

# Skepseis

The Political Science and Sociology Programme Newsletter

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Skepseis (σκέψεις) is a Greek word meaning 'thought.' It is from there that sképtomai (σκέπτομαι) meaning 'to think' came about. Two other words which would strike more familiarity are skeptikistís (σκεπτικιστής) referring to someone who is 'sceptic' or skeptikismós (σκεπτικισμός) referring to 'skepticism.' One of Socrates' most popular dictum goes, "An unexamined life is not worth living." Socrates believed that philosophy – the love for wisdom – was the most important pursuit in life. And the pursuit of this, he says, should be through questioning and logical argument, examining and thinking. So, thought, according to him, is an important element we must pay attention to – for a rational investigation on questions about our existence and knowledge.

As students of Social Sciences, and as individuals studying human society and human relationships, it is of vital importance to look beyond what we see and what we hear. It is important, Hannah Arendt held, to stop and question what we know. In the same lines, Martin Luther King Jr., the great reformer, also held, "Nothing pains some people more than having to think. But the shape of the world today does not permit us the luxury of soft-mindedness. A nation or a civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men and women purchases its own spiritual death."

How do we move from where we are to a place closer to objective truth? What does it take to understand someone or something effectively, particularly people or things from a very different universe? To this, Martin Heidegger had judged, "What is most thought-provoking in these thought-provoking times, is that we are still not thinking." Heidegger seemed concerned that in the modern age, people are not 'thinking.' Thinking, he meant, is remembering with a certain orientation towards thought, preserving what 'was.' Thinking, in that sense, should be the act of preserving the past and reifying it into the (contemporary) world.

The name and aim of this Newsletter thus, is to promote critical thinking and engagement of and about issues relating to human society, human relationships and institutions. It is to encourage both students and faculties of the Political Science and Sociology Programme at RTC to unearth unsettling ratiocinations in the field of Social Sciences and beyond. Skepseis, in that way, aims to provide a platform to challenge ideas, express opinions and reflections, and at the end, advance the exercise of dialogue.

Roderick Wijunamai  
Editor

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*Education is not the filling of a pail, but rather the lighting of a fire.*

~W. B. Yeats

## From the Desk of the Programme Leader

Hobsbawn and Ranger (1983) tell us that traditions, even if they appear to be quite old, are routinely invented to serve contemporary purposes. It is my hope that Skepseis – The Newsletter of the Political Science and Sociology Department will turn into one such invented tradition. I am grateful to our faculty Mr. Roderick Wijunamai and the editorial team for taking this initiative and for bringing Skepseis to fruition. The amount of time and energy they have invested in this is there for everyone to see.

The way it is envisaged, Skepseis will function both as a medium for information and updates about the various activities that take place within and around the department and as a platform for faculty and students to express their thoughts and ideas on a wide range of themes broadly related to the study of political science and sociology. But not just meant for internal readership, limited, that is, to faculty and students of Political Science and Sociology, I hope Skepseis will contribute to the academic landscape of Royal Thimphu College.

This first issue includes an editorial on the philosophical origins and meaning of the term skepseis, a faculty contribution, book reviews, an essay, an alumni spotlight, a report on guest-lectures that took place during the 2018-2019 fall semester, poetry, among several other entries. I wish you all a happy reading.

Dr. Jelle JP Wouters

## Bhutan General Election 2018

The 2018 National Assembly election saw an important development in the political history of Bhutan, which foresaw four political parties having equal chances of winning. A renewed energy and hope from the electorates resulted in higher voter turnout. All parties who were equally competent brought forward their best candidates and manifestos.

Of all the parties, people in Bhutan this time felt inclined towards the pledge and the party slogan of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) that reads, “Narrowing the Gap.” Considering this as the expectation of the majority of Bhutanese people and the much needed developmental agenda for the state, there is a big hope for a change. DNT deserves a big congratulations on winning the elections and taking up the challenging task to lead the country for next five years, yet at the same time should live by their pledges of narrowing the inequalities.

We hope this energetic cabinet and other members of the parliament will contribute to the socio-economic growth and developments of Bhutan.

Rabilal Dhakal, Lecturer

## Third World Perspective on First World Politics

Two years ago, when the American political drama, starring the current president, Donald Trump was running high, people believed that Trump just took his reality show tactics to the next level. It was only after Trump won the presidential election that reality struck! On the sidelines, a South African stand up comic, had just landed his dream job in the United States.

Trevor Noah, who entered the stand up comic scene around 10 years ago was recruited as a correspondent on one of the widely watched (1.45 to 1.6 million viewers every night, Nielsen Rating) late night shows, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. The show uses a mix of satire and comedy to dissect the day's news for people. Noah was hired as a correspondent. It wasn't very long before Stewart, who is considered an influential talk show host decided that Noah would be his successor and in 2015, it became The Daily Show with Trevor Noah.

Noah, was also one of the few, who always knew that Trump was going to win the election. Politicians like Trump are only new to the United States, he said, as he witnessed African leaders accused of sexual harassment, or of corruption, becoming leaders.

What is so unique about a talk show created for the American audience? Noah's show is similar to many others, for whom politicians and their moves qualify as content. But, Noah's commentary is unique, as he brings a third-world perspective to first world problems. It is rare that on an American talk show, watched globally, even on social media now, has any reference to racism or poverty. Noah managed to bring these narratives into perspective, much so in his comical way. It can be said that the man uses the concept of globalisation in a different way. For decades, American whatnots have dominated the world, but Noah's perspectives might be one way of looking at things that have been pushed to the sidelines. This comes from his own story. Noah's autobiography, 'Born A Crime' talks about his experiences of growing up as a child in Apartheid-struck South Africa. Growing up in an atmosphere that was divided on the basis of colour, Noah compares current America to the same.

We are politically charged because our problems are far more basic and real, compared to first-world countries. Hence, this perspective, that Noah brings out is important to understand our own contexts and how super powers, in their true sense, dominate and suppress us, leaving us to remain in poverty.

Rajitha Sanaka, Lecturer



**Skepsei' Editorial Team with the Programme Leader**

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Photo courtesy: RTC Facebook page

On September 12, His Excellency, the Ambassador of Kuwait to Bhutan, Fadel Haider Soud Alhasan addressed the students where he spoke in great detail about the history of Kuwait and the special relationship between both the countries. He talked about how Bhutan extended its kindness to Kuwait, when it was in need. This led to the current situation where Kuwait is trying to help Bhutan with employment. He also said that there will be a centre for learning Arabic, which will make it easier for Bhutanese to work in Kuwait. There is already a significant number of Bhutanese employees in Kuwait.

— Tashi Paldon, Year II

On the August 21, students of the department attended a talk given Professor George van Driem. Professor van Driem is a well known Dutch linguist at the University of Berne, where he holds the Chair of Historical Linguistics. He and his team has made an immense contribution in the codification of the Dzongkha language. Today, his findings on language, its phonetics and grammar are used as a basis of language studies in Bhutan. Prof Van Driem also talked about how ancestry of people is based on languages and genes. He discussed how language moved in earlier times with the movement of people, while now, radio waves contribute to the movement of language.

— Nawang Chogyel, Year III



Photo courtesy: Polka Cafe

Ashi Kunzang Choden, novelist, on September 1, gave a talk about Bhutanese people's relationship with their food. The talk was based on her book, 'Chilli and Cheese'(2008), where she talked about the genesis of food from a Buddhist perspective. She introduced local dishes: Suja, Kewa Datse and Ema Datse, which the Bhutanese deem, the national dish. Interestingly, the key ingredients of these two dishes: potato and chilli originally came from South America. The former was brought by the British envoy led by George Bogle in 1776 who mentions planting it at all halting-places in his report, while the latter diffused to Bhutan over time as Spanish and Portuguese travelers spread it across the globe.

— Kuenga Norbu, Year I

**Pol-Soc Programme joins RTC in celebrating 10 years**



Photo: Barun Gurung, Lecturer

On November 9, Dr. Lhawang Ugyel, from Australian National University talked on Institutions and Public Administration of Bhutan and beyond. He argued that economic growth is determined by the state's institutions. Comparing the two Koreas, which, though share the same culture, South Korea is economically ahead. This, he said, is because they have different institutions. He also brought in the economies of Nepal and Bhutan and said that though Nepal may be richer in terms of biodiversity, geographical area, its economy has been stagnant. On the other hand, Bhutan despite its small geographical area and having only recently opened up its economy, it has only been rising. Here too, the difference is the institutions, he said.

— Tashi Paldon, Year II



Photo courtesy: Dr Lhawang Ugyel, Twitter @lugyel

**Karma Tenzin Choden**, popularly known by her Facebook name 'Karzin,' graduated from RTC in 2016. While at RTC, she served as served as a Resident Assistant, Club Co-ordinator for Reading club, Class Representative, and a member of various clubs such as Media, Performing Arts and Meditation. Karzin recalls that her favourite experiences at RTC are her interactions with the lovely, open-minded and independent people. She shares that these memories will always remain with her. Read on to find out other interesting things that Karzin shared with the Skepseis team!

**Currently at:** I am currently working in a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) called VAST Bhutan (Voluntary Artist Studio, Thimphu Bhutan). My normal working day is to manage the VAST Bhutan Art Gallery, greet people who visit the gallery and talk to them about the scene of contemporary arts in the country. Besides talking to the visitors, I curate the work of the artists (Painters, ceramicists, sculptors, writers, poets, filmmakers and others).

**Role of RTC in your life:** RTC has helped me greatly in pursuing my career in the contemporary arts field. Besides learning throughout my course about the working of a CSO, RTC has been of a great help in building my interpersonal-communication skills which comes handy in the place I work at. In fact, former RTC lecturer, Mr. Jason Hopper while working on his research introduced me to VAST Bhutan! I never thought I would be in a world surrounded by beautiful paintings while I was at RTC.

**Life after graduation:** Immediately after graduation, like many graduates I tried for RCSE and time passed by waiting for the dreaded results! Then I started applying to various places and kept myself busy by volunteering at JANGSA (Animal Shelter) and Feeding Love (Sunday porridge making and feeding the elderly). I then worked temporarily as a Research Assistant for Sir Jason, and that led me to volunteer at VAST Bhutan.

**Memorable moments:** The most memorable moments will always be us playing "chunki" after every class hour, and also the huddling up at Leela Didi's canteen to simply discuss about our lives and our assignments.

**Biggest academic challenge:** Academically, at first the independent learning and researching was tough, we were so used to mugging up that the college really taught us to have our original opinions, a challenge at College but a blessing in disguise now.

**RTC in 3 words:** A safe haven.



**Rinzin Dema**, who graduated from RTC in 2012 is currently pursuing her masters at the University of Sussex in the UK, recalls her experience of how RTC enhanced her career. She also shares with the Skepseis team that RTC was not just the basis for professional development, but also contributed to shaping her personality.

**Currently at:** Royal Textile Academy of Bhutan (RTA) but right now I am on study leave and pursuing MA in International Relations at the University of Sussex, UK. RTA is an NGO and consists of the only textile museum in Bhutan and a weaving centre. I manage, supervise and take care of the daily administration task of the school. Every three months I review the best textile products sold at the museum shop. Then according to the findings, I design and decide what products and which motif to be woven. And have to daily record the progress and come up with new designs. In addition, I look for funds, writing proposals to get the sponsors for the skills development training for women and girls.



**Role of RTC in career:** Though I was a student of Political Science and Sociology, I am currently working in the textile industry. This might seem absurd, but that is the speciality of RTC. The confidence and the research and presentation skills I gained at the college helped me greatly in pursuing this field of work. While at RTC, I was also the Literary Club coordinator and an RA. The leadership workshops equipped me with the basics of proposal writing. Furthermore, I never missed a weekly talk, which helped me learn and get inspired from experts from different fields. While entering the job market I found out that most of the students who had graduated did not know how to write a CV and did not have interview skills. These skills are also crucial if you aspire to be an entrepreneur or work for your family business. Classroom work and grades are also important but it is always good to expand your horizons by doing activities outside class.

**RTC in 3 words:** Lovely location and inspiring.

—Tshering Choden, Year III



Tshering Choden at Pitzer College, Claremont, California

**...but everything was worth it**

A whole year without Ema Datshi? That’s crazy I thought. But, the opportunity to see the world? To be in the country of so many great inventions? Why not? Never did I expect my life to change as much as it did after my experience as an exchange student to the Pitzer College in California in the United States. The immeasurable opportunities and activities dominated my homesickness and my craving for Ema Datshi vanished as soon as I stepped there, albeit for only one year.

The famous Hollywood Walk of Fame, Universal studios, Disneyland, the Lakers and NBA games,

so many food items, never-ending summer beaches and the very beautiful city of Los Angeles were not the only ones standing there and enticing me. The fact that I could choose to sit in a class of any discipline – language, art, theatre, dance, economics, social science, music, I was quite smitten by how it all worked. The only thing that was missing, apart from Ema Datshi of course, was my friends by my side, so that I could share these fascinating experiences with them.

Not all was rosy after all. The huge amount of materials we had to read for classes and the research we had to do for every class was quite overwhelming. I think I worked harder in one semester at Pitzer than I did in my two years at RTC. However, we had enough time to work on our projects, do the readings and also catch up with the latest movies in the nearest theatre.

The lesson I learnt from all the classes I took was that if you are passionate about what you are learning, you would be willing to do the hard work, just like I did. The experience didn’t just enrich me academically, but I also learnt quite a bit about myself. Something as simple as the fact that I never walked the academic block in RTC alone. But there I was at Pitzer, working alone on my ceramic projects in the studio until midnight. I went to the gym and ran at least three times a week to keep my stamina at par with others in my dance classes. Being the foodie that I am, I also skipped meals to make it to my internship, an after school programme where I worked with children as young as five and six. I enjoyed helping them with their homework, while also learnt a lot of new things about their culture.

Meeting people from diverse backgrounds also taught me a lot of new things and I can say that it has changed my life for the better, forever. Nothing was easy, but everything was worth it.

**FIELD VISIT:** On the September 9, the senior cohort of Political Science and Sociology made a field visit to the Royal Society for Protection and Care of Animals (RSPCA) in Ngabiphu, a civil society organisation based in Thimphu. It aims to create an environment for humans and animals to coexist. The visit was a part of the Civil Society Organisation and Media class taught by Mr. Tshering Wangchuk. The field visit was an exciting and effective method for the students to gain practical knowledge about the operation of Civil Society Organisations in Bhutan. As a token of appreciation the students made a donation to the organisation.



**ANNUAL COLLEGE RIMDO** is one among important events held in the college. The ritual is chiefly conducted to evade the influences of evil forces, as well as, to cleanse obstacles so that it will enable smooth functioning of the institution. This year, the ritual was conducted on October 8, presided over by His Venerable Trulku Thinley Lhendup alias Yonten Lopen of Central Monastic Body. The ritual included Dag Kaed Phurbai Choga, Soelkha, Choesung and Jab Zhi which are the rituals of propitiation and appeasement. This was shortly followed by oral transmissions for Seven Line Prayer, Prayer for 21 Taras, Avalokitesvara Prayer to those who were interested. His Eminence also advised the receivers of the oral transmission to recite as many prayers as possible, reasoning that it will help accomplish the destined goals. — Kuenzang Thakchu, Year II

## Mini-ethnography on Thimphu District (Dzongkhag) Court

by Karma Pem Dema, Year I

The Bhutanese Legal System has a four-tier court system with the Supreme Court being the top of the hierarchy, followed by the High Court, Dzongkhag or District Court and the Dungkhag Court.

To be allowed into the court, one has to especially follow the traditional code of conduct called the 'Driglam Namzha', promoted as a means of preserving a distinct national identity, which also instituted the national dress code. This decorum is followed even by the multiple presiding judges of the multiple benches. This means that one has to be dressed in the full National Dress, especially Bhutanese.

Walking around, I saw many people waiting outside different cottages that I later found out were courtrooms and the people were waiting for their court hearings. The Thimphu District Court has five benches: Civil Bench, Commercial Bench, Family and Child Bench, Criminal Bench (two separate courtrooms) and the Notary Court. All these benches are single bench courts, which means there is only one judge ruling except the notary court which only has an assistant judge (Rabjam). The judge bench numbers are always odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) for the reason that if the numbers were even, then there would be no judgment to be passed due the votes being even as well.

I also had the opportunity of being allowed to observe two judgment hearings given by the very 'Chief Judge of the District Court' in the one of the Criminal Benches. I had to wait along with all the alleged offenders waiting for their hearings. There I noticed people dressed in our national attire and some dressed informally. The ones dressed informally had handcuffs on with police officers by their sides. They were brought in police vans directly from the Detention Centre in town and were perpetrators who had either been arrested just the day prior or those who were held indefinitely at the Detention Centre for crimes that would not allow them to be bailed out.

As I was being ushered into the courtroom, I was told to bow down (Cha-len) as a form of respect before the Chief Judge as he is on the top of the District Court hierarchy. The level of Driglam Namzha seemed to have multiplied tenfold inside the courtroom with presiding judges in the room. I was sent in first where the Chief Judge was seated on a man-made podium with his green scarf and sword (indication of his achieved status). There is no smiling and certainly no disturbances or misconduct being tolerated inside the courtroom.

Once inside, I was asked to be seated on the right hand side of the room by the Chief Judge as the offender was being brought in with two police officers by his side. As I watched seated, the offender, the policemen and the Law Clerk who I initially thought to be the Defense Attorney all bowed down very deep and stood until the Chief Judge told them to sit. They sit right parallel to the judge on the opposite side of the room where both sides of the party face one another.

Furthermore, in both the cases that I observed, the alleged offenders had been released on bail as their court hearings were already completed and all that was left was the judgment hearing. In one case, the law clerk of the Criminal bench read out details of the case from a document. Throughout the time, the offender kept his head bent very low and had the scarf in his hand over his mouth (another form of displaying obvious respect) like he was extremely remorseful of his actions. The Chief Judge then passed the judgment, where the perpetrator was to pay monetary compensation and then be free of the legal procedures. He was accused of stealing a phone off of a child in a park. While investigating, the police found that the perpetrator had a sick mother in the hospital and they speculated that he had taken the phone to help with the expenses. Crimes like this generally fall under petty misdemeanor and the police play the role of the prosecutor, which I honestly found absurd. This whole case made me think of all the loopholes in the law that could possibly enable innocent people to be put behind bars. It is terribly unfortunate that the legal system that promises to be fair is overlooking this social injustice being committed to people who are already victims of social inequality. If law were a colour, it would certainly be grey with no telling of where black ends and white starts.

## Brexit and the Youth

by Yeshe Dema, Year III

The recent turn of events in Europe, Brexit, has led the entire world to focus its attention on the U.K and Europe. Brexit is the term used to describe the process of Britain leaving the European Union. This decision has caused major upheaval. Brexit marks a significant change for the entire population of the U.K but has a greater impact on the youth. The British youth massively favoured remaining in the E.U with 75% of the voters between the age group of 18 to 24 voting Remain (Goulard, 2016).

Even though the British Prime Minister Theresa May asserted, "Brexit means Brexit," there is an absence of clear explanation on how Brexit will progress. The scarcity of details regarding the government's strategy for leaving the E.U has raised doubts amongst the British.

The Brexit Minister, however, promised to get the 'best deal for Britain' (Merrick, 2016). On the other hand, millions of youth signed petitions against Brexit asking for a second referendum. The U.K is deemed the most expensive part of the E.U with high living standards and expensive tuition. The freedom of movement across E.U member states has allowed youth to live and study in cheaper places such as Germany but with Brexit that ought to change.

The contradiction in ideas associated with Brexit highlights a significant characteristic of social change, which posits social change is always controversial. The older generation wants to free Britain from the grasps of E.U regulations, immigration policies and the net contribution that E.U members must submit (Hunt & Wheeler, 2016). Do they realise that it is the youth who will have to endure the impacts? Reversal of the decision is unlikely leading to restricted academic and career opportunities for U.K's youth.

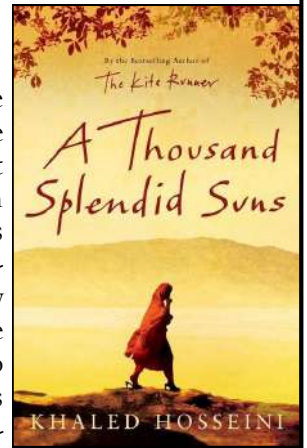
## A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini

Reviewed by Kuenzang Norbu, Year II

A Thousand Splendid Suns is a novel foregrounding the history of Afghanistan, from the time when it was invaded by the Soviet Union in the 1960s, to the time when it came under the control of Taliban rule in the 1990s. The author skillfully brings out the plight of the Afghans, though the lives of two different women, Mariam and Laila. Mariam is an illegitimate daughter of a wealthy man Jalil and his maid Nana. Deprived of her rights as his daughter, Mariam and her mother go and live in a shabby hut on the outskirts of Herat, while her father, stepmothers and her stepsisters and brothers enjoy a lavish wealthy life. Even though Mariam gets a once in a month visit from her father, she yearns to see him more and dreams of living with him. Swayed by her yearning, she decides to go to her father. It is then that her mother who knows what is coming for her daughter takes her own life. After the death of her mother, Mariam lives with her father and her stepmothers, but only until she is married off to a man who is double her age. Rasheed, a widower to whom Mariam is married off, treats her well for the first few years of their marriage, but soon as he discovers that Mariam cannot give him children, he starts abusing her physically.

The second half of the book tells the story of the Taliban's reign in Afghanistan through the life of Laila. Laila does not receive her mother's attention as she is always waiting for her sons to come back from war. Laila, however, finds solace in the company of Tariq, her best friend. All these change after a bomb is dropped in their neighbourhood and everything turns into rubble. Tariq leaves for Pakistan, and Laila stays back with her family even though she wishes to leave with him. Making things worse, another bomb drops, which takes Laila's family away from her. Rasheed (the husband of Mariam) who is then Laila's neighbour, takes her in and within a few days persuades her into marrying him. His treatment towards Mariam gets worse with the coming of Laila into their house. Even though it is difficult for them to live under the same roof, the two women's relationship later turns into a beautiful mother-daughter-like relationship. The women stand up to their husband's harsh treatment and respond to him unlawfully.

The book presents life's worst hardships and how the two women find their ways through it. One gets to see a glimpse of what it is like to live in fear yet find ways to survive in the course of war.



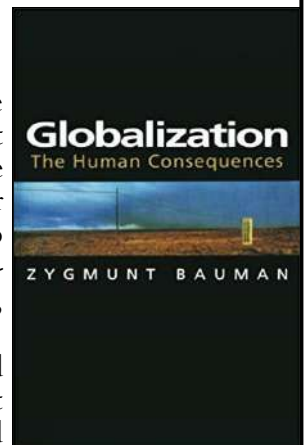
## Globalization: The Human Consequences by Zygmunt Bauman

Reviewed by Tshering Wangmo, Year II

Globalisation, Zygmunt Bauman noted, is an irreversible process which affects all people in the same measure, in the same way, on a large global scale. People are not able to direct events and happenings but only experience it in rapid and unpredictable ways. With the technological advances, people have freed knowledge, capital, and the political power from the traditional chains. Corporations move where they wish, when they wish. So do the elites who manage them, the specialists' staff and the professionals who operate comfortably in their world. Meanwhile, the traditional world of familiar space, local business, stable relationship and face-to-face public communication is all collapsing.

Bauman's approach to globalisation is to explore the key themes of modernity – time and space, territorial sovereignty and migration that have travelled from modernity to post modernity. With the emergence of modern state, the organisation of space was liberated from constraints of the human body and produced as modern engineered space. While globalisation means freedom for some, Bauman posits that it is an entrapment for others. Globalisation creates a division between the globalised and localised, resulting in the breakdown of communication. It challenges the possibility of independence of local life, and has consequences for the local organisation of life, social cohesion and community. In cities, public space is being eroded through its privatisation, contributing to the breakdown of locally grounded forms of togetherness and shared communal living. The possibility of having community, local leadership and local opinion is denied. Rather than a hybrid culture we had hoped for, globalisation has created a more homogenous world.

Globalisation seems to refer to global effects, not what we hope to do but what is happening to us. Bauman rightly stated, globalisation is diminishing sovereignty, yet thriving for new nation-states. Historically, only a few societies had enough resources and size to seek statehood. Now the nation-state is disappearing because of the erosion of the military strength, economic and cultural sovereignties. Consequently, all states are forced to seek alliances and surrender their sovereignty. Another cultural shift, accompanying globalization, is the emergence of 'consumer' society. The very desire to consume creates an environment in which there are endless shifts in the object of desire. The consumer constantly looks forward to new attractions. Yet, the desires to consume are not matched by the ability. In summation, Bauman argues that globalisation divides as much as it unites. It widens the gap between the already existing strata of the global society.



## University Info

### 1. Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)

Courses (related to Pol-Soc) offered:

- (a) MA in Sociology
- (b) MA in Political Science
- (c) MA in International Relations
- (d) MA in Arts and Aesthetics

Website: [jnu.ac.in](http://jnu.ac.in)

### 2. University of Hyderabad

Courses offered:

- (a) MA in Sociology
- (b) MA in Political Science

Website: [uoh.ac.in](http://uoh.ac.in)

### 3. North Eastern Hill University

Courses offered:

- (a) MA in Sociology
- (b) MA in Political Science
- (c) MA/MSc in Anthropology

Website: [nehu.ac.in](http://nehu.ac.in)

### 4. Peking University of China

Courses offered:

- (a) MA/MSc in International Affairs
- (b) Masters in International Relations (M.I.R)

Website: [pku.edu.cn](http://pku.edu.cn)

### 5. Tsinghua University

Courses offered:

- (a) MPA in International Development
- (b) International Masters in Public Administration (IMPA)

Website: [tsinghua.edu.cn](http://tsinghua.edu.cn)

### 6. National University of Singapore

Courses offered:

- (a) MA in Political Science
- (b) MA in Sociology
- (c) MA in South East Asian Studies

Website: [nus.edu.sg](http://nus.edu.sg)

### 7. University of Tokyo

Courses offered:

- (a) MA in Global Studies
- (b) MA in Sustainability Science
- (c) MA in Humanities and Sociology

Website: [u-tokyo.ac.jp](http://u-tokyo.ac.jp)

### 8. Pai Chai University of Korea

Courses offered:

- (a) MA in East Asian Studies
- (b) MA in Public Administration
- (c) MA in Consulting

Website: [pcu.ac.kr](http://pcu.ac.kr)

### 9. Yonsei University (Korea)

Courses offered:

- (a) MA/MSc in Sociology
- (b) MA/MSc in Political Science and International Studies
- (c) MA/MSc in International Relations

Website: [yonsei.ac.kr](http://yonsei.ac.kr)

## Poems

### A world that has lost love?

I was born in a world that has forsaken love,  
that I have lost the strength to face the adversity.  
I was a forlorn person, on the verge of extinction.  
It was those rare withal beautiful people,  
who offered their charity and by their love saved me.  
In this world of intricacy, you will someday be born.  
But, beloved mine, show them your divinity,  
show them benevolence, which inhabits in you.

~Wangchuk Lhamo, Year I

### We don't need toys

We don't need toys, we just need friends  
Its doom in every child's life, that's in ours too;  
We grew of no toys to play with; but yet,  
Without known to ourselves,  
we begin to fancy more,  
to have friends than toys now.  
For the aura that is in playing with a friend  
we don't get in playing with a toy.

~Anu Mongar , Year I

### The Slumber

A candle burns, drip, drip,  
Into the quiet, crawling morning  
Before the dust rises  
With the yellow light and what was forgotten  
Comes to mind, stretches on its throne.  
There is darkness still, a stillness  
In the dark, alive for what is left of  
The heavy night.  
Nothing is seen that moves  
Except the flame upon the sleeper's eyes  
That will grow and glow, enough to rouse  
Him, rested and wearied, unfeeling and  
Unfelt, satiated with crumbs where loaves  
Were desired.  
A dream. Not a dream. All of both. And yet,  
Yet.. For he who is confused and aching,  
Early is the day in arriving.  
Wax drips, drips from the candle,  
Now small and being consumed,  
Now liquid, now quite finished,  
Now raging to burn brighter  
and burn longer,  
The light having shone,  
Wanting to shine a little more,  
Going against its wishes,  
Despite its prayers,  
Now only a moment  
Of faint smoke that too must die.

~ Anonymous

### TOEFL & IELTS Deadlines:

(a) TOEFL  
February 9, 2019  
April 13, 2019  
Thimphu

(b) IELTS  
December 15, 2018  
Thimphu