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EDUCATION & MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**  
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## **Drivers for Women Entrepreneurship in Greece: A Case Analysis of Early-Stage Companies**

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Suela Papagelis, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA  
Daphne Nicolitsas, University of Crete, Greece

This study delves into the unique realm of women's entrepreneurial leadership within Stewart's role demands-constraint-choice framework in Greece. It aims to highlight the underrepresented role of female entrepreneurs in the country and fill a literature gap by exploring their distinct motivations and leadership dynamics. By employing a qualitative method and conducting semi-structured interviews with Greek women entrepreneurs, the study uncovers a complex web of motivations intertwined with personal goals, sociocultural norms, and economic conditions, diverging from those in other advanced economies. Notable motivations include financial autonomy, family support, societal betterment, and personal fulfillment. The findings provide a comprehensive understanding of the intricate interplay between the entrepreneurs' roles, motivations, and leadership decisions within the socio-economic and cultural context. This research enriches the broader discourse on international entrepreneurship and women's studies, deepening the understanding of Greek women's entrepreneurship. The practical implications drawn from these findings offer actionable strategies for policymakers, educators, and industry professionals to foster an environment that supports women's entrepreneurial leadership in Greece and other emerging economies.

**Keywords:** Women Entrepreneurship, Ecosystem, Role Demands-Constraints-Choices, Push and Pull Motivational Factors, Greece, Gender Equality, International Entrepreneurship

The journey of women entrepreneurs globally is more than a narrative of business creation; it is a story of resilience, innovation, and societal transformation. This study explores the evolving roles of women entrepreneurs and the persistent barriers they face, delving into the lives and challenges of women entrepreneurs in Greece—a group whose significance is often overshadowed by the broader economic narrative. It investigates these challenges through Stewart's Role Demands-Constraints-Choice (DCC) model, aiming to provide targeted research and policy recommendations to harness the potential of women entrepreneurs in Greece.

**Methodology:** A qualitative approach was adopted, involving semi-structured interviews with 34 Greek women entrepreneurs managing startups, microenterprises, and small enterprises. The purposive snowball sampling technique was employed to identify participants. Interviews were conducted in English and Greek, ensuring cultural and contextual relevance. Data were coded and analyzed using Stewart's DCC model to uncover themes related to role demands, constraints, and choices.

**Findings:** The study uncovers a unique set of motivations that drive Greek women entrepreneurs, including financial autonomy, societal betterment, and personal fulfillment. These motivations, distinct from those typically emphasized in the literature on women entrepreneurship in advanced economies, significantly shape their entrepreneurial pursuits. Despite facing heightened role demands, constraints, and societal norms, these women exhibit remarkable resilience and adaptability, leveraging social networks and innovative approaches to succeed.

**Discussion:** The findings suggest that Greek women entrepreneurs' motivations significantly differ from those typically emphasized in the literature on women entrepreneurship in advanced economies. Economic necessity, limited career progression, and sociocultural obligations are significant push factors driving their entrepreneurial pursuits. This underscores the urgent need for tailored policy interventions that specifically address these unique challenges rather than applying generic solutions. Such tailored interventions could include improving access to finance, supporting career progression, and alleviating sociocultural pressures. The importance of these tailored interventions cannot be overstated, as they are crucial for the success of women entrepreneurs in Greece.

**Conclusion:** This study enhances the understanding of Greek women's entrepreneurial leadership and underscores the critical role of supportive policies and educational frameworks in promoting gender-inclusive economic growth. The practical insights provided can aid policymakers, investors, and educators in effectively supporting women's entrepreneurship in Greece and similar contexts.

**Recommendations:** Policymakers should focus on enabling access to financial resources, developing capacity-building programs, promoting technology adoption, and enhancing collaborations between government and civil society organizations to support women's entrepreneurship. Addressing the gender gap in financing is crucial for establishing a conducive business environment for women entrepreneurs.

### **Five Leadership Lessons from America's President**

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Ninety days before the 2024 presidential election in the United States, Dr. Lee focuses on five chief executives and their crisis management styles: Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. These presidents displayed cautious and thoughtful actions at trying times for the USA and the world.

For example, Abraham Lincoln's agenda was a three-fold one: win the American Civil War on the battlefield, prevent additional secession of slave-holding states, and liberate the enslaved population. George Washington was the personification of the "citizen-soldier,"



a respected leader as the United States charted its own way in 1789, Franklin Roosevelt steered the executive branch through the Great Depression and its World War II experience, Theodore Roosevelt held closely the West African proverb “Speak softly and carry a big stick,” and John F. Kennedy calmly handled the threat of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

This presentation offers leadership lessons for a wide audience of international scholars, which goes far beyond historians. There is fertile ground here for anyone who wishes to understand how leaders address the obstacles which they encounter.

### **Developing countries' digital divide and its implication for the e-education evolution within the 4IR**

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Without equal access to ICT and the Internet, the majority of developing countries' populations are at risk of being prevented from meaningfully accessing the ever-emerging digital opportunities presented by the 4IR to improve their livelihoods. This is due to the reality that technological skills have become an unmentioned requirement to further one's studies and access quality education in the era of the evolution of e-education associated with the 4IR. Thus, digital literacy in the 4IR context has become as vital as traditional literacy, as most jobs and higher education globally already have a digital component. Using a systematic review of the literature, this study sheds light on some of the key areas of unequal access to technology in the least-developed countries and the implications of the latter for access to quality education amid the evolution of e-education accompanying the 4IR. A two-way stream approach that the least developing countries' governments can implement to bridge the digital divide in higher education is suggested.

**Keywords:** Digital divide, digital opportunities, e-education, least developing countries, technologies, 4IR.

## **A Fundamental Accountability to Protect Planet earth: Unleashing the Potential of Green Entrepreneurship and Digital Transformation in Chinese Eco-efficient E-commerce**

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This study reveals the necessity and significance of eco-efficient E-commerce by investigating the multifaceted interactions among green entrepreneurship, environmental strategy, digital transformation, and environmental knowledge within the Chinese online business landscape. The research revealed the constructed relationships by analyzing the gathered data from 283 small and medium online Chinese businesses in Jiangsu province and their implications for sustainable business practices. Findings specify the significance of green entrepreneurship in energizing eco-efficient E-commerce in China, a framework characterized by digitalization, strategic formulation, and increasing environmental knowledge, that offers a holistic understanding of sustainability practices. Assuming the paramount importance of sustainability in China's E-commerce sector and the mounting global emphasis on environmental accountability, this study holds significant practical and theoretical implications. It notifies businesses, policymakers, and researchers about how green entrepreneurship can foster eco-efficient E-commerce and how environmental strategies and digital transformation mediate this relationship. Moreover, this study highlights the importance of environmental knowledge in improving sustainability efforts. Though prior studies have explored discrete components of green entrepreneurship and eco-efficient E-commerce, limited thoughts on their interconnectedness within the unique context of Chinese online businesses were presented. Therefore, this study addresses the gap and provides a comprehensive consideration of sustainability by examining, how eco-efficient E-commerce is influenced by green entrepreneurship, environmental strategy, digital transformation, and environmental knowledge that can underpin sustainability practices in Chinese e-commerce platforms.

## **Digital Transformation, Dual Innovation, and Dynamic Capabilities: Pathways to Enhance Innovation Performance in Manufacturing SMEs**

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Businesses must comprehend the complex effects of digital transformation on dynamic capacities and innovation performance in an era marked by rapid digital transformation.

We collected data from Chinese Manufacturing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to explore the co-inside of this complex relationship to the core. In this context, we examine the direct effects (of digital transformation and dual innovation) as well as the mediation (of dynamic capabilities) and moderation (of slack resources) mechanisms towards innovation performance. Our results show complex relationships such as dynamic capabilities and innovation performance are directly and significantly enhanced by digital transformation and dual innovation. The innovation performance is positively impacted by dynamic capabilities directly as well as dynamic capacities act as an important mediator that clarifies the relationship between dual innovation, innovation performance, and digital transformation. The study also reveals the beneficial moderation of slack resources, which strengthens the connections between digital transformation, dual innovation, and dynamic capabilities. For SMEs, the findings offer insightful information about the intricate dynamics of these crucial components. Comprehending and using these connections is essential to attaining competitiveness and flexibility in the constantly changing international business environment. This study offers improved knowledge of the elements driving innovation and dynamic capabilities in the digital age, making a contribution to both the theoretical and practical realms.

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### **Predicting Green Business Performance in Manufacturing SMEs through environmental and green market orientation.**

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Intensifying environmental concerns and growing demand for maintainable products and practices have pushed organizations to focus on environmental goals. To steer such a push, this study aims to examine the effect of environmental orientation, green market orientation, environmental knowledge, and green product innovation strategies on green business performance in manufacturing SMEs. The application of sustainability and demand-pull theories helps in developing an ideology that manufacturing firms must cater to societal and environmental preservation in parallel. The data were collected from 241 manufacturing SMEs in Jiangsu, China, and Smart-PLS (4.0) was used to examine the proposed relationships. The findings show that an organization's environmental orientation and green market orientation significantly influence its green product innovation and ultimately its green business performance. The study also found a positive mediating role of green product innovation between the relationships of environmental and green market orientation and green business performance. The study also found a positive moderating effect of environmental knowledge on the relationship between environmental orientation



and green product innovation. This research contributes to understanding how organizations can leverage their environmental and business orientations to drive green product innovation, thereby improving their green business performance. The findings provide valuable insights for practitioners and policymakers seeking to promote environmentally friendly practices and green innovation in business environments.

### **Study of Secondary Metabolites of Sargassum Algae: Anticorrosive and Antibacterial Activities**

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For several years, the Caribbean islands and West Africa have had to deal with the massive arrival of the brown seaweed *Sargassum*. Overall, this macroalgae, which constitutes a habitat for a great diversity of marine organisms, is also an additional stress factor for the marine environment (e.g., coral reefs). In addition, the accumulation followed by the significant decomposition of the *Sargassum* spp. biomass on the coast leads to the release of toxic gases ( $H_2S$  and  $NH_3$ ), which calls into question the functioning of the economic, health and tourist life of the island and the other interested territories. Originally, these algae are formed by the eutrophication of the oceans accentuated by global warming. Unfortunately, scientists predict a significant recurrence of these *Sargassum* strandings for years to come. It is therefore more than necessary to find solutions by putting in place a sustainable management plan for this phenomenon. Martinique, a small island in the Caribbean arc, is one of the many areas impacted by *Sargassum* seaweed strandings. Since 2011, there has been a constant increase in the degradation of the materials present in this region, largely due to toxic/corrosive gases released by the algae decomposition. In order to protect the structures and the vulnerable building materials while limiting the use of synthetic/petroleum-based molecules as much as possible, research is being conducted on molecules of natural origin. Thus, thanks to the chemical composition, which comprise molecules with interesting properties, algae such as *Sargassum* could potentially help to solve many issues. Therefore, this study focuses on the green extraction and characterization of molecules from the species *Sargassum fluitans* and *Sargassum natans* present in Martinique. The secondary metabolites found in these extracts showed variability in yield rates due to local climatic conditions. The tests carried out shed light on the anticorrosive and antibacterial potential of the algae. These extracts can thus be described as natural inhibitors. The effect of variation in inhibitor concentrations was tested in electrochemistry using electrochemical impedance spectroscopy and polarization curves. The analysis of electrochemical results obtained by direct immersion in the extracts and self-assembled molecular layers (SAMs) for *Sargassum fluitans* III, *Sargassum natans* I and VIII species was conclusive in acid and alkaline environments. The excellent results obtained reveal an inhibitory efficacy of 88% at 50mg/L for the crude extract of *Sargassum fluitans* III and

efficacies greater than 97% for the chemical families of *Sargassum fluitans* III. Similarly, microbiological tests also suggest a bactericidal character. Results for *Sargassum fluitans* III crude extract show a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of 0.005 mg/mL on Gram-negative bacteria and a MIC greater than 0.6 mg/mL on Gram-positive bacteria. These results make it possible to consider the management of local and international issues while valuing a biomass rich in biodegradable molecules. The next step in this study will therefore be the evaluation of the toxicity of *Sargassum* spp.

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## **Does oil matter? Rediscovering explanatory factors in the global transportation industry**

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One of the main sources of energy in our economy is oil, gas and all its derivatives. This energy source accounts for more than 50% of energy production and consumption worldwide. Energy dependence is found in all sectors of activity, including the transport sector as one of the most dependent on this energy source, consuming around 50 million barrels of crude oil daily. Taking this issue into account, the price of crude oil, gas and their derivatives is expected to have a high impact on the stock prices of transport companies. However, the previous literature has not been able to elucidate coherent results that would allow us to decipher the real impact of this energy source on the transport industry, if there is a significant impact. The objective of this abstract is to analyze the impact of this energy source on the stock prices of transport companies worldwide. Specifically, two subsectors of activity have been taken into account (Passenger Transportation Services and Freight & Logistics Services) at a global level. This analysis has been carried out by applying advanced statistical techniques framed in the Random Matrix Theory. Far from what the literature has said so far, our results warn that the prices of crude oil, natural gas and derivatives do not significantly affect the study sample, which leads us to raise again the debate on whether or not prices affect the transport stock price. This result implies a high implication at a practical level, giving shareholders, politicians and investors another point of view that allows them to analyze objectively and statistically the problem of possible cost increases due to the high volatility of crude oil and its derivatives.

## **NAVIGATING INTERDISCIPLINARY NETWORKS FOR GLOBAL IMPACT**

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This research is a comprehensive examination of the role of applied science in addressing contemporary global challenges and shaping the future of humanity. It begins by highlighting the need for cross-disciplinary collaboration to unlock the potential of applied science, and highlights how different fields come together to create innovative solutions beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. This collaborative approach is seen as essential in addressing complex social issues such as climate change, public health concerns and food security.

The study highlights the dynamic nature of contemporary research, where the integration of disparate fields is not only useful but necessary. Examples are provided, illustrating how disciplines such as linguistics, biology, engineering, computer science, and environmental science intersect to develop impactful technologies and approaches; Also embrace the challenges of interdisciplinary collaboration acknowledge the availability, including various communication barriers and strategies. And, it emphasizes that overcoming these obstacles leads to amazing discoveries and social improvements. The key to this success is fostering a culture of open communication, mutual respect, and intellectual curiosity among researchers.

Moreover, the research also highlights on making laboratory discoveries relevant, which underscores the need for translation of findings into practical solutions. It calls upon researchers to adopt an entrepreneurial attitude in order to exploit Technology Transfer, Start-up Incubation and Industry-Academic Partnerships as ways to maximize the societal impact of their work. It also underscores ethical concerns and social responsibility in scientific enterprises. This implies that there is a need for sustainability, inclusivity and ethical behaviour in research practices so as to make sure that society at large gains from technological advances. In conclusion, the study explains how research done in labs can become real-world solutions that help people, encourage collaboration, and solve grand challenges among other initiatives. It envisions a future in which applied science becomes a beacon of hope, promoting sustainable development, and shaping equitable just, fair, and stable world for future generations.

### **The Impact of Transformational Leaders on Improving Public Schools in Saudi Arabia**

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The purpose of this quantitative study was to investigate the impact of transformational educational leaders on improving the public school system in Saudi Arabia, in relation to the dimensions of transformational leadership that include school improvement, inspirational motivation, and empowerment. The Saudi Arabian government's Vision 2030 aims to make monumental leaps in every aspect of the country, including in education, in order to meet global standards by the year 2030. To do that, it is necessary to determine the most efficient methods to transform the Saudi Arabian school system and make it more effective. This study purports that by implementing transformational leadership standards in positions of power, the education system in Saudi Arabia will itself be transformed. To determine whether this hypothesis is correct, the researcher administered surveys to educational leaders within the Najran City District of Saudi Arabia, asking them to rate their answers from 1 to 5 (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree). IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) used to dissect the data. The researcher then summarized the data and made recommendations about the use of transformational leadership accordingly.

## **What Drives Smartphone Users to Adopt Mobile Commerce in Malaysia? An Empirical Investigation**

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Mobile business has shown substantial progress in the past few decades. With its significant findings, this study sheds light on the primary elements that impact the practical utilisation of mobile commerce in Malaysia. The researchers utilized a convenience sample method to collect 385 survey questionnaires from consumers in the Klang Valley area of Malaysia who own smartphones and actively engage in mobile commerce activities. The study's hypotheses were tested utilizing a two-stage structural equation modeling technique. The findings suggest that factors such as the perceived benefits of using mobile commerce, the ease of using it, the influence of others, and the level of trust in the system significantly impact the intention to use it. This intention, in turn, affects the actual usage of mobile commerce. The users' intention heavily influences the level of utilization of mobile commerce. Moreover, the intention fully mediates between the perceived trust and the actual use of mobile commerce. To the researcher's knowledge, this study is the first to extend the UTAUT model by including perceived trust in the context of Malaysian mobile commerce users. Thus, this study's findings benefit academicians, managers, marketers, mobile commerce providers, and all industry stakeholders. However, further investigation is recommended to explore the drivers of smartphone users to conduct mobile commerce transactions in Malaysia.

## **Weaving Creativity: Transforming Traditional Hand Weaving into Contemporary Art for Fostering Student Innovation**

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In today's fast-changing world, developing creative thinking skills is critical for students to succeed and innovate. This study aims to investigate a novel approach to encouraging creativity that combines traditional hand weaving techniques with contemporary art practices. Immersing students in hand weaving rich cultural heritage helps them appreciate the craftsmanship, symbolism, and stories woven into these timeless textiles. Rather than simply replicating traditional designs, students are encouraged to reimagine and reinterpret these ancient methods through a contemporary lens. Students learn to deconstruct and transform traditional weaving patterns through hands-on workshops and guided explorations, as well as experiment with unusual materials, colors, and textures. This process requires them to think critically, problem solve, and push the limits of their creative expression. The article features examples of student projects that seamlessly combine the old and new, resulting in captivating contemporary art pieces that honor cultural roots while embracing innovation. By revitalizing the age-old art of hand weaving, this teaching method not only preserves cultural heritage but also provides students with valuable creative thinking skills that can be applied to a variety of disciplines. It fosters a deep appreciation for tradition while also empowering students to be change agents, ready to face modern challenges with innovative solutions. Finally, this article shows how revitalizing traditional crafts can be a powerful catalyst for developing creativity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness in the next generation.

## **CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE OPENNESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA**

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The main purpose of this study was to investigate the causal relationship between trade openness and economic growth in Ethiopia. The model, which is economic growth, was estimated using both short-run and long-run models using econometric and descriptive techniques. The model was also tested using different diagnostic tests and other forecasting



methods using secondary annual time series data, covering the period range from 1980/81 to 2020/21 Ethiopian fiscal year, for a total of 41 data points. The empirical analysis part, which was the results of the ADF and PP unit root tests, was stationary at the first difference. The Johansen co-integration results of both the trace test and the max-Eigen value test had four co-integrating equation relationships for both models. The results of the pair-wise Granger causality test support the trade-lead growth hypothesis. Trade openness, labor force, and capital expenditure had a positive impact on economic growth, and their coefficients were statistically significant at the one percent level in the long run, but remittance and education expenditure were negatively related to economic growth. In the short run, remittances were statistically significant at the five percent level for economic growth. Based on the findings of the study, the author recommended that the formally flowed remittances should be spent on the productive sector, providing incentives and access to allow Ethiopian diasporas to engage more highly in domestic investment than before activity.

Key Words: Co-integration, Economic Growth, Ethiopia, Granger Causality, Trade Openness and VECM

### **Informal Workplace Learning: A Combined Thematic Analysis and Systematic Review**

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In today's dynamic and competitive business environment, informal learning has become just as important as formal organizational education. Research confirms that Informal Workplace Learning (IWL) is a crucial aspect of organizational development, yet there has been relatively limited scholarly work focused on this topic. To address that, this study reviewed 34 theoretical and empirical articles on IWL using two analytic approaches: (1) a qualitative thematic analysis, and (2) a systematic review. The findings revealed that eight main themes emerged from the Informal Workplace Learning literature: Organization, Psychology, Collaboration/Innovation, Conditions, Communities, Models, Scaffolding, and Development. The study also identified five categories of critical predictive factors for IWL: (1) Organizational, (2) Personality, (3) Task, (4) Learning, and (5) Environmental. Notably, organizational and individual factors are decisive determinants in the literature. The study found that IWL is unplanned and is not recognized by employers. Integrative literature review studies can help us tune informal workplace training practices, as they are far more important for workers' human capital development and keeping workers' skills up-to-date through informal learning is pivotal for companies to remain competitive in the global economy. Overall, the study highlights the importance

of informal learning in the workplace and provides valuable insights for organizations looking to improve their training practices. By recognizing the value of informal learning and supporting it through effective training programs, companies can ensure that their workforce stays up-to-date with the latest skills and knowledge, ultimately helping them remain competitive and successful in today's fast-paced business environment. Keywords: Informal Workplace Learning, Bibliometric Analysis, Thematic Analysis, Professional Development, Organization

### **Educational Programs on the Korean War's Resilient Heritage: Memory Politics of the "Sites of the Busan Wartime Capital" Between Japan and Korea**

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At the beginning of the Cold War, 22 multinational United Nations (UN) military forces joined the Korean War (1950–1953) to defend the Republic of Korea (ROK) against communist forces. During the war, Busan City provided a temporary seat for the ROK government for nearly three years. The Japanese sail training ship Nippon Maru in Yokohama contributed to the UN forces by evacuating US soldiers and Korean refugees. Although “America’s longest war” has been the focus of abundant research, most studies have overlooked Japan’s crucial assistance to the UN allied nations. The Korean government has been making efforts to inscribe related heritage sites as “Sites of the Busan Wartime Capital” on UNESCO’s World Heritage List. However, Japan’s engagement through Nippon Maru has not been adequately investigated. The present study aimed to fill this research gap by conducting a comprehensive analysis of contemporary education activities on Japan’s invisible and indispensable role in the Korean War. The main objective of this research was to examine how educational programs related to Nippon Maru, recently designated as a National Important Cultural Property in Japan, and the UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea (UNMCK), the world’s only UN cemetery, have reconfigured the memory politics of the “Sites of the Busan Wartime Capital.” Therefore, this study adopted the following unique multi-design approach:

- (1) A literature review of studies on the Korean War, Nippon Maru, and UNMCK;
- (2) Interviews with educational program managers at Nippon Maru and “Sites of the Busan Wartime Capital”;
- (3) Analysis of a documentary film titled “Land of Memory, the UN Cemetery,” produced by the Korean Broadcasting System in 2021; and

(4) An examination of historical archival documents on the sailing records of evacuated refugees and UN soldiers in Japan and Korea.

Findings revealed that contemporary educational programs related to Nippon Maru and the UNMCK are not interrelated but rather particularized under the theme of “Sites of the Busan Wartime Capital.” However, the two heritage sites are closely interconnected with wartime memory politics and can be recreated as a “heterotopia” connecting the Korean Peninsula, the UN forces led by the United States, and Japan as a base state. This study highlights the necessity for developing multidisciplinary educational activities on the Cold War heritage to resonate with the human dignity and diaspora of contemporary society. This research contributes to interdisciplinary studies on history, anthropology, heritage, and education by reenvisioning the forgotten war’s resilient heritage.

### **John F. Kennedy's Foreign Policy Vision: Navigating the Challenges of the Cold War Era**

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John F. Kennedy's presidency, spanning from 1961 to 1963, was characterized by his astute handling of foreign affairs during the height of the Cold War. Kennedy entered office at a time of heightened tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, and his approach to foreign policy was defined by a combination of pragmatism, idealism, and strategic diplomacy. Kennedy's foreign policy vision was shaped by his commitment to containing the spread of communism while also seeking opportunities for détente and peaceful coexistence with the Soviet Union. His administration faced several significant challenges, including the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the construction of the Berlin Wall. In response to these crises, Kennedy demonstrated decisive leadership and a willingness to engage in direct diplomacy with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. His handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis, in particular, showcased his ability to defuse a potentially catastrophic situation through careful negotiation and brinkmanship, ultimately averting nuclear conflict. Kennedy also pursued a proactive agenda of international cooperation and development, exemplified by his advocacy for the Alliance for Progress in Latin America and the establishment of the Peace Corps. These initiatives reflected Kennedy's belief in the importance of soft power and cultural diplomacy in shaping global relations. Despite his abbreviated presidency, Kennedy's foreign policy legacy continues to resonate in American diplomacy. His emphasis on diplomacy, strategic thinking, and the pursuit of peace through strength set a precedent for future administrations, influencing subsequent approaches to international relations in the post-Cold War era.

This study provides insight into John F. Kennedy's foreign policy principles, highlighting his strategic responses to the challenges of the Cold War and his enduring impact on American diplomacy.

### **The Importance of Meta-discourse Instruction in Promoting Reading Strategies among Iranian EFL Tertiary learners**

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To be successful in discourse comprehension, readers need to have knowledge of certain rhetorical characteristics of texts or meta-discourse, as it increases readers' understanding of the overall meaning of a text. Meta-discourse knowledge can help readers recognize text organization, grasp writer's message and engage in dialogue with writer to lead to successful comprehension of text. This paper investigates the effect of meta-discourse instruction on 113 Iranian tertiary EFL learners' metacognitive awareness of reading strategies. Using a quasi-experimental design students were placed in two groups of experimental and control participants. The experimental group received instruction on meta-discourse strategies, while the control group received reading instruction through the conventional method for one semester. Comparing both groups' mean score on three SORS (Survey of Reading Strategies) subcategories using MANCOVA procedures showed that the mean scores of all three SORS subcategories of experimental group were higher than those of the control group. However, it was revealed that the only difference to reach statistical difference was post GLOB (Global Reading Strategies). Findings from the analysis of pre and posttests scores obtained from SORS and its subcategories indicated that metadiscourse instruction promoted the participants' reading strategy use. The intervention also led to an increase in students' overall strategy awareness and use as well as an increase in each subcategory of SORS: global, support, and problem-solving reading strategies. Students perceived themselves as using more global reading strategies following metadiscourse instruction. It can be said that interactive and interactional metadiscourse knowledge has perceptually equipped EFL readers with strategies that helped them to have a global comprehension of the texts. Moreover, knowledge of metadiscourse is beneficial for tertiary EFL learners in terms of their reading strategies awareness and use that will eventually improve their reading comprehension performance. While reading instructors are recommended to integrate metadiscourse in their classes, it is important to be cognizant that instruction of metadiscourse as higher order text processing strategies that promote global comprehension should be included as complementary to overly practiced lower-

level text processing strategies. To read effectively, students need to employ a range of strategies. They need to tap into their linguistic knowledge to enable them to read within the lines and beyond, while also utilizing discourse and metadiscourse knowledge. The findings also have implications for the selection of a suitable model to teach metadiscourse, the duration spent for the instruction, designing systematic lesson plans and catering to varying levels of English proficiencies.

### **A Qualitative Study Exploring Adult Learners' Perceptions on Character Building Initiatives at Higher Education**

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This paper explores adult learners' perceptions on the needs of fostering good character at tertiary level to encourage favourable personal transformation and holistic development of cognitive, metacognitive and socio-affective skills. It is important to empathize with situations faced by both local and international students around the globe in terms of academic, sociocultural, psychological, and economic challenges while pursuing their studies at higher institutions. While challenges are perceived as a part of life, some might have taken initiative to prepare themselves better to face those challenges but some are not aware at all. The study adopts a qualitative method to investigate the adult learners' perspectives on the relevance of character building towards an individual's transformation and growth through interview sessions. Data will be analyzed thematically and presented descriptively to visualize personalized understandings.

### **Elevating Contemporary Fiber Art: Integrating Bedouin Motifs for Cultural Enrichment and Artistic Innovation**

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This study investigates strategies for improving the quality of contemporary fiber art by incorporating Bedouin motifs. Contemporary fiber art, while encompassing a wide range of techniques and mediums, frequently draws inspiration from cultural heritage to imbue pieces with depth and meaning. Drawing on the rich visual lexicon of Bedouin culture, which is known for its intricate patterns and symbolic motifs, this study investigates how incorporating these elements can improve the aesthetic and conceptual dimensions of fiber art. This study explains the creative processes and challenges of incorporating Bedouin



motifs into contemporary fiber art using a combination of literature review, case studies, and artist interviews. The findings highlight the potential for such fusion to enhance artistic expression, foster cultural dialogue, and contribute to the preservation of Bedouin heritage in the modern context.

### **Critical Thinking**

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From the period 2020 through May of 2024, we argue that recent published social-political literature on discussing the best the choice for the next president has helped create professionally flawed "critical thinking" and "human reasoning" along with their conclusions. It is abundantly clear that the intense and bitter social-political acrimony and struggle for ultimate political power in the United States has altered the best practices in critical thinking and human reasoning. There is authenticity of critical thinking concepts and the logic of reasoning, and has been since ancient Greek writings through today, using validity and reliability. Our research-in-progress is a direct comparison to the similar social-political climate and published literature during the 2004-2008 area. The players in that timeframe sought with the same intensity to become president. The social-political literature during those former years were more much more respectful to both political sides and reflected true statesmanship of published debates regardless of the devised salient ways to best defend their cause, thesis, and conclusions. We use Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) to argue that the application of critical thinking as routinely used during the current societal unrest is now less realistic, less valued, far too negative, and decidedly more subjective. The current intensity and the spineless way of debating and publishing obfuscates readers' sincere desire to have their own sense and faith of their acuity of any social-political argument. The major findings will show an increase of 20% statistically or more published articles that are devoted and accepted to the best practices of fair and balanced critical thinking as compared to the prior political era. We will defend the restoration of an accepted and realistic sense of stability in critical thinking and human reasoning.

### **Art & Design & Craft in the Two-dimensional World Culture**

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The article employs two-dimensional world cultural products as a case study to examine the nuanced relationship between art, crafts, and design within this realm. Given the vast array of cultural products within the two-dimensional world, the focus of analysis is

narrowed down to in-game photography and figures. Initially, the article outlines the currently accepted definitions of art, crafts, and design. Subsequently, it delves into the diverse attitudes exhibited by various audience groups towards these categories. The primary conclusion drawn is that while the boundaries between the concepts of art, crafts, and design may be blurred, each possesses distinct characteristics and differences. Thus, whether considering specific products within the two-dimensional world culture or examining two-dimensional culture more broadly, it becomes apparent that, from a certain perspective, the three can be differentiated.

### **Distinctive Formal Educational affirmation verification and authentication using Improved, Customized and Responsive Solidity based Ethereum Blockchain Technology**

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This research proposal presents a pioneering approach to leveraging Solidity-based Ethereum blockchain technology to revolutionize the verification and authentication process of educational credentials(result). Traditional methods of credential verification suffer from inherent inefficiencies and susceptibility to fraudulence, necessitating a paradigm shift towards a more secure and efficient system. At its core, the proposed system architecture provides a decentralized framework for credential verification, comprising smart contracts, decentralized applications (DApps), and user interfaces. By harnessing the power of Solidity-based smart contracts, the architecture ensures data integrity, security, and accessibility throughout the credential verification process. Through detailed design principles and implementation strategies, the research paper elucidates the transformative potential of blockchain technology in the realm of educational credentialing. The key components of the proposed system architecture are elucidated, emphasizing their role in enhancing the efficiency and reliability of the credential verification process. These components include the Blockchain\_INITIALIZER, Contract Deployer, Simplified Wallet System, and Flask Server with Easily Accessible Endpoints. Each component contributes to streamlining the credential verification process while ensuring transparency, security, and adaptability. Furthermore, the research proposal delves into the working mechanism of Ethereum blockchain in the educational system, elucidating the interaction between various components such as Geth (Go Ethereum server), Python Flask API, and Solidity smart

contracts. This comprehensive understanding facilitates the development of a robust framework for building interactive blockchain applications tailored to the specific needs of educational credential verification. The proposal also outlines an efficient mining allocation algorithm designed to optimize CPU usage and resource allocation, thereby contributing to sustainability efforts in blockchain operations. Additionally, the research paper presents detailed system specifications and performance statistics, providing insights into system reliability and scalability.

In conclusion, the research paper has explored the potential of Ethereum blockchain technology, particularly Solidity-based smart contracts, to enhance the verification of educational credentials. The system design, utilizing Geth, Python Flask API, and Solidity smart contracts, offers a robust framework for interactive blockchain applications. The algorithm for efficient mining allocation optimizes CPU usage and resource allocation, contributing to sustainability efforts. The system testing report provides insights into system performance and reliability, highlighting areas for optimization. Overall, the research contributes to the discourse on blockchain technology and education, driving innovation and trust in credential verification. Further research and development efforts are needed to address challenges and capitalize on opportunities in this evolving landscape.

## **Unlocking the Potential of Applied Sciences Navigating Interdisciplinary Networks for Global Impact**

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This article is not just about solving global challenges, it is also about enhancing how we understand and teach languages. Applied sciences are at the heart of innovation. They bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, turning groundbreaking research into tangible solutions that improve lives. Whether advancing medical treatments, developing sustainable technologies, or improving agricultural practices, applied sciences touch every aspect of our daily existence. However, to fully realize this potential, we must embrace interdisciplinary collaboration. One often overlooked but crucial area is the impact of this collaboration on linguistics and language education. The blending of applied sciences with language studies offers powerful insights into how we teach and learn languages, thereby broadening our understanding and capabilities. This has become even more relevant after the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in our current era of AI and rapid technological advancement. While exploring the benefits of applied sciences in education, specifically in teaching languages, I'd like to highlight the following three key areas:

### **1. Cultivating Collaborative Synergies in Language Education**

Effective language teaching can greatly benefit from integrating perspectives of fields like cognitive science, psychology, and applied linguistics. By working closely with cognitive scientists, educators can develop strategies that align with how the brain processes, stores, and retrieves new languages. This alignment ensures that language learning techniques are more in tune with natural cognitive processes, thereby making the learning experience more efficient and impactful.

Additionally, incorporating perspectives from psychology can help in understanding the emotional and motivational factors that influence language learning. Psychological insights into memory, learning behaviors, and learner motivation can guide the development of techniques that address diverse learner needs and preferences.

## **2. Establishing Integrated Communication Platforms for Language Learning**

Creating platforms that integrate language studies with other disciplines is essential for fostering innovative approaches to teaching and learning. These integrated platforms can bridge gaps between traditional language education and modern technological advancements, providing enhanced and dynamic learning experiences.

For instance, the development of digital technologies by engineers and computer scientists, such as language learning apps, interactive software, and virtual reality tools, can be significantly enhanced when combined with insights from linguists and educators. Such interdisciplinary platforms facilitate immersive and interactive language learning experiences that go beyond traditional methods. For example, virtual reality can simulate real-life situations where learners practice language skills in realistic contexts, boosting their ability to use the language practically and confidently. Interactive apps can incorporate adaptive learning algorithms to tailor instruction to individual learner needs, providing personalized feedback and support based on current linguistic research on language acquisition.

Additionally, integrating insights from sociolinguistics and cultural studies into these platforms can create learning experiences that are culturally nuanced and contextually relevant. This approach helps learners understand and navigate the complexities of language use across various social and cultural settings, thereby improving their communicative competence. The synergy between technology and linguistics, bolstered by interdisciplinary collaboration, paves the way for a more effective and innovative approach to language learning.

## **3. Promoting Cross-Disciplinary Education in Language Teaching**

Embedding interdisciplinary approaches into curricula enriches language education. Programs that combine language studies with neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and cultural studies can revolutionize teaching methods. For example, AI-driven tools offer personalized learning experiences. These tools can adapt to the individual learning pace and style of each student, providing tailored exercises and feedback that address their specific strengths and weaknesses. Similarly, like AI, insights from neuroscience inform curricula design to align with cognitive processes. This alignment can lead to improved memory retention, faster language acquisition, and a deeper understanding of linguistic concepts.

In conclusion, unlocking the full potential of applied sciences through interdisciplinary networks not only addresses global challenges but also significantly enriches our approach to language education.

Imagine a future where language instruction is supported by cutting-edge neurocognitive research,

where artificial intelligence tools provide personalized learning experiences,

and where cultural studies create immersive and contextually rich learning environments.

These interdisciplinary approaches can transform language teaching, making it more effective, engaging, and relevant to today's globalized world, preparing students to navigate a diverse and interconnected world.

The synergy between applied sciences and interdisciplinary collaboration holds the promise to turn visionary ideas into tangible realities, advancing both science and education in ways that profoundly benefits society.

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