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Submitting to Limina

Details about the journal and how to submit can be found at www.limina.arts.uwa.edu.au.

Cover Image

Digital image by Nik (@helloimnik), Crisis. Retrieved from unsplash.com.

Millennial Prize Problems

Tess Ezzy
Macquarie University

This creative investigation presents a series of pantoum compositions that scrutinize the existential predicaments confronting millennials, particularly those pertaining to senescence and contemporaneous societal phenomena. The objective was to elucidate the phenomenon of millennial maturation through a confluence of ethnographic inquiry and poetic expression. My research transcended conventional barriers, enabling a holistic and empathetic engagement with the millennial cohort. The synthesis of this enquiry into pantoum verse, replete with linguistic ingenuity and symbolic references to the millennium problems and the pejorative 'snowflake generation' moniker, serves not only to challenge prevailing methodological and ethical quandaries but also to provide a poignant introspection into the millennial psyche. This work contributes to the discourse on generational aging, identity formation, and societal transformation through an amalgamation of ethnographic rigour and literary exploration, offering profound insights into the lived experiences of the millennial generation within the context of contemporary social dynamics.

I. P vs NP Problem

The P vs NP problem questions whether problems whose solution can be quickly verified (NP) in polynomial time can also be solved quickly (P) in polynomial time.

3 A.M strikes and Doubt again rises

Ten long years in a career unforeseen

'Imposter', he shrieks - he won't subside

'Like P vs NP, she's less than machine.'

Ten long years in a career unforeseen

The paths shine less brightly and the futures incite

'Like P vs NP, she's less than machine'

Pretty but vapid, no computational might

The paths shine less brightly and the futures incite

Do they know I'm pretending to know what I'm doing?

Pretty but vapid, no computational might

But I never was able to make up my mind quickly.

Do they know I'm pretending to know what I'm doing?

'Imposter', he shrieks - he won't subside

But I never was able to make up my mind quickly

3 A.M strikes and Doubt again rises

II. Hodge Conjecture

The Hodge Conjecture suggests that certain algebraic classes can represent the cohomology classes of a projective algebraic variety, that is complex shapes and spaces can ultimately be understood through simpler, underlying principles.

Where bodies heave in the club's heady air
Dark spaces, loud music, attempted *tête-à-tête*
I've never met someone as (adjective) as her
Could this be the start of something *chouette*?

Dark spaces, loud music, attempted *tête-à-tête*
'Let's get an uber - My place?', I said.
Could this be the start of a something *chouette*?
Peel off layers and complexity, we dive into bed

'Let's get an uber - My place?', I said.
Pleasure crescendoes and then algebraic boom
Peel off layers and complexity, we dive into bed
I feel naked. I am naked. This bond will not bloom

Pleasure crescendoes and then algebraic boom
I've never met someone as (adjective) as her
I feel naked. I am naked. This bond will not bloom
Where bodies heave in the club's heady air

III. Poincaré Conjecture (Solved)

The Poincaré Conjecture asserted that every simply connected, closed 3-manifold is homeomorphic to the 3-sphere.

Sometimes I watch crowds, a sonderous sea
and wonder if they too feel this alone
Do they feel too young yet too old? Have they got ADHD?
Do they look at this crowd and too feel unknown?

And I wonder if they too feel this alone
That beneath our dermis and keratin pieces
Do they look at this crowd and too feel unknown?
Similar blood, and bones, and faces, and creases

That beneath our dermis and keratin pieces
The Poincaré Conjecture, we find unity in topology
Similar blood, and bones, and faces, and creases
We can all be distilled into spherical mythology

The Poincaré Conjecture, we find unity in topology
Do they feel too young yet too old? Have they got ADHD?
We can all be distilled into spherical mythology
Sometimes I watch crowds, a sonderous sea

IV. Navier-Stokes Existence and Smoothness

The Navier-Stokes Existence and Smoothness problem concerns the behaviour of viscous fluid flow and seeks to determine whether solutions to the Navier-Stokes equations always exist and remain smooth under all conditions in three-dimensional spaces. It challenges mathematicians to prove that, despite complex interactions within fluids, such as water or air, there can be a predictable, stable solution that doesn't blow up to infinity for any initial condition or over any period.

I know there is pathetic fallacy to climate change

Where my mental health has ozone holes

Our mother, our body, unstable and in danger

Of becoming incompatible with #lifegoals

Where my mental health has ozone holes

The Navier-Stokes of my being, trying to predict

Of becoming incompatible with #lifegoals

How currents of emotions and reason conflict

The Navier-Stokes of my being, trying to predict

Icebergs of viscous fluid begin to melt

How currents of emotions and reason conflict

Under the heat of guilt and shame so keenly felt

The icebergs of viscous fluid begin to melt

Our mother, our body, linked and in danger

Under the heat of guilt and shame so keenly felt

I know there is pathetic fallacy to climate change