

# WEAK SIGNALS

HUSBANDS, BOTNETS, RICH +  
POOR, GERMAN DOGS, STONED  
EYES, I.C.E., DECADENT  
DECLINE, FACELESS BRAND  
ACCOUNTS, SOCIOTECHNICAL  
VULNERABILITIES, FARMERS  
MARKETS, OUTRAGE, EXTREME  
LIBERTARIANS, TROUBLED  
CHILDHOODS, EXTINCTION.

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HARDER (2020)

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MODELS											
<u>RAND</u>											
<u>Her.</u> film											
<u>Black Mirror</u> (Episode X), TV											
POLARISATION											
Small	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Extreme
LEFT VS RIGHT											
Left	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Right
AUTHORITARIAN VS LIBERTARIAN											
Aut.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Lib.
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM											
Lib.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Ext.
COLLECTIVISM VS CAPITALISM											
Col.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Cap.

## SUMMARY

The political landscape seemed to have moved faster than anyone could have expected, after Trump's presidency the political landscape became even more polarised as centralist republicans and democrats quickly migrated to the extremes of their parties. These tension existed until a decision to dissolve the federal government and replace it will the American statewide trade and citizen pact of 2031. In this agreement each American may assign themselves to a state, which each offer an alternative citizen package, a mix of tax rates and government aid. Although many thought this move

would allow for the development of both progressive and conservative states the general trend has been to the right, as companies coordinate across state lines to assert their will.

## ECONOMICS

WEALTH INEQUALITY

Small	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	<u>10</u>	Extreme
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WEALTH GROWTH

Small	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<u>8</u>	9	10	Extreme
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WAGE GROWTH

Small	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	<u>8</u>	9	10	Extreme
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## SUMMARY

The wealth gap has increased even further as automation has hit white as well as blue collar jobs. Although some attempts have been made to redistribute these savings made they have been ultimately poultry, pushing more of the middle class into poverty, whilst putting what social support there was under even more pressure.

## SOCIAL

				SOCIAL TENSION						
1	2	3	4	5	6	<u>7</u>	8	9	10	
				NATIONALISM VS INTERNATIONAL						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<u>9</u>	10	
				FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Data co-operatives have disintermediated the old social media platforms by enabling users to collectively bargain directly with advertisers to monetize their aggregated data. (Facebook has basically become an enterprise KYC solution.)

One of the most interesting horizons in this shift towards data unionization is in healthcare. Open-source gene-editing and the transformation of the healthcare space through data-led prevention (rather than costly treatment) has turned health

into a low-marginal cost service for which every single human is continually generating data. And since anyone can provide useful health data, irrespective of their economic background, the best global health services are equally accessible to everyone, everywhere.

This explosion in planetary-scale computation has been fuelled by nuclear fusion which has ended the struggle over scarce resources - and the disease, war, and poverty - that characterized the capitalist era.

- Christopher Kulendran Thomas

Data co-operatives have disintermediated the old social media platforms by enabling users to collectively bargain directly with advertisers to monetize their aggregated data. These new data monopolies have divided the world the way that military alliances once did - but now into transnational data-trading blocks.

Across all three of these divergent imperial technology stacks – Chinese, Atlantic and Russian – universal healthcare has become a cornerstone of the new social contract. Open-source gene-editing and the transformation of the healthcare space

through data-led prevention (rather than costly treatment) has turned health into a low-marginal cost service for which every connected citizen continually generates data. Those who make a valuable contribution to community life are rewarded / incentivized with longevity, while the risks of unhealthy behaviour are individualized.

This explosion in planetary-scale computation has been fuelled by nuclear fusion which has ended the struggle over physical resources. Now data is the geopolitical battleground and health is the currency.

— Annika Kuhlmann

## HEDONISTIC

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<u>9</u>	10		
				URBAN	RURAL	DIVIDE					
Rural	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Urban

## IDENTITY TRAD

RURAL											
Ide.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tra.
URBAN											
Ide.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Tra.
RACIAL TENSIONS											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	<u>9</u>		10	
SEX INEQUALITY											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	

## TECHNOLOGY

In which fields have the major breakthroughs been made:

- \_Platform design
- \_A.I.
- \_Energy
- \_Pharma
- \_Carbon
- \_Processing

## HEALTH

HEALTH BREAKTHROUGH											
Small	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Extreme

  

DISEASE GROWTH											
Small	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Extreme

## TERRORISM

THREAT LEVEL

Small 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Extreme

## MAIN GROUPS

	1	2
Jihad		
<u>RAD LEFT</u>		
<u>RAD RIGHT</u>		
Environmental		
Other		

Our lungs need oxygen, but that is only a fraction of what we breathe. The fraction of carbon dioxide is growing: It just crossed 400 parts per million, and high-end estimates extrapolating from current trends suggest it will hit 1,000 ppm by 2100. At that concentration, compared to the air we breathe now, human cognitive ability declines by 21 percent.

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FICTION:

## PRECIPITATION

ZOE DUBNO

(\V\)(\)(\)(\)  
 \ / )(\)(\)(  
 VV )( )(\) my husband  
 returned to work after our honeymoon, and I was left alone to confront "the rest of my life," I had an identity crisis, the most fundamental and therefore humiliating crisis a person can endure. Though I'd always spent most of my time at home, through marriage I had become a "housewife," a phrase I had no association with due in large part to its linguistic inelegance. I sent my résumé to the private middle school near our Upper West Side apartment, where, though I'm a sculptor, I got a job substitute teaching seventh grade science.

In an experiment I oversaw, the students poured a steady stream of salt into water and watched as the crystals dissolved. Suddenly, when the water was tasked with holding more than it could contain, the mixture entered the "precipitation zone," and the salt sprung from the water as if from nowhere, falling to the bottom of the beaker in the dissolution of the mixture.

I quit teaching after two weeks.



## MIKE PEPI

- The lights were off and it seemed like no one was in the house, but the lab was windowless. I crept toward the addition to knock and see if anyone was inside. When I neared the steel door,

I was overcome by the smell of roses, as if I'd encountered a wall of freshly cut flowers; there was a light sweetness tempered by wet, mossy depth. The odor emanated intensely from nowhere, a pleasant assault, and I walked around the addition, searching vainly for the smell's source. Perhaps the husband's new project involved genetically mutating roses, and I thought about asking if he could help me produce orchids more resilient to improper watering since it pained me to watch people genocide the orchids I gave as gifts.

I gave up my attempts to enter the addition when it was finally dark, and I walked home accompanied by the suite's penultimate movement, "The Swan." The lingering rose scent paired with the cello left me swoony, and I swayed a bit, cradling my belly in my hands. At home, I was struck by how odorless everything seemed. I made a note to buy a tuberose candle from the boutique next to exercise class.

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{ } went to every lactation specialist in Manhattan. I also saw an old Swedish woman who massaged my nipples and said the milk would come on its own; a redhead who played a resonating bowl at a frequency said, by her, to induce lactation; and Chinatown acupuncturist. I also met briefly with a man who wore an orange and green striped tie that was so unnerving I left before I could discover his method.

The child, despite my every effort, would hardly eat. Occasionally, she accepted the bottle—not because she was

hungry, but because she'd learned that once she sucked down the liquid, the intrusion would be gone.

I imagined her disinterest in eating was a sign of gentility, but when she was six months old and still hardly growing, I worried there was something more structural to her self-abnegation than precociously inheriting her mother's disordered eating.

On my third trip to the Sag Harbor pediatrician, he agreed to check the baby for irregularities. After inconclusive scans and blood tests, the doctor said he had a wild idea and returned with a take-out box from the mediocre sushi place. He took out a piece of tuna sashimi and held it in front of the baby's face.

"Don't give her that," I said. "I'm raising her vegetarian."

The doctor waved a hand to dismiss me as the baby looked at the reddish sushi with an expression of beleaguered detachment. She was my spitting image.

The doctor then held a shred of translucent pickled ginger near her nose. She was unreactive to the astringent scent.

"Interesting," the doctor said.

I inhaled, a few times, and realized I couldn't actually smell the ginger and was only referencing a memory of its astringency. The doctor applied hand sanitizer, labeled "tropical breeze scented," and cupped his palms near the baby's head. She smiled with delight as the cloying smell of piña colada filled the room.

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{ } { } { } { } fifteen thousand rattle-snakes mutated to enhance their appetite for mice had cost East Hampton most of

its operating budget. In response, the town leveled a tax on dishwashing detergent. Ms. Massachusetts and her husband, enriched from the process, had erected a Calabasas-style bronze and glass mansion where the farmhouse once stood. Sometimes, she and I went to the diner with our children and ordered almond butter omelettes all around.

The inability to smell natural compounds hadn't ruined gardening for me, I was always more concerned with shaping hedges and preventing plant disease than I was with the smell of flowers. Plus, the tick-borne anosmia was selective, so I wasn't without my comforts. A hardwood floor freshly cleaned with lemon Pledge, the brace of my alpha-lipoic-acid facial toner, blue raspberry. Now that food was largely flavorless, I was able to fit into the wool Armani trousers I bought when I studied sculpture in Milan junior year. I did miss the subtle sweetness of beeswax as I sat in the living room molding the bust of John Adams.

"Whenever he is involved in political battles, he is yearning, yearning to be in the garden," his biographer said on NPR.

A man with beachfront property filed an official complaint because his children were unable to smell the sea air. He'd agreed not to pursue legal action against the town if the water was artificially scented, so we collected once again in the post office basement to vote on the scent for the ocean. My husband and I had finally bought our house, but, again, my opinion was disregarded. Everyone said it was spot on. To me, it smelled only like cheap hair conditioner.

That night, I dreamed a strawberry-banana rain fell over Long Island. ●

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