

Professor Andrej Zwitter

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Andrej Zwitter took the idea of energy governance and expanded upon it through the lenses of law, politics and governance. He raised key questions, and focused on a theoretical and document analysis approach in constructing his arguments. The success to his arguments can be boiled down to a combination of his attention to detail, in-depth examination of the topic, and the cross-examination of many more questions within the field, leaving many of them open-ended for the audience to process and examine further.

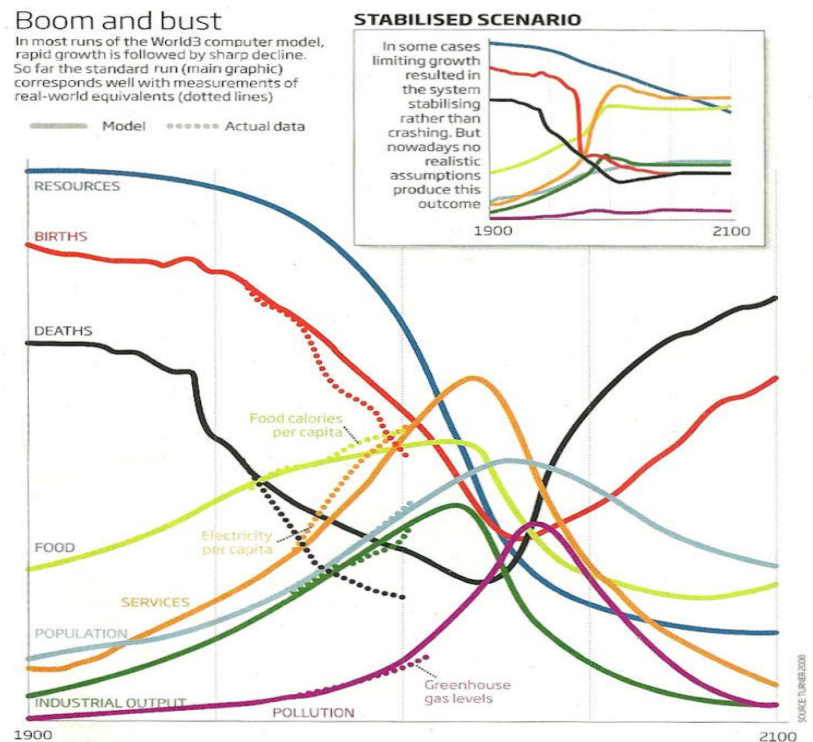
The first question Andrej asked was “What is a global strategic problem?”, and he responded with a pragmatic definition, but as he broke down the definition, he began to draw lines and connections between domestic and regional problems, and how they interact with energy governance. Governance on a domestic level could include border security and unemployment, but when discussing energy, we involve CO₂ production and a search for partnerships when an issue becomes too great for one State to tackle on its own. One major theme in Andrej’s presentation that was able to be pulled out from the very beginning was the importance of international interaction. There are many states who have international companies and corporations who pull weight in these discussions, and thus need to be addressed on an international scale. Andrej described the difference between absolute and relative strategic problems, of which relative problems rely primarily on global co-operation. This idea led us to his deduction of neo-Malthusian complications regarding growth, not only of linear expansions, but of exponential proportions. As seen on the following graph presented by Andrej, it shows that the earth is predicted to hit a carrying capacity due to the extreme population rates while

other factors (food, resources, etc.) will hit a standstill. Andrej states that this is already happening, and leads into his next point.

Andrej's second question was "what is the problem with sustainability considering intergenerational dimensions?" This was an interesting take on the ideas of carbon footprints and what we are leaving for the generation after us. He

discussed the idea of intergenerational equity, which is an economic idea adopted by the late James Tobin, of which involves the idea that structures can perpetuate overtime through generations. Andrej pointed out the importance of realizing that there are finite resources, and when being used, these need to be replaced by renewable resources. He said that there is a clear disconnect between the two. He lightly touched on the idea of what happens when we reach the point of no return by saying there are plenty of theories on this, estimated to happen in 2050 with key dates of other significant happenings in 2020 and 2030.

Andrej's third question was "what are the legal and political governance dimension's available", touching upon the points that we already have existent in the global governance area. He talked about areas of law, specifically soft-law, such as preambles and agreements that are commitments but not always enforceable. Andrej identified three key areas where legal and political governance are available, including peace and security, human development, and



environment. He gave two examples, the preamble of the United Nations Charter and the UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) declaration on the rights of future generations. All the above as well as the Stockholm declaration on the human environment all encompass what has already been done in terms of global governance, and while these are important steps towards the future, we need to discuss the problems still at hand. Andrej closed with his fourth question being “Energy as a global strategic problem?” by saying that “even if we had the tools, if we could turn it around”, would we, and how could we achieve such a thing? He suggested there is a need to design structures and models to “enable a peaceful transition when we reach 2050”.

Sarah Lieberman

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Sarah Lieberman’s discussion followed Andrej’s presentation. She noted the ambiguity contained in the words “energy” and “governance”, a point that many scholars overlook, and she said that by having so many definitions limit oneself in an adequate way of viewing the term. She also picked up on the point regarding intergenerational equity, expanding on the idea by discussing non-human group beneficiaries (i.e. the environment as a whole, the animals and individuals inside of an ecosystem) and by highlighting the point that we are creating a future for the next generation in terms of energy. Similar to Andrej, Sarah brought up two key questions in closing including “what happens when it all runs out?” and “at what point does a relative problem become an absolute problem?”