

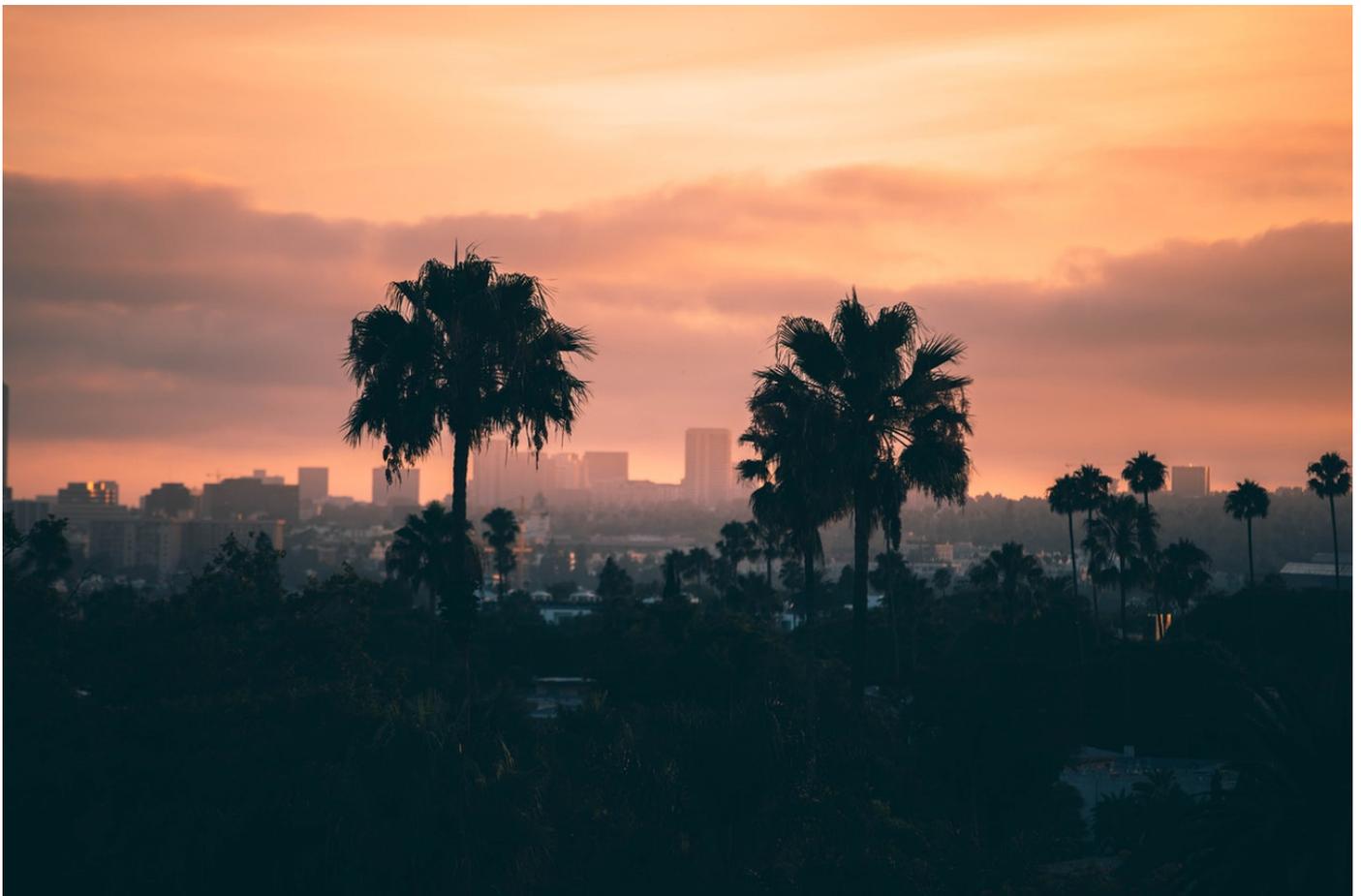
Gases, Open Source and Surveillance: October in brief

ESI Quick Bites October 2021

NEW ESI Member

A very warm welcome to Anthony Minnaar. Great to have you with us!

Articles That Caught Our Attention: Summaries



Carbon: Suck it in and bury it

California is planning to accelerate development of technology for industrial-scale removal and burying of carbon from the atmosphere with the minimum of energy expenditure on the process itself.

Guiding principles for assessing adaptations to climate change

Considering the pressure to achieve global temperature goals and the highly contextualised nature of adaptation, the authors identify a number of significant frames affecting the choices to be made. From these they distil eleven principles, 'different considerations to reflect on when designing new adaptation interventions and developing metrics to track adaptation progress'.

Open source information: what can you rely on?

The international community is increasingly embracing the potential of digital information and open source methods to strengthen fact-finding and verification, but it is important to note such processes' weak spots and the potential for bias: for example, the risk of access bias determining where and from whom digital open source information comes; algorithmic bias shaping search results and the analysis and filtering of information gathered; and cognitive biases leading to systematic errors in the gathering or interpretation of information.

While the particular context of this study is international criminal investigations, the analysis and recommendations are relevant to anyone using digital open source information to establish and prove relevant facts.

Meanwhile, in the Southern Ocean ...

Much energy and ingenuity are currently being put into sequestering/capturing/drawing down carbon in a variety of processes, as part of efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. This report highlights one natural, substantial, and continuing process of carbon drawdown whose special contribution is becoming better understood.



Building is a gas - especially with cement

Cement production is responsible for 7 to 8 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions globally. If the cement sector were a country, it would rank fourth in the world as a climate polluter. California now has legislation requiring carbon emissions per ton of cement to be cut by 40% below 2019 levels by 2035.

Dealing with climate change at local level

As we take more detailed stock of how climate change impacts differently across particular climatic/environmental circumstances, a portfolio of specifically focused pro-active and mitigating measures is emerging. This thoroughly grounded study, for example, sets out to establish a set of metrics for a hot and dry hazards monitoring system for cities faced with those circumstances, in order to support their effective management and development.



AI and surveillance: looking for balance

Members of the European Parliament have voted in support of banning mass surveillance entirely, citing in particular its potential algorithmic bias (a matter that has also been highlighted in recent revelations concerning Facebook).

Our future in the Anthropocene biosphere

A comprehensive, fully referenced, and useful overview of the special nature of the Anthropocene, our inescapable entanglement with the Earth system foundation, and the possibilities of transformational change towards resilience and sustainability.

Headlines That Caught Our Attention

The **world's largest floating office** has just launched - is this the answer to our flood-prone future?

Microplastics May Be Cooling - and Heating - Earth's Climate

How quickly does the climate **recover**?

Books / Reports of Note

Covid by Numbers: Making Sense of the Pandemic with Data, reviewed in the **The Lancet**

Copyright © 2021 GRGP programme University of Cape Town, All rights reserved.

Our email address is:
esi@proactive-resolutions.com

Our website is:
evolvingsecuritiesinitiative.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).