

The Human Virus

An experiment with nature

Ben Evans

1911027



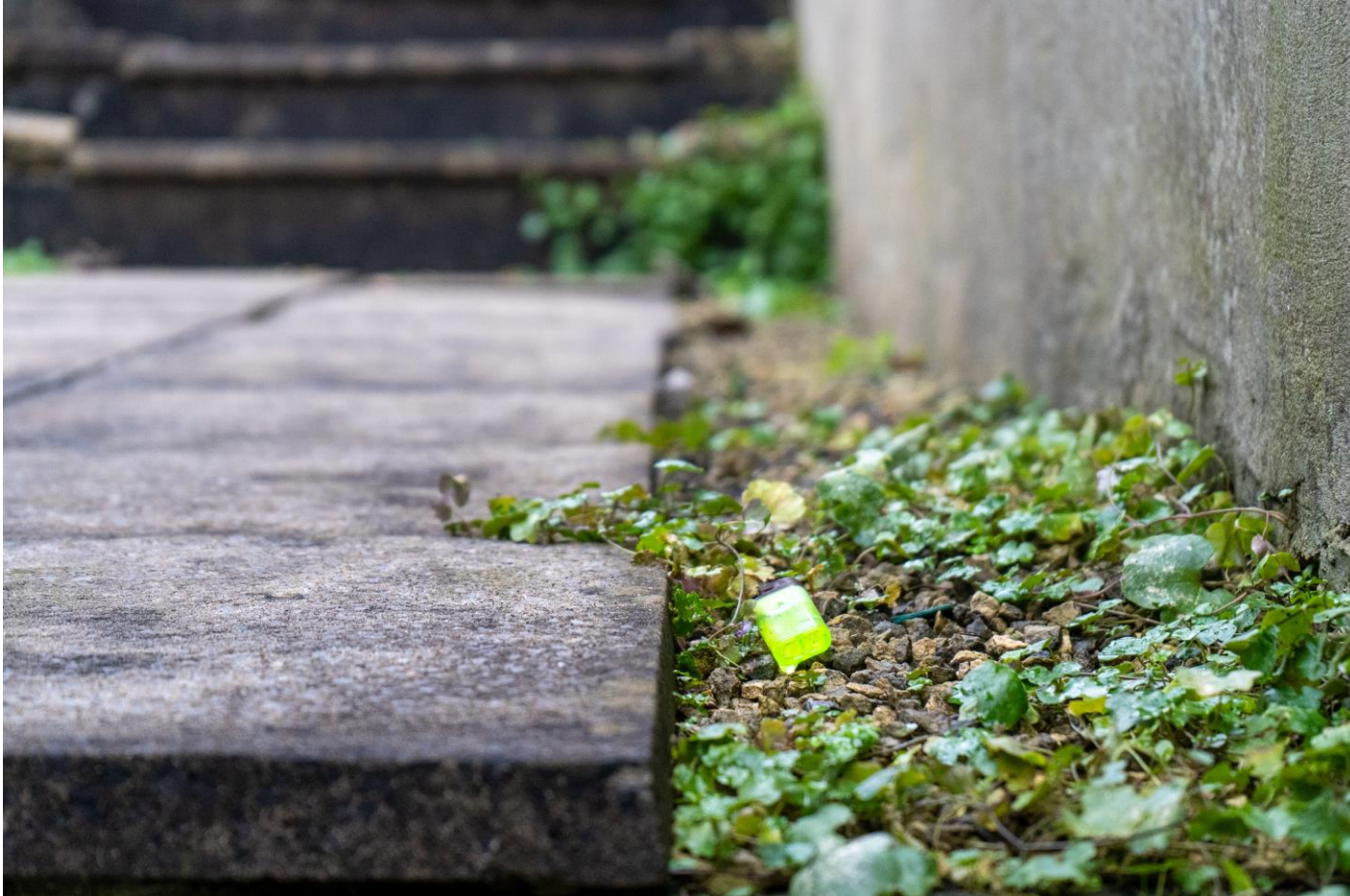
"Clouds will determine humanity's fate whether climate is an existential threat or an inconvenience that we will learn to live with. Most recent models suggest clouds will make matters worse"

Timothy Palmer ~ Professor in climate physics at Oxford University and a member of the Met Office's advisory board.



"I believe that even if millions of new trees are planted, unless people change their wasteful and polluting habits, the environment cannot be saved. That mainly was what motivated me to create this painting"

Vietnamese artist Nguyen Thi Kim Duc talking about her painting Cover of Future.



"It'll start getting cooler. Just you watch. I don't think science knows actually"

Donald Trump, September 2020



"Humankind will be spinning the "No Policy" roulette wheel as long as we allow global emissions to increase. However, if policies to reduce emissions are enacted, we will get to spin the "With Policy" wheel, which gives us a 9 in 10 chance of constraining global temperature change to below 3C in 2100"

MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change



"Toothpaste tubes have traditionally been impossible to recycle because they are made from a mixture of plastic and aluminium. Consumers get through 20bn packs of toothpaste every year with discarded tubes contributing to the plastic pollution crisis"

Zoe Wood, The Guardian 14/1/2020



"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans"

Jacques Yves Costeau



*"There is no beauty in the finest cloth if
it makes hunger and unhappiness"*

Mahatma Gandhi



"Now o'er the one half world nature seems dead"

Macbeth, II, I.

William Shakespeare.



"We're calling for the reinstatement of the pest control division after it was regrettably scrapped back in 2011. We're calling for the return of our street litter bins which have been taken away over the years"

Llanelli town councillor Sean Rees



“The threat of environmental catastrophe, which is severe and is increasing if we do not deal with it soon will likely reach irreversible tipping points and it is just a matter of waiting not very long till organised human society becomes impossible”

Noam Chomsky



“Just the thought of us being in a crisis that we cannot buy, build or invest our way out of seems to create some kind of collective mental short circuit”

Greta Thunberg



*“We’ve had Sars, Mers, Covid-19, HIV.
We need to see what nature is trying to tell us
here. We need to recognize that we’re playing
with fire”*

Aaron Bernstein, Harvard School of Public
Health

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Climate change

This article is more than 6 months old

Climate worst-case scenarios may not go far enough, cloud data shows

Modelling suggests climate is considerably more sensitive to carbon emissions than thought

Jonathan Watts
@jonathanwatts
Sat 13 Jun 2020 07:00 BST

8693



▲ Experts say the projections have the potential to be 'incredibly alarming'. Photograph: Alamy

Worst-case global heating scenarios may need to be revised upwards in light of a better understanding of the role of clouds, scientists have said.

Recent modelling data suggests the climate is considerably more sensitive to

Worst-case projections in excess of 5C have been generated by several of the world's leading climate research bodies, including the UK Met Office's Hadley Centre and the EU's Community Earth System Model.

Timothy Palmer, a professor in climate physics at Oxford University and a member of the Met Office's advisory board, said the high figure initially made scientists nervous. "It was way outside previous estimates. People asked whether there was a bug in the code," he said. "But it boiled down to relatively small changes in the way clouds are represented in the models."

The role of clouds is one of the most uncertain areas in climate science because they are hard to measure and, depending on altitude, droplet temperature and other factors, can play either a warming or a cooling role. For decades, this has been the focus of fierce academic disputes.

Previous IPCC reports tended to assume that clouds would have a neutral impact because the warming and cooling feedbacks would cancel each other out. But in the past year and a half, a body of evidence has been growing showing that the net effect will be warming. This is based on finer resolution computer models and advanced cloud microphysics.

"Clouds will determine humanity's fate - whether climate is an existential threat or an inconvenience that we will learn to live with," said Palmer. "Most recent models suggest clouds will make matters worse."

In a recent paper in the journal *Nature*, Palmer explains how the new Hadley Centre model that produced the 5+C figure on climate sensitivity was tested by assessing its accuracy in forecasting short-term weather. This testing technique had exposed flaws in previous models, but in the latest case, the results showed the new model was more accurate.

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STIEGLITZ SERIES » EQUIVALENTS

Equivalents

In the summer of 1922, Alfred Stieglitz began to take photographs of clouds, tilting his hand camera towards the sky to produce dizzying and abstract images of their ethereal forms. In an article the following year, Stieglitz maintained that these works were a culmination of everything he had learned about photography in the previous forty years: "Through clouds [I wanted] to put down my philosophy of life—to show that my photographs were not due to subject matter—not to special trees, or faces, or interiors, to special privileges, clouds were there for everyone—no tax as yet on them—free."^[1] Over the next eight years, he made some 350 cloud studies, largely produced as contact prints on gelatin silver postcard stock.

Stieglitz called these photographs *Equivalents*. More than describing the visible surfaces of things, the works could express pure emotion, paralleling the artist's own inner state. Stieglitz, along with many of the artists of his circle, argued that visual art could assume the same nonrepresentational, emotionally evocative qualities as music. Indeed, music was an inspiration for the *Equivalents*, and this is reflected in the early titles he gave them: *Music: A Sequence of Ten Cloud Photographs* (1922) and *Songs of the Sky* (1923). Stieglitz did not limit himself to clouds, or allusions to music, in these photographs: one notable work, *Spiritual America*, shows a close-up of the nether regions of a harnessed gelding (a castrated male horse), the image serving as a metaphor for the artist's impression of a diminished American culture in the same way that his depictions of clouds represented his emotions.

Stieglitz often presented the *Equivalents* in series or sets, recombining different groupings of prints for exhibition. Georgia O'Keeffe donated thirty of the works to the Art Institute of Chicago, including Set A, made up of eight photographs, and Set E, made up of three photographs printed from the same negative.

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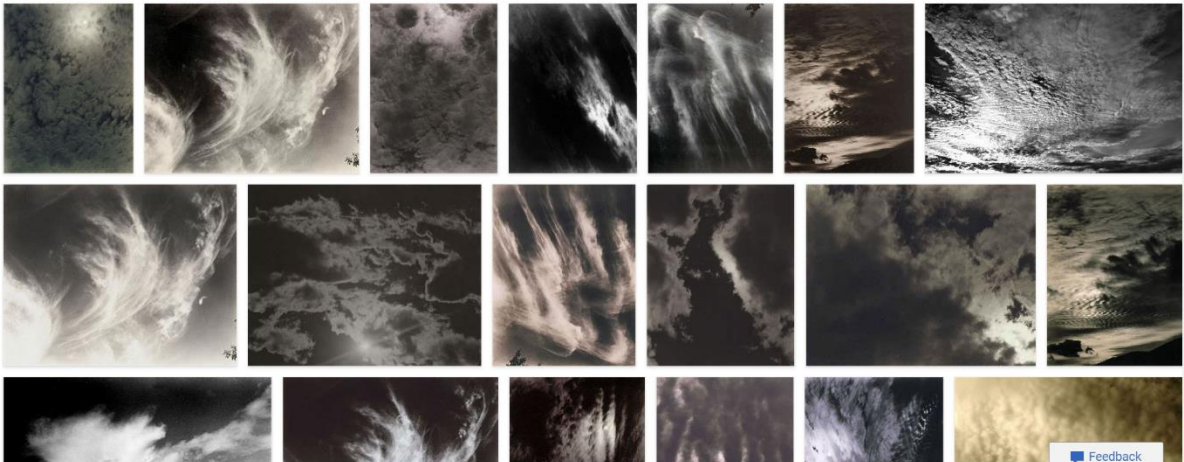
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Artist Nguyen Thi Kim Duc - A Vietnamese businesswoman who wants to see a green future and succeeded in captivating world leaders' attention on this issue at the 2019 UN Vesak festival




Called the "Cover of Future", Vietnamese artist Nguyen Thi Kim Duc used traditional Vietnamese silk, Van Gogh inspired water colors, soft but bold strokes, together with deep and lifeless colours to paint a dying tree, partly submerged in sea water. This painting depicts the devastating results of climate change - a world without green trees, animals and humans.

Using a simple painting style, Mrs. Nguyen wanted the artwork to pass from "heart to heart", relaying her love for the environment, like in Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu's words: "People rely on land, land relies on God, God relies on religion, religion relies on nature". She also wanted people to realize that the planet can only be saved if they change their wasteful and polluting habits.

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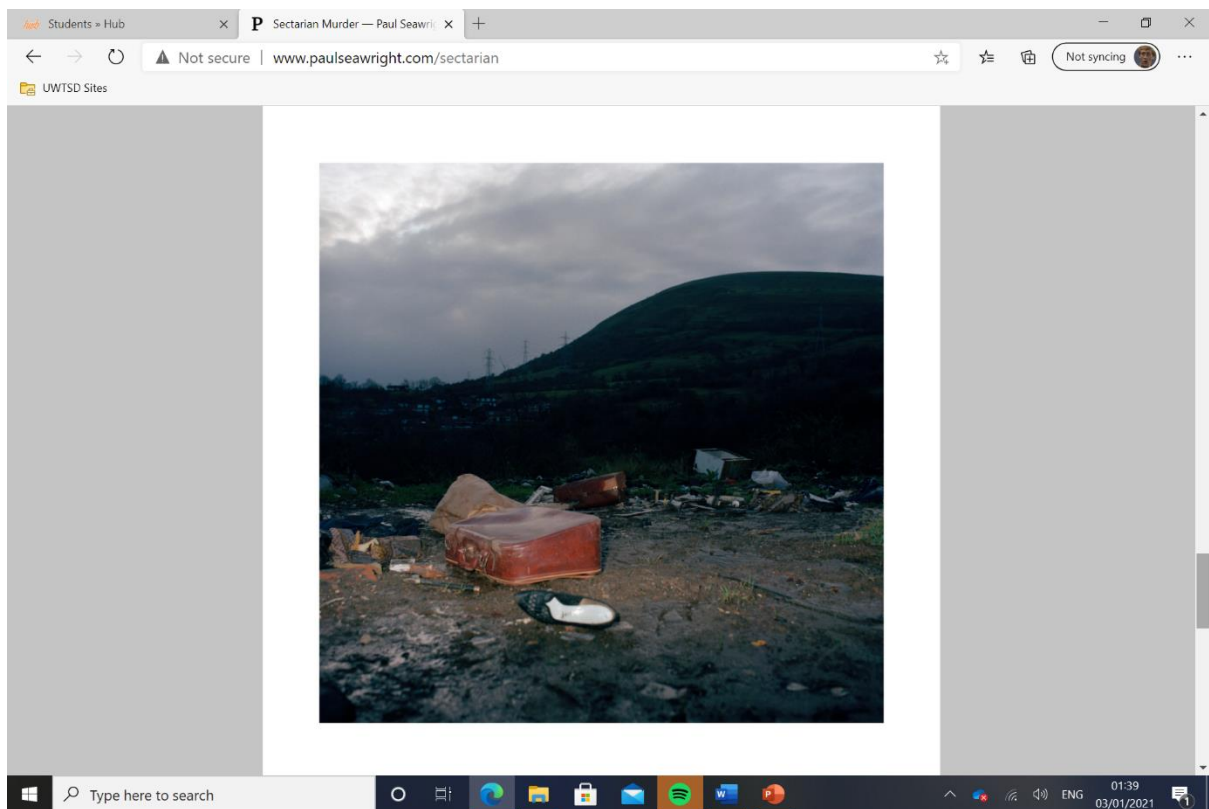
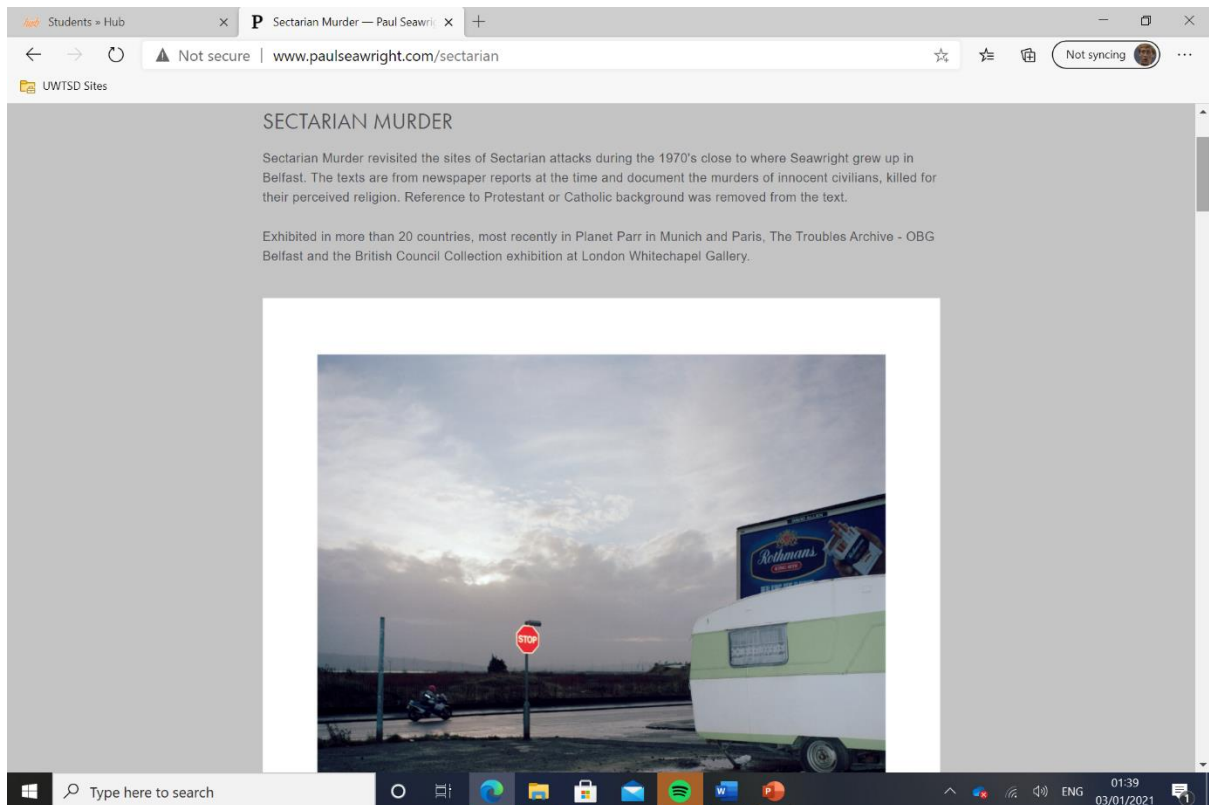
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Today guest edits: Greta Thunberg

All the highlights from climate activist Greta Thunberg's guest edited programme, including Mishal Husain interviewing her father Svante Thunberg and Greta speaking to Sir David Attenborough for the first time. Also, outgoing Bank of England chief Mark Carney on how the financial sector can tackle climate change, Massive Attack's Robert Del Naja on reducing the music industry's carbon blueprint, and Shell's Maarten Wetselaar on big energy's environmental impact. Presented by Mishal Husain and Sarah Smith.

(Image: Greta Thunberg, credit: BBC)

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