



Universities need to decide how to position themselves on this issue and find new and more effective ways to help counter this trend. Some have suggested that universities should be playing a leadership role in publicly countering this narrative and defending science, while others counter that the universities need to enter this arena with some caution so as to not appear too elite or condescending and risk disenfranchising further swaths of the population.

Simultaneous globalization and nationalism. The world is more interconnected than ever before, with globalization and digital communication facilitating trade, travel, and collaboration across borders. This has both positive and negative implications, including economic growth, cultural exchange, and the spread of ideas and values, as well as increased vulnerability to cyber attacks, pandemics, and other global risks.

In many parts of the world, there has also been a rise in nationalist and populist movements, driven by concerns over immigration, economic inequality, and cultural identity. Trade tensions will likely remain a feature of the geopolitical landscape throughout the 2020s, spurring fragmentation, a shortening of supply chains and a renewed focus on national self-sufficiency – accelerated by the impact of COVID-19. Resource nationalism and competition between states for control of vital raw materials are likely to become an increasingly important factor in international relations.

meet its commitments to reduce net carbon emissions to zero. Climate modelling shows the actions taken over the next few years will be critical to avoiding more extreme impacts, with costs ranging in the billions—if not trillions—of dollars.