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**Brainstorming 23-3:
March**

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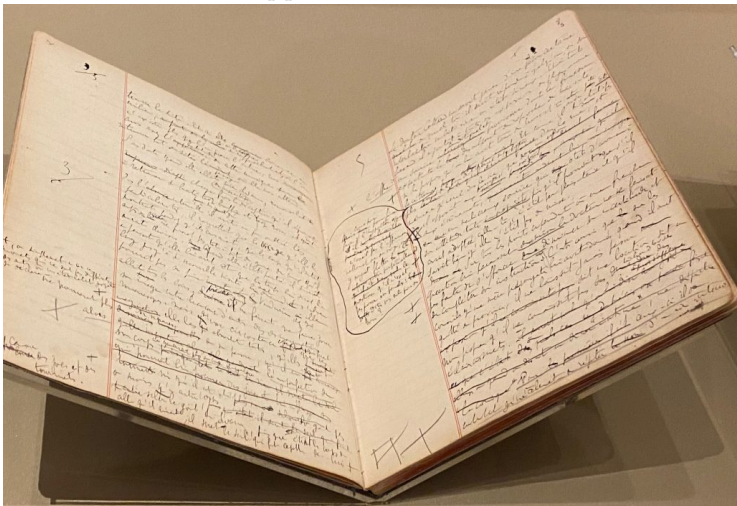
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Time4

»Tempus fugit« (Latin proverb) time is flying, or time is escaping us. This is a classical quote. Students of Latin come across it in language acquisition. “Carpe diem” make the most of the day, others responded. Some even raise it to a dogma of their existence. Whereas in classical times, time was more likely to be perceived as a linear concept ($v = s \times t$), modern concepts discuss time as “acceleration” a nonlinear concept ($a = v \times t = s \times t^2$) or higher order non-linearities even ([time³](#)). Social time is embedded in such [concepts of time](#). At some moments we perceive [time](#) as running very slowly, at other instances as running fast or accelerating. The synchronisation of time for friends, a couple, a family, lives, within a society or between societies is the big challenge. We tend to use calendars to synchronize our time acknowledging that time might be running at different speed for different persons. We have invented rituals of synchronisation like celebrating birthdays, departures at work, retirements or relative to seasons, with corresponding seasonal greetings. In between these events time fluctuates with different speed for different persons. Commonly in a kind of superficial objectivity, time is running in the same second-, minute-, hour-, day-like fashion, but considering activities or experiences, the same time span is widely different across persons. A lot of intergenerational conflicts have their origins in this non-synchronicity of time across generations. Bernard Guy (2018) reminds us of the link of time and space, as in the equations above, common in classical physics, where we could replace s with the change of coordinates of 2 GPS-signals. This space – time relationship complicates our simple reference to time.

We have become used to think in time zones across the planet or within continents, however, our imagination is a bit stretched by imagining others sleeping while we are terribly busy on the other side of the globe. Global production and logistic processes have integrated the time and space framework for just-in-time delivery and optimisation of processes. As mankind we are still having a hard time to think about time and spend years “à la recherche du temps perdu” ([Proust manuscript image below](#), [BnF Paris2023](#)).

Guy, B. (2018). Parler d'accélération, c'est aussi dire comment nous comprenons le temps. Dans : Nicole Aubert éd., @ la recherche du temps: Individus hyperconnectés, société accélérée : tensions et transformations (pp. 111-123). Toulouse: Érès.



Time5

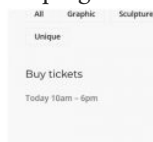
The social sciences deal with time either as part of social theory and as part of social measurement in the broadest sense. The entry of time in "[The encyclopedia of social theory](#)" (Ritzer, 2006, p.837-41) reminds us that since the age of Augustinus, believing that time is a God-given concept, we have evolved with Kant's notion of the "[Ding an sich](#)" that time exists within our experience, but also beyond our experience of it. It is Durkheim who sees time as a social institution and raises the issue of a social construction of the concept(s) of time. In the [process of civilisation, Nibert Elias](#) leads us to think of time as an evolving social process which allows us to reach higher levels of civilisations. Despite wars and other backlashes, the basic premise remains an eventual improvement on previous situations ([Time 3](#)). The phenomenological method applied by [Husserl](#) points at the "inner time consciousness" of persons, which finds its literary expression for example in [Proust's writings](#).

In addition to time as the object of social theories, we find frequent implicit use of concepts of time as a component of social theories. Life courses, social change, social mobility, social integration, learning, all these concepts are conceived with "time stamps" attached to the them. Their temporality, i.e. location in time and space, durations, sequential orders and interlinkages form huge fields of research. Whole societies have attempted to define when is the "normal", "right" or "best" time to do something for the individual or the society as a whole. Social desirability is linked to time and space and varies accordingly. The [1960s](#) probably were a decade where the questioning of social desirability was most

obvious.

Social measurement of time and the location of social phenomena in time leads us to the empirical field of studying time or the treatment of time as a basic dimension in and of social processes. "[The encyclopedia of social measurement](#)" (Kempf-Leonard, 2005) list the sampling of time as a basic entry to the topic. Frequency of sampling, (yearly, quarterly), level of sampling (person, household, region, country), repeated surveys (prospective, retrospective) of same person or rotating samples of persons have their specific strengths and weaknesses. Analytical methods rely on the concepts of the measurement of time. It seems to be a fair observation that (Clarke and Granato, 2005, p.836) the future of time series analysis lies in the linkages to theory. After all, the 2 worlds of theory and empirical measurement are linked through the concept of time, despite the tendency to abstract from it or assuming a large overlap in the concept of time (and space) referred to. Clocks seems to be ticking differently in different places.

[Image: Dali Paris.](#) R. & N. Descharnes Salvador Dali Sculptures & Objects. Eccart. Ref. 615, page 238.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

TECHNIQUE	Bronze, Lost Wax Process
HEIGHT	51 cm
EDITION	350 + 35 EA

90s

Summary terms for the [1990s](#) range from the “[global 90s](#)”, the “roaring (again) nineties”, the “[fabulous 90s](#)” to the “[gay 90s](#)”. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, a new era of reaping the economic benefits of more peaceful times had started. Re-unification or unification of Germany could have unsettled the [balance](#) of power on the continent. However, a firm integration into the European project and the withering away of the Cold War on a more global scale allowed economic growth in many countries and even continents. Joseph E. Stiglitz claimed it was the world’s most prosperous decade even. The overly popular view that unrestricted market principles will allow for rapid growth reached huge crowds before the new [limits to growth](#) (which were the old ones) and rising imbalances (in trade and among different firm sizes) became clear later on. The outlook of “[America in the global ‘90s](#)”, written in 1989 is overly optimistic. Nevertheless, it describes fairly well the almost euphoric view at the beginning of the nineties. “World economic growth will strengthen in the 1990s. Democracy and free markets are on the upswing. U.S. will retain its lead in technology and world trade. Openness to foreign capital, goods, immigrants is key. Budget and trade deficits will continue downward. America is a strong nation getting stronger.” (Kiplinger and Kiplinger, 1989 p.1)

Ten years make a decade, but the retrospective analysis might not make for such a rosy overall image. In other fields of study, many saw the real societal changes in the 90s in the liberation of views on gender. Gay movements and queer studies are on the rise throughout these years. The realisation of “Genders” beyond the

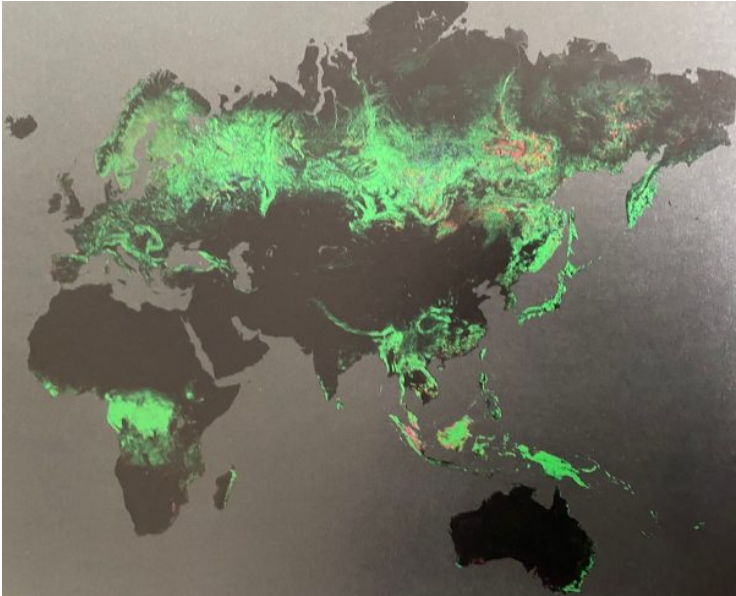
male – female, binary vision captures more global attention as well. “[Education reform in the ‘90s](#)” (Finn et al. 1992) start to [focus](#) more on “higher-order learning skills, expanded methods of student assessment” (Joseph Murphy 1992 p.13) in addition to interdisciplinarity, core curriculum, original source materials and teacher choice. Diversification is high on the agenda, despite slow progress in social matters and high unemployment in many countries at the beginning of the 90s. Capture the [peace dividend](#) wherever it seems possible. Rapid globalization was the panacea of the decade; before the iron curtain would come down again 22 years later. The [photographic art](#) by [Didier Engels](#) ([Affordable Art Fair Brussels 2023](#)) reflects the bright and colourful side of globalisation as much as the overload. The 90s made us believe mainly in the bright side of it.



Economic Narratives

[Joseph Stiglitz \(2003\)](#) provided a detailed description and interpretation of the economic history of the 1990s in his book on the roaring nineties. As a member of the Clinton Administration serving as a Chairman of the Council of economic advisers, he had first hand access to the information, debates about interpretations and conclusions drawn during the period. In the preface (2003, p.XII) he provides some of the lessons this work has provided him. “Today, the challenge is to get the [balance](#) right, between the state and the market, between collective [action](#) at the local, national, and global levels, and between government and non-governmental action. As economic circumstances change, the balance has to be redrawn. Government needs to take on [new activities](#), and shed old ones. We have entered into an era of [globalization](#) in which the [countries and peoples of the world](#) are more closely integrated than ever before. But globalization itself means that we have to change that balance: we need more collective action at the international level, and we cannot escape issues of [democracy](#) and social [justice](#) in the global arena.” The surprising approach by Stiglitz, as a winner of the [Sveriges Riksbank Prize](#), to present no data in tables or figures demonstrates the need for telling convincing stories beyond throwing images and shuffled data at your audience. However, this is probably only feasible once you won a quasi-Nobel prize to not lose credibility among economists. Nevertheless, the issue is larger. Stiglitz manages to address the much larger audience of non-economists who construct or constructed their own “collective memory” of the legacy of the nineties as the “[global 90s](#)”.

The narrative of the 1990s grossly neglected the value of the biosphere. Asymmetric information (his shared prize winning issue) was and is still used in the market of natural resources to keep polluting the planet and push ahead with careless deforestation. The [Exxon case](#) is just one piece in the puzzle of asymmetric information and misinformation. Misguiding economic narratives play a powerful role. Maybe we need to write more about the “roaring failures” of economics and public policies across several decades in the 20th century. (red dots = forests lost on our planet A early 2000s, and there is no planet B)



Narrative economics

Narratives have been with us as long as mankind exists. They just take [different forms and content nowadays](#). Whereby narratives have first spread orally, then much later through written words, images and movies, they are forceful ways of communicating. Robert Shiller wrote a good story about narratives related to the field of economics. Referring to the writing of the [polymath](#) David Hume (1742), main proponent with Adam Smith of the [Scottish enlightenment](#), contagion like in pandemics is mentioned for the first time to explain that “the multitude will certainly be seized by the common affection and be governed by it in all their actions”. (Shiller 2019, p. 58). In order to understand narratives going viral Shiller mentions the importance for narratives to be embedded in “narrative constellations”. Holding truth against spreading false narratives might not be enough in itself. Strong, catching narratives seem to bypass or override even truthful information. Additionally, [narratives never die](#), but rather offer opportunities for repetition. On content of economic narratives Shiller exemplifies stock market panic, consumerism, financial stability, automation and [AI fears](#), [speculation bubbles](#), evil business and [labour unions](#). Topics like lazy unemployed persons, too early entry into retirement, too late entry into the labour market for youth, women or migrants, all have endured stigmatising narratives across time and/or across countries. With emotional and powerful economic narratives all around us, trust and authenticity become a very important meta-currency. The instantly printing camera now serves as proof. Beware of the scenery, actors and action chosen. Medieval painter Gabriel Metsu

(1629-1667 Leiden-Amsterdam) had chosen the economic narrative of the “women baking pan cakes and the child as beggar”. Ending up in a museum instead of the White House is probably the opposite of going viral. The same [Photo](#) in black and white might have more of a trustworthy documentary character than the suggestive colours.





Aphorismen L2

“Man soll öfters dasjenige untersuchen, was von den Menschen meist vergessen wird, wo sie nicht hinsehen und was so sehr als bekannt angenommen wird, dass es keiner Untersuchung mehr wert geachtet wird.“ ([Lichtenberg](#) S. 50). Eine eindrückliche Warnung sich nicht nur den großen Wellen und Wogen der Öffentlichkeit oder der Wissenschaften hinzugeben. Wo viele nicht hinschauen oder bewusst wegsehen, da gibt es meist einiges zu ergründen. Die Soziologie der kleinen Dinge, der Alltagsgegenstände bringt faszinierende Erkenntnisse hervor. Nehmen wir nur einmal die Bekleidung beim Kochen. Von der Kittelschürze zum gestylten Outfit für die Kochshow zum Gesellschafts-cooking“ haben sich Kleidungsstücke und Berufe in ihrer Funktionalität gewandelt. Dem Anlass entsprechend wird sich gekleidet. Kochen ist von den Hinterzimmern mancherorts ins Zentrum der Gesellschaft mutiert. Wertschätzung von Handwerk und delikate Zubereitung sollten Rekrutierung erleichtern. Bleibt nur noch die Arbeit drumherum. Einkaufen, Einräumen, Einweichen, Abtrocknen, Aufräumen. Die Arbeit geht uns nicht aus, sie verändert sich nur. Wertschätzung der kleinen Aktivitäten, desjenigen, „was von den Menschen meist vergessen wird, wo sie nicht hinsehen“ kann so aufschlussreich sein. [Hinschauen und Verstehen lernen](#) bleibt angesagt. Lichtenberg weiter: „Man frage sich selbst, ob man sich die kleinsten Sachen erklären kann; dieses ist das einzige Mittel, sich ein rechtes System zu formieren, seine Kräfte zu erforschen und seine Lektüre sich nützlich zu machen.“ [Aphorismen](#) können ein ganzes Forschungsprogramm auf den Punkt bringen und so die kleinsten

Beiträge noch als nützlich erweisen. (Foto: Schreibatelier von George Sand in Nohant).



Alkoholismus

Alkohol ist eine Droge, da Alkohol abhängig machen kann. Die Bewusstseinsveränderungen können beachtliche bis extreme Ausmaße erreichen. Das wissen wir alle und zwar seit Jahrhunderten. Mäßigung bei Rauschmitteln ist nötig, aber schwer erlernbar. Etwas Genuss ist gesellschaftlich nicht nur toleriert, sondern gewollt zur Förderung der Geselligkeit. Zu viel Genuss beeinträchtigt meistens andere und wird dann zu einer schwierigen Problematik. Ärztinnen, Psychologinnen und andere Heilberufe stehen oft hilflos, wie auch das nahe familiäre Umfeld, vor dieser Situation. Selbst neuere Studien weisen darauf hin, dass die Versorgung dieser Patienten (UK), bestenfalls in der Hälfte der Fälle als gut einzustufen ist. Die Studie zu Großbritannien beschreibt gleichfalls die Krankheitsgeschichte und -versorgung als „[eskalierende Tragödie](#)“. Für die meisten anderen Länder liegen keine wirklich guten Daten vor, die weder einen Handlungsbedarf noch auf einen gesellschaftlichen Gestaltungswillen hindeuten würden.

Die Radiosendung zum Thema „Umgang mit Alkoholkranken“ und die Initiative von Sänger [Max Mutzke](#), „[Kindern suchtkranker Eltern eine Stimme geben](#)“ beschreibt eindrücklich die generationsübergreifende Bedeutung von Alkoholkrankheit. Alkohol ist eben nicht nur das Problem der betroffenen Person. Ein ganzes Umfeld ist betroffen. Das Problem wächst sich meistens aus zu einer Problematik für das weitere familiäre Umfeld, Freundeskreise und ArbeitskollegInnen. Es ist erstaunlich, dass wir seit Jahrhunderten keinen anderen Umgang mit alkoholbasierten Rauschmitteln gefunden haben, als alles erlaubt oder alles

verboten, außer der Altersbegrenzung für Kinder und beim Autofahren. Der [Maler Bruegel](#) sah das wohl ähnlich. Den St. Martinswein kann sich heute jeder im Laden um die Ecke selbst kaufen. Mäßigung im Umgang mit Drogen ist nach wie vor ein schwieriger Lernprozess, für Einzelne (Jordaens – Der König trinkt!), wie für die Gesellschaft. (fast betrunkenes Video [Alko VLC Bruegel MRBA Bruxelles.jpg](#) zur Bildexploration).







Aphorismen L3

“Was für Aussichten würden wir bekommen, wenn wir unser Kapital von Wahrheiten einmal von demjenigen entblößen könnten, was ihnen nicht sowohl wesentlich ist, als vielmehr aus der öfteren Wiederholung zuwächst.“ ([Lichtenberg](#) S. 50). Die Wiederholung ist eine starke Lernmethode. Sie wird seit Jahrtausenden erfolgreich eingesetzt. Alle Religionen bedienen sich am liebsten täglich dieser Methode, um sich der Treue der Anbetenden zu vergewissern. Der Glaube im Glauben ist: Oft genug wiederholt ist gut verinnerlicht. Dabei bleibt ein Glaube ein Glaube, selbst bei ständiger Wiederholung. Lediglich so manchem Mensch erscheint durch regelmäßiges Wiederholen die Botschaft als verinnerlichte Selbstverständlichkeit. Wahrscheinlich ist es beruhigender, sich nicht täglich zu fragen, ob das 1x,2x,3x mal tägliche Einmassieren von Chemikalien auf Zähne und Zahnfleisch wirklich nachhaltig gesundheitsfördernd ist. Alleine dem Markt wollen wir das Thema nun auch nicht überantworten. Warten wir weiterhin auf die nächste entblößende, hoffentlich wirklich unabhängige, wissenschaftliche Studie dazu. Mit den Pestiziden in der Ernährung hat das bekanntlich nur sehr bedingt funktioniert. Wie schön, dass alle Jahre wieder Frühling kommt und die finsternen Tage hinter uns lässt. Wiederholungen lassen Routinen entstehen, die uns das ständige Hinterfragen ersparen. Rasch gehen wir über Fragen von Kindern hinweg: Muss ich heute in die Schule gehen? Dabei ist Hinterfragen von Wiederholungen ein wichtiges Lernen, dem Mitläufertum entgegen zu wirken.



Aphorismen L4

“Wenn die Erinnerung an die Jugend nicht wäre, so würde man das Alter nicht verspüren, nur dass man das nicht zu tun vermag, was man ehemals vermochte, macht die Krankheit aus. Denn der Alte ist gewiss ein ebenso vollkommenes Geschöpf in seiner Art als der Jüngling.“ ([Lichtenberg](#) S. 241, L 532). Die Gedanken von Lichtenberg zum [Alter](#) und [Altern](#) orientieren sich an der Erinnerung. Älter werden heißt mehr Erinnerungen ansammeln. Erinnerungen verstanden als Reichtum, lässt uns erfahrener und somit reicher werden. Jetzt ist selbstverständlich nicht jede Erfahrung, die sich als Erinnerung einprägt zwangsläufig eine positive, jedoch lassen sich viele früher negativ empfundene Erfahrungen in der Rückschau als nicht so negativ oder positiv erleben. Das Durchsehen von Photosammlungen mag dazu eine Übungsstunde sein. Walter Benjamin schrieb dazu bereits, dass [Photographien](#) ein Standard geworden sind zur Dokumentation von historischen Ereignissen, und somit eine versteckte politische Signifikanz erreichen. Die Gleichwertigkeit zwischen jungen und alten, eventuell kranken Menschen war für Lichtenberg im 18. Jahrhundert bereits eine Selbstverständlichkeit. Wir tun uns wieder schwer, bei Corona und Kostendiskussionen, diesen Gleichheitsgrundsatz faktisch umzusetzen. [Erinnerung](#) als Wert an sich zu schätzen, ist eine gesunde Strategie des erfolgreichen Alterns. Mit jedem neuen Tag oder Jahr merken wir, sie wird beständig mehr.

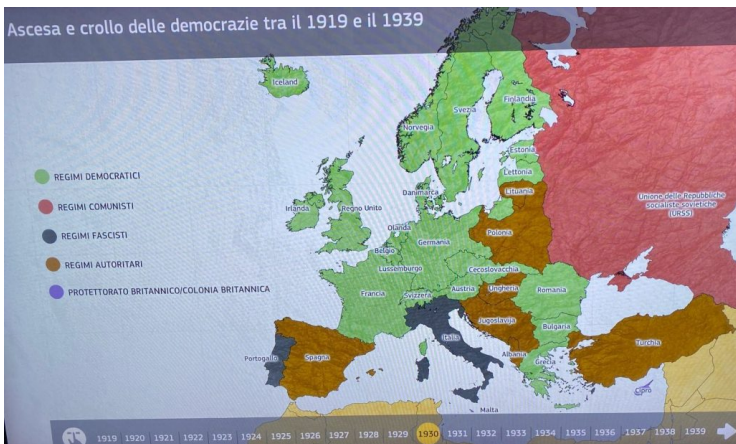




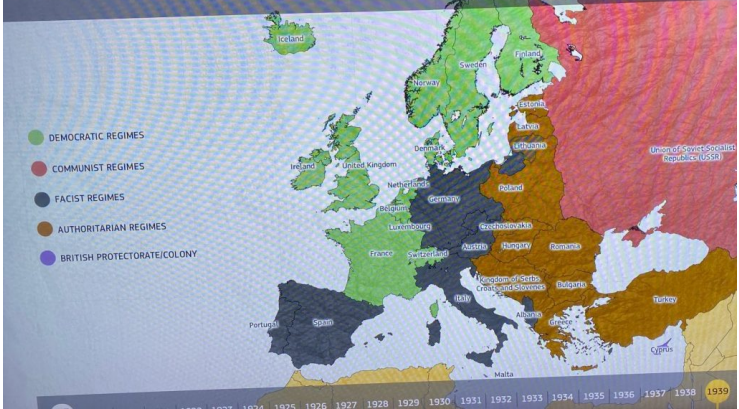
30s

In retrospect the 1930s would deserve well the label of the disastrous 30s. In terms of human tragedy the [40s](#) were worse, but the foundations for the millions of deaths through the [Shoah](#) and the second world war were enacted throughout the 1930s. My reading of the decade is dominated by the rising tide of hate throughout the 30s. The fascist movements in Italy and Germany were growing rapidly. From the entry number [185.729](#) (later committed war crimes in Ukraine) at the 1st of January 1930 the German [NSDAP membership](#) grew to [7.352.197](#) ([Reichsakademie für Leibesübungen](#)) on the 1.1.1940. This is still about 3 million persons less than at around the peak in 1944/45 of for example entry number [10.123.636](#) (later Foreign Secretary of Germany). The [House of European History](#) of the European Parliament in Brussels provides a good depiction of the spread of Fascism and dictatorships in Europe in the 1930s. Whereas Italy had turned Fascist already before 1930. Hungary was also under dictatorship already at the beginning of 1930. The rise of the German Nazi political party NSDAP turned out to be the most disastrous and devastating fascist movement and dictatorship throughout the 30s. The maps with timelines represented in the permanent exhibition in the [House of European History](#) reflect the spreading disaster for millions of persons. Many writers and social scientist had the correct apprehension and “apocalyptic imagination” (Pearce, 1971) to seek refuge early. But this turned out to be a not generalisable exit option for most persons concerned. Only few countries managed through early decisive action against the spread of fascism to escape from, better shield themselves, or fight against

the rising tide. In the late [60s](#) and the [70s](#) youth at the time started to question the role of their parents in the rise of nationalist movements in Europe. An interesting reference for Canada is the teaching reform that materialised in the “box of the 30s” (Weinland and Roberts, 1972). The 1930s Multi Media Kit for teaching history contained photos ([Guernica](#)), radio clips, extracts from novels, but also recipes or recorded interviews. Make history speak and start with a “personal touch” to it. Avoiding the economic failures of the [1930s](#) and the rising tide of fascists throughout the 30s are high on the political agenda 90 years later in the 2020s again.



Rise and Fall of Democracies 1919 to 1939



11-13.03.1938

L'Humanité
 LE NAZIEN ENVAHI L'Autriche
 L'Autriche - l'Allemagne
 L'Autriche - l'Allemagne

Berliner Tagblatt
Oesterreich mit dem Reich vereint
Einziges Volksblatt
Oesterreich: 4.221.727 34 - 11.263 Klein
 80% Prozent aller Gemeinverpflichteten
 für Arbeitsbeschaffung und 100% Güter

29-30.09.1938

Daily Express
PEACE!
 AGREEMENT SIGNED
 AT 12.30 a.m. TODAY

Deutsches Reich
der deutschen Truppen

LIDOVÉ NOVINY
 USTOUPILI JSME PRESILE

WIR DANKEN UNSEREM FÜHRER

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 01 0

1938

White

White is white, we may say, just like in the song of the mid 1980s “Live is life”. [Raimund Girke](#) focused his paintings around the notion of white. White is pure energy he writes on his webpage summarising somehow his activity between 1986 and 1999 before he turned 70 years old. The energy of white can be experienced at the gallery and arts centre of [Alex Vervoordt](#) near Antwerp. Set in abundant white and otherwise empty space the paintings of white reflect Girke’s idea that white is rest and movement. The developmental process of white in the work of Raimund Girke reflects for me a conceptual proximity to the [artists’ group](#) of “[zero](#)”. Light and shadows are parts of the same coin. White is the sum of all colours, not only in the physical definition of it. Hence, white can serve as reflection of space and transposition of movement.

The experience in the [gallery of Vervoordt](#) allows to come to grips with our own perception of white. It needs a huge white space around the paintings to get into the mood of, maybe, purity. It is by putting colours together that white comes into existence in the spectators view. In seeing white, we see many additions of other colours. That creates the impression of energy. Up to you to test it, maybe, virtually live.



Fukushima 12

12 Jahre nach der Kernschmelze im Atomkraftwerk der technologiebegeisterten Japaner stellt sich immer noch die Frage nach der Entsorgung der verstrahlten Reste und Kühlwassers. Laut eines Berichts und den veröffentlichten Bildern zu dem Kernkraftwerk [Fukushima](#) staunen wir über das weite verseuchte Umfeld und die riesigen Lagerstätten für den verstrahlten Abfall. Geothermie, Wasserkraft, Windkraft und Solarenergie könnten auf der Fläche sicherlich riesige Mengen von nachhaltigem Strom produzieren. Das hatte bis vor 13 Jahren niemand denken oder aussprechen dürfen. Heute nach 18.000 Toten und vielen Folgeschäden durch Krebs und geschädigtes Erbgut wird der Unsinn weitergehen. Da sind sehr starke Interessen am Werk, denen es nicht um Menschenleben geht. Atomkraft, koste es was es wolle. Die [Einleitung eines Teils des verseuchten Wassers](#) ins Meer ist wohl bereits erfolgt. Noch mehr wird folgen müssen. Über die Fische als Teil der Nahrungskette werden Menschen dann mehr [Radioaktivität](#) aufnehmen. Das war schon so mit den Pilzen nach Tschernobyl. Fukushima bleibt ein abschreckendes Beispiel weltweit, da helfen jetzt zum 12. Jahrestag ein paar Solarzellen als Trostpflaster wenig. (Bilder aus [ARD Tagesschau 11.3.2023](#). Auch bei uns ist es leider schmal Glück gewesen, dass nichts Schlimmeres passiert ist ([Link Radiobeitrag DLF 2023-4-17](#)))





History

Approaching history with a personal touch is a powerful way of attracting persons into learning about others and themselves. The use of some personal belongings as part of a “history box” can be the beginning of an historical journey into the [30s](#), [40s](#), [50s](#) or any other decade. It is an empowering tool for learners of all ages. Digging deeper into personal histories, societal constellations and societal change becomes alive through tiny little things. Communicating about these artefacts blends old and new [narratives](#), just as much as the life courses of the “common woman or man” with the celebrities of the [time](#). “Getting personal” is the hype in the time when social media want to define our life through endless nudging. Reflecting on origins is not what we tend to do, PhotoAPPs create retrospects for us, take it, or leave it. History is catching up on us. The fashion world reinvents history on a seasonal basis. After all, a bag is a bag is a bag. Or is it different from the one a person took to [Auschwitz](#).

Add a personal touch to history through *THE '30's BOX*

By THOMAS P. WEINLAND and ARTHUR D. ROBERTS

BLUEPRINTS FOR A DIRIGIBLE, radio commercials, the songs of Woodie Guthrie, recorded interviews with the man in the street, and such luminaries as Archibald MacLeish and Thomas Hart Benton—what do these have to do with teaching the history of the 1930s? They are all part of a Canadian social studies innovation called the *1930's Multi Media Kit*.

The 1930's Multi Media Kit originated at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Developed by David Stansfield and Anthony Barton, the “Thirties Box,” as it is commonly known, is a collection of a wide range of materials from that decade.

at all age levels, from grades four to thirteen in the Canadian system. Unlike other “store-bought” collections of media, the ‘30's box is made from simple materials that are meant to be used without fear of high replacement costs. As its authors advertise, there is “something for everybody,” but everything isn't for everybody. The sheer quantity of materials in the box virtually guarantees that every student will find something of interest.

The concepts behind the box are also interesting. Pictures are not labeled and one must go to the teacher's manual if one wants, or indeed needs, explanations. The

the problems in perspective:

All children are innately curious. If this curiosity can be stimulated and subsequently satisfied at an early age, and this freedom allowed to them throughout their school careers, they will undoubtedly become initiators of future discovery. If this is repressed by constant flogging at their egos with the superiority of the intellect of their adult leaders, they will undoubtedly become headless followers.⁴

If history is to have any meaning for the individual and society one must be given the opportunity to study it on one's own terms. However, this will have to be part of a continuous process. We cannot expect that after years of "telling" that students will be capable of discovering on their own. For some students this is simply not possible. With encouragement and time, however, the student may wish to pursue this approach. History need not be a mad dash to the present. Charles Keller's admonition to history teachers to "have the courage to omit" is as essential today as it was 15 years ago. We might add that teachers must also

have the courage to innovate, to dare to utilize an approach that offers to build upon children's curiosity before it is irrevocably lost.

The "box" is not teacher-proof nor is it student-proof. The work done at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in creating the '30's box deserves praise, since it is a model that seems to offer the opportunity for discovery and personal involvement. It is a fine step in the right direction, but it is only a single step. Creative teachers can do a great deal to help students to create their own multi-media boxes. At this point we do not need publishers who will grind out box after box on the many decades of our nation's history. The process of creation is probably even more important than its use. Such an approach opens up a new range of possibilities for teachers and students of history which we have just begun to explore. For those prepared to take advantage of its opportunities and for those willing to try, a "box" offers a greater sense of the "common man" in history, and a greater chance to interpret history on a more personal level.

⁴ Stansfield and Barton, *op. cit.*, p. 47.

20s

In retrospect from the [1930s](#) and in prospect from the 1910s, the [1920s](#) may well be described as “The Carefree Twenties”. Several other summary notions are attributed to the 1920s. “Les années folles” in the French speaking world, “The Jazz years” within the U.S. or the “Wild 20s” in Germany coined the decade after the disillusion of the 1st world war. The economic and cultural revival after the period of atrocities has seen thriving city centres and comparatively little economic hardship until the Wall Street crashed on October 24th in [1929](#) the so-called “[Black Thursday](#)”. The party was suddenly over and a lengthy economic crisis spread globally. It was within this carefree spirit of the 1920s that the counter movements of the 30s started to take roots. The 20s saw the skyscrapers soar and the credit-financed speculation was at its highest. [Pierre Boudon](#) (1991, pp. 137) characterises the architecture of the 1930s as “l’inversion des signes”. The [Bauhaus](#) of the 1920s was later forced into emigration. The film of [F. Lang](#) “[Metropolis](#)” (1927) prolonged the constructivist lines of the 1920s to a haunting vision of big cities with its daunting acceleration of economic and cultural experiences. [Walter Benjamin](#) later referred to the method of technical reproduction as one of the major foundations for the mass movements and mass culture, which turned the relatively carefree 20s into the [disastrous 30s](#). Indeed, many scholars group the 20s and 30s into one historical period as the rise and decline between the 2 world wars of the 20th century. Certainly in terms of economic development many countries witness as steep rise in prosperity in the 20s followed by deep recession in the 30s. What went up in spectacular terms in the 20s,

economic development, democratic participation, came down in the next decade due the rise of Fascist movements. 100 years later in 2020s we still struggle with many of the same issues. Poverty and “Existenzminimum” as topic of the 2nd International congress of modern architecture in 1929 in Frankfurt reflects the ever lasting need to address “social questions” throughout decades, if not whole centuries of mankind.



Le Torenggebouw, le premier gratte-ciel de Belgique, 87 mètres, construit à Anvers en 1929-30 (Archives).

Patient

The Pandora's box is wide open. With [ChatGPT](#) applications the discussion has started to use it for more medical applications. As for much research having assistants to support you in routine tasks in your research is a standard procedure. Now the medical profession is also discussing the use of [ChatGPT](#) for the boring and time-consuming task to draft reports. The first study, published in the Lancet Digital Health, evaluates in a preliminary form the patient-sensitive form of communication between clinics and patients. Beyond chatbots, which organise information from calling persons, the obvious application is the use of ChatGPT to draft patient clinic letters. The example in the study is the skin cancer reporting. Lengthy reporting back to patients of lots of “hot and cold spots” might be done by AI with sufficient reliability. All depends on the correctness of the data base, the screening and samples taken. The communication between clinic and patient can then focus on other issues. ChatGPT just like [neuroflash](#) has its strength in being able to control for the “level” of the language. In addition to the choice of the output language it is possible to use, as it is required in the U.S., an average understanding level of patients. In other words, easy language rather than medical expert language is an option or even a requirement. Anecdotal evidence and the [PISA for adults](#) studies show how difficult it can be to talk the same language even if you talk the same language. There is ample scope for improvement and ChatGPT or [neuroflash for German applications of AI](#) are prime candidates to fill this gap in clinic patient communication. Considering that our mobile phones (can) do already most of the scanning of skin cancer dots and AI is

used in pre-scanning the images and recommends to consult medical expertise, the next step to improve health delivery seems feasible. Whereas the statistical analysis explains 62% of “median humanness”, the score of 37% of explained variance of median correctness is a surprise as the basis of the model to explain deviation from correctness should be as low as possible. Medical data, like many other data, is not simply binary. The way forward is most likely relying on a “human-in-the-loop” approach for some time. A limited human input might reassure many patients as well.

Source: Stephen R Ali, Thomas D Dobbs, Hayley A Hutchings, Iain S Whitaker (2023). Using ChatGPT to write patient clinic letters.

Lancet Digit Health 2023
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500\(23\)00048-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500(23)00048-1)



Flotow Stradella

Die [Oper Stradella](#) von [Flotow](#) wurde in 2006 eingehend besprochen. Sarah Hibbert hat ein immer wieder aktuelles Thema: Wie sollten vorherige Stilepochen in der Aufführungspraxis und der Komposition behandelt werden? Die Legende über den Sänger Stradella, der einem Fürsten die Braut ausgespannt hat und deswegen ermordet werden sollte, bietet einen interessanten (sex and crime) Plot. Wegen der Gesangkunst des Verführers, wollten die bestellten .Auftragsmörder den bezaubernden Sänger nicht töten. Tatort ist der Auftritt der Sängers in einer Kathedrale. Fritz von Flotow und [Louis Niedermeyer](#) haben beide fast zeitgleich eine Version des Librettos vertont. Es stellt sich nun die Frage, wie denn am besten der historische Stoff aus dem 17-ten Jahrhundert darzubieten ist. Beide Komponisten komponierten im Stil der [romantischen Oper](#) des 19-ten Jahrhunderts. Flotow wählt eine stärker historisierende Variante der mittelalterlichen Musik der Stradella-themen in seiner Oper. Die Klangfarben der mittelalterlichen Kirchenmusik passen aber nur schwerlich zu den [Erwartungen des zeitgenössischen \(1830er\) Opernpublickums](#). Daraus resultiert, en eine spannende kompositorische Aufgabe und entsprechende Herausforderung für die Aufführung des Werks. Darüber hinaus müssen noch Unterschiede zwischen der ersten mehr populären Form der Oper für Paris (Vaudeville) und der später in Hamburg uraufgeführten Version der Flotowschen Stradella Fassung beachtet werden. Historisierung mit Anlehnungen an [Gesänge von Palestrina](#) sind nicht der Geschmack eines jeden im Publikum und der Kritiker. Grund genug, in die Opern mal wieder reinzuhören. Den Tenor, die [Arie "Jungfrau](#)

[Maria](#)“ singend, hätte ich wahrscheinlich auch nicht als Auftragsmörder töten können. [Rolando Villazón](#) ist darin recht überzeugend.

Quelle: Hibbert, S. 2006. Murder in the Cathedral. Stradella, Musical Power and Performing the Past in 1830s Paris. Music & Letters Vol 87 Nr. 4. [doi:10.1093/ml/gcl081](https://doi.org/10.1093/ml/gcl081) (Photos, KS Kathedrale in Meaux, F).













INDIA



SOUTH AFRICA NEW ZEALAND NEW FOUNDLAND

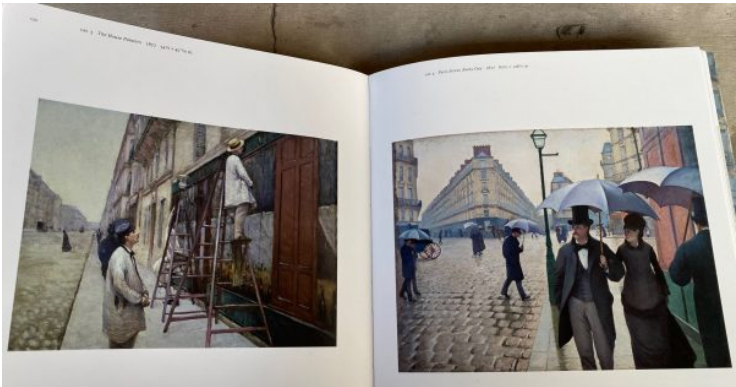
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND TO THE MEMORY OF
ONE MILLION DEAD
OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
WHO FELL
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 & 1918
AND OF WHOM THE
GREATER PART REST
IN FRANCE

A LA GLOIRE DE DIEU
ET A LA MEMOIRE
DU MILLION DE MORTS DE
L'EMPIRE BRITANNIQUE
TOMBES DANS
LA GRANDE GUERRE
1914 & 1918
ET QUI POUR LA
PLUPART
REPOSENT EN FRANCE

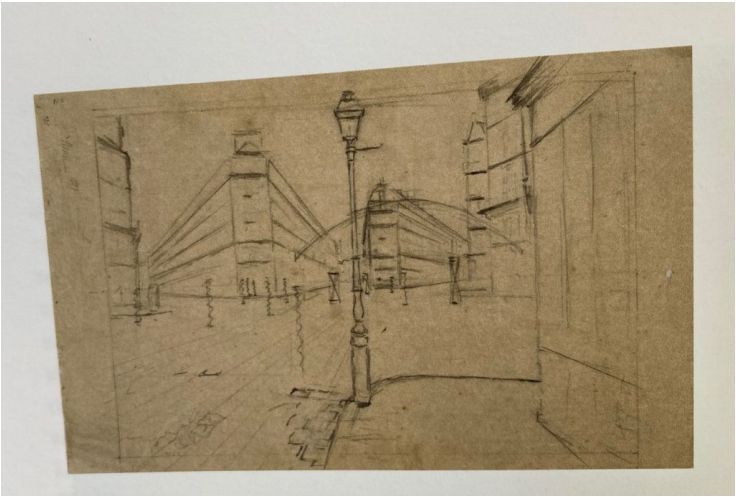
Caillebotte

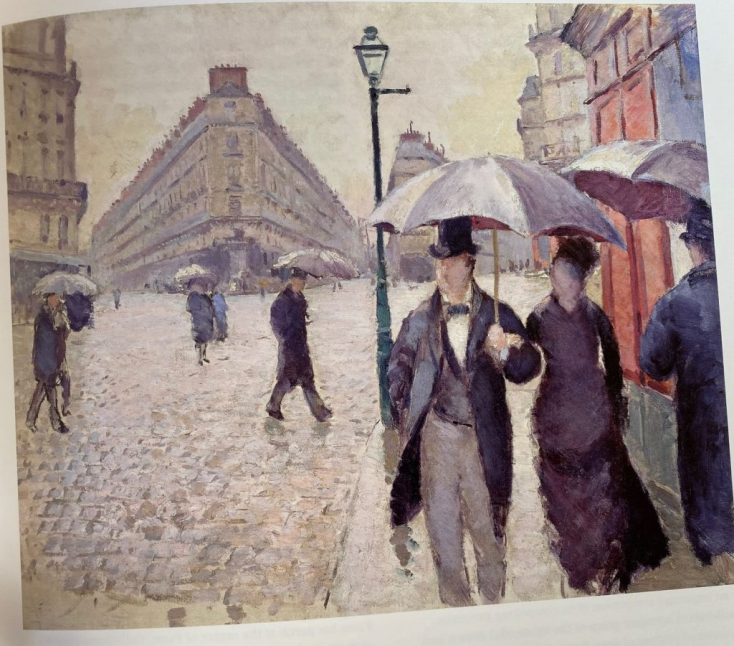
[Gustave Caillebotte](#) has done it again. Son of a great beneficiary of war efforts himself. He started with support from his father's fortune on a painting career. Soon after his father's death, he joined the group of "alternative artists", later called the impressionists in France. On the 1.2.2023 the Musée d'Orsay acquired a key [painting of Caillebotte for 43 Million €](#) with the help of a donation by LVMH. Where does the hype come from? A catalogue of the exhibition of the painter "[Gustave Caillebotte, The painter's eye](#)" from the National Gallery of Art in Washington from 2015 established Caillebotte again as a key person of the impressionist movement. Rich in diversity of motifs, the painter and supporter of the impressionists ([Philantropist](#)) has foreseen the challenge [photography](#) could bring to painting. The painter's eye is well explained by [Michael Marrinan](#) (pp.22) in the catalogue. In fact, the spatial depth of the views of the streets of Paris is a precursor to many photographers and movies of several decades later. Caillebotte's images of Paris depict well the mixed feelings about a daunting city size and the isolation of people captured in their own little inner circles with little communication despite or because of the noisy surroundings. Misty atmospheres allow to focus on impressions. Almost meditative walking in the city is his modern topic. Reflecting on painting as profession versus painting as artist is somehow an impressionist's sociology of professions. Gustave Caillebotte did not have to paint for money and he was aware of social class differences as son of a factory owner. It did not spoil his artistic view with social facts, but rather tried to reveal the intrinsic beauty not only of landscapes, but ordinary

working people. Other impressionists painted beautiful ballerinas, Caillebotte painted workers and sometimes more challenging parts of Paris in his early years. With [climate change near Caillebotte's home](#) in full swing, we shall “adore” the rainy days in Paris even more. And in the countryside, too. The painter’s eye reveals a visionary view of the modern and post-modern world.











Spring2023

Spring has sprung, a little bit early in 2023. On the 16th of March in the vicinity of Paris, where Caillebotte designed his impressionist garden. It is still 4 weeks until Easter. The spring flowers will hardly survive until then. Hence, we prepare for an early summer, nice because of less heating, but the vegetation is suffering in the region due to the lack of rain. [Hay fever for millions of persons will start early](#) this year as well. The [damages from a fire in the nearby forest “Sénart” from 2018](#) have still not really disappeared. It is expensive and needs a lot of workers, equipment and knowhow to avoid the same old [mistakes of planting mono-cultures of trees](#) again. When will they ever learn, [when will they ever learn.](#)









Construction

Construction as an industrial sector was growing strongly in the last decade. Corona crises, supply chain disruptions have [slowed growth in the last two years](#), but the sector was still growing in terms of employment. The topic of skill and employee shortages hardened from year to year. In March 2023 the sector has more time to reflect on the somehow rapid, if not sometimes chaotic growth of the previous decade. The macro-economic scenario has changed now. Following on supply chain disruptions, we saw the high inflation rates of raw materials. The war of Russia against Ukraine caused energy prices to soar and eventually come down again. Latest worry is the increase in interest rates to finance construction projects of public, private and the business sector.

The whole sector is known for its economic role of forerunner of economic cycles, up or down. So, what are the prospects? Not so rosy, as the experts explain for example on the expert forum of the [Belgian construction forum](#). The official from the Belgian National Bank announced a rather bleak outlook for the sector. New construction is stalling, but the renovation of buildings, especially for the purpose of reducing energy consumption is still strong and growing. Long-term reduction of emissions keeps the sector busy, thanks to the EU green deal in my opinion. The public, private and business investments in buildings all keep growth from turning negative. 2 big worries remain: (1) skill shortages and the lack of employees signalled in job openings in the sector is high and still rising; (2) the scarcity of women employed in the sector is still trailing most other sectors. Most companies have seen earnings grow over the last decade, sufficient time to build up reserves for

the tougher quarters to come. Skill shortages and gender biases are harder to overcome. The Construction Forum in Brussels addressed both topics and tries to convince employers and the younger generation. Construction companies have to work on their male-dominated image was one of the take home messages [Hélène de Troostemberg, the Director of Build Up](#) pronounced.

It is not certainly not enough to have a woman as moderator of a panel and an all-female singers group accompanying the presentations. Women as architects, technicians and builders will make the sector even more attractive for the next generation of men as well. Aging of employees in the sector is another tough issue waiting for innovative solutions. Digitalisation of every step in the value chain is an additional necessary step. The leadership and trade unions in the sector are well aware of these facts. Maybe next year women engineers will pilot the robotics demonstration rather than being in charge of building a nice atmosphere with their songs. I must admit I liked the intro song to the Forum: “We build this city on rock ‘n role”, but I am less sure whether rock ‘n role will solve the gender and recruiting issue of the sector. However, naming and framing the problem(s) is already part of the solution.





10s

The 1910s have been eclipsed completely by “[the Great War](#)” between 1914 to 1918. The 1st world war certainly was the most horrific period of the decade of revolutions and mass arousal. From a global history perspective the years preceding and shortly after the humanitarian disasters deserve more attention, if we were to derive lessons for prevention of other world encompassing [wars of imperialist states](#). The numbers 1st, 2nd, ... [3rd \(?\) world war](#) suggest an unescapable numbering of events. We no longer can think in this trivialising logic of war or historical determinism. Empires go to war more easily than democracies. This was the social scientists’ consensus after the Great War. It took several years for many European states to turn more democratic, allowing women to vote, or introduce more robust health and social security systems. Powerful aristocracies would not cede power easily, only the widespread poverty after the Great War and the human losses discredited many aristocratic regimes throughout Europe. The imperialist dominance of the beginning of the 1910s produced a spirit of ruthless conquest and exploitation of colonies around the world. It took another global war and almost half a century to dismantle these regimes. To understand global alliances and impediments of wars in the 21st century, the early 1910s are instructive as they inform the restitution of artefacts debate in the 2020s. In the history of ideas, the 1910s are probably best characterised as the [period of attempting to turn “grand ideas” into political facts on the globe](#). The rise of [Marxist ideology](#), liberal and fascist counter movements started to take powerful roots at the end of the 1910s. All these ideas and factual changes of the

[maps of power](#) still seem to govern a lot of international politics
even today.



The Cathedral of Malines after the Bombardment

AMONG THE ASHES

The Destruction of Art in Northern France and Belgium

"Regardons nos ruines à travers nos larmes . . . et espérons!"—RODIN.

By FRANCIS HAFKINE SNOW

SNOW, F. H. (1918). AMONG THE ASHES. *Arts & Decoration* (1910-1918), 8(6), 248-284. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43809058>

1900s

1900 marks the year of the [5th world exhibition in Paris](#). The Eiffel tower, built for the [4th exhibition in Paris](#) remains the iconic attraction despite the [new architecture that is added to Paris](#) as the Petit and Grand Palais as well as the 1st Metro line. [Art Nouveau style](#) adds to already impressive architecture in and around Paris. With the planning horizons of several years in advance of events, urban planning with all its facets of urban infrastructure and architecture becomes much of a defining scientific discipline for decades and for most of the time of the century. Grand urban architecture and design constitute just another form of competition between nation states. Most of them want to show off their imperialist acquisitions and, what they define as “[curiosities](#)” at the time.

Habib (2005, pp.502) singles out [Arthur Schopenhauer](#) and [Friedrich Nietzsche](#) as “heterological thinkers” who coin major thoughts in the late 19th century that shall influence the beginning of the 20th century right from the year 1900 onwards. “The world should be formed in your image by your reason, your will, and your love! And truly, it will be to your happiness you enlightened men!” (Nietzsche. Thus spoke Zarathustra 1978, p.110). In retrospect from the 21st century we shall doubt this overly positive approach to human intentions and their will to form the world according to their abstracting ideas only. Tensions between [technology](#) and [society](#) became visible and it took many decades before society became conscious that it is up to society to choose [technologies they preferred](#).

The planning for the [Brussel Expo 1910](#) started right after the

previous Expo 1905 in Liège. Protests in Brussels accompanied already the choice of terrain for the Expo, but the governors and shareholders of the enterprise decided 1906 for a site near the “[forêt de Soignes](#)”, where trees had to be cut for access to the construction site and for future visitors under local protest. Women workers were present to exhibit the low pay of women in industries. Child labour was documented with shocking images. Around the globe labour movements started to raise attention. In the U.S. the [National Women’s Trade Union League \(1903\)](#) was founded as well as the [National Child Labor Committee \(1904\)](#). “Bloody Sunday” in St. Petersburg (1905) saw the killing of peaceful protestors in front of the Zsar’s palace, which ignited the Russian Revolution of 1905 and the creation of the Russian Parliament. Some of these issues ([child labor](#)) keep returning to our social agenda well into the 21st century.

Einstein’s publication of the [theory of special relativity](#) (1905) as well as challenges from social philosophy reflects the huge discrepancy between advancement of the sciences and the living conditions of the masses. Social theories and science advances foreshadow the violent turbulence throughout the [20th century](#).

(Sources: (1) Max Welch Guerra et al. (2023). European Planning History in the 20th Century: A Continent of Urban Planning. Routledge. (2) St. James Encyclopedia of Labor History Worldwide: Major Events in Labor History and Their Impact, Neil Schlager (2004). (3) Images from I. Van Hasselt(1980) Bruxelles Expo 1910: l’incendie / de brand. J Stevens.

Her paviljoen van de velding

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ette serait organisée de nouveau à Bruxelles.
Léglé revendiquait également le droit d'organiser à son tour une exposition internationale.
Ce fut Léglé qui l'emporta pour 1905. Bruxelles reçut de la part du gouvernement, la promesse qu'après Léglé, Bruxelles recevrait à nouveau l'occasion en 1910.
Pendant que l'exposition de Léglé battait encore son plein, la préparation de l'exposition 1910 de Bruxelles avait été mise en route. Le sénateur Georges Dupret forma un comité provisoire avec monsieur Demot, bourgmestre de Bruxelles, le baron Janssen, directeur de la Société des "Tramways" bruxellois, et monsieur Camille Lemonnier, député et échevin des travaux publics de la ville de Bruxelles. Le 18 avril 1906 le «Com-

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Her Belgisch paviljoen

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Woluwe-Saint-Lambert, Woluwe-Saint-Étienne, Aulerghem et Tenue en organisèrent un comité pour poursuivre leur projet: «Bruxelles - Cinquante-ans - Woluwe».
La tâche pour la défense des intérêts du centre et de la ville basses recommandée par la suppression de la gare de l'Alée Verte disparait en 1935 du premier train et par le comblement des bassins intérieurs.
Pour mettre fin aux campagnes partiales violentes, qui menaçaient même la réussite de l'entreprise, le comité adoucit décidément le 27 novembre 1906 que l'exposition s'élèverait sur un terrain de 90 ha, au Solbosch à Ixelles, le quartier de l'université actuelle. Il s'agissait d'un terrain longeant le Bois de la Cambre, de part et d'autre de l'avenue Franklin Roosevelt actuelle,

56

Bruxelles-Exposition. L'incendie des 14-15 Août 1910
Après le Palais de l'Exposition et front de l'Avenue du Solbosch



Bruxelles-Exposition. L'incendie des 14-15 Août 1910
Les derniers vestiges du Palais de la Belgique



20th Century

The [20th century](#) has told us many lessons. History does not repeat itself, but it appears that new variants of old themes keep coming back. Slowly passing the century like a movie in decades instead of episodes, we witness socio-emotional tides. The first decade, the [00s](#) intensify the beginning of urban planning and social revolutions. The [10s](#) show the arousal and subsequent extinction of masses of people in trenches. The [20s](#) were described as the Carefree Twenties. In the [30s](#) we observed the rising tides of fascist organisations followed shortly afterwards by the disastrous [40s](#). After the [Shoah](#) and the World War the [50s](#) were fabulous viewed from the U.S. and Western Europe. The [60s](#) propagated sex, drugs and rock n' roll spreading across continents. The wild [70s](#) became almost inescapable through the continued rise of mass media. The 80s were depicted as the colourful [80s](#) as the 2 previous decades had set the scene for psychedelic colours. The [1990s](#) have been coined as the gay [90s](#) by some. Coming out as a gay person became easier and Western societies more sensitive and open to diversity. The back cover of the recent publication by [Aurélien Bellanger](#) "[Le vingtième siècle](#)" (The 20th century) speaks of the book as "roman polyphonique virtuose". I look back on the 20th century as "polyphone" in many respects. It would be an illusion to believe we can only keep the nice sounding harmonies without the tensions or dissonances.



Technology

Over the [20th century](#) technology has pushed forward in many fields. As there were huge investments needed the public campaigns to support new technology without much further reflection of [potential consequences](#) have pulled many western societies into risky technologies. Except the Club of Rome there were very few to [question](#) the naïve beliefs that technological change will make [societies](#) rich and potentially even more equal. The recent report “[Climate Inequality Report 2023: Unequal Contributions to Climate Change](#)” has debunked both of these claims. More flying across the planet, particularly short city hopping, has allowed [few persons to reap the benefits of the jet-set world](#), but contributed to climate change in excessive quantities. This is a fact when we compare major world regions among each other as well as within each country. It has to be the wealthy countries that have to shoulder the biggest share of the costs. It has to be the wealthy that pay higher contributions for their pollution. Society has to reign in technology more than ever before. Moreover, we still have to get the [income and pollution distribution](#) organised in a better way. It is not only an implementation challenge, but the major question of the 21st century to [repair](#) the damage largely caused throughout the [20th century](#).

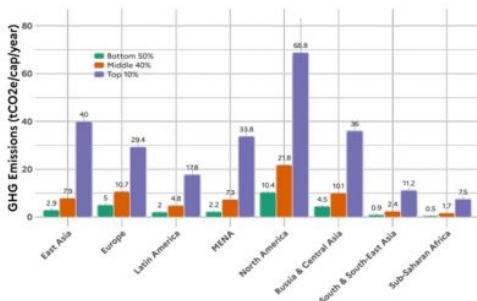


Figure 4: Carbon footprints by group across the world 2019

Notes: This graph shows that carbon inequality is not just an issue of high- vs. low-emitting countries. Intra-regional inequalities in carbon emissions are also very pronounced. Modelled estimates based on the systematic combination of household surveys, tax data, and environmental input-output tables. Emissions include footprints associated with consumption and investments. Values also take into account the carbon embedded in international trade. **Sources:** Chancel (2022).

Climate Inequality Report
2023 page 26:
Unequal Contributions to
Climate Change
<https://wid.world/news-article/climate-inequality-report-2023-fair-taxes-for-a-sustainable-future-in-the-global-south/>

On Noise

The 3 authors [Daniel Kahneman](#), [Olivier Sibony](#), [Cass R. Sunstein](#) have published in 2021 the impressive attempt to sell statistics to non-statisticians. The grip on the topic: "[Noise. A Flaw in Human Judgment](#)" is a bit misleading. Even the German translation ("Was unsere Entscheidungen verzerrt"), in my opinion, is grossly misleading. The work deals with judgment, or arriving at a sensible judgment. Decision-making is only the next step with a lot of other intervening processes. The German philosophical term since the enlightenment period has been "[Urteilkraft](#)". We are all more or less familiar with the notion "bias" in judgment. Me, originating from the Moselle, will always be biased in favor of a Riesling compared to other vines. In addition to this naive bias I may apply a more professional judgment on wine. Testing several wines even from the same small area from the Moselle valley and then repeating the tasting I might make a noisy judgment. "When wine experts at a major US wine competition tasted the same wines twice, they scored only 18% of the wines identically (usually, the very worst ones)." (p. 80). In addition to the previously defined form of "level noise, pattern noise and system noise" (p.77), we have occasion noise, when judgments vary from an overall statistical perspective.

Having received a second dose of a vaccination yesterday and having spent an unpleasant night my judgment for this review might be biased, because of impatience. So in order to reduce bias and variants of noise I shall repeat the review at a later stage. Let's see what this returns. But for today, the Epilogue "A less noisy world" (p.377) appears rather odd to me. It is probably an illusion

to believe that we can create a less noisy world, even with the best of wishes. The authors abstract from any strategic use of noise to influence judgments. The political form of choosing judges for Constitutional Courts in the U.S. needs to be dealt with. Noise in judgments is an important element, but strategic use of bias might be more influential to impact outcomes. Noise, when faced with a judge who has a reputation to be very tough in sentences might be overturned in an appeal court decision. There are plenty of procedural ways to overcome noise in judgments. I agree with the authors that you better know about the noise in judgments than ignore it. Awareness of random errors and noise involved in grading exams and recruitment decisions have determined many excellent “failures” to leave historic contributions to our world. In music, maths or literature some splendid talents probably have been impeded at earlier stages of their life to make average or normal careers. Some of them left us with fantastic pieces thanks to the noise in judgment of others.

There seems to be an age bias in the tolerance of noise in the acoustic sense. Noise in the statistical sense has left a strong mark on me when I learned about [white noise](#) as error or [stochastic process](#).

Image Kahneman, Sibony, Sunstein 2021. p3.

Two Kinds of Error

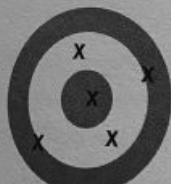
Imagine that four teams of friends have gone to a shooting arcade. Each team consists of five people; they share one rifle, and each person fires one shot. Figure 1 shows their results. In an ideal world, every shot would hit the bull's-eye.



TEAM A



TEAM B



TEAM C



TEAM D

FIGURE 1: *Four teams*

Repair 2

Ever since the visit to the exhibition “Care, Repair, Heal” at the Martin Gropiusbau in Berlin the image of flying prostheses rests with me. [Repairing](#) the human body is feasible in many fantastic ways. The inner wounds, however, are less visible and sometimes hurting even more. In recognition of the thousands of victims again in the [Russian war on Ukraine's territory](#) and the atrocities causes by mines to injure humans, we have to assist in caring, repairing and healing. This has not changed since the [Great War](#) or the [Nazi-induced](#) mass murder and mutilations. Humanity is unable to bann such landmines despite international conventions trying to achieve this.

The strong image produced by the [protheses as clouds](#) in the sky ([Kadar Attia](#)) remind us of the lasting effects of war. Images we had associated with the mutilated soldiers and civilians of the 2nd world war, many still around us in the [60s](#) or [70s](#), are coming back to Europe. Writing about the [20th century, Aurélien Bellanger](#) described in words a similar traumatising vision of flying prostheses in his story of the lonely poet and philosopher. We cannot repair [history](#), but we can work towards reducing useless additional suffering. It is part of the absurdities of our world that technology has created masterpieces to assist us and reduce suffering, but at the same time [technology](#) is applied to create the worst suffering as well. Rather than thinking of this relationship as 2 sides of the same coin, I prefer to hope for dialectic evolution towards a better synthesis solution using enforceable international law. Yes, I still have a dream! ...



Goals SDGs

The [Strategic Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) date back to 2015 for their enactment. The goal setting is a routine procedure for the UN and its subsidiary international organisations. This makes a lot of sense, because if you do not name the problems, you are unlikely to address them in a systematic fashion. Quantifying the goals is then a much more difficult task and that then already part of the ensuing discussion about idealist, illusive or realist goals. Most diplomatic exchanges focus on this goal setting and scheduled monitoring as well as more comprehensive evaluations of goal achievement. The SDGs comprise another strategic twist. Rather than concentrating on national governments, non-governmental organisations and businesses were encouraged to actively participate in the implementation of the goals. After more than 7 years the achievements of intended improvements should become visible. [Well, goal setting and monitoring over the last seven years is likely to reveal failure on several of the 17 indicators.](#) Covid-19, disruption of supply chains, wars causing recessions and high inflation are major factors to explain failure. However, knowing the reasons of failure is a substantial part of improving in the next coming years. Returning to cooperation rather than confrontation could do the trick. Even after wars cooperation to organise relief is the only way forward to come closer to achieving the SDGs.

Bold initiatives like the [Marshall-Plan for Europe](#) in the [20th century](#) made it possible to rise from the ashes. Countries that have been in ruins at that time, now have important roles as financial contributors to support other regions. The goals remain the same, [the challenges as well.](#)



<https://sdgs.un.org/goals> United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals

Monitor SDGs

The advantage of the goal-setting at the U.N. is definitely that the progress or regress can be monitored. To do this, a definition for each goal in words is presented, which has to be translated in all languages. Some notions are subject to conceptual issues. Poverty, for example, in an individualistic society needs to be defined at an individual level. In societies where women and dependent children or elderly persons are part of one household, the household is the unit of definition. After the conceptual clarification the measurement of a set of indicators needs to be identified. How do we measure poverty? Here the focus is either on absolute poverty (lump sum of money available) or relative poverty (relative to others in society). Stability of poverty, poverty as transitional or access to poverty relief programmes as well as charity organisations in a country will play a role here. No simple answers and comparisons here. Timeliness of data is another issue. Data and sampling are costly in itself, therefore not every year the measurement is repeated to gauge progress or regress.

I take account of the SDGs in my own work in the form that the 17 SDGs of the U.N. are part of my work as well. In consulting practice it is a frequent task to check for example a larger enterprise on its contribution to the implementation of SDGs locally, nationally or globally. To start a reflection phase of my blog entries I just used the “search function” of the webpage and entered the first 6 SDGs in English and German to check, whether my webpage is SDG-proof. The result shown below in simple frequencies. Education and Learning come out as top scores. Other areas show fewer entries. In some goals, like gender, the keywords

to check for are more diverse and return less precise results. This opens the conceptual box again. The notions summarised under a SDG goal might be numerous or singular – which leads to a bias in results. “Bildung” in German finds also “Weiterbildung” = further or continuous education at the same time, not the English term education. Subtle differences, but potentially huge effects. Overall, an interesting exercise to analyse my/your own mind and business practice. Focused attention versus broad coverage of SDGs, each has its strength and weaknesses. Goal 17 to strengthen the means of implementation and global partnership may build just on many more organisations doing their SDG-homework. Name, Measure, Improve – that is the action. [SDGs in Blog1-6](#)

SDGs in Blog entries (truncated at max. 10 entries)					
5	3	10	10	7	4
1	10	10	10	0	6
	2	0	10	9	
	1	5	10	10	
		5		1	
		10		2	
Poverty	food/hunger	health	Education	Gender	Water
Armut	Essen	Gesundheit	Bildung	Geschlecht	Wasser
	nutrition	Well-being	Learning	Women	
	Ernährung	Glück	Lernen	Frau	
		Aging		homo/hetero	
		Altern		gay	
<u>to check: enter key word into blog search function on www.schoemann.org</u>					

Menschen

Im [Bundesarchiv](#) in Berlin sind einige Fotos zu einer Variante der [Vermessung von Menschen](#) ausgestellt. Nicht nur in den Kolonialregionen wurden Menschen zu rassenideologischen Studien vermessen. Die Kurzbeschreibung dazu und die 2 Bilder reichen, um diese scheinbar wissenschaftliche Praxis zu dokumentieren. Zurecht wird auf den Skandal mit der weiteren Verwendung dieser Daten bis 1981 hingewiesen. Es gab Kontinuitäten von Wissenschaft die heute noch erschrecken lassen. Kritischer Umgang mit jeglicher Art von Daten gehört zu dem Curriculum guter wissenschaftlicher Praxis. Diese darf nicht vor ethischen Fragen Halt machen, auch wenn das die weitere Verwendung der Information blockiert. Der Kinofilm "[Der vermessene Mensch](#)" hat dafür erneut sensibilisiert. Ethnologen und Ärzte wurden vielfach in den Dienst von Ideologien gestellt oder haben sie willentlich vorangetrieben, oftmals aus persönlichen Beweggründen. Skandale in und um [Archive](#) gehören zur Weltgeschichte, wie die geschichtliche Erkenntnis selbst. Mediale Verbreitung und Bestätigung von Klischees werden schon lange verurteilt, aber mit wenig Erfolg, wie der Deutschlandfunk Kultur selbst berichtet ([Link Sendung Fazit](#)). Die Kitas und Schulen haben ihre Hausaufgaben ebenfalls schlecht gemacht ([Link](#)). Wo ein Wille ist, ist meistens auch ein Weg, aber wenn der Wille fehlt aufgrund von Stereotypen wird sich wenig ändern.

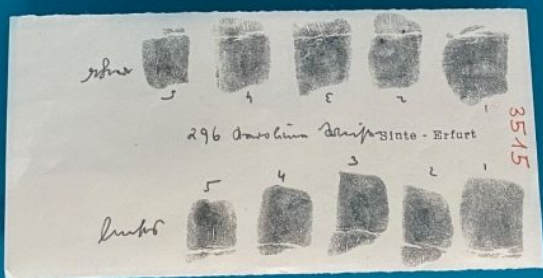
ENDE EINER SKANDALÖSEN
KONTINUITÄT - SINTI
SICHERN AKTEN
DER „RASSEFORSCHUNG“

Unterlagen, die bei der 1936 errichteten Rassenhygienischen und bevölkerungsbiologischen Forschungsstelle des Reichsgesundheitsamtes entstanden sind, werden erst im Jahr 1981 Archivgut – unter ungewöhnlichen und dramatischen Umständen.

Die Forschungsstelle hatte Untersuchungen an etwa 30.000 als „Zigeuner“ bezeichneten Sinti und Roma durchgeführt. „Gutachten“, die aus der Vermessung äußerer physischer Merkmale abgeleitet wurden, dienten als vorgeblich wissenschaftliche Begründung für Diskriminierung, Deportation und Ermordung der Betroffenen. Auch nach Kriegsende betrieb die Tübinger Anthropologie-Professorin Sophie Ehrhardt, eine ehemalige Mitarbeiterin der Forschungsstelle, anhand des seinerzeit zusammengetragenen Materials „populationsgenetische Untersuchungen“.

Als das Bundesarchiv 1979 Kenntnis von den damals so genannten „Zigeunerunterlagen“ erhält, macht es seinen rechtlichen Anspruch geltend: Da die Aufzeichnungen, Bilder und Karteien Eigentum des Deutschen Reiches waren, seien sie nun Eigentum der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und spätestens nach Abschluss der aktuellen Forschungen abzugeben. Ein Bundesarchivgesetz gibt es zu diesem Zeitpunkt noch nicht.

Obwohl die Eigentumsfrage unstrittig ist, wird die Abgabe zwei Jahre lang verzögert. Für die wenigen Überlebenden und die Nachfahren der Opfer jedoch ist die Nutzung der Unterlagen für aktuelle Forschungen in Fortsetzung der NS-„Wissenschaft“ unerträglich. Mit der Besetzung des Universitätsarchivs Tübingen am 1. September 1981 macht der Verband der Deutschen Sinti auf den politisch wie moralisch unhaltbaren Zustand aufmerksam und erzwingt noch am gleichen Tag den Transport der Unterlagen ins Bundesarchiv.



Der Bestand umfasst neben Listen und Karteien viele Fotografien. Sie sind häufig die einzig verbliebenen Zeugnisse, die es überhaupt von den dort abgebildeten Menschen gibt und die an sie erinnern können.

Blutabnahme: BArch, R 165 Bild-244-78 / o. Ang.
 Gesichtsabformung: BArch, R 165 Bild-244-66 / o. Ang.
 Bestimmung der Augenfarbe: BArch, R 165 Bild-244-64 / o. Ang.
 Fingerabdrücke: BArch, R 165/21


Pressure

Pressure or stress, in most humans, contributes to higher blood pressure. Sources for pressure are manifold and that is the basic problem. As it is hard to identify the major sources of high blood pressure, we often use a summary term “life style” in order to avoid shaming particular substances, (tabaco, red meat, alcohol to name just a few). Among life style elements is the daily rush to work and back home or bringing children to school and home again. Work itself is a major contributor as well. Leisure activities are not free of pressure in order to perform at a person’s best. As in many health topics, the balance does the trick. This is common knowledge beyond the Asian world as in their [health philosophy of Yin and Yang](#). The Western world is proud to have the best and highest availability of medical treatment and hospitals for their populations, accepting some inequality in access nevertheless. For countries with less means for curative practices they have no choice and have to [focus on preventive strategies \(Lancet Study Link\)](#). [Rural China](#), therefore, is a good case to study access and willingness to apply western medical type treatment of high blood pressure is too expensive and just not available in sufficient numbers. The good news is, with a preventive programme based on nurses rather than medical doctors the [prevention](#) of high blood pressure works reasonably well. Community health workers are therefore a cost-effective alternative in reducing blood pressure. Sitting is the new smoking, and driving around in a car rather than walking or cycling are health risks, even if the car or the chair is a very nice one.





Improving cardiovascular health in rural China and beyond


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 PlumX Metrics

In 2021, high blood pressure claimed 11·3 million lives globally.¹ High blood pressure has ranked consistently as the top modifiable risk factor globally for over 20 years. Although its prevalence is universally high, awareness, management, and control of high blood pressure are particularly poor in low-income and middle-income countries.² Several cluster randomised controlled trials have shown that community health worker-led interventions were effective in significantly reducing blood pressure in Argentina (the HCPIA trial),³ Malaysia and Colombia (the HOPE 4 trial),⁴ and Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka (the COBRA-BPS trial).⁵ More recently, in 2022, Sun and colleagues⁶ showed that in the China Rural Hypertension Control Project (the CRHCP trial), a village doctor-led intensive hypertension intervention increased hypertension control by 37% compared with usual care. The 18-month net reduction in systolic blood pressure was as large as 14·5 mm Hg.