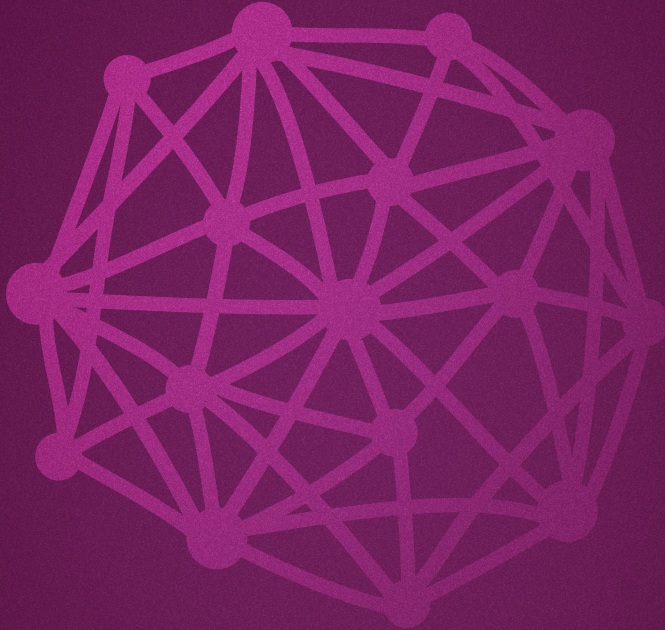


Has social media changed politics?



*and other big questions on politics,
international relations & the media*

Welcome

Here at the University of East Anglia's School of Politics, Philosophy, and Area Studies, we often get asked for reading suggestions by people thinking of studying Politics and International Relations. While there are many excellent textbooks on all of these subjects, and lots of other ways to develop your knowledge, we have never found anything covering the breadth of topics we explore with our students. Never, that is, until now...

In this short book, we offer even shorter answers to 9 of the biggest, and most challenging, questions you are likely to face in these subjects. In confronting these issues we draw on the best, and most recent, academic research to outline some of the ways you might go about answering them for yourself. So, even if you can't explain the rise of right-wing populist ideologies by the end of this book – and even if you can't solve the problem of regulating Big Tech – you will have a clearer idea of how you might tackle these questions in your future studies.

We hope you enjoy it!

Enquiries

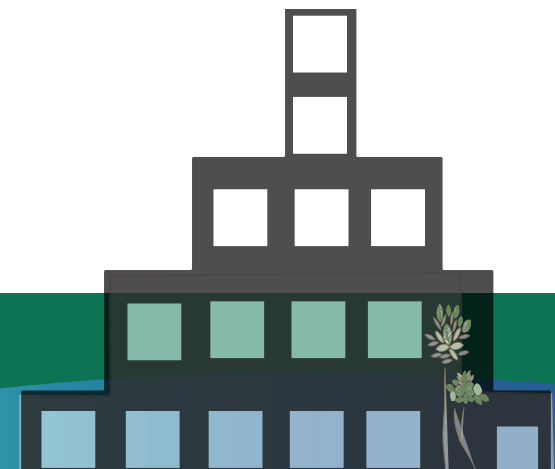
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Q1.

How has social media changed politics?

Dr Ben Little
Associate Professor, University of East Anglia

The Facts: Digital revolution(s)

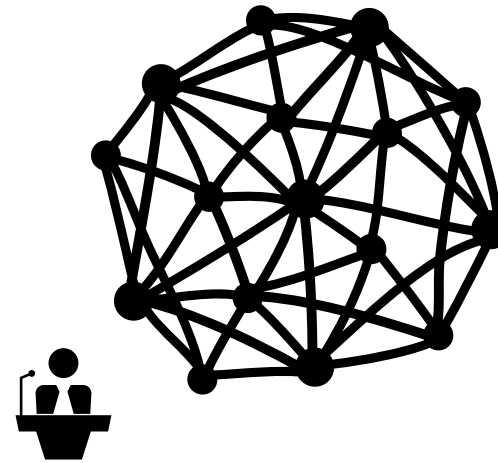
In the early days of social media there was a strong utopian sense of its possibility. With the launch of Facebook and Twitter in the early years of this century, early advocates of social media thought that a networked public

sphere would lead to better political conversations across differences, the ability to organise large groups of people rapidly and challenge abuses of power effectively. It would make us less lonely, more compassionate, and importantly more progressive.

Initially, this seemed to be the case. Across the West #Occupy and the “Take the Square Movements” were digitally networked responses to the fall out of the 2008 financial crash leading to mass protests. Most prominently the Arab Spring – actual revolutions across

North Africa and the Middle East – used blogging, social media, and other networked technologies to overthrow dictators and establish democracies. For a moment it seemed that the early promise of more and better democracy was being realised.

But that was quickly undone. First, movements in the Middle East stumbled into armed conflict and civil war. Then across the world a different side to social media started to emerge. With the election of Duterte in the Philippines, then Brexit, then the election of Trump, we started to see social media



fuelling highly targeted, emotive, and importantly effective messaging to win election campaigns, destabilising even the most established political systems. “Truth” became an area of contestation, with competing online representations of what previously might have been seen as established facts.

Qui Bono? (who benefits?)

Research now shows that online media environments, while still of use to progressive and activist causes, are overall of greater benefit to right-wing populists and divide us as much as they

connect us.

Understanding, how, why and in what way political opinion is shaped by online actors, around elections, but more broadly too around cultural and social issues, has become a central question for students of politics. And we must understand social media as a critically important space for regulation, participation, and mobilisation of political forces.

Conclusion: It's important, but don't overplay it

That said, social media is also not as powerful and important as some make out. So called “legacy” media and institutions remain vital

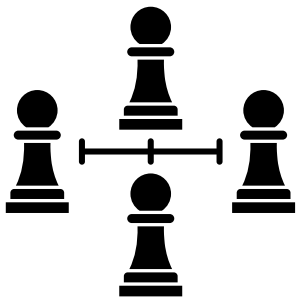
for democracy and, however much hate and misinformation might be shared through social networks, positive spaces for debate and deliberation online and “on land” remain a vital part of our political future. We are in a vital moment in these debates – particularly with the emergence of AI generated content. How these issues start to resolve themselves is fundamental for you, as students of Politics and International relations and as citizens. ■

Want to read more?

Paolo Gerbaudo's *Tweets and the Streets*, is a great starting point on the early movements; for an analysis of how conservative forces became the new masters of social media, read Jen Schradie's *The Revolution That Wasn't*.

Want to know more?

At UEA we have a practical module called 'Activist campaigning' that teaches you how to run a real-world campaign. You can also discover more with us about the nuts and bolts of digital politics.



Q2.

Do nuclear weapons make us safer?

*Dr Suzanne Doyle
Lecturer, University of East Anglia*

The Facts

The world's nine current members of the nuclear club – those countries which have nuclear weapons capabilities – possess roughly 12,500 nuclear warheads between them.

Just one of these warheads could destroy a whole city, yet

thousands are on standby ready to be released within minutes.

Understanding Both Sides of the Argument

Many academics and politicians believe that the sheer destructive capability of nuclear weapons makes the world a safer place.

This is because owning them supposedly deters other states from firing their own nuclear weapons due to the fear of retaliation: an idea that was known as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) in the Cold War era.

Some people also argue that nuclear weapons make states

more hesitant to engage in conventional warfare due to the risk that this could escalate



into nuclear war.

So maybe then nuclear weapons make the world safer? After all, no nuclear weapon has been deployed in warfare since the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The Conclusion

In my view, it is just not

that simple. Deterrence is a theory, not a proven fact.

One should not overlook the role of sheer luck for the non-use of nuclear weapons. There are several alarming stories about mistakes that have nearly led to the launch of nuclear weapons.

Another problem is that the theory of deterrence relies on the assumption that the protagonist wants to survive. In the current period, this may not be the case: imagine, for instance, a terrorist with an atomic bomb who may not be so worried about death.

It is also important when thinking about security and nuclear

weapons to pay attention to nuclear testing. These tests played a role in Cold War posturing and had an enduring detrimental impact on the affected communities and environment.

The Debate, Continues

The debate over whether nuclear weapons make our world a safer place remains unresolved. What is clear is that nuclear weapons still matter, and we need further study on how to manage the threat they pose. ■

Want to Read More?

For more information on Britain's nuclear force see Suzanne's paper in the Journal of Strategic Studies. Explore the history of nuclear weapons via the Wilson Center's Digital Archive.

Want to Know More?

Think about taking modules covering Global Politics or International Security on our undergraduate degree courses.

Deterrence is a theory, not a proven fact. One should not overlook the role of sheer luck for the non-use of nuclear weapons.

Q3.

After Brexit, will another country leave the EU?

Dr Pierre Bocquillon
Lecturer, University of East Anglia



The facts

When a majority of British citizens voted to leave the EU in the June 2016 referendum, many Eurosceptics hoped that it would lead to a 'domino effect', with other countries following the UK's example. 'Brexit' officially took place on 31 January 2020, making the UK the only EU member state to ever leave the Union. Since then, no other member state has made any sign of wanting to leave the EU, or even to organise a referendum

on EU membership. Why?

The divisive 'European question'

Survey data shows that UK citizens were always among the most Eurosceptic people in the EU, an attitude that had deep roots in the country's national history and politics. The two main UK political parties were also deeply divided on the 'European question'. This goes some way to explain why the UK left.

Yet, discontent towards the EU is not

limited to the UK. For over two decades Euroscepticism has been on the rise across the block and has become a persistent feature of European politics.

Brexit as counter-model

While some European Eurosceptic parties were initially interested in following in the UK's steps, they have since toned down their demands to leave the EU or the Eurozone. As Brexit has made the many challenges of exiting the EU plain to see, Eurosceptic

parties such as Marine Le Pen's *Rassemblement National* in France, Giorgia Meloni's *Fratelli d'Italia* in Italy, and Viktor Orban's *Fidesz* in Hungary, are no longer trying to replicate this model.

Instead, far right and right-wing populist parties now talk of changing the EU from the inside, by strengthening the powers of the nation-states at the expense of EU institutions such as the European Commission. They also want to strengthen further European borders against immigration.

Conclusion

Although no other EU member state is likely

to follow the UK's example any time soon, right-wing Eurosceptic parties are still strong on the continent and in some cases in power. This represents perhaps a

bigger challenge for the EU as they have the potential to undermine or transform it from the inside. ■



For over two decades Euroscepticism has been on the rise across the block

Want to read more?

Take a look at the website 'The UK in a changing Europe' (ukandeu.ac.uk/), where you can find expert comments and analysis on the UK-EU relationship. Read the report 'UK Regulations after Brexit Revisited' which assesses the policy impact of Brexit.

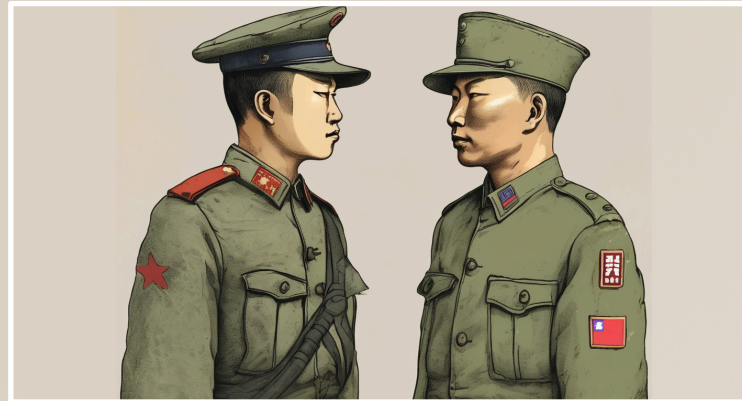
Want to know more?

Study for a Politics & IR degree at UEA, where you can take a module introducing you to what the EU is, what it does and the challenges it is facing. You will also be able to explore all aspects of the vexed relationship between the UK and Europe.

Q4.

Will China Invade Taiwan?

Dr Ra Mason
Sasakawa Associate Professor, UEA



The Facts

China regularly conducts military training drills that simulate the storming of Taipei, complete with mock replicas of famous buildings from the Taiwanese capital. Taiwan also faces a daily barrage of cyber-attacks.

Why Taiwan Matters

Taiwan is potentially the most dangerous flashpoint on the planet. Located between the Taiwan Strait and Western Pacific, it sits between the world's two superpowers – the United States (US) and China (PRC) – as they go head-to-head for control over a region that has been

hotly contested for centuries. When the Nationalists (Kuomintang) lost to the Communists in the Chinese Civil War, following their brief alignment during World War II, defeated generalissimo, Chang Kai-Shek's, forces fled to Taiwan Island and created the Republic of China (ROC) – today's Taiwan.



The History

In the decades that followed, Mao's PRC vowed to reunify the combined body of China and at first tried

to do so by force. Since the failed attempts of those early years, Beijing's international influence has grown with China's rise, while Taipei's status has waned globally – down to only twelve countries formerly maintaining diplomatic ties at the time of writing. This has led to speculation of an imminent invasion and reunification by force. However, there are at least three reasons why this is very unlikely to happen.

Reasons to Be Reassured

Firstly, the PRC lacks the political cohesion required to invade and occupy Taiwan. Western myths of a

monolithic government in Beijing led by the personal cult of President Xi Jinping precipitate the misconception of a ruthlessly efficient state that enacts decisions without the shackles of conflicting interests which hamstring liberal democracies. This is far from accurate. Although highly authoritarian, China is beset by internal wranglings among its competing factions, many of whom do not support an invasion of Taiwan. Secondly, China's continued rise is reliant upon the growth of regional trade and global supply chains. These would both be massively disrupted by war across the Strait,

not to mention the direct economic impact of losing Taiwan as a major trading and business partner. Instead, Beijing is set to further deepen its commercial ties with Taipei in an effort to integrate the two economies so deeply that control can be exerted economically rather than militarily. Finally, despite the recent successes of Taiwan's nominally pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), China and Taiwan share a common ethnic and cultural heritage. This means that however different their contemporary identities now are, familial links on both

Want to Read More?

Check out Agenda Publishing's Flashpoints series, including *Taiwan: a contested democracy under threat* and Ra's forthcoming title on nearby Okinawa, as the keystone of the Pacific.

sides of the Strait retain a point of convergence that ensures the PRC remains confident of winning the long-game of wrestling back the hearts and minds of their perceived breakaway province.



The Conclusion

Barring a freak event or sudden change to the structural balance of power in East Asia, it is extremely unlikely that China will invade Taiwan. ■

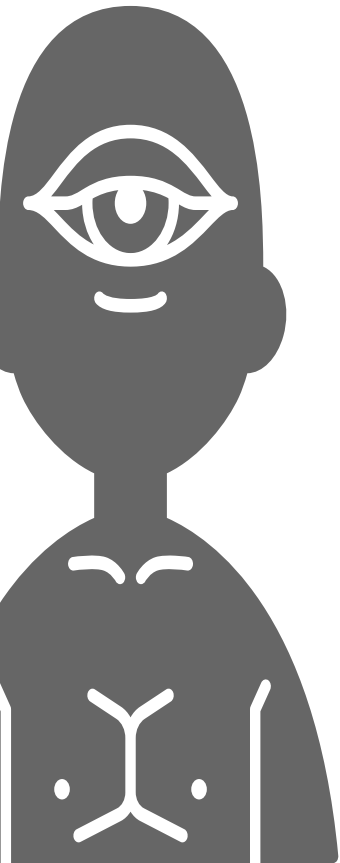
Want to Know More?

Study modules on topics such as the Asia Pacific, International Security and Foreign Relations of China and Japan in the Modern World at UEA.

Q5.

Will regulators break up Big Tech firms?

*Dr Alex Williams
Lecturer, University of East Anglia*



The facts

In the last decade increasing pressure has built up in many countries to better regulate the tech sector. Such efforts range from new legislation from the EU to American regulators such as the Federal Trade Commission, who are attempting to sue large technology companies, such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon. Will American regulators and courts actually break up Amazon?

The claims against Big Tech

Governments across the world are increasingly under pressure to regulate the technology sector.

These pressures take different forms, but include harms created by digital platforms, concerns about excessive monopoly power, tax evasion, and potential damage to the public sphere. In the EU this has led to the creation of the Digital Markets and Services acts. In the United States, this has led the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the US Justice Department to launch a series of lawsuits against some of the largest and most powerful corporations in the world, largely on claims of monopoly and abusing their market dominance.

The Federal Trade Commission's Case

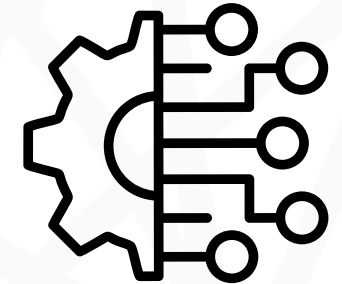
The FTC, led by Lina Khan, have focused their attention on two major corporations, Google, and Amazon. In the case against Amazon, their argument is that the company uses its dominant market position in a way which restricts competition and harms consumers and sellers on their platform. In particular, the FTC claim that Amazon's preferring of sellers who use Amazon's logistics to deliver packages in searches means that the company is effectively 'self-dealing': giving preferential treatment to those that use its services. This is harmful to both sellers using the Amazon

marketplace platform because it restricts their choices, and harmful to customers because it increases prices. The remedies that are being asked for include forcing Amazon to divest itself of some of its core businesses, for example forcing it to sell off its logistics arm.

Conclusion: If not now, then when?

The overarching mood across much of the world is now towards far harsher regulation of big technology platforms. For example, the UK's Competition and Markets Authority temporarily blocked the \$69Bn Xbox / Activision Blizzard

King merger in 2023, demonstrating an increasing appetite for holding big tech to account. Therefore, it seems likely that the FTC will succeed in at least some of their claims against Amazon. And although the firm will appeal any findings against them, this kind of pressure is also likely to change their business practices in the long-term. ■



“The overarching mood across much of the world is now towards far harsher regulation of big technology platforms.”

Want to Read More?

Take a look at the FTC's website (<https://www.ftc.gov/>) where you can find detailed press releases and other information about their cases against Amazon and other big tech firms.

Want to Know More?

Study for a Politics at UEA, where you can take a number of modules introducing you to digital politics, digital regulation, and the role of digital technologies in creating social change.

Q6.

Do I need to work to earn a living?

Dr Juvaria Jafri
Lecturer, University of East Anglia

The Facts

Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a system where a government pays all individuals a guaranteed sum of money regularly. This idea gained considerable traction during the COVID-19 pandemic. With social distancing rules in place, many governments, including

the UK, used innovative ways to directly transfer funds to individuals to help sustain their livelihoods and, by extension, the economy. But even before the pandemic, policymakers and scholars had debated how a system of regular payments to individuals could be used for social goals such as gender equality, poverty

reduction, job stability, and a better work-life balance.

Basic income schemes have been implemented – often on an experimental basis – in several countries, including in Africa, Europe, and South America. But these are not ‘universal’ because of specific criteria and

limited timeframes.

is Universal Basic Income a good idea?

A scheme launched in Iran in 2010 is described as universal because it targets all adult citizens and seeks to mitigate economic hardship from the withdrawal of subsidies. Basic income is not just about simplifying welfare. Many people aspire to have a routine of work and leisure that not only pays the bills but also offers emotional fulfilment. But this isn't always possible, for everyone, everywhere. So how viable is a system in which everyone, receives a regular payment – like a salary, but not tied to work?

Experimental schemes have offered compelling evidence-based claims. For example: UBI can improve gender equality by limiting economic disparities between men and women, given that the latter are more likely to do unpaid care work, and less likely to be in paid employment. UBI can also alleviate inequalities from automation, as robots – such as the ones in Amazon warehouses – became better at doing what once only humans could do.

Conclusion: Can It Happen?

But wouldn't a UBI of this sort mean that those who are already affluent will save even more? With new

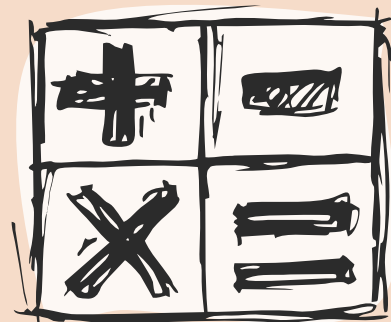
blockchain technology, this issue might be easily overcome by issuing payments centrally and digitally so that they have an expiration date – recipients must then use it or lose it. So, while UBI comes across as a more efficient and fairer way to promote decent living standards, it could also involve more state involvement and surveillance – particularly in the financial system. As such the topic continues to spur vibrant debates among policymakers and scholars. ■

Want to Read More?

Check out Juvaria Jafri's research on digital welfare and financial infrastructures in the books *Beyond Data for Development: Identities and Infrastructures of the Digital Welfare State* and in the *Cambridge Global Companion to Financial Infrastructures*. See also <https://socialprotection.org/>.

Want to Know More?

Study for a Politics & IR degree at UEA, where you can take a module introducing you to global political economy and questions around inequality, automation, and the future of work.



Q7.

Is it possible to rig an election?

Professor Toby S. James
University of East Anglia

The facts

Donald Trump lost the 2020 US Presidential election. He falsely claimed that the election was rigged and incited supporters to storm the Capitol building to prevent the result being confirmed. But election rigging does happen in many parts of the world. Where? And how?

Election rigging in autocracies?

Elections can be and regularly are rigged. The history of elections from around the world provides a menu of manipulation. In the worst cases, autocrats deploy more overt methods such as force and fear. Harassing, assaulting or intimidating your

opponent's candidates so that they don't stand; bribing election workers and voters; marching troops through villages to intimidate them; destroying opposition property; or using state control of the media. Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko's police, for example, used severe force after the

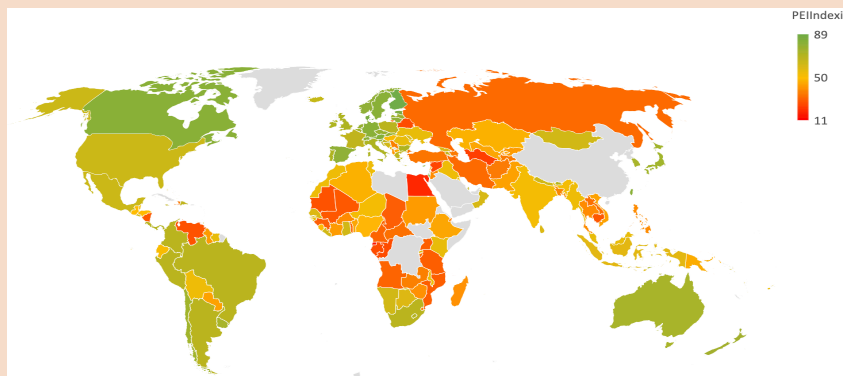


Figure 1: The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity expert survey, election-level (PEI 9.0), most recent election reported. Source: Electoral Integrity Project.

2020 election to violently squash post-election protests.

Figure 1 maps the quality of elections around the world as of 2022. Countries in red have the lowest election quality; those in green have the highest. Election quality is the highest in Nordic countries such as Denmark, Finland, and Sweden. They are lowest in countries such as Turkmenistan and Equatorial Guinea. Good and bad elections can be found on all continents.

Election rigging in democracies

Elections in countries with long traditions of democracy also have problems. Leaders may use different, more

subtle, tactics that they can present as 'fair' or 'within the rules'. This might involve changing or keeping electoral rules and laws that are considered 'legitimate' within democracies. This can be done knowing that relatively



few citizens and journalists pay attention to the geekery of electoral law. But it can be a wicked and effective way of ruling and maintaining power.

If your strategy for winning an election is getting the backing of

Want to read more?

The Electoral Integrity is a world-leading think tank on election quality co-hosted at UEA. Have a read of their resources including their annual report on election quality – or their books and articles.

older voters, definitely don't allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote. If you have won the last election, maintain an electoral system that keeps down smaller parties. Ask voters to show their passport to their polling stations before they can cast a vote – this bureaucratic hurdle may deter opposition voters more than your own. Employ fewer staff in polling stations where your opponent has lots of supporters. The queues will put off many people from voting.

To strengthen elections, there should be regular reviews of the often decades-old electoral law to make sure it is still fit for purpose and close monitoring of elections. ■

What to know more?

Study for a Politics & IR degree at UEA, where you can take a module introducing you to different ways to understand democracy such as Introduction to Contemporary Politics and States, Institutions and Citizens.

“If your strategy for winning an election is getting the backing of older voters, definitely don't allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote.”

Q8.



Do arts & culture matter for the climate

*Dr Kate Mattocks
Lecturer, University of East Anglia*

The facts

In policy terms, culture and the environment are traditionally thought of as separate spheres. But over the past several years there has been more attention paid to the ways that they connect, despite there being little or no mandate to bring cultural sectors into alignment with national

climate commitments.

There are three main ways that the arts and culture relate to climate change: as a contributor to the climate crisis, as something that is in danger, and finally as part of mitigation strategies to reduce emissions.

As a contributor

There is a big variation between subsectors of the cultural and creative industries. Compare the fashion industry, for example – a very high-polluting industry with newness built into its consumption model – with something much more low-impact like crafting. This means that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to tackling emissions; each subsector requires its own approach, and the good news is that there is more and more attention on emissions. For example, for film production (with \$70m+ US budget) emits ~2,840 tons of CO² (see Creative PEC, 2022). BAFTA has an app for screen-based industries to calculate

their emissions, and carbon footprinting is increasingly becoming a requirement for funding.

In danger

The second way in which culture and the arts are connected to climate change is when they are in danger due to damage from extreme weather: flooding, heatwaves/drought, and sea-level rise. Coastal locations are particularly at risk. Much of the focus has been on heritage sites, where the agenda is largely being driven by international organisations such as the European Union and UNESCO. UNESCO world heritage sites such as the ancient city of Chan

Chan in Peru are in danger due heavier rains impacting its mudbrick foundations. Assessing impacts and coming up with solutions for adaptation is challenging, since it requires scientific and heritage expertise on how diverse heritage sites and materials can adapt to changing weather.

Climate mitigation

Finally, arts and culture can be part of mitigation strategies by helping to raise awareness and inspire people to act. We are often motivated not by reason and facts but by emotions and story-telling. People can be moved enough to act and change behaviour: evidence shows, for example,

that the 2019 legislation on the ban of single-use plastics (such as straws and cotton buds) was in part enacted thanks to public outcry following a 2017 episode of the BBC’s Blue Planet II, which showed albatross chicks ingesting plastic. ■



Want to read more?

Look at Julie’s Bicycle, a not-for-profit organisation working to achieve net zero in the arts & culture: <https://juliesbicycle.com/>.



The Museums Association provides guidance on climate justice: www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/museums-for-climate-justice/. To go further, read the Creative PEC report (2022) Creative industries and the path to net zero at <https://www.culturehive.co.uk/>.

Want to know more?

Come join us at UEA where you can take modules on media and cultural policy and environmental politics.

Q9.

Is democracy backsliding?

Professor Toby S. James
University of East Anglia

The facts

The 1990s saw great optimism about the prospects for a democratic world. The Soviet Union collapsed and splintered in newly democratic states. There were elections in Russia that were considered fair. The system of racial segregation in South Africa called Apartheid was abolished with

universal suffrage for the first fully democratic elections in 1994.

Fast forward to the twenty-first century and there are concerns that democracies are falling and new dictatorships are gathering powers. Headlines are everywhere about 'democratic backsliding.' What does this mean? Why are there concerns?

Defining Democracy

Democracy is a contested idea. As a bare minimum, democracy means that there is free speech and fair elections. We should be able to criticise the government and not fear that we will end in jail. We should be able to vote for whichever party or candidate we want. But in many countries these human rights are being increasingly undermined. The Russian opposition leader, Alexei Navalny, for example was imprisoned and died in jail.

There are more demanding definitions of democracy, however. It is sometimes argued that a country needs to be free of racism, citizens

Figure 1: Electoral democracy 1780-2023. Source: author, based on V-Dem 14.0 data



need to be empowered with access to health and education for a country to be considered really democratic. Elections might be important, but they do not guarantee political equity.

What are the trends?

Figure 1 maps trends in the quality of 'bare minimum' democracy – commonly known as electoral democracy according to expert opinion. The scale is 0 (not democratic at all) to

1 (fully democratic). There has been a long-run increase in electoral democracy quality around the world – but there has been a noticeable drop off in the past ten years. Given that the global score average peaked only a little higher than 0.5, the world has a long way to go to be fully democratic.

Figure 2 considers a more demanding definition: that there is equality of power across

socio-economic statuses, genders, sexual orientation and social group (e.g. religion, ethnicity). Data is based on expert opinion. Globally, the story has also been one of long-run progress. This is especially true of power equality by sexuality and gender - which has become much more evenly distributed even if it is currently stalling. In return, power equality by socioeconomic status has declined. Given that those with less income and resources continue to be less powerful, it is no surprise that many citizens have questioned the value of democracy. Strengthening democracy might just mean empowering citizens through the ballot box, but also in the 'every day.' ■

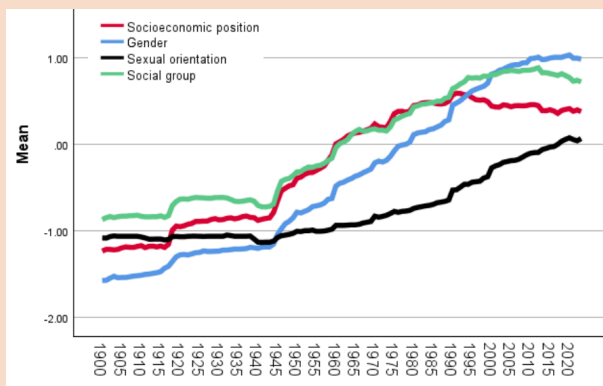
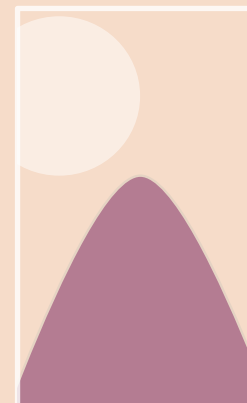


Figure 2: Power equality 1900-2023. Source: author, based on V-Dem 14.0 data.



Want to read more?

Take a look at the a recent report and blog on whether UK democracy is improving – or backsliding. Also see: Professor James' research on democratic backsliding.

Want to know more?

Study for a Politics & IR degree at UEA, where you can take a module introducing you different ways to understand democracy such as Introduction to Contemporary Politics and States, Institutions and Citizens.

Want to read even more?

Considering a Degree in Politics?

You might enjoy these books:

- Kenneth Minogue, *Politics: A very short introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2000)
- Colin Crouch, *Post-democracy* (Polity, 2004)
- Andrew Heywood, *Politics* (Palgrave, 2013)
- Larry Siedentop, *Inventing the Individual: The Origins of Western Liberalism* (Penguin, 2014)
- Javier Cercas, *The Anatomy of a Moment* (Bloomsbury, 2009)
- Michael Wolff, *Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House* (Little Brown, 2018)
- Geoffrey Evans and Menon, *Brexit and British Politics* (Polity Press, 2017)
- David Runciman, *How Democracy Ends* (Profile Books, 2018)
- Charles Clarke and Toby James, *British Labour Leaders* (Biteback, 2015).



Thinking of Studying International Relations?

You might enjoy these:

- Andrew Heywood, *Global Politics* (Palgrave: 2nd edition, 2014)
- John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2014)
- Paul Mason, *Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere: The New Global Revolutions* (Verso, 2014)
- Richard Sakwa, *Frontline Ukraine: Crisis in the Borderlands* (I. B. Tauris, 2015)
- Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: The True Story of a Child Soldier* (Harper Perennial 2008).

Interested in the Media and Culture?

Check these out:

- Nick Robinson, *Live from Downing Street* (Bantam, 2013)
- Andreama Clay, *The Hip Hop Generation Fights Back* (2012, NYU Press)
- Andrew Marr, *My Trade* (2014, Macmillan)
- Astra Taylor, *The People's Platform to Media and Culture* (2014, Metropolitan)
- James Curran and Jean Seaton, *Power Without Responsibility* (Routledge, 2009)
- Liesbet van Zoonen, *Entertaining the Citizen* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005)
- Nick Davies, *Flat Earth News* (Vintage, 2009)
- Tom Watson and Martin Hickman, *Dial M for Murdoch* (Penguin, 2012).



Fiction

- Insights into politics and the media can also be found in novels. Worth reading are the very familiar, like George Orwell's *1984* or *Animal Farm*, and William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, as well as modern works like China Mieville's *The City & The City*, Dave Eggers' *The Circle*, and Chris Cleave's *The Other Hand*.
- Robert Tressell's *Ragged Trousered Philanthropist* remains one of the finest books ever written in the English language. It is the first working class novel and an insight into the world of labour and capitalism that has rarely, if ever, been bettered.
- Louis de Berniere's *Birds Without Wings* is a novel about the breakup of the Ottoman Empire set in a village in Anatolia, which also provides an account of everyday life during conflict.



Political Speeches

- Political speeches offer an opportunity to explore how people think about their politics. Speeches can give us an insight into the past but also show us some of the ideas and outlooks that have shaped our present. Here are two examples:
- Patrick Henry: *Give Me Liberty Or Give Me Death!*: This short but important speech came to be seen as encapsulating a general attitude on the part of the Republic.
- Neil Kinnock: This speech in Bournemouth 1985 was a key moment in arguments about what is responsible politics and how the Labour Party should think of itself and its mission. www.britishpoliticalspeech.org/speech-archive.htm?speech=191

Online Sources and Television

- Radio 4's *History of Ideas* series: 2 minute videos on big philosophical concepts. www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLiykclIICgPE0q9BiMexLFj-1rq9GUwX
- Open Democracy: Lots of free commentary and articles on issues around Politics, International Relations, Media and Culture: www.opendemocracy.net
- E-IR: commentary and articles by academics as well as current International Relations students: www.e-ir.info
- *Eastminster*: Our Politics, Media and International Relations blog hosted at UEA: www.ueapolitics.org
- Or for those of you who prefer television, finally, check out: *Mr Robot*, *House of Cards*, *The Thick of It*, *The West Wing*, or *Veep*.

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- ⚠ *This brochure is accurate at the time of going to press. However the provision of courses, modules and facilities is regularly reviewed and may be subject to change. Please see www.uea.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information.*

Thanks

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