

# BAISMAG



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*pathway*

THE

ISSUE

# Dear Readers,

On the note of pathways, this is my first attempt at an editor's note, so I will try to keep it brief. I think the words of Douglas Adams can help provide us with an entertaining route to go down.

*"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be"*

Here Adams makes an insightful comment about individual pathways ..... They can be confusing as fuck! Recent developments on the international sphere such as Brexit and the American elections seem to confirm what we already expected that societal pathways are also really quite difficult.

How then should we navigate through these complex and intertwining pathways on both individual and societal levels? My advice is to continue reading this issue of BAISMAG, where you will discover interesting insights into the pathways that we must all individually and collectively take.

Enjoy the journey.

- Samuel

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# Pathways

This stage in our life is often described, or characterized, as one with the most freedom. Countless pathways lay in front of us, but which one do we take? So many opportunities, chances, choices, how do we know which is right, which is better? I personally suffer from severe indecision and the apparent inability to decide which path to take, but there's a strategy I've discovered that may help anyone with the same problem.

It's quite simple;  
take a walk.

Put one foot in front of the other,  
and see where they take you.

The best ones are those unplanned, when you leave your house and leave your head behind. Take a left, take a right, some corners here and there, until you get lost.

But that was the beauty.

Someone once told me that getting lost is one of the best things you can do. When you're lost, you're forced to find your way. You're confronted with the unknown and you need to deal with it. He said it was one of the ways he came up with solutions to problems he was dealing with at the time.

Apparently it's a healthy habit (as long as you find your way back of course), so I tried it as well.

Overstressed and emotionally unstable I walked into a forest with no particular goal or destination. I purely walked and absorbed everything around me until I was utterly and completely lost. By admiring nature's beauty and finding myself in the middle of nowhere, all my focus and attention was directed towards discovering the path that would lead me back home. It took a while, but I had the time and it gave my mind some peace. No google maps to find the way, no overflow of information coming from all sides, but just a moment (or several moments actually) of peace that calmed me and forced me to think clearly without external influences. I managed to find my way home, and was ready to start the new day feeling fresh and energetic, avoiding an explosion in my brain with everything that was going on.

So, within this theme of pathways, there isn't always a path to follow. But that is merely a good thing, because you will find a path of your own.

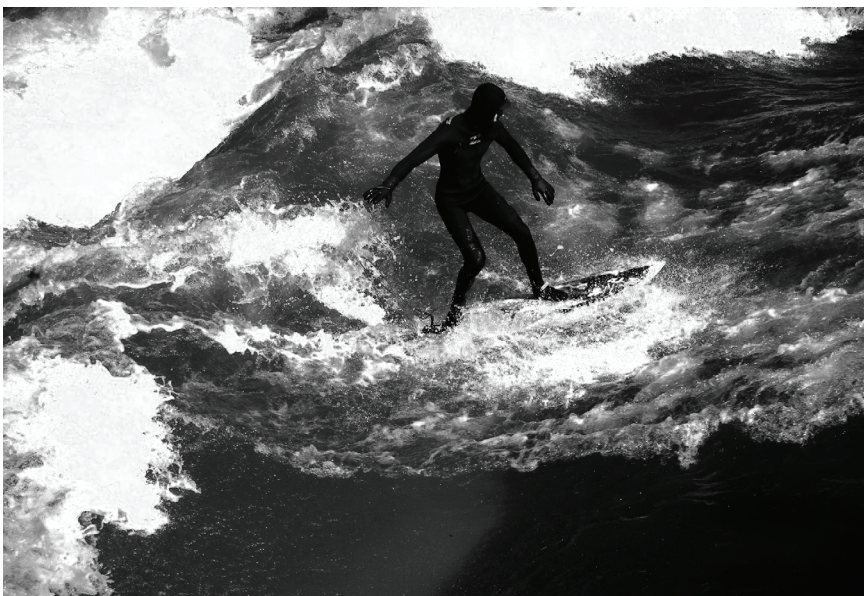
*by Roos de Raadt*



BY AMY SAHB

RURAL PATH IN CENTRAL  
IRAN

BY THOMAS GEVERS



SURFER

BY TAMARA KROSCHE

BY AMY SAHB



LA OVERPASSES  
BY THOMAS GEVERS

MADRID  
// OLD LADY  
BY TAMARA KROSCH



# Cross Road

## Imagine your life as a hiking trip.

Wandering through lush fields and sunny forests, sometimes also through steep valleys and over high and dangerous mountains, on and on it goes, without a clear goal you stroll along without being able to go back. The only thing that does not change along the way are crossroads and diverging pathways. Sometimes they are really big and clearly signed. Remember the one you had to cross with hundreds of signs pointed in different directions, labelled with names such as astrophysics, old classics, politics, architecture, photography, international studies and so on. How long did you stand there thinking about where to go, maybe you walked a few meters on one road and then decided to leap over to another path? Did you take the biggest road, clearly signed and very safe to walk on, or did you look around until you found that little hidden path leading into a mysterious forest of surprising discoveries, or did you decide to create your own way by going into the wilderness away from the beaten path? Or do you still stand there at some crossroad not able to decide always turning back to other options out of fear to miss out on something?

There is an overwhelming amount of possible routes one could pursue. Especially at a young age, as pupils, students, young professionals, we are confronted with the burden of determining our future. Everything is possible, or so we are told. The only problem, every choice forces us to give up on a number of other possibilities. So we end up pondering on what might have been, had we only chosen another career, another study, another city to live in.

And we take ages to decide, too many options paralyse us, we are afraid to choose because we think that we might lose our freedom of choice.

But this is the illusion. It is not the freedom of having a choice but the freedom of taking a choice. In a way, we only fulfil our freedom by taking a leap into the unknown. If we don't manage to decide we will just stand still and watch possibilities go by without ever realising them.

So if you stand on the crossroad wondering, take a rest, breathe, think, but don't hesitate too much. Make a first step, follow your instinct and decide for one road. You might think about the other roads you left out but they are not important right now.

Now, enjoy the journey and look forward to the next crossroad.

by Mathis Gilsbach



*You need to make a difference between travelling and going on vacations. Backpacking is a way of travelling, but going on vacations is for your own relaxation, linked to luxury. Backpacking is so much more than this: it combines cultural exchange, freedom of regulations, expansion of your own personal horizon, getting out of your comfort zone. Something, you can't experience in your everyday life, something, that is exclusively on your travels, something positive. And after returning home, it gives you a new kind of energy, to create something out of your thoughts, your adventure, the way you experienced things. You can read about it in many quotes everywhere, because the main reason will always stay as simple as it is:*

*"Travel changes you" (Anthony Bourdain)*



## LIZARDS CAN BE DOMESTICATED

THE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

Good day everybody! (I do not know if you're reading in the morning or in the afternoon, in the evening or in the night). With this enlightening quote, we wanted to introduce our role as change-providers, as passion-followers, as rubbish-sweepers...

Wherever you are, whatever you did last weekend, we as Travel Committee give you our greetings. Have you ever felt home, even when you are thousands of kilometers away from it? Have you ever gone to another city in your home country and found out that it was totally foreign to you? This is the essence of traveling, to see different things as well as finding ourselves in the most unexpected places that we might have never been to. We follow this passion and share it with you by trying to come up with the trips that would give us, and you, the opportunity to collect memories from all over the world. So, don't satisfy yourself with what you hear about places. Go see them with us, oh traveler! Traveler?

Traveler is the just crowned queen bee leaving the hive to find a new colony. Traveler is the white cat wandering along the brook to catch the last mouse! Traveler is the rubbish bag heading for the landfill, traveler is the red onion falling on the ground to escape the frying pan.

But you!

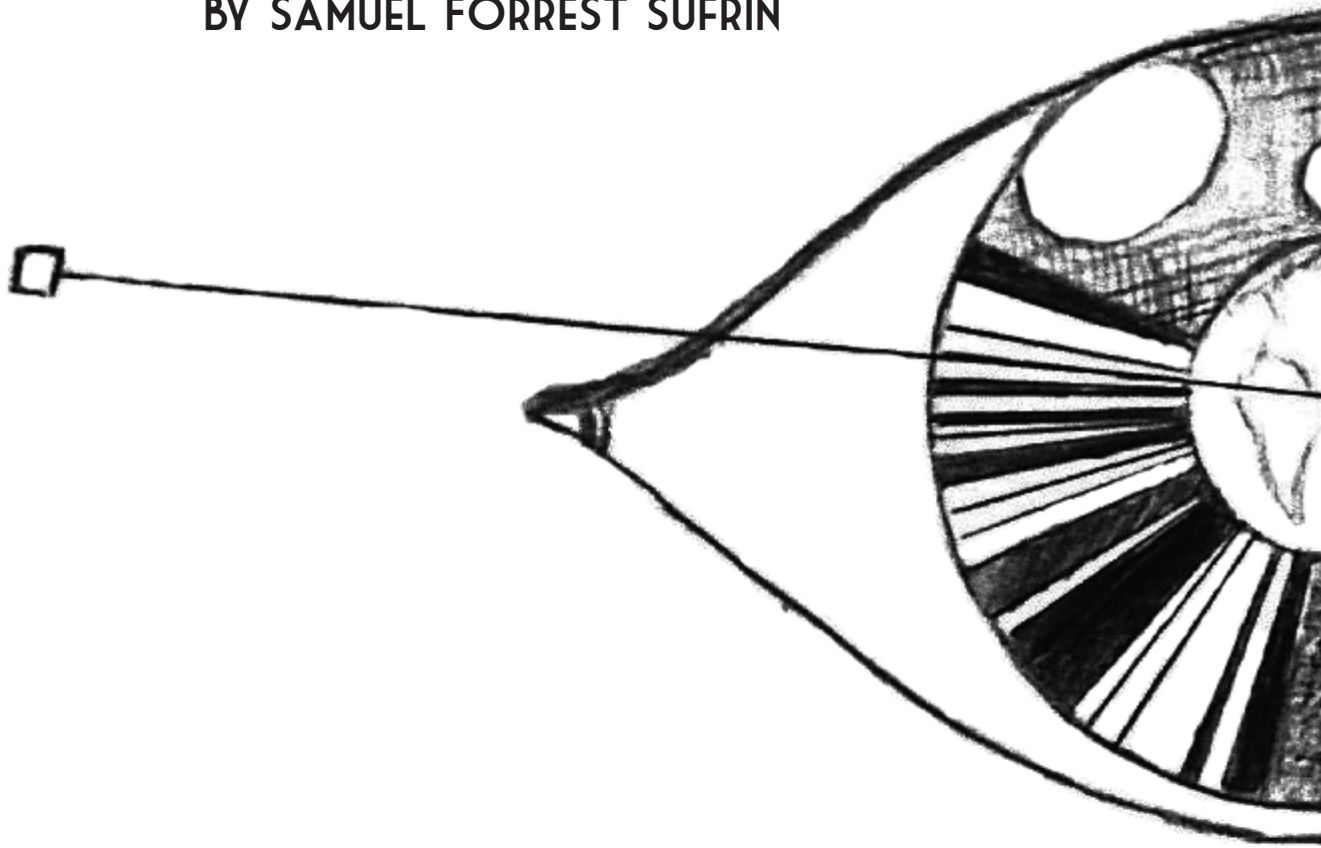
Student! You have no rodents to catch, no kingdoms to build, nor a pan nor a landfill over there.

You have a trip to join and a city to discover, whether you are Dutch or not, or with a group of friends around you. The travel committee will fulfill you wishes, it will give you rodents to hunt, kingdoms to discover and landfills to explore.



# WHERE IS THE WATCHDOG?

BY SAMUEL FORREST SUFRIN





The 1947 Hutchins Commission report on the Freedom of the Press provides a useful starting point for discussing the importance of a free press in democratic societies. It argues that press freedom is an essential ingredient of political liberty and that through their power to communicate, the mass media must act as a watchdog over political liberty, and has essential decision making tools for the electorates of democracies.

As the American election looms, we have seen increased attention paid to two of the candidates by the mass media. It seems an appropriate time to explore the extent to which the media are fulfilling the watchdog role. Some important judgments that need making are: how accurate is their news coverage, how well-considered are their analyses of the big issues and how fittingly are the candidates' positions represented? Perhaps less obviously we can ask: how many of their customers know that there are four candidates? An objective observer trying to answer these questions today might well have cause to worry.

By the standards of the Hutchins report it appears that the mass media is not fulfilling their roles. Rather than seeing critical analysis of a nation suffering from multiple institutional failures centered on vast inequality of wealth, we have seen the most superficial analysis of a sort of shit-flinging battle between two of the candidates. The concerns of large segments of American society remain unaddressed, and people cannot get their voices heard. An increasingly ludicrous and unsustainable status-quo remains unchallenged by the mass media.

#### WHY IS THIS?

Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, in their 1988 book *Manufacturing Consent*, give an important insight into how the mass media filter the information they communicate. The book describes the role of the media as a filtering system that ensures that the majority of news is not threatening to the status quo. This does not mean that all media will support a particular political candidate or agree on every issue. But it is almost inevitable that a political candidate who constantly raises issues threatening the status quo will be either attacked or ignored by the mass media.

Four filters from Herman and Chomsky's *Manufacturing Consent* can help us understand ways in which the news is filtered:

#### 1) **Size, Ownership, and Profit Orientation:**

The mass-media is dominated by large companies, the editors must cater to the interests of the owners.

#### 2) **The Advertising license to do business:**

The majority of mass media's revenue come from advertising, giving advertisers a "de-facto licensing authority". For example, a car company is likely to end/reduce advertisement contracts if the paper continually links global warming to car usage.

#### 3) **Sourcing Mass-Media:**

Business and government can reduce the cost of mass-media gaining access to credible news by giving regular interviews and press conferences on a variety of topics. If a reporter repeatedly "bashes" a politician he/she will unlikely be invited back, reducing the reporters' ability to write credible news stories and potentially damaging his/her career.

#### 4) **Flack and Enforcers:**

Flack is a negative response to a media statement or program (letters, complaints, lawsuits, etc.). Flack can be very expensive for media outlets, for example a lawsuit can lead to loss of advertising which can be fatal for an outlet. Moreover, it acts as a deterrent to the reporting of certain kinds of analyses and therefore indirectly assumes the role of an enforcer of the standardized news.

It seems to me that as American elites determinedly hold on to the status-quo these filters are working overtime, because as more and more status-quo changing issues are filtered out of the news we are left with nothing but superficial shit.

(see [www.medialens.org](http://www.medialens.org) for a detailed analysis on the mass media's attacks on Jeremy Corbyn, a socialist leader of the UK's opposition party).

# 5 Minutes

by Abigail Montalvo

The melancholic tone of a saxophone invades Fay's ears as she swiftly paces down the steps of the Union Square subway station. Penny board in hand and laces undone, her tired feet stumble past the herd of tourists filling the entrance. To her, the chaotic vibration of the space is a normality, and the colliding clatters of sound resemble a human symphony. The saxophone hums again, this time louder, as if conducting the chaos of it all.

With a single motion, her yellow metro card glides through the lips of the turnstile, her body following effortlessly. A distant boom, boom, boom, indicates the subway has just left. A glance left, a pause, a sigh. Her ride home won't be there for another five minutes.

What do you do with five minutes...What do five minutes matter in a person's life?

Blue eyes glimmering against the beaming lights above, Fay steps closer to the edge of the platform. The leather of her shoes wraps thinly around her feet, the violet tint of her socks peeking out from underneath her loose laces. With a wave of exhaustion, gravity pulls her attention downwards to the floor; a lollipop stick, candy wrapper, and bottle cap lay peacefully. Clues of past encounters or pure laziness, probably the latter- she concludes silently.

"Cool shoes."

Her head snaps up, eyes wide. "Geez, you scared me. I was completely zoned out." The stranger laughs. His curly blond hair needs washing, a black leather bag hangs from his shoulder, and a lingering smell of alcohol follows his movements- must be a college kid, not her type. Fay's grip tightens, eye contact is exchanged. God, I could go for a cigarette right now.

"Ha, thanks. They're probably headed to the dumpster soon. You caught them in old age."

Across the platform a mother shouts at her child. Eyes look up, then away. The wailing of the saxophone echoes her frustration, kindling a desperate desire for silence. It's difficult to spare five minutes when dinner hasn't been made and the children are late for piano practice.

"Well, you know, Roman patricians used to have themselves sculpted with tons of wrinkles and saggy skin. It's called Verism. To them age equaled wisdom. The passing of time was valued."

A smirk forms across his freckled face.

"I'm Noah by the way."

Cracking her knuckles, Suede peers into the depths of the black tunnel ahead, offering little attention to the conversation.

"Well Noah- you an art history major?"

A nod.

"at...NYU?"

Another nod.

An airy chuckle escapes from her mouth.

"I wouldn't call these shoes wise. If anything they were total hell to break into, and now they're good for nothing except letting strangers see what socks I'm wearing."

Glancing at her purple watch, the minute hand maintains a steady thump. With every tick, an interjection of clamor follows. The honk of a taxi cab above ground, the cough of an aging man, the cry of a hungry child. She looks up, deep in thought.

"Hmm...The time thing, though, now that's interesting. See that woman across the platform with her kids? She looks like she's in a real hurry. It's been four minutes since the last subway passed, and to us it's no big deal. I mean, we're talking about damn shoes, but to her, that subway couldn't come any faster."

Noah adjusts his stance, arms crossing firmly.

"Okay, so time moves quicker when we're in a hurry. That doesn't invalidate the things we do when we don't have anywhere to be. You never gave me a name, but years from now I may think of the girl with the pink penny board and cool sh.."

With vigorous force, the subway appears. A gust of wind sweeps Fay's brunette curls in front of her eyes, momentarily blurring her vision. With a brash screech, the subway comes to a halt. The doors open, and a flood of faces exit, blending to form what resembles a Monet painting.

Fay turns back towards Noah, hoping to share her observation, only to find a vacant space. After a pause, she dismissively shrugs with a final glance at her shoes, and she steps onto the subway. Eyes firm and luminous, she never looks back.

# GOOD BYE BAN KI MOON

*"A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves."*

Lao-Tzu, a Chinese philosopher of the 6th century BCE, stated this.  
Do you agree?

Ban Ki-Moon's path with the UN will end in January. He served a humble ten years as Secretary General. However, was Ban Ki-Moon a captivating and revolutionary leader? Did he change our world for the better?

Many valued magazines do not think so; Foreign Policy calling him a "nowhere man", even asking him to resign in a 2010 article. Although, I believe that Ban Ki-Moon did do good for the world, and while he might not be a pompous leader, *"a leader is best when people barely know he exists"*.

Kofi Anan was known for being very charismatic and curating his public image. However, Ban Ki-Moon, maintains a much more reserved image, causing for many to criticize him for the perceived lack of action, presence, and commitment. Nevertheless, let's take a look at Ban Ki-Moon's success as a leader through the battles he won, and the improvements the battles produced.

The Paris Climate agreement was a great success for Ban Ki-Moon. The agreement was organized and pushed for by the Secretary General and included key countries involved in climate change. Ban urged signatories to take swift and concrete action to tackle CO2 emissions and global warming. Prior to this, no such advancement or achievement had been accomplished, as leaders failed to recognize or commit to the issue of climate change, due to the political stigmas that surrounded the issue.

Another aspect under which Ban Ki-Moon has not failed us is gender empowerment. This objective has been included and expanded upon through the SDG's, with numerous movements and efforts throughout the world arising, perhaps the most obvious is the "He for She" campaign. In addition, he has introduced the first "High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment" that involved many tangible actions aimed at closing the economic gap between genders.

These are perhaps the best achievements for the Secretary General. Although, many validly criticize his lack of mediation with regards to the crises in the middle east and the refugee calamity. At the same time, the context in which we live must be considered; we find ourselves in an anti-globalization period with economic slowdown, and countries worldwide becoming increasingly nationalistic and anti-UN.

To conclude, was he a captivating and revolutionary leader? More or less, he followed the rules and encouraged many campaigns although nothing revolutionary or captivating. But did he improve our world? Yes, he has, perhaps it is not something we can feel now, but the precedences he has set will define the future paths of the UN with regards to female empowerment and climate change.



BY ISIDORO CAMPIONI NOACK

*all roads lead to...*

# The Discretionary Space

By the time your third year approaches, you will be well tuned to life in The Hague and to the International Studies course – you will probably have a favorite tutor, study space in Schouw, or pastry from the cafeteria. But as you likely know, the third year brings about a lot of change. In the first semester of the third year, International Studies students can experience a ‘Discretionary Space’, allowing you to study a minor, go abroad to a partner university, or find an internship anywhere in the world. Deadlines come up fast, so it is never too early to be thinking about your choices and planning how to shape your bachelor. And of course, what better way to motivate yourself for essays and exams than aiming for a high enough GPA to spend a semester in Hawaii or Hong Kong.

One third year, Tirsa Partodikromo, is in Washington DC, working as an intern at the Dutch Embassy. “My work is usually very varied,” she told me. “Some days I go to conferences and spend my day networking, other days I write reports and make a bunch of phone calls”. She’s now using the knowledge she acquired through BAIS in a practical way and even got the opportunity to present at panels moderated by figures from Queen Maxima to Christine Lagarde of the IMF. Weekends are spent sightseeing or watching baseball games (to properly integrate into American society, of course).

More options are continuously being added, such as the new minor launched this September in Rabat, Morocco, for students with an interest in North Africa.

However, this doesn’t mean that you have to go abroad to experience something new. Leiden offers dozens of minors, and the university’s agreement with Rotterdam Erasmus and Delft Technical University means that it is possible to study anything from Software Design in Delft, to Entrepreneurship in Rotterdam, to Security Studies in The Hague. The Global Affairs minor remains popular with International Studies students, as it gives a greater insight into International Relations and is taught by a range of professors, including a former Secretary-General of NATO. However, the minor programme also lets you into courses that aren’t covered by BAIS, such as Game Studies. You read that right – it’s possible to spend a semester studying video games. Third year Dennis Jansen describes the course as “cultural studies, but with video games”, with topics ranging from “How games represent reality, from the historical link between the Cold War and video games, to poststructuralist theories about the medium”.

It seems the pathways and possibilities open to BAIS students are endless.

*by Elsa Court*

BY NATASYA TUNGGADEWI



BY NATASYA TUNGGADEWI

# Wanderlust

by Paulina Kraft

In an online survey I asked about your dream holiday. If the 105 people who answered it turned into one person, this is what the travel would look like:

*“On my perfect trip I go with one friend. Preferably I travel by airplane. The rough direction would be Asia, and the final destination a metropolis or an island. I stay in a hotel, and most of the time I spend exploring the culture. The best experience would be the breathtaking views. Taking into account the environmental impact of my trip, I would go anyway.”*

Well, you might agree that this person seems like the incarnation of mainstream. After the trip we would probably find ourselves listening to stories about the full moon party and scooter rides. However, in the survey there was also the chance to mention a specific place or destination.

According to this, South America finds a spot on many people’s bucket lists. Brazil appears to be attractive (you can come up with potential reasons by yourself), Argentina lures with areas like Patagonia or Tierra del Fuego, and Cuba might be the interest of the communists among us. In Europe, Vienna and Prague are in demand, which stands in contrast with Siberia, or the middle of nowhere in Mongolia. Someone is really keen and wants to go “everywhere. Really. And I won’t stop until I achieve this.”

The question if the environmental impact effects our travel plans, is a question of morality that could be applied to many decisions we make in life. What is more important: our individual pleasure or the well-being of the whole? In the survey it isn’t revealed precisely if you had adjusted your plans to this consideration but the results indicate that personal joy outweighs the global consequences.

ONLY!

BLACK  
LIVES

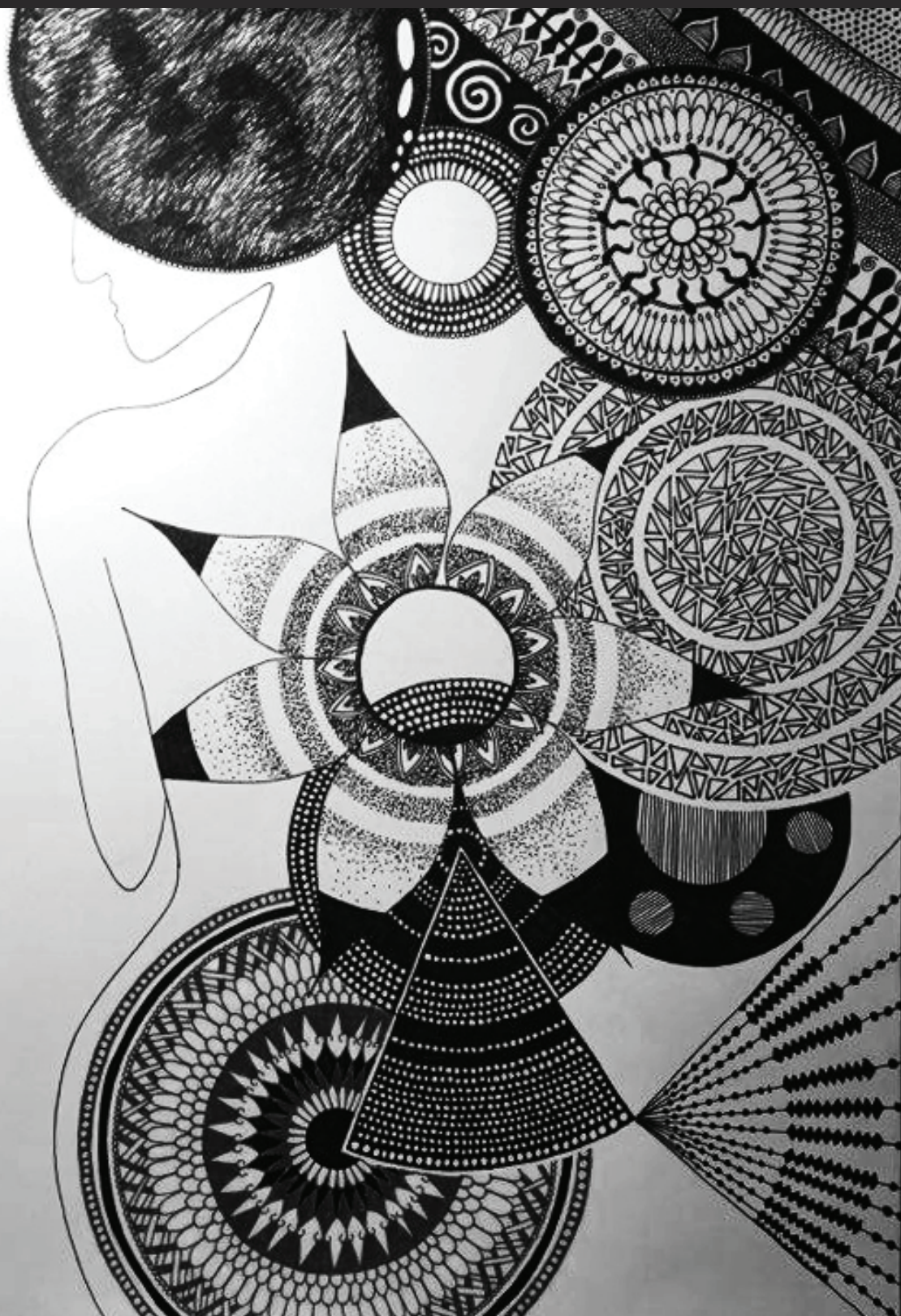
MATTER

TOO!

by Michael  
Hauwert



# LET'S GET NAKED AND DRAW



by Sandra Canta

Instagram: @Phoinixlines

PUBLISHING  
DETAILS:

**BAISMAG**

Schouwburgstraat 2  
2511 VA The Hague  
baismag@gmail.com

**Editor in Chief:**

**Issue Editor:**

**Layout/Illustrations:**

**Secretary:**

**Social Media:**

Isidoro Campioni-Noack

Samuel Forrest Sufrin and Dário Moreira

Paulina Kraft, Natasya Tunggadewi, Michael

Hauwert, Mathis Gilsbach, Sandra Canta,

Pratyaksh Arneja, Esther Rümelin

Elsa Court

Emily Bobbi

All articles were written by students of BA International Studies, Leiden University. The online version of this magazine can be found on:

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