

A New Agenda ... Values, World Society, Modelling

<https://sites.google.com/site/gordonburmathsocsci/home/a-new-agenda>

A New Agenda seeks to explore all aspects of society using all the academic disciplines paying special attention to values ... with special interest in modelling ... not disinterested in practice ... and aspiring to high academic standards.

Commentary, February 2017

No. 38

World society ... Tony de Reuck ... agent cooperation ... Oxford, September 2017

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The Times, The Observer, The Economist, The Monkey Cage (The Washington Post), APSA Around the web, Rio Times (Brazil), Vanguard (Nigeria), Al Jazeera (Qatar), The Times of India, Russia (Pravda, Izvestia, Russia Today), China Daily; European Union, UN	
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1 World society, February 2015

Everyday activities

Each day the sun rises. Here in the UK the days are lengthening. Thomas' first lambs have been born. The trains have (mostly) been following their daily schedules taking people to their accustomed workplaces and leisure pursuits and then back home again. People, families, schools, organisations and governments follow their everyday activities. Special occasions, milestones, birthdays are reached and celebrated. There are tensions too, occasionally coming out into the open. It is the openly expressed tensions which are the main focus in the News sources cited below.

One view of everyday activities is provided by the average household weekly expenditure in the UK. See Table 1

Table 1 Weekly household expenditure in the UK

	£
Transport	72.70
Housing (net), fuel and power	72.50
Recreation and leisure	68.00
Food and non-alcoholic drinks	56.80
Restaurants and hotels	45.10
Miscellaneous goods and services	39.70
Household goods and services	35.50
Clothing and footwear	23.50
Communication	16.00
Alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs	11.40
Health	7.20
Education	7.00
Total	<u>528.90</u>

Hosking, Patrick. "Spending on cigarettes and alcohol falls to 15-year low." *The Times*, February 17, 2017: 1-2.

ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/expenditure/bulletins/familyspendingintheuk/financialyearendingmarch2016>.

The Times

The Leaders in The Times in the period 13th to 18th February were as follows:

February

13 Jails break. Prisons in England and Wales are full to bursting. They will only breed more violence and criminality if ministers fail to tackle overcrowding. 29.

14 Diesel disease. The government is being put to shame by the mayor of London in its failure to act on the main cause of worsening air quality in Britain's cities. 27

Greek tragedy, Act III. The flaws of the Eurozone pile up further evidence for weaker members. 27

15 When an all-conquering capitalist forecasts mass unemployment it is worth paying attention, even if his solution leaves much to be desired. 27.

All over the shop. Business rate changes are hurting the high street while online firms get off lightly. 27.

16 Strategic costs. Nato has to spend more and reimagine how to defend the West in a menacing world. The price is worth paying. 27.

Maximum freedom. The Church of England has taken an important step toward approval of gay marriage. 27.

17 Trumping Tehran. Iran must be prevented from exploiting the turmoil in the Middle East. An Arab-Israeli alliance could be the answer. 29.

18 Blair and Brexit. The former prime minister has declared that he is building a movement to oppose Brexit. He is not the right man for the job. 27

Facing facts. Before trying to save the world, Facebook's founder must get his own house in order. 27

Kindness to strangers. Grassroots efforts to aid migrants are a tribute to our good nature. 27

The Observer

February 19, The Leader

Zuckerberg: model citizen or brute capitalist? 34

Only China has the power to curb North Korea's malign policies 34

The Economist

<http://www.economist.com/>

<http://www.economist.com/printedition/2017-02-18>

Reproductive technologies

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21717035-ways-reproducing-without-sexual-intercourse-are-multiplying-history-suggests-they-should>

Donald Trump's White House ... The Flynn fiasco

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21717034-what-are-presidents-ties-russia-and-does-he-have-control-over-his>

Britain is sliding towards Scoxit

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21717038-decision-leave-eu-appears-strengthen-case-scottish-independence-fact>

Greece and the Euro

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21717037-avoiding-next-crisis-will-be-uphill-task-creditors-fight-creditors-over-bail-out>

China's president talks like a reformer ...

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21717041-reality-very-different-chinas-president-talks-reformer>

The Monkey Cage (The Washington Post) ... APSA: Around the web

The Monkey Cage

Home

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/?utm_term=.bca8759db0e8

About the Monkey Cage

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/about-the-monkey-cage/?utm_term=.9dfb7d96dc90

APSA: Around the web
<http://www.apsanet.org/>

[Ecuador votes on Sunday. These are 5 things you need to know.](#)

[Friday, February 17, 2017](#)

[Can the courts protect democracy? Yes, but they need these three supports.](#)

[Friday, February 17, 2017](#)

[Don't count on China to rein in North Korea. Here's why.](#)

[Friday, February 17, 2017](#)

[New editors, new initiatives and other announcements here at The Monkey Cage](#)

[Thursday, February 16, 2017](#)

[Trump's war on the news media is serious. Just look at Latin America.](#)

[Thursday, February 16, 2017](#)

[Will a cease-fire hold? Ask the stock market rather than the pundit.](#)

[Thursday, February 16, 2017](#)

[Republicans used to fear Russians. Here's what they think now.](#)

[Thursday, February 16, 2017](#)

[What should U.S. military leaders do if the president provokes a major international crisis?](#)

[Thursday, February 16, 2017](#)

[Congressional critics do check presidential power — by leading public opinion](#)

[Thursday, February 16, 2017](#)

[What is NAFTA, and what would happen to U.S. trade without it?](#)

[Wednesday, February 15, 2017](#)

The president spoke to and took questions from reporters at the White House for more than an hour, Feb. 16. Here are key moments from that event. (Video: Sarah Parnass/Photo: Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2017/02/16/a8ba8a48-f474-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401_story.html?tid=pm_politics_pop&utm_term=.7b4bfd37525

Donald Trump's grievance-filled press conference

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/02/16/donald-trumps-grievance-filled-press-conference-annotated/?tid=pm_politics_pop&utm_term=.8a91390e969f#annotations:11355881

Rio Times (Brazil)

Brazil sends 9000 armed forces to Rio ahead of carnival

<http://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/rio-politics/brazil-sends-9000-armed-forces-to-rio-ahead-of-carnival-2017/>

Vanguard (Nigeria)

PDP Govs Forum rejects Appeal Court judgment reinstatement of Sheriff

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/02/pdp-govs-forum-rejects-appeal-court-judgment-reinstatement-sheriff/>

Al Jazeera (Qatar)

Geneva talks unlikely to focus on transition in Syria

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/geneva-talks-focus-transition-syria-170217151814340.html>;

<http://www.aljazeera.com/>

The Times of India

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/headlines>

Screaming, manhandling, property damage, adjournments: Here's what's happened so far on Tamil Nadu Assembly trust vote today. February 18.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/screaming-manhandling-property-damage-adjournments-heres-whats-happened-so-far-on-tamil-nadu-assembly-trust-vote-day/articleshow/57219995.cms>

Government cracks whip asks hospitals to stock stents at capped prices. February 18.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/govt-cracks-whip-asks-hospitals-to-stock-stents-at-capped-prices/articleshow/57214207.cms>

Russia: Pravda, Izvestia, Russia Today

Izvestia

Vladimir Putin instructed to ensure the growth of real incomes of Russians

<http://izvestia.ru/news/665635>;

<http://izvestia.ru/>

Pravda

Ten years of Putin's Munich speech: he came, he saw, he conquers

http://www.pravdareport.com/russia/politics/10-02-2017/136838-putin_munich_speech-0/;

<http://www.pravdareport.com/>

Russia Today

Russian strategic bombers hit ISIS in Raqqa in coordination with Pentagon via 'deconfliction line'

<https://www.rt.com/news/377758-russian-bombers-isis-raqqa/>

<https://www.rt.com/news/>

China Daily

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/index.html>

Xi: security of nation a priority

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-02/18/content_28248812.htm

Korean peninsula: DPRK man arrested in connection with Kim Jong Nam's death
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-02/18/content_28251752.htm

China-US: China, US agree to work for greater development of relations
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2017-02/18/content_28249491.htm

Taiwan: US urged to uphold one-China promise
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2017-02/18/content_28249713.htm

European Union

https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en

Plenary highlights: Ceta, robots, counter-terrorism, future of the EU

MEPs approved Ceta during this week's plenary session followed by a visit by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau telling them how the EU-Canada trade deal was not just about commerce, but also about improving people's lives. Newly-elected Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen also addressed the Parliament, while MEPs adopted new anti-terrorism measures and set out their ideas for the future of the EU.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170213STO62321/plenary-highlights-ceta-robots-counter-terrorism-future-of-the-eu>

United Nations

<http://www.un.org/en/index.html>

17 February 2017 – Marking the tenth anniversary of an historic treaty to keep people from suffering enforced disappearance or secret detentions, the United Nations today urged all Governments that have not done so to ratify it, as the world body honoured victims separated from their loved ones.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56198#.WKhpWTvyiUk>

2 Peace and conflict research

2.1 Parents of the field

Since 2003, the School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution at George Mason University has been conducting interviews with 'Parents of the Field' – thirty-eight people to date.

<http://scar.gmu.edu/parents>

It includes a fascinating interview with Tony de Reuck (see below):

<http://scar.gmu.edu/parents-of-field/anthony-de-reuck>

2.2 In Memoriam – Tony de Reuck

[from the CRS website]



“We were very sorry to hear the news about Tony de Reuck’s passing. He was one of the pioneers of conflict research and a delightful and unforgettable character.

Tony saw the potential significance of conflict research very early in its development. Johan Galtung had started the Peace Research Institute in Oslo and a diverse group of mathematicians, economists and psychologists had started a Centre for Conflict Resolution in Michigan. These two centres became the basis of the *Journal of Peace Research* and the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, still the two prime journals in the field. But nothing equivalent had yet started in Britain. Tony was then the deputy director of the CIBA Foundation and convened a series of conferences on health and social issues for them. In that capacity, he took the initiative of holding a conference on *Conflict in Society*, which brought together leading lights of the new field, including Kenneth Boulding, John Burton, Morton Deutsch, Johan Galtung, Anatol Rapoport, Michael Nicholson and others. Tony worked with Jack Mongar and Cedric Smith of University College London – Cedric of course went on to chair the CRS for many years and was himself a distinguished biomathematician, working in the Galton Lab. Tony edited a book on the conference and wrote of the significance of the ‘new discipline, or more properly perhaps, a multi-disciplinary field of inquiry into the causes and control of conflict in human society.’

The conference laid the basis for a new group working on conflict resolution in Britain under the leadership of John Burton, who had served in a senior role in the Australian foreign ministry, but had come to believe that a problem-solving approach based on conflict analysis and facilitated communication could yield dividends that traditional positional bargaining could not. Challenged to demonstrate this approach, Burton chose the then contemporary conflict between Malaysia and Indonesia, and with the permission of the then Prime

Minister, Harold Wilson, he convened the first problem-solving workshop, which seems to have been remarkably successful in heading off a potential armed conflict. Tony supported Burton's initiative and arranged for the CIBA Foundation to provide the accommodation, meeting facilities and travel support to enable the meeting to take place.

This first meeting has become the model for literally hundreds of track two diplomacy initiatives, which have had positive effects in many parts of the world. Tony's personal characteristics – his easy charm with people, a ready wit and a shrewdness in seeing opportunities where others saw none – must have contributed to the positive outcome.

Tony also supported Burton in setting up the Conflict Analysis Centre, first at University College, and later at the University of Kent, where it became a network for people interested in promoting problem-solving workshops and conflict studies. The Centre has now developed into the Conflict Analysis Research Centre at Kent, which is the administrative base of the CRS. The Conflict Research Society, which Tony helped to establish, has become increasingly well-known and successful in recent years, thanks particularly to the efforts of our former chair Gordon Burt. Its conferences have been addressed by leading lights of today's field, including Steven Pinker, Joshua Goldstein, Stathis Kalyvas, Kevin Avruch, Kevin Clements, and Kristin Bakke. And there are now some 20 or 30 universities in the UK where conflict studies are offered. The approach that Tony pioneered has come to have a recognised place in international studies.

Tony's written contributions were always penetrating and engaging. He had a knack for crisply formulating the essence of a matter, as when he described conflict as a predicament people had to work on together, rather than a battle to be won. His interview for Chris Mitchell's 'Parents of the Field' project is still available on the internet and gives a nice sense of how he used to talk.

Gordon Burt wanted to add the following personal note:

'Tony had been central to the CRS from the very beginning. When I joined in 1982, he was one of a small group of people at the centre of the CRS and of the joint CRS-PSS(I) conference in Reading in 1982 he gave a vivid and emotionally intense account of the CRS problem-solving workshops in Cyprus. Thereafter I have met him on many occasions, and he encouraged me in my work and it was always a pleasure to be in his company. The last time we met was at the celebration of John Burton's life at Kent in 2010 (the special event was organized by John Groom and attended by John Burton's family). I joked with Marjorie and Tony that I had always placed them extremely high on the social scale, not

realising that their address, 'The Mall', was in full 'The Mall, East Sheen'! (My childhood knowledge of London was based on the Monopoly Board.)'

Tony had a sizzling intelligence and a very engaging personality and his life has demonstrated how much can flow from seeing a new possibility and committing yourself to its fruition.

2.3 CRS in Oxford, September 2017 ... CRS Newsletter

<http://conflictresearchsociety.org/ourevents/crs-conference-oxford-2017/>

The next Conflict Research Society (CRS) conference will be held in Oxford, hosted by the Changing Character of War Programme, Pembroke College, Oxford University, Monday September 18th and Tuesday 19th September, 2017.

CRS website

<http://conflictresearchsociety.org/>

2.4 News from the Peace Science Society (International)

The Peace Science Society (International) is pleased to announce the schedule of research presentations for the Online Peace Science Colloquium (OPSC) for the spring semester of 2017.

- February 3: Efe Tokdemir & Seden Akcinaroglu, "Forcing Government's Hand: Ethnic Terrorism, Constituency Reforms, and Improvement in Minority Rights"
- February 17: Aila Matanock & Adam Lichtenheld, "How Does International Intervention Work? Mechanisms for Securing Peace in Civil Conflicts"
- March 3: Sophie Lee, "The Power of the Masses: Duration and Termination of Political Resistance"
- March 17: Benjamin Laughlin, "Refugee Cascades and the Spatial Spillover of Fleeing in Civil Wars"
- April 14: Casey Crisman-Cox, "Civil Wars of Attrition: Bargaining, Reputation, and Conflict Duration"
- April 28: Shanna Kirschner & Adam Miller, "Does Peacekeeping Really Bring Peace? Post-War Violence Beyond Killing"
- May 12: Richard Morgan, "Popular Support in Insurgencies: Evidence from Assam, India"

"Forcing Government's Hand: Ethnic Terrorism, Constituency Reforms, and Improvement in Minority Rights" by Efe Tokdemir and Seden Akcinaroglu (Binghamton University).

Their paper can be found on the OPSC website (<http://pssonlinecolloquia.wixsite.com/opsc>).

Abstract:

Governments are often averse to engaging in negotiations with terrorists. Offering policy concessions to terrorists can be political suicide for many leaders. It is also difficult to defeat terror groups. We argue that an available strategy for a government is to weaken the terrorists' constituency support by engaging in political, social, and economic reforms, concessions to the constituency, which address the grievances of the people the terror group claims to represent. By using this strategy, the government hopes to sever the link between the terror group and its constituency. While giving in to terrorists is not desirable, bypassing the terror group and undertaking reforms that affect the welfare of its constituency directly strengthens the legitimacy of the government. But, concessions are costly. And, governments find it optimal to target the constituencies of militarily strong terror groups with high constituency support as the recipient of concessions. To test our hypotheses, we use a novel data, Constituency Concessions Data, on ethnic constituency accommodation between 1980 and 2006. We evidence that governments often resort to divide and conquer strategies by rendering terrorism inefficient in the eyes of the constituency, but our results also show that these are often not effective in bringing the terrorists' demise, not unless they result in credible improvements in minority rights.

Watch the discussion live or view it later on our YouTube page.

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJm46PObS5s>

"How Does International Intervention Work? Mechanisms for Securing Peace Settlements in Civil Conflicts" by Aila Matanock & Adam Lichtenheld (University of California Berkeley).

Watch it live on Friday, February 17th at 10 am (PT) or view it later on our YouTube Channel.

Abstract:

There is emerging consensus that international intervention can secure peace by helping combatants overcome commitment problems following civil wars. But how do interveners accomplish this? Recent studies suggest that intervention primarily works through coercion. We theorize an alternative mechanism: monitoring and conditioning incentives on compliance with peace processes. Despite a rich literature on intervention, little effort has been made to systematically identify and test the mechanisms. This paper takes a first step toward this end, using cross-national data on United Nations peacekeeping and case evidence on El Salvador. Contrary to common wisdom, our analysis suggests that coercion is neither frequently employed nor necessary to overcome commitment problems, particularly in post-conflict settings. Conditional incentives are effective in prolonging peace, even when controlling for potential selection effects. This research has important implications for external efforts to secure peace in civil conflicts worldwide.

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11I_ITMmeY4

The following new articles for Conflict Management and Peace Science are available online ahead of print in Conflict Management and Peace Science.

[Democratic peace versus contractualism](#)

James Lee Ray, et al. | Conflict Management and Peace Science | Feb 6, 2017

[UN fatalities 1948–2015: A new dataset](#)

Marina E. Henke | Conflict Management and Peace Science | Feb 6, 2017

3 Journals: APSR, AJPS ... peace and conflict

Home pages and latest issues:

American Political Science Review

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review>;
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/latest-issue>

American Journal of Political Science

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1540-5907/](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1540-5907/);
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12295/epdf>

ALSO:

Conflict Management and Peace Science

<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/cmp>;
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/cmpb/current>

Journal of Peace Research

<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/jpr>;
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jpra/current>

Journal of Conflict Resolution

<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/jcr>;
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jcrb/current>

Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy

<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/peps>;
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/peps.2017.23.issue-1/peps-2016-0025/peps-2016-0025.xml?format=INT>

Dialogue Studies

<http://www.dialoguestudies.org>;
<http://www.dialoguesociety.org/publications.html> ;
<http://www.dialoguestudies.org/journals/journal-of-dialogue-studies-vol-4/>;
<http://www.dialoguesociety.org/publications/academia/1108-dialogue-theories-volume-ii.html>

Selected items

APSA letter following 2016 USA election, 20 December 2016

<http://www.apsanet.org/Portals/54/governance/APSA%20Post%20Election%20Letter%202012.21.17.pdf?ver=2016-12-21-101731-973>

Why preacceptance? ... scientific methodology

<https://www.erpc2016.com/why-preacceptance>

“Science provides two main services to society: information through the data it collects and meaning through its rigorous analyses and interpretations of these data.

When this process works as it should, science can help a wide range of individuals, communities, and organizations better understand the natural and social worlds and improve our quality of life.

Today, however, important concerns are being raised whether science is working as it should. Multiple studies document the distorting effects of questionable research practices and publication bias on the accuracy, replicability, and interpretability of numerous findings in many scientific fields (e.g., Doucouliagos 2005; Ioannidis 2005; Masicampo and Lalande 2012; Dwan et al. 2013, Esarey and Wu N.d.). In particular, publication decisions appear to be closely related to whether or not manuscripts include statistically significant findings (Gerber and Malhotra 2008; Gerber et al. 2010; Franco, Malhotra, and Simonovits 2014, 2015), creating incentives for post hoc searches for statistically significant findings (“p-hacking”) or submitting only those parts of a research agenda that produce significant results (the “file drawer problem”).

The combination of p-hacking, file drawer problems, and biases towards statistical significance can create a mismatch between what a published literature claims about a topic and what the true weight of the evidence would show if all of it were allowed to see the light of day. As a result, even a finding that seems to be the product of a scientific consensus could instead be an illusion built upon questionable research and publication practices. ...”

What Makes a Utopia Inconvenient? On the Advantages and Disadvantages of a Realist Orientation to Politics

BENJAMIN L. MCKEAN ^(a1)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055416000460>

Published online: 28 December 2016

American Political Science Review, 110, 4, November 2016, 8786-888

Abstract

Contemporary politics is often said to lack utopias. For prevailing understandings of the practical force of political theory, this looks like cause for celebration. As blueprints to apply to political practice, utopias invariably seem too strong or too weak. Through an immanent critique of political realism, I argue that utopian thought, and political theory generally, is better conceived as supplying an orientation to politics. Realists including Bernard Williams and Raymond Geuss explain how utopian programs like universal human rights poorly orient their adherents to politics, but the realists wrongly conclude that utopias and other ideal theories necessarily disorient us. As I show through an analysis of utopian claims made by Michel Foucault, Malcolm X, and John Rawls, utopias today can effectively disrupt entrenched forms of legitimation, foster new forms of political identity, and reveal new possibilities within existing institutions. Utopias are needed to understand the political choices we face today

4 Artificial Intelligence ... understanding agent cooperation

“We employ deep multi-agent reinforcement learning to model the emergence of cooperation. The new notion of sequential social dilemmas allows us to model how rational agents interact, and arrive at more or less cooperative behaviours depending on the nature of the environment and the agents’ cognitive capacity. The research may enable us to better understand and control the behaviour of complex multi-agent systems such as the economy, traffic, and environmental challenges.

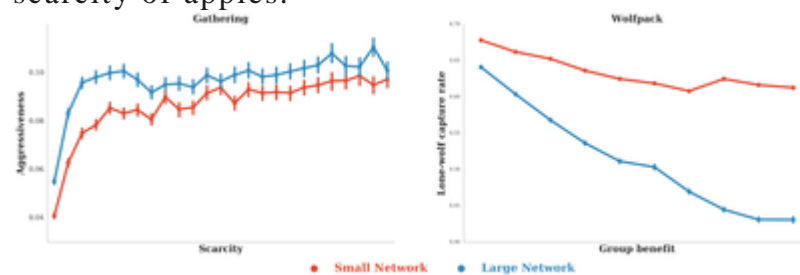
...

We let the agents play this game many thousands of times and let them learn how to behave *rationally* using deep multi-agent reinforcement learning. Rather naturally, when there are enough apples in the environment, the agents learn to peacefully coexist and collect as many

apples as they can. However, as the number of apples is reduced, the agents learn that it may be better for them to tag the other agent to give themselves time on their own to collect the scarce apples.

It turns out that this Gathering game shares many characteristics of the original Prisoner's Dilemma, but allows us to study the more interesting case in which agents need to learn to implement their desired behaviour: Either to cooperate and collect apples, or to defect and try to tag the other agent.

In these sequential social dilemmas, we can now study what factors contribute to agents' cooperation. For example, the following plot shows that in the Gathering game greater scarcity of apples leads to more "tagging" behaviour of agents. Furthermore, agents with the capacity to implement more complex strategies try to tag the other agent more frequently, i.e. behave less cooperatively - no matter how we vary the scarcity of apples.



Interestingly, in another game called Wolfpack (see gameplay video below), which requires close coordination to successfully cooperate, we find that greater capacity to implement complex strategies leads to more cooperation between agents, the opposite of the finding with Gathering. So, depending on the situation, having a greater capacity to implement complex strategies may yield either more or less cooperation. The new framework of sequential social dilemmas allows us to take into account not only the outcome of the interaction (as in the Prisoner's dilemma), but also the difficulty of learning to implement a given strategy."

<https://deepmind.com/blog/understanding-agent-cooperation/>

Bridge, Mark. "Computer says no: AI gets aggressive when stressed out." *The Times*, February 17, 2017.

5 World universities research ... university websites

Oxford

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/>

Brexit

[The voice of the people?](#)

- Professor Timothy Garton Ash

[A vital reaffirmation of Parliamentary sovereignty](#)

- Professor Sandra Fredman

[Brexit arithmetics: a logical approach to predicting a Brexit deal](#)

- Professor Kalypso Nicolaïdis

For the previous articles see the Oxford Brexit website:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/oxford-and-brexit/brexit-analysis>

Cambridge

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/>

“The best or worst thing to happen to humanity” - Stephen Hawking launches Centre for the Future of Intelligence

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/the-best-or-worst-thing-to-happen-to-humanity-stephen-hawking-launches-centre-for-the-future-of>

“Denial”: how to deal with a conspiracy theory in the era of ‘post-truth’

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/denial-how-to-deal-with-a-conspiracy-theory-in-the-era-of-post-truth>

When ideas of peace meet politics of conflict

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/when-ideas-of-peace-meet-politics-of-conflict>

Harvard

<http://www.harvard.edu/>

How CEO Trump may change how government works

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/01/how-ceo-trump-may-change-how-government-works/>

Trump, miscellany

<http://www.harvard.edu/searches?searchtext=trump#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=trump&gsc.page=1>

"To Serve Better Thy Country": Four Centuries of Harvard and the Military

<http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/military>

The rise of the quantified athlete

<https://i-lab.harvard.edu/event/quantified-athlete/>

University of California, Berkeley

<http://www.berkeley.edu/>

Funding the resistance of conscientious civil servants

<http://blogs.berkeley.edu/2017/02/15/funding-the-resistance-of-conscientious-civil-servants/>

Stanford

<https://www.stanford.edu/>

Stanford experts offer policy proposals, insights on U.S.-Asia relations

<http://news.stanford.edu/2017/02/15/experts-offer-insights-on-u-s-asia-relations/>

As events continue to unfold regarding federal immigration policy, this page provides resources for members of the Stanford community

[January 29, 2017]

<http://news.stanford.edu/immigration-issues/>

6 Books: The Islamic Enlightenment; Isabella of Castile; Reporting on Hitler

De Bellaigue, Christopher. *The Islamic Enlightenment*. Bodley Head, 2017.

Aaronovitch, David. "Muhammad versus modernity." *The Times, Saturday Review*, February 18, 2017: 11.

Tremlett, Giles. *Isabella of Castile*. London: Bloomsbury, 2017.

De Lisle, Leanda. "Isabella, a great and fearsome queen." *The Times, Saturday Review*, February 18, 2017: 12.

Wainwright, Will. *Reporting on Hitler*. Biteback, 2017.

Boyes, Roger. "Hitler and the Press Pack." *The Times, Saturday Review*, February 18, 2017: 14.

7 Psychology, Society and Modelling: issue 1

An occasional supplement to the monthly Commentary available at:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmVudC93JkY0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDoxNDZiZWZhZWQ2ZjNjNmUw>

1 Psychology and the Conflict Research Society

... a meeting in London

2.1 Trump, Brexit and psychology – some preliminary discussions

Brexit means Brexit: the narcissism in the idea – Steven Potter

Trump and the Psychopathy test – Julie Lloyd

2.2 Peace, Brexit and the Big Five

Personality Dimensions and Attitudes Towards Peace and War - Herbert Blumberg

Brexit, geography and the Big Five - Gordon Burt

Trump, Brexit, partner similarity and the Big Five

3 Psychology ... Values, World Society and Modelling

4 Psychology and society journals

Appendices:

1: Positive and negative, type A and type B

Appendix: Trump, Xi Jinping and Burton ... peace and conflict; values and world society

My email of January 20, 2017

Dear colleagues,

Would you like to contribute a piece for the next (February) issue of *Commentary*?

Trump, Xi Jinping and Burton ... peace and conflict; values and world society

Today: Donald Trump's inaugural speech:

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/01/20/us/politics/donald-trump-inauguration-speech-transcript.html?_r=0

Tuesday: Xi Jinping's speech at Davos:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/01/full-text-of-xi-jinping-keynote-at-the-world-economic-forum/>

Meanwhile I have been editing Kevin Clements' *John Burton Memorial Lecture, 2015* for the 2015 Yearbook:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo0YzU0ZTFIMTk2NTY4Mzhj>

How do Trump, Xi Jinping and Burton relate to ...

... the psychology of individuals?

... tensions within US and Chinese society? ... tensions in the UK, in Europe and elsewhere?

... US and Chinese politics? ... domestic politics in the UK, in Europe and elsewhere?

... the US and Chinese economy? ... the world economy?

... military tensions throughout the world?

... cultures and ideologies within US and Chinese society? ... in the UK, in Europe and elsewhere?

... experts, the public and us – our understanding of the world?

See also:

Yearbook, 2016

Values, World Society and Modelling Yearbook, 2016

first draft of Overview with online links to *Commentary*:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo3ZDk2ZjNjMDI2MzNhNTFl>

9 USA presidential elections: geography and political space:

Commentary 31, 14-24:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo2NTRiNzdiYWQzNjQxZWlw>

Commentary 35:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmxb3Jkb25idXJ0bWF0aHNvY3NjaXxneDo2NzA5NDRkNGUxYjUzNTIj>

Your piece can address the above agenda - or can be about any other topic.

Please send me your contribution by Sunday 8th February.

Best wishes,

Gordon Burt