John Mersheimer is one of the leading US geopolitical experts – and an exponent of realism in international affairs.

When I became French in 2000, and I had my little ceremony at the Prefecture de Police where the fonctionnaire gave me a copy of the decrét de naturalisation, and a nice letter from Jacques Chirac welcoming into the national community (with its values of liberté, égalité, fraternité… solidarité), she also gave me a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

About ten years ago, I also got a card as a “citoyen du monde” (the office is near Métro Nationale).

Mersheimer says that universal values are “fairy tales”.

One of his key arguments is that societies and even individuals within societies cannot agree on what is “the Good Life”.

**Mari Novik, “Have driverless cars hit a roadblock”, *FT video*, 30 August 2024.**

https://www.ft.com/video/19772fc0-d6ee-47f9-bd40-246bf8941bc9

Is the industry hitting a road-block?

Apple has tried to develop an autonomous EV… they have suspended their plans for Titan.

Car manufacturing is a low-margin business.

McKinsey made foolish predictions that the market would be worth $300 to $400 billion by 2035.

Revenues have been paltry (very weak).

Do not confuse “paltry” with “poultry” (volaile)

Deep-learning systems struggles with unpredictable situations.

The incidents have cast a long shadow

China entered the market in 2013, about five years after the US.

As of September 2023, autonomous vehicles had driven a total of 70 million km.

That is *on par* with the US (that is equal to the US: “par” is the number of strokes it takes to complete a golf course).

China’s industry has the significant advantage of cameras and data.

(AI is used to control massively in China: here it is used to sell us things we don’t want.)

When will public robot taxis be available? Maybe in 2030?

In groups, discuss your own mobility practices, and also, do you envisage getting a car later in life (unless you already have one).

Public transport

What motivates people to buy a car?

Freedom of movement

For shopping

Comfort

Security - safety

Passion

Women get hassled systematically. I had a real revelation on this about six-months before #metoo, when my daughter was 26 and basically told me, “Daddy women get hassled all the time. You can maybe go out at 7 or 8 pm on a Saturday using the metro – but never take it home at midnight”.

Life in the public space is very different for men and women.

**Expressing the future**

I’m going to have a car.

If I need a car later, I will buy one.

“Will” and “going to” are two ways of expressing the future in English.

“Will” is used to mark general predication and to express immediate intent (It is hot in here, I’ll open the window.)

“Going to” is used to express an intention.

This evening, *I’m seeing friends* (an arrangement) and we are going to have a drink”.

Arrangements are activities where the time and place are identified. *You are visiting Panama in December*. Here we use the present progressive.

The British Council has good grammar explanations.

Here is their page on the future:

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/b1-b2-grammar/future-forms-will-be-going-present-continuous>