

*Issue 2 / April 2019*

# GLOBAL SCANNING REVIEW

## **INCLUDED INSIDE**

This issue looks at bean-less coffee, digital art galleries, DIY gene editing kits, billboards in space, emoji manifesto, free public transportation and much more...

## GLOBAL SCANNING REVIEW

The Global Scanning Review is the exclusive bimonthly members' review by the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies (CIFS). The ideas presented here are inspired by the horizon scanning observations made by the Global Scanning Network (GSN) at CIFS.

With our GSN, we collect, compare and evaluate a wide range of signals – including new and emerging trends, technologies, values, products, concepts, companies, services and ideas – in order to identify what's happening now and what could be emerging tomorrow. It is a process that seeks to identify the earliest indications of potentially disruptive issues, but also tracks transformations of already established phenomena or trends.

Global scanning is an evidence-based method for understanding indicators of change and possible futures. It is the art of systematically scanning the external environment for evidence of emerging issues and a practice that seeks to inform decision-making, by creating a patterned awareness of both potential opportunities and challenges.

Using a competitive and comparative frame, global scanning provides members and clients a detailed review and analysis of some critical raw ingredients for inspiring innovative and future-oriented business opportunities. CIFS' global scanning also offers tailored solutions in order to generate relevant industry- and business-specific insights according to specific member or client interests.

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## GLOBAL SCANNING NETWORK

The GSN is a network comprised of CIFS consultants and associates, and a team of global ambassadors. The ambassadors are Master/PhD graduates and working professionals on a six month rotation, providing expert perspectives in the realms of science and technology, politics, culture, design, innovation, business management, finance, marketing and branding. The GSN represents a diverse, global group of individuals who contribute with unique observations, profitable ideas, and sharp insights into specific industry challenges.

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# FUTURE OF SOCIETY & GOVERNANCE

## PRISONS COLLECT VOICE-PRINT DATA

U.S. prisoners voice-prints collected in database for national security

The voice-print data harvested without consent from prisoners in the U.S. is used to create a new voice surveillance system, identifying biometric signatures or voice-prints. Currently, there are hundreds of thousands of voice-prints informing the system. Those who regularly call inmates are also being added to the database. The official objective of both prisons and tech companies is to support prison and national security, as well as preventing fraud. The intent of creating a database of incarcerated people is to increase screening of known criminals to ID suspicious calls and allocate a probability score correlating to investigations. However, civil liberties are being violated. The collection of biometric data has been without consent or transparency and data has been coerced or simply taken. Additionally, individuals not in prison are also having their data captured without consent, as well as being profiled for possible criminal activity.

*Source Link*

## BODYCAMS FOR FEDERAL POLICE

Germany allowed use of bodycams in action for federal police staff

After state police of two large German federal states submitted major orders for bodycams of the American producer Axon in fall 2018, the federal police's staff council in the ministry of interior signed a necessary agreement this month. Yet the police is bound by law to certain limitations in the device's use. Bodycam use must be associated to the protection of officers in service or third parties, and the prosecution of felonies and "offences of considerable importance". Data, which is not needed for further intelligence, has to be deleted within certain deadlines. Nonetheless, a court of one of the states that already ordered bodycams, has decided that bodycam recordings are legal evidence, even in case the camera was not supposed to record at all. Public surveillance is seldomly conducted and controversial in Germany. Thus, this decision represents a relevant step in changes of privacy matters.

*Source Link*

## WELL-BEING BUDGET IN POLICYMAKING

New Zealand's government introduced world's first national well-being budget

New Zealand's Prime-Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a new approach to running her government's finances at the World Economic Forum, in January 2019. From 2019, New Zealand government will present a "well-being budget" to gauge the long-term impact of policy on the quality of people's lives. It is the world's first national budget created for well-being of current and future citizens of a nation. The way it will operate, and deliver is yet to be seen, however, should it define a trend, then its pioneer initiative will have been an outstanding outcome for future generations. Considering the budget policy established priorities that can make real improvements to New Zealanders, it has potential for deliveries at the short term. Nevertheless, in case it does not show practical results and New Zealanders are unhappy or unsupportive of the initiative, it can limit similar opportunities in other countries.

*Source Link*

## FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Luxembourg is the first country to make all public transport free

From 1 March 2020, Luxembourg cancels all charges for using the trains, trams and buses that traverse the country. The decision is taken in order to relieve transport congestion as well as to support low-earning commuters. The move is perceived as an important step to curb the emissions from the transport sector and to help combat the growing income gap in the country. While Luxembourg has the highest average salary among OECD countries, poverty is increasing (13% of workers are at risk of poverty). As a social measure, free public transport will expand work opportunities for low-income residents as they will not need to pay for commute. The plan includes rail network modernisation, better cross-border connections and new train-tram-bus exchange hubs (as well as road-related initiatives), with state investment of 2.2bn euros by 2023.

*Source Link*

## EMOJI MANIFESTO

Nigerian presidential candidate launched world's first 'emojified' manifesto

Atiku Abubakar, presidential candidate in Nigeria, launched the #AtikuPlanForYOUth, the world's first 'emojified' manifesto, in a new effort to attract youth voters. Ahead of Nigerian general elections, the campaign summarised the main points and policies and added emojis in a bid to appeal to younger voters. Africa is the continent with the youngest population and appealing to this large and important group inspired a campaign where the language of emoticons was employed to try to communicate with them. We have witnessed politicians globally attempting to seem more relevant and relatable through the use of social media. Maybe this is the next step into the frontier of communicating with the youth through non-traditional language, even in the political sphere.

*Source Link*

## MAJOR LAND CONSERVATION LEGISLATION

U.S. Senate passed most comprehensive land conservation legislation in a decade

The U.S. Senate just passed the most comprehensive land conservation legislation in a decade, in spite of President Trump's penchant for development. This measure includes designating 1.3 million acres as wilderness and excluding 370,000 acres from mining. Five new national monuments will be added as a result of this legislation, and ten national parks will be expanded. This action is significant for many reasons, not the least being the bipartisan cooperation on this bill during a time of political turmoil. Wilderness designation ensures that no roads are constructed, nor motorized vehicles used on this land. 620 miles of rivers across seven states will be protected from damming and other construction. This legislation will create significant protections and provisions for land, water, wildlife, and humans.

*Source Link*

## BILL TO KILL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN MUSIC

Indonesian government debating to ban 'negative foreign influences' in music out of fear of moral decay

The Indonesian House of Parliament is proposing a bill to overhaul the country's law on music that pursues sweeping nativist views of music. It seeks to ban 'negative foreign influences' and require that venues that play music - from nightclubs to restaurants - play traditional music. There has been a moral panic against the LGBT community, including raids and attacks by vigilantes on the military. Activist groups have been decrying moral decay, citing foreign influences like K-Pop. And there are persistent fears of immigrants from China displacing local workers. This bill may represent a significant shift by formally making these concerns part of the national political and legal system. It combines calls for more nationalism and fear of moral decay from outside influences. The combining of moral outrage and nationalism will make a formidable opponent to traditional Indonesian culture, which has long been seen as highly tolerant and open.

*Source Link*

## COW WELFARE TRUMPS PENSION SCHEME

India's comprehensive cow welfare scheme trumps the pension scheme in 2019's interim budget

In this year's interim budget, India's Union minister Piyush Goyal has announced an increased allocation of 750 crore (7.5 billion) rupees for a comprehensive cow welfare scheme. In comparison, the amount allocated to the pension scheme for India's 430 million workers in the unorganised sector is 500 crore (5 billion). This seemingly arbitrary allocation of funds in the interim budget reflects the current government's socio-economic priorities, especially in the context of the ruling NDA alliance's religious and political affiliations. Since coming into power in 2014, the NDA government has repeatedly been accused of advancing a Hindu nationalist agenda based on the ideology of Hindutva, and in this debate, the cow has unexpectedly emerged as the poster-child of an imagined Hindu national identity. The latest budget mention is a clear signal of the current government's priorities with respect to economic and social policy and can have a number of unexpected consequences.

*Source Link*

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# FUTURE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMY

## ROBOTS CREATE JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The initiative strives to empower those with incapacitating conditions

A beta version of a café, launched by Japanese start-up Ory Lab, used robot waiters controlled by people with disabilities. Employees had conditions such as ALS and other spinal cord injuries. They worked remotely, using eye-tracking technology to make four-foot robots walk, pick up objects and talk to customers. There were 10 employees paid USD 9 per hour, and the initiative lasted two weeks. The start-up aims to open a permanent café in 2020. The technology provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to gain more independence, as it enhances human capabilities rather than attempting to replace them. However, if it spreads, specific regulations regarding equal opportunities might have to be put in place.

*Source Link*

## LEASE YOUR FURNITURE

Ikea is testing a new initiative renting out office furniture in Switzerland

The idea aligns with Ikea's strategy to support a circular economy by producing items that can be repaired, reused and recycled. The company might also go on to lease kitchens. Massive production, cheaper prices and international availability have resulted in excessive purchase, short-term use and unnecessary waste. Ikea's sustainability efforts may counter such trends. For example, a new store in London will include a 'learning lab' to teach customers how to renovate or repurpose old furniture. Aside from environmental advantages, this new strategy of renting furniture might benefit expats in temporary living situations and new businesses with limited investments. We might ultimately see a 'no possessions, high abundance' phenomenon. A potential barrier lies in consumers' willingness to share usually long-term material items.

*Source Link*

## AUTONOMOUS BUSES

TWO ELECTRIC SELF-DRIVING BUSES WILL  
TAKE TO SWEDEN'S ROADS IN 2020

The buses will use a special lane and will be overseen by a security driver. They will initially cover a 1km route with no passengers, which will be extended to 5km and up to 300 passengers a day. Sweden will be the first European country to use autonomous buses on public roads. Autonomous public transport has the potential to lower costs, reduce emissions and increase road safety. However, while current legislation and technology do not allow completely driver-less buses, developments could threaten bus drivers' jobs, which would require compensation or retraining courses. Many are also expressing concerns about safety, as it is unclear how emergency situations involving autonomous vehicles will be addressed.

*Source Link*

## ANTI-VACCINE YOUTUBE CHANNELS DEMONETISED

YouTube prevents channels that promote anti-vaccine content from running advertisements

The decision was made after advertisers pulled their ads from these videos. YouTube also introduced an information panel on anti-vaccine videos, which links to the Wikipedia page for 'vaccine hesitancy' – according to the World Health Organization, vaccine hesitancy is one of the top global health threats of 2019. The move takes place in the context of a debate concerning the extent to which media platforms should regulate users' content. While YouTube has rules on deleting content violating its guidelines, many videos can be considered borderline. YouTube's decision is due to 'market force', indicating that companies can have strong influence on platforms' content. If this trend continues to develop, implications may include accusations of freedom of speech violations. At the same time, such market-based pressure might become an efficient tool to prevent misinformation and fake news from spreading.

*Source Link*



## VOLVO WANTS SPEED LIMIT ON CARS

The company will reduce top speed to 180 km (112 miles) per hour

The decision comes as part of an effort to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in Volvos by 2020. Volvo also wants to inspire conversation about automakers' responsibility in shaping drivers' behaviour when it comes to issues like drunk driving and speeding. According to the World Health Organization, about 1.35 million people die every year due to road traffic injuries. Yet most cars can drive faster than 180 km per hour. Volvo's decision commits it further to its branding as a company that emphasises safety. As a result, certain consumer segments that hold other priorities might be driven to competitor companies. Meanwhile, Volvo could become even more popular to those who are safety-conscious, creating a new standard for safe cars.

*Source Link*

## NO ONE LIKES (BEING) A TOURIST

Increasing numbers of tourists require new strategies to balance local and tourist interests

Edinburgh has become the first city in the UK to agree on a tourist tax of £2 (USD 2.60) per room, per night, for the first week of stay. Venice will also introduce an entry fee targeting short-stay tourists. As much of these cities' infrastructures are not designed for peak season crowds, locals and tourists fight for the same resources. Cities are collecting these taxes to tackle issues stemming from mass tourism. Meanwhile, visitors are increasingly showing interest in more 'authentic' attractions, outside typically trendy areas. Alternative city tours are on the rise in tourist destinations and they are committed to showing the real side of the cities. Governments face an opportunity to relieve some areas of crowds by investing in these non-conventional attractions, while promoting local traditions and culture in places where tourism is not the main economic activity. Retrofitting neglected areas could make the 'anti-tourist' market flourish while meeting locals' demands.

*Source Link*

## THE PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC SPACE

Big Tech companies are going beyond storefronts to solidify their positions

Apple has had two failed attempts to buy up public spaces in Stockholm and Melbourne, in order to transform these into outdoor extensions of its stores. The spaces – Stockholm's oldest park and Melbourne's biggest civic square – are significant to their cities and both plans met resistance from citizens. Google similarly announced plans to open a 'campus' in Berlin, but received the same negative response from citizens. The growth of private actors in public spaces can have positive effects; one politician believed the Google campus would encourage entrepreneurship and creativity. However, there may be adverse effects on liveability: for example, there has been a rise in pseudo-public spaces, where behaviours are implicitly controlled by private owners. There are also concerns of gentrification, soaring rent and a loss of local businesses. Further moves may have significant implications for the future of retail, public space and urban planning.

*Source Link*

## RISE OF ULTRA-THIN, ULTRA-TALL SKYSCRAPERS

Around the world, people are witnessing a new breed of buildings: pencil towers

Driven by scarcity of land but ample financial resources, the world's super rich have started to buy up land and 'air rights' of existing neighbouring buildings to commission the construction of skyscrapers with unusually high width to height ratios. Over the past decade, this has resulted in pencil towers such as 111 West 57th Street in New York, which is 435m tall and 18m wide, one of the thinnest yet. In essence, these towers can be seen as physical representations of the world's growing economic inequality; indeed, the number of people worldwide who own USD 30 million or more has surpassed 250,000. Accumulation of wealth at the expense of other members of society is significant for the future livelihoods of billions, and therefore must be monitored with care. In extension, the sustainability movement could benefit from these new construction and design techniques.

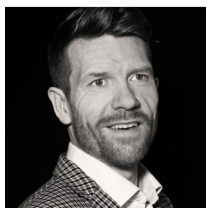
*Source Link*

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# FUTURE OF CONSUMERS & RETAIL

## E-FASHION FOR INFLUENCERS

Online clothing collection digitally fitted to a photo to be shared on social media

Carlings partnered with the digital influencer Perl.www to create a digital fashion collection. Consumers can purchase an item for USD 20 from the online collection and have it digitally fitted to a photo of themselves, allowing them to share them on social media. The capsule-collection aims to tackle the environmental impacts of fast-fashion such as water consumption and waste. At the same time, it tries to tackle the rising problem of buying clothing items just to share it on social media and then returning it to the sellers. Some brands - such as Asos and Harrods- are starting to deal with it by blacklisting users who return too much and by scanning the social media accounts of those on the blacklist. This initiative seems to be a game-changer in the fashion industry but could be important for other sectors too. The fact that items that were perceived as purely physical have now become digital, even though they do not fulfil their original purpose anymore, shows the power of digital identities for consumers and producers.

*Source Link*

## DRONE ECOSYSTEM 2.0

India's proposed policy 2.0 for a drone ecosystem could mean total restructuring of retail system

Following the legalisation of commercial drones 1.0 in India, the government has circulated a draft note of its proposals for policy 2.0. moving closer to establishing a drone 'ecosystem' in India. While the current policy has benefits for the real estate, agriculture and mining sectors, the consequences of policy 2.0 would be substantially more widespread. The draft note mentions the use of drones for everything from delivery of retail goods and food to medicines, human organs and safe blood. For the ~66% of 1.3 billion Indians living in rural areas, this could be life-changing. India is set to become a drone market worth ~886 Million USD in the next 2 years. Zomato's recent acquisition of TechEagle for last-mile drone deliveries of food and Amazon's patent on 'Prime Air' are indications of companies gearing up for the future. This policy could mean a total restructuring of retail in the whole country of India.

*Source Link*

## COMMERCIAL DRONES FOR REAL ESTATE

4-year-old ban on commercial drones lifted in India, which can benefit opaque real estate sector

On December 1, 2018 India lifted its 4-year-old ban on flying commercial drones. With implications across sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure and mining, this legalisation is of particular importance for the real estate industry, one of the largest sectors in the country. The real estate industry in India has always been associated with being an 'opaque' industry, with all stakeholders facing challenges. The legalisation of commercial drones for real estate is important to all stakeholders, ranging from real estate developers and project management companies to consumers, investors, and regulators. The usage of commercial drones in real estate can improve issues around the construction process, make consumers have better access to remote projects of their interest, increases transparency for investors and enable better monitoring of the projects.

*Source Link.*

## BILLBOARDS IN SPACE

Russian start-up aims at putting advertisement billboards made of satellites up in space

StartRocket, a Russian start-up, is aiming to put billboards in space. The firm plans to turn hundreds of tiny satellites into a massive display visible from earth. From space hotels to asteroid mining, the ambitious project is the latest in a series of ventures, often backed by capital and technology from Silicon Valley, looking at outer space as a new business frontier. The project is technically challenging but feasible - provided the company finds investors to foot the bill. Production costs alone are expected to be more than USD 150 million. The firm plans to charge about USD 200,000 for every eight hours of advertising. The display would look roughly the size of a half moon and be visible for six minutes at a time, potentially from anywhere. The initiative raised questions about the need to better regulate who owns the skies - and what is in them.

*Source Link*

## REDUCING AIR POLLUTION

Ikea to help reduce air pollution in India by using rice straw residues to build products and furniture

Ikea recently declared that it would help farmers in North India to reduce pollution by using their rice straw residue (which they often need to burn to clear up their fields) by using it as an alternative building material for its products and furniture. This is one of several examples of brands this year taking small steps to contribute to a better planet. There are multiple ways in which companies with a significant global footprint can contribute to a better environment, from revisiting manufacturing processes to re-thinking business models completely (as is the case with Didi or Airbnb). While we build smarter solutions for waste management due to increasingly troubling levels of waste across the world caused by linear processes of 'take-make-dispose', adopting a different ideology can help us build businesses and brands that are sustainable from the get-go, and to refine the ones that aren't.

*Source Link*

## NEXT GENERATION PARENTING PRODUCTS

Amazon invests in start-ups that build connected ecosystems for monitoring babies

Amazon announced its launch of a new "Baby Skill Activity API" that updates and checks via voice commands and tracks baby's weight, sleep, diaper changes, feeding, etc. Amazon is also making an investment in "Hatch Baby", a US start-up for a connected baby changing mat and sleep-regulating light. While details about the investment are not being disclosed, Amazon is investing about USD 200 million in start-ups strategic to Amazon's ambitions in voice services and other new business ventures. With an increase in millennial parents who are accustomed to relying on technologies for a variety of tasks, the connected baby device sector has a huge potential to help and guiding especially new parents. Nevertheless, there are critical risks such as data privacy and hacking that must be addressed.

*Source Link*

## DIGITAL ART GALLERIES

Johannesburg's first digital art gallery joins Tokyo's Building Digital Art Museum in new approach of blending technology and art

Johannesburg's first digital art and creative technology gallery space opened recently and although somewhat in an experimental stage, the shift towards galleries that specialise in the digital arts is changing the way we view and experience art. This follows the MORI Building Digital Art Museum in Tokyo that opened its doors in June 2018 and has since seen more than a million visitors. This museum is the brainchild of the Japanese art collective, teamLab, a group of "ultra-technologists" dedicated to manipulating the boundaries of physical space into an immersive collection of exhibitions, their artistry blends art, science, and technology. Where it might not have been viable to run a digital-only space before, this approach now seems more relevant and visited, than many other more traditional galleries. Digital art might become the new graffiti - a creative expression that was never really seen as art until artists like Banksy carved out a niche for it in and amongst the art world. Who and what will measure the quality and validity of these types of arts, is yet to be seen. *Source Link*

## BEAN-LESS COFFEE

American start-up invents bean-less coffee to tackle environmental and social issues on coffee plantations

Fake coffee, the bean-less brew, also known as molecular coffee, is here. Atomo, a start-up company in Seattle, has identified the microbiology behind coffee needed to create a smooth, caffeine laced, aromatic drink without the beans. Similar to fake-meat, molecular coffee is striving to meet pressing needs in sustainability. Due to climate change and deforestation, the traditional coffee trade is threatened. Additionally, labour issues, such as the modern slave trade, are also found in coffee plantations worldwide. There are approximately 40 compounds that make up the proteins and oils needed to create the coffee-specific experience: body, feel, aroma, and colour. In recreating the experience, Atomo "up-cycled plant-based materials" to create coffee grounds that may be mixed into water using a variety of traditional coffee making methods. *Source Link*

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# FUTURE OF PEOPLE & WELL-BEING

## DIY GENE EDITING KITS

Do-It-Yourself Gene editing kits  
for personal biohacking experiments

An American company called 'The Odin' now sells "gene-editing" kits with which people can create a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) of their own. The DIY kit also gives people the opportunity to modify themselves, but there hasn't been enough research yet to fully understand the long-term side effects. Without proper regulations in place, tools like this may be threatening for humans. Important aspects to consider with DIY kits are ethics and safety on the one hand, but also society's wish for longevity, healthier lifestyles and personalised health on the other hand. In addition, if people were able to live twice as long, this would have significant economic and social implications that must be thought through before. DIY independent biohackers' experiments will be hard to trace and overall there are many unknown implications to human gene editing.

*Source Link*

## PARKINSON'S DISEASE - A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Parkinson's disease is spreading worldwide  
and is projected to reach the level of a global  
pandemic

The prevalence of Parkinson's disease is increasing exponentially and is forecast to rise to 17 million patients by 2040. The convergence of demographic trends and global industrialisation are projected to create a global pandemic of age-related neurological disorders, including Parkinson's disease. This will add to the overall burden of medical and physical care of the elderly, many of whom will require institutionalisation. In addition, the global increase in life expectancy brings a rise in age-related illnesses. A global pandemic of Parkinson's disease will strain healthcare resources and may lead to reduced quality of care for patients of low socioeconomic status or in areas that are unprepared to care for a rapidly increasing patient population.

*Source Link*

## CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSES CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS

Excessive heat during pregnancy has been  
discovered to be a leading cause for babies  
to develop congenital heart defects

Recent research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association predicts a high number of babies being born between 2025 and 2035 with congenital heart defects due to heat caused by climate change. Exposure to excessive heat during pregnancy is already known to have deleterious effects on the health of fetuses and infants. Most of the dialogue surrounding climate change points toward vague and impersonal effects that may be easy to ignore. The more specific science can get with exactly how climate change will affect individuals, the more likely it is for people to change from being apathetic to being proactive. Although this particular study focused on the United States, it is likely that even higher rates of defects will occur in countries without widespread access to air conditioning.

*Source Link*

## SMART GLOVE

A Kenyan student developed  
a smart glove that converts sign  
language movement into audio speech

25-year-old Kenyan invents speech translation glove that recognises various letters signed by sign language users and transmits this data to an Android application where it is vocalised. Language barriers will no longer be the cause of not being able to communicate effectively with innovations like Google's instant language translator. Impediments caused by hearing or sight impairment are also no longer causes for not being able to communicate effectively. Language, hearing and sight impediments are being bridged with technology while employers can create inclusive and enriching working environments through the use of the latter to bridge these obstructions.

*Source Link*

## BABIES FROM OVULES AND SPERM FROM THE SAME PERSON

Japanese researchers transformed skin cells from one subject into eggs and sperm

Japanese researchers were able to pick skin cells from a subject and transform them into stem cells which are cells that can turn into other types of cells. Then they turned these cells into eggs and sperm, both from the same sample. For now, the experiment was only trialled on mice, but scientists declare that it is not impossible for human trials to success too - and they're moving towards this scenario. This research could start a revolution: We could have a child with eggs and sperm both made from our body cells. If this type of reproduction will spread, it could lead to a shift in the role of the family: if it is not needed anymore to have a partner to have a baby.

*Source Link*

## MOSQUES LOSE INFLUENCE TO ONLINE SCHOOLS

Young Indonesians shift traditional forms of learning about Islam to online-based Ustadz

A study by the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture (CSRC) in Indonesia has found that among Muslim Indonesians aged between 17 and 24 social media-based sermons have reduced the influence of formal educational institutions. The study notes that traditional forms of learning about Islam have been shifting among young Indonesians - away from mosques and other organisations to online-based Ustadz (Islamic scholars). As the world's largest Muslim nation (by population), Muslim Indonesian's changing experience with religion will have national and potentially international implications. The study's finding that young Indonesians are experiencing their religion through online sources, such as celebrity "Google Ustadz" (Google preachers) will likely represent a significant cultural and religious change for the country.

*Source Link*

## TRY TO BE A PARENT

Chinese game lets parents exercise their parenting skills and score points

A new Chinese game lets parents try and exercise their parenting skills. It focuses on "tiger parents", a term used to describe the typical Chinese parenting style that usually pushes their children towards academic and overall excellence. The goal is to make the child succeed in life, by scoring a high grade at Gaokao (the national entrance exam for higher education). The game is very complex since it involves every aspect of the life of a parent, so if you make your child study too hard, he might face a psychological breakdown. Indeed, it is based on the assumption: "you can't excel at everything". Considering the rising attention to gamification of learning and education, this is a good example of gaming for better behaviours. In the Chinese context, this is a way to educate parents, but at the same time, to let children understand their parents' choices.

*Source Link*

## FIND LOVE VIA YOUR FRIDGE

Samsung's Refrigerdating app selects potential partners based on their fridge content

Samsung just announced Refrigerdating - a new dating service that aims to set people up based on the contents of their refrigerators. People looking to find their dates, simply snap and upload pictures of the inside of their fridges and will be matched with others with similar or differing fridge interiors. The company is using the apps and service to promote their Family Hub Refrigerators - "smart" fridges that have touch screens and interior cameras that provide consumers with the ability to monitor the inside of their fridges from Internet-connected devices. While the Samsung initiative appears gimmicky, it signals the coming together of IT infrastructure, Internet-connected devices, software applications, backed by sensor networks, AI and data analytics - which is shaping the Internet of Things (IoT) landscape and the future ahead.

*Source Link*

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## MEMBERS' REPORT 2/2019

### CRUMBLING PILLARS 4 THREATS TO THE GLOBAL STATUS QUO

The pillars that sustain the global status quo are eroding: liberal democracy is giving way to populist politics, Western-led globalisation and technological dominance is faltering while China is taking the lead, and the environment is rapidly changing due to decades of accelerated human activity. Our upcoming Members' Report looks at the crumbling pillars of the modern world – and how the world that comes after might look.

## CIFS EXECUTIVE

CIFS Executive is our international membership network for decision-makers. The CIFS Executive meetings are open for members of the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies and are by invitation only. We wish to create a dialogue between people who understand the need to use the future proactively. Our idea is to deliver flashes of inspiration that highlight potential game changers. We are putting the future on the agenda, and our members get the first chance to discuss opportunities and threats related to the latest developments identified by CIFS.

April 1 2019  
**WEBINAR**

March 26 2019  
**OSLO**

March 28 2019  
**COPENHAGEN**

April 3 2019  
**BRUSSELS**

## SCENARIO MAGAZINE 02/2019

The Western dominance in science and technology, sustained since the industrial revolution, may soon be a thing of the past. China is taking the lead in several major areas of research and technological development. Why is this shift occurring and what might the consequences be? Other topics and articles include: Self-Sovereign Identity Explained / The Great Shift in Society / Inventing Future Cities / Death of the Expert / Beauty in the Age of Eternal Youth / Hell 2.0 / Nature is not Perfect / Will We Ever Travel Faster Than Light? / The Unicode Consortium / Darknet Diaries and much more ...

### **COPENHAGEN INSTITUTE FOR FUTURES STUDIES**

is an international, apolitical and not-for-profit think tank that has advised governments, multinationals, public and intergovernmental bodies all over the world about the future since 1969 through a membership network, strategic consultancy, seminars, workshops, presentations and publications.

The Institute identifies and analyses the trends and driving forces that shape the world, and works with scenario planning that can be used in strategy development and other change processes. The Institute is therefore both a think tank and strategic advisor for public and private enterprises that wish to know more about the future before they make important decisions.

The objective of the Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies is to strengthen the basis for decision-making in public and private organisations by creating awareness of the future and highlighting its importance to the present.

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