Avocado

While avocado exports substantially contribute to Mexico's economy, a town called Cherán in the state of Michoacán has banned the practice of farming avocados on its land.

Our proposed topic aims to dissect this paradox through the lens of the I-PEEL approach. We will examine the ramifications of avocado production in Mexico, ranging from the institutional level of their climate change policies to the local level with the climate activism initiated by Cherán residents.

As the leading producer of avocados, pressures to meet global demand has led to neglect in regulating farming practices in a sustainable manner. Consequently, issues such as water depletion and potential habitat loss of native species like the Monarch Butterfly have arisen.

These devastating effects underscore the need to contemplate solutions which aim to mitigate climate change, by understanding the neoliberal structure of IPE. If states prioritise economic growth over addressing the negative impacts of farming practices, reduced consumption of avocados will probably not improve the climate crisis.

Our analysis thus intends to prompt introspection by getting readers to reflect on their consumption choices. By highlighting the far-reaching implications of seemingly trivial decisions, our blog post underscores the interconnectedness of our dieting habits with climate change and the study of IPE.

Beaches

'With cultural connections for indigenous communities and the allure of coastal tourism, beaches are uniquely valued worldwide. Beaches are interconnected ecosystems, and many are now unbalanced. With the furthering pressure of travellers and global implications of climate change, these communities' risk further instability for the environment and locals alike.

The once pristine beaches of Malaysia have become a site of plastic pollution due to a lack of awareness and information concerning plastic pollution. Secondary factors contributing to the coastal deterioration include the state's poor drainage system, frequent oil spills and overfishing practices.

The once alluring beach ambiance in Jamaica now symbolizes a reimagined apartheid, with detrimental ecological consequences. The commodification of nature to serve capitalist segregation is to blame, causing coastal ecosystem degradation and the exploitation of beach allure. This has excluded Jamaicans from experiencing seaside beauty.

Balancing the economic benefits of tourism whilst prioritising the conservation of coastal spaces is a current challenge for Fiji. Investment into inter-disciplinary approaches towards sustainability, including utilisation of indigenous conservation

practices and partnering with local communities, attempt to address the interconnected nature of this issue.

Safeguarding these areas from growing anthropological pressures is crucial to preserve biodiversity and natural resources.'

Title/ question : ' when did beaches stop being sexy?'

Blue Jeans

It may be common knowledge that fast fashion is a large contributor to climate change, but its impact may be underestimated. Often clothing products, which are produced on an alarming large scale, travel to Western countries from the Global South only to get transported back there once their use has been exhausted. This creates excessive pollution which contributes to climate change - contrasting the values of the circular economy and impacting the blue economy. The blue economy is critical for climate mitigation, and the excess use of water to produce fast fashion and the pollution of oceans via the creation of fast fashion limits its ability to achieve this. Furthermore, the manufacturing of substandard garments prompts an evaluation of the rationality of consumers - unquestionably influenced by digital creators and celebrities.

Arguably, it's illogical for consumers to purchase products that wear out so quickly and contribute to climate change. Yet, the capitalist underpinnings of international markets means that consumers and producers are unfazed by this irrationality. This involves questioning ethics, including the exploitation of cheap labor laws. In summary, the assessment of fashion and the blue economy brings about a profound truth: the anthropogenic consequences reach from the atmospheric realm above to the oceanic depths below.

Bluetooth Headphones

Over the past few years, headphones have evolved significantly with the advent of Bluetooth technology, having become a mainstay and an everyday object for everyone. While providing convenience and wire-free mobility, they also present environmental challenges. Their replaceability and small size make them easy to lose, contributing to electronic waste (e-waste) accumulation. Micro-plastics from headphone components further exacerbate environmental concerns. The high demand, often fuelled by company promotional materials on social media, reduces their life cycle. This dependence on headphones, along with other devices powered by lithium batteries, was evident in the 2008 financial crisis, where the importance of lithium meant that its environmental impacts were overshadowed. Bluetooth technology, integral to wireless headphones, has its environmental impacts, including pollution from the sourcing of lithium and non-ionizing radiation concerns. Additionally, the obsolescence of technology leads to waste outsourcing, often to countries with weaker environmental regulations, further entrenching global inequalities and the North-South divide. Addressing these issues requires rethinking product design for modularity and repairability, promoting

sustainable practices to mitigate environmental damage, and addressing global governance issues related to technology production and disposal. Further, the West has been the main user and seller of these headphones, raising questions about the offloading of carbon to "maker" nations and the race to the bottom by MNCs for lower costs and higher profits, in a neoliberal capitalist fashion.

Concert

Description: In 2019, Coldplay, one of the top rock bands in the world, announced to pause their tour until their concert became 'environmentally beneficial.' This sparked a conversation about 'eco-friendly' concerts and the music industry. There is not much data on CO2 emissions related to concerts, but some estimated data was researched. According to a study by Julie's Bicycle, the annual greenhouse gas emissions produced by touring artists in the UK and British performers touring abroad totalled around 85,000 tonnes of CO2 in 2010. In addition, the fans who are willing to fly to watch their favourite artists produce numerous CO2 for their transportation and merchandise. Indeed, many fans all over the world fly to watch Taylor Swift or BTS concerts.

To minimise the negative effects of concerts, Coldplay deliberately pre-planned the route and started to pay a surcharge to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) which could reduce emissions of air travel by up to 80 per cent. However, is the responsibility solely to artists? Our team attempts to shed light on the impact of concerts on climate change and solutions for sustainable concerts. Then we will closely analyse the world music industry below the concert that influences what world fans will do and buy

Fast Fashion

The term 'fast fashion' refers to the dominant contemporary business model that focuses on producing high volumes of low quality clothing for a low cost, catering towards rapid trend cycles. With around 62 million tons of clothing produced globally every year, this model results in an overwhelming excess compared to the needs of the global population. Despite the environmental and social impacts of this excessive production, this model dominates the fashion industry, incentivised by its maximal profits. This makes the everyday consumer similarly complicit. When consumers opt for the cheaper, trendier option, this leads to shorter lifespans for clothing, with most of these being discarded - or 'donated'.

With 45-70% of donated clothing from the Global North entering the global second-hand clothing trade, the export of used clothing from the Global North to the Global South highlights their uneven power dynamics. While consumers in the Global North are able to applaud themselves for their contribution to the circular economy, the Global South are left to deal with the reality of its resulting landfill piles. In this practice of clothes 'donating' or 'dumping', it is the consumption patterns of the Global North who

contribute the most to climate change, yet it is those in the Global South who are most impacted.

Plant-based diets

Have you ever considered the far-reaching consequences of your everyday choices? The food we eat, the products we purchase, and the way we live all have a ripple effect, especially on climate change. Food production accounts for over a quarter of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, with animal agriculture being a major contributor. Research by Ritchie et al. (2022) suggests that food production alone is responsible for more than 26% of global emissions.

Here is where plant-based diets emerge as a powerful force for a sustainable future, offering a more environmentally friendly path compared to animal agriculture. By prioritising the consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, individuals can significantly reduce their carbon footprint. These plant powerhouses require less land, water, and resources compared to animal products, leading to dramatically lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with food production.

Beyond environmental benefits, a plant-based diet has proven to enhance personal well-being. Adopting a plant-based diet has been linked to a lower risk of chronic diseases like heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Research consistently highlights these diets' contribution to improved gut health, a key factor in overall well-being. Embracing a plant-based approach, can result in nourishing both the environment and ourselves.

Travel

We realised that something that links the three of us as a group is that we all enjoy travelling, but want to minimise our impact on the environment. This led us to look into the concept of sustainable travel. This has emerged as a response to growing concerns about the negative impacts of traditional tourism on the environment. The concern stems from the immense environmental degradation caused by the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Travel is a massive contributor to these emissions; it fuels climate change and disrupts natural ecosystems. The stringent restrictions placed on travel throughout the COVID-19 period caused people to re-evaluate their travel habits. A shift towards more sustainable options, such as ecotourism, responsible consumption and alternative modes of transport were observed in the hope to create a lasting positive impact

Shoes

Shoes: The Environmental Footprint Hidden in Every Step

The global footwear industry, producing over 24 billion pairs yearly, significantly contributes to climate change, by being responsible for approximately 700 million tons of CO_2 emissions annually, or 1.4% of global emissions – thereby reflecting its

dependency on energy-intensive and petrochemical processes. Notably, leather production demands up to 7,600 liters of water per pair, coupled with toxic pollution from chemical tanning. Synthetic footwear exacerbates this, with 330 million pairs ending up in landfills annually, taking up to 1000 years to decompose. Luxury footwear, despite its smaller volume, has a disproportionately large environmental footprint due to premium materials, illustrating the luxury sector's paradoxical impact. Conversely, the mass production of affordable shoes underlines environmental and labor concerns, underscoring the necessity for stringent global governance. With the market expected to reach USD 568.54 billion by 2031, the proposed $50 per ton global carbon tax, potentially reducing emissions by 20% by 2030, seems inadequate against surging demand. This highlights the urgent need for a holistic shift toward sustainable practices, including material innovation and consumer behavior change. Evidently, addressing these issues requires more than fiscal policy; it demands a unified global effort to reconcile the industry's growth with environmental sustainability, showcasing a critical intersection of economic advancement and ecological responsibility

Social Media

Working title: social media's impacts on the issue of climate change

Description: Our project aims to explore social media's influence on climate change, uncovering both its adverse effects and potential benefits, and further connecting it to the international political economy and their multifaceted approach when it comes to combating climate issues. Climate change is having an impact on all aspects of life and one of them is social media. Social media is increasingly emerging as the primary information hub for younger generations, serving as a platform for expressing their opinions and perspectives on climate change, as well as a space for active engagement. Social media significantly impacts how people see the world. At the same time, social media is likely to be manipulated by capitalistic and ideological intention. The focus of our research will be to understand the impact better and interpret it in relation to political and economic factors. The impact is intrinsically linked to IPE, as individuals' worldviews play a pivotal role in shaping their voting patterns, influencing their activism, and guiding their consumption behaviour. Consequently, these factors can collectively exert a substantial impact. Additionally, It will also be interesting to see if there are any significant differences in the impact based on gender, wealth, country and age.

Tote Bag

Our article will embark on an exploration of greenwashing and climate change through examining the tote bag. Popularised as a sustainable alternative to plastic carrier bags, the tote bag has become symbol of style and sustainability. At the heart of our article lies a critical question: How do eco-friendly consumer choices mask the hidden environmental costs of hyper consumption?

By zooming in on the tote bag, we will explore the impact of cotton production on climate change, revealing its detrimental impact on land-use, deforestation, water depletion and greenhouse gas emissions. By following the supply chain from cotton cultivation to the manufacturing of tote bags, we will examine the overlooked impacts of consumer choices on our climate.

As we navigate through the complexities the climate challenges associated with tote bags, we aim to unravel the deceptive practices of corporate greenwashing that promote the facade of sustainability. Corporations exploit the consumer's desires for sustainable products, hiding the environmental costs behind green labels and eco-products.

We hope to challenge readers to confront the truths behind consumerism and make informed choices that go beyond superficial sustainability claims.