

# A Hard Pill to Swallow

[A Hard Pill To Swallow – YouTube](#)

... jag lyckas inte bädda in denna video – kan du Christian?

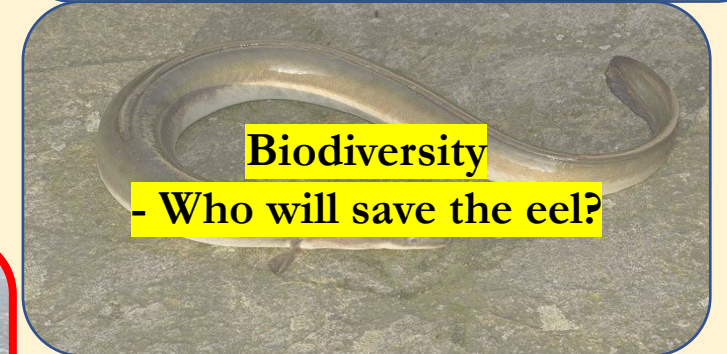
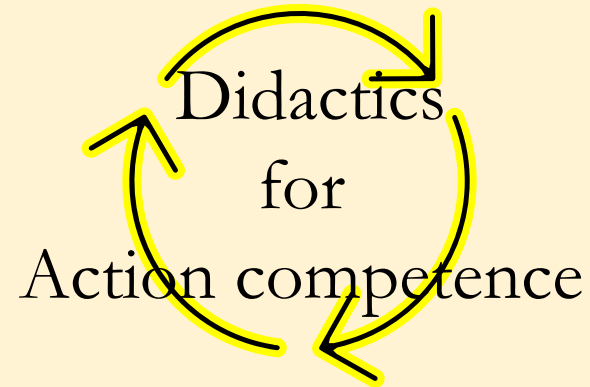
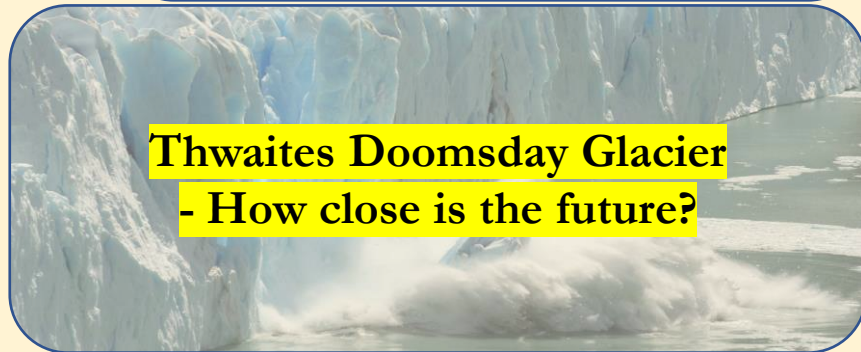
# A Hard Pill to Swallow





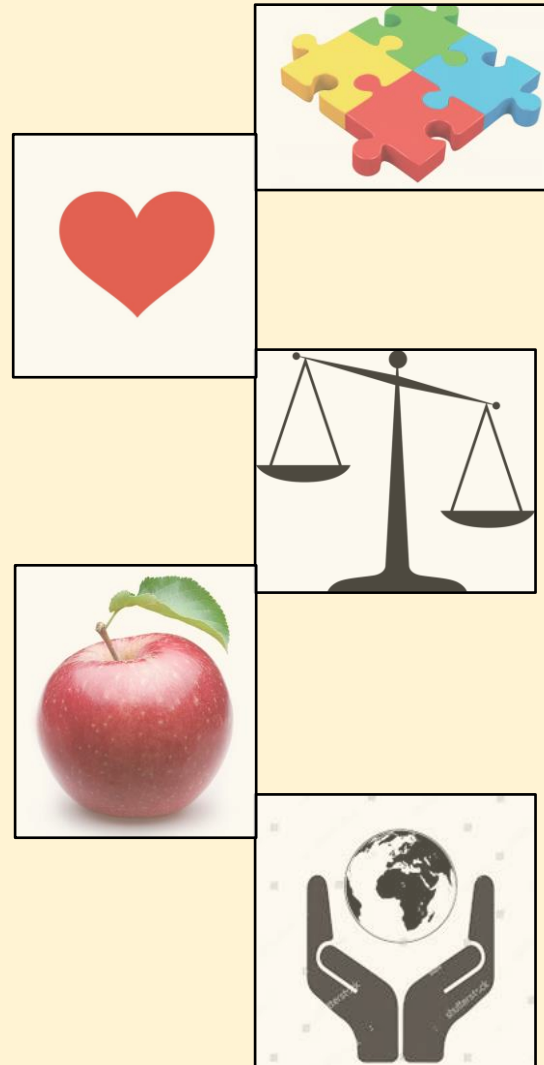
Thomas Krigsman  
Ingegerd Ekendahl  
Iann Lundegård

# Five dilemmas about water and one case



# The general structure of the material

- Contextualization
- Moral reaction
- Ethical reflection
- Knowledge assignement
- Action task





# What makes us healthy makes others sick!

## Contextualization

Many of the medicines used in Sweden are manufactured in low-cost countries such as India and China. In India, The city of Hyderabad, in India, is an important center for global pharmaceutical production. To produce various medicines, large amounts of clean water are required. It is taken from the environment and when it returns from the factory to the surrounding nature, the poorly purified water often contains high levels of pharmaceutical residues, from antibiotics and other drugs.

Today, there is no environmental labeling of drugs in Sweden. Pharmacies must replace medicines prescribed by doctors for the cheapest preparation (generic substitution). When a patent on a drug expires, more companies can manufacture it under their own brand name. A large part of the world's so-called generic drugs – those that no longer have patent protection – are manufactured in countries such as India and China at a low cost.

What does it mean for health and environment problems in the manufacturing countries?

<https://hardpilltoswallow.se>

# What makes us healthy makes others sick!

## Moral reaction



After watching the movie I am:

- Sad -----
- Angry -----
- Hopeless -----
- Unconcerned -----

Put a cross on the board on a scale of 1-6 where 1 means little impact and 6 means big impact.

# What makes us healthy makes others sick!

- etical reflection about responsibility



- What/who/which ones are affected by the manufacture of medicines?
- Who/which ones (directly and indirectly) do you think is responsible for the problems caused by the manufacture of medicines?
- Why do you think they have the main responsibility?
- What kind of responsibility do the various actors have (moral, financial, legal...)?
- How far does the responsibility extend in time and space for the various actors? (historical, present, future, local, global...)
- How do you want the person(s) who are responsible to act?
- In what ways can you/we make demands on the responsible actors?



# What makes us healthy makes others sick!

## Knowledge assignment



### Social science

- In Sweden, pharmacies replace the drug prescribed by a doctor with the cheapest preparation (generic substitution), if the doctor has not prohibited the replacement of the drug. How does it affect competition between pharmaceutical companies and how does that rule affect emissions in the manufacturing countries?
- What is being done to make pharmaceutical manufacturing sustainable? Find out how different actors act (pharmaceutical companies and politicians in Sweden, the Swedish Medicines Agency, pharmacies, shareholders, lobbyists, consumers ...).

# What makes us healthy makes others sick!

## Knowledge assignment



### Natural Science

- Hormonal drugs in wastewater can negatively affect animal reproduction, while psychotropic drugs can have behavioral effects. Find out more about how different drugs in wastewater can affect different organisms.
- Antibiotics in wastewater can lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant (resistant) strains of bacteria. These can then spread to disease-causing bacteria that become difficult to combat. Find out more about how the release of antibiotics in India could affect our health in the future.
- How are pharmaceutical residues in wastewater cleaned in Swedish treatment plants?
- During the covid pandemic, researchers were able to track the development of the covid infection through analyzes of waste water. Find out how to follow the development of various diseases by analyzing wastewater.

# What makes us healthy makes others sick!

## Action task

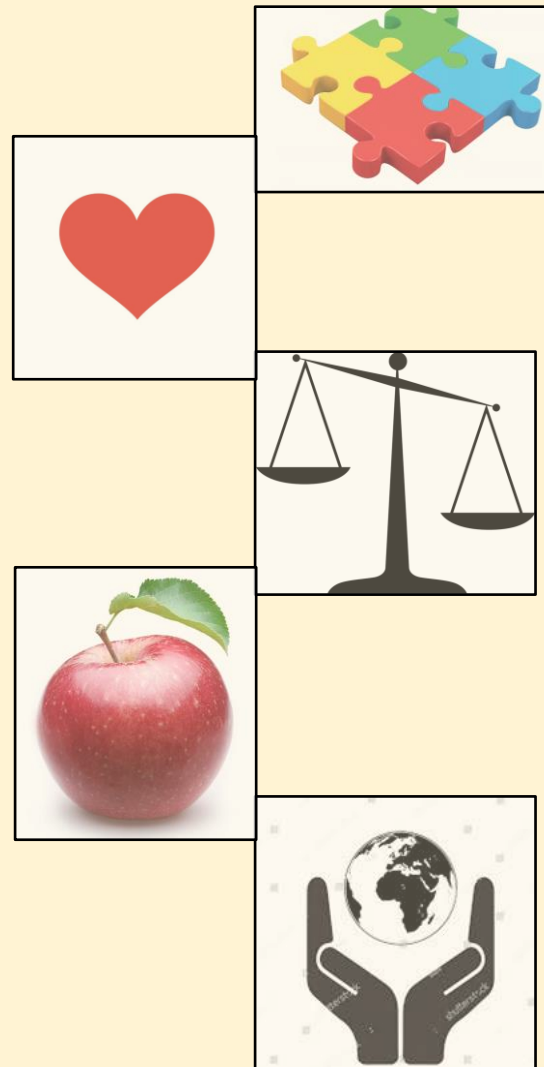


Have students discuss strategies for influencing. Let the following three overarching questions serve as searchlights for the groups.

- How can we spread knowledge to others about problems and opportunities with pharmaceutical manufacturing?
- Which actors do we need to influence in order to draw attention to the issues and to bring about a change and how could this be done?
- What can you do yourself to influence this situation?

# The general structure of the material

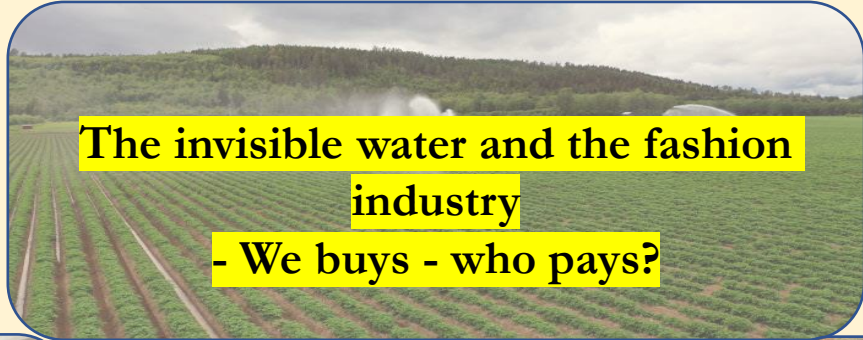
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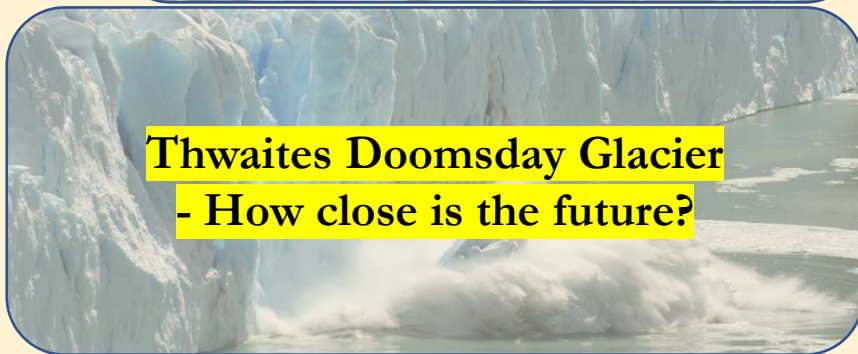
**The invisible water and the fashion industry**  
- We buys - who pays?



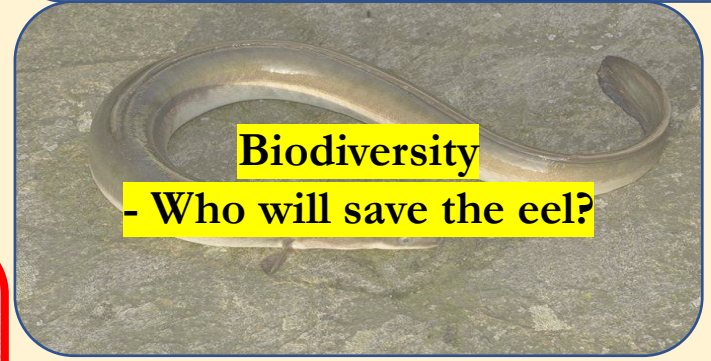
**The Baltic Sea ecosystem**  
- A new Baltic Sea?



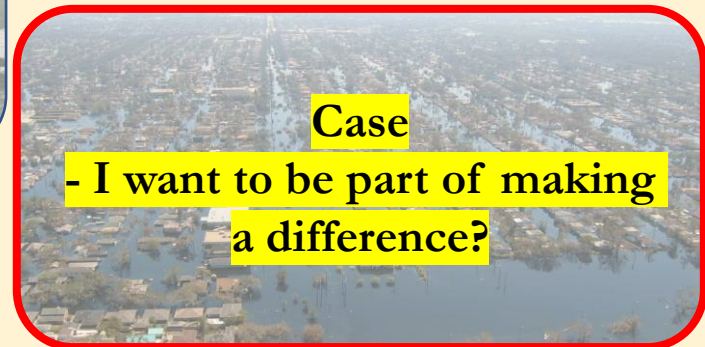
**Waste water**  
- What makes us healthy makes others sick!



**Thwaites Doomsday Glacier**  
- How close is the future?



**Biodiversity**  
- Who will save the eel?



**Case**  
- I want to be part of making a difference?

