

Journal of
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Edited by Matthew Cheeseman
Series Editor, Kay Guccione

The pieces in this volume are short works of fiction crafted in the genre of the research abstract. Set against an image, each presents a title, abstract and a researcher biography, all depicting an entirely fictitious research project.

Why do we do this? In producing these short, exploratory pieces, we seek to help writers establish a new relationship with writing; less driven by the demands of productivity. Writing fiction in a familiar format helps us reflect on how we can creatively communicate our research projects, and how we can find the joy of creativity in all our writing. Many of the pieces we receive, whilst fictional, have a basis in a real observation or experience; almost all take a fresh look at a problem, frustration or constraint experienced by the researchers who crafted them. Often, this is expressed through our theme, which this year is deal and dealings.

Deal is Old English and means to divide and portion out, so that everyone has their share. There's often a fairness to dealing, where everyone gets their due (unless, of course, the dealer cheats). Not all deals are equal, of course. We heard a lot of that through Brexit; about getting a good deal, one that suited and was advantageous. Many of the nation's recent industrial disputes have been part of the process of bargaining for a deal. In 2023 the themes heralding a 'new deal for postgraduate research' entered a process of 'sector consultation'. This references the fuzzy logic of dealing, the approximations and negotiations that come with 'striking' a deal. Sometimes this takes a while to prepare, in other cases it happens quickly. The deal is made and is done: just like violence; a blow is dealt and punishment doled out, whether it is deserved or not.

We deal with various things: papers, inboxes, even the veg, which we might deal with in preparing dinner. So 'to deal with something' means to sort it out, to get it done, to administer (there's plenty of that in academic life). Sometimes there is something hard-nosed and efficient about dealing with things. Other times dealing with something is a way of coping, of processing deep emotions and incidents. Whether with people or our own issues, deals are often hidden away from prying eyes. As such the word has, as with so many others, become a euphemism for sex: 'I had dealings with someone in Southampton'.

Research, of course, can be about anything, and imaginary research is no exception. The writers collected herein have interpreted deals and dealing in their own way. We didn't ask them to explain this in their piece; while some are explicitly about deals, others are more oblique. As with all our issues we encourage creativity and exploration. The theme is a mood, a way to enter the imagination. Perhaps this is the point: trade; fairness; power; violence; justice; games; sex. Where does imaginary research go to? What does it deal with?

—Dr Kay Guccione and Dr Matthew Cheeseman

The Faustian bargain revisited: the human soul ‘considered’
by Amy Thomas



For millennia, the downtrodden, disengaged and desperate have been deprived of the legal right to conclude a Faustian bargain to their worldly and material benefit. This has been due to the ambiguity in the value of the consideration offered by the contracting party: namely, the human soul. The alleged ephemeral value of the soul (and indeed, post-structural speculation as to its existence) has been used to curtail the development of this potentially valuable area of contract law by rendering any Faustian bargain *de facto* invalid.

This study submits that the existing research that has supported this legal position relies on imprecise and vague metrics of value, such as MacDougall (1907) who concluded that the weight of the human soul is only 21 grams, and thus of apparent limited worth. Instead, this study is the first of its kind to establish a robust valuation metric for the soul, employing a socio-legal methodology to measure the offset in value between eternal damnation and worldly treasures.

The research concludes that the value of a human soul is sufficient and proportionate consideration for a number of equivalent goods and services, including but not limited to: eternal youth, unlimited power and insurmountable piles of gold.

Amy Thomas is a researcher in the Occult, Devilry, and other Laws at the University of New Salem. In 2022, she successfully defended her PhD thesis which investigated the ongoing infernal influence on the construction of website terms of service and licensing agreements.

The author would like to reassure readers that this research received no financial support, infernal or otherwise, and was undertaken free from any undue influence from otherwise interested hellish parties.

The deal with ethics or the ethics of the deal? Unspoken deals and the impact of individual power in British higher education bureaucracies

by Elliot Napier



In UK academia, the ethics committee (for American friends, the IRB) fills many researchers with horror, but for some is a minor hurdle. Others argue its purpose has become distracted from ensuring ethical research to eliminating institutional risk of being sued. Whatever their opinion, researchers divert many hours of time and effort towards reassuring bureaucrats that participants will not get eaten by bears *en route* to interview a participant.

But does every researcher have the same experience? This project explores the intricacies of dealing with ethics committees through an experimental approach by co-opting the committee as participants without prior consent, which itself breaches the ethical principles the committee purports to uphold. The project thereby explores the art of the unspoken deal in ethics applications: who deals with real scrutiny and who does not.

To do so, this project proposed *itself* to the Ethics Committee twice, from opposite ends of the experience and trust spectrum: once by a senior professor whose commitment to ethical research has been historically lax, and once by a PhD

student with demonstrable commitment to ethical research, but without power or reputation in the academy.

Findings reveal that those with power *deal with* bureaucracy, regardless of true principles, while those without power are *dealt with by* the bureaucracy: Whiteman received ethical approval on first attempt, while Heavilee-Dunne was censured. In a bureaucratic process that rejects open discussion, what deals must a proposer in Heavilee-Dunne's position make with themselves and their principles to gain permission, and what deals must the committee make with itself to ensure permission without legal liability for those in Whiteman's position? This paper discusses these questions through the intricacies of deal-making in the contexts of bureaucracy, power, status and risk.

Prof. Reg-Ulaar Whiteman has been treating people badly for 30 years. He thinks research ethics means avoiding getting sued or 'cancelled.' Otherwise he does whatever he wants and doesn't mention the questionable bits on paper. He doesn't know what GDPR is and has decades of identifiable participant data in his garage.

Phyl Heavilee-Dunne is tired. They are a PhD student studying things that need to be studied, but make the ethics committee panic. The word count for their PhD project ethics application was larger than their master's thesis. They are committed to ethical, decolonial research and escaping their institution's paranoia.

Fictional futures: Governing the 'commons' on Mars

by *Wayne Stephen Coetzee*



This article provides a theoretical and empirical grounding explaining governance on Mars—a topic that has received little attention on Earth. The scant work on this topic has, for the most part, illustrated the limits of imagination and human understanding of the complexities and dynamics of so-called ‘new planet governing relations’ typically seen in the continued focus on the exercise of authority. The central contention of this article is that, unlike earthly politics, governance on Mars is not predicated on notions of power, identities, institutions and conflict resolution but rather on coordination of the harmony of fictional imagination. Deals regarding the ‘governing of the commons’ are routinely based on fictional futures involving eclectic transplanetary actors—humanoids and sentient AIs with a penchant for code. Analytically, the article maps how deals are struck with interdimensional foresight and time-bending strategies. This governance tapestry, it is argued, echoes through the Martian canyons, providing a testament to the boundless possibilities when the minds of diverse species and universes converge to shape the governance of a new world.

Björn Dax is Senior Lecturer in Transplanetary Relations. Unlike most of his colleagues, science fiction movies did not provoke his interest in work. Dr Dax holds a

PhD from the Interstellar Academy. His research traverses disciplines, from astrophysics to political science, focusing primarily on the intricate and delicate equilibrium binding social relations on planets and moons. Beyond academia, Dr Dax regularly contributes to *Intergalactic Platform*, the popular digital magazine for young space entrepreneurs. He also loves dogs and finds their relationship with cats most interesting.

No bargains or petitions: Establishing publish or perish deals by *Andrea Chiarelli*



A global trend sees libraries engaging in groundbreaking publish or perish (PoP) multilateral deals with academic publishers, funders and governmental bodies. Under these agreements, universities commit to surpassing the previous year's publishing volume by 1.5 million publications; failure results in the surrender of students, facilities and campuses to more prolific institutions. While critics decry this as cultural imperialism, the goal is exponential growth in the scholarly record to drive unprecedented rates of innovation. Enabled by the Publication-Accelerating Quantum Quill (PAQQ), this development heralds the birth of a multidisciplinary hyperjournal aiming to publish 3 million articles monthly.

This study compares a PAQQ-equipped sample of authors against a control group using traditional tools and AI assistants via a mixed-methods design (n=24,601). PAQQ users effortlessly show increased publication output, creative pollination across disciplinary boundaries and minimal levels of stress. Conversely, the control group exhibits elevated caffeine intake and signs of depression, hinting at detrimental mental health effects from unfair competition.

This research highlights a need for ethical guidelines by governments and universities to ensure fairness and avoid unintended consequences and inequality arising from PoP agreements. However, PAQQ's use to supercharge innovation is

deemed acceptable, considering the substantial new knowledge and impact from cross-disciplinary entanglement.

Octavia Inkwell fused her passions for quantum physics and creative writing, unveiling the game-changing Publication-Accelerating Quantum Quill in 2023. This innovative device leverages quantum principles, enabling authors not only to rapidly teleport their thoughts onto digital platforms but also to generate novel results and findings like a modern-day cornucopia. Despite initial scepticism and a vast army of opponents, Professor Inkwell facilitated the drafting and signature of the first-ever publish or perish deal. Her ingenuity and visionary spirit propelled her rise to science and innovation royalty, and her 34 million articles have been cited almost 1 quadrillion times.

Keeping up with Jones: re-evaluating Alex Jones' work as performance art

by Daniel Goodman



This paper reconsiders the legacy of Alex Jones, the prominent conspiracy theorist and host of alt-right radio show Info Wars. During a custody hearing with his estranged wife, Jones's attorney said of his client, 'He is a performance artist.' Therefore, this paper argues for a reconceptualization of Jones' oeuvre within the performance art canon.

Jones' commitment to 'open-ended' 'logic' could be confused for an inability to follow rational thought. The effectiveness of Jones' performance is determined by its ability to be critical on its own terms whilst conveying those same terms. We know Jones is angry because he bangs his desk. We know he is feeling 'super-ultra-masculine' because he takes his shirt off.

Art's value is arguably its capacity to turn from dominant ways of knowing to deeper truths. There is equivocal poetry in Jones' performance that combine the familiar and uncanny, such as his seminal pieces 'Putting chemicals in the water that turn the friggin' frogs gay' and 'Interstellar raptor exposes the dangers of Obamacare'. Much great art brings us to tears by presenting us the horrors of

humanity, Jones' performance goes further by revealing God's silence whilst humanity faces an emerging totalitarian world government that controls the weather.

Thomas Thompson is an art-historian and curator whose work explores nonsense as praxis. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses on Hollow Moon Studies at the Joe Rogan University of North Karolina (JUNK).

Introducing a night-blind peer-review: Palpating in the dark by Kaisu Koski and Nick Dunn



Peer-review processes are typically mono-sensorial, heavily focused on staring at letters, leaving the reviewer's eyes irritated but otherwise detached from their bodies. To vivify the review experience and experiment with alternative ways of safeguarding anonymity, we introduce a multisensorial night-blind peer-review. We invited haptic submissions that include variations in temperature, texture, and shape and that could be, to various degrees, edible, wearable, or alive.

Our inaugural issue of *Haptic Nocturnality* accepted submissions from midnight onward in the university basement. Glow-in-the-dark materials were not permitted. The process was intense but rewarding, resembling aspects of the department's Christmas party. Some reviewers fell asleep. Some panicked. There was lots of giggling. Some couldn't find their submission. Some melted. Some reviewers had a meltdown. The abiding question for most reviewers was: what *is* it?

The benefits of the night-blind review are myriad. We are tapping into the lucid dreams of academics while actively participating in the university's cost-saving measures by switching off electricity and working in residual spaces. By training the reviewers and submitters to think in and for the dark, we are improving their survival skills for when the lights really go down. The journal is funded by the Addams Family Foundation.

Dr Faux-Fuzzy Impuro is a hyperactive Professor of Circadian Rhythm and Blues at the Fullmoon Lunatic University, department of Performative Permacrisis. She received the Zero Evidence Society lifetime award for her semi-autobiographical workbook *Fifty Nightshades of Kitchen*.

Dr Raynard is the Shadow Professor of Nyctophilia at the Multispecies University, department of Applied Frivolousness and Ecofury. He has significantly contributed to the introduction of black super skinny jeans at senior management level.

Professors Impuro and Raynard co-lead the Centre for Anonymised Animal-Envy and perform the centre's annual fund-raising musical *Rodentia, the hypnosis*. They have also recorded an off-keynote duetto-album *Consent to data howling*.

Hearing the voices of mangroves: stinky mud and pneumatophores for an inclusive, sustainable future *by Imi Dencer-Brown*



The voices of mangroves are little heard on the proverbial grapevine. Human attitudes and perceptions towards these hardy, stinky ecosystems are divergent and sometimes don't reflect the feelings of the trees or their pneumatophore root structures accurately. In this study, 50 different mangroves of 12 distinct species gave their opinions on the state of sustainable and inclusive practices adopted by humans in their conservation and protection work. They describe and explain the issues they face in terms of climate change and urbanisation and their value systems in terms of supporting other species. A key finding was that not all mangroves are treated equally. Inclusion and sustainable practices exist for many species, whilst others are subject to the whims of human stakeholders, who consider only values that align with their own interests or financial gains. Equity is not a given, nor is accessibility in these resilient green spaces. Overall, mangroves have observed greater support and protection for themselves over the past few decades. This paper advocates for their continued conservation. Future research is planned to explore the opinions and experiences of surrounding bodies of water, juvenile fish species and tidal marsh ecosystems about sustainability, inclusion and aligned values.

Prof. Avicennia Whisperer is an advocate for the conservation and inclusive practice of mangrove ecosystems across the world. They have a background in marine ecology and education, focusing on co-creation with nature and natural ecosystems and specialising in active learning, sustainability and developing inclusive practices for the benefits of both humans and nature. They can be contacted in most anoxic grounds and forested areas, or occasionally kayaking or snorkelling in a body of salt water.

Development and psychometric validation of the independent crush-killing (ICK) scale

by Arianna Tello Fadda



The social psychology literature suggests an emerging trend of short-lived situation-ships amongst young adults. Researchers have postulated that the underlying phenomenon of interest is the 'ick', the sudden, inexplicable feeling of disinterest in a potential romantic partner. However, no validated scale currently exists to measure it reliably and accurately. This research sought to develop and evaluate the psychometric properties of the independent crush-killing (ICK) scale. The 5-item measure (eg 'I saw my partner do something for the first time and immediately cringed') is rated on a Likert-type scale from completely disagree to completely agree. It was administered to a sample of 500 South African university students (undergraduate and postgraduate) and the scale's factorial validity was evaluated using confirmatory factor analysis. The scale items showed acceptable internal consistency, reliability and support for a single-factor scale structure and was also indicated by good global fit indices. The results suggest that the ICK Scale is a reliable and valid assessment among young adults and may be used successfully in future studies to further explore the poorly understood area of dating in your twenties.

Miss Independent is an early-career researcher currently pursuing her PhD in psychology at the world-renowned Institute of Inter- and Intra-personality. Her

research interests include intimacy; the association between early attachment style and the use of dating applications; psychometric test development and validation; as well as the phenomenon of dealbreakers in new romantic relationships, which is her present research focus. After shooting to the top of her field, rather ironically, Miss Independent owes her success to being married to her work, which she finds to be much more consistent, transparent and interesting.

Speaking up for silenced voices: Raising issues of research misconduct in a participatory project

by *Harvey Humphrey*



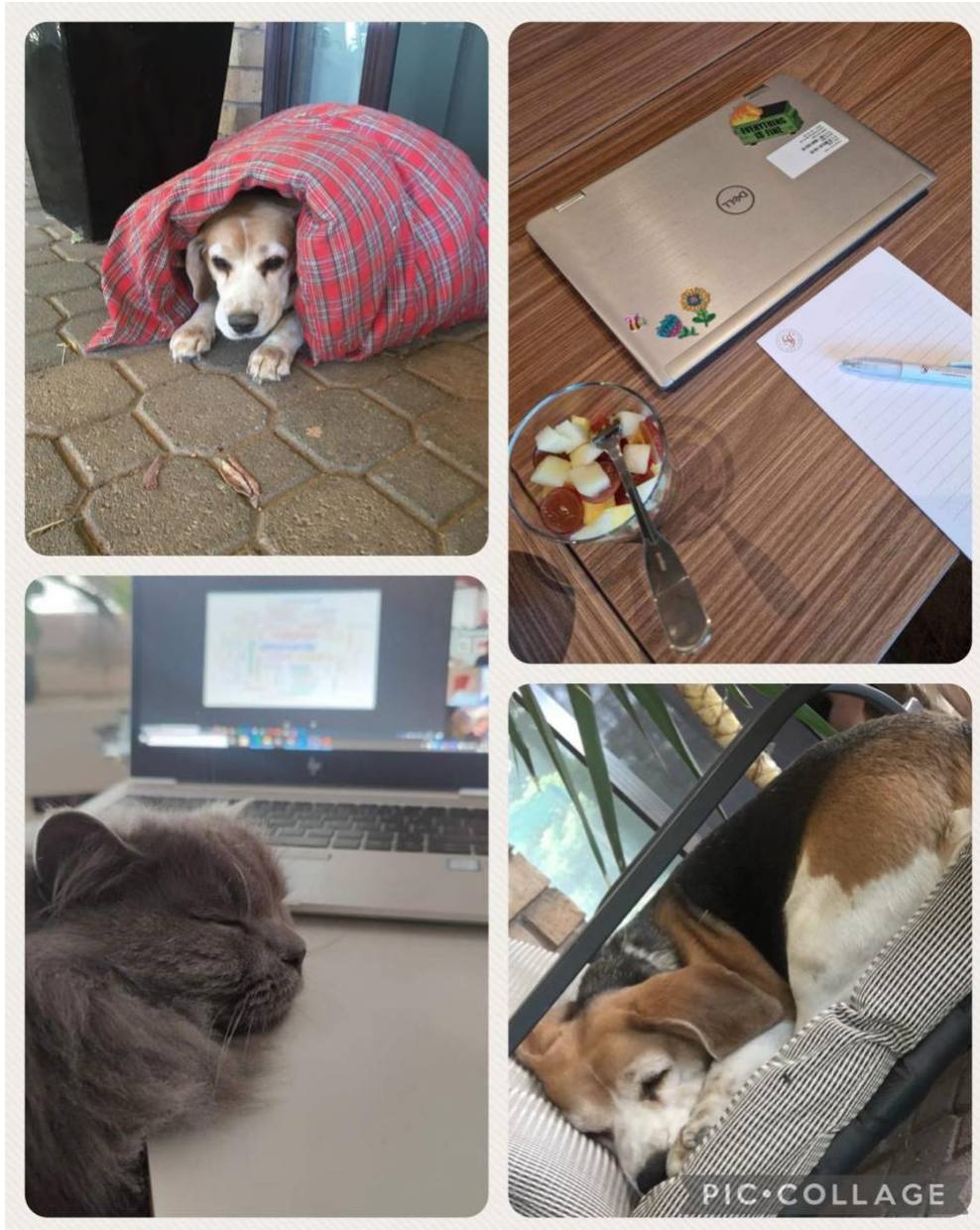
This article is an absence. It is made up of silences, frustrated pauses and things left unsaid. The article carefully details the complexities of raising ethical issues of research misconduct about a Principal Investigator as an Early Career Researcher: the potential end of a hopeful career. As such, the article addresses the difficult situation of balancing the need for job security as a precariously employed junior academic and the ethical duty we all have to follow ethical practice in research.

The article discusses a specific project's complex power relations as a participatory project with marginalised groups. This situation creates further ethical complexities in raising issues of research misconduct. Participatory research is fraught with risks from tokenism to impairing participant wellbeing. There are real dangers of causing significant harm to vulnerable populations. These populations are often misrepresented in research and may have an understandable mistrust of researchers and research. Participatory research that has not been carefully designed or implemented can make future participatory projects with these populations harder. Furthermore, raising an ethical issue about a participatory project with a vulnerable population can risk future projects not receiving ethical approval. The stakes are higher; the silences echo louder.

Dr John Smith is a precariously employed junior academic. Coming to research with marginalised communities as a member of those communities he brings important perspectives of experience. He completed his PhD at The Fancy University in his home town much to the delight of his parents and the surprise of his mates. Often feeling out of place, he straddles the institutional spaces of academia and the diverse communities of which he is a member. He is learning to raise his softly-spoken voice in spaces where people like him are typically researched rather than doing the researching.

The deal is not to work!

by Kristina Areskoug Josefsson and Elise Josefsson



Health and longevity are at risk, especially for hard working people. At the same time having a job is an important factor for promoting health. Thus, it is essential to gain further knowledge of how to best deal with this paradox. To explore its complexity, a study with in-depth qualitative interviews was conducted with highly talented and well-known non-workers at both private and public workplaces. The interviews lasted approximately 4–5 hours each. They were not transcribed as the interviewer's

memory of the interview provided sufficient data for the study. The identified strategies of how not to work include: taking long toilet breaks, making long phone calls to yourself, frowning and looking intensely at the computer, carrying a work tool (like a pen), being friendly with furry co-workers, talking at an extremely slow pace and being sure not to learn anything at all. The overarching theme was to constantly keep the goal at mind: 'The deal is not to work!' This study provides world changing knowledge to promote health for the working population, if the strategies are not universal, the attitude can be used almost everywhere.

Prof. Tray S Ohard from Neverheardof University has a solid reputation in producing ethnographic studies of the AW (avoiding work) population. Recently he has focused on finding their hidden secrets of health and longevity. He has a Nobel Prize in his sights.

Non-working co-author **Laizee Zchlacker** has never accomplished anything except staying employed at Neverheardof University.

Dealing in voids for certain connections

by *Elif Buse Doyuran*



On average, this study finds, journal articles are read by one person. This paper investigates its one reader, and finds it through leaps of imagination, faith, and not-so-original forays into post-textuality, leading to hasty conclusions. The term 'read' in this context presumably means 'laying ones' eyes over the lines', a perilous definition that could seriously jeopardise the findings by pushing the count beyond one, if one considers the copy editor, the two reviewers and the author's unusually caring friend. However, if, by 'read,' the investigators and the sarcastic, academia-wounded ilk on *X*, mean 'read and understand,' 'find oneself in it,' or 'be caught by surprise by the familiarity of ideas in another's text and the strangeness of never have been able to express them with such clarity yet always knowing what no one else seemed to have noticed'—then surely one reader is sufficient. Rachel Cusk's imaginary character consoles her son, saying 'You can only tell your story to one person' and I instantly know what she means. Perhaps, you, too, instantly know what I mean, and see in my story your own. If, dear reader, you are equally moved by the prospect of this impossibly rare understanding, you may be inspired to pen your own paper for your

singular reader. And they will do the same, and their reader will do the same. This disproves the original study's premise, as each paper becomes a vessel, carrying the multitudes of reader-writers that provoked it into being with the multitudes of those who propel it forward.

The author, an anonymous, perpetually procrastinating PhD student, often struggles to summon inspiration for the required writing tasks but finds an abundance of creative energy for projects no one assigned. And still, she remains dedicated to academia, for the unexpected inspiration brought by whimsical endeavours, such as crafting imaginary abstracts.

What data should we share and with whom?

by Alice-Maria Toader



Introduction: Data privacy and data sharing have been a common subject of debate for many years. Issues surrounding the quality of anonymisation has led people to opt-out of sharing their electronic health records.

Methods: We interviewed over 7,000,000,000 people on their perception of how personal data is shared between companies. The questions included trustworthiness of different providers and the difference between the type of data shared.

Results: Among the most trusted companies we found: Uber, 69% of people would share their address and dietary requirements; Amazon, 79% of people would share their banking details; Meta, 89% of people would share every good detail of their life and Google, 99% of people would share their inner thoughts, phrased as a question. At the other end of the spectrum, less than 49% of people would share their medical data for research purposes. More than 99% of the participants have debated opting-out of their medical data being shared.

Conclusion: Although people often argue about how they are uncomfortable sharing their medical data with research companies and institutions, they are willing to give out much more personal information to big corporations.

The researcher won a grant of £10,000,000 to conduct this project. Their identity has been kept anonymous, as they would like to continue to use Amazon, Meta and Google without restrictions. After much thought, they have decided to opt-out of sharing their medical records.

Deadlines are not solitary animals! Simulation provides evidence for collective behavioural strategies of *Terminus temporis**

by Dimitri Frederic Jean Lacroix



Heretofore, scientific evidence has indicated that deadlines (*Terminus temporis*) are solitary animals. Prior ethological studies have indeed shown that deadlines tend to avoid interactions with each other. They usually nest and migrate alone, maintaining considerable distance from each other. When deadlines find themselves too close to each other, they display aggressive behaviours and engage in competition for prey (such as *Discipulus miserabilis*, *Parentes anxii*, or *Auctor inordinatus*). However, although such competition for resources may lead to the death of at least one individual, it also increases hunting success rate. Some have observed deadlines gathered in small flocks chasing prey to kill them of exhaustion or even shredding. This indicated that deadlines may be more social than initially supposed. The present

* This research has been submitted and published posthumously.

research proposes a simulation based on four rules to explain these apparent contradictions: (1) deadlines constitute very low density flocks (2), they use long range magnetic waves to communicate (3), they gather only when they detect prey in isolation, (4) they fight for prey until it is killed. This simulation was successful in predicting both apparently solitary and collective deadline behaviours. The paper concludes with a plea to prevent increases of flock density.

Walt Aysale was a postdoc researcher at the Institute of Behavioural Studies of Luschede, in Ganade. He achieved his PhD there after submitting (at short-notice) and defending his dissertation on the symbiotic behaviours of *Reuniones importantes omissae* and *Noti irati*. His follow-up research was dedicated to deadlines and started with attempts to develop a method of domestication through isolation and regular feeding. Walt Aysale died while he was conducting a field study to provide empirical support for his conclusions from the present work, devoured by one of his observation subjects. His colleagues will miss him missing scheduled appointments.

The Weatherman's Theorem

by Daniel Wilkinson and Ifigeneia Liangi



This project builds upon Professor Jonathan Hill's groundbreaking proposition, known as the Weatherman's Theorem, that challenges the traditional framework of seasonal classification by suggesting a hidden fifth season. Beyond the recognised cycle of spring to winter, Hill's theorem posits an elusive seasonal transition that exists outside of current understandings, detectable only in shadows.

Central to this investigation are considerations of Hill's paradigm-shifting research methods, including his ability to merge with and emerge from the shifting weather in London. Presented for the first time are documentary images demonstrating Hill's academic ability to fuse with the 'light, aer and smoak of London', in order to deal with the weather from its own developing sense. This pedagogic technique, named Fumifugium—a neologism coined by John Evelyn in 1661, blending *fumus* (Latin, smoke) and *fugio* (Latin, to drive away)—explores how we can 'look to the light of the weather to see the past and not the present'.

By enriching discourse on ecological and architectural inquiry, this research deals with the interconnectedness of the weather, buildings, disappearance and memory. Hill's fifth season is presented as a shadow of Hill himself—a shadow that postdates its object.

Having been taught by Jonathan Hill in their formative years as architects, wife and husband team **Night Kitchen** explore and extend Hill's teachings of architecture as a technology of the self. Their work analytically examines structural aspects of building and narrative through the development of spatial designs, stories and domestic objects.

Does dealing kudos consistently result in stronger friendships?

by Gabriela Gerganova



Strava is a social media platform that facilitates the recording and sharing of physical activities. It allows users to deal kudos as a primary form of interaction. The aim of this study was to investigate the relationship between the number of kudos dealt and friendships formed in real life. To establish patterns of online interactions leading to offline engagement we recruited 69 participants in the Greater Glasgow Area (53% female, median age 35) who were first time Strava users, joining a Strava group created for this study. The participants were encouraged to record and publish activities at liberty for a year. They were encouraged to deal kudos, leave comments, arrange in-person meetings with other participants and asked to keep a note of these occasions. The result of the study showed that there was a positive correlation between the number of kudos dealt and the number of offline interactions. The data showed that cliques formed during the study. Users who loyally dealt kudos to

particular users dealt kudos in return and participated in group activities more often compared to participants who dealt kudos sparsely and at random.

Stella Baroc is a lecturer in sports sociology who investigates the relationship between the benefit of participating in sport on wellbeing. She favours unusual approaches to recruiting participants: striking a conversation while jogging alongside someone; attending spin classes in different gyms; befriending people on platforms such as Strava, Zwift, Garmin, and Training Peaks. Her research has been guiding policy making in Scotland and was featured in science communication magazines in the United Kingdom. Her pet project is working with dating apps such as Tinder, Hinge and Bumble on a Strava integration.

Establishing in-vitro cultures of human autologous stem cells for consensual meat production

by Benjamin Dages



For millennia, humans have slaughtered animals for meat without always considering the ethical dilemmas of killing conscious life forms. With the advent of cultivated meat technologies, it is possible to remove animals from meat production almost entirely. However, the required, small but essential, isolation of animal cells still frustrates several animal activists.

The goal of this study was to cultivate human meat from the autologous stem cells of consensual donors and study the effects of self-consumption. Human mesenchymal stem cells were isolated from volunteers and expanded in stir-tank bioreactors on novel 'DAG-3S' microcarriers and differentiated into muscle and fat tissue before assembly via 3D printing. The 'self-steaks' were cooked and served to the donors for characterisation.

Participants reported the self-steaks as being tender with rich flavours closely resembling veal. However, a significant number (>80%, $P < 0.001$) who consumed the self-steaks of others developed incurable prion-related diseases.

Autologous stem cells represent a novel approach to fair meat production. Due to its unique genetic signature, the product is edible only to its donor, nullifying the risk of unethical exploitation of humans for meat. Furthermore, eating oneself, like biting one's nails, is regarded as non-cannibalistic, making this product suitable for all.

Infamously struck off, **Dr Andre Samuel** obtained his PhD in cultivated meats following his stint at HMP Wakefield where he developed a passion for food and social

ethics. Often characterised by his colleagues as egomaniac, apathetic and with delusions of grandeur, Dr Samuel aspires to shape the world in a logical and efficient manner. In recent years Dr Samuel has earned a cult following with many highly regarded personalities endorsing his vision such as Donald Trump, Alex Jones and Lord Buckethead. In his spare time, Dr Samuel enjoys answering online personality quizzes and watching repeats of the ITV lunchtime news.

Dealing with—and rocking down—the closed door of academia's ivory tower

by Andrie Savva



Academic research can be considered 'royal science'; centralised and rationalised, funded and competitive, rigorous and world-leading, practiced by the chosen few. Such is the effect of the closed, hermetically sealed door of academia's ivory tower. The tower's inhabitants, more often than not, observe the world at a distance: capturing, analysing, extracting, reporting. The outsiders, the many and unnamed, inhabit the rest of the world. Although they may participate in the ivory tower's functions, they may also challenge such operations, pounding down the door. Such dealing is an act of what in the Greek language is called *μεράκι* (*meraki*), the audacious desire and wondrous creative engagement instigating change just for fun. It extends to 'the fringes' not batting an eyelid to the raised eyebrow of the authoritarian hilltop tower, refuting such categorisation. 'Minor' forms of inquiry favour the activist, the collective and experimental giving rise to dynamic and

generative relations. The ‘minor’ acts as a breath of fresh air penetrating the musty atmosphere, a sunbeam of warmth permeating the icy steel-and-stone tower. It flourishes in garages and woodshops rather than fancy labs and ateliers; coffeeshops and verandas rather than sterile interview-rooms and formal think-tanks; and emerges in walking-with the urban and the rural rather than withering inside. What if we deal with the closed door of academia’s ivory tower? What if we dismantle the threshold—invitation or visitation—and just create?

Dr **Bluesky**, *the Rockstar*, has been engaged in education and the arts for more than two decades. She loves working with free and untamed spirits, making noise and causing trouble—in other words, rocking the fusty. You can never dislike her, whether you love rock or not, but only adore her playfulness. She roams the hilltop towers in jeans and biker boots, itching and scratching every time she encounters the all-too-serious costumes found in the same places. If you would like to discuss collaborative rocking concerts, or just ask for an autograph, she can be reached at:

reimaginingtheworld@letsrock.com

Five years of No-Scoop: The impact of legislation-enforced research collaboration

by Besiana Sinanaj



Over the last decade, societies worldwide have made great advances in adopting Solarpunk values and incorporating them in all walks of life. Five years ago, the legendary No-Scoop deal was struck between the newly formed Interdisciplinary Research Affairs Council (IRAC) and the People of Planet Earth (POPE) to guard against research ‘scooping’, ie the teardrop-inducing act of publishing a novel finding prior to another research team. Here, we examine the success of the policy, which has included mandatory data sharing on public databases and mingling at week-long collaboration cruises. Using data from global surveys, in-person interviews and Pretty Complicated Analyses (PCA) plots, we show (i) a positive trend in researcher retention in the scientific community across all inclusivity metrics, (ii) a decrease in the quantity, but an increase in the quality of studies published—as measured through the Useful Sentences-to-Filler Sentences Ratio, and (iii) an increased love for open water among land-based researchers of every discipline. We discuss our findings in the context of improving the standard of living in vulnerable regions, and suggest amendments to the No-Scoop policy, such as longer collaboration cruises.

Dr Mads Cooper spent his youth scooping gelato at his local Community Kitchen, before pursuing an interdisciplinary career in the culinary arts, ecology and humanities. He now works as a freelance specialist in global survey methods and is known for traversing impossible terrains to reach remote communities. He is the author of the book *Musings on the inevitable link between given name and life path*.

The economic value of a soul

by Jon Dron



Souls are rival goods that often command a high price, but there is little reliable research into what determines their value or whether the payoffs for vendors are worthwhile. Existing studies (Mark, 172, 8, 34–38; Marlowe, 1592; Wilde, 1890) suggest a buyer's market, but the evidence is largely anecdotal. For this study, Amazon's Mechanical Turk was used to deliver a questionnaire (n=666) employing Dick and Dunderhead's (2001) Soul Manifestation instrument with additional questions intended to elicit demographic, sociometric and economic data. After excluding those who had simply mislaid their souls or had them forcibly removed, the remainder were analysed using multivariate ANOVA. The findings show soul selling represents an attractive low-risk investment opportunity ($p=0.001$); contrary to expectations, though, no subjects actually gained the world in return. Benefits instead ranged from leadership of G7 countries to ownership of a nice mid-range

Tesla, with a median financial value of around \$1m. Few responses were received, however, from subjects whose contracts had reached completion, so a follow-up study employing Amazon's new necromancy service is currently in progress. Soul-selling appears to be most frequent among politicians ($p=0.0001$), lawyers ($p=0.001$) and early-career researchers ($p=0.01$).

Dr Dorian Faust, Jr is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Arbitrary Studies at the University of New Catatonia, where he teaches courses in Post-Modern Pedagogy and Opinion-Based Research. He recently defended his PhD thesis, 'Soul Destruction in Undergraduate Students of a New Catatonic University', based on observational studies of his own classroom teaching. He is currently working, with his former supervisors Richard Dick and Humbert Dunderhead, on a project assessing the environmental impact of free souls. In his spare time he is a collector of monkey's paws. A committed environmentalist, he drives a nice mid-range Tesla.

The unique decision-making processes undergone by psychotropic medications throughout mental health treatment

by Kristin Leprich



Psychopathology impacts millions of individuals worldwide and is significantly associated with increased completed suicides and years lived with disability. Alongside psychotherapy, psychotropic medications is a standard treatment for this globally significant health concern. The mechanisms underlying a medication's effectiveness for patients, however, remain unclear. This study employed a 60-day daily diary design in which those prescribed psychotropic drugs were asked to thoroughly document decision-making processes regarding drug effectiveness, side effects, interactions with other drugs and dosage differences. An interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA) approach was used to extract themes from the data. Results revealed two clusters: internal and external influences. Both clusters comprised many inconsistent themes, suggesting that treatment effectiveness is dependent on unpredictable, whimsical factors. Some selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) promised effectiveness for patients with bipolar disorder only after playing 100 rounds of rock-paper-scissors with a mood stabilizer. Other SSRIs described throwing two 20-sided die to decide which side effects a patient would experience. Additionally, some stimulants required a daily delivery of mystery gift boxes; they chose to be effective for the day only if they enjoyed the gifts. In

conclusion, researchers are encouraged to explore collaborative methods that improve psychotropic drugs' commitment to therapeutic engagement.

Dr Samantha Serotonin is a dedicated researcher in the field of psychopharmacology who specializes in SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). Armed with a prescription pad and a passion for mood modulation, Dr Serotonin has devoted her career to exploring the nuanced art of reuptake inhibition. Her work extends beyond the microscope, aiming to demystify the impact of psychotropic drugs on individuals' lives and bring a sense of calm to the field of psychiatric research.

A moving feast: Dealing with shared housework injustice trauma through perambulatory auto-ethnography
by Mark Holloway



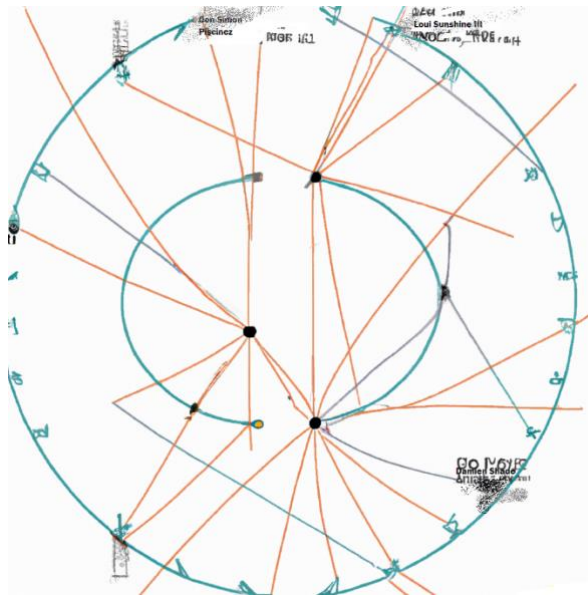
Recent developments in the entirely unnecessary field of Men's Studies (Tears-Morgan, 2021) have prompted calls for a greater understanding of the rapid growth in diagnoses of shared housework injustice trauma (SHIT) among adult male humans. Crease-Sogg's infamous 2022 polemic 'Don't wash up, lie down' prompted rabid backlash-critiques from SHIT-sceptic scholars, including Getova-Yaself (2023) and O'Growup (2023). The present study seeks to understand the lived experience of the author's own struggles with SHIT in order to engender greater empathy from life-collaborators within his proximity. Auto-ethnographic walking interviews were conducted within the author's residence, and to triangulate data collection, a convenience-sampled co-habitant co-participant observed the walking interviews, employing a tut-aloud protocol to record whenever SHIT went too far. Data collected

suggests that the author really cannot be asked to do more around the house, because when was the last time anyone else took the bins out, and, besides, he has a dust allergy. A surprising additional finding was that it was the co-participant who was most fed up with all this SHIT. Limitations of the present study may be addressed by further post-human and non-human research to test the hypothesis that some men really will make any old SHIT up.

Ian Toole holds a Master's degree in Mansplaining from the University of Life and is currently whining his way towards writing his PhD thesis, 'Putting the MAN back into HuMANities'. Ian has self-published a book on local history and his presentation 'A radically masculinist taxonomy of SHIT' was moderately well-received at an academic conference for academic academics. He recently shocked a Scout jamboree audience with his provocative talk 'Why can't SHE deal with this SHIT?'. In his free time, Ian enjoys yoga, genealogy and strutting about his local neighbourhood. His ambition is to have the firmest handshake in Bishop's Stortford.

The enigma's rendezvous: Shadows of secrets and sunlit intrigues

by *Simon Poole*



The oft-described-as otherworldly convergence of Don Simón Piscinez and Loui Sunshine III stumbling upon a cosmic rendezvous, sparking an unparalleled oneiric odyssey, that transcended the confines of reality, is challenged in this paper. Instead, a more reasonable stylised encounter is expounded, one that birthed a revolutionary wave of globally accessible dream compositions, where the ethereal harmonies of imagination echo across the collective subconscious, redefining the very essence of dreamscape symphonies.

This longitudinal research explores how Piscinez, in his much-debated whimsical youth, mapped the hidden passage within the labyrinthine corridors of his dreams. The intention of this work, therefore, is to support the positionality of that map as an axiological matrix that could lead to a more carnivalesque understanding of the onto-epidemic devices used by the spectral notes of Loui Sunshine III's resonant childhood laughter. Simultaneously, the kaleidoscopic meadows of Sunshine's early years offer a peculiar carousel realm where Don Simón's youthful hums indubitably intertwined with the otherwise Sunshinian zephyrs of noise.

By way of conclusion, when situated within their respective oneiric childhood starscapes, it is suggested that the tones of their later compositions are unknowingly laying the foundation for their initial transcendental meeting, birthing a symphony that has gone on to echo the whimsy of their colourful pasts in the present.

Damien Shade, the enigmatic biographer from the clandestine institution known as Obscura Lore, has done it again. Renowned for unravelling the obscured pasts of vanished luminaries, Shade delves into mysterious realms, from forgotten islands cloaked in perpetual mist to hidden societies buried within the ancient world's cultural connections. His unsettling ability to unearth the childhoods of the disappeared is both revered and feared. The murmurs of his shadowy methods and networks within the arcane lend Shade an aura of intrigue and danger. Unveiling secrets long concealed, he has recently delved into the dreamworld, where each revelation comes at a price.

The life of the Solipsi

by Catherine Beaugrand and Albert Piette



In this article, the two observers present their discovery of a tribe of human beings, the Solipsi, who live on an undersea island in the Pacific. The study is divided into three parts. The first is a general presentation of the Solipsi; they have medium-sized bodies, with arms that generally stick to their sides. When they take them off, it is to direct them towards themselves. They do not really have lower limbs. One of the characteristics of the Solipsi is that they turn on themselves. Most often, they have a mouth, ears and big eyes, as if astonished to see the world. In the second part, the observers describe an encounter between two Solipsi. When one makes rather articulate sounds, the other does not react. Sometimes, a little later, he or she also makes articulate sounds. The link between the sounds of one and the other is not always clear. In the third and final part, the observers explain that each Solipsus is little affected by the presence, illness or death of the others. Above all, the Solipsi are worried about their own destiny. They are so worried that they spend a good deal of their time recording what they say and do. In this way, without dealing with each other, the Solipsi live to a very old age.

Alonia Separatam and **Alonius Separatum** are specialists in very rare lifestyles. After studying non-sociology and non-psychology, they are known in academic circles for not fully understanding the existence of the people they meet. Alonia and Alonius have been working together for a few years now, although they are not even sure how well they understand each other. Alonia is a visual artist, she has taught at the Art School in Lyon. Alonius teaches at the University of Paris Nanterre, in the department of anthropology.

Those who can't, research *by James Derounian*



A key point of contention within the academy has been—over decades—that researchers are advantaged over teachers; in terms of status, recognition and preferment. Which is why in 2023 the author of this paper set out to determine the veracity of such a perception. The researcher surveyed and interviewed a random selection of teachers and researchers across the globe: beginners and long established practitioners, from those at the top of the pay scheme to those at the bottom.

It was English playwright, George Bernard Shaw (1905) who coined the phrase, 'Those who can, do; those who can't, teach'. Counterintuitively, academic teachers dominate the scale of achievement in terms of status, recognition, and success in attaining professorships, opportunities for advancement and their esteem in how they are received both within and without the higher education sector.

This first longitudinal study puts the lie to the hard-done-by university teacher; and rather shows that it is research colleagues who exist at the bottom of the heap, amongst the regularly derided, incapable of communicating their findings, who publish in arcane journals read years after research was completed in outlets by three people and a dog.

Randy Baloney is Screwfix Professor of Ultramyopic Studies, at the University of Neasden (London). Baloney has a track record of 'sacrificing sacred cows on the altar of rigorous research'. He started life as a researcher but became dissatisfied with his role; in 2000 he published *The loneliness of the long-distance researcher*, a polemic in which he railed at the hegemony of academic teachers in Higher Education. As a result of a writ pinned to the door of his office, he took up his present position in 2017.

Working conditions of Zeta Reticuli miners: a perspective on collective labour law

by *Aysenur Zeynep Ozmen*



This paper aims to examine the working conditions of the workers in the asteroid belt of Zeta Reticuli from the perspective of collective labour law. Famously, this community is engaged in the extraction of valuable ores by mind power. These miners formed the United Psychic Workers' Union (UPWU) to fight against the exploitation and negative effects on their health during the mining process. This study analyses the causes and effects of strikes and collective agreements signed by the union between 2678 and 2712 to improve working conditions. In this context, fourteen collective agreements between the UPWU and the Zeta Mining Employers'

Federation (ZMEF) are analysed and the effects of strikes during this period on mining working life and the cosmic market are evaluated.

The issues considered in the article centre around the demands of psychic labourers for reduced working hours, increased mental rest breaks and increased compensation for telepathic damage. Of note are the union's specific demands for the use of 'mental muscle' and 'thought yoga breaks' to help employees maintain their telepathic powers.

The article also addresses the conflicts and confrontations between precious ore mining and labour law in the context of the exploitation of psychic labour and its effects on workers' health. The results reveal the long-term health consequences of mind-bending techniques and the social and economic challenges faced by psychic labourers.

Dr X'3yn3p Qzm'3n is a lawyer and academic researcher in the fields of intergalactic labour law, mental rights and labour. Qzm'3n completed her PhD at the Institute of Galactic Intelligence and Technology at Zeta Geminorum University and has led many projects focusing on astro-exploration and mental health. Her work for the rights of psychically gifted species has led to the adoption of mental health acts in 127 different galactic jurisdictions. Dr Qzm'3n is currently leading a project on the impact of cosmic radiation on the cognitive functioning of telepathic species on long-duration space missions and its place in occupational health law.

How can the Auspian people have fun after the invasion from the Typicaliens?

by Charlotte Clarke



Auspia. Our planet; structured, ordered and understandable. Until, *they* invaded ... Now we've been taken over by strict rule makers with the most illogical of minds. Their names ...The Typicaliens! Our land, our communication style and our monetary exchange system has been ripped from us. We used to exchange the good stuff, trading quality time with one another, performing craft swaps or giving one another a helping hand. Since the Typicaliens have assumed power, all we can exchange is energy. And the only way of making this? Sleep, rest and thankful avoidance of these alien creatures. The enforced rest to acquire energy means us Auspia haven't the energy to have fun with one another, especially as we labour all day for the Typicaliens' benefit. Following a draining day of illogical rule-making and pretending to be happy with the invasion, I for one am exhausted! In this research project I talk with other Auspia folk to understand how they feel about the relationship between energy and fun. I deploy ethnographic methods with Auspian community members to understand how they maintain energy to socialise, engage with culture and have fun whilst working for the Typicaliens.

I am a member of the Auspia community. Living in Auspia. Communicating in Auspian. Behaving like an Auspian. Now, let me tell you, whilst we are all Auspian, we do however have different personalities, different likes and dislikes, wants, needs and desires. I used to love spending my days laughing and joking around with Auspian folk, crafting and dancing. But now, after the invasion, I have no time or energy for fun: am I alone?

The HE banking system—dealings of ‘trust’ and ‘solidarity’? *by Espen Hektoen*



HE is about striking deals to maximise the utility and worth of human doings. One makes a deal with the university, which in turn produces the productive life, fulfilling dealings with the ruling class. Anthropologists claim this wasn't always the case. In the twenty-first century, customers were known as 'students', with a culture that predisposed socialising with each other. Throughout this process many ruminated on 'finding themselves': this demonstrated a lack of direction in the early HE system.

Thankfully, we have come a long way since. Production has increased, customers are compliant, the rich get richer. However, deals of obscure vernacular, like 'trust' and 'solidarity' remain unmapped: historically the former—trust—was

something that made workers believe in the other to hold their part of the deal without force. The latter—solidarity—was something that connected people despite their differences. However absurd they may appear, it is the contention of this paper that these dealings may hold historical worth.

Through the perfect execution of the objectively true method, the machine will explore the research question of: ‘How did dealings of “trust” and “solidarity” affect early HE practices?’ Feeding the machine with these words, we will investigate how these deals affected and twisted the old and obsolete HE system.

Matthew Matrix is a knowledge transferer and assistant of the Research Machine in the esteemed university of the Higher Education Hivemind. Following protocol, his research methods are disconnected from his research inquiry, seeking the most efficient deals and dealings. Utilising perfect technology, human influences are non-existent when he feeds the Machine prompting words. As such, his research can never be questioned, perfected by leaving no room for discussion.

Simultaneous exchanges of meantime—a quantitative study by Alison McCandlish



This international study aims to gather fragmentary data on the nature of preliminary exchange across continents, capturing highly specific windows of information that flow between academic communities at 12:58 to 13:00 GMT daily, in Kent, London, Sydney and New York.

The project creates an archive of thought bubbles representing knowledge exchange, with a breadth and depth affording visibility that extends beyond one's immediate discipline, thus avoiding ideation isolation. Data (thought bubbles) is collected throughout each session, and dispensed via a virtual pick and mix mechanism that literally pops the data on retrieval, making it instantly accessible in all required formats via the following expression:

$$information = fuel \sqrt{data\ session^2 \times thought\ bubbles^2} + emotion$$

Professor Stellar is now testing the final algorithm that allows ethical collection of information, with depersonalisation. As a result, thought bubbles is currently in Beta mode, and full launch is anticipated in 2024.

Prof. Stella Stellar is a Dean of Aeons who considers it her duty to remind us that we are but specks in the universe and yet if we get lost in wanderlust we may yet create glimmers in the moonlight of serendipity. She is the author of *Timekeeping and the power of ten*, a tribute to Eames Studio, and is the inaugural holder of an Infinity Grant, awarded by the Lifetime Facilitation Institute.

The reality of high and low thrones within the galaxy *by Angela Montes*



The system of high and low thrones in the galaxy has been present since the beginnings of civilization. Because we are so accustomed to it, the throne system seems a just means of representing the dynamics of power in the Milky Way today. This paper questions this system through historical research that aims to understand why some planets have high throne seats and others have low ones. Findings suggest that the high throne planets possess them because of corrupt dealings with the Creator. Millions of undocumented prayers indicated that most of these planets (specifically five of them) made a deal with the Creator who granted them elevated thrones. Although these dealings were made many years ago, this paper suggests that these actions would not be legitimate today.

Dr Potentia Estelar is an interdisciplinary academic from Venus who has researched power and its different applications throughout her career. Her past work mainly focuses on the dynamics of power within relationships and love, but recently she has expanded her research to planets and animals.

What's the deal with birds? A multispecies ethnographic account of the food distribution practices of humans and the dogma surrounding bird consumption

by Kristine Hill



Felozoology is the newly-established academic discipline dedicated to the study of cat relations with other-than-cat animals, such as humans. Humans have lived alongside cats for several millennia, providing us with shelter, warmth, food, and companionship. Some scholars argue that humans are not fully domesticated because they live relatively independent lives, and often thrive without feline protection. Nonetheless, cats have successfully manipulated human civilisations and the benefits derived from the cat-human bond are well-documented. However, while 91% of cats claim to love their human benefactors (Le and Mae, 2022), humans can be frustrating, and their less desirable behaviours continue to perplex behavioural scientists. For example, humans have a propensity to hoard food and oftentimes their division of the edible resources displeases their feline beneficiaries. This is especially so when it comes to small birds, the hunting of which is fanatically discouraged by humans. To explore the underlying psychological and cultural aspects of humans in relation to the bird conundrum, the current study employs a multispecies ethnographic approach with traditional bird-watching techniques and interviews with human interlocutors. This paper applies the theoretical framework of Birds Aren't

Real (McIndoe, 2019) to explain human displays of neuroticism surrounding our predation of birds.

Dr Peter Le earned his medical degree from the University of Warsaw before establishing a private practice in Berlin, where he specialises in purr-therapy and holistic snuggling. He has published several books on human relations to food, including *Magical hunters? The mystery of human food acquisition*, and *Kibble under lock and key: A thesis on human food hoarding*.

Mary Mae is an Felozoology graduate student at the University of Charlottenburg, Germany. Her doctoral thesis focuses on cat-human relations and human perceptions of birds. She holds a BSc in Ornithology and an MSc in Human Ethology from the University of Warsaw.

Image credits

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