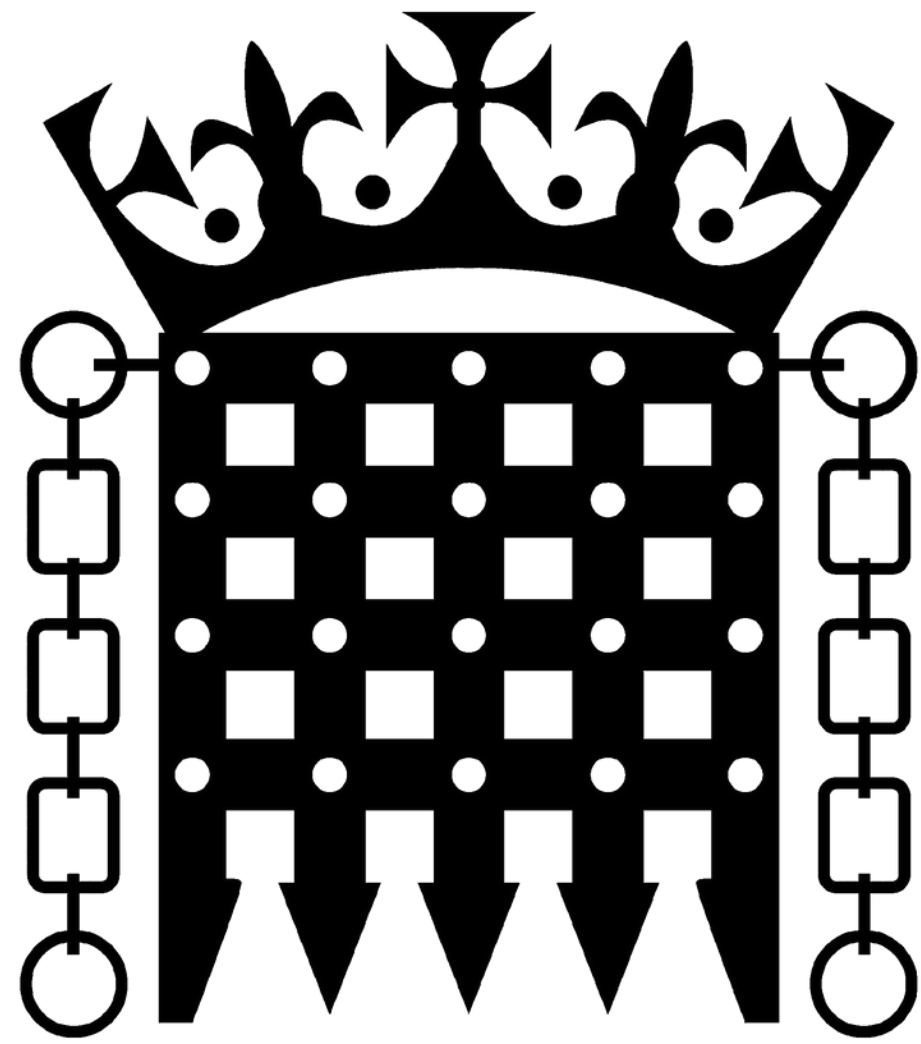




SPECIALIZED COUNCILS



British Parliament (BREXIT)

Should the UK (have) remain a member of the European Union?

Following the Copenhagen criteria, each EU country is required to abide by requirements in order to retain their membership in the EU: share the same rules of law, respect and protection of minorities, and influences on their market and economy. Hence, when Britain decided to exit the EU (BREXIT: Britain Exit), a lot of changes were to be expected in the UK. This included an economy no longer influenced, being dragged down or raised, by neighboring countries. This also meant that Britain will be able to establish their own law tailored to their needs. Exiting the EU meant big changes in the culture and traditions of Britain. The decision of exiting was taken by the UK parliament, which consisted of parties advocating for and against this decision. Hence, delegates will be divided into these parties to argue whether or not Britain should have existed, and whether the changes on the British culture and rule were positive or negative.



Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

Are 'pay drivers' ruining F1's reputation as a motorsport?

A 'pay driver' in motorsports is a driver who gets his seat in the sport through financial means. This can mean either paying a certain amount of money in order to drive for a particular period of time, or joining the team by bringing in a sponsor. Examples of this are common across the F1 including Sergio Pérez, Pastor Maldonado, Felipe Nasr, Sergey Sirotkin, Rio Haryanto, Nicolas Latifi and more. This ruins the sports for fans as they feel the F1 culture is betrayed by companies' financial motives. Contrarily, companies justify this by arguing how without the finance the sport will cease to exist. Hence, drivers will argue whether the FIA should restrict companies to take up such deals, or does it undermine the very values upholding the sport.

Did Strategy Ruin the F1 Culture?

This issue looks at the ethical issues concerning the use of team orders in Formula 1, in relation to the incident in 2013 where Sebastian Vettel disobeyed team orders to let another driver take the first position, and similar cases. Team orders, instructions given by the team management to drivers on how they should approach a race or which position they should be in during a race can cause controversies on the fairness, sportsmanship and integrity of the race. On one side, it is believed that team orders are crucial to enhance the team's performance and achieve strategic goals, on the other side, critics argue that they deny individuality, distort the fair competition, and raise ethical issues by discriminating against drivers. This issue is connected with the theme of cultural maintenance as it questions the effect of fixing race results on the culture of sports competitions and how it will alter the traditions and beliefs regarding it.



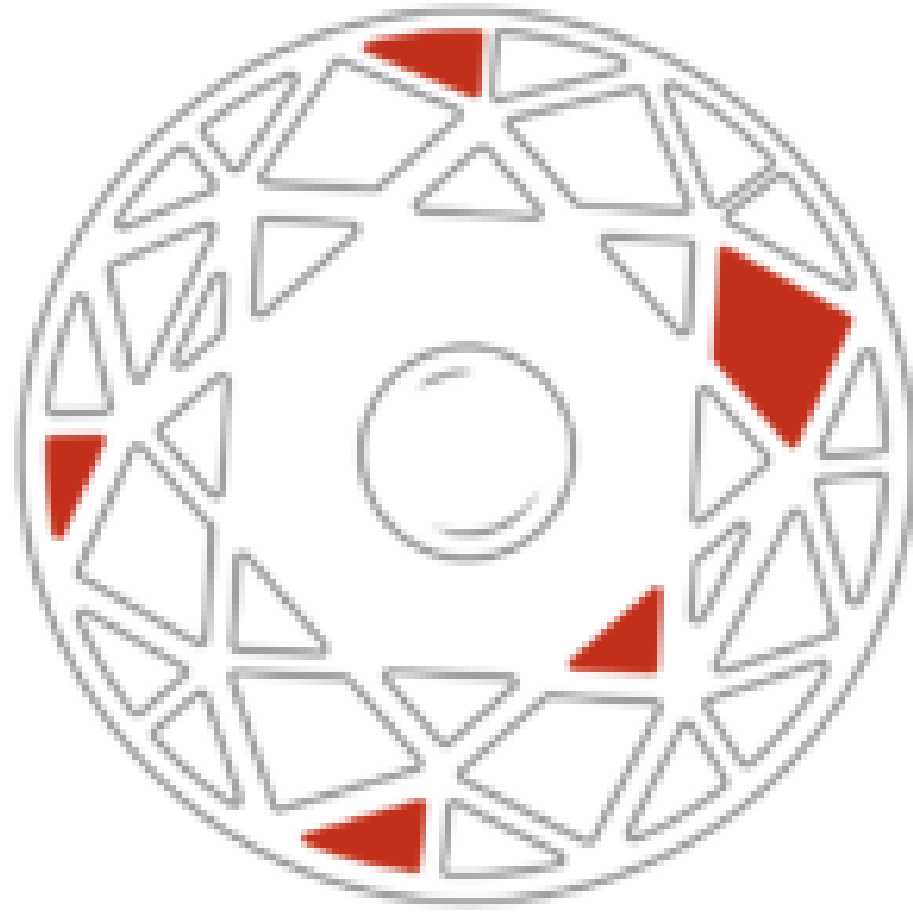
Virtual Reality(VR)

Can VR be used in preserving historical sites?

With the transition to a digital society, it raises the question whether or not VR can be used to aid preserving meaningful heritage sites. Acknowledging the work to preserve a historical artifact, from museums to safe houses, it is without a doubt that the costs are sometimes considered too high to bear. With that being said, can VR be used in this situation? An example of this is the 3D rendering of Dudley castle to VR, where people favored the ease of exploring the castle over its authenticity. Hence, delegates will argue whether this change will help preserve artifacts more effectively, or will it destroy the wall of history embodied within these objects.

Does VR really bring us closer?

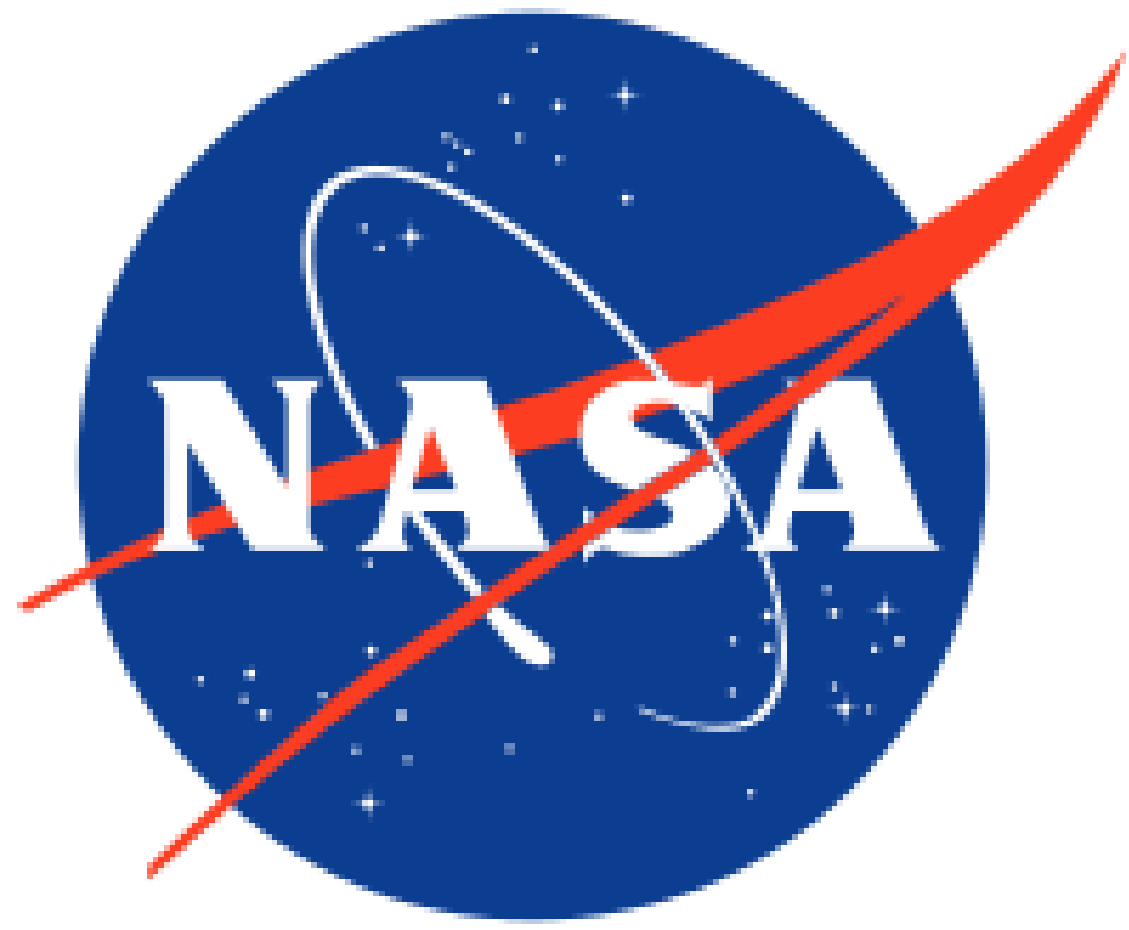
VR was initially seen as a way of connecting through in a virtual world, yet it has proven to do the opposite. Whilst people are becoming connected in a digital world, they are separated in reality, posing the threat of social isolation. This issue would deteriorate mental health, increase social anxiety, and increase the risk of depression. Seeing the negative effects of VR among households, delegates will propose different solutions to solve this issue, critiquing each other's various ideas to pick out the best way to deal with VR in social isolation.



The Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT)

Diffusing threats to our culture

After the financial crisis of 2008, the fragility of the pearl industry threatened the possibility of losing a part of the Bahraini heritage. It became clear that Bahrain needed to find a balance between culture and surviving as a business. Hence, delegates will discuss solutions to preserve the pearl industry amidst a rapidly developing economy, factoring the environmental, cultural, and legal implications.



NASA Advisory Council (NAC)

How would the privatization of space exploration impact the science heritage?

Especially after the establishment of SpaceX by Elon Musk, individuals are reminded of the benefits private enterprises bring to the advancement of space exploration. Initially, NASA faced an insuperable barrier restraining them from exploring the skies, funding. Seeing how NASA only receives 0.3% from the US government, it is clear to see the correlation between finance and a better understanding of space. Thus, privatizing this act would encourage organizations globally to place financial rewards as the primary motivation to keep exploring space, inclining them to ignore the environmental impacts of their operations and prioritize some knowledge over others based on monetary efficiency. This causes one to reflect on why we explore space. It is humanity's yearn for knowledge, not their greed for money. Hence, NAC members will argue whether the privatization of space exploration will further scientific discoveries, or will it be a stain on the scientific community.

Distributing lunar samples: cultural preservation or exploitation?

During the Apollo 11 mission, samples were collected and distributed as "goodwill gifts" to countries worldwide. While seen as a selfless gift from the US, there laid an agenda behind the selection of countries, and these samples were exploited as a means of establishing political relations, diverting from what sciences strive to achieve, global development. Thus, it is the scientific heritage which was at risk after this act, as the culture surrounding scientific discoveries and achievements endorse global collaboration to achieve societal benefit, not political. Thus, members of the advisory council will reflect on NASA's decision to selectively distribute pieces of the scientific discovery of Apollo 11 to countries globally, and how the results of this act impacted the scientific culture.



Security Council (UNSC)

Combating the Purposeful Destruction of Cultural Sites in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has been ongoing since the 80's, after the fall of the Soviet Union and both countries declared their independence, the small region of Nagorno-Karabakh served as a link between the past collectivism to the present sovereignty of both countries. Both parties fought numerous wars in order to obtain control over this region, shedding light on it as a potential need for intervention from the UNSC. It was not until September of 2023 where Azerbaijan galvanized the conflict by launching a large-scale offensive attack against the Republic of Artsakh, violating the ceasefire agreement proposed by the Russian peacekeeping contingent. This led to the resurgence of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, causing destruction to cultural sites such as mosques, churches, historical monuments and more. The attacks from both countries were perceived as an indirect attempt to erase one another's culture and presence from the region, urging the UNSC to take action to preserve as much as possible. Delegates in this council will discern the destruction of cultural heritage in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, and argue whether or not the UNSC should take action while discussing the optimal path forwards.



Court of Sultan Suleiman

The Case of Şehzade Mustafa's Execution

Background:

The case of the execution of Şehzade Mustafa, the eldest son of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, is one of the most dramatic and controversial events in Ottoman history. Born in 1515, Mustafa was the son of Suleiman and his concubine Mahidevran Sultan. As the eldest son, he was initially the heir apparent to the Ottoman throne. Mustafa was well-regarded, showing promise as a capable leader and military commander, and he gained significant support from both the Janissaries and the public. Despite the promise for a bright future, darkness prevailed in the form of the complex politics of the Ottoman court, as Suleiman's wife, Hurrem Sultan, sought to secure the throne for her own sons. It is hence why rumors allegedly fueled by this desire spread which accused Mustafa of treason, and plotting to overthrow his father. These allegations spread to accusing him of conspiring with the Safavid Empire, a long rival of the Ottomans, to take the throne, chagrin Mustafa with the penalty of death.

Case brief:

The case will be arguing the rationality of Suleiman's actions, and should Mustafa have been killed or not. Delegates will scrutinize the legitimacy of the accusations of treason by evaluating the evidence and the credibility of the sources of information. Additionally, they will investigate the true intentions of Hurrem Sultan and her accomplice, and how the complex familial ties and personal rivalries affected the Ottoman Empire in the long run.