

When I started high school, my imagination was captured by natural processes such as chemical reactions and quantum physics. I enjoyed experimentation and international scientific competitions, too. However, as I grew older, I was eager to get a more comprehensive outlook on the world to understand the complex interactions between physical and human factors. This is why I first thought of becoming a geographer. Let's take the concept of energy as an example. In natural sciences, I learnt that energy is 'the capacity to do work' and determines the outcomes of physical processes. Still, Timothy Mitchell and Andreas Malm reveal what a decisive social force energy was during the industrial revolution and is still in modern societies. The conversion, transportation and utilisation of energy are all place-bound activities, so energy is a concern of geographers, too. I had the opportunity to work with Dr Béla Munkácsy, a professor at ELTE University, who specialises in renewable energy. He introduced me to the deeper implications of assessing national energy systems, and I contributed a chapter to his book called 'The State of Wind Energy in the 21st Century', which will be published this October. While comparing the German evolution of wind energy to my home country, I calculated that if the installed capacity was as high as in the federal state Brandenburg (250 kW/km²), almost all of Hungary's electricity needs could be covered. Despite this, the construction of new wind turbines in Hungary is de facto banned (the government sets terms that are technically impossible to fulfil), and we lag behind the region in renewable capacities, thus, in mitigating climate change. This is the second consideration that led me to choose geography: the inadequacy of humanity's response to acute challenges such as climate change or famine is not the result of a lack of innovative technologies, but of factors relating to politics, economic or international relations. After reading the works of moral philosopher Peter Singer, I feel responsible to "do the most good I can" with my career, so guided by the holistic approach of geography, I hope to break through some of these systemic barriers and decrease global suffering. As a geographer, I aim to map the reasons for suffering and mitigate them. For instance, geography is concerned with place-based inequalities. Overall, I am interested in inequalities within cities, as, according to David Harvey, their spatial form has a concrete impact on income redistribution. The fact that by means of urban planning, cities could be made less unjust, evoked my interest in urban economic and social phenomena. I studied gentrification based on Neil Smith's, Chris Hamnett's and Matthias Bernt's works, combined with my own observations carried out in Budapest and Győr. As my field research revealed, in the post-socialist context, rapid neoliberalization resulted in complicated home ownership structures that allowed gentrification to evolve much slower (sometimes even as a state-led project) compared to Anglo-Saxon cities, from where the concept originates. Besides

inequalities, suffering is present in cities due to the lack of green spaces, which leads to a loss of biodiversity and can cause mental illness. As a research assistant at Central European University I investigated nature-based solutions in high-density urban areas. I wrote an in-depth case study about the transformation of Bishan Park in Singapore where the formerly canalized Kallang River was transformed to a thriving ecosystem and recreational area, while retaining its drainage and stormwater management functions. While I saw how impactful urban policy and planning are for sustainability and livability, I decided to have a similarly high-impact career as a policy-maker or a researcher. To achieve my goals, the academically challenging and multicultural environments of UK universities, combined with unique teaching methods would provide a perfect basis.