



# Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



**PARENTAL  
ADVISORY**  
EXPLICIT CONTENT



# EDITORIAL

## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	2
NEWS	3-5
POLITICS	6-9
COMMENT	10-14
SCIENCE	15-16
TECH	17
FILM	18
MUSIC	22-24
ARTS	25-27
BOOKS	28-29
FOOD	30
GAMES	33
INVESTMENT	34-35
HANGMAN	36-37
TRAVEL	44
PUZZLES	439
SPORTS	40

Felix Office  
Beit Quad, Prince Consort  
Road  
London, SW7 2BB

Tel: 020 79548072  
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

felixonline.co.uk  
@feliximperial

Printed by Mortons Media  
Group, Boston Road,  
Horncastle, Lincolnshire

Registered Newspaper  
ISSN 1040-0711

Copyright (c) Felix 2017

## Let's get to know each other

I want to use this week's Editorial to get a few things clear; I think it's time you got to know me a little bit.

Firstly, I want to hearp some praise on my predecessor, Fred Fyles. Fred S Fyles did an incredible job with the paper last year. Some say that his middle name is, in fact, Superman (though I wouldn't be surprised if his middle name were actually *Felix*). Due to Fred's hard work, my job has been made a great deal easier and I can't thank him enough for that. However, despite my best efforts to copy his methods verbatim and follow every step in the *Felix* Bible that he entrusted to me during handover, I am not Fred. That is why I am hastily writing this editorial at 10.30pm on a Thursday night, with the impending print deadline looming ever closer. I suffer from a toxic combination of severe procrastination syndrome, complete lack of organisational skill and crippling laziness. I feel it's best to let everyone know that now, so as to manage expectations.

I'd like to congratulate everyone on the *Felix* team for a fantastic freshers issue! As I tweeted last week, I firmly believe this is going to be the waviest year of *Felix* yet. If this



Andy Djaba – Felix Editor

week's front (album) cover isn't evidence of just how wavy the paper is going to be this year, I don't know how else to convince you. Last week we made an excellent start and I'd like to take this time to thank every single member of the team. From the Section Editors to the Copy Editors and Head Photographer, you're all a pleasure to work with and I'm looking forward to a top year! Special shout-outs go out to:

Copy Editor extraordinaire, Rhidian Thomas, for holding it down for the Copy Editing team.

Head Photographer, Joe O'Connell-Danes, for protecting *Felix*'s modesty

in the centrefold.

Music Editor, Adrian LaMoury, for spending more time in the *Felix* office than me.

Music Editor and \$wag officer, Simran Kukran, for accompanying me in distributing the paper around every fresher halls and for curating the banging #DistributionDay playlist.

I really enjoyed meeting so many fresh faces at Freshers' Fair on Tuesday. Our stall was, without doubt, the funkiest at the fair and I'm looking forward to welcoming some of the 98 signees into the *Felix* family.

October marks the start of Black History Month

and, included in the News this week, is a story about the campaign Imperial is launching in celebration of Black History Month. A digital exhibition showcasing the profiles and achievements of black staff, students and alumni of Imperial will take over screens across Imperial's campuses. I think this is an important gesture and I'm excited to see the exhibition once it is in full effect and learn from the stories of some of the different people at this university.

**“A pull quote in an editorial? Damn, you must be desperate”**

If I'm to be perfectly honest with you, I still don't really know how to write an Editorial. But I think I've rambled long enough now. If you're still reading this, it's too late.



### The Felix Team

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Andy Djaba

**Deputy Editor**  
Joanna Wormald

**News Editors**  
Joanna Wormald  
Frank Leggett

**Politics Editors**  
Avirup Banerjee  
Divyen Vanniasagaram  
Juan Rubio Gorrochategui

**Comment Editors**  
Aida Manzano Kharman  
Charlie Titmuss

**Science Editors**  
Rosie Dutt  
Eyad Abuelgasim  
Henry Alman  
Sânziana Foia

**Tech Editor**  
Krithika Balaji  
Haaris Asghar

**Arts Editors**  
Claire Chan  
Helen Money-Kyrle  
Vaishnavi Nathan

**Books Editors**  
JJ Cheng

**Music Editors**  
Simran Kukran  
Adrian LaMoury  
Henry Eshbaugh  
Asad Raja

**Film Editors**  
Mikhail Demtchenko  
Sung Soo Moon  
Aidan Chan

**Markets Editor**  
Tom Alston

**Food Editors**  
Eva Tadros  
Julia Dąbrowska

**Travel Editor**  
Recruiting!

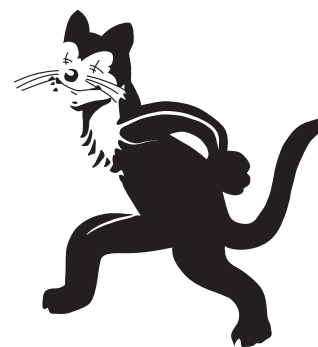
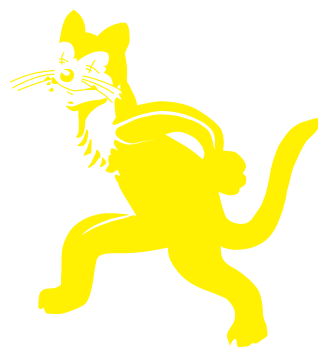
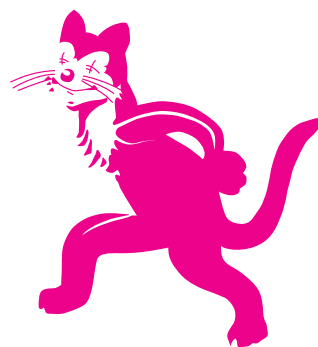
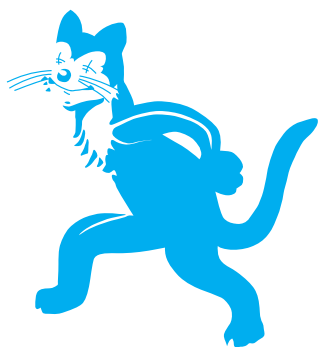
**Puzzles Editor**  
Lisa Hey  
Lorenzo Silvestri

**Sports Editor**  
Imraj Singh  
Fergus Johnson

**Cover Photo**  
Joe O'Connell-Danes

**Copy Editors**  
Andrada Balme  
Ash Pattar  
Rhidian Thomas  
Ezgi Ozyilkan

## Felix is recruiting!



**We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**



# NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial College celebrates Black History Month

*Imperial announces a College-wide campaign in celebration of Black History Month*

**NEWS**

**Andy Djaba**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

October marks the start of Black History Month and Imperial College London will launch a College-wide campaign in celebration.

From 8<sup>th</sup> October, a digital exhibition showcasing the profiles and achievements of black staff, students and alumni of Imperial will take over screens across Imperial's campuses. The campaign will also recognise the inspiring work of renowned black scientists past and present.

As part of the campaign, black staff and students were invited to share their journey to Imperial and their personal heroes. Dr Rahma Elmhadi, Senior Teaching Fellow in Global Health at the School of Public Health, shared how her mother has inspired her:

"Despite losing her husband and her home and having to leave her country, she worked tirelessly to raise six children by herself, in a very foreign country where she was poor and couldn't speak the language. Like a phoenix she rose from the

ashes of her past life, and that will always be my ultimate inspiration."

**"From 8<sup>th</sup> October, a digital exhibition showcasing the profiles and achievements of black staff, students and alumni of Imperial will take over screens across Imperial's campuses"**

Reflecting on what he would improve at Imperial, newly-elected BAME Officer and second-year Chemistry undergraduate, David Tyoember, said:

"If I could improve one thing at Imperial it would be the orientation process for first-genera-

tion university students. They may find it useful to have extra support on figuring out how to make the most of their time at university."

Alumni profiles will feature scientists including space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE, who is best known for presenting BBC Four's Sky at Night, and Ambrose Cooke, the co-founder of influencer network, Fanbytes. The campaign also shines a spotlight on the work of eminent black scientists including Mary Seacole and Dr Nira Chamberlain. All profiles will be made available on the Imperial website.

The Faculty of Medicine are also involved in the campaign and will be celebrating the work of black staff on the Imperial Medicine blog.

The College's Black History Month campaign is supported by Imperial as One, the staff BAME network.

**"If I could improve one thing at Imperial, it would be the orientation process for first-generation university students"**

### Race Equality Charter

In order to improve the representation and success of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff and students, the College is producing an action plan to apply for the Race Equality Charter (REC) award.

Next week, MP Chi Onwurah, Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy, Science and Innovation, will deliver a talk titled 'The Importance of Diversity in STEM' at the College.

During the talk, she will launch the College's Race Equality Charter survey – this survey aims to capture the views, ex-

periences and perceptions of staff and students with regards to race equality at Imperial.

All students will be invited to complete a 10-minute confidential survey that will help to make Imperial a better place to work and study for everyone. It will open on 12 November and close on 1 December.



Cancel, compare, switch and share your bills, with just a tap!

Sign up now at

[www.aptap.co.uk](http://www.aptap.co.uk)

Enter the referral code below to jump the queue:

Referral Code: **FELIX**



Imperial celebrates Black History Month // Imperial/Layton Thompson



# NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## First year medical students to be given insight into mental health support

*First year medics will learn more about accessing College and NHS mental health services from a new medical simulation performance*

### NEWS

**Andy Djaba**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**W**ith World Mental Health Day on 10th October, first year medical students at Imperial College London will be given the opportunity to learn more about mental health support through a new medical simulation.

The simulation, designed by third year Imperial medical students Amna Ahmed, Joshua Walton and Thivvi Gangatharan, will show students how they can tackle mental health problems and encourage them to seek help at the earliest opportunity. Identifying and supporting students with depression at an earlier stage can improve wellbeing and minimise burnout.

This move comes in the wake of a recent study which revealed nearly one in three medical students worldwide experiences depression during their studies.

**“Identifying and supporting students with depression at an earlier stage can improve wellbeing”**

The aim is to reduce stigma and increase awareness about depression in medical students as well as highlight services available to them via the College and NHS providers.

Students will watch the live performance, before discussing it and sharing thoughts and feedback in groups. It depicts a medical student, played by an actor, at home, talking to a friend and describing typical symptoms of depression such as low mood and difficulty sleeping.

The student then visits a GP, played by a clinician at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. After discussing medical history, symptoms and other background information, the doctor expresses their concern to the student that they may be depressed, and offers anti-depressants, cognitive behavioural therapy and self-care resources such as support groups and exercise activities.

Medical simulation is used in medical training to re-enact a patient's experiences in healthcare. The three medics behind the simulation recently sat down with Maxine Myers to discuss the performance, why they decided to focus on student mental health and future plans. When asked why they chose medical simulation as the vehicle to raise awareness about mental health, Thivvi explained: “I think there's something quite pertinent in showing something visually live. Because it's all well and good talking about it on social media and putting up posters and things like



The minds behind Imperial's new mental health simulation // Imperial College London

that, but when it's actually in front of you, you have to engage with it and we hope that by getting our students to witness what potentially one of their peers or themselves could be going through, we could help prevent that in the future.”

Depression is said to be invisible; this simulation gives a visual depiction of "invisible" depression. The trio also aim to tackle the culture of medicine; doctors "always have to be on their A-game" so they often hide mental illness. However, the earlier help is sought, the safer doctors will be with their patients.

Hannah Bannister, the Director of Student Services, said: “We know many of the issues that students may come across while studying. Some-

times, the most difficult aspect is knowing how and when to ask for help. The work that Joshua, Amna and Thivvi have done is fantastic. I'm really keen to see how the project and its feedback can help us with reaching and encouraging all of our students to find the right help at the right time.”

**“Depression is said to be invisible; this simulation gives a visual depiction”**

First year medical students were specifically targeted because they will be adjusting to a new work-life balance after recently starting university. The ultimate aim is to expand the simulation to subsequent academic years and, in the long term, to even expand to other universities.

After watching the performance students will be asked to provide feedback based on their experience and to identify areas where improvements can be made in accessing services and support.

The project was carried out as part of the St Mary's Patient Experience Hub, an initiative designed to use medical simulation and tools to improve the experience of patients and families at St Mary's

Hospital.

The Hub is led by the Imperial College Centre of Engagement and Simulation Science (ICCESS), co-directed by Professor Roger Kneebone and Dr Fernando Bello. They are working in partnership with Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust and the project is funded by Imperial Health Charity.

The College is supporting improved mental health outcomes for students by developing a new Student Support Strategy, led by Hannah Bannister. Students can share their ideas on the dedicated consultation page.



# Students call on big business to get its act together to build a more equal society

*Social Enterprise UK announces the launch of a student campaign petitioning big businesses to work with their future workforce in building a better way of doing business*

## NEWS

**Andy Djaba**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Students across the UK are mobilising to urge their potential future employers to do more to ensure that they play their part in reducing inequality and building a fairer world. They are calling on the leaders of the FTSE 350 (combining the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250) to learn from, support and buy from social enterprises which are showing how we can achieve equality through business.

This comes after it was announced that recent research by Bloomberg found, between 2007 and 2017, black male graduates earned £7000 less per year than their white peers on average, despite being more likely to invest in higher education. Black male participation in higher education has increased by 24%, compared with a 15% rise for white men. Research conducted by the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies suggests that, regardless of gender, black graduates are less likely to be employed after graduation. This could be due to inequalities in higher education; black people are far less likely to receive a good degree and much more likely to go to less prestigious universities, which are both key barriers to finding a well-paid graduate job.

The government brought in the Race Relations Act in 1965 in order to protect ethnic



Why do black graduates earn less than their white peers... and can anything be done about this? // Getty Images/ Hero Images

minorities from racial discrimination. Despite the act since being strengthened numerous times, there is regular evidence that employers continue to discriminate, on the basis of foreign-sounding names, for example. Much wider shifts in society are necessary to ensure equality for all.

This campaign could be the first step in making such a shift. The petition has gone out calling on big business to take its obligations to society and the environment more seriously at a time when trust in corporations is at an all-time low. Research conducted as part of the Deloitte Millennial Attitudes Survey shows that

less than half of young people believe businesses behave ethically and that there is scepticism towards businesses commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

**“This campaign could be the first step in making such a shift”**

Peter Holbrook, CEO of Social Enterprise UK comments:

“Increasingly young

people are looking for more from their employers. They know that business as usual is not good enough if we’re to address the real and immediate challenges we are facing from the urgent need to decarbonise our economy to the inequalities of wealth and power which are denying so many people the chance to participate in the economy.

Social enterprises are businesses which have diversity and ethics at their core. They are set up to trade for a social purpose and reinvest the majority of their profits back towards meeting their social or environmental mission. They are more representative of society

as a whole than mainstream businesses with 41% being led by women and 12% by people from an ethnic minority background – double the level in the rest of the private sector. They are creating jobs and opportunities in the areas that need them most.

“Social enterprises point to what the future can look like – combining innovation and profitability with a real dedication to both people and planet. They are creating a more equal society through business and companies have a lot to learn from them if they are to attract the workforce of the future.”

From coffee companies

providing employment for the homeless and fashion labels committed to supported local producers to community energy projects and staff owned health services - social enterprises are showing us a different way of doing business.

This action forms part of the broader Social Saturday campaign organised by the membership body for the sector Social Enterprise UK with the support of the Co-op and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.



# POLITICS

felix@imperial.ac.uk



## My Visit to Labour Conference: Thoughts on the Government in Waiting

President of Imperial Labour Society, **Ansh Bhatnagar**, shares his views on the 2018 Labour Party Conference

### POLITICS

#### Ansh Bhatnagar

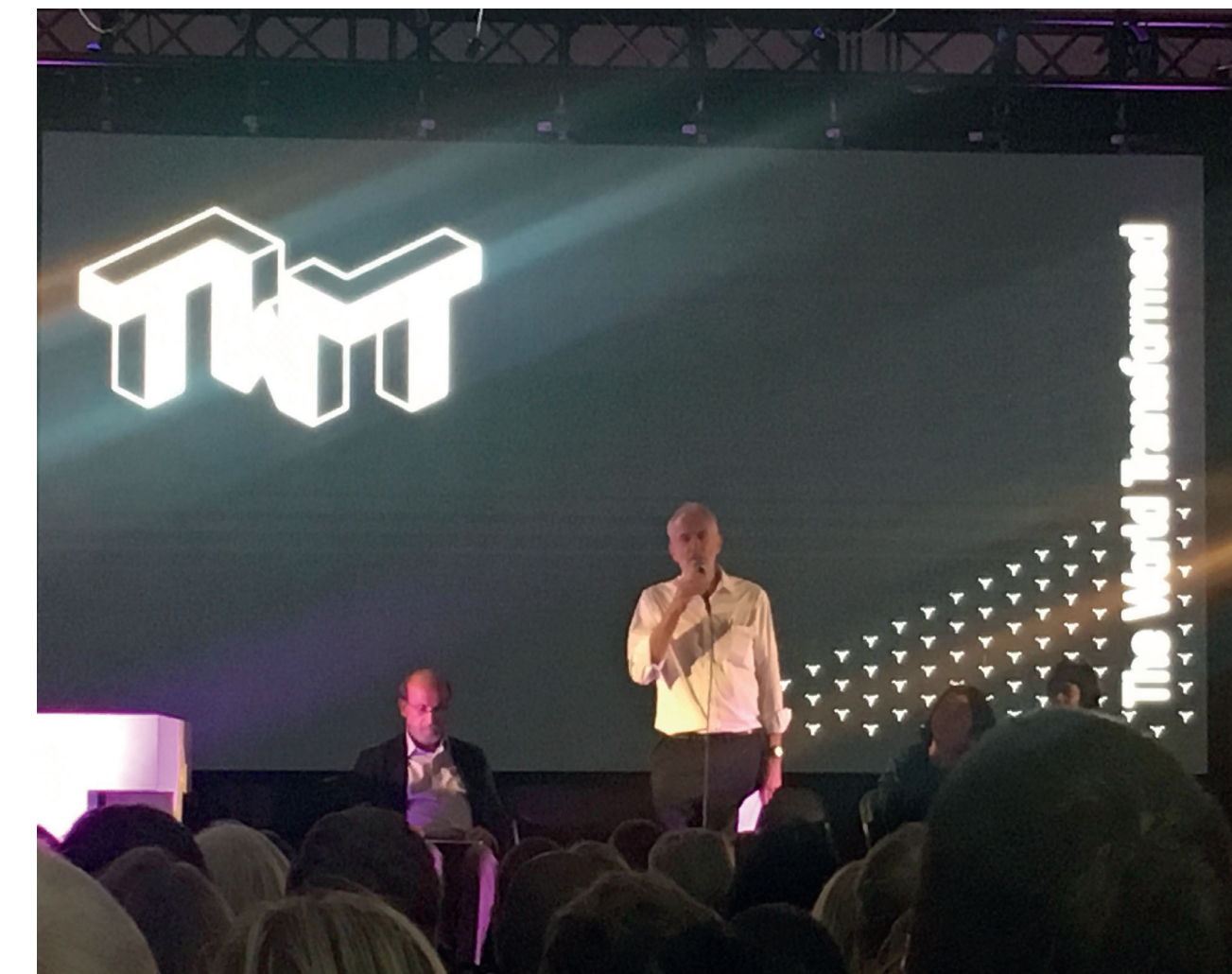
President of Imperial Labour Society

Last week, I travelled along with three other Imperial students to the annual Labour Party Conference, this year held in the great city of Liverpool. After a long, difficult summer in the party, with lots of division between the two factional wings, I didn't know if I should be looking forward to the coming few days.

Firstly, a bit of background about me: I'm not someone who is massively involved in politics; the first time I paid any attention to it in the news was around the 2015 General Election. Having heard about the tripling of tuition fees and the end of maintenance grants, as well as wider issues such as the real terms cuts to the NHS and our schools, it seemed to me that Labour was the only party talking about these issues and taking them seriously.

Unfortunately, I was too young to vote in that election. Fast forward to when I came to uni in 2016 and decided to join both the Labour Party and the Labour Society at Imperial. It was great to have a place to meet so many like-minded people who also felt that our current system is incredibly unjust, and to organise campaigning efforts together in the 2017 General Election. Two years on, I am now it's President.

Looking back to last



Prime Minister in waiting?// Ansh Bhatnagar

week; I had never been to a political party conference before and was unsure of what to expect. Would it just consist of long and boring discussions about the minute details of some obscure policy? 13,000 people, including hundreds of Young Labour members, were descending on Liverpool, so I knew it had to be more than just that.

Policy was indeed discussed and debated, in a packed conference hall full of thousands of CLP (Constituency Labour Party) and trade union delegates. This is the centre of the Conference, as Labour under Jeremy Corbyn has been increasingly trying to become a

member-led party where ordinary people like you and me have influence over the policies that a Labour Government would adopt. This gradual democratisation of the Party is clearly winning over swing voters: in the 2017 General Election, Labour, with its brave and transformative manifesto, gained the largest increase in vote share since 1945. These policies are winning the debate because they're being crafted by ordinary people, many of whom have directly suffered the consequences of austerity under the Tories for the last 8 years.

While debating and making important policy decisions for the next

Labour government is incredibly important, it's the fringe events where Conference truly shines. These include panel discussion, Q&As, and interviews with Labour politicians and activists, and are hosted by all sorts of associated organisations in the Conference venue. Outside the venue, a fringe politics, arts, and music festival called *The World Transformed* (TWT) runs alongside the Labour Conference, now in its third year.

Upon arrival at Liverpool on Saturday, we decided to attend the relaunch of *Tribune* magazine, being hosted at TWT. *Tribune* is the traditional magazine of

the Labour left, with contributors and editors including George Orwell, Nye Bevan (founder of the NHS), Barbara Castle and Michael Foot. Having faded into obscurity earlier in the year, it was relaunched with a bang, with journalists such as Owen Jones and Dawn Foster contributing to the magazine and speaking at the event. The crowd had a diverse mix of young and old, veterans of the movement and those new to it.

Upon looking at the schedule, we quickly realised that TWT had many incredibly diverse events, from yoga sessions to reading groups, coding classes to a 5-a-side

football tournament. A few years ago, it would've been hard to believe that such events are running alongside a \*political\* conference, but a lot has changed since then. Politics is being reinvigorated by a grassroots left-wing movement, with more and more ordinary people getting involved every single day and joining the half-a-million strong membership of the Labour Party.

**"13,000 people, included hundreds of Young Labour members, were descending into Liverpool"**

Walking around the bustling Conference floor over the next few days meant rubbing shoulders with people I've only seen on TV before: people like Ed Miliband, Owen Jones, Dianne Abbott, John McDonnell, David Lammy, and many many more commentators and politicians. Due to this easy access to the big names in the Labour movement, we decided to make a short video to promote Labour-Soc. For busy people who have their calendars full to the brim, they were incredibly approachable and kind enough to record the video messages for us.

Being at Conference wasn't just about the Labour Party – it was also



# POLITICS

felix@imperial.ac.uk

about the wider left-wing movement. A panel discussion on the American Left with Julia Salazar (New York state senate candidate), Bhaskar Sunkara (editor, Jacobin magazine and publisher of Tribune), as well as Alexandra Rojas, organiser for Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, was held at TWT. A lot of insight was gained by hearing first hand from those fighting for the Democratic Party to become a left-wing party, and a true alternative to the Republicans' destructive far-right vision for America. Ever since the relative success of Bernie's presidential campaign, these activists have been organising under the banner of 'Democratic Socialists of America', and have been celebrating major victories including the win of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

earlier this summer.

**“The crowd had a diverse mix of young and old, veterans of the movement and those new to it”**

On the last day, I ended up at a brunch event with John McDonnell (the Shadow Chancellor) who spoke about what steps a Labour government would take once elected - the first term of the Labour government will involve reversing the damage caused by the Conservatives' economic agenda,

and the second term will be about working towards implementing even more new ideas to radically and permanently transform our society so that it works for all of us, not just those born with a silver spoon in their mouth. Environmental policy was also a key topic of the speech - McDonnell has spoken strongly against the expansion of Heathrow and was one of the few Labour MPs to vote against it in Parliament. During the talk, I was sat next to a lecturer from Goldsmiths University as well as a young activist from the midlands. People from different walks of life have all been brought together by this revitalised movement, and this was further solidified by the Leaders' Speech that followed.

In the packed conference hall, Conference was called to an end with a speech from Jeremy Corbyn. The strapline of the Conference was “Rebuilding Britain - For the Many, Not the Few”, and this theme was prevalent in the speech. It touched on all the big issues, from Brexit to Windrush. He criticised the disastrous foreign policy of the Tories, calling on them to stop arming the Saudi government that has been

waging war in Yemen. With Brexit, he announced that Labour will be voting down any deal that negatively affects living standards and workers' rights, and will be pushing for a General Election to avoid a no-deal Brexit if the Tories cannot get a deal through. Labour will be investing in public services, reversing the cuts, and even introduce a powerful policy that aims to give workers one third control over their company boards - slowly working our way towards a socialist economy.

**“Being at Conference wasn't just about the Labour Party - it was also about the wider left wing movement”**

It was a powerful speech that has been seen by many to be one of a future Prime Minister. The speech ended a Conference where a lot



Panel Discussions// Ansh Bhatnagar

of comradely debate had taken place and the mood had lightened after a difficult summer. Over a few days, the wide rifts and divisions between the left and the right wings of the party were sown, with all of us walking out feeling like there was a government in waiting - a government for the people, by the people.

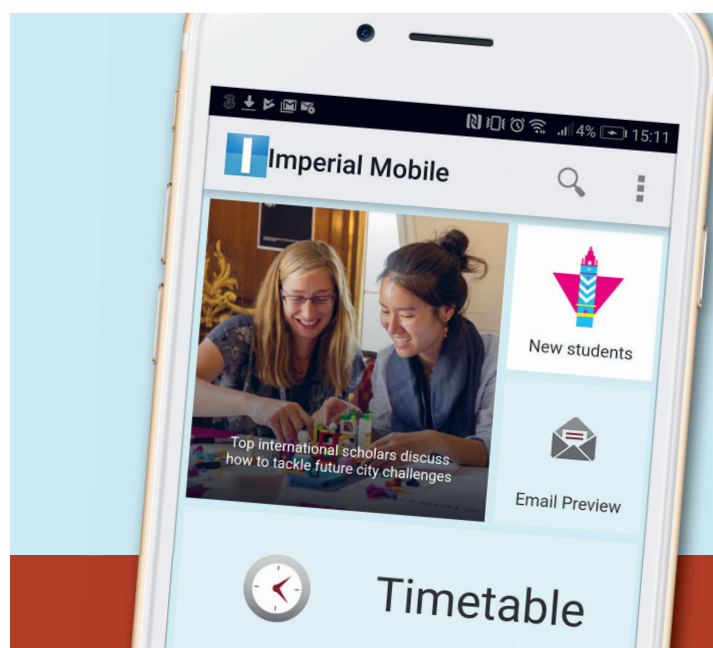
It was an exciting experience. I felt like I was part of a genuine movement that can win the debate and transform our society for the better. Looking forward, we have massive change coming up for Britain: Brexit. Whatever happens in the run up to March 29th, the debate will be incredibly different this time next year, and who knows

- maybe Labour Party Conference 2019 will end with a Prime Minister's.

**“It was a powerful speech that has been seen by many to be one of a future Prime Minister”**



Diverse mix of young and old // Ansh Bhatnagar



Download

## Imperial Mobile

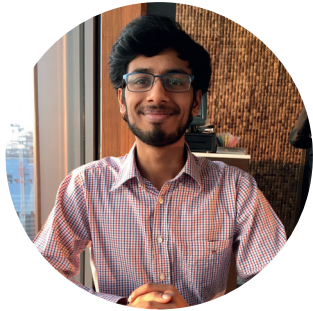
The free app for students featuring College services, timetable, email preview, campus maps, events calendar and much more.

www.imperial.ac.uk/imperial-mobile



# POLITICS

felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Demands for Safer Roads after Fatal Collision in Bangladesh

*The killing of two children by a bus driver that lost control of his vehicle has sparked a wave of protests that reveals the general malaise against the current government.*

### POLITICS

**Divyen Vanniasegaram**  
Politics Editor

The death on the 29th July of two school children, Diya Khanam Mim and Abdul Karim Rajib, after being run over by a speeding bus, sparked mass protests in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. According to witnesses, the bus was racing with another bus to pick up passengers, before the driver lost control. A further 12 school children were also injured as a result of the collision. This tragic accident prompted students across Dhaka to protest for safer roads, in a country where more than 3,000 lives are lost per year in road traffic accidents.

The student protestors brought the capital to a standstill over the duration of a week, creating checkpoints to inspect the driving licenses of motorists and ensuring vehicles were in a roadworthy condition. Those who were unable to produce a valid license or car registrations were handed over to the police. The Bangladeshi government, intolerant of the protests, ordered the students to cease their demonstrations. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not release an official statement but advised students to stop protesting and go back home, lest a 'third party' should sabotage the protests.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina // Wikimedia

Her warnings remained futile as students were determined not to back down.

On the 4th August, the peaceful crowds of students chanting "We want justice" were met with violence from the police, who employed tear gas and rubber bullets to injure over 100 youths. It was also reported that pro-government activists attacked the pupils whilst demonstrating; although road transport minister Obaidul Quader rejected claims that the attackers had any affiliation with the governing Awami League Party.

Police also denied firing rubber bullets

on the students despite local hospitals having treated more than 115 students that day, many with injuries consistent with rubber bullets. Local journalists who attempted to film the scene were beaten up by members of the 'Bangladesh Chhatra League' - a student organisation linked to Awami League who opposed the protests. Reports of sexual assault and rape against young female protestors also surfaced, but further investigation into these claims were prevented by police.

Angered students created a charter of 9 demands that they wanted the authorities

to meet. One of them included exercising capital punishment for those found guilty of irresponsible driving. The construction of a foot overbridge or another alternative at the site of the accident was requested as a means of ensuring students' safety. Moreover, basic regulations such as preventing buses from taking excess passengers on board were also mentioned in the list. Sheikh Shafi, a student who had lost his brother in a road traffic accident in 2015, said among the causes also mentioned was the underpayment of bus drivers, which forced them to work long hours

and therefore could contribute towards reckless driving. Student protestor Al Miran speaking to AFP news agency said, "We won't leave the roads until our demands are met. We want safe roads and safe drivers."

To censor the attacks on social media, authorities responded by blocking internet access for 24 hours, and severely limiting local Wi-Fi connections to unusable speeds. Over the next few

**"We won't leave the roads until our demands are met"**

days, dozens of student protestors were arrested by police and detained, but no legal action was taken against those who attacked the students. A 'cyber-hunt' was also carried out by police officers to search for the profiles of anyone who allegedly spread "rumours" about the attacks online on social media, throughout the protests.

Amidst the unrest, prominent human rights activist and photographer, Dr Shahidul Alam, was arrested and remanded by police for 7 days, following an interview he had given to news broadcaster Al Jazeera. In the aforementioned interview, he disclosed that the protests were driven

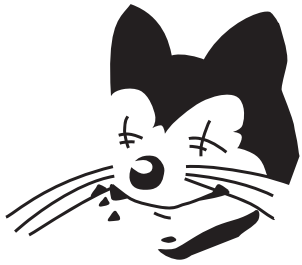
by "larger" factors than road safety, and involved "the looting of the banks, the gagging of the media, the extrajudicial killings, disappearings, bribery and corruption" that had plagued Bangladesh under the current government. Other analysts also believe that the mass protests reflected deeper frustration at an increasingly unaccountable government operating under Hasina. Alam informed the court that he had been tortured whilst in police custody, but on the order of the Supreme Court, he was taken to hospital on the morning of 8th August; his remand halted. However, he was returned to police custody at 2pm the same day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina claimed the riots had been instigated by her political rival Khaleda Zia; leader of the Bangladesh National Party and former prime minister of Bangladesh. Hasina accused Zia of spreading unrest as a means of inciting public anger towards the Awami League party ahead of the general elections in December. Zia denies the allegations. On the 6th August, in an attempt to address the demands of students, The Road Transport Act 2018 was approved at a cabinet meeting, which proposed capital punishment for intentional killing using a motor vehicle, and 5 years of prison for accidental killing.



# POLITICS

felix@imperial.ac.uk



## The Secret Tory: A Behind the Scenes Look at the Annual Tory Conference

*A revealing look into the oddities of the 2018 Conservative Party Conference*

### POLITICS

**Anonymous**  
*Politics Writer*

I will be frank – I am an undecided voter. I wanted to make an informed decision so I did the sane thing – I bought a media pass and packed my bags for the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Birmingham. The Conference was enlightening... it certainly changed my perspective of the Conservative Party.

You can broadly split us up into three main categories: Conservatives, press and exhibitors. Each type had a different colour on their badge to indicate their separate status – mine had a beautiful yellow streak. There is mixing between all three groups, but press members are definitely considered separate to the others.

At the ICC, all you need to do is make eye contact and talk to someone. There are so many people and so many sessions that you can connect with people over anything. It's the LinkedIn Premium User's wet dream. You don't need to be equals in age or status – you get the opportunity to rub shoulders with CEOs, ministers and some of the highest in society. There is so much interaction that it makes you want to crash with exhaustion at the end of each day.

The conference doesn't end at 5pm. Oh, no. Don't look at what



She is the Dancing Queen! //RT

the formal agenda says. Events on the fringes of the conference last until 10pm on some nights. You may meet some people at these events, and you may get on with them very well. They may invite you for a drink. The night spreads out beyond the conference centre – every pub and restaurant in the near vicinity is taken over for drinks. But this is definitely less so the case if you're 'press'. Or maybe I just didn't know the right people?

How do you find someone with your same interests? And, most importantly, how can you be dancing with young Tories on the dance-floor? The answers lie in the Fringe events.

The Fringe is where you go to get the juicy gossip and fiery speeches. What you see on television is a lie – the power of the conference is in the

Fringe, not the ministerial speeches with pre-planned material. The Fringe gives you a chance to interact with MPs, industry experts and CEOs on a one-to-one basis. The Fringe also provides the best seminars. You can ask questions on anything and they will answer you directly. You also get access to those populist politicians, those without a cabinet position but hold a lot of sway in the party. In the fringe Jacob Rees-Mogg is a sell-out name. The queue for the Brexit-central rally which he starred in spans four floors of the building fifteen minutes before the start. The Fringe is where Boris Johnson delivered his leadership pitch to both press and members on the hall floor.

But here's the interesting thing – most fringe events are sponsored,

to raise specific topics rather than for organic conversation. Event sponsors include the Huffington Post, Atos, Nationwide, the Royal College of Midwives – the list goes on. Some of these sponsors also have exhibits as well, so you can't escape from them.

Exhibitors are different to sponsors. In the centre of the ICC, there are a collection of exhibition stands. Each of them has goodies to entice you in. Think of Freshers' Fair on steroids. Let's take a step back and consider the names of some exhibitors this year: AECOM (currently expanding Waterloo station), Airbus (CEO complained that government doesn't know how to run Brexit), Drax (taking over ScottishPower, had image problems from a Channel 4 documentary), Google

(tax avoidance issues), the list goes on. It is obvious that these exhibitors have concerns with the government's policies. Meanwhile, conference space is expensive. To get access to these stands, you needed at least £5000. That was just for the small exhibits; larger stalls required £12,000 upwards.

So why go to all this effort? Lobbying. You chat with important people and you hope to keep your company and your desire in the conversation. All the exhibitors want to sway the common perception.

For example, consider Blackpool – a seaside resort in the north-west of England which has built a questionable reputation for itself over the past few years due to degeneration. Blackpool last held the Conservative Conference in 2009.

After this, the town was barred from holding the conference as there were no suitable venues to host a conference of that size. This was a massive blow for tourism in the town. So, Blackpool changed. Nine years later, and Blackpool has completely revamped its image. It has a new town hall, will be building a new IMAX cinema by 2020 and has just completed its £25 million conference centre at Winter Gardens. After making these changes, people in the council bought an exhibition stand at the 2018 conference so they could show their regeneration to the country. And did it work? According to one of the exhibitors, onlookers wanted to return to Blackpool with many signing a petition to return the conference to Blackpool next year. So, place your bets now.

That was just some of what I learnt during my time there. I learned way too much to cram into this piece. All I know is that this Conference will be one that stays with me for the rest of my life. And if it is held in Blackpool next year, I will go and visit – after all, Blackpool has a fantastic Wetherspoons on the Promenade.



## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Yemen: The big kids' playground

*What the war in Yemen is really about: international superpowers making a statement about who is stronger. Yemen is the battle arena, and its citizens, collateral damage.*

## COMMENT

Aida Manzano

Kharman

Comment Editor

As of March 2018 the death toll in Yemen has surpassed 40,000 casualties. Save The Children reports that at least 50,000 children have died in 2017 alone, and to this day and counting the amount of displaced refugees is well over 2 million.

The civil war in Yemen has been raging on since 2015, and while its importance and coverage in the mainstream media has been steadily decreasing, the casualties have been exponentially increasing as the humanitarian crisis becomes more severe and deadly.

The situation, as in many countries in the Middle East, is quite complex and is a result of many unresolved issues escalating to a what now seems like an unsolvable conflict. Yemen up until the 90s was split into two different countries, North Yemen: Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) and South Yemen: People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY).

Northern Yemen was federated with Egypt and Syria in the United Arab States until they proclaimed their independence and a civil war broke out between the royalist forces supported by Jordan and Saudi Arabia and the republican forces, supported by



Child Gazing at Rubble in Yemen after a after Saudi led Coalition Airstrike// Flickr

Egypt. By 1968 most opposing leaders had reconciled and by 1970 the YAR was finally recognised by Saudi Arabia and the Egyptian troops withdrew.

The former Southern Yemen was under British rule until 1965. In the two years following that, the Marxist National Liberation Front (NLF) and the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY) organised themselves to leave the British controlled Federation of South Arabia. By 1967 the federation collapsed and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was proclaimed in 1970.

The divide was clear, whilst the YAR was supported by Saudi

Arabia, the PDRY was an ally of the Soviet Union. As the situations settled internally in each newly proclaimed country, internationally their relations became more strained. In the early 70s they were openly confrontational. The road to unification was not simple, but in 1988 both parties agreed to demilitarise their border and in 1990 the first drafts for a unified constitution began. These were ultimately approved by a referendum and the president of the YAR became the president of the new republic, and the president of the PDRY was named vice president.

Peace did not last long in the newly formed country due to the poor

economic conditions and in the unrest of the civil population, civil war broke out. Salih, the president of the republic, won the civil war and in the aftermath, he appointed those who had been loyal to him throughout the war into power. He also eliminated freedoms such as universal suffrage. Other consequences of the war were the devaluing of the riyal, the Yemeni currency, the cost of fuel doubled, water and electricity were in short supply, and food costs rose.

It was the public discontent in 2011, prompted by other uprisings during the Arab Spring, that led to mass protests. In 2014 civil war broke out again, as the Houthis seized the capital

in demands of lower fuel prices and a new, reformed government. Houthis are Shiite rebels that have been supported by Iran. Fighting against them are the Hadis, the faction that supported the president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi of the government that was forced to resign by the Houthis. They are Sunnis, and are supported by Saudi Arabia, a country of Sunni majority.

Already from the 70s there was a clear divide from the Soviet allied Shiite south, and the Saudi allied Sunni north.

**“At least 50,000 children have died alone in 2017”**

Despite the efforts to build a lasting union, little was done to ensure the conditions for the civil society were fit to warrant the development necessary to solidify said union. No country will remain stable if its citizens do not have basic needs met, and that was the first failing point of Yemen. Adding to that the sectarian and political divisions, the chances of peace are even lower, and the final and perhaps the most important factor are the external key players' interests.

The war that is currently taking place in Yemen is the materialised reflection of where currently the cold war between Iran

and Saudi Arabia is taking place. Saudi Arabia neighbours Yemen and shares a vast border with them, and many Yemeni citizens cross it to seek work in Saudi Arabia. In 2003 Saudi Arabia began its construction of a physical barrier that was even compared to that between Israel and Palestine. Their reasoning was to prevent terrorist infiltrations but its construction inflamed the Yemeni government, that argued it was a violation of human rights and the 2000 Jeddah border treaty, that allowed Yemeni shepherds for grazing rights at the border. Interestingly enough, after the Saudi led intervention in Yemen in 2015, the former country began removing the border with its neighbour.

However, like many conflicts in the Middle East, although many point to the cause being religious, the disputes are mainly political. Whilst Houthis were indeed founded as a Zaydi Shiaa revivalist movement, their claims had little to do with religion, as it was the demand to have the fuel subsidies restored that initially made Houthi supporters take to the streets as a sign of protest.

Ultimately Yemen has become the battlefield where Saudi Arabia has concentrated its efforts to ensure that the rest of the world know that they won't let their neighbours become allies or affiliated with their declared enemy Iran. And since it seems that whoever is openly at conflict with Iran will immediately



# COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

garner the U.S's support, it is unsurprising to see how invested the U.S has become on the "war on terror" in Yemen, ultimately costing even more civilian lives than terrorist ones. In the words of senator Chris Murphy answering to the U.S's responsibility in the death of civilians and human

**"I think there is a U.S imprint on every civilian death inside Yemen - Senator Chris Murphy"**

rights violations due to the interventions: "I think that there is a U.S. imprint on every civilian death inside Yemen. I believe that because the bombing

campaign that has been absolutely catastrophic in the scope of the casualties it's caused is made possible because of the United States. We have sold the Saudi coalition the bombs that end up being dropped inside Yemen. We put planes in the air to refuel their fighter jets. We sit inside their targeting centre to help them pick the places that they bomb. And we provide moral authority. We are a member of this coalition".

The morality of these repeated interventions becomes more and more questionable, and although the Yemeni Houthis have reportedly used child soldiers and resorted to forced evacuations as part of their military tactics according to Human Rights Watch, Saudi Arabia's and the U.S's constant air strikes, interventions and their prevention of civilians accessing aid is costing

Yemen it's people's lives. 5.2 million children are now at risk of famine as food and fuel prices soar across the country. This number is only going to increase.

With a political

backdrop of war, terrorism and lack of democracy in the Middle East, many superpowers are recently adopting an approach of isolationism regarding their international policy strategies, whilst

at the very same time participating shamelessly in conflicts that do not affect their citizens' lives in the same way they affect those of the countries being intervened in. Countries such as Yemen



Woman protesting in central London// Flickr

**"5.2 million children are now at risk of famine"**

are becoming the fighting arena for said superpowers to move their chess pieces and show the world who's the most powerful of them all. But at what cost? Are Yemeni lives merely collateral damage? Would we tolerate these interventions if they were causing so many deaths and refugees in a first world country? But perhaps the most pressing question of them all is: how far does the damage have to go for us to react?



## COMMENT

**Dr Yenushi Hirimuthugoda**  
Comment Writer

**W**hy are you getting so emotional? Stop being a drama queen! C'mon now, can't you take a joke? Calm down! Why are you getting so worked up? That time of the month, eh? When are you getting married? When are you going to have children? Your biological

clock is ticking! What do you mean, you don't want children? That's unnatural. Do you know how pretty you'd be if you just used some makeup, wore dresses, lost those extra pounds and let your hair down? What you're wearing is so provocative! You're asking for it! Find yourself a man who's older, taller and earns more money than you or else the marriage will never work.

"Surely you can you cook?" What a ridiculous question! Why would you ask a woman that? Just because she's a woman?

Why won't you ask a man?

A man can drink, smoke

and be sexually active and that doesn't make him any less of a man? Somehow that's something a man would not apologise for. But if a woman succumbed to the very same, vitriol and profanities are hurled her way. Men are allowed to get angry and they are passionate and firm. Women get angry and they are emotional and hysterical.

Is it because of the culture's insistence on subservience for every woman?

When some men support their wives and their daughters and perhaps in some communities those men are shunned by their peers

and motives questioned, "what are you doing? You're upsetting a norm that's been comfortable for us." Just because treating women that way has been customary and practiced for eons doesn't necessarily mean it's veracious.

Derived from the Greek, misogyny means "woman-hater." It's not a difficult term to explain, but, like sexism and feminism, a lot of people refuse to acknowledge that it exists and a lot of others don't comprehend how women all over the globe have to pay a price for just being who they are. How to tell whether you're a misogynist or

dealing with one? The use of the word 'female' as a noun rather than an adjective objectifies women as things instead of beings. ("These females are always complaining..." or "stop acting like a female") If a man rolls his eyes, laughs, scoffs or raises his eyebrows, all of which are derogatory and condescending, when you express important opinions, ideas or feelings, then he's a misogynist.

Upon hearing that a woman or girl has been sexually abused or assaulted, if the first three questions are "What was she wearing?", "What was she doing there?", and "Well, what did she

think would happen?" that person is a misogynist. Women are told they asked for it, or that it's their fault. It's because of this ostracism that it's not easy for a woman to come out and say I was troubled or I was hurt. Women survive but why should they? It shouldn't be a world where women survive. It should be one where women thrive.

It's not that women can't take a joke. It's that misogyny is a hate crime and it isn't funny.



## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## The bull climbs the stairs

*Comment writer, **Henry Hart**, argues that the value of the US stock market has been overinflated for the benefit of the few, at the expense of the many*

## COMMENT

### Henry Hart

*Comment Writer*

Stock markets rise and rise up until the point the bull jumps out of the window. US stock markets have been more expensive than now only twice in history: Black Tuesday of 1929, and the Dot Com bubble of 2000. Needless to say, both of those bubbles burst in spectacular fashion, and nothing helps to inflate a bubble like cheap-as-chips federal reserve dollar bills. What do I

mean by an expensive stock market? The gold standard for investors in terms of measuring the value of a company is the price to earnings ratio, and this is simply the market capitalisation (number of shares x price) divided by the profits of the company. And the cyclically adjusted profit to earnings ratio of the S&P500 (the value of the 500 largest companies in the US) is now (at the time of writing) over 32.9, double the 140-year mean of 16.6.

As I write this, the US stock market has just broken the record for the longest bull run in the post-war era. The start of this bull run was in the aftermath of the 2008 fi-

ancial crisis, subsequently to which some may remember our governments throwing taxpayer money at failing banks. Now, it is not just taxpayer money that has fuelled the rise of the stock market. In an attempt to quickly cover up the ineptitude of a cronyistic government hailed 'end to boom and bust', the central banks of the world are handing out money practically for free. Not to thee and me, of course; only to the institutions who have access to the inter-bank rate. The ECB famously had its interest rate at zero for a while, and even charged negative interest rates for depositing. This means that people and businesses

with high net worth can use the free money to invest for themselves. They create jobs and prosperity in the process of course, but interest rates cannot remain low forever, not least because inflation starts to rise. And recently we see central banks around the world raising rates ever so slightly to combat this. This will be the needle that pops the bubble.

It is not just the manipulation of money's value by the independent (read 'unelected') central banks that will send the stocks tumbling... Trump! Yes, the namesake of the 2016/17 'Trump bump' that sent business confidence soaring with tax and

regulation cuts will cause the next great depression, less than two decades after the last. Why? While tax and regulation cuts are generally good for business in the short and medium term, a government like the US cannot ceaselessly reduce its tax take without cutting down a little on some of the frivolous expenses like their huge armed forces, giant border walls and hush money to prostitutes. Ok that last one wasn't technically the government but I can't think of anything else on the order of walls and guns to complain about right now. So yeah, the government will probably have to shut down a few more times as

the chaps and chappesses at the top debate whether they should continue to fund their debt problem... with more debt. And eventually, both sides will have to realise it is not sustainable. And there will be a levelling. P/E ratios will tumble back to usual levels, stocks will crash and the bear will jump out of the window. But one thing won't change: the super rich will see this coming and get out before you, and lobby for their central bank friends to pump out even more cash to dilute your cash wealth while inflating their stock wealth. And we will go around again and again....



## Why we need zoos

*Maryna Volyshnya makes the argument for zoos in the modern day*

## COMMENT

### Maryna Volyshnya

*Comment Writer*

As more species become increasingly endangered and face steep decline, today's zoos become the ark, a reservoir of the world's valuable animals during the world-engulfing climatic warmth. As of 2018 the ZSL London and Whipsnade Zoos are a home to almost 23,000 animals across over 800

species.

Many argue that the quality of life of an animal is largely reduced when it is held in captivity. Although the movement of an animal in a zoo is more restricted, a zoo animal does not suffer or die of a drought or starvation, with the zoo providing a varied high-quality diet. Unlike an animal in the wild, a zoo animal is in receipt of continuous medical attention, meaning any injuries or illnesses it acquires are treated immediately, sparing the animal pain and irritation. Socially, a zoo animal is not threatened by poachers

or predators and is less likely to face complete ostracism, bullying or infanticide. Highly specialised animals or animals which reproduce more slowly, tend to evolve in relatively stable environments which are highly affected by climate change, a present-day problem that we continue to forecast into the future. Sadly, now, a zoo is more capable of providing a fitting enriched habitat for these animals than our own, previously all-providing, planet, so characterising a life that is 'free' as one that is 'good', is a mistake in this case.

If you are worried about the welfare of animals in captivity, while bad zoos should not be overlooked, your concerns should be focused more towards the many breeders, dealers, farms and private owners which are in greater need of inspection and improvement.

With most humans inhabiting urban areas, a zoo is often the only place to experience live animals, as other natural settings such as national parks tend to be less accessible. Zoos educate the public and foster an appreciation of the animals and a motivation to protect

them, with zoo visitors supporting the zoos' conservation work financially by donating and adopting animals and through direct volunteer work. Pro-environmental behaviours are also actively promoted to the visitors through movements such as the ZSL-led #OneLess which is reducing the number of London's plastic water bottles entering the ocean and championing a new refill culture.

As there is no moral law outside social law, ethics are part-subjective so keeping animals under managed care will always be an ethical dilemma.

Having said that, during the era of the Anthropocene, the ultimate ethical dilemma faced by humanity is about the pursuit of a sustainable relationship with our planet. With strong evidence existing for the effectiveness of zoos in saving animals and increasing public knowledge and awareness about the wild, maybe zoos is how we reconnect humans to the ultimate responsibility and purpose we have which is caring for our planet?



## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Remodelling Conservation

*Elisa Mogollon Perez argues that conservation must involve and benefit local communities to have a lasting, fair and effective impact*

## COMMENT

**Elisa Mogollon Perez**

*Comment Writer*

In recent years, conservation has shifted towards increasingly sophisticated international policies that recognize the importance of equity and the rights of indigenous and local people. Despite this, communities within immediate proximity to biodiversity hotspots continue to suffer the most from ecosystem changes and profit little economically from the natural resources being exploited.

Whilst volunteering with the Institute of Investigations of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP), I was able to recognize the recurring disregard for these communities and their territories by the state, apparent in the traces of conflict, narco-trafficking and cultural erosion. Thus, it became evident that planning the protection of wildlife should not only consider natural spaces, but the people who occupy them, and offer fair and sustainable schemes to support their development in ways which reinforce the management of the species.

Why protect at all? For many, the most compelling argument for conservation is that humanity itself depends on ecosystems, for food, soils and medicines, and the regulation of climate, water quality, diseases, flooding, and waste. But to many indigenous



Conservation of this is worthwhile // Flickr

communities these spaces represent more. In the Amazonian cosmovision, the relationship of a community with its territory (not “land”) is conceived in terms of a collective right which recognizes interdependence with nature.

In recent years, these same communities have come together forming organizations in defence of indigenous rights. During late August of this year, a convention for indigenous groups took place in Iquitos, Peru, where leaders discussed their place as self-conscious actors in modern

day problems - especially as observers of rainforest destruction. The event highlighted the awareness and desire for cooperation with the goal of protecting the natural world.

At the same time, the Amazonian population has faced invasion and imposition from extractive industries. According to RAISG, between 2003 and 2013 oil and gas industry concessions increased across the Peruvian Amazon from 15% to over 80%, and over 66% of this area overlaps with indigenous territories. In 2005, Argentinian multinational PlusPetrol

discarded over 1.1 million barrels of toxic waste into four rivers in the Northern Peru, which coincidentally pass through the ancestral lands of the Anchar, Quechua, Kichwa and Kukama Kikamiria communities, affecting their health and having a devastating impact on fish and other animals vital for their livelihood.

Forestry in Peru continues to be a principal cause of degradation and new legislation has failed to minimize the impact, instead driving concession holders to extract wood illegally from protected areas and

indigenous territories and blank it with legal shares to avoid detection. This activity is pernicious to wildlife, especially to endemic species sensitive to slight population changes. It has also led to conflict; communities who have denounced illegal logging activities have been subject to death threats and even murders.

Some successful conservation models have emerged and may serve as examples for the future. Frequently, these involve the incentivisation of wildlife management through the generation of local social and economic benefits. For example, in early 2000s a management project in Guyana began training local fishermen to survey Arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*) populations – a large and highly prized freshwater fish. It was clear that action was needed as populations were dwindling and close to a local extinction. The project created fishermen groups, implemented a harvesting ban and introduced aquarium fish cultivations as an alternative livelihood. In addition, they led several community education and awareness campaigns. Technical reports from the following years demonstrated an increase in Arapaima populations, with the fishermen stating that their main motivations included a change in attitude, availability of alternate fish and a desire to access future benefits through the project.

Education and information exchange are crucial in gaining the support of local communities and

advancing conservation projects. The knowledge of local hunters who frequently travel the region may be paramount in the approximation of population sizes of threatened species and at the same time, education on threats and the importance of wildlife to the ecosystem and the community’s own future may prompt them to partake in its protection.

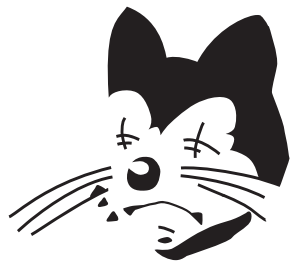
Another exemplary project by the IIAP currently underway is the management of hunted ungulates, such as the collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*) and the white lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*), both species in decline in the Peruvian Amazon. These are used by communities for subsistence and commercial sale. The objective of the project is to monitor the population through the hunter’s data, implement quotas and remove intermediaries who purchase the meat from the hunters at a minimal price and sell it for much more, therefore allowing the community to benefit significantly more.

As these cases highlight, there are critical social aspects to conservation and ignoring them can lead to restrictions in a project’s success. Tackling the real causes of biodiversity decline is a tremendous task and one which may only be achieved through consciousness and cooperation.



# COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Cull this rampant enthusiasm

Comment writer, **Grumpy Bastard**, wants everyone to be less enthusiastic. It makes them angry.

### COMMENT

#### Grumpy Bastard

Comment Writer

W e l c o m e back to Imperial, I hope you've had a lovely summer and that you're totally prepared for the year that lies ahead. However well prepared you think you are now, you definitely aren't. There will come a time at some point this year when you experience that feeling as your brain exits through your arse. I hope you're looking

forward to it.

I was at the Fresher's fair this week and I was unfortunate enough to witness a large amount of this enthusiasm first hand. The freshers were wandering between the stands with a look of bemusement as they shuffled in groups, clutching at the various brochures that people had forced upon them. The people that stood behind the stands either waited with hopeful expressions as no one went up to talk to them (I'm looking at you, sci-fi), fielded questions with a desperate approximation of interest stamped on their face. The number of people that came up to stands they were interested in just

to brag about their past achievements was almost unfunny.

**"I was at the Freshers' Fair this week and I was unfortunate enough to witness a large amount of this enthusiasm first hand"**

As I perused the stands

for as much free shit as I could legitimately get my hands on, I wandered past Labour soc and their not-quite-anti-Semitic idol made cardboard. I've always wanted to draw a cock on Jeremy Corbyn, so thank you for that. One unfunny joke that I've heard the self-satisfied labour party members tittering to one another about is that they are now the most right-wing party at Imperial. I thought that Imperial was politically apathetic enough not to be infected by this Trot, Stalinist, anarchist bullshit, but as usual, my very low expectations of people are never quite low enough. I was going into the main entrance, and two clear

nutjobs approached me, foaming at the mouth with socialist vigour, both crazily waving leaflets at me. I was able to pass by, whispering Peterson psalms 1:12 to protect my soul and escaped into the crush of freshers desperately making their way to the investment and business society stands. I really mean a crush as well, Metric had nothing on this.

In all honesty, I'm quite sad that the Tory party has disappeared now, as it means that even the semblance of meaningful political debate has now gone. I mean, it wasn't as if the brain-dead fuckers ever really said or did anything in the public

space, but clearly, enough people vote for them in the real world to at least exist at uni level. Please don't leave us with the rabid enthusiasm of Imperial Left Forum as they bite anyone that claims that Stalin was a remotely genocidal maniac. It's almost like we've successfully slain a political horcrux, but now that it's dead, who is there to unite us in hatred? I guess I will just have to satisfy myself with watching the turd slinging between Left Forum and the Labour societies. Worst comes to worst, I'll just have to become the only vocal right-winger at Imperial.

## Want to be on the *Felix* team this year?



**Felix is recruiting new section editors and copy editors for this year!**

**If you've enjoyed reading the paper, and want to help create it each week, apply to join the team! All training is provided, as well as weekly cake, so come and join us!**

**If you're interested, please email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**



# SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Zombie cells

### SCIENCE

**Lucy Rowlands**

*Science Writer*

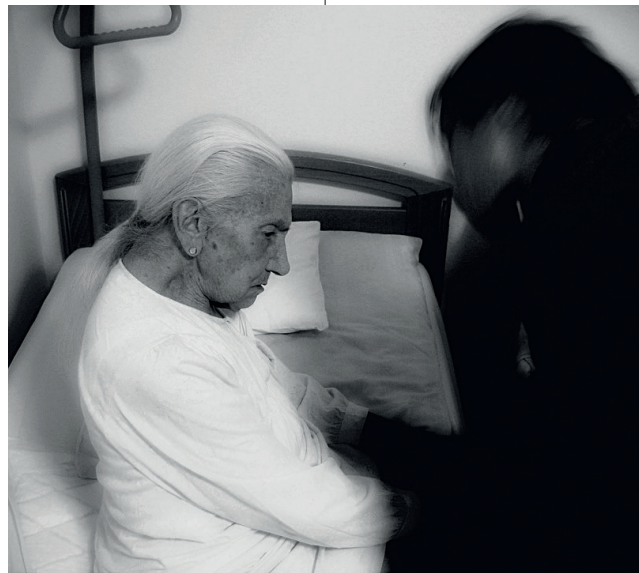
The zombies are here, except turns out it's on a cellular scale, so stop boarding up your windows and pick up that microscope! In new research from Dr Baker at the Mayo Clinic, scientists found that removing senescent cells, also known as 'zombie' cells, reduced symptoms associated with age related degenerative diseases.

Senescent cells are unable to perform the functions of a normal cell but are unable to

die, meaning that they build up over time and are associated with a number of age-related diseases including atherosclerosis, osteoarthritis and Alzheimer's. It had been thought that these were simply innocent bystanders that do not cause damage, however recent work has suggested that they release inflammatory signals, which disturb the surrounding cells.

Scientists found that when they cleared senescent cells in the mice brains, using a genetically modified enzyme, the mice retained the ability to form new memories and showed reduced outward signs of cognitive decline.

They were also able to identify that two types of brain cells, 'microglia' and 'astrocytes', were the types that became senescent. These are immune cells linked to neuronal health and signalling.



Senescent cells can lead to Alzheimer's//Wikimedia

This is one of the first pieces of evidence that senescent cells play a role in neurodegenerative diseases and opens potential new avenues for treatment. The scientist, in this study, also used drugs that have been shown to damage senescent cells to see if the drugs had a similar effect to the enzyme. When the drug was administered for the first six months of the mouse's life, their brains had fewer tangles of a protein called *tau*, a marker of cognitive decline.

Whilst these findings are promising, a cure for neurodegenerative diseases isn't quite on

the horizon yet. The approach taken in these experiments represents the best-case scenario and would be difficult to apply clinically as it was a preventative measure. Also, targeted treatments can be difficult, as older people tend to have lots of cells that look like these harmful senescent cells, and so it remains to be seen if a treatment can distinguish between the two.

In the future, Dr Baker and his team will focus on treating animals after the disease has started, looking at specific alterations that happen on a molecular scale in the cells they identify.

## Bacteria in poop: the key to losing weight?

### SCIENCE

**Sarah Wong**

*Science Writer*

Summer is officially over and, temporarily, we don't need our summer bodies. However, losing weight is not just about looking nice on sandy beaches; obesity is one of the key risk factors that causes cardiovascular disease and other chronic diseases.

Obesity is a multi-facet condition: genetics, activity level and diet all contribute. Solutions to this issue are obviously to exercise and eat healthily. On the extreme side, surgery is also an option. However, associated risks can be severe, and therefore only morbidly obese individuals are offered this treatment in the UK.

Recently, the role of the immune system in obesity has also been investigated. There are many different populations of microorganisms living in our digestive tracts, known as

gut flora. The relationship between gut flora and us can be beneficial; some help us digest dietary fibre in vegetables, breaking it down so we can absorb it. Gut flora also produce vitamin B and K for us and prevent the growth of harmful organisms.

**"Obese people have a different gut flora profile."**

Nevertheless, like a well-organised company, this beneficial effect only works with a specific population of flora. In a company, we need a certain number of employees, each with different talents and roles. That way, the company can efficiently carry out its daily routine. If most of the employees decided to quit one day, the company would face crisis and less ideal candidates may be hired to keep the company going.

Antibiotics, like an

economic crisis to our imaginary company, can wipe out the good bacteria and affect the host's ability to digest food. The absence of these florae may also fail to stop pathogens from growing, leading to diarrhoea. Furthermore, it has also been shown that people who are obese have a different gut flora profile. While it is unclear whether the shift in gut flora population causes obesity or the other way around, there is certainly a clear association between the two.

The shift in gut flora profile activates the immune system, exacerbating the situation and increases the risk of cancer and autoimmune diseases. A research group in the University of North Carolina has tried to manipulate the immune system in mice to investigate its effect in obesity. They suspected that high-fat diet induces the imbalance of the delicate gut flora ecosystem by increasing inflammatory response in the body.

NLRP12, a leucine-rich repeating protein (NLRP), is a mediator of the immune system and promotes the resolution of inflammation. Nonetheless, its role in obesity is unknown in reality. To investigate, the researchers hypothesised NLRP12

**"The shift in gut flora profile increases the risk of cancer and autoimmune disease."**

can reduce weight gain by damping down the immune system and reducing inflammation to the gut and fat tissue whilst the removal of this protein would have the opposite effect. Putting the theory to test, the scientists knocked out the gene coding for NLRP12,

so the mice didn't have these receptors in their cells.

As a result, these knockout animals were relatively fatter despite having the same diet and lifestyle as the control group. These mice were also less sensitive to insulin, making them more susceptible to diabetes. The obese mice also had more immune cells in their fat tissue, with a very specific pro-inflammatory cell population (M1 macrophages). Elevated levels of pro-inflammatory cell signalling molecules, like TNF (tumour necrosis factor) and IL-6 (interleukin-6), which are released from the fat tissue, were also found in the obese mice.

Furthermore, analysing the gut microbiome in the mice, they found that mice with a high-fat diet and NLRP12 knockout had a lower bacterial diversity in the intestine, correlating to inflammation and obesity. Faecal transplants from obese mice to other mice also

promote weight gain and putting normal and knockout mice together in one cage can reduce obesity in the knockouts by coprophagic-transfer of microorganisms (poop-eating). Upon analysing the population, the researchers also identified families of bacteria that are more predominant in obese mice, namely, the *Erysipelotrichaceae* promotes weight gain. Contrarily, the *Lachnospiraceae* family seemingly has a beneficial effect on weight loss.

While faecal transplant seems unhygienic and difficult to implement in humans, chemical products that the good bacteria produce could potentially be packaged as supplements to treat diabetes and obesity. Though more experimental data is required to verify the beneficial bacterial population, this strategy is certainly a relatively inexpensive and easy (in terms of lifestyle changes) solution.



# SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Prime time

Science writer Paulina Rowinska delves into the unpredictable world of prime numbers and describes why an explanation for their occurrence would be such an important breakthrough in mathematics.

### SCIENCE

**Paulina Rowinska**

Science Writer

Had you recently visited the maths department, you would have felt like during the World Cup: students and researchers engaged in heated discussions while watching a 45-minute-long video. Only instead of a football game, we followed a lecture broadcast from Heidelberg in Germany.

On Monday 24th September, Sir Michael Atiyah, the esteemed Fields Medalist and Abel Prize winner, announced that he had proven the Riemann hypothesis - one of the biggest unsolved puzzles in mathematics.

**“Some important mathematical papers are valid only under the assumption that Riemann hypothesis holds”**

Cracking the problem posed by the German mathematician Bernhard Riemann in 1859 would be a major breakthrough. Some important mathematical papers are valid only under the assumption that Riemann hypothesis holds, so if someone manages to prove it, “many results that are believed to be true will be known to be true,” points out Ken Ono, a mathematician from Atlanta. Also, we can apply Riemann’s



Sir Michael Atiyah is a Fields Medalist and Abel Prize winner//Wikimedia

idea in cryptography, so the proof could potentially improve the security of online credit cards.

Prime numbers, those integers divisible only by one and themselves, serve as building blocks for larger numbers. 2, 3, 5, 7 and 11 begin this

sequence, but later they start occurring increasingly less frequent, with gaps as large as 1550 (the largest gap found so far) between two consecutive primes. Their unpredictable occurrence has fascinated mathematicians for centuries. Riemann might

have come closest to understanding the unpredictable occurrence of primes that had puzzled mathematicians for centuries. ‘Might have’, because so far his idea remains a hypothesis; a theorem lacking a proof - a proof desired so badly that in 2000 the Clay Mathematics Institute promised \$1 million to anyone who provided it.

Riemann suggested that the frequency of prime numbers is closely related to an equation involving an elaborate function: the Riemann Zeta function. Powerful computers allowed us to confirm the hypothesis for the first 10 trillion solutions; more than the number of galaxies in the observable universe. However, if a cheeky solution that evaded Riemann’s rule was found in the next

10 trillion, we would disprove the hypothesis.

**“A solution that evaded Riemann’s rule would mean his hypothesis must be disproved.”**

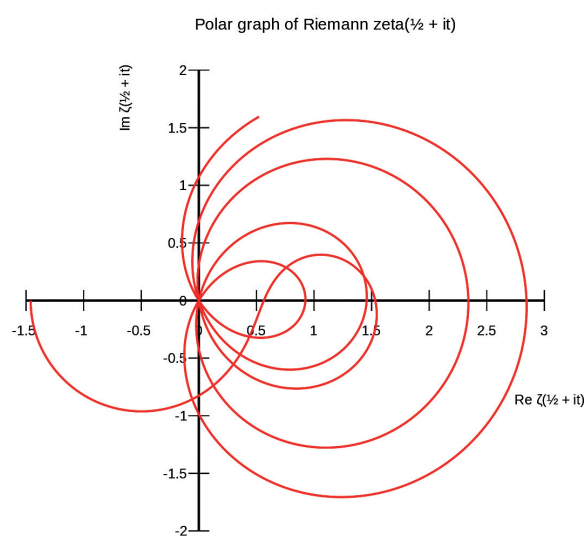
Therefore, the proof must involve much more than just manual checking.

Many hundreds have tried and failed. Did Atiyah really find the secret to proving Riemann’s hypothesis? In other words, is his “simple proof”, as he describes it, correct?

Most mathematicians

share a lot of scepticism about Atiyah’s attempt. “The proof just stacks one impressive claim on top of another without any connecting argument or real substantiation,” commented John Baez, a Californian mathematical physicist. The doubt of fellow mathematicians increased after Atiyah’s presentation at the Heidelberg Laureate Forum, because he focused on the history and importance of the Riemann’s hypothesis, rather than the details of the proof.

Numerous failed attempts to prove Riemann’s hypothesis, its importance, as well as the \$1 million prize may mean that Atiyah might have to wait months or even years to get his proof verified, but if this happens, the already esteemed Atiyah will become a true legend.



The Riemann Zeta function//Wikimedia



# TECH

tecfelix@imperial.ac.uk

## Volkswagen – you are one SaaS car!

*The German automaker has entered the world of SaaS by signing a deal with Microsoft.*

### TECH

**Krithika Balaji**

*Tech Editor*

Volkswagen (VW) has recently signed a deal with Microsoft to use their Azure cloud-based system. This gives them the portal to the highly sought after world of Software as a Service (SaaS).

“The Volkswagen Automotive cloud will be built from the ground up on top of Microsoft’s Azure cloud and IoT Edge platform as its technology foundation,” Microsoft representative said in a statement.

**“This will help VW kill two birds with one stone: cars will be connected to the cloud and lets it stay ahead of its competitors”**

“We envision the automobile evolving into a central hub in the Internet of Things, enabling customers to take their world into their vehicles,” Heiko Huettel, chief of VW’s connected car division said.

**“Whoever dominates the cloud dominates the computing field ... Microsoft has taken the role of being the world’s second largest cloud provider”**

One weakness of car manufacturers is that they aren’t effective at developing software interfaces. Now, through Microsoft, VW will have access to Power BI, a business analytics service where users can create reports/dashboards without



SaaS and the City // RAC

the help of IT staff and database administrators, Bing mapping, Windows 10 UI expertise, Skype and Teams connectivity. This will help VW kill two birds with one stone: cars will be connected to the cloud and it provides the consumer-friendly interfaces and feedback needed to stay ahead of its competitors. With regards to its competitors, it is believed by many that Amazon will eventually enter into the automobile

industry in some way (distributor, leaser, etc.). It would be a formidable competitor, due to its prominence in the cloud and AI field, despite its lack of expertise in engineering. This deal fortifies VW’s position in the automobile industry early in the game.

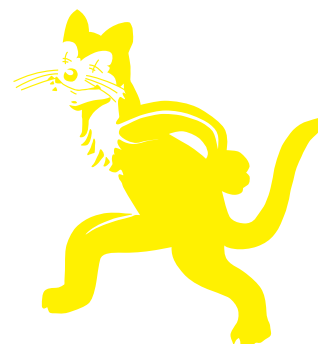
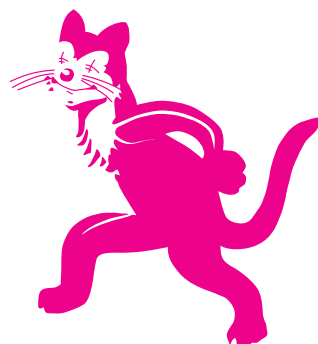
The deal will also be hugely beneficial for Microsoft. In the IT world, whoever dominates the cloud dominates the computing field. Amazon,

with its successful Amazon Web Services platform, has pushed the IT company to the number one position. Microsoft, under Sathya Nadella’s (CEO) leadership, has taken the role of being the world’s second largest cloud provider due to the recently increased focus on the cloud. Now, the billion dollar deal to be the global cloud partner for the world’s largest automobile company by sales has made their com-

petitors at Amazon, IBM and Google sit up and take notice. The cherry on the cake is that the deal has been signed right when VW is undergoing transformations to enter the SaaS world..

This partnership consolidates VW’s place in the automobile industry and also adds a ‘halo effect’ on Microsoft as the software giant searches for other global manufacturing partners.

## Felix is recruiting!



**We want you – yes, you! We’re looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we’ll teach you everything you need to know. If you’re interested, send us an email on [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**



# American Animals and the Hazards of Adaptation

Following on from Film Editor **Sung Soo Moon**'s review of *American Animals* in last week's issue of *Felix*, fellow Film Editor, **Aidan Chan**, gives his take

## FILM

**Aidan Chan**  
Film Editor

**A**merican *Animals*, directed by Bart Layton, is about the real-life story of 4 young adults, Spencer (Barry Keoghan), Warren (Evan Peters), Eric (Jared Abrahamson) and Chas (Blake Jenner) who decided to steal several books of extremely high value, including *The Birds of America* and *On the Origin of Species*, from the library at Transylvania University.

Director Bart Layton, a frequenter of documentaries, decided to intersperse the story with footage of interviews with the real perpetrators of the heist and other involved people. This rather unorthodox direction proves to be one of the film's most thought-provoking aspects.

However, before that, here is everything else that worked for the film. The acting across the four main stars, Keoghan, Peters, Abrahamson and Jenner, are uniformly powerful, particularly during the explosive third act where we get to observe the might of Murphy's law playing in real-time. Despite a rather slow start, I was on the edge of my seat for the entirety of the second-half, and very majorly due to the intense performances from the actors. Evan Peters especially made me finally appreciate his range, as I mostly knew him as the semi-comic relief role of Quicksilver in two previous *X-Men*

films. The amount of horror and desperation he conveyed was astounding and truly affecting.

**"This rather unorthodox direction proves to be one of the film's most thought-provoking aspects"**

The aforementioned documentary method used by director Bart Layton is strikingly refreshing. Having the real-life people involved in the heist to express themselves directly in the film was a great, albeit a little bit lazy, way of letting the audience sympathise with them very quickly. It also allows the audience to understand the psychology and reasons behind their actions (and reactions) in the most direct way. Simultaneously, this blending of documentary and film also leaves a lot of questions hanging after the credits are rolled.

**"Evan Peters especially made me finally appreciate his acting range"**



The film starts with a very noticeable statement: This is not based on a true story, this is a true story. This statement is not one that can be thrown around lightly, because it implies that the film has taken no creative licenses and is essentially - true. However, from the get-go, the film contradicts itself on this statement already by introducing unreliable narratives. And so, the accuracy of the adaptation, and even the authenticity of the interviews, come under question.

Intentionally or not, this film becomes a kind of commentary on the process of adaptation itself. This is important because adaptations, and films in general, can be very manipulative. Simple changes of the original material (event, book etc.) can already convey a wildly different message. The original story of

*Mulan* was never about female empowerment, it was about patriotism and filial piety. So, what the filmmaker decides to include (or exclude) directly influences how viewers view, and learn from, an event. Not all films have an agenda, but all films are subjective. And we, as relatively passive recipients of said subjectivity, must choose for ourselves what to take in, and what not to.

**"Not all films have an agenda, but all films are subjective"**

*American Animals* leaves this quite open for interpretation. On the one

hand, the protagonists are portrayed as very sympathetic. Their desire to escape their mundane (college) lives and their eventual regret, seem to be an attempt to justify the heist. However, the film also showed the protagonists intentionally harming Betty Jean Gooch, the librarian, in an intense sequence. Should we therefore condemn the four perpetrators of the heist for their immorality, or should we instead sympathize with their regret and their ability to grow as human beings (they sounded very apologetic in the interviews)? *American Animals* leaves this open for contemplation. Having said that, I feel like the film tends to suggest the latter. When the mournful music sounds, accompanying the tears of the real-life Spencer as he voices out his immense

American Animals // IMDb

regret in a poignant finale, it becomes really, really difficult to dislike the four protagonists, even after witnessing them traumatize an innocent middle-aged librarian and jeopardize invaluable artifacts.

**"...what the filmmaker decides to include (or exclude) directly influences how viewers view, and learn from, an event"**



Make great memories

FiveSixEight.

# BREAKFAST

in FiveSixEight, Beit Quad

**Grab & Go**

8:00 - 11:30

**Sit & Graze**

10:00 - 11:30

[imperialcollegeunion.org/breakfast](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/breakfast)

imperial  
college  
union





# THE TECHTONICS

## EAST COAST TOUR 2018



[THETECHTONICS.CO.UK](http://THETECHTONICS.CO.UK)



[/TECHTONICS](https://www.facebook.com/TECHTONICS)



[@ATECHTONICSIC](https://www.instagram.com/ATECHTONICSIC)





## MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

With a new *Chance the Rapper* project supposedly on

*It's simultaneously becoming increasingly easy and difficult to ignore Kanye West. Apparently, he's been "working on" a new Chance the Rapper album. What that means or whether it even matters (see the substandard Ye or elusive Yahndi) is to be seen. Still, let's take this as an excuse to revisit Chance's magnum opus.*

## MUSIC

## ACID RAP



**Artist:** Chance the Rapper.  
**Top Tracks:** Cocoa Butter Kisses; Paranoid; Acid Rain.  
**For Fans Of:** Lauryn Hill; Common; Saba; Noname.  
*108 minutes*

**Asad Raja**  
*Music Editor*

In 2016, we witnessed Chance the Rapper's spiritual rebirth as "lil Chano from 79th" on the prophetic 'Ultralight Beam'; a moment that would formally introduce a more sober, sweet as Sunday Candy, family man of a gospel-rapper-Chano, who the mainstream would come to adore following the release of his debut album *Colouring Book* the same year. However, before that, there was Chance the daydreamer stoner, still wide-eyed and ingenuous off the success of his debut mixtape *10 Day* inspired by his ten-day suspension from high school for being caught smoking weed. That mixtape would only hint at the full potential of Chance's artistry that we would witness the next year on *Acid Rap*.

*Acid Rap* is charismatic, energetic and hopeful but self-aware in a somewhat disarming way. Indeed, you wouldn't have hated

the project for coming off a little naïve. It would've been a small price to pay for the witty wordplay and infectious flows that Chance delivers, and the way it is wrapped in animated and often undeniably playful production. Nevertheless, as well as Chance gets your head bobbing during his highs, he makes a point of walking us through the nuance and hollowness of his low moments with honesty and precision. Of course, 'Paranoid', 'Lost' and 'Acid Rain' are tracks that illustrate this clearly, each a delicate, floating

**"Chance doesn't shy away from coating the seemingly upbeat and lively moments with dollops of melancholic juxtaposition too."**

and often intoxicating, incense-scented meditation on internal and external demons. Chance doesn't shy away from coating the seemingly upbeat and lively moments with

dollops of melancholic juxtaposition too. Indeed, in this way Chance realises his wider vision for this mixtape – his project embodies the off-kilter and restless spirit of a routine drug user. The lows are bad, but the highs are also tinted a sunset-purple. And he's hopeful and he's self-aware but still, you wonder whether that's a mark of him applying himself or more a result of viewing his life from the vantage point of drug-induced dissociation.

The first track, 'Good Ass Intro', introduces this mind state with a harmonically sung interpolation of a Kanye deep cut over theatrical keys: "Even better than I was the last time/ I'm good". Having come to know the mixtape well, this opening chorus strikes me as something akin to someone forcing themselves to have a good trip, trying desperately to ignore and thus cast away the anxiety in their gut. Chance's opening line is a tent peg that he attaches to the mixtape's title lest we forget the core of his disposition despite all his good humour to follow: "Rap just make me anxious, and acid made me crazy". The song continues to grow into a powerful, layered ballad with a charged beat as more instruments are added, featuring sung vocals weaving around the verses and coming to a climax on the passion-



*Acid Rap // Chance the Rapper*

**"Gluey synth notes and a shuffling drum immediately cast a shadow on everything and take us in a completely different direction."**

ate outro. Chance gets flashy with his flow while rapping about his carefree living and misplaced pride. He continues to ride this high on the next track, 'Pusha Man' – ignorant and proud, he claims to be a "Pimp slappin', toe taggin'" pusha man. An intentional metaphor, the song 'Paranoid' is hidden within this track after some silence. Gluey synth notes and a shuffling

drum immediately cast a shadow on everything and take us in a completely different direction. We're taken to Chance's gloomy, crime-filled neighbourhood in Chicago where he feels "Trapped in the middle of the map", his cry at the end of his first verse articulating the frustration of growing up in such an environment. Chance witnessed his best friend Rodney's murder at 18. He raps on this song with an insight and a raw emotion only someone who's been through something like that could. Each verse gets more poignant and vulnerable. Having set the scene in the first, he talks about a hopeless cycle of murder in the second, inevitable when "...it's easier to find a gun/ Than it is to find a fucking parking spot". Heading into verse three, he acknowledges the climate of fear and paranoia surrounding him and implores the listener to do the same for the

sake of empathy. Perhaps knowing this won't ultimately change things, he then recommends saying goodbye to loved ones before it's summer and praying for a longer spring because, as he tragically muses, "everybody's dying in the summer".

'Cocoa Butter Kisses' is one of those songs which is a product of stars aligning. Clearly, everyone who played a hand in its creation had a strong understanding

**"Cocoa Butter Kisses' is one of those songs which is a product of stars aligning."**

of what it means to grow inclined to youthful vices and hence sacrifice the innocence your mum once loved you for – the central



# MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## the way, let us revisit his iconic *Acid Rap* mixtape

**“...the song is an ode to troubled relationships stuck in a cycle of drugs, lust, depression and debilitating dependence.”**

theme of the song. From Vic Mensa and Chance writing their verses while on shrooms, to the beat being produced after the vocals were recorded over an alternative beat, to somehow landing a Twista feature, the song is testament to what an atypical project this is both in vision and creation. We are drawn in by a gospel organ but before long, its divine connotation is juxtaposed and then buried by dirty, bouncing, New-York-style drums that spells corrupted exuberant. All the while, playful synth embellishments and soothing, atmospheric wails accentuate the bars, a contracting-relaxing piano chord progression gluing it all together. Chance paints us his delinquent childhood with a lexicon of references, Vic acknowledges the stupid pride to be found in intoxication (“Got me feeling like Lauryn Hill”), Twista scorches the track with a typical confident, fast flow, whilst lending veteran wisdom to the topic at hand and managing to rhyme “Higgs Boson” and “Voltron”. Following ‘Juice’, the project’s simple yet addictive single with a call and response hook, we get the bitter sweet ‘Lost’. The first of many exceptional collaborations between



Chance’s ‘3’ cap quickly became an iconic insignia following the release of his third project, *Colouring Book* // *dancingastronaut*

Chano and Noname, the song is an ode to troubled relationships stuck in a cycle of drugs, lust, depression and debilitating dependence. ‘Everybody’s Something’ is a track that sees Chance and Saba reflecting on various topics – morality, religion, drug abuse, depression, police brutality, blackness, luck and time – all through a disillusioned Chicago-born lens. Though this introspection can leave one feeling hollow, Chance reminds us not to lose our self-worth: “Everybody’s somebody’s everything”. Following this sentiment, Chance raps a list of similes articulating how love is, in his opinion, the best possible thing in the sincere and heart-warming interlude track ‘That’s Love’.

The next three tracks are more light-hearted, each featuring a non-Chicagoan rapper who is now a household name (Childish Gambino, Action Bronson and Ab-

**“‘Acid Rain’ is arguably the most essential track of the project, the well-earned climax Chance had been working towards this whole time.”**

Soul). The best of these is ‘Favourite Song’, a hilariously silly self-referential track about why it should be your favourite song. Chance starts the song with some of the cleverest and catchiest lines of the project, packed with alliteration, assonance and an astounding rhyme scheme: “Chance, acid

rapper, soccer, hacky sacker/ Cocky khaki jacket jacker/ Slap-happy faggot slapper...”. He then glides into a carefree, half-sung, infectious flow, repeating this formula in his second verse. Gambino adds a laid-back verse with hilariously relatable commentary on the reception of a hit song; from a friend wanting credit for putting you on, to jamming to it “in Abercrombie when your work is finished”.

‘Acid Rain’ is arguably the most essential track of the project, the well-earned climax Chance had been working towards this whole time. The beat is comprised of a bassy snare, desolate strings and eerie moans. We hear Chance’s internal monologue as he trips acid in the rain. He approached his thoughts with maturity, and though he acknowledges that he will always feel unsettled, nostalgic or anxious on certain issues, he reached enough conclusions within the three

and half minutes to be a “new man...baptized... holy...sanctified...born again”. Amongst conclusions on the troubles and artificialness of wealth, and on taking active steps to replace gang violence with support for Chicago’s youth, Chance spits a telling line that introspects on his drug use: “I trip to make the fall shorter.” He trips to soften the blow of his failures, he trips to prevent himself from falling too deep into his pit of demons, he trips to make his Autumn shorter; perhaps an indication of boredom, but more likely an indication of the season’s bleakness following summers of high crime rates that claim the lives of his friends (Rodney died in September). Nevertheless, on the last two tracks of the album, each beautifully produced, Chance reassures us that he’s still the ebullient kid we met at the start of the mixtape and that, despite any misfortune or evils, he

can still reminisce about his happiest moment and know, sincerely, that “everything’s good”.

Although *Acid Rap* would go on to become what propelled Chance

**“Chance reassures us that he’s still the ebullient kid we met at the start of the mixtape”**

the Rapper into stardom, it is clear that its purpose was more than that. *Acid Rap* was for Chicago and for the youth. It was to uplift the disillusioned whilst telling them they’re not alone. It was for stoners, church goers, and lost friends like Rodney. And it was for hip hop.



# MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## The Hippo in the room: toxic masculinity

### MUSIC

#### BAMBI



**Artist:** Hippo Campus.  
**Label:** Transgressive Records. **Top Tracks:** Bambi; Anxious; Golden.  
**For Fans Of:** Alvvays; Vampire Weekend.

#### Martin Flerin

Music Writer

Following up a debut LP as well-received and enjoyable as *Landmark* was bound to be a tough job for Hippo Campus. The American Midwest's breeziest indie rock band have not shied away from the pressure though, and have just released a record that – despite not being a big departure from their previous work – offers a sound more solemn and themes even further grounded in meaningful stories from the everyday

than before.

After announcing the album, frontman Jake Luppen explained that the album's overarching theme – an exploration of toxic masculinity and the reasons behind it, was largely influenced by the #MeToo movement. A quick glimpse at the tracklist, which is, bar two songs, made up of one-word titles, gives a good idea of what the album is about. 'Mistakes', 'Anxious', 'Doubt' and 'Bambi' are introspective snapshots of a man trying to find solid ground in society. Each song is a confession full of feeling, all of them strung together to make an album that promises hope for those who can relate to Bambi's story.

The psyche of the album's lyrical subject is one grounded in confusion and insecurity. The opener, 'Mistakes', is a biblical premonition of what is to come. "Forbid-

den like a fruit and I'm the snake / Just a bite, I wanna know the taste" relates the mistakes yet to be divulged throughout the album to the original sin. Taking on this mindset, it feels as though every slip-up that the character suffers is a must, a prerequisite for understanding what is good and what is right – first you must take a bite. But the last words offered up by the excellent album closer 'Passenger' ("If I ever became the things we lost, the things we left behind / I would wish for the past when we were pure, suffering intertwined") suggest that perhaps the original sin is not necessary. That biting into the apple of being whatever society deems to constitute a man, a paradigm which spews bouts of toxicity from the repressed feelings it drags along with, may not be necessary; maybe Bambi wishes he could go back to being pure, living once

again blissfully with his Eve in the garden of Eden.

While the main idea of the album rings good, and many of the songs live up to it, that is not the case for all of them. The long intro ('Sun Veins') on *Landmark* was one of the highlights of the album, and 'Mistakes' follows in its path as a synthier and hazier cousin. 'Anxious' may not be as explosive as *Landmark*'s 'Way It Goes', but waiting for Jake's godly tenor to finally spread its wings halfway through the song is incredibly rewarding. The title track is probably the best song on the album and key to understanding it. "I swear to god I wasn't born to fight / Maybe just a little bit, enough to make me sick of it" is a great indictment of toxic masculinity, how a man can feel forced into a role of an aggressor due to external pressures. It must be said though, that by the middle of the album some



Bambi // Transgressive Records

of the impetus is lost and too much of the lyrics are spent on Bambi feeling sorry for himself due to fuckups that are now in the irretrievable past. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I suck, I suck..." interrupts the false beginning of 'Honestly'. We get it, thank you for opening up, but your self-analysis could have gone deeper, Bams.

The album is a noteworthy follow up to their debut. Compliments all round for how well thought out the idea of the ironically-named Bambi is, but some of the hooks sound lazy and the bouncy drums and Jake's voice will not carry this album through as seamlessly as the first. A valiant effort nonetheless.

## Fresh albums: Thee Oh Sees, Gregory Alan Isakov

#### Henry Eshbaugh

Music Editor

### The new Isakov album is out today...

And I haven't listened to it yet because I'm writing this piece on a Wednesday. But it's spawned enough singles to be recommended to me on Spotify anyhow as an EP, "Dark, Dark, Dark," after the lead single on the album. And boy howdy, isn't he *dreamy*?

Isakov has produced virtually nothing but classics in his fifteen-year career. He's a man of many talents, from the sparseness on "Rust-Colored Stones" to

the jangly marches of "This Empty Northern Hemisphere," featuring languorous fiddles and a profound sense of peace and tranquility.

In between, there's been all sorts - splashy piano, warm bass hums, and glorious noise-walls, distorted, looming, carrying the melody in the background while the mandolin in the foreground holds a pick pattern. For a guy with such a distinctive sound, he really goes all over.

These new singles are pretty great. There's a hint of Bon Iver in the falsetto reprise on "Chemicals"; "Dark, Dark, Dark" recalls Old Crow Medicine Show-style country with a lurching, cadence, and "Caves" has an absolutely delightful indie-lo-fi vibe - this vibe gives way to a delightful climax

with the reprise "Let's put all these words away." The right notes of wist, melancholy, and nostalgia are hit.

So, to sum up: Isakov hasn't missed before, and there's no indication that he'll miss this time. Cop the album.

### Thee Oh Sees goes prog-metal with Smote Reverser, claims Pitchfork. Thee Oh Sheesh.

First: Wikipedia lists them as Oh Sees, and Spotify as Thee Oh Sees. Take your pick, my dudes.

I can't believe I missed this album last week. Thee Oh Sees is an experimental garage-rock outfit well familiar to Music Section adherents with a flair for the grungy and atmospheric.

Their old stuff is very desert/stoner rock; as Pitchfork says, after the rough patches they hit in 2013 or so as a band, John Dwyer took the chance to reform, and the new double-drummer ensemble is definitely distinct in sound from their older stuff.

There are lots of great drum patterns on here, and lots of nice jams that zig-zag around in feel with glee.

While it's true that they're generally stepping on the toes of the prog metal fanbase a bit more with this album, this album might not appreciate people look-

ing for stuff in the vein of djent or whatever you kids are calling prog nowadays. If you're a fan of letting atmospheric rock ride, you'll like this album.

I stuck my headphones on Charlie's head (shoutout to the Comment Section) for a second opinion and he thinks they sound grand. So cop this too.

### Tim Hecker's triumphant return with Konoyo.

Tim Hecker is probably best known for his masterpiece work *Harmony in Ultraviolet*, which has topped many a list of the best ambi-

ent albums of all time. Others might know *Ravedeath, 1972*; yet another classic.

His palette has shifted slightly; most of the instrumentation on this album is old-style Japanese stuff, with the samples recorded over a week in a Buddhist temple in Tokyo.

There are harsh starts and stops, wonderful grating drones, and an ominous robotic madness to the entire piece. This is nothing less than a return to form for one of the greatest living ambient artists.

Par for the course, Hecker builds staggering, spacious landscapes, allows them to decay into discordant noise, and revitalizes them - pulling back out into fresh surges of harmonic peace.

And that, lads, is your weekly listening.



## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Take a Mate to the Tate Late

Every Friday and Saturday night the Tate Modern stays open late until 10pm: perfect for a cash-strapped, culture-lover looking for a chilled night out. Arts Editor Helen tells us how to impress your mates with a whistle-stop tour of the Tate Modern at night.

## ARTS

## Helen Money-Kyrle

Arts Editor

So you've survived your first week in London. You're probably feeling a little squeezed for cash, but just because you've spent all your money on curly fries doesn't mean you can't still enjoy the excitement of being in a capital city. So, if you're craving a wallet-friendly culture-fix, why not head over to the Tate Modern this weekend for an evening of modern art?

Explore the newly opened Blavatnik Building, listen to the DJ as you boogie the night away on the terrace bar, or just enjoy a coffee as you soak up the Southbank atmosphere. If you're not up to much, make your way to the Turbine Hall to lie flat on your back and

leave an impression of your body on the floor.

While you're in the Blavatnik Building, head to the Artist Rooms on Level 4 where American artist Jenny Holzer is exhibiting her work until July 2019. Deliberately provocative, words and statements are central to Holzer's work, with slogans and clichés scrawled or printed on

**“Deliberately provocative, words and statements are central to Holzer's work”**

all sorts of objects and in a variety of media. Designed to be accessible to non-artists, the rooms are perfect to wander through and just look at

what catches your attention at that moment. With everyday objects that appear ordinary until you can get close enough to read the text, and her love of flickering or electronic words, something different will catch your eye each time. Look out for her inflammatory essays and her ‘instagrammable’ *Blue Purple Tilt* as you wander through her rooms.

Another installation to look out for is *Untitled* by Rudolf Stingel which invites the viewer to create their own artwork on wall covered in orange carpet. The work challenges convention, as it is only complete when the viewer creates their own art with it. It's constantly changing, with names and scribbles easily erased

**“The work challenges convention, as it is only complete when the viewer creates their own art with it.”**

with the brush of a hand, leaving you with both a feeling of autonomy and sense of impermanence.

While you're on Level 4, make your way over to Media Networks to see some iconic pieces. This permanent exhibition examines the impact of mass media in an age where we are bombarded

with information and displays works by a number of big names in the art world including Andy Warhol and pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. Keep an eye out for a poster by a group of anonymous American artists called the Guerilla Girls, who produced fifty advertising posters highlighting racial and sexual discrimination in the art world, and Pablo Picasso's *Bust of a Woman*. Painted in May 1944 in Paris during the final months of Nazi occupation, this portrait, with its bright colours and chaotic background, captures both the fear and hope Picasso felt at this complex moment in his life.

If you love colour, head down to the Start Display on Level 2 to see some of the gallery's most popular works. From Maria Lalic's *History Paintings* to Henri Matisse's *The Snail*, these rooms are full of colour and of art that examines colour. While you're there, make sure you find some of ‘the godfather of colour photography’ William Eggleston's works, and have a look at *IKB 79* by one of my favourite artists Yves Klein. The distinctive ultramarine blue painting is one of 194 monochrome paintings made by the artist in his trademark colour International Klein Blue. Klein started painting these monochromes in 1947, considering them to allow him to reject the norm of representation in painting, and so achieve creative freedom.

Finally, before you take the lift up to Level 10 to catch a stunning view of



*The Snail*, by Henri Matisse // Tate

the London skyline, make sure to visit the critically

**“With its bright colours and chaotic background, *Bust of a Woman* captures the fear and hope Picasso felt at this complex moment in his life”**

acclaimed installation *The Clock* by Christian Marclay. Described as a ‘mesmerising masterpiece of contemporary art’, the 24-hour montage compiles video and television footage of clocks and timepieces edited together so that they

flow in real time. Is time relative? Why does time seem to move differently at different times in our lives? Why do we sometimes feel like it's slipping away?

Speaking of running out of time, don't miss the chance to view the Turner Prize 2018 exhibition for free before 20th October for under 25s. What are you waiting for? Take your mates to the world's most popular contemporary art gallery on a Friday or Saturday. You know what they say – time flies when you're having fun!

*The Tate Modern is open Sunday to Thursday 10.00–18.00 and Friday to Saturday 10.00–22.00.*



*Bust of a Woman*, by Pablo Picasso // Tate



# ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## The Definitive Guide to Autumn in the Capital

*With all the exciting events going on in London, it's impossible to list all of them. But we've had a go! Here are some of this term's highlights from the Arts editors.*

### ARTS

Claire Chan

Helen Money-Kyrle

Vaishnavi Gnananathan

Arts Editors

Now until 7 October 2018

Frieze London and Frieze Masters art fairs in Regents Park.

Now until 13 October 2018

The Globe is still running open air performances; with £5 standing tickets it's not to be missed!

Now until December 2018

Caledonian Express at the Pleasance – the best shows of the Edinburgh Fringe!

25 to 27 October 2018

Museums at Night. A festival of 'lates' where museums all over the country are open after hours – looks great!

10 to 21 October 2018

Arguably the year's most-anticipated event for international film, the London Film Festival is coming to the capital this October for the 61st time!

9 November 2018

Christmas at Leicester Square. The first Christmas market!

29 October 2018

Ticket sales for the Royal Opera House open A DAY EARLY for students. Time to get those cheap seats for the Winter Season!

16 to 25 November 2018

EFG London Jazz Festival.

10 November 2018

The Lord Mayor's Show. An 800-year-old tradition to celebrate the new Lord Mayor.

22 November to 5 January 2018

Christmas at Kew Gardens. Christmas lights for miles!

22 November 2018

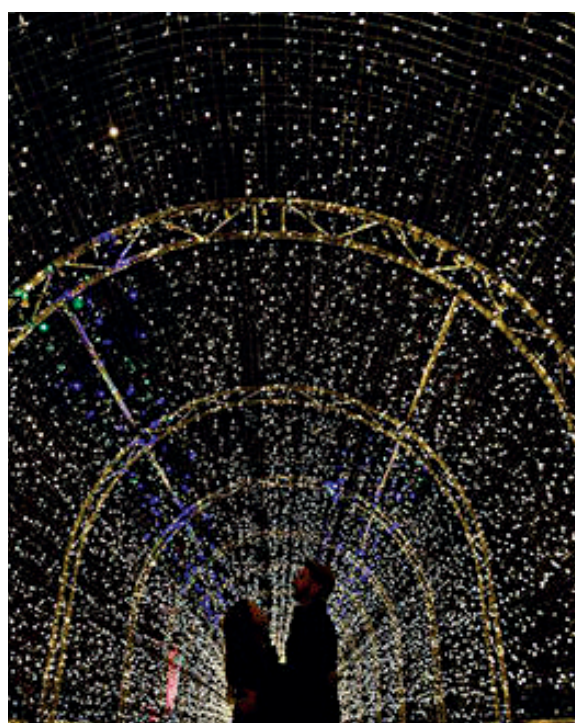
Winter Wonderland opens at Hyde Park!

31 December 2018

New Year's Eve Fireworks!



Pomp and circumstance // Lord Mayor's Show



Cute Christmas at Kew // Daily Express



## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust

*Milly Thomas' one-woman show is a visceral take on suicide, depression and the people left behind. It's no wonder that this Edinburgh Fringe 2017 hit has transferred to London yet again.*

## ARTS

## DUST



**Where?** Trafalgar Studios  
**When?** Now – 20th October  
**How Much?** £23

## Vaishnavi

## Gnananathan

Arts Editor

Her sadness has become unbearable, so Alice decides to end it. She takes her own life. But this isn't where her story ends. We encounter Alice on the morgue slab, in her first moments of 'death' as she realises she is still here, a ghost, watching her body and the people she has left behind. This is the concept of *Dust* – a one-woman play, written and performed by Milly Thomas, in a stark, stripped back, bare-bones production that has transferred to London following an award-winning run at Edinburgh Fringe in 2017.

Alice watches her family come to see her in the morgue and, eventually, the reverberating effects of her death on her parents, brother, boyfriend and best friend, Ellie. This is interspersed with key moments from Alice's life: the day she started contemplating death, the day Ellie tearfully pleads with her to move back in with her parents for her own good. We're taken on a tour of moments that help us understand the life Alice was living prior to death, and how depression

had impacted her. Despite this, there isn't an 'origin story' for her depression, no abuse or trauma that explains the source of her problems. This is one of the best aspects of the writing in *Dust*. It rings true to the reality of depression as something often inexplicable. Thomas keeps the focus clearly on the effects of depression, rather than searching for some elusive cause.

Alice is witty and sharp, switching between funny one-liners and stark emotional commentary. She's frank, talking about her body, her desires, with an openness that borders on the vulgar. It's clear that Thomas is as skilled a writer as she is a per-

**"Dust isn't a play that wants you to watch it, it's one that demands you give yourself over and experience it whole"**

former. This doesn't mean that Alice is likeable, though, far from it. At her funeral her brother Robbie describes her as "selfish", "self-absorbed", "the kind of person who puts empty containers back in the fridge". This is perhaps one of the most insightful parts of the play and one where it truly hits home that Thomas has drawn from real, lived ex-



Milly Thomas as Alice // Richard Southgate

periences; the unpleasant truth is that this is what mental illness can and will do – bring out the worst in someone, the selfish, the self-obsessed, the destroyer of relationships. Alice is also immature. From the context it's clear she's a woman in her 20s, with university well behind. But her fascination with sex and her immature attitude to her boyfriend seems almost adolescent. It's hard to tell if this is a flaw – the shock value of a woman obsessed with sex and bodies, who talks about it in the frankest of terms. Or is it a symptom of Alice's depression, a previously vibrant and sexual woman who is now incapable of thinking of bodies in a way that is not cerebral, dominated by a morbid fascination with the most visceral aspects of human existence. Thomas' writing doesn't really make this clear and that's a pity as it is really

the one thing in *Dust* that is occasionally jarring.

Milly Thomas is fantastic, as Alice and as everyone around her. She transitions seamlessly between characters, somehow capturing the individual essence of each one through tone of voice or posture. There are moments when it becomes confusing and a little unclear who is speaking, but surprisingly this doesn't detract from the play. It just makes the moments and the characters bleed into each other in a way that puts us closer to Alice's state of mind. Thomas is a master of accents and is flawless as Ellie, Alice's Scottish best friend.

The production is flawless. The intimate space of Trafalgar Studios' Studio Two is perfect for *Dust*. The audience are mere feet from the action

and it all feels so close and so visceral. This is perfect for the subject matter, and for the nature of the play as a one-woman entity. You're so close to the action that there's no way to hide, to step away from its emotional impact. And you don't want to. *Dust* isn't a play that wants you to watch it, it's one that demands you give yourself over and experience it whole. Anne Reid's set is simple: a stainless steel morgue table, mirrors, and Thomas, dressed only in a bodysuit, her hair pulled back in a tight ponytail. It's hard to overstate the impact of this pared down set. It enhances the intensity of Thomas' performance, and gives her the full attention of the audience.

As Thomas states in her closing speech to the audience, we are living in an epidemic of mental illness, with suicide, in

particular, impacting more young people than ever before. *Dust* is both illustration and commentary of this and is certainly a must-watch, and not just for those who

**"Certainly a must-watch... essential viewing to grasp part of our current cultural climate"**

have suffered the effects of mental illness, or those eager to help struggling friends; no, it is essential viewing in order to grasp part of our current cultural climate. An emotional ride, yes, but one that's very much worth taking.

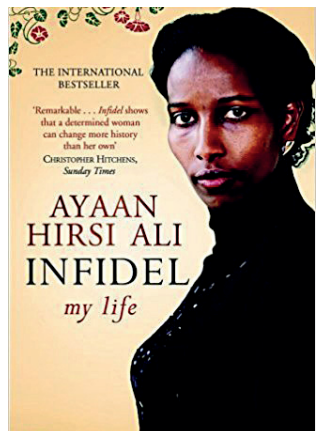


## BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Ayaan Hirsi Ali: The woman who is not afraid to speak

*In her first autobiography, activist, feminist and former politician Ayaan Hirsi Ali writes about her life growing up from Somalia to Holland. *Infidel: My Life* charts her personal journey and relationship with Islam, to the founder of AHA foundation today, which promotes liberty from honor killings, female genital mutilation, and forced marriages.*



## BOOKS

Peter Shatwell

Books Writer

One morning in Amsterdam, on November 2nd 2004, a man wakes up, has his breakfast, and hops onto his old black bicycle to head to work at his film production company. Meanwhile, another man lies in wait in a doorway, carrying two knives and a handgun. As the cyclist trundles down the Linnaeusstraat in central Amsterdam, the other man approaches, pulls out his gun, and shoots. He shoots again. And again. The cyclist, now wounded, runs to the other side of the road to escape, but collapses at the road's edge.

The gunman follows in pursuit, and stands over the sputtering, bleeding man. Ignoring his desper-

ate pleas for mercy, the gunman shoots him four more times. He then takes out a large knife, grasps the wounded cyclist's body by the head, and saws so deeply into his throat that it almost decapitates him. Finally, with his other knife, he stabs a five-page letter onto the dead man's chest before fleeing the scene. This was the brutal murder of Theo van Gogh by Mohammed Bouyeri. The letter called for the death of Ayaan Hirsi Ali.

*Infidel* is Ayaan Hirsi Ali's first autobiography, and van Gogh's murder was a catastrophic apogee of her life's trajectory up to that point. Born in 1969 in Mogadishu, she writes about her youth growing up in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. She describes how she was forcibly excised at age 5 by her grandmother, how she was repeatedly beaten by her mother growing up, and how an Islamic teacher once fractured her skull for disobedience. At age 23, she fled to Holland, away from an arranged marriage by her father.

While in Holland, she achieved a political science degree from Leiden University. She recognised the terrible threat of Islamic extremism following 9/11, and was driven towards Dutch politics, eventually becoming an MP

in 2003. She wanted to put the plight of Muslim women on the political agenda, as well as address problems of integration and adoption of Dutch values amongst immigrant communities. Many of her colleagues thought she was exaggerating or over-sensationalising these problems.

In response to this, Hirsi Ali approached the minister of justice, Piet Donner, to register how many honour killings took place in Holland each year. He agreed to a 'pilot project' where they examined two (out of a possible twenty-five)

police regions. Between October 2004 and May 2005, in just those two regions, eleven Muslim girls were killed by their families. That was more than one a month. Parliament was shocked. For these girls, just being seen with a boy, especially a Dutch boy, was

**"She wanted to put the plight of Muslim women on the political agenda, and address problems of integration among immigrants"**

a death sentence. Now, honour-related homicides in Holland are registered as such.

A common running

thread in *Infidel* is the power of belief. Hirsi Ali was brought up a devout Muslim, wearing full-body Islamic dress at school, and describes in great detail her slow and arduous personal journey in leaving Islam. She made the journey moving from the world of faith to the world of reason, from religious dogma to Enlightenment values, from the world of forced excision and marriage to the world of sexual freedom. She writes in the epilogue to *Infidel*: "Having made that journey, I know that one of those worlds is simply better than the other."

She is a fascinating, brilliant woman, and is now a true hero championing women's rights, human rights, and liberal values. She founded The AHA Foundation in 2007, which aims to protect women and girls in the U.S. from harmful Islamic cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, honour violence, and forced marriage.

Despite her hugely positive influence on the

world, some Westerners still refuse to listen to her views on Islam, and Muslims around the world have called for multiple fatwas on her head. Fears for her life reached a startling reality following her collaboration with the Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, and his subsequent murder in 2004.

**"A common running thread in *Infidel* is the power of belief"**

The savage public execution of Theo van Gogh by Mohammed Bouyeri was a cataclysmic event for the people of Holland. What was van Gogh's and Hirsi Ali's crime? They criticised the treatment of women under Islam. For criticising an idea, in one of the most free and liberal Western societies in the world, they had been sentenced to death.



Ayaan Hirsi Ali // David Sandison



# BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## her mind

They had created a short, 10-minute, artistic film titled *Submission: Part One*. There was never a part two. The film was about the relation between the individual and Allah. In Islam, this relationship is one of total submission (indeed, 'submission' is one of the possible translations of the Arabic word 'Islam'). Worship of Allah requires unquestioning obedience to the rules as declared in the Qu'ran. With the film, Hirsi Ali wanted to shift this attitude more towards having a dialogue with Allah.

**“For criticising an idea, in one of the most free and liberal Western societies in the world, they had been sentenced to death”**

In the film, a single veiled actress stands in the centre of a room, surrounded by four Muslim women at its corners. Each of the women have been subject to different forms of abuse, and relevant verses from the Qu'ran (4:34, 2:222, and 24:2) are painted on their bodies. After reciting the 'Sura Fatiha' (which every Muslim is required to recite first, at every prayer), the central actress, rather than bowing down, raises her head. Through her, the four Muslim women's stories are told.

One woman has been flogged for falling in love. Another laments being



Ayaan Hirsi Ali is the founder of AHA Foundation, which promotes liberty for all // AHA Foundation

forced to submit sexually to her husband, whom she was also forced to marry, for the Qu'ran says: "When your wives have purified themselves, ye may approach them in any manner, time or place." The third woman is beaten by her husband at least once a week. And the final is a young girl, confined to her own home, who has been raped by her uncle. She is now pregnant and will be punished for having sex outside marriage.

By creating the film, Hirsi Ali wanted to make it difficult for people to turn a blind eye to this problem. She wanted Westerners to stop deluding themselves that Islam is only about peace and tolerance. She wanted to illustrate that the pun-

ishment and oppression of women is mandated in the Qu'ran, and it is not simply a gendered issue. The Qu'ran legitimises culpable males' actions so that they feel no shame and aren't challenged by their conscience or their community. The strict interpretation of the Qu'ran causes intolerable misery for women. All feminists should be outraged by this.

I list some clarifying statements here. First-off, there is a difference between Muslims the people, and Islam the belief system. It is nobody's intention to demonise a group of people by pointing out flaws in the belief system. A belief system, like any set of ideas, should be open to critical inquiry.

Secondly, Muslims are not one particular race, and Islam is most certainly not a race, so its criticism is by definition not racist.

Thirdly, not all ways of living are equal, and it is not bigoted to question differences between Western and Islamic culture that incur undue suffering, especially towards women.

However, Western feminists appear to have misplaced their priorities, as have many liberal elites. Throughout *Infidel*, Hirsi Ali makes it clear that various specific tenets of Islam are antithetical to modern civil society (as have many others, including Sam Harris, Douglas Murray, and Christopher Hitchens, for example). But anyone who states this fact, however well-in-

tioned, is often swiftly met with accusations of racism and bigotry. This is not a helpful response if we wish to make progress on this issue. It is, apparently, now

**“Ayaan Hirsi Ali's story is moving, riveting, and consciousness-enhancing”**

of more importance for Westerners to hide behind a shallow pretence of tolerance, than it is to look honestly at this real clash of cultures. Tolerance is

a virtue, but it needs to work both ways.

We need more people to be able to think and speak clearly about these topics, and not have to fear for their lives in doing so. Hirsi Ali herself still lives with round-the-clock protection. No-one should have to do this for speaking their mind. The issues inherent in Islam should not be untouchable.

I think everyone can and should benefit from reading *Infidel*. Ayaan Hirsi Ali's story is moving, riveting, and consciousness-enhancing. She writes with heart, wit, intent, and a great perspicacity of the most important and compelling social issues of our time.



# FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## 101 Ways to eat Pasta

Follow Felix Food Editors Eva and Julia for another foodie foray!

### FOOD

**Eva Tadros**

Food Editor

**Julia Dąbrowska**

Food Editor

So you've got through your first week of uni madness - the wild balance of parties, events, and socials with possible introductory lectures or just straight up normal classes. Food this week has probably just been frozen pizza, toast, and of course all the sweets from Freshers' Fair because who has time to cook? We'd like to say it gets easier, but for the next week or two you'll still probably still be buying library cafe sandwiches or meal deals from Tesco... but fear not - there is an alternative. The one food that is super easy to prepare, fills you up well (essential for priming your stomach for all the juice you'll be having of course) and tastes amazing - pasta! But rather than just topping it with nothing or 99p tomato concentrate, here's a few better, more interesting ways to eat your pasta:

### THE CLASSICS

#### 1

#### Bolognese

You've probably all heard of this classic, and we're not surprised. With how easy it is to whip up, and how delicious the results are, no wonder it's a family favourite!

**Pasta of Choice:** We recommend spaghetti or if you're feeling more adventurous, some macaroni.

**What you'll need:** Onions, carrots, garlic

clove, red wine (optional), chopped tomatoes, minced beef & herbs to season.

**Our favourite recipe:** Jamie Oliver's Spaghetti Bolognese

#### 2

#### Carbonara

Another family favourite. Though a little richer with all the cream and cheese involved (yummm, we know!), this dish is just as quick and easy, and jam-packed with even more flavour.

**Pasta of Choice:** Spaghetti or tagliatelle.

**What you'll need:**

Eggs, pancetta ham/bacon, double cream, parmesan cheese, butter & 2 garlic cloves. Salt, pepper and italian herbs to season.

**Our favourite recipe:** BBC Good Food online, titled "Learn To Make Spaghetti Carbonara"

#### 3

#### Mac & Cheese

Now this is THE hangover food. Cheese, pasta and an extra topping of deliciously golden breadcrumbs, Mac & Cheese is the ideal stomach lining before (and after) a night out.

**Pasta of Choice:** Has to be macaroni.

**What you'll need:** cheese, breadcrumbs, butter, milk, flour & seasonings.

**Our favourite recipe:** Recipe Tin Eats' "Baked Mac and Cheese"

### UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

#### 1

#### Butter Noodles

These are absolutely addictive. No, we mean like really A D D I C T I V E. You'll be out of your seat reaching for more before your plate is even over! But fear not - we've chosen a recipe that makes a hefty number of servings so you'll be absolutely fine for that.

**Pasta of Choice:** (Wide) egg noodles.

**What you'll need:** Chicken broth, bouillon cube, butter, parmesan, seasonings and parsley.

**Our favourite recipe:** Spicy Southern Kitchen's Buttered Noodles

#### 2

#### Quattro Formaggi

Yet another dish loaded with cheese. We think

cheese is the solution to all our problems in life, to be honest. Relationship problems? Have some cheese. Feeling hungover? Have some cheese. Too much work to do? Have some cheese. Your pasta is too plain? Yep, you've guessed it - have some cheese!

**Pasta of Choice:** Penne.

**What you'll need:** Parmesan, Gorgonzola, Gruyère, Taleggio (or any 4 cheeses!), whole milk, salt, pepper, nutmeg and any other seasonings.

**Our favourite recipe:** The Spruce Eats' Italian Four-Cheese Pasta

#### 3

#### Fettuccine Alfredo

This yummy, buttery bowl of goodness is

undoubtedly going to melt your heart (and your tummies!). The flavour created by the combination of garlic, cream and butter is to-die-for and the thick consistency of the recipe makes it a heart-warming, filling favourite.

**Pasta of Choice:** Fettuccine.

**What you'll need:** Butter, heavy cream, cheese, garlic salt, pepper.

**Our favourite recipe:** All Recipes' To Die For Fettuccine Alfredo Recipe

### SPICE UP YOUR LIFE (AND YOUR PASTA)

Pasta // Pixabay

#### BONUS

#### Puttanesca

Puttanesca translates to "lady of the night" in Italian, and though we're not entirely sure why this dish has adopted that name, we're assuming it's because of its hot, fiery nature.

**Pasta of Choice:** Spaghetti for the win.

**What you'll need:**

Chilli, basil, cheese, garlic, tomatoes, olives, anchovies, pepper, olive oil & herbs.

**Our favourite recipe:** Delia Online's Pasta Puttanesca (Tart's Spaghetti)







## Autumn Elections 18



### Nudge a Friend

Know someone who's passionate about improving the student experience? Perhaps they'd make a great Rep - give them a nudge to stand for one of the positions now open in the Autumn Elections. Just go to [imperialcollegeunion.com/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.com/elections), fill in their information, and we'll contact them to let them know someone thinks they should stand.

The nudge-a-friend feature is part of efforts to find the best possible candidates to take on the role of representing our collective interests to College. We're electing Academic Reps, Wellbeing Reps, and Representatives to Council, as well as Constituent Union committee leaders and LGBT+ Officer. Reps and Officers influence the student learning experience, help peers access support, represent areas of study at Union Council, or ensure under-represented groups are heard.

Nominations close at noon, Wednesday 10 October, while voting opens at noon, Monday 15 October. Stand now or nudge someone at [imperialcollegeunion.com/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.com/elections).

### Register for Workshops

In keeping with our mission to help every Imperial student develop their full potential, Imperial College Union continues to offer free skills workshops to complement the academic curriculum.

The six skills workshops, offered through Imperial Plus, are open to all students and are free to attend. They're a great opportunity to explore topics related to leadership, management and self-awareness, all of which are a boon to our employment prospects.

The two-hour workshops are delivered by a team of Student Trainers in South Kensington and Charing Cross. Space is limited so sign up quickly.

Imperial Plus is only one plank of the Student Development offer at the Union. To sign up for workshops or learn more, visit [imperialcollegeunion.org/studentdevelopment](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/studentdevelopment).



### Join Liberation & Community zones

Imperial College London is one of the most diverse student communities in the United Kingdom - our Liberation & Community zones aim to ensure we're as inclusive as possible. We're inviting students to sign up so we can tackle that objective together. There are eight zones - each representing a community of Imperial students, with an elected Rep to speak up about collective issues of concern, plan awareness campaigns or just bring students together.

The zones are Black & Minority Ethnic, LGBT+, Disabilities, Gender Equality, Mental Health, International, Interfaith, and Ethics & Environment. If you identify with any or are an ally, sign up at [imperialcollegeunion.org/liberation](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/liberation)

### Black History Month

We're celebrating Black History Month this October. Get involved by contacting our BME Officer, David Tyoember, at [icu-bme@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:icu-bme@imperial.ac.uk) to make suggestions or find out what's on.

Black History Month is a national celebration of peoples of African heritage and their rich contribution to UK and global history. We're celebrating at Imperial with, among other plans, African and Caribbean dishes in select food outlets throughout the next few weeks. Also look out for Imperial events throughout the month.

Get in touch with David to find out more.



# Your Union Events

Friday 5 October



**6** October, Saturday

**Brunch & Live Music**  
FiveSixEight | 12:00 - 15:00

**Postgrad Speed Meet**  
h-bar | 18:00 - 20:00

**Postgrad 90s vs 00s**  
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

**7** October, Sunday

**Brunch & Live Music**  
FiveSixEight | 12:00 - 15:00

**Board Games**  
FiveSixEight | 15:00 - 18:00

**8** October, Monday

**Comedy**  
Metric | 20:00 - 23:00

**9** October, Tuesday

**Super Quiz**  
FiveSixEight | 19:30

**Jazz & Cocktails**  
Metric | 19:00 - 23:00

**The Quiz**  
Reynolds | 18:00 - 20:00

**10** October, Wednesday

**CSP Wednesday**  
Beit Bars | 19:00 - 01:00

**Club Reynolds**  
Reynolds | 19:00 - 01:00

**11** October, Thursday

**Pub Quiz**  
h-bar | 19:30 - 21:30

**12** October, Friday

**Common People**  
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

**PGI Friday**  
h-bar | 19:00 - 23:00

**Replay Friday**  
Reynolds | 19:00 - 23:00

**13** October, Saturday

**Open Mic Night**  
Union Bar | 19:00 - 22:00

For tickets and event details, go to



[imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on)



# GAMES

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## October Gaming Highlights

October may be about Halloween, but you may get a fright if you miss some of these releases.

### GAMES

#### Connor Winzar

Games Editor

#### Anthony Onwuli

Games Editor

#### [Forza Horizon 4](#)

[- Xbox One, PC -](#)

[October 2nd:](#)

Another fantastic addition to the series, Forza Horizon 4 steers clear from its traditional setting, with the game being set in an open world version of the United Kingdom as opposed to America. With a dynamic weather system, beautiful environment and over 450 cars to choose from, this game is perfect for car fanatics.

#### [Fists of the](#)

[North Star: Lost](#)

[Paradise - PS4 -](#)

[October 2nd:](#)

The best opportunity to perfect your impression of "omae wa mou shindeiru" as you rampage through hordes of opponents like a martial arts juggernaut, in this Yakuza series style game. Lost Paradise is filled to the brim with fantastic and bizarre mini games, some involving our muscle bound star mixing cocktails with a martial arts twist as well as running a cabaret others a Mad Max style death race.

#### [Mega Man 11 -](#)

[PS4, Xbox One,](#)

[Switch, PC -](#)

[October 2nd:](#)

The Nefarious Dr. Wily has to be stopped with his evil robots causing havoc yet again; suiting up for the job once more is Mega Man, back with new gear and skills. With great ratings across the board the series continues as strong as ever with this fantastic instalment.

#### [Assassin's Creed](#)

[Odyssey- PS4,](#)

[Xbox One, PC -](#)

[October 5th:](#)

I don't know what board room meeting created this masterpiece, but they need to happen more. Now taking place in the world of Greek Mythology an assassin takes the phrase "Everything is permitted. Nothing is true" to the extreme, as you slay mythical beasts along with battalions of Spartans.

**"The best opportunity to perfect your impression of "omae wa mou shindeiru""**

#### [Super Mario](#)

[Party - Switch -](#)

[October 5th:](#)

Mario party is now coming to the Switch, meaning that there is a whole new way to lose friends on the latest Nintendo console. The plus side being that you can still relish in the immeasurable feeling of

satisfaction that is victory whilst demolishing your friend's self respect in various mini games. This is a party you don't want to miss out on.

#### [Call of Duty:](#)

[Black Ops 4 -](#)

[PS4, Xbox One,](#)

[PC - October](#)

[12th:](#)

Another year, another Call of Duty, but this year Treyarch are looking to change the direction of the franchise. The biggest thing about this installment is Blackout: COD's attempt to move into the Battle Royale space with their new game mode hosting a collection of some of the best Black Ops maps.

#### [The World Ends](#)

[with You: Final](#)

[remix - Switch -](#)

[October 12th:](#)

Taking you back to the concrete jungle of Shibuya, the World Ends With You: Final Remix is a groovy beat em up music sensation with a fantastic art style and Jet Set Radio style music. Having been developed by the same team that created the Kingdom Heart Series, you know you're going to be in for a good time.

#### [Valkyria](#)

[Chronicles -](#)

[Switch - October](#)

[16th:](#)

The original entry in the tactical role-playing series, Valkyria Chronicles finally makes its way onto the Nintendo Switch! Get ready to command your troops on the go to repel the invasion of the East European Alliance as you follow Lieutenant Welkin Gunther of Squad 7.

#### [Warriors Orochi](#)

[4 - PS4, Xbox](#)

[One, Switch, PC -](#)

[October 19th:](#)

With over 170 characters to choose from, look forward to ploughing through entire battlefields of enemies with unique special attacks whilst on horseback in this action extravaganza of a game.

#### [Dark souls:](#)

[Remastered -](#)

[Switch - October](#)

[19th:](#)

The critically acclaimed, genre defining dungeon crawler has been remastered, so you can shout "It's hard" or "I can't take this" on the go. Hopefully your Switch is insured for the inevitable moments of rage as you attempt to "Git Gud".

#### [Lego DC super](#)

[villains - PS4,](#)

[Xbox one, PC,](#)

[Switch - October](#)

[19th:](#)

A refreshing change

of pace from playing the standard protagonist, finally the villains get their spotlight in Lego DC Super Villains, featuring a massive cast of characters and an open world it's clear this game is made of some strong material ;)

#### [Soul Calibur VI -](#)

[PS4, Xbox One,](#)

[PC - October](#)

[19th:](#)

You can forget about the existence of Soul Calibur V and experience the Soul Calibur series anew with the reboot Soul Calibur VI. This instalment in the series has a flair for nostalgia, with the return of your favourite classic characters with their original movesets alongside new and improved fighting mechanics.

**"It's time to saddle up and head onto the open range"**

#### [Just Dance 2019](#)

[- PS4, Xbox One,](#)

[Switch - October](#)

[23th:](#)

A brand-new addition to the practicing for Metric series! Just kidding, no-one goes to Metric. Be prepared to impress your friends and chirps as you manage to learn all the lyrics and dance moves to ABBA's Dancing Queen

(looking at you Theresa May).

#### [My Hero One's](#)

[Justice - PS4,](#)

[Xbox One,](#)

[Switch, PC -](#)

[October 26th:](#)

The hit anime and manga series 'My Hero Academia' finally makes its first video game debut in the west, with My Hero's One Justice. Play as your favourite heroes and villains in this fighting game as you "GO BEYOND" and "PLUS ULTRA" your enemies into oblivion.

#### [Red Dead](#)

[Redemption 2](#)

[- PS4, Xbox One -](#)

[October 26th](#)

It's time to saddle up and head onto the open range in this long-awaited sequel to its amazing predecessor. Set 12 years before the events of the original game, you play Arthur Morgan who oversees a gang that includes a young John Marston. Some of the new features being the ability to play the entire game in first person as well as other quirkier ones such as the ability to gain or lose weight and bond with your horse.



# INVESTMENT

[icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk)


## The Rise of Private Equity

### INVESTMENT

**Tom Alston**

Investment Editor  
Editor in Chief ICIS

Before the financial crisis, private equity investors followed closely the “buyout” manual pioneered by Henry Kravis and George Roberts when they founded the firm KKR in the 1970’s. Essentially, they would acquire companies whole, then they would cut costs and load them with low interest rate debt. For a while this was very successful. Earlier this year the private equity firm Blackstone sold its 15.8 million shares in Hilton Worldwide Holdings, bringing an end to an 11-year relationship that ended up as the most profitable private equity deal on record (\$14 billion in profit meaning the firm tripled its investment). Blackstone took the hotel private in 2007, with the firm putting up \$6.5 billion of equity. The firm later suffered during the financial crisis but after some more cash and restructuring of Hilton’s debt, Blackstone took the company public again in 2013. The shares had more than doubled at the time of the sale. Despite this, many critics said this method was comparable to cash-rich private equity firms playing a risky game of musical chairs.

Now the biggest firms, including Blackstone, have changed course joining a new breed of lightly regulated “alternative” money managers that have filled the void as banks are forced to retreat from risky deals. Unlike mainstream banks, which are dependent on deposits and short-term funding, these funds raise capital from long-term institutional investors such as insurance and pension funds. They provide a crucial source of credit, sometimes in very unconventional ways, for companies that have too much risk to tap into the bond market. In 2013 Codere, a Spanish gaming firm, faced imminent bankruptcy. Its bonds were trading at just over half-face value. Blackstone offered it a cheap \$100m loan, with a catch. Blackstone had bought credit derivatives on Codere’s debt that would pay out about \$19 million if they defaulted on a bond payment. So Codere delayed a payment by a couple of days to prompt a “technical default”. Consequently, Blackstone got its pay-out and Codere lived to fight another day. The investors who sold Blackstone credit derivatives had essentially bet that Codere was going to live up to its bond payments. Without the loan, that most likely would have been the case

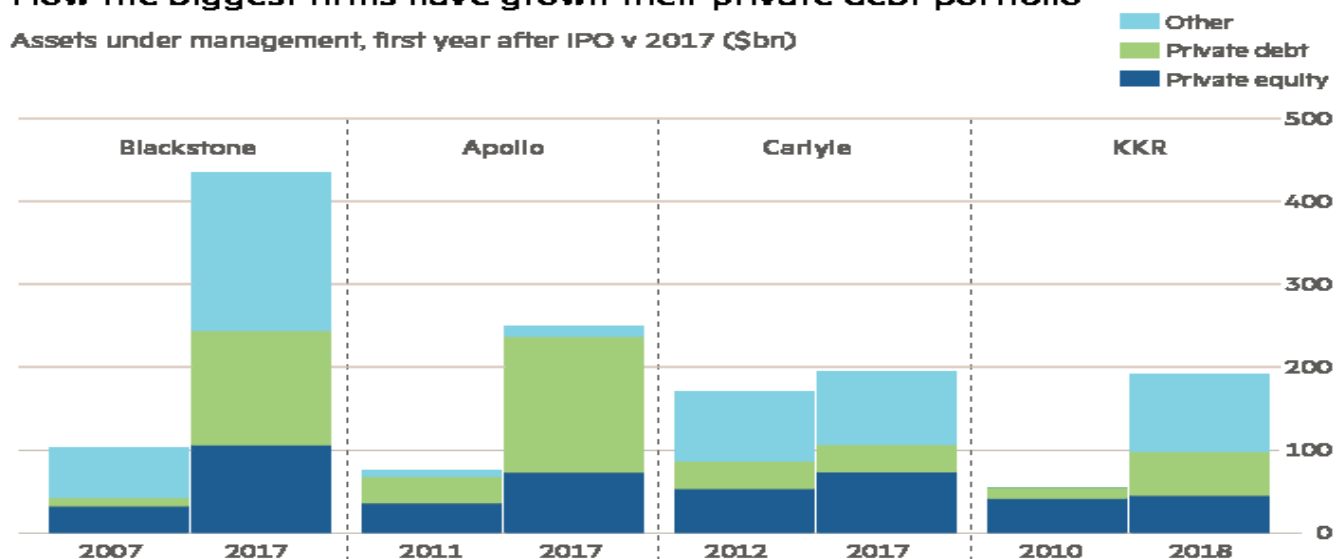
out. One of the credit default swap sellers, Solus Asset Management, a hedge fund, was denied an injunction to stop the technical default. Even though America’s Commodity Futures Trading Commission suggest technical default may count as market manipulation, the company falls under the Securities and Exchange Commission, which has said nothing. Credit default swaps were intended as a hedge against losses from defaults, not a bet on whether a firm defaults on its liabilities. However, it is this alternative thinking that has led to private equity firms being so successful. Funds are raising more capital than they can spend. According to Thomson Reuters, buyout volumes were up 27% year on year in 2017 and can be expected to accelerate this year, with a record \$1.1 trillion of cash pledged by investors. “The private equity fundraising environment has been extraordinary” says Alison Mass, global head of the financial and strategic investors group at Goldman Sachs. “We are in frequent dialogue with our largest clients

**“Buyout volumes were up 27% year on year in 2017 and can be expected to accelerate this year, with a record \$1.1 trillion pledge”**

and those investors would still have paid for their error. Similarly, in 2017 Blackstone bought \$33 million worth of credit derivatives on Hovnanian, an American construction firm. It again offered cheap financing on the condition that it trigger those derivatives to pay

### How the biggest firms have grown their private debt portfolio

Assets under management, first year after IPO v 2017 (\$bn)



Sources: FT research; company filings  
© FT

Is the private equity industry overinflated? // *Financial Times*

regarding targets in excess of \$10 billion”. The main propelling factor for the boom is the same one that fuelled the industry before the 2008 crisis: cheap debt and huge wall of cash caused by the huge amounts of bond buying by the central banks, keeping rates down. The size of recent deals is beginning to surpass those pre-crisis peaks with companies increasing their dependence on debt financing.

What is more worrying is with all this unspent capital, private equity firms are now beginning to eye up buying banks. With Blackstone’s €1 billion purchase last week of a 60% stake in Luminor, a Baltic lender whose return on equity lags behind most other Nordic banks, economists are worried this marks the start of a series of acquisitions. Since both sectors are highly leveraged boosting one with the other would be a very bad idea, a clear example being the spiralling levels of leverage that caused the financial crash a decade ago.

So should investors return to the asset management industry for capital returns? Interest-

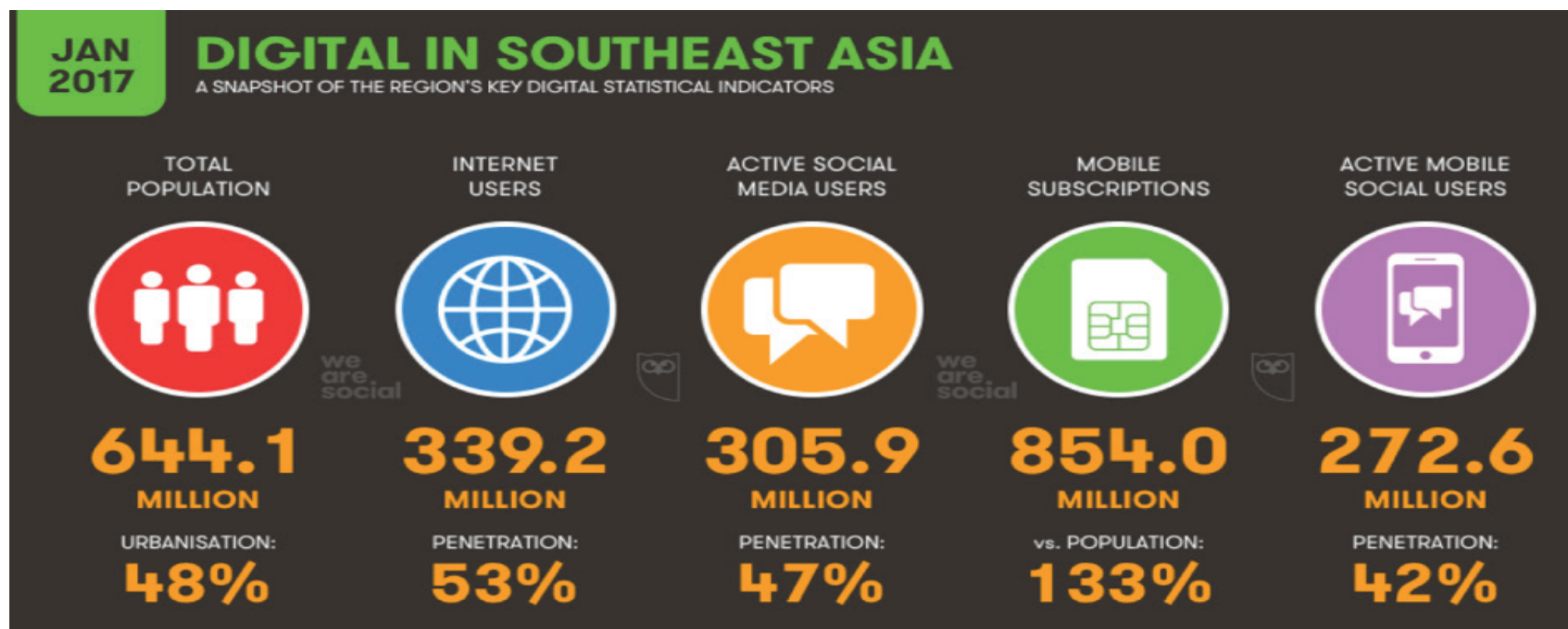
ingly, Larry Fink who runs BlackRock (the world’s largest asset manager with \$6 trillion of assets) was the colleague of Stephen Schwarzman who runs Blackstone (the largest private equity firm), until the two companies split in 1995. Yet they both have very different views on investment and management strategies. BlackRock stands for computing power, low fees and scale. It mainly sells passive funds (including ETFs) to institutions and the masses. Meanwhile, Blackstone represents a combination of brain power, high fees and specialisation. It uses leverage and changes in the management of firms to make them more valuable, clients being the institutional and the rich. Measured by sales, profits and cash returns to shareholders, BlackRock is on average 31% larger, raising seven times the amount of net client money cumulatively over the past decade. Additionally, BlackRock made roughly \$2.9 trillion of profits over the past 10 years compared with \$202 billion for Blackstone’s clients and BlackRock is valued on 25 times profit,

versus 11 for Blackstone, suggesting that investors prefer its simple structure, thinking it will grow faster. Having said this, the passive funds BlackRock provide are highly correlated with the overall stock-market, faring well in the recent bull run on the S&P 500, but a slight crash may put the firm in serious trouble. As well as this, although BlackRock has swathes of power in corporate America, holding voting rights in a large number of large cap companies, the more it uses its power to influence these firms, the more regulators will scrutinise it.

This is partly why investors are now seeking alternative investment strategies, such as private equity firms. Even though asset managers can provide stable returns, it is becoming harder and harder to generate alpha (gauges the performance of an investment against a market index or benchmark which is considered to represent the market’s movement as a whole). Therefore, institutional investors are looking to more creative schemes to give them that edge. But you can’t beat the market forever.



# INVESTMENT

[icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk)


Snapshot of the region's key digital statistical indicators // Wearesocial

## Venture Capital & Startups in Southeast Asia

*Despite the ongoing trade war tensions in Asia, there is large growth potential for startups as venture capital firms eye up the region.*

### INVESTMENT

**Ryan Tham Ju Rong**

*Investment Society Member*

As venture capital ecosystems go, Silicon Valley, Europe and China can be considered mature VC economies. Hence it makes sense for a VC firm to proceed to more underdeveloped, underserved markets to unearth and polish hidden gems that may, given time and guidance grow into the next Facebook or Uber. Southeast Asia, or more specifically the ASEAN region is one of these regions. Demographics is a key reason this small region might soon be more attractive to invest in than others. With a growing population of 644.1 million, with 70% under the age of 40, a large workforce and consumer base remains to be harnessed (We are

Social, 2017). The region is poised to leapfrog even China in terms of tech adoption, with internet users making up 53% of the Southeast Asian population. Southeast Asia is projected to be the fastest growing internet market, rivalled only by India. This is fueling a booming e-commerce

**“The region is a prime destination for technology giants”**

sector which has produced at least 2 unicorns, namely the Lazada Group and Tokiopedia, both of which were subject to investments of more than \$1 billion by the Alibaba Group.

Geography might also contribute to the rise of SEA's startup scene. Being

in proximity to key trade routes and key Asian financial centers, the region is a prime destination for technology giants and internet players. Investors have already poured mouthwatering amounts of cash into the region's most promising startups across a diverse range of verticals, from logistics to gaming. With the trade war ongoing, some firms

have opted to relocate production to Southeast Asia (Bloomberg, 2018), which will boost local economies and stimulate growth. These efforts are yielding fruit, notably in the form of 10 unicorns, with most based in Indonesia, the region's largest market. This might be a small number compared to its counterparts in larger economies, but

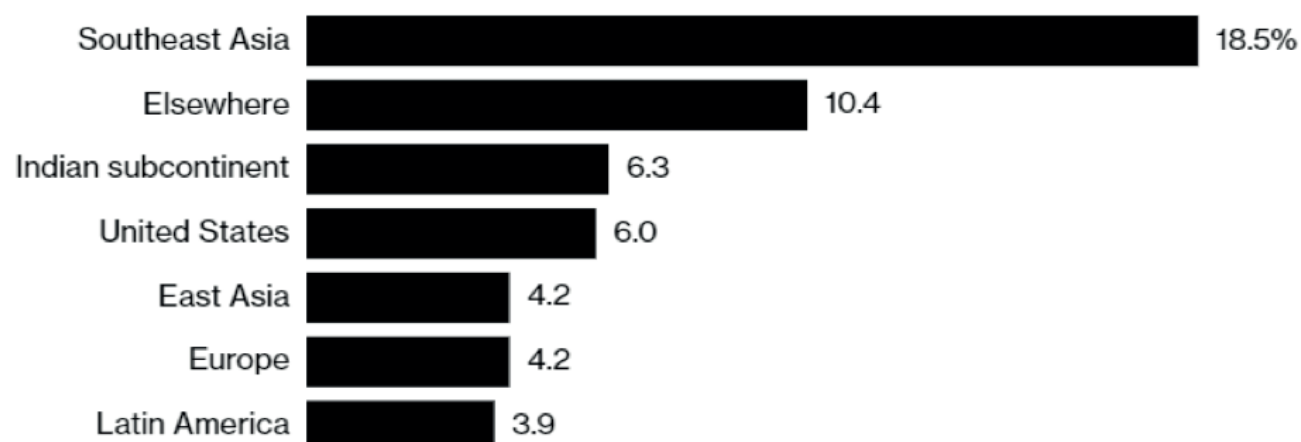
the potential for growth is large. VC funds in the region, especially early stage funds are facing increasingly stiff competition. Big players such as Sequoia Capital have made venture investments into the region, facing off against smaller regional funds (TechCrunch, 2018).

The future is bright for Southeast Asia. However,

some challenges remain, such as the lack of unified regulations and fragmented markets, with diverse consumer patterns taking hold in different nations. Potential political instability might also spook investors, but with many parts of the world facing similar upheavals it might be a risk investors are willing to take.

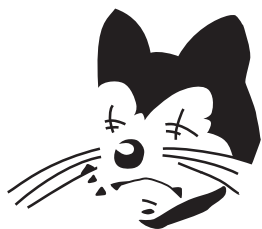
### Open for Business

U.S. firms in China that have moved production abroad, or are considering it, have Southeast Asia at top of list



Southeast Asia favoured by US firms // Bloomberg





# Hangman



Freshers Fair // Imperial College London

## The Freshers are coming!

### HANGMAN

**Negafelix**  
Editor-in-Chief

*The annual infestation of Freshers is upon us*

Last week marked the annual descent of the Freshers. The freshers have well and truly arrived and are making their presence felt. One keen fresher was even spotted having a set of professional photographs taken with their Family in Central Library.

After moving into their new halls over the weekend, the freshers

took to the streets of South Kensington, looking super cool with their shiny new lanyards draped around their necks, not too dissimilar to an emblazoned scarlet letter.

Imperial's Freshers' Fair took place on Tuesday. Freshers, it is the one day in the academic year that anybody on campus will be happy to see you and actually wants to talk to you... make the most of it. A weird man wearing a *Felix* cat head was spotted dancing and beckoning freshers over to his stall in a dark corner of the Beit quad. His current whereabouts are unknown.

Wednesday was a momentous day - it was the first Sports Night of

**"Freshers' Fair is the only day anyone is happy to see you... make the most of it"**

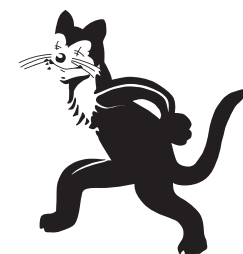
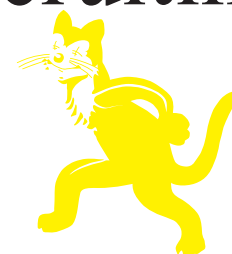
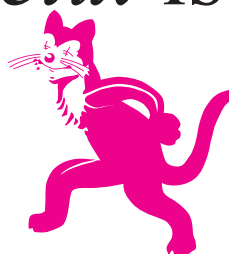
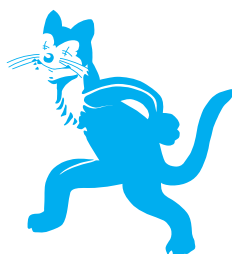
the year! Freshers got a taste of where they will

be regretting wasting their Wednesday nights for the foreseeable future. *Negafelix* actually came out to Sports Night, for purely journalistic purposes. Also in attendance was the former Deputy President (Finance & Services), sharking away. Freshers beware! Clearly the world of graduate unemployment didn't stand a chance in keeping him away from Metric for

a night. This was almost a surreal glimpse into the future for all Imperial students.



*Felix is recruiting!*





# HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

## Pandemonium ensues as *Felix* gets its first Crossword puzzle of the year horribly wrong

### HANGMAN

Negafelix  
Editor-in-Chief

Staff and students alike have since been spotted wandering the halls in search of a purpose in life

Imperial College London descended into a state of delirious panic as its student newspaper, *Felix*, screwed up its first crossword puzzle

of the year.

Chaos ensued as Imperial staff and students were left in need of a new raison d'être. Negafelix has it on good authority that Andy Djaba, the *Felix* editor, was inundated with angry messages from outraged readers and even received some death threats.

One such complaint read as follows: "Hi! Someone must have already told you, but there's a problem with the crossword this week?". How very astute of you, Sherlock!

Another reader contacted *Felix* saying, "Hi!

Felix! There seems to be a mistake with this week's crossword... By mistake I mean that the clues don't actually correspond with the actual grid. Very sad start to the term." Sad reacts only.

**"It's almost as if the Crossword isn't printed weekly.."**

Requests for a "substi-

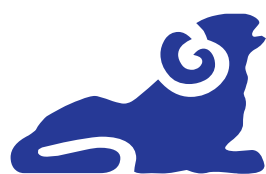


The Infamous Incorrect Crossword of *Felix* Issue 1668 // Anonymous Moaner

tute grid to make it work" were declined and met

with a polite "fuck off!" Relax, there's always next

week's issue...



**ARIES**

This week you're excited to be back at Imperial. After a long summer holed up in your room, you're glad to be back to being relatively sociable compared to everyone else.



**TAURUS**

You decide to relive your Fresher's experience by going to one of the Union's Fresher events. Funny, your entire final year course had the same thought, and yet not a Fresher in sight.



**GEMINI**

This week, you experience an unexplainable rush as you write your lit review 9 hours before the deadline. Time to Google 'masochism'.



**CANCER**

This week you've decided against renewing your Skydiving Society membership – dodging the taxis on Exhibition Road is enough of an extreme sport for you.



**LEO**

This week you try to take the initiative and book your Counselling session for early March. Might as well be prepared for the annual breakdown.



**VIRGO**

Remember how you swore to attend every lecture this year? Please explain how this week you're already 5 hours behind on your course. Looks like Panopto and chill is back on this year.



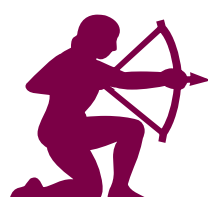
**LIBRA**

This week you're pissed at the new Freshers descending on the common room like the plague. They've even taken your spot in the corner! Time to exert your dominance!



**SCORPIO**

This week you take solace in the fact that if even your dancing skills are better than the Prime Minister's, maybe you'll turn out somewhat successful.



**SAGITTARIUS**

This week you try going skating in Hyde Park. Too bad you're uncoordinated because you end up crashing into a cyclist and nearly running over a tourist's child. Maybe try bowling?



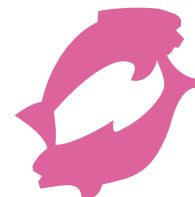
**CAPRICORN**

This week, in your attempt at multitasking, you accidentally send your lab report to Goldman Sachs instead of your finance CV. No spring week for you this year.



**AQUARIUS**

You treat yourself to the Black History Month menu in the QTR. The jerk rice leaves much to be desired.



**PISCES**

This week that nostalgic feeling of being back in London leaves in record time as you find yourself yet again at the back of the Fusion queue.



# **S** **T A N D**

Take charge of your Imperial  
experience - become a Rep

## **LGBT+ Officer**

**Academic  
Representative**

**Wellbeing  
Representative**

**Constituent  
Union Committees**

**Representative  
to Council**

Stand for these roles or learn more:

**[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)**

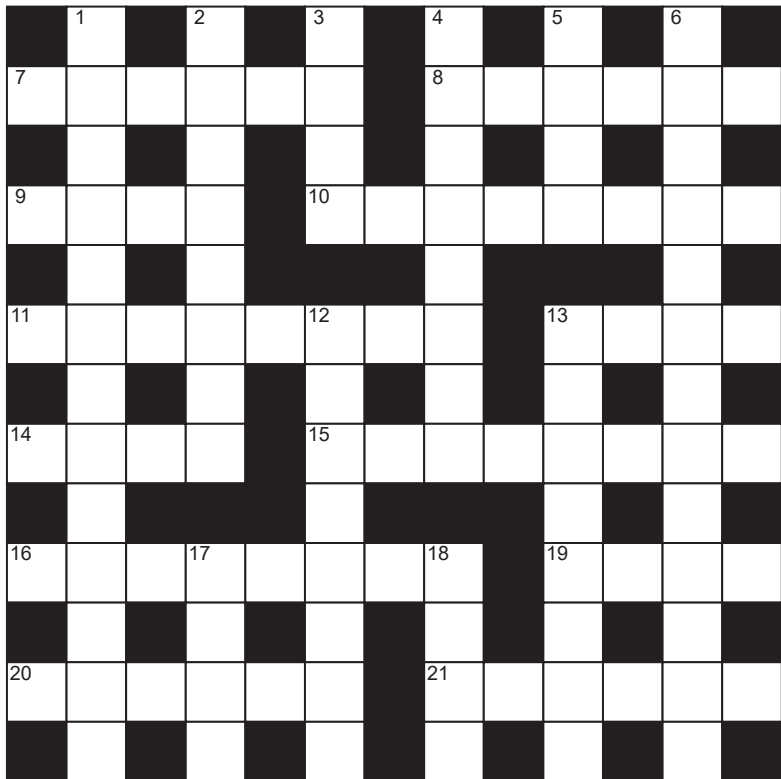
Nominations close noon, 10 October

Voting opens noon, 15 October



# PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



### CROSSWORD

#### Across

- 7. Sentinels (6)
- 8. Usually angrily delivered (6)
- 9. Fragment (4)
- 10. Pass (8)
- 11. Intrude (8)
- 13. Ploy (4)
- 14. Russian emperor (4)
- 15. Perfected (8)
- 16. Sharply detached, in music (8)
- 19. Negation (4)
- 20. Medicine size or frequency (6)
- 21. Your last one (6)

#### Down

- 1. Approval (13)
- 2. Suggests a wedding (8)
- 3. Scandinavian capital (4)
- 4. Repeal (8)
- 5. Equine gait (4)
- 6. Ottoman state (13)
- 12. Arose (8)
- 17. Fossil fuel (4)
- 18. Paddles (4)

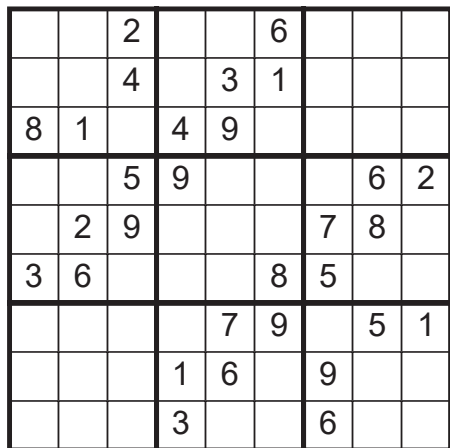
### FUCWIT

Send a picture of your solutions to [fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk) before Wednesday midday to take part in the leaderboard!

#### Points Available

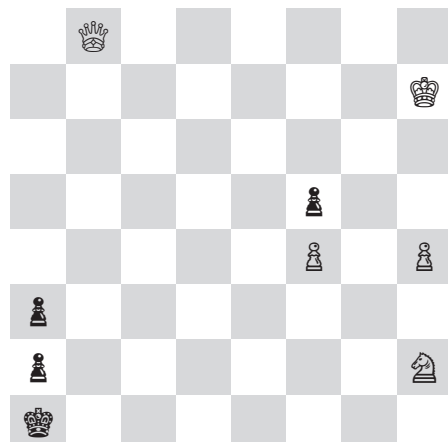
Crossword	5
Sudoku	4
Nonogram	5
Chess	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>

#### Last week's solutions



### SUDOKU

Fill all the boxes with a number between 1 and 9. A number can only appear once in a row/column, and only once in each sub-box.



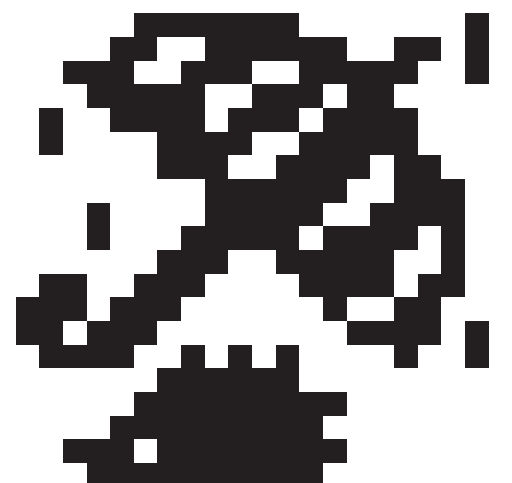
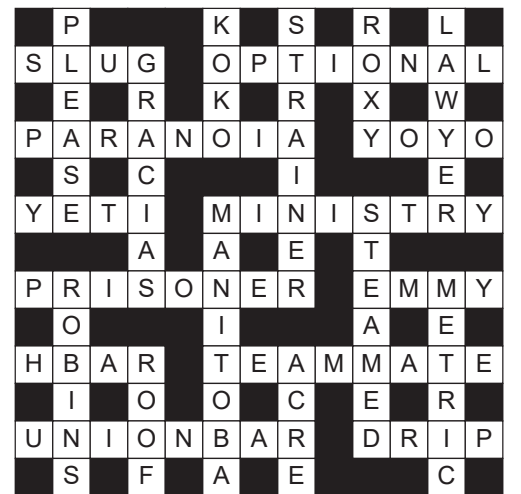
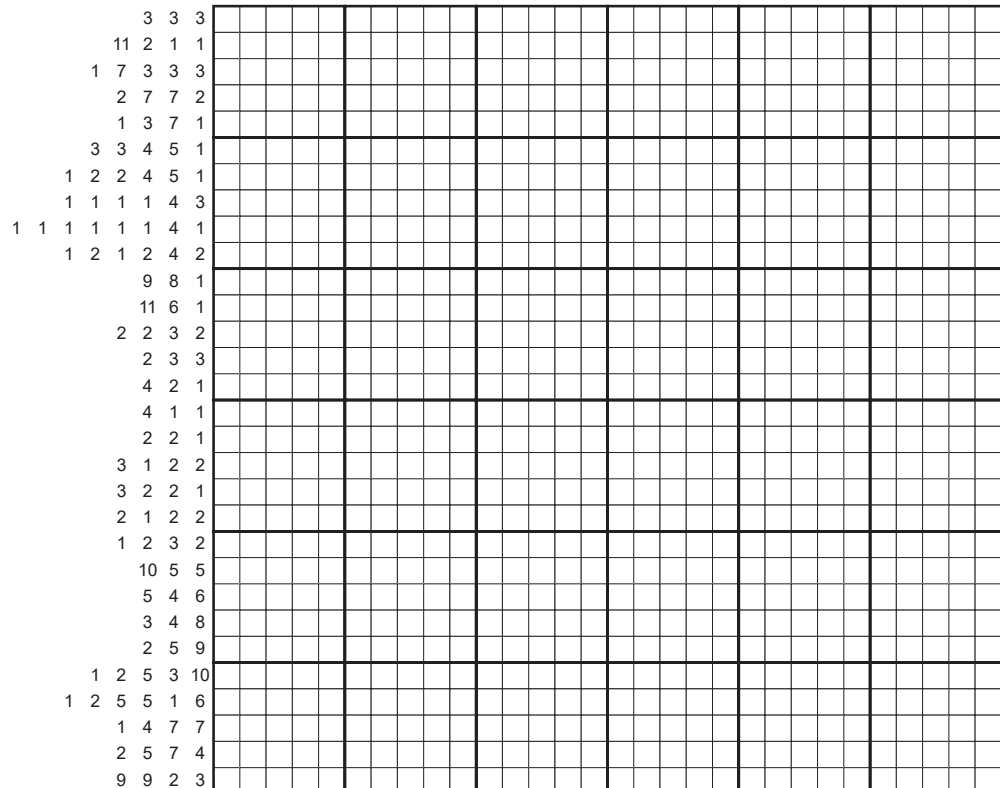
### CHESS

White to move first with forced checkmate in four moves.

2  
2 3  
2 1 4 3 3 2  
2 3 4 1 2 2 3 1 2 3 1 5 2  
2 1 1 3 6 3 1 4 1 2 1 3 2 1 1 8 7 2 3 2 3  
2 2 2 2 2 6 7 1 1 1 5 3 9 2 3 3 4 4 6 2 1 7 3 2 2 2 1 2 5  
1 4 3 2 2 1 1 2 5 3 5 3 2 1 2 3 2 1 1 1 1 3 2 1 6 2 3 2 3 9  
9 2 1 1 1 1 3 4 13 8 1 4 1 1 1 5 5 5 4 3 2 1 3 1 1 7 9 11 9 9

### NONOGRAM

Colour in some of the squares to make a picture. Each number represents a block of consecutive black squares within that row/column. Each block needs to be separated by at least one white square.





# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial College Sailing Club travels to the Mediterranean

*The club finally ditched the chilly weather of Wembley Sailing Club and enjoyed a dreamy holiday along the Greek coastline.*

### SPORTS

**Nilani Chandradeva**

*Sailing Club Member*

On the 30th of June, 12 members of the Imperial College Sailing Club met at Gatwick's Wetherspoons before beginning the voyage to Corfu, Greece.

Upon a late night arrival at the marina, they carb loaded with the infamous Greek dish, gyros, and headed into town to join their training partners from the University of London (ULU), with whom they spent the week sailing.

The next morning, after Ariane responsibly stocked up the 50-foot yacht with food and (more

importantly) drinks for the week, they set sail for a far-away beach club.

Each day, the crew avoided the mundane task of washing up by cooking instead (the culinary highlights including Calvin's souvlaki, and Oliver

**“The next day they named the duck Hoisin. The rest is history.”**

and Charlie's freshly caught crab). Such exotic cuisines placed them way ahead of ULU who stuck to the standard grub after weekly trainings: pasta and tomato sauce.

However, the friendly rivalry between the clubs,

usually demonstrated at the annual BUSA competitions reached new heights when the club set their eyes on ULU's £50 inflatable duck.

A cunning plan to kidnap the duck was devised by Aidan (demonstrating noteworthy commodore characteristics) and Nick. They decided to hold Toby as hostage on the duck's boat as a method of distraction for its crew. In the meanwhile, they paddled it to the boat and later rescued Toby in a tender. The next day they named the duck Hoisin. The rest is history.

Over the course of a week, they sailed to Iggy Creek, Lakka, Gaios, Parga and Plataria and spent the nights exploring the local bars and clubs. In between islands they stopped to swim and snorkel, sipped on ouzo (blending with the locals) and enjoyed nautical-themed music such as 'Reggae Shark', which was heavily endorsed by Rory, Nick and Aidan.

One morning at 6am, Toby sailed the team to the stunning Emerald Bay. In an attempt to top the previous day's crab catch, some of the crew tried spear fishing with a rod and a kitchen knife tied to the end, whilst Radhika found the tranquillity of the bay perfect to recover from a bad hangover.

Suddenly, schools of fish came rushing towards us, and the spear-fishers were ready to go in for the kill, but Fraser and Charlie soon realised that



Not a single duck in sight // ICSC

the schools' arrival coincided with the hangover victim's tactical chunder having been flushed into the sea. Certain that these fish would not be as appetising as they had hoped, the mission was aborted.

Their final stop was Plataria. After a tiresome week of skipping around Greece and being held hostage at the expense of an inflatable duck, Toby went for a much deserved relaxing swim, but was tragically stung by a jellyfish.

Thankfully they had medic freshers Lily, Charlie and Oliver on board, who assured him

that "peeing on it probably won't work" and Calvin's second year of medical school knowledge led him to the conclusion that a tea tree oil ointment was the best solution (which was surprisingly effective).

Rejuvenated by the natural treatment, Toby stole all of ULU's flags and hoisted another one of their inflatables, a golden swan, onto their mast.

On the last morning, they headed back to Corfu and stopped on the way to refuel, where Fraser's docking manoeuvre (drift) impressed even the head of the boat charter company.

Sadly, they had to part without Hoisin the Duck. It was a well-deserved holiday made memorable with great company, and the club cannot wait for more adventures in the year ahead.

The club are very excited to welcome new members and would love to introduce more people to sailing!

You can follow the Sailing Club on social media and attend one of their fresher's events to get involved.



Looks like a lovely day for some spear-fishing // ICSC