

Greg and Gloria have certainly played their part. To me they have come to symbolise Geography's unique selling point: its ubiquity. Whether on the news or outside the front door I love that Geography is there for whoever wishes to seize it. Greg and Gloria are in fact two storms from the 100 images I have analysed as a volunteer for "Zooniverse Cyclone Center". Studying these seemingly benign swirls has introduced me to the concept of citizen science and how vital it is to help experts solve data-rich geographical problems.

This enchantment with diagrams coupled with a love of statistics drew me to a particularly stimulating article called "The Information Capital". Cheshire and Uberti's wonderful visualisations of London not only enhanced my appreciation of data but also highlighted the wealth of freely available information in Britain compared to the USA. Even so my yearning for statistics was moderated when, at a lecture on "Future losses from natural disasters" from the University of East Anglia, I was reminded that numbers do not always show the full picture; the drops in observed volcanic eruptions in 1914 and 1939 were due to everyone being preoccupied with war! The focus on Nepal also fascinated me, chiefly the roles of unexpected players such as the UK whose aid donations to build road networks have in fact increased the landslide risk. This underlined to me the importance of Geographers to analyse these potential risks before any development.

I have always paid particular attention to foreign aid, especially the government's pledge to commit 0.7% of GNI to the poorest nations, thus Hans Rosling's excellent documentary regarding the UN's target to end extreme poverty by 2030 immediately caught my eye. The insight into how the rich-poor divide oversimplifies economic difficulties really enriched my understanding of poverty. It was also surprising to think that ending extreme poverty sooner rather than later ought to be easier due to population growth. Nevertheless it was the disparity in where aid is sent that really engaged me: it is unfathomable that the poorest nations receive \$100 in aid per person in extreme poverty yet thriving China and Mexico receive triple the amount. Following further research I now firmly believe that the process of targeting aid towards specific issues, singled out as unsolvable without foreign help, is more important than numerical targets. Addressing these global challenges during my geographical studies and beyond is something I will relish.

I extended this interest in internationalism with Simon Anholt's Ted Talk: "Which country does the most good for the world?" The answer, Ireland, made me realise that it is not always the countries that shout the loudest that make a difference to our planet. To find out if Ireland itself was gaining from its 'goodness' I read an article in the Guardian which revealed a clear benefit: Ireland has the fastest growing economy in the EU. Whilst researching Simon Anholt's work I was captivated by the Nation Brands Index, a ranking of developed nations according to international perceptions. The fact that Germany has leapfrogged the USA to take first place, thanks to its sporting success, made me see the plausibility of sport being a contributing factor to the decision of many migrants to pick Germany as their destination. Reading "Der Deutsche Traum", an article from Der Spiegel, further emphasised to me the significance of Geography to explain current trends.

Having explored so many geographical concepts, I saw a need to define the boundaries of Geography. "What is Geography?" by Alastair Bonnett left me with a clear answer: Geography is limitless. I admire how it continues to grow, pick-and-mixing from other disciplines, always thinking outside its academic box. This unification of scientific, political and socio-economic approaches has shaped my geographical journey and shown me that being an all-rounder is something that Geography and I share.