

WEBVTT

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00:00:04.180 --> 00:00:07.040

[Nolan] Inescapably Foreign. Welcome to Without Borders.</v>

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If this is your first time tuning in, know that this is the podcast for nomads,

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00:00:11.400 --> 00:00:14.320

immigrants, refugees, third culture children,

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00:00:14.690 --> 00:00:18.240

or anyone else that feels inescapably foreign. Remember,

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00:00:18.240 --> 00:00:21.800

I do have a website without borders.fyi.

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00:00:22.020 --> 00:00:26.240

You can tune in there to join the community and also read some more interesting

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00:00:26.240 --> 00:00:31.080

articles about cultural psychology or get some more in-depth information about

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people's immigration experiences. Today I am here with, uh, Dr.

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Dr. Matthew Niblett and Kris Beuret.

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Matthew is the director of the Independent Transport Commission,

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which is Britain's foremost independent transport and land use think tank.

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00:00:46.490 --> 00:00:50.680

Matthew holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford and was a senior

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research associate at the University's Transport Studies Unit. Uh,

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Kris is the Director of Social Research Associates and a social

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scientist specialized in transport and urban policy.

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Kris has advised the House of Commons Transport Committee TFL.,

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the DFT, and oversees governments on disability and diversity issues.

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In other words, I have a lot to learn from Kris and Matthew.

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And today we're focusing on the project and the book. *Why Travel?*

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00:01:23.090 --> 00:01:23.440

Um,

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so can you describe the project to us and why the ITTC is carrying out this

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far-reaching study?

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[Matthew] Thank you, uh, Nolan. It's a great pleasure to be on the, uh, podcast today.</v>

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Um, the ITTC is a travel and transport think tank.

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And so what we are particularly interested in, uh,

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some of these really big questions, these long-term, uh,

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questions about the fundamental motivations that drive human movement,

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which is something which isn't either really studied in the academic world

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or often looked at in, in government. And we felt, uh,

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that there needed to be, um,

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much more attention paid to understanding these motivations, uh, which,

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which drive this, you know, absolutely crucial aspect of, of human existence.

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Uh,

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so the project really sort of started to begin to pull together expertise

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from a much wider body of, uh, knowledge, uh,

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than is normally found, uh, in the, in the transport world, uh,

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to try and really get a kaleidoscope of insights into

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00:02:31.100 --> 00:02:34.480

the reasons that drive, uh, drive human travel.

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And with the hope that once we disassembled that kaleidoscope of insights,

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00:02:38.700 --> 00:02:41.200

the whole would be bigger than the sum of its parts.

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00:02:41.380 --> 00:02:43.840

And we would then be able to, uh,

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00:02:43.840 --> 00:02:48.760

hopefully get a much deeper and richer understanding of, uh, travel motivations.

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00:02:49.230 --> 00:02:51.480

It's been a long time in the making, uh,

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but we decided that perhaps the best way of disseminating this knowledge was

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through a book. Uh, so the, the project has been working to develop, uh,

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the book that was published last year by Bristol University Press. I think, uh,

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I dunno whether that's in reverse, but, uh, I'm sure you can put a link up, um,

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00:03:10.450 --> 00:03:14.360

to the, uh, to the website to in due course. Uh,

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00:03:14.360 --> 00:03:18.120

the book itself brings together, uh, I think 12, um,

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insights from different areas, from biology to philosophy,

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to sociology, to economics, um,

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all exploring different aspects of, of what drive, um,

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00:03:29.750 --> 00:03:33.720

what drives human travel. Uh, and we hope that, you know, together this,

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this is a kind of resource that, that people can use and,

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and find helpful in terms of thinking about, uh, this,

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00:03:40.990 --> 00:03:45.680

this extraordinary capacity that humans have of and desire

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00:03:45.680 --> 00:03:46.840

that they have for travel.

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00:03:49.670 --> 00:03:54.240

[Nolan] Yeah. And the book really covers everything when we think about why travel,</v>

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right? It covers the biological, philosophical, economical, sociological,

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spiritual, anthropological, technological. Right. I'm running outta alls here,

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but really covers everything. Um, now, uh, Kris,

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00:04:07.370 --> 00:04:08.203

um,

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the section that you wrote and specialize in is the sociological part of it,

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correct?

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[Kris] That's right, yes. But, um, before I go into that,</v>

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I was just going to say we could have had loads more chapters.

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So for instance, there's one on literature, but what about music?

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You know, what about art? What about photography?

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So lots of people who bought the book said, yes,

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but why didn't you have this chapter instead? And,

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and I think we could have gone on adding about 10 others in the end.

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[Nolan] Do you think you will write an updated version or do you think you'll update it</v>

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on the website?

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[Kris] I think we'll do both,</v>

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but I think what we will do is develop some arguments stemming

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from the book. Because if you think about it, Nolan, at the moment,

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people are beginning to say, you know, we need to think about carbon.

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00:05:00.410 --> 00:05:05.200

We need to stop traveling, particularly flying, um, and,

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and you know,

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so it's become very at debate because the message of the book is actually,

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there is a lot of value in travel,

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and we wouldn't be where we are as human beings today if we hadn't traveled.

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So that was, you know, that was a key message of the book,

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and it is very timely with everyone saying, oh,

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00:05:23.920 --> 00:05:26.920

I better not fly and to see my granny for Christmas. You know?

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00:05:27.140 --> 00:05:29.360

[Nolan] Yes. Um.</v>

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[Kris] You asked me about the sociology chapter. Yes. I just,</v>

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maybe we could come back to that.

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But that deals with things like the role of

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travel and people moving around the world in order to, for instance,

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better themselves.

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So the whole issue of social mobility has often depended on moving

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00:05:50.690 --> 00:05:54.250

away from where you grew up to have a wider experience,

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to get a job to, you know, experience the different culture.

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00:05:59.410 --> 00:06:01.320

Um, or even to, you know,

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as the biology chapter mentioned to mix the gene pool. No,

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00:06:06.160 --> 00:06:08.040

no. Where do people meet their partners?

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00:06:08.210 --> 00:06:12.360

Imagine if they only met people in the village they lived in.

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00:06:12.360 --> 00:06:14.600

It would be a very strange world, wouldn't it?

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00:06:14.610 --> 00:06:18.520

So a lot of themed within the sociology chapter.

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00:06:19.420 --> 00:06:20.270

[Nolan] Definitely.</v>

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00:06:20.270 --> 00:06:24.950

And that biological perspective actually made me think of another study, um,

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with the law of averageness where we're attracted to averageness average

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00:06:30.350 --> 00:06:33.710

is of course not being, oh, sh that person's a five out of 10,

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00:06:33.710 --> 00:06:36.190

and that kind of superficial way of looking at it.

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But average is being the averageness of all faces.

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And some studies found that people are most attracted to mixed

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racess,

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which also kind of makes me think about why we might intrinsically be motivated

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to, to, uh, travel as well, is to mix, as you say. And of course,

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that strengthens the gene pool and everything like that. Um,

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00:07:01.610 --> 00:07:02.590

now Kris,

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just touching on what you said earlier about the environmental aspects of it,

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and you said some people are scared to travel now because they don't want to

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have as much of a carbon footprint. What are some of the,

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00:07:14.810 --> 00:07:18.790

the positive aspects environmentally and, and Matthew,

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feel free to jump in here whenever you want as well.

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[Kris] Mm-hmm. Well, look, if I can just say socially,</v>

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it's important for people to experience other cultures,

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00:07:32.010 --> 00:07:35.960

um, not just, you know, because it's a good thing to do,

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but it's because it creates harmony. I do believe that by traveling,

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00:07:40.380 --> 00:07:43.120

you understand people. I mean, you know,

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there is the other side of the coin in that you go to another place and you just

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00:07:47.720 --> 00:07:52.320

spend your whole life comparing how unfavorable it is with your own

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culture. But I think most people when they travel, do gain an,

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gain an understanding, and most people are made very welcome when they travel.

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So, um, I do think that that's an important thing. But,

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you know, the,

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the environmental challenge is definitely something we need to think about.

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[Nolan] Mm-hmm. </v>

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00:08:13.860 --> 00:08:16.880

And what are some of the things you're thinking about right now with that?

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[Kris] I think some adverse effects of, um,</v>

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being too local. I mean, one of my, um,

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00:08:28.090 --> 00:08:30.360

my company used to be in Lester,

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which is a big multicultural city in the UK. Um,

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and that is divided by religion and one end of town Muslims live,

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and the other end Hindus.

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00:08:41.220 --> 00:08:45.920

And they have been the young people who have been fighting each other, you know,

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all the shops are locally, they don't mix very much.

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00:08:49.960 --> 00:08:54.360

And I think that is an epitomizes the need to

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00:08:54.510 --> 00:08:57.960

people to mix and experience other cultures.

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00:08:59.360 --> 00:09:03.130

[Nolan] Definitely. Matthew, anything you want to add to.</v>

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00:09:03.130 --> 00:09:06.690

[Matthew] That? I, I think on the, um, Kris is the,</v>

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00:09:07.070 --> 00:09:10.370

the expert on, on sociology on the, on the environment side.

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00:09:10.370 --> 00:09:12.850

I was going to just, um,

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00:09:12.850 --> 00:09:17.810

say one of the big policy problems that we're facing in the UK and elsewhere

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00:09:17.810 --> 00:09:19.970

at the moment is how do you square the circle of,

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00:09:20.380 --> 00:09:23.050

of satisfying people's,

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00:09:23.280 --> 00:09:27.890

this inherent desire to travel with the fact that at the moment

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00:09:28.020 --> 00:09:32.770

at least a lot of travel is very carbon intensive. Um,

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00:09:32.950 --> 00:09:35.490

and there's a real conundrum there,

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00:09:35.490 --> 00:09:38.330

because particularly for long distance travel,

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it's so carbon intensive that there's an increasing, uh,

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00:09:43.410 --> 00:09:48.370

moral imperative perhaps to do less long distance travel than

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than was the case in the past, at least until more carbon neutral ways of, uh,

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of traveling can be found. Uh, so I think one of the themes in the book though,

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is that it's really important when it comes to making

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policy that we don't just fall into the trap,

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that we have to always be focusing on less travel per se.

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00:10:09.480 --> 00:10:13.090

It's as much about encouraging better travel, uh,

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00:10:13.090 --> 00:10:16.530

and that tends to mean more sustainable ways of travel,

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00:10:16.540 --> 00:10:21.210

perhaps focusing on what is imperfectly called slow

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00:10:21.210 --> 00:10:26.170

travel, uh, which tends to mean slow in terms of taking your time over it. Um,

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00:10:26.880 --> 00:10:31.690

yeah. Rather than focusing on speed and distance. Um, uh, so,

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00:10:31.690 --> 00:10:34.970

uh, so much, uh, and also on the quality of,

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00:10:35.540 --> 00:10:39.410

of our travel experiences, because frankly, as we know,

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00:10:39.920 --> 00:10:44.610

some aspects of longer distance travel, uh, particularly going through,

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00:10:44.700 --> 00:10:49.330

uh, uh, airports for example, is not always a very, uh,

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00:10:49.330 --> 00:10:51.330

happy or pleasant experience. And that,

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00:10:51.480 --> 00:10:55.610

that time actually might be better spent focusing on, um,

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00:10:56.000 --> 00:10:59.210

more enjoyable forms of travel, uh, closer to home.

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00:11:00.390 --> 00:11:01.370

[Kris] One of the, um,</v>

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00:11:01.430 --> 00:11:05.490

one of the issues that came outta the book was the way in which we make

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00:11:05.810 --> 00:11:09.410

decisions about investment in transport.

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So at the moment in the UK for instance,

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when you decide whether you are going to fund a new rail system,

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things like speed and journey time have a

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00:11:22.690 --> 00:11:26.930

big impact on whether they think it's worth investing in that new railway.

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00:11:27.080 --> 00:11:30.410

So we've got high speed two, you know,

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00:11:30.410 --> 00:11:32.850

nearly finished now from London to Birmingham,

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00:11:32.850 --> 00:11:35.970

reducing the time from over an hour to 40 minutes.

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00:11:36.790 --> 00:11:39.730

But a lot of people are saying, actually,

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00:11:39.730 --> 00:11:44.650

40 minutes is not a brilliant time for me to get my computer out

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00:11:44.650 --> 00:11:48.290

and do a bit of work. And so, you know,

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00:11:48.290 --> 00:11:53.090

have we overestimated the value of time in trouble and

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00:11:53.280 --> 00:11:57.320

is it more, as Matthew just said, to do with quality and what you do,

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00:11:57.320 --> 00:12:01.800

particularly now you can work whilst you are traveling, um, and so on.

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00:12:01.800 --> 00:12:04.240

So that really is changing the goalposts,

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00:12:04.380 --> 00:12:08.520

but I think the people who make investment decisions haven't really caught up

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00:12:08.520 --> 00:12:09.353

with that.

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00:12:10.030 --> 00:12:13.240

[Nolan] Yeah, definitely. And you touched on that in the book.</v>

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00:12:13.550 --> 00:12:15.560

I know it's kind of cliché to say,

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00:12:15.560 --> 00:12:18.920

but the way you described in the book is much more in depth, but it's,

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00:12:18.920 --> 00:12:23.920

it's not about the destination, it's about the journey. Right. Uh,

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00:12:23.920 --> 00:12:27.600

I think I had a lot to do with that as well.

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00:12:27.600 --> 00:12:30.450

[Kris] Do you also Nolan that, um,</v>

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00:12:30.490 --> 00:12:35.290

something about traveling in itself that you get to know

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00:12:35.290 --> 00:12:37.010

people and talk to people,

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00:12:37.430 --> 00:12:41.490

sit next to people who you wouldn't normally have a lot to do with,

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00:12:41.590 --> 00:12:46.050

and a lot of people have told us how they quite enjoy that experience of talking

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00:12:46.230 --> 00:12:51.050

and meeting other people on the train as they're cycling around the town,

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00:12:51.620 --> 00:12:54.170

or even in an airplane, you know, [laughter]

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00:12:55.430 --> 00:12:57.480

[Nolan] Yeah, yeah, definitely.</v>

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00:12:57.480 --> 00:13:00.080

I've noticed it from my own life and just talking to others,

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00:13:00.080 --> 00:13:04.800

usually the best stories, whether they're adverse or not, are the, are the,

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00:13:05.060 --> 00:13:09.480

the, the, the journey itself, because that's usually where, uh, yeah,

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00:13:09.480 --> 00:13:12.840

things go unexpected. And I think that's where the,

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00:13:13.380 --> 00:13:17.360

the most interesting stories come out is when these unexpected experiences,

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00:13:17.360 --> 00:13:20.600

because you usually know a little bit about the destination,

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00:13:20.600 --> 00:13:21.760

that's why you're going there,

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00:13:21.760 --> 00:13:25.120

but you don't really know what to expect when you're,

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00:13:25.120 --> 00:13:27.400

when you're traveling there, right?

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00:13:27.890 --> 00:13:32.000

[Kris] No. Well, I once did, um, a TV program with, um,</v>

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00:13:32.670 --> 00:13:36.680

a man who I would call, you know, fanatical car user,

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00:13:37.620 --> 00:13:42.200

and he told me how he hated public

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00:13:42.720 --> 00:13:47.040

transport because he didn't like this meeting other people.

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00:13:47.410 --> 00:13:51.740

He found it quite scary. And he said, you know,

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00:13:51.740 --> 00:13:56.180

in my car I'm cocooned in the, the, the, if you like,

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00:13:56.180 --> 00:14:00.060

the security of my own space. And I thought, well,

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00:14:00.060 --> 00:14:01.580

that was kind of quite unusual.

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00:14:01.580 --> 00:14:05.860

And I imagine a lot of people listening today would not take that view and would

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00:14:06.100 --> 00:14:11.020

actually really enjoy travel and maybe did a gap year traveling or make

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00:14:11.020 --> 00:14:12.220

a point of say,

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00:14:12.220 --> 00:14:17.100

going by rail across Siberia just for the hell of the

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00:14:17.100 --> 00:14:18.260

experience, you know?

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00:14:18.910 --> 00:14:21.840

[Nolan] Yeah, definitely. Well, a little bit later,</v>

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00:14:21.840 --> 00:14:25.600

I want to touch on the gap years, because you mentioned that in the book,

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00:14:25.600 --> 00:14:29.960

and I wanted to hear about your gap year experiences or one of your most

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00:14:29.960 --> 00:14:34.880

pivotal, um, experiences. But before we get into that, uh,

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00:14:34.880 --> 00:14:39.840

a little bit more about the, the environment, what else can we do to,

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00:14:40.530 --> 00:14:44.640

to travel, um, efficiently, uh, and I mean,

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00:14:44.640 --> 00:14:49.160

when it comes to carbon car, um, to make sure that we don't use too much,

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00:14:49.570 --> 00:14:52.080

um, carbon and to, um, yeah,

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00:14:52.080 --> 00:14:55.840

to travel in the most environmentally friendly possible way?

235

00:14:58.260 --> 00:15:01.910

[Matthew] Well, I, I suppose one aspect is to,</v>

236

00:15:01.910 --> 00:15:04.950

is to focus on, um, uh,

237

00:15:05.470 --> 00:15:07.510

focus less on speed and distance,

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00:15:07.510 --> 00:15:11.270

which pushes you towards forms of transport, which tend,

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00:15:11.270 --> 00:15:13.390

at least at the moment to be, um,

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00:15:14.040 --> 00:15:18.550

to be more sustainable and also perhaps to focus more on, on travel,

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00:15:18.550 --> 00:15:20.750

which has an active element. Um,

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00:15:20.750 --> 00:15:24.110

one of the things that's clearly becoming more popular, for instance, is,

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00:15:24.520 --> 00:15:29.270

is travel to places where rather than spending your time zooming

244

00:15:29.270 --> 00:15:29.960

around,

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00:15:29.960 --> 00:15:34.870

it involves hiking or walking through some aspects of the

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00:15:34.870 --> 00:15:38.990

natural world or, uh, some aspects of the local, uh,

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00:15:39.150 --> 00:15:43.430

community in that, uh, country that you are kind of visiting. Um,

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00:15:43.960 --> 00:15:47.070

so those kind of, I think also, um,

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00:15:47.070 --> 00:15:51.820

activities are helpful. Kris.

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00:15:52.050 --> 00:15:54.740

[Kris] I think also, um, the ITC,</v>

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00:15:54.970 --> 00:15:57.900

this is the organization Matthew and I represent,

252

00:15:58.120 --> 00:16:02.540

are doing some work at the moment on the future of technology. And I,

253

00:16:02.690 --> 00:16:07.420

I do really believe that if we have a need to do something,

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00:16:07.800 --> 00:16:11.420

the technology often follows it as it did with Covid, you know,

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00:16:11.420 --> 00:16:15.060

when we came up with vaccinations overnight. And, um,

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00:16:15.060 --> 00:16:19.020

the ITTC is just doing publishing about to publish, um,

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00:16:19.490 --> 00:16:23.420

a research study looking at future in aviation,

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00:16:24.190 --> 00:16:28.740

uh, and how that will reduce the, uh, carbon output. And, um,

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00:16:28.740 --> 00:16:32.460

I know some people are very pessimistic about it, and then clearly there's a,

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00:16:32.730 --> 00:16:34.420

a crisis at the moment.

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00:16:34.420 --> 00:16:38.940

But I think I'm quite optimistic that in a few years we'll have cracked that.

262

00:16:38.940 --> 00:16:42.620

And I dunno, Matthew, you know, you know more about that research than I do,

263

00:16:42.620 --> 00:16:46.020

but there are some very optimistic developments aren't there.

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00:16:47.440 --> 00:16:50.620

[Matthew] For aviation? You, I mean, yes. I mean, I think, I think, um,</v>

265

00:16:52.520 --> 00:16:56.860

the problem with, with a psh, just, just because of the nature of,

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00:16:56.860 --> 00:17:01.220

of what it involves, it needs very energy intensive, um,

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00:17:01.740 --> 00:17:04.780

forms of propulsion. So the,

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00:17:04.780 --> 00:17:09.300

the technological hurdle in terms of getting to a position where we can,

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00:17:09.670 --> 00:17:14.260

we can fly in a carbon neutral way is much higher than for other forms of

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00:17:14.580 --> 00:17:17.020

transport. Uh, but at the same time, I mean,

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00:17:17.020 --> 00:17:20.780

two areas where there's been a lot of investment is in more sustainable aviation

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00:17:20.820 --> 00:17:25.100

fuels. So for instance, if we can for instance, create,

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00:17:25.390 --> 00:17:29.500

uh, the kerosene is the main form of, of fuel used, uh, in, um,

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00:17:30.150 --> 00:17:33.580

in jet plains at the moment, if we can, for instance,

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00:17:33.610 --> 00:17:38.500

make a significant part of the kerosene from, um,

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00:17:39.470 --> 00:17:44.100

various synthetic or, um, biological, um,

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00:17:45.190 --> 00:17:47.900

methods which reduce the overall carbon footprint,

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00:17:47.900 --> 00:17:51.640

now that's already helping to go go a long way to reducing the, um,

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00:17:51.640 --> 00:17:56.400

the carbon footprint from, um, flying beyond that obviously is the,

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00:17:56.740 --> 00:18:01.560

the holy grail would be some form of propulsion, which doesn't involve, um,

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00:18:02.290 --> 00:18:04.080

uh, fossil fuels at all.

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00:18:04.460 --> 00:18:08.520

But I think initially that's going to be particularly focused on short haul

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00:18:08.930 --> 00:18:13.320

flights. So if, if you do have electric propulsion, um,

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00:18:13.330 --> 00:18:17.680

or battery powered sort of planes, then those, those will be for, uh,

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00:18:17.680 --> 00:18:21.680

short haul flights, probably under a thousand kilometers. Uh, I think, uh,

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00:18:21.680 --> 00:18:25.960

further longer haul flights. Carbon neutral flying is further away.

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00:18:29.140 --> 00:18:33.880

[Nolan] Yes. Now of course, it's kind of down the road and as you said, it's, um,</v>

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00:18:34.230 --> 00:18:38.720

it's a little bit more difficult because it's, um, well, yeah,

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00:18:38.720 --> 00:18:43.320

it just takes more energy for the planes than it does for trains. Now,

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00:18:43.320 --> 00:18:48.160

one of the reasons that I will take a plane over a train is usually

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00:18:48.160 --> 00:18:50.000

not with time, but with price,

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00:18:50.360 --> 00:18:55.240

because a Ryan air flight is usually cheaper than for me to

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00:18:55.240 --> 00:18:57.000

take the train, even though I have the time.

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00:18:57.000 --> 00:18:58.960

Like I would take the train because I have the time,

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00:18:58.960 --> 00:19:00.480

but it's a money saving thing.

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00:19:01.050 --> 00:19:05.720

So what are some of the things maybe the ITC does or, um,

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00:19:05.720 --> 00:19:10.360

things that we can do to pressure government bodies to make trains

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00:19:10.710 --> 00:19:14.320

more, um, uh, or make them cheaper for the people,

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00:19:14.370 --> 00:19:16.200

or to subsidize them in a way,

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00:19:16.250 --> 00:19:19.920

because that's something that's holding me back from taking the train as much as

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00:19:19.920 --> 00:19:22.680

I should and as much as I actually would like to.

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00:19:23.290 --> 00:19:26.660

[Matthew] It's a good, it's a good question. Um, but I, I think there's,</v>

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00:19:26.660 --> 00:19:30.580

there's a fundamental problem here in this much as if you took all the people

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00:19:30.580 --> 00:19:33.260

off the planes and put them onto the train,

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00:19:33.840 --> 00:19:37.220

you would find the overcrowding would be horrendous.

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00:19:37.220 --> 00:19:41.860

There's simply not the capacity on rail to cope with, um,

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00:19:41.880 --> 00:19:46.340

substituting all those people flying, uh, with putting them onto, um,

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00:19:46.340 --> 00:19:49.020

onto rail and actually per mile travel.

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00:19:49.020 --> 00:19:49.853

[Nolan] Very good point.</v>

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00:19:50.200 --> 00:19:55.060

[Matthew] Per mile traveled rail is always just because of the infrastructure that is</v>

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00:19:55.260 --> 00:19:59.340

involved be going to be much more expensive than, uh, than than flying.

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00:19:59.710 --> 00:20:04.460

So sadly, I think unless the subsidy rail,

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00:20:04.510 --> 00:20:05.500

or unless you,

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00:20:06.000 --> 00:20:10.980

you live in a society where people are prepared to pay, um,

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00:20:10.980 --> 00:20:15.740

much more through taxation for, uh, rail, uh,

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00:20:15.740 --> 00:20:19.620

it's going to be quite difficult to make it cheaper than, um,

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00:20:19.930 --> 00:20:21.540

than flying without.

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00:20:22.570 --> 00:20:27.220

Also at the same time putting a lot of extra taxes on, um, o on,

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00:20:27.230 --> 00:20:31.980

uh, aviation and flying and trying to discourage, uh, use using the,

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00:20:31.980 --> 00:20:34.980

as we say, the stick, as well as the, as well as the carrot.

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00:20:37.750 --> 00:20:39.320

[Nolan] Yeah, very good point.</v>

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00:20:39.860 --> 00:20:40.280

[Matthew] One.</v>

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00:20:40.280 --> 00:20:41.560

[Kris] Thing, Kris, anything that, um,</v>

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00:20:41.580 --> 00:20:46.200

one thing that should bring the price of rail down is post Covid,

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00:20:46.350 --> 00:20:51.200

many people are working much more flexibly. Um,

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00:20:51.220 --> 00:20:56.160

and some research the ITTC has done is showing that there's more leisure travel.

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00:20:56.290 --> 00:21:00.360

So the actual demand for rail travel is evening out.

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00:21:00.860 --> 00:21:02.000

And you are having,

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00:21:02.220 --> 00:21:06.360

you don't have to provide for those peaks in the morning and evening,

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00:21:06.560 --> 00:21:10.040

which is very expensive cuz the trains go into the cities,

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00:21:10.040 --> 00:21:12.040

pull up and go back empty.

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00:21:12.090 --> 00:21:16.840

So actually it's a lost liter off on commuting now. It's all evening out.

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00:21:16.840 --> 00:21:20.040

And we do hope that that might even out the cost,

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00:21:20.070 --> 00:21:23.840

reduce the cost and make it cheaper to, to use rail.

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00:21:26.760 --> 00:21:29.130

[Matthew] Yeah, I mean I Kris, sorry.</v>

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00:21:29.540 --> 00:21:30.730

[Nolan] No, sorry Matthew, go ahead.</v>

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00:21:31.160 --> 00:21:33.090

[Matthew] I was just going to say that there's a very interesting.</v>

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00:21:33.090 --> 00:21:33.770

[Nolan] Oh, go ahead Matthew.</v>

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00:21:33.770 --> 00:21:37.530

[Matthew] Yes. Aspect in there, which is that we produced this, um,</v>

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00:21:37.700 --> 00:21:41.530

we produced the Why Travel book when it came out last year, of course,

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00:21:42.200 --> 00:21:47.050

with Covid still causing massive problems in terms

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00:21:47.290 --> 00:21:52.130

of travel and, and lockdowns and had only just, had only just ended in the,

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00:21:52.130 --> 00:21:54.250

uh, in the UK. Um,

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00:21:54.670 --> 00:21:58.450

and it's been very interesting to look at what effect the pandemic has had on,

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00:21:58.450 --> 00:22:01.490

on travel behavior. And as Kris mentioned, one of the fascinating things,

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00:22:01.490 --> 00:22:06.290

at least in Britain, is that there's been a very significant shift from,

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00:22:06.760 --> 00:22:11.690

in what, why we are traveling. Uh, as in we're doing less business travel,

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00:22:11.690 --> 00:22:13.010

there's less commuting,

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00:22:13.390 --> 00:22:17.010

but quite a lot of that has been taken up by an increase in leisure travel.

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00:22:17.300 --> 00:22:21.010

So I think the pandemic has forced people to, uh,

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00:22:21.120 --> 00:22:24.570

prioritize what they do when they travel in different ways.

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00:22:27.180 --> 00:22:31.510

[Nolan] Definitely. Well, okay, let, let's touch on that then a bit,</v>

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00:22:31.510 --> 00:22:34.870

because I think some people might argue, oh, if it's just for leisure,

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00:22:34.870 --> 00:22:38.270

we shouldn't be doing it because of environmental reasons, right?

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00:22:38.270 --> 00:22:39.910

But as you mentioned in the book as well,

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00:22:40.020 --> 00:22:44.590

that's not really true because it's healthy to travel. Not only, um,

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00:22:44.700 --> 00:22:47.350

it's healthy physically as you describe in the book,

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00:22:47.350 --> 00:22:51.710

but it's also healthy from a psychological standpoint. Um,

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00:22:51.800 --> 00:22:53.950

so can you touch a little bit more on that,

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00:22:53.950 --> 00:22:58.510

like why we need to travel and why leisure

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00:22:58.510 --> 00:23:01.110

doesn't mean that it's not necessary?

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00:23:02.200 --> 00:23:06.180

[Kris] Can I just start by referring perhaps to the arts,</v>

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00:23:07.080 --> 00:23:11.180

and you think about, you know, just think about your favorite music,

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00:23:11.340 --> 00:23:15.380

your favorite paintings, think of Picasso,

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00:23:15.860 --> 00:23:20.420

think of Van Gough, you know, people like that. If they hadn't traveled,

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00:23:20.890 --> 00:23:25.780

what would they be drawing? What would they be writing about? And so on. So,

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00:23:26.080 --> 00:23:30.880

and then think about books, your favorite books. Much of the,

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00:23:30.930 --> 00:23:32.680

uh, that literature,

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00:23:32.830 --> 00:23:37.680

I bet I wouldn't mind betting is set in exotic places or places

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00:23:37.680 --> 00:23:41.280

different from where you grew up. So, you know,

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00:23:41.280 --> 00:23:43.800

if you just take that one chapter on the arts,

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00:23:45.280 --> 00:23:46.540

you can understand,

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00:23:46.540 --> 00:23:50.180

I think what we're trying to say here on the value of travel.

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00:23:50.800 --> 00:23:54.980

And it's almost impossible to imagine a world even, you know,

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00:23:54.980 --> 00:23:59.980

before airplanes were invented the grand tour of

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00:23:59.980 --> 00:24:04.060

Europe, discovering America. If all those things hadn't happened,

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00:24:04.140 --> 00:24:08.020

where would we be as a society would be, you know, running around,

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00:24:08.020 --> 00:24:09.940

living in caves still, I should think.

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00:24:12.160 --> 00:24:15.610

[Nolan] Definitely. And you're bringing up a lot of the historical aspects of it,</v>

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00:24:15.610 --> 00:24:16.930

but in, in your, in the book,

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00:24:16.930 --> 00:24:21.490

you also mentioned the study where they just ask people to think,

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00:24:22.100 --> 00:24:27.010

um, that they're solving the problem in a place that is

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00:24:27.230 --> 00:24:31.530

far away, right? Um, like, in other words, it was social distancing.

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00:24:31.530 --> 00:24:35.130

So being separated from an event, uh,

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00:24:35.130 --> 00:24:40.050

by the temporal social or spatial distance actually promotes creative thinking.

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00:24:40.650 --> 00:24:41.483

Right?

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00:24:42.160 --> 00:24:45.890

[Matthew] Yeah. It's very interesting if the first two chapters of the book are, uh,</v>

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00:24:47.310 --> 00:24:51.530

the first two chapters of the book, um, uh, were by Charles Pasternak

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00:24:51.530 --> 00:24:56.370

who was an evolutionary biologist, and, uh, by Tony Hiss, who's, uh, uh,

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00:24:56.440 --> 00:25:00.370

a famous American author who's written very widely on a range of things,

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00:25:00.370 --> 00:25:05.330

but the chapters related to his book, uh, called In Motion, um,

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00:25:05.330 --> 00:25:09.250

in which he looked at some the psychological, uh,

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00:25:09.250 --> 00:25:11.730

reasons why travel seems to be so important.

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00:25:11.950 --> 00:25:13.610

And going back to your health point, I mean,

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00:25:13.610 --> 00:25:17.290

I think there are two aspects to the health benefits of, of travel.

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00:25:17.290 --> 00:25:19.930

You've got the physical side, um,

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00:25:20.170 --> 00:25:24.930

which comes through the way in which our bodies respond particularly to active

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00:25:24.930 --> 00:25:28.970

forms of travel, whether that's, uh, running, cycling, or swimming.

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00:25:29.620 --> 00:25:34.010

Um, there are very clear ways in which, uh,

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00:25:34.010 --> 00:25:38.730

our bodies, um, tend to produce, uh,

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00:25:39.010 --> 00:25:41.050

chemicals, uh, which, uh,

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00:25:41.050 --> 00:25:44.890

which improve our sort of sense of wellbeing as well as making us, uh,

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00:25:44.890 --> 00:25:49.890

fitter and and healthier through those different forms of movement. Um,

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00:25:50.060 --> 00:25:54.050

Charles Pasternak, the professor Pasternak

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00:25:54.050 --> 00:25:58.370

very interesting in linking that back to our evolutionary history, uh,

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00:25:58.370 --> 00:26:01.170

back to say the, the savannahs of East Africa,

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00:26:01.660 --> 00:26:05.730

whereby we had to be sort of scanning wide distances and being able to travel

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00:26:05.730 --> 00:26:10.130

over kind of long distances in order to, to survive and to,

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00:26:10.580 --> 00:26:15.010

um, capture the food that, um, that we needed to, to survive.

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00:26:15.190 --> 00:26:15.970

But as you say,

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00:26:15.970 --> 00:26:19.570

there's been a lot of work done more recently on the mental health benefits of,

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00:26:19.700 --> 00:26:22.290

um, of movement, uh, and travel.

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00:26:22.510 --> 00:26:26.930

And it became a very important aspect, for instance, during the pandemic, uh,

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00:26:26.930 --> 00:26:31.210

when there were big concerns about what this might mean for people's mental

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00:26:31.210 --> 00:26:33.570

health. Um, and in Britain at least,

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00:26:33.670 --> 00:26:38.530

one of the key things that people said kept them sane was that ability to go

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00:26:38.530 --> 00:26:42.650

out into their local area for a couple of hours a day, uh,

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00:26:42.650 --> 00:26:46.880

particularly if they were, if they were walking or cycling.

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00:26:47.770 --> 00:26:48.580

Um,

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00:26:48.580 --> 00:26:53.000

and that I think on its own demonstrated that power of,

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00:26:53.170 --> 00:26:57.640

of just sort of getting, getting outside moving, um,

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00:26:58.100 --> 00:27:03.000

and, and feeling the, uh, the wellbeing that that just comes from,

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00:27:03.050 --> 00:27:05.120

uh, from that in a very simple way.

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00:27:07.480 --> 00:27:12.460

[Nolan] Yes, yes. Um, other thing this makes me think about,</v>

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00:27:12.460 --> 00:27:14.940

now, I don't know if I missed this in the book,

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00:27:14.940 --> 00:27:18.420

but do you talk about third culture children in the book at all?

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00:27:19.820 --> 00:27:23.660

[Matthew] Kris, that's probably more on your sociological side.</v>

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00:27:24.800 --> 00:27:25.690

[Kris] Yeah. Could.</v>

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00:27:25.690 --> 00:27:28.970

[Nolan] You, third, third culture kids, do you mention that in the book?</v>

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00:27:31.430 --> 00:27:34.490

[Kris] I'm not quite sure what you mean by that. Expand it a bit.</v>

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00:27:34.760 --> 00:27:36.090

[Nolan] Okay. Because, well,</v>

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00:27:36.090 --> 00:27:39.810

I think it might be interesting for a future edition or just on the site as

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00:27:39.810 --> 00:27:43.250

well, but third culture kids are, are kids like me,

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00:27:43.250 --> 00:27:46.690

kids that grew up and, um,

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00:27:47.130 --> 00:27:51.650

three or more different countries, um, before a certain age.

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00:27:51.770 --> 00:27:53.890

Right. And because of that, they,

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00:27:54.480 --> 00:27:57.570

they are very open to different experiences.

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00:27:57.570 --> 00:28:01.330

Those are some of the positive psychological effects, right? They're, yeah,

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00:28:01.330 --> 00:28:04.570

usually open to different experiences, open to different opinions.

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00:28:04.990 --> 00:28:08.010

And that defines me. On the flip side,

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00:28:08.010 --> 00:28:10.930

there's the negative impacts as well where they have a bit of an identity

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00:28:10.930 --> 00:28:14.090

crisis. And when I was younger, I definitely went through that.

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00:28:14.090 --> 00:28:17.850

And I think since I keep traveling and keep throwing myself into new

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00:28:17.850 --> 00:28:22.610

experiences, I do have the negative side of that as well. And I just,

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00:28:22.680 --> 00:28:27.130

I notice that on a psychological level that travel has done wonders for me,

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00:28:27.270 --> 00:28:30.290

but it also has affected me negatively in some ways,

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00:28:30.290 --> 00:28:34.050

especially with finding identity. Um, Kris,

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00:28:34.050 --> 00:28:37.810

do you have any more insight into that? Yeah, well, can you help me?

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00:28:37.810 --> 00:28:38.770

In other words? Yes.

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00:28:39.120 --> 00:28:39.770

[Kris] I mean the,

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00:28:39.770 --> 00:28:44.370

there are chapters on exploration and migration,

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00:28:45.220 --> 00:28:45.910

um,

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00:28:45.910 --> 00:28:50.570

and the evidence suggests that when people first

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00:28:50.570 --> 00:28:54.370

migrate, say for instance, you know, people that went to America,

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00:28:54.370 --> 00:28:58.250

particularly in the 19th and early 20th century, they,

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00:28:58.720 --> 00:29:03.530

they do everything they can to integrate with that society in the

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00:29:03.530 --> 00:29:04.730

sense that they feel, you know,

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00:29:04.730 --> 00:29:08.090

they've got to prove they've made the right decision, they'd belong.

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00:29:08.550 --> 00:29:12.810

But then the next generation who are born in America

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00:29:13.240 --> 00:29:18.050

have this great urge to understand more about the society that

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00:29:18.050 --> 00:29:22.210

their ancestors came from and would actually, you know,

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00:29:22.290 --> 00:29:26.490

adopt the food from Poland or Jewish food or whatever their

463

00:29:26.820 --> 00:29:29.490

parents or grandparents came from.

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00:29:29.660 --> 00:29:34.270

So it does seem that we need to feel we

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00:29:34.270 --> 00:29:37.230

belong somewhere and have a sense of who we are.

466

00:29:38.210 --> 00:29:41.680

And if we have that firmly established,

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00:29:42.070 --> 00:29:46.600

then we can travel around and feel comfortable with it. But otherwise,

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00:29:46.690 --> 00:29:50.200

we are constantly wandering and don't feel we belong anywhere.

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00:29:50.200 --> 00:29:52.160

And that's probably not very good either.

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00:29:52.290 --> 00:29:57.120

So I think the fact that travel enables us

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00:29:57.120 --> 00:30:01.680

to discover our roots or the roots of our grandparents or ancestors

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00:30:02.580 --> 00:30:06.380

and relate to that. So I think that, you know, again,

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00:30:06.990 --> 00:30:10.740

we do need to belong somewhere and explore that,

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00:30:10.840 --> 00:30:14.140

but increasingly we understand different cultures. I mean,

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00:30:14.140 --> 00:30:18.500

in Britain the percentage of multi of

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00:30:18.780 --> 00:30:23.580

mixed marriages is increasing and people are increasingly

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00:30:23.580 --> 00:30:28.380

having one parent from one culture and one from another and want

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00:30:28.380 --> 00:30:31.340

to explore those two cultures. So, you know,

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00:30:31.340 --> 00:30:35.940

I think as long as you have an interest in where you were bred,

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00:30:36.020 --> 00:30:39.980

where other societies work and where you might have come from years ago,

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00:30:40.170 --> 00:30:41.780

it's a huge industry.

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00:30:41.780 --> 00:30:46.180

And people finding out their family trees and going, you know,

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00:30:46.180 --> 00:30:49.100

back to the countries that they came from years ago.

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00:30:51.010 --> 00:30:53.180

[Nolan] Mhm. Now that's,

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00:30:53.290 --> 00:30:57.300

that's a little bit easier for someone like me to do because I can kind of track

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00:30:57.300 --> 00:31:00.900

down my family tree. Um, but what about for some of the people,

487

00:31:01.820 --> 00:31:06.100

let's use America as example, because you used America as an example as well.

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00:31:06.430 --> 00:31:10.860

Um, a lot of African Americans are unable to track their roots down. Right?

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00:31:10.920 --> 00:31:15.460

And that kind of also leads to certain identity issues.

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00:31:15.910 --> 00:31:16.370

Um,

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00:31:16.370 --> 00:31:21.060

what are some things people can do in those cases when you

492

00:31:21.060 --> 00:31:24.340

can't really track your, your historical roots?

493

00:31:25.090 --> 00:31:29.900

[Kris] Well, more and more evidence is coming out of how DNA can

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00:31:30.300 --> 00:31:35.220

identify and track such origin. And,

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00:31:35.430 --> 00:31:36.700

um, you know,

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00:31:36.700 --> 00:31:41.140

I think a lot of people are using that to understand more about their

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00:31:41.150 --> 00:31:46.060

origins. That it is a terrible thing that people who were forcibly taken

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00:31:46.630 --> 00:31:50.700

to America as slaves do not have that history.

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00:31:51.430 --> 00:31:55.500

Um, uh, and that culture which they are beginning to discover. I mean,

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00:31:55.500 --> 00:31:59.260

this is the work of James Baldwin who's written a lot about this,

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00:31:59.260 --> 00:32:03.860

about the importance of that cultural background being missing.

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00:32:04.920 --> 00:32:05.570

[Nolan] Mm-hmm.</v>

503

00:32:05.570 --> 00:32:07.210

[Kris] terrible things for people.</v>

504

00:32:07.670 --> 00:32:11.090

[Matthew] I'm thinking also, Kris, of the, the, um,</v>

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00:32:12.250 --> 00:32:15.370

distinction you highlighted, uh,

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00:32:15.370 --> 00:32:17.770

based on some of the work that's being rest done recently on,

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00:32:17.770 --> 00:32:21.250

on between people who are categorized,

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00:32:21.250 --> 00:32:25.610

you were categorized as somewhere and people who categorized as

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00:32:25.890 --> 00:32:29.530

anywheres. Um, do you remember, um,

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00:32:30.360 --> 00:32:33.890

that was sort of applied to political views? What,

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00:32:34.120 --> 00:32:38.010

what was the thinking behind that and how does, how does that manifest itself?

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00:32:40.200 --> 00:32:41.370

[Kris] I think that, um,</v>

513

00:32:42.240 --> 00:32:47.130

some people find it quite difficult to take a global view of the world,

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00:32:48.190 --> 00:32:52.170

and it's often related to right wing politics,

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00:32:53.300 --> 00:32:56.330

um, with, you know, extreme patriotism.

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00:32:57.030 --> 00:33:01.130

And those people often psychologically, um,

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00:33:01.650 --> 00:33:06.450

struggle with their own identity. And this is shown,

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00:33:06.750 --> 00:33:09.290

you know, in, in debates like Brexit,

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00:33:09.610 --> 00:33:14.490

where a strong element of not wanting to leave the EU

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00:33:14.750 --> 00:33:19.450

was the feeling that it was too big an organization we didn't belong.

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00:33:20.020 --> 00:33:23.730

Whereas other people, and particularly there's an age issue here,

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00:33:23.730 --> 00:33:28.090

young people in particular who've grown up with social media, um,

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00:33:28.280 --> 00:33:33.220

have this view that we are a global community and

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00:33:33.220 --> 00:33:36.100

that, you know, spaceship, we're all in it together.

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00:33:36.440 --> 00:33:40.300

And that perhaps age is much more important than

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00:33:40.980 --> 00:33:45.530

other aspects of one's identity. And, you know, the gap year

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00:33:45.570 --> 00:33:45.610

Mhm.

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00:33:45.610 --> 00:33:50.530

I think epitomizes that so many people have their lives transformed by their

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00:33:50.530 --> 00:33:54.570

gap year. And I think, you know, it's a great thing that that happens.

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00:33:56.030 --> 00:34:00.250

[Nolan] Can I hear a bit about your gap year or if you didn't have a gap year,</v>

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00:34:00.250 --> 00:34:05.010

maybe your first, um, pivotal, uh, travel experience?

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00:34:05.010 --> 00:34:07.410

Well, that was, you really learned something about yourself or.

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00:34:07.560 --> 00:34:08.970

[Kris] Yeah. Well, I had, um,</v>

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00:34:09.320 --> 00:34:13.850

a grant to do my PhD and go to America to study

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00:34:13.960 --> 00:34:16.730

co-ops as a form of organization.

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00:34:16.910 --> 00:34:20.850

And it was enough money for six months, but when I got there,

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00:34:21.130 --> 00:34:25.650

everyone was so fantastic and welcoming. It lasted me for two years,

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00:34:26.170 --> 00:34:28.850

[laughter] Um, and,

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00:34:28.850 --> 00:34:33.370

and I can remember traveling across America all around cuz co-ops are very

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00:34:33.920 --> 00:34:36.490

funny enough, very common in America.

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00:34:36.490 --> 00:34:40.730

They have rural phone cos and food courts, furniture courts,

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00:34:40.730 --> 00:34:45.210

all sorts of court. So everywhere I went in America, there were co-ops to study.

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00:34:45.630 --> 00:34:47.410

And I can remember going across America,

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00:34:47.520 --> 00:34:52.490

I invested some of my grant in a sheep skin coat to keep warm in Washington

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00:34:52.740 --> 00:34:56.810

DC And I said, I gradually got across the, the country,

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00:34:57.480 --> 00:34:58.650

I got warm and warmer.

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00:34:58.650 --> 00:35:03.450

I can remember leaving this sheep skin coat and just been somewhere when I got to

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00:35:03.450 --> 00:35:06.890

Las Vegas. So that was a great year. And, um,

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00:35:07.110 --> 00:35:09.570

Las Vegas where I went to a, um,

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00:35:09.600 --> 00:35:13.170

a conference of farming co-ops was amazing.

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00:35:13.480 --> 00:35:18.090

Spending all day talking about farming co-ops and coming out in the evening and

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00:35:18.090 --> 00:35:22.530

the full blast of Las Vegas with the gambling and the lights and

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00:35:23.010 --> 00:35:27.730

Elvis Presley performing live. So that was my gap year and it was great. And I,

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00:35:27.800 --> 00:35:31.610

I might add, I got engaged an American but then got homesick,

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00:35:31.740 --> 00:35:34.450

so I did a bunk and came back to England [laughter]

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00:35:35.300 --> 00:35:39.480

[Nolan] Oh wow. Oh.</v>

557

00:35:40.960 --> 00:35:42.870

Um, so, well of course,

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00:35:42.990 --> 00:35:47.550

since you did it for your PhD it influenced your career path as well. Um,

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00:35:47.550 --> 00:35:50.870

but anything else personally, like, did it change the, um,

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00:35:51.500 --> 00:35:53.510

change the way you approach life at all?

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00:35:55.450 --> 00:35:59.500

[Kris] I think there are elements. I was asking some the, one of the, uh,</v>

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00:35:59.820 --> 00:36:04.500

directors of Shell this question just last night, he did a gap year and he was,

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00:36:04.770 --> 00:36:09.180

went all over and I said, reflect on where you are today,

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00:36:09.180 --> 00:36:13.420

40 years later. How did that impact on you?

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00:36:13.560 --> 00:36:18.260

And I think it's a question everyone could ask themselves

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00:36:18.260 --> 00:36:22.860

Um, and I think for me it was the

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00:36:22.920 --> 00:36:27.460

understanding how generally everywhere you go,

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00:36:27.460 --> 00:36:30.900

people are really welcoming and nice. You know,

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00:36:31.010 --> 00:36:35.660

I think there's a default part of human nature that you make strangers

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00:36:35.660 --> 00:36:40.320

welcome and it's given me tremendous

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00:36:40.320 --> 00:36:45.280

faith and optimism in the ability of humanity to solve

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00:36:45.280 --> 00:36:48.840

problems. You know, in spite of wars and things.

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00:36:48.940 --> 00:36:53.880

I'm still pretty optimistic based on that personal face-to-face

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00:36:53.880 --> 00:36:57.320

contact with strangers, the kindness of strangers.

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00:36:58.450 --> 00:36:59.300

[Nolan] Definitely.</v>

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00:36:59.640 --> 00:37:03.660

And I think that kind of ties into what you mentioned earlier with the politics,

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00:37:03.660 --> 00:37:08.380

right? Where while right wing politics can be associated with,

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00:37:08.390 --> 00:37:12.260

um, not having the same global view, um,

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00:37:12.260 --> 00:37:15.580

and even though I think right wing and left wing is a little bit of a false

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00:37:15.580 --> 00:37:17.060

dichotomy, uh,

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00:37:17.060 --> 00:37:22.060

I've noticed people who might have certain right beliefs

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00:37:22.110 --> 00:37:24.540

or right ways of thinking about certain issues,

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00:37:25.050 --> 00:37:28.400

they go travel and when they come back,

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00:37:28.400 --> 00:37:31.080

they might still hold some of the same beliefs.

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00:37:31.260 --> 00:37:35.120

But when it comes to immigration and when it comes to certain, uh,

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00:37:35.120 --> 00:37:39.120

ways of approaching those policies, they suddenly have a little bit more of a,

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00:37:39.550 --> 00:37:44.360

a liberal approach, which is interesting just, just through travel

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00:37:44.400 --> 00:37:45.233

Mhm.

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00:37:45.300 --> 00:37:48.000

[Kris] And, you know, the world changing all the time. When I,

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00:37:48.590 --> 00:37:53.000

when I was in my teens, homosexuality was illegal.

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00:37:53.970 --> 00:37:58.960

Uh, the way women were treated was appalling, you know, and all that is changed.

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00:37:58.980 --> 00:38:03.880

And young people today have led many of those changes and they

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00:38:03.880 --> 00:38:07.520

don't even remember those bad old days. So, you know,

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00:38:07.520 --> 00:38:12.440

I'm very optimistic about that future. And even, you know,

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00:38:12.440 --> 00:38:16.080

at the moment we've got the World Cup being played in Qatar where it

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00:38:16.480 --> 00:38:20.720

homosexuality is illegal. Well, you know, when I grow up it's illegal too.

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00:38:21.260 --> 00:38:26.080

But I think the more people see that those things happen and it's quite

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00:38:26.080 --> 00:38:29.880

a normal way of living, um, the better it is. And in the end,

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00:38:29.880 --> 00:38:33.000

I wouldn't be surprised if in, in even 10 years,

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00:38:33.080 --> 00:38:37.920

countries like Qatar recognize homosexuality and give women

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00:38:37.920 --> 00:38:38.760

more rights.

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00:38:39.030 --> 00:38:43.840

It's unstoppable once you meet other people and are exposed to other

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00:38:43.840 --> 00:38:44.673

cultures.

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00:38:46.090 --> 00:38:50.340

[Nolan] Well, well, for that feels really good to hear from you, Kris, because I,</v>

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00:38:50.340 --> 00:38:53.260

I know you're someone who's very involved and well, you're,

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00:38:53.260 --> 00:38:55.260

you're an an expert in all of this.

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00:38:55.260 --> 00:38:59.780

So to hears such op in such an optimistic point of view gives me hope as well.

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00:39:00.590 --> 00:39:03.660

Um, so Matthew, what about your gap year?

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00:39:04.970 --> 00:39:06.420

[Matthew] Well, I, I didn't really,</v>

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00:39:06.420 --> 00:39:08.900

I suppose to sort of have a gap year and certainly can't compete, uh,

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00:39:08.970 --> 00:39:13.300

with Kris's fantastic story. But perhaps I, I would, I would highlight.

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00:39:13.650 --> 00:39:14.740

[Nolan] That was incredible.</v>

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00:39:15.210 --> 00:39:18.220

[Matthew] I would highlight her, her great, um,</v>

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00:39:18.950 --> 00:39:21.700

insight about learn travel,

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00:39:21.700 --> 00:39:26.060

helping to learn about the kindness of strangers. The first time I went, um,

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00:39:26.690 --> 00:39:30.420

abroad, we weren't, at the time, my family wasn't very wealthy and we hadn't,

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00:39:30.470 --> 00:39:34.260

uh, we didn't go abroad. And the first opportunity I had was the, um,

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00:39:35.560 --> 00:39:39.180

was the, uh, German, uh, German exchange.

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00:39:39.230 --> 00:39:44.220

We had this sort of scheme or this opportunity to where wherever, uh,

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00:39:44.370 --> 00:39:48.460

a young person from one family would go and stay with, um,

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00:39:48.770 --> 00:39:51.300

a young person from another family for, uh,

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00:39:51.320 --> 00:39:56.100

two or three weeks as a way of kind of just immersing herself in this, um,

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00:39:57.070 --> 00:40:00.340

in a different language, in a different kind of environment.

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00:40:01.120 --> 00:40:06.120

And I must have been about, uh, Quite 12, 12 years old. I mean,

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00:40:06.120 --> 00:40:09.560

I, I certainly didn't speak any, uh, any German to any,

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00:40:09.860 --> 00:40:13.680

any sort of significant degree. And suddenly I was having to go off on my own,

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00:40:13.810 --> 00:40:17.680

uh, through an airport, which I'd never done before, um, to,

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00:40:17.680 --> 00:40:22.480

to stay with this family. And it was very alarming,

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00:40:22.480 --> 00:40:24.120

I suppose, at the time.

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00:40:24.140 --> 00:40:29.040

But it was fantastic just because it suddenly, uh,

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00:40:29.040 --> 00:40:33.000

not only was I very welcomed, uh, and we had a very, um,

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00:40:33.180 --> 00:40:34.280

fascinating time,

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00:40:34.280 --> 00:40:38.760

but it also was something where you suddenly realized that

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00:40:38.760 --> 00:40:43.760

there were other people in other countries who do live like you do and have

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00:40:43.760 --> 00:40:47.440

the same kind of experiences, but in a slightly kind of different,

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00:40:47.520 --> 00:40:50.200

different kind of way. And it also, I think,

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00:40:50.200 --> 00:40:54.600

helps to rethink some of the stereotypes that, uh, happen.

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00:40:54.600 --> 00:40:59.200

And in Britain, for instance, there's tends to be a very, um,

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00:41:00.650 --> 00:41:01.960

because of the history,

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00:41:02.390 --> 00:41:05.920

a very popular sort of attitude towards Germany as a,

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00:41:05.920 --> 00:41:10.440

a place that we'd fought in two world wars and we lose against it always in the

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00:41:10.600 --> 00:41:14.880

footballs. So there was this [laughter] popular, uh,

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00:41:15.140 --> 00:41:19.880

relationship and going there, for instance. And we, we,

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00:41:19.880 --> 00:41:23.440

we went to see many sort of places, but also some of those places, for instance,

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00:41:23.440 --> 00:41:27.680

that have been, uh, very heavily bombed by Britain and America,

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00:41:27.680 --> 00:41:28.640

the allies in the,

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00:41:28.640 --> 00:41:32.360

in the second World War and some of the destruction that had been caused woke

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00:41:32.360 --> 00:41:35.920

you up to realize that there was, there was a much bigger,

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00:41:37.510 --> 00:41:41.440

a much wider perspective that you get on history from, um,

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00:41:42.070 --> 00:41:46.760

from, uh, from travel than you would've, uh, you would've had otherwise.

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00:41:47.570 --> 00:41:50.720

So that certainly was a very formative experience.

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00:41:54.090 --> 00:41:58.370

[Kris] Nolan, one of the, um, one of the things I regret when I was young,</v>

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00:41:59.460 --> 00:42:01.570

it was quite common to hitchhike.

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00:42:02.430 --> 00:42:07.210

And I think that sadly now people are a little bit more hesitant

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00:42:07.210 --> 00:42:08.370

about hitchhiking,

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00:42:08.670 --> 00:42:13.610

but that used to be great to meet new people and just set off for

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00:42:13.850 --> 00:42:18.570

a day out and sometimes not know where you might end up and so on. Um,

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00:42:18.750 --> 00:42:19.850

and, and you know,

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00:42:20.350 --> 00:42:24.930

now people are talking about shared use of taxes, um,

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00:42:25.240 --> 00:42:27.330

demand responsive transport.

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00:42:27.840 --> 00:42:32.570

I was in Cyprus where they have shared taxes which go around the village.

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00:42:32.570 --> 00:42:33.090

And again,

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00:42:33.090 --> 00:42:36.730

that's back to what we were saying earlier about great experience where you,

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00:42:36.950 --> 00:42:40.770

you meet other people in a relatively safe environment,

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00:42:40.950 --> 00:42:45.370

but they're people you wouldn't normally meet or relate to if you just drove

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00:42:45.370 --> 00:42:49.970

everywhere in the cocoon of your own car all the time. So I think that,

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00:42:49.970 --> 00:42:53.410

you know, travel in itself is important.

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00:42:53.550 --> 00:42:58.490

And one of the ways I traveled around America was by coach or

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00:42:58.490 --> 00:43:02.290

Greyhound Bus. And that was an amazing experience. You know,

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00:43:02.290 --> 00:43:05.050

people would get on with chickens and goodness says, what?

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00:43:05.050 --> 00:43:09.930

And you'd end up in the middle of Omaha in the middle of night with all sorts of

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00:43:09.930 --> 00:43:11.210

odd people and so on.

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00:43:11.910 --> 00:43:16.890

You imagine if you hadn't had that opportunity to mix with other people in

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00:43:16.890 --> 00:43:21.490

that way and when you meet them, say, I don't know,

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00:43:21.490 --> 00:43:23.130

and a dating agent, something,

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00:43:23.130 --> 00:43:27.370

it's very artificial in the sense that you are stuck together and you've got to

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00:43:27.370 --> 00:43:29.090

talk. Whereas when you are traveling,

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00:43:29.090 --> 00:43:31.770

you can sit next to someone and not say anything for a long time,

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00:43:31.870 --> 00:43:35.570

but then you can say something without even looking at them because you are both

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00:43:35.570 --> 00:43:39.370

looking forward. So I think there's a lot of dynamic to travel,

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00:43:39.570 --> 00:43:42.770

which make us the human beings we are probably,

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00:43:43.140 --> 00:43:47.370

so I'm still interested in coaches and I'm constantly trying to persuade

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00:43:47.680 --> 00:43:52.010

people to use coaches more. You know, it's not all about trains.

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00:43:52.090 --> 00:43:55.130

Young people do travel by coaches a lot,

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00:43:55.130 --> 00:43:57.290

and it's a cheap good form of travel.

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00:43:57.290 --> 00:44:00.330

And I've actually made a couple of TV programs about coaches,

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00:44:00.900 --> 00:44:02.530

so I'm very ProCoach.

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00:44:04.200 --> 00:44:07.710

[Nolan] Ah, okay. Interesting. Now, um, I don't know the stats on this.</v>

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00:44:07.880 --> 00:44:12.270

Is coach use going down quite a bit or is it, is it, is it steady?

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00:44:12.270 --> 00:44:14.390

Is it going up? What's, what's happening with that?

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00:44:14.920 --> 00:44:18.270

[Kris] It varies by country and country. I mean,</v>

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00:44:18.270 --> 00:44:22.430

some countries don't have a very extensive rail network like Scotland,

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00:44:22.960 --> 00:44:27.430

so they've done really imaginative things with coach hubs just outside the big

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00:44:27.430 --> 00:44:31.800

cities like Edinburgh and Glasgow. Fay has always been good on coaches,

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00:44:32.260 --> 00:44:37.040

and I would like to see the Motorway network have, if you like,

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00:44:37.040 --> 00:44:40.520

the equivalent of railway stations at motorway service stations.

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00:44:40.930 --> 00:44:45.760

So you could get some really good journeys much quicker than going

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00:44:45.760 --> 00:44:50.040

in and out of the cities leaving the motorways. So I think that would be great.

699

00:44:50.040 --> 00:44:53.840

And that would actually be quite inexpensive way of traveling.

700

00:44:54.300 --> 00:44:58.760

[Nolan] Yes, it's true. Definitely. Now, from my experience, what, what,</v>

701

00:44:58.760 --> 00:45:03.760

what I've noticed in, um, well, where I grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia,

702

00:45:03.760 --> 00:45:06.800

well, I grew up in a town close to there, which was five hours away,

703

00:45:07.020 --> 00:45:11.480

and we used to have the Greyhound, and that was a really inexpensive,

704

00:45:11.550 --> 00:45:14.840

easy way to commute, uh, between the cities.

705

00:45:15.580 --> 00:45:17.320

And that doesn't exist anymore.

706

00:45:17.700 --> 00:45:21.760

And now people are relying on car share options.

707

00:45:22.690 --> 00:45:24.860

Um, do you,

708

00:45:24.940 --> 00:45:29.500

would you encourage people to use car share and to push that further?

709

00:45:29.910 --> 00:45:33.460

Um, companies such as blah blah car and things like that?

710

00:45:33.470 --> 00:45:36.580

Or do you think we should have a stronger push for coaches?

711

00:45:38.690 --> 00:45:40.780

[Kris] I, I think we should do both,</v>

712

00:45:41.280 --> 00:45:46.100

but I do think that the countries that have really developed an infrastructure

713

00:45:46.100 --> 00:45:49.100

for coaches show there's huge potential here.

714

00:45:49.400 --> 00:45:53.580

And you use a lot less carbon with a coach full of people of course.

715

00:45:53.580 --> 00:45:58.220

And you do car sharing, so do both. But,

716

00:45:58.270 --> 00:46:01.460

um, you know, I think everything you do,

717

00:46:01.830 --> 00:46:05.900

it would be great if people had a ration for travel each year.

718

00:46:05.940 --> 00:46:06.360

Mhm.

719

00:46:06.360 --> 00:46:11.300

and then people who don't travel much could sell their points

720

00:46:11.430 --> 00:46:15.500

to other people. And that would be a good.

721

00:46:15.560 --> 00:46:17.100

[Nolan] Way of, that's a really good idea.</v>

722

00:46:17.130 --> 00:46:19.380

[Kris] What do you think of that? I mean, some people think it.</v>

723

00:46:19.380 --> 00:46:20.260

[Nolan] I love that.</v>

724

00:46:20.410 --> 00:46:24.340

[Kris] Yeah. I mean, some people think that's way outta,</v>

725

00:46:25.120 --> 00:46:26.940

you know, way off the agenda,

726

00:46:26.940 --> 00:46:29.900

but I think that would be quite an interesting idea.

727

00:46:30.820 --> 00:46:32.790

[Nolan] I think so too. And listeners, please,</v>

728

00:46:32.790 --> 00:46:37.070

I'm encouraging you to comment on whatever platform you're listening on right

729

00:46:37.070 --> 00:46:41.550

now or tune into Without Borders or check out the website, Why Travel. Now,

730

00:46:41.550 --> 00:46:44.990

all the links will be in the description and everything we're talking about at

731

00:46:44.990 --> 00:46:47.190

today. If you have any ideas, um,

732

00:46:47.190 --> 00:46:49.310

I think Matthew and Kris are thinking the same as me,

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00:46:49.310 --> 00:46:53.630

like please become part of the conversation because this is incredibly important

734

00:46:53.630 --> 00:46:57.710

right now. Um, yeah. Uh, Matthew, what do you think about that?

735

00:46:58.860 --> 00:47:01.470

[Matthew] I think it's a fascinating, it would be a fascinating experiment.</v>

736

00:47:01.520 --> 00:47:03.390

So I I'm sure it would be,

737

00:47:04.500 --> 00:47:08.830

I fear it would be politically impossible simply because, uh,

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00:47:08.830 --> 00:47:12.910

you could imagine what certain aspects of the media would say that this was like

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00:47:12.910 --> 00:47:15.110

a totalitarian kind of, uh,

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00:47:15.390 --> 00:47:20.350

state restricting our travel to a certain number of miles a year. And, um,

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00:47:20.350 --> 00:47:23.910

people would see this as an incredible infringement on their,

742

00:47:23.910 --> 00:47:28.590

on their liberties. When actually, if I think as a, as a social,

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00:47:28.760 --> 00:47:33.240

uh, experiment, it would be a fascinating way actually of,

744

00:47:33.330 --> 00:47:37.720

of making travel probably more equitable. And, um,

745

00:47:39.020 --> 00:47:43.520

and also I think making people rethink why they're traveling.

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00:47:43.520 --> 00:47:48.400

If you had a travel budget and where to prioritize their, um, travel means.

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00:47:48.450 --> 00:47:51.040

Another question would be, would be how are you going to do it?

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00:47:51.040 --> 00:47:55.080

Are you going to do it in terms of the number of miles you travel each year,

749

00:47:55.090 --> 00:47:58.280

or are you going to budget it in some other way? Because of course,

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00:47:58.280 --> 00:47:59.680

if it's by the number of miles,

751

00:48:00.030 --> 00:48:04.320

that would encourage people perhaps to focus more on, on local travel,

752

00:48:04.770 --> 00:48:07.920

uh, than on, um, than on long distance. You.

753

00:48:07.920 --> 00:48:11.640

[Kris] Could have a lifetime allowance, couldn't you? And then, you know,</v>

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00:48:11.640 --> 00:48:16.600

you could get to be 80 and you find it, you used your miles up [laughter]

755

00:48:18.030 --> 00:48:18.863

[Nolan] Yeah.</v>

756

00:48:19.360 --> 00:48:20.193

[Kris] [laughter]</v>

757

00:48:20.260 --> 00:48:23.040

[Nolan] I'm gonna give this some thought. I'm gonna give this some thought.</v>

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00:48:24.400 --> 00:48:25.233

[Matthew] [laughter]</v>

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00:48:25.770 --> 00:48:29.440

[Nolan] Um, now to bring us into a slightly different direction,</v>

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00:48:29.440 --> 00:48:33.440

but just talking about equity and all, well, equality here,

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00:48:33.630 --> 00:48:36.880

this is a topic that's come up on the show a few times,

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00:48:37.540 --> 00:48:42.400

and that's kind of the, the racism that's, um,

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00:48:42.550 --> 00:48:47.360

existent in the bureaucratic system when it comes to travel and the ability to

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00:48:47.360 --> 00:48:49.520

move. Um, for instance,

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00:48:49.790 --> 00:48:54.400

people who come from many developed nations are able to go

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00:48:54.610 --> 00:48:58.200

to other countries freely and easily, right?

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00:48:58.200 --> 00:49:02.680

Whereas people from a lot of, um, developing nations,

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00:49:02.680 --> 00:49:06.800

they don't have this type of freedom and the bureaucratic process just makes it

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00:49:06.800 --> 00:49:11.240

hell for them. And I've noticed it firsthand, uh, moving to Spain,

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00:49:12.160 --> 00:49:13.320

[laughter], to be honest, the bureaucrat,

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00:49:13.320 --> 00:49:17.600

the bureaucracy in Spain is slow for everyone. It's a bit of a pain in the ass,

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00:49:17.600 --> 00:49:21.080

or we say in Spanish grano en el culo, um, [laughter]

773

00:49:21.420 --> 00:49:26.280

But for me it's been quite easy because I hold a Belgian passport and a Canadian

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00:49:26.800 --> 00:49:30.640

passport. I'm one of those lucky, lucky guys. Um,

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00:49:30.640 --> 00:49:31.920

but my girlfriend,

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00:49:32.160 --> 00:49:37.160

she's from Ukraine and she's just

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00:49:37.160 --> 00:49:40.480

been going through hell with the with the bureaucratic process,

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00:49:40.480 --> 00:49:44.680

and they make it so difficult and there are so many more steps to go through.

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00:49:45.220 --> 00:49:48.960

And it took the war for her to be able to come to Canada.

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00:49:49.010 --> 00:49:53.280

So she applied just, this was just for a traveler's visa, right?

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00:49:53.420 --> 00:49:57.640

And she's a girl without, without a criminal record, um,

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00:49:57.670 --> 00:50:02.120

like goes to school but doesn't have money in the bank,

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00:50:02.740 --> 00:50:06.560

and she's Ukrainian. So even though she's family,

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00:50:06.560 --> 00:50:09.840

because we we're common law, parejo de hecho, um,

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00:50:09.880 --> 00:50:13.840

she's got rejected from Canada just for entering for a holiday,

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00:50:14.340 --> 00:50:18.480

and then the war broke out and then she applied again, and then they're like,

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00:50:18.480 --> 00:50:19.560

okay, now you're allowed in.

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00:50:19.850 --> 00:50:24.320

So it took a war for her to be treated the same as I did. Um,

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00:50:24.950 --> 00:50:27.120

what are some ways we can fix that?

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00:50:27.320 --> 00:50:32.200

Because I think that's a huge issue when it comes to travel and in a sense

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00:50:32.640 --> 00:50:33.473

transport.

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00:50:35.210 --> 00:50:38.380

[Kris] I had an aunt who, well, I mean a bit loony,</v>

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00:50:39.360 --> 00:50:44.020

but I think her view was that we should abolish passports

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00:50:44.020 --> 00:50:48.980

completely and see how people distributed themselves

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00:50:49.050 --> 00:50:53.340

around the world. And I know it sounds ridiculous,

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00:50:53.800 --> 00:50:58.340

but I think if we didn't have all these borders and bureaucratic things,

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00:50:58.350 --> 00:51:03.220

we might be pleasantly surprised after all in the uk anyone

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00:51:03.220 --> 00:51:07.780

from the Commonwealth could come and live here until the 1960s when we started

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00:51:08.050 --> 00:51:10.540

having rules about things. And, you know,

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00:51:10.540 --> 00:51:13.260

it was a re reasonable way of managing,

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00:51:13.260 --> 00:51:17.180

we advertised for staff when we needed them in the NHS and so on,

802

00:51:17.440 --> 00:51:19.540

and it didn't get outta hand.

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00:51:19.950 --> 00:51:24.940

So I do wonder what would happen if we just abolished borders,

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00:51:24.940 --> 00:51:28.180

which is of course the name of your podcast.

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00:51:28.840 --> 00:51:30.900

And I think we panic.

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00:51:31.170 --> 00:51:31.940

[Nolan] I think a lot.</v>

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00:51:31.940 --> 00:51:35.980

[Kris] About, yeah, we think about that. We think we panic about it,</v>

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00:51:35.980 --> 00:51:37.460

and maybe we don't need to.

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00:51:38.570 --> 00:51:41.260

[Matthew] It's very interesting aspect because when you say without borders,</v>

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00:51:41.460 --> 00:51:42.230

actually within Europe,

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00:51:42.230 --> 00:51:46.740

there's been this fantastic experiment to remove borders. Uh, you know,

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00:51:46.740 --> 00:51:50.340

the whole principle of the sort of the Schengen movement has, uh,

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00:51:50.480 --> 00:51:54.500

has been to do this. And it's very interesting to see the way in which, uh,

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00:51:54.500 --> 00:51:58.060

that's, that's developed and, um, how that's changed,

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00:51:58.060 --> 00:52:01.380

particularly for younger people, their experience of travel moving across.

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00:52:01.800 --> 00:52:05.780

And interestingly, when Kris mentions about, uh, the immigration policy,

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00:52:05.780 --> 00:52:10.340

of course, in Britain until very recently, uh, we had this, um,

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00:52:10.890 --> 00:52:14.540

sort of freedom of movement that we were part of, uh,

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00:52:14.550 --> 00:52:19.340

in across the whole European continent. Um, and that, uh,

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00:52:19.340 --> 00:52:21.980

resulted in, um, you know,

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00:52:22.010 --> 00:52:26.500

a a very open sort of system of travel across Europe. And of what,

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00:52:26.500 --> 00:52:28.900

what has happened, sadly, is that, um,

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00:52:29.190 --> 00:52:31.660

as we saw that,

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00:52:32.490 --> 00:52:36.580

when that was used by many people to come and live and work in Britain,

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00:52:36.960 --> 00:52:41.940

you ended up with the, uh, Brexit referendum, which then, uh, put a stop to it.

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00:52:42.200 --> 00:52:46.820

And amazingly now they're ending up in a situation where I think,

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00:52:46.870 --> 00:52:51.300

uh, from next year, people in Britain will face the same,

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00:52:51.300 --> 00:52:55.860

some of the same obstacles that you mentioned, because before, uh,

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00:52:56.040 --> 00:52:58.580

the, um, Brexit happened,

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00:52:58.910 --> 00:53:03.580

Britain was involved in developing a new mechanism

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00:53:03.880 --> 00:53:08.700

for increasing security around in terms of entry and exit to the

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00:53:08.780 --> 00:53:10.060

European Union, which of course,

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00:53:10.340 --> 00:53:12.700

all British people are now going to be subject to.

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00:53:13.000 --> 00:53:17.580

And I think with fingerprinting and all kinds of other bureaucratic

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00:53:17.580 --> 00:53:18.210

measures,

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00:53:18.210 --> 00:53:22.100

it's going to be interesting to see how people react when they realize that as

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00:53:22.100 --> 00:53:26.680

difficult as travel out of the UK at the moment is it's going to become to

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00:53:26.680 --> 00:53:30.040

Europe, it's gonna become a whole lot more difficult, uh, from next May.

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00:53:31.170 --> 00:53:35.320

So it's, it's a great idea in theory, but I think as,

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00:53:35.450 --> 00:53:40.440

as we've experienced in, in our country, um, it's, uh,

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00:53:40.750 --> 00:53:44.840

a policy which sadly seems to result in, um,

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00:53:45.690 --> 00:53:48.600

in a lot of pushback socially.

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00:53:51.700 --> 00:53:56.230

[Nolan] Definitely. Yeah. Yeah. Complicated issues. A lot to think about here.</v>

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00:53:56.230 --> 00:54:01.150

[Kris] Don't you think it might be fun if we had a bigger worldwide system of swapping</v>
v>

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00:54:01.150 --> 00:54:05.190

lives with each other for a year? You know,

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00:54:05.220 --> 00:54:07.070

I wouldn't mind living in Africa.

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00:54:07.450 --> 00:54:11.430

I'd swap with someone from Africa and it would be so easy.

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00:54:11.430 --> 00:54:14.150

He could have my flat and I could live in his heart.

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00:54:15.470 --> 00:54:19.540

[Nolan] Oh, definitely. And the people I know who do that, they have nothing but, uh,</v>

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00:54:19.860 --> 00:54:20.940

interesting stories and they,

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00:54:20.970 --> 00:54:24.900

I've never heard a negative experience from the people who do these house swaps.

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00:54:24.900 --> 00:54:27.500

, I've always heard something interesting about it,

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00:54:27.510 --> 00:54:31.020

Okay. Yeah, I I'm definitely on that side as well.

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00:54:31.190 --> 00:54:34.500

[Kris] So let's have a bigger swapping system. [laughter]</v>

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00:54:35.560 --> 00:54:38.570

[Nolan] I agree. [laughter], um,</v>

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00:54:39.150 --> 00:54:42.530

now abolishing passports. I mean,

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00:54:43.040 --> 00:54:44.850

I haven't really thought about that that much.

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00:54:44.950 --> 00:54:48.890

I'd have to think about it a bit more to have anything useful to say.

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00:54:49.660 --> 00:54:51.090

Um, but of course,

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00:54:51.120 --> 00:54:55.570

having more of like a European system spread around the world,

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00:54:55.600 --> 00:54:59.410

that's something I'd be all for. But Matthew, as you state as well, it,

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00:54:59.410 --> 00:55:03.090

it's very difficult and that actually might end up resulting in even more

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00:55:03.410 --> 00:55:05.570

pushback in the end. Um,

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00:55:05.870 --> 00:55:10.090

now an another thing that I've learned about is

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00:55:10.710 --> 00:55:12.770

the, this Project Plumia

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00:55:13.230 --> 00:55:17.410

and they're looking to create an online country,

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00:55:18.230 --> 00:55:22.340

and you could, the idea behind it is that you could get a,

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00:55:22.340 --> 00:55:25.860

like a passport from this country and then like,

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00:55:25.860 --> 00:55:30.780

that would allow you to travel from there. Now, um, that.

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00:55:30.780 --> 00:55:31.420

[Matthew] Sounds fascinating.</v>

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00:55:31.420 --> 00:55:36.350

[Nolan] What it looks like is to be able Yeah, it's very interesting.</v>

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00:55:36.350 --> 00:55:40.990

Now, I'm, I'm, I like the idea behind it, right? Because the,

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00:55:40.990 --> 00:55:45.030

their mission statements are about making it more inclusive and giving people,

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00:55:45.520 --> 00:55:45.870

um,

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00:55:45.870 --> 00:55:50.710

from developing nations the same opportunity to be able to travel and not go

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00:55:50.710 --> 00:55:54.830

through the same bureaucratic or go through those bureaucratic nightmares.

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00:55:55.640 --> 00:55:58.150

Um, but on the flip side,

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00:55:58.170 --> 00:56:02.910

the only way they they're thinking right now to obtain this is that there has to

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00:56:02.910 --> 00:56:04.990

be, uh, a certain check,

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00:56:04.990 --> 00:56:09.830

and that check involves your career and your income. Right?

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00:56:10.070 --> 00:56:11.470

Which of course, again,

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00:56:11.470 --> 00:56:15.830

causes problems because then you're holding people back who didn't have the

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00:56:15.830 --> 00:56:18.110

opportunity to make a certain amount of money.

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00:56:19.420 --> 00:56:23.960

What do you think about this idea of an online country? Do you,

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00:56:23.960 --> 00:56:27.440

do you think this is a good idea? Do you think this is plausible?

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00:56:28.470 --> 00:56:29.640

[Kris] I think it's, um,

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00:56:30.280 --> 00:56:34.600

interesting because if you think of some of the countries like Ireland

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00:56:35.000 --> 00:56:37.360

where they've been fighting each other for years,

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00:56:37.360 --> 00:56:39.840

and it's all about the boundaries.

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00:56:39.840 --> 00:56:44.840

Imagine if you just self-identified of which country

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00:56:44.840 --> 00:56:49.120

you felt you wanted to pay your taxes to, you know,

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00:56:49.120 --> 00:56:53.360

would be a bit like the American system, a local and national tax, wouldn't it?

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00:56:53.540 --> 00:56:55.000

And then, then you,

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00:56:55.020 --> 00:56:58.520

you would have an income and you would respect the laws of that country,

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00:56:58.780 --> 00:57:03.320

and it might avoid many of the territorial civil

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00:57:03.350 --> 00:57:06.960

fight that go on. So I think it's very interesting. I hadn't heard about it,

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00:57:06.960 --> 00:57:11.640

but I'd really like to know more about that. Maybe you could develop that idea,

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00:57:11.640 --> 00:57:12.473

Nolan.

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00:57:12.750 --> 00:57:14.960

[Nolan] Yeah, I'll send it to, you'll, I'll send you an article.</v>

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00:57:14.960 --> 00:57:18.640

I wrote about it as well. It was one of the first articles on my website. Now,

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00:57:18.640 --> 00:57:23.440

the other thing that scares me a little bit from it is that, um,

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00:57:23.550 --> 00:57:28.000

it's a sister company of Safety Wing, now Safety Wing's,

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00:57:28.000 --> 00:57:32.720

an insurance company for nomads. I used them. I, I loved them. Uh,

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00:57:32.720 --> 00:57:34.760

they were way less expensive than all the others.

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00:57:34.760 --> 00:57:39.120

The customer support was amazing. So as a business, I do like them. Yeah.

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00:57:39.120 --> 00:57:43.720

But just the idea of an insurance company being the parent company

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00:57:44.130 --> 00:57:46.440

of a country of a, I think.

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00:57:46.440 --> 00:57:47.040

[Matthew] Of, I.</v>

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00:57:47.040 --> 00:57:49.880

[Nolan] Think country kind of makes me nervous. You've.</v>

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00:57:49.880 --> 00:57:52.960

[Matthew] Hit the nail on the head there, because of course, in a physical country,</v>

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00:57:53.410 --> 00:57:56.960

we have something called a government, which at least in democratic countries,

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00:57:56.960 --> 00:58:00.600

you have some kind of say over who is making the laws and,

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00:58:00.740 --> 00:58:04.320

and what kind of laws there are. Whereas in an online country,

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00:58:04.320 --> 00:58:08.600

you're going to have to have some kind of person or some kind of company at

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00:58:08.600 --> 00:58:13.320

least that is administrating that, um, that online, uh, world.

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00:58:13.780 --> 00:58:17.720

And unless there's some way in which the citizens of that online world can

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00:58:17.720 --> 00:58:21.400

participate in that company, maybe it needs to be a mutual or, or a cooperative,

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00:58:21.570 --> 00:58:25.200

uh, to make it work. Uh, well. Perhaps that's the,

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00:58:25.200 --> 00:58:30.200

that's the next step. Create a, create a software, uh, cooperative,

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00:58:30.200 --> 00:58:33.360

which, uh, can operate as the government and in which all the,

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00:58:33.360 --> 00:58:35.960

all the participants have some kind of say, you're going to need that,

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00:58:35.960 --> 00:58:39.680

I think just politically speaking, in order for it to have to work,

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00:58:39.680 --> 00:58:40.760

I think in the longer term.

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00:58:42.770 --> 00:58:46.500

[Nolan] Yeah, definitely. Uh, Kris,</v>

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00:58:46.520 --> 00:58:47.780

any other thoughts on this?

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00:58:48.410 --> 00:58:49.243

[Kris] Well,</v>

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00:58:49.890 --> 00:58:54.220

what I think is that the technology that is developing

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00:58:55.060 --> 00:58:59.420

could be actually the roots of very democratically run country,

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00:58:59.420 --> 00:59:01.900

because you could immediately vote on everything.

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00:59:01.900 --> 00:59:06.900

You'd have a referendum even more than the Swiss do at the moment. Um,

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00:59:07.080 --> 00:59:11.940

and so you could say that it's a technologically driven democracy,

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00:59:11.940 --> 00:59:12.780

couldn't you?

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00:59:13.610 --> 00:59:18.600

[Nolan] Yeah. Okay. A lot, lots to think about. Here again,</v>

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00:59:18.600 --> 00:59:22.500

listeners, please become part of, of the conversation. Um,

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00:59:23.480 --> 00:59:26.420

and okay, well here, we're coming up on an hour here,

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00:59:26.420 --> 00:59:31.100

but have a few more things I want to cover now. Uh, there was one quote,

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00:59:31.350 --> 00:59:34.060

uh, Matthew that I, uh,

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00:59:34.060 --> 00:59:37.780

I didn't fully understand and I I was wondering if you could expand on it,

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00:59:37.780 --> 00:59:42.700

because it's in the philosophy chapter, and it's the one, the,

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00:59:43.080 --> 00:59:47.340

the soul is no traveler. The wise man stays at home,

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00:59:47.400 --> 00:59:48.980

and when his necessities,

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00:59:48.980 --> 00:59:53.460

his duties on any occasion call him from his house or into foreign lands,

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00:59:53.750 --> 00:59:55.340

he is at home still.

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00:59:58.130 --> 01:00:02.940

[Matthew] Well, I, I think in this, in this chapter, I mean, what struck me when, uh,</v>

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01:00:04.010 --> 01:00:08.860

when preparing it was that actually a lot of philosophers were real travel

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01:00:08.890 --> 01:00:11.370

skeptics. Um,

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01:00:11.600 --> 01:00:16.450

I think many of them looked at the people around them rushing around and,

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01:00:16.710 --> 01:00:19.730

and moving from place to place. Uh, and they were,

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01:00:19.840 --> 01:00:22.690

some of them were really sort of trying to think about, well, what,

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01:00:22.890 --> 01:00:27.730

what are these people actually doing? Um, but when reading, you know,

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01:00:27.730 --> 01:00:32.090

for instance, some of the, the stoics or people like, um, uh,

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01:00:32.090 --> 01:00:36.170

Thoreau and others, you realize that they actually have made a very good, um,

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01:00:36.480 --> 01:00:40.690

a set of very good points, which is that travel is much more, um,

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01:00:40.720 --> 01:00:45.210

worthwhile and beneficial when we actually have a good understanding of why we

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01:00:45.210 --> 01:00:50.090

are doing it and have thought properly about the reasons why

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01:00:50.090 --> 01:00:53.210

we are doing it, and making sure that it's for, uh, for a good reason.

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01:00:53.660 --> 01:00:55.610

Because as we know, I mean,

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01:00:55.680 --> 01:01:00.170

a lot of international jet setting happens really in an a,

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01:01:00.170 --> 01:01:04.370

in a way in which people are almost sort of escaping from

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01:01:04.840 --> 01:01:09.450

some of the problems that perhaps it would be better that they sorted out kind

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01:01:09.450 --> 01:01:14.250

of closer to home, or, uh, it may be for instance that, um,

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01:01:15.120 --> 01:01:19.170

travel is being done for reasons which perhaps,

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01:01:19.780 --> 01:01:22.410

uh, are not very, uh,

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01:01:23.310 --> 01:01:27.490

are not very edifying, for example.

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01:01:27.530 --> 01:01:28.363

[Nolan] Mhm.</v>

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01:01:28.460 --> 01:01:33.130

[Matthew] So I think, I think that was really a, an interesting,</v>

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01:01:33.260 --> 01:01:37.970

um, way of, uh, from the, from the point that was being made,

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01:01:38.640 --> 01:01:42.930

a way of trying to get us to think much more deeply about are we traveling for

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01:01:42.930 --> 01:01:44.730

good reasons or for bad reasons.

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01:01:47.080 --> 01:01:47.910

[Nolan] Yes.</v>

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01:01:47.910 --> 01:01:52.760

[Kris] Uh, I can't, I have to say I'm a little bit opposed to that.</v>

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01:01:52.790 --> 01:01:57.280

I think some of the greatest experiences in life are when something

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01:01:57.280 --> 01:02:02.280

unexpected happens and you take a risk and, and I think,

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01:02:02.280 --> 01:02:06.440

you know, carefully considering exactly why you're traveling,

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01:02:06.760 --> 01:02:11.600

probably wouldn't go out very much. So, you know, I like chance in life.

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01:02:12.900 --> 01:02:13.733

[Nolan] Mm-hmm. .</v>

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01:02:14.540 --> 01:02:15.470

[Matthew] Well, okay. Well.</v>

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01:02:15.620 --> 01:02:16.510

[Nolan] I think for me.</v>

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01:02:16.580 --> 01:02:19.920

[Matthew] I would, I would say to, to defend the Waldo that maybe, um,</v>

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01:02:19.920 --> 01:02:24.200

we're looking at what he was trying to say was that we can get those chance

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01:02:24.200 --> 01:02:26.800

experiences closer to home, uh,

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01:02:26.850 --> 01:02:31.720

through observing and interacting more carefully and

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01:02:31.720 --> 01:02:36.360

closely with those around us, uh, than having to travel a hundred, uh,

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01:02:36.510 --> 01:02:41.320

a hundred miles to do so. Um, it's a different perspective. Both,

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01:02:41.320 --> 01:02:43.920

both sides can be argued convincingly.

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01:02:46.660 --> 01:02:47.310

[Nolan] Well, Kris,</v>

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01:02:47.310 --> 01:02:51.190

that actually kind of makes me think of what you said at the beginning of our

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01:02:51.190 --> 01:02:55.150

conversation. As you mentioned, where you grew up, you had, uh, in your city,

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01:02:55.880 --> 01:03:00.270

um, the section where a lot, was it, did you say Hindus? Hindus.

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01:03:00.270 --> 01:03:01.350

[Kris] And Muslims, different.</v>

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01:03:01.350 --> 01:03:01.910

[Nolan] Muslims.</v>

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01:03:01.910 --> 01:03:02.910

[Kris] Of the town. Yeah.</v>

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01:03:03.490 --> 01:03:07.750

[Nolan] And they, and they don't mix and they stay apart. Um, now of course,</v>

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01:03:07.750 --> 01:03:11.150

I think we all kind of have the perspective that people should mix and people

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01:03:11.150 --> 01:03:15.150

should learn about each other's cultures. Um, but someone might,

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01:03:15.150 --> 01:03:16.390

might make the argument, oh,

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01:03:16.580 --> 01:03:20.630

I can just stay in my city and I can learn about these different cultures.

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01:03:20.940 --> 01:03:23.190

I can go to the Muslim area.

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01:03:23.190 --> 01:03:26.950

I can go to the Hindu new area and do it that way. Now,

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01:03:27.270 --> 01:03:31.390

would you encourage people to do that over

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01:03:31.510 --> 01:03:35.630

traveling? Or do you think that, that it's not really,

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01:03:36.240 --> 01:03:40.670

um, a, a yes or no here? Like you can do both or you should do both?

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01:03:41.060 --> 01:03:45.910

[Kris] I think what I was referring to really was the reaction to this idea</v>

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01:03:45.910 --> 01:03:50.790

that Paris has developed the 15 minute neighborhood where everything you

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01:03:50.790 --> 01:03:54.510

need on a very day-to-day basis is locally

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01:03:55.450 --> 01:03:58.310

and great, you know, it saves carbon.

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01:03:59.010 --> 01:04:03.870

But I was trying to counter at that with the idea that you stay in

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01:04:03.870 --> 01:04:08.370

your own little hub with all the things you need for your own

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01:04:08.370 --> 01:04:09.203

culture,

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01:04:09.630 --> 01:04:14.490

and it feels comfortable and convenient and you can

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01:04:14.490 --> 01:04:17.290

patch yourself on the back. You're saying, you are saying carbon,

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01:04:17.830 --> 01:04:22.610

but you aren't developing that understanding of

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01:04:22.880 --> 01:04:25.170

what you would gain from mixing better.

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01:04:25.170 --> 01:04:27.610

And you don't even go to the middle of town often.

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01:04:28.580 --> 01:04:31.520

And so you have your own culture, your own doctors,

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01:04:31.550 --> 01:04:35.440

your own religious groups. And I just felt,

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01:04:36.200 --> 01:04:36.740

you know,

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01:04:36.740 --> 01:04:41.740

I'm not surprised they've started fighting each other a bit because they don't

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01:04:42.020 --> 01:04:44.620

ever meet each other. They don't go to the same schools,

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01:04:44.620 --> 01:04:48.120

they have different schools. That to me,

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01:04:48.480 --> 01:04:50.560

instinctively is not a good idea.

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01:04:50.780 --> 01:04:53.880

And I was very worried that the co you know,

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01:04:53.880 --> 01:04:58.620

the carbon debate was encouraging the development of that,

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01:04:58.620 --> 01:05:01.460

the planning of communities like that. Um,

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01:05:01.460 --> 01:05:04.860

and I felt out ought to counteract that a bit, at least.

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01:05:06.290 --> 01:05:09.860

[Nolan] I completely agree with you. If it didn't lead to an audio spike,</v>

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01:05:09.860 --> 01:05:14.500

I would be clapping right now. [laughter] But yeah. Um,

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01:05:14.500 --> 01:05:16.420

alright. One, one more because I,

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01:05:16.420 --> 01:05:20.760

I really want to encourage the listeners to check out your website as well and,

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01:05:20.850 --> 01:05:23.080

uh, become part of the conversation. And it,

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01:05:23.080 --> 01:05:27.240

you have all these leaflets where you briefly summarize a lot of the points that

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01:05:27.240 --> 01:05:28.200

are in the book as well.

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01:05:28.820 --> 01:05:32.320

And one that I thought was an interesting question to think about and I was

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01:05:32.320 --> 01:05:36.560

hoping you both could give us an answer and then the listeners could always tune

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01:05:36.560 --> 01:05:37.340

in afterwards.

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01:05:37.340 --> 01:05:42.280

But it's what role do the emotions play in our travel choices and behavior

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01:05:42.420 --> 01:05:46.360

and how can transport systems incorporate these insights?

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01:05:50.190 --> 01:05:50.950

[Kris] Right. Well.</v>

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01:05:50.950 --> 01:05:52.190

[Matthew] Emotions and travel.</v>

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01:05:52.190 --> 01:05:54.750

[Nolan] Kris, I know we've touched on it already a little bit, right? Yes,</v>

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01:05:54.750 --> 01:05:57.870

we've touched on it in different ways, but just to summarize some of the points.

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01:05:58.260 --> 01:06:00.270

[Kris] I would hone in on loneliness.</v>

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01:06:01.380 --> 01:06:05.390

I think increasingly in our society, people are lonely.

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01:06:05.390 --> 01:06:09.870

It's partly cuz we are living longer and, um, you know, there are a lot of,

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01:06:09.870 --> 01:06:13.270

we're an aging society. Many elderly people are alone,

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01:06:13.500 --> 01:06:15.830

many divorced people are living alone.

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01:06:16.250 --> 01:06:21.060

And I don't think that's very good if you don't travel

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01:06:21.060 --> 01:06:23.140

around and meet other people. So,

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01:06:23.750 --> 01:06:27.980

whereas in the past we lived in larger communities,

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01:06:28.010 --> 01:06:30.300

a lot of life took place in the streets.

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01:06:31.090 --> 01:06:35.980

I meet a lot of isolated people. And so I think that travel,

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01:06:35.980 --> 01:06:40.780

particularly the informal travel of sitting next to someone in the bus or a

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01:06:40.780 --> 01:06:42.100

train or a pot bench,

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01:06:42.850 --> 01:06:47.540

that is the way forward for humanity and our own mental

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01:06:47.540 --> 01:06:48.373

health.

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01:06:51.450 --> 01:06:56.260

[Matthew] It's a very, uh, good point Kris makes. And on the transport side,</v>

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01:06:56.350 --> 01:06:59.860

um, it made me think of, uh, at the French,

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01:06:59.860 --> 01:07:04.340

you're always very good about, uh, in their policy making,

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01:07:04.570 --> 01:07:06.740

sort of thinking about these big, big issues.

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01:07:06.740 --> 01:07:11.500

And I think there was an experiment, um, on SNCF the, um,

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01:07:11.890 --> 01:07:14.980

French, uh, rail company to have different,

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01:07:14.980 --> 01:07:19.220

what they called ambiances in their carriages on the,

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01:07:19.270 --> 01:07:22.620

on the trains. So I think one was a,

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01:07:22.970 --> 01:07:27.540

a sort of play carriage where, you know, particularly for, for kids could,

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01:07:27.910 --> 01:07:32.420

um, sort of do the kind of things that, uh, they,

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01:07:32.420 --> 01:07:35.220

they wanted to, to sort of focus on. Um,

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01:07:35.520 --> 01:07:40.300

one carriage was a sort of a sort of library carriage, if you like,

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01:07:40.300 --> 01:07:44.460

for, for those who wanted quiet sort of contemplation. Um,

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01:07:44.490 --> 01:07:49.140

I think another was, uh, a sort of social courage where you could do your,

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01:07:49.670 --> 01:07:54.340

um, you could eat sort of around a table and, and sort of have a chat.

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01:07:54.470 --> 01:07:57.940

Uh, so I thought that that's perhaps something that, um,

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01:07:58.480 --> 01:08:01.540

you can obviously do it on a train in a way which you, you can't do in,

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01:08:01.540 --> 01:08:02.340

in other places,

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01:08:02.340 --> 01:08:06.380

but you could perhaps incorporate it at stations and other other aspects because

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01:08:06.940 --> 01:08:11.260

everybody is facing faces different on a daily basis, uh,

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01:08:11.260 --> 01:08:13.340

different issues and, you know, has,

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01:08:13.340 --> 01:08:17.920

is facing a different sort of set of emotions and perhaps perhaps we should

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01:08:17.920 --> 01:08:22.040

think about kind of trying to cater more for, for each of those in, uh,

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01:08:22.040 --> 01:08:23.280

in the transport planning.

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01:08:25.610 --> 01:08:28.220

[Nolan] I haven't thought about that and I love that idea.</v>

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01:08:28.220 --> 01:08:31.580

Definitely sounds a lot better than the classist system we have now where you

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01:08:31.580 --> 01:08:33.980

either have the choice between coach and first class,

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01:08:34.240 --> 01:08:37.780

but having the choice between, okay, here's where you can work, uh,

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01:08:37.780 --> 01:08:41.620

here's where you can study, here's, here's where you can socialize. That sounds,

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01:08:42.170 --> 01:08:46.540

that sounds much better. I think, you know, on some trains it exists in a way.

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01:08:46.540 --> 01:08:48.100

The trains that have bars, [laughter],

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01:08:48.240 --> 01:08:52.140

you can socialize at the bar and you can work on the seat, but no,

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01:08:52.140 --> 01:08:56.860

I love that idea. Okay. Well, uh, Kris, Matthew,

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01:08:57.300 --> 01:09:01.340

anything else you want to touch on before we end today's show?

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01:09:02.530 --> 01:09:03.540

[Kris] I think that, um,

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01:09:03.540 --> 01:09:07.700

we've covered an awful lot and actually you've made me think too,

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01:09:07.810 --> 01:09:12.660

I think the conversation has got a lot of open-ended ideas of where we

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01:09:12.660 --> 01:09:15.060

might go. So I think it's the beginning,

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01:09:15.260 --> 01:09:19.900

not the end of a conversation and the without borders aspect is

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01:09:19.900 --> 01:09:22.540

really interesting. And if we are going to, you know,

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01:09:22.770 --> 01:09:25.940

find a way of creating peace in the world,

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01:09:26.650 --> 01:09:31.180

I do think travel has an important part to play. That's my last message, really.

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01:09:31.970 --> 01:09:34.300

[Nolan] Well, thank you Kris. I I hope we have,</v>

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01:09:34.300 --> 01:09:36.900

I hope I have you on the show again because as you say,

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01:09:36.900 --> 01:09:39.860

it feels like the conversation has kind of just started.

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01:09:40.410 --> 01:09:44.580

[Matthew] Absolutely. And we, we'd love to, uh, to do that, I'm sure, uh, uh,</v>

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01:09:44.580 --> 01:09:47.820

because there's, there's such, it's such an enormous topic.

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01:09:47.820 --> 01:09:52.380

And one of the things that struck us when preparing this project and writing

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01:09:52.380 --> 01:09:56.900

this book is that travel is such a fundamental part of human existence.

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01:09:57.110 --> 01:10:01.780

Um, it's something which pretty much everyone does in some form or another,

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01:10:01.920 --> 01:10:06.380

and it's another a reason for instance, why on travel and transport questions,

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01:10:06.380 --> 01:10:09.700

everybody has an opinion because it's something that, uh, that we,

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01:10:09.700 --> 01:10:13.740

that we all do. So as, as Kris says, this is,

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01:10:13.740 --> 01:10:18.660

this is very much a way of starting discussion, uh, we hope and, um,

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01:10:18.680 --> 01:10:22.340

and debate. And it's, it's been a great today to,

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01:10:22.390 --> 01:10:25.900

to talk about these issues with you because it's, it's helped sort of reinforce,

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01:10:26.160 --> 01:10:29.340

you know, there are, there are an enormous, uh,

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01:10:29.340 --> 01:10:32.100

number of ways in which all these questions are connected.

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01:10:34.220 --> 01:10:36.680

[Nolan] Yes. All right, Matthew, Kris,</v>

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01:10:36.680 --> 01:10:40.600

thank you so much for coming on the show today. I learned a lot from you.

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01:10:40.920 --> 01:10:44.000

Remember listeners, this was Without Borders.

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01:10:44.180 --> 01:10:49.000

You can join in on the conversation@withoutborders.fyi and

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01:10:49.000 --> 01:10:52.640

Why Travel Links will be in the description. Tune in next time.