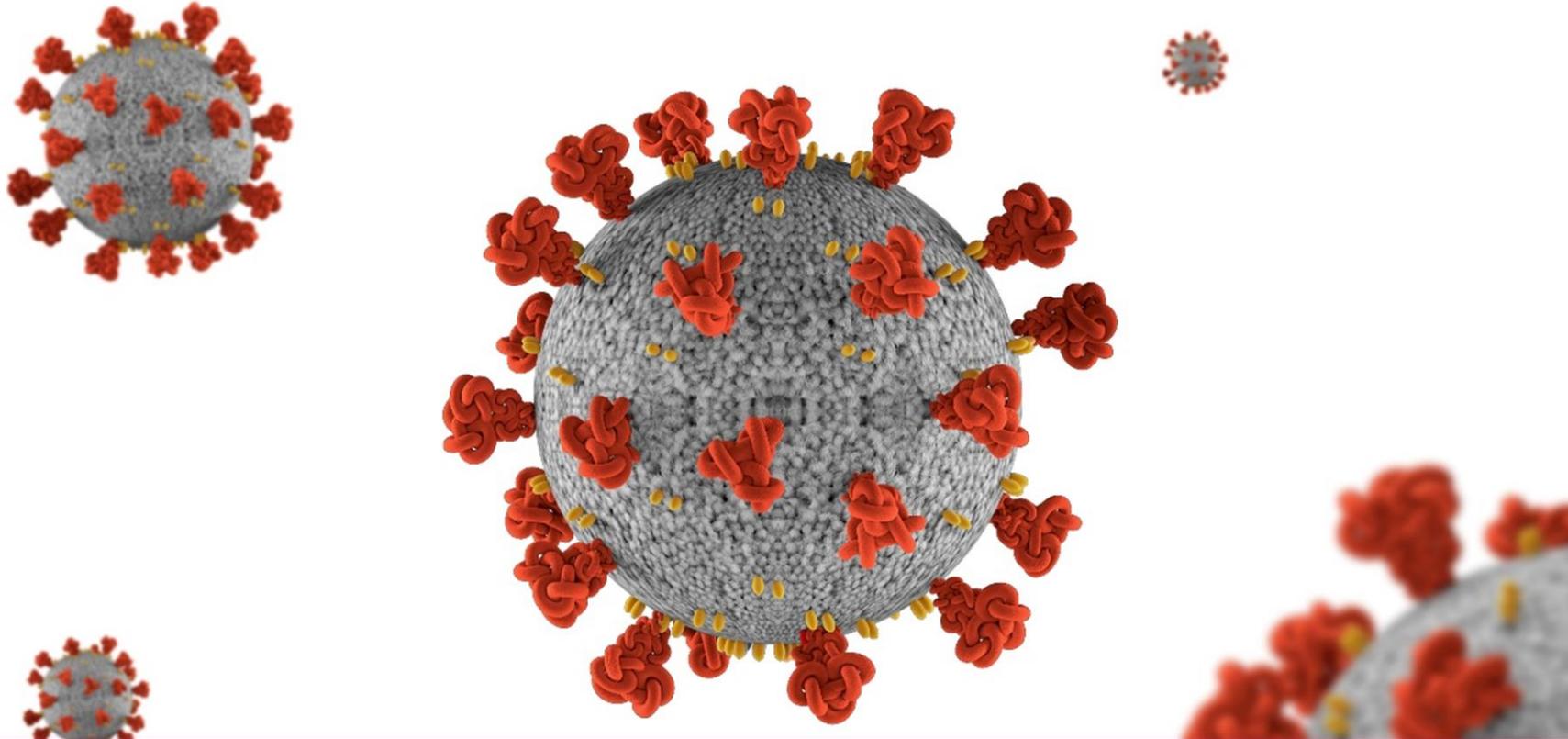


Unpacking COVID-19: From Cuisine to Quarantine



A 21C Curiosity Pod available to all students

In this 21C Curiosity Pod (C-Pod) we will explore the cultural, social, political and ecological issues connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include a focus on conservation and animal welfare perspectives, human-wildlife conflicts, health and the proliferation of fake news and how we can know.



Human-Wildlife Conflicts

The topic of human-wildlife conflict is complex and concerns multiple disciplines such as conservation biology, political ecology, anthropology, environmental law and human geography

‘**Human-wildlife conflict** encapsulates a variety of negative interactions between people and wildlife species from diverse taxonomic groups. Never before have we seen how the human use of wildlife can yield such catastrophe, as we have with COVID-19. While various commentators have blamed pangolins, bats, or even our lack of “mastery” of wildlife, the real cause of this pandemic goes deeper – into the laws, cultures and institutions of most countries. Both the illegal wildlife trade and zoonotic diseases (that is, diseases transmitted from animals to humans) are aspects of human-wildlife conflict.’

Dr Kate Woolaston, 2020

<https://theconversation.com/most-laws-ignore-human-wildlife-conflict-this-makes-us-vulnerable-to-pandemics-135191>

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Global Health Crisis

The global impacts of this pandemic have had enormous health and economic impacts and politically and the world is focusing on China, and particularly, cultural practices involving wildlife. We will take a critical look at how recent pandemics are a direct consequence of human activity, such as mining, deforestation, expansion of agriculture, and exploitation of wildlife. We will explore how global financial and economic systems prize economic growth, which combined with urbanisation and the explosive growth of global air travel, enabled a harmless virus in Asian wildlife to bring a global public health crisis and halt economies and societies around the world.

Culture, Environment, Economics

COVID-19 can also be connected to poverty, as wildlife hunting is often connected to a basic need for food and traditional medicine. However, with increasing wealth in regions like Southern China, trafficking of wildlife is also connected to the pet trade and is an indication of societal “status”.

Learning Objectives



Past, Current and Future Pandemics

Explore how we can avoid future pandemics by modifying components of the human-wildlife conflict nexus, as well as prepare for future global pandemics



Human-Wildlife Conflict

Discuss the complexities of human-wildlife conflicts and how the dimensions of this conflict led to the COVID-19 global pandemic



Wet Markets

Explore the cultural use of wildlife in Asia and the importance of “wet markets”



Fake News in the Age of COVID-19

Explore how the range of disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories surrounding COVID-19 poses serious challenges to societies worldwide.



A World Without A Vaccine

Explore the geopolitical, economic and public health implications of a world divided until vaccines or effective treatments are developed

The Program

Week 1

Activation Events

Introduction and Overview.
Live webinar with experts on wet markets, the wildlife trade and global wildlife conservation discussing the role of human-wildlife conflicts and zoonotic diseases in pandemics and other diseases affecting humans
(Video and Live Online Webinar).

Practical

A series of podcasts with experts working on the wildlife trade will allow you to develop a greater understanding of the cultural significance and conservation impacts of the utilization of wildlife throughout Asia
- (podcasts, worksheets)

Resources

The Pandemic is not a natural disaster

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/annals-of-inquiry/the-pandemic-is-not-a-natural-disaster>

Halt destruction of nature or suffer even worse pandemics, say world's top scientists.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/27/halt-destruction-nature-worse-pandemics-top-scientists>

Turtle Talk With Dr Ricky Spencer

<https://anchor.fm/turtle-talk/episodes/Turtle-Talk---COVID19-Edition-edbh7d>

Most laws ignore 'human-wildlife conflict'. This makes us vulnerable to pandemics

<https://theconversation.com/most-laws-ignore-human-wildlife-conflict-this-makes-us-vulnerable-to-pandemics-135191>

HISTORY, IMMORTALITY, POWER, AND WILDLIFE TRADE.
Prof. Mary Ting <https://youtu.be/pupvVi5od3U>



Case Study



<https://anchor.fm/turtle-talk/episodes/Turtle-Talk---COVID19-Edition-edbh7d/a-a222j0b>

Illegal Wildlife Trade with *Dr Yik Hei Sung*, Hong Kong University

Hong Kong's illegal wildlife trade is contributing to a global extinction crisis. Every year millions of live animals, plants and their derivatives are illegally trafficked into and through Hong Kong, by transnational companies and organised crime syndicates. Over the last decade, diversity of endangered species imported into Hong Kong has increased by 57%. At the same time, the estimated value of the trade has increased by 1,600%. Since 2013, seizures of illegal ivory, pangolin scales and rhino horn have been made by Hong Kong authorities, potentially equating to the deaths of 3,000 elephants, 96,000 pangolins and 51 rhinoceros."

We talk to Dr Yik Hei Sung from HKU about his research into the trade and conservation of critically endangered native species. We discuss how the use of wildlife has changed between the current and his parent's generation.



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The Program

Week 2

Activation Events

Webinar with from Public Health experts about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Peter Piot, who helped discover Ebola at age 27 and has led the fight against HIV and AIDS, contracted coronavirus earlier this year.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT8RBDSQI_E

Practical

iOS and Android game called Plague Inc to understand factors driving pandemics and how humans can limit the spread.

A selection of ABC Coronacast podcasts with Dr Norman Swan.

BBC Contagion: The BBC Four Pandemic 2018: Video and simulation pre COVID19

Resources

[Coronacast:](https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/coronacast/)
<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/coronacast/>

[Plague Inc.](https://www.ndemiccreations.com/en/22-plague-inc)
<https://www.ndemiccreations.com/en/22-plague-inc>

[BBC Contagion The BBC Four Pandemic 2018](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmGiDUCzhqQ)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmGiDUCzhqQ>



The Program

Week 3

Activation Events

Webinar of panelists exploring the “new normal”, dissecting “fake news” and discussing how the world will interact without a vaccine.

(Video and Live Online Webinar).

Practical

A focus on COVID-19 in the USA. We will use John Oliver’s “Last Week Tonight” show to dissect the American society’s response and misinformation throughout the country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[John Oliver blasts the misinformation 'feedback loop between Fox and Trump'](https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/apr/20/john-oliver-coronavirus-fox-trump-misinformation)

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2020/apr/20/john-oliver-coronavirus-fox-trump-misinformation>

Resources

[A quick return to normal in Australia – with no Covid-19 vaccine – would risk lives and the economy](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/27/a-quick-return-to-normal-in-australia-with-no-covid-19-vaccine-would-risk-lives-and-the-economy)

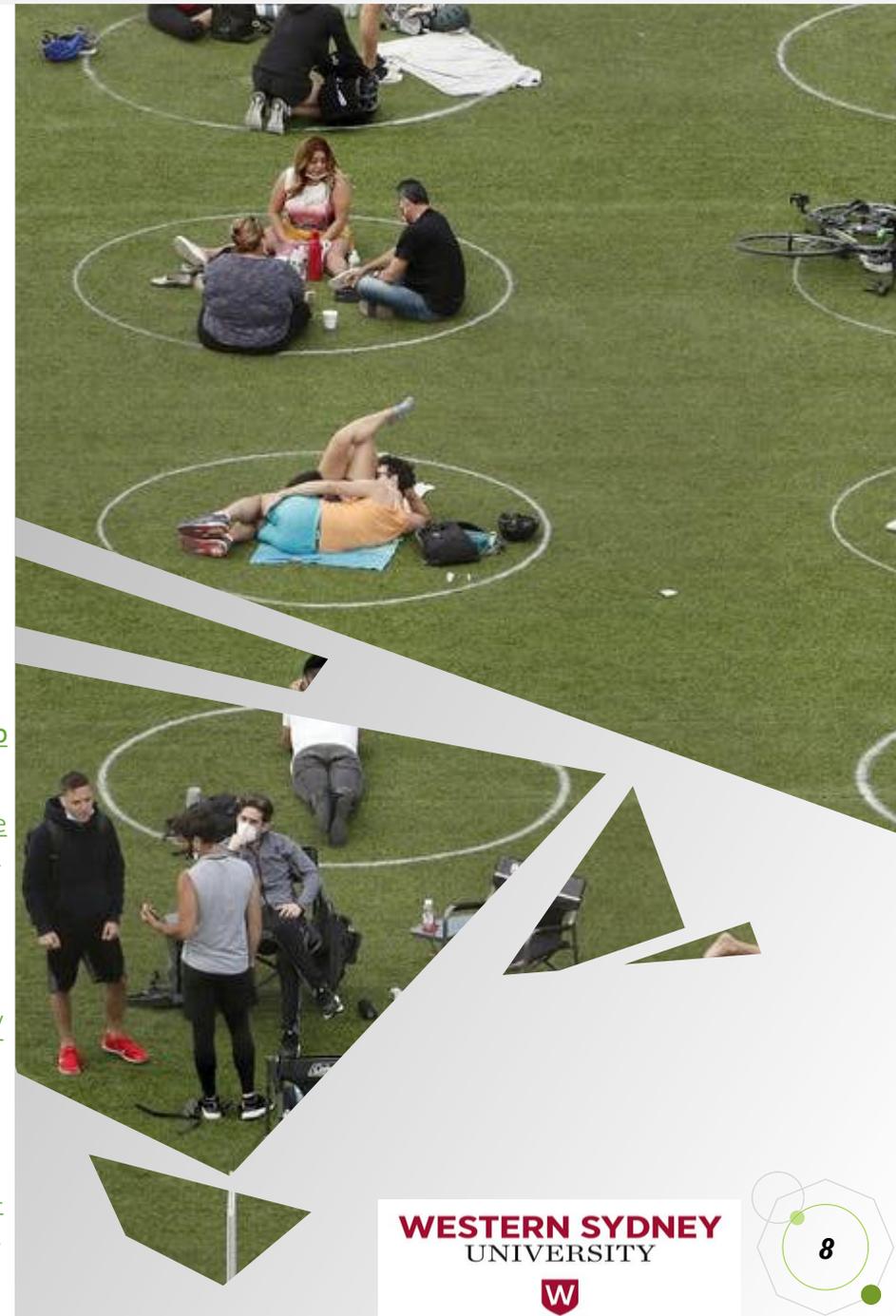
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/27/a-quick-return-to-normal-in-australia-with-no-covid-19-vaccine-would-risk-lives-and-the-economy>

[Even finding a covid-19 vaccine won't be enough to end the pandemic](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/11/coronavirus-vaccine-global-supply/)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/11/coronavirus-vaccine-global-supply/>

COVID-19, Climate Change, and the Forces Shaping Our Future

<https://sloanreview.mit.edu/audio/covid-19-climate-change-and-the-forces-shaping-our-future/>



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