

Showcase 3



Population control: natural and un-natural solutions

The exponential growth of global populations during the 'Great Acceleration' (0001950-present), has raised urgent questions about the sustainability of food supplies and the equitable sharing of scarce resources.

Population growth or population decline?

Well-meaning attempts to promote sustainable populations have tended to give way to dystopian predictions of overpopulation inspiring more negative solutions to population growth. Elite anxieties of unrestrained fertility amongst the poor, metastasise around moral questions of natural selection and coercive restraint. This provides a de-humanising rationale for reduced charitable welfare, forced sterilisation, and euthanasia to discourage procreation. This is seen in the extreme solutions of population segregation, racist exclusions, the atrocities of indigenous genocide, slavery, the Holocaust, Apartheid, ethnic cleansing, and many more perverse histories of selective humanity.

Do our assumptions about overpopulation mean we are ill prepared for a declining and aging global population?

Long-term population reduction to sustainable levels may be a positive response to the current climate crisis, reducing stress on finite planetary resources. As human populations experience improved education, health and welfare conditions, fertility and birth rates tend to fall, and life expectancy rises. Living with outdated predictions of increasing growth rates of human populations, overpopulation, global famine, mass migrations, and humanitarian crises may leave us uniquely vulnerable to the geopolitical consequences of a global crash in human populations.

This showcase presents exhibits from the future world of the Misanthropocene. They provide a range of solutions for the control of human populations to reduce the adverse impact of humans on our planet. This has included unpredictable global pandemics, and more sinister government schemes to minimise, control, or scientifically 'improve' the human species.

Objects of the

A Time-Travelling Exhibition from the Illegal Museum of Beyond

Misanthropocene

Free Exhibition

Institute of Archaeology &
Slade School of Fine Art

