

A hand holding a smartphone displaying a Pokémon Go game, with a yellow rectangular object next to it, set against a background of dark mulch.

POKÉMON GO ZOMBIES

Steven Tabor

2018 (c)

I

Pokémon Go is an augmented reality mobile game released by Niantic for mobile phones in July 2016. The game was wildly popular in 2017, and was promoted as a way of fostering exercise and social interaction.

In June of 2018, my daughter and I went for what we hoped would be a quiet Sunday stroll in the Groningen Noroderplantsoen Park. Instead, we found a park overrun with people waving their cellphones in the air, and dashing off left-and-right into the woods. We learned that this was a special Pokémon Go Meeting, for which point bonuses could be earned.

Our cities may be infected by a new class of electronic zombies, or modern Manchurians, or at least that's the conclusion I reach after watching the Pokémon Go followers with their eyes glued to their cellphones in such a glorious park.











































