities pushing out into natural habitats, which is also expected to increase rates of zoonotic diseases.

Based on current demographic trends, future generations will have **far more older people** alive at any point in time, a higher

median age, and in many countries, a much higher age dependency ratio in any other previous generation in human history (Chapters 5 and 6 of *“Tomorrow’s People: The Future of Humanity in Ten Numbers”* by Paul Morland).

Looking forward, future generations will be more interconnected and hyperconnected, with much greater experience, exposure to and interactions with technology, automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their homes, cities, workplaces and surroundings. (This contrasts with current debates over the existential risk of AI, and whether AI will take over, displace and/or replace humans).

Future generations will clearly see ever-more rapid technological advances. These could include genetic editing, genetic selection, pregnancy screenings and selective abortions, which might even alter the gender ratio of boys: girls changing in some countries, for the first time in human evolutionary history. The first experiments with genetically edited or genetically or machine-enhanced (‘cyborg’) humans might also take place in the near future.

The world’s future people are also likely to be more cross, angry and resentful – Cross with us for consuming more than our fair

share, angry with us for having been so blind, and resentful that the greatest asset of all – this rich beautiful planet we all share, teeming with life and biodiversity – is being squandered so thoughtlessly in favour of piles of paper money, assets and ever-increasing stock markets... Because our shared future is priceless. So it is time we start taking it into account. ■

¹ <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2021/09/28/children-born-today-are-likely-to-face-seven-times-more-extreme-weather-events-than-their-grandparents>



THE NEW X7



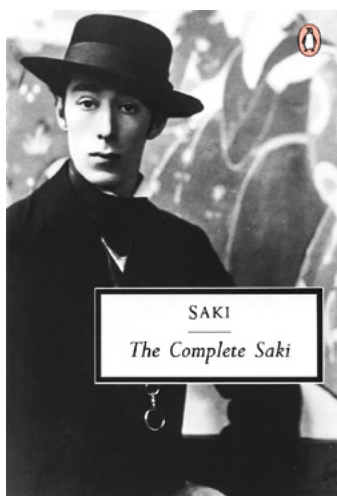
Emil Frey SA

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Personal Development Goals (PDGs)

This edition of newSpecial is dedicated to the SDGs (short for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals). Basically, governments got together and wrote up a list of 17 things essential we need to do by 2030 to save the planet. Things like ensuring access to clean water, promoting good health, and making energy affordable. The SDGs are great, and they help us go in the right direction.



ERIC STENER CARLSON, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

This got me thinking. What about me? I mean, we need to set planetary goals, but shouldn't we also be setting personal ones? There are things I'd like to change in my life. Why don't I set some goals for my own development and growth?

So, I've decided to write up the following PDGs (Personal Development Goals). I couldn't come up with 17, but here are my top five.

1. Stop pretending I like Shakespeare and Dickens

In his brilliant essay, "Books v. Cigarettes", George Orwell writes about his time as a used book salesman. He says that people always bought the works of William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens as gifts – but they never read them! Yes, these

"great works", in beautiful leather binding and gilded pages, are scattered all over the UK (all over the world) but they usually just sit on the shelves to gather dust.

Why is that? Because they're boring and inaccessible. (There, I said it.). I know I'm *supposed* to like them (how I tried to like *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Tale of Two Cities!*) but I don't. Yes, seeing Shakespeare performed live can be exhilarating, but that's because the actors bring out the best of that turgid prose. And, yes, I do like a few of Dickens' ghost stories (like "A Christmas Carol", although that's been done to death) but that's about it.

And it's not just those two authors. There's a whole "literary canon" of authors neither readable nor enjoyable, that we're forced to read and forced

to say we *like* for fear of looking like uncultured buffoons.

Well, enough of this pretence. Below, I've put together a (representative) list of books that people said I should read and that almost put me off reading altogether.

I guess the bottom line is, read what you like, and don't let people tell you what books are good or bad. Including me. So, if you absolutely adore Shakespeare and Dickens, please keep reading them! (Goodness knows, no one else does.)

2. Wear purple more often

Well, not purple, exactly. Although, when I was 7, I wore a purple sweater all the time, in the cold, heat and rain (I think the only reason I stopped wearing it was because my parents finally hid it from me).

Books people said I should read (and I disliked)

Winnie the Pooh
A.A. Milne

Winnie the Pooh is exactly the kind of book adults think children **should** like. But, as a child, I thought the poems were too cutesy, and Pooh was, well, creepy. And Sterling Holloway's voice of Pooh in the movies made it even creepier.

Wuthering Heights
Emily Brönte

Heathcliff? A hero? He's got to be one of the most abusive characters in all of English literature – the fountain of toxic masculinity. I remember shouting out loud, "Why does Catherine love him?" Oh, and here's another reason I don't like the book – it's boring.

The Mayor of Casterbridge
Thomas Hardy

I don't really dislike Hardy's books that much. Yes, they're long and boring and could have done with a good edit. But I'm just putting *Mayor of Casterbridge* on my list, because I'm still upset at having been forced to read it during my summer vacation when I was 17.

War and Peace
Leo Tolstoy

Okay, let's just admit it – you've never read that book, and you're never going to. It's the size of a phone directory from a small town – there are 500 characters, and each one is called by like five different names each! That being said, I did have a friend in college who absolutely loved *War and Peace*. (Then again, she took a semester-long course just to understand it.)

Anything by Jane Austen

Class. Money. Marriage. That's about it. Oh, and Mr. Darcy. At least he's not as abusive as Heathcliff, but he's still so annoying. If it weren't for the BBC version of *Pride and Prejudice* with Colin Firth, I would have given up on Austen. But it's still a vehicle for elites to complain about their petty problems. (Please note, my wife totally disagrees with me on this one.)

Wearing purple is just a metaphor I got from Jenny Joseph's poem, "Warning". Joseph writes about all the things she'll do when she's elderly and free from society's oppressive gender norms. She'll wear purple (including when it doesn't match), she'll sit down on the sidewalk when she's tired, and she'll just eat pickles and bread. I think it's a brilliant idea! I want to do all three things.

In addition to all the boring books we're told to read, we're told what to eat and what to wear. If, as Oscar Wilde says, "Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit", then I think wearing a suit and tie is the lowest form of conformity. The best piece of clothing I ever bought was a ¾ length sleeve T-shirt from the RUSH tour "Hold your fire" in 1987. (I was in the third row for the concert, and I couldn't hear for two days afterwards.) When I'm older, I'm going to buy that shirt off the internet and wear it all the time.

3. Ask, "Oh, God, why me?" more often?

I'm actually stealing this goal from a pastor I met in Chile. He said that, whenever tragedy strikes (a family member dies, or a house gets swept away with the flood), we usually cry out, "Oh, God, why me?"

But when we meet the love of our lives, or get a good job, or just have access to clean water, we normally don't ask, "Oh, God, why me?" It's almost as if we take all the good things in life for granted. But when other people are suffering, and we're better off, we don't question if we actually deserve these things.

Okay, so here goes. I met the love of my life 30 years ago (and I'm still head-over-heels in love with her), I've got a good job where I get to help people every day, and I just drank a glass of cold, fresh water from the tap. So, yeah, I'm definitely going to keep asking, "Why me?"

4. Thank that chubby kid with alopecia

Maybe no one likes photographs of themselves as teenagers. That's definitely my case. When I was 14, I was chubby and awkward and couldn't talk to girls – oh, and that was the year my alopecia kicked in, so my hair started falling out in patches. It was the perfect recipe for self-loathing and angst.

Forty years have passed since I was that awkward boy, and I've lived a wonderful, full life. But I still wince when I see those pictures. I'd still rather not remember him. But that's going to change.

Back then, I didn't feel good about who I was or *where* I was. I always dreamt of escaping my life, learning new languages, travelling all over the world, meeting fascinating people – and working for peace and justice and kindness. (And, after I read my parents' old copy of

Markings by Dag Hammarskjöld, I decided my dream job was to work for the United Nations.)

So, I studied, and I learned a few languages, and I went out into the world, and, somehow, the planets aligned, and now I'm actually working in the UN system. So, basically, that kid I've been shunning all these years dreamed into existence the life I have today. It turns out, I owe him quite a lot.

So, I just want to say, "Thank you" to my younger self. Sorry it took so long.

5. Be more like my 7-year-old self

Okay, if I didn't like my life when I was 14, I *absolutely loved* my life at seven. I was the most adventurous, unstoppable, creative, spur-of-the-moment version of myself I've ever been. I used to wake with the dawn and run outside, hungry to dig deep holes and climb tall trees. I had the best friends, and I was loyal and dedicated



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Books people said I should read (and I enjoyed)

Candide
Voltaire

Every time I read *Candide*, I laugh out loud. I mean, belly laughs. And these are jokes written over 250 years ago. And it's also full of horrible, horrible tragedies. It just shows that life is a farce mixed with the ugly, the beautiful and the sublime.

Master and Margherita
Mikhail Bulgakov

Everything that *War and Peace* isn't. Incredibly accessible, incredibly beautiful, haunting and hilarious. And it has a huge, magical cat. And, unlike the *Winnie the Pooh* movie, the mini-series directed by Vladimir Bortko is absolutely stunning.

Catcher in the Rye
J.D. Salinger

Okay, yes, I was primed to dislike this book. I was told it was the "best book in U.S. literature". And while I don't think any book qualifies as "the best", the way Salinger calls out the phonies in this life is fabulous. (I also read this when I was 17, so it was a sort of antidote to *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.)

The Stranger
Albert Camus

Incredibly sad, incredibly depressing, and an absolute gem – a distillation of the angst and alienation of the 20th Century. (It was almost ruined for me by a college professor who told us, if we hadn't read the book, we were uneducated. Actually, I think telling someone they're uneducated if they haven't read such-and-such a book is a sign of poor education.)

The Wide Sargasso Sea
Jean Rhys

This is the antidote for all the classist, boring Brönstin books (the various Bröntes and Austin that run together in my mind). What an achingly-beautiful book that explains where the "mad woman in the attic" comes from! And, it turns out, she's so much better than Mr. Rochester. (Rochester is on my list, along with Heathcliff and Darcy.)

Any short story by Saki

I keep *The Complete Saki* by my bedside, and I travel with it. It's dogeared, the spine is broken, and pages are falling out. I constantly re-read that book, and (like *Candide*) I laugh out loud at every single joke. If I had to choose an imaginary animal, it would definitely be the terrible ferret, Sredni Vashtar, and not the simpering *Winnie the Pooh*.

them (my best friend's name was Andrew, and he wore a patch for his sleepy eye, which I thought was fascinating).

One day, my family and I were on our way by catamaran to Green Island, off the coast of Australia. The boat was rising high on the waves and then plunging down, water spraying across the bows. Everyone was inside, hiding behind the glass windows – everyone but me. I crept outside and, tumbling side to side, almost going overboard, I went down the narrow bridge out between the two pontoons, all the way to the edge. I grasped onto the wire handrails, and when the boat plunged, I plunged, the freezing spray washing over me, soaking my T-shirt, and when the boat rose, I rose, gloriously, like a hawk shooting into the sky. When I finally went back to my parents, I was completely soaked, shivering, laughing – fearless.

And then, I don't know, *life* happened. I became more cautious. I began to doubt myself, I thought too much about what others thought of me. I became afraid of so many things.

But I still remember how it felt to be soaked to the bone, I still

remember shouting with joy as the surf crashed over me. And that joy is still there, not too far beneath the surface. I guess I'd just forgotten to look for it. So, my goal is to be more like my 7-year-old self, to wake with the dawn, to fly with the hawks, and to be free.

Implementation Plan

In the end, I guess all my Personal Development Goals have to do with trying to be authentic: reading books I like, wearing clothes I'm comfortable in, being comfortable about who I am, and being thankful for everything, whether I deserve it or not.

Every good set of goals deserves an implementation plan. So, my first step is to stop complaining about the books I dislike and be more appreciative of the books I love. For every literary poser I've met in my life, there have been friends and strangers who recommended books that have brought me joy. Here's a (representative) list.

I think every book we read that gives us joy (like every book we write) and every solemn love we declare is an act of defiance against this grey, cardboard world. And my PDGs are going to get me there.

Maybe I won't reach all my goals – not all at once anyway. But one day I think you'll find me on the bow of a ship, pitching and rolling in the wild Sargasso Sea. My tattered copy of Saki's short stories will be peeking out from my satchel, with a photo from my teenage years as a bookmark. I'll be wearing my RUSH T-shirt and perhaps even a purple sweater that doesn't match, but it doesn't matter much, because I'll be completely soaked to the bone, shivering, and over the roar of the surf, you'll hear me shout, "Oh, God, why me?" ■

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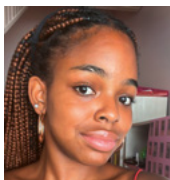
Cold temperatures in my Garden in Switzerland.

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SDGs

A double-edged sword or our savior for my generation?

As a young adult, I recently learned about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations to be achieved by 2030. These ambitious objectives aim to address important global challenges. In this article, I will explore the real meaning behind the SDGs, their potential to help our generation, and the challenges they face.



NORAH TALON

The real meaning

Upon researching the SDGs, I was impressed by the intentions behind them. The goals have the potential to solve critical issues and create a better world for all. However, it is evident for me, that achieving them by 2030 is challenging.

As of 2019, according to Wikipedia, no country has managed to fulfill all the goals, and various factors such as the need of food

production, societal structures like capitalism, and corruption in some regions pose significant obstacles.

These challenges raise the question of whether the goals might be too idealistic and difficult to achieve within the given timeframe.

How they could help

Despite the challenges, the SDGs hold immense importance for the well-being of future generations.

Let's explore a few key goals and their potential impact:

- **Goal 1-2: No Poverty & No Hunger** → These goals are vital as they address the suffering of many people. Achieving them would undoubtedly make the world a better place for everyone.
- **Goal 4: Quality Education** → By ensuring quality education for all, we can empower future generations with the knowledge and skills needed to help global challenges, particularly



© Deborah Randolph Talon

Whilst temperatures soar in my mothers home country in Ghana.



© Deborah Randolph Talon

My sister visited Athens in 2023. A week later there were wild fires in that area.

for the children who are still suffering from a lack of proper education.

- **Goal 5: Gender Equality** → Achieving gender equality is not only a matter of justice but also a strategic move that unlocks the full potential of half the world’s population, leading to a fairer society.
- **Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy** → Transitioning to clean and affordable energy sources not only reduces the climate change impacts but also provides access to energy for many populations, promoting development and reducing poverty.
- **Goal 13: Climate Action** → Urgent action to combat climate change is crucial to saving the planet for our

generation and preventing catastrophic disasters. With extreme temperatures already being registered worldwide, this goal demands immediate attention, from my point of view.

- **Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions** → Establishing s creates a stable environment promotes harmony in many countries and institutions

The Double-Edged Sword

While the SDGs offer noble aspirations, they do face several challenges:

- **Unrealistic targets:** The SDGs face a wide range of complex issues, making achieving all of them by 2030 a difficult task that requires significant

political will, resources, and investments.

- **Global disparity:** Wealthier countries may find it easier to achieve the goals, while countries with fewer resources may struggle, leading to disparities in progress. Additionally, conflicts between nations can threaten global cooperation.
- **Environmental impact of development:** Balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability is crucial. Development efforts may lead to environmental degradation if not pursued responsibly.

Conclusion

The SDGs provide vital ways to create a better world, but their realization requires collective effort and dedication from everyone.

As young adults, supporting sustainable practices would be a powerful way to contribute to achieving the SDGs and avoid the potential disasters that await our generation. While the challenges are significant, the positive impact of reaching these goals is really immeasurable!

Well, we have only seven years and the clock is ticking... ■

Norah Talon is an 18 year old Swiss high school student



Munich for Future, 2019.

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Predicting the future...

or possible futures?

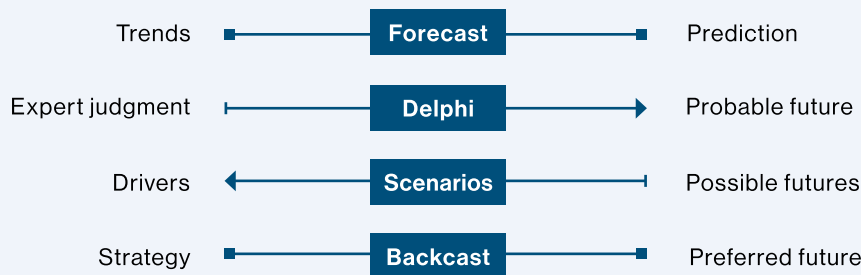
Throughout history, people have been keen on predicting the future and forecasting – from leaders and generals consulting priests to divine the outcome of battles from animal intestines to the dire warnings of the ancient Oracle of Delphi, which held a special status and was widely respected by various warring city states in Ancient Greece.

PHILLIPPA BIGGS, ITU

Throughout history, people have been keen on predicting the future and forecasting – from leaders and generals consulting priests to divine the outcome of battles from animal intestines to the dire warnings of the ancient Oracle of Delphi, which held a special status and was widely respected by various warring city states in Ancient Greece.

Today, **most modern societies** have renounced cutting up animals to predict the future, but has the science of future forecasting really developed?

Much depends on the **time horizon of interest**. As Bill Gates famously pointed out, people generally tend to overestimate changes or the impact of any technology in the short-term and underestimate the impact over the long-term. Ho & Mauro (2015) pointed out that economic growth forecasts are overly optimistic, and the more so, the longer the time horizon involved (on the basis of IMF data). Politics is widely criticized for functioning on short-term results relating to a term of office. Clothing follows seasonal trends and fashions; business can function on



Source: Phillipa Biggs.

multiple different timescales (a financial quarter or year or future timescale). The Internet and financial markets now function in terms of milliseconds.

Politicians are fanatical optimists and often promise a brighter future with an inspiring vision before elections (before waking up to reality of their budgetary constraints shortly afterwards!). Other professions may specialize in seeing downsides, from cybersecurity specialists and insurance lawyers to national security, who may paint negative scenarios of what might happen, if their warnings are not heeded.

People differ significantly in their personal outlooks. There is even intriguing research suggesting that people who identify and can imagine their 'future selves' are less likely to engage in destructive behaviours in the present (Hal Herschfield, 2009). Some people can readily imagine their future self, which feels close to their current identity. These people might plan and save and engage in responsible behaviour and act in a way that will make life easier in the years ahead. Other people struggle see their future self as an unknown stranger, and they tend to be less responsible in their behaviours and less worried about the long-term consequences of their actions.

Today, it is increasingly difficult to predict or foresee the future in an increasingly uncertain world. Systems are becoming so complex, it is difficult to understand the interactions or collisions of different systems. In a globalized world, there are even more sources of instability and uncertainty, many hidden factors and many feedback loops. Not many people had heard the word 'sub-prime' before 2007; not many people had heard of coronaviruses before 2020. The original Lorenz' paper in 1972 about 'Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?' examined the sensitivity of some systems to initial conditions, some of the time.

In his fascinating book, 'How the World Really Works', bestselling author Vaclav Smil distinguishes between forecasts about well-known processes functioning according to relatively well-established and well-understood parameters (e.g. forecasts of world population), versus forecasts that may correctly predict the right tendency, but are subject to substantial uncertainties (e.g. the rate of global warming, where the ocean's ability to absorb heat was been historically understated). He contrasts these types of forecasts with 'fabled storytelling' based on questionable assumptions (e.g. science fiction).

Modern strategic forecasting techniques distinguish between a range of 'possible futures', the 'preferred future' or future we want, and 'probable future(s)'. They use a range of different methodologies to extrapolate trends, infer from expert opinions, identify drivers or even work backwards to what we need to do now, to realize a preferred future. ■

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A girl in a wheelchair, Leslie, attends school in Cameroon.

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Interview with Abia Akram

Why disability rights are vital to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

This September, world leaders will gather at the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) summit in New York, to assess progress on the ambitious global targets to address poverty and inequality. A new Equal World campaign by international NGO Sightsavers, “Promise in Peril” is calling on world leaders to ensure that all commitments made at the Summit focus on reaching those being left furthest behind.

In this interview with *newSpecial*, Equal World global ambassador Abia Akram, discusses the campaign, disability rights and the road to achieving the SDGs.

What are the SDGs and why were they created? Why are we talking about them now?

The SDGs are a set of 17 ambitious goals which aim to reduce

poverty and tackle inequality and climate change by 2030. They were adopted in 2015 by all UN member states. Each of the goals is an urgent call to action for countries to work in global partnership to solve some of the most pressing development issues facing the world. Importantly, and unlike the Millennium Development Goals that preceded them, it was

a global development agenda that put a promise to deliver for people with disabilities at its heart through a commitment to ‘leave no one behind’.

These visionary goals aim to transform our world for the better. They seek to improve living conditions, bridge economic divides, protect the planet, and



Abia Akram is a disability rights activist, Sightsavers' trustee, and Chief Executive of the National Forum of Women with Disabilities in Pakistan. She is also Board Member for the Asia Pacific Woman, Law and Development Organization; Global Chair for the Global Forum on the Leadership of Women and Girls with Disability; and Chair of the Asia Pacific Women with Disability Network.

Abia has been involved in the disability rights movement since 1997 with Special Talent Exchange Program (a cross-disability organisation) and aims to give a voice to women and girls with disabilities. Since then, she has been instrumental in leading the disability youth and women's movement in Pakistan and the Asia-Pacific region.

ensure that everyone enjoys health, justice, and prosperity. There are 169 target outcomes across all the SDGs and 92 per cent of these targets are linked to human rights. This means that they can only be achieved if they're achieved for everyone.

The SDGs have come into focus right now because this September the world reaches the halfway point to achieving them. It's a key time to take stock of the progress, and setbacks, so far.

Your campaign is called Promise in Peril - are the SDGs in peril?

When the SDGs were adopted they promised to "leave no one behind" in global development. As we now reach the halfway point to the 2030 deadline, evidence shows that progress on the SDGs has derailed, and that promise is in peril. The UN Secretary-General's latest report on SDG progress warns that "many of the SDGs are moderately to severely off track", with only around 12% on track to be achieved⁴².

For the first time in decades global income equality has gone into reverse. The impacts of these reversals are felt most by women and girls and by marginalized populations including people with

disabilities, migrants, refugees, and those living under conflict or in remote areas. We will fail to reach the goals unless the needs of these groups are addressed. Countries are falling behind in their mission to empower the marginalised and fight against the discrimination and inequality that clouds the lives of many. With just seven years left till the 2030 deadline, this is a wake-up call to nations to take immediate measures that would speed up global progress on the SDGs.

Why are the SDGs so far off-track?

Many reasons can be attributed for the lag in global progress on SDGs as it is a complex topic. However, in recent years, a number of factors have made the goals profoundly harder to achieve by 2030. The covid-19 pandemic has seen existing inequalities deepen, education disrupted, and huge pressure put on already weak health systems. At the same time, the world faces growing threats from conflict and the climate crisis. Vulnerable and marginalised populations - including people with disabilities - are disproportionately affected by all these challenges.

What is Sightsavers and the Promise in Peril campaign calling for?



Around the offices at the Access Bangladesh Foundation in Savar, Bangladesh.

We are calling on world leaders to ensure that the political declaration of the SDG Summit in September, and the national commitments they make at the Summit, focus on reaching those who are being left furthest behind.

The declaration also needs to include meaningful and specific references to disability. It must prioritise inclusive and equitable financing of the SDGs. We need clear, tangible actions to be taken.



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Due to the conditions of the streets during the rainy season and anxieties about perceptions of her disability, Khady would often spend all day at home (she rarely left the house). Khady, disability organisation member, Senegal.



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Graduates of the IT Bridge Academy in Nairobi Kenya. The academy provides IT training for young people with disabilities.

The voices of people with disabilities need to be heard too, especially those of women and young people. They and their representative organisations must be meaningfully included at all levels of decision-making on SDG processes and outcomes. To truly leave no-one behind, we need transformative and accelerated action that is in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This is our last chance to get the goals on back on track.

Why focus on disability?

The vast majority of people with disabilities live in low- and middle-income countries and more than half are women. Although people with disabilities account for 16% of the global population (and growing), they are still being excluded from development policies and programmes. They are also not sufficiently included in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. This means that the people who are most at risk of being left behind are the ones being ignored in efforts to tackle inequality, poverty, and climate change.

As the UN Secretary-General's recent Rescue Plan²⁷ shows, people with disabilities are being hit hardest by the lack of progress on poverty and inequality. Globally, up to twice as many people with

disabilities live under the poverty line than people without disabilities. Still in 2023, many people with disabilities are denied access to their basic human rights - to education, health care, employment, social services, and political participation. For example, only one percent of people with significant disabilities in low-income countries have access to disability benefits, and only one in ten people in the world who need them have access to assistive technology products and services.

And women and girls with disabilities often face intersecting discrimination, increased levels of violence, harassment and stigma when compared to women and girls without disabilities.

What are some other solutions to the key challenges around disability rights globally?

One major area where intervention is needed is in data collection, as there is a global lack of data disaggregated by disability. Global data is available for only two out of ten SDG indicators that require disaggregation by disability. This contributes towards significant data gaps that exist globally and means people with disabilities are often invisible in policy making. Governments must commit to collect disability inclusive data,

with particular consideration of the intersection of gender and disability.

And as I have said previously, we also need to increase engagement by actively involving people with disabilities in the planning and implementation of policies that affect their lives. There can be nothing about us without us. The inclusion of people with disabilities needs to be sufficiently resourced and budgeted for, and committed to by states at a national level. In order to achieve the SDGs and create a more equal world, global decision-makers cannot continue to ignore 16% of the population.

While some issues faced by people with disabilities are unique to a specific region, larger issues such as data and engagement need to be tackled in every country.

Do you have anything else to add?

Our call for equity is not a polite request. It is a demand, a moral imperative. People with disabilities must have an equal say in the policies and processes that affect our lives. Governments must take action to uphold disability rights and meet development targets in a way that leaves no one behind. We must all act now to rescue the SDGs. ■

You can find out more about the Promise in Peril campaign, and sign their petition, at: <https://campaigning.sightsavers.org/promise-in-peril/>

- 1 According to a preliminary assessment of around 140 targets with data, only about 12% are on track.
- 2 <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-generals-report-outlines-rescue-plan-for-people-and-planet/>



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The role of journalism in global health diplomacy

Do journalists have a role to play in global health diplomacy? I was a part of a recent discussion in Geneva on a panel that delved into global health diplomacy with insights from diplomats and practitioners. This set me thinking on examining the responsibilities and the function of the media in global health diplomacy.

PRITI PATNAIK, GENEVA HEALTH FILES

As journalists we are expected to illuminate the less-understood mechanics of power. This also holds true in the scrutiny of global health policy-making, given the closed and cloistered settings of the global health ecosystem in Geneva.

The pandemic of COVID-19 has cast a somewhat harsh light on Geneva and the processes associated with global health actors including but not limited to, the World Health Organisation, the World Trade Organization, Gavi - The Vaccine Alliance and The Global Fund, among many

others. I believe this attention to global health policy-making, in many ways long-due, is now here to stay.

The ubiquitous health crisis that this pandemic was, became an inflection point for global health diplomacy forging collective

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action at political levels across countries to pay more attention to health priorities within governments. Accordingly, journalism has become a catalyst in contributing to some of these processes.

World over, journalists have asked questions of their governments around the lack of preparedness and the perceived failure of state response to COVID-19 in many countries. They have consistently pushed for accountability from the various actors at national, regional and international levels, and often at grave personal costs.

More than ever before, technology coupled with greater awareness and agency, have empowered media to play a more pronounced role in the shaping of global health policy-making by raising questions around technical and opaque discussions in these multi-layered processes.

Why diplomacy needs journalism?

Given the uneven capacities of delegations at the permanent missions here in Geneva, there has been a need for greater information and analyses on policy-making that takes place here.

I founded *Geneva Health Files* – a weekly investigative newsletter on the governance of global health – in early 2020, because I had long felt the need for consistent reporting and comprehensive analysis of global health discussions in Geneva.

Based on my limited experience of founding and running this entrepreneurial initiative, I believe that journalism has a crucial role to play in shining light on the field of global health, its actors, and the state of play on how global health policies are crafted at an international level. Journalism can and should have an impact on diplomacy in Geneva.

We have tracked how the international community responded to the pandemic of COVID-19. We have consistently kept an ear to the ground, by talking to a range of diplomatic sources across the spectrum to get a sense of the deliberations as they unfold. In the process, we have provided a service to not only diplomats and negotiators in Geneva, but thousands of readers globally, who are keenly watching how global health policy is being shaped here.

Global health journalism largely speaks the language of science. We sought to change that by also reflecting the power and politics underlying these seemingly technical choices in global health that are often presented as apolitical. In our reporting, it has been our efforts to also pay attention to the politics in policymaking.

We look at the field of global health from the lens of politics, law, governance and diplomacy, without limiting ourselves to the fundamental scientific basis of this discipline. In fact, our unique selling proposition is using an inter-disciplinary approach to reporting on global health and providing actionable information to our readers. We try to capture the vast space that global health as a field occupies, for it touches several aspects at once.

For three years, we have tracked negotiations at the WTO and now at the WHO in the wake of the policy response to the pandemic of COVID-19 from these organizations. By merely bringing to the forefront some of these closed-door discussions, we have raised and highlighted critical questions. Our reportage has not only aided smaller delegations, civil society actors, scholars in the field, but also large delegations of developed countries, some of whom are our regular readers. Since we connect the dots across policy spheres, our reporting has been useful to diplomats.

There is value in our journalism that seeks to furnish actionable information that directly feeds into the work of the diplomatic community engaged in global health in Geneva and beyond. This is demonstrated by the engagement of our readership that comprises a community of global health professionals. We at *Geneva Health Files* are proud to have created this platform. Experts routinely write for us in order to reach thousands of our readers across more than 120 countries.

The larger goal has always been to contribute to greater accountability and transparency in global health policy-making in Geneva, often perceived as being far removed from the national and local realities in countries.

Practicing journalism in a political process

I have also been asked if we exercise power by elevating certain voices over the rest. There are two considerations in how we source and cite.

One is respecting expertise in the sources we cite. Remember that journalism as a practice entails discretion and responsibility. In a climate where experts have been shunned in populist democracies, this is vital. I am firmly of the view that we exercise discretion and deploy our own agency in bringing facts and analyses on under-reported issues.

Second is, paying attention to the diversity in the narrative and who is being cited. We are acutely aware, of what some scholars refer to as “epistemic injustice”, where certain voices routinely get ignored or are underrepresented leading to exclusion and misrepresentation of meanings. We seek to address this in our journalism.

We continuously exercise judgement in our reporting. For example, while reporting on the various stages of on-going negotiations

in global health, we also keep in mind our responsibility as journalists. While the goal is to provide information, we do so without harming the larger objective of what countries are trying to do behind-the-scenes during the political process that global health policy-making is. This is often a complex choice that involves some thinking and taking a step back, without betraying our readers’ right to know.

However, as a self-publisher, we are also aware of the risks of being at the receiving end. Our access has been threatened in the past. And we are mindful of the battles we pick even as we have to provide a service that feeds directly into the work of our readers.

Our gaze as an outsider, providing synthesis of what we observe has been useful to our readers. We are constantly challenging mainstream narratives, so while that makes us unpopular in certain quarters perhaps, a vast variety of readers continue to read us as illustrated by our high retention rates.

Given the sensitive nature of global health diplomacy, at *Geneva Health Files*, we also follow the practice of not naming diplomatic sources – something that is de jure even among the big news outlets. Anonymity is central to diplomats, for it enables them to share their views and insights without fear of losing their identity.

This also, to an extent explains, why sources speak with us. Trust is the only currency that small newsrooms such as ours have. After nearly 400 long-form analyses on global health over the last three years, institutions and diplomats do see us that we are here for the long haul. The sheer breadth of our readership shows that we are trusted across the board given our attention to detail and the depth in our coverage.

To be sure, journalists are also often seen merely as tools to disseminate information. We are aware of how certain issues or narratives can be used to hook reporters. But all good journalism is conscious of this, while balancing with the role that media outlets are expected to play. Having an open mind is crucial for objectivity, but it is more than that. Our own analysis of facts, independent investigations, and examining the narrative behind the facts, collectively inform our editorial decisions. The golden rule of robust journalistic practice is to confirm facts with multiple checks and verifications and to diversify sourcing. We also employ a fair degree of self-reflexivity while practising our craft.

Soothe not flare

Finally, I do believe that more journalists should look at connecting foreign policy matters to

health. There is a need to look at health more broadly, beyond the narrow confines of how journalists traditionally covered these issues, such as looking at this field along vertical diseases, or technical interventions, for example. As a former financial journalist, I am struck by how closely integrated economics and health is, and yet there is inadequate media attention on looking at these issues as a whole.

Given the polarized narratives and fragmented geopolitical fissures often felt in Geneva, journalism must bring facts to light. Information is sunlight. While misinformation and fake news have jeopardised scientific temper and imperilled democratic efforts, it goes without saying that journalism needs to contribute to diplomatic efforts and not flare existing tensions.

The independence of the media Media's ability to engage is fully dependent on whether journalists can actually afford to play a role in the first place. While advertising dollars have dried up and choked the media industry in recent years, new business models are taking shape, some of them being supported by readers themselves.

In the case of *Geneva Health Files*, we are an independent journalistic initiative that keep us objective and enables us to ask any question. However, this independence has also limited the way we are funded. The fundamental reader-funded nature of this initiative by way of subscriptions, is vital and central. We are cautious about ethical considerations, and the kind of grant funding we can receive given the political nature of global health itself. Our hope is

that more of our readers become paying subscribers to fund this public service journalism.

Everyone has a stake in understanding global health diplomacy and journalism is one of the means to that end. ■

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Jurors, HAFF leader and winner.



WHO announces winners of the 4th Health for All Film Festival

7 winning short films, 4 special mentions from the jury.

The World Health Organization has announced the official selection of this year's winning films at its 4th Annual Health for All Film Festival, held at WHO Headquarters, Geneva. The event, attended in person and online by actors, producers and public figures, saw winning films announced for 7 different categories, while 4 films received special mentions from the jury.

This is the fourth year of the film festival and competition was no less fierce, with some 93 shortlisted films covering issues ranging from anxiety and depression through to the effects of climate change on health, as well as the health challenges of people with disabilities. The

films were judged by a panel of distinguished professionals, artists and activists, including the renown actors, Sharon Stone and Alfonso Herrera, dance choreographer, Sherrie Silver, climate activist, Sophia Kianni and media personality, Adelle Onyango. They were joined by senior United Nations officials and WHO staff.

"The Health for All Film Festival brings a human face to WHO's scientific work," said WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "Listening to the voices of people affected by health issues is a powerful way to raise awareness and improve our understanding of people's experiences and this can help us advance towards health for all."

From the official selection one "GRAND PRIX" is attributed for each of the three main competition categories: Universal Health Coverage, Health emergencies, and Better health and well-being, which align with WHO's Triple Billion Targets.

Sharon Stone, Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning actress from the United States of America, producer and activist for health and humanitarian causes said:

"I am delighted to be part of the Health for All Film Festival. This is about creating better awareness on crucial actions needed for reaching healthier living conditions around the world. The stories selected talk to us about

the intrinsic value of good health and its access, and they advocate for universal health coverage. Universal Health Coverage is a very important right, it's a human right for everyone around the world."

Four special prizes were also given for a *Student-produced film*, a film on *Climate Change and Health*, a film on *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* and a *Very Short Film*.

The theme of mental health featured heavily in this year's winning entries, including a powerful and moving short film from Sweden about anxiety and depression. The film, set to a stirring soundtrack, featured a series of actors expressing different stages of anxiety and how it can manifest itself. The overall message was that you are not alone in experiencing negative thoughts and that it is okay to acknowledge such feelings.

Another winning film, from Bangladesh, features a young boy who was exposed to lead from a local factory. The moving film details the effects this has had on his educational development and the work that a local non-governmental organization has done to both highlight the issue and take action to prevent lead poisoning in the affected community.

List of films awarded:

- **UHC "Grand Prix": "Jonathan's Miracle Feet"**
Sierra Leone/Disability, clubfoot
Directed by Mamihasina Raminosoa and Nantenaina Rakotondranivo from Madagascar for the NGO Miracle Feet/Documentary
Duration 3'19"
- **Health Emergencies "Grand Prix": "Nurses facing Covid/Na Lihna de Frente"**
Brazil/COVID-19 and access to care
Directed by Klimt Publicidade and the institution Conselho Federal de

- Enfermagem-Cofen-From Brazil/Documentary
Duration 8'
 - **Better Health and Well-being "Grand Prix": "One in 36 Million: Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh"**
Environmental health
Directed by Arifur Rahman and Mitali Das (Bangladesh) for the NGO Pure Earth Bangladesh
Documentary
Duration 6'32"
 - **Special Prize Climate Change and Health Film: "When climate change turns violent"**
Global/Gender based violence and climate change
Directed by Vandita Sariya (India)/Documentary
Duration 4'32"
 - **Special Prize Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Film: "Vulvo and Dynia"**
Israel/Vulvodynia
Directed by Dina Stescovich (Israel)/Fiction
Duration 4'13"
 - **Student Film Prize: "Gasping for life"**
Germany/Mental health, screens addiction, anxiety, depression
Directed by Su Hyun Hong (Germany)/Animation
Duration 8'
 - **Special Prize Very Short Film: "Mirrors"**
Sweden/Mental health, and depression
Directed by Paul Jerndal (Sweden)/Fiction
Duration 3'
- Films receiving a Special Mention from the Jury:
- **Health Emergencies Special Mention: "My roots: Mayas during Covid-19"**
Guatemala/COVID-19
Directed by Ángela Lucrecia Chiquin (Guatemala)
Documentary
Duration 3'11"
 - **Better Health and Well-being Special Mention: "Love Shades"**
Sweden/Mental health, depression and empathy
Directed by Pratick Paudel (Sweden)/Fiction
Duration 5'51"

- **Climate Change and Health Special Mention: "Freedom to breathe: a child's right to breathe clean air"**
Global/Asthma and air pollution
Directed by Georgette Thomas (United Kingdom)/Documentary
Duration 5'39"
- **Very Short Film Special Mention: "I am naked/Je suis nue"**
France/Violation of privacy; Mental health; Emotional violence against women
Directed by Alexandra Mignien (France)/Fiction
Duration 2'20"

The Health for All Film Festival aims to promote health and well-being across the globe. The festival raises awareness of important health issues, inspiring positive change, and encouraging the use of movies as a tool to create a positive impact. Films can help to educate, inspire, and motivate people to take action on important health issues.

Indeed, educational films can teach people about the causes, symptoms, and prevention of diseases. Inspirational films can motivate people to adopt healthy behaviors or be more understanding about other people's conditions. Advocacy films can raise awareness of important health issues and call for action while engaging people in the process of creating change. The Health for All Film Festival is an initiative for anyone who wants to promote health through films, from filmmakers, and health experts to the general public. ■

For more info:
www.who.int/film-festival

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**Special Prize Climate Change
and Health Film:**
«When climate change turns violent»

Global/Gender based violence
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Directed by Vandita Sariya (India)
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Sierra Leone/Disability, clubfoot
Directed by Mamihasina Raminosoa
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Documentary – Duration 3'19"



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Documentary – Duration 6’32”

**Special Prize Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Film: “Vulvo and Dynia”**

Israel / Vulvodynia
Directed by Dina Stescovich (Israel)
Fiction – Duration 4’13”



Panel session at UN General Assembly side event co-hosted by Aspen Global Innovators Group and the UN Health4Life Fund, September 2022¹.

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WHO's efforts

Harnessing inter-agency UN collaboration

As part of its commitment to system reform, the United Nations has been promoting Pooled Funding mechanisms for several years through Multi Partner Trust Funds and Joint Programs. Essentially, this means UN sister agencies working together, aligning programs, budgets, resources, and prioritizing country led initiatives.

SUSANA MARTINEZ SCHMICKRATH AND GRAHAM MCNEILL, WHO

Pooled funds empower countries to prioritize and align their programs. They allow low and middle-income countries to have a voice at the table, with the full support of the UN system, and promote whole of government and whole of society solutions.

At WHO, we see this, not simply as an opportunity to deliver on our global mandate as the lead

agency on health, but to promote a UN wide systemic response to key issues – a requirement if the world is to get back on track to achieve the potential of the SDGs. As the Covid 19 response has made clear, the greatest impact comes from coordinated action rather than working in silos.

With this in mind, WHO's leadership has promoted the establishment and utilization of MPTF modalities to strategically deliver

joint responses the world needs to effectively address inter sectoral global threats. It has been the transformative funding mechanisms chosen by UN principals the past few years when signing UN inter agency Memorandum of Understanding, as it brings to life political leadership combined with predictable, transparent multi-year funding harmonizing and amplifying ongoing national, regional and global initiatives.

To “walk the talk” WHO is proud to host three Global MPTFs Secretariats and in December 2022 we held the first “WHO hosted MPTF Secretariat Retreat” in Geneva.

The Working for Health MPTF, established in 2018 in partnership with OECD and ILO, assists countries to accelerate multisectoral actions and commitments to optimize, build and strengthen their health and care workforce, and close the projected



© Shikira Choomera

In 2020, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) ministers of health endorsed a ten-year Health Workforce Strategic Plan (2020-2030) developed with the support of the joint WHO-ILO-OECD Working for Health programme. Representatives from fourteen Member States convened in Johannesburg in June 2022.

10 million workforce shortfall by 2030, through investments in workforce education, skills, and jobs. It has supported 41 countries to tackle their unique workforce policy issues and priorities, which has helped to secure the domestic and donor financing and investments needed to sustainably implement these and deliver health for all.

AMr. MPTF launched in 2019 together with FAO, WOA, and recently joined by UNEP to address the health risks of AMR, funding transformative and innovative practices that support national governments in implementing the “One Health” approach.

Health4Life Fund (H4LF) is a bold new United Nations multi-partner trust fund working with low- and middle-income countries to scale up domestic action on non-communicable diseases and mental health that will reduce associated premature loss of life, undue suffering, and detrimental socio-economic impacts. H4LF was established in 2021 by WHO, UNDP and UNICEF with Kenya, Thailand, and Uruguay as initial Founding Strategic Partners. It promotes Global South-led collaboration and partnership to support countries

realize health-related SDG targets through multisectoral, participatory and inclusive approaches.

At country level, these innovative pooled funds mechanisms act as “the muscle” of the UN Reform, help increase coherence and reduce the fragmentation created by a plethora of separate projects. Further, they reduce transaction costs by promoting harmonized reporting.

In 2019 the Funding Compact was signed between MS and all UN Agencies. Through this Compact, MS commit to bring core resources to a level of at least 30% in the next 5 years, increase the share of multi-year contributions and double the levels of resources channeled through development related inter agency pooled funds.

In terms of accountability, Pooled funds help our WHO Representatives (WRs) to work with Ministries of Health to implement cross government approaches beyond health and facilitate a greater awareness increasing WHO’s collaborative work within UN Country Teams. In 2022, we rolled out a capacity building exercise in collaboration with our New York office to build capacity among our WRs on matters related to pooled funding.

In early 2020, at the point where the COVID-19 was about to make it mark in everybody’s world, WHO created a small unit in its External Relations function dedicated to the promoting, increasing engagement and developing understanding of Pooled funding within the Organization and the development of key external relationships.

To date, the unit has worked breaking silos, from HQ to regions and countries within WHO and bringing in a range of support services including legal, finance, country support, diverse technical units, and other resource mobilization teams. This has also involved working closely with our New York Office which holds the responsibility of the UN reform and has been at the center of pushing this agenda forward.

With this additional capacity, WHO has strengthened its relationship with the Multi Partner Trust Office based at UNDP in New York. This Office is the central resource of expertise on pooled funding in the UN system and since 2004 has managed over 200 trust funds. In recent years, there has been a substantial growth in resources, reaching \$1.74 billion provided to UN agencies and Implementing partners in the pooled fund portfolio.

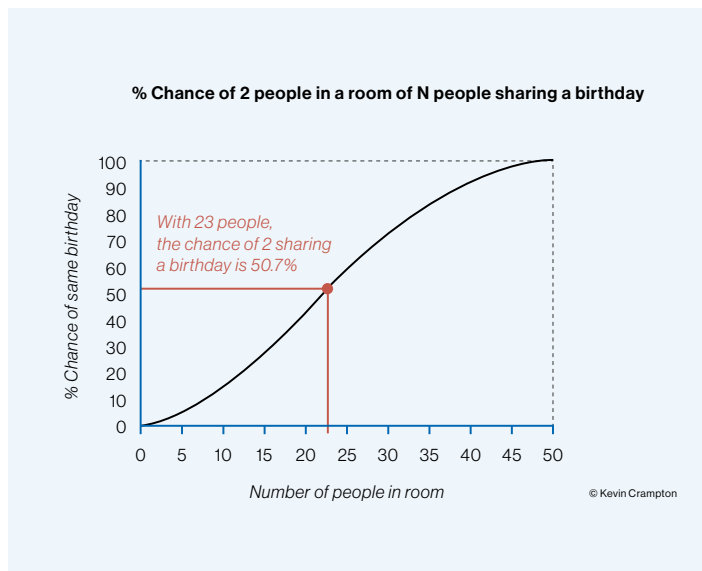
Ultimately, joining forces with other UN agencies and aligning our work with those Governments we support makes us proud, and promoting this vision makes WHO stronger and ensures contribution from UN reform Member States go much further. Increasing countries capacity is a key focus for WHO and enhancing our relations and engagements with pooled funds represents a positive contribution in this regard. Timing is working in our favor as the New guidelines for Joint Programs have recently been updated and joint UN efforts to facilitate the creation, funding and delivery through them is a top priority for WHO’s Funds, Banks and Multilateral team. ■

¹ Panelists (left-to-right): Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN rapporteur for the right to health/Vivian Nabeta, Executive Director/Sonia Nabeta Foundation and Type 1 Diabetes patient advocate/Allison Goldberg, President, Merck Foundation/Raji, Acting Director, Africa CDC/Loyce Pace, Director for Global Health, Health and Human Services, USA/Raji Tajudeen, Head, Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Birthdays and goats

Counter-intuitive statistics

There's no arguing with the numbers. Studies in mathematical statistics often throw up an understanding of reality that defies our natural intuition and seems utterly unlikely. Nothing illustrates this more clearly than the so-called Monty Hall problem, which caused eminent thinkers, PhD holders, and a host of others to argue for a long time for solution that was in fact completely incorrect. Read on and see if you would've guessed the right choice (if you don't know it already!)



Birthday Paradox probabilities plotted.

A little explanation

To examine the birthday paradox, think of it like this, by asking what's the chance that everyone's birthdays are different.

The first person in the room can have any birthday so 365 days out of 365 so $365 / 365 = 1$ – there is a 100% chance that their birthday is not the same as they are the only person in the room!

The second person can only have 364 days out of 365 so $364/365$ because they must avoid the date of person number 1.

The third person can only have 363 days out of 365 so $363/365$ as they avoid the first two birthdays.

So, the chance of all birthdays being different is $(1 * 364/365 * 363/365 * \dots)$ and so on.

And if you do that 23 times you find that the chance of 23 people in the room all having different birthdays is 0.49 i.e., 49% which means that the chance that two of them DO have the same birthday is 51%, well 50.7% to be precise!

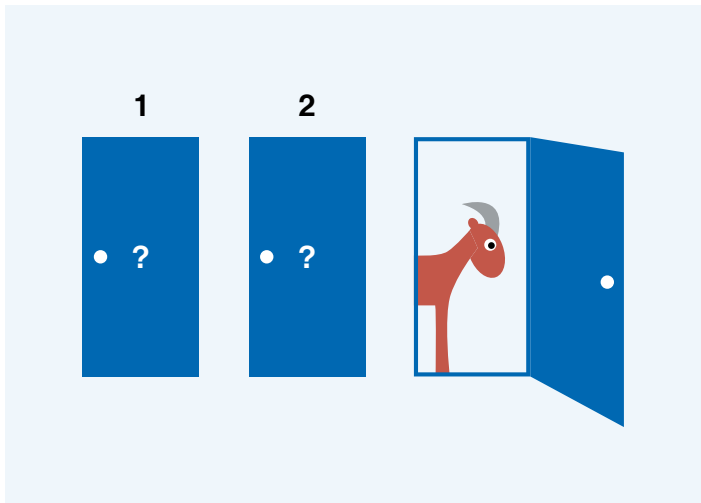
KEVIN CRAMPTON, WHO

The wonderful and wacky world of statistics deals in the collection and analysis of data and grew out of studies of games of chance, in which the mathematics of probability were first laid down in the 16th century. Toss a coin and there's a 50/50 chance of heads or tails, but also a vanishingly small (but nonzero) probability that the flipping thing might land on its side!

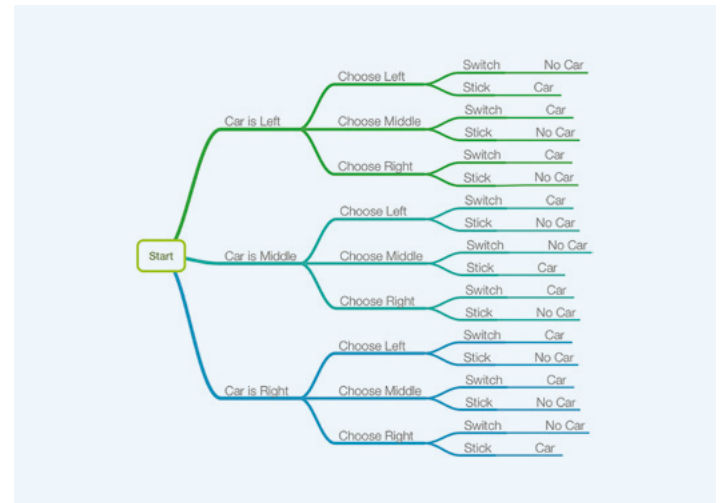
Studies of the whim and chance of the universe can lead to some surprising conclusions – not least the fact that it is needed for the mind-bendingly odd

discipline of quantum mechanics in which the behaviour of the electron is described as a probability cloud called the wave function. This remarkable science doesn't reflect our uncertainty about the particle, it really does seem to reflect some fundamental nature of the universe in which chance is built in to the fabric of reality.

Take the following question for example... how many people need to be in a room for there to be a 50% chance that two of them share the same birthday? There's 365 days a year and so you might image it's a fairly large number,



Choose a door and win big or get your goat.



The decision tree of the Monty Hall Problem.

say 50, or a 100? The answer is in fact just 23 people! You crunch the numbers, perhaps by asking the question the other way round, what is the probability that no one shares a birthday? and you find that the maths is clear. This problem is named the Birthday Paradox and is a good example of how our natural instinct are completely wrong.

The example par excellence of this counter-intuitive statistics is called the Monty Hall Problem, named after a gameshow presenter from the 1970's. The challenge runs like this...

You are on a gameshow and there are three doors. Behind one door is a fabulous prize (let's say a bound and autographed copy of all my newSpecial articles) and behind the other two doors are goats. You don't want to pick a goat, they smell, and would chew your furniture. The gameshow host allows you to pick one door at random. After you have done so, the host (who knows where the goats are hidden) opens one of the doors you didn't choose and reveals one of the goats, thereby eliminate one of the losing doors. With me so far? Having got rid of a sofa-munching goat, the gameshow host now asks if you want to stay with the original door you picked or swap to the other unopened door, the one you did not originally pick.

The question is this... is it advantageous to swap? Does it make any difference at this point in the game to change your choice? Are the chances more, less, or the same for you to swap to the other door?

Most people when confronted with this problem believe that there is no advantage to swapping, that the probability remains 50/50 that you originally chose the winning door but, in fact, there is a significant improvement in your odds if you DO decide to swap. This seems fundamentally wrong but once more, the maths is clear.

There are a few ways to explain it and you can even draw out the "decision tree" of all the different configurations to also prove that you should swap doors.

One way to explain it is that when you first selected your door, at the start of the challenge, there was a 1 in 3 chance that you chose the winning door (1/3rd). Now that one door has been eliminated, it's argued that the remaining 2/3rd chance is transferred to the door that you did not originally choose.

Another way to look at it is to imagine that you started with 100 doors, but still only one prize and 99 goats! You choose a door, and the host now opens 98 doors to reveal the goats and then asks you if you want

to swap. In this scaled-up version of the same problem it is much more intuitive that you should change your choice - what were the odds that you got the right door (1 in 100) right off the bat?

If you're still unconvinced (as I was when I first heard this), then draw out the decision tree of the different possible combinations and count up the number of times you win when switching compared to winning by sticking with your original choice. See the handy attached figure and go wrap your head around that.

So why is our intuition wrong? Maybe because we overlook the fact that the gameshow host knows where the goats are located and so his influence to change the scenario mid-game means that extra information has effectively been injected into the situation. Or maybe we are just hard wired to underestimate some laws of chance, such as picking up the phone at the same moment that our intended caller was trying to dial our number. Given the estimated 12.4 billion phone calls made every day, scenarios like this should seem a lot less surprising.

In a universe that, quantum mechanics clearly tells us, is rooted on uncertainty and chance maybe we need to be cautious

concerning our appreciation of just how likely things are. I am reminded of this, for example, every time I see someone buy a lottery ticket... ■



La Société des Nations révélée au public

Avec le projet Lontad, les archives rares et précieuses de la Société des Nations (SDN), désormais numérisées, sont accessibles à tous.¹

PELICHET – ARKHENUM:
EMMANUEL FREMAU,
RESPONSABLE MARKETING

La Société des Nations, créée à l'issue de la Première Guerre Mondiale, a posé les prémices de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. De 1919 à 1946, date de sa dissolution, cet organisme basé à Genève, fut le premier à proposer une nouvelle approche basée sur la négociation collective comme mode de résolution des conflits. PELICHET soutien par son expertise le déménagement de la Société des Nations vers l'Organisation des Nations Unies.

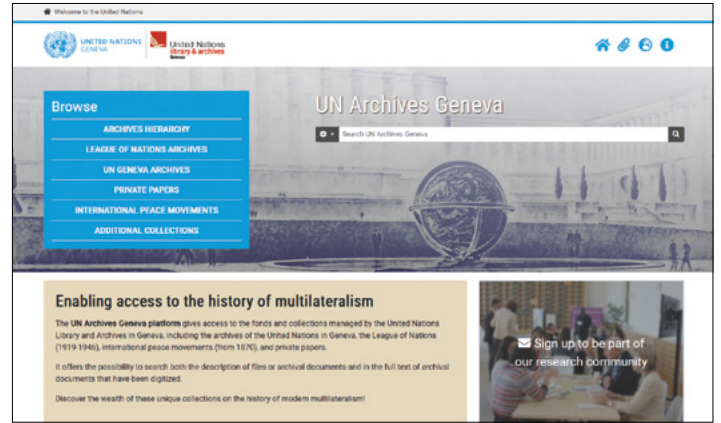
Constituée de 63 pays membres, la Société des Nations a, durant ses 27 années d'existence, permis

la mise en œuvre de nombreux échanges internationaux et négociations entre différents pays et dans différentes langues. Les archives de cette période, classées dans les archives de la Bibliothèque des Nations Unies, soit plus de 120 000 documents officiels, 27 000 cartes et plans, 9 000 photographies, près de 3 kilomètres linéaires pour un total de 500 000 unités documentaires, sont dorénavant consultables par tout un chacun et plus d'un million de consultations ont déjà été comptabilisées.

Inscription au Registre de la mémoire du Monde de l'UNESCO
 Le caractère exceptionnel de cette documentation abondante

a été inscrit par l'UNESCO au patrimoine mondial. Du fait du caractère unique de ces archives, l'Office des Nations Unies de Genève a décidé, en 2017, de les préserver numériquement pour pouvoir ensuite les rendre disponibles sur Internet auprès du Grand Public. Le projet LONTAD (Total Access To the League Of the Nations Archives) a alors été lancé avec Colin Wells comme chef de projet.

La mise en place aura mobilisé 30 personnes réparties en différents pôles d'expertise: un premier pôle a préparé les archives (dépollution et consolidation des documents, reconditionnement dans des boîtes neutres)



pour les fournir au prestataire de numérisation patrimoniale sélectionné, Arkhênum. Une fois la phase de numérisation et d'enrichissement de données effectuée, les images numériques ont ensuite été transférées au dernier pôle en charge du contrôle qualité des images, de leur description et de leur indexation dans la plateforme de mise en ligne.

Un atelier de numérisation dédié installé à l'ONU

Étant donnée l'ampleur du projet, l'Office des Nations Unies de Genève a décidé de réaliser la numérisation de ses archives historiques en son sein pour optimiser les délais de réalisation et fluidifier les échanges entre les différents pôles. Un autre choix majeur a été de confier la numérisation patrimoniale à un prestataire de services spécialisé dans le domaine.

Un appel d'offres international a été lancé fin 2017. 18 prestataires ont proposé leurs services dans le cadre de ce projet hors norme. C'est finalement la société Arkhênum associée au groupe PELICHET qui a remporté l'appel d'offre.

Un atelier complet de numérisation, entièrement autonome, a été installé dans les locaux de l'ONU à Genève pour pouvoir travailler en synergie avec les deux autres pôles d'expertises de l'ONU. A ce module, rendu opérationnel en 2 mois, s'ajoute un atelier de production complet composé de 7 scanners patrimoniaux accompagnés de leurs suites logicielles, systèmes de stockage et de sauvegarde. Sur les 4 années de numérisation, 220 téraoctets de données ont été générés pour un total de 14,2 millions de vues numériques.

Pour pouvoir mener à bien ce projet de numérisation inédit en termes de volumétrie, la société Arkhênum a affecté sur place 6 personnes à temps plein pendant la durée du marché. Cet atelier autonome était piloté par Lisa Le Goff, Cheffe de projet, avec la collaboration précieuse de 5 opérateurs en numérisation, tous experts dans la manipulation de documents patrimoniaux.

La grande variété des collections traitées a nécessité polyvalence et expertise large de la part des équipes en raison des formats différents des documents traités: documents déreliés,

photographies, cartes et plans grands formats, objets, fiches Kardex...

Les images numériques ont ensuite été enrichies avec des métadonnées techniques mais aussi des logiciels de reconnaissance de caractères (OCR) dans différentes langues pour permettre une recherche plein texte au bénéfice des internautes.

Chaque visiteur numérique, peut pour affiner sa recherche, se connecter sur la page de contact. ■

Site de Pelichet: <http://www.pelichet.ch/>

1 https://archives.ungeneva.org/lontad?sf_culture=fr

Parachuting from the Eiffel Tower

In 1912, an Austrian tailor jumped to his death from the first-level platform of the Eiffel Tower. The jump had been an attempt to prove the value of his invention – a wearable parachute – then much in demand for the early days of aviation. The Paris police had given permission for the test but on the understanding that a dummy would be thrown over, not a live human.



The Eiffel Tower circa 1910.



Early version of the voluminous parachute suit.



Reichelt modelling his invention.

KEVIN CRAMPTON, WHO

On a freezing cold Sunday morning in Paris, on the 4th of February 1912, a car pulled up to the Eiffel Tower carrying Franz Reichelt and two friends. Despite the early hour of 7 a.m., a crowd of curious onlookers had already assembled and were being held back from the base of the tower by ropes set up by the police.

The crowd had gathered to see Reichelt, who had announced to the press several days before that he had finally got permission (after a long campaign petitioning the authorities), to test his latest invention at the tower. He was planning to give a practical demonstration of a wearable parachute that could safely deliver a man to the ground from even a relatively low height.

Reichelt was a tailor and had taken French citizenship in 1909

having moved to Paris from his native Austro-Hungary. He had a successful business, catering primarily to visiting Austrians, but his passion lay in inventing. Specifically, he was interested in the potentially lucrative creation of a parachute suitable for pilots bailing out of their aircrafts at low altitudes. Accidents were frequent at this, the dawn of aviation, and a prize of 10,000 Francs had been offered for the first person to create a practical safety solution.

Reichelt had experimented first with weighted dummies, and the early trials proved encouraging when the mannequins landed gently from drops of five stories high. Human trials were less successful however and Reichelt broke his legs on one test and was saved during a second by landing in a bale of straw when he leapt from a height of 10 metres.

Undeterred he continued to refine his design, convinced that the correct solution required not only the right amount of material but also a drop of sufficient distance to allow his wearable parachute to deploy correctly. He was convinced that his earlier tests had been too low, and he needed a proper fall, for example from the 57 metres of the first level of Paris' most famous landmark.

He requested permission for over a year from the police before his wish was granted but, critically, the authorities understood that the test was to be made with dummies and not by Reichelt himself. There had been other similar tests at the tower as different inventors competed to be the first to arrive at a working prototype and all had used dummies.

Reichelt posed for photos at the foot of the tower, showing off



The jump was from the first level of the Eiffel Tower.

© Kevin Crampton

the suit which Le Gaulois magazine described as “only a little more voluminous than ordinary clothing.” One paper speculated that the wearable parachute may have weighed as little as 9kg, well within the 25kg limit set by the rules of the 10,000 Franc prize.

Up until this point, the authorities and even Reichelt’s friends had believed that the test drop would be made with dummies, and it was reported later that the inventor concealed his real intentions until the last possible moment. When it became clear that the inventor intended to jump himself, everyone present attempted to dissuade him. The strength of the wind (which was blowing steadily across the Champs de Mars), and the low temperature were all sited as reasons to abort or delay the attempt, but Reichelt was adamant. He told his friends,

“Je veux tenter l’expérience moi-même et sans chiqué, car je tiens à bien prouver la valeur de mon invention.” (I want to try the experiment myself and without trickery, as I intend to prove the worth of my invention.)

Having told the crowd that he would, “See them soon”, the inventor climbed the stairs to the first level and positioned himself on a chair set upon a restaurant

table facing the Seine. He tore some paper from a notebook and threw it over to test the wind, and then half-opened his device ready for the attempt. At 8:22 a.m., he hesitated for 40 seconds and then launched himself outwards. His friends said that he was calm and smiling as he jumped and utterly convinced of the success of his invention. His chute folded around him, and he fell for three and a half seconds before striking the frozen ground.

An autopsy showed that he most likely died of a heart attack during the fall, and the Paris authorities strenuously repeated that permission for a live test had never been given. Reichelt was called mad and foolhardy in the newspaper reports and his friends countered that he probably felt pressured into giving a dramatic demonstration before a patent expired.

The police remained extremely wary of giving permission for any further jumps, and a special exception was made in 1985 for the James Bond film, “A View to a Kill” in which Grace Jones’ character (May Day) escapes from Bond by parachuting from the top of the tower.

Shortly after Reichelt’s death, the first practical parachute for aviators was finally created by the Russian soldier (and actor) Gleb

Kotelnikov. Kotelnikov sensibly demonstrated his invention by first opening it behind a moving car and continued refining the design throughout his life to give birth to the first sports parachutes and drag chutes for landing aircraft, and pave the way for the modern safety chute. ■

In response to the attempts to dissuade him from making the jump, Reichelt explained: *“Vous allez voir comment mes soixante-douze kilos et mon parachute vont donner à vos arguments le plus décisif des démentis.”* (You are going to see how my seventy-two kilos and my parachute will give your arguments the most decisive of denials.)

FESTIVAL CHOPIN

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Jeudi 5 octobre à 20h
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Concert d'ouverture
Alberto Nosè piano
Quintette Ephémère
Olivia Vilmar-Jacobson, violon
Elsa-Camille Sapin, violon
Giuseppe Russo Rossi, alto
Florestan Darbellay, violoncelle
Samuel Sciancalepore, contrebasse

Dimanche 8 octobre à 17h
Salle des Nations, Hôtel des Bergues
Récital de piano, Mateusz Tomica

Mardi 11 octobre à 20h
Salle Willy Buard, Mairie de Collonge-Bellerive
Récital de piano, Anais Cassiers

Vendredi 13 octobre à 20h
Salle Franz Liszt, Conservatoire de Musique de Genève
Récital de piano, Aleksandra Świąt

Dimanche 15 octobre à 17h
Salle Franz Liszt, Conservatoire de Musique de Genève
Concert de clôture
François Dumont, piano
Olivia Vilmar-Jacobson, violon
Florestan Darbellay, violoncelle

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The wounded inner child:

How childhood trauma can affect your work

Have you ever felt like you're not good enough at work, despite having the necessary skills and qualifications?

PALOMA WRITES

Do you struggle with setting boundaries with colleagues or managers, or fear rejection or criticism?

That was me a few years ago. These experiences I mentioned above, may be related to your wounded inner child. I am happy to say I've made tremendous progress in this area.

In this article, I will expand on how I overcame so many of my internal blockages related to my wounded inner child.

According to recent studies, childhood trauma can have a lasting impact on our mental health and behavior in adulthood, including at work. The wounded inner child refers to the part of us that carries the emotional pain and unmet needs from our childhood experiences, which can show up in various ways at the workplace.

Here are 10 examples of how the wounded inner child can show up at work, based on recent research:

- Fear of rejection or criticism from colleagues or managers,

leading to an inability to speak up or assert oneself in meetings or discussions.

- Overreacting to feedback or constructive criticism, taking it personally, and feeling hurt or attacked.
- Difficulty trusting others, leading to a reluctance to delegate tasks or work collaboratively.
- Low self-esteem or self-worth, leading to a lack of confidence in one's abilities or value to the organization.
- Difficulty setting boundaries with colleagues or managers, leading to a tendency to

overwork or take on too much responsibility.

- Feeling like an imposter or fraud, despite having the necessary skills and qualifications for the job.
- Struggling with perfectionism, leading to an excessive focus on details or an inability to complete tasks due to a fear of failure or criticism.
- Difficulty managing emotions in stressful situations, such as conflict or tight deadlines, leading to outbursts or shutting down emotionally.
- Fear of abandonment or rejection by colleagues or managers, leading to an excessive need for approval or a reluctance to take risks.
- Difficulty receiving feedback or recognition for accomplishments, due to a belief that one doesn't deserve it or that it needs to be genuine.

These experiences can negatively affect our performance and well-being at work, as well as our relationships with colleagues. For example, a fear of rejection or criticism may prevent us from sharing our ideas or feedback, leading to missed

opportunities for growth and innovation.

An example from my own life was debilitating perfectionism. It led me to burnout and anxiety. It permeated my work life, my art, and even my hobbies that were supposed to be fun.

How did I heal my wounded inner child?

It took a village. After much searching, I found a doctor who took me seriously. I found a therapist who was trauma-informed. I started valuing myself enough to cut off toxic people and make new genuine friends. I found a ThetaHealing practitioner who empowered me. I recognize that having access to this level of care is a privilege. I've never taken it for granted.

After much inner work, I no longer need a village. I became a ThetaHealing practitioner myself and continue working on myself continuously. ThetaHealing is a form of energy healing that uses the Theta brainwave state to access and change limiting beliefs and patterns in the subconscious mind. Although I was

highly skeptical about it in the beginning, I can now safely say: ThetaHealing has been the single most efficient healing tool for me. It has had a huge and lasting impact on me.

Practicing self-compassion and self-care, and developing skills in communication, assertiveness, and emotional regulation are not things we are taught as children. The good news is that it can be learned. I am living proof. Recognizing and addressing my wounded inner child improved every aspect of my life.

Workplaces can and should create a culture of psychological safety and support, where employees feel comfortable expressing their needs and concerns and have access to mental health and well-being resources. This can include offering employee assistance programs, training in trauma-informed practices, and promoting work-life balance and flexibility.

It all sounds great on paper, but we all know how it goes in reality. We can, however, focus on what we can control. By acknowledging

and addressing the wounded inner child, we can create healthier and more fulfilling work environments for ourselves and others. The more I heal myself, the more I see the ripple effect on everyone in my life.

It may sound cliché but it's absolutely true: healed people, heal people. ■



LESSONS FROM TRAILBLAZERS ACROSS GENERATIONS

HISTORY MATTERS PART II

with your host,
GARRY ASLANYAN

FEATURING:

CARMEN BARROSO
Sexual and Reproductive Health
Lifelong Advocate

DAKSHITHA WICKREMARATHNE
Senior Technical Lead,
FP2030



Aphorisms and epigrams for daily consumption

Second instalment of a series of random thoughts

ALFRED DE ZAYAS,
UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

The November 2022 issue of the *newSpecial* already published a 5-page introduction to the art of the epigram. Depending on their length and subject-matter, we can call also call them maxims, adages (see Desiderius Erasmus' *Adagia*), proverbs, or even "euphorisms". Out of a collection of some three thousand, here a bouquet:

Conscious existence entails moving in and out of the box, questioning our "certainties", imagining exotic scenarios, dreaming the possible and the impossible and devising strategies to concretize our imagination. Allegories, fiction, metaphors, parables – all enrich our reality.

Life's worth is not measured in dollars. A person burdened with debts is not any less human than a billionaire, and may actually be happier.

There is no shame in changing one's point of view. But it is a real shame to persevere in error, once all evidence tells us we are wrong.

The Jesuit maxim *fortiter in re, suaviter in modo* (firm in action, gentle in manner) sounds reasonable – but try to practice it! Most people are *suaviter in re, fortiter in modo*!

A purported good end does not justify any and all means. Surely when the means are evil, the achievement of the end becomes unethical.

We all know that the means utilized by the Jacobins during the French Revolution were criminal.

But were their ends really noble? The means are remembered as *La Terreur*. But wasn't the goal a form of secular absolutism, a dogmatism worse than that of the Bourbon kings and the Catholic Church?

"Dissent is the highest form of patriotism" – a valid maxim attributed to Thomas Jefferson – even if no one has found the source. Regardless of the author, we should believe it and act accordingly!

Jorge Luis Borges imagined paradise as a vast library (*siempre imaginé que el Paraíso sería algún tipo de biblioteca*). Personally, I particularly look forward to visiting the music department of that library with high fidelity recordings of Birgit Nilsson, Elisabeth Schwartzkopf, Renée Fleming, Renata Tebaldi, angels singing Bach cantatas and Händel oratorios, and the immortal Herbert von Karajan conducting Mozart's "exultate jubilate", Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony", Beethoven's 9th symphony and "Missa Solemnis" and Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture" (*Gaudeamus igitur!*).

In order to discover new horizons, it is necessary to let go of the shore, sail toward the unknown and little known, have the courage to be shipwrecked, but keep a life vest handy and never give up the animus to start again.

No one should waste time dreaming other people's dreams, echoing what others say, following the "flavour of the month". It is much more rewarding – and genuine – to follow our own instincts, think by ourselves,

make our own choices, live our own lives.

We can better inter-relate with others, be better friends and partners if we know who we are and what we want. *Nosce te ipsum!*

Overachievement – even heroism – may spring from natural talent, discipline, conscience, religious fervour – and sometimes from indignation, a sense of duty, a commitment to redress injustice. It can also arise from a sense of vulnerability – even from an inferiority complex. *Ergo*, let all persons marshal their talents and emotions, cultivate courage, a sense of human solidarity – and also tackle their phobias to compensate as constructively and ethically as they can.

It takes temerity to escape meaningless automatisms, the soporifics of office routines, addiction to "breaking news", regurgitating undigested information, habits of predator competition instead of cooperation. Escaping from the "always busy syndrome" also means breaking with artificial expectations and constraints, consumerism, the induced urge to possess the latest gadgets, collect trinkets, satisfy every whim, also the headless drive toward hedonism, gourmandizing, pleasure-seeking, *vanitas vanitatis* (Ecclesiastes 1: 2).

Breaking the chains of conformist behaviour means awakening to essentials, to what is important to each one of us as conscious individuals and not programmed robots – awakening to what is crucial to us as vectors in organized

society, with both rights and responsibilities. We escape from tinsel and trash deliberately and in full consciousness of its implications – returning to common sense and moderation, *ne quid nimis* (nothing in excess, Terence, *Andria*), finding a middle way between stoicism and epicureanism. Only by escaping can we be ourselves, shape our own future, achieve our potential.

Philosophy is not just the search for "the meaning of life" – whatever that means – but the autodidact process of discovering our own self – γνῶθι σεαυτόν – as inscribed in the forecourt of the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, knowing our needs, our priorities, our strengths and weaknesses, and striving toward proportion and equanimity μηδὲν ἄγαν, nothing in excess. Philosophy teaches us how to use our rational faculties, how to exercise the courage of our convictions, *sapere aude* (Kant), how to correct our own faults, and how to wage spiritual warfare against nihilism. Practical philosophy means learning how to make life meaningful for ourselves and our loved ones. as Cicero wrote *Sapientia est ars vivendi* ("wisdom is the art of living").

Life is not a computer program. It is a continuum of miracles in every impulse, in every mood. It is a project of galactic scope and Olympian worth – impossible to grasp in its infinite complexity and beauty. ■

Book Review

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

This gem of a book, published by Aldous Huxley in 1932, was startling and unconventional at the time, and remains so today, over ninety years on.



PHILLIPPA BIGGS, ITU

In this dystopian vision of the future, the visionary author Huxley inverts the Western values of the 1930s to imagine a future of topsy-turvy values, in which sensory pleasure and distraction reign supreme. Monogamy and marriage are excluded; instead, promiscuity, hedonism and frivolous pleasure are encouraged. Families, mothers and fathers do not exist – instead, babies are ‘decanted’ from their test tube bottles and brought up in a nursery, where humans have become commoditized products, born in batches of up to 72 clones at a time, via the ‘Bokanovsky process’. Human beings are genetically engineered to belong both physically and mentally to a certain class (top-notch Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and the lower-class Epsilon, in declining order of importance), along with extensive mental conditioning (‘hypnopædia’) to accustom individuals to their predestined lot in life.

Many of Huxley’s scientific forecasts have now come true, at least in part. Genetic editing for medical purposes is now a practiced modern medical technique, even if outright genetic engineering is not widely accepted. Women can take contraceptives easily and readily (even if they do not wear ‘Malthusian’ contraceptive belts). Flying personal helicopter taxis¹ are being developed. Air fresheners scenting the air with perfume are now commonplace (this would have been a luxury product in the 1930s). Ageing has been

postponed, illness by and large cured, and people retain their youthful appearance through hormone treatments. ‘Feelie’ movies where spectators have a sensory experience of a movie are coming closer, with 3D and iMAX movies and moving cinema chairs. Huxley foresees a ‘contentment’ drug, *soma*, which people take a certain dose of in order to zone out for a specified amount of time. Substitute YouTube or Netflix for *soma*, and you have a reasonable description of some people’s evenings.

Huxley wrote this novel after visiting the United States and reading the autobiography, *My Life & Work*, by Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company. Huxley then considered the mass production of humans, via genetic engineering. Huxley contrasts concepts of mass production, consumerism, uniformity and social stability with individuality and the personal pursuit of meaning. One of the female protagonists, Lenina, endlessly repeats her conditioning and acquired precepts, becoming little more than a parrot incapable of original thought or conversation – ‘progress is lovely’, ‘everybody’s happy now’ and ‘even Epsilons are useful’ (the lower caste).

Novel science, books, high culture, art, new poetry and Shakespeare have all been banned, as they might encourage love, idealism, heroism and noble struggle, in the name of a higher cause. In this relatively peaceful society, people

are permitted to write propaganda slogans, but not poetry. Anyone who questions this is exiled to an island (the Falkland Islands or Iceland).

Huxley sees and questions this stable future society through the eyes of John the Savage, a man actually born by the old method to a modern mother on an ‘indigenous’ Reservation of the old way of living, somewhere in New Mexico. In a final dialogue between John the Savage and Mustapha Mond, one of the Controllers of this future world, the Controller explains that ‘every discovery in science is potentially subversive; even science must sometimes be treated as a possible enemy’.

He admits that all food could be artificially synthesized in their civilized society of the future, but that they prefer to keep a third of the population working the land, in the name of social stability. John the Savage questions whether conditioned contentment is in fact happiness, a choice readers are left to make up their mind about.

This is a deeply thought-provoking book, which encourages readers to think about the social conditioning we all receive, as well as the sacrifices involved in fitting into a broader stable society. ■

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66,252,187>



© Alfred de Zayas

Cols routiers de Suisse (7)

Le col du Susten

Apprécié comme le plus beau col routier de Suisse, le col du Susten relie la vallée de Hasli dans l'Oberland bernois à la vallée de Reuss dans le canton d'Uri.

CARLA EDELENBOS,
UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS

Le col se trouve à 2250 mètres d'altitude, mais la route moderne qui relie Innertkirchen, dans le canton de Berne, à Wassen, dans le canton d'Uri, passe dans un tunnel à 2224 mètres d'altitude. Heureusement, il y a un parking avant le tunnel depuis lequel on a accès au véritable col, quelques 300 mètres plus loin, où passe l'ancien chemin de col qui est maintenant uniquement pédestre.

Dans le passé, le col n'avait pas une grande importance, et fut surtout utilisé pour le trafic local, même si le nom du col

fait penser qu'il y avait jadis un entrepôt ou un hospice dont on n'a jamais trouvé de traces. Pour le commerce interrégional et international, les marchands préféraient la route par le Grimsel, et le col du Susten ne fut utilisé que quand cette liaison n'était pas praticable. Quand le Valais était occupé par les troupes françaises sous Napoléon, et constituait un département français, entre 1810 et 1813, le transit par le Valais devint impossible, ce qui poussa Berne et Uri à aménager une route carrossable traversant le col du Susten. Mais avec la réintégration du Valais dans la confédération suisse en 1815, le

passage du Grimsel fut réouvert et les travaux au Susten perdirent leur urgence. Du côté de Berne, la route jusqu'au col fut ouverte en 1817, même si elle n'était pas encore totalement réalisée. Mais côté d'Uri, la priorité fut donnée à la construction d'une route sur le Gothard, pour sécuriser le transit nord-sud.

Ce n'est que dans les années 1930, quand le gouvernement fédéral décida de lever un impôt sur l'essence pour financer la construction des routes dans les Alpes, que la construction de la route fut reprise. Le désir politique de créer des emplois dans

les régions montagneuses a aussi joué un rôle dans la reprise de la construction, ainsi que des intérêts militaires, étant donné la menace de guerre à l'époque. La route fut construite entre 1939 et 1946, et les travaux furent exécutés par des soldats suisses et des prisonniers de guerre polonais. Ces derniers faisaient partie du 45^e corps d'armée français en déroute qui passait la frontière suisse dans le Jura. Au total, plus de 40 000 soldats français et polonais trouvèrent refuge en Suisse en juin 1940. Les soldats français furent rapatriés en 1941, mais les Polonais restèrent internés en Suisse pendant toute



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© Alfred Zayas

la guerre. Ils ont effectué des travaux comme la construction des routes, le travail des champs, pose de voies de chemin de fer, etc., pour combler le manque de main-d'œuvre suisse causé par la mobilisation générale. Partout en Suisse on trouve des plaques qui commémorent cet épisode de l'histoire. Ainsi, sur un mur de soutènement de la route du col du Susten au-dessus de Gadmen se trouve une plaque commémorative avec une inscription polonaise¹. Plus loin sur la route, une autre plaque dédie la route à la paix.

La route du Susten est l'une des dernières routes de col construites en Suisse, et elle se voulait exemplaire comme route de tourisme, intégrée dans le paysage alpin. Par exemple, des constructions

en béton furent déguisées par des pierres naturelles, et des places de parking furent choisies aux endroits panoramiques. Surtout, sur la partie bernoise de la route, des parkings sont nombreux et très bien faits. Cette route devait donner aux touristes suisses et étrangers la possibilité de vivre le mythe alpin depuis le confort de leur voiture. Ceci fut un succès immédiat: le jour de son ouverture, le dimanche 7 septembre 1946, 15 000 voitures, 12% de tous les véhicules enregistrés en Suisse à l'époque, prenaient la nouvelle route du col! Aujourd'hui la route du col reste toujours une favorite chez des touristes en voiture ou à moto qui peuvent la combiner en une seule journée avec le col de la Furka et le col du Grimsel. Et il est même possible de faire ces trois cols en une journée avec le

car postal! Des cyclistes adorent aussi monter ces 26 kilomètres de courbes entre Innertkirchen et le col. Au début, la route monte par des beaux pâturages et forêts de sapins, chênes et hêtres pour finalement arriver dans un paysage purement alpin où les montagnes, cascades et glaciers offrent une vue spectaculaire.

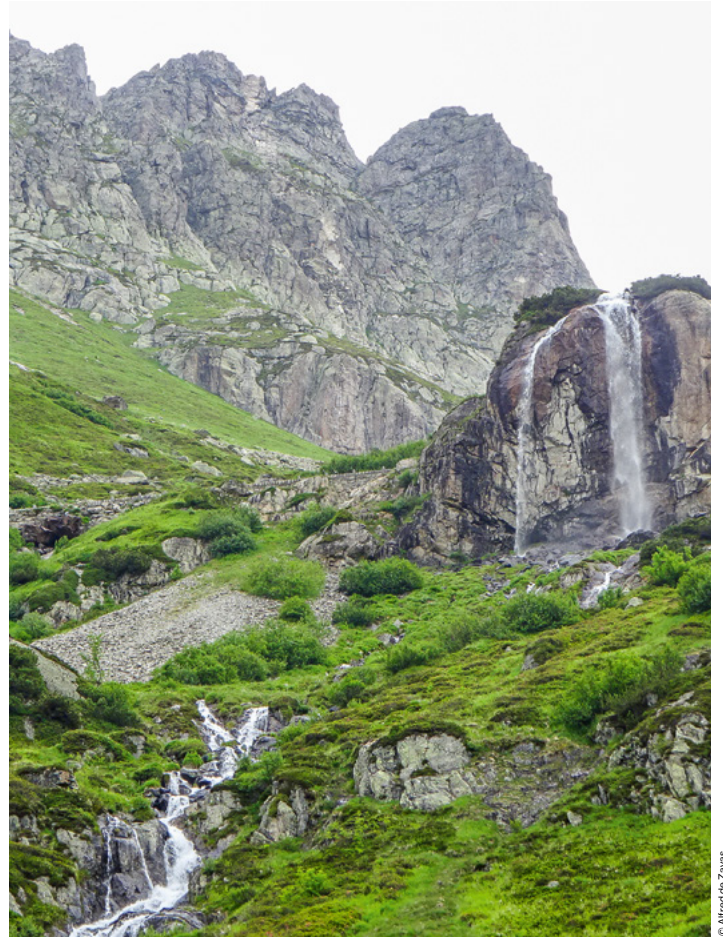
Jusqu'en 1835, des voyageurs utilisaient les cabanes dans les alpes pour passer la nuit sur le Susten. Ce n'est qu'en 1834 qu'une auberge fut construite, le *Gasthaus Steingletscher*, utilisée surtout par des touristes. Le nouvel hôtel-restaurant *Steingletscher*, à 1865 mètres, se trouve au même endroit et est entièrement rénové. Dans les environs de l'hôtel se trouve une fromagerie d'alpage, où on peut acheter des fromages

produits sur place et d'autres produits laitiers. Le petit magasin vend aussi d'autres produits locaux, comme du miel, des tisanes et des confitures. Et pendant des chaudes journées d'été vous pouvez y même déguster une glace au lait alpin!

Un petit chemin privé, accessible en voiture en payant une taxe, mène au lac de Stein, formé par l'eau du glacier de Stein. Des photos illustrent le retrait du glacier au cours de ces quarante dernières années. Si, en 1988, le glacier arrivait encore jusqu'au lac, il s'est actuellement retiré beaucoup plus haut et ce sont des torrents qui jaillissent des séracs qui alimentent le lac. Le ruisseau qui en sort, le Steinwasser, se jette à Innertkirchen dans l'Aar pour enfin se mêler au Rhin. Le lac



© Alfred de Zayas



© Alfred de Zayas

est entouré par les sommets de Sustenhorn, Dammastock, Tieralplistock et le Diechterhorn. Le Sustenhorn forme avec ses 3503 mètres d'altitude un but populaire pour des alpinistes débutants. On peut rejoindre le sommet par la cabane CAS de Tierbergli. La cabane, située à 2795 mètres d'altitude, est ouverte de mi-mars à mi-mai pour des tours en ski, et dès début juin jusqu'en octobre pour l'été. Elle dispose de 78 places en dortoirs (réservation obligatoire). La cabane peut aussi être le but même d'une jolie randonnée pédestre, on y arrive en trois heures depuis l'hôtel Steingletscher. Petit fait étonnant: à l'époque romaine, le glacier ne descendait même pas à l'endroit où se trouve la cabane: là où il n'y a maintenant que des roches et des moraines, il y avait des arrolles et des prairies fleuries!

Pour arriver au col, la dernière partie de la route monte de façon

spectaculaire en passant par des petits tunnels, devant ou derrière des cascades, et toujours avec une vue splendide sur les glaciers des sommets environnants. Au col routier, avant le tunnel, il y a un grand parking et un restaurant. Une petite route mène 300 mètres plus loin au véritable col, où se trouve l'hospice de Susten, un hôtel modeste avec restaurant et terrasse et une aire de jeux pour les enfants. L'ancien chemin du col y passe et permet de rejoindre Wassen à pied en quatre heures et demie, une bien jolie promenade!

Une autre cabane CAS, celle de Sustli se trouve de l'autre côté du col à Uri, et est accessible en une heure et demie à partir de l'arrêt de bus Sustenbrüggli (à 1905 mètres d'altitude). Elle se trouve à 2250 mètres d'altitude, offre 69 places en dortoir et est gardienne en hiver entre mi-mars et

mi-avril pour des tours en ski, et en été à partir de juin pour des randonnées de montagne et de l'escalade.

Après avoir bu un café et dégusté une énorme tarte aux abricots, nous commençons notre descente vers Uri. Nous admirons les cyclistes qui profitent maintenant de la descente pour filer à une vitesse vertigineuse. La route est très belle, avec des vues grandioses vers les collines onduleuses de la vallée tranquille de Meien, traversée par la rivière *Meienreuss*, qui rejoint plus loin le Reuss principale pour se déverser enfin dans le Lac de Lucerne. La vallée souffre malheureusement de dépeuplement, même si une association s'active pour maintenir une population permanente. À Wassen, un village plein de beaux édifices, notre découverte s'achève, et confrontés au brouhaha de la circulation qui se dirige vers Andermatt ou

le tunnel du Gothard, nous avons toute suite envie de faire demi-tour et repasser le col dans l'autre sens! ■

Plus d'informations:

- <https://www.sustenpass-hospiz.ch/>
- <https://www.alpkaeserei-steingletscher.com/>
- <https://sustenpass.ch/de/Ferien/Berghotel-Steingletscher>
- <https://tierbergli.ch/huette/>
- <https://www.sustlihuette.ch/>

1 «Ici un soldat polonais pensa à sa patrie. Que Dieu bénisse la Suisse pays de liberté. Que Dieu bénisse la Pologne pays de souffrances. Pour la liberté. A.D. MCMXL»

ARLETTE OSSERE OKOPOUE
 WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA,
 BRAZZAVILLE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



WHO!

As the esteemed World Health Organization,
 Since your establishment on April 7, 1948,
 You have been designated as the guardian of health,
 Your essence is a unique and invaluable treasure,
 A noble and honorable organ of the United Nations.
 Your noble ascent is the beacon of well-being,
 Guiding individuals to the highest level of health,
 In the face of the darkness of afflictions, you march bravely.

Your helping hand extends gracefully,
 Offering aid to the most vulnerable,
 The scourges you combat tirelessly,
 Vaccination, your precious shield,
 Against epidemics, pandemics, and endemics.

Care forms the pillar of your action,
 Prevention and awareness are your advocacies.

Governments and partners, united under your auspices,
 Deploy unmatched efforts in public health,
 In the face of diseases, your role is extraordinary,
 So that health triumphs in every corner,
 You tirelessly pursue your noble mission,
 Always adapting without respite.

Your devotion writes an impeccable story,
 Preserving health is a sacred duty,
 Symbolized by your logo, you chart the path of health.

The WHO and nations join hand in hand,
 Bearing the standard of health as a legacy,
 To build a world where health reigns supreme,
 Beyond borders, your echo weaves bonds of equality.

Towards better health for all, this is your universal anthem.
 You proudly raise your standard.

WHO, thanks to you, health remains our unalterable heritage,
 We applaud you sincerely.



Découvert en 1925, le masque funéraire de Toutankhamon est constitué de plus de 10 kg d'or massif et de pierres semi-précieuses.

© Claude Maillard

ÉGYPTE (3/4)

Toutankhamon, l'enfant roi

Onzième pharaon de la XVIII^e dynastie, Toutankhamon n'a régné que très peu de temps. Né vers 1340 av. J.-C., il monte sur le trône à l'âge de neuf ans mais meurt une dizaine d'années plus tard. Pourtant Toutankhamon est le pharaon le plus célèbre aujourd'hui grâce à sa tombe oubliée sous les sables qui a été retrouvée pratiquement intacte avec son fabuleux trésor.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Le règne de l'enfant roi fut sans éclat. Sans la passion de l'archéologue britannique Howard Carter qui découvre son tombeau en novembre 1922, Toutankhamon serait sans doute resté inconnu et n'aurait pas l'aura qu'on lui connaît aujourd'hui. Et dire que Carter a failli ne jamais mettre au jour le tombeau de Toutankhamon, découverte qui est certainement la plus formidable du monde de l'archéologie! Après six années de recherches infructueuses dans la Vallée des Rois (*voir le newSpecial précédent*), le commanditaire britannique Lord Carnarvon voulut y mettre un terme. Howard Carter

l'a convaincu de lui laisser une année de plus, durant laquelle ses efforts seront enfin récompensés.

Féru d'archéologie, à la tête d'une fortune colossale, Lord Carnarvon achète une concession en Égypte pour se livrer à des fouilles «en amateur» qui malheureusement ne seront pas couronnées de succès. Il désire alors s'adjoindre les conseils d'un véritable homme de terrain et fait la connaissance d'Howard Carter qui travaille en Égypte au service des fouilles étrangères. En 1915 les deux hommes reprennent une concession dans la Vallée des Rois, persuadés qu'elle n'a pas livré tous ses secrets. Après que

l'équipe ait exhumé des sceaux au nom de Toutankhamon, Carter se met à la recherche de sa tombe, mais sans résultat. Ces maigres découvertes alourdissant les dépenses que doit supporter Lord Carnarvon, il annonce son intention d'arrêter mais consent néanmoins à financer une toute dernière campagne de fouilles après que Carter l'ait supplié de l'aider. Ses recherches au bas de la Vallée des Rois étant restées infructueuses, l'archéologue s'intéresse alors à un périmètre jamais prospecté situé près de l'entrée du tombeau de Ramsès VI. Son intuition portera rapidement ses fruits puisque le 4 novembre 1922 à l'aube, après

avoir dégagé les marches d'un escalier, il se tient devant la porte d'une nécropole royale qui va s'avérer être celle de Toutankhamon.

Le trésor de Toutankhamon

Dix années de travail ont été nécessaires pour évaluer le trésor enfoui dans la tombe de Toutankhamon. Pratiquement 5400 objets seront découverts: des centaines de figurines funéraires, d'innombrables cannes, vases et récipients en calcite sculptée, environ 80 arcs et plus de 400 flèches, des maquettes de bateaux, des chapelles en bois, des palettes de scribe, plusieurs lits, des jarres de vin... Plus de



© Claude Mallard

D'une beauté incomparable, le temple d'Horus érigé à Edfou est considéré comme l'une des plus belles merveilles d'Égypte.



© Claude Mallard

Le «Princess Myriam», notre sandal, embarcation égyptienne ancestrale et typique aux élégantes voiles latines.



© Claude Mallard

Hassan, navigateur expérimenté aux commandes de notre sandal, maîtrise parfaitement le fort courant rencontré sur le Nil.



© Claude Mallard

Quel bonheur de pouvoir contempler le coucher de soleil sur le Nil depuis le pont de notre embarcation.

150 bibelots avaient été disposés entre les bandelettes de la momie et beaucoup de bracelets ornaient ses avant-bras. Son cercueil en or pesait à lui seul plus de 110 kg, mais le plus grand —et celui qui est certainement l'objet le plus emblématique du trésor— est le fameux masque mortuaire du roi en or massif.

Toutankhamon est le fils d'Akhénaton, dixième pharaon de la XVIII^e dynastie qui règne de 1355 à 1353 av. J.-C. Figure controversée, considéré parfois comme l'un des grands mystiques de l'Histoire, il bouleverse l'histoire de l'Égypte antique en imposant une religion monothéiste, privilégiant le culte du disque solaire Aton. Sur le plan politique, ses choix conduiront à la première véritable

crise du Nouvel Empire tant sur le plan économique qu'international. Tout d'abord désigné sous le nom de Toutankhaton («image vivante d'Aton»), le jeune pharaon devenu Toutankhamon mettra rapidement à bas la politique de son défunt père et rétablira les anciens dieux de la mythologie égyptienne et leurs cultes.

Il décède subitement à l'âge de 19 ans, probablement des suites de l'infection d'une blessure accidentelle à la jambe, sans avoir conçu d'héritier avec son épouse Ankhsenamun. Lorsque Horemheb, général en chef des armées, prend le pouvoir, il fait effacer le nom de Toutankhamon pour légitimer son propre pouvoir. Ses successeurs poursuivront ce travail et le souvenir

de Toutankhamon se dissipera lentement jusqu'à la découverte de sa tombe en 1922.

Plus au sud, à une centaine de kilomètres de la Vallée des Rois, sur la rive gauche du Nil, Edfou doit sa célébrité au temple d'Horus, l'un des sanctuaires les mieux conservés de toute l'Égypte.

Edfou, à la gloire du dieu Horus
Depuis l'aube de la civilisation égyptienne jusqu'à la période gréco-romaine, les Égyptiens n'ont jamais cessé d'honorer Horus. Dieu du ciel, également considéré comme celui de la royauté, il est l'une des divinités majeures et certainement l'une des plus anciennes. Il est généralement représenté sous l'aspect d'un homme avec une tête

de faucon coiffée des couronnes de la Basse et de la Haute-Égypte.

Le plus grand temple lui étant consacré est celui d'Edfou. Perle de l'Égypte, il a résisté au temps grâce à la magie du désert. En effet, jusqu'au milieu du XIX^e siècle, le temple était presque totalement enfoui et à l'abri sous le sable. Il ne sera dégagé qu'à partir de 1859 sous la direction de l'archéologue français Auguste Mariette.

Entièrement construit en grès, d'une beauté incomparable, Edfou est le deuxième sanctuaire le plus grand d'Égypte, après celui de Karnak. Il est considéré comme l'une des plus belles merveilles du pays et permet de s'imprégner totalement de la culture égyptienne. Sa



Accueil chaleureux et convivial à Al-Karabla, village construit sur les berges du Nil.



Dans tous les villages, comme à Farès, des jarres remplies d'eau fraîche sont à disposition afin de pouvoir se désaltérer.



Les plantations de palmiers dattiers irriguées par les eaux du Nil assurent la prospérité aux populations locales.

construction s'est faite de 237 à 57 av. J.-C., à l'époque ptolémaïque sous Ptolémée III. Du Nil à la Méditerranée, ce pharaon fit de son empire la plus grande puissance de la mer Egée durant vingt-quatre ans.

Toutes voiles déployées, notre bateau (le Princess Myriam, du nom de la première fille de notre guide Mohamed) nous attend, amarré sur la berge toute proche du Nil. Hassan, entouré de son équipage, nous accueille chaleureusement et en guise de bienvenue nous offre un Karkadé, jus de fleurs d'hibiscus, boisson typique du sud de l'Égypte. Il est temps de larguer les amarres: la remontée du majestueux Nil, créateur de vie en plein désert, jusqu'à Assouan va pouvoir commencer

Comme au temps des pharaons Le Nil est un don du ciel pour les agriculteurs, et de nombreux villages sont construits sur ses rives, entourés de palmiers dattiers, manguiers, plantations d'oignons ou champs de maïs. Farès fait partie de ces villages où la vie semble s'écouler comme il y a des millénaires, comme au temps des pharaons. Le village est prospère grâce au commerce des dattes. Toujours le même accueil, toujours la même gentillesse de ses habitants déjà rencontrés plus tôt dans le village d'Al-Karabla. Les enfants accourent de toutes parts pour partager un moment avec nous: que du bonheur. A Farès la majorité des habitants sont très croyants et beaucoup ont fait le pèlerinage à la Mecque. Afin d'évoquer cet événement qui a

marqué leur vie, ils l'expriment au travers de dessins peints sur leur maison, faisant de leur village une véritable galerie de peinture à ciel ouvert.

Dans les environs, le Nil est surplombé de part et d'autre par des falaises de grès et le site a été utilisé comme carrière depuis la préhistoire. L'exploitation de ces carrières du Djebel Silsila a été particulièrement intense au Moyen puis au Nouvel Empire, et même jusqu'à la période romaine. La pierre, de bonne qualité, aisément accessible et facile à transporter grâce à la proximité avec le Nil a été utilisée pour la plupart des temples de la Haute-Égypte. Sur la rive ouest, plusieurs monuments sont creusés dans la roche dont

le temple d'Horemheb notamment dédié à la divinité Amon.

Le soleil se couche sur le Nil; avant de poursuivre la navigation en direction d'Assouan, le «Princess Myriam» accoste au milieu du fleuve roi, sur l'île de Maniha, lieu inconnu et tellement paisible, où nous passerons la nuit. ■

Plus d'information:
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Suite de l'aventure à vivre dans le prochain numéro du *newSpecial*

BY ALFRED DE ZAYAS, UN SOCIETY OF WRITERS



Half awake

Watching you sleep,
hearing you sleep -
sweet sinusoidal sweep,

sweet solitude in company:
you dreaming, conscious me,
both breathing, breathing deep
tide in, tide out, so sensuously.

I watch you sleep,
I touch your cheek in sleep
I wake you not, you sleep
I start to drift and keep
your breath on me
I drift upon your sleep



Half asleep

Hush! My love lies sleeping
next to me. I listen to her stable breathing,
faithfully inhaling and exhaling...
Music to my ears, a swelling, surging
surf on Eden's beach, an undulating
measure smooth and soothing.

Half-awake and somehow dreaming,
I remember our first meeting,
not a coup de foudre, but awakening
of zeal, seduction softly sweeping
as a rustling breeze, caressing
every limb, adagios for my being.

Suave and steady you lie breathing,
soulful images suffuse my thinking.
Slowly slumber settles, soul is drifting,
drifting
drifting...

Call for applications

newSpecial magazine editorial committee

The *newSpecial* magazine builds on over 75 years of history of its predecessor publication – the UN Special magazine. Since 2019, *newSpecial* has continued to be a strong voice for civil servants working at international organizations in Geneva.

This call is for members of the Editorial Committee of the magazine, including:

Eight contributing members who will cover at least two of the areas of the magazine and contribute to at least 10 articles per year. Magazine areas are: International Agencies in Geneva, International Geneva, Civil servants and staff issues, Photo and visual essays, Leisure and hiking, Health and well-being, Art and culture, WHO and related work.

Two copy editors who will edit the content of 10 issues per year in English and French plus have a command of another UN language to occasionally edit articles in another UN language).

One webmaster to manage the magazine's website.

This is voluntary engagement and is open only to current staff members of international organizations in Geneva. All members selected will serve a two-year term starting in November 2023. Please send a short note (a couple of paragraphs), indicating which position you are interested in and the experience you will bring to the editorial board. Please include a short CV. Your letter should be addressed to Dr. Garry Aslanyan, Editor-in-Chief, *newSpecial* magazine and emailed to info@newspecial.org, no later than 30 September 2023.

Appel à candidatures

Comité éditorial du magazine *newSpecial*

newSpecial est le magazine qui, en 2019, a hérité des plus de 75 ans d'Histoire de son prédécesseur *UN Special*. *newSpecial* reste une voix entendue au sein de la communauté internationale à Genève.

Cet appel à candidatures a pour objet de trouver de nouveaux volontaires qui seraient intéressés à rejoindre notre équipe et contribueront:

Huit membres contributeurs qui couvriront au moins deux des domaines du magazine et contribueront à au moins 10 articles par an). Les thématiques du magazine abordent: Agences internationales à Genève, Genève Internationale, Fonctionnaires et problème de personnel, Essais photographiques et visuels, Loisirs et randonnées, Santé et bien être, Art et culture, Travail de l'OMS et lié.

Deux relecteurs-correcteurs éditeront le contenu de 10 numéros par an, en anglais et en français et maîtriseront une autre langue de l'ONU. Ils pourront, de manière occasionnelle, éditer des articles dans une autre langue de l'ONU.

Un webmaster pour gérer le site web du magazine.

Ce travail est bénévole et est ouvert uniquement aux membres du personnel actuels des organisations internationales à Genève. Les membres sélectionnés exerceront un mandat de deux ans à compter de novembre 2023. Merci de bien vouloir envoyer une courte note (quelques paragraphes), indiquant le poste qui vous intéresse, l'expérience que vous comptez apporter au comité de rédaction et d'inclure un court CV. Votre lettre devra être adressée par courrier électronique au D^r Garry Aslanyan, rédacteur en chef du magazine et envoyée au plus tard le 30 septembre 2023 à l'adresse suivante: info@newspecial.org.

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:
Garry Aslanyan – newSpecial
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Par courrier électronique: info@newspecial.org

Message from the Editorial Committee

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.

Send your thoughts to:
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CE MAGAZINE EST
DISTRIBUÉ DANS LA GENÈVE
INTERNATIONALE ET LOCALE

Tirage combiné total (impression et
numérique): >10500 exemplaires

Imprimé sur du papier certifié FSC.



Au service du personnel des organisations internationales de Genève depuis 1949.
Serving the people of international organizations in Geneva since 1949.

Le magazine *newSpecial* est publié par l'Association du personnel du siège de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS).

Les opinions exprimées dans *newSpecial* sont celles des auteurs, et non forcément celles de l'ONU, de l'OMS ou de ses agences spécialisées. La parution de ce magazine dépend uniquement du support financier de la publicité prise en charge par une régie.

The *newSpecial* magazine is published by the Headquarters Staff Association of the World Health Organization (WHO)

The opinions in *newSpecial* are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the United Nations, the WHO or its specialized agencies. The publication of this magazine relies solely on the financial support of its advertisers.

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Appelez le **022 700 98 00** pour toute
réservation publicitaire dans **newSpecial**

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