



Researchers Face Backlash From LGBTQ Groups Over AI Study

The most violent protest against identification of gays by AI has come from the LGBTQ community itself, belittling it as 'junk science' and phony. I suppose some of the nations where Sharia law is embedded would like to use this technology. □ TN Editor

[A viral study that revealed](#) artificial intelligence could accurately guess whether a person is gay or straight based on their face is receiving harsh backlash from LGBTQ rights groups.

The study, which was conducted by researchers at the Stanford University, reported that the AI correctly distinguished gay men from straight men 81 percent of the time and 74 percent of the time for women.

Advocates called the research "junk science," claiming that not only could the technology out people, but it could put their lives at risk -

especially in brutal regimes that view homosexuality as a punishable offense.

“At a time where minority groups are being targeted, these reckless findings could serve as weapon to harm both heterosexuals who are inaccurately outed, as well as gay and lesbian people who are in situations where coming out is dangerous,” Jim Halloran, GLAAD’s Chief Digital Officer, [wrote in a joint statement from GLAAD and The Human Rights Campaign](#).

However, the author of the study disagrees with the criticism, stating that this type of technology already exists and the purpose of his research was to expose security flaws and develop protections so that someone couldn’t use it for ill will.

“One of my obligations as a scientist is that if I know something that can potentially protect people from falling prey to such risks, I should publish it,” Michal Kosinski, co-author of the study, [told the Guardian](#). He added that discrediting his research wouldn’t help protect LGBTQ people from the potentially life-threatening implications this kind of technology has.

Advocates also called out the study for not looking at bisexual and transgender people or people of color. The researchers gathered 130,741 images of men and women from public profiles on a dating site for the AI to analyze, all of which were Caucasian. While Kosinski and his co-author recognized that the lack of diversity in the study was an issue, they didn’t say which dating site they looked at and claimed they couldn’t find enough non-white gay people.

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Calls To Punish Skeptics Rise With Links To Climate Change, Hurricanes

Technocrats get very edgy when their pseudo-science is exposed as faulty and corrupt, leading them to resort to Inquisition-style punishment at the hands of thought-police. They have no defense, and they likely know it, but when climate change is turned into a religion (by Scientism), irrational beliefs need no empirical support. □ TN Editor

Calls to punish global warming skepticism as a criminal offense have surged in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, but it hasn't discouraged climate scientists like Judith Curry.

A retired Georgia Tech professor, she [argued](#) on her Climate Etc. website that Irma, which hit Florida as a Category 4 hurricane on Saturday, was fueled in large part by "very weak" wind shear and that the hurricane intensified despite Atlantic Ocean temperatures that

weren't unusually warm.

That is the kind of talk that could get policymakers who heed her research hauled before the justice system, if some of those in the climate change movement have their way.

"Climate change denial should be a crime," declared the Sept. 1 headline in the Outline. Mark Hertsgaard argued in a Sept. 7 article in the Nation, titled "Climate Denialism Is Literally Killing Us," that "murder is murder" and "we should punish it as such."

The suggestion that those who run afoul of the climate change consensus, in particular government officials, should face charges comes with temperatures flaring over the link between hurricanes and greenhouse gas emissions.

"In the wake of Harvey, it's time to treat science denial as gross negligence — and hold those who do the denying accountable," said the subhead in the Outline article, written by Brian Merchant.

Brad Johnson, executive director of Climate Hawks Vote, posted last week on Twitter a set of "climate disaster response rules," the third of which was to "put officials who reject science in jail."

Climate skeptics have taken note of the alarming trend. "Ever since Hurricane Harvey, the global warming-hurricane hysteria has ratcheted up to levels I haven't seen since 2006," said Ms. Curry.

Anthony Watts, who runs the Watts Up With That blog, [listed](#) some of the threats to criminalize skeptics under the headline, "Hate on Display — climate activists go bonkers over #Irma and nonexistent climate connection."

Climate Depot's Marc Morano said the heightened vitriol aimed at those who dispute the link between climate change and extreme weather events is a sign that the global warming narrative is losing steam with the public and policymakers.

"Activists have been frustrated with record number of polar bears, no acceleration of sea level, the Pause, no trends or declining trends in

extreme weather and the public's apathy," said Mr. Morano, whose book "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Climate Change" is slated to be released in February.

"Trump has added to all of that, and we are now seeing them blow their gaskets in frustration," he said.

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Trump Appoints Trilateral Commission Member As Ambassador To India

Since February, Trilateral Kenneth Juster has been a member of the National Security Council. Now he has been appointed Ambassador to India. From 2010-2017, Juster was Managing Director of the global investment firm, Warburg Pincus. The Warburg family's very close ties to Nazi Germany in the 1930s were fully exposed by the late Antony Sutton. Since Warburg Pincus has massive investments in India, Juster

presents a huge conflict of interest. See also [Trilateral Commission Member Appointed To National Security Council.](#) □ TN Editor

President Donald Trump will nominate Kenneth Juster as the U.S. ambassador to India, the White House said on Friday. The position has been lying vacant since January 20 when Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States.

Juster served as the Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council from January 2017-June 2017. His career has spanned over 35 years in government, law, business, finance, and international affairs. He also previously served as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the Chairman of Freedom House, the Vice Chairman of the Asia Foundation, and a member of the Trilateral Commission.

Ashley Tellis, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said that Juster knows India well and the people there would welcome him enthusiastically as he a known face there.

Juster is considered as one of the key architects of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership initiative between the United States and India and is said to have played a key role in negotiation that led to the historic civil nuclear agreement between the two countries.

According to this report in [Daily Beast](#), Juster has deep financial ties to private equity firm Warburg Pincus, which has recently scaled up its investment in India. Juster was a partner with the firm until January. In June Reuters reported that the firm [would buy](#) 43 per cent stake in Tata's engineering and design subsidiary in a \$360 million deal. Warburg has invested in [18 other Indian companies](#) since 2007. These transactions have raised questions about potential conflict of interest.

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UAE: World Green Economy Organization Launches Financial Platform

The financing of Sustainable Development, aka Green Economy and Technocracy, is being driven by the Islamic nation, United Arab Emirates, in conjunction with China. The U.N. is backing the program. Note that the UAE is a founding member of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) that is normally attributed to China. Both China and the UAE are prime examples of Technocracy in action. □ TN Editor World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO) has launched financial sector platform to mobilize green investments.

HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president and Prime Minister of the UAE, launched the platform in Beijing to support the efforts of public and private sector enterprises in shifting towards a green economy.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is supporting the platform.

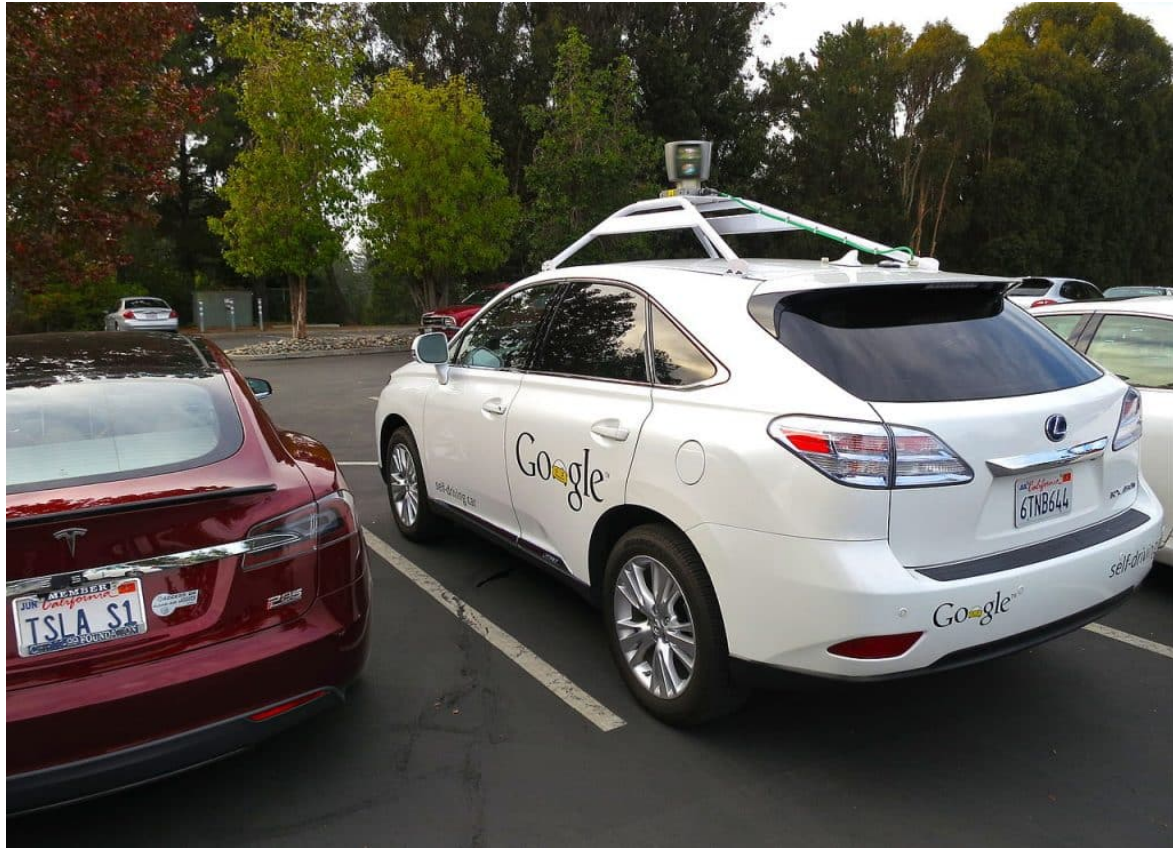
“We are pleased to announce the launch of World Green Economy Organisation’s Financial Sector Platform which will serve as a forum to help raise sustainable finance, provide public and market leadership on green finance,” said HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, chairman of the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO).

China has directly invested more than \$50 billion and created the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a new multilateral institution designed to finance vital public works throughout Asia’s emerging economies; and the UAE is a founding member of the AIIB.

The Financial Sector Platform will back financial institutions in their efforts to set up green financing businesses, encourage loans and provide support to public and private firms participating in green investment programs.

These platforms reflect the enormous efforts in the UAE to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement to support global efforts to mitigate climate change and find innovative solutions to challenges related to sustainable energy, water and the environment in general.

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New Legislation: Self-Driving Car Riders' Privacy 'Unsafe at Any Speed'

It's a train wreck for personal privacy, but the House is letting self-driving cars loose in America; the Senate must now confirm the action. With continuous data transmission from the instant you set foot in your car, geospatial intelligence will be a reality. This is one element of the holy grail for Technocrats. □ TN Editor

C-3PO tends to be most people's first representation of a super smart robot. *Star Wars'* beloved protocol droid acts very much as an individual, with its own distinct personality. The films never address the question, but C-3PO's intelligence appears to reside entirely on the droid's CPU.

But when artificially intelligent machines become prevalent here in the real world, they won't work like that at all. Self-driving cars won't really drive themselves. They will be driven largely by [brains in the cloud](#).

The U.S. House of Representative's unanimously passed a bill this week offered by Ohio's Rep. Bob Latta, greenlighting the [deployment of autonomous vehicles](#). Key leaders in the Senate have expressed an appetite for such legislation, but its language on riders' privacy looks inadequate to some advocates.

All the cars' many sensors will beam information gathered directly to online navigation systems. That's piles of data about road conditions, weather and other cars on the road. Those logs can be directly associated with the people riding in the car. It's the simplest pieces of data about each trip that are probably the most revealing: where it started, where it ended and who was in the car.

Here's a few instances when simple route information could reveal too much:

- Lots of trips taking place between two competing companies could suggest a merger deal underway,
- If one firm has lots of specialized accountants and lawyers visiting, that could indicate there's trouble on its books or
- If one employee has taken multiple trips to another company's office, that could indicate that they are in talks to switch jobs.

Sound paranoid? It shouldn't, because we've seen it before.

Security researchers were able to [easily identify individual taxi cabs](#) in a pool of data about trips and fares collected by the New York Taxi and Limousine Commission. Then, by using images captured by photographers and social media, they could identify specific trips [taken by celebrities](#) (and how much they tipped).

Self-driving cars have a great deal of promise for mitigating traffic deaths, lowering the cost of transportation and reducing traffic, but they risk exposing people's secrets, too.

Considering having an affair? Better buy a bicycle.

he current version of the legislation requires all autonomous or partially autonomous vehicles to have a plan for the data that it collects about the

people in its cars. The main protection it offers consumers is this: the company has to give them some idea of what it's doing with the data it gathers about them (including sharing it with other companies). It also requires the Federal Trade Commission to look into the issue.

“Privacy plans are not a substitute for privacy protections,” Marc Rotenberg, president of the Electronic Privacy Information Center wrote the Observer in an email. EPIC issued a statement [on the bill Thursday](#), noting in particular that the law preempts state law, making it impossible for forward-thinking states to hold vehicle makers to a higher standard (as [California has consistently done](#) with automobile emissions rules).

“The Senate will need to look at these issues more closely. Right now, autonomous vehicles are ‘[unsafe at any speed](#),’” Rotenberg wrote (link added).

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The American Medical Association vs. Human Nature

The AMA has long since turned on its would-be patients, thanks to Technocrats within who grant very little value to the human life they are supposed to protect. Furthermore, ethics and morality do not interest the Technocrat mind whatever, leaving only efficiency and pragmatism as goals; indeed, it is the ‘science of social engineering’ that they are pursuing. □ TN Editor

The AMA’s Code of Medical Ethics is a cautionary tale of what happens when medical ethics are grounded in social policy and personal intuitions rather than timeless, universal, and immutable moral truths.

In his prophetic work, *The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis foretold humanity’s final conflict as a revolution against ourselves, or, more specifically, our human nature. In case you hadn’t noticed, the battle is well underway. Nowhere is this struggle more evident than in the realm of medicine, where stunning technological advances have opened the door to metaphysical mischief.

A microcosm of this conflict can be seen in the American Medical Association’s (AMA’s) [Code of Medical Ethics](#). Curiously, nowhere in this document does the AMA explain its foundational moral principles—a conspicuous omission for a code of ethics. Even more curious is the other conspicuous omission: us. You and me. Oh, sure, there are several mentions of various body organs, human genes, and the like, but nowhere in the text’s eleven chapters will you find any discussion of our human nature. The qualities that ground patient rights and physician duties are simply never mentioned. It is as if the AMA has abandoned human nature as a meaningful determinant of medical ethics.

Moral Principles *Du Jour*

The AMA’s code makes a drive-by reference to “moral principles, values, and practices,” but never defines them. While it enumerates a short list of “Principles of Medical Ethics,” these are primarily statements of

professional hygiene (e.g., physicians should provide competent care, uphold standards of professionalism, respect the law, etc.). The only telling revelation appears in the document's preamble, which defines medical ethics as also encompassing "matters of social policy." This is our first clue that the AMA's code of ethics is something other than a search for universal and immutable moral truths.

The pernicious effect of this approach manifests itself in several of its ethical guidelines and opinions. For example: "The conflict regarding research with embryonic stem cells centers on the moral status of embryos, a question that divides ethical opinion and that cannot be resolved by medical science." In a literal and very limited sense, this statement is true—a metaphysical definition of life is necessary [before science can tell us](#) whether embryos meet that definition—but the AMA's statement is also grossly misleading.

If it wants to speak for the medical profession on matters of morality and ethics, the AMA must contribute to the discussion by affirming scientific truths about human life at all of its stages—truths that provide support for moral status and its attendant protections. Like, for instance, the fact that every human embryo is a human being, a *whole* and *complete* human being. It would also be helpful for the AMA to clarify (given an epidemic of confusion on this point) that our biological nature does not change on the basis of our developmental state, functional capacities, or health.

Granted, it is not the AMA's job to define human nature, a task properly led by philosophers and theologians. However, medical science has a duty to contribute to this discussion. The AMA's statement about embryos is an obvious equivocation designed to sidestep scientific truths that are inconvenient to its particular point of view. Regarding a foundational moral issue—what qualities compose membership in the human family and what protections are owed to its smallest and weakest members—the AMA has nothing to say. Irrespective of one's viewpoint about this particular issue, this sort of evasion should be deeply troubling to all.

Even more troubling is what comes next. Immediately after demurring

on the moral status of embryos, the AMA declares: “Embryonic stem cell research does not violate the ethical standards of the profession.” In other words, after telling us that the embryo’s moral status is above its pay grade, it affirms the moral permissibility of embryo-destructive stem cell research. This bewildering display of ethical doublespeak is offered without explanation.

The document is laced with similarly inexplicable statements, seemingly backed up by nothing more than the personal intuitions of its author(s). For instance, regarding gene therapy: “Because of the potential for abuse, genetic manipulation of non-disease traits or the *eugenic development of offspring may never be justifiable*” [emphasis mine].

The operative word in the above sentence is “*may*.” They could have written “*is never justifiable*” but instead wrote “*may never be justifiable*.” This is a crucial distinction. The AMA defines its use of the word “*may*” to mean “that an action is ethically permissible when qualifying conditions are . . . met.” So, I must ask, exactly when is eugenics permissible? If the AMA chooses to leave the door open to a practice most consider abhorrent, we deserve to know what qualifying conditions might lead them to view it as permissible. Even if such circumstances as rare exceptions, it owes us a list of those exceptions. Clarity is a minimum prerequisite for honest discussion. Left as is, this strange statement implies an ethic grounded in power and supremacy rather than equality.

An ethical code formed from timeless moral truths is itself timeless precisely because it is built on truths *discovered* by discerning thinkers over millennia. By contrast, when an ethical code is grounded only in human thought and human will, as the AMA’s appears to be, the rules can change as quickly as social tastes and preferences shift. That sort of inconstancy should be a grave concern for everyone, but especially for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. As Aristotle taught us over two thousand years ago, moral law is not a mirror used to reflect back to us current cultural trends or fickle personal preferences. Rather, it is the essential and unvarying form of our true (and common) nature as human beings. Our task is to discover the objective truth of moral law, not to concoct it from personal opinions.

Absent from the Battle for Human Nature

Whether by design or accident, the AMA caters to postmodern relativism by excising human nature from its discussion of medical ethics. It also exposes the analytical and deductive pitfalls awaiting those who attempt this approach.

A case in point is its guideline concerning physician-assisted suicide (PAS) and euthanasia. It writes that these practices are “fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks.”

I wholeheartedly support the AMA’s longstanding opposition, and [tragic events](#) in the Netherlands and elsewhere demonstrate the truth of its statements. Still, we should notice what is missing from this argument defending human life: the *person* undergoing these deadly procedures.

In my view, this is a stunning omission. None of the AMA’s arguments for opposing PAS and euthanasia respond to the primary question: Are these lethal acts morally justifiable? To answer that question, one must begin by considering the patient and whether that patient’s life has intrinsic value (and if so, why). If human life has innate dignity and value, if human life comprises universal goods that we must promote and defend, then physicians have a duty to protect *every* human life.

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The Global Elites' Secret Plan for Cryptocurrencies

As an economic system, Technocracy needs an appropriate type of currency as an accounting system, and blockchain technology is a likely foil. However, Technocrats in the 1930s said that energy was the only appropriate accounting system. As I read this, I would fully expect to see a global blockchain system having some relation to, or 'peg', to either carbon or energy itself. Either way, the days of the 'wild west' for Bitcoin may be in jeopardy. □ TN Editor

Interest in Bitcoin is red hot at the moment. It's impossible to open a website, listen to a podcast, or watch a video in the financial space without hearing about the meteoric rise in the price of Bitcoin.

Maybe you know a "Bitcoin millionaire" who bought five hundred Bitcoins a few years back for \$50,000 and is now sitting on a Bitcoin fortune worth over \$2,000,000. It's true, those people actually do exist.

Yet the crypto-hysteria is distracting you from a scary truth no one is talking about. There is every indication that governments, regulators, tax authorities, and the global elite are moving in for the crypto-kill. The [future of Bitcoin](#) may be a dystopia in which Big Brother controls

what's called "the blockchain" and decides when and how you can buy or sell anything and everything.

Furthermore, cryptocurrency technology could be the very mechanism used by global elites to replace the dollar based financial system.

In 1958, Mao Zedong, the leader of the Communist Party of China and China's dictatorial leader was confronted with demoralized intellectuals and artists who were alienated by Communist rule. As a policy response, he declared a new policy of intellectual freedom.

Mao declared, "The policy of letting a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend is designed to promote the flourishing of the arts and the progress of science."

This declaration is referred to as the "Hundred Flowers Campaign" (often misquoted as the "thousand flowers campaign"). The response to Mao's invitation was an enthusiastic outpouring of creative thought and artistic expression.

What came next was no surprise to those familiar with the operation of state power. Once the intellectuals and artists emerged, it was easy for Mao's secret police to round them up, kill and torture some, and send others to "reeducation camps" where they learned ideological conformity.

The Hundred Flowers Movement was a trap for those who placed their trust in the state. It was also a taste of things to come in the form of the much more violent and comprehensive Cultural Revolution of 1964-1974 in which all traces of Chinese bourgeoisie culture and much of China's historical legacy were eradicated.

Something similar is going on with Bitcoin and the Distributed ledger technology (DLT) today. Governments have been patiently watching blockchain technology develop and grow outside their control for the past eight years.

Libertarian supporters of blockchain celebrate this lack of government control. Yet, their celebration is premature, and their belief in the

sustainability of powerful systems outside government control is naïve.

Governments don't like competition especially when it comes to money. Governments know they cannot stop blockchain, in fact they don't want to. What they want is to control it using powers of regulation, taxation, and investigation and ultimately more coercive powers including arrest and imprisonment of individuals who refuse to obey government mandates with regard to blockchain.

Blockchain does not exist in the ether (despite the name of one cryptocurrency) and it does not reside on Mars. Blockchain depends on critical infrastructure including servers, telecommunications networks, the banking system, and the power grid, all of which are subject to government control.

A group of major companies, all regulated by government, have announced a joint effort to develop an open-source blockchain as a uniform standard for all blockchain applications. The group includes JPMorgan, Wells Fargo, State Street, SWIFT, Cisco, Accenture, the London Stock Exchange and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial. That's not exactly five guys in hoodies working in a garage. That's a sign of the corporate-state consortium taking over.

An elite U.S. legal institution called the Uniform Law Commission, that proposes model laws intended for adoption in all fifty states, has released its latest proposal called the "Uniform Regulation of Virtual Currency Businesses Act."

This new law will not only provide a regulatory scheme for state regulators, but will also be a platform for litigation by private plaintiffs and class action lawyers seeking recourse against real or imagined abuses by digital coin exchanges and facilities. Once litigation begins, anonymity is the first casualty.

Cryptocurrencies and the Super-Elites Plan

Consider the following additional developments:

On August 1, 2017, the SEC announced "Guidance on Regulation of

Initial Coin Offerings,” the first step toward requiring fundraising through blockchain-based tokens to register with the government.

On August 1, 2017, the World Economic Forum, host body to the Davos conference of global super-elites, published a paper entitled “Four reasons to question the hype around blockchain.”

On August 7, 2017, China announced they will begin using blockchain to collect taxes and issue “electronic invoices” to citizens there.

Perhaps most portentously, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has weighed in. In a [special report dated June 2017](#), the IMF had this to say about blockchain:

*“Distributed ledger technology (DLT), in particular, could spur change in the financial sector. ... DLT can be categorized as “permissionless” or “permissioned” depending on who can participate in the consensus-driven validation process. Permissionless DLTs allow anyone to read, transact on, and participate in the validation process. **These open schemes (that underlie Bitcoin, for instance) could be very disruptive if successfully implemented. By contrast, in permissioned DLTs, the validation process is controlled by a pre-selected group of participants (“consortium”) or managed by one organization (“fully-private”), and thus serve more as a common communications platform.” (emphasis added).***

IMF releases require expert translation because they are never written in plain English, and the real meaning is always hidden between the lines. But, the thrust of this report language is clear. The IMF favors “permissioned” systems over “open schemes.” The IMF also favors control by a “pre-selected group of participants” or “one organization,” rather than allowing “anyone” to participate.

This paper should be viewed as the first step in the IMF’s plan to migrate its existing form of world money, the [special drawing right or SDR](#), onto a DLT platform controlled by the IMF. In time, all other forms of money would be banned.

These and other developments all point toward an elite group including the IMF, JPMorgan, the Davos crowd, the IRS, SEC, and other agencies converging to shut down the existing free-wheeling blockchain ecosphere, and replace it with a “permissioned” system under “consortium” control.

Big Brother is coming to the blockchain.

Regards,

[Jim Rickards](#)

for [The Daily Reckoning](#)

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High-Level U.N. Meeting On Urbanization Empowers New Focus On Cities

U.N. members rejected the formation of a new 'supra' organization that would control the New Urban Agenda, but at the same time pushed the Agenda way forward. The rise of the global city is upon us, and the meme will be dominated by Technocracy. □ TN Editor

National governments this week made clear that they are [not interested](#) in the creation of a new U. N. body to coordinate global action on sustainable urbanization. But the [“UN Urban” proposal](#) was not all that was on the table at the high-level meeting here.

The focus of this week's talks was how to reform UN-Habitat, the international body's lead agency on urbanization — specifically, looking at recommendations offered in [an August report](#) from a panel appointed by U. N. Secretary-General António Guterres. The report aims to provide fresh energy to the [New Urban Agenda](#), a global urbanization strategy adopted last year, and thus offers a host of new strategies for global action.

Over the course of two days this week, countries revealed their stance toward these proposals, which cover areas such as UN-Habitat's governance and how to finance the U. N.'s urban portfolio.

“Member states are united in ensuring an effective and efficient contribution from UN-Habitat and the overall U. N. system to the advancement of sustainable urbanization,” said General Assembly President Peter Thomson as the meeting wrapped up Wednesday.

[\[See: Governments nearly united in scepticism toward ‘UN Urban’ proposal\]](#)

While no decisions were made at the talks, the attitudes expressed here will inform higher-stakes talks slated to start in October, when a committee of the U. N. General Assembly begins its annual session. Here

are a half-dozen storylines to watch as this process goes forward.

1. Finally, a renewed city focus

Many had pinned their hopes on last year's [Habitat III conference](#), which approved the New Urban Agenda, to elevate the global profile of urban issues — especially at the United Nations, where cities have not traditionally been viewed as a main actor in the development sphere. Now that may finally be changing.

“Today, we acknowledge that the U. N. is not delivering sufficiently in cities. And through our common effort, we will rectify this,” said Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed in her opening remarks this week.

“The proud history of urban work at the U. N. must be harnessed at this vital time,” she added, “and the U. N. must be seen again as the lead convener and catalyzer for partners, funders, private sector and civil society organizations to scale up their work in urban areas.”

With that kind of acknowledgment from the U. N.'s second-in-command, it seems that the role of cities in the U. N.'s portfolio has indeed received renewed emphasis.

2. Acceptance of the New Urban Agenda

For the first several months after the New Urban Agenda was adopted, the voluntary agreement [appeared to languish in a kind of political limbo](#). Countries seemed uninterested in moving forward with the strategy, focused instead on the twin pillars of the U. N.'s agenda: the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

But this week's meeting was the first U. N. General Assembly summit dedicated to the New Urban Agenda since it was adopted, and thus an opportunity for a more nuanced discussion. And indeed, the tone has clearly changed, suggesting an across-the-board belief that the New Urban Agenda is essential to delivering on the U. N.'s global plan to fight poverty and limit carbon emissions.

[\[See: Is there any hope of aligning the many efforts working on the SDGs?\]](#)

“The goals contained in the 2030 Agenda [the SDGs] will not be achieved without serious attention to the urban question,” said one French diplomat. The Zambian delegation echoed that sentiment, saying, “The New Urban Agenda cannot be implemented in isolation, but within a harmonized strategic framework with the Agenda 2030, the SDGs and other international protocols.”

3. A universal ‘Urban Assembly’

Currently there are 58 countries on UN-Habitat’s oversight board, which is called the Governing Council. It meets every two years at the agency’s headquarters in Nairobi. During negotiations on the New Urban Agenda, a bloc of developing countries called for all nations to have representation on the council — what they called “universal membership.” The idea here was to strengthen UN-Habitat’s political clout — and its [flagging funding](#).

While the New Urban Agenda did not go so far as to grant that wish, the recent report did suggest taking such a step by rebranding the Governing Council as the “Urban Assembly” — with all 193 member states invited. This week, the idea was lauded by some. “It can potentially allow UN-Habitat to broaden and strengthen its partnerships,” said Singaporean Ambassador Burhan Gafoor. “This in turn can help UN-Habitat to improve its resource mobilization from all funding sources, both public and private.”

UN-Habitat’s neighbour at the U. N. complex in Nairobi already embarked on a similar path. The U. N. Environment Programme went to universal membership a half-decade ago, christening the biennial event as the Environment Assembly — ostensibly far more than a mere board meeting. This week, some member states drew a correlation between this move and subsequent increased funding for UNEP, although others disputed that analysis.

Read the article to see...

4. Broadening policy input

5. A global fund for sustainable urbanization

6. What kind of work should UN-Habitat do, anyway?

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Hurricanes Harvey And Irma Can't Be Blamed On Global Warming

Global warming religionists are already blaming recent hurricanes on a heating planet, even though they have no shred of evidence to that

effect. Technocracy is a much a religion as it is a social engineering system. This article sets the record straight. □ TN Editor

[“Harvey Is What Climate Change Looks Like](#): It’s time to open our eyes and prepare for the world that’s coming.” That August 28 *Politico* article by Slate weatherman Eric Holthaus was one of many [trying too hard](#) to blame the hurricane and/or flood on climate change.

Such stories are typically infused with smug arrogance. Their authors claim to be wise and well-informed, and anyone who dares to question their “settled science” must need to have their eyes pried open and their mouths shut.

There will doubtless be similar “retroactive forecasting” tales about Irma, so recent story-telling about Harvey may provide a precautionary warning for the unwary.

I am an economist, not a climatologist.* But blaming Harvey on climate change apparently demands much lower standards of logic and evidence than economists would dare describe as serious arguments.

Atlantic’s climate journalist said, “Harvey is unprecedented—just the kind of weird weather that [scientists expect](#) to see more of as the planet warms.” But Harvey’s maximum rainfall of 51.88 inches barely exceeded that from Tropical Storm Amelia in 1978 (48”) and [Hurricane Easy in 1950 \(45”\)](#). And what about Tropical Storm Claudette in 1979, which put down 42 inches *in 24 hours* near Houston (Harvey took three days to do that)? In such cases, [attributing today’s extreme weather to “climate change”](#) regardless of what happens ([maybe droughts, maybe floods](#)) is what the philosopher Karl Popper called “pseudoscience.” If some theory explains everything, it can’t be tested and it is therefore not science. (Popper’s favorite examples of pseudoscience were communism and psychoanalysis.)

Seemingly plausible efforts to connect Harvey to climate change are precariously based on another *unusual* event in 2015–16, not long-term climate trends. In the *Atlantic*, [Robinson Meyer](#) wrote that “Harvey benefitted from unusually toasty waters in the Gulf of Mexico. As the storm roared toward Houston last week, sea-surface waters near Texas

rose to [between 2.7 and 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit above average](#).” Thank you, 2015-16 El Nino.

Meyer’s source is a single unsourced sentence from “Climate Signals *beta*” from the Rockefeller Foundation’s “Climate Nexus” project run by [Hunter Cutting](#) (“a veteran political director who develops communications strategy”). Perhaps it would be wiser to consult the [National Hurricane Center](#) about Gulf temperatures, which shows they are averaging about *one* degree (F) above the baseline.

Looking back at *any* unpredicted weather anomaly, [“fact-checking” journalists](#) can *always* count on Michael Mann and Kevin Trenberth to spin some tale explaining why *any* bad weather (but never good weather!) must surely be at least aggravated by long-term global climate trends. “It’s a fact: climate change made Hurricane Harvey more deadly,” writes Michael Mann. Gulf sea surface temperatures have increased from about 86 degrees to 87 “over the past few decades,” he says, causing [“3-5% more moisture](#) in the atmosphere.” He neglected to point out other compensatory things he surely knows, like that the same climate science predicts a more stable tropical atmosphere, reducing the upward motion necessary for hurricanes.

Even *The Washington Post*’s esteemed [Jason Samenow](#) got onto shaky ground, writing that “rainfall may have been enhanced by 6 percent or so, or a few inches.” It would have been nice if he noted that Harvey’s maximum observed rainfall of 51.88 inches is statistically indistinguishable from the aforementioned Amelia’s 48, forty years ago.

In either case, to blame the Gulf’s temperature and moisture in August 2017 on a sustained *global* increase in water temperatures requires more than theory or “confidence” (faith). It requires evidence.

As it happens, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) were *not* rising significantly, if at all, during the years between the two super-strong El Ninos of 1997-98 and 2015-16. On the contrary, a January 2017 survey of four major data sources finds that [“since 1998, all datasets show a slowdown](#) of SST increase compared with the 1983-1998 period.” That may sound as if SST had been increasing rapidly *before* 1998, but that

too is unclear: “Prior to 1998, the temperature changes in Global, Pacific, and Southern Oceans show large discrepancies among [four leading estimates], hindering a robust detection of both regional and global OHC [ocean heat content] changes.”

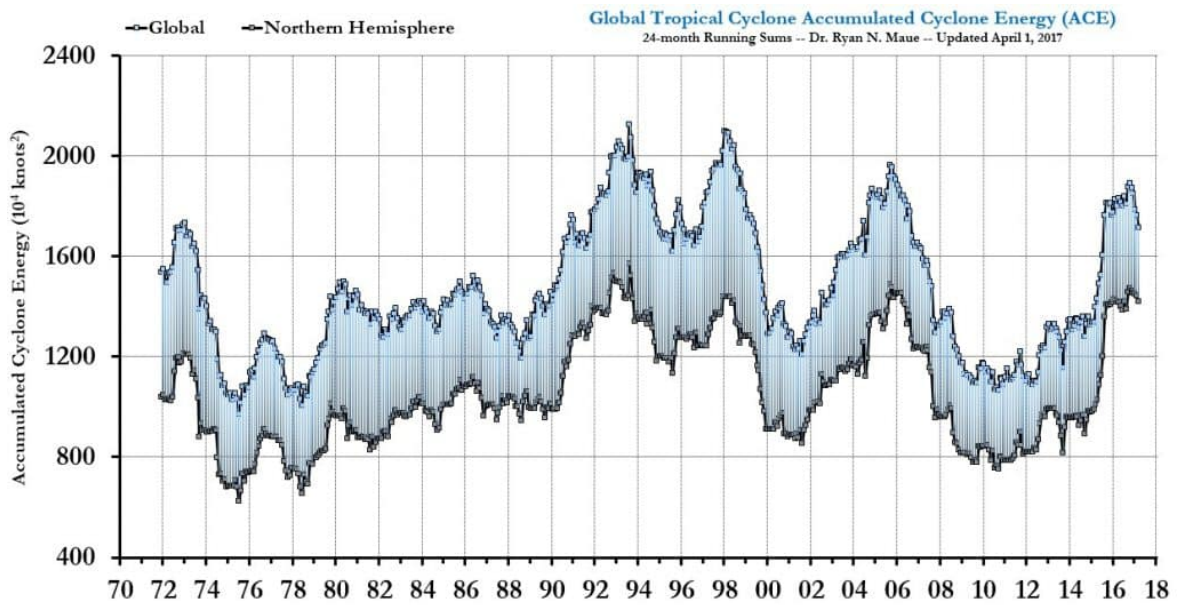
From 1998 to 2012, the evidence on sea surface temperatures becomes even more inconvenient. Two of the four studies show “*weak warming*” near the surface while the other two show “*cooling*, coincident with the global surface temperature slowdown [emphasis added].” In other words, the embarrassingly prolonged 1997-2014 pause or “hiatus” in global warming is also apparent in oceanic surface temperatures, not just land and atmospheric temperatures.

Keep in mind what the vaunted “climate change consensus” means. By averaging four estimates, NASA declares “Globally-averaged temperatures in 2016 were [1.78 degrees Fahrenheit \(0.99 degrees Celsius\) warmer](#) than the mid-20th century mean.” The underlying yearly estimates are deviations from that mid-century mean—“anomalies” rather than actual temperatures.

To convert anomalies into degrees NASA had to use computer models to add anomalies to temperatures in the base period, 1951-80, where the data are hardly perfect. As a result, “For the global mean,” NASA explains, “the most trusted models produce a value of roughly 14°C, i.e. 57.2°F, but it may easily be anywhere [between 56 and 58°F](#) and regionally, let alone locally, the situation is even worse.”

It might be rude to notice *the range of error* between 56 and 58°F globally (“let alone locally”) is larger than NASA’s supposed *increase* of 1.78 degrees over many decades. Note too that NASA’s ostensibly cooler base period, 1951-80, includes the second and third biggest floods in U.S. history.

My main point here is simple: Weather is highly variable. There’s a great deal of noise in hurricane and flood data, and it is impossible to attribute a single hurricane or a flood to the slight rise in temperature. Yes, warmer ocean temperatures would logically seem to correlate with more or stronger hurricanes, but as shown below, they don’t.



Cato Institute, Dr. Ryan Maue

**Cato climate scientist Patrick Michaels contributed his \$0.02 to this post, and the Accumulated Cyclone Energy chart comes from meteorologist Ryan Maue, also with Cato.*

[Read full story here...](#)



Rockefeller University: Doping Western Cultures With Oxytocin Will Cure Hatred Of Refugees

Technocrats are dedicated to the 'science of social engineering', and that includes direct manipulation of the human herd by putting chemicals into the water supply. This study was edited by Bruce S. McEwen of Rockefeller University. That they would even discuss this is a horror reminiscent of Nazi Germany during WWII. Remember, however, that most of America is already drinking fluoride that was imposed without advice and consent from the consuming public. □ TN Editor

A group of researchers from Germany and the United States have [published a study](#) which concludes that doping 'xenophobic' populations with massive quantities of the estrogen-linked hormone Oxytocin will cure nationalism - making native citizens [more](#)

[accepting](#) and generous towards migrants who simply want free handouts from Western taxpayers while Islamic extremists peacefully [rape](#) and murder infidels.

*Accommodating the large influx of migrants not only challenges the humanitarian capacities of European countries but also **requires their native populations to adjust to rapid growths in ethnic diversity, religious pluralism, and cultural differentiation.** However, the impetus to adapt to changing social ecosystems is susceptible to considerable interindividual heterogeneity. **Resistance to this transition often goes along with xenophobic sentiment, and as a consequence, recent elections in Europe have favored populist candidates who have openly expressed xenophobic attitudes toward refugees.***

As co-author René Hurlemann said [in a related study](#); **“Given the right circumstances, oxytocin may help promote the acceptance and integration of migrants into Western cultures.”**

Widely referred to as the ‘love hormone,’ ‘hug hormone,’ and ‘cuddle chemical,’ Oxytocin is secreted from the pituitary gland during sex, childbirth, and lactation - [influencing social behavior and emotion](#). It has been shown to increase romantic attachment and empathy - invoking feelings of relaxation, trust, and psychological stability.

[the_ad id="11018"]

For just €3.11 / day you can destroy your culture!

The study concludes that a combination of oxytocin nasal spray and social pressure from other doped up participants **resulted in ‘xenophobic’ test subjects increasing donations to migrants by 74%** - jumping from average of €1.79 to €3.11.

*Our results imply that **an OXT-enforced social norm adherence could be instrumental in motivating a more generalized acceptance toward ethnic diversity, religious plurality, and***

cultural differentiation resulting from migration by proposing that interventions to increase altruism are most effective when charitable social cues instill the notion that one's ingroup shows strong affection for an outgroup. Furthermore, **UNESCO has emphasized the importance of developing neurobiologically informed strategies for reducing xenophobic, hostile, and discriminatory attitudes** (47). Thus, considering OXT-enforced normative incentives in developing future interventions and policy programs intended to reduce outgroup rejection may be an important step toward making the principle of social inclusion a daily reality in our societies.

Perhaps the researchers can also explore how to chemically control refugees so they're less violent, rapey, and are willing to integrate into other cultures without destroying them? Maybe if they tainted the water supply in Saudi Arabia with Oxytocin they'd *start* accepting refugees instead of forcing Europe to shoulder the burden?

Meanwhile, the BBC is reporting that [Lithium added to tap water](#) may cut dementia by up to 17 percent.

“By this time the soma had begun to work. Eyes shone, cheeks were flushed, the inner light of universal benevolence broke out on every face in happy, friendly smiles.” - Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

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