



King's High School

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Reimagining, reframing, and rethinking

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Reimagining, reframing, and rethinking

The second King's High School Annual Conference was delighted to invite abstracts for papers on the theme of reimagining, reinventing, and rethinking. The theme was deliberately chosen to encapsulate all subject areas, and it was pleasing to see students submit abstract proposals from a wide range of disciplines across the school curriculum and beyond.

Society is constantly adapting and changing to respond to an ever-changing world. Correspondingly, humanity is therefore required to reimagine, reframe, and rethink its thoughts, actions, and interactions with other actors around it. The conference theme asked students to reflect upon these themes in their chosen subject area, interpreting either one, two, or all three subheadings.

This publication is a collection of some of the papers that were presented at the conference on 25th April 2023. They are demonstrative of the impressive talents, the diverse interests, and the incredible endeavour of our students at King's High, and I do hope you enjoy the product of their research as much as we enjoyed listening to it on the day.

Dr Amy Galvin
Head of Independent Learning

Papers from Panel 1: How can technological, economic, and historical legacies within the modern world be reevaluated?

Colombia: The fall of a century

by Qiqi, Year 12

This paper is concerned with narcoterrorism/cartel related violence that occurred in the 70 and 80s in Colombia when the Medellín cartel led by Escobar had immense power and influence. This paper will look particularly at two interlinking questions - to what extent of power did Escobar possess as well as what type of socio-economic background allowed for the rise of the Medellín cartel. Although there is already existing research on how Escobar achieved such power through his brutality, manipulation, and nefarious acts. However, there is not sufficient research that focuses on the background of drug trafficking in Colombia and why in fact Colombia almost needed this 'robin hood' character in their lives and how it intrinsically linked with the extent of his power. This paper aims to draw these two factors together to reimagine why the drug trade was almost inevitable to occur due to its long history of political and social instability. It is an incredibly topical issue that needs addressing since by understanding Colombia through this lens and not simply dismissing it as a country that was riddled with crime, we can understand countries that currently suffer in this way in a comparable manner. This paper hopes to portray Colombia in a new light in terms of the notorious drug trafficking and why it inevitably occurred. Through research from documentaries, books, podcasts and journal articles, this paper has discovered that due to the numerous factors that contributed to the political instability of Colombia that the people of this nation could not have recovered from such a treacherous past and so their only hope lied in Escobar who represented everything the country needed. This guise allowed him to cultivate immense power. Having drawn this conclusion this paper may lead to viable solutions for countries that are suffering similar situations today by learning from history's mistakes.

So how exactly did it all begin. 1948 Jorge Eliecer Galan was brutally assassinated in broad daylight. This then triggered about 60 years of civil unrest with the worst of it being called 'la violencia' which lasted around 10 years. But why did a mere Colombian politician change the country's history forever.

Firstly, his death simultaneously represented the death of liberal and democratic ideological beliefs which he so desperately fought for and promoted for Colombia. Colombia was desperate for this liberal leadership since it always had a politically unstable past. Galan led a small subsection of the liberal party, and he preached his ideas both to the urban and rural communities which meant that he received universal support from all the communities in Colombia which really stressed the magnitude of his influence. Once again, his death represented the loss of what could have been great social change.

As Previously mentioned, 'La violencia' is what really shows the damage done from assassination. This ten years period of brutal carnage that ensued is in fact difficult to categorize because there were multiple factors which led to so much killing. But at the root of it, it was mainly due to the political rivalry between the conservative party and the liberal party which broke out following Galan's assassination. However, this 'simple political rivalry' morphed into something much more monstrous. This was because gangsters, mobs and bandits all took advantage of the situation to loot and seek vengeance. It also must be pointed out the sheer level of Brutality carried out included hangings, crucifixions, torturing, as well as dismembering bodies. This level of violence spread through the whole of a Colombia like a contagious plague. Although one can't forget that at the heart of all this conflict were the political differences between both the liberals and conservatives. Although at one point they tried to come together to find a solution it was unsuccessful and only led to the barbaric killing worsening. Finally, by the early 60s this period of civil unrest and bloodthirsty killing had virtually calmed down.

Now that the context has been explained, how exactly does Narcoterrorism and Escobar's Medellín cartel come into all this political turmoil. Firstly, the period of 'la violencia' sets a prerequisite for what is inevitably going to come. This is mostly

since Escobar grew up in this type of violence and therefore it was all he ever knew. However, the lack of any proper law enforcement coupled with widespread corruption through the ranks made drug trafficking a lot easier.

Escobar's home life can give an insight as to why he founded the Medellín cartel. Escobar grew up in a very average home with a schoolteacher mother and farmer father, they were considered a typical working class Colombian family. Later, in Escobar's early teenage years he moved to Medellín and began a life of petty crime which included stealing cars and selling fake diplomas. Finally, however The Medellín cartel was first founded in 1976. Escobar saw an opportunity in the cocaine industry and took it. In the early days of the Medellín cartel he started off with several recruits, which rapidly grew later. But Escobar's main associate was his cousin Gustavo de Jesus Gaviria Rivero who oversaw route planning for the transportation of the product. Some cocaine smuggling techniques that were used in the early days include super light planes whereby everything inside them was taken out apart from the most essential parts like the aeroplane seat and the controls to maximize space to assure that as much cocaine could be transported.

Figure 1 shows how as Escobar's drug empire progressed his methods progressed as well



Although an ingenious smuggling idea of Escobar's was the use of submarines which were manufactured out of super light materials like wood and fibreglass for example. This coupled with the fact that when the submarines were being deployed, they also were not entirely submerged to avoid detection. All his innovative ideas for smuggling coupled with his charming personality made him an unbeatable enemy for Colombia. Escobar managed to create a 'robin hood' character of himself in the eyes of the people. Escobar used his extensive wealth, which at the height of it he was bringing in 50 million dollars daily and had a net worth 30 billion. This afforded him to build schools, churches, football fields all which made him seem so magnanimous, which gained him unchartered popular support. Another factor which made Escobar a genius drug lord was that he always appeared as an incredibly meek, calm and docile person on camera when he was being interviewed by the press. But his reputation preceded him which was that of a brutal drug lord that killed over 4,000 people. Escobar's Treachery truly knew no bounds. Nevertheless, his contrasting personality on screen to what the media reported about him which was that he killed all who defied him regardless of age or gender, made for an unstoppable public enemy.

Relating back to the politics of the time the drug war was fuelled by the political instability and in turn the political instability fuelled the drug war. A vicious cycle. Multiple communist guerrilla groups in background, most of which formed during the period of 'la violencia'. Furthermore, it was unsurprising that communist groups developed especially in rural areas due to the turmoil between the liberals and conservatives. Because of 'la violencia', it left huge gaps in power which allowed guerrilla groups to organise and establish themselves more formally. And in the 70s there were four major communist guerrilla groups FARC, ELN, EPL, M19. All of them wanting to pioneer Colombia's political future.

Having discussed the political and social instability that begun with 'la violencia' and ended with the drug cartels in the 20th century. This was a brutal period of Colombia's history but expresses the importance of how the drug trade was practically destined to happen given Colombia's history, but it can also be learnt from since inevitably for Colombia, the last century, represented all the varying types of power structures as well as the downfalls of them. These lessons can be taken and learnt for the rest of humanity to ensure that the past shall not repeat itself in other war torn and politically unstable countries.

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Panel 2: How can societal attitudes, structures, and behaviours be reimagined?

An evaluation of the United Kingdom Criminal Justice System, using Scandinavian models as a comparison

by Maddy and Sophie, Year 12

In this paper, we are going to discuss the issues within British prisons, evaluation our Criminal Justice System through a comparison with the Norwegian and Danish Justice institutions. The problems faced within British prisons are illustrated by a 2011 study showing 75% of ex-inmates reoffend within nine years of release, and 39.3% within the first twelve months. This depicts the reality of our prison system as not fully constructive, or a beneficial system of punishment and rehabilitation. We are going to evaluate the systems based upon the environment within prisons, escapes, rehabilitation (the lack of recidivism or reoffending), societal biases and economics.

British Criminal Justice System:

Britain is one of the highest incarcerators in Europe, with over double the Scandinavian countries' imprisonment rates, per 100,000 people, and a jail occupancy level of 112.7%, illustrating the overcrowded reality of our penal system. There has also been an increased length of the average custodial sentence and prisons being used more as a punishment, depicted by a 2020 report by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture that described England's prisons as "Violent, unsafe and overcrowded." These studies depict some of the numerous limitations of our system, as prisons are used more frequently, and for longer periods of time, so they are over their capacity, limiting the positive aspects of the system, due to a large prisoner to officer ratio and limited space and resources for the incarcerated to access.

Within British prisons, there are many reports of high levels of drug addiction, with numbers of heroin users that enter prison being less than those who come out. Coupled with high drug addictions, there is high levels of abuse, limited things to do, and issues within the HMP Wormwood Scrubs of inmates being locked in a cell for 23 hours every day, sharing with at least one other person. Within the cell would be a toilet with no screen for privacy, whilst the guards would only refer to each inmate as either their surname or their

number which is inevitably dehumanising. There is also an overrepresentation of minorities, especially BAME, and those in pov-erty. Our Criminal Justice System, has, therefore, deep-rooted, systematic issues which need to be solved, and one way is looking at alternative systems for ideas and policies to implement.

On exiting prison, the previously incarcerated face a multitude of issues, due to their difficulty getting accommodation and jobs. In 2014, 41% of 480 single homeless people had served a prison sentence in Crisis' Nations Apart report and around 1/3 of people sleeping rough had served time in London according to The Rough Sleeping in London report (CHAIN). The Howard League's 'No Fixed Abode' report also discovered that around 1/3 of people about to leave prison did not have anywhere to stay after release. Lacking housing often leads to reoffending due to desperation and vulnerability. As well as reports of people offending for accommodation, the homeless are more vulnerable to involvement with gangs and due to inability to have a residency, cannot open bank accounts, and therefore are extremely restricted in jobs and housing and any other perceived options apart from crime. Housing available is also often located in more deprived areas, with other previous of-fenders and those currently breaking the law, creating a cyclical nature of reoffending, incarceration, and rere-lease, which is detrimental to rehabilitation. Criminal records are also extremely limiting, due to social and societal stigmas concerning previous offenders, limiting job, housing, education, and other opportunities.

Norway's Criminal Justice System:

In comparison with Britain's focus on punishment, vindication and deterrence, Norway's system is based on a humanistic approach and a focus on each individual's personal rehabilitation. A humanistic approach to the handling of crime is 'one that would be oriented to human betterment and fulfilment, as opposed to conventional criminology oriented to the control of crime and suppression of offenders.'

In collaboration with this approach, there is a principle of normality, in which Norway has been praised but also scrutinised. It contends that the life inside each prison should be as similar as possible to life outside the prison i.e., back in the community, ensuring that the community remains protected and safe when the ex-inmates return. This is established within prisons by creating cells with no bars, that also resemble university dormitories, some with the addition of a flat-screen TV and an ensuite shower.

As the main focus of the prison sentence is the removal of freedom, inmates are still treated as human beings, although they still follow strict daily plans; they are expected to wake up and get locked in their cell at certain times, as well as having meals at specific times. Even though a Norwegian prison sentence sounds quite easy and "just watching TV all day," inmates are required to participate in an activity or job during regular working hours every day. Some of these activities include woodworking, cooking, or metal works.

Denmark's Penal System:

Another model is the Danish prison system, which focuses on rehabilitation, and was ranked number one in the 2019 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index. The courts have transparency as a clear value and built on key values:

accountability, respectful treatment, credibility, openness, and receptiveness, to ensure an effective and fair system. The prisoners are mainly sent to open prisons, unless they abuse their freedom, attempt, or have attempted, escape or are in for a longer sentence, in which case they are sent to one of 13 closed prisons. This support system has minimalised recidivism, as in Denmark the rate of recidivism is significantly lower than the world-wide average, and the country deemed one of the lowest in the world with a recidivism rate of 29% in 2005. Denmark also shares Norway's policies on 'normality' and aims to support and mitigate for many issues within prisons.

In Denmark, by removing poor social-economic standards in prisons, whilst providing support and educative facilities, once the offenders leave prisons, where wellbeing was a priority, they are equipped with the skills to easily adapt to life outside the facility and 'half-way house' they are provided with to help adapt, in the last period of their punishment in, before returning to society. The incarcerated are provided with large amounts of support, as well as the state being a high taxation high welfare one, which allows more facilities to be put in place to assist those who require them.

A Comparison:

	YEAR	NORWAY	DENMARK	UK
Crime Index	2022	33.51	26.60	46.20
Safety index	2023	66.49	73.40	53.10
Escapes	2015-2020	137 in open prisons 4 in closed prisons	314 in open prisons 12 in closed prisons	631 in open prisons
Reconviction Rate	2022	20%	27%	63%

In this figure, we can see the UK had a significantly higher reconviction rate than both Scandinavian systems and had a much high crime index, and lower safety index. This portrays the systems of punishment in Norway and Denmark as more sustainable, beneficial and effective, highlighting that our criminal justice system does not have to look the way it currently does, and reforms are possible.

Potential Reforms:

In order to reform prisons and our criminal justice system, there are numerous things we can do! First-ly, it is necessary to introduce and extend the vocational and avocational courses within prisons, to enable higher education and develop critical skills and employment value. Secondly, prison should be the last option, restricted to only those who pose a genuine threat to society, such as people who have committed murder or rape, as, for low-risk offenders, non-imprisonment sentences reduce crime more than shorter sentences and reduces the ability of 'upskilling' in a criminal way.

Also, prisons should be reformed, introducing the principle of normality and other successful ideas from the Scandinavian systems. Penultimately, more preventative actions should be put in place, to reduce the need for rehabilitation entirely, offering support or prevent factors that often lead people towards offending and using technology to catch and prevent would-be-offenders before they commit the crime would be beneficial. Finally, there should be more halfway houses, open prisons, and support for offenders, based on the Scandinavian models.

Prisons are, as the academic, Gul states, 'incubators for violence or institutions for reform,' and we have the opportunity to make them into institutions for reform.

Societal Bias Hindering Reforms:

Although these reforms seem implementable, with some short-term expenses and effort, societal biases could hinder the reforms. A study was conducted with British citizens asking whether they preferred the punitive approach of a prison in the USA, or a rehabilitative Scandinavian prison. 64% preferred the 'tougher' approach of the US prison compared

to Scandinavian, as well as 47% viewing punishment as more important than rehabilitation.

This illustrates how, as a society, it will be difficult to implement reforms for the UK to a more rehabilitative state, due to potentially strong public opinion. As well as depicting the societal bias the previously incarcerated have as an additional barrier to their rehabilitation, societal notions of judgement feature on the reducing extremism in offenders plan, due to the large detrimental effect on previous offenders it has.

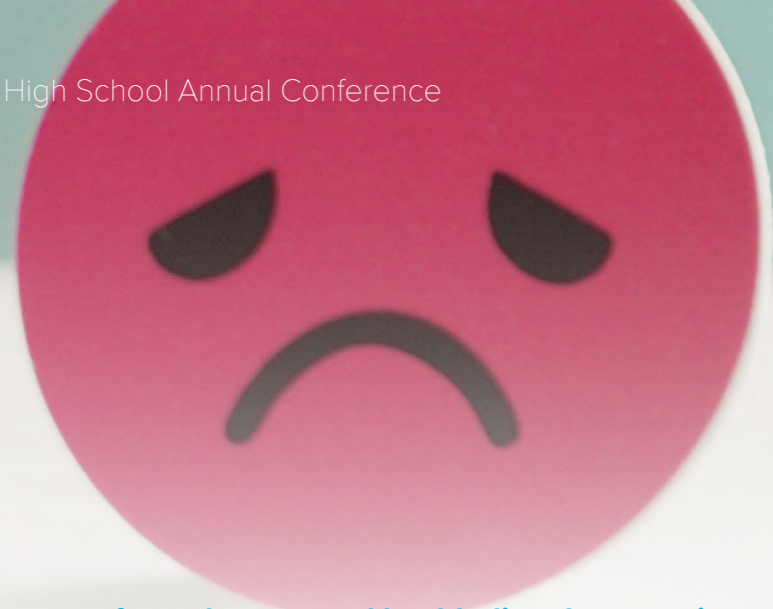
Current Solutions in Place:

Although Britain seems stubborn to fundamentally change the prison system, they are still attempting to reform it in ways that fit its own individual approach. For example, in December 2021, the UK Government published a Prisons' Strategy White Paper that focussed on certain areas including tackling contraband, treating addiction from the beginning of an inmate's imprisonment, introducing a new Prisoner Education Service to tackle reoffending rates, and employing a further 5,000 new staff.

More improved education systems have been introduced, after the Ofsted reports ranked many as 'inadequate' for their education programmes. Probation officers are working closely with prisoners before and on reentering and post-prison options are being improved by many charities working closely with the incarcerated and companies such as Timpson actively employing those with criminal records.

In conclusion, our British prisons are fundamentally flawed and have numerous moral and physical issues enclosed within the systems. Norwegian and Danish prisons are more successful at both protecting and rehabilitation, aided by their policies of normality, more open prisons, and a focus on rehabilitation. We can use and adapt some of their ideas to improve our prison system. However, we also face other issues that need amending, such as the overrepresentation of minorities, something that is still present in the Scandinavian system, but less prevalent due to the limited diversity in their society compared to British demographics.





How can we reframe how mental health disorders are viewed in society?

By Laura, Year 9

According to Mental Health First Aid England, one in four people are affected by mental health issues each year. But despite these staggering statistics, there is still a major stigma associated with mental health. Some working in mental health have suggested that stigma is one of the biggest problems facing people living with mental illness with some even claiming that the stigma can be worse than the symptoms of the illness itself. People are often ashamed to talk about their mental health and many suffer in silence. This is a huge problem as it prevents people from getting the help they need. This can lead to a downward spiral of mental and physical health problems and in some cases to people losing their lives. Breaking the stigma will create a more understanding and compassionate world for those who suffer from mental illness. Through understanding and compassion, we can show people they are not alone. In this essay I am going to explore three mental illnesses and how they are stigmatised through society and the media.

Schizophrenia is a severe long-term mental health condition, which causes psychosis (a condition where you are not always able to distinguish your thoughts and ideas from reality). It has a range of different psychological symptoms. Symptoms include: hallucinations, delusions, muddled thoughts, losing interest in everyday activities, not caring about personal hygiene and wanting to avoid people, including friends. The exact cause is unknown, but it is believed to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors as well as being triggered by certain situations. Treatments include antipsychotics, cognitive behavioural therapy, family therapy, and arts therapy however there is currently no cure for the illness.

Major depressive disorder or clinical depression is not just feeling unhappy or having a bad day but when you feel constantly sad for a long period of time. MDD is not a case of 'snapping out of it' and 'pulling yourself together' nor is it a sign of weakness but a real illness. The varying symptoms include unhappiness and hopelessness, losing interest in things you enjoy, symptoms of anxiety, feeling constantly tired

and having no appetite. In its mildest form, this will lead to a persistently low spirit however severe depression can make someone feel suicidal. Depression can be triggered by certain events but people can also be more prone to the illness based on their genes. It can be treated by a combination of lifestyle changes, talking therapies and medicines (such as antidepressants).

Addiction is defined as not having control over doing or taking something to the point where it could be harmful to you. It is most commonly associated with gambling, drugs, alcohol and smoking, but it's possible to be addicted to pretty much anything. As you are being physically and mentally affected by substances such as drugs, alcohol and nicotine this can cause you to become addicted to this feeling. Gambling may result in an addictive 'high after a win'. Addictions can be genetic or caused by environmental factors and are often used as a way of blocking out other issues. Addictions can be very damaging to health as well as damaging to work, life and relationships. However, there are a lot of support groups and charities out there for people struggling with addictions.

So what is a stigma and how does it relate to mental illness? A stigma is a negative attitude about a mental, physical or social feature of a person or group of people that involves social disapproval. This stigma creates shame, guilt and fear, which prevent millions of people from getting the treatment they need to recover. Mental illness is often considered as abnormal even though a shocking 971 million people worldwide (almost 13% of the global population) will suffer from a mental illness in their lifetime. Mental illness is often seen as a sign of weakness however it can affect anyone, regardless of how strong or capable they are. According to reports from the media and public opinion, schizophrenia has the most negative associations than any other public health issue in the UK today. People suffering from schizophrenia are also disproportionately represented in prisons and homeless hostels which hints at a lack of understanding of the illness throughout society. On the contrary to public opinion, depression is not a choice and cannot necessarily

be controlled. Other chronic diseases like heart disease or arthritis aren't looked down upon or stigmatised, so why is depression any different. And finally addiction; addiction could be seen as a choice the first time no matter the circumstances, but research shows that the illness changes the brain, causing cravings and compulsive behaviour.

Literature and television are two of the main medias people use and therefore have a huge effect on the general population. Often, the information presented is inaccurate and creates a false picture of what mental illness really is. People are fed stereotypes that they believe are based on truth, when in fact, they are usually based on misunderstandings often creating stigma. Disabilities and mental illnesses are already underrepresented on screens and the few representations are often wrapped up in stereotypes. A 2012 study found that in the 41 films they studied, the majority of people with schizophrenia were displayed violently with almost a third portraying homicidal tendency. The study also found that the cause and background of the illness was hardly ever discussed. *Shutter Island* and *A Beautiful Mind* are both films which depict the illness with *A Beautiful Mind* being based on a true story. In *Shutter Island*, there are nine instances of violence with others and four instances of self-inflicted violence. In *A Beautiful Mind*, there are four instances of violence with others and three instances of self-inflicted violence. On the contrary most people with schizophrenia never display violence or dangerous behaviour.

The book *13 Reasons Why*, later made into a Netflix series, is about a girl's decision to commit suicide and the reasons why. While some mental health experts commend the show's handling of the issues it tackles, others found its depiction of suicide to be inaccurate and potentially dangerous as it romanticises and glorifies self-harming, suicide and negative mental health. Being one of the most popular Netflix shows ever, this can show the danger that one tv show could cause.

In 2022, 4.48 billion people were active on social media worldwide with this number being more than half the population. Social media is everywhere. Is this a key

contributor to the stigmas surrounding mental health or is it a key way we can open the discussion? By providing spaces to share personal experience with mental illness people can find communities of support. But as well as being a good space to talk about mental health problems, it is also a cause of it. It has been linked to depression, anxiety and loneliness especially in teenagers and young people. The media can also trivialise and normalise mental illness often by making it seem less severe than it is. For example, many people believe that eating disorders such as anorexia are often portrayed as far less dangerous than they actually are with anorexia having one of the highest mortality rates of any mental health condition. Social media can also be used as a way to mock people with disabilities.

The press is also a means by which people gain information and is often seen to present stigmatising representations of mental health issues. Because whilst the press will report in great detail on every incidence of violence by people with schizophrenia only a tiny fraction of the thousand suicides by people with schizophrenia in the UK each year are reported at all and very few of them make it to the national press.

How can we prevent this stigma from ruining so many lives? I believe that by educating ourselves we can counter the myths and misinformation we are fed. We need to begin to talk more openly about mental illness and normalise conversations about mental health. We can support organisations that work to support people who struggle with mental illness. We can increase public awareness. We can use social media to encourage positive mental health. We can be mindful of language we use. We can challenge media sources when they stigmatise mental illness. By starting the conversation now we could save millions of lives.

The diversity of comforts that society relies on; their differences, similarities and the way they amuse individuals

by Macey-Lee, Year 9

Sport, cookery, reading, writing and travelling! They're all popular hobbies. But why do we have hobbies? Let me tell you. Analytically, a hobby is defined by the dictionary as 'An activity done in one's leisure time for pleasure'. Spanning from here in the room to across the global population everyone is non-identical. Whether it be in our taste buds, appearance, health or music choice. Each and every human specimen has differing cognitive thoughts, and this applies to our hobbies too. Today I'll be able to provide you with the fascinating world of our brains through the differences, similarities and ways our hobbies amuse us.

Firstly, who, what, when, where and why? Who: Whoever it may be, from youthful to elderly there isn't a neglect for doing what we love. Considering interests can change throughout growth and maturity this still doesn't affect the fact of why we enjoy our hobbies. What: Whatever it is we take pleasure in performing it can take more or less of our energy through thinking, speaking, perception and physicality. Therefore, our health and attitude in the moment can influence

the reason of our favoured activity. When: Specific hobbies have allocated times whether it be for safety reasons or the best fulfilment in a more suited season. On the contrary others can be done whenever such as reading or watching television. Where: Wherever we may be our hobbies can still be at our upmost priority. At the beach, cinema or home our favourite activity can always be loved even if we share an equality to another thing. Why:

Why? Why? Why? It's one of the most frequently used words within humanity. But hopefully as I progress into my talk, I'll be able to leave you full of certainties and not questions. The brain is one of the most pivotal organs in the human body as it coordinates the multiple functions that allow us to survive. One of these being our passions and hobbies. Without my brain I'd be here without a limb to stand on nor a breath to breathe. The frontal lobes are a key contributor to this and play a relevant role in the way our hobbies amuse us. They are long irregular projections located in the forehead of the brain and are the control centre for consciousness, speech, memory, alongside

our motivation towards occupations. When we take part in a hobby that we enjoy, chemical messengers in the brain (known as neurotransmitters) are released – such as dopamine, a chemical which helps us feel pleasure. These feel-good chemicals can then make us want to do the hobby again and therefore feel more motivated to continue. But not everyone has a drive for the same thing. That's what makes the human specimen unique, in ways that can't be listed. We aren't all structured the same or brought up following identical morals and cultural practices. This is in consequence to the disparate volume of neurotransmitters our brain releases in the different and many tasks we engage in.

Hobbies can be done for numerous reasons. Some include for wellbeing, relaxation, or fitness factors. In an authorised survey it was collected that 24% of the population in the UK don't engage in a hobby, however a collective party of 74% responded that hobbies are an important involvement. Here in the UK, the Cosmopolitan magazine revealed that the

most popular hobbies in 2023 are: Skincare, running, baking, gaming, and blogging.

However, these latest commitments aren't for everyone. What was once our favoured hobby doesn't always remain the same. Moreover, a youthful toddler's dearest amusement will differ to a middle-aged woman and her comforting hobby. Compared to an adult a child's actions are regulated via a more emotional and impulsive reaction of amygdala (A cluster of cells located near the base of the brain, helping to define and function feelings) rather than a more contemplated, calculated vision.

With all of this being taken into context, partaking in entertainments we enjoy, is the pinnacle to the story. Being individual and different is an inevitable part of society and whether our brain likes it or not, it will always be true.



Panel 3: How can we rethink ways in which the world operates now, or has done throughout history, to reform life in 2023?

Exploring the Origins and Nature of Catcalling

by Mim, Year 10

According to the Oxford Dictionary Definition, catcalling is the act of shouting, harassing and often sexually suggestive, threatening, or derisive comments at someone publicly. There are many different forms of catcalling, but the main two are wolf-whistling and shouted compliments. This paper will investigate the roots of intentions of catcalling, from both sides of the story, including my personal experience. Through studying papers and interviewing victims and attackers, this paper discovers how some attackers view catcalling as a joke or a way to show their interest, and although mean little harm, still causes gigantic damage and long-lasting effects on their victims, such as fear of walking alone and low self-esteem. This paper has the significance to show why these crimes of sexual harassment are occurring and can lead to the next steps to battle this atrocious but somehow day-to-day crime.

The term "catcall" was believed to be first used in the 17th century when audience members would make a hissing or shrieking sound as an act of mockery to a performer on stage. Catcalling then quickly became interchangeable with wolf whistling. In America, before the women's suffrage movement, there were aggressive male street flirts known as 'mashers,' and were usually depicted as well-dressed, white men. They became more prevalent into the 1800s until the 1900s when women began to confront them and there was early recognition of the issue of sexual harassment as a criminal issue and a social problem, especially in the 1970's in the US starting with workplace harassment. A setback to derailing catcalling was when Tex Avery, a cartoonist, drew a cartoon of a wolf emphatically whistling and drooling over a woman, and is so consumed by his attraction that he resorts to beating himself over the head to stem the flow of desire. These cartoons quickly gained popularity, and catcalling became something cool to do for young men and adults, as it was seen as an innocent expression of attraction. But then in 1986, the UK government announced the Public Service Act, which was there to create new offences to control racial attacks, harassment, and catcalling.

Catcalling today is quite like catcalling a century ago, with

wolf-whistling and shouting towards another person. In terms of law, the UK has made an amendment to the 1986 Public Service Act, which ups the maximum legal sentence by 300 percent from six months to two years. Unfortunately, that is really the only good news because catcalling is still very much a part of our society today. With two thirds of women having experienced catcalling in the last 12 months, and research shows that 97% of women in the UK have been sexually harassed, with 96% not reporting those situations because of the belief it would not change anything.

Just like the statistic of 97% of women have been catcalled, I am a part of the 97 percent who have been catcalled. Before I had experienced catcalling, I did not particularly think it was great, but I did not also have a problem with it because I had never experienced it before and I have never understood the big dramatic need to stop it, because I only thought it was a comment that you could get over quickly. But, having been catcalled, my opinion has changed. I first experienced catcalling in year 8, when sitting in parks and being bothered by guys my age trying to annoy us as well as in year 8 and year 9 when walking to school, being catcalled when passing people walking in the other direction. As a result of these incidents, I have started: to get more lifts to and from school, just so I can avoid being catcalled and starting to become scared to walk alone. When talking to other people who have experienced catcalling, it has caused them to feel dehumanised, and has caused a sense of anxiety, as well as a sense of shame because of what they are wearing/doing at the current time of them being catcalled.

So now you have the perspective from people who have been catcalled, let us look at the experience of someone who does the catcalling, and the motivations and ideas behind why. Most people do it to show their interest in someone or hoping that the person would respond with a smile or engage in conversation with them. Some even think that it is a way of flirting with someone, or to do it for the fun and excitement of it. Most mean to cause little to no harm and they do not understand the consequences and side effects they are

causing. For others, they only do it in a group setting, as they feel more confident surrounded by their friends and hope that their friends will find it funny, compared to when they are alone, in which they would never catcall as they would see it as rude and bothering someone else.

So, now that we have investigated the history of catcalling, modern day catcalling and the feelings of both the catcaller and the person being catcalled, let's dive into possible solutions. First, we want to try and stop catcalling occurring in the first place, to stop people feeling scared to walk home alone or feelings of anxiety. My suggestion is further educating people to why it is wrong, and to not only explain to them why, but also the side effects of the people involved. Also, letting them know of the criminal punishment that can happen in result of doing this form of sexual harassment. I would also install more security cameras in areas, so that we have video

evidence of catcalling occurring, so that we can prosecute the attackers, as well as having proof, this would then allow the victims to feel as though something will change if they report the incident, and further reduce the 96% of people who do not report the crime as attackers wouldn't want to go to prison, as they know they can be caught out easily. As well as that, make sure that you always report the crime, whether that be to a parent, guardian, member of staff or any other trusted adults, so that they are aware and can also help you in whatever way that you need.

To conclude, catcalling is still prominent part of our culture, with although it being illegal, that not really stopping or deterring people from committing this crime. This paper shows the history of catcalling and how it has got to where it is now, as well as ways to stop it, with better education as well as more ways to be able report and persecute the crime.

A Catcall is not a Compliment!



What would life be like if the Suffragettes never existed?

By Alice, Grace and Rebecca, Year 8

The Suffragettes were a major organization that helped turn the tides when it came to women's rights. It is common knowledge that these women were significant, but can we grasp how truly important they were when it comes to the present day. Now imagine what it would be like if they never existed. Would we still have all the rights we have today? Or would we be still living in an antiquated society where there is an imbalance of power between men and women?

To get a brief insight on the position of a woman in these times, we must reflect on how they were treated. Most men saw woman as property. A household accessory that must be a very gracious hostess at parties. In some households, women were expected to cook, clean, look after family as well as be this unrealistic ornament for men. In more wealthy households, their job list was halved but were still expected to look after the children. In none of these alternatives were woman allowed to have too much of a contribution financially for the family. A selective few of young, unmarried women would have a small job but were never the main financial contributing member of a family. It was almost impossible for women to get a divorce no matter the amount of abuse they could have faced. On the other hand, men could divorce their wives with ease (in comparison.) The inequality affected the lives of women every day, and some could not even see it.

First of all, who are the Suffragettes? The Suffragettes were members of the Women's Social and Political Party (WSPU) who campaigned for women's vote in the early 20th century. Their motto was 'Deeds not Words' and these women were sometimes labelled as terrorists due to their forceful attitude to protesting. Lots of Suffragettes ended up in prison for arson, smashing windows and chaining themselves to palace gates.

An example of their "terrorism" was Derby Day on the 4th of June 1913. It was the 134th running of the Derby and the spring air blew upon the audience. Emily Davidson, a Suffragette, was ready for the upcoming events. The King was at the event and even had his own horse, Anmer. Emily Wilding Davidson threw

herself under Anmer after sneaking through the police and barriers blocking her path, causing her fatalities and eventually death. It hit headlines. It was the talk of the nation for several weeks. Outraged, were the men, who excused the inequalities in their democracy. After all, wasn't this an example of women's stupidity and recklessness. At least their cause had branched globally. For men it was emphasising the social rank that women should hold but for the Suffragettes, it had gained them enough publicity to expand. But was it worth the life of Emily Davidson?

Another example of where they used dangerous acts to attempt to get their point to the country, is when they went on hunger strike whilst imprisoned. Their actions often led to the attention of the police which resulted in a lot of jailtime throughout their organisation. As a prisoner, it would usually be a struggle to rebel. They decided that hunger strikes would create publicity while behind bars and potentially get them released on bail. They would refuse to eat. No food. In some cases, no water. This led to the officer's force feeding the women in order for them to eat something (this was first introduced in a Birmingham prison.) Eventually, the government passed a law stating that if prisoners go on a hunger strike to the point that it causes them danger, then they must be released temporarily. Granting their wish of early release.

The Suffragists were one of the lesser-known women's rights groups who campaigned for woman's suffrage. They believed in more peaceful, constitutional campaign methods of protest unlike the Suffragettes who were very violent. They also kept their methods to a legal standard and did not go to jail. So, the question is, would the more peaceful methods of the Suffragists have succeeded and gotten us as far as we are now?

There are many things to be considered before this question can be answered. The Suffragettes gained publicity for the campaign by using violence and becoming infamous with



many men, whilst the Suffragists relied on sympathetic MPs to help them attempt to pass bills through parliament. These two methods truly contrast the difference between the Suffragettes attempt to use actions to draw attention to themselves and the Suffragists approach being to convince men in a more peaceful way. The Suffragette's motto "Deeds not words" was partially combating the methods of the Suffragists saying that it is unlikely that women would get the vote by convincing to men using words. An example of a Suffragist's method is petitions. They would try to achieve enough signatures that their views would be considered in parliament. Some of these petitions had enough signatures to be taken to parliament however they did not pass. Perhaps the Suffragettes damaged the reputation of other women's suffrage groups. Would this mean that without the forming of the group, the Suffragists chance of their requests being accepted would increase?

It is quite likely that the Suffragists would not have gotten the vote; however, the timing of the war was very relevant to the Suffragette's campaign. This is an event that was particularly significant in convincing men to give women the vote. When the war came, most men were legally obliged to go and fight. This left several crucial jobs vacant, making it even harder to maintain an economy in this time. Because of these vacancies, women began stepping up to these jobs becoming an important part of winning the war. Posters were spread around with strong women to advertise doing jobs to women. Not only were they allowed to do these jobs, but they were encouraged to do so. Jobs include police force, postal workers, bus conductors, railway workers, farming, nurses, engineering worker and many more. The war, whilst very sad and hard, gave opportunities for women to get jobs.

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This left several crucial jobs vacant, making it even harder to maintain an economy in this time whilst providing for the men at the front. Because of these vacancies, women began stepping up to these jobs becoming an important part of winning the war. Posters were displayed showing women doing stereotypically male jobs, to try to encourage women to take more active roles. Not only were they allowed to do these jobs, but they were encouraged to do so. Jobs included: police force, postal workers, bus conductors, railway workers, farming, nurses, engineering worker and many more. The war, whilst very sad and hard, gave opportunities for women to get jobs.

Part of the reason, that the Suffragettes are so remembered is because they were a fan of direct, public action. The Suffragists, though their numbers were significantly larger, were keener to protest through more peaceful methods. As shown when MP John Stuart Mill presented the first mass women's suffrage bill which contained over 1500 signatures, which was refused regardless of its popularity within the public domain. The Suffragettes were notably a lot more dramatic with their protesting, often labelled as terrorists. One Suffragette, Emily Wilding Davison, went to prison nine times. Often going on hunger strike when jailed. Her final act as a Suffragette was the ultimate sacrifice, on the 4th of June 1913. As mentioned earlier. The Suffragettes invented Suffrajitsu, a self defence martial art. This was necessary because some of their acts meant they got assaulted by men who usually, had larger frames than them, giving them the upper hand. This martial art gave them the means to defend themselves when a situation of conflict occurred. In comparison, the Suffragists were almost cowardly, as they got sympathetic MPs to do most of their dirty work, securing the vote wise. After analysing this part of these two opposing group's campaigns we think that without the Suffragettes ability to capture the country's attention, we may not have gotten the vote.

Many efforts existed exclusively in local areas, including near our school. Alan and Annie Williams were a married couple, who lived down the Butts Road in Warwick. They often attended CUWFA (a branch of the Suffragettes) meetings proving that some men also wanted women's suffrage, therefore attended the meetings, and in June 1911, they travelled to London to take part in the Women's Coronation Procession which was a Suffragette march near to King George's coronation in hope of Women's suffrage in the coronation year. It was unfortunately, unsuccessful but the message was clear; change needed to happen.

What would daily life be like without the Suffragettes. It's a simple question. We would probably still be treated as possessions, unable to take two steps without a man's input. Without the Suffragettes who proved that we have a mind of our own, we would still be thought of as weak minded and incapable of thinking for ourselves. Women's only prospects were to marry young and have a family, looking after a household. This undeniably proves the real significance of the Suffragettes impact and how their rebellion gave us the opportunities to have career based aspirations.

So, if the suffragettes had never existed what would the world be like? In conclusion, we think without the Suffragettes, women wouldn't have achieved suffrage, even with groups such as the Suffragists, who laid the foundations from which the suffragettes were built. However, there were more peaceful approaches to campaigning, which in our opinion would solely would not have achieved the vote. Nonetheless, we, by no means, think the suffragettes were without fault and despite achieving suffrage they are a grey area in woman history due to the lengths they went to in many cases being known as terrorists and causing havoc in many cases provoking ethical questions. Yet, we can be grateful of the impact they created not only achieving suffrage but setting society on a path towards more equal rights for woman and a better life for future generations.

How can artificial intelligence be used to rethink the United Kingdom's Justice System

by Charlotte, Year 10

Currently artificial intelligence (AI) is used in many areas/sectors worldwide and provides an effective and efficient solution to many problems globally. I believe artificial intelligence can also be used to improve the UK prison system, by utilising current methods used in other countries and by adopting new ideas that make use of our existing technology. I would suggest training for prisoners (based on ideas from Finland), and also using algorithms for evaluating recidivism (the likelihood of a person reoffending), rehabilitation and for determining the possibilities of alternative punishments to prison time, all of which could provide incredibly benefits for the UK prison system. The data from AI can do so much for our society, and we can make the best use of this by involving it in our prison system and our decision-making processes. AI can do so much more than humans in terms of speed and effectiveness of analysis.

In Finland, they use AI training algorithms as part of prisoner training/work, asking them to classify and answer simple questions. For example, they review social media and internet content. This benefits multiple companies, (including the one that organises prison work) creating databases and forming better, more accurate information. Also, it can provide offenders with many skills which can help them to gain future jobs and have a better life once they have served their sentence. I think if we used this in the UK it could have a significant positive impact on offenders after they leave prison. In addition, since criminals struggle to gain employment after being in prison, leading to higher reoffending rates as crime can seem like the only option left for some people, this form of training could be used to teach them skills that employers look for, reducing reoffending rates and improving employment rates significantly. Furthermore, we are beginning to train offenders in coding skills which reinforces the benefits mentioned earlier. Coding is becoming increasingly important in many professions and sectors and therefore this kind of training is something employers would value highly. If these methods were more widespread, it would be much more

effective and can lead to prison being more effective at turning the lives of offenders around.

Additionally, applied AI could benefit reform, a key aim of punishment in the UK justice system. By applying statistics and data we can figure out the most effective methods of reform, and the best type of reform for different offenders. This could vastly reduce reoffending rates by simply making the best use of our current systems, evaluating them, and judging what will work best.

As well as this, AI could prevent the number of people in prisons by applying it to assess low-risk offenders and deciding whether they could be safely and effectively supervised in a non-prison alternative. This prioritises safety whilst also reducing the prison population and supporting society. It could assess the needs for supervisions, maximising the effective use of people's time, making schedules more effective. Furthermore, AI could be a part of probation decisions (using the supervisions assessment mentioned before) and effectively decide the best course of action.

Furthermore, AI has been used as a means to predict recidivism (the likelihood of a person reoffending) for pre-trial, general, and violent reoffence. This can then be a factor in sentencing and has been proven to be less bias. However, the use of AI can institutionalise bias and reinforce this if our data is already biased. So, we need to ensure that our data is as unbiased as possible, so that any current injustices ingrained in the system are minimalised/removed. Therefore, the potential is that everyone can benefit from an arbitrary AI judgement. And yet, what do we do with results that we don't want to see from AI. If predicted someone to be highly likely to reoffend (especially in all categories) what should be done? We cannot ever know whether someone will definitely reoffend, but is it right to risk public safety? What would happen if they reoffended, and we knew the risk based on these results? Could we justify making decisions based on statistics alone in data instead of 100% accurate information

(which is impossible as we can't predict the future) and an individualised sentence? In response, AI definitely has its limits, it can only be used along with the experience gained from staff evaluating prisoners, and the individual. In the words of George W. Bush, 'when the gates of prison open, the path should lead to a better life', in many cases, people deserve a chance to prove the algorithms conclusions wrong. Our data will only get better with time, AI cannot stand alone as our sole method of decision-making, but it can help us with those very difficult decisions.

AI also provides possibilities for surveillance and tracking in prisons, helping to evaluate and identify possible risky situations, as well as creating an opportunity for reducing corruption. However, there is an ethical debate in terms of privacy concerns. Surveillance is becoming more and more prevalent in all our everyday lives, from houses to high streets, cameras are everywhere so I believe there must be regulations and clear structures in order to prevent a perception of being 'watched' all the time as this can have implications on mental health. Although, I do believe we could find ways to utilise cameras with algorithms to improve prisons, including for inmates.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence can be used as part of reform and training for the prisoner population. It can be hugely beneficial as a tool for predicting/preventing recidivism, as well as having the ability to be quicker and more efficient, giving us data and statistics to work with to greatly improve our current system. With the help of this data, we can create a more streamlined and efficient system that will benefit everyone involved, including the individuals caught committing crime and those affected by crime, helping them, and delivering an efficient and effective UK prison system.



Panel 4: How can philosophical and physical elements of our natural world be reframed?

How was Rosalia's body actually preserved?

By Gabriella, Year 10

A few years ago, I was talking to my mother who told me about a trip to Sicily. My mum and dad went to the Capuchin Catacombs in Palermo Sicily before I was born. The story was extremely interesting and I became invested in the story of the precious girl and how incredible the world is today. The Catacombs are highly understated and many are not aware of the catacombs. It is extremely interesting and I love a mystery so I decided to work on this story.

December 13, 1918. Mario Lombardo is an infantry officer and is married to Maria di Cara and has just given birth to their first daughter, Rosalia. They lead a comfortable and peaceful life and their little girl grows up beautiful, healthy and strong. On December 6, 1920, a few days after her second birthday, Rosalia died. Currently, the body of little Rosalia has organs in a perfect state of preservation and you can see how one lung is denser than the other, a clear sign that the little girl actually fell ill with bronchopneumonia. But let's go back to that December 6, 1920. We can only imagine the agony of the parents of little Rosalia. Losing a child is always a tragedy. Rosalia's parents requested that the child's body be entrusted to Alfredo Salaria, one of the most famous embalmers of the twentieth century, with the hope in this way of being able to pay homage to the memory of the little girl with the hope of being able to stop the passage of time. An embalmer preserves a body from decay.

Alfredo Salaria arrived at the house of the Lombardo spouses, 24 hours after the child's death. The embalming took place right there, in that house where the little girl lived her first two years of life, happy and surrounded by the love of her family. After, Rosalia was then transported to the Catacombs of the Capuchins.

One factor to think about is why did the body of Rosalia last so long. According to the laws of the time, in fact, the embalmed bodies should have remained in the Catacombs only temporarily, only to later find a definitive burial, a burial that Rosalia never had. Impossible to answer these questions. What is certain, however, is that Rosalia's parents traveled a lot in the years following her death, for work reasons. They moved to other Italian cities and then also abroad, thus without having the opportunity to choose a cemetery where to bury their child. Perhaps it is precisely for this reason, therefore, if in the end Rosalia's body has always remained there, where it was first placed.

In 1925, five years after Rosalia's death, the Lombard couple had another baby girl, who was called with the same name as their little sister, in her eternal memory. The choice to embalm her to give her eternal rest and to give her name to her little sister are the clear sign of how much Rosalia was loved.

Surely, Alfredo Salaria has studied a lot to obtain this surprising result. It seems that Alfredo Salaria did not undertake any university career. Maybe he finished middle school, nothing more.

For years the mix of chemicals that Alfredo Salaria used on Rosalia remained unknown, as well as the technique used. Researchers and scholars had made many hypotheses, but without any evidence and without having official documentation. One theory states that the embalmer coated her body in an acid to prevent decay. Another theory states that he has kept her body in a vacuum with specific characteristics to prevent her corpse decaying. However, one day, one of the descendants of the Salaria family remembered that he had kept an old manuscript. He then handed it over to the researchers who discovered the formula right there to guarantee a body the eternal sleep it deserves. Alfredo Salaria used glycerine, formalin, zinc salts, alcohol and salicylic acid on the body of little Rosalia. He added paraffin, duly dissolved in ether. This mix of substances was injected directly through an incision in the femoral artery. Alfredo also designed an ad hoc coffin for little Rosalia, with a glass lid welded to a wooden crate since in this way no one could touch the body.

Rosalia's body remains in perfect condition despite more than 100 years having passed, but it is also true that researchers and scholars have created a specially designed latest generation case for the little sleeping beauty of Sicily.

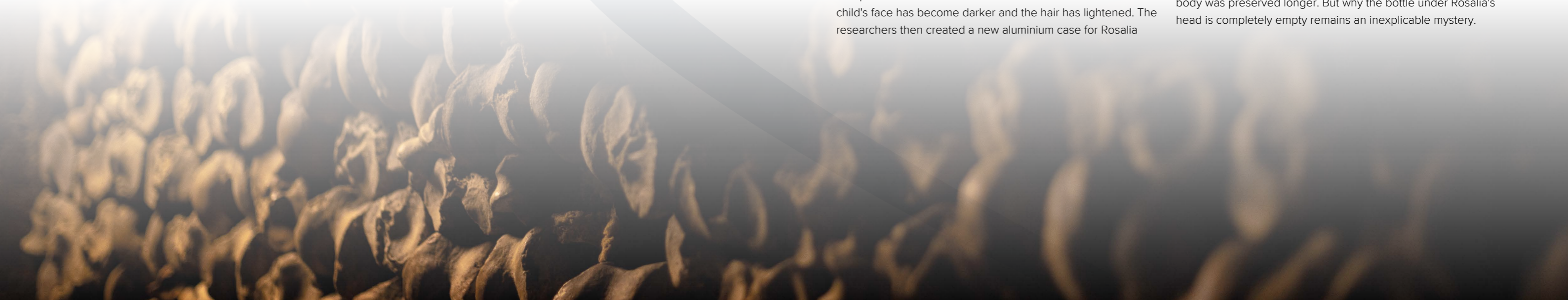
In fact, a few years ago it was realized that the girl's face was going to meet a normal decay. Compared to when the body was placed in the catacombs it seems that the skin of the child's face has become darker and the hair has lightened. The researchers then created a new aluminium case for Rosalia

Lombardo, saturated with nitrogen, and moved the girl's body to a less humid place.

There is a real mystery regarding Rosalia. The body of little Rosalia has closed eyelids as if she were sleeping. However, they are not perfectly closed, they are actually ajar, as if it were sleeping, yes, but on the verge of waking up. Many people claim to have seen her eyelids blink. It seems that it was the video surveillance cameras that noticed this light and slow movement. Some photographs taken in sequence, also offered a similar testimony.

Many say it's a mere optical illusion, caused by how the light falls on those half-closed eyelids. There are those who say that a slight opening and closing of the eyelids actually occurs due to the humidity present and how it changes over the course of the day. There are those who believe that it is really her, little Rosalia, who blinks forever, almost a way to communicate with the world of the living. Who is right? Who is wrong? Is it better to believe in science or in the irrational? Nobody can answer these questions, a mystery after all.

There is one last curiosity concerning Rosalia Lombardo. Thanks to the technological tools we have today, the researchers noticed the presence of an empty bottle under the little girl's head. It was a common practice to insert a bottle in the coffin containing the reagent capable of ensuring that the body was preserved longer. But why the bottle under Rosalia's head is completely empty remains an inexplicable mystery.



Rewilding

by Izzy and Rhiannon, Year 9

Rewilding is the process of restoring an area of land to its natural uncultivated state (used especially with reference to the reintroduction of species of wild animal that have been driven out or exterminated) Or in other words: Rewilding is a conservation effort to restore or to protect an area. Here are some examples of animals being rewilded, and a bit about them:

Eurasian Lynx:

- Their main prey is roe deer and there is enough to feed around 400 individuals.
- The lynx's main food (roe deer and red deer) is in abundance here in the UK and a lot is put into culling deer each year to just reduce the numbers and leave the dead bodies around to rot or become venison for human consumption.
- Britain has signed up to the Berne Convention (1979) and the EC Habitats Directive (1992) which encourages rewilding of native wildlife.
- It may also be easier to introduce this species into the Scottish Highlands, where the human population is lower.
- There is also a big cat loving population so people will be more supportive of this. Especially with how there are no fairy tales about them like wolves eating Grandma.

Grey Wolf:

- The expansion of population size recently for this species in the US is helping there to be safer roads.
- These wolves can keep control of deer populations, like the lynx can, reducing the numbers of deer that stray onto roads causing human injuries and fatalities and improve the environment because too many deer can stop plants to grow.
- The main reason the deer aren't involved in car crashes any more as much is because wolves are using the man-made roads as corridors or pathways which discourages the deer to go near the roads
- Although having wild wolves has lots of benefits, in mainland Europe farmers are worried wolves will kill and eat their livestock. In Portugal it has been banned to kill,

harm or hunt wolves which are always a constant threat for farmers

- Instead, they have decided to have guard dogs so the farmers can know earlier that there are wolves nearby
- The dogs don't harm the wolves in any way they just scare them off by barking when under attack.

European Bison:

- These heavy animals have been rewilded into Kent
- Bisons live in herds and are matriarchal like elephants
- It is not native to Britain, but its extinct relative used to be around.
- This ongoing project is called Wilder Blean and there are 4 bison due to arrive in Thornden Woods and West Blean
- The European Bison are needed to create lush green woodlands as woodland management is one of the top 8 causes for loss of biodiversity.
- This site is licensed to hold up to 10 bison as part of the Dangerous Wild Animal Act (1976).
- Since being reintroduced calves have been born

Scimitar horned oryx:

- It is a type of antelope that is adapted for desert living
- It used to be found in large numbers across all of Northern Africa, but has been considered extinct in the wild since 2000
- Scimitar-horned oryx can tolerate an internal body temperature of 47 degrees C
- The Scimitar Oryx is known for their ringed, long, graceful, curved horns that can grow up to 40 inches in length. Horns are present on male and female Scimitar Oryx
- They are being reintroduced to Chad and are Extinct in the Wild
- The first release was in 2016 of 23 individuals born in captivity.

Here are 10 facts about rewilding:

1. Rewilding is an ecological approach aimed at restoring and reintroducing natural processes, species, and habitats to promote biodiversity and ecosystem health.
2. The concept of rewilding was popularized by conservationists Michael Soulé and Reed Noss in the 1990s, emphasizing the need for large-scale conservation efforts.
3. Rewilding often involves the reintroduction of keystone species, such as wolves, beavers, or apex predators, to restore ecological balance and trigger cascading effects throughout the ecosystem.
4. Large-scale rewilding projects can help create wildlife corridors and reconnect fragmented habitats, allowing for the movement of species and promoting genetic diversity.
5. Rewilding focuses on restoring natural ecosystem processes, including natural disturbance regimes like wildfires or flooding, which play crucial roles in maintaining healthy ecosystems.
6. Rewilding can be implemented in both terrestrial and marine environments, targeting a wide range of ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coastal areas.
7. By restoring ecosystems through rewilding, carbon sequestration can be enhanced, contributing to mitigating climate change. Healthy, diverse ecosystems are more effective at capturing and storing carbon.
8. Rewilding projects often involve collaboration between conservation organizations, scientists, local communities, and landowners to achieve long-term ecological restoration and sustainable management.
9. Ecotourism can be a beneficial outcome of successful rewilding efforts, as restored ecosystems attract visitors interested in experiencing and supporting nature conservation.

10. Rewilding is not without challenges, including the need for extensive planning, addressing potential conflicts with human activities, and balancing the ecological goals with the needs of local communities. Proper stakeholder engagement and adaptive management are crucial for successful rewilding initiatives.

Rewilding is a powerful and beneficial approach to conservation for several reasons. Firstly, rewilding restores and enhances biodiversity, which is essential for healthy ecosystems. By reintroducing keystone species and promoting natural processes, rewilding allows for the revival of intricate ecological relationships and the recovery of species populations. This leads to increased resilience and stability within ecosystems, making them better equipped to withstand environmental challenges such as climate change. Secondly, rewilding has the potential to mitigate the effects of climate change by enhancing carbon sequestration. Thriving, diverse ecosystems are highly effective at capturing and storing carbon, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat global warming. Additionally, rewilding offers economic benefits through ecotourism and the creation of jobs in the conservation and restoration sectors. It also provides opportunities for scientific research and educational initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for nature. Ultimately, rewilding offers hope for a sustainable future, where humans and wildlife coexist harmoniously, and the natural world thrives.

Can it ever be morally acceptable to sacrifice an innocent person for some greater good?

By Lizzie, Year 12

The morality of sacrificing one person for a greater good has been copiously debated amongst ethicists for many years, but this dilemma also fascinates the theorists of tort and criminal law – which is why it is so relevant in the real world and of such paramount importance to discuss. For the purposes of this thesis, ‘sacrifice’ will be defined as ‘to kill’, to prevent confusion as to ‘sacrifice’ meaning a lesser injury or some kind of religious sacrifice to a higher being – for which this discussion may lead to a completely different conclusion. I will furthermore use utilitarian influences to define the ‘greater good’ as the sum total of evil and good resulting from an action, as suggested by Jeremy Bentham, since the idea of a ‘greater good’ is a highly subjective and abstract one. Arguments will be illustrated with the aid of various ethical thought experiments such as the famous Trolley Problem and the Organ Donor Dilemma. I align myself with the notion that people should consider the wider implications of their actions and therefore I will adopt a somewhat utilitarian and situationist approach to this question, subsequently reaching the conclusion that it can, in some situations, be morally acceptable to sacrifice an innocent person for the greater good.

Take the example of preventable genocide, a modified version of Filipa Foot’s Trolley Problem. A train is packed with nuclear warheads and is headed to a large city. If the train is not diverted, it will head straight into the city and consequently kill tens of thousands of citizens. You have the option to divert the train onto another track, but on this track is tied an innocent man. You can pull the lever and the train will certainly kill the one innocent man, or you can let the train filled with warheads go into the city and certainly kill the thousands of people residing in the city. Now consider a second hypothetical case. Imagine there is a surgeon who is so great that their organ transplants always work perfectly. There are 10 patients who all need different organ transplants in order to survive. It also happens that a healthy young man has just come into the doctor’s surgery for his annual check-up, a patient who has all 10 organs needed to save the lives of the 10 other patients. The surgeon asks the man whether he would volunteer to

donate his organs, but he replies, ‘Sorry, no’. Would it be morally acceptable to operate on the healthy man regardless? I will refer to this as the Organ Donor Dilemma. Prima facie, it may seem to be a matter of principle that the surgeon shouldn’t kill the one man to save the many. If the principle which you employ is to never take the life of one in order to save the many, then this situation wouldn’t be permissible, but this seems absurd to me.

Here then was Filipa Foot’s problem: why is it that the trolley driver is seemingly allowed to turn his trolley, though most would say that the surgeon may not remove the healthy person’s organs? In both cases, one will die if the agent acts, but many will live who would otherwise die – an overall saving of multiple lives. What difference in the other facts of these cases could explain the moral difference between them, if there is one at all?

Some may argue that when the agent acts in pulling the lever, they are infringing the human rights of the person on the track as pulling the lever entails disregarding the person’s right to life by actively killing them. Conversely, not pulling the lever is seen by some to be a passive act with no moral consequence. It could be furthermore argued that having a right to life does not entail having the right to the prolongment and protection of their life by others. By neglecting to pull the lever, perhaps one is not threatening the right to life of the people in the city, but simply neglecting to protect them from the eventual death which will be caused to them by the nuclear weapons. To illustrate this point, one could consider, if I am being attacked by a monkey in a zoo, and someone would need to risk their life to save me, I don’t have a right to demand that they protect or save my life by risking theirs, even though them neglecting to do so entails my life being threatened.

I can however see that neglecting to pull the lever and not act is still a moral choice, even if there is the absence of a physical action, the moral decision has still been made to not act – which should have the same weight as acting. Jean Paul Sartre put forward a similar notion in his book *Existentialism and humanism*, saying ‘In one sense choice is possible, but

what is not possible is not to choose. I can always choose, but I must know that if I do not choose, that is still a choice’. By this logic, neglecting to pull the lever is still a moral decision, and therefore a person can still be responsible for the deaths of the thousands of people in the city, even if they didn’t become physically involved. Furthermore, although many will classify their inaction in pulling the lever to be because of deontological reasoning, the reason may actually be action-aversion and these factors must not be confounded.

Jeremy Bentham introduced utilitarianism in his book *Practical Ethics*, applying the principle of utility to moral decisions. This ‘utility’ refers to the extent to which good and evil is done by choice, as opposed to focusing on deontological rules or doctrine. He came up with the ‘hedonic calculus’, a way of weighing up the good and bad which results from an action, as a guide to moral decision making. When applying this method to the two situations, it can be concluded that the ethical thing to do in the case of the Trolley Problem would be to pull the lever and kill one to save many and similarly, in the case of the organ donor problem, to kill the healthy person in order to save multiple others as this will produce more good than bad. Bentham’s teleological method looks at the consequences of pulling the lever, rather than simply whether it is moral to kill one person in isolation. This is because although it is clearly wrong to kill one person (if it won’t lead to a positive outcome), when given the choice to either kill one or many, it should always be the option of killing fewer people that should prevail. This idea would also be supported by ethicist Joseph Fletcher, as through his situationist approach that focuses on the most loving outcome, with agape being the goal, the most loving action would be to take the action which saves the most people as this would arguably result in the most loving outcome. Furthermore, through applying Fletcher’s Sixth proposition from his book *Situation Ethics*, that ‘[L]ove’s decisions are made situationally, not prescriptively’, we can see that it isn’t as simple as legalistically concluding that it’s simply wrong to kill, and therefore not pull the lever. We must, instead, take into account the most probable outcome from

our decisions i.e., pulling the lever or harvesting the healthy patient’s organs, in order to come to a justified conclusion, aiming for the most loving result. It is evident that in both cases, the most loving outcome, and the one which would produce the most good, would be as a result of sacrificing a single person in both situations.

Although I recognise that, in both of the above situations, you are actively choosing to kill an innocent person, which goes against the basic moral laws adopted by many deontological ethicists, I believe that this is the morally superior decision, since it prevents the immanent deaths of many more people, whether that be from organ failure or death by nuclear weapons. Taking the deontological route and saving the life of one innocent person is flawed as, although it might make you feel morally superior, as you have abstained from actively ending someone’s life, you are still allowing the death of many people, which to a utilitarian mind, and to my mind, would be even worse.

Whilst I recognise that I have only been able to cover a small number of arguments within this topic, and that what I have written doesn’t cover all the nuances within the term ‘innocent person’, as arguably, no one is completely ‘innocent’ in this world of conflicting moral responsibilities, I must nevertheless conclude that it can be morally acceptable to sacrifice one innocent person for the greater good. As utilitarian thinker Peter Singer once said, ‘The notion of ethics carries with it the idea of something bigger than the individual. If I am to defend my conduct on ethical grounds, I cannot point only to the benefits it brings me. I must address myself to a larger audience’. Like Singer, I believe that each person must take into consideration the wider implications of their actions and let this situationally influence their moral decisions, which may sometimes include sacrificing one person for the greater good.

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