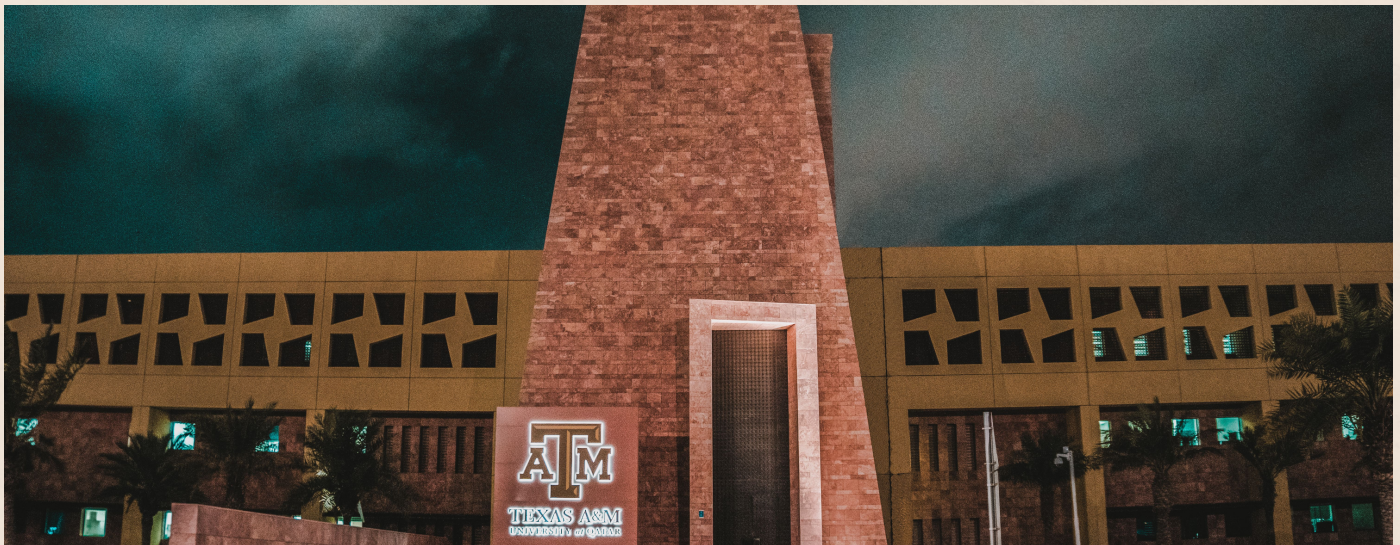


GRAD CABLE

The official newsletter of the Texas A&M University at Qatar
 Graduate Student Association



UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

APR. 13

PROJECTED FIRST DAY OF
 RAMADAN

APR. 21

AGGIE MUSTER

APR. 25

LAST DAY OF SPRING
 CLASSES, REDEFINED DAY

APR. 26

READING DAY, LAST DAY TO
 WITHDRAW FROM
 UNIVERSITY OR Q-DROP (NO
 ACADEMIC PENALTY)

APR. 27 - MAY 3

SPRING SEMESTER FINAL
 EXAMS (ONLINE/REMOTE)

Grey Bubbles

by Elizabeth Obode

Grey is interesting – it is the color of nuances and unintended consequences. Of non-linear effects and solutions to problems caused by trying to solve problems.

Can I eat my cake and have it? What if my cake was renewable?

No where else can one experience the shades of grey in all its glory as in the quest for renewable energy. What makes this so grey?

First, there's the interesting correlation between CO₂ emission and industrialization. Because development is made on the backbone of energy and energy for development has been produced by fossil fuel, one can imagine that the correlation is positive.

Next, there's the material consequence of renewable, especially rare earth metals. They're not rare in actual fact, but minable ores are. And due to the ...

... environmentally degrading nature of this mineral processing, the United States closed off mines/processing plants and China picked up the slack. Now with over 80% of rare earth minerals coming from China, all Green policy rests on this mineral availability. With strained relationships between these two countries, the US and allies are looking for alternative sources.

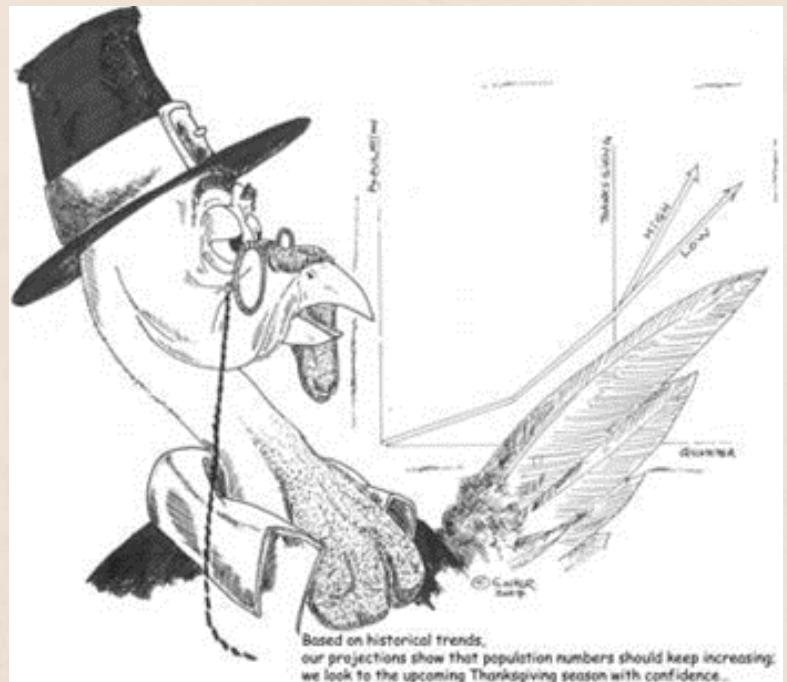
Geology must be laughing because these minerals are found in (some) coal formations in the US and steps are underway to reopen coal mines.

Also, exploration has started in some African countries for rare earths critical to make renewables work.

Mining in Africa has not always had the best consequences – and as I read the reports and see the pictures from the locations, I cannot help but think that this doesn't look green to me. It looks downright grey. Maybe this is media blackwash. Maybe not. I hope that best practices would be employed to ensure that the environmental and human

impact of these activities are minimized. I wonder what hindsight might show us on a scale of grey to green.

IMAGE CREDIT: NASSIM TALEB



The Secret to Writing Is ...

by Jack Altwal

Ok so let me tell you the secret to writing...

No wait that doesn't work, let me try again:

Do you want to know the secret to writing?

Uhm, that's bad, ok, again:

The Secret to Writing is...

Well, it's pretty mysterious isn't it?

Some eventually find it and go on to write bestselling novels about a chemical that helps you fix the lottery or a man's maniacal and deadly search for a cure for AIDS. Others go on to write movies that most people don't fully understand but love anyway.

Some people, on the other hand, spend years searching for it. They try to swallow dictionaries

.... and learn fancy words that just end up obfuscating what they want to say. They wake up late at night, scrambling in the dark, looking for a notebook or a phone to jot down some half-cocked idea or dream they had that's supposed to be the next big thing only to wake up the next morning and realize that what they wrote is complete nonsense. They spend hours, days, and then weeks staring at a blank notepad or computer screen because they're convinced that they don't have what it takes, that they don't know the secret. If you're in the first group of people, that's fantastic, I can't wait to read what you write. If you think you're in the second group of people, I want you to do something right now. Close your eyes and start singing. Well, singing is always fun but it won't really help here. No, what you really need to do is close your eyes and try

to remember those absolutely terrifying family gatherings or boring get-togethers where all you wanted to do was go through your phone (all those new tweets, snaps, and stories just waiting for your like) and suddenly the spotlight was on you. Remember how eager you were when you told the story of how you nearly fell off your bike riding down that steep hill, how you aced your final presentation, or how you tried to make brownies in the microwave. Remember how your eyes lit up and the timbre of your voice changed,

how you held everyone's attention. Now, just imagine, if instead of using your mouth, you had used your fingers and your computer to tell the story. The secret to writing is mysterious, and it's not something you can learn by taking an English class (no offense to English teachers), watching YouTube videos, or reading a Stephen King memoir.

The secret to writing is your life, your experiences, and your creativity and imagination. The secret to writing is *You*.

PHOTO BY SAFEER HAFEEZ



ADDITIONAL DEADLINES

APR. 20 - LAST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS TO DROP COURSES WITH NO PENALTY (Q-DROP). LAST DAY TO OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

(APPLIES TO MASTERS NON-THESIS, MASTERS THESIS AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATES)

MASTER'S - NON-THESIS

APR. 02 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FINAL EXAMINATION" OR 10 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.

APR. 09 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT "REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMINATION" FOR STUDENTS IN M.ENG. OR M.ED. IN EPSY

APR. 06 - LAST DAY TO TAKE FINAL EXAMINATION.

MASTER'S - THESIS

MAY 05 - ELECTRONIC THESIS/DISSERTATION SYSTEM RE-OPENS FOR AUGUST 2021 DEGREE CANDIDATES.

MAY 07 - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT THESIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR SUMMER GRADUATION

DOCTORAL

MAY 05 - ELECTRONIC THESIS/DISSERTATION SYSTEM RE-OPENS FOR AUGUST 2021 DEGREE CANDIDATES.