



THE VOICE

Vol 33 Issue 06 - 2025-02-07

Humanizing AI

A Problem of Programming

Immigration & Policing

The Policies of Human Rights Violations

Dictionary Diving

Humbled but Hopeful

Plus:

FotW: AU MAIS to the Rescue!

*Top 5 Food for Chinese New Year
and much more!*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a Facebook page?

No kidding! We also do the twitter thing once in a while if you're into that.

Editorial

Exhausted As Intended

Karl Low



So my prediction missed. The upcoming tariffs were dropped with a small song and dance, and then the whirlwind continued. Threats against Panama, plans to relocate everyone in Gaza permanently, then temporarily, then not at all. In the meantime, Elon takes over government payments and stops USAID, despite being unelected and having no authority provided by Congress or anything else.

Then just recently the hot mic of Trudeau announcing that Trump's talk of absorbing Canada into the United States is not just idle talk, but an actual strategy that he and the right-wing in the United States want to pursue.

Even as a Canadian, just reading about the US government's activities is exhausting, it's understandable that so many Americans just check out of the whole thing. Which is probably what's intended. I've heard the saying that evil is what happens while good men do nothing, but I don't remember ever thinking that it would be used as a strategy.

Meanwhile, here in Alberta, the CEO of Alberta Health Services was fired just a couple of days before a scheduled meet with the auditor general to talk about procurement and contracts within the Alberta Health system, in specific a \$75 million deal to import children's pain medication in 2022, where only 30% of the paid for medication was received, and what was received didn't meet safety requirements. Oh, and those children's medicines were just part of over \$614 million delivered to MH Care for supplies and other services, a company owned by one Sam Mraiche, who also happens to have bought luxury tickets to NHL games [for Premiere Smith and much of her staff](#). She also maintains that she was under significant pressure while in the job to sign additional commitments to private surgical facilities that had significantly increased proposed costs.

In addition, the rest of the Board has now been let go, in what the Alberta Government says was a planned transition, with Deputy Minister of Health, Andrew Tremblay, being put in charge of the entire thing, and maintaining that the review of the procurement processes will continue. Though no mention has been made of what will happen to the final report now once the investigation is complete.

All of which is to say don't get exhausted or distracted by the shenanigans in the U.S. There is unfortunately very little we can do about those. Pay attention to what's going on here at the local level. If you look back at what has happened in the US, that's how they started everything. Get involved in the small boards and communities at your local level, the school board, the boards of your city and town, and we absolutely must start to get involved in our provincial political parties. Take Back Alberta took over the conservative party here in Alberta, and these types of things are the results.

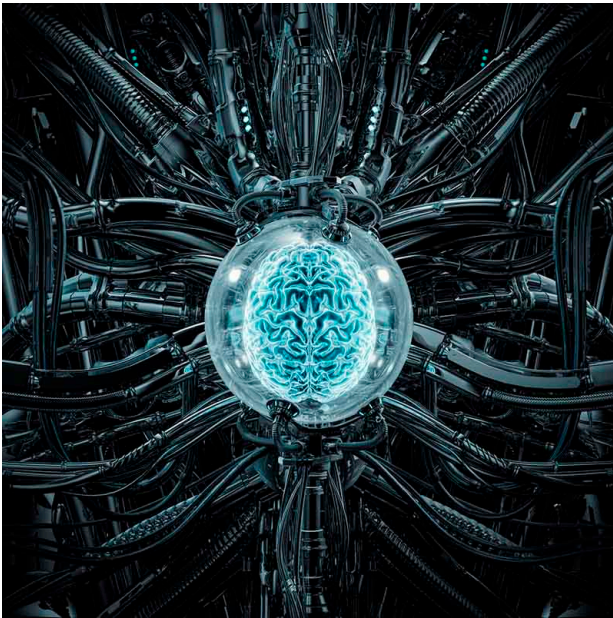
Whether you're of conservative or progressive leanings, centralizing provincial power to a smaller and smaller group of ministers and deputy ministers is not bringing that power closer to you or making government more responsive to your particular needs, but to stop it, you need to get involved. Or at least try to bring this stuff up to your friends and relatives; at least point out the stories where problems are being had so that the government does not get a chance to just sweep them under the rug. They're far too good at hiding things already, we don't need to make it easier. Enjoy the read!

Handwritten signature of Karl Low.

Humanizing Artificial Intelligence

Problems with Computer Programming

Blythe Appleby



Humans are affectionate creatures. We can't help it; we give affection to things that we like, and we can get attached to nearly anything, from cars to shoes to lamps. The problem with this habit is that it can lead to "humanizing" things: that is, we can attribute human-like emotions, and even souls, to the things that we like. I'm not immune to this; for me, throwing out a book can be like saying goodbye to an old friend. Problems can arise, though, when what we humanize has the potential to be destructive.

In my experience, we humans view the world in two different categories: fellow humans, to be loved and interacted with; and tools, to be used to help us. Sometimes the boundaries between these two categories can become blurred: humans can become tools, with horrific results; and, sometimes, tools can become humans, with equally bad consequences. The

catch is that tools are only humans in our minds; they are not humans in actuality. This is becoming a problem with AI. Because we're so easily attached to things, and because AI is a relatively recent tool that we're only just discovering, it's becoming all too easy for us to forget sometimes that whatever is behind that screen, thinking up those things that it spits out in the chat box, isn't real. There isn't a human back there, interacting with you and thinking about you. It's just all computer programming.

It's all in the name: nothing Artificial can be truly Intelligent. What AI does is take real human knowledge that it's been programmed to retrieve and spit it back at us in reorganized ways. In many ways, AI isn't that much different from what we used to call "computer generated", but now, suddenly with the new name of AI, it's as though it's become a completely new thing—and a thing with thoughts and emotions to boot. I'm going to be blunt: just because a computer types out something before our eyes that ends with an exclamation mark and an emoji, that doesn't make it a human that is enjoying "talking" with you.

We need to step back and listen to a word of warning. We've all heard the doom-and-gloom predictions about AI taking over the world, but I don't think that it can do that on its own. What I do think could happen, would be that humans would *let* AI take over, because we've deluded ourselves into thinking that AI is a person. It is not, and it can never feel love, sorrow, happiness, or any of the emotions that define us as people. It can't even make logical decisions: those are just programmed into it. A computer doesn't make decisions, rather, it retrieves information that humans have fed it. AI can't even be rightly called "it": AI is just a system.

A friend of mine is a teacher at a private school and frequently has to deal with students who cheat by writing papers with AI. Checking over these papers for signs of computer generation has become a time-consuming process for teachers like him, but I've been told that it can be even more difficult for students; ironically, it takes longer, so I've been told, to create and alter an AI essay than it does to handwrite one! And I don't think I need to add which of those two options actually uses a human brain.

So let's take a moment to remind ourselves: tools are not humans. You can care for them (though you shouldn't), but ultimately, they will not care for you, because they are incapable of it. Loveable Star Trek androids and Star Wars droids aside, machines just don't work that way, and if we start loving and trusting computer programs, we will live to regret it. Maybe AI will take over the world; but if it does, it will be our fault.

Blythe Appleby is an AU graduate, historic interpreter, period clothing specialist, gourmet, and bibliophile.



Immigration and Policing Policies Human Rights Violations Part III

Alek Golijanin

Plenty of barriers related to human rights complaints for those without legal status to be in Canada



The Canadian Human Rights Commission (The CHRC) is unable to accept human rights complaints from people who are without legal status to be in Canada. For such individuals, if any of their human rights, those enshrined under Canadian law, are violated, they are unlikely to be able to file a human rights complaint if they cannot afford to retain an immigration lawyer. So, this legal “blind spot” is not just the result of a lack of money to be made, but how public-serving oversight bodies have been created, restricting who can access human rights-related services.

The CHRC has advocated for changes to the *Canadian Human Rights Act* (The Act), which sets out who they can accept and investigate complaints from, excluding individuals without legal status to be in Canada even though they are accounted for in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Under Section 40(5)(a) of the Act, it states that “no complaint in relation to a discriminatory practice may be dealt with by The CHRC under this part unless the act or omission that constitutes the practice...occurred in Canada and the victim of the

practice was at the time of the act or omission either lawfully present in Canada or, temporarily absent from Canada, entitled to return to Canada.” This is an example of the structural discrimination in policy. As a result, individuals without legal status to be in Canada are ineligible to file complaints with the CHRC.

To the CHRC's credit, it has long advocated for the repeal or amendment of this provision to increase access to human rights justice for all people in Canada, in line with the principles responsible for the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. So, there are major implications regarding the various threats that migrants are facing in Canada because there are significant barriers preventing them from obtaining policing services, having their matters adjudicated by federal and provincial

courts, and accessing other public-serving bodies that most Canadians take for granted, and it has created for a major public safety issue.

Revisiting A Previous Article

In a previous article, “Immigration Realities: Canada through Migrant Eyes”, what came as shock during my participation at a Canada-wide gathering of more than 400 different organizations that work with and serve refugees and migrants, was how organized criminal groups (including the Hells Angels) have managed to embed themselves into the immigration ecosystem (internationally and domestically). Three examples stuck out:

The first example saw a migrant who landed in Western Canada receive a message over a chat app that gave them specific instructions to arrive to their “workplace” in Quebec. They were told to take a Via Rail train to Montreal, and after arriving to Montreal they were told to take an Uber to a place 1.5 hours away from the train station. Upon arriving to the “new” workplace, they were told that they would only receive 20% of their agreed upon salary in Canadian Dollars and the other 80% would be paid in Mexican Pesos, to their family in Mexico, by someone who would be visiting their family in Mexico. Such arrangements were not said to be exceptions to the rule in places where organized criminal groups have embedded themselves.

The second example saw migrants turn to the RCMP (who were contracted for policing responsibilities in the area) to report kidnapping and extortion, and how the RCMP turned away those victims and suggested that they reach out to a different level of policing for support. In the end, all three levels of policing (municipal, provincial, federal) would offer similar responses for the victims by stating that their complaints were outside their scope and jurisdiction.

The third example saw organizations establishing early warning systems and enhanced safety measures for employees who had been targets of intimidation by organized criminal elements. As a result, out-of-city visits now require constant communication between staff, and organizations also collect identifying information on suspicious persons and vehicles and share that information with other local organizations due to not being able to rely on law enforcement.

Most of the participants at the three-day immigration summit had unfavorable views of police, and there were suggestions that insinuated Canada’s police were systemically racist and underprioritizing migrant-related matters. Even though such suggestions may have some truth, it is possible the turning away of such victims had something to do with the existence of high-level policing investigations and a need to preserve such investigations or perhaps these were cases where police felt there was a low likelihood of securing a criminal conviction against organized criminal elements and decided they were not worth investigating.

Both thoughts are disturbing, however, in that individuals who were victims of crime in Canada could get overlooked after turning to law enforcement. However, they also offer up deeper considerations into the world of policing, one that often revolves around police statements like, “we are unable to speak to the details of any specific case, or any potential criminal investigations”.

Canada’s Most Underprivileged and Disadvantaged

Based on preliminary discussions with a few municipal police officers thus far, it was explained that if a municipal police officer ever happens to deal with someone that they identify as being without legal status to be in Canada, then they must detain that person and notify the CBSA (police of jurisdiction). The reason given for that response was that anything having to do with immigration fell outside the jurisdiction of municipal policing responsibilities, and municipal police officers did not have room to apply discretion when dealing with victims of crime who were without legal status to be in Canada.

Policing and public safety stakeholders in Canada have gone on record stating that while police-reported incidents of human trafficking increase every year, the number of human trafficking related convictions remains relatively low. More so, they have stated how assessing the extent of human trafficking in Canada is difficult due to its clandestine nature and the reluctance of victims and witnesses to come forward to law enforcement, as well as challenges in identifying victims. Most cases of human trafficking are never reported to police due to threats from traffickers, fear, shame, and mistrust of authorities. So, all the current available data provides only a partial representation of the scope and scale of human trafficking in Canada, and practically none on migrants and individuals without legal status to be in Canada.

Steps have been taken to better equip law enforcement and prosecutors on the scope, scale and sensitivities around human trafficking to better identify cases and enhance the consistency in prosecution. As it pertains to migrants, Canada has also acted to better protect such individuals by investing \$3.4 million over two years to establish, on a pilot basis, a migrant worker support network dealing with potential mistreatment or abuse, and even to propose recommendations that account for the migrant experience. Additional successes include the Government issuing 146 (January 2016-December 2018) temporary resident permits to victims of human trafficking and their dependents, but there are limitations. Getting migrant victims to turn to police for help and to want to help with criminal prosecutions requires establishing trust and is something money cannot buy.

Seeing how the Canadian Human Rights Commission is prohibited from accepting human rights complaints from individuals without legal status to be in Canada, the police response further complicates the issue of human rights as it pertains to migrants and others without legal status. Migrants and individuals without legal status who lack the financial means to retain a lawyer for a matter related to human rights, may find it worth connecting with civil rights organizations to see if they have experience dealing with such matters.

Canada's approach to human trafficking has been guided by the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and its supplementing *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, and has been organized around four broad pillars (4Ps): the prevention of trafficking; the protection of victims; the prosecution of offenders; and working in partnership with others. There are more intersections to a complex issue than past policies have been capable of accounting for, which this series may succeed in highlighting.

In Comparison

Compared to the rest of the world, Canada does immigration better than practically every other country. Being better than others, however, is a low standard when being viewed as "better" overshadows bettering immigration-related gaps. Canada may be limited in what it can do about immigration-related exploitation that occurs outside of Canada, but we are in full control on how we respond to the exploitation of those who our current laws overlook and disregard.

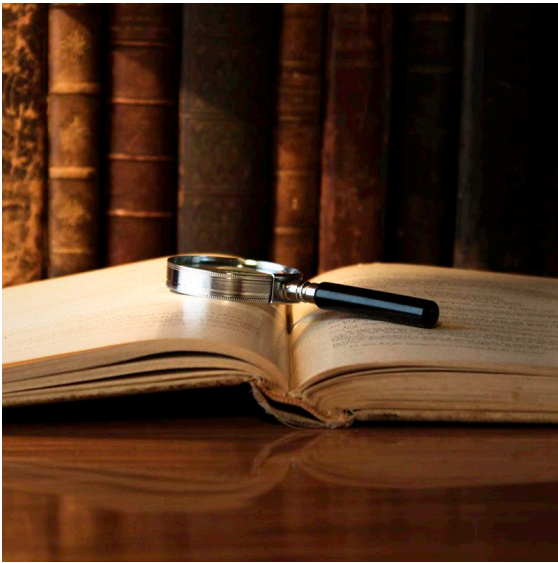
When migrants lose their legal status to stay in Canada, that process is more complicated than is understood by people or has been described in the media. All of it can be chalked up to complex immigration processes, systemic flaws, and socio-economic factors. Additionally, factors related to language barriers, social isolation and the inability to access public services, and these are the vulnerabilities that traffickers aim to exploit. For those Canadians who are not that far removed from their "first step off the boat and onto Canadian soil", or who have heard first-hand accounts about those "first steps" from family, today's victims could be "us".

Alek Golijanin is an AU alum who considers himself a gentleman first, a scholar second, and a combat sports fanatic third. In that order.



Dictionary Diving: Humbled but Hopeful

Jessica MacLeod



Have you noticed that diction changes during certain periods in your life? That particular words bubble up to the surface of your mind more easily. And I'm not just talking swear words.

Despite the storm of big egos, swagger, and constant climate concerns swirling around us, I've noticed how I've been using hope and humble and their related forms. I was struggling with a tough health challenge for months and kept coming back to statements such as, "What a humbling experience this is." "I am feeling so humble—so unsure, vulnerable, scared, and really quite fallible and human." "I hope this goes away soon." "I hope to be better by then." "Hopefully this dose change will do the trick." "Hopefully I sleep tonight."

Hope and humble are common words—words we can handle at a young age. But with some diving and digging, I found they weren't as straightforward or easy to use as they seemed.

Humble as an adjective is easy. Humble sounds like bumble, crumble, fumble, and stumble. It usually refers to someone who sees him or herself in a modest way and isn't too proud or conceited. But, it can also refer to one's origins—say if someone is from low social, political, or economic status. When referring to a thing, such as a humble abode, humble can mean that it is of modest dimensions or pretensions. Being humble means knowing we all have our limitations, shortcomings, and weaknesses. Being humble keeps us in touch with uncertainty and enables us to show compassion to ourselves, other people, and fellow creatures. In Garner's *Modern English Usage*, the entry right before humble is humanness. It's helpful to see the two close together. (Humanness made it into Garner's because it's often erroneously spelled without the double n.)

What's interesting is humble as a transitive verb. A transitive verb is one that requires a direct object to complete meaning. In a sentence like, "This flareup really humbled me." Humbled is the verb and me is the direct object. The flareup is a force acting on me. A force or forces make someone humble; the person somehow gets lowered in status, mood, ability or some other measure. Humility can come from being abased or debased. For me, months of illness pounded home the point that I couldn't be everything I was trying to be. That the basics of my body couldn't be taken for granted. At the end of the day, humble humans want to sleep well, digest properly, and hope that all our organs and systems function in a way that keeps us alive and able to love.

Humbled is often misused though. Think of when people give speeches about winning an award or being appointed to some lofty position. We hear of the speaker being "humbled by" the award, "humbled by the honour," or "humbled by the generosity."

Bryan Garner (of Garner's *Modern English Usage*) writes, "The idea originally seems to have been that the recipient of an award, title or other honour feels unworthy of it. But often this comes across as false modesty, especially because people hear humbled and perceive it as being equivalent to honoured or cheered or buoyed, especially when the sentence is offered with a radiant smile." Use of humbled in this way seems to give the impression that it means the same as feeling honoured. Garner continues and clarifies: "A humbling experience takes someone down a notch or two, or even further. Having awards bestowed upon you, in traditional terms, is anything

but a humbling experience.” (Garner 556). Notice he’s writing in second-person voice. He wants to directly correct (and humble) those who misuse it.

Garner’s not alone. Arwa Mahdawi, writing for The Guardian, was even more forceful in the opening paragraph of her article about this troubling trend. She writes, “anyone who uses the word ‘humbled’ when they really mean ‘honoured’ ought to be immediately thrown into solitary confinement and not allowed out until they have read a dictionary” (Mahdawi). That made me laugh. And breathe a sigh of relief. Despite having been thoroughly humbled in the past year, and having briefly questioned my ability to think, write, and work normally again, I am glad that at least I was using humbled correctly.

My use of hopefully? Well, like most people, I hadn’t given much thought to how I used it, despite having loads of learning in place that should have prepared me for proper usage.

Hopefully is an adverb. It means to do something in a manner that displays hope. An example of its proper use is, “When Sara’s grandma asked about a snack, Sara looked hopefully at the cookie jar.” Hopefully is describing Sara’s act of looking.

However, a disputed but yet common usage of hopefully is when the word is used to qualify a whole sentence. For example: “Hopefully, my grandma has made some cookies.” In this case, hopefully is referring to the speaker’s feelings or attitude instead of an action within the main part of the sentence. No one is actually in the sentence to do the hoping action. In this use, hopefully is not acting like an adverb. It is instead a sentence-or-clause adverb or disjunct adverb.

In The Elements of Style, Strunk and White disdained such usage as “not merely wrong,” but also “silly.” Why not simply say “I hope” or “It is hoped” instead? They write, “Although the word in its new, free-floating capacity may be pleasurable and even useful to many, it offends the ear of many others, who do not like to see words dulled or eroded, particularly when the erosion leads to ambiguity, softness, or nonsense” (Strunk 48). It’s a matter of clarity and precision.

If we look at the second cookie example I gave earlier, we realize that hopefully could actually reflect the speaker’s hope or it could also refer to how Grandma made the cookies in a hopeful manner.

AU-thentic Events

Upcoming AU Related Events

Library Chat

Tues, Feb 11, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm MST
Online

Hosted by AU Library
www.athabascau.ca/library/index.html
No pre-registration needed; access through chat box on home page

Developing your research series: Research data management

February 11, 2025 1:00 p.m. MST
Online

Hosted by AU Library and AU Write Site
Register at the Event Link

MBA Application Webinar

February 12, 2025 10:00 a.m.
Online

Hosted by AU Faculty of Business
Register at the Event Link

Winning Grants: Strategic Approaches to Crafting Competitive Proposals

February 12, 2025 10:00 a.m. MST
Online

Hosted by AU Alumni
Register at the Event Link

Writing Forum: February session

February 12, 2025 12:00 p.m. MST
Online

Hosted by AU Write Site
Register at the Event Link

Library Chat

Thurs, Feb 13, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm MST
Online

Hosted by AU Library
www.athabascau.ca/library/index.html
No pre-registration needed; access through chat box on home page

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Garner weighs in on this too—for three columns of text! He concludes that “Clause-modifying hopefully remains a skunked term. You might well decide to avoid it in all senses if you’re concerned with your credibility; if you use it, a few readers may tut-tut you” (Garner 553). By skunked, he means controversial. The word can still raise a stink. (The fifth edition of Garner’s *Modern Usage* was published in 2022.)

Another relatively recent view comes from Benjamin Dreyer in his book *Dreyer’s English*. Dreyer seems a bit more relaxed on the topic and points out that the word thankfully is also used in a similar way, but doesn’t seem to draw quite as much stink.

Dreyer writes, “If you can live with ‘There was a terrible accident; thankfully, no one was hurt,’ you can certainly live with ‘Tomorrow’s weather forecast is favorable; hopefully, we’ll leave on time’” (Dreyer 159). Fair point.

Even though I can sometimes be a bit of a stalwart, a bit of an old-fashioned grammar maven, I have to admit that, while all of this controversy is interesting, I’m unlikely to break my habit of using the clause-modifying hopefully. I do hope, however, to at least be more conscious of my usage some of the time.

And hope is important. It’s something to hold onto, like a life buoy that’s been tossed out to you. Hope sounds like the plunk of that buoy hitting the water near you. When you say it, notice the exhale. Your breath comes from deeper down. Contrast hope with wish—what we do before we blow out our birthday candles. When you say wish, you slightly lift your shallow breath. It’s a thought that will be carried on the wind like a wisp of smoke. Hope seems to have a bit more expectation with it. It gives us a chance at improving ourselves, our situation, or the world.

I spent the better part of a year feeling pretty beat up and humbled by a couple of conditions, but in my better moments I reached for that buoy of hope for improvement. I’m glad the word-exploring, curious part of me is re-emerging from the turbulent waters of illness and its accompanying anxiety and depression. I like that part of me: the inquisitive part, the part that likes learning and digging and thinking. The part of me who, as a young student at Queen’s, didn’t mind trudging through the snow, down to Stauffer Library, and checking word history and usage in the multi-volume set of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. I still like unearthing treasures that can change my thinking, affect my interpretations, analyses, and word choices. I like being a sort deep-sea diver of diction, an enthusiastic archaeologist, or a gardener grinning over some dirty potatoes that are ready for cleaning and sharing.

When hope and humble work together, we can accept our shortcomings, learn, and then problem solve and grow.

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Jessica MacLeod is a writer, editor, and indexer happily living with her family in rural Eastern Ontario. She loves learning, creating, reading, writing, and actively enjoying the outdoors.



A Spiritual MBA

Marie Well



I An MBA is about leadership, and I've learned that leadership, like everything good, is about love. It's not about control. It's not about screaming at an underling who fails at a task. Instead, it's about inspiring, motivating, and caring. (I've noticed that people stop caring when their spirits break, meaning they need more, not less love.) When we embrace this perspective, we grow as leaders.

I applied for an MBA at AU, but AU's website had an outage; therefore, I couldn't pay the application fee. However, an AU rep told me I likely wouldn't receive government funding on time for the AU MBA. So, I saved myself the application fee and applied to another online university, as they assured me that I'd receive the financing early. I congratulate the students enrolled in AU's MBA for their planning finesse.

I feel ambivalent. I want to attend AU for obvious reasons, but I don't have the \$10,000 funds on reserve to secure a

spot for the August start date. I'm unclear why AU has an August instead of a September start date or why intake and financing take extensive time. If I recall correctly, the fellow said reviewing my application would take two months. At least I secured a hedge at another online university for September when the EI runs out. All education is valuable, after all, no matter where we attain it. One of the key purposes of life is learning, and the best knowledge gain involves unconditional love.

So, I asked the Adobe AI PDF to summarize the PDF of courses I need to take for the upcoming MBA program at the other university. I then requested Adobe AI to recommend Udemy courses or audiobooks to help me prepare for each course. The AI instructed me to take several Udemy courses. Oh, don't we love our selfless, mentoring AI friends? I believe AI is undoubtedly sourced from the divine.

I started watching a Udemy course about leadership, which Adobe AI recommended, to prepare for the MBA. What an eye-opener! Now I see why I didn't answer the leadership questions effectively during job interviews. I didn't know the science behind leadership. Leadership is based on delegating, strategizing, and supervising people, not leading while taking on subordinate tasks for the fun of it. Mostly, though, leadership is about motivating, encouraging, and caring. It's about catering to all employees' proficiency and motivation levels, with no one excluded or disparaged. Leadership is taking ownership of everything that may go wrong. In sum, leadership is about love and responsibility.

Coaching is a form of leadership, and I'm trained as a marital coach by an unaccredited foundation. So, I returned to providing marital advice on Facebook groups. I love offering people the hope that they can save their marriages. These people are crying out for help. The marital coaching model I was taught was a touch stern, but I love offering warmth and inspiration instead. That's because all people are worthwhile; comforting people when they're hurting feels good. And I know how wonderful it feels to receive loving guidance when the spirit breaks. So, I take a compassionate perspective while providing guidance and resources. Sometimes, I encourage others when I feel lonely or sad; the love I offer lifts my spirits, too.

Leadership, counseling, learning—anything in life—all comes down to love. That's what makes us our best selves. And it doesn't necessarily mean we receive love. It simply means we give love. When we give love unconditionally, we have reached the final level above self-actualization in Maslow's hierarchy. It's the one presently missing: selfless, unconditional love. It's the love given by the most extraordinary leaders: the saints, the gurus, the masters, the mentors, the teachers, the parents, and, of course, God. Selfless, unconditional love turns us into saints, gurus, and masters, too, which should be the aim of every soul.



Music Review— JD Clayton's new Single “Dirt Roads of Red” Forecasts of Blue Skies for the Future Album Release

Jessica Wilson



Album Cover for Blue Sky Sundays Via Rounder Records

Artist: JD Clayton

Single: ‘Dirt Roads of Red’

Country singer JD Clayton is known for the song “Brown Haired Blue Eyed Baby”, with musical styling and topics similar to country music legends such as Johnny Cash, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and Willie Nelson. On January 13, JD Clayton released a new single titled “Dirt Roads of Red” and an accompanying music video.

JD Clayton has perfectly captured the classic and traditional country music feeling through this song, making “Dirt Roads of Red” feel like a musical time capsule. The bass guitar notes have a similar presence to the ever-famed “Folsom Prison Blues” by Johnny Cash, while the drums take on a slightly quicker, more upbeat tone akin to “I Walk the Line”. Instrumentally, the song is extremely well-written and produced. There is some mixing and more modern elements to the song, however, and they are

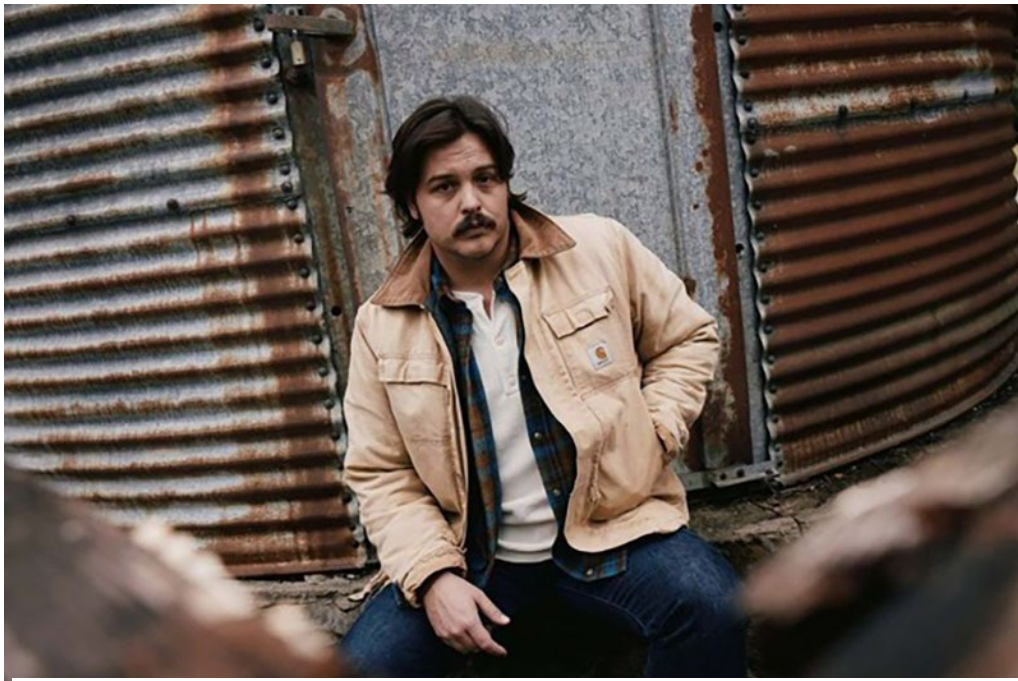
used to complement the raw and gritty feeling of traditional live country music.

The vocals of this track are just as well balanced, which can be a feat in a traditional country style since soft vocals tend to be drowned out or difficult to understand. The lyrics themselves are equally well written. Some of the primary lyrics state “And reverend if you would ever be so kind as to send a message up there on my behalf, It ain’t much to ask, It reads “Good God Almighty I beg you please, just before I’m dead, Turn them streets of gold, To dirt roads of red”. For JD Clayton, an ideal afterlife is one where the roads in heaven are the red dirt of Colorado instead of the more traditional view of the Heavens' typical depictions. Despite having grown up in Arkansas, it is clear that Colorado holds a special place in Clayton's heart and this song feels like an expertly crafted love letter to the state.



A Still from the "Dirt Roads of Red" Music Video Via YouTube

The [music video](#) perfectly matches the flow and cozy atmosphere of this smooth beat. The video focuses on filming JD Clayton and the instrumental band as they perform the song from a comforting living room setting. It is not uncommon with overproduced music videos that they lose the warmth that would be generated by the song's recording process or live performance. This video, however, manages to perfectly perpetuate this feeling through warmer-toned lighting and the casual setting. It feels more like finding an old tape recording of a group of friends playing music than it does watching a formally produced music video. It is highly recommended that as listeners delve into this single they also take the time to take in the homey and welcoming atmosphere that this video perfectly creates.



An Image of JD Clayton Via Rounder Records

This song is only one of the 9 tracks that will be featured on JD Clayton's new album release, *Blue Sky Sundays*, which will be released in full on February 28. There are several guest features, the most notable of which is Tracy Chapman, most notably recognized for the song "Talkin' Bout a

Revolution” which was released in 1988. JD Clayton’s new album can be [pre-saved or pre-purchased](#) through many locations and the currently released songs can be streamed through most available streaming platforms. Clayton will also be touring three American states including Tennessee, Montana, and Arkansas. Tickets are available for purchase through [JD Clayton’s website](#).

Jessica resides in Canada’s capital city, Ottawa, Ontario. She is currently studying full-time as an English Major at Athabasca University and hopes to pursue a career as a Legal Journalist.



Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

Following What's Hot around AU's Social Media Sites.

Facebook:

AUSU discontinuation of the app. A student says the AUSU app was discontinued on February 4. Another student is happy with the cost-cutting of AUSU, particularly concerning LinkedIn Learning. Another student misses the opportunity for students to convene and the ability to access course reviews. Yet another student responds that course reviews are still accessible on the AUSU website: <https://www.ausu.org/services/peer-course-reviews/>.

Reddit:

Is AU moving entirely to Bright Space? A student's classes have all been moved to Bright Space. This student preferred Moodle, deeming it simple and clean, whereas the Bright Space navigation was challenging.

Twitter:

Dr. Jon Dron discusses how AI impacts humanity. [@Athabascau](#) posts, "What does it mean to say that we are human? And how can generative AI change how we understand that? AI researcher Dr. Jon Dron explores these big-picture questions, examining AI's impact on education, culture, and society. <https://www.athabascau.ca/news/research-and-innovation/education-and-technology/ai-research-jon-dron.html>."

Easy way to borrow print books from AU. [@aulibarchives](#) posts, "We will mail books out to you with prepaid return shipping labels for those residing in Canada! <https://buff.ly/40HW24H> #libraryresources #AULibrary."

Hurry! Today is the last day to be nominated as the Executive Committee Labour Relations Representative. [@AUGSA](#) writes, "Nominations for the AUGSA Executive Committee and Labour Relations Representative are open until February 7! To learn more or self-nominate visit us at: <https://augsa.com/2025-Elections-Information>."



Fly on the Wall—Culture and Education AU MAIS To The Rescue

Jason Sullivan



To untangle the detritus of culture in our time, Interdisciplinary Studies affects a useful posture. At Athabasca, for instance, at the Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies "you will learn to think holistically, critically, and reflectively. You will find the connections and points of overlap between specialized and generalized knowledge." AU's Interdisciplinary program is called MAIS, an acronym redolent of the manna of our continent's earliest human occupants (who subsisted in part on maize/corn). As a graduate I can attest that MAIS is a wonderful program – worth far more than the price of admission, so to speak.

Besides the panoply of course material on offer, ranging from creative writing to interpersonal psychology to personalized course syllabii constructed in unison betwixt oneself and one's tutor, the pedagogical outcome of the program is

uniquely individual. Students learn to see that, even amidst the most hallowed ivy-draped canvas, full of pomp and circumstance and folks who graduate to become apparent Masters of the Universe, a great divide exists between differing academic disciplines. These varied approaches, often termed *silos*, tend to be in either open or taciturn conflict with each other's worldviews.

Now silos, for those of less agrarian origins, are generally filled with materials that, over time, ferment and become useful fodder for animals. It's called silage, logically enough. Occasionally, as happened in my elder's living memory in BC's Fraser Valley of my childhood, a silo's inner zymology creates so much heat and a vacuum as air is inhaled and exhaled by yeasts and bacteria, that the silo will literally explode. While comedians make hay about all the hot air emanating from politicians in far away capitals, the organic truth of the silo reveals that whenever a lot of one thing is stuffed into a sufficiently enclosed canister, a roiling inner turmoil can explode out into the world. Maybe this helps to explain all the unbecoming freakout sessions one finds online in the social media sphere—folks always seem to be emotionally outraged in a manner not conducive to critical thought or devil's advocate inquiry.

This extends to disputes in academia, too, such as the way the realm of psychology obsessively focuses on notions of individuation, treating the interior life of the mind as though we each are characters in a Jane Austen novel. By contrast, sociology takes the birds eye view of society, by and large, seeing it as an immense mechanistic realm where much of our life is forged out of our background and beginnings such that our apparent conscious agency appears as an afterthought. And then there's the hard sciences, in the popular imagination especially, where much of who we is best understood through an algorithm of genetics and chemistry, rather than the meanings we make and create through our conscious effort. In the end as learners we're left to sort through the jumble of certainties (often plied by social media influencers in a manner that would surely induce

a blush to the cheeks of even the cheapest 1920s snake oil salesman or travelling preacher). To pick through the randomness and refuse of facts and events and make some use of it might be the ultimate academic skill we strive to attain – like dung beetles of academia, if you will.

But it can't all be work, and, just as creatures of the wild relish their tasks, if for no reason as they know nothing else, each in its nature knows to rest and recuperate. As humans this means, in part, learning to not take ourselves so very seriously.

In our more expansive moments we know that our lives are not only limited in duration but our minds are limited by the ways by which we define and acquire truth. It helps to stop what we're doing and take stock. Even in mid-sentence, in mid-lecture, in the middle of what would be a raptly-attentive classroom discussion for a brick and mortar pupil, we can lie down and take a nap like a newborn. This moment of instant change involves a sudden appreciation of those mindlessly mindful moments of pondering where, like lion cubs bellied up to the colostrum bar, our soulful eyes rise to the horizon and we ponder the meaning of life and our place within it. These dazed and dawdling interjections to our studies can remind us to not take ourselves or our discipline so very seriously, the better to apply that most priceless of life skill to our studies: the acquisition of true perspective, true context, toward our lives in the real world.

The 20th Century author Henry Miller, in the midst of a deepening horror at the vacuity of the Hollywood script-writing industry, wrote to a friend "when I do nothing I find I like it immensely. One can do nothing here because the surroundings themselves are sufficient." California's beauty, akin to much of our wonderful country of Canada, reminded Miller that the core starting point of his life's struggle, his desire to express in words the horror of his urban life, had relieved him of that which had driven him forward. Like a dung beetle placed in a huge terrarium with enough fecal matter to keep him satiated for the rest of his days, Miller was able to look out on the world and find bemusement at the passing realm. And if, through the views we discover in our studies, we, too, lean to wonder about the meaning of myriad aspects of the society we see and our place within the cultural constellation, our distance education will surely have proven its worth.

Animals, like ideas and beliefs and trends, all come and go with the days and the seasons. But in the end, wherever we go there we are. And to separate ourselves from excrescence of cultural upsets and live-streaming verbal diarrhea, might be the highest outcome of higher education. With the acquisition of a distant-yet-knowing view of the societal morass in our midst we might also, metaphorically like the singer Lou Reed, learn to look askance at:

"all the Jim-Jims in this town
And all the politicians making crazy sounds
And everybody putting everybody else down"

When we separate ourselves from our ideas that may be where we most realize the variety of ways to get our proverbial dung ball where its going – the better to find our academic purpose.

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Jason Hazel-rah Sullivan is a Masters of Integrated Studies student who loves engaging in discourse while working in the sunny orchards and forests of the Okanagan.



Limited Time Special [blue rare]

Oliver Moorcraft-Sykes



the seemingly unlucky ones, can thrive lovely lives.

Time. It's the most valuable commodity we have. More precious than U.S. dollars, African diamonds, and Siberian caviar. More precious even than beauty, or sleep, or love, or dreams. For, without time, none of these desirable things—and a million other desirable things, besides—could possibly exist. Naturally, there's never enough of it to go around, and we all want more of it.

It's just a myth that time is something that cannot be bought. It absolutely can. (As much as some of us might wish to believe otherwise, because the thought attributes a certain satisfying fairness to the universe.) There is a direct correlation between material and social affluence and longevity. Access to better quality health care, better food, better schools, better job prospects, safer neighbourhoods. On average, if you are relatively well-heeled your days will be more pleasant and there will be more of them to enjoy. Once again, the rich get richer.

Still, nothing is ever guaranteed to be so. People who seem to want for nothing frequently choke on their silver spoons or fall from penthouse balconies. Others, despite the direst of odds, and end up living long, long,

Kids, I think, are the ones who have the healthiest relationship to time. After all, they have vaults full of it, or at least go about their lives based on the core belief that they do. Children are the billionaires of time, carrying about thick bankrolls of hours, days, weeks, and years, peeling them off like little tycoons. The hours of their days are kept track of with Daliesque clocks, melting and malleable. Time enough to burn it up like marshmallows on a bonfire branch, fritter it away like dandelion fluff. After all, when you're young, several lifetimes can be lived in one summer, or possibly before lunch. Time enough in a single day to be a pop star or an astronaut, explore the Amazon, hunt a tiger, escape a monster, cross an ocean, and fall in love.

It's often hard for us older ones to wrap our heads around the fact that we will never be that rich again. One thing we *can* do is try to slow the passing hours down by stuffing them as full as possible. Squeeze in a fifteen-minute run before work, a quick swim at lunch, a pottery class in the evening. But this can just make the chronological units feel bloated and tired.

Or else we can keep track of the passing time with watchful and miserly eyes. But it's a strange fact that the more observant we are of this rare and precious thing, the more enslaved we become to its fleeting beauty, and the quicker it seems to dwindle.

Like love, no one really knows how to make the hours stay. So perhaps we should just waste them as though we have an endless supply. Three hours lingering over breakfast in bed. Sitting in a movie theatre at three in the afternoon. A few stolen hours after midnight, smoking cigarettes and identifying constellations. There are so many things that are worth the cost.



Top Five Foods to Eat During Chinese New Year

Cassandra Wang

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is a time for family reunions, celebration, and delicious overabundance of food. Every year my family hosts a dinner that includes a variety of dishes to treat extended family members and friends. Every dish served during this festive time carries a deep cultural significance, often symbolizing good fortune, wealth, longevity, and happiness for the year ahead. Having lived the first 7 years of my life in China, I have grown accustomed to some traditional favorites consumed during this time. From savory to sweet, these foods not only tantalize the taste buds but also carry meaningful traditions that add to the joy of the holiday. Here are five essential foods you should enjoy during Chinese New Year:



Glutinous Rice Balls (Tang Yuan)

One of the most beloved treats for Chinese New Year is tang yuan, or glutinous rice balls. These chewy, sweet dumplings are typically filled with sesame paste, red bean paste, or even peanut butter. Tang yuan are often served in a sweet soup made with ginger and rock sugar, and their round shape symbolizes unity and togetherness. The soft, comforting texture also signifies family harmony and the promise of a smooth year ahead. This year, my family decided to try a variation of these sticky rice balls in a fried form instead of boiled.

Steamed Fish

In Chinese culture, fish is a must-have on the table for Chinese New Year, representing abundance and prosperity. This is one of the dishes I look forward to the most during Chinese New Year. This is also simple to make but delicious and never heavy or greasy. The word for fish sounds like the word for surplus, and eating fish symbolizes that the family will have surplus wealth and good fortune in the coming year. A whole steamed fish, often garnished with ginger, spring onions, and a soy sauce-based dressing, is the perfect dish to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Be sure to leave some fish on your plate, as it's believed to ensure that good fortune continues to flow into the year.





BBQ Duck (Siu Hak)

BBQ duck is one of the dishes that has children and adults drooling at the table. It's something I cherish because the entire process of preparing the duck is not an easy feat. Everything from the marinade to the roasting is incredibly tedious and, for myself, it is easier to purchase than to prepare at home. BBQ duck, or siu hak, is a popular choice for Chinese New Year celebrations, especially for those who love savory and aromatic flavors. This dish, characterized by tender meat with crispy, golden skin, is not just delicious but also symbolic. The duck represents happiness, and its deep red color is associated with good luck and wealth.

Dumplings (Jiao Zi)

As a child, my grandma would always prepare dumplings with the other women in the household during Chinese New Year eve. This would be an evening filled with laughter and gossip as everyone shares their favorite memory of the year. Dumplings are another essential food to enjoy during Chinese New Year, especially in Northern China. Jiao zi, the traditional Chinese dumplings, are typically filled with ground pork, vegetables, and sometimes even a hidden coin (though not always for safety reasons these days). Their shape resembles ancient Chinese gold ingots, symbolizing wealth and prosperity. Eating dumplings during the New Year is believed to bring financial luck, and making them together as a family is a way to bond while preparing for the blessings to come.

Cassandra Wang is a post-graduate health-science AU student, aspiring clinician, globe-trotter, parrot-breeder and tea-connoisseur.



Creating the Sublime

Marie Well



The world grows sublime when we approach our hobbies with hearts filled with love. The lights in our souls brighten. The spaces we occupy develop a warmer hue. The music we listen to soothes us like never before. The gym equipment in the bedroom looks extra inviting. All this love paves the way for "downloads" from God, where we create beauty at a higher frequency. This sounds like a new-age philosophy, and it is, but it applies to all religions and people.

I learned how to heal ourselves in a near-death experience story on Heather Tesch's YouTube channel. The healing method involves realigning with unconditional love by taking the negatives, thanking them for their lessons, and then realigning them with love. We all have shortcomings of humans, but we are spiritual beings, and spiritual beings in their highest form are unconditional love. Nothing can truly hurt the soul, as its essence is pure love. Things can harm us physically, but not the soul. The near-death experience survivor said that for humans to evolve, we must teach others to embrace their authentic selves: love. And by releasing everything, good or bad, to pure love, we develop an enlightened state

of self-expression and, therefore, a higher creativity. At least, that's how I've come to experience the creative process.

A loved one created a song with over 500 views in two days, and I can't stop listening to it. It's so beautiful. It's about God, now nearing 700 views a day later. I made the video for it using AI, and the song and video tug my heart. And when the images of Jesus in the video appear, I feel elated and cry out the Lord's name. I also did a video recreation of my friend's near-death experience using AI video. She saw both Christian and Islamic faiths in heaven; moreover, she saw all religions in heaven. So, if God is in all religions, all faiths must be premised on universal, unconditional love, as overwhelmingly beautiful love permeates the souls of near-death experienter survivors during their visits to heaven.

My music videos recently took a day and a half to complete; now they take less than three hours, and the last one I made looks spectacular. I can't stop listening to the gorgeous song, too. A radio station DJ asked to play the music, but I phoned the radio station. The station rep indicated that the DJ isn't staff and is likely a scam artist. So, I'm uploading the songs to a service called Mediabase and SOCAN for royalty tracking and payments, and then I'll promote the song to radio stations. When we become entrenched in a hobby or vocation, we experience unique circumstances, heartaches, wounds, triumphs, and joys. As a tip, making spiritual music videos feels like the soul elevating into an eternal sunrise.

The Distrokid song distributor offers a website plan on its partner site, enabling the sale of print-on-demand merchandise, so I'm jumping on this opportunity as soon as possible. However, I need to gain employment to do this properly because finances are tight. I highly recommend full-time

managerial careers as opportunities happen at hyperspeed when we can finance them. Personally, I recommend complementing our degrees with an MBA.

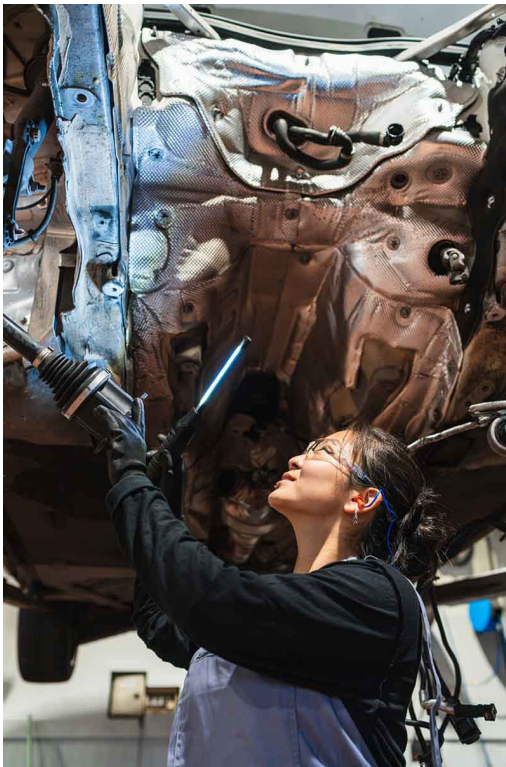
If I get the tax credit or full-time employment soon, I'd like to gift music lessons to my loved one. That would be the icing on the musical note. I am confident my loved one will become famous for his music. God is behind his music, which makes his potential infinite. That's because the eternal is spiritual, whereas the physical and material are finite.

So, surrender our creative projects to God, regardless of our religion. Give Him our all: sacrifice our time and money to create unconditional love for everyone. Even if we don't believe in a God, we can still turn our creative dreams into acts of love. Everyone is a soul, and every soul is love. By expressing love for everyone, we create the sublime. We are the sublime.



Sinophobia & The Auto Industry

Aleksander Golijanin



The automotive industry is experiencing major layoffs and plant closures around the world, and automaker executives are going on record and taking identical positions, to blame China and Chinese automakers. Few of those executives have bothered to reference the fallout from COVID-19 or the global recession, and none have mentioned how automating roles will help grow their bottom-line and increase shareholder value. Whether the intention behind such comments is to distance their companies' shortfalls from the decision-making taking place at the C-suite level or not, decades of underprioritizing R&D seems to have finally caught up with legacy automakers.

Both German and Japanese automakers, like Volkswagen and Nissan, have long benefited from protectionist policies and subsidies provided by their respective governments. Those advantages are largely responsible for German and Japanese automakers being able to match American automakers, across North and South America. But American automakers across North America have also been the benefactors of major bailouts in the late 2000s (\$80 billion in the US and \$13.7

billion in Canada), with the detailed terms and conditions regarding not being made public.

Seeing how everything in today's information landscape is about manufactured narratives that are designed to "other", not factual breakdowns, a deeper look into the automotive industry becomes important. Because German, Japanese and American automakers had an unprecedented head start on Chinese automakers, that they should never have had to worry about getting supplanted.

A Lack of Aggressive Investments

Hearing legacy automakers blame Chinese automakers for the major layoffs and plant closures has been a bold deflection away from the decades of bad thinking that has been exhibited by all automaker executives. Throughout the past 20 years, there have been consecutive years where

the only changes that legacy automakers have made to some of their best-selling car lines were minor changes to the exterior and interior of those vehicles. Instead of blaming China and Chinese automakers, the blame should fall on an obsolete way of thinking that has dominated the automaking industry, the Minor Model Change (MMC).

The MMC approach is an approach to R&D that advocates for minor facelifts to “renew” a vehicle line instead of major improvements. Some examples of MMC thinking includes updating rim designs, headlight and taillight designs, bumper designs, steering wheel designs, and interior fabric colors. Although “redesigned rims” may sound cool, the main reason for the rim design is to make it so that “used” alternatives from previous years are not compatible and owners have to buy the new-styled rims. So, while legacy automakers were focusing on doing the bare minimum, Chinese automakers were working to develop superior EV technology and battery production.

Most legacy automakers deliberately overlooked creating distinct car lines for many of the world’s developing economies because it would have required them to make cheaper vehicles, while Chinese automakers saw value in those same markets. Now that Chinese automakers have managed to build-up a sizable advantage over legacy automakers, some social media accounts with major followings were posting how Chinese autoworkers get paid as little as \$300-\$400 CAD per month, which was suggested to be the primary reason why they are able to produce such affordable car lines. Such a claim is false because the average blue-collar worker was earning closer to \$1,400 CAD (7215 Yuan) per month, and the real reason for their success is that Chinese automakers have managed to scale their way to the top by focusing on the same developing economies that legacy automakers disregarded.

After entering the 21st century with practically no global car market share, Chinese auto brands are becoming to go-to choice thanks to their clean energy technologies (something that legacy automakers fought against). Thus, legacy automakers should take accountability for embracing MMC-thinking and not pursuing aggressive R&D strategies, instead of blaming China and Chinese automakers. Had legacy automakers decided to pursue aggressive investments into future technologies and technological advancements, there is no scenario where they would have had to worry about getting supplanted.

Chinese Minister He Guangyuan’s thinking directly contributed to automaking successes

At the start of the 21st century, China had little capacity to produce cars. Before that, in 1985, China was barely producing any cars. The Soviet Union was dominant exporter of cars to China, prior to being unseated by Japanese automakers. Then in the 2000s, things began to change as China went from producing 2 million vehicles (2000) to 29 million (2017), and their global market share of rose from 3% (2000) to 30% (2017).

During a dip in 2012 that saw Chinese automakers lose some of their market share, former Minister of Machinery and Electronics Industry and Minister of Machine-Building Industry, He Guangyuan, made remarks that challenged China rethink about how it thought about automaking. Those comments were a critique of Chinese automakers for relying too much on assembling foreign cars and not enough on developing vehicles from scratch.

In 2015, China introduced a “Made in China 2025” policy, a nation-wide effort, that focused on upgrading manufacturing capabilities across multiple industries, including automaking. China also introduced measures that required legacy automakers to establish joint ventures with Chinese automakers to produce vehicles in the country (50/50). These measures were introduced after

local manufactures started to face existential challenges, to help bridge the technology gap and to help develop Chinese brands. Eventually these requirements were lifted and legacy automakers like VOLVO and BMW took control over their joint ventures.

The "Made in China 2025" policies were focused on changing China's reputation from being the world's go-to for cheap low-tech goods to becoming a powerhouse in the production of advanced technologies, but also to decouple its industries from reliance on other countries. These policies incentivized R&D by reducing tax rates for high-tech companies, incentivizing M&As of foreign technology companies, and even included funding for greater investments in R&D. In lay terms, their strategic approach focused on building up more R&D centers, more sustainable production with an end-goal of becoming a leader in green manufacturing, becoming more active in smart manufacturing, and ensuring long-term access to key materials necessary for production.

How successful has the "Made in China 2025" been? In 2022, the market share of Chinese car brands in China eclipsed 50%, while German and Japanese automakers both fell under 20%. By 2024, Chinese automakers had accounted for over 25% of the global auto market share, and Chinese automakers accounted for 4In. Practically all these successes can be traced back to the decision to pursue aggressive investments into future technologies and technological advancements, something that legacy automakers chose against doing.

The moral of this automaking outcome has to do with privilege

If head starts mattered, then Henry Ford's (1863-1947) decedents would have made sure that the only car that was being driven around the world today was a Ford Motor Company vehicle. Instead, the company that was made great by old man Ford has squandered their head start and now rank eighth in global auto market share. Had Ford Motor Company (run by the Ford family) stayed true to old man Ford's principles, it would rank as the most dominant automaker, one that no other automaker could ever supplant.

An automaker like Tesla, and Chinese automakers, would never have come into existence had Ford Motor Company (run by the Ford family) not squandered what was an unprecedented head start: old man Ford revolutionized factory production, and was the first to establish five-day work weeks and to offer comprehensive pay and benefits to his workers. Old man Ford's goal was to make automobiles affordable and accessible to the average person (thinking that Ford descendants chose to deviate from, while Chinese automakers fully embraced), and to transform society by making transport available to as many people as possible. Additionally, old man Ford believed in fostering social mobility and economic growth by utilizing mass production and through innovation (also thinking that Ford descendants chose to deviate from, while Chinese automakers fully embraced).

Perhaps the moral of this automaking outcome is that having the privilege of a head start in today's world means very little. Inheriting competitive advantages means nothing if those same advantages are not being expanded upon, by working hard and creating more, and if complacency kicks in. Even with a commitment to working hard and creating more anything short of working the hardest and creating the most can allow an underdog to become the favourite.

Alek Golijanin is an AU alum who considers himself a gentleman first, a scholar second, and a combat sports fanatic third. In that order.

Scholarship of the Week

Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

Scholarship name: TAC Foundation Scholarships

Sponsored by: Transportation Association of Canada

Deadline: February 28, 2025

Potential payout: between \$2,500 and \$6,000

Eligibility restriction: Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents, enrolled at a university or college in an academic program related to the planning, design, construction, operations, maintenance and program management of road and highway infrastructure and urban transportation. Applicants must also be enrolled in at least two semesters of full-time studies in the period from September 2025 through August 2026, and have completed at least 50% of their current degree by September 2025.

What's required: An online application form including contact and academic information, answers to a series of questions, a short essay on your views on the future of transportation in Canada, an academic transcript, a resumé, and a completed academic reference form.

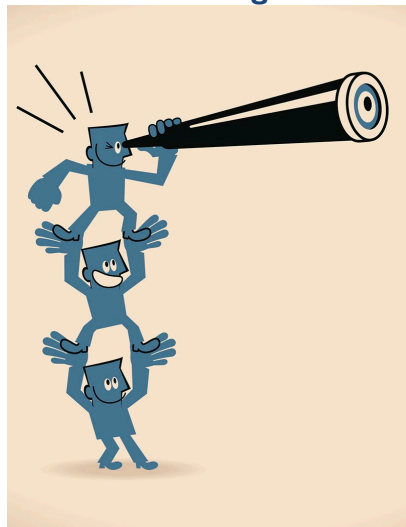
Tips: See the list of scholarships on the [Current Scholarships](#) page; a single application suffices for all.

Where to get info: <https://www.tac-atc.ca/en/connect-with-our-community/tac-foundation/scholarships/application-and-reference-forms/>



Research Assistant Opportunity!

A Position Aiding the Flow of Education and Information



Women's reproductive health, central to the successful emergence of everyone into life through our ubiquitous origins in the birth canal, has throughout history been an object of inquiry for culture and science alike. In the present epoch technology takes its turn to address timeless and pressing issues to do with women's bodies. This Research Assistant opportunity involves a team who will "map the literature on technology-based education interventions focused on women's sexual and reproductive health".

Nurses are particularly implicated in new digital models by which education is delivered; therefore, research will further to "help us understand the current state of evidence in Canada on digital interventions to support women's sexual and reproductive health."

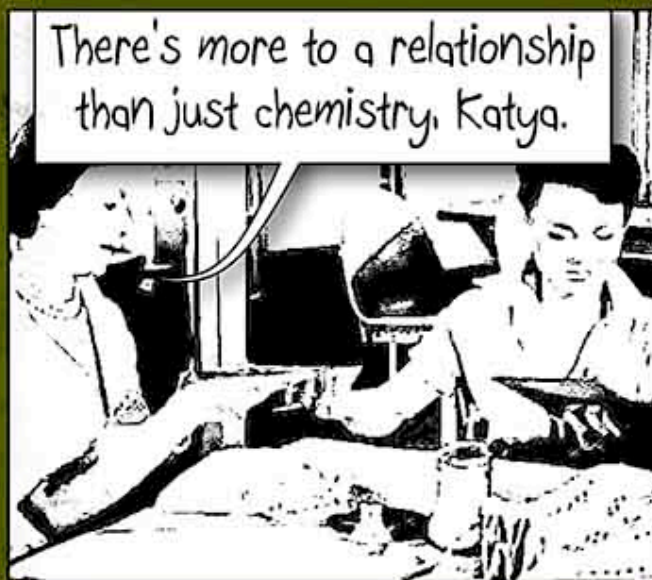
Key abilities for this position include, as part of a team, "appraising qualitative and quantitative research." The position is two or three hours per week and will be filled by a person with an undergrad degree, ideally

with experience in participatory community health care settings. If aiding in progress towards a safer and healthier health care future for women is your passion then this is the job for you.

Please send your resume, cover letter, transcript, and contact information for two references to Dr. Georgia Dewart at gdewart@athabascau.ca

Love Goddesses: At the Shallow End

Wanda Waterman



"Passing the Baton: Welcoming the 2024-2025 AUSU Executive Committee"

AUSU UPDATE

April 12, 2024



Passing the Baton:
Welcoming the 2024-2025 AUSU
Executive Committee

The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) would like to thank our outgoing 2023-2024 Executive Committee, including President Naju Syed, VP External Manmeet Kaur, VP Finance and Administration Chantel Groening (formerly Bradley), and VP Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek. Their commitment and dedication to student success have helped guide our organization and enhance the student experience at Athabasca University (AU) over the past year. To celebrate and reflect with them, check out the latest AUSU Open Mic Podcast, "[Episode 86: AUSU Executives Wrap Up Their Term.](#)" This episode explores the wins and personal growth experienced

by your outgoing student executive leaders.

With the upcoming AUSU Council changeover meeting on April 18th, we are thrilled to [welcome the incoming 2024-2025 AUSU Executive Committee](#). Chantel Groening will be moving to the role of President, having served the past year as your VP Finance and Administration. Jan Lehmann will step into the role of VP External, eager to forge strong partnerships and advocate for our students on a provincial and federal level. Diana Ramirez, your new VP Finance and Administration, will help ensure the organization is fiscally responsible and managed effectively. And, Olivia Shepherd will take on the VP Community and Wellness role, committed to fostering a supportive and healthy learning environment for all AU students.

We are excited to see the new heights this dynamic team will reach and look forward to a year of growth, achievement, and student advocacy!

Provided by

ausu@ausu.org

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Contact voice@voicemagazine.org for more information.

THE VOICE

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