

Some Smart People: Views and Lives 11

Scott Douglas Jacobsen

Forewords by

Olav Hoel Dorum

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Some Smart People: Views and Lives 11

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For Some Smart People: Views and Lives 11: Brandon Feick, Chris Cole, David Miller, Dr. Benoit Desjardins, M.D., Ph.D., Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, Entemake Aman (阿曼), Hindenburg Melão Jr., Justin Duplantis, Kate Jones, Masaaki Yamauchi, Matthew Scillitani, Michael Isom, Richard May (“May-Tzu”/”MayTzu”/”Mayzi”), Rick Rosner, Tianxi Yu (余天曦), Tomás Perna, Tor Arne Jørgensen, Uwe Michael Neumann, and Veronica Palladino.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen

Foreword by Olav Hoel Dørum

I have always liked to imagine things. From what it would be like to live as a craftsman in the 16th century, to live in a country with a different culture, like Japan or Brazil, or the direction our society will take in the future. From scientific possibilities to how we would choose to organize ourselves. While there are several thought-provoking novels, they are often rooted in established scientific principles and are a continuation of our current political direction. There are only a finite number of truths to learn about the Universe, which is all intertwined one way or the other. The biggest difference in perspectives can be found between philosophies and cultures, with their own unique perspective on ourselves, and how we should approach and make sense of the world around us.

One of my favorite quotes is from the comic-book series "Sandman" by the British author Neil Gaiman: "Everybody has a secret world inside of them. All of the people of the world, I mean everybody. No matter how dull and boring they are on the outside, inside them they've all got unimaginable, magnificent, wonderful, stupid, amazing worlds. Not just one world. Hundreds of them. Thousands maybe."

This quote resonates with me because it highlights the incredible diversity of human experience, something that Mr. Scott's interviews so vividly capture. Our most unique trait is that is only one of us. There is only one person in the world with your neurological wiring, personality and experiences. Mr. Scott's interviews explore people with vastly different academic backgrounds, achievements, and cultural upbringings, allowing us to understand cultural phenomena, shed light on our common history, or simply allowing us to see different segments of the reality we all participate in.

Each interview reveals a unique bloom in the garden of human experience, with its own distinct shape, fragrance, and hue. Through exploring these diverse perspectives, we gain a deeper appreciation for the richness and complexity of the human experience, and our place within this ever-changing garden.

Foreword by Simon Olling Rebsdorf, PhD, MSc, Journalist, Diplomat & President of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry

It is a privilege to write this foreword for *In-Sight Publishing*, an initiative that provides a much-needed platform for voices from the neurodivergent and intellectually exceptional communities. Scott Douglas Jacobsen has dedicated himself to capturing the diverse experiences and perspectives of highly intelligent individuals, regardless of their background, age, or accomplishments. What sets *In-Sight Publishing* apart is its inclusivity and its commitment to offering a space where all perspectives are valued, fostering a deeper understanding of both the complex and the everyday aspects of human experience.

Scott's interviews are exceptional in their ability to move fluidly between technical discussions and personal reflections, providing insight into the lives of individuals who think in unique ways. In a time when intellectualism is sometimes met with skepticism or indifference, *In-Sight Publishing* serves as a bridge, helping to overcome the gap between intellectual discourse and shared human experiences.

When I was interviewed by Scott in 2021, one of the reflections that emerged was on the concept of genius, and particularly it made me reflect on the tendency in some high IQ societies to equate a high IQ score with genius. While intelligence is certainly a factor, I believe that true genius encompasses far more than just a number on a scale. Genius involves creativity, vision, and often the ability to apply knowledge in transformative ways. It seems clear that simply possessing a high IQ does not make someone a genius, and I feel it is important to challenge this overly simplistic association. Intelligence is a tool, but it is how one uses that tool to contribute meaningfully to the world that truly defines genius. My interview with Scott helped me clarify these thoughts and deepened my critical approach to the way we think about and value intelligence in exclusive circles like closed high IQ societies.

This reflection is echoed in some of the insightful contributions in this volume. One contributor distinguishes between "latent" and "effective" genius, and another uses the well-known example of Usain Bolt to illustrate that extraordinary talent in a specific domain does not necessarily equate to genius – be it in sports or artificial intelligence. These perspectives enrich the ongoing debate about what it truly means to be a genius.

Interestingly, this critique of equating high IQ with success also resonates with Claus D. Volko's foreword in an earlier edition of *Some Smart People*. Volko discusses how people with an IQ above 140 (SD 15) often face more difficulties in achieving high societal status than those with a slightly lower measured IQ, highlighting the limitations of IQ tests as a predictor of success. His reflections add an important dimension to the ongoing conversation about how we define and value intelligence, and readers may find it worthwhile to revisit that edition for additional insights.

Another contributor critiques the vanity that can sometimes emerge in high IQ societies, linking it to deeper feelings of inadequacy. He, Tianxi Yu, also offers a philosophical perspective on beauty, emphasizing that it comes from acts of kindness rather than mere intellectual prowess. Another contributor, Desjardins, on the other hand, critically examines the limitations of IQ testing, especially at the higher levels, questioning whether these tests can truly measure the full scope of human intelligence. Both viewpoints resonate strongly with my own thoughts about the challenges faced by members of high IQ communities, like myself.

So, in this latest edition of *Some Smart People: Views and Lives 11*, readers will find a diverse range of interviews with individuals from across the spectrum of high IQ societies. The contributors explore not only the technicalities of intelligence testing and their personal experiences within these communities but also reflect on the broader implications of intelligence in society. From critiques of how genius is perceived to discussions on the practical challenges of being part of the intellectual fringe, this edition offers a deep dive into the minds of those who navigate the complexities of high intelligence. It's an engaging and thought-provoking collection that invites readers to reflect on the many dimensions of human intellect.

I invite readers to approach this volume with an open mind and a curiosity for the diverse range of ideas presented. Each interview offers a glimpse into the thought processes of individuals who see the world from a unique perspective, and there is much to be gained from engaging with these stories.

Foreword by Tonny Sellén

In Sweden, where I live, I feel that it has been rather quiet about this thing about talent and talented people. The subject has always had a tinge of taboo. So it's great to see Scott's work on this and his passionate commitment to the subject and his interesting publications. That I ended up in a world of various IQ tests and associations with incredibly talented people was more or less a coincidence. I have always carried with me a curiosity and a desire to investigate things to try to understand and learn and that is how I found and tried the first IQ test. Not because I thought I was particularly smart, but for the challenge and curiosity. I was also fascinated by the design of these tests and curious about the people behind them. Over time I got to know some of them and eventually created my own tests that I published, including Perspectiq. The response to the tests was generally positive and I made many new friends all over the world to discuss various topics with. At my age (66 years old) I still look for challenges and am almost more curious about things now than when I was young. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Scott for finding me and giving me the opportunity to write you a few lines. There is incredible knowledge, awareness and genius among these people and I really hope it gets a chance to get out into the world and benefit us all. Scott's work contributes to that and it is with great pleasure that I will follow him and take in all the interesting aspects of the subject, through the publications on smart people.

Foreword by Uwe Michael Neumann

Smart people are very different from what other people expect. Smart people are even very different from what smart people themselves expect at first. Even the term smart people is already misleading as far as it refers to high IQ people. Most people would consider wealthy business-people as smart. Or lawyers and medical doctors. Maybe politicians and stock traders. All these people have in common that they are economically successful and possess high social status. High IQ people can be all of that – and the exact opposite. The decisive factor is that high IQ and social, economically and all what is generally considered to be 'success' are not congruent. Life is much more complex. There is a plethora of different life plans. You can have an exceptional high IQ without ever managing to have a stable income and be dependent on social welfare. A high IQ can – depending on the circumstances – be even seen as a handicap.

How is this possible? Shouldn't a high IQ give you the ability to solve problems and to remove all obstacles? First of all, the standard IQ test is designed to measure a limited range of intellectual capabilities. But the IQ test does not measure the ability to manage social interactions, your communication and language skills or drug consumption, depression and other negative feelings. There are many challenges and obstacles in life that cannot be measured and that are therefore not part of an IQ test. But all of these and many more can impede your way to develop your full potential.

Secondly, humans are herd animals. The average human and the majority of people have an IQ of around 100. So, they rarely or maybe never interact with people with an IQ equal to or over 130 since this group of people is very small. Therefore, people belonging to this group often appear to be strange and awkward to the average person, especially when they don't possess the generally accepted insignia of wealth, power and status. But there are also often problems with understanding the other way around.

Thirdly, life is chaotic and there is no guarantee for anything in life. Whatever you have achieved in life, there is always an element of luck involved. First and foremost - regardless of your age - you can count yourself lucky that you are alive at all. Many things that could have killed you did not happen. Not because you were following all the rules, or because you are a nice person or you don't smoke or don't eat meat. It was just because of pure luck that no car hit you, no deadly disease besieged you, and no one killed you – so far. Also, hardly anybody is grateful to have been born in an OECD-country, but you should. I guess I don't need to explain that is your life is much easier and better in many ways as if you were born in Afghanistan or in the Central African Republic. You can be at the right time at the right place and you can be at the wrong time at the wrong place. This applies to everybody of course, but also explains why our society isn't organised according to the IQ levels.

Scott's *Some Smart People: Views and Lives* gives a unique opportunity to get some insight into this complex and diverse world of high IQ people. In fact, it is the only project of its kind I do personally know about. It was a pleasure for me to contribute a small amount of thoughts into this amazing project.

Conversation with David Miller on the Background, Life, and Views: Member, Glia Society (1)

2022-03-22

David Miller is a Member of the Glia Society. He discusses: growing up; a sense of an extended self; the family background; the experience with peers and schoolmates; some professional certifications; the purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence discovered; the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses; the greatest geniuses in history; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; profound intelligence necessary for genius; work experiences and jobs; particular job path; the gifted and geniuses; God; science; the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations); the range of the scores; ethical philosophy; social philosophy; economic philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; philosophical system; meaning in life; meaning externally derived, or internally generated; an afterlife; the mystery and transience of life; and love.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you were growing up, what were some of the prominent family stories being told over time?

David Miller[1],[2]*: Both of my parents are immigrants so there were some stories about their lives before immigration. No story was very prominent though; just memories from childhood regarding different foods they would eat and playing in the woods and such.

Jacobsen: Have these stories helped provide a sense of an extended self or a sense of the family legacy?

Miller: No; that has never been important in my family.

Jacobsen: What was the family background, e.g., geography, culture, language, and religion or lack thereof?

Miller: My mother is German and Italian and my father is Scottish but we are all Americanized and grew up without our parents bringing their home cultures into our childhood. My two brothers and I all grew up on the East coast of the United States and learned only English. As for religion, we were all raised Catholic but only one brother remained Catholic into adulthood.

Jacobsen: How was the experience with peers and schoolmates as a child and an adolescent?

Miller: The overall experience was good I would say. In grade school, ages 6 through 11, there was some bullying but nothing too serious. I mostly stuck to my books and had one good friend who I spent much of my time with. We would play almost every day after school and talk about different books we were reading. In junior high and high school, ages 12 through 18, I had a small group of friends whom I could trust entirely. We would talk about normal teenage boy things such as school, girls, our families, and hobbies. Outside of my friends group I was mostly invisible to the other students at school, which I preferred.

Jacobsen: What have been some professional certifications, qualifications, and trainings earned by you?

Miller: I have a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering as well as a Microsoft Excel certification. Excel is fantastic, by the way. Too few people see all the potential it has. I have it open at this very moment!

Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests to you?

Miller: I think intelligence tests are hugely important and that intelligence is an interesting field of study. The purpose for serious psychometricians is of course to accurately measure intelligence in whatever range is interesting to them. Most mainstream psychologists apparently design I.Q. tests with the low-mid range in mind to detect mental retardation and assist in diagnosing various psychiatric disorders. There are many non-mainstream high-range I.Q. test constructors too but almost none of them should be taken seriously. It's obvious many of them don't know the first thing about statistics, they are lacking in what they are attempting to measure, and they are too emotional and subjective when grading test answers.

That is not to say that all high-range I.Q. tests shouldn't be taken seriously though. Paul Cooijmans, the world leader in high-range I.Q. testing, has the most accurate I.Q. tests ever designed for the range he is attempting to measure. To be clear, that is not an opinion but an objective fact based on his test's statistics. As for my personal motivation in taking these tests — it is just for the satisfaction of solving very hard problems. If that helps with studying intelligence then that is a great bonus.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Miller: There were hints at that starting from when I was a toddler but it wasn't until I was 7 that my teacher sat my parents down and told them I was “gifted”. Earlier that week in class the teacher was showing us basic arithmetic and I was doing it in my head faster than the teacher could do it with her calculator. To clarify, these were easy problems such as 14×5 or $28:4$. When we learned fractions and percentages I would do those in my head too and my teacher and classmates thought it was amazing, not realizing that it was no harder than any other kind of basic multiplication.

So that you can amaze your friends and colleagues too: If you're ever asked a problem like “what is 15% of 74?” just move the decimal point, get the product, then move the decimal point back afterward to get your answer. In this case 0.15×74 becomes 15×74 which can be done in your head to get 1110. After moving the decimal point back two places we get the answer: 11.10.

As for discovering very high intelligence, I took an I.Q. test in high school and got a “beyond ceiling” score but did not know what that meant at the time. Later for work an employer had every applicant take an I.Q. test and again I had every answer right. Decades later in late 2021 my son discovered Paul Cooijmans' website on a forum called Reddit which resulted in me trying my first high-range I.Q. test the following month.

Jacobsen: When you think of the ways in which the geniuses of the past have either been mocked, vilified, and condemned if not killed, or praised, flattered, platformed, and revered, what seems like the reason for the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses? Many alive today seem camera shy – many, not all.

Miller: Ha, the reason for this is actually so sad it's almost funny. The average person has no ability to grasp, understand, appreciate the work of a genius. Even in art or music they cannot possibly see the meaning behind any of it. The reason a few geniuses are praised is because some “experts” who are barely able to understand their work praise them, and the masses believe whatever experts say. If consensus among experts was that Albert Einstein was retarded then most people would believe that too.

Unfortunately, experts often don't understand the genius and when that happens the genius is

mocked or ignored until someone with authority finally does understand them. This usually happens decades or centuries after their death so they are basically screwed and at the mercy of people who are too stupid to understand them.

Jacobsen: Who seems like the greatest geniuses in history to you?

Miller: Newton, Tesla, Imhotep, and Archimedes come to mind. There is also someone I recently learned about that is very well-known for his work in psychometrics but my crystal ball says his contributions to music theory will be what make him a household name initially.

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a profoundly intelligent person?

Miller: A genius must be intelligent /and/ have a high degree of persistence and obsessiveness combined with resistance to mainstream thinking. More on that last point; when someone accepts everything they are told by authority figures they are doomed to always have many false beliefs and are unable to produce original work.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Miller: Yes, if by profound you mean about three standard deviations above the mean. Actually, most geniuses probably aren't much smarter than that either. I'd guess the average genius, even Newton, had an I.Q. between three and four standard deviations above the mean.

Jacobsen: What have been some work experiences and jobs held by you?

Miller: I worked briefly as a civil engineer but thought it was very unrewarding so found work as a data analyst and have done that ever since.

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Miller: I'm good at math and prefer to do things which I'm good at. =)

Jacobsen: What are some of the more important aspects of the idea of the gifted and geniuses? Those myths that pervade the cultures of the world. What are those myths? What truths dispel them?

Miller: Something very important regarding gifted people and geniuses is that we need more resources put into discovering them and finding ways to help them achieve their potential. It makes no sense for the very brilliant children to study in the same classroom as the normal children. We put a lot of resources into helping intellectually disabled children and I think those efforts are catastrophically misplaced. Maybe that seems unempathetic but imagine how much worse it is for the brilliant child to be left behind compared to the retarded child? It makes me shudder.

Also, almost every mainstream belief about intelligence and genius seems wrong. Some truths are that intelligence is about 80-90% genetic, cannot be trained (but can be lowered), and is highly correlated with success and happiness.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?

Miller: Yes; I do not believe in God and am not religious.

Jacobsen: How much does science play into the worldview for you?

Miller: Science is very important to me. When it's good science; that is, not warped for political or personal reasons by the researcher, I will incorporate that information into my worldview.

Jacobsen: What have been some of the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations) for you?

Miller: In high school I took an I.Q. test and scored 150+ (16 S.D.) but do not know which one. Later, for a job application I took what I think was a shortened form of Raven's Matrices and got everything right. From January 2022 onward I've been taking high-range I.Q. tests by Paul Cooijmans and have most of my scores around 167 +/- 10 (15 S.D.). My highest scores are on Narcissus' Last Stand with I.Q. 180 (44 raw) and Divine Psychometry with I.Q. 177 (30 raw). My first high-range test was The Sargasso Test where I scored 161 (42 raw).

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Miller: I think ethics are absolute, universal, objective, and black-and-white. When someone says that ethics are relative, subjective, or that "everybody is right in their own way" please slap them (legal disclaimer: I'm kidding).

As for philosophers, I like Kant.

Jacobsen: What social philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Miller: The golden rule: "do unto others what you'd have them do unto you." Many people misunderstand the golden rule and don't realize it is most applicable when talking about social behavior in general. If you want others to help you when you are unwell then you should help them when possible. That is outside of ethics, by the way. There's nothing unethical about not helping others; it's only unethical to be the one intentionally hurting them.

Also, a general remark on socializing is that people should strive to be more introverted. I find people who have many friends and talk a lot tend to have nothing of substance to say and that those with few friends who rarely talk tend to have the most interesting things on their mind.

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Miller: My advice for people who want to know the answer to this question is to study world history and pay very careful attention to Greece, China, Egypt, and Rome. I can say no more than that.

Jacobsen: What metaphysics makes some sense to you, even the most workable sense to you?

Miller: I cannot say for reasons I cannot say.

Jacobsen: What worldview-encompassing philosophical system makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Miller: To achieve mastery in whatever one is naturally good at and to not waste time with things like hedonism. One only has this life, why waste it never reaching one's potential? If one is not talented at anything then they would probably make a good school teacher I think.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Miller: My wife and son; they are the most meaningful things in my life.

Jacobsen: Is meaning externally derived, internally generated, both, or something else?

Miller: Everything has a function and in nearly all cases they have no control over it. For humans we can derive some personal meaning in our lives but there is also an inescapable function we each serve in addition to that.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in an afterlife? If so, why, and what form? If not, why not?

Miller: Nope; nothing after death. It's sad that everybody around me will eventually die and then no longer exist. I cannot die myself though.

Jacobsen: What do you make of the mystery and transience of life?

Miller: The ultimate function of all life is to achieve the highest level of awareness possible.

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Miller: My feeling is that romantic love is when one cares for another so deeply that they put their own happiness second to their lover's and their lover does the same. Platonic love is less intense and doesn't require reciprocity.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Glia Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: March 22, 2022: <http://www.in-sightjournal.com/miller-1>;
Full Issue Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Debunking I.Q. Claims Discussion with Chris Cole, Richard May, and Rick Rosner: Member, Mega Society; Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society”; Member, Mega Society (2)

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Abstract

Chris Cole is a longstanding member of the Mega Society. Richard May is a longstanding member of the Mega Society and Co-Editor of *Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society*. Rick Rosner is a longstanding member of the Mega Society and a former editor of *Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society*. They discuss: major warning signs of something awry; the minor, or subtle, warning signs; 4 standard deviations above the norm; the successes and failures of the Mega Test, the Ultra Test, the Power Test, and the Titan Test; 4 and 5 sigma above the norm; the principal design of the Adaptive Test; other extraordinary high-I.Q. societies; [associative horizon](#); the Mega Test; the claims about the Mega Test; legitimate testing; extrapolations well beyond the norms of the mainstream tests; the motivation behind making claims well beyond the norms of the most used mainstream I.Q. tests; the more egregious I.Q. claims in 20th century; and the big lessons in debunking phony I.Q. claims.

Keywords: Adaptive Test, Aleph Society, Chris Cole, debunking, I.Q., intelligence, Keith Raniere, Marilyn vos Savant, Mega Society, Mega Test, Power Test, Richard Feynman, Richard May, Rick Rosner, standard deviation, The Plurality IQ Society, Titan Test, Ultra Test.

Debunking I.Q. Claims Discussion with Chris Cole, Richard May, and Rick Rosner: Member, Mega Society; Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society”; Member, Mega Society (2)

Please see the references, footnotes, and citations, after the interview, respectively.

Rosner section transcribed from audio.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: You have all been around the block. Your membership in the Mega

Society has spanned decades. So, you've seen controversies, failed high-I.Q. societies, and proclamations to this-or-that I.Q., even individuals who spun off into fraudulent activities, messianic posing, and criminal behaviour. As a note on collectives of high-I.Q. people, when it comes to claimed high-I.Q. societies, what are the major warning signs of something awry, not quite right, with it?

Richard May[1]*: The major warning signs of statistical and psychometric incompetence, fraud, or madness are usually quite subtle. Please see below.

Rick Rosner[2]*: You got to start with the disclaimer that most people in high-IQ societies are well-behaved relatively normal people who like taking tests and solving puzzles, and there are only a few lunatics. And because the ones I belong to don't get together very often, you don't have a chance to see any warning signs developing.

Although, in the case of one guy from many years ago, you could see a guy who was kind of being physically dominant and, I guess, mentally dominant getting increasingly frustrated that people didn't understand him or believe his theories. So, it was just an increasing belligerence or pre-belligerence.

I guess, a skosh of megalomania.

Chris Cole[3],[4]*: The major warning signs are the ones you list: fraudulent activity, messianic posing, and criminal behavior.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, what are the minor, or subtle, warning signs?

May: I get slightly suspicious if someone comes up with the most brilliant Theory of Everything ever, explained in a newly invented language of neologisms, which only the inventor of the theory himself can understand, especially if the theory makes no falsifiable predictions and none of those few who claim to understand the theory can explain it in their own words. I'm also slightly suspicious of, e.g., taxi cab drivers or barbers, who have conclusively proved Einstein's theory of special and general relativity wrong.

If someone claims to be the most intelligent person in the history of our solar system or to be the actual God of the Bible, then this level of measured intelligence may be beyond the current development of psychometric science, even with the Flynn effect. I'm probably too skeptical sometimes.

Also, branding of one's associates by high-IQ types is often unnecessary in my view.

Rosner: Again, I don't hang. I have no basis or nothing to talk about regarding this. It is not like I was living with a high-IQ person who slowly went crazy, besides myself. Really, in the last few years, I've gotten less crazy, more lazy. Lazy has replaced crazy.

Cole: The minor warning signs are incredible IQ claims. As a rule of thumb anything above five sigma is not credible as is anything that has not been normed using regular statistical methods.

Jacobsen: Why is 4 standard deviations above the norm (e.g., mean 100, S.D. 15, I.Q. 160) such a difficult barrier to break in finding highly intelligent individuals?

May: Almost no one in the alleged "real world" is interested in measuring intelligence beyond the 4 sigma level. Where would you find a large sample of individuals beyond the top 1-per-30,000 level of intelligence to study? This level of intelligence is not a target level for standard IQ tests developed by psychologists. Why should it be? Which professions require IQs beyond

the 4 sigma level? Even Nobels in physics probably depend more upon a mathematical ability sub-factor of general intelligence than upon super-high IQ per se. Two physics Nobel laureates didn't qualify for inclusion in Lewis Terman's study of the intellectually gifted, because their IQs were not sufficiently high! In addition Nature may sometimes not be 'politically correct'. What if cognitive differences were discovered among various human sub-groups? For example, what if a growing number of trans-species individuals, who *identify* as advanced AI units, were found to be better at arithmetic addition?

Rosner: Several reasons, one, there aren't that many people. 4-sigma level is one person in 30,000. Although, in real terms, it's less rare than that because the average IQ of people on the street is like 105 or 110. The people with IQs of 35 are institutionalized. You don't see them around. It's rare. That's one problem.

Problem two, it is hard to test. All the good high-end tests take dozens of hours to do well on. Thing two-and-a-half, many people who might score well on them might be successful and may not want to waste their time putting in 40 or 50 hours in something that doesn't compensate them.

They could be trading stocks or coding or doing business deals or getting laid. None of which taking an IQ test helps.

Cole: High range tests require high range questions which are hard to create. Plus there is not much of a market.

Jacobsen: What have been the successes and failures of the Mega Test, the Ultra Test, the Power Test, and the Titan Test in identifying highly intelligent persons – despite being compromised?

May: There is evidence that uncompromised tests work better.

Rosner: Maybe, some smart people still trickle in. The Mega Test has been compromised since, probably, the late '90s or the internet made it possible to contaminate the questions by throwing around answers in chat rooms.

The Mega Test was the most successful in finding high-IQ people because the most people took it when it was published in Omni magazine. 4,000 people took it. It's more than any other test ever.

Which means, though, more people have taken the Hoeflin tests than tests by any other author, though probably a strong second and possibly somebody who has overtaken Hoeflin because he has written dozens of tests is Paul Cooijmans, who has been writing tests for decades and has cranked out quite a few.

Some of his tests have certainly been taken by more than 100 people. In the aggregate, thousands of people must have taken Cooijmans tests. With the success of the Hoeflin tests, they have found, depending on the cutoff, hundreds of high-IQ people.

Some of those people got together and some people were mentored by other high-IQ people, and had their lives improved, including myself. So, the success of the Hoeflin tests is the large numbers of people who have taken them.

For years, I, and sometimes with partners or being asked to consult, pitched TV involving high-IQ-type competitions. The same kind of shit as Project Runway or American Idol. A talent

search, but instead of for fashion designing or culinary skill or singing skill, it was for raw intelligence.

This is an idea that comes to people not infrequently, but just has never been turned into a show. But if you had a show that did that, that would be the most successful project ever to find high-IQ people because millions of people would see the show and tens of thousands of people, if there were high-IQ tests associated with the show, would try those tests.

But that project has never happened, which I think is stupid because reality shows are about following assholes around with cameras and there are plenty of high-IQ assholes. Not as a percentage of high-IQ people who are, as I said, mostly decent, normal-ish people.

But if out of 100 people who have managed to score 160 on an IQ test, there are probably a half-dozen who you could productively, entertainingly follow around with cameras.

Cole: First of all Ron Hoeflin is a talented question framer. Next he spent a lot of effort validating his questions. Finally he normed them several different ways.

Jacobsen: In principle, what is realistically needed to test between – let's say – 4 and 5 sigma above the norm, reliably and validly?

May: Perhaps advanced AI can be used to develop significantly improved high-range intelligence tests. Other neurobiological methods of assessment of the general factor of intelligence, 'g', may eventually make IQ tests obsolete. For example, measures of biological traits such as pitch discrimination ability (of sound frequencies), among other such physical measures, have been found to have surprisingly high correlations with general intelligence. This may be the way of cognitive ability assessment in the future.

Rosner: You need experienced test-builders. You need a decent amount of people to norm the problems on, to make sure the problems can actually measure high-IQs. You need their other scores to see what scores getting those problems right correspond to.

As I said, you need some kind of widespread exposure. You have to let hundreds of thousands of people know that the test exists. Ideally, that it's something fun and/or cool to do.

Another condition is that it would be really, really helpful if the test took less than 20 hours to take. It would be helpful if someone could spend 20 hours or 10 hours on the test and score near the ceiling, which is not a common thing among these tests.

Cole: To avoid spoilage you need question schemas, not single questions. Then you need a way to automatically collect many samples. Presumably this would be on the Internet. A group of Mega members is working on this. Contact me if you'd like to help [Ed. chris@questrel.com].

Jacobsen: What is the principal design of the Adaptive Test, inasmuch can be stated at this time? (Is this series the first announcement of the test, by the way?)

Cole: Cf www.mental-testing.com. There are some articles in Noesis. Let me check with the team.

Jacobsen: What other extraordinary high-I.Q. societies have been observed by you – the highest, most inclusive, most exclusive, the most multi-planetary, least reliant on D.N.A. prejudice, most non-carbon-based, und so weiter?

May: The Plurality IQ Society

Top 0.00000000000000000000000000 ... % of Multiverse

Previously the highest-IQ group founded was the Aleph Society, which sought to have at most fewer than one member per Multiverse potentially qualifiable. However, the Aleph is found to be insufficiently selective in its admissions criteria for several reasons. First, it only considered 3 dimensions of space and 1 dimension of time per universe. We feel that it is necessary to include all theoretically possible multiple dimensions of spaces and of times per universe of the Multiverse. (For multiple-time dimensions see, e.g.: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiple_time_dimensions , <https://arxiv.org/abs/0812.389> , <https://bigthink.com/surprising-science/there-are-in-fact-2-dimensions-of-time-one-theoretical-ph> ysicist-states/)

Secondly, the Aleph only sought the highest IQ ‘individual’, including AIs, in the Multiverse ‘now’, i.e., at only one point in ‘time’ relative to one (1) observer, the Wormhole Officer (formerly called the Membership Officer). To remedy this we ‘now’ recognize that to whatever extent possible technologically, the Wormhole Officer must be a time traveler.

Thirdly, it is not sufficient that our psychometric instruments selecting at the Aleph level be culture free. Our IQ tests must also be genome free, i.e., free of any genetic influences upon performance. Speciesism is even more common than racism and gender-bias. We seek genetic justice in our member selection testing criteria. For example, in the past and even today, species with brains are unfairly advantaged over species without brains, including, of course, AIs. Why should an Isaac Newton have an IQ advantage over a slug, simply because a Newton has a brain? This obvious bias must be eliminated.

NB: All of the non-members of the Plurality IQ Society are Full Non-members and Official Non-members.

Jacobsen: What is the system of thought or the psychometric philosophy behind [associative horizon](#)?

Rosner: In my mind, when you get hit with a hard problem, one that might take more than ten hours to figure out. Part of it is how many different angles can you come up with on the problem. How many parts of life can you apply? How many possible analogies can you apply? How many keys are on your key ring to approach the problem?

When he talks about associative horizon, it is how many associations can you possibly come up with, with the symbols or whatever, that constitute the problem. To some extent, taking one of these high-range tests is profiling the author, trying to figure out, maybe, them, Hoefflin problems have a Hoefflin flavour to them, let you know if you are on the right track. Other test makers have flavours similar to them too.

It may be similar to their culture, say. The person building the problem found something in their world and boiled it down to an analogy. There is a popularish puzzle that is 7 d in a w.” You have to figure out what the “d” and the “w” are. It’s ‘days in a week.’ The problems can get tough. Another easy one. “5,280 f in an m,” ‘feet in a mile.’

So, “106 billion p who e l.” The “e” “l” is tough. You have to figure out. It is ‘people who ever lived.’ So, for a lot of IQ problems, they have at least some aspect of that. Decoding, figuring out what the symbols represent. Then it is an exercise in figuring out what could the “p” and the ‘p in e l’ stand for.

“ 6×10^{23} As in an M.” My numbers might not be right. But ‘atoms in a mole,’ it is a test of cultural literacy. Often, there is further manipulation done to the symbols, so you have to work through two or three transformation or link two or three transformations to figure out the problem. It is how much cultural literacy do you have or do you give yourself, and then the flexibility for combining these things.

It is how much different stuff can you bring to bear on a fairly obscure or convoluted problem.

Jacobsen: How did you first come to find the Mega Test?

May: Actually I don’t remember. It was about 40 years ago. I probably met Ron Hoeflin through my membership in the Triple Nine Society. This was probably my initial connection to the Mega Test.

Rosner: Some guys in my dorm told me about the Mega. I must’ve already been IQ braggys. Yuck.

Cole: Saw it in Omni Magazine.

Jacobsen: What were the claims about the Mega Test – and your score(s) in each section on it – by Ronald Hoeflin, the media, and others?

May: Ron Hoeflin told me that I was the 2nd person to obtain a perfect score on the 24 verbal analogies, I believe. I think Marilyn Vos Savant was the first. I certainly didn’t tell many people, beyond my girl friend. I remember showing a copy of the Mega Test to one young woman, thinking she might be interested. She just laughed and laughed. Neil Blincom of Mr. Pecker’s original, illustrious *National Enquirer* tried to interview me once when I was Membership Officer of the Triple Nine Society. I pondered this offer deeply for a fraction of a second. I remembered Chris. (never forget the decimal point) Harding’s interview, “World’s Highest IQ Genius is an Unemployed Janitor” and decided not to be interviewed. I avoided the media.

Rosner: So, the claims were the Mega was the world’s hardest IQ test. By hardest, having the highest ceiling, the score a perfect score would get you, for instance. I think after the sixth norming, after Ron looked at 4,000 test submissions that came through Omni. I think the ceiling became 190 S.D. 16 or a little over 5.6 sigma. The first time I took it, I got a 44, which was 23 verbal problems right and 1 wrong and 21 math right and 3 wrong. I took it a second time and got a 47, which was 1 math wrong, I think. It doesn’t matter whether math or verbal; I got 1 wrong the second time.

What does that translate into for me, after the fourth or fifth norming, my 44 wasn’t high enough to get me into Mega. Marilyn herself turned me down for admission. My score might have corresponded to 172. Then after the sixth norming, after all these scores came in, I think a 44 got you a 180. I think the Mega cutoff is a 176. There you go. The 1-in-a-million level. Next question.

Cole: Omni called it the “world’s hardest IQ test.” Interpretation of scores can be found in Hoeflin’s normings.

Jacobsen: How does the internet complicate legitimate testing in the high-range?

May: The internet facilitates cheating on tests and meeting other cheaters to work with.

Rosner: The Mega came out in ’85. The Titan, the sequel to the Mega, came out in ’90. Most people got on the internet in the mid-to-late-’90s. For those tests, it complicated and contaminated them because people went on message boards and threw answers around. Some of which

were correct. That was problem one. Problem two was once Google came along; you could put in the words to the analogy and the fourth word would pop up. The analogies were half of the Titan and the Mega.

The 24 verbal problems were all analogies of the type “find the fourth word.” Most of those could be instantly solved using a decent search engine. Tests are different. The Cooijmans tests, which I consider the most challenging of the internet era tests can’t simply be solved by plugging things into a search engine. You still have to figure a lot of shit out. The most general issue with these tests and the internet is just sharing answers. Beyond that, it is a pain in the ass to make sure that the problems on the test can’t be solved through easy searches.

Chris (Cole) and his group of people, who are working on this test that are resistant to having answers shared, are working on tests that give each test-taker the same general problem, but the specifics of the problem are fresh. So, somebody else’s answer on this problem is not going to help you because, even though the problem should score the same – getting it right should reflect the same IQ level, you can’t just post what you got on answer 12. They’ve been working on that for well over a decade.

It’s coming along. Anyway, next question.

Cole: The Mega and Titan tests have been spoiled on the Web. The Power and Ultra tests are at risk.

Jacobsen: Some, in fact more than a few, claim extrapolations well beyond the norms of the mainstream tests, e.g., the WAIS and the SB, which cap out at or around 4-sigma. Assuming legitimacy of the claims, then, the individuals would be highly intelligent, but the claims can range between a little over 4-sigma to 6-sigma. How is this extrapolation generally seen within the high-I.Q. communities at the higher ranges?

May: I don’t know how other others generally perceive unsound or bogus extrapolations of IQ scores.

Rosner: I think the skepticism of super-high scores is generally more for specific claims than for the entire idea of being able to have an IQ that high. I think most people in the high-IQ community believe it is possible to have an IQ close to 200. But I think most people also have a reasonable idea of the rarity of scores like that. Adult IQs, the deviation scores, are based on a bell curve, where between 0 and 1 standard deviation, you have 34% of the population in a bell-shaped distribution for something like height. Between 1 and 2 SDs, you’ve got 14% of the population. Between 2 and 3, you’ve got about 1.5% of the population. Between 3 and 4, you’ve got roughly one-half percent of the population.

Let’s see, about 4 SDs, that’s only one person in 30,000 should score above 4 SDs. One person in 3,000,000 above 5 SDs. What is it? 1 person in 750,000,000 above 6 SD or so; somewhere, I’ve fucked it up, according to the standard bell curve. People also like to say that at the very far ends; there are more outliers than on the normal bell curve. That there are more high-IQs than would be given if it were a perfectly bell-shaped distribution.

But even so, you shouldn’t see more than a half-dozen or ten or twelve or whatever, people, with scores above 6 SDs. So, Paul Cooijmans has the Giga Society, which has 7 or 8 members. It is for people with IQs that are supposed to be one in a billion. So, there are 8 billion people on Earth, 8 members of the Giga Society, so that makes a certain sense, but not really. That’s as if everybody who could score at that level has taken one of his tests. That’s just obviously not true.

So, way too many people scoring at the one in a billion level. It's not like the Giga Society has 300 members.

Cooijmans is pretty rigorous in his norming and testing. So, if you have taken a Cooijmans test and scored at or close to the Giga Society, legitimately, Cooijmans has written in the past about people's attempts to cheat on his tests, but I don't think there has been a successful attempt in decades. So, people are pretty accepting that if you get a Giga level score on his tests; that you're legitimately pretty smart. The claims of super high-IQs, there are legit claims based on performing well on ultra-high IQ tests or kicking ass as a kid on a test like the Stanford-Binet or the Wechsler. Someone can say, "As a kid, I scored a 200," or something.

That's another thing I won't go into. People who claim high-IQ scores and are lying are generally not sophisticatedly lying. They're saying something that cannot hold up at all. I don't know if there are many or any sophisticated lies about having a super-high-IQ. So, then there are people outside the high-IQ community who are skeptical about the whole thing, but no one is really worried a lot about it, because: who gives a shit?

Also, if you want to say something, or know something that I'm not aware of, that contradicts what I'm saying, go ahead.

Cole: Hoeflin's norms all involve some extrapolation. I find it reasonable up to the mega level (about 4.75 standard deviations).

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, what seems like the motivation behind making claims well beyond the norms of the most used mainstream I.Q. tests?

May: It's a shame Einstein did physics. He could have been on Facebook (now called Meta, I guess).

Rosner: Going off my own experience, I kind of felt like a loser based on when I was about 20. I'd fucked up a lot of opportunities for myself. Then somebody told me about the previous world's hardest IQ test, which was a Kevin Langdon test. It ran in Omni or Games Magazine. I took it and scored 170. I went, 'Wow, that's a good score.' When Mega came along, I took that. I liked that validation that it gave me. Even though, it is a ridiculous thing. I kind of feel like it might be analogous to a guy who can bench press 500 lbs.

It's kind of a goofy thing. You wouldn't tell that guy it is goofy to his face, but the Sven Magnason. He is 6'4" and weighs 310 lbs. and eats 200 grams of protein a day to get that or support that huge bench press and has hypertension and his joints will be fucked in 10 years. It's a kind of a goofy thing. It is amazing the guy can bench 500 lbs. It is this ridiculous thing. It is a very obscure sport. Sven Magnason is not playing in the NFL for 1.8 million USD a year. He probably works in a warehouse and does strength training on the side.

It doesn't translate into the kind of fame or success that you might want. So, it is a niche kind of sport.

Cole: Vanity is one motivation.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more egregious I.Q. claims in 20th century by groups and by individuals? This is a free forum.

May: In the 20th century — maybe being the smartest man in America was a fairly egregious claim. Top 1 per billion high-IQ societies may qualify if such came into existence in the 20th

century.

Rosner: I don't know. Anybody can go on the internet and type whatever they want. One of the craziest claims I saw I mentioned before. Somebody had a site or has a site claiming Jesus had an IQ of 300. The idea that somebody with the deep wisdom of Jesus meant Jesus had a huge IQ. His estimate based on nothing: If smartest people have an IQ of 200, then Jesus must have an IQ of 300. William Sidis, people claim 259 based on extreme achievements as a young person, at least it is based on his history and is a fairly earnest attempt to estimate a very smart young man's IQ.

It is kind of egregious and not based on him being tested. Oh! Some of the most egregious are in the last 15 years; some insane moms, one mom out of Colorado, maybe 18 years ago, got a hold of the answer key to an earlier edition of the Stanford-Binet. Stanford-Binet gets revised every 15 or 20 years. I don't know. You can still find psychologists who will give an earlier version. In the stacks of libraries. Probably, the Norlin Library at the University of Colorado, she found an earlier editions, found an answer key. Then taught her kid all the answers, so, that kid scored, at age 3 or 4, like a 10-year-old, which, the way they calculate childhood IQs, gave him an IQ well over 300. She tried to get herself and her kid famous off this.

It, eventually, fell apart because the kid did not have a 300 IQ. So, that is pretty egregious. But! Doable if you're not an idiot about it, I believe. But anybody who would do it would be a kind of idiot. First of all, I don't know. How much would a 4-year-old be into it? But if you took a 6-year-old and got a 6-year-old into it, "We're going to ride this pony into a T.V. show, your acting career." It has never happened, but it is not impossible. Because Alicia Witt was a child actor, an actor now. Great actor and great kid actor, one of the things that makes for a great kid actor is a 4-year-old who can read.

Because if you can give a 4-year-old – Alicia Witt could read at 3 – a script and the kid can read the script and memorize the script rather than having to be told shit line by line, and if the kid is smart enough to do that, then the kid is smart enough to take direction. Alicia Witt was at least a kid actor because she was super fucking smart. So, I'm thinking if you had a motivated 6-year-old and a creepy parent. I even started working on a screenplay on this or thought about it 30 years ago as a good plot. Like a lot of shit I do, I didn't do anything with it, except the mom did it and a shitty job in real life.

The right combination of psychopathic parent and bright, motivated kid. That team could believably sustain the bullshit that that kid has an IQ of 300+ for quite a while. Although, nobody has done that. Yes, that would be egregious.

Cole: Before they were banned by Wikipedia, there were many articles by groups making incredible IQ claims.

Jacobsen: What seem like the big lessons in debunking phony I.Q. claims from the 20th century?

May: "The first principle is that you must not fool yourself and you are the easiest person to fool." — Richard P. Feynman

Rosner: [Laughing] A lot of stuff underlying a lot about high-IQ is "Why?" Why claim to have a high-IQ? Why work your ass off to get a super high score on these tests? Why sweat debunking it? In retrospect, you can see why you might want to hold people who might claim super-high-IQs up to scrutiny, at least given Raniere. The NXVIM sex cult, swindler of the Bronfman's who is in prison for life now. One of the pillars of his duping people was using a high score on the

Mega Test to claim to be one of the smartest people on Earth, though he didn't really push it.

Because once he gathered enough acolytes, I don't know enough about him to know how often he dragged out his IQ. But it seems that once he was surrounded by dozens of followers; that he didn't need to do that. He could rely on his charisma and manipulation skills, and also being at the top of a pyramid of people with good manipulation skills. He was smart enough to recruit charismatic actors, TV stars. A couple actors from Smallville. People with actual show biz careers. One of his selling points and one of the selling points of Scientology can help you succeed professionally in shit where what it takes to succeed, like acting, can seem nebulous.

So, he didn't need to haul out his IQ a lot because he was surrounded by TV stars who were helping him recruit other people into his cult. He, certainly, deserved a lot of scrutiny, perhaps a lot sooner than he got the scrutiny. There's another guy who is pretty culty who has a bunch of acolytes who espoused a bunch of scary shit. So, that's one reason to scrutinize claims of super-high-IQ because people can be up to no good, but those people are fairly rare. Of the 60, 80, 100, people who have qualified for the Mega Society over the past 40 years, 95 or more percent of them are completely normal, undangerous people.

The biggest danger might be that they might be really funny, like Richard May, is a completely decent guy who happens to be extra smart and extra funny. Super-high-IQ people mostly aren't to be feared. What were we talking about? I always talk myself way away from the question. [Ed. Question repeated.] That, I guess, let the babies have their bottles for the most part, let high-IQ people be high-IQ people, it doesn't hurt anyone, except for a few cases. Those involved in IQ fraud, the fraud is pretty transparent.

Most of the high-IQ lying is some desperate asshole who is 25 and going to undergraduate parties at his school. That guy finds a freshman girl and says, "Oh, people don't understand me. I have a 205 IQ. I graduated high school at age 5." It's that abject bullshit. There are more sophisticated attempts, but not that much more. Because the payoffs are pretty low. Even lower than getting a hand job from a freshman girl, the end.

Cole: "It's hard to be right." — Richard Feynman

Footnotes

[1] [Richard May](#) ("May-Tzu"/"MayTzu"/"Mayzi") is a Member of the Mega Society based on a qualifying score on the Mega Test (before 1995) prior to the compromise of the Mega Test and Co-Editor of *Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society*. In self-description, May states: "Not even forgotten in the cosmic microwave background (CMB), I'm an Amish yuppie, born near the rarified regions of Laputa, then and often, above suburban Boston. I've done occasional consulting and frequent Sisyphean shlepping. Kafka and Munch have been my therapists and allies. Occasionally I've strived to descend from the mists to attain the mythic orientation known as having one's feet upon the Earth. An ailurophile and a cerebrotonic ectomorph, I write for beings which do not, and never will, exist—writings for no one. I've been awarded an M.A. degree, mirabile dictu, in the humanities/philosophy, and U.S. patent for a board game of possible interest to extraterrestrials. I'm a member of the Mega Society, the Omega Society and formerly of Mensa. I'm the founder of the Exa Society, the transfinite Aleph-3 Society and of the renowned Laputans Manqué. I'm a biographee in Who's Who in the Brane World. My interests include the realization of the idea of humans as incomplete beings with the capacity to complete their own evolution by effecting a change in their being and consciousness. In a moment of presence to myself

in inner silence, when I see Richard May's non-being, 'I' am. You can meet me if you go to an empty room." Some other resources include [*Stains Upon the Silence: something for no one*](#), [*McGinnis Genealogy of Crown Point, New York: Hiram Porter McGinnis*](#), [*Swines List*](#), [*Solipsist Soliloquies*](#), [*Board Game*](#), [*Lulu blog*](#), [*Memoir of a Non-Irish Non-Jew*](#), and [*May-Tzu's posterous*](#).

[2] According to some [semi-reputable sources gathered in a listing here](#), [Rick G. Rosner](#) may have among America's, North America's, and the world's highest measured IQs at or above 190 (S.D. 15)/196 (S.D. 16) based on several high range test performances created by [Christopher Harding](#), [Jason Betts](#), [Paul Coijmans](#), and [Ronald Hoeflin](#). He earned 12 years of college credit in less than a year and graduated with the equivalent of 8 majors. He has received 8 [Writers Guild Awards](#) and [Emmy](#) nominations, and was titled [2013 North American Genius of the Year](#) by [The World Genius Directory](#) with the main "Genius" listing [here](#).

He has written for [Remote Control](#), [Crank Yankers](#), [The Man Show](#), [The Emmys](#), [The Grammys](#), and [Jimmy Kimmel Live!](#). He worked as a bouncer, a nude art model, a roller-skating waiter, and a stripper. In [a television commercial](#), [Domino's Pizza](#) named him the "World's Smartest Man." The commercial was taken off the air after Subway sandwiches issued a cease-and-desist. He was named "Best Bouncer" in the Denver Area, Colorado, by *Westwood Magazine*.

Rosner spent much of the late Disco Era as an undercover high school student. In addition, he spent 25 years as a bar bouncer and American fake ID-catcher, and 25+ years as a stripper, and nearly 30 years as a writer for more than 2,500 hours of network television. [Errol Morris](#) featured Rosner in the interview series entitled [First Person](#), where some of this history was covered by Morris. He came in second, or lost, on [Jeopardy!](#), sued [Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?](#) over a flawed question and lost the lawsuit. He won one game and lost one game on *Are You Smarter Than a Drunk Person?* (He was drunk). Finally, he spent 37+ years working on a [time-invariant](#) variation of the [Big Bang Theory](#).

Currently, Rosner sits tweeting in a bathrobe (winter) or a towel (summer). He lives in [Los Angeles, California](#) with his wife, dog, and goldfish. He and his wife have a daughter. You can send him money or questions at LanceVersusRick@Gmail.Com, or a direct message via [Twitter](#), or find him on [LinkedIn](#), or see him on [YouTube](#).

[3] Chris Cole is a longstanding member of the Mega Society.

[4] Individual Publication Date: April 1, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/debunking-2>; Full Issue Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Veronica Palladino on Life, Views, and Work: Member, Glia Society (1)

2022-04-08

Veronica Palladino is a Member of the Glia Society. She discusses: growing up; a sense of an extended self; the family background; the experience with peers and schoolmates; some professional certifications; the purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence discovered; the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses; the greatest geniuses in history; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; profound intelligence necessary for genius; work experiences and jobs; particular job path; the gifted and geniuses; God; science; the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations); the range of the scores; ethical philosophy; social philosophy; economic philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; philosophical system; meaning in life; meaning externally derived, or internally generated; an afterlife; the mystery and transience of life; and love.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you were growing up, what were some of the prominent family stories being told over time?

Veronica Palladino[1],[2]*: My parents are two ordinary people but extraordinary to my sister and me. Even though my father passed away a few years ago, his precious teaching is always in my heart and in my mind.

Jacobsen: Have these stories helped provide a sense of an extended self or a sense of the family legacy?

Palladino: My family is the pivot of my life. It is a continuous resource, it is the nourishment for the soul when it needs to be refreshed.

Jacobsen: What was the family background, e.g., geography, culture, language, and religion or lack thereof?

Palladino: My family is Italian. My mother was born in Great Britain, exactly in Leicester. I was born and I live in Italy in a small region called Molise. It is a beautiful place where nature, ancient traditions and authenticity create a jumble of good feelings and spontaneity.

Jacobsen: How was the experience with peers and schoolmates as a child and an adolescent?

Palladino: I was an extremely shy and reserved child. I preferred to invent fantastic stories full of enchanted worlds in which to take refuge to avoid relationship with others. My imposing and robust physical appearance created in me embarrassment and displeasure. I didn't feel accepted and I kept a low profile to hide who I was. I did not want to share my ideas, thoughts and eccentricities with others for fear of not being understood. I showed a protective armor against evils. Now I know that I am what I am, simply.

Jacobsen: What have been some professional certifications, qualifications, and trainings earned by you?

Palladino: I am medical doctor and I have written four books: Il diario del Martedì, Un mondo altro, La Morte delle Afroditi bionde and Persone e lacrime.

Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests to you?

Palladino: According to me the purpose of an intelligence test is to challenge one's cognitive abilities to improve weaknesses and to corroborate potential. The result obtained should not be taken too seriously. It must be a track to evolve and do better.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Palladino: After twenty, I have done a test for fun with a friend.

Jacobsen: When you think of the ways in which the geniuses of the past have either been mocked, vilified, and condemned if not killed, or praised, flattered, platformed, and revered, what seems like the reason for the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses? Many alive today seem camera shy – many, not all.

Palladino: Being a genius is no guarantee of success. Many factors affect the life of a brilliant mind, just think of the Marconi-Tesla comparison or the misunderstanding reserved for a great Italian writer like Svevo. The examples are numerous. Understanding the light and power of a great mind is a difficult task. Every genius has a particular and unique interaction with the world.

Jacobsen: Who seems like the greatest geniuses in history to you?

Palladino: There is not one in particular, I could say Bohr, Leibniz, Goethe, Bach, Ramanujan, Wittgenstein, Aeschylus but it is impossible for me to choose because everyone has a wonderful gift that does not admit comparison

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a profoundly intelligent person?

Palladino: A highly intelligent person has cognitive abilities greater than four standard deviations from the general population. A genius is not just intelligence, it is above all an emblem of strength, determination, creativity, originality and innovation.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Palladino: No I think that genius definition does not require a profound intelligence necessarily. It is an extremely complex and various concept.

Jacobsen: What have been some work experiences and jobs held by you?

Palladino: I worked as an on-call doctor. Now I am a resident.

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Palladino: I believe in medicine, in helping people with love and truth, in improving ourselves. I chose my career path because I want to give meaning to my work, helping to alleviate, even if in my small way, the worries of others. Moreover, scientific studies allow you to train your mind and find explanations to the many questions that concern humanity. Then I love to write. It is a necessity to travel continuously in fantastic lands. Cechov said medicine is my lawful wife and literature is my mistress.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more important aspects of the idea of the gifted and geniuses? Those myths that pervade the cultures of the world. What are those myths? What truths dispel them?

Palladino: There is a lot of confusion about the concept of genius and gifted. Genius goes back to antiquity. In Roman mythology each person was born with a guardian spirit called Genius. During the Italian Renaissance the world designated something truly exceptional about the individual. Now the term “genius” is no longer in style to describe highly gifted students or

adults. Giftedness is a brain-based difference that contributes to our vibrant and neurodiverse world. Those who are profoundly gifted score in the 99.9th percentile on IQ tests and have an exceptionally high level of intellectual prowess. Genius is a poetic dream, gifted is a scientific definition.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?

Palladino: God is pure light, perfect science. Many do not believe in the existence of God but those who believe in it know that his existence, even if indefinable, fills life. Words do not have sufficient expressive capacity to describe what God means to those who believe. God is only total love.

Jacobsen: How much does science play into the worldview for you?

Palladino: Science is the key to knowledge because it allows you to evolve and improve by accessing higher levels of knowledge but it is also the lock because without it, the understanding of every process is denied. Our perceptions are different, false and fragmentary but science is coherent and indivisible because it is a unifying truth that is difficult to reach and the ways that lead to it are manifold and inaccessible. Many are lost and will never be able to grasp its essence which is the ultimate basis of our life, our unique breath.

Jacobsen: What have been some of the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations) for you?

Palladino: Numerus 154 sd 15, Matriq 179 sd15, Figure 157 sd 15 Lexiq 175 sd 15, Nerve 169 sd 15, Labcube 165 sd 15, VerbaNum 178 sd 15.

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Palladino: For my professional duties I believe in the power of deontology, an ethical theory that uses rules to distinguish right from wrong. Deontology is often associated with philosopher Immanuel Kant. Kant believed that ethical actions follow universal moral laws. The word deontology derives from the Greek words for duty (deon) and science (or study) of (logos). In contemporary moral philosophy, deontology is one of those kinds of normative theories regarding which choices are morally required, forbidden, or permitted. In other words, deontology falls within the domain of moral theories that guide and assess our choices of what we ought to do (deontic theories), in contrast to those that guide and assess what kind of person we are and should be (aretaic [virtue] theories).

Jacobsen: What social philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Palladino: I believe in the power of social epistemology that is the philosophical study of the relevance of communities to knowledge. Social epistemology can be done descriptively or normatively. Weinstein and Stehr have written: "From the beginning of scientific revolution scientists, philosophers and laypersons have been concerned about the effects of knowledge on social relations. Although views differ about the details of this knowledge..., most observers have understood that the kind of knowledge that emanates from established science can indeed be quite powerful in practice.

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Palladino: Nature is our mother and we should respect it in every political choice. Beyond the

traditional ethical disputes concerning the good life for human beings and what political situation would best suit our development, others take up an alternative conception of humanity and its relationship with the living world. “Environmentalism” is a political philosophy that does not concern itself with the rights of people or of society, but of the rights of the planet and other species. Environmentalism rejects such human-centered utilitarianism in favor of a broad ethical intrinsicism – the theory that all species possess an innate value independent of any other entity’s relationship to them.

Jacobsen: What metaphysics makes some sense to you, even the most workable sense to you?

Palladino: I believe in the principles of Catholicism: life and dignity of the human person, solidarity, subsidiarity and respect.

Jacobsen: What worldview-encompassing philosophical system makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Palladino: I follow my philosophy of life which is unique and tailor-made for me. Each of us is unique, each of us is glowing potential and has all the tools within himself to evolve into a better form. Fears, insecurities, excesses divert our path. Respecting yourself to respect others is the most powerful philosophy of life. “Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto” (Terence)

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Palladino: The purpose of my life is to seek the truth, the truth of knowledge, the truth of love, the truth of affections, the truth of creation. I want to pull away the veil of appearances and artifacts that cover things.

Jacobsen: Is meaning externally derived, internally generated, both, or something else?

Palladino: The meaning is internally generated.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in an afterlife? If so, why, and what form? If not, why not?

Palladino: I believe in life after death in a form inexplicable to human understanding beyond the physical laws. I imagine a density of love so great that it creates more love that does not let anything escape.

Jacobsen: What do you make of the mystery and transience of life?

Palladino:

I would like to answer with a succinct word: Soldiers.

It is a poem of Giuseppe Ungaretti.

We are as

In autumn

On branches

The leaves.

For me, the poem represents what is transience of life. It underlines the irrationality of the human condition and the inevitable end we must all face. It renders all men no different than leaves that in autumn fall from the branches, following the natural course of nature.

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Palladino: In my poem “To you everything” I explain love.

To you who told me not to cry,
 To you, what a genuflect, you forced me to get up,
 To you who have fenced off my despair,
 My whole being
 All my bright dark,
 Everything they don't see and don't know.
 In every secret, in every lie, in every artifact there
 is only one truth,
 for you, and no one else.
 They tear my flesh, moods, words, dreams ... I have nothing left.
 I'm already dead but I don't admit it.
 I walk in apocalyptic inertia e I don't find acceleration.
 Limbo is deadly, hell awaits me
 Only in the last healthy piece of cancer-defaced tissue
 the last memory snuggles up with you,
 the impulse of an omnipotent happiness.
 To you everything.

According to me love is like quantum entanglement. When two or more particles link up in a certain way, no matter how far apart they are in space, their states remain linked. That means they share a common, unified quantum state. $(i\partial - m)\psi = 0$.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Glia Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: April 8, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/palladino-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Richard May (“May-Tzu”/“MayTzu”/“Mayzi”) on “Why is There No Sacred Music?”: Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society” (9)

2022-04-08

Richard May (“May-Tzu”/“MayTzu”/“Mayzi”) is a Member of the Mega Society based on a qualifying score on the Mega Test (before 1995) prior to the compromise of the Mega Test and Co-Editor of Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society. In self-description, May states: “Not even forgotten in the cosmic microwave background (CMB), I’m an Amish yuppie, born near the rarified regions of Laputa, then and often, above suburban Boston. I’ve done occasional consulting and frequent Sisyphean shlepping. Kafka and Munch have been my therapists and allies. Occasionally I’ve strived to descend from the mists to attain the mythic orientation known as having one’s feet upon the Earth. An ailurophile and a cerebrotonic ectomorph, I write for beings which do not, and never will, exist—writings for no one. I’ve been awarded an M.A. degree, *mirabile dictu*, in the humanities/philosophy, and U.S. patent for a board game of possible interest to extraterrestrials. I’m a member of the Mega Society, the Omega Society and formerly of Mensa. I’m the founder of the Exa Society, the transfinite Aleph-3 Society and of the renowned Laputans Manqué. I’m a biographee in *Who’s Who in the Brane World*. My interests include the realization of the idea of humans as incomplete beings with the capacity to complete their own evolution by effecting a change in their being and consciousness. In a moment of presence to myself in inner silence, when I see Richard May’s non-being, ‘I’ am. You can meet me if you go to an empty room.” Some other resources include [Stains Upon the Silence: something for no one](#), [McGinnis Genealogy of Crown Point, New York: Hiram Porter McGinnis](#), [Swines List](#), [Solipsist Soliloquies](#), [Board Game](#), [Lulu blog](#), [Memoir of a Non-Irish Non-Jew](#), and [May-Tzu’s posterous](#). He discusses: “Why is There No Sacred Music?”.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: “Why is There No Sacred Music?” asks a question, which I must ask: Why is there no sacred music, Tzu?

Richard May[1],[2]*: There’s plenty of sacred music. Have you listened to the musical works of, e.g., Richard Dawkins? The Atheist community has historically written the most transcendent music. Forget J.S. Bach, Vivaldi, and Gregorian chants.

Jacobsen: You wrote, “If sacred music were the only ‘doctrine’ of the church, then I could believe.” George Carlin similarly remarked, “The only good thing ever to come out of religion was the music.” Have you ever had any religious beliefs whatsoever in a mainstream normative sense?

May: Funny, but inaccurate. Carlin missed that Judaism was far more civilizing than Roman pagan religions. The Jews freed their slaves after 7 years, for example. Hillel the Elder, when asked by a pagan to explain Judaism, while standing on one foot, said, “Do not do to others what you would not have others do to you. All the rest is commentary.” What’s not to like about that?

I don’t remember my religious beliefs in utero, if any, or the color of the wallpaper in my mother’s womb, as so many do. When I was under four years old I was given a wax angel candle and told that it would protect me from goblins coming down the chimney. I may have been scared by a children’s story about goblins. Or maybe goblins came down the chimney.

But at a later age I never understood how Jesus could take-away ‘sins’ or what that even meant. I thought I was stupid. I didn’t know that Jews and Muslims considered this ‘taking away sins’ a heresy. I didn’t understand what ‘sins’ were. No one explained to me that to ‘sin’ came from the Greek word “hamartia,” which was a term from archery meaning “to miss the mark.”

I remember before the age of four asking my father why the moon phases occurred. He said God did it. He knew perfectly well the correct explanation. Then I asked Father what made God? This ended my father’s astronomical explanations.

If my memory of this occurrence is not a confabulation, surprisingly I may have actually been an intelligent little boy!

In the 4th grade I learned that there was no Santa Clause and hence, that parents lied to their children. Afterwards I distinctly remember going to a children’s Golden Book encyclopedia and where it was located in the class room, in order to look up “God” to discover, by analogy with Santa Clause, whether God was also a lie that parents told their children. But disappointingly there was no listing for God in the encyclopedia.

At an older age, maybe my early teens, I decided that if there was a “God,” he would not be worse than men, i.e., primitively tribal and genocidal. I was appalled by the experience of going to church, ancient ladies singing weird songs, which fortunately only happened maybe four times in my life. I told Mother that I did not “believe in” church. She cried.

Jacobsen: What is music?

May: Music is a tonal analog of the emotions, *Thinking about Music, an Introduction to the Philosophy of Music* by Rowell. I think Rowell nailed it.

Jacobsen: What is sacred?

May: Something is sacred if it brings you to a higher part of yourself.

Jacobsen: What differentiates music from, simply speaking, sacred music?

May: If music inspires you to shoot your brothers or the neighborhood cop on his beat, then it may be at a different level than say, e.g., J.S. Bach or Gregorian chants.

I like to contemplate as a koan Mick Jagger and The Rolling Stones doing Gregorian chants or “Push it” by Salt and Pepper, done very slowly with the lyrics translated into Latin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCadcBR95oU> .

Jacobsen: If we had a better grasp of mathematics, logic, and reason, would we be able to enjoy music better? Is there an innate sensibility of mathematics, logic, and reason, behind the harmonizing beatifications of the ear in ‘good’ music?

May: I don’t think so. — “the enormous usefulness of mathematics in the natural sciences is something bordering on the mysterious and there is no rational explanation for it.” — Eugene Wigner

Try natural selection! “The logic of our brains is the logic of the universe.” — Sir Fred Hoyle

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Unreasonable_Effectiveness_of_Mathematics_in_the_Natural_Sciences

But what Wigner has called the “unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics,” as applied to understanding physical reality, may in my view have a corresponding principle, “the unreasonable

effectiveness of music,” as applied to human brain physiology in achieving altered states of consciousness.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, would this mean an objective ability to grasp something akin to the Good via pitch, frequency, tone, and timbre, and higher harmonics, and the talent to reason, ratiocinate, and mathematicize?

May: I don’t know. This is beyond me. Perceiving the Good certainly is dependent upon one’s state of consciousness, which may be altered by music, drugs, dance, massage, prayer and meditation.

Jacobsen: What would Pythagoras say in a pithy way?

May: “Music is the geometry of the soul.”— May-Tzu

Footnotes

[1] Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society.”

[2] Individual Publication Date: April 8, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/may-9>; Full Issue Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Michael Isom on New Test Developments and Old Tests: Member, World Genius Directory (2)

2022-04-15

Michael Isom grew up in the birthplace of hip-hop, South Bronx New York, during its original emergence. Having also lived through its rise and urban renaissance of the mid-80s through the early 90s, Michael was able to experience many of the culture's core lessons of true aboriginal history with respect to cultural identity, knowledge of self, responsibility through adherence to law, studiousness towards becoming the adept, and mastery of one's being as thematic underpinnings of the rap music produced in that era. In later years after completing high school, he decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in Forensic Psychology and graduate education in Public Policy specializing in Management and Operations. Afterwards, he obtained an M.B.A. in Strategic Management in the wake of the dot-com era. In 2001, during the Super Bowl 35 Baltimore Ravens vs New York Giants intermission, Michael incidentally discovered what may have been the first online IQ test by the late Nathan Hasselbauer, founder of the New York High IQ Society, which soon after became the International High IQ Society. Having scored well past the 95th percentile requirement for entry, Michael was contacted years later by Victor Hingsberg of Canada, and was invited to take the test required to become a member of his newly established Canadian High IQ Society. After meeting its 98th percentile passing requirement and before moving on to TORR (99.86th percentile or 145 IQ requirement), Michael discovered what is undisputedly the most advanced cognitive assessment platform for IQ testing, in the world: IQExams.net. After completing a battery of 40+ tests within a 1 1/2 year span of signing up, a clear picture of Michael's scoring attributes emerged within the spatial, numerical, verbal, and mixed item logical areas, with a subsequent RIQ (Real IQ) calculation of 152. As his foray into the High Range Testing world continued, he happened to stumble upon a challenge issued by the ZEN High IQ Society: Two untimed IQ test submissions with a minimum IQ score of 156 (SD 15) are required for entry. And those submissions have to come from a pre-selected set of untimed high range tests. Since Michael already met half the requirements with his first attempt score on VAULT (163), he only needed one other test to qualify – hence Dr. Jason Betts' test battery: Lux25, WIT, and Mathema are listed as accepted tests for Zen. Scoring 156 on Lux25 not only satisfied the entry requirement, but it also accompanied the rest of his scores on Betts' test battery for a 151 TrueIQ. With the above experience, Michael decided to gain more exposure to other high range tests from other authors. After taking both the MACH and SPARK tests simultaneously (scoring 168 and 165 respectively on the first attempt), he proceeded towards a specific numerical test, GIFT Numerical III on which he scored 164. After also gaining entry into both the SATORI and TRIPIE4 High IQ Societies, he completed the untimed G.E.T. (Genius Entrance Test) mixed item test in minimal time. After receiving a final score of 162, he returned to IQExams.net and executed one of the most gifted performances on any tightly timed spatial IQ test he's ever taken. His recent first attempt score of 160 on the incredibly challenging gFORCE IQ test exemplifies that cognitive fortitude can be taken to the brink, while spatial design and difficulty are taken to the next level. He discusses: newer test developers and old tests.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Are there particularly newer test developers whose tests you've taken where people should be keeping an eye on for themselves? Others are more known because they are more prominent.

Michael Isom: There are a number of emerging test developers, more so in the verbal space.

And even among the incumbent developers, it's quickly learned that certain persons may not even take synonyms into account in the creation process.

This for example results in increased subjectivity risk, in which scoring consistency can be adversely affected. And such debates about objectivity control are also pervasive among different test types, (e.g., verbal, spatial, logical, numerical, mixed) where verbal usually has the highest abstraction risk of heightened subjectivity.

So how do you squelch or best minimize these irregularities? One of my favorite verbal tests ever created is the VAULT test, which contained very noted subjectivity control by keeping the terms very culture fair and more tangibly graphic or concrete. They weren't too abstract, but still retained certain graduated increments of consistency over the exam's progression.

In comparison to other tests, it's still one of the very best verbal tests as a critical reference point, in my opinion. New test creators will expand testing for the high range into new areas. And will eventually innovate a divergent reach of the high range, in which consistent correlation of verified actions in the world will be used to support more detailed accuracy of high range test results.

High Range (HR) items tend to change often in comparison to their proctored equivalents. The initial tradeoff is the ability to test adaptation to item type change under pressure vs long-term data accrual of highly repetitive item types over more granular increments.

Perspectives about the rate of item type change on an IQ test are sharply delineated between high-range (HR) test creators and professional psychometricians, the latter of whom tend to make their items repeat very often. The same question types can appear ten or more times before changing even once. Many in the HR testing space have issues with such non-variability, and one of several reasons is that university-trained psychometricians are required to test the difficulty level increases and the calculi for that particular item type over very small incremental progressions.

So, they have to rigorously test minute gradients of scale in difficulty, whereas test developers in the HR space have a lot more freedom to change the item type. However, they're accruing less data for any specific item type, as it changes more often – thus revealing a hidden trade-off that occurs, which brings me to the next point of standard and HR tests targeting very different components or areas of cognition. The commonplace response is “Okay, you still need to go to a licensed psychologist to get your IQ tested. You can't do it using an HR testing scenario.”

I've often disputed it because the assertion incorrectly assumes that all dimensions of both an HR and standard IQ test are one and the same in exact precision. And while there's considerable overlap, there are some very stark differences in terms of how they are steered, with each potentially having mutually exclusive aspects of cognitive targeting with measured components moving inversely to each other.

Standard IQ tests usually hinge much more on processing speed than their HR testing equivalents, for example. HR IQ tests, especially those that are untimed, hinge more on depth. So what you see, is this movement towards an inflection point of equilibrium, in which one cognitive dimension trades off against the other. In other words, speed trades off against depth.

The default test structure starts off favoring speed with simpler items. As the difficulty increases by item and type, depth becomes more important. However speed, at some point will most likely be sacrificed, in favor of depth, which in a substantial number of cases is arguably harder to measure. For example, at 140 and above, it's very hard to tell the difference between a 140 and a

160 on most tests, due in part to being highly sensitive between the 85 to 115 range, indicating a possible breakdown as one gets closer to 130+.

At the 140 and above mark, you need the HR testing scenario to measure difficulty levels not normally associated with the general population. Even though a significant number of HR tests are timed, these are critically focused on processing speed in relation to the scale of hardness.

There are quite a few parallel debates going on that will actually affect the evolution of the HR IQ test over time. For example, some creators adhere to very strict logic paths on both multiple-choice and open-ended tests, timed and untimed. Others seek to measure targeted amalgams or interfaces of logic, imagination, and perception within the same or at times an even more advanced context.

But it appears to become more complex as the number of test creators arrive and grow the space. And it could be in part due to noted differences in the manner in which general intelligence is measured. One of the caveats concerns HR tests that seem to measure general intelligence (at differing grades), but may more so in fact be measuring highly congruent logic patterns between test author and test taker. Such parallels may still have questionable sampling applicability, especially if the N values with respect to Chronbach's Alpha and Pearson R correlations are too low. In other words, large sample sizes are a supreme factor.

Dr. Xavier Jouve may have been the first to invent an online computer-adaptive format (JCTI, TRI-52) in matrix testing that attained a 90+% correlation with the WAIS Subtest for Matrix Reasoning. The sample size was around 300. As a matter of fact, he's the only one to have administered the JCTI and the WAIS to the same populations. And from observation of anecdote, it appears that even though he previously sold (for a very minimal sum) IQ test certificates for JCTI results, the RIX (Reasoning Index) range more accurately applies only in comparison to the WAIS Subtest for Matrix Reasoning – not necessarily the overall of FSIQ (Full-Scale IQ). Several persons who've scored in the 130 range on the JCTI reported FSIQs of 140+ on the WAIS. And it's not that such examples qualify as markers or guidelines for extrapolation, but similar patterns are well noted.

A recent question appeared on social media concerning how test-takers feel about certain spatial designs and their style in HR testing. But there's an area of subjectivity where a testee can do very well on spatial tests from certain test designers but may have problems with those from certain others, because the visual orientation may be closer to modeled patterns of the former. So in a sense, it goes back to the overlap of (1) the affinity between designer and testee logic paths and (2) a more objective measure of general intelligence.

For example, I did unusually well on the MACH and SPARK tests, both of which I took simultaneously. However, I could see certain affinities in the design of those tests, as positive performance indicators. Because of how my train of thought was naturally oriented towards that particular style in the items, it was definitely a key intuitive advantage.

And given that a very large challenge concerns the correct interpretation of the question, if a testee is in tune with the actual test items, then the testee will not only clearly see the underlying question at hand, but also divergent patterns, whose indication can reveal logic traps or other conceptual detours to be avoided.

To illustrate, Dr. Jason Betts' test battery (Asterix, Lux25, Mathema, and the World Intelligence Test) is one of the most accurate HR test batteries I've experienced. It has 97 questions among

those four specific tests that hone in on measuring several cognitive dimensions. And overall, it seems almost impervious to guessing and luck by mere coincidence.

One of the unusual aspects of his particular type of test structure is the intentional crossroads built into very specific items to see if one can accurately discern the correct path among the competing mirrors. At the same time, this acts as a preventive measure against excessive time leverage, which may result in score inflation. And in a sense, preventing persons from seeing past what is termed their “TrueIQ”.

The JCTI by Dr. Xavier Jouve established one of the most unique presentations of alternative matrices and still remains a paramount reference in cognitive assessment design to this day. I might have been one of the last people to receive a certificate before Cerebrals Society operations halted.

What I found the most unusual about the JCTI was that it was the first computer-adapted IQ test to hone in on a testee’s IQ area early, from where the questions get more difficult in response to more challenging answers. Later on, I took his TRI-52 test, which I believe gave me a much more striking result.

Regarding anything remotely close in design, I’ve only found one specific test with a similar concept; the LDSE or Long Duration Spatial Examination, created by psychometrician Hans Sjoberg. Then again, it was based on the JCTI. However, it boasts an unusually high correlation to professionally proctored IQ tests, as evidenced by a Pearson R correlation of 0.95 with N = 20 reporting scores.

In bringing everything together, you’re starting to see a situation where initial testing opportunities may occur on social media to see if potential items or similar variants are likely to be stable later on, in the official release phase. This usually supports a better Chronbach’s Alpha. Small puzzles or items may be unexpectedly released to get a glimpse of actual vs anticipated answer patterns. Test creators will obviously make the adjustments to correct for unintended distortions in the answer expectancy range.

It’s normal for someone to posit “I created this particular puzzle, and here’s the opportunity to solve it. This numerical sequence, verbal analogy or spatial item has to be tested to get a feel for the expected answer pattern that supports a reasonable Chronbach’s Alpha.” It definitely applies more so to open-ended items. And a key benefit is that the test designer gets to learn from the response mechanisms that accrue in relation to each item, prior to the official test release.

So subsequent test releases can offer a better idea of what to expect over time. And preliminary norms tend to be better adjusted if arising out of initial item examination and subsequent beta testing. Based on mere observation, wide swings moving from the preliminary to the first norm tend to be accompanied by test reliability challenges, looming not too far behind. In other words, even though the preliminary norm is not as important as the first official and beyond, paying very close attention to precise estimates and assumptions in scoring differentiation and test progression scale can improve the transition to the first norm.

And quite a bit of feedback can be gained, even from small samples. In comparison, standardized tests or proctored IQ tests have a massive accrual of IQ test data from possibly hundreds of thousands of people over so many decades of highly controlled administrations.

The only way that the HR testing space could possibly match such incumbent advantages by direct correlation is through consistent increases in score pair reporting numbers and accuracy

from gold-standard tests such as the WAIS, SB, Ravens 2, or the Cattell. One of the most overlooked statistical factors is the sample size associated with the Pearson-R value. If one can move in the direction of $N = 30$ or greater, in terms of official score reporting by testees, then test correlation with the general populace also becomes better supported by the fact that the number of subsequent norm adjustments is precisely minimized.

At present, there is something else occurring that's a bit more divergent, but supports the evolution of high range examination long-term. Where proctored exams and academia are positioned on one side and HR or online testing uniquely on the other, there is something called the International Cognitive Ability Research or ICAR, which was developed between the University of Cambridge in England and Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois.

This particular project by mere virtue of its application demonstrated that online testing has several distinct advantages over more traditional modes. One of which is that it allows for very fast data accrual and scale in real-time (i.e., 97,000+ participants in the overall project), with the only limiting factors outside competent application development being bandwidth and network reliability. Two specific ICAR tests have been able to successfully overcome these in their rapid and vast market reach.

One test is the ICAR16 and another is the ICAR60, both of which dealt with visual-spatial rotations, simplified spatial and object orientations (i.e., odd one out anti-patterns or visual sequence fit of presented objects).

One of the original ICAR creators is a psychometrician who had several active tests on IQExams.net termed the Cambridge tests, which were noted to have very high correlations with the WAIS. Although there may have been disagreement about the repetitive nature of the items presented, this serves as the spark where professionally licensed psychologists or psychometricians on an individual basis are willing to work with test developers, statisticians, and technologists in the HR testing space.

Emergent platforms like IQExams.net are very transparent with test statistics. Other incumbent developers may also have specialized knowledge as mathematicians, statisticians, and psychometricians. And a handful usually accrues data analysis archives with some of the best HR test stats available.

Newcomers can better exploit the value of getting near-instantaneous feedback on targeted test items. Although a small advantage, it does serve somewhat as a compensatory measure against the previous time accrual constraints experienced by more experienced developers, especially those who started pre-internet. Now, the feedback loop can be better incorporated into more reliable test designs.

Time allotment in HR testing is another challenging aspect of cognitive measurement design, and can even impact test reliability in a way that poses arguably more risk than item subjectivity. Working memory capacity and processing speed are two of several cognitive aspects typically associated with this dimension. But at its most precise application, it can control for certain other elements in strategic thinking about time tradeoffs, during an actual test.

For example, I can increase the difficulty level of the next several items, by strategically placing what appears to be a time-consuming item just ahead of them. What the testee needs to realize is that what I'm really testing for is the ability to identify the shortcut in the current item that affords more time on the others. Therefore, seeking to set the time within a more precise range of

cognitive pressure can give insight into how IQ relates to strategic time allocation.

In psychometric terms, the standard at the university level (i.e., if you look at the SAT, GRE, and GMAT), is about 2 minutes per test question item. It doesn't necessarily have to be that exactly. In other cases, you have a few HRTs that are close to a minute per item, although most timed HRTs in comparison are substantially longer than 2 minutes per item for testing difficulty within the higher IQ ranges.

Footnotes

[1] Member, World Genius Directory.

[2] Individual Publication Date: April 15, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/isom-2>;
Full Issue Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Tor Arne Jørgensen on Adolescence and Quirks of Historical Figures: 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe, World Genius Directory (7)

2022-05-01

Tor Arne Jørgensen is a member of 50+ high IQ societies, including World Genius Directory, NOUS High IQ Society, 6N High IQ Society just to name a few. He has several IQ scores above 160+ sd15 among high range tests like Gift/Gene Verbal, Gift/Gene Numerical of Iakovos Koukas and Lexiq of Soulios. Tor Arne was also in 2019, nominated for the World Genius Directory 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe. He is the only Norwegian to ever have achieved this honor. He has also been a contributor to the Genius Journal Logicon, in addition to being the creator of toriqtests.com, where he is the designer of now eleven HR-tests of both verbal/numerical variant. His further interests are related to intelligence, creativity, education developing regarding gifted students. Tor Arne has an bachelor's degree in history and a degree in Practical education, he works as a teacher within the following subjects: History, Religion, and Social Studies. He discusses: Bill Sidis; streetcar transfers; *The Animate and the Inanimate*; Newton; the Church Fathers; big discoveries in their mid-20s; earliest memory; earlier indications of a high-I.Q.; academic record; the education of the next generation; the extracurricular activities; the bullying; Ulysses; a healthy culture of keeping a gifted student from getting a big head; certain extremes; James Maxwell; Willard Gibbs; brown horse; interests different than the other kid; the competition with the smart girl in class; behavioural signs of talent; strident stories of violence; Ulysses appeal; the law of Jante; fuel; and theories.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Let's continue with a small addendum on some high functioning people in history, and some who appeared to fizzle out, but simply worked in, more or less, solitude: Bill Sidis, or William James Sidis, is referenced a lot, by a lot of people, in the high-I.Q. communities. What are your first impressions about him – surface level stuff?

Tor Arne Jørgensen[1],[2]*: Incredible brilliant person, put in a system that does not “get” him and thereby does not understand his dire needs for acceptance in a far to cruel world. Exploited and give a burden that shorted his lifespan, by the very people his but his trust in and for what, or for who one might ask? Alone, fleeing form the shackles of society and it's presumptions.

Jacobsen: What seemed to be the fascination with streetcar transfers for Bill?

Jørgensen: We all have our quirky little precious gems; this was his to collect and to enjoy.

Jacobsen: How does his perspective on the cosmos in *The Animate and the Inanimate* seem to you?

Jørgensen: I have not read all his work, but from what I know about him and his work, a man far ahead of his time. Sidis work at a young age made him even more so an enigmatic study for our understanding of the cosmos. Sidis can be viewed upon as a beacon, that directs us toward an even more clear comprehension of what to grasp of the cosmological spectrum.

Jacobsen: Newton, apparently, was a notorious asshole in his time. A vindictive person against enemies, unsure if real or perceived as I am not a subject matter expert on his life. Also, a purported lifelong virgin, undisputed mathematical genius, and ‘plugged into the universe,’ according to famous smart person and science popularizer with a specialization in astrophysics, Dr.

Neil deGrasse Tyson. What do you think of Newton?

Jørgensen: As you and me both, of what understanding I may hold of him, that the despitfulness and cruel intentions towards his surrounding can be understood in so far as to being left with the feeling of the “misunderstood genius.” The desperate notion of contentment be fulfilled through ones work as in an attempt of despair to be accepted among one’s general population. Engrossed in one’s work can further be understood, whereby the time spent at anything that does not produce a hint of common sense to a brilliant genius is to be avoided at all costs, a clean mental health and physical outlook is to behold as the standard for excellence.

Jacobsen: Why was Newton able to spend more time on the Church Fathers than on mathematics and still able to mathematically map the middle world of space and time as we know it, Cartesian coordinate system stuff?

Jørgensen: I feel the need for enlightenment at this point, mostly due to the lack of knowledge at this point. Can only guess as to why, but his brilliant mind was preconstructed in the pursuit of knowledge within both the laws of cosmos through his understanding of both physics and math.

Jacobsen: Most smart people make their big discoveries in their mid-20s, I believe, or most mathematical geniuses, e.g., physicists, and the like, then never make another big discovery. Newton was making breakthroughs throughout his life, including into old age. Why?

Jørgensen: Look at Leonardo Da Vinci, his was productive until he died at age of 67, the intelligence is solving down by age, but is the same true of creativity?

Jacobsen: You wanted to talk about early life for you, too. So, a quick side step, what is your earliest memory?

Jørgensen: My time at a place called Bråstad which is located about 3 miles inland from the town of Arendal. This was back in 1977, remembering a brown horse that we would go riding on with my father, happy times.

Jacobsen: Were there earlier indications of a high-I.Q. for you? Or was this something simply not noticed by parents and surrounding community?

Jørgensen: No there was not, I just felt a bit outside, a stranger to my elements. I did not like what the other kids liked. Remembered that I was curious of my surroundings a lot more then the other kids, I could find myself asking why is about most things, the reply back was always do not worry yourself about these things it is what it is, leave it alone. Sadly, I did.

Jacobsen: How was your academic record in elementary school and high school?

Jørgensen: As I was a late bloomer, and I had no one to support me in academics at an early stage, I was an average kid with average grades. It was not until later in high school that I excelled, but as to records, it was not popular to be clever, amongst my classmates. But there was one test I did, this was fun as we had a clever girl in our class that was looked upon as smart. The test was a 60minutes test, and to make the story short, I used 15minutes and aced the test as the only one in my class. The second best was the girl, and she used the whole 60minutes.

Jacobsen: What do you try to impart to students at your work? How do you try to mentor and educate your children in a similar manner, if so? The education of the next generation of Norwegians is a huge responsibility, and probably hugely underpaid, so thank you for dedicating your talents and taking a likely income hit in the process.

Jørgensen: Well firstly thanks, and yes, we as teachers is vastly underpaid compared to the work, we put in. In my everyday job I try my best to unlock the students inhered creative abilities in the hope of creating a base for self-development and structured direction of how to get where you can realize your most potent potential for academic success.

Jacobsen: What were some of the extracurricular activities, if any, to stimulate mental activity and satisfy personal curiosity?

Jørgensen: Meditation, done as reason to develop an awareness as to maximize your physical/mental capabilities.

Jacobsen: Were you bullied? If so, how? If yes, or not in fact, how would you advise younger bullied students to deal with the bullying?

Jørgensen: Yes, bigtime! To school and back home again, there was a gang that was hounding me and my brother a lot through many years. We back the got into bodybuilding and fought back, it then stopped. This is not a good solution as violence is never a solution, but it is what it is. Now I say to my students, try to walk away, or to confront through dialog. Most important is to stay strong mentally, believe in yourself, it always wins through in the end.

Jacobsen: What was your favourite book to read while young? One of the books that you re-read a lot.

Jørgensen: Mostly I watch movies, all I could get my hands on, books came later in life in high school. Then it was directed towards history, religion, politics, but if I would pick one, James Joyce "Ulysses."

Jacobsen: How does Norway have a healthy culture of keeping a gifted student from getting a big head about having a more effective cognitive ability than others?

Jørgensen: In short: The law of Jante, keeps us in check.

Jacobsen: Albert Einstein famously was very unkempt. Bill Sidis had a real sweet tooth. Isaac Newton died a virgin. Is this a trend among the people noted as, at least, accomplished or directing their mental energy in a successful direction? A tendency towards certain extremes, e.g., Glenn Gould was a major hypochondriac and used all sorts of prescriptions to reduce anxiety and the like, probably against better medical judgment of experts.

Jørgensen: Did not know about Bill Sidis sweet tooth, funny, I cannot get enough of sweets, I eat as much as I can get every day, not good for my health, try to compensate with more training, I know I am just kidding myself with a healthy output with all the crap that I put into my system, but I can not help myself.

All I know is that time is not on my side, would love if I could live for 200 years, I would then have better time to get around to all I feel I need to do in my life, so for me short meals is an absolute, I do not see food as an enjoyment to be savored, but purely as fuel to keep me going.

Jacobsen: James Maxwell was known to have a huge productive output in a short period of time. How did he do it? History is your expertise, so I'm focusing there. You simply would know more.

Jørgensen: Well, I would hope so, as you say history is my field, but sadly not James Maxwell, I know of him, but not in the extent to say anything that is not already known about him I general.

But I understand as to what you mentioned as high periods of output, as this is the case for myself as well. I have these periods where all I do is work on what ever it takes in days end. Do not why this is though.

Jacobsen: Willard Gibbs' footnotes are said to have been the inspiration for several major discoveries in the lifetime research of the next generation of researchers. It has a semblance of Newton; his crumbs are others' lifetimes. Is this mythological more than fact, or is there something of a truth here?

Jørgensen: I think that It at least should be noted as such.

Jacobsen: Do you remember the name of the brown horse riding with your father in 1977?

Jørgensen: No sadly I do not, he had 7 horses in total at one point, but do not remember any of their names as I was from the age of 2-5 years old during the time when he had them. We had at that time a small farm where we kept chicken, was breeding dogs, kept rabbits, and had an angry bull as I recall.

Jacobsen: How were your interests different than the other kids?

Jørgensen: We all did the same things as I use to tag a long, but it gave me little pleasure, especial when it came to ride mopeds, cars, I remembered that my brother and his friends use to talk about rims, tire size, sound system, and machine size, my mind was not tuned in, there was nothing special that I can remember thinking about, just that this was boring to listen to.

Jacobsen: Ah, the competition with the smart girl in class. It's like an old rom-com early life story. Do you know what she ended up doing in later life?

Jørgensen: I think it was within engineering but am not sure as last time I talked to her was about 28 years ago, and I remembered just hearing about it.

Jacobsen: How do you notice behavioural signs of talent in students who may be struggling academically, as this is uncommon, because talent is uncommon, and a hunk of the talented can be spotted in their academic prowess?

Jørgensen: Like myself, one usually sees that something stands out in their behavior pattern that may indicate an inherent talent. It can be so much as to what those who possess this talent usually seek out their field as they then are experts in far beyond what is normal for their age group, and further give indications that they feel that other professional groups are boring, or that they get easily irritating as to their surroundings through the lack of understanding of their own role within a normal school setting.

Jacobsen: Were there any particularly strident stories of violence in the midst of the bullying?

Jørgensen: Yes, but that is a bit hurtful to rip up into now.

Jacobsen: What stood out about *Ulysses* to you?

Jørgensen: Summed up: The way the characters of the story are portrayed is exposed in all its emotional wonder.

Jacobsen: I recall the law of Jante in prior interviews with other Norwegians, and you. This was mentioned in the *Deus Vult* interview with Domagoj Kutle, too. He may have indirectly referenced *In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal* in the opening letter or editorial, in fact, to one issue of the newsletter, in a highly amusing manner. Something about the Catholic Church

being under attack – alright then, cool. Also, how did the law of Jante form? Because I have no idea.

Jørgensen: Janteloven is a text written by the author Aksel Sandemose in 1933 and was first presented in the work *A refugee crosses his trail*. This text gives a good picture of “human beings’ inherent evil and ability to oppress one another”, as Aksel Sandemose believed to characterize human beings from their first interaction.

Jacobsen: Other than sweets, what foods are the fuel to keep you going?

Jørgensen: Incredibly simple diet, consisting of crispbread, plain bread, cereals of varied variety. I’m not a chef, and anything that can be made in under 2 minutes is great, will not waste my time on unnecessary tasks in order to fill my stomach with nutrients.

Jacobsen: Do you have any theories about history, about the cosmos, etc., in development or developed?

Jørgensen: As far as history is concerned, it only repeats itself in newer editions, like an onion where more layers are added as time progresses, only to be peeled away at each major historical event, when the whole process starts all over again. When it comes to the cosmos, where an outer unit should be behind everything and we on earth are considered the center. What, then, is the point of creating a universe that is constantly changing, as well as expanding, where the distances are so great that we will never be able to understand its vast content nor for that matter its sublime substance. What was then the intention of basing such a meaningless existence on such a degree, I find myself constantly asking...

Footnotes

[1] Tor Arne Jørgensen is a member of 50+ high IQ societies.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/jorgensen-7>;
Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Dr. Benoit Desjardins, M.D., Ph.D., on Financial Stability, Intellectual Stimulation, and the Mega Society: Academic Physician; Member, Mega Society (2)

2022-05-01

Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR is an Ivy League academic physician and scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Mega Society, the OlympIQ Society and past member of the Prometheus Society. He is the designer of the cryptic Mega Society logo. He is member of several scientific societies and a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and of the American Heart Association. He is the co-Founder of the Arrhythmia Imaging Research (AIR) lab at Penn. His research is funded by the National Institute of Health. He is an international leader in three different fields: cardiovascular imaging, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. He discusses: father; financial stability over artistic fulfillment; French-Canadian Catholic culture; not a very religious family; the priest who cursed the family; the wife, kids, and happy marriage of 34 years; “Pure Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Formal Philosophy (Logic), and Theoretical Physics”; a big Fellowship from the Canadian Medical Research Council; an M.D. degree, a PhD degree, half a dozen Masters; the scores on the Mega Test and the Titan Test; the pluses and minuses of the Mega Society; the feud between ‘Mega Society East’/ Mega Foundation of Christopher Langan and Dr. Gina Langan and the Mega Society decades ago; the most entertaining test; a recluse prior to and in some of high school; the smartest person; the most creative person; a hacker and cybersecurity specialist; VPNs and encrypted email systems; the highest paid position or specialization in medicine; God as an invention; a social democracy like Canada; Tim Roberts stuff; 5-sigma intelligence; more forceful with the recommendations to patients; advancements in medicine; greater value of the state; metaphysics; post-positivism; scientific theories; “Grand Challenges”; funeral; remembered; hopes for your children; and the community of the high-I.Q.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Was there any lead-up to finding out about the adoption of your father? Or was it mentioned nonchalantly, almost casually, at the wedding?

Dr. Benoit Desjardins: My father’s sister was a troublemaker, so I did not invite her to the wedding. My father’s mother was angry about it and did not come to the wedding. My father was furious about these two absences, got drunk, and made the big reveal at the wedding.

Jacobsen: What career paths were considered for you, as you selected for financial stability over artistic fulfillment (or something else like this)?

Desjardins: I initially had planned a double career: one to generate income and one to provide intellectual fulfillment. I studied many combinations and assessed which were realistic. I was a hacker, so I strongly considered math & computer science for intellectual satisfaction and medicine to generate income. I was fast-tracked to medicine in Canada. Then I completed four simultaneous graduate degrees in the U.S. after I was awarded one of Canada’s most prestigious fellowships. It was challenging to do graduate-level training (especially in pure mathematics) without ever having done undergraduate training.

Jacobsen: How was French-Canadian Catholic culture in Montreal at the time – for family background?

Desjardins: It was fine when I grew up. Not a very big part of our lives. I already knew that I was an atheist at a very young age. The Quebec religious and cultural revolution had already happened, and religion was fading away in the province. I did attend a catholic high school but was never abused by any priest or teacher, probably because of my lack of sex appeal.

Jacobsen: When you say, “Not a very religious family,” what is “religious” in this sense?

Desjardins: We attended church at Christmas. I was baptized and did first communion and confirmation. I got married in a church. That was the limit of my family’s involvement with religion.

Jacobsen: For the priest who cursed the family to have a physically disabled child for missing Mass, this tells a bit about some of the church culture of the time. I will add. In fact, you were born with prodigious intellectual capacities. The priest was very wrong. The Catholic God may vetoed or inverted the priest’s curse – so to speak. Any other stories, good or bad, with the church before leaving?

Desjardins: This happened before I was born. I have not heard of any other stories from my family.

Jacobsen: Congratulations on the wife, kids, and happy marriage of 34 years, what helps make for longevity in a marriage?

Desjardins: Always treat your wife like a queen, with unconditional love, and understand that nobody is perfect.

Jacobsen: Why select “Pure Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Formal Philosophy (Logic), and Theoretical Physics” as the simultaneous graduate degree path? Certainly, other disciplines may have been on the table for offer within the four-fold path. Just curious, you had financial stability, probably, by that time, so intellectual fulfillment seems like part of the purpose there.

Desjardins: I was poor during my graduate training. I lived off my Canadian Fellowship money. The tricky part was finding a clever way to not pay for any of the graduate degrees using my Fellowship money: this involved research assistantships and other duties. I only paid half the tuition for one term for my Pure Mathematics degree at CMU. For everything else, I found ways not to have to pay. These four fields had always interested me intellectually, and they meshed very well together.

Jacobsen: What was the title of the “very prestigious Award”?

Desjardins: It was a big Fellowship from the Canadian Medical Research Council. I forgot its exact name. It was about 40K per year, which was good money if I remember well.

Jacobsen: With “an M.D. degree, a PhD degree, half a dozen Masters, and medical post-graduate training certificates. I also completed several additional certifications on the side, like recent certifications in hacking and cybersecurity,” what are some synoptic statements to be made about each expertise or the inter-relatedness of the disciplines too?

Desjardins: Some people collect stamps. I collect degrees. The MD degree was for financial stability. The simultaneous graduate degrees were part of an “intellectual interlude,” where I did everything I wanted to do that medical school did not cover. The additional degrees and certificates were just extensions into areas in which I developed an interest later in life.

Jacobsen: What were the scores on the Mega Test and the Titan Test to enter the Mega Society?

Desjardins: 45, enough to get in.

Jacobsen: What are the pluses and minuses of the Mega Society?

Desjardins: All high I.Q. societies are controversial societies with controversial entry requirements. But it's the best available requirements, with no suitable alternatives. I enjoy getting regular updates via their mailing list about significant developments in areas of interest, like when someone proves a critical theorem or obtains a huge scientific result. I don't have time to keep track of all the fields. I also enjoy the quizzes/competitions for high I.Q. people. I usually finish first and get some prize money. It keeps my neurons active as I get older.

Jacobsen: What seemed to have happened with the feud between 'Mega Society East' / Mega Foundation of Christopher Langan and Dr. Gina Langan and the Mega Society decades ago? Duly noting, the Langans lost the legal battle over the name, as stipulated on the Mega Society website. One of several in a career of losses, in fact.

Langan's current research program comprises hypothesizing about logic, the Coudenhove-Kalergi white genocide plan, theology, the I.Q. of Koko the gorilla and Somalians, metaphysics, 9/11 as a cover to prevent the world finding out about his Theory of Everything (ToE), Intelligent Design and evolution combined, the role of Jews and bankers and multibillionaire technologists in global affairs, philosophy, the reality of Jesus & Satan, math, Demonology, world religions, the role of literal magic in the operations of the CIA, set theory, more about *some* Jews, linguistics, issues with inter-ethnic couplings, ontology, the harms of vaccines and the sociopolitical conspiracies around getting a vaccine, epistemology, how spelling his name wrong "can be interpreted as a passive-aggressive form of sacrilege," and more.

Desjardins: I briefly interacted with Mr. Langan and decided to stay as far away from him as possible.

Jacobsen: What has been the most entertaining test taken by you? What has been the most difficult test taken by you, and why that test?

Desjardins: Titan and Mega were by far the most entertaining tests. The most challenging test was the OSCP test in hacking. It's a 24h test, and it's challenging to stay awake for 24h doing intense hacking.

Jacobsen: What did you do as a recluse prior to and in some of high school?

Desjardins: I read a lot about everything at the library.

Jacobsen: Who is the smartest person known to you?

Desjardins: Probably Prof Terence Tao from UCLA.

Jacobsen: Who is the most creative person known to you?

Desjardins: If we consider everyone in history, then Leonardo Da Vinci.

Jacobsen: As a hacker and cybersecurity specialist, what are the things people should keep in mind to keep privacy and personal information safe?

Desjardins: Keep in mind that anybody can get hacked. Use a layered approach to privacy. You should encrypt your most private digital information with military-grade symmetric encryption and a complex password that you cannot remember but that you can reconstruct. Be very wary of phishing emails. You must keep many backups of your data stored in different media and air-

gapped from the internet. Use a VPN whenever you connect to public WIFI. I have two VPN software on my laptop, as some do not work with some networks.

Jacobsen: Are VPNs and encrypted email systems useful in the last questions regard, too?

Desjardins: Definitely. For business-related confidential emails, use the secure communication tools your company provides.

Jacobsen: What is the highest paid position or specialization in medicine now? Because I have no idea at this point.

Desjardins: Hospital CEOs and Health Insurance CEOs are the highest-paid people in medicine and earn millions. Physicians make orders of magnitude less money. The American society exploits physicians and treats them like slaves.

Jacobsen: If “God was an invention of prehistoric man to explain what he could not understand,” what does this state about the significant majority of the world’s population adhering to this “invention”?

Desjardins: 50% of the world population is on the left side of the Bell curve, and most of them are religious. There is also a strong cultural aspect to religion.

Jacobsen: Where could a social democracy like Canada improve itself?

Desjardins: There is always room for improvement in every system. Some of the rules in Canada should be less rigid. I was a victim of this rigidity on several occasions. For example, after my intellectual interlude in the U.S., I was not allowed back to Canada to complete my post-graduate medical training. They had changed the Canadian training access rules during my stay in the U.S. I had to emigrate to the U.S. to complete my medical training. In 1987, they hired me to be chief of radiology at the Montreal Heart Institute, which I accepted. I decided to un-accept the position when the Quebec government did not allow my kids to continue their education in English after two failed appeals against their decision.

Jacobsen: What makes Tim Roberts stuff challenging, intellectually fun?

Desjardins: They are well-designed fun problems. I usually solve almost all of them. I then show them to my physician friends, who usually cannot solve any.

Jacobsen: What do you think would really need to be done to measure 5-sigma intelligence with a much, much smaller margin of error in the final assessment – speaking less in terms of obvious things like larger sample size, more in terms of the character of the problems proposed?

Desjardins: I think this is a complicated problem that we will likely never solve. All the tools we have are imperfect.

Jacobsen: When is it appropriate to be more forceful with the recommendations to patients in medicine?

Desjardins: For example, when thousands of Americans poisoned themselves by ingesting disinfectants to kill the coronavirus after Trump suggested it, it would have been a good idea for physicians to tell their patients not to swallow disinfectants. But very few physicians realized that Americans were so scientifically illiterate.

Jacobsen: With advancements in medicine, what are the top 5 things everyone can practice for a higher probability of a longer healthspan and lifespan?

Desjardins: Don't smoke, maintain your weight to avoid type II diabetes, keep your blood pressure within the normal range, eat healthily and exercise. It is not rocket science. I follow only two of those, sadly.

Jacobsen: What is the greater value of the state? What is the lesser value, though still value, of unions?

Desjardins: The greater value of the state is to ensure a decent quality of life for everybody and not let people fall through the cracks. The U.S. does a miserable job at this. The value of unions is not to let big companies exploit workers. Full-time workers should not need food stamps in addition to their pay, as some poorly paid exploited U.S. workers require to stay afloat.

Jacobsen: Without a need for metaphysics, what, if it arises in any conversation, has been a response to you, where you "have a purely atheistic scientific view of the world"?

Desjardins: I live in an Ivy League environment surrounded by people who share the same worldview, so they simply agree.

Jacobsen: How do you define post-positivism?

Desjardins: It's like Natural Selection for knowledge. All researchers are biased, which affects their observations, and therefore cannot see the world objectively. But researchers are part of a research community that criticizes each other's ideas, and the ideas that survive intense scrutiny remain and get progressively closer to objective truth and reality. It is how science makes progress these days.

Jacobsen: Do scientific theories progress slowly or in stages, more often, in the modern period, e.g., late 20th century to early 21st century? Although, you mentioned "steady progress." I want to delve a bit more into this, as you're a properly trained practitioner and an intelligent person.

Desjardins: Steady progress with an occasional breakthrough. Most scientific contributions are incremental these days. But there is such a massive number of scientists and money for science that science evolves quite rapidly in several areas. Just take, for example, the rapid development of RNA vaccines (at my institution) to address the COVID pandemic.

Jacobsen: With these "Grand Challenges," what one feels the most fulfilling?

Desjardins: Probably my Black Belt at Tae Kwon Do. I pursued it with my twins, and it was a wonderful, shared family experience. We all earned our Black Belts at the same time.

Jacobsen: Have you planned your funeral?

Desjardins: I'm working as a physician in the U.S., which is well known as the country with the most inhuman treatment of its physicians. We all saw this during the pandemic. I suspect I will die on the job, given that many of my close U.S. physician colleagues have been killed or become physically disabled due to their work conditions. Once I die on the job, I wish to be cremated.

Jacobsen: How would you like to be remembered?

Desjardins: He was a great husband and a great father.

Jacobsen: What are your hopes for your children?

Desjardins: I want them to leave the U.S. and return to Canada before the U.S. collapses. They will have a great life in Canada.

Jacobsen: What has the community of the high-I.Q. given you?

Desjardins: It keeps my neurons active.

Footnotes

[1] Academic Physician; Member, OlympIQ Society; Member, Mega Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 1, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/desjardins-2>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-is-sues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Dr. Benoit Desjardins, M.D., Ph.D., on Specialization, Tao, da Vinci, and Scientific Illiteracy: Academic Physician; Member, Mega Society (3)

2022-05-08

Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI is an Ivy League academic physician and scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. He is member of several scientific societies and a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and of the American Heart Association. He is the co-Founder of the Arrhythmia Imaging Research (AIR) lab at Penn. His research is funded by the National Institute of Health. He is an international leader in three different fields: cardiovascular imaging, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. He is a member of the most elite high IQ societies in the world. He discusses: fonder memories; areas of specialization; pure mathematics; Atheism; some of the influences on this atheism; the Catholic high school education; children's and your wife's association with spirituality and religion; each of the degrees' subject matter; the OSCP test; Prof. Tao; da Vinci; physicians; Canadian society; hacked; religion; education in critical thinking; and American scientific illiteracy.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: That's a very dramatic reveal at the wedding. At least, it spices life up a bit, I suppose. Any fonder memories come to mind rather than those featuring the *dramatis personae*? Something unmentioned.

Dr. Benoit Desjardins[1],[2]*: There were plenty of fonder memories in my early life, but nothing interesting to the readers. You know, getting puppies and stuff like that.

Jacobsen: What were the areas of specialization when doing graduate school? I do not mean the disciplines themselves, e.g., "Pure Mathematics, Artificial Intelligence, Formal Philosophy (Logic), and Theoretical Physics." I mean the topics within the disciplines studied, e.g., the area of logic, the area of medicine. Also, why not pursue a CEO position within medicine to make even more money rather than make a lot of money, though less than a CEO, and in slave-like conditions?

Desjardins: Well, for Pure Mathematics, it's your general graduate degree covering all basic areas. For Artificial Intelligence, I focused on the applications to healthcare and basic A.I. theory. For Theoretical Physics, I enjoyed quantum physics and mathematical methods. For Formal Philosophy, I focused on standard and non-standard logic, formal learning theory, formal discovery theory (my dissertation), and philosophy of science. I studied everything in those four fields relevant to theoretical artificial intelligence.

I was not born with the business gene. I developed a few computational tools over the years, and I was strongly encouraged to start a company to make money out of those tools. I had no interest in starting a company and decided to make the tools available for free to the medical community. Doing an MBA (a degree in greed) is undoubtedly an option for someone who collects degrees, but I have no interest in business.

Jacobsen: Why was pure mathematics the hardest? Why does pure mathematics seem to require such high levels of *g*?

Desjardins: Graduate-level pure mathematics builds on a full undergraduate-level mathematics

curriculum that I never pursued. They did not allow me to register for that graduate program initially. They felt it was impossible for someone without an undergraduate degree in mathematics to complete a level 1 (top institution) graduate-level pure mathematics program. So, I made a deal with them. I asked which first-term pure mathematics graduate course was the hardest. They told me it was Advanced Abstract Algebra. I asked the program director, “if I take that course and do well in it, could I get into the program?” He said yes. It was challenging without an undergraduate background, but I got used to it and did well enough. So, they allowed me to enroll. None of those pure mathematics courses were easy, and many were an exercise in frustration. But I pulled through, somehow.

Jacobsen: What age was Atheism ‘it’ for you?

Desjardins: In early elementary school, when I first learned about religion. The concept of an invisible entity controlling our lives seemed ridiculous to me, and worshipping it sounded even more ridiculous.

Jacobsen: What were some of the influences on this atheism, or lines of thought within the mind of a profoundly gifted young Canadian?

Desjardins: None. I concluded by myself from the very start that religion made no sense. I was not exposed to any atheist group, and the public internet as we know it today did not exist at the time. Religion was starting to fade away in Quebec, which helped a bit.

Jacobsen: What were the benefits, and not, of the Catholic high school education?

Desjardins: It was better than public school. This specific high school also included a strong sports component, and my parents wanted me to become more active, besides reading and playing chess.

Jacobsen: What are your children’s and your wife’s association with spirituality and religion if I may ask?

Desjardins: They vary from strong atheism to mild religiosity.

Jacobsen: Are there fundamental interrelationships between each of the degree’s subject matter? In that, there is a theoretical and empirical foundation unifying the study of each, or these were, just that, a collection of stamps as degrees.

Desjardins: I did not start graduate school by doing four simultaneous degrees. For the first term, I just did artificial intelligence related to medicine. But during that term, I was exposed to formal philosophers with a solid logic and theoretical background. They had an incredibly deeper understanding of everything in the field. They operated at an intellectual level to which I had never been exposed. I was genuinely impressed by them, and I wanted to acquire the same skills, so I got into logic and then pure mathematics. Theoretical physics was just for fun. But all the degrees involved skills relevant to theoretical artificial intelligence, so they were not a collection of random degrees. They also involved topics in which I had a long-time interest.

Jacobsen: What is the OSCP test in hacking?

Desjardins: OSCP is a hands-on hacking course where you initially get exposed to a minimal set of hacking techniques. You then self-learn practical hacking skills by hacking into 50 machines on a virtual network by trial and error, each requiring a different hacking approach. It requires penetration followed by privileges escalation to the root level for each machine. In the final

exam, you have 24h to hack into five machines on a virtual network. You must try every hacking technique you know and hope some of them work in the limited 24h of the test while staying awake. Although I have been forced to stay awake for up to 68h in medicine, hacking non-stop for 24h is extremely difficult because of the constant intense intellectual effort. It just burns you out.

Jacobsen: What makes Prof. Tao so smart, or impressively astute with mathematics?

Desjardins: Probably a combination of good genes and training and a well-connected set of neurons. He is the academic that other brilliant mathematicians consult when they get stuck on a problem.

Jacobsen: What aspect of da Vinci seems the most contributive to his creativity?

Desjardins: He was born at the right time in history and with the right set of creative skills for that specific time. I don't know enough about his life to provide an intelligent answer to that.

Jacobsen: How does American society treat physicians like slaves? We can, as discussed, cover this in-depth a separate educational series here.

Desjardins: I will elaborate in the separate educational series.

Jacobsen: How does Canadian society treat them?

Desjardins: Much better. Canadian society is better educated and has more respect for physicians and scientists. Canadians are not at war with science like in the U.S. Canada is more like Europe. They do not have Fox News in Canada.

Jacobsen: Who are most likely to get hacked, or have attempts at hacking them?

Desjardins: If you think of individual people (as opposed to military installations or government institutions), then political leaders or famous people are more likely to get hacked. Trump got his Twitter account hacked a few times because he used trivial passwords. The actress Jennifer Lawrence got hacked so that they could get naked pictures of her from her cloud account.

Jacobsen: Why does religion, as a statistical tendency and a finding mutually known in psychology based on meta-analyses of I.Q. and religiosity and conservatism, attract *more* of the left side of the bell curve rather than *less* of the left side of the bell curve?

Desjardins: I am not an expert on that topic. I might be completely wrong, but this seems to make some sense. People on the left side of the Bell curve accept what they learn in school without much questioning. People on the right side of the Bell curve tend to question more what they learn and can more easily form opinions that are independent and different from that of their teachers. It includes views about religion.

Jacobsen: How much could education in critical thinking help with this problem of negative religiosity infecting public discourse, even politics, and public policy?

Desjardins: It would help a lot, and there is a lot of effort to implement critical thinking as part of the U.S. educational curriculum (e.g., gen-ed courses in U.S. colleges). But this is not easy, and there is surprisingly a solid reluctance to this initiative amongst U.S. students. An anecdote opened my mind to this problem. A physician colleague did part of his training at Harvard and was a mentor in an undergraduate course on critical thinking required for Harvard students. There were many complaints from the students in the class as they could not understand why a

course in critical thinking was helpful for their major. If Harvard students don't get it, how could students in less competitive institutions get it? How could people not attending college get it?

Jacobsen: How does this American scientific illiteracy show itself? In Canada, we have the same with Trinity Western University. The largest Evangelical Christian university in the country, largest private university in the country, is 5 minutes down the road from me, and creates a culture of Evangelical fundamentalism and resultant scientific illiteracy and monocultural prejudice in general, so most cases. 1/4 to 1/5 Canadians are young Earth creationists by title or by stipulated belief systems based on surveys.

Desjardins: You don't have to look very far to find recent examples. Just look at the U.S. response to the current pandemic. A large portion of Americans refused to get vaccinated and wear masks. Ignorant and scientifically illiterate governors implemented horrible state policies, leading to COVID cases skyrocketing in red states. It led to over one million U.S. deaths from COVID, more than any other nation on Earth. After Trump suggested it, thousands of Americans poisoned themselves by swallowing disinfectants to try to cure COVID. U.S. judges, who are supposed to be educated and intelligent, forced physicians to administer horse deworming medicine to COVID patients, an act of pure idiocy. Physicians who prescribed this drug for COVID patients were fired for gross incompetence and stupidity.

Footnotes

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The American Medical System and Physicians 1: Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI on the U.S. Medical System, and American Patients and Physicians

2022-05-08

Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI is an Ivy League academic physician and scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Mega Society, the OlympIQ Society and past member of the Prometheus Society. He is the designer of the cryptic Mega Society logo. He is member of several scientific societies and a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and of the American Heart Association. He is the co-Founder of the Arrhythmia Imaging Research (AIR) lab at Penn. His research is funded by the National Institute of Health. He is an international leader in three different fields: cardiovascular imaging, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. He discusses: science; medicine; limits of science as applied to medicine; science fiction or science fact; human lifespan; the values of the medical field within the United States; venture capital firms decided to make medicine a business; venture capital firms; businesses made to appeal to patients with higher incomes; CEOs; American medicine; ignorance masquerading as knowledge comes to blows with evidence-based expertise; the lower strata of the educational and authority hierarchy in medical facilities; values and preferences of cultures; American patients different than others; American patients similar to others; pressure from administration towards physicians; rudest versions of this hotel mindset of American patients; American virtues; violent hysterics against Dr. Fauci; great examples of American ignorance; and mutually reinforcing trends.

This interview represents Dr. Desjardins' opinion, combined to the current content of the published medical literature, and not necessarily the opinion of his employers.

On science and medicine

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Let's start by defining terms, what is science?

Dr. Benoit Desjardins[1],[2]*: From Webster, science is the knowledge about general truths or general laws obtained and tested by the scientific method. The scientific method provides a set of principles for the pursuit of knowledge. It involves formulating a problem, collecting data by observation and experimentation, and formulating and testing hypotheses.

Jacobsen: What is medicine?

Desjardins: From Webster, medicine is both a science and an art, dealing with health maintenance and the prevention, alleviation, or cure of disease. It used to be primarily an art, but it has become firmly based on science as science evolved.

Jacobsen: What is a physician? How does a physician differ from other terms of professionals within medicine?

Desjardins: A physician is someone educated, experienced, and licensed to practice the science of medicine. The difference between physicians and other healthcare professionals is becoming less clear with time, as other professionals take on more and more of the responsibilities of physicians.

Jacobsen: What are the ultimate limits of science as applied to medicine?

Desjardins: Nobody knows. Science progresses constantly, and new scientific discoveries that positively impact medicine are produced every year. There are often tradeoffs limiting the applicability of some scientific advances to medicine. Let's take an example from my field. There have been advances in cross-sectional imaging to image humans at extremely high spatial resolution. Flat-plate CT scanners can do that but require more radiation, which is a limiting factor for human imaging. As a result, they are mainly used to image small animals.

Jacobsen: Some make extravagant, though grounded in the natural rather than the supernatural, claims about longevity post-human or trans-human states of human life, e.g., Ray Kurzweil. Where, indefinite lifespans for humans are realized and ideal health statuses are attained. What's the current front on this, more science fiction or science fact?

Desjardins: I have no expertise in this area. I see it as science fiction.

Jacobsen: What fields show the greatest promise in helping extend average human lifespan and 'healthspan' in real terms?

Desjardins: I have no expertise in this area.

On practicing medicine in the U.S.

Jacobsen: What are the values of the medical field within the United States? How does this differ from other fields?

Desjardins: There are values related to the patient, including compassion, respect, and justice. Other values are related to the physician, including a commitment to excellence, integrity, and ethics. Physicians take a Hippocratic Oath and swear to uphold specific ethical standards. It differs from other fields. Healthcare is, however, a business in the U.S., which creates conflicts with some of its values. For example, many medical practices start with noble goals, trying to help their community with devoted, caring physicians who will do whatever is best to help their patients. These practices sometimes get bought by venture capital firms. After the purchase, physicians become indentured servants, forced to perform massive amounts of work (e.g., seeing one patient every five minutes). They are forced to do whatever is best to maximize shareholders' and investors' profits at the expense of quality of care and consequences to physicians' health.

Jacobsen: At some point, venture capital firms decided to make medicine a business. Is there a documented timeline of this?

Desjardins: Venture capital firms started buying physicians and medical practices in the late 1980s, a growing phenomenon.

Jacobsen: When do venture capital firms decide, in the life cycle of nobly aimed medical facility, to buy them out now? It must be a systematic process now, as it's been done so much.

Desjardins: I am not familiar with the field of business, but they seem to buy them when they are profitable or have the potential to become profitable from the exploitation of physicians.

Jacobsen: Since medicine became more of a business than less of one, what are some choices the businesses made to appeal to patients with higher incomes, where these have nothing to do with medicine, saving lives, or better health, simply appealing to the culture of the wealthy or, at least, the rich?

Desjardins: Some hospitals offer entire floors reserved for wealthy patients, with hotel-like amenities in their rooms and increased access to services and physicians, a limousine drive from

the airport, and lodging for patients' families.

Jacobsen: How do CEOs and others interact with physicians?

Desjardins: CEOs have minimal direct interactions with physicians. They often provide mass emails to their entire medical center staff updating everyone on current issues, such as the pandemic or new initiatives, the hospital system's latest national rankings, or financial health.

Jacobsen: Why is American medicine seemingly so terrible at outcomes while, at the same time, so expensive too – including destroying the livelihoods of the individuals giving the care?

Desjardins: American medicine is known as the “great outlier”: it is the worst healthcare system among high-income countries (Commonwealth Funds) but at the same time is the most expensive healthcare system in the world. It has a high infant mortality rate, low life expectancy at age 60, and high preventable mortality. Its infant mortality rate is comparable to some third-world countries, like Sri Lanka (Worldbank). This poor performance at extremely high costs is due to multiple factors. It includes a minimal focus on preventive medicine, emphasis on fixing catastrophic health outcomes after years of neglect, the practice of defensive medicine, and the business approach to healthcare. The traumatic nature of life in America, and the high poverty rate, have significant harmful effects on the population's health.

Jacobsen: Whether they have terrible health patterns (so their fault), have a bad physician (so not their fault), both (so both their faults), or simply an accident brought about by something unexpected (so neither patient nor physician fault), the reactions from these events can be misinterpretation or malevolence. Each with consequence.

Although, if medicine marks a business, perhaps, we, the non-expert public, can see the issue as a natural derivative of the customer service axiom, “The customer is always right.” How are these issues exacerbating expectations from American patients coming to American physicians with sophisticated ignorance, when ignorance masquerading as knowledge comes to blows with evidence-based expertise?

Desjardins: Physicians are required by their Hippocratic Oath to serve their patients as best as possible. They use an evidence-based approach to healthcare, which is good medicine that can sometimes lead to bad outcomes. The latter often leads to patients physically harming or suing their physician, as patients are too ignorant to realize that good medicine sometimes leads to bad outcomes. Physicians can respond to this situation in two ways. First, they can continue using an evidence-based approach for healthcare until they either get harmed by their patient or more likely lose their practice license due to too many frivolous lawsuits against them. Or they can adapt to an ignorant, scientifically illiterate society by doing “defensive” medicine. The latter leads to overutilization of medical resources, patient harm, and increased U.S. healthcare expenses.

Jacobsen: What about the lower strata of the educational and authority hierarchy in medical facilities? I mean nurses and the like. How is their education? Are they given the same quality of education? How does their education impact the quality of care for patients?

Desjardins: Every member of the healthcare field receives the best possible quality of education addressing the tasks they are expected to perform, ensuring the highest level of quality in healthcare at different levels. Problems arise when healthcare workers lower in the hierarchy are given the authority to perform duties and actions for which they have not been trained to decrease healthcare costs. It has led to patients' deaths.

On American patients

Jacobsen: I've done extensive interviews with Distinguished Professor Gordon Guyatt at McMaster University on Evidence-Based Medicine and other relevant subject matter. He talks about values and preferences. How are these values and preferences of cultures impacting the expectations from physicians by patients in the United States?

Desjardins: I am originally from Canada. Canadians have a more socialist mindset, think about the greater good, and are more reasonable. Americans have a more individualistic mindset. They will not tolerate waiting lists like in Canada. If they cannot see their physicians rapidly or get the device or the operations they want, they get angry and can become litigious. They will expect physicians to spend millions on extending grandma's life by a few weeks. They have gone to court to prevent unplugging of brain-dead patients (remember Terri Schiavo), with brain dead U.S. lawmakers forcing doctors to keep these patients on life support.

Jacobsen: How are American patients different than others?

Desjardins: They have no personal accountability. They do not take care of themselves. They can chain-smoke for 50 years and then blame their physician if they develop cancer. They expect their physicians to be at their service 24/7/365, an unrealistic expectation, to work all the time without getting tired, and never make a mistake. They fail to realize that physicians are human beings. They still think of physicians as wealthy, privileged people driving expensive cars and living in mansions. U.S. physicians are instead in massive debts from medical schools, massively overworked, cannot take breaks, and are often suicidal from their working conditions.

Jacobsen: How are American patients similar to others?

Desjardins: They get sick.

Jacobsen: You have been in practicing medicine for over 20 years. How do these expectations from patients impact the pressure from administration towards physicians?

Desjardins: There is increasing use of patient satisfaction metrics by the administration to judge physician performance, which I believe is wrong. Most factors affecting patient satisfaction, like waiting time or access to physicians, are entirely beyond the control of physicians. Hospitals in the U.S. are like hotels. U.S. patients have unrealistic expectations because of this hotel mentality.

Jacobsen: What are the rudest versions of this hotel mindset of American patients?

Desjardins: We see more disrespectful behavior from patients and their families against doctors. Some patients will refuse to be examined by a black, Muslim, female, or foreign physician or by a medical trainee, intern, or resident. They will get angry at physicians if they must wait a long time before visits, if the price of their medication is too high, or if busy physicians do not spend enough time with them. And, of course, angry patients often write bad online reviews against competent, dedicated physicians, negatively affecting the physicians' careers and livelihood.

Jacobsen: Americans are scientifically ignorant, not necessarily individual faults. They are greedy, coming out of a culture based on the superficial things of life, though, at the end of the adult day, is an individual value, so can be considered their fault. Same with cruelty akin to greed. What about American virtues? How are these ameliorating this issue of overwork or poorly cared-for physicians?

Desjardins: Americans can display generosity, compassion, honesty, and solidarity. They often raise thousands of dollars in crowd-funding of patients for an operation, a transplant, or medication. Unfortunately, there is zero empathy in American culture towards physicians. When Americans are told of the poor working conditions of physicians, they simply respond that physicians chose that profession, and they should accept the consequences of working in that profession, even if this leads to physician deaths. When a football player commits suicide, this is extensively covered in the news media, and small local memorials are erected around which people can deposit flowers and pay their respect. When a U.S. physician commits suicide due to poor working conditions, their body gets covered by a tarp, and the death is not reported in the news media. When patients come to their annual physician visit, they are told the physician moved away. After dedicating their lives to taking care of human suffering, their existence is simply eradicated and forgotten. But Americans will remember the football player forever.

Jacobsen: Are violent hysterics against Dr. Fauci ongoing?

Desjardins: I don't think they will ever stop. In December 2021, Fox News host Jesse Watters urged listeners at a conservative meeting to take a "kill shot" at Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. top government infectious disease physician. Since April 2020, Dr. Fauci and his family have received multiple death threats and have required security and bodyguards. Think about it for a minute. One of the most brilliant infectious disease scientists in the U.S. receives numerous death threats from Americans due to a world pandemic originating in China. What kind of society does that?

Jacobsen: What are two great examples of American ignorance in biology/medicine and basic astronomy?

Desjardins: At my institution, we invite the best scientists in the world to talk about their research. I was privileged to attend lectures by academics who devoted their entire careers to studying American ignorance and scientific illiteracy and trying to find solutions. Here are some examples they provided. Only about 20-30% of Americans believe in the theory of evolution, the core of all biological and medical science. 25% of Americans are unaware that the Earth revolves around the Sun. More recently, when Trump recommended injecting or swallowing Clorox to kill the coronavirus during the pandemic, thousands of Americans poisoned themselves by following his advice.

Jacobsen: All this commentary around scientific illiteracy is the larger discussion around the smaller discourse of medical illiteracy. Basic facts of health and wellness disseminated to the public for public benefit generally, who, by community social police, by malevolent religious leaders, by charlatans, by hubristic greedy ignorance-mongers, and others, are lied to, about it. They're told the opposite.

They're told physicians, as with Dr. Fauci, for example, are agents of malevolence, even of Satan, etc. These disconnects from Ground Zero contribute to this culture of ignorance, as many other cultures. However, everything's on camera in the United States.

Is this a similar trend, as with the increasingly worse treatment of physicians over half of a century, of a collapse of the integrity of the proverbial social fabric and institutional trust in the United States? If so, are these mutually reinforcing trends, where, perhaps, some of the more intelligent physicians among physicians (who are already among the most average intelligent people our societies have) want to pull a House, M.D. on them (the patients)?

Desjardins: The combination of ignorance and hostility in the U.S., each reinforcing the other, leads to the current war against expertise, in which the expertise of physicians, scientists, and scholars is downplayed or wholly dismissed. I am reminded of the famous quote by Isaac Azimov: *“There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.”* In his 2017 book, *“The Death of Expertise: The Campaign Against Established Knowledge and Why It Matters,”* Tom Nichols addressed the issue. Nichols notes that *“increasing numbers of laypeople lack basic knowledge, they reject fundamental rules of evidence and refuse to learn how to make a logical argument.”* He describes instances where scientifically illiterate patients tell their physician why their advice is wrong. He decries Americans’ lack of critical thinking abilities, their positive hostility towards knowledge, their rejection of science, and of dispassionate rationality, which are the foundations of modern civilization.

Footnotes

[1] Academic Physician; Member, OlympIQ Society; Member, Mega Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 8, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/american-medicine-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/in-sight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

**The American Medical System and Physicians 2: Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD,
FAHA, FACR, FNASCI on the Poor Working Conditions for American Physicians**

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Abstract

Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI is an Ivy League academic physician and scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Mega Society, the OlympIQ Society and past member of the Prometheus Society. He is the designer of the cryptic Mega Society logo. He is member of several scientific societies and a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and of the American Heart Association. He is the co-Founder of the Arrhythmia Imaging Research (AIR) lab at Penn. His research is funded by the National Institute of Health. He is an international leader in three different fields: cardiovascular imaging, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. He discusses: the poor working treatment of physicians in the United States; exposing the treatment of physicians; the biggest inroads in sheer viewership or consumption; productions; other proposals at every medical center hypothesized to help with the issue of overwork; the simple and obvious solution; working 36 hours in one period; working 90-100 hours in a week; the social life of the physicians; cruelty; patients kill their physicians; the level of burn out; some of the more egregious examples of (mis-)treatment of physicians; deceased or now-disabled colleagues; human rights violations; International Labour Organization; common statements from physicians; humane working conditions; and the future of the American healthcare system.

Keywords: American, Benoit Desjardins, death, Medicine, physicians, science, United States, working conditions.

The American Medical System and Physicians 2: Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI on the Poor Working Conditions for American Physicians

Please see the references, footnotes, and citations, after the interview, respectively.

This interview represents Dr. Desjardins' opinion, combined to the current content of the published medical literature, and not necessarily the opinion of his employers.

On the work conditions of U.S. physicians

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What was the earliest known, to you, exposure to the poor working treatment of physicians in the United States?

Dr. Benoit Desjardins[1],[2]*: I realized it as soon as I started my training in the U.S. when I was forced to work 68h without sleep. I had been on call at the hospital two nights in a row, had worked 58 consecutive hours without rest, and was driving back home. As I crashed into my bed, I received a phone call from my chief resident asking me why I was not at the hospital as I was on call again for a third night in a row. I was unaware of it and explained the situation. He ordered me to get back to work. I drove back exhausted to the hospital and could have easily been killed in a car accident. I worked ten additional consecutive hours until I crashed on the call room floor. They found me unconscious later that morning. It was my first exposure to the poor working conditions of U.S. physicians.

Jacobsen: Who have been the most vocal people about exposing the treatment of physicians from 50 years ago to 10 years ago?

Desjardins: In the U.S., it was common for post-MD medical trainees (called “residents”) to work 90-100 hours per week and up to 36 hours without rest. In March 1984, 18-yo Libby Zion died at a New York hospital from a prescription error by a resident doing a 36h shift. It led to an investigation on the effect of resident fatigue on patient safety. New regulations were passed in 1987 limiting residents in New York to work no more than 80h per week and no more than 24 consecutive hours. In 2003, the ACGME (the body regulating medical training in the U.S.) extended the rule to all residents. They also limited resident calls to once every third night and implemented one day off per week. For comparison, in Europe, residents cannot work more than 48h per week. Note that these new rules only apply to residents in training, not to the U.S. practicing physicians who regularly work up to 120h per week and up to 72 consecutive hours without sleep.

Jacobsen: Of various productions about the issue, what ones seem to have made the biggest inroads in sheer viewership or consumption?

Desjardins: Around ten years ago, some physicians started to expose the poor working conditions of U.S. physicians. Dr. Pamela Wible noticed an epidemic of suicide among physicians, and she began accumulating data. So far, she has documented 1620 suicides of physicians caused by their poor working conditions, a clear underestimate of the true incidence of the problem. She publicized her results in a TED talk (“Why doctors kill themselves,” March 23, 2016), maintains a blog, and wrote books on the poor treatment of U.S. physicians. Since then, many articles, blogs, books, medical conferences, and documentary movies have covered the poor treatment of U.S. physicians. As a result of these initiatives, physician wellness is now a topic addressed by every U.S. hospital and medical school.

Jacobsen: There will be variations on a theme with the presentation of the same legitimate complaint of overwork and poor working conditions for U.S. physicians. However, some will ‘get’ it more. In that, they’ll hit the message and the reality, correctly. Which productions have been the most incisive and factually accurate?

Desjardins: On April 8, 2019, the New York Times published the op-ed article “The Business of

Health Care Depends on Exploiting Doctors and Nurses” by Dr. Danielle Ofri. The op-ed discussed how the U.S. exploits healthcare workers with poor working conditions that would be unacceptable in other fields and countries. In June 2019, Dr. Pamela Wible wrote a book entitled “Human Rights Violations in Medicine,” tabulating and illustrating with real examples 40 different ways in which the U.S. violates the fundamental human rights of its physicians. It includes sleep deprivation, food deprivation, water deprivation, overwork, exploitation, bullying, punishment when sick, violence, no mental health care, etc. In 2018, Robyn Symon produced a documentary movie on physician suicide and poor working conditions entitled “Do no harm” (donoharmfilm.com). It is available for rent on Amazon and Vimeo. In 2004, Dr. Kevin Pho created a blog (KevinMD.com) on physician issues. Several recent articles and interviews on his blog have focused on the poor working conditions of U.S. physicians.

Jacobsen: What are other proposals at every medical center hypothesized to help with the issue of overwork akin to yoga mats?

Desjardins: The U.S. lacks interest in identifying and solving real problems. It goes well beyond healthcare and applies to poverty, violence, corruption, gun control, climate change, etc. Band-Aid solutions are proposed, and the root causes of problems are rarely addressed. Physician working conditions are treated similarly. Every hospital and medical school is now addressing physician wellness, given the massive levels of physician burnout. They discuss yoga mats, meditation, eating healthy, exercising, and sleeping well. But they don’t address 120h work weeks, 72 consecutive hours call shifts without rest and lack of access to food and water, physicians dying on the job, getting strokes on the job, destroying their health.

Jacobsen: Have any tried the simple and obvious solution by taking issue with the prefix “over-” in “overwork” to deal with overwork of physicians?

Desjardins: No. There is a lack of interest in identifying the real problems and offering needed solutions. There is only one solution to the overwork of U.S. physicians: getting more physicians (or physician equivalent healthcare workers). The U.S. has 2.6 physicians per 1000 people (WorldBank data). The European Union has 4.9, ranging from 3.7 in the Netherlands to 8.0 in Italy, with much healthier populations. Despite the smaller number of physicians in the U.S., the country has the highest healthcare costs globally: \$11K per capita in the U.S., compared to \$5K per capita in the European Union. If the U.S. increased its population of physicians, the costs would rise since U.S. medicine is a business with unlimited spending. Hospitals have started to explore substituting physicians with less qualified healthcare workers to decrease costs. The frightening consequences of this approach have been well documented in the 2020 book by Dr. Al-Agba and Dr. Bernard, “Patients at Risk: The Rise of the Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant in Healthcare.” The book provides examples of poorly trained N.P.s and P.A.s, allowed to perform physician-level decisions and actions, resulting in preventable patient deaths.

Jacobsen: If working 36 hours in one period, what are the impacts, known in medicine and psychology, on the human brain?

Desjardins: Lack of sleep for 24h is, according to the CDC, equivalent to having a blood alcohol content of 0.10, higher than the legal driving limit of 0.08. Among the many side effects, it creates drowsiness, impaired judgment, impaired memory, reduced coordination, increased stress level, and the brain shutting down neurons in some regions. Lack of sleep for 48h affects cognition. The brain enters brief periods of complete unconsciousness known as microsleep, lasting several seconds. Lack of sleep for 72h will have more profound effects on mood and cognition

and can lead to paranoia. Chronic sleep deprivation has a lasting impact on general health and creates high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and depression.

Jacobsen: If working 90-100 hours in one week, what are the impacts, known in medicine and psychology, on the human body?

Desjardins: In a 2021 study by WHO and ILO, long working hours (> 55h/week) led to 398 000 deaths from stroke (35% risk increase) and 347 000 deaths from ischemic heart disease (17% risk increase). Dr. Maria Neira from WHO stated that “*Working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard*”. Now imagine how much worst of a hazard for physicians forced to work more than 55 **consecutive** hours without rest. I cannot find any studies specifically looking at the health effects of 90-100 hours workweeks. Japan has the term “*karoshi*” to describe death by overwork, and employers are held criminally responsible for such deaths. No such laws exist in the U.S.

Jacobsen: Obviously, when everyone is stressed out and overworked in, sometimes, life-and-death circumstances, it is difficult to make an argument for consistent civility and reasonable social engagement. How do these working conditions – and work expectations – impact the social life of the physicians amongst one another, and the physician-to-patient interaction?

Desjardins: Overwork increases the divorce rate in female physicians, not in male physicians. Many physicians do not have much social life since they work constantly. They mainly interact with other physicians at work, not outside work. Sometimes burned-out overworked physicians have been rude to their patients, especially surgeons.

Jacobsen: Something easily wading beneath the surface here: Cruelty. People aren’t going to behave nicely, sometimes, in high-stress environments, where their life and livelihood are under question, including the health care worker. Although, it’s asymmetrical on oath alone.

Physicians take the Hippocratic Oath; the general public’s patients don’t. Also, a larger aspect is institutions. How were physician friends killed in the midst of maltreatment due to working conditions in medical institutions? How have physician friends been permanently disabled due to the work conditions?

Desjardins: Thousands of U.S. physicians have been killed or disabled because of poor working conditions. It has been extensively described in the literature. In my circle of colleagues, which extends beyond my current institution, three of my close radiology colleagues have been killed, all in their 30s, and many have been disabled for life. One was killed at work under circumstances that are still hidden. Two were killed in car accidents after driving back home in the middle of the night after their workday, completely exhausted. A colleague developed a stroke during his workday resulting in a permanent physical handicap. Another colleague was on his 97th hour of work on a week in which he was not allowed to sleep much or eat much. His body failed under these poor working conditions, and he became blind during work. He was rushed to the E.R., where they diagnosed a work-condition induced hypertensive urgency with bilateral optic nerve damage. They pumped him full of medication until part of his vision returned. But he remains physically disabled for life due to the poor working conditions.

Jacobsen: How many patients kill their physicians every year in the United States? How does this compare to other countries with metrics if any?

Desjardins: There are, unfortunately, no statistics on that. In my city, physicians are frequently assaulted by their patients. Some have been stabbed in the face, and some have been killed. The local news media almost always downplay it. Physicians are killed in other countries, too, notably in China. Physician suicides from the poor U.S. working conditions are also downplayed. When a physician jumps from the roof of their hospital, the local authorities simply throw a tarp over the body and don't report it in the news media. Hospitals simply do not want the bad publicity from having a series of physicians jumping to their death from the roof of their hospital due to poor working conditions, like what recently happened in some N.Y. hospitals.

Jacobsen: What is the level of burn out in your field? What is the formal definition of “burn out” – whatever terms people want to use to describe physicians simply being taxed beyond reasonable limits and – not even requested – demanded to work more, as in your case?

Desjardins: The current level of burnout in my field is up to 70%. There has been a debate on whether physicians experience burnout, moral injury, or basic human rights violations. Burnout means physical and mental collapse from overwork. Moral injury indicates damage to one's conscience when witnessing horrible conditions violating one's moral beliefs or code of conduct. In 1948 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a standard for properly treating human beings. Human rights violations are violations of the rules in this declaration. Physicians experience all three categories of injuries: burnout, moral injury, and human rights violations. It is a symptom of a toxic healthcare system, with working conditions massively out of compliance with safe labor laws from all other industries.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more egregious examples of (mis-)treatment of physicians?

Desjardins: There are many examples in the literature. Some U.S. physicians are forced to work up to 72 consecutive hours without rest. In my circle of colleagues, which extends well beyond my current institution, many of my colleagues experienced mistreatment. A physician friend recently started a new job in breast imaging. At the end of her first workday, which included a half-day orientation, they put her on probation for not reading her daily quota of 100 studies. At the end of her second workday, she became more proficient with her new work tools and read 98 studies, two studies short of her daily quota. They fired her immediately. Another physician friend was starting a new radiology job and went to lunch at the hospital cafeteria on her first day. She was forcibly dragged back to her work cubicle before eating a single bite, yelled at by administrators, and told physicians in her practice are not allowed to eat during the workday. Many physicians are required to work non-stop with no breaks for eating and no bathroom breaks and finish their regular workday in the middle of the night. They sometimes must sleep on the floor of their office at the hospital as there is not enough time to return home before their next shift. Dr. Pamela Wible identified several extreme examples of mistreatment: physicians being forced to work during a miscarriage or a seizure, surgeons collapsing on their patients because of dehydration and hypoglycemia because of their lack of access to food and water during work, and physicians falling asleep on their patient during medical rounds due to massive exhaustion.

Jacobsen: When speaking of your deceased or now-disabled colleagues, what happens to a body as parts of it simply shut down, especially in, basically, peak health years, e.g., the 30s?

Desjardins: For deceased colleagues, their body gets cremated or eaten by worms. For disabled

colleagues, their health remains affected by the damage to their bodies for the remaining of their lives and deteriorates faster as they get older. They develop chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure, sooner than other workers, making their bodies deteriorate faster and increasing morbidity and mortality.

Jacobsen: For the UDHR, what human rights violations are discussed the most in the literature?

Desjardins: I would say violations of Article 23 (Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, **to just and favorable conditions of work**), Article 24 (Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including **reasonable limitation of working hours**), and Article 25 (Everyone has the right to a **standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food**).

Jacobsen: Is the International Labour Organization, in any way, involved in rectifying these working conditions? Are there any countries anywhere with comparable working conditions, though, perhaps, lacking the advanced expertise and technological sophistication of the U.S.?

Desjardins: Among the risks for physicians identified by the ILO is “*Physical and mental fatigue stemming from the specific conditions of this work*” and “*Danger of being violently attacked by unsatisfied patients.*” So, the ILO has identified some of the risks and has proposed some solutions (*Improving employment and working conditions in health services*, 2017). In that paper, they discuss the European Union 2003 Working Time Directive, setting work limits to 48h per week, minimum daily rest periods of 11h, weekly rest of 35h, and allowing derogations for some doctors. They do not discuss the working conditions of U.S. physicians. Every country has different working conditions for physicians. India, China, and African Countries have difficult working conditions, given limited access to medical technology and the low physician to population ratios. But among the most industrialized countries (G-20), the U.S. and China have the worst working conditions for physicians.

Jacobsen: What are common statements from physicians about the working conditions? The emotional and psychological states rather than the facts and figures of the situation from colleagues who have survived, and continue survive, the insufferable work environment expectations.

Desjardins: The physician workforce has undergone a progressive zombification as it evolved within the current system. Physicians develop learned powerlessness to affect the system and deference to authority. They understand that working 72 consecutive hours without sleep is illegal and inhumane in every other profession except their own but are forced to do it by their hospital administration. They know that they will continue to become victims of crimes committed by corrupt prosecutors. They understand that the U.S. population is strongly anti-physicians and anti-science and will never be their ally. They know that the U.S. healthcare system is collapsing faster than anyone predicted. So, they bear the insufferable work environment and count the days until they can afford to abandon their medical careers or die on the job.

Jacobsen: Have American physicians simply left states to other states, even to other countries for humane working conditions?

Desjardins: Definitely. Physicians frequently move out of state because of working conditions. In some departments, large portions of several divisions leave en masse to practice elsewhere or

abandon their medical career. Most would like to move out of the U.S. into countries with better working conditions for physicians, such as Canada, the U.K., or European Union countries, but immigration and licensure issues prevent them from moving abroad.

Jacobsen: What does this bode for the future of the American healthcare system?

Desjardins: The American healthcare system is collapsing. A massive shortage of healthcare workers is rapidly worsening, made even worse by the treatment of U.S. healthcare workers during the recent pandemic. The three-year probation time recently imposed by a judge on a massively overworked nurse for a fatal mistake will likely have a massive negative impact. These factors decrease the interest of foreign healthcare workers to move to the U.S., reduce the appeal of Americans to enter the medical field and make healthcare workers retire earlier. They have caused the development of healthcare deserts in 80% of the counties in the U.S., which lack access to the medical workforce, hospitals, or pharmacies. The present situation is bleak, but the future will be even more dismal.

Footnotes

[1] Academic Physician; Member, OlympIQ Society; Member, Mega Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 15, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/american-medicine-2>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/in-sight-issues/>.

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Debunking I.Q. Claims Discussion with Chris Cole, Richard May, and Rick Rosner: Member, Mega Society; Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society”; Member, Mega Society (3)

2022-05-15

Chris Cole is a longstanding member of the Mega Society. Richard May is a longstanding member of the Mega Society and Co-Editor of Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society. Rick Rosner is a longstanding member of the Mega Society and a former editor of Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society. They discuss: fraudulent activity; messianic posing; criminal behaviour; the three interpenetrating cubes problem; above 4 standard deviations above the norm; the hardest IQ test; and IQ.

Rosner section transcribed from audio.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What would you define as fraudulent activity in a high-IQ community or an individual?

Rick Rosner[1]*: Making claims that you know aren't supported by your performance on tests.

Chris Cole[2]*: Fraud takes many forms just as it does in common law. Because of the Internet, tests with fixed questions are particularly vulnerable to cheating.

Richard May[3],[4]*: I have nothing to add.

Jacobsen: What would you define as messianic posing in a similar regard?

Rosner: If you end up with a cult, that's messianic posing.

Cole: The common language definition of messianic behavior will serve.

May: I have nothing to add.

Jacobsen: Similarly, what about criminal behaviour?

Rosner: If you end up in jail for the rest of your life, if the FBI has a thick dossier on you because you are considered a potential threat in certain ways, that's criminal behaviour. The FBI has dossiers on lots of people because, historically, the FBI has done good things and asshole things.

So, if they have a dossier on you, because you're a legitimate psycho who has the potential to do bodily harm to people for some weird political reason, then there you go.

Cole: Again I have nothing to add here to the common language definition of criminal behavior.

May: I have nothing to add.

Jacobsen: On the Mega Test, why was the three interpenetrating cubes problem seen as the most difficult?

Rosner: It is widely agreed that the three interpenetrating cubes problem was the hardest problem on the test. So, the problem that is agreed upon as likely being the correct answer has not, as far as I know, been proven to be the correct answer.

Interestingly, you can look it up. It depends on what shit is online. But at various times since the '90s, it has been agreed upon that the correct answer is floating out there. But you can't be sure

that you've found the consensus correct answer.

But the figure, the geometric figure, that corresponds to the consensus correct answer can be found in popular culture, but I won't tell you where.

Cole: It's the only problem on the test where the answer that Ron accepts has not been proven. There are a few of these on the Titan.

May: It was the certainly most difficult, but my spatial ability is not sufficiently high to understand why this is so.

Jacobsen: Above 4 standard deviations above the norm, why should there be more scrutiny more than any other cutoff?

Rosner: Isn't there some claim that "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence"? You could argue that because claiming to have one of the world's highest IQs gets you more than claiming to have a 120 IQ.

In practical terms, not so often, it can get you on a quiz show. It can get you on the cover of *Esquire* magazine. It can get you interviewed. It can get you on TV. It kind of got me laid once. I was going to get laid anyway. But it was part of that package that got me laid, I guess.

Cole: A credible high range score requires credible high range test questions, which are hard to formulate and norm.

May: I have nothing to add.

Jacobsen: What was the hardest IQ test you've ever taken in the high-range? What lesson can be learned for test-makers from this?

Rosner: I say that I've had a lot of success, but I'd say that I've had the most difficulty with Cooijmans' tests. Because he brings in stuff from a lot of areas. I don't want to say too much about his tests because he doesn't want people talking about his tests and helping other people.

But by the time the Mega Test had been published in *Omni*, it had been through a number of revisions with hinky problems getting knocked out or revised until they were clear and bullet-proof. The answers were tight. I think Cooijmans talks about the pleasure of when an answer clicks into place. That click of satisfaction of when you know you found the answer.

I would say that on some of Cooijmans' problems. The click is, maybe, not as loud as on some Hoeflin problems. On Cooijmans' problems, you can find some really good answers that aren't as good as the intended answer. That's, maybe, the mark of one type of really good ultra-high-IQ test.

That there are stopping points. On multiple choice tests, those are called distractors. There are answers among the choices that seem right for various reasons if you're taking desperate stabs at an answer.

On high-IQ tests, you can come up with answers that make a lot of sense. But do they make as much sense as the intended answer? No. But you've fallen for an inferior answer. On tough tests, a lot of problems on hard tests are finding the signal among the noise.

I'm writing a book in which somebody or the recipient of what he thinks is a coded message, thinks that it is a true message because it is based on the first letters of four consecutive sentences. That spell out a word.

The odds that this would happen by chance are 26 to the 6th power, which is 676 squared, which is 400,000 to 1. Then you have to knock that down because there are a zillion four-letter words. So, anyway, the odds are tens of thousands to one that it's not a coded message, especially since it is specific to the character situation.

So, the character reasons that it is likely a true signal. And on a tough IQ problem, you'd like the numerical coincidences to have an unlikelihood of, at least, 1 in a 1,000. When you look at a number sequence, you see a pattern. Then you say, "What are the odds that this pattern would arise by chance?"

On some super-hard IQ problems, there are more than one pattern to be found. Again, you have to ask yourself, "Was this intentional or accidental?" A tough-ass IQ problem really pushes the limit in finding the signal among the noise.

Cole: The only high range test I took was the Mega.

May: The Mega Test and the L.A.I.T. are the only high range tests I've ever taken. I did not distinguish myself on the latter.

Jacobsen: Is IQ declining in importance now?

Rosner: IQ as IQ is declining in importance because it is a product of the middle of the 20th century when people really believed in it and used it to skip kids a grade, or not, to put them in gifted classes, get admission to magnet schools.

At some point, probably in the '50s, you might be able to get laid by your IQ. Since debunked, it has a greasy feeling about it, weirdo, creepazoid. The Cal. State schools, today, decided to get rid of the ACT and SAT altogether and the SAT is an IQ surrogate.

They decided it is not helpful, not worth the shit people go through to prepare for the tests. We can see enough about a student without some IQ surrogate in their admission packet. I'd say intelligence is increasing in importance because we are tiptoeing up to artificial intelligence.

That when we talk about AI – and AI is a misnomer right now; AI means "machine learning." Eventually, AI will mean "Artificial Intelligence." We will need ways to mathematicize and to come up with metrics of the power of thought in brains and in other stuff.

So, old school IQ declining; new school AI shit increasing.

Cole: IQ seems to be about as important now as it was when I was young. The SAT has some problems because it has become easy to improve a score via tutoring, but that is being addressed.

May: There is a theoretical possibility that Nature, specifically natural selection might not be entirely "politically correct." Theoretically there could be differences among human groups that evolved under different conditions. E.g., If only females could bear children, then males would be the expendable 'gender'. A small number of healthy males could impregnate a large number of females and the group would survive. A large number of males, if males did not bear children, and a small number of females would not allow the group to survive. Hence, there could be more variability among males, including cognitive variability, because males would be more expendable, than among females, i.e., there would be more male 'geniuses' and more male idiots.

Fortunately we now realize that there are no biological differences between males and females. Gender is a purely social construct. We now realize that men can menstruate and have babies

too, if given a chance. The only important differences are among large numbers of pronouns, all referring to identical nouns.

Footnotes

[1] According to some [semi-reputable sources gathered in a listing here](#), [Rick G. Rosner](#) may have among America's, North America's, and the world's highest measured IQs at or above 190 (S.D. 15)/196 (S.D. 16) based on several high range test performances created by [Christopher Harding](#), [Jason Betts](#), [Paul Cooijmans](#), and [Ronald Hoeflin](#). He earned 12 years of college credit in less than a year and graduated with the equivalent of 8 majors. He has received 8 [Writers Guild Awards](#) and [Emmy](#) nominations, and was titled [2013 North American Genius of the Year](#) by [The World Genius Directory](#) with the main "Genius" listing [here](#).

He has written for [Remote Control](#), [Crank Yankers](#), [The Man Show](#), [The Emmys](#), [The Grammys](#), and [Jimmy Kimmel Live!](#). He worked as a bouncer, a nude art model, a roller-skating waiter, and a stripper. In [a television commercial](#), [Domino's Pizza](#) named him the "World's Smartest Man." The commercial was taken off the air after Subway sandwiches issued a cease-and-desist. He was named "Best Bouncer" in the Denver Area, Colorado, by *Westwood Magazine*.

Rosner spent much of the late Disco Era as an undercover high school student. In addition, he spent 25 years as a bar bouncer and American fake ID-catcher, and 25+ years as a stripper, and nearly 30 years as a writer for more than 2,500 hours of network television. [Errol Morris](#) featured Rosner in the interview series entitled [First Person](#), where some of this history was covered by Morris. He came in second, or lost, on [Jeopardy!](#), sued [Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?](#) over a flawed question and lost the lawsuit. He won one game and lost one game on *Are You Smarter Than a Drunk Person?* (He was drunk). Finally, he spent 37+ years working on a [time-invariant](#) variation of the [Big Bang Theory](#).

Currently, Rosner sits tweeting in a bathrobe (winter) or a towel (summer). He lives in [Los Angeles, California](#) with his wife, dog, and goldfish. He and his wife have a daughter. You can send him money or questions at LanceVersusRick@Gmail.Com, or a direct message via [Twitter](#), or find him on [LinkedIn](#), or see him on [YouTube](#).

[2] Chris Cole is a longstanding member of the Mega Society.

[3] [Richard May](#) ("May-Tzu"/"MayTzu"/"Mayzi") is a Member of the Mega Society based on a qualifying score on the Mega Test (before 1995) prior to the compromise of the Mega Test and Co-Editor of *Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society*. In self-description, May states: "Not even forgotten in the cosmic microwave background (CMB), I'm an Amish yuppie, born near the rarified regions of Laputa, then and often, above suburban Boston. I've done occasional consulting and frequent Sisyphean shlepping. Kafka and Munch have been my therapists and allies. Occasionally I've strived to descend from the mists to attain the mythic orientation known as having one's feet upon the Earth. An ailurophile and a cerebrotonic ectomorph, I write for beings which do not, and never will, exist—writings for no one. I've been awarded an M.A. degree, mirabile dictu, in the humanities/philosophy, and U.S. patent for a board game of possible interest to extraterrestrials. I'm a member of the Mega Society, the Omega Society and formerly of Mensa. I'm the founder of the Exa Society, the transfinite Aleph-3 Society and of the renowned Laputans Manqué. I'm a biographee in Who's Who in the Brane World. My interests include the real-

ization of the idea of humans as incomplete beings with the capacity to complete their own evolution by effecting a change in their being and consciousness. In a moment of presence to myself in inner silence, when I see Richard May's non-being, 'I' am. You can meet me if you go to an empty room." Some other resources include [*Stains Upon the Silence: something for no one*](#), [*McGinnis Genealogy of Crown Point*](#), [*New York: Hiram Porter McGinnis*](#), [*Swines List*](#), [*Solipsist Soliloquies*](#), [*Board Game*](#), [*Lulu blog*](#), [*Memoir of a Non-Irish Non-Jew*](#), and [*May-Tzu's posterous*](#).

[4] Individual Publication Date: May 15, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/debunking-3>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-is-sues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Richard May (“May-Tzu”/“MayTzu”/“Mayzi”) on “Fragments,” “Yaldabaoth is Dead,” “Don’t Take Your Life Personally. It’s Not About You!”, “Event Horizon,” and “Klein-bottle Clock”: Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society” (10)

2022-05-22

Richard May (“May-Tzu”/“MayTzu”/“Mayzi”) is a Member of the Mega Society based on a qualifying score on the Mega Test (before 1995) prior to the compromise of the Mega Test and Co-Editor of Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society. In self-description, May states: “Not even forgotten in the cosmic microwave background (CMB), I’m an Amish yuppie, born near the rarified regions of Laputa, then and often, above suburban Boston. I’ve done occasional consulting and frequent Sisyphean shlepping. Kafka and Munch have been my therapists and allies. Occasionally I’ve strived to descend from the mists to attain the mythic orientation known as having one’s feet upon the Earth. An ailurophile and a cerebrotonic ectomorph, I write for beings which do not, and never will, exist—writings for no one. I’ve been awarded an M.A. degree, *mirabile dictu*, in the humanities/philosophy, and U.S. patent for a board game of possible interest to extraterrestrials. I’m a member of the Mega Society, the Omega Society and formerly of Mensa. I’m the founder of the Exa Society, the transfinite Aleph-3 Society and of the renowned Laputans Manqué. I’m a biographee in *Who’s Who in the Brane World*. My interests include the realization of the idea of humans as incomplete beings with the capacity to complete their own evolution by effecting a change in their being and consciousness. In a moment of presence to myself in inner silence, when I see Richard May’s non-being, ‘I’ am. You can meet me if you go to an empty room.” Some other resources include [Stains Upon the Silence: something for no one](#), [McGinnis Genealogy of Crown Point, New York: Hiram Porter McGinnis](#), [Swines List](#), [Solipsist Soliloquies](#), [Board Game](#), [Lulu blog](#), [Memoir of a Non-Irish Non-Jew](#), and [May-Tzu’s posterous](#). He discusses: “Fragments”; “Yaldabaoth is Dead”; “Don’t Take Your Life Personally. It’s Not About You!”; “Event Horizon”; and “Klein-bottle Clock.”

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Hi! Okay, we’re back-ish. “Fragments” is a complex piece, though brief. In “dances dreams of the dead,” I imagine the dead being nothing, with nothing to dance to or about, and so stillness and emptiness of the ‘howling’ void as the dreams danced about the dead. What are you really getting at there?

Richard May[1],[2]*: ROFL! This little writing epitomizes some of my misunderstandings of G.I. Gurdjieff’s cosmology.

Jacobsen: What is the “devouring moon”?

May: LOL! Gurdjieff said that we were “food for the moon.” Go figure.

Jacobsen: There was an old 20th century science fiction author who tried to speak to a universe with conscious suns and such. I forget the name off the top of my mind. However, the term “star mind” brings this to – ahem – light for me. Is this, in any way, an allusion to this author?

May: no Read some of Rupert Sheldrake’s works for discussion of possible star minds and galactic minds. Some of Dr. Sheldrake’s material has been banned from TedTalks. He must have a dangerous mind, I suppose.

Jacobsen: Do you know those videos or images of the light from the Sun reflecting less off the Moon as the Moon becomes darker, as the line of light recedes from its surface? The star mind devouring the Orphean strains of the devouring moon with the soul-eyed shadows reminds me of these. The “Endless sun” cycles over billions of years off the surface of the moonscape, the ‘food.’ Throw me a bone because I’m howling at the Moon!

May: The “Endless sun” is a reference to ‘God’ at one of the levels physicality in the cosmos and levels of symbolism. The sun has symbolized God in virtually every culture, as psychologist C.G. Jung has noted. This surreal little writing is based up my misunderstanding of the cosmology of G. I. Gurdjieff. Gurdjieff taught that what he meant literally was taken as an allegory and what he taught as allegory was taken literally. It gets a bit confusing. Some of what he taught is preposterous, e.g., that the moon is going to become another sun. But maybe preposterous was sometimes the point. E.g., “Believe nothing not even yourself.” — G.I. Gurdjieff

Jacobsen: Why title this “Fragments”?

May: The original title of P. D. Ouspensky’s book *In Search for the Miraculous* was *Fragments of an Unknown Teaching*. The publisher preferred the former. Ouspensky, Gurdjieff’s foremost pupil, thought that he did not possess the complete teaching and/or that it was not entirely extant and the teaching was at least to him partially unknown. I repeat, he was Gurdjieff’s foremost pupil.

Jacobsen: “Yaldabaoth is Dead” opens with the line of perpetual unknowability of our ‘inner’ and ‘outer.’ Any statements on the great unknown inner and outer worlds?

May: This little writing is my rendering of the Lord’s Prayer. It begins, perhaps somewhat unconventionally, with Nietzsche’s “God is dead,” using one of the Gnostic names for the God of the Bible, i.e., the Demiurge, a sort of unintelligent, blundering Cosmic Builder.

Jacobsen: Also, “Our Unknown” is not “our unknown,” which seems more accurate. It’s a subtle and important distinction on “Yaldabaoth is Dead.” What is the “Unnameable” set apart from here? (Where is “here,” Scott? I don’t know anymore; I know nothing.)

May: “Our Unknown” is ‘God.’ “The Unnameable” is ‘God’. I think “set apart” is the original meaning of “sacred” in Hebrew.

Jacobsen: “Presence” is, as the others, capitalized, while in the context of “here and now.” The now seems like an interesting one to me. You’re, obviously, a scientifically literate and intelligent person and utilize scientific know-how in the context of poetic statements, where space and time are space-time. “Presence” is “here and now,” in the here-now, ya dig? Are you consciously making these distinctions, or is this more automated based on the rich background in reading about modern physics?

May: Presence is capitalized at the beginning of an almost sentence. I’m not conscious of what is done by me consciously and what unconsciously. I’m rather ignorant of modern physics.

Jacobsen: “As above, so below” is a famous statement, and the “doing” in lower and higher reflects this for me. Do you see a relation between these ideas in “Yaldabaoth is Dead” and the phrase from Hermeticism?

May: Yes, sure, a relationship, but also a rendering of “on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

Jacobsen: What is “transubstantial food”? Is it the insubstantial Catholic form of “transubstantial”?

May: Oh, I don’t know, maybe impressions of something higher than my own illusory-ego identity. I don’t know enough about Catholic dogmas to answer.

Jacobsen: Forgiveness is important. What’s been an important moment of forgiveness in life for you?

May: I forgive you for asking these questions. I forgive entropy and gravitation, for existing. I forgive ‘God’ for sinning against me and my family. I forgive Mother and Father for being f*cked-up human beings, like everyone else. — But can I forgive myself for not forgiving?

Jacobsen: I love the last two lines, quoting you:

And led not into distraction,
but delivered from sleep.

Jacobsen: Can you forgive me for being distractible and falling asleep before sending more questions to you, until the next morning, please?

May: Yes, certainly, I can. But you will probably burn in the Hell of the Loving Father for Eternity or at least for the duration of one commercial break.

Jacobsen: “Don’t Take Your Life Personally. It’s Not About You!” has a title almost as long as the content. Bravo! It speaks, to me, to the limits of self-knowledge from recollection, reflections, even contemplative practices. We’re a mystery to ourselves, ultimately. Why does one’s existence preclude publicity of knowledge to oneself and the conveyance of this to others?

May: I first wrote this as irony. What can you take personally, if not your life? Then I realized that it also perfectly embodied certain esoteric ideas; We are food in a cosmic food chain. We may have a purpose in the cosmos that transcends our illusory ego-identity.

Jacobsen: “Event Horizon” plays with terms referencing past and present, and future, and the references to the past and the future. We hope for the future. Yet, the hopes are placed in the past in it. We have a present, “Now,” and it’s placed “too far in the future.” Time’s an illusion, a persistent one; I have it on good authority. Anyhow, is this your physics seeping into the poetry once more, my friend?

May: MIT physicist Seth Lloyd thinks that retro-causality from the future to the present can occur and that the past can be changed, I think. But we are rarely present here and now. Now is an imagined future state, ironically. But there is also sarcasm. As ordinarily conceived, we cannot have hope for the past. So how can we have hope for the present? ... So this combines ‘physics’, esotericism, and sarcasm. It’s very straight forward.

But actually Event Horizon is the brand name of a delicious high gravity beer!

Jacobsen: “Klein-bottle Clock” is surrealistic, certainly. How many cups of coffee can you make with these eternity-measuring coffee spoons in a tablespoon, even a teaspoon?

May: This writing was inspired by a certain illustrious member of the higher-IQ community who was among those interviewed by a certain well-known publication. When asked what he was doing, he said among other things that he was building an “inside-out clock.”

Doubtless because I have a warped, non-Euclidean mind, this struck me as ridiculous. So as not

to be outdone I wrote “Klein-bottle Clock.” The outside of such a clock would be identical with its inside!

Jacobsen: You quote Arthur Schopenhauer in relation to time as one’s life-time and eternity as one’s immortality, which presumes an embedded identity in eternity living out ‘simultaneously’ in the time of one’s life. So, how many coffee cups can you get from this?

May: Not even one at Starbucks.

Jacobsen: How is identity embedded in eternality and terminality?

May: Beats me! Ordinary psychology explains at least to a degree the the origin of our illusory egoic identities. The psychology of Buddhist philosophy and that of G.I. Gurdjieff also deal with this. I doubt that what we regard as our identity is preserved eternally.

Jacobsen: What kind of infinity is eternity?

May: No kind. Eternity is not an infinity, it is not infinite time. Eternity is the condition of being outside of time, e.g., the present moment.

Jacobsen: What kind of finite is a lifetime?

May: The Buddha compare a human lifetime to the duration of a flash of lightening.

Jacobsen: Have you had any difficulties measuring out a mornings cup o’ joe in a lifetime measurement using an eternal coffee spoon? Or is the embedment making it easy to just, you know, reduce the quantification of the grounds in the eternal coffee spoon?

May: Sorry, I don’t understand the question.

Footnotes

[1] Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society.”

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 22, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/may-10>;
Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on His Life, Scores, and Views: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (1)

2022-05-22

Tianxi Yu (余天曦) is a Member of CatholIQ, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, Nano Society, World Genius Directory. He discusses: growing up; family legacy; family background; experience with peers and schoolmates; certifications, qualifications, and trainings; purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence; geniuses; greatest geniuses; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; profound intelligence; work experiences and jobs; particular job path; myths; the God concept; science; the tests taken and scores earned; the range of the scores; ethical philosophy; social philosophy; economic philosophy; political philosophy; worldview-encompassing philosophical system; ethical philosophy; meaning in life; various disciplines of family member; a particular area of medicine; digital currency theory; the two SCI papers; Japanese; time spent on each test on average; achieve in life; high creativity; “God” the first in a certain field; religion; Mahir Wu; mainstream intelligence tests; money; a life with meaning; pursue “all areas in different subjects”; medicine; proposed immortality; oxidative stress; anime; Comiket; hardest test; easiest test; imagination; attitudes, personally, about religion; the “beauty of logic”; a meaningful life; focus on meaning; immortality; finiteness of human life; the “spirit immortal”; “spirit immortal” seem convincing; an atheist; alternative tests; exhibits at Comiket; Death Numbers; “Death Numbers”; solved all items on Numerus Classic in one week; the first place; Death Numbers; developing numerical alternative tests; find a meaning in life; some of the kings/bosses; great achievements in the world; particular thinkers or philosophers from the West; particular thinkers or philosophers from the East; American President Trump; CCP Leader Xi Jinping; world leader who impresses; and money.

Interview conducted December 23, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you were growing up, what were some of the prominent family stories being told over time?

Tianxi Yu (余天曦)[1],[2]*: 1999/10/13. Nothing impressive.

Jacobsen: Have these stories helped provide a sense of an extended self or a sense of the family legacy?

Yu: No, all the experiences happened at the right time and place.

Jacobsen: What was the family background, e.g., geography, culture, language, and religion or lack thereof?

Yu: My family are all intellectuals, and they work in various fields. No other background.

Jacobsen: How was the experience with peers and schoolmates as a child and an adolescent?

Yu: Not very good, bad sometimes.

Jacobsen: What have been some professional certifications, qualifications, and trainings earned by you?

Yu: I don’t even have a college diploma hhh. I am a medical student, and studying electro-wetting technology, digital currency theory and economics, biochemistry, physical medicine and

so on. After I publish two SCI papers, I intend to study mathematics. I am also studying Japanese and intend to take the JLPT examination next year.

Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests to you?

Yu: Having fun! I like to do intelligence tests when I'm resting. It's relaxing for me. So I only do interesting tests.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Yu: A year and a half ago.

Jacobsen: When you think of the ways in which the geniuses of the past have either been mocked, vilified, and condemned if not killed, or praised, flattered, platformed, and revered, what seems like the reason for the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses? Many alive today seem camera shy – many, not all.

Yu: Maybe they didn't meet other people's expectations or come to different conclusions. The second situation is the opposite. I don't dare to tell others that I have high IQ now, because I haven't made corresponding achievements.

Jacobsen: Who seem like the greatest geniuses in history to you?

Yu: I don't know.

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a profoundly intelligent person?

Yu: Genius has high creativity, profoundly intelligent person has high understanding.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Yu: No.

Jacobsen: What have been some work experiences and jobs held by you?

Yu: What experience can an undergraduate have...Can working in the laboratory be an experience?hhh

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Yu: For postgraduate.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more important aspects of the idea of the gifted and geniuses? Those myths that pervade the cultures of the world. What are those myths? What truths dispel them?

Yu: Gifted. I don't know much about myths, and I don't believe in them.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?

Yu: "God" for me is the first in a certain field, I am an atheist.

Jacobsen: How much does science play into the worldview for you?

Yu: 100%.

Jacobsen: What have been some of the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations) for you?

Yu: Death Numbers, Mahir Wu, 28/30, IQ 200 SD15

NISA128, Mahir Wu, 121.5/128, IQ191.5 SD15

N-World, Mahir Wu, 48/48, IQ190 SD15

Numerus, Ivan Ivec, 29/30, IQ190 SD15

Jacobsen: What is the range of the scores for you? The scores earned on alternative intelligence tests tend to produce a wide smattering of data points rather than clusters, typically.

Yu: IQ180~200.

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Yu: Ethical philosophy that make me money.

Jacobsen: What social philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Yu: Social philosophy that make me money

Jacobsen: What economic philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Yu: Economic philosophy that make me money.

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Yu: Political philosophy that make me money.

Jacobsen: What worldview-encompassing philosophical system makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Yu: Well provided.

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Yu: Ethical philosophy that make me money.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Yu: Living.

Jacobsen: What are some of the various disciplines of family member? Those places of work and/or study.

Yu: No family disciplines.

Jacobsen: Do you intend to specialize in a particular area of medicine?

Yu: I'm going to try all areas in different subjects.

Jacobsen: What areas of medicine most interest you?

Yu: Immortality.

Jacobsen: Why does digital currency theory interest you?

Yu: It's the future.

Jacobsen: What will be the research in the two SCI papers?

Yu: Oxidative stress and digital currency, maybe.

Jacobsen: Why choose to study Japanese?

Yu: しゅみです, I like watching anime, going to Comiket.

Jacobsen: How much time do you spend on each test on average?

Yu: Depend on the authors and difficulties. Most tests take two or three days, and the most difficult tests may take about one year.

Jacobsen: What do you hope to achieve in life?

Yu: Have enough money.

Jacobsen: What factors make up the “high creativity” required for genius?

Yu: Imagination.

Jacobsen: How is “God” the first in a certain field?

Yu: Far exceed the second place.

Jacobsen: As an atheist, what reasons make the most sense of this?

Yu: Our country is not affected by religion.

Jacobsen: Why focus on Mahir Wu’s tests?

Yu: I think his test is the best in the world. He expressed the beauty of logic to a very high level. I didn’t find this in the tests of other well-known authors.

Jacobsen: Have you taken mainstream intelligence tests? For example, the WAIS, the Stanford-Binet, the RAPM, etc.

Yu: No, our country doesn’t advocate IQ, so we haven’t tested it in hospital. And the thinking depth of those tests are quite low. They don’t have deep thinking like high-range tests.

Jacobsen: Why care mostly about money regarding ethics, social philosophy, economics, and politics?

Yu: Economic base decides the superstructure.

Jacobsen: How do you intend to live a life with meaning?

Yu: Happiness is the core of a meaningful life.

Jacobsen: Why pursue “all areas in different subjects” rather than specialize?

Yu: Because I haven’t found the area I’m interested in.

Jacobsen: Why “immortality” regarding medicine?

Yu: Medical technology may make human body immortal

Jacobsen: What are some ways in which proposed immortality can be attained to you?

Yu: I can’t say this casually. As far as I know, many directions about immortality can’t be achieved at present. I understand “immortality” in three ways: the body immortal; do not need the body as a carrier, through physical means to achieve thought immortal; the spirit immortal.

Jacobsen: Why focus on oxidative stress?

Yu: I have no choice, I’m just an undergraduate. It’s not easy to find a tutor. I can only write

whatever direction the tutor gives me.

Jacobsen: What anime do you like most?

Yu: 君の名は.

Jacobsen: What is Comiket?

Yu: Japan's largest animate exhibition, コミケ.

Jacobsen: What was the hardest test taken to date?

Yu: Death Numbers by Mahir Wu, and it's the best test I think.

Jacobsen: What was the easiest test taken to date?

Yu: Numerus Classic by Ivan Ivec. It took me one week to solve all items.

Jacobsen: Anything else other than "imagination"?

Yu: Yes, but it's not worth mentioning under the imagination.

Jacobsen: Any attitudes, personally, about religion?

Yu: I agree, but I don't accept. If I am the worshiped person of religioner, please forget my previous sentence hhh.

Jacobsen: Can you explain more the "beauty of logic"?

Yu: It's hard to describe. Simply, it is the numbers beauty that reflected in the case of concise and rigorous logic. Take a simple example: $8127, 2187, 1827, ?$ (Mahir Wu's question, got his permission). Many people's first reaction is shift, but they can not get the correct answer. But through observation, we can find that: $81 \times 27 = 2187$, $21 \times 87 = 1827$. From this we can get the answer. First, if you find this logic, you will be very sure of the answer, the logic is very rigorous and concise. Then, isn't it beautiful that the numbers of product doesn't change?

Jacobsen: What else is important for a meaningful life?

Yu: I don't know. I haven't found the meaning of life now.

Jacobsen: Why focus on meaning, as in a meaningful life?

Yu: I don't know. It's too difficult for me.

Jacobsen: What if medical technology fails in this immortality endeavour? Is it wasted time?

Yu: This process is enough for me to enjoy, even if I fail.

Jacobsen: Do you think the finiteness of human life gives it meaning?

Yu: I'm not the creator. I don't know the specific answer, but you can think about it: is the life of bacteria meaningful?

Jacobsen: What do you mean by the "spirit immortal"?

Yu: Be remembered by the world.

Jacobsen: Does this "spirit immortal" seem convincing to you, or not?

Yu: Not.

Jacobsen: Doesn't an atheist position, typically, mean only the first two options? The body immortality and not needing the body as a carrier.

Yu: The atheists that I understand is not believe in Christian God or Catholic Jesus, the unexplained God of science. What I mean is to do it in a scientific way. For example, quantum computers can be used to connect neural networks to carry human thoughts.

Jacobsen: Are the alternative tests a way to exercise the mind when it's "not easy to find a tutor"?

Yu: You can think so.

Jacobsen: What exhibits at Comiket most interest you?

Yu: Buy my favorite painters' works and my favourite anime's unique souvenir.

Jacobsen: How long did Mahir Wu take to develop Death Numbers?

Yu: If you mean propaganda, in my impression, he didn't deliberately do it.

Jacobsen: Why is it called "Death Numbers"?

Yu: Because it's very difficult.

Jacobsen: What was the response from the high-range testing community when you solved all items on Numerus Classic in one week?

Yu: No much response. Because I didn't show it off.

Jacobsen: I asked, "Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?" You said, "God" for me is the first in a certain field, I am an atheist." I asked, "How is "God" the first in a certain field?" You said, "Far exceed the second place." I asked, "As an atheist, what reasons make the most sense of this?" You said, "Our country is not affected by religion." I asked, "Any attitudes, personally, about religion?" You said, "I agree, but I don't accept. If I am the worshiped person of religioner, please forget my previous sentence." Can you expand on the responses and meanings in those responses, please? What ties them together as an atheist?

Yu: I mean atheists don't believe in virtual gods. I use the concept of God to refer to the first place. Besides "God", I can also use other expressions to address the first place, such as "king", "boss" and so on. It's a tribute to those who have made great achievements in the real world.

Jacobsen: Logic manifested in complex symmetries seems beautiful to me, too. How long did Mahir Wu take to create Death Numbers?

Yu: He said he didn't remember. NIT is the predecessor of DN, maybe one year?

Jacobsen: When did Mahir Wu begin developing numerical alternative tests?

Yu: He said from 2014, when he was in junior high school. From then on, he began to set tests.

Jacobsen: Do you think that you have to find a meaning in life, fundamentally? Is it necessary?

Yu: Yes, very necessary, otherwise it's boring.

Jacobsen: Who do you consider some of the kings/bosses? Those who have "made great achievements in the real world."

Yu: Chen-Ning Yang, Paul Seymour, etc.

Jacobsen: What great achievements in the world do you consider the greatest?

Yu: Let the world think I'm the greatest.

Jacobsen: Do any particular thinkers or philosophers from the West influence you?

Yu: When I was a child, I read some people's books, such as Russell, Freud, Descartes and so on, but later I didn't read them. After one's own thoughts are established, the thoughts of others are meaningless.

Jacobsen: Do any particular thinkers or philosophers from the East influence you?

Yu: No, but I often do it in exams, such as Confucius, Lao-tzu, Zhuangzi and so on. To be honest, I was still interested in them at the beginning, but when I immersed in their tests, they made me disgusted.

Jacobsen: What do you think of American President Trump?

Yu: He is an undercover agent sent by the great People's Republic of China. He has accomplished the task very well. I hope he will be re elected. doge

Jacobsen: What do you think of CCP Leader Xi Jinping?

Yu: He is a great president and will lead China's Renaissance.

Jacobsen: What world leader impresses you?

Yu: Abraham Lincoln.

Jacobsen: How do you hope to make a lot of money?

Yu: Investment, stock speculation, writing papers to earn bonus, founding a company and so on, all of which I have been implementing.

Footnotes

[1] Member, CatholiQ; Member, Chinese Genius Directory; Member, EsoterIQ Society; Member, Nano Society; Member, World Genius Directory.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 22, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/yu-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Tor Arne Jørgensen on Western Europe, Russian Aggression, Putin, Zelensky, China, and India: 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe, World Genius Directory (8)

2022-05-22

Tor Arne Jørgensen is a member of 50+ high IQ societies, including World Genius Directory, NOUS High IQ Society, 6N High IQ Society just to name a few. He has several IQ scores above 160+ sd15 among high range tests like Gift/Gene Verbal, Gift/Gene Numerical of Iakovos Koukas and Lexiq of Soulios. Tor Arne was also in 2019, nominated for the World Genius Directory 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe. He is the only Norwegian to ever have achieved this honor. He has also been a contributor to the Genius Journal Logicon, in addition to being the creator of toriqttests.com, where he is the designer of now eleven HR-tests of both verbal/numerical variant. His further interests are related to intelligence, creativity, education developing regarding gifted students. Tor Arne has an bachelor's degree in history and a degree in Practical education, he works as a teacher within the following subjects: History, Religion, and Social Studies. He discusses: European interpretation of the Russo-Ukrainian war; the major losses and wins for the Western countries in this war; Putin; Zelensky; the massive disagreement with the Russian Federation's actions from the United Nations General Assembly; other major players on the world stage; China; African states; the post-colonial states with large economies; this conflict on 1 to 10; reactive commentary; nuclear weapons; the Nordic countries; the U.N. condemnation; the "neutral zone"; health; bold moves and a legacy; a bilateral conflict; a war in the economic sphere; cyberwarfare; democratic development; Sino-Russian relations; and any sympathetic statements by Western European leaders.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What is the European interpretation of the Russo-Ukrainian war at the moment?

Tor Arne Jørgensen[1],[2]*: The general view that we in Europe have, and with that I mean the Nordic countries bordering Russia in particular, is that with this war and the possibility for aggression that Russia poses against us, especially against Sweden and Finland which are not included as per today into the NATO alliance are viewed as grave to say it mildly.

An imminent accession into NATO for these two Nordic countries will not be an easy decision by the two nations leaders to make, as the border with Russia and an ever-increasing narrowing of the "neutral zone" if one can call it that between NATO alliance and Russia. Thus, it is not an easy decision to make, as this neutral zone and its weathering can accelerate an all-out escalation of the conflict between the West and the East. Russia and the West do not benefit from such a direct neighborhood, a neutral zone must be established so that the war does not become global.

Here in the West and especially Europe, we must hold back, send the proper signals to the United States, not to push more than necessary, by that I mean, purposely to create stability and going forward to perhaps put an end through acts of diplomacy and dissolving warring between Russia and Ukraine. This sums up what we in Europe now hope for in my view.

Jacobsen: What have been the major losses and wins for the Western countries in this war?

Jørgensen: The losses are clear, with the intention of looking at oil and gas, but not nearly as bad as for Russia, as this has so far been a disaster for its economy. Western military victories

are probably not something to be viewed, as any territories have not been taken or given over by eastern states. So the losses are seen only in economic terms so far, while the victories are noticed by increased support against dictatorial tyranny, and the advance of democratic values.

Jacobsen: What did Putin underestimate?

Jørgensen: The Ukrainian leadership and the will of the Ukrainian people to resist Russian aggression.

Jacobsen: What did Zelensky underestimate?

Jørgensen: He was probably not aware of the role he was to play during this war, in which the similarities with England's greatest statesman of all time, Winston Churchill has been made openly. Furthermore, the West's enormous support as to both humanitarian and military, and as well as an overall global compassion and support from all generations young and old.

Jacobsen: How has the massive disagreement with the Russian Federation's actions from the United Nations General Assembly changed the international discourse on the war?

Jørgensen: The fact that the Russian Federation has a permanent seat at the Security Council and thus cannot be removed indefinitely by allowing the current government to continue to govern as they please. But the suspension from the UNHRC and the symbolic significance it has is possibly a sign of a shift in the balance of power, or the influential effect that the Russian Federation has in its executive mandate.

Whether this will then be what it takes to create a new or alternative direction through changed attitude towards the United Nations and its Security Council, or whether new guidelines should be considered of what a member state can allowed itself to do in accordance with human rights violations in wartime remains to be seen. That a change in membership conditions should be brought up for debate is clear.

The UN's reputation as a peacekeeping organization during peacetime or not is being put to the test more now than ever before since the organization first began just after WWII and the foundation from which it was built on. Sees now a change of organizational absolutes as an inevitably necessity, viewed from the current situation regarding the Russian-Ukraine war and the powerlessness in which the United Nations finds itself in the same manner as during the time of the League of Nations.

Jacobsen: What about other major players on the world stage either by economy or population size, or both? How is India taking this wartime issue?

Jørgensen: India's economic implications resulting from the war between Russia and Ukraine have their clear effect as to the fall in the global market, prompt from the fall in the stock market, specifically with reference to India's dependence on oil in various forms, including sunflower oil coming from both countries (Russia-Ukraine). Furthermore, technological implicit in the tech sector, not to forget the pharmaceutical sector.

India can certainly adjust towards a more independent policy line, where a rather marginalized strategy, result to a reducing of outsourcing, may in the long run prove to be beneficial not only for India, but for most countries whereas their independence or promos must be reconsidered as these the type of conflicts as we now see will probably not remain isolated in the future. The protection of one's natural resources, and upscaling of and for one's close bilateral relations across

close neighbors, can break outstretched and more insecure imports of the most vulnerable of resources.

Jacobsen: What is China doing now in reaction if any?

Jørgensen: It seems to me that China keeps a low profile still and cleverly so, because one must keep in mind that China has here a unique opportunity to observe the West's and its reaction with reference to the Russia -Ukraine ongoing conflict. How stable and structured is NATO today, where is the community's trust, and to what extent is NATO's military might view today. One must not look at today's NATO in the same manner as to its military capabilities as the former League of Nations and to what it had in its arsenal nor its lack of a tight alliance. NATO is probably stronger today than ever before. But I must admit, that to what extent NATO's role had to play after the fall of the Iron Curtain back in -89, when the need of such an alliance was no longer so pressing in what seemed to be peacetime and added in the Warsaw Pact's dissolution during the summer of -91.

But back to China and the role of the Chinese government now, is I think, to sit tight, wait, stay calm, take notes regarding, strategically, materially, economically, and finally the key most important thing, honor, to keep their honor and not lose face, something that Russia has so solemnly now done perhaps irrepealably damage its own role as an historically important powerhouse. This is probably what will be mostly important for China to do now, furthermore, its role ahead in terms of the China -Taiwan controversy and adding NATO's role in its support of Taiwan and thus resistance from the Chinese government of the probability of an extended formation of a NATO pacific alliance.

Jacobsen: How are African states, e.g., Nigeria, taking this into account in terms of impacts on their economy?

Jørgensen: What cannot be avoided in this context is the importance that Ukraine attaches to the world's food supply, as Ukraine is the main grain stock for many of us. African northern states feel this even more, as many of these states are daily dependent on the supply of stable and secure grain delivery from Ukraine in particular, the same can be said with regards to food oils which then constitute an increased importance in the supplement in grain / food exported from Ukraine to the world.

For those countries that are completely dependent on the safe supply of grain to feed their compatriots, this is a very unfortunate situation to be in, far worse than many of the western countries that have alternative solutions to consider ensuring stability of a stable grain stock etc.

Jacobsen: What about the post-colonial states with large economies, e.g., the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Israel (and South Africa)?

Jørgensen: If one considers the United States, as they are not dependent on Russian oil to the same extent of what Europe is, with Germany as the most dependent state in Europe of Russian oil and gas. Nor when it comes to access to stable business routes to ensure food deliveries to its own population.

The same could be said at least to some extent regarding Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa as well, where one should take certain restrictions in the requirement for stable energy sources regarding fossil fuels, and to a certain extent again in the degree of self-sufficiency of food supply, and the availability of various grains and oils directed towards the food industry. It should probably also be added that Australia's atomic political foundations, are self-supported

through sufficiency by and for one's own omittance of the import need prompt to the state's existence, is thereby marked to be define as self-sufficient in accordance with the Australian statutes of sustainability.

Jacobsen: If we scale this conflict on 1 to 10 with 10 being WWI and WWII, and 1 being global peacetime, where does this conflict sit on this spectrum?

Jørgensen: From what you suggested as to what scale to use, I will probably lean towards 3 or 4 out of 10 as of current time, where a upscaled to a clear 4 out of 10 within the next 2 months, for then to be scaled down again to 2 out of 10 within the next 8-12 months.

Jacobsen: There was reactive commentary immediately on social media about WWIII. How much of this is simply hysterics rather than realistic appraisal about the situation in the earlier parts of the war and now?

Jørgensen: A changed state in and around the theme of World War III, is for me not from the state one sees as of today nor what was at the start a realistic picture to form or take in. Why do I say this, probably because Russia's interests do not, even if Putin and his state may impromptu us to believe, that an end war is a possible comprehend rum? That a long-term planning as it is then described regards to the world media, one quickly sees that his plan (Putin) and his cabinet failed miserably.

For me, when one lays a plan A, then one lays plan B-C-D... In the early stages of the war, the long supply lines regarding the 6km long convoy that was to make Russia and its immense power for the "world to fear," resulted in a complete ridicule for all of us to watch. After this rather embarrassing mockup by the dreaded Russian war machine, one thinks and sees that this cannot be well planned. If well planned, Russia would have had to be aware of which corner they would paint themselves into when they started their war campaign.

Now Russia is almost looked upon as a global outcast, the Russian leadership is detested completely by a united West. The Russian leader has destroyed the pride of his country and what trace of honor that must be left should now not remain permanently destroyed. A third world war seems to me to be impossible for Russia's people, internal government, nor for Russia's allies. Even the participation of Syrian mercenaries will probably not change the outcome of this war, nor will Sweden's and Finland's incorporation into NATO's safe embrace.

Finally, I would like to point out that the West is a greater threat to a third world war with its constant tightening of the net around an ever increasingly pressured Russia, whereby their allies can counteract NATO's patronage of Russia's autonomy.

Jacobsen: Would Putin use nuclear weapons? Would NATO nations consider the use of their nuclear weapons if so? In either case, these seem insane, as this is "mutually assured destruction."

Jørgensen: We only have this one planet, we all play in the same sandbox, the world has too much to lose. Look at China and all the developments that they are now experiencing, they are one of the world's strongest economies. They and India will not let Russia end the world in the quest to acquire lost lands. Everyone realizes that the Soviet Union and its heyday are over, and the President of Russia must realize this once and for all.

Jacobsen: Will this grave picture from the Nordic countries create a necessity for wartime participation from most of them on the side of Ukraine? If so, which nation-states?

Jørgensen: If one looks with regards to the application for NATO membership for both Sweden and Finland, thus marking a possible historic Nordic shift, then the Nordic alliance in addition to the alliance with NATO as an extra boost security against Russian aggression. By that said, will then Russia remain a lasting threat for the Nordic countries to deal with, do not think so. Separate we are small and maybe few, but united we are strong and somewhat plentiful.

Finland alone has previously shown the world that they can certainly hold their ground, for example during the Russo-Finnish war back in 1939 -40, where Russia invaded Finland, the Finnish forces not only held their stand, but also manage to push back the invading forces for quite some time. But at the same time, it should be duly pointed out that Russia's in that sense increased cooperation in every sense with China, as well as North Korea, where Russia's support in a military sense has been marked in China as well as North Korea's military with reference buildup after the end of World War II.

One should further keep in mind that the Cold War was never really over, but forever-expanding regards to NATO expansion, the NATO alliance has been eating away more and more of territorially sovereignty on its way towards the Eastern Front, whereby the current tense situation now runs counter to everyone's astonishment?!

It should also be said that the United States and its status as the world's only superpower, can no longer be stated as factual.

Iran, Russia, North Korea, and USA, yes, all countries that have nuclear weapons capabilities for use in their arsenal are now to be considered a superpower as their nuclear armaments can reach all targets across the globe. The quintessential question to be asked now is, by what purpose is it to use these weapons, aren't we all still live in the same sandbox?? If we were to start a third world war, then the outcome would be very possible, as Albert Einstein once said, If, this becomes a reality, that is, World War III, then "the next one will be fought with sticks and stones." The idea of being bombed back to the Stone Age, where all hope of restoration is to be regarded as utopian wishful thinking, think of a Mars-like scenario, and end of civilization as we know it, the reality hits you.

Jacobsen: Does the U.N. condemnation, overwhelming, of this situation, justify legal ramifications and an investigation into the crimes and human rights violations by Russia against civilians and Ukrainian sovereignty?

Jørgensen: Undoubtedly yes, although one can ask questions of a more investigative position, so yes, here there is no doubt about its legality nor one's legitimacy.

Jacobsen: How has the "neutral zone" evolved over time?

Jørgensen: The expansion of the "neutral zone" between the West and the East, where a constant invasion, or rather a narrowing of territorial sovereignty based on one's origins after World War II as it is hereby put forth, regards to the eastern part, and then the expansion of territorial sovereignty in pictorial sense, in a more recent historical perspective indisputably proven with reference to Western NATO alliance due presence.

Jacobsen: Putin is old. Is his health an issue?

Jørgensen: When it comes to age, one would say no, Putin's age is not a decisive factor in this context.

Jacobsen: Is there a sense, by him, of wanting to make bold moves and a legacy through the invasion? Or is his concern more geostrategic, or both?

Jørgensen: Simply put, to speak of a person who was despairing of the weathering powerlessness that arose in the following days after the Cold War when the Iron Curtain fell. The dissolution of the Soviet Union, a disintegrating nation where total chaos reigned, no one would nor could respond when a desperate Putin asks for advice of his leaders; “what happens now?” A former KGB agent, who has his special field within spreading misinformation promoted for the desire to create fear and control by the few over the many.

A brilliant bureaucrat, where a rapid rise after the end of the Cold War, in which former President Boris Yeltsin at the very beginning of the 21st century, puts Putin as his appointed prime minister and further heir to the presidency at the very beginning of a new millennia. One now sees, at least in some way a clear comparison with the Nazi leader during World War II.

What can be speculated about now is, will we then see a similar demise like the one we teach our children in schools regarding Hitler's last days in his private bunker or not, will history repeat itself or not once again...?

Jacobsen: What is the process, historically, of other nations being drawn into a wartime scenario, and then a bilateral conflict becoming regional if not global?

Jørgensen: Extensions of alliances, inaugurations of warlords, decisions by and for the incorporation of territorial sovereignty, where a “safe haven” of a supreme guardianship calls out to you. A confident big brother who takes care of the little man, whereby the suppressing duty for little brother is to do everything that big brother says he must do or else, similar to the whim of a madman.

This is a short, but all so true description of the Western alliance, and it does not improve in any way with reference to its eastern counterpart. This is what we (the people) must endure by our wants or not. So yes, the small ones are eaten up by the big ones, the powerful ones rule the impaled ones. Expansions have been made, are now being made, and will in the future be leading for world politics where give and take every day, controls the outcome for peacetime or not ...

Jacobsen: Is this primarily a war in the economic sphere at this point?

Jørgensen: The economic implications that we all see and feel in our everyday lives are palpable. What leads in the future can quickly overshadow the financial consequences. As they are the first to emerge, and what is experienced the longest after the actual warfare is over in accordance with clean-up and all the humanitarian work in the aftermath.

Jacobsen: What about the current forms of war found online with digital technology, espionage, hacking, surveillance, and cyberwarfare in general? Have these been much of the conflict?

Jørgensen: Yes, based on Russia's history of cyber warfare, manipulation, and attempts to gag neighboring states according to their rule of law, democracy, and freedom of speech regarding the general population both abroad and at home. So yes, this is a well-known tactic from the Russian government, historically as well as to current time conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Jacobsen: How many countries, in varying degrees of democratic development, count as “democratic” globally compared to autocratic? I am aware of a march towards more democratic, secular, and Enlightenment views globally – unsure as to how much, though.

Jørgensen: The democratic index points in the direction of an expanded perspective, with a downward spiral for the autocratic forms of government. If you look at the index today, full democratically governed countries would be around 6.4% and countries with fully autocratic rule would then be around 37% but take these numbers with precaution as they can vary.

Jacobsen: How will, or are, Sino-Russian relations impacting the war? Has the Chinese Communist Party made any formal statements or motions regarding this war?

Jørgensen: The camaraderie between China and Russia is better than it has been for a long time, the border conflict that took place back in spring of -69, has today by no means no remnants of any lasting disputes between these two countries. So no, it does not mean that a consequence of that past tense historical conflict in any regards has been a major factor to calculate into the current wartime conflict between Russia and Ukraine. China and its position now have been all about keeping calm, looking at what is happening by observing the situation in anticipation of its outcome pro-con.

Jacobsen: Have there been any sympathetic statements by Western European leaders towards Putin, as in understanding the aggression against Ukrainian people and the annexation of Ukrainian territory?

Jørgensen: Believes and believes that most Western leaders dissociate themselves from what Putin has now messed up. A clear response in a statement of support for what is happening now, would be met with disgust by a united NATO alliance and a united European population led by the United States. My reply to the initial question is then clearly presented.

Footnotes

[1] Tor Arne Jørgensen is a member of 50+ high IQ societies.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 22, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/Jørgensen-8>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-is-sues/>.

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Conversation with Masaaki Yamauchi on Thoughts About I.Q., Time, Consciousness, and Metaphysics: Administrator, ESOTERIQ Society (3)

2022-05-22

Masaaki Yamauchi is the Administrator of ESOTERIQ Society. He discusses: mother; the town of 14,000 people; the spirit; acquisition of a graduate degree; the high-IQ communities now; the concept of IQ increasing or decreasing in cultural importance; high-IQ societies self-destruct; life; math; manufacturing industrial jobs; the WIN seven league; no religious dogma; social sensitivity; metaphysics; a miracle; time; and consciousness.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What was the “heavy disease” killing your mother?

Masaaki Yamauchi[1],[2]*: Sorry, that is a confidential information between my family and relations. My mother’s soul will be reborn at next body in the future. Then, I will meet her again someday.

Jacobsen: Did the town of 14,000 people on the countryside make life simpler for you, growing up?

Yamauchi: Yes, It was a simple life. Just I usually read many books in the library at the high school student. I had never felt that life was bored.

Jacobsen: What is the spirit to you?

Yamauchi: There are plenty of meaning about it, but it mainly implies non-physical existence in my definition.

Jacobsen: How are your studies progressing towards acquisition of a graduate degree?

Yamauchi: I wish I would go to a graduate school of Mathematical physics (almost same as theoretical physics) after just graduating from my college with Math major and Physics minor. I hope acquisition of a Master’s degree in social science or humanities, not natural science any more at the present.

Jacobsen: What do you think is needed from the high-IQ communities now?

Yamauchi: No needs. Just I keep my societies (ESOTERIQ and EVANGELIQ) by the end of my life.

Jacobsen: Is the concept of IQ increasing or decreasing in cultural importance? In that, are people taking it more or less seriously, and why?

Yamauchi: In 1996, one famous book, the Bell Curve by Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murry, was disputed in U.S.A. It does not make sense about the controversy because IQ is just a psychometric tool psychologically and statistical distribution mathematically. IQ is not factor of human intelligence. All current 8 billion people belong somewhere between 5 and 195 on normal distribution at any time. I am strongly certain that 195 scorer does not imply smarter than 5 scorer.

For example, there are two persons who won 33 times and lost 33 times in Rock-Paper-Scissors-world population championship respectively.

Is really the 33 times winner much luckier than the 33 times loser?

The answer is no because luckiness of both of them is absolutely equal to
 $1 \text{ in } 2^{33} = 1 \text{ in } 8.5 \text{ billions.}$

The frequency is just a statistical necessary on binomial distribution.

Let me say again.

“Supposing it never happens to anybody subjectively, it always happens somebody objectively in the world”

I have mentioned before about relationship between normal distribution and binomial distribution on the first interview.

195 scorer (highest IQ person) and 5 scorer (lowest IQ person) are to what 33 times winner (luckiest person) and 33 times loser (unluckiest person) statistically.

Somebody says “Albert Einstein’s IQ was 160, 180 or 200 over!”

So what?

All historical geniuses were recorded by great academic performance, not IQ score itself.

All people can have each own absolute luckiness and intelligence as in 1 in 80 billions.

Jacobsen: Why do most high-IQ societies self-destruct?

Yamauchi: Each founder has each own reason to sustain a society.

Jacobsen: What do you hope to get out of life?

Yamauchi: Living itself. I will leave from this planet and go back to my mother star Sirius after end of my reincarnation on the Earth.

Jacobsen: What kinds of math have you tutored?

Yamauchi: Elementary algebra to high school calculus.

Jacobsen: What are the manufacturing industrial jobs for you?

Yamauchi: Several kinds. Haulage, auto parts, pharmaceuticals, electronic components and semiconductor.

Jacobsen: What most impresses you about the WIN seven league?

Yamauchi: The EVANGELIQ society I founded for Dr.Evangelos Katsioulis’s 37th birthday gift was admitted to the 37th society. It made me so happy and it was such an honorable.

Jacobsen: Even though, you have no religious dogma. What religious dogma seems reasonable to you?

Yamauchi: Almost all religion has a founder and scripture, but my dogma does not keep neither. My reasonable belief follows to my own inspiration, loving myself and enjoying life everyday.

Jacobsen: What is “social sensitivity” to you?

Yamauchi: Social sensitivity is one of emotional intelligence, an ability to detect the emotions of others. There is no correlation between succeed at project and team’s average IQ.

Jacobsen: Why define metaphysics as a kind of spiritualism?

Yamauchi: Metaphysics is separated into two words “Meta (over)” and “Physics (matter)” which imply inquiring non-physical. Spirit is always non-physical life, so metaphysics is a kind of spiritualism to me.

Jacobsen: How would define everything as a miracle?

Yamauchi: I really love Albert Einstein’s quote which is “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

One second, one minutes, one hour and one day are filled with a miracle at the given mechanical moment.

The minimum unit of quantum time is made from plank time (5.391×10^{-44} s).

Therefore, every moment is momentarily created by the infinite series from the time.

Jacobsen: In our first interview, you stated, “Time will come from future to past, not past to future. All causes occur by a reason from future, not a past event.” Can you expand on this reasoning, please?

Yamauchi: Every event in our life is just a neutral fact even if war, terrorism murder, massacre and pandemic like corona virus on the Earth. A word “Responsibility” comes from combination of “Response” and “Ability”. We have nothing to fear because we can have responsibility to response all events by our ability. Our future will be created by our responsibility, not events themselves. We always hold two choices “Reaction” and “Response” which define negative judgement and positive judgement respectively when one event happens to our life.

For instance, getting a new job after dismissing from a company means what getting a new job is cause, not effect. Dismissing from a company is effect, not a cause.

Jacobsen: How does our consciousness fall into the brain? In this way, how are you technically defining consciousness?

Yamauchi: I suppose brain is to consciousness what matter is to mind. Bertrand Russell said “What is matter? Never mind. What is mind? Doesn’t matter” This is the best joke I like.

By the way, let me ask seriously. Does a line really exist?

According to the Euclid’s elements, “A line is length without breadth”

If so, nobody can see it!

We cannot prove the existence of line in this way.

Therefore, a line exists imaginary, but does not exist actually.

As well as a line, consciousness exists imaginary, but does not exist actually since brain is almost everything as far as our physical body sustains life activity.

However, consciousness separate from brain in a moment when we die (after brain disappear) then move to non-physical world (imaginary world).

I can tell you one pragmatic example in neuroscience field.

There was one famous man named H.M (a man without hippocampus).

<https://www.npr.org/2007/02/24/7584970/h-m-s-brain-and-the-history-of-memory>

The person had no concept about past and future because he was not able to keep any episode memory.

His consciousness was always on now and today when he woke up every morning, no yesterday's memory, no tomorrow's plan.

He was able to know how to ride a bicycle and use some tools even though he had no hippocampus.

That is, past training skill was recorded in different part whose name was basal ganglia and cerebellum as procedural memory.

Same as H.M story, almost all people can never keep past life memory since past life episode memory always disappears before hippocampus cell creates while we are growing up in mother's uterus, but past life skill can succeed to next body's basal ganglia and cerebellum as procedural memory.

Brain is to consciousness what egg-yolk is to egg-white in my theory. Brain itself (the Yolk) as a matter disappears, but only consciousness (the white) as a non-physical matter inherits to next difference body (Reincarnation) when we die.

It sounds impossible to separate the Yolk and white without cracking the cell, but we can temporarily separate brain and consciousness by some specific religious ritual like meditation, long time fasting and psychoactive drug (LSD or cannabis)

Let me introduce strongly recommend two safety tools I have experienced before.

Isolation tank by John C. Lilly (origin of the movie, Altered States)

<https://www.samadhitank.com/>

Hemi-Sync by the Monroe Institute (founded by Robert Monroe)

<https://www.monroeinstitute.org/>

Furthermore, the beginning of our consciousness is introduced in Voyage to curiosity's further by Bruce Moen.

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Voyage-Curiositys-Father-Bruce-Moen/9781571742032>

In a nutshell, we all human came to the Earth to seek unconditional love energy, then we will leave from this planet to each home star like Sirius, Pleiades, Vega, Arcturus and Orion after we are sufficiently filled with it.

Footnotes

[1] Administrator, ESOTERIQ Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 22, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/yamauchi-3>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-is-sues/>.

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intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

The American Medical System and Physicians 3: Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI on Burnout, Quack Medicine, and Litigious American Culture

2022-05-22

Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI is an Ivy League academic physician and scientist at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Mega Society, the OlympIQ Society and past member of the Prometheus Society. He is the designer of the cryptic Mega Society logo. He is member of several scientific societies and a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and of the American Heart Association. He is the co-Founder of the Arrhythmia Imaging Research (AIR) lab at Penn. His research is funded by the National Institute of Health. He is an international leader in three different fields: cardiovascular imaging, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. He discusses: cruelty; burn out; treatment of physicians; 'alternative' medicine; ignorance; masquerading as knowledge; Dr. Oz-ification of culture; scientific illiteracy; deceased or now-disabled colleagues; UDHR; International Labour Organization; Dr. Oz; defense mechanisms or infrastructure to protect themselves from the litigious patients; and those with fewer means and less authority in medical institutions.

This interview represents Dr. Desjardins' opinion, combined to the current content of the published medical literature, and not necessarily the opinion of his employers.

On the medical-legal system in the U.S.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: How is the U.S. comparable to the Middle Ages with patients blaming physicians for illness?

Dr. Benoit Desjardins: It is often taught that the U.S. has been the only country since the Middle Ages in which people blame physicians for their diseases. There is no personal accountability anymore in the U.S. Every problem Americans face is someone else's fault. They blame most problems on immigrants or rich people, but they blame healthcare problems on physicians. If a woman delivers an imperfect baby, she blames it on the physician and tries to extort money. If a man develops lung cancer after chain-smoking for 50 years, he will often go over his past medical record with lawyers to see if a physician could be blamed for his cancer. Sometimes they discover early imperceptible evidence about cancer and then try to extort money from physicians. Most U.S. courtrooms in medical-legal trials are like the courtroom from the movie "Idiocracy," where massively ignorant, scientifically illiterate people try to blame top physicians for patients' diseases. The U.S. medical-legal system has been the laughingstock of the entire planet for more than fifty years.

Jacobsen: Outside of individual violent reprisals by former or current patients, what about the legal repercussions? Where, individual patients may have legitimate claims and may not. However, in a litigious culture, as in the U.S., this can be a major issue. The general litigious culture may become magnified in a context of life-and-death, and general illness, issues. So, what happens?

Desjardins: An entire sector of the U.S. "justice" system has been created to blame physicians for patients' diseases. There are thousands of primarily frivolous lawsuits filed against physicians in the U.S. every year. Corrupt prosecutors use four well-known techniques of deception to

extort money: (1) they suppress published scientific evidence supporting the correct actions by physicians, (2) they commit massive perjury against physicians, (3) they use flawed reasoning techniques from con-artists to fool jurors, and (4) they pay unqualified “experts” to misrepresent the standards of medical practice in court. In addition, U.S. judges threaten physicians with jail time if they try to prove in court that they followed correct science, after corrupt prosecutors suppress published scientific evidence. In other countries, using deception to extort money is a crime. In the U.S., it is the modus operandi of a 55-billion-dollar financial extortion industry against physicians and hospitals, affecting up to 80% of U.S. physicians in some specialties.

Jacobsen: Also, how is the court system in Pennsylvania?

Desjardins: In the past ten years, Philadelphia has been exposed in the medical literature and at medical conferences as having one of the most corrupt, scientifically illiterate medical-legal systems on Earth. The Philadelphia “justice” system frequently commits crimes against innocent physicians.

Jacobsen: What are some fallouts or likely outcomes from this idiocy?

Desjardins: It has led to a severe shortage of physicians in Philadelphia. Physicians have left the city by the boatload, sometimes more than 50% of entire divisions resigning en masse, and we experience significant difficulties recruiting. Several city hospitals have permanently shut down in recent years, and many more are on the verge of shutting down.

Jacobsen: How does this impact the future of the field to recruit sufficiently qualified, even talented, individuals? Where do they go? What about those better physicians in the field who can hack it – the workload and the B.S., but don’t want to deal with the sheer tonnage of nonsense and risks to livelihood?

Desjardins: In the past ten years, my clinical section, which is in desperate need of more radiologists, has not been able to recruit any radiologists. We have even offered some promising recruits the possibility to work remotely. By never setting foot in Philadelphia, this eliminates their chances of getting assaulted or stabbed in the face by patients. Still, they refused as they do not want to be associated with the city of Philadelphia for the reasons described above.

Jacobsen: How do U.S. physicians keep one another in check, too, in case of malpractice – so back to higher levels of healthcare education and authority?

Desjardins: A tiny portion of lawsuits against physicians are genuine cases of malpractice due to poorly trained or incompetent physicians. Checks and balances are in place to either address the educational shortcomings or remove the practice license if necessary. Most lawsuits are crimes committed against excellent physicians by corrupt prosecutors in cases of bad outcomes or complications, which are part of expected outcomes in medicine. There is no lesson for physicians to learn from these cases. They are discussed in the literature and at conferences to educate physicians about the corruption and scientific illiteracy of the U.S. “justice” system and prepare them to become crime victims.

Jacobsen: Have physicians built any defense mechanisms or infrastructure to protect themselves from the litigious patients, when they inevitably arise, or the top-heavy bureaucratic culture?

Desjardins: There is a malpractice insurance system for physicians, a 55-billion-dollar industry. When physicians become victims of too many frivolous lawsuits, the cost of their malpractice insurance rapidly increases until, at some point, they cannot afford to pay the exorbitant fees and

are forced to abandon their medical careers. Physicians practicing in cities with the most corrupt medical-legal systems tend to leave their medical profession early, worsening the massive shortage of physicians.

Jacobsen: How does this – the litigious patients out there and the maltreatment of healthcare professionals by institutions – impact those with fewer means and less authority in medical institutions, e.g., nurses, nurse-practitioners, and the like?

Desjardins: Nurses and nurse-practitioners have their own malpractice insurance system, although physicians and hospitals are the main targets of prosecutors. Nurses also have difficult working conditions, including forced overtime. But they cannot be exposed to working conditions as poor as physicians, as nurses have a union. For example, nurses are “officially” not allowed to work more than 12 consecutive hours in most states. It does not include occasional forced overtime. Some physicians are required to work up to 72 straight hours. It would be illegal and inhumane to make nurses work as long as physicians.

On medical quackery in the U.S.

Jacobsen: What are common cases of individuals able to use the term “doctor,” “physician,” etc., by law, or not, when, in fact, no legitimate training or grounds for the claims to the titles exist?

Desjardins: Many professions outside medicine use the term “doctor.” Any Ph.D. in any field has the right to be called a “doctor,” for example, Dr. Jill Biden has a doctorate in educational leadership. Dr. Phil McGraw (Dr. Phil) is not a physician but provides medical advice on T.V. He has a Doctorate in Psychology but is not a licensed psychologist. In the healthcare field, Doctors of Osteopathy (D.O.s) have the right to be called “doctors” and practice medicine in the U.S. but cannot practice medicine in some other countries. Chiropractors and naturopaths are called “doctors” and practice healthcare but are not physicians. They constitute a hazard to healthcare and are not allowed to practice in most countries. There are cases of individuals pretending to be physicians who practice medicine without training until they are exposed.

Jacobsen: There’s plenty of bullshit remedies out there in the public sold by the boatload. What about medical institutions who buy into them and begin to practice them? What are cases of this? Are there any consequences for individuals engaged in giving out known ineffective treatments?

Desjardins: The medical community scientifically assesses remedies to determine their effectiveness. If they are proven ineffective, respectable institutions will not adopt them. Some physicians dispense some ineffective or dangerous therapy and can lose their license. Recently U.S. judges forced physicians to administer ivermectin (horse deworming medicine) to COVID patients, an act of pure idiocy. It reflects the mindboggling scientific illiteracy of the U.S. justice system. Physicians who have administered such medication have been fired for incompetence and stupidity.

Jacobsen: Also, what are the problems with ‘alternative’ medicine, naturopathic medicine, and so on?

Desjardins: They don’t work. Just look at the late Steve Jobs.

Jacobsen: I wrote a short article critical of Naturopathy in British Columbia, Canada, a while ago – a quickie. A while goes, I received a lengthy email or digital letter from the President of the British Columbia Naturopathic Association (B.C.NA.) at the time. Obviously, the person was

displeased. I responded with the same so-called baseless critiques towards this individual, once, saying I would only do it a single time, but covered the territory well.

It was enough to deal with the issue. They were orthogonal to the evidence-based claims, so wrong, pointless – by my estimation, and such lightweight critiques, even a young independent journalist could deal with them. Yet, these forms of alternative practice are present, proliferating, and have been with cultures forever, though more complex in the nonsense with technology.

It's simply less excusable as medicine and meta-analytic studies' powers give, not deep insight but, a modicum of reasonable thou-shalts and thou-shalt nots of good health guidelines in general, as you stipulated earlier.

People seem entitled. Professionals who spend their time thinking and researching narcissism claim a rise in narcissism over decades. Entitlement is a facet of narcissism. How is the Dr. Oz-ification of culture and medicine halting progress on the front of proper treatment of disease in American society?

Desjardins: Some individuals with top credentials in a specific field sometimes become self-appointed experts in entirely different fields. Dr. Mehmet Oz is one of those. He is a retired Ivy League Professor and cardiothoracic surgeon from Columbia University. He is a scholar with top credentials in a highly specialized field, who has become a television personality and started providing general health advice. He has promoted pseudoscience, alternative medicine, faith healing, and paranormal beliefs. Dr. Scott Atlas, a prominent neuroradiologist from Stanford, was appointed by Trump as a coronavirus advisor, an area in which he had no expertise. He then spread massive misinformation about COVID and advised against the official policy of the CDC. Pseudo-experts are tools that ignorant, corrupt people use to spread misinformation in the U.S. These pseudo-experts halt progress of good evidence-based medical policy and affect the quality of care.

Jacobsen: Other than Dr. Oz, who are other ignorance-mongers becoming rich off offering fake medicine?

Desjardins: There are several, especially given the rapid growth of social media. But the most prominent media personalities doctors are Dr. Andrew Weil, a physician and expert in integrative medicine, and Dr. Phil McGraw, a T.V. unlicensed psychologist. Weil has a net worth of \$100 million (similar to Dr. Oz). McGraw has a net worth of \$460 million. They both offer good and bad advice and are both very entertaining.

Footnotes

[1] Academic Physician; Member, OlympIQ Society; Member, Mega Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 22, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/american-medicine-3>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightpublishing.com/in-sight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares on Policies in Governance, Negotiation, Faith and Science, and Fatherhood: Former Governor, Puerto Rico (5)

2022-06-01

Ricardo Rosselló Nevares holds a PhD in Bioengineering and Biotechnology. He graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering with a concentration in Developmental Economics. Rosselló continued his academic studies at the University of Michigan, where he completed a master's degree and a PhD in Bioengineering and Biotechnology. After finalizing his doctoral studies, he completed post-doctoral studies in neuroscience at Duke University, in North Carolina, where he also served as an investigator. Dr. Rosselló was a tenure track assistant professor for the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus and Metropolitan University, teaching courses in medicine, immunology, and biochemistry. Dr. Rosselló's scientific background and training also makes him an expert in important developing areas such as genetic manipulation and engineering, stem cells, viral manipulation, cancer, tissue engineering and smart materials. He discusses: progressive moves; the status of Roman Catholicism amongst the population; a man of science and a man of faith; and being a father.

Interview conducted January 21, 2021.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: You mentioned equal pay for equal work. You did work for LGBT+ issues while in office. What were some of these other progressive moves that were not necessarily part of institutionalized culture prior to your government?

Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares[1],[2]*: Here's a reality. The parties in Puerto Rico are different than others in the United States. If you were trying to superimpose your Canadian system into the United States, there would be things that are similar and things that are different. Even though, we are part of the United States. And it's not that different. It is still different. One difference, my party tends to be more conservative. Although, if somebody had to describe me, they'd describe me centre-left, probably.

Where I think it misguided analysis, anyway, how I see myself, I am fiscally conservative. I was very much a fiscal hawk. Not because I like to cut or not to spend, but because the initial conditions in Puerto Rico demanded it. By the same token, I felt Puerto Rico was very behind on the times in terms of equal rights. My argument, which I must confess was not successful verbalizing it effectively, was, "Statehooders such as ourselves. Our main argument is that we want equal rights. How can we not? Equal rights can't be for one thing and not for another. It is conceptual. How can you be for equal rights and then not be for equal rights for women, for example, or for equal pay or for equal rights for LGBTQ?"

I'm not going to say it was smooth. My views evolved throughout the whole process. To give you a few examples of policy, I put into plan for Puerto Rico the elimination of conversion therapies. Everybody signed it. Because they weren't even looking at it. Their oath was already there. At the beginning, they went with it. Then they started to battle it a little bit. We created a bill. We sent it out to the House and the Senate. It didn't pass.

So, I looked for the best legal minds I could find and said, "Can I do this by Executive Order?"

While it is not as strong, it, certainly, was stronger. I made 13 policy promises for the LGBTQ community and 13 policy promises for the faith-based community. Bear with me for a second, here's how I made them, I think my story is a convoluted story of success and failure because the success in actually doing all of this was saying, "Okay." This is from what I told you a little bit about seeing people divided and not knowing why they are divided.

I went to sit people at the table. I took leaders from the LGBTQ community and the faith communities. I said, "Hey, you might not agree with some of these things. But which of these things can you live with? What can you not live with? What do you need on your side?" Try to hash those things. It seems like an incremental approach, but it was working. From my 2.5 years in office, I fulfilled 11 of the 13 for the LGBTQ community and, I think, 10 out of the 13 for the faith-based communities.

The problem was that as we were making progress with everything; they wanted more. Each community wanted more, naturally. Then it became a fist-fight. So, here's what happened, I sent the bill over to the Senate and the House. They declined it. I signed the executive order. Immediately, they decided to create a bill over there that's a restrictive abortion bill. Not part of our plan, nowhere near it.

Very much, they knew it was against my vision with this anyways. We weren't going to tackle it one way or another. I think Puerto Rico had a pretty liberal position relative to the States, at least, with abortion. They wanted to restrict it. It was like a response to me on the other side. They passed the bill. They sent it to me. I veto it. You see all of these things. It starts getting angry. A lot of these folks are the base of my party. I'm actually, on principle, fighting for some of the things that I had agreed upon for a community.

It's the truth. I was not likely to get the majority of the votes because of the party I was from.

But in the list of things, we created the first LGBTQ council for the governors that would establish policy. We changed – on LGBTQ off the top of my head – the administrative actions for equal treatment on most of the agencies, including healthcare. We established civil rights training on LGBTQ for the police and other forces. There were housing projects that were initiated. One of my concerns was the elderly LGBTQ community. It was sort of a niche. They had to go through the harder times – let's put it that way. It is still very challenging. Many of them were alone. We were trying to create these concepts of housing for LGBTQ elderly. There was a no bullying policy as well.

We created a pilot program called "The Co-Educational Schools." Let me step back, my policy in Puerto Rico was to establish a choice schooling system within the island. The reason is: The educational system in Puerto Rico has collapsed. The way I saw it. It's not that I necessarily want or don't want private or other sectors in it. We needed to shake the system up, somehow. We open it up, Charters come in.

These co-educational schools come in, which mean, essentially, that they teach without assigning gender roles to work. It is unfortunate. It is true. In schools, at least when I was there, they would think about an engineer as a guy; when they think about cooking, they would think of a girl. These schools are designed as a pilot program of 20 schools across the island to break them completely.

On the other side, we allowed the churches to be part of what are called school churches, which is, essentially, a Catholic school or a Protestant school. But it is part of the educational system.

Then you would allow parents to go wherever they wanted, where they chose the place for the kids. That is another policy. Being able to adopt for LGBTQ couples who went through our administration, being able to change your birth certificate for trans, those are, in general, off the top of my head, policies.

It was driven by the idea of having an LGBTQ council. I did the same with women. I created a women's council. I'm a man. I think I know some of the things. I'm sure I am missing others. I am sure I am missing other things I am not feeling; I need their advice to guide policy moving forward. A lot of it came from those two councils. Those are some of the policies. Of course, the vetoing of the abortion restriction bill was a big one.

They almost went over the veto. They missed by one vote. But they almost passed that, as a rage response after some of the other things that were happening. While getting people together worked for me, in establishing policy, it also inevitably created this chaotic environment at the end. Where, if you moved an inch for somebody else, they would see it as an attack on their essence. Both sides would battle it out. I ended up being attacked by both sides.

That's the cautionary tale. I would still do it that way, as I think that is the way to do it. I wouldn't have as much hubris as I had – of thinking I could manage it. There are some things that can spiral out of control. As you said, you need to be more vigilant and not think that you can solve everything.

Jacobsen: Going to these Catholic schools as a youngster, what is the status of Roman Catholicism amongst the population, amongst the hierarchs there, as you're growing up compared to now? Also, many of these positions would seem boiler plate against many of the standard positions of the hierarchs of the church. I understand there are some differences, sometimes vast, between hierarchs and the laity.

Nevares: I consider myself a man of faith and a man of science. This is something I bring to the equation. I don't think those two points contradict themselves. I think that science allows us to keep looking forward. Similar to an ant in my backyard not knowing Africa exists and has no idea. There are physiological limitations to our brain capacity. They're likely to enhance as time moves into the future, if we're sustainable as humanity.

I respect religion. I see the downfalls of it as well. I respect people having faith and diversity in faith. I was never very much too in tune with just being a Catholic or not. It was the school I went to; my parents didn't really thrust it upon me, either. I was very independent, luckily, with that sort of thing. So, yes, a lot of positions that I took would fly against the establishment, with those things.

Particularly, my origin from a more conservative-leaning party. The thing is, the conservative nature was more on the fiscal and economic rather than on the social. However, I was open about it. Even though, I confess some of these views evolved. You could get angry at it, but you knew where I was going. It was not just said, but written in a document. I said what I wanted to do. My naïve mentality was that there are some things that both faith-based community and LGBTQ are at odds with, but there is a lot of space where we can progress.

At least, let's get those out of the way, in Puerto Rico, the Catholicism now compared to then; I can't give you the numbers. I can recall a *Time* magazine article that was stunning to me. It shows where Catholicism was growing in the world. Some countries in Africa had the most growth. It was dipping the most in some places. Puerto Rico had like a 23% dip if memory

serves, in a span of 20 years.

The reason: Puerto Rico opened a lot of Evangelical churches as well. Obviously, aligned with Christianity, but not with Catholicism, I would say Catholicism has dwindled while these other churches have dwindled. There is, particularly among the young, a growing number of folks who identify as either atheists or agnostics. It is, certainly, more diverse.

Again, the Catholic upbringing, before we were the U.S. colony, we were a Spanish colony. Catholicism was baked into it. Yes, it has fallen down. But again, there's the environment right now, which is similar to the States. It is unfortunate. Sometimes, you have these two sides metaphorically killing each other, where the vast majority of people on a non-charged situation would agree with a lot of the policy. I'll give you an example.

I think on a neutral basis. 90% of the people in Puerto Rico would agree with me: Conversion therapy needed to be prohibited. I think, by the same token, 90% of the people believe in religious freedoms. The detail is how you define it, of course. The way I define it. We have a diversified faith-based community in Puerto Rico. We have Muslims. We have Jewish faith. We have Evangelicals and Catholics. One of the activities made after Hurricane Maria. We had all of them represented.

The idea behind that concept of religious freedom was more directed to the following: "Nobody can discriminate against you because of your faith." Not the other side, "Hey, I can't bake a cake for you."

Jacobsen: [Laughing] I remember that.

Nevares: I think 90% of the people would agree. When put into a head of these sides, they become these symbolic victories to either avoid or moved forward some of these things. It gets murky and problematic.

Jacobsen: Now, you consider yourself a man of science and a man of faith. What are the attributes of God?

Nevares: It's simple. It's just, "I don't know." For me, it's as challenging to claim there is a bearded man in the clouds as to claim there is absolutely nothing; and it's just randomness. Could be, I'm not saying they're not. I'm saying, "I don't have the foresight or the wherewithal to make those claims. What I do see is there is complexity in the universe, we don't understand most of it. So, do I think it's a man who is pulling the strings? Probably not. Do I think there are other forces, which we don't fully grasp now and might explain or might never understand like consciousness, and so forth? My position: I assume there is a purpose. I don't think about it necessarily in terms of an afterlife or gods. I just say, "I have faith in that broad definition of what that means to me. That I can't claim that I understand everything. I can't claim everything is deterministic, which may or may not be true."

I do not claim, taking the analogy of the ant, the emergent properties of our consciousness – right now, to us, is the apex in terms of what we analyze. Why should we think rational or logical thinking or scientific thinking, or the analytical basis, is the top tier and the defining element of it all? Again, it's not taking anything away from science. I think science, as we have been discussing, is a necessary tool to evaluate everything. As with everything, it has its limitations. A lot of it spawned from Newton and his approximations.

Then Einstein made it better, more broad. Yet, Newton's approximations really run 99.9% of the

world around us. I'm saying, in order to achieve some of these higher questions, "I don't know if some of the tools that we have now are sufficient to get good answers to that." Obviously, some of those questions are the questions of consciousness, the questions of purpose, afterlife, 'gods' if you will." It is an open-ended book. I see it as something exciting. It is exciting to know and to not know, as there is still a lot to figure out and still a lot to identify.

That's more or less my worldview. You see it like an onion. You keep peeling layers and information keeps coming. I'll give an example. I worked on the Human Genome Project, when it was starting at MIT. We thought that we had the road map for humanity. "That's it! We have the genes. We will be able to solve everything else." There is a lot more complexity now. You have your proteome. You have interactions. You have junk DNA. All these other things, we are trying to decode that.

We're figuring out ways to decode all of that. If you ask me, my sense in seeing what has transpired in just my lifetime. We've been able to enhance the coding significantly in your and my lifetime. Not to say, in 30 years, we'll have this conversation, "Wow! Those things talked about back then were outdated and obsolete." My hunch says, "We're in an accelerated pace of these things happening with artificial intelligence, with genetic engineering, climate change and the necessity to innovate with it, space travel. Things are going to take a quantum leap forward and have novel systems to survey the landscape."

Jacobsen: You mentioned having early warnings, then having a gap, then having a late morning for work. What does being a father mean for you?

Nevares: It is a blessing. I'll tell you. I confess like every father. When you're in the middle of it, it is grinding.

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Nevares: It is tough. From my perspective, when I ran for governor, I had my baby girl in 2014. I was already on the road 20 hours a day. Then I had my son. My wife was pregnant the hurricane came. She was 7 months pregnant when it came. I, practically, never saw them. The silver lining to all of this. You try to make sense and think about the good things that you have as well. I have been able to spend more time as a father. It's not all rosy all of the time. It is frustrating right before.

Today, I woke up at 4 in the morning. I did some work. Then my kids wake up, then I'm with them for a little bit. My daughter has class. Today, the first part of the class, I wanted to be with her. She's in first grade. The attention span of not only her, but all the other first graders is impossible to teach a class to first graders. I don't know how they do it, but God bless a teacher's patience. I cherish it.

You see – with kids – all of this potential. To me, again, even though, the world is getting more complicated in all these things. I think my role as a parent is just to help them identify something that makes them happy, lead them, give them advice. My eventual goal is, whether it be becoming a scientist or becoming a painter or a dancer or a builder – whatever they want to be, to try to lead them to make their own decisions and to be happy.

I think the two areas, which I think are most important. Which is sort of in the face of traditional education, two qualities that I see that are very important for humanity moving forward is your capacity to adjust to a lot of the changes. Parallel to that, your ability to critically think, to learn and to unlearn. It is weird. I don't think that was said 40 years ago. But one's capacity to unlearn

is almost as important as one's capacity to learn because of all of the changes occurring. They are good kids. I am enjoying tis time. Whatever happens, I hope they can lead happy lives. That's really the crux of it.

Footnotes

[1] Former Governor, Puerto Rico.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/rossello-5>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Tomáš Perna on Life, Views, and Work: Member, World Genius Directory (1)

2022-06-01

Tomáš Perna is a Member of the World Genius Directory and United Giga Society. He discusses: growing up; extended self; family background; youth with friends; education; purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence; extreme reactions to geniuses; greatest geniuses; genius and a profoundly gifted person; necessities for genius or the definition of genius; work experiences and jobs held; job path; myths of the gifted; God; science; tests taken and scores earned; range of the scores; ethical philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; worldview; meaning in life; source of meaning; afterlife; life; and love.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you were growing up, what were some of the prominent family stories being told over time?

Tomáš Perna[1],[2]*: Especially, how my grandfather and his brothers were fighting for their homeland in conspiracy against German Nazism as the heroism pattern.

Jacobsen: Have these stories helped provide a sense of an extended self or a sense of the family legacy?

Perna: Not directly.

Jacobsen: What was the family background, e.g., geography, culture, language, and religion or lack thereof?

Perna: We have not only Czech roots, but Polish and Italian ones as well. Christians. My father came from teacher's family, my mother's mother was a simple countrywoman, her father was a police inspector, both Christians.

Jacobsen: How was the experience with peers and schoolmates as a child and an adolescent?

Perna: The best as a child. And as an adolescent, hmm, I sometimes felt myself very emotionally alone.

Jacobsen: What have been some professional certifications, qualifications, and trainings earned by you?

Perna: I have found the 4D-differential structure. Now, as the mathematical modeller I am using it not only to design the models themselves, but to control some used commercial software as well 😊 :). (Crazy, isn't it?) I have written one book about common sense of relativity and quantum theory. I should note, however, that I like especially philosophy: to maths I had an indifferent relation, until "she started to like me":).

Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests to you?

Perna: Yes, your question is a little rhetorical one. For me, they are themselves strongly purpose dependent. Like in music, where you must train and train, doing math modelling or doing any other "diagnostic work", you must train and train... :). However, one can also see that many items of IQ tests are subjectively overconstructed or "tricky", which are attributes not "being used in the problems of nature". Furthermore, the IQ tests are addictive. One must be careful...

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Perna: After the industrial (high) school, I started to work in one design office, where they proposed to administer an IQ test to me. I was found to be a highly intelligent person, without knowing the corresponding IQ concretely.

Jacobsen: When you think of the ways in which the geniuses of the past have either been mocked, vilified, and condemned if not killed, or praised, flattered, platformed, and revered, what seems like the reason for the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses? Many alive today seem camera shy – many, not all.

Perna: Extremes have extreme reactions in their surroundings. Both in a positive and negative sense naturally. However, if geniuses demonstrate some superiority and pride towards others, their (either implicit or explicit) isolation is then a healthy phenomenon, evidently deserved by them.

Jacobsen: Who seems like the greatest geniuses in history to you?

Perna: Socrates, Shakespeare, Newton, Euler, Galois, Poe, Mácha, Einstein...

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a profoundly intelligent person?

Perna: Original new ideas possessing beauty.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Perna: Yes, one should not consider idiotic geniuses. But profound intelligence can be owned also by “simple”, not particularly educated persons, who are not geniuses.

Jacobsen: What have been some work experiences and jobs held by you?

Perna: I think that I have partially answered this question above. One’s loneliness (“we don’t understand neither it, nor you, but do it!”) could have a devastating effect. Financially as well. Everything is a matter of course in the job, automatically quickly solvable, so why money for such a guy? He (she of course too) is after all not hard working like We (!) are...

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Perna: One feels not only its sense, but it satisfies one’s curiosity as well.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more important aspects of the idea of the gifted and geniuses? Those myths that pervade the cultures of the world. What are those myths? What truths dispel them?

Perna: Possessing a finer mental and emotional charge to perceive a common sense. The myths are connected (about geniuses you mean?) with tendencies to assign the genius properties which can be substituted by properties of artificial intelligence. For example, extreme computational abilities, extreme memory, etc. You have, roughly speaking, 3 levels of problem solving. – Numerical, logical and symbolical. Machine has a chance to find the pattern in the first two levels. The third level with patterns requiring a very deep sense of feeling and understanding is unreachable for it. Therefore, the genius should be attracted by the symbolic level first of all.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?

Perna: God is the very substance of the soul of human being. He provides you with your own

identity, as being Scott Jacobsen e.g. 😊 now, namely within the framework of your eternal manifestations. As to philosophy and theology: I am persuaded that without symbolic parables you have no chance to touch God at all by any language. Concerning religion, the role of humility and deepness of the heart should be the leading features. However, being gifted by these properties, you leave all religions to serve God directly.

Jacobsen: How much does science play into the worldview for you?

Perna: If science, then profound.

Jacobsen: What have been some of the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations) for you?

Perna: RAPM 35/36. Then max score of 160 sd15 in one Czech-Mensa supertest, designed specially for persons with IQ 140+. Then 170+ in Tonny Sellen's Spat1, 180 in one test designed by the professional psychologist and 190 in Betts ZEN. Also some lower scores in more "schul-meistern" tests, mostly 135-150 (working memory requiring, but sometimes only very simple ideas extended within big space).

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Perna: Virtue ethics, I could say. Any action trying to reach harmonic connections.

Jacobsen: What social philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Perna: Any interpretation of a collective or society in terms of free will applied within harmonical possibilities and limitations of the revealed nature.

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Perna: None.

Jacobsen: What metaphysics makes some sense to you, even the most workable sense to you?

Perna: Entities-Identity searching.

Jacobsen: What worldview-encompassing philosophical system makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Perna: Idealism.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Perna: To serve in the sense of an engaged compassion.

Jacobsen: Is meaning externally derived, internally generated, both, or something else?

Perna: The sense of life is inherently presented in the human's soul. Meaning of anything that exists should be searched in a connection with this sense. Such an action will find then its form of internal and external manifestations within duality-phenomena especially.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in an afterlife? If so, why, and what form? If not, why not?

Perna: Yes. Or more expressively said: there is no afterlife, since life can not evolve towards its end called the death. This would be an existential contradiction and therefore as a nonsense immediately destroyed in a furnace of entropy.

Jacobsen: What do you make of the mystery and transience of life?

Perna: Allow me to say that I am convinced (as indicated above) that transience of life is transient *sub specie aeternitatis*. To avoid a cliché, I accent simultaneously that moments of eternity can be directly perceived via a beauty felt as involving a mystery of life, which is for me the Presence of God in everyone.

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Perna: What I desire to give and to get more than anything else.

Footnotes

[1] Member, World Genius Directory; Member, United Giga Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/perna-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Richard May (“May-Tzu”/“MayTzu”/“Mayzi”) on “More and Less Than Stardust,” “Sound of Morning Light,” and “Braille Shadows”: Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society” (11)

2022-06-01

Richard May (“May-Tzu”/“MayTzu”/“Mayzi”) is a Member of the Mega Society based on a qualifying score on the Mega Test (before 1995) prior to the compromise of the Mega Test and Co-Editor of Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society. In self-description, May states: “Not even forgotten in the cosmic microwave background (CMB), I’m an Amish yuppie, born near the rarified regions of Laputa, then and often, above suburban Boston. I’ve done occasional consulting and frequent Sisyphean shlepping. Kafka and Munch have been my therapists and allies. Occasionally I’ve strived to descend from the mists to attain the mythic orientation known as having one’s feet upon the Earth. An ailurophile and a cerebrotonic ectomorph, I write for beings which do not, and never will, exist—writings for no one. I’ve been awarded an M.A. degree, *mirabile dictu*, in the humanities/philosophy, and U.S. patent for a board game of possible interest to extraterrestrials. I’m a member of the Mega Society, the Omega Society and formerly of Mensa. I’m the founder of the Exa Society, the transfinite Aleph-3 Society and of the renowned Laputans Manqué. I’m a biographee in *Who’s Who in the Brane World*. My interests include the realization of the idea of humans as incomplete beings with the capacity to complete their own evolution by effecting a change in their being and consciousness. In a moment of presence to myself in inner silence, when I see Richard May’s non-being, ‘I’ am. You can meet me if you go to an empty room.” Some other resources include [Stains Upon the Silence: something for no one](#), [McGinnis Genealogy of Crown Point, New York: Hiram Porter McGinnis](#), [Swines List](#), [Solipsist Soliloquies](#), [Board Game](#), [Lulu blog](#), [Memoir of a Non-Irish Non-Jew](#), and [May-Tzu’s posterous](#). He discusses: “More and Less Than Stardust”; “Sound of Morning Light”; and “Braille Shadows.”

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: “More and Less Than Stardust” makes the distinction between subject and object, internal external. Ultimately, are these distinctions valid? In that, what makes a subject “a subject” and an object “an object,” and “a subject” different from “an object”?

Richard May[1],[2]*: No, these distinctions are not ultimately real, the ‘mystics’ and some scientists agree. This was one of my points.

“Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature... because... we ourselves are part of nature and therefore part of the mystery that we are trying to solve.” — Nobel laureate Max Planck

Jacobsen: If subjectivities are in the universe, is the universe awake, in, at least, this micro-localized aspect of its existence? If so, can we state unequivocally that the universe has self-awarenesses?

May: We are part of the universe. All intelligent sentient beings anywhere are also parts of the universe. AI units will be or are parts of the universe. If we have at least some very incomplete awareness of the universe, including ourselves, then this would seem to be the universe observing itself. The universe is awake only when little sentient beings within it are awake, unless stars and galaxies also have conscious minds, which they may. Rupert Sheldrake has written about

this possibility. — Macro Buddhas and nano Buddhas, mostly sleeping Buddhas.

Jacobsen: What makes some “states of ‘consciousness’” “useful”?

May: Survival of the organism until reproduction is useful from the perspective of evolutionary natural selection. After generating progeny we are food for worms. We could potentially have other higher purposes also, I suppose.

Jacobsen: If subjectivities are in the universe, is the universe awake, in, at least, this micro-localized aspect of its existence? If so, can we state unequivocally that the universe has self-awarenesses? As “we are the universe observing itself,” is it possible to expand the idea of self-awarenesses or consciousnesses *in the universe* to the concept of self-awareness or consciousness *of the universe*? Italics make things look serious and impactful, so italics!

May: Consciousness with knowledge and understanding of the universe is empirical science. Consciousness of the universe is empirical science, I think. Self-awareness in the universe is an emergent phenomenon corresponding to a certain level of neurological development of an organism. I don’t know about self-awareness or consciousness of the universe. Maybe ... Perhaps the universe can achieve ‘enlightenment’ or ‘awakening’ of its consciousness, if any. I don’t know.

Jacobsen: What are the various levels of “the One” in its within and withouts?

May: I do wish that I knew!

Jacobsen: How is “‘our’” separate experience a delusion in this light?

May: “Consciousness is a singular for which there is no plural.” — Erwin Schroedinger. Maybe think of quantum entanglement of ‘particles’ and the Katha Upanishad.

Jacobsen: Why use the phrase of Alan Watts, “skin encapsulated egos,” as the descriptive phrase for this?

May: I didn’t know that this was an Alan Watts phrase. I found it somewhere and liked it, so I used it.

Jacobsen: How is the universe a hologram?

May: The universe may not be a hologram. This was speculative; a possibility.

Jacobsen: How is this hologrammatic universe embedded in human consciousness too (and vice versa)?

May: The universe may not be holographic. This was speculative.

Jacobsen: Are there any other binaries to relate the ideas presented with station and state, being and knowledge, and “makam” and “hal”?

May: I don’t know. I didn’t think of any other binary pairs. (Wave is to Particle) as (Knowledge is to Being)?

Jacobsen: Quoting Krishnamurti, are there any true distinctions between observer and observed?

May: In the case of certain politicians a “rectal-cranial inversion” could give the phrase an additional layer of meaning, I suppose.

Jacobsen: “Sound of Morning Light” is funny. A spring robin, it’s supposed to dance that

darned haiku to a 5-7-5 beat, but missed the haiku beat. What was the robin thinking? How did it miss it?

May: The robin was probably thinking about the problem of unifying quantum gravity with general relativity or the cute girl robin next door. Hard to say.

Jacobsen: “Braille Shadows” is terse. A satori moment for a buddha. Zen riddles riddle the landscape. Does morning dew scattering light onto falling petals have the buddha nature?

May: Dew, light and flower petals have the Buddha nature; My writings, as paper and ink, have the Buddha nature and a piece of dung has the Buddha nature.

Jacobsen: There’s some content at the end of the book for No One with this Jacobsen fellow. Who the hell is the damned stupid, annoying, petulant, inconsistent, idiot nobody asking so many gosh dang questions? I heard he has cooties.

“I am he as you are he as you are me

And we are all together.” — The Beatles

“The question ‘Who am I’ and the question ‘What is God?’ are the same question.” — Jacob Needleman.

If I don’t know who or what I am, how can I know who or what another person is?

Maybe we are both just food in a cosmic food chain.

Footnotes

[1] Co-Editor, “Noesis: The Journal of the Mega Society.”

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/mav-11>;
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Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on Some Intellectual Interests: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (2)

2022-06-01

Tianxi Yu (余天曦) is a Member of CatholIQ, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, Nano Society, and World Genius Directory. He discusses: Chen-Ning Yang; Paul Seymour; the “greatest”; more serious thoughts on the fundamental nature of reality; Russell; your own thoughts; school examinations; investment; writing; a Nobel prize a good indicator of a great thinker; focus on the people at the top of the world; want to be recognized; focus on academic activities; thoughts on love; love; tests; identify individuals who can solve complex problems; an anti-intellectual; an intellectual; waste; writing; some projects; some social problems of interest; and development of science and technology.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: We’re back after 16 months. Let’s continue, my friend. Why Chen-Ning Yang?

Tianxi Yu (余天曦)[1],[2]*: Because his contribution to his discipline is greater than anyone else’s, even if he is also a Nobel laureate, Yang’s contribution is greater than the vast majority of Nobel laureates. Among the scientists currently alive, Yang is undoubtedly the most radiant.

Jacobsen: Why Paul Seymour?

Yu: Don’t know much about him, hahaha, I read his proof of the strong perfect graph conjecture, it is very interesting.

Jacobsen: Why do you want the world to think you’re the “greatest”?

Yu: I don’t need to be recognized by everyone, I just want to be recognized by the people at the top of the world. Getting recognition is kind of socially satisfying, and the work I’m doing now is definitely something I want to be recognized for.

Jacobsen: What are your more serious thoughts on the fundamental nature of reality? What is reality?

Yu: I would have given an answer to this question 16 months ago, but I can’t give it now.

Jacobsen: What are your thoughts on Russell?

Yu: It is difficult to describe in a few words... When I saw this question, my brain was flooded with very complicated and huge emotions... I first learned about Russell near the end of elementary school, and it struck me as I read it, because I felt that Russell’s thoughts were similar to many of mine... “An austere soul burns in the agony of loneliness”, except that I have a different perception of love than he does, and I have little desire for it, and even rather resent it.

Jacobsen: What makes your own thoughts dismiss those, since established, as meaningless?

Yu: It is a wrong idea that everything that has been established is useful. Useless use is also a use. Although on a social level, there are high and low values, but creating beauty and pleasing ourselves has no value.

Jacobsen: Do you mean the school examinations as the “tests” making you feel disgusted?

Yu: Yes, I hate tests, I think they are obsolete. Put in the past, the test is undoubtedly useful, because human social development is just starting, and needs a lot of fast talent to meet the needs of society. But today's social development is very slow, and can even be described as stagnant, it is time to discover people who can solve complex problems, which is often referred to as "high IQ" talent in the community. I am more of an anti-intellectual, but I have to say that the IQ of the high ability to solve complex problems is stronger, of course, not gaining expertise, still a waste.

Jacobsen: What kinds of investment?

Yu: Cryptos, but now no more investment, mainly in writing papers and doing projects.

Jacobsen: What are some papers that you're writing to "earn bonus"?

Yu: Not to go to "earn bonus", now write papers more inclined to interest. Because I found that some of my knowledge and insights can actually solve some social problems and contribute to the development of science and technology in a small way.

Jacobsen: Is a Nobel prize a good indicator of a great thinker to you?

Yu: From a historical perspective, these Nobel Prize winners have greatly advanced the world and have all made great contributions to the world. And creating these results also requires very deep thinking, and from this perspective, I think it is.

Jacobsen: Why focus on the people at the top of the world compared to others when hoping for proper recognition in the world?

Yu: Only people at the top of the world can understand each other.

Jacobsen: What is the work you're doing now? That which you "want to be recognized for."

Yu: Hard to describe, although I want to say "technology", but not sure. I don't know if my works really have meaning or what I will do in the future.

Jacobsen: Why the change in the ability to answer some questions compared to 16 months ago?

Yu: 16 months ago I was focused on making money, so I only wanted to think about money-related things. But now money is not as useful as before, so I focus on academic activities.

Jacobsen: What are your different thoughts on love now?

Yu: I now believe that love is useless. Thinking this has to do with the country I live in. Love should be something that brings pleasure and draws pleasure from the other person. But nowadays, there are high mortgage payments (the average person struggles for about 30 years to afford a house), huge education costs (school district, tuition fees), and lack of medical assistance. Not to mention that 715 (9:00 to work, 25:00 to leave work, lasting seven days) is now popular, and society is still in the process of massive layoffs and pay cuts. With so many burdens there is still time to fall in love?

Jacobsen: Why do you "rather resent" love in a sense?

Yu: Women weak my legs.

Jacobsen: What should replace tests now?

Yu: Not yet, existing resources are not sufficient to support a more complex testing approach.

Jacobsen: With social development as very slow now, even stagnant, what can help identify individuals who can solve complex problems in this societal environment?

Yu: Large area for universal high range testing? lol

Jacobsen: Why consider yourself “more of an anti-intellectual”?

Yu: I don’t like to over-emphasize the importance of intelligence, of course it’s more important, but there’s no need to deify it. I also rather resent people who flaunt their IQ.

Jacobsen: In this context, following from the previous question, what makes someone an intellectual?

Yu: Born in an intellectual family has been a big part of success, if not, only by their own desire for knowledge.

Jacobsen: How do the talented, typically, waste their talents, not use them fully?

Yu: Laziness. Although I know that some people may feel that, for example, the family of origin, or school bullying and other reasons, but it all boils down to laziness.

Jacobsen: What are some things you’re writing now?

Yu: “Infectious disease risk calculation and storage system based on 3-tier network system” - Tianxi Yu, first author

Jacobsen: What are some projects you’re doing now?

Yu: “Research on rapid risk assessment, precise early warning and prevention and control countermeasures for major outbreaks of acute infectious diseases”-Major Science and Technology Project on Public Health of Tianjin [grant numbers 21ZXGWSY00010] and the Tianjin Key Medical Discipline (Specialty) Construction Project (2021)

Jacobsen: What are some social problems of interest to you?

Yu: Covid-19 epidemic, economy, corruption, etc., but it’s not convenient to start the discussion.

Jacobsen: What are things in the development of science and technology of interest to you, now?

Yu: Every major scientific advancement interests me.

Footnotes

[1] Member, CatholIQ; Member, Chinese Genius Directory; Member, EsoterIQ Society; Member, Nano Society; Member, World Genius Directory.

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Conversation with Kate Jones on Life, Views, and Work: Diplomat, International Society for Philosophical Enquiry (1)

2022-06-01

Kate Jones is a “bemused and kindly traveler of this world” with a Type A personality, high energy, and a philosophical bent. She was born at the dawn of WWII in Budapest Hungary. She is member of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry and American Mensa, and a Lifetime member of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and a Member of the Libertarian Party. She discusses: growing up; a sense of an extended self; the family background; the experience with peers and schoolmates; some professional certifications; the purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence discovered; the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses; the greatest geniuses in history; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; profound intelligence necessary for genius; work experiences and jobs; particular job path; the gifted and geniuses; God; science; the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations); the range of the scores; ethical philosophy; social philosophy; economic philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; philosophical system; meaning in life; meaning externally derived, or internally generated; an afterlife; the mystery and transience of life; and love.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you were growing up, what were some of the prominent family stories being told over time?

Kate Jones[1],[2]*: My parents were Hungarian and didn’t tell children much. I heard how my mother’s sister was a beautiful and famous ballerina in Hungary and Germany, and my father, divorced at the time and a classical pianist, was interested in her until my mother, 22 years younger than my father, somehow managed to divert his attention to where he ended up marrying her. They used to kid about how she stole her sister’s suitor. My mother was only five years older than my father’s daughter from his first marriage. The only person severely disapproving of his marrying again was his sister, a bit of a religious hardnose who didn’t approve of the divorce. Many years later, when the ex-wife died, my parents got married again, so I was born while they were “in sin”. Since I was born an atheist, none of that bothered me at all.

When I was five years old, World War II happened and we had to flee as the Russians came into Hungary, getting out on the last train to Germany before they closed the borders. In Germany we stayed with my mother’s sister (the ballerina/dance teacher), and no stories were told in my hearing. For a few years our stories were about the war and bunkers and no food except cabbage, and hiding out in farm house attics and waiting for the Americans to win the war. The reason we had to flee was not that we were targets for the Nazis but because my father, in WWI, had been a prisoner-of-war in Russia, and he managed to escape through Siberia and get back to Hungary. He figured the Russians would have his number and if they captured him, that would be the end of him, So he got us into the “American sector” of Germany and offered his services to the Americans as an interpreter, since he spoke 7 languages and there were many foreigners piling in from every side.

One of his stories was how, in WWI, he and his troop were in one small airplane and encountered a Russian group, and someone asked, “Do you have any tennis balls?” And they did, so the two officially enemy groups got out of their planes and got a tennis game going out on the field, then parted cordially and went back to their alleged duties. That was my father’s story. His other story was how he escaped from Russia, because his captors found out that he was a pianist and

invited him to come and play in their salons. On a couple of such “concerts”, he met Rachmaninoff, who also played. One evening my father played Beethoven and Rachmaninoff performed his own works. The next concert they switched, with my father playing Rachmaninoff’s music.

It was playing at these concerts that gave the alleged prisoner the chance to make his escape. My father was born in 1894. He died in Connecticut in 1968. We ended up in the US because the Germans were trying to get foreigners out, and although they offered my father emigration to Australia, he held out for a chance to emigrate to America. His original profession was as a mechanical engineer, and they found him a job in Connecticut in a small engineering firm owned by a Hungarian. We arrived in America on Christmas Day 1951. I was 12 years old.

Jacobsen: Have these stories helped provide a sense of an extended self or a sense of the family legacy?

Jones: No, because they were not MY stories. In Budapest where we lived until we had to flee, my parents were what you’d call upper middle class, with a live-in servant to do the housework and other tasks, like cutting the throat of a live goose to get it ready for cooking (I got to watch). I was not allowed to play with her, though I liked her, because she was a lower-class person. I felt betrayed and deprived, not quite understanding that I was supposed to be upper class and treat others from that vantage point. Actually, I think my mother was just jealous that I liked this other person and wanted to be with her, even though my mother ignored me most of the time.

The only family legacy I learned of was that my father’s father was a famous Latin teacher, one of whose students was a famous Hungarian author and my grandfather’s picture is in a museum as the founder of that schooling system. He died the month I was born. None of these stories made any difference in how I regarded myself. I was never given to feel that I was somehow important or valuable; there was little affection shown to children, only scolding. If family culture had any effect, it was to drive down my self-confidence and sense of self. My mother evidently felt that her job was to come up with all kinds of cruel punishments for me for the slightest transgression.

One of my stories from the Budapest years is the time my half-sister visited us with her suitor, and they taught me how to tell fortunes by reading palms. I seemed to have a talent for that and it was a skill I professed for years, informally and for entertainment. Because of how our lives were torn up by being war refugees, not much family “legacy” prevailed. Refugees who survived is the main story.

Jacobsen: What was the family background, e.g., geography, culture, language, and religion or lack thereof?

Jones: Hmm. I think I covered most of that above: Budapest, Hungary; upper middle class; Hungarian and German; Roman Catholic. My father did not profess or show any religious tendencies. My mother tried to make me say prayers when going to bed from about the age of three, telling me my guardian angel was sad when I was bad or didn’t want to say the prayers, but I never believed a word of it, anymore than I believed when she tried to tell me about the Easter Bunny. I just didn’t have the vocabulary with which to argue back at that young age. My father never spoke of such things and left it to my mother. She tried to tell me about churches and God, and I never believed any of it, either, though I had to obey when she made me say prayers, which were just meaningless noise to a young, reality-focused mind. My parents took me to Sunday mass, which always made me feel dizzy. They forced me through the ritual of

Confession and Communion, all meaningless activities that were part of life I had to go along with.

Leading up to that, at age 6, I was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to spend 7 months in a children's sanatorium in Garmisch, Germany, where the fresh mountain air cured me completely. The schooling I missed was made up for when I returned home and had a private teacher for about two weeks, who caught me up in that time with almost a year's regular schooling. I seemed to learn everything instantly.

Jacobsen: How was the experience with peers and schoolmates as a child and an adolescent?

Jones: Because of the war years, I did not have regular schooling. After the Americans won, they still occupied school buildings, which left my first year of school to be held in a tavern, with the huge tables and chairs, and they brought in some blackboards. It was in that first year that I was sent to the sanatorium, so after I returned, I was in second grade in a school to which I had a long walk by myself. Relations with my "peers" were not pleasant, as I was picked on by the other kids for not speaking German as well as they did (I was still learning), and I was a little younger, so got slapped around a lot. The only thing that helped was that I was always the best student in the class.

My parents would not allow me to be friends with anyone, so I was pretty much of a loner. Also by now I had had German measles which left me partially blind and I had to wear glasses, which in those days were always a target to be made fun of. I went to a different school every year, so never was a "joiner", always the outsider, and no continuity of classmates from year to year. Then when I was 10, my mother wanted another child, and when he was born, I was sent to a boarding school run by Franciscan nuns at a nunnery on an island in the river Rhine. In it. It was close to where my aunt had her ballet school, so she must have suggested it. She visited me once a year and ignored me the rest of the time, though she was supposed to see me more often, as I found out later. To attend that school I had to learn French (instead of the Latin that was used in the school I had attended before). German schools followed one of two systems: Gymnasium and Lyceum. Gymnasium had nothing to do with gym. It was a classical Latin-based system, whereas Lyceum was more a liberal system derived from the French. My aunt sent me to a local private tutor, who, in about three weeks, brought me up to date on the French that the other students had done for a year and a half. My aunt didn't want to believe it but tested me herself and found that I had, indeed, learned all the vocabulary and grammar. I think I had a good teacher, not giving myself credit for being smart or quick to learn. I accepted that that was just way I was.

My grades were always the highest, which made me somewhat of a teacher's pet. I was not aware of the other kids being jealous here (at the convent school). I was very good athletically, and that did get some respect. Being away from home and with the same group of kids, there were a couple of friends who were steady buddies.

By now it was expected that I would always get the highest grades. I never paid attention to what others thought of me or whether they liked me, in that environment. After a while they even stopped making fun of my clothes, which were made from discarded stage costumes at my aunt's school. Those clothes had made me very self-conscious and embarrassed. I should include here that the upscale life of Budapest vanished when we fled, and for many years we were very poor.

Nunnery—yes, deep daily indoctrination, mass every morning, none of which took, though I had to go along with it in a very tightly disciplined setting. We all had some favorite nun among our

teachers, also one who was much disliked. I wrote an unflattering poem about her, and when the nuns found out, I was afraid of being expelled. That was the time my father accepted a job in America, and so I was taken home and escaped retribution for the insulting rhymes.

Jacobsen: What have been some professional certifications, qualifications, and trainings earned by you?

Jones: Diploma from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (England) for passing their professional teacher exam with a Highly Commended grade in both divisions, Latin and Modern Ballroom. Won Rising Star trophy with a professional partner in Modern Ballroom competition in 1973. Won over 30 First Place trophies for amateur partner (my student, later my husband) in dance competitions from 1968-1975. Advanced to Diplomate level over six earlier grades in the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry over 1984-2022 of membership. Over 50 prize ribbons in art shows for my playable art over 40 years. *Games Magazine* selected my puzzles 52 times for their annual “Games 100” list of the 100 best games from 1981 to 2013, the last year the list was published; obviously, some years more than one game was featured. Member of Mensa since 1982. Oh, and salutatorian at high school graduation, 1957, Bridgeport, CT.

Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests to you?

Jones: At the time I took them, the first one for Mensa, it was at the recommendation of a friend to get in with smart people as possible customers for my new business of puzzles (for the joy of thinking®). I passed the test and joined, but found very few customers, even when I exhibited at their Annual Gatherings. A fellow Mensan invited me to try out for the ISPE, as those were more philosophical and I might enjoy them more, and they were allegedly smarter. I qualified there, too. I have no interest in taking more tests or joining more groups. I am too busy with the business to have time for Mensa social activities. With ISPE I am more involved, since I am their journal’s senior proofreader. The older I get, the stupider I get, and I would not want to have to drop out for flunking a retest.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Jones: Never. I was just good at taking tests. And my father had instilled something in me about that when he took me to the first school (the tavern) on my first day and said, “Now you must always be the best student.” That’s all he said. I’m not aware of trying for that, only of working at it diligently and always doing my homework.

Jacobsen: When you think of the ways in which the geniuses of the past have either been mocked, vilified, and condemned if not killed, or praised, flattered, platformed, and revered, what seems like the reason for the extreme reactions to and treatment of geniuses? Many alive today seem camera shy – many, not all.

Jones: There is a bug in the human software that is more active in rejecting anything that is too different from themselves, whether in talent, ability, good looks, ideas, beliefs, interactions with others, even styles of clothes and cultural habits. Envy takes over on the one hand, and that is not just emotional but can take the form of predatory hostility, like animals. Carried to a higher level, it gets groups to connive and collude, to turn into mobs and then to war-making, ending in genocide. Any pretext will do for creating excuses and justifications for killing fellow humans. Geniuses are not an exception to being targeted if their ideas are too different or may make them too rich. The schemers and conquerors grab power, since “might makes right”. Might implies physical control and violence. The top dog may be very smart for ruling strategy, while blocking off

any policy of universal peace and non-aggression. So your geniuses who don't have power don't want to be too visible, lest they become targets.

Jacobsen: Who seems like the greatest geniuses in history to you?

Jones: Aristotle, Newton, Galileo, Tesla, Pythagoras, Kepler, Da Vinci, Archimedes, Beethoven, Franz Liszt, Charles Darwin, Shakespeare.

Honorable mentions: Richard Dawkins, Albert Einstein, M. C. Escher, Richard Feynman, Ayn Rand, Voltaire, George Carlin, Carl Sagan.

There are many others that I can't think of this minute. I'm listing only the good ones. Evil geniuses don't belong here.

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a profoundly intelligent person?

Jones: His or her output, effect in the world, originality, the good luck of intersecting a particular point in a culture where a change was needed with the unique combination of mind and vision to open new vistas. A true genius does not go around claiming to be one. A genius may not even be recognized during his or her lifetime. They do what they are inspired to do by the need or opportunity in their field. Their "spark" grows more.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Jones: Not necessarily, just enough to make an original breakthrough in the human software. It's nature's crapshoot to find the right combination. A total idiot might not be enough. And then there was Forrest Gump... a fiction, but with billions of people in the world, who knows how many fit that picture.

Jacobsen: What have been some work experiences and jobs held by you?

Jones: Started working 1957, selling scarves in a department store; Girl Friday in advertising dept. of that store; copywriter for ads for that store; graphic artist and ad dept. manager for another store; proofreading and document production for Remington Rand Electric Shaver; librarian; copywriter for shoe store; report editor for engineering company; freelance editor/proofreader; self-employed with own Custom Graphics company with private clients; ballroom dance teacher, 1966-1980; overseas assignment (1975-1978) as secretary for Engineering Manager of Westinghouse expatriates in Shiraz, Iran, plus graphic artist for an Iranian print shop; upon return to US, co-founder (1979) and President of Kadon Enterprises, Inc., to produce wooden puzzles and later lasercut acrylic puzzles. Mostly self-employed since 1969. Continue proofreading for authors and publications. Website manager, producer, and graphic artist for Kadon. Puzzle creator, designer, writer of puzzle manuals for Kadon. Selling puzzles on the road at art shows from Florida to Minnesota, some international.

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Jones: Somewhere around 1998 I realized this was my purpose in life, creating unique objects the world can benefit from and drawing on all the skills I had learned through all those other jobs. Intellectually, emotionally, artistically, even physically, this work is soul-satisfying and fulfilling. And it lets me be different from everyone else in the world with no fuss. I have the freedom to do what I want, when I want, and see that it is beautiful. It's a strange combination of free-spirited artist and practical business entrepreneur. But nothing I've done and want to do would be possible without the help of my devoted husband.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more important aspects of the idea of the gifted and geniuses? Those myths that pervade the cultures of the world. What are those myths? What truths dispel them?

Jones: Ancient cultures lived on myths because the primitive people did not have enough knowledge to understand reality, so fictitious characters and creatures could easily develop in their imaginations. When the brain evolved enough to develop abstract functions, call it an operating system that came with the DNA, imagination was enabled. Ideas acquired almost an independent existence in the cells of the brain. Gifted and genius are just words we now use to describe how some individuals operate differently, on a “higher” or more advanced level, thus capable of functioning in a way the ordinary members of the tribe could not. So the other members either admired them and accepted them as leaders, or resisted and rejected them. Brute strength was still a plus over brains. Smart strength won out over dumb brute force, and thus evolved all the ruling classes and war heroes of ancient times, like Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan and their ilk.

How did humans get infected with the idea of gods as superior specimens? Which early humans thought up the notion of gods who interacted with humans in various ways? Hallucinations? Visiting aliens? Child-like gullibility and uncontrolled fantasies? And the word spread and mythical ideas dug in to the population’s impressionable minds.

One of the brain’s algorithms is to learn what is imparted, right or wrong, as with children who automatically imitate everything. Those who knew more, or seemed to, became the superiors, the respected senior members of the clans. Clans and tribes stuck together, but at some point “otherness” became suspect and rejected. Every group developed a culture of preference and rejection, through evolution of the fit. Every moment had an effect on the mental development of each member, just as all snowflakes are different.

It’s amazing that the world now has over 200 countries, even more than that many languages, endless and different belief systems, and close to 8 billion individual humans. And at any moment, some individuals will have some aspect of themselves wake up and become active in their minds, and from that their actions will interface with the other members and drive their evolution forward, or result in destruction.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?

Jones: I have lots of thoughts, some alluded to above. Once abstract thought became possible, early man realized that some were bigger or stronger, or smarter. That established thinking on scales, in effect Zero to infinity. Anyone or anything more powerful than oneself became revered and feared and personified. It’s fun to imagine, though, that some magical species visited and planted ideas in natives’ heads, just as some more advanced cultures made more primitive cultures think of them as gods. I personally don’t believe in any of those beings nor in magic or miracles. There is only one Reality (ha ha, like only one God), and only real things exist, subject to how they can exist. I pretty much go along with the laws of causality. Human intellects are still in babyhood. I’m OK with that, confident that in time we will learn more and more how and why things are as they are and how they evolve.

Jacobsen: How much does science play into the worldview for you?

Jones: Totally, if by science is meant the study of Reality without contaminating with unfounded

beliefs.

Jacobsen: What have been some of the tests taken and scores earned (with standard deviations) for you?

Jones: SAT, 792 out of 800. Mensa, 167. ISPE, 181. I'm not smart enough to know what "standard deviations" means.

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Jones: Objectivism comes close. I want to see humanity cure that bug in the program that allows mutual destruction, but not by self-sacrifice.

Jacobsen: What social philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Jones: Individual rights, equality of rights (not equality of results), freedom of speech (spoken, written, communicated in any form), freedom of assembly and movement, and absolutely no initiation of force or violence by anyone against anyone. The US Constitution comes close but leaves too many openings for government to become tyrannical by elevating some to rule others. The right to property honestly acquired (a libertarian principle) is paramount. Mutual consent in all relationships. Freedom to conduct private enterprise with division of labor, reward for constructive and productive work. Social contract without cheating and exploiting others.

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Jones: See previous paragraph. No rulers, no dictators, no subjugating anyone. All interactions for mutual benefit by mutual agreement. No cause for envy that leads to internecine hatreds, envy, and rationalization for enmities and strife. The golden rule: do no harm; treat others as you want to be treated. Galt's oath will do. Ethical, social, political—they are not separate things. And they are of interest and value only to human beings.

Jacobsen: What metaphysics makes some sense to you, even the most workable sense to you?

Jones: "Existence exists". Everything has a cause, or combinations of causes; and everything contributes to effects, in whatever combinations. The Universe—meaning all that exists—operates on what mathematicians call combinatorics. As my slogan states, "From the Singularity to Infinity, how forms combine and grow."

Jacobsen: What worldview-encompassing philosophical system makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Jones: The book I'm going to write. The key word is "system", even if its structure and process are not yet fully understood. The Libertarians are close to it in their principles. Humans fighting against humans must absolutely stop. It is a disease.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Jones: Being aware that I can think, and how I think, and how I choose values and act to attain them, and that I can contemplate answering questions like these. By "meaning", I assume you mean "value"—the positive end of the magnet.

Jacobsen: Is meaning externally derived, internally generated, both, or something else?

Jones: "Meaning" (or "value") has meaning only for living, thinking beings who recognize in their environment the elements that coincide with their inner and outer needs. Everyone's values

are unique to themselves, a unique combination of factors, though there may be close resemblances with those of others. The search for meaning (value) is internally directed, part of the survival kit. It is fulfilled within the conditions of the external reality, which may well be an infinite combination of factors.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in an afterlife? If so, why, and what form? If not, why not?

Jones: No, not in an individual, conscious form. Physically, you may pass on your DNA, which contains much of the DNA of all your forbears mixed with the branch of your mate. Your intellectual material—every thought you had, every word you spoke, every action you took, has left a mark on the grand scheme of human life and is woven into the future if only in a tiny way. Every value you held and imparted lives on after you, for good or ill. So better make it good. And as for your material remains, they become reabsorbed eventually into the stuff of which the Universe is made, whether as fossils or as food for worms and microbes. What pulled together to be YOU goes back to be recycled in infinite ways forever. If you won't be conscious of it, enjoy it while you live.

Jacobsen: What do you make of the mystery and transience of life?

Jones: In the hierarchy of existence, it is still evolving as part of the energy in the Universe or of the Universe. There is no divine plan, and no divine planner, and all the stuff that exists will mix and match, push apart and recombine as its energy is able to make it. I'm content to see it as an infinite process. Someday science will have a better definition of what makes existence exist and work. Or do we want to fantasize that the entire Universe is a single atom in the next size up?

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Jones: To answer that, let me give you an excerpt from one of my poetic ventures, the last few stanzas of a long piece by the title of "A Periodic Table of Polyform Puzzles" – www.gamepuzzles.com/periodic.pdf. It wants to say that love is the function of energy that seeks to nurture and preserve a continuity of existence in all its forms, in all its synergy, from physical reproduction to mental persistence. After showing a variety of geometric examples, it concludes:

This enumeration is not the fullest score.

Geometry leaves lots more of every level to explore.

The essence is to find a starting point and grow,
Expanding ever up and outward by algorithmic flow.

Each chain becomes a Universe, a periodic drive,
Ascending and continuous, its energy alive.

Each step combines from previous stages—evolution's code,
And at each step we can dissect it back to its first node.

Something there is in human minds that cherishes the new,
That sees the beauty of emerging order, that it's good and true.
That's how we build a consciousness, no end in sight,
And how we build the future in growing wisdom's light.

Every singularity longs for an endless goal,
So mathematics models the Universe's soul.
Now let us trace one further, wider mega-thought above
And call the Universe's combinatorial joinings—love.

Footnotes

[1] Lifetime member, [Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing](#); Member, [American Mensa](#); Diplomate, [International Society for Philosophical Enquiry](#); Member, [Libertarian Party](#); Member, [Future of Freedom Foundation](#); Member, [The Planetary Society](#); Member, [SETI@Home](#); Member, [The Atlas Society](#).

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/jones-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Brandon Feick on Intelligence and Philosophy: Member, Glia Society (1)

2022-06-01

***Brandon Feick** is a Member of the Glia Society. He discusses: the purpose of intelligence tests; the God concept; an afterlife; genius; science; ethical philosophy; social philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; philosophical system; meaning; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; the mystery and transience of life; and love.*

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests to you?

Brandon Feick[1],[2]*: I believe the purpose is to test for certain capabilities within a person. IQ tests can be used to identify people with a specific type of problem-solving capabilities.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the God concept or gods idea and philosophy, theology, and religion?

Feick: I believe in the light of Good. Not all people know of a God, and what God is varies in different parts of the world. I believe that God is Good in that God = Good. First and foremost, I believe in Good in the world. Good has brought us this far, and so I believe we must continue to have faith in Good.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in an afterlife? If so, why, and what form? If not, why not?

Feick: Unfortunately, I do not believe in an afterlife. I believe my self and my brain would be no longer and that I would no longer have conscious thought. Perhaps in ways that I am entangled with the world I may continue onward at some level, but I do not think too hard beyond that.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Feick: I do not think profound intelligence is required to do something that can be described as genius, whether it be/is an achievement in a short series of moments in time or the cumulation of a longer series of moments. However, in cases where someone is described as a genius in fields like music, literature, science, etc., I think that profound intelligence is necessary.

Jacobsen: How much does science play into the worldview for you?

Feick: Science is an integral part of humans being an intelligent species.

Science is a result of the evolution of human intelligence.

Without science, we wouldn't have many of the things we do that help to make us comfortable living in the world.

I cannot see a way to stop technological advance. For this reason, science must play a significant role in anyone's worldview...

Unless, they do not dwell on such things as human life...

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Feick: The most important thing is that people consider what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is bad. Let the question resonate, and over time, it becomes more natural to consider this question in our actions. Sometimes, people do what would be considered a good thing,

and what results from it would be considered bad, and vice versa. People can easily do things that are bad or wrong without realizing it initially. It is hard to predict the long-term outcome of events. The best we can do to achieve the most good is to ask ourselves the question of what is good, what is bad, what is right, and what is wrong.

Jacobsen: What social philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Feick: Smile often.

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Feick: I live in bubbles. If you are in politics, it makes sense to achieve your goals. Philosophically, achieve your goals. It will build a strength which will aid you alongside others who don't play fair.

Jacobsen: What metaphysics makes some sense to you, even the most workable sense to you?

Feick: I believe that all is one, and by this I am referring to evolution. If you keep going back through time far enough, it would suggest all of life began at a single point, even if there were multiple occurrences of that point. It suggests we are all interconnected, but I guess in that same thought we'd be just as connected to a tree as a person.

Metaphysics... the first principle of things, time, space, etc.

Jacobsen: What worldview-encompassing philosophical system makes some sense, even the most workable sense to you?

Feick: I do not think I can answer this question without consideration of my personal wants, and then I find comes in the idea of ideology.

I am not studied on such matters. If I felt inspired to read about such systems, I would probably end up developing my own.

Devote oneself to nature of one's being, to contribute to evolution as nature through time reveals itself through intelligent beings.

Jacobsen: Is meaning externally derived, internally generated, both, or something else?

Feick: I am internally driven, although in a different day and time, such as if I lived in a world where there was no external motivation, then perhaps I would not be as internally motivated.

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a profoundly intelligent person?

Feick: Sometimes, nothing at all. Sometimes, experience. Sometimes, ...

Then begin writing.

I think a profoundly intelligent person has more limitations.

Jacobsen: What do you make of the mystery and transience of life?

Feick: Life is only as mysterious as we can imagine it being.

Transience of life I will have to Google.... Lasting for a short time

It is just the self that is transient. I imagine that in nature, the self produces another self because it must... a being produces another being because it must. I imagine that it is inherently tied to the process of evolution. I don't mind the transience of life... it's the pain I don't like. A feeling

of ecstasy won't last forever, but some pains last a lifetime, so it's a bit lopsided in my opinion, and then there's the pain of dying. Nobody wants that. Nobody wants the pain of living.

I get excited about the mystery of life. I find it interesting that in a way, life is one continuous being throughout all of evolution. Every human that ever walked the earth, born, lived, reproduced repeat, and I imagine this process goes all the way back to beginning of evolution. I'll never understand the greatest mysteries of life and the universe, and that's ok, because it might even be beyond human comprehension, and if somehow humans did unravel the mystery... one would still then have to ask, would that result in good or bad in the world?

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Feick: Definition: Intense feeling of deep affection. Connected to one's being, sense of purpose.

It becomes a food, a source of energy, a thrivingness.

Besides the feeling of what is love, I think it incorporates something more. You strongly desire for the wellbeing of what you love. We want the best for those we love.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Glia Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/feick-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Tomáš Perna on German Nazism, God, Virtue, Freedom of the Will, and Scientific Discourse: Member, World Genius Directory (2)

2022-06-08

Tomáš Perna is a Member of the World Genius Directory and United Giga Society. He discusses: the family fight against German Nazism; the heroic stories; theology; simple countrywoman; police inspection; the emotional sense of aloneness; denomination of Christianity; the 4D-differential structure; commercial software; the common sense of quantum theory and relativity; the fundamental definition of philosophy; maths; I.Q. tests; the administered test in the design office; isolation; Socrates; Shakespeare; Newton; Euler; Poe; Mácha; Einstein; the natural or organic aesthetics of parsimony; mastery of the norms of an environment; numerical and logical capacities of computers; the explanatory gap between the human Central Nervous System and digital computational systems; the soul; God; symbolic parables; non-denominational, non-religious theism; scientific research; the prime virtues; Nature; Theologians; free will; human possibilities and natural limitations; Entities-Identity searching; Idealism; and our identities.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: How did the father of your mother and his brothers fight against German Nazism?

Tomáš Perna[1],[2]*: Well, it was in the framework of intelligence service and resistance activities organized by the group called Clay Eva in North Moravia (a part of Reichsprotektorat Böhmen und Mähren). Two brothers of my grandfather were directly involved in the leadership of the organization. My grandfather had contacts and was trying to use and activate them for the group's goals. The whole group was finally betrayed by one of its closest cooperators.

Jacobsen: What were some of the heroic stories, if the family stories can be told in a public forum, in fighting against the National Socialists of Weimar Germany?

Perna: As I have mentioned above, it was in the Reichsprotektorat, not in Weimar Germany in its concrete sense. As to your question – I feel that I cannot highlight some particular act, there were many “everyday acts” of their heroism. I admire that (during their arrest by Gestapo) they withstand horrible tortures without betraying of any person or contact of the group. It is already very hard to imagine it.

Jacobsen: As an admixture of Czech, Polish, and Italian, Christians, was theology or doctrine discussed much in the family home?

Perna: Not directly, my parents, especially father, explained to me that the world gives no sense without a deep belief in God.

Jacobsen: What was the story of this “simple countrywoman”? It has been said: Intelligence is passed matrilineally. Maybe, not so simple after all, perhaps.

Perna: If it is really the case, then I can express the term “simple countrywoman” in other words: despite her hard destiny, she accepted it without any word of complaint or some “babbling”. She prayed for all people every evening, not only for family members.

Jacobsen: What was the era of police inspection like for your mother's father? He wouldn't

have had the kinds of technology and techniques available now. Ingenuity may have been an asset.

Perna: Maybe. I know very little about his “criminal cases”. In so far as I know, he would have had to be promoted into one of the highest positions of the police as a young man yet. But ... returning home from the service everyday, there were three pubs on the way. He successfully missed them all, but not always the last one ... the only contraindication of his promotion, as it was used to say.

Jacobsen: How did you cope with the emotional sense of aloneness?

Perna: Many of the very sensitive people can feel themselves as being emotionally alone. I am not an exception. However, if these are your basic feelings that are not understood or accepted, even partially at least, then your heart becomes alone. The resulting deep sadness cannot be explained out of the heart's tears.

Jacobsen: What denomination of Christianity, if any, for both parents?

Perna: If any, then a catholic one I would say.

Jacobsen: Does this echo into any views for you, today?

Perna: Of course. In no resignation on a deep sense of things that could seem to be absurd at the first look.

Jacobsen: What is the 4D-differential structure?

Perna: From the calculus we know, how to differentiate functions up to 3D and only locally in 4D. The 4D-differential structure is a way of how to differentiate symmetry related functions in 4D globally.

Jacobsen: How is this applied to commercial software?

Perna: Hard to answer shortly – Roughly speaking, commercial software, mostly based on the finite element modelling method (FEM), should make a job of numerical simulations of some problems of physical reality prevailing. The goal is to understand the problems in more detail. The shortcoming is that you can never know what is an underlying mathematical model (if it exists) of the simulated problem. Using 4D, you can design a mathematical model of the problem at first and solve it subsequently, or solve existing one. Then you design a mathematical model of the FEM-simulation-process itself and by comparing the real and FEM-mathematical models, you can optimize parameters of how the FEM-simulations can be most effectively employed (calibrated). It saves a lot of computational hours and helps to avoid a non-existent phenomena emergence at FEM-simulation-results.

Jacobsen: What is, in short, the common sense of quantum theory and relativity?

Perna: Considering a moving particle, I would say that relativity is more affine to its mass-behavior, while quantum theory to its charge configurations. Charge conjugate solutions of problems are basically connected with the wave associated with a particle, so, without a charge, there were no wave-particle complementarity, or vice versa respectively. Thus, a wave-particle complementarity implies a fundamental quantum-relativistic feature of the physical problems on the elementary level. Common sense itself is mediated via the Golden mean, now slowly emerging in quantum theory. What is an elementary level, however?

Jacobsen: What is the fundamental definition of philosophy to you?

Perna: Oh, Jesus! So, I think that philosophy is an instrument of how to find a sense of existence and being within a finiteness of limitations and explains the difference between both.

Jacobsen: How did maths win over your heart (sorry, philosophy)?

Perna: I can only repeat one point of view, according to which maths is an applied philosophy. When you practice a philosophy, then after a little time, maths starts to emerge itself and perhaps together with vibrations of poetry within your concepts, if meaningfully grasped.

Jacobsen: How are I.Q. tests trickily addictive for you? How did you cut the habit – so to speak – if, indeed, you did?

Perna: Like any “winning game” which need not to be naturally rooted, but is requiring an engagement of a promising thinking process. You must not become a “gambler”, retrying to solve the problems that are unsolvable for you or that are unsolvable at all, being not correctly posted. Fortunately, due to a complete lack of time, I have almost stopped IQ-testing.

Jacobsen: Why didn’t the administered test in the design office state the I.Q. to you? It seems like a common thing, and unfortunate. Any idea as to the rationale behind it?

Perna: I have taken 2 administered IQ tests, 160 and 172 in SD15. However, independently of their origin, I like deep symbolical problems as a basis for any IQ testing; and I don’t like working memory tests.

Jacobsen: What if loners confuse their self-isolation or socially imposed isolation as a mark of genius for themselves when, in fact, they happen to be ordinary or morons with a tendency to self-isolate/with poor social skills?

Perna: If poor social skills, then an isolation regarded by them as a mark of genius brings only more suffering for themselves. I regret to say that many outsiders are suspected to have poor social skills, including people without a home. That is unacceptable either for IQ 90, or 150+, e.g., since it carries a leading feature of ignorance.

Jacobsen: It was a short answer. However, I’ll have to parse it into some more depth, even singular statements or opinions on each. Why/how was Socrates a genius?

Perna: I guess that Socrates had revealed moral patterns that inspired Plato to consider the deep role of archetypes as “generators” of a common sense of things.

Jacobsen: Why/how was Shakespeare a genius?

Perna: Hamlet.

Jacobsen: Why/how was Newton a genius?

Perna: Calculus.

Jacobsen: Why/how was Euler a genius?

Perna: As one of the personifications of great natural science.

Jacobsen: Why/how was Poe a genius?

Perna: Deep sensitiveness together with great analytical skills and ideas covered ingeniously by popular forms.

Jacobsen: Why/how was Mácha a genius?

Perna: He wrote the poem “Máj” (May) that is a very basis of romanticism in poetry itself. More strong than Byron’s works.

Jacobsen: Why/how was Einstein a genius?

Perna: Relativity.

Jacobsen: Is the attribute of new ideas with beauty a means by which to describe the natural or organic aesthetics of parsimony seen in some novel concepts?

Perna: One of the most fundamental properties of beauty is symmetry of revealed forms of Nature. If the symmetry is not an illusion, then it is coupled together with the least action principle at manifesting a dance of phenomena. A tendency to reduce a possible meaning of things to be graspable by rational languages can be a very dangerous parsimony substituting this least action in some novel approaches to the understanding of Nature.

Jacobsen: How do so many with profound intelligence become rock solid ordinary rather than other than this? Is it a mastery of the norms of an environment becoming ossified?

Perna: Yes, completely.

Jacobsen: How do numerical and logical capacities of computers far outstrip human capabilities?

Perna: What should I say? – The comparison itself is nonsensical; otherwise, the answer could be primitive: like a Ferrari is faster than Bolt. Nevertheless, some guys got mad and declared that they have found out an artificial consciousness 😊 :).

Jacobsen: What is the explanatory gap between the human Central Nervous System and digital computational systems in the realm of the symbolic?

Perna: None in general. There could be some metaphysical approaches to this problem yet, but it is a pure waste of time. The consciousness condition is an existence of neurons. So, if you want to consider the explanatory gap, then you should be able to construct a language learnable and usable by conscious zombies.

Jacobsen: What is the substance vis-à-vis the soul of a human being, i.e., the relation of this substance to God and the God to the substantive of a human being, the soul?

Perna: I would have to be God to be able to answer your question. I think that the human soul cannot be self related or self-dual, respectively, because there arises the question, within which such self-duality could be able to exist to be recognized. Paradoxically speaking then, the fact that God is the essence of our souls (in “vis-à-vis” way, if you want) as parts of Him, is or can be experienced only via the belief in God.

Jacobsen: As God gives identity to me, as a substantive impression of the soul upon me for me – the persona, person, or identity, “Scott Douglas Jacobsen” – to exist in the first place, is this eternal manifestation something in which the temporal manifests as my identity in my lifetime while embedded in this fundament of the eternal? If so, what is cut between the eternal and ‘aeternal’ – so to speak, or the atemporal and the temporal? Where does this truncation or demarcation take place?

Perna: The individual identity given by God is a miracle. I only feel that God, being completely

conscious of your consciousness, provides you with your individual identity over all times. Otherwise, you can become one Smith of all Smiths due to the above-mentioned self-duality. On the other hand, a temporarily unique measure in which you personally can be conscious of your consciousness can be called as “Scott Douglas Jacobsen”.

Jacobsen: Do symbolic parables delimit consciousness and permit a mental landscape beyond the numeric and the logical for a “chance to touch God”?

Perna: Yes, the richer the above-mentioned measure, the greatest chance to be conscious of a touch of God. Only symbolic parables out of any rational languages can be generated by this measure; Rationality is limited by itself.

Jacobsen: Does non-denominational, non-religious theism make the most sense of you – with “humility and deepness of heart”?

Perna: Yes. At the same time, we should be aware that Christ does not belong to any denomination or religion. If owned by any such system, then he cannot be the Son of God and the “owning system” suffers from superiority.

Jacobsen: Does scientific research play a role in the theism/deism or the God-substance-soul discourse? If so, how so?

Perna: Of course. Take “only” Gödel’s incompleteness theorems. You namely don’t know, which relevant truth is represented by those true statements (that can be neither proved nor disproved within the considered system). Therefore, you should try to work more with the symbolical solutions of natural problems (like with the wave function in the quantum theory up to its physical measurement) in order to get a perspective, from which they can be perceived as being possibly logically rooted. And, with symbols, you are close to what is discussed above.

Jacobsen: What are the prime virtues in virtue ethics for you? Is this in connection with the role of values leading to non-religious theism for you?

Perna: Yes.

Jacobsen: As Nature continues to become revealed more in the course of time and mental effort, and experiment, what can be said about it?

Perna: If you can really preserve such a great process, you reveal new and more horizons and perspectives. More and more beauty will be revealed to you, until possible manipulations and conscious lies.

Jacobsen: Theologians talk of deism, theism, duotheism, henotheism, monotheism, pantheism, pandeism, panendeism, panentheism, holopanendeism, holopanentheism, *et cetera*. Any thoughts on each of these while God is on the menu of the conversation, good sir?

Perna: None.

Jacobsen: What is free will or freedom of the will here?

Perna: I think that free will is a unique property of harmonic connections to others. No freedom for the will, where harmony destroyed, cheated or betrayed.

Jacobsen: How should considerations about human possibilities and natural limitations set bounds on discussion about the structure and function of human societies?

Perna: I partially answered this question. But, who will calibrate these considerations such that

they could lead to the convergence of (still) human societies to configuration of harmonic relations between its members? If, for example, a constant economic growth does, then you miss constants of nature, obtaining either global collapse in its possibly many forms, or animal society.

Jacobsen: Can you expand on Entities-Identity searching, please?

Perna: Search for beauty!

Jacobsen: What kind of Idealism?

Perna: That any idea cannot be connected with any matter pattern only then, when it is connected with symbols as the objects of existence and with objects as the symbols of being. In any opposite case, the idea collapses into some kind of existence/being-malformations.

Jacobsen: Is this sense of a non-afterlife afterlife an identification of eternal transformation as a law of Nature? What does this mean for our identities?

Perna: Your identity is not connected with the death of your material body. You will “only” obtain a further opportunity to make your temporarily unique measure of being conscious of your consciousness richer. I believe that this is the law of Nature.

Footnotes

[1] Member, World Genius Directory; Member, United Giga Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 8, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/perna-2>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Matthew Scillitani on the Giga Society and the Realizations: Member, Giga Society (7)

2022-06-08

Matthew Scillitani, member of *The Glia Society* and *The Giga Society*, is a web developer and SEO specialist living in North Carolina. He is of Italian and British lineage, and is predominantly English-speaking. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at East Carolina University, with a focus on neurobiology and a minor in business marketing. He's previously worked as a research psychologist, data analyst, and writer, publishing over three hundred papers on topics such as nutrition, fitness, psychology, neuroscience, free will, and Greek history. You may contact him via e-mail at mattscil@gmail.com. He discusses: the Giga Society; the point; the main cautionary notes about high-I.Q. communities; the benefits; self-knowledge; education; exciting developments; major disappointments; and having children.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Do you think the Giga Society has fulfilled its function as an incentive for taking high-range tests?

Matthew Scillitani[1],[2]*: Yes, absolutely. Many people have told me they've taken several (sometimes dozens) high-range I.Q. tests to try to qualify. Qualifying for the the Giga Society wasn't something I even considered as a possibility for myself until I finished Psychometric Crosswords though, the test I eventually qualified with.

Jacobsen: A question sitting in the backs of a lot of people's minds, "What is the point?" Why take part in the societies? Why take these tests? What purpose do these fulfill in personal terms and in practical benefit outside of the provision of some fun puzzles to solve?

Scillitani: Well, joining high-I.Q. societies used to be one of the few ways to actually correspond with other intelligent people in the pre-internet era. With how many internet forums there are now, societies are largely unnecessary for that purpose though I think. The main reasons I've joined high-I.Q. societies was to either take free I.Q. tests or for some minor recognition. It's not an achievement to have a high I.Q. but it's always nice to be recognized for having some positive quality about you, like being freakishly tall or abnormally handsome or whatever. Something else I get out of these societies, most notably Paul Cooijmans' Glia Society, is lots of communication with other members on topics like STEM, politics, religion, and so forth. Some members who have very bright ideas also present them to the society for feedback, which is another benefit of membership. There are other benefits too, like being able to publish papers, puzzles, and play games like chess against wickedly smart opponents, to name a few.

As for taking the tests, I took my first high-range I.Q. test after seeing an interview of Rick Rosner and thinking, 'I wonder how I'd score on one of those tests.' After I got my results I had the typical dopamine rush one gets when they do well on something and was immediately hooked and took even more tests. The benefit of test-taking outside of learning about your own intellectual capabilities and for fun is the most important reason of all: to contribute to the research of intelligence and genius. If we can learn which qualities make a genius and can accurately measure them then that'll go a long way in discovering potential geniuses when they're young. Maybe there are 500 geniuses on Earth right now but 450 of them have been tossed aside and are working jobs far below their ability level. Very few geniuses are "charismatic" so it happens very often that their geniusness is mistaken for stupidity and they go unnoticed their whole lives. With

accurate testing, this can be avoided and we'll have many more geniuses to aid in the advancement of mankind.

Jacobsen: What are the main cautionary notes about high-I.Q. communities for you?

Scillitani: Hmm, so far I haven't had many bad experiences in any high-I.Q. communities I've been in. There are a few members with weak egos who are quick to anger but aside from that I'd say people with high I.Q.s are more respectful, polite, mentally stable, ethical, and kind than in the general population. If someone ever founds a town of only high-I.Q. society members I'd move there.

Jacobsen: What are the benefits to those who take part in healthy high-I.Q. community life?

Scillitani: The benefits I listed in a previous question apply here too but I'll add that it is also a great way to make high-quality friends.

Jacobsen: How has self-knowledge, at least, of a higher I.Q. than the norm of the population influenced personal decisions to pursue higher education?

Scillitani: It hasn't influenced my decisions too much regarding education. I was enrolled in a university before I ever took a high-range I.Q. test or joined any societies, although I considered dropping out several times because I have an extreme dislike of school. I would say on a positive note that it definitely boosted my confidence to know my I.Q. score and be a member of high-I.Q. societies. In terms of education, nothing seems off limits or scary to deal with for me. I passed Calculus I and II collectively in under two months after teaching them to myself, and I wouldn't have had the confidence to do that prior to knowing my I.Q. score.

Jacobsen: It's been a hot minute since we last chatted. How is education going, by the way?

Scillitani: I've moved away from psychology and business and am now pursuing a degree in Computer Science! I'm hoping I can find a stable day job and make some cool apps in my spare time so I can hopefully retire at an early age.

Jacobsen: Any new, fun, or exciting developments on the educational front?

Scillitani: There's nothing too exciting going on aside from being somewhat close to getting another degree. I think I'm just ten or so classes away from that.

Jacobsen: What are your major disappointments with the high-I.Q. communities? I've had two people, recently, comment on this to me. One left a high-I.Q. society. Another wanted all listings online completely removed from them. So, in this light, people can be disillusioned from prior expectations or considerations about those communities. Many gain some modicum of benefit. While, at the same time, I get those stories, too. The question seems apt with the two recent cases.

Scillitani: My biggest disappointment by far is from something I've learned from high-I.Q. communities and not something regarding those communities themselves. Maybe this will come across as arrogant but what I learned is that most people, the extreme majority even, have incredibly weak mental powers. If you do well on an I.Q. test there will be many problems that you solve instantly and think even a toddler could get but when you learn that most people get every single answer wrong or can only answer one or two problems correctly it shatters the illusion that everyone around you is able to actually form coherent thoughts.

Jacobsen: Do you think having children influenced the perspective on getting things more right

the next time around with proper facilitation and education of the gifted young?

Scillitani: I don't have any kids yet (aside from my dachshund, who I treat like a child). I was a child myself once though, and I definitely want to have my future children I.Q. tested at an early age to help figure out how to best accommodate their educational needs. I'd like them to be with children their own age so rather than skipping grades there may be private school options for gifted children that my wife and I can look into. They could always be intellectually average though; we'll just have to wait and see.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Giga Society; Member, Glia Society. Bachelor's Degree, Psychology, East Carolina University.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 8, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/scillitani-7>;
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Conversation with Entemake Aman (阿曼) on the Chinese, Chinese Culture, and Chinese Schooling: Member, OlympIQ Society (3)

2022-06-08

Entemake Aman (阿曼) *claims an IQ of 180 (SD15) with membership in OlympIQ. With this, he claims one to be of the people with highest IQ in the world. He was born in Xinjiang, China. He believes IQ is innate and genius refers to people with IQ above 160 (SD15). Einstein's IQ is estimated at 160. Aman thinks genius needs to be cultivated from an early age, and that he needs to make achievements in the fields he is interested in, such as physics, mathematics, computer and philosophy, and should work hard to give full play to his talent. He discusses: the Chinese of today; other interests of Chinese people of the older generations; "good learning" as high I.Q.; basic philosophical premise of Chinese education; Mensa stopped testing in China; Wayne Zhang; Qiao Han Sheng; known Chinese high-I.Q. community members in OlympIQ; Sheng Han's I.Q. Society; the answers of "slseii, slse48 and numerus"; Wen-chin su; the best universities in China; Chinese education and intensive study; exam oriented style of education; the division between science and liberal arts; English emphasized in the education; get into the top university; fate; exam oriented educational system; key middle schools; Chinese education; unlikely to do well in Chinese education; and the major math and physics competitions in China.*

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: If I.Q. doesn't interest the Chinese of today, or "only a few people," what interests modern Chinese people of the young generation? What interests Chinese people of the older generations?

Entemake Aman (阿曼)[1],[2]*: Young people in China are interested in online games, mobile Tiktok apps and other projects. The old man is interested in chess and playing cards.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, what are other interests of Chinese people of the older generations?

Aman: The older generation of Chinese are interested in chess, playing cards and the entertainment equipment in the nursing home. In China's IQ circle, I haven't seen anyone with an IQ of more than 160 (SD15) and over the age of 60.

Jacobsen: How do Chinese nationals interpret "good learning" as high I.Q., or as a proxy for higher intelligence?

Aman: In China, the IQ of those who study very well is generally between 120 and 130. They often get close to full marks in physics and mathematics. This gives ordinary people the impression that they are geniuses.

Jacobsen: Why has Mensa stopped testing in China?

Aman: Because the former chairman of Mensa didn't run it well. And British Mensa won't let it be held in China again.

Jacobsen: What makes Wayne Zhang known in Chinese high-I.Q. culture?

Aman: Wayne Zhang is very low-key. He is the first Olympiq member in China. He is from Shanghai. I haven't heard anything about him for 10 years.

Jacobsen: What makes Qiao Han Sheng known in Chinese high-I.Q. culture?

Aman: He is the founder of HRIQ (the threshold is 146.3, SD15) association and is well-known.

Jacobsen: Who are the other known Chinese high-I.Q. community members in OlympIQ now?

Aman: Olympiq has several Chinese who cheated in, but there is no evidence. Because some test answers leaked. I hope you can contact Jon and tell him about it. There is also Wang Peng, a well-known member of Olympiq. He once published a book about Mensa

Jacobsen: How is Sheng Han's I.Q. Society building membership? What are the tests taken for membership into the society?

Aman: Chen Wen Jin is the founder of Sheng Han. His association accepts IQ tests designed by him.

Jacobsen: Who leaked the answers of "slseii, slse48 and numerus"?

Aman: Some people with strong vanity and insufficient IQ leaked it. Anyway, some super high scores in China can't be trusted. China has 15 people with an IQ of more than 170sd15.

Jacobsen: What was the test Wen-Chin Su scored highest on?

Aman: Numerus Classic 36/36.

Jacobsen: How does Chinese education and intensive study for 12 years differ from other countries of the world?

Aman: Anyway, I feel very hard. I'm not very clear about education abroad, but I heard that education in the United States as a child focused on interest, talent and happiness.

Jacobsen: Is the exam oriented style of education good or bad, in your opinion?

Aman: For most ordinary people (those with IQ below 130, SD15), exam oriented education is good, but it's too hard. I don't think it's good for people with an IQ of more than 130, SD15, because I think we should pay more attention to the talents and interests of people with high IQ, rather than just reciting a lot of knowledge.

Jacobsen: Why the division between science and liberal arts?

Aman: Because universities need to choose majors that pay attention to liberal arts and science when choosing majors, and liberal arts majors pay more attention to recitation.

Jacobsen: Also, why is English emphasized in the education?

Aman: Because English is an international language, some college graduates will study abroad after graduation.

Jacobsen: What score does one need out 750 to get into the top university in the country?

Aman: Most of the top universities in the United States do not accept China's college entrance examination.

Jacobsen: You mentioned, "Fate." Why does education determine one's fate in Chinese society?

Aman: Only when you enter a good university can you have the opportunity to enter a high paying company. Large companies pay attention to college entrance examination scores and the university popularity.

Jacobsen: When does this exam oriented educational system begin for Chinese youth, e.g., age,

grade, etc.?

Aman: First grade at the age of 6 to 7 and high school at the age of 15 to 18.

Jacobsen: Why are key middle schools and good teachers the most important for the trajectory of one's life in Chinese society?

Aman: It's hard to get high marks in China's college entrance examination. You must have good teachers to teach you. My personal experience tells me that if the teacher doesn't teach well, probably there will be no good results in the college entrance examination.

Jacobsen: How does Chinese education fail geniuses?

Aman: Among the 15 Chinese with an IQ of more than 170 (sd15), none of them went to Tsinghua University and Peking University. Most of them went to ordinary universities. China's education pays great attention to recitation and the application of knowledge. The requirement of g factor in the college entrance examination is 120. The rest depends on non intellectual factors such as effort, teachers and luck. And there are only four to six Chinese universities in the world's top 100.

Jacobsen: Why are I.Q.s above 140, in your opinion, unlikely to do well in Chinese education (and so society)?

Aman: China's college entrance examination system pays more attention to recitation and the ability to use knowledge. Smart people from 120 to 130 can go to Tsinghua University and Peking University through efforts, but it is very difficult and needs to work very hard. 1 3000 students can go to these two universities. IQ over 140 (SD15) doesn't have much advantage in the college entrance examination. IQ over 140 (SD15) is more active in thinking. I think we should pay more attention to their innovative thinking and imagination can make them become talents.

Jacobsen: What are the major math and physics competitions in China?

Aman: Only students from key senior high schools are eligible to participate in the physics competition and mathematics competition of Chinese senior high school students.

Footnotes

[1] Member, OlympIQ Society; Member, Mensa International.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 8, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/aman-3>;
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Conversation with Justin Duplantis on Updates, Ordinary Education, Boys, Development, Reverse Classroom, and Fatherhood: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society (6)

2022-06-08

Justin Duplantis works in computational biology and will complete his MBA specializing in data analytics this month. A lifetime member of the Triple Nine Society, he served as an Executive Committee member and Editor of their journal, *Vidya*. He is a father of two profoundly gifted boys, whom joined him in Mensa membership at the ages of two and three. Justin has interests in high IQ communities, intelligence, and intelligence research, as measured by IQ tests. Beyond that, he is a former professional billiards player and is currently playing in Israel in the Israeli Elite Hockey League (IEHL). He discusses: the big change in life; ordinary education; boys; the development of the child who hit the ceiling at 150; learning styles; a reverse classroom; the possible deviancies; relationship with executive positions and membership within the Triple Nine Society; developments in thoughts on fatherhood; the Ph.D.; and overall intellectual giftedness, as defined by IQ.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Apparently, a lot has changed since the last interview. So, first things first, what has been the big change in life for you?

Justin Duplantis[1],[2]*: So many things... I have diverged from my PhD pursuit and will complete my MBA in Data Analytics in just a few weeks. My son was diagnosed with medulloblastoma and went through nearly a year of treatment at St Jude Childrens Research Center. I am currently in Israel playing hockey in the IEHL.

Jacobsen: We talked about giftedness and humane considerations last time. The idea of ‘human first, and gifted second,’ to paraphrase you. What is the range of intelligence best suited for ordinary education in America now?

Duplantis: One SD on either side should be considered normalized education. The key is the need for even more segmentation than one group below and one group above. At minimum, 3+ SD on either side should have specialized education beyond. Although statistically the population that would fall into these categories would make fielding a class impractical/improbable, the potential for bussing to a regional facility would be the optimal option.

Jacobsen: Boys seem to be failing in numerous areas of education. Are there particular characteristics of asynchronous development amongst gifted boys even further exaggerated within this trend in education?

Duplantis: Speaking from a personal, rather than research-based perspective, males and females are stimulated by different things. This is not meant to be all-encompassing, rather a general rule. Regardless of intellect and age, males tend to be more boisterous and silly. The eye rolling from females begins early and follows us into old age. There are exceptions to every rule, but I am not one. My spouse has become an expert eye roller and her amusement for my dad jokes waned quickly.

Jacobsen: How is the development of the child who hit the ceiling at 150 now?

Duplantis: Both of my sons are in this range. They are now five and six years of age and are

homeschooled. After much debate between my wife and I, we determined that was the best option for our family. They are both completing third grade work, at the moment. This puts my eldest a year or so ahead, with my youngest three.

Jacobsen: Is different learning styles a euphemism for excusing poor cognitive performance in general? Or are differing styles of learning a legitimate phenomenon, empirically?

Duplantis: Empirically! Homeschooling our boys has been a welcomed challenge in our home. When teaching concepts, especially mathematics, the way in which a concept is grasped is not necessarily the same for both boys. They are of relatively equivalent intellect, yet their minds work in much different ways.

Jacobsen: What is the proper way to draw a thread and set bounds for the educational pathway for the young? Bill Nye spoke of a reverse classroom, not his idea, probably, where students spend time learning more in their own time rather than more with teachers. I do not know if this will work in conditions with more dependent thinkers rather than more independent students. By “independent,” I do not mean bold morons who think without acting; I mean individuals who think things through more methodically prior to making decisions for themselves or before integration of information into their knowledge networks.

Duplantis: The fact of the matter is that it is vital for parents and loved ones that surround children to enhance and cultivate the learning experience and process. A classroom is only going to teach so much. The true learning, as Bill Nye is referencing, is done outside those walls. It comes down to supporting and cultivating the interests of your children. When they latch on to an interest, provide them with the proper resources, outings, and conversations to allow them to dive deeper. In early development, it does not matter what your child is reading, as long as they are learning to love it.

Jacobsen: What are the possible deviancies, the pathways, for ‘troubled’ gifted youth? Any famous cases to exemplify some of these?

Duplantis: Idle hands.... The gifted often find themselves sitting in a class listening to a teacher repeat the same information over and over so the remedial students will grasp the concept. The passing of No Child Left Behind only exacerbated this by placing a strong emphasis on test scores. Teachers now, more than ever, need to ensure that all students are grasping the concepts prior to moving forward. The gifted are left thinking of ways to entertain themselves, which is oftentimes outside of the guidelines of the classroom rules. This is not a new phenomenon. In fact, pop culture has pointed to this for nearly 100 years. It is called evil genius after all....

Jacobsen: What is your relationship with executive positions and membership within the Triple Nine Society now?

Duplantis: Very little. In the most recent election there ended up being vacancies. I advised the Regent, Thorsten Heitzmann, that I would be willing to take up post. He opted to go with alternative volunteers.

Jacobsen: Any further developments in thoughts on fatherhood?

Duplantis: With my son having to go through cancer treatment it really put life into perspective. The most important thing is time. We will never get it back so one must cherish each moment. Hold your children, talk to them, spend time with them. They are only the age they are today, today.

Jacobsen: Have you received the Ph.D., or not? Whether yes or no, what is the status of the research answer(s) to the original question(s)?

Duplantis: As mentioned previously, I have opted to go down a different route and am only pursuing research on a personal level for the enrichment of my children.

Jacobsen: How have you defined “overall intellectual giftedness, as defined by IQ” in the research?

Duplantis: To be clear, intellectual giftedness and IQ are different items, although oftentimes utilized interchangeably. One can be intellectually gifted in a certain subject without having an overall IQ that is noteworthy. My key interest are not in the general intellectually gifted, rather those with IQs in the 3+ SD range. This is where the commonality of characteristics shine through most. I care not only about the education of these individuals, but their mental fortitude in a world that is not built for their speed.

Footnotes

[1] Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society; Former Editor, *Vidya*; Former Executive Committee Member, Triple Nine Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 8, 2022: <http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/duplantis-6>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

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Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on Research and God's Power: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (3)

2022-06-08

***Tianxi Yu (余天曦)** is a Member of God's Power, CatholIQ, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, Nano Society, and World Genius Directory. He discusses: balance; supporting the talented and supporting the innately disadvantaged; communication range; professional options; finances; love; redefine the idea of a successful life; women; individuals who flaunt or brag about their I.Q.s; inability to take personal responsibility for one's destiny tied to the laziness; basic research question; scientific discovery and research; a good lesson to take from individuals seeking 15 minutes; A.I. or other future technologies; infinite funding; blockchain; oxidative stress; deep learning; vanity or the flaunting; mindset to a more positive one; a smart person; wealth gap; collectivistic; fools confrontational about facts; society get better at the bottom; beauty in the world; the shortcomings of the world; ethics; encryption and distributed architecture; human progress; rare Earth metals; spheres of geopolitical influence; longevity research; deep-learning systems; intuitive capacities; balance between showing off and not boasting; God's Power; Chen Ning Yang; and maintain quality control on membership and on discussions of God's Power.*

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Should there be a balance between the development of the most talented into creative and scientific endeavours, and the devotion to helping individuals on the opposing side of the scale with various levels of mental and physical disabilities? Or should there be a skew of some form of resources devoted to the more talented due to the return on investment in this particular population?

Tianxi Yu (余天曦)[1],[2]*: I think the care for the weak should not be downgraded. The civilization of society is not the position of the strong, but more the posture of the weak. Many people with disabilities also make great contributions to the world.

Jacobsen: What are the considerations in Chinese society regarding supporting the talented and supporting the innately disadvantaged? Those natural variations in mental character?

Yu: Relative subsidies exist.

Jacobsen: Leta Stetter Hollingworth, apparently, proposed a communication range of 30 I.Q. points, unsure of the standard deviation, for effective communication. If true, and many in the high-I.Q. communities seem to accept this, then this would imply a truth to individuals of similar mental talent capable of equal comprehension, while geniuses, to non-geniuses, may appear as idiots, morons, or childlike. Although, simply claiming, "A lot of people believe this," doesn't make this more correct or even right in the first place. Regardless, does this seem true to you, as in "only people at the top of the world can understand each other"?

Yu: Yes, people at the relative bottom will never be able to understand the people standing at the top in their lifetime, and at best they can only be jealous and catch the lace. The top is often lonely because only a very small number of people can reach the top, and those who can't understand are at the bottom for the rest of their lives.

Jacobsen: You have many professional options before you, especially in an international con-

text, having talent, and in an era where personal and professional reinvention are necessities rather than options. What professions, at the moment, appeal to you, even if only temporarily?

Yu: Graduate student? At the moment, I am probably more interested in upgrading my education. but if I have to say a career, trader is more suitable for me at the moment. Although I said before that I like to do research work, but undergraduate degree in research work not many opportunities for promotion, may not even be a researcher for life.

Jacobsen: I remember the focus on the finances for you. It makes sense when not coming from money to want plentiful Yuan. Canadians are the same. If lacking family connections and monies, then they desire lots and lots of dollars. So, if you've shifted from financial focus to academic activities, what academic disciplines interest you?

Yu: Blockchain, oxidative stress, deep learning, etc.

Jacobsen: I have read about these trends in China, where the individuals do not want love because love gets mixed with obligations and responsibilities tied to extensive financial burdens over decades. Burdens in numerous areas in life. It shows structural issues in contradiction to individual sensibilities and values. People value love. Whereas, society continues to adjust to globalization, impacts from Covid-19 (and variants), and the wedge of economic inequality. Love fails in this environment. Partnership becomes practical oriented rather than intimacy oriented. Individuals revolt from this, East and West. Does this seem to reflect the issues mentioned about education costs, mortgage costs, and so on?

Yu: Yes, love is originally an act of mutual solicitation, people are self-interested animals, if the cost of love is much higher than the pleasure they can get, people will also give up courting.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, what if societies began to redefine the idea of a successful life? Similar to yourself, you shifted from a focus on money to academics.

Yu: I'd love to see that happen, that means we're moving in a good direction

Jacobsen: Why do women make you weak in the legs?

Yu: Hahaha, that comes from a movie called "Rocky", I just used that as a tease.

Jacobsen: Is it common among the high-I.Q. communities, more in interpersonal conversation rather than in public, to resent individuals who flaunt or brag about their I.Q.s? Is it similar to individuals who boast about professional associations (or professional associations that they claim to have) or individuals who they know (or claim to know)? Some will claim – and I've seen this in public fora – intelligence is simply the most important human trait.

Yu: It is very common, similar to the phenomenon you mentioned. Many people are in reality a loser, nothing professional skills, and the IQ community is the only relatively higher level circle they can access, so it is easy to inspire their vanity.

Jacobsen: Is inability to take personal responsibility for one's destiny tied to the laziness, lack of motivation, procrastination, and so on? Even the idea, since so smart, people should simply hand them things in life, i.e., entitlement.

Yu: I do think that, for whatever reason, in the end it is the negativity that causes them not to take responsibility for this, and these negative factors are often the result of laziness, procrastination, etc.

Jacobsen: What is the basic research question asked in “Infectious disease risk calculation and storage system based on 3-tier network system”?

Yu: A 3-tier network system proposed for current information security and anonymization to address risk assessment of various infectious diseases.

Jacobsen: With scientific discovery and research as a core interest for you, what 5 streams of research are the most interesting to you?

Yu: Hard to answer this question... I usually pay attention to the scientific achievements mainly to read what breakthroughs and representative papers inside the latest journals, not according to the direction I am interested in, only reading what I am interested in will make my vision become narrow. If I have to say, life science, magnetic structure, energy, blockchain, materials may be relatively more interested.

Jacobsen: You resent IQ boosters. Individuals who flaunt their IQ, whether real or fake. What seems like a good lesson to take from individuals seeking 15 minutes, or less, of fame?

Yu: Showing off can only look empty inside, just like when you say “you look like a fool” to Einstein, he has no ripples in his heart, but when you say “you look like a fool” to a fool, he will often argue with you.

Jacobsen: Do you think A.I. or other future technologies may narrow the gap between those at the top and those at the bottom?

Yu: No, gap will only get bigger, but the life of the bottom will also get better, but they are less likely to become the upper class.

Jacobsen: If you had infinite funding, so money was not an issue, what would like to do most?

Yu: First go around the world and see its beauty and shortcomings, then try to fill those shortcomings (charity, grants, foundations, etc.), and finally invest the money in disciplines that can make the world better: life sciences, information sciences, interdisciplinary disciplines, etc.

Jacobsen: What aspects of blockchain seem the most interesting to you?

Yu: Encryption technology and distributed architecture. The history of mankind is the history of the pursuit of security, of which cryptography is crucial because it is relatively abstract and therefore easily overlooked. But it is undeniable that it has been closely related to human progress.

Jacobsen: Is oxidative stress a solid foundation of research for longevity?

Yu: Correlation exists, and ROS is strongly associated with longevity. The relationship between oxidative stress and longevity is complex. In general, oxidative stress causes aging, but it has also been found that oxidative stress early in life prolongs lifespan.

Jacobsen: How is deep learning advancing?

Yu: Deep learning is the process of learning the intrinsic laws of sample data so that machines can have the same analytical learning ability as humans. The internal principle is also complex, let's say a two-layer neural network, the first layer is called the coding layer and the second layer is called the decoding layer, input samples to train the first layer of RBM units and use their output to train the second layer of RBM models, stack the RBM models to improve the model performance by adding layers.

Jacobsen: Are there any controls on the vanity or the flaunting within the communities?

Yu: No, but generally no strength to show off will also be despised by others.

Jacobsen: How might they change their mindset to a more positive one? As they age, those thought and behaviour patterns simply become more fixed.

Yu: I have posted related my reflections on CHIN web and also admonished others not to be too impatient in the usual chat, hoping it would help them. I can reveal a little bit, the only Chinese society I am currently in-God's Power (the president is Wu), will soon be joined by Chen Ning Yang, and there will be a lot of great people to follow, I hope these people will join to bring more positive influence, so that members can focus more on their own improvement.

Jacobsen: Once a smart person knows of their smarts, you point out an equanimity. Not necessarily an internal calm, a simple self-knowledge, something unable to knock them off their feet, as in the Einstein example. Is the boasting and the look of emptiness inside of showing off more internally developed or externally influenced? Is this lack coming from inside or the pressure to perform coming from outside?

Yu: I think the internal development of more general flaunting is a manifestation of low self-esteem and emptiness, in the case of not being recognized by the external environment internally affected, thus giving rise to low self-esteem or emptiness.

Jacobsen: If the wealth gap widens, how will this impact the structure of societies?

Yu: The situation is more complicated, in the case of insufficient resources, the gap between the rich and the poor will widen to make the society more unstable; if the resources are sufficient and the people at the bottom can live a very easy life, then the gap between the rich and the poor will not have too much impact on social stability.

Jacobsen: From the last question, how will this change the values of societies, whether individualistic or collectivistic? Although, the terms "individualistic" and "collectivistic" are, in a way, inaccuracies, approximations.

Yu: I hope it is collectivism, the individual can only go to promote the collective, but the result is not how the individual can influence.

Jacobsen: Why are fools confrontational about facts – making a fight where a dialogue or acceptance would be more useful?

Yu: Because they themselves do not know what the other side is talking about, what they say is not thought through, only want to tell others in the momentum he is not to be messed with.

Jacobsen: How will society get better at the bottom?

Yu: Depends on the level of social development and how it is developed.

Jacobsen: What is beauty in the world?

Yu: Beautiful scenery, beautiful people, pleasant acts of kindness, and feeling the care from the community.

Jacobsen: What are the shortcomings of the world?

Yu: Not big enough.

Jacobsen: The disciplines emphasized to make the world better seem devoted more to sciences:

“life sciences, information sciences...” Science remains morally neutral, directly, and ethically informative, derivatively. What ethic should guide the findings of science to “make the world better”?

Yu: Philosophy.

Jacobsen: How are encryption and distributed architecture crucial to human progress?

Yu: Removing the traditional credibility so that the people can also enjoy affirmative action, also provides protection in terms of information security and personal safety.

Jacobsen: What factors determine human progress?

Yu: Human curiosity about the unknown.

Jacobsen: This distributed architecture, more or less, can refer to electronic infrastructure in nations, between nations, and orbiting the Earth. Rare Earth metals are crucial to their operation: lanthanum (57), cerium (58), neodymium (60), samarium (62), europium (63), terbium (65), and dysprosium (66). What could future shortages or attempts at monopolization of rare Earth metals by powerful geopolitical players make of global security with more for one group over others?

Yu: Unless we enter a period of extreme war, the impact of rare earth monopoly or not is not significant.

Jacobsen: Lee Kuan Yew spoke of the world of the 21st century as one transitioning from a unipolar world to a multipolar world with spheres of geopolitical influence. Does this seem like the future for 21st century?

Yu: Yes, I think so too.

Jacobsen: Which longevity research seems the most legitimate to you?

Yu: Inhibition of kidney-type glutaminase-dependent glutaminolysis in eliminates senescent cell; Immune drivers that induce aging in the organism’s brain; Prevention of mitochondrial damage or decline in mitochondrial function with age; NAD⁺ can restore age-related muscle degeneration; Small molecule ISR inhibitors hold promise for rejuvenating the brain...and so on

Jacobsen: As humans have variation in analytical ability, computers have differences in analytical capability. How close are deep-learning systems from achieving average-level human generalized intelligence in analytical domains?

Yu: Soon.

Jacobsen: How might intuitive capacities be built into machines?

Yu: Information between neurons is transmitted by electrical signals, which are detected and interpreted for the purpose of guiding the machine. However, the skull blocks/distorts the electrical signals, making this technique more difficult to implement.

Jacobsen: What is the proper balance between showing off and not boasting?

Yu: Whether it turns others off.

Jacobsen: Why join God’s Power?

Yu: Because I think God’s Power will become the No.1 high IQ society in China.

Jacobsen: How did Chen Ning Yang become part of it (soon)? Did he come to God’s Power? Or

was he asked to join it?

Yu: Wu and Yang will have an interview in mid-June, and Yang has also accepted Wu's invitation.

Jacobsen: How will you maintain quality control on membership and on discussions of God's Power?

Yu: Lead them to struggle, stimulate their desire to struggle, and make them work harder for reality rather than for IQ scores.

Footnotes

[1] Member, God's Power; Member, CatholIQ; Member, Chinese Genius Directory; Member, EsoterIQ Society; Member, Nano Society; Member, World Genius Directory.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 8, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/yu-3>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

Conversation with Hindenburg Melão Jr. on Gratitude and Clarifications, and Life, Views, and Work: Founder, Sigma Society (1)

2022-06-08

Hindenburg Melão Jr. (January 15, 1972) was born in São Paulo, Brazil. He founded the most, or one of the most, selective high-I.Q. societies, the Sigma Society and is the Creator of the Sigma Test Extended. He is a philosopher, chess analyst, and an astrophotographer. He published hundreds of articles on chess, finance, philosophy, science, and more. He discusses: an extensive preamble of gratitude and clarifications to the interview; growing up; extended self; family background; youth with friends; education; purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence; extreme reactions to geniuses; greatest geniuses; genius and a profoundly gifted person; necessities for genius or the definition of genius; work experiences and jobs held; job path; myths of the gifted; God; science; tests taken and scores earned; range of the scores; ethical philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; worldview; meaning in life; source of meaning; afterlife; life; and love.

English version at the top. Portuguese version at the bottom.

First of all, I want to thank my girlfriend Tamara, for her patience in reading this text and helping me to cut long unnecessary snippets, Tor for the kindness of referring me for this interview and you for accepting this nomination and for your kind help with the translation review.

As much as possible, I tried to synthesize and simplify, but whenever it was necessary to decide between the shortest and the most correct answer, I chose the one that seemed to me the most correct. As a result, I ended up going longer than I would have liked and branching out some answers for details that apparently lose link to the question, but are actually indirectly connected by two, three, or more nodes, so that if those snippets were removed, there would be gaps that would compromise coherence.

Before presenting the answers, it is necessary to make some important clarifications: when the question is simple, it is enough to give a short answer so that the interpretation is univocal, but for complex questions, before answering it is necessary to conceptualize some of the terms used, to minimize the differences between the message to be transmitted and the interpretation that will be made of it. A question like “*Why, in chess, aren’t all doubled pawns weaknesses?*” There is no way to answer in a way that gives a correct idea in just 1 or 2 paragraphs, not even if the answer was simplified and summarized. To try to provide a reasonably correct and complete idea, at least 20 pages are needed, with several examples commented. In this interview, some questions involve similar situations.

This kind of difficulty is inherent in any question involving IQ, because the concept currently disseminated has some flaws that need to be properly revised, and some of these revisions are not trivial, requiring a considerable amount of preliminary clarification to ensure that the interpretation of the answer is sufficiently accurate and reliable.

Outside of high IQ societies, it is common for people to confuse scales with different standard deviations. James Woods’ SAT score 1579 is often converted to 180, while Bill Gates’ 1590 score is converted to 154 (sometimes 160), and both appear on the same list as if Woods’ IQ was higher than Gates’, although it is the opposite. This kind of primary error has all but been eradicated in high-IQ societies, but there are still systematic errors being ostensibly repeated, some of

which are large and serious. These errors cause a lot of confusion and make it difficult to correctly interpret fundamental questions. I am not referring to individual mistakes, made by a few people, but to “institutionalized” mistakes, universally accepted as if they were right and made by practically everyone.

In 2000, I solved a central problem in Psychometrics that had been dragging on since the 1950s, when Thurstone and Gardner realized the importance of standardizing cognitive tests in order to produce proportion-scale scores. Bob Seitz of Mega Society referred to this problem as “The Holy Grail of Psychometry”. After investigating this issue and resolving it, I published an article describing my method and showing how tests should be standardized. I also reviewed the Mega Test and Titan Test standards using this method. In 2003, I applied the same method to Sigma Test and published another, more detailed article, describing the entire standardization process step-by-step and explaining the reasons why this procedure is superior to the methods used. Among the chronic problems that are solved naturally with the application of this method, one of the most important is the correction in the calculations of percentiles and rarity levels. This is a systematic error that has been made since 1905. I will comment on this question in a little more detail in answering questions dealing with this topic.

There are two other mistakes that are made systematically, although the solutions to them are already known but are not applied, in part because these problems are not well understood: the problem of construct validity and the problem of the adequacy of the level of difficulty of the questions. to the level of intelligence that is intended to be measured. In a way, these problems are connected, because tests generally have good construct validity for a given range of skill levels, but not for the entire range in which the test is intended to measure, so the results turn out to be reasonably accurate and reliable for people whose scores are within the validity range, but begin to show serious distortions outside this range. A classic example to illustrate this problem is the Stanford-Binet V. The cognitive processes required to solve the BLS questions may be appropriate for correctly measuring intelligence in the range of 60 to 140, but begin to be less appropriate between 140 and 150, so scores above 150 are already predominantly representing a latent trait that is not what was intended to be measured. This completely compromises the validity of this type of instrument for measurement above 150, and puts in doubt the extent to which scores between 140 and 150 are actually reflecting the intellectual level.

To better organize the information, before proceeding I will mention 3 important mistakes that are systematically made by professional psychometrists and in high IQ societies:

1. The way in which tests are standardized, both clinical tests and high range IQ tests (hrIQts) – either through the use of Item Response Theory or Classical Test Theory – produces distortions in the scale, and the way in which the percentiles are calculated leads to results that are very far from reality. This distortion in the scale has already been pointed out since the 1950s, by Thurstone, and had already been noticed (although not described) by Binet himself in 1905. A good method for normalizing intelligence tests should produce scores on a scale of proportion, but IQ scores are presented on an ordinal scale (<https://www.questionpro.com/blog/nominal-ordinal-interval-ratio/>). In addition, errors in the calculations of rarity levels present very large distortions in the highest scores, reaching more than 3 orders of magnitude. This is because the calculations start from the incorrect assumption that the distribution of IQs is Gaussian throughout. The morphology of the distribution is in fact very similar to that of a Gaussian in the range -2σ to $+2\sigma$, but it starts to break down outside this range. This fact cannot be overlooked

when calculating percentiles. The way the calculations are currently done by psychometricians and in high-IQ communities, results are far from correct. Therefore, when talking about the 99.9999% percentile or IQ 176 ($\sigma=16$), the meanings are very different, although they are used as if they were the same thing. The correct rarity for IQ=176 is not 1 in 983,000, but 1 in 24,500. And this does not happen because the standard deviation is greater. The standard deviation is the same (16 in this example), but the right tail is denser than in a normal distribution, making higher scores more abundant than would be expected if the distribution were exactly Gaussian. This is a problem related to the morphology of the true distribution, which does not fit the theoretical model of normal distribution. In fact, it doesn't fit any of the 100+ distributions tested well, including the more versatile ones like the 3-parameter Weibull distribution.

2. Another problem is that the difficulty level of the most difficult questions of each test is not compatible with the nominal ceiling of the test. As a consequence, such a test proves to be inappropriate for the range of IQs it should measure. The test works properly within a certain range, in which it contains questions of compatible difficulty, but fails to function outside that range. This is much more serious in clinical trials, where the ceiling of difficulty rarely exceeds 135 to 140, but the nominal ceiling can reach more than 200 (Stanford-Binet V, for example). Above 140, clinical tests measure how fast you can solve elementary problems, which is not necessarily an appropriate metric for representing intelligence at the highest levels. In hrIQ cases, in the "difficulty" question, questions are usually appropriate up to about 170 or 180, but not much higher. Here it would be necessary to open a long parenthesis to discuss the meaning of these scores, because up to 130 or a little above, the theoretical rarity is almost equal to the true rarity, but for 140, 150 and above, the theoretical rarity becomes more and more distant of true rarity. So when we talk about 180 of IQ ($\sigma=16$), it is not enough to inform the standard deviation. In addition, it is necessary to inform if we are talking about the score measured in a test or if it is a true percentile converted into IQ. If the distribution of IQs were exactly Gaussian across their spectrum, then an IQ of 180 ($\sigma=16$) should correspond to a rarity level of 1 in 3,500,000, but the true rarity of 180 scores is around 1 in 48,000. Later I mention a link in which I describe how to get to that 1 in 48,000 rarity level.
3. Another problem is related to construct validity, that is, whether what the test is measuring is in fact what it is intended to measure. The best clinical tests (WAIS and SB) are very good at this criterion for the range of 70 to 130, because this topic has been widely debated among good psychometricians for decades and some good criteria have been established to assess (albeit subjectively) whether the items are measuring what they should be measuring (intelligence, in this case, or the g factor). However, outside this range of 70 to 130, the measured variable becomes increasingly different from what was intended to be measured. In hrIQs the range is a little longer, it reaches around 160, some tests reach 170 or even 180.

In addition to these 3 issues that are seen in virtually all clinical trials and all hrIQs, there are also some individual issues, which are more basic and only affect some specific tests, such as inflated norm, template errors, misstatements, etc. I will not deal with those, because they are already well known and easy to identify and correct.

It is important not to confuse construct validity with difficulty level adequacy. A very elementary issue, with a very short time frame to resolve, may have adequate difficulty to measure at the 1 in

10 million rarity level, because although it is inherently easy, as the time frame is reduced, it ends up being difficult to resolve within that time frame. In such cases, the difficulty may be appropriate for measuring something at very high levels of rarity, but this latent trait being measured is not what it should be measuring. Furthermore, the fact that a test has construct validity in a given interval does not imply that it will necessarily have validity at levels far above or far below that interval. This is one of the most common mistakes, because validating an intelligence test for 98% of the population does not guarantee that it will continue to correctly measure intelligence at the level of the highest 1% or 0.1% of scores. Validation needs to be careful at all intervals at which the test is intended to be able to measure correctly.

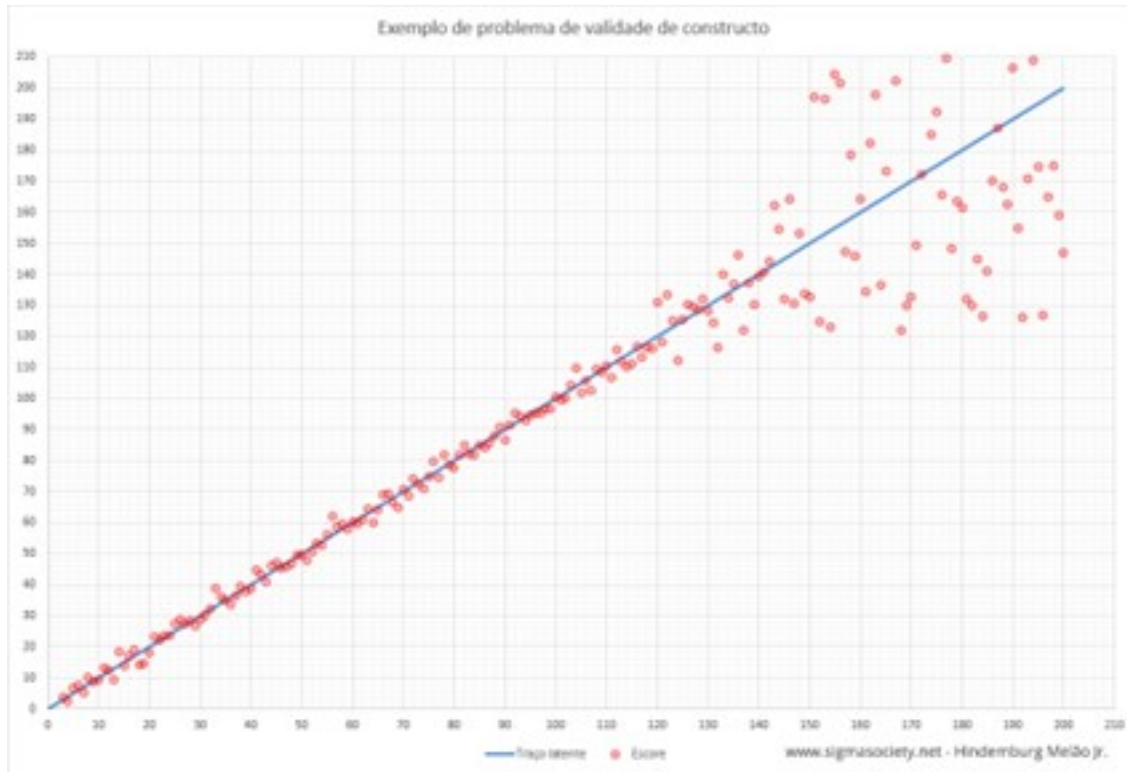
There are also some more subtle issues. The Raven Standard Progressive Matrices, for example, have been used by Mensa in several countries for decades, but are inadequate to correctly measure above 120, perhaps even above 115. The reason is that the test consists of 60 questions, but only 1 or 2 of these questions (the most difficult ones) are useful to discriminate at the level of 133, which is where Mensa intends to select. So it is as if only 2 of the 60 questions were used, and a sample with only 2 elements cannot be considered statistically valid. In fact, the cut-off at 133 is not exactly determined by 1 or 2 questions, but these 2 questions account for over 90% of the test's discriminating power at this cut-off level.

For these reasons, if there is a sincere interest in IQ questions getting answers that are representative of reality, these three problems need to be fixed:

1. Unfounded extrapolation of construct validity;
2. Inadequacy of the difficulty of the items for the intellectual level that the test intends to measure;
3. Adoption of incorrect hypotheses about the shape of the distribution of scores at the highest levels, based on the shape in the region close to the central tendency.

In addition to these, there are other points that need to be clarified. There is a widespread myth that clinically applied tests are "better" (more reliable, more accurate, more reliable) than hrIQts. In some cases, they really are. But not at all. For scores below 130, supervised tests are standardized based on larger, unselected samples. This constitutes a real advantage of clinical trials compared to hrIQts. Another advantage is that good psychometricians know a greater number of statistical techniques, so in the range from 70 to 130, the best supervised tests usually produce more reliable scores. However, above 130, and especially above 140, supervised tests present several problems, starting with the inadequate ceiling of difficulty. The most difficult WAIS questions, for example, are too easy for them to measure intelligence above 135. Another problem is that the construct validity of supervised tests is designed for the range of 70 to 130, not applying as well outside of that range.

I made a simulated example to show what the construct variable problem consists of:



The blue line represents the latent trait ^[*] that we would like to measure (intelligence or g-factor or something). The red circles represent the scores obtained in the test converted into IQ. In the range between 0 and 120, the measured scores are very good representations of the latent trait, because the points are distributed closely close to the blue line, indicating a strong correlation between the variable we would like to measure and the variable we are actually measuring.

[*<https://dictionary.apa.org/latent-trait-theory>, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1434009%5D>

From 120 onwards, and especially from 130 onwards, the red circles begin to move further and further away from the blue line, indicating that the correlation between the variable we would like to measure and the variable that is actually being measured becomes more and more weak, so what we are measuring is becoming less and less representative of what we would like to measure. If you consider the entire range from 0 to 200, or even from 70 to 200, the correlation still looks strong, but that's only because the range 70 to 120 is contained within the range 70 to 200, and as in the range 70 to 120 the correlation is strong, this improves the average correlation of the entire range from 70 to 200, but when considering exclusively the correlation between 130 and 200, it is noticed that the correlation is weak in this region and becomes weaker for the scores taller. Therefore, for scores above 130, what matters is not the global correlation, but the local correlation.

On IQ tests like the Stanford-Binet, for example, some very fast people with a true IQ of 150 can score 190 or more as a consequence of the problem described above. The opposite effect can also happen, and people with a true IQ of 190, if they are very slow, can score 150, 140 or even less. The size of errors can reach really high levels, both for more than correct and for less than correct, which is why construct validity ^[*] is an extremely important issue. [*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construct_validity]

A test that has good construct validity should behave like the one shown in the graph below, in

which the red circles remain close to the blue line throughout the entire spectrum within which it is intended to measure:



Of course, if the sample has a normal distribution, the data will be distributed approximately like an ellipse, not like a line that was represented above, but for didactic purposes this example needs to be like this to be visually clearer the increase in the amplitude of the dispersion of the measures in relative to the latent trait we would like to measure. It is also worth emphasizing that, in the real world, situations like the one in the graph above practically do not exist, because the alignment is too good. But it is desirable that the measured scores be able to provide good representations for the latent trait within as wide a range as possible.

In supervised IQ tests, used in clinics, disparities usually start to become serious from 130 and especially from 140, that is, what the test measures above 140 is no longer a good representation of Intelligence. In the cases of the best hrIQts, the scores remain reasonably good representations of the latent trait up to IQ 160 or so.

A test may have questions of an appropriate difficulty level, but what the questions are measuring may not be intelligence. Or it may happen that the measured variable is intelligence, but only within a specific range (as in the first graph). Some puzzles for children, for example, can be effective in correctly measuring the mental age range of 8 to 16 years, or 50 to 100 IQ on an adult scale, but if you use these same puzzles to try to measure the Adult IQs above 160 or 170, the result will be disastrous, because the ability to quickly solve these puzzles cannot be interpreted as a good representation of intelligence at this level. Therefore, the type of problem needs to be compatible with the intellectual level that is intended to be measured.

Generally, the smartest people are also quicker to solve basic questions, but the fact that they solve simple questions quickly does not offer a good guarantee that the person will also be able

to solve more complex, deep questions that require creativity. In addition, the fact that a person is able to solve complex, deep questions that require creativity does not provide a good guarantee that he will be able to quickly solve basic questions. As the tests used in clinics exclusively include basic questions, the effect shown in Graph 1 ends up being very frequent.

This issue is discussed in more detail in the introductory text of Sigma Test Extended.

It is also necessary to standardize the meanings of some terms that I will use in the answers:

rIQ = rarity IQ, or IQ ($\sigma=16$ G), or rIQ ($\sigma=16$ G)

pIQ = Potential IQ, or IQ ($\sigma=16$ T), or pIQ ($\sigma=16$ T)

Detailed explanations can be found at <https://www.sigmasociety.net/escalasqi>. Here I will give a brief explanation: rIQ is the value that the IQ would have converted from the true rarity. This is not IQ measured on IQ tests or hrIQts. The measured IQ is the pIQ, whose distribution is non-Gaussian, the distribution has a dense tail, so the pIQ scores are more abundant than predicted based on the normality assumption of the distribution. This has nothing to do with the standard deviation being larger. The standard deviation is the same. The shape of the distribution is different, concentrating more cases in the right tail and less in the central region. In regions close to the central tendency, pIQ is almost equal to rIQ and remains so until about 130. From then on, pIQ becomes greater than rIQ. Some examples:

rIQ 100 is equivalent to pIQ 100.00

rIQ 130 is equivalent to pIQ 130.87

rIQ 150 is equivalent to pIQ 156.59

rIQ 180 is equivalent to pIQ 204.93

(A complete table is available on the Sigma Test Extended page)

The difference between pIQ and rIQ increases as rIQ increases, because the proportion at which the actual tail density becomes greater than the theoretical density increases as the IQ moves away from the mean.

When comparing estimated IQs based on rarity with IQs measured in tests, it is critical to put both on the same scale. For example, let's say Newton is considered the smartest person in history and let's say the number of people ever born is 100 billion. Then Newton's IQ estimated based on rarity and based on the assumption that the distribution of scores is normal would be rIQ=207.3 ($\sigma=16$, G). But the actual distribution of scores is not normal, so you cannot compare that 207.3 with a score of 207 measured in a test, because they are on different scales. Both may have the same standard deviation (16 in this case), but the shape of the distribution is different and this cannot be neglected because the distortion produced is gigantic.

Newton's rIQ would be 207.3 but his pIQ would be 261.8. To repeat: both scores have a standard deviation of 16, both rIQ and pIQ. This process should not be confused with changing scales with different standard deviations. The standard deviations are the same, but the shape of the curve is different. I'm repeating this several times because I've seen people confuse this just a paragraph after it's been cleared up.

This adjustment is necessary to correct the distortions of the norms and to allow the correct calculation of rarities from the scores measured in the tests, or the inverse process of calculating the

IQ from the rarity level.

Thus, the person with the highest rIQ ($\sigma=16$ G) in a population of 7.9 billion has rIQ 201.2, which is equivalent to pIQ ($\sigma=16$ T) 247.8. The scores 201.2 ($\sigma=16$ G) and 247.8 ($\sigma=16$ T) are equivalent, as 0 °C and 32 °F. The use of the term rIQ is equivalent to the use of the term IQ ($\sigma=16$ G), while the use of the term pIQ is equivalent to the use of the term ($\sigma=16$ T). I can also eventually use rIQ ($\sigma=16$ G) or pIQ ($\sigma=16$ T).

So tests can (and do) produce scores above 200 with a standard deviation of 15 or 16, but the correct calculation of rarity levels or percentiles should not be performed the way it has been done for decades. The percentile and rarity calculations are wrong, as I've demonstrated since my 2000 papers on this. I'm not referring to tests with inflated standards. Of course, this problem becomes more serious when the norms are inflated, but even when the norms have been calculated properly, as in the cases of the Mega Test or Titan Test norm, both the Hoefflin version and the Grady Towers version both provide incorrect values for the percentiles. The IQ scores are very close to the "correct" values, which would be the values adjusted to a well-standardized range scale. The problem is not with the measured IQs, but with the percentiles calculated based on the incorrect assumption that these scores are normally distributed. This topic will be analyzed again at other times, in more detail, when the topics covered require it. For now, this introduction should be enough to clear up much of the confusion that occurs with the indiscriminate use of the term "IQ", without making the correct distinction between pIQ and rIQ.

When Chris Harding was registered in the 1966 Guinness Book with an IQ of 197, based on his Stanford-Binet results, this was a relatively primary and serious error because it incurs all 3 problematic items I cited above: SB does not include questions difficult enough to correctly measure above 135; the cognitive processes required in the solutions are not appropriate for IQs above 150; the calculated rarity level is incorrect.

In 1966, the world population was 3.41 billion people, and the theoretical level of rarity for scores 197, assuming the distribution of scores was a Gaussian with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 16, was 1 in 1.49 billion. So it seemed plausible that a person with that score could be proclaimed the smartest person in the world, or at least the person with the highest IQ in the world. However, a correct analysis of the situation reveals that the SB score of 197 does not indicate a rarity level of 1 in 1,490,000,000, but 1 in 870,000 (about 2000 times more abundant). Also, the variable measured at the rarity level of 1 in 870,000 is not intelligence. At this juncture, the most that could be said on the basis of a SB score of 197 is that the person showed consistent evidence of having an intellectual level above 135 IQ, and as their nominal score was well above 135, there is a good chance that their The correct IQ is greater than 150, perhaps greater than 160, but it would be necessary to prescribe a complementary exam, with more difficult questions and with appropriate construct validity, to investigate the real intellectual level of this person, since scores above 135 are outside the range at which the test is able to measure correctly.

In the following years, several other people began to emerge claiming the same record, with scores of 196-197. This continued until 1978, when the situation worsened, first with Kim Ung-Yong scoring 210, then Marilyn vos Savant scoring 230, corrected to 228, then corrected to 218, and finally Keith Raniere, in 1989, scoring 242. All based on clinical tests that are not suitable for correctly measuring above 135.

A similar problem happened to Langan in the Mega Test. The difficulty level of the Mega Test questions is suitable for correctly measuring up to about pIQ 194, equivalent to about rIQ 177,

which corresponds to a rarity level of 1 in 1,340,000. This is the realistic rarity level corresponding to the Mega Test ceiling. In 2000 I had calculated a ceiling of pIQ 186 for the Mega Test, equivalent to rIQ 169, hence a rarity level of 1 in 124,000, but I was basing it on the sample of 520 tests available on Miyaguchi's website. However, this sample is not representative of the set of more than 4,000 people examined with the Mega Test. This sample is stratified by 10 out of 10 (10 people with each IQ when possible). That is why there is a concentration of high scores above the "correct", causing the difficulty of the items, especially the most difficult items (which is determined by the proportion between errors and hits) to end up being lower than the correct one, since there are more people with higher scores, there will be a higher percentage of hits than if the entire sample had been considered. Another factor is that even considering all the more than 4,000 people evaluated by the Mega Test, there is a self-selection that produces a higher concentration of people with high scores than that observed among the general population. With these two complementary adjustments, I redid my calculations for this standard and arrived at the numbers I cited above.

Therefore, with a raw score of 47/48, obtained by Langan on his second attempt, the corresponding rIQ is 176, equivalent to pIQ 192, that is, a rarity level of approximately 1 in 983,000. The actual rarity level of Mega Society is around 1 in 62,000 and Prometheus 1 in 8,000. In the cases of ISPE, TNS, etc., as they are in a range where the distortions are smaller, the true rarity is also closer to the theoretical rarity. 1 in 600. And in the case of Intertel and Mensa, they are practically unaffected. The theoretical percentile 98.04% for pIQ 133 score is equivalent to rIQ 131.8, therefore percentile 97.66%.

There are two other points I would like to comment on in this introductory text, before proceeding: on the meaning of "intelligence" and on the meaning of "certificate", but the text has become too long and it is perhaps better to remove it, as well as other parts of some answers. Anyway, I've saved the full text in a separate file, in case it has any additional use or to be used on another occasion.

Having made these clarifications, we can now begin the answers.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you were growing up, what were some of the prominent family stories being told over time?

Hindenburg Melão Jr.: I'm not very interested in stories.

Jacobsen: Did these stories help give a sense of an extended self or a sense of family legacy?

Melão Jr.: My grandparents were very poor, my father only studied until the second year of elementary school (2nd year). He was exceptionally intelligent, creative, had hypermnnesia and a wide range of intellectual and kinesthetic talents. This allowed him to lift himself out of extreme poverty and provide a satisfying environment for his children, but not much else. My parents' legacy is almost exclusively genetic.

Jacobsen: What was the family background, eg geography, culture, language and religion or lack thereof?

Melão Jr.: My maternal great-grandfather was a native Indian of Brazil, my paternal great-grandfather was Portuguese. My family was Catholic at the time I was born, but later they converted to Kardecism, preserving some Catholic habits. I became an atheist at approximately 11 years old, then an agnostic at 17 and a deist at 27. I was interested in the Bahá'í Faith for some

time, but did not participate in any activities. I am writing a book dealing with Science and Religion, in which I cover some of these topics in more detail.

Jacobsen: How was the experience with peers and schoolmates as a child and teenager?

Melão Jr.: It was reasonably quiet, I had no problems with bullying that could be associated with discrimination on cognitive grounds. I was bullied for other reasons, because I had my eyebrows together, but nothing that caused me great embarrassment, even because I had been practicing martial arts since I was 7 years old, so if I thought they were crossing the line, I reacted in a different way. energetically and that kept them from bothering me again

My problems were with some teachers more than colleagues, because I had the incorrect view that teachers couldn't make mistakes in their discipline, but in the real world it's very different from that. Virtually every teacher made several mistakes every day, and I used to point out the most serious mistakes. Most of them reacted positively to it, some were grateful for the corrections and revised it immediately, but others did not accept this type of correction, especially when it came from a 7 or 8 year old. A remarkable episode occurred in a Geography class, when I was 9 years old, and the teacher asked the students to calculate the size of the Brazilian coast. When I started to perform the task, I realized that it didn't make sense, because the measurement would depend on the level of detail of the map, so there was no possible answer. So I explained the problem to her, but she didn't understand my explanation. She thought I was referring to the map being on a different scale than its actual size. So I explained again, but it didn't help, she still didn't understand, got angry and ended up acting oppressive, ordering me to shut up, and continued to "teach" incorrectly. It was a very unpleasant episode. Usually the errors that I identified were errors of the professors, but in this case it was much more serious, because it was an institutionalized error and accepted as if it was correct by the "authorities" in that discipline, it was wrong in the book and probably in all other books, being incorrectly taught to all students. In fact, this remains wrong to this day, 40 years later, in virtually every source on the subject, including Wikipedia, Encyclopedia Britannica, IBGE, Cia World Factbook, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, etc. The problem is not that the measurement number is wrong. The problem is that the question does not make sense because there is no "length" of the coastline, there is no possible answer with dimension 1, because the perimeter has a dimension greater than 1 and less than 2. Although it was unpleasant, it was also a problem. event that I remember with pride, for having deduced one of the fundamentals of Fractal Geometry, impromptu, at the age of 9.

Jacobsen: What are some of the certifications, qualifications and professional training you have obtained?

Melão Jr.: The primary purpose of certifications should be to certify that a certain person or entity fulfills requirements that would not be easily verifiable by a person from the general population. For example, an uneducated person would find it difficult to correctly assess whether a doctor is capable of treating their health, or to decide whether it would be better to receive treatment from an allopathic method or from a healer. That is why there are regulatory bodies, made up of experienced and supposedly competent specialists, which establish norms that theoretically should be necessary and sufficient to distinguish between qualified and unqualified professionals, protecting the less educated population against the provision of unsatisfactory or even unsatisfactory services and products. harmful. This is nice in theory, but in practice it doesn't work so well, and the certification industry ends up serving other purposes, including market reserve, nepotism, the cult of vanity and egolatry.

Certificates often do not fulfill the function for which they were created, either approving insufficiently skilled people/entities, or failing to approve overqualified people. For this reason, it would be more important and fairer to examine actual achievements, competences and merits, rather than examining certifications that would recognize these merits, because merits have intrinsic value, while certifications are mere appearances that they sometimes try to represent. the merits, but they don't always get it right.

There is even a large industry for trading fraudulent certificates, and little enforcement over it. The American Biographical Institute (ABI) is famous for selling worthless certifications, and has been operating since 1967. There are many similar bodies that specialize in printing beautiful certificates, promoting certification ceremonies, and so on. Usually people who consume these products are naive victims, but it is also possible that some people buy these certificates knowing what they mean (or don't mean).

Wikipedia has the following description for the ABI:

"The American Biographical Institute (ABI) was a paid-inclusion vanity biographical reference directory publisher based in Raleigh, North Carolina which had been publishing biographies since 1967. It generated revenue from sales of fraudulent certificates and books. Each year the company awarded hundreds of "Man of the Year" or "Woman of the Year" awards at between \$195 and \$295 each."

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Biographical_Institute

There are currently several PO Box universities handing out Ph.D. Like water. I watched some statements from people who bought these titles, the vast majority of these people really believed they had some value and were excited, happy and proud to receive the title. But maybe not everyone is naive and some understand that these titles don't represent something real, but use it for obscure purposes. There is a member of mensa brasil who has more than 50 academic titles from a PO Box university, founded in 2021, but on the "institution" website he claims to have been founded in 2006. I find it funny, and at the same time sad, that journalists who publish the articles about this do not suspect that a 40-year-old person, who only had 1 B.Sc. by 2020, it suddenly had more than 50 academic degrees in 2022, including several Ph.Ds. and postdocs. In addition to the certificates purchased, this person also claims that TNS is the most exclusive high-IQ society in the world, he uses his IQ with a standard deviation of 24 to compare with a fictitious "IQ" of 160 attributed to Einstein, among other things, and journalists publish everything without checking.

There are also people who buy these certificates, knowing they are worthless, with no intention of making dishonest use, perhaps as a table decoration or something. For example, Chris Harding is a customer of ABI, he has acquired several titles from that company, as he declares in his profile on the OlympIQ Society. Harding has some real merits, because even though the SB doesn't correctly rate above 140, it is recognized that this test assesses some sort of skill mixed with intelligence, and few people achieve Harding's score on this exam. So while some certificates are purchased from him, others are based on real merit and issued by serious institutions, such as those related to his IQ records and his affiliations to high-IQ societies. However, even reputable certificates, which try to represent true merits, often attest to something that is not a good representation of reality. As I mentioned at the beginning, the SB score of 197 or 196 could not be interpreted the way it was, and the official reports and certificates issued are saying something that represents a collective belief, but very different from concrete reality.

Harding is very smart, but not based on the score he got in the SB, but based on his various opinions on different subjects. His real merits are in his essence, in his actions, in his thoughts, not in pieces of paper.

From the moment a person channels his thoughts and actions to produce something concrete, he begins to share his essence with the world, disseminating knowledge and wisdom, or disseminating futility and misinformation, depending on the quality of what he shares. And the perception that other people have of what she shared will depend not only on the quality of what she externalized, but also on the sensitivity and insight of the person receiving the information. If a brilliant person disseminates knowledge of a very high level among a very futile audience, the value of that knowledge will not be recognized and he will have no certifications, no awards, nor any recognition, while other people who are disseminating vulgar and shallow knowledge, compatible with the public that receives it and issues the certifications, that person will be acclaimed and glorified.

People are not rewarded or certified because their achievements are great, but because their achievements are perceived as great by the members of the committees responsible for the approval of awards and certifications. In addition, there are a number of other political, social, racial, etc. biases that interfere with the decisions of committee members, making certifications and awards even more inconsistent with the objective they should have.

This effect occurs, for example, in some Cooijmans tests, where the test does not measure IQ, but rather how similar the person's IQ is compared to the Cooijmans IQ. If the person has the same IQ as Cooijmans, he will have a maximum score. If she has an IQ much higher or much lower than Cooijmans' IQ, her score will be low. In the question about IQ tests, I comment in more detail on this problem.

I will cite a few striking examples, some quite well known, but they are worth recalling. I believe that one of the most tragic and striking is that of Galileo, who instead of being rewarded for his remarkable contributions to the understanding of the Universe, he was severely punished. In fact, his daughter Celeste ended up being punished in his place. In more recent times, one of the cases that I find very sad is that of George Zweig, who developed his Theory of Aces at the same time that Murray Gell-Mann developed the Theory of Quarks. Both were essentially the same, however the journal to which Zweig submitted his paper refused to publish it, while Gell-Mann's paper won him the Nobel Prize in Physics. There are at least 45 known cases of controversial Nobel prizes, of people who received undeserving or deserved it but did not. The world's most respected award is desecrated by dozens of injustices, perhaps hundreds if you consider the ones that have not been discovered. Even Einstein is one of the biggest victims, since he deserved to have received 5 Nobel prizes, however he received only 1, for racial, xenophobic, Nazi reasons etc.

I believe that now I can answer this question by dividing it into two parts:

1. Awards and certifications.
2. Merits so far not recognized.

I have few certificates. When I was young, I was in the habit of putting trophies and medals in Chess, Martial Arts, Arts Education, etc. on a shelf, but during one of the changes of address, one of my trophies broke. Initially I was sad, because they were important to me. But as I thought more about the "disaster," I realized that they really didn't matter. What really mattered

were the merits that led me to win those awards, as well as some merits that were not awarded. There were also cases in which I had no merit, but had been awarded due to some fateful fate. That doesn't mean I'm not a vain person. I am, but I've learned that most of the time you get nothing or almost nothing for something valuable, while other times you get more than what's fair for something of little or even worthless. Unfortunately, the world rewards appearances much more than essence.

One of my few certificates is the world record holder for longest announced mate in simultaneous blind chess, recorded in the 1998 Guinness Book. Perhaps some people are not familiar with the meaning of "blind chess" and "announced mate". This video helps to understand the dynamics of a blind simultaneous: <https://youtu.be/LUo89C19FPY>. It's an old, low quality video, but to exemplify the mechanism of the event, I think it's appropriate:

I will give a brief description: in a simultaneous, one person (simultanist) plays at the same time against several opponents (simultaneously), each of which has its own board. It is different from a consultation game, where several players can consult each other on a single board and decide on the best move by voting. In a simulcast, each simulcast has its own board and each game follows its own course.

In this case, as it is a blind simultaneous, the simultanist does not have visual access to any of the boards, nor to the pieces, nor to the summaries, nor to any type of record of moves or positions. At no time may the simultanist look at any of the boards, nor request any information that helps him to remember the positions of the pieces, nor any specific piece, nor that helps him to remember the order of the moves, nor any other type of information that can in some way help with the matches. The position of each of the pieces on each of the boards is registered exclusively in the simultanist's memory and these positions are mentally updated with each move. In addition, at each move the simultanist needs to make the calculations of the variants and sub-variants necessary to make his decisions about the move to be executed, taking care not to confuse the memories of the calculated variants with the memories of the variants actually played, among others. care.

The game develops as follows: the simultanist stands with his back to the boards and communicates his moves to an assistant (speaker), who executes each simultanist move on the respective board. Then, the simultaneous player on that board executes his answer on the board and the speaker verbally communicates to the simultaneous player which move was executed by that simultaneous player. Then the speaker moves to the next board, where again the simultaneous player declares his move and this is executed on that board by the speaker, etc.

There are easier (or less difficult) versions, in which the player can blindly access a list with all the moves noted, as in Melody Amber's tournaments, in which, in addition to being individual games, instead of simultaneous, competitors can also see an empty board, which facilitates calculations and reduces the risk of forgetting the position of a piece. But under the strictest rules, as in my 1997 Guinness record, it was not allowed to have access to the move history, nor to see an empty board, nor any other similar kind of aid. It is equivalent to being blindfolded all the time, from start to finish of the event.

That record set in 1997 was a blind simultaneous to 9 boards, in one of which I announced mate in 12 moves. The average rating of my opponents was estimated at around 1400. I got 7 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss.

Previous record holders were: Joseph Henry Blackburne (mate in 8 moves in a 10-board blind match in the year 1877), Samuel Rosenthal (mate in 8 moves in a 4-board blind match in the year 1885) and Garry Kasparov (mate in 8 moves in a blind simultaneous to 8 boards, in the year 1985). There was also an event in 1899, in which Harry Nelson Pillsbury announced mate at 8 in a 10-board blind simultaneous, but there was a miscount. Following the sequence dictated by Pillsbury, mate took place in 7 moves.

In the case of Kasparov, there are some details that need to be clarified: he played a blind simul against the 8 best computers of the time, including the world champion Mephisto Amsterdam 68000 RISC 12MHz. The average rating of these machines was about 1500 and the best reached 1800. The best computer in the world in 1985 was precisely the Mephisto Amsterdam, whose rating published by the manufacturer was 2265, but later measured by SSDF in 1827 (based on 1020 matches). In the match against Mephisto Amsterdam, Kasparov played a beautiful combination with an 8-moves mate streak, but there is no record of him having announced the mate. In any case, as he sacrificed a Rook and two pieces at the start of the combination, it is clear that he correctly calculated the entire sequence.

In 2005, Rede Globo did a report for the program “Fantástico” celebrating 100 years of IQ tests, and I was nominated as the person with the highest IQ in Brazil, at the level of 1 in 200 million. This is an example of “recognition” that I’m not sure was correctly assigned. In the question about IQ, I discuss this subject in more detail.

Recently, my friend Domagoj Kutle honored me with a kind invitation to publish in his excellent magazine Deus VULT, and requested that I also send a short biography. My girlfriend Tamara kindly helped me craft this material, including some of my accomplishments. I think this would fit here, so I’ll paste the text:

Melao mini-bio, by Tamara Rodrigues:

Hindenburg Melao Jr. was born in Brazil, in a family with few resources, and only attended school until the 11th grade, having learned almost completely as self-taught.

In 1998 he was registered in the Guinness Book as the holder of the world record for longest announced checkmate in blindfold simultaneous chess games.

Between 2006 and 2010 he developed an artificial intelligence system to trade in the Financial Market; in 2015, his friend and partner Joao A.L.J. incorporated a hedge fund to use this system and started to be registered in fund rankings (BarclayHedge, IASG and Preqin), winning 21 international high performance awards.

In 2007, Melao solved a problem that had been unsatisfactorily solved for 22 years, by creating an index to measure performance adjusted at risk that was more accurate, more predictive and conceptually better founded than the traditional indexes of William Sharpe (Nobel prize 1990) and Franco Modigliani (Nobel 1985).

In 2003 he solved a 160+ year old problem by proposing a new formula for calculating BMI, superior to the traditional one and superior to the formula proposed in 2013 by Nick Trefethen, Chief of the Dept. of Numerical Analysis at the University of Oxford, Leslie Fox Prize(1985), FRS prize, (2005), IMA Gold Medal (2010). Trefethen’s 2013 formula is an incomplete version of Melao’s 2003 formula.

In 2000 Melao developed the first method for standardization of intelligence tests that produces

scores in scale of ratio and in 2003 he applied this method in the Sigma Test norm (he also calculated new norms for Mega and Titan tests using the same method), thereby solving a problem of Psychometry that exists more than 90 years ago and was pointed by Thurstone and Gardner as a central question of Psychometry more than 45 years ago.

In 2002 Melao found the best solution to a problem that has existed for more than 520 years and had been attacked for more than 65 years, the Shannon Number, which was only matched in 2014 by Stefan Steinerberger, professor of mathematics at Yale University.

In 2015 Melao showed that the method recommended by the Nobel Prize in Economics Harry Markowitz, for portfolio optimization, has some flaws, and proposed some improvements that make this method more efficient and safer.

In 2021 Melao pointed out flaws in the recommendation of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Economics, Clive Granger, regarding the use of the concept of cointegration, and presented a more adequate solution to the same problem.

In 2022, Melao solved a problem that had been open for 16 years, in which he established a method for calculating chess ratings based on the quality of the moves. Also presented an improved version of the Elo system, applying both methods to calculate the ratings of more than 100,000 players between years 1475 and 2021, the results were published in a book, along with the description of the two methods.

At 9 years old Melao deduced one of the fundamentals of Fractal Geometry and at 13 he developed a method to calculate logarithms. At age 19 he developed a method for calculating factorials of decimal numbers without using Calculus.

Also at the age of 19 (1991) he developed an invisibility machine project, which in 1993 he inscribe in a contest of fiction Literature (although the project is consistent with Scientific Method), but did not win. In 2003 Susumu Tachi, Emeritus Professor at the University of Tokyo and guest Professor at MIT, created (independently) a simplified version of this project and built a prototype.

In 2020 Hindenburg presented a study showing that Jupiter's Great Red Spot cannot be 350+ years old, as was believed. The correct age is around 144 years old.

In 2000 Melao had a chess theoretical novelty elected one of the 10 most important in the world by the Sahovski Informator jury, the world champion Anand was one of the judges and Anand's vote was that this novelty should be the 8th most important.

In 2004 Baran Yonter, founder of Pars Society ($IQ > 180$, $\sigma = 16$), estimated that Melao IQ should be above 200 ($\sigma = 16$).

In 2005 the production of the program "Fantástico", from Globo (second-largest commercial TV network in the world), made a special report on intelligence, celebrating the centenary of the creation of IQ tests, and Melao was nominated as the person with the highest IQ in Brazil, with a rarity level of 1 in 200 million.

In 2009 Melao was nominated by Albert Frank to participate in a John Hallenborg project with people whose IQ is at the rarity level above 1 in 1 million.

In 2000 Melao updated and extended his "Alpha Tests" that he had created in 1991, added new questions, and created the Sigma Test.

In 2022 he extended the Sigma Test by creating the extended version.

Melao is author of more than 1700 articles on Science, Statistics, Psychometrics, Econometrics, Chess, Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Cognitive Science, Ethics, Philosophy of Science, History of Science, Education etc.

Detailed bio of Melao (documents, videos, interviews, articles, reports etc.) at: <https://www.sigmasociety.net/hm>

Although I practiced Martial Arts for several years (maybe ~11 years if you add up all active periods), I didn't get any certification, because the time was distributed among many different disciplines and I didn't reach black belt in any of them. But I reached a reasonable technical level. For handguns, maybe I'm in the 99.9% percentile and in the specific case of nunchaku, maybe 99.999%. This is a video from 2016, I was already kind of old and rusty <https://youtu.be/jCw-5H34x4>. On the same channel there are also videos with other weapons (sword, tonfa, kama, sam-tien-kuan, etc.).

In 2020 I was invited to a group of the 26 best planetary astrophotographers in Brazil. Although there is no certificate for it, I was very happy because it is one of my favorite hobbies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend Vinícius Martins, who taught me almost everything I know about planetary image processing, I believe that in a short time he will be one of the 5 best astrophotographers in the world, he combines 3 fundamental extraordinary talent, an immense love for this activity and a deep knowledge that is constantly expanded and updated.

Among the certifications that I do not have, one of the most interesting is the CFA, granted to investment managers. It is interesting because between 2006 and 2010 I developed an artificial intelligence system to operate in the Financial Market that between 2015 and 2020, when it was used by a European fund, won 21 international high performance awards in the Barclay's Hedge, Prequin and IASG rankings, being also the second best investment system in the world between 2011 and 2016. However, I was banned by the CVM from providing management services because I do not have the CFA certificate. In 2014, a petition was made to request that the CVM (Brazilian Capital Markets Regulator) issue me a certificate on an extraordinary basis. The claim was based on the wording of CVM Instruction 306 and on the fact that my system had accumulated more than double the profit of the fund that occupied the first place (ahead of 282 other funds, all managed by certified managers) in the ranking of the InfoMoney, the largest ranking of funds in Brazil. Among the people who signed the petition on my behalf were several university professors, several professional managers, and several members of high-IQ societies, including Dany Provost of Giga Society. However, the claim was not accepted and I still do not have this certificate. By the way, the two most famous managers in the world, Warren Buffett and George Soros, also don't have a manager certificate, so I'm in good company. Buffett solved this problem by incorporating a company that buys other companies, rather than running a fund. Soros solved the problem by putting his friend Jimmy Rogers as gestures (Jimmy had the necessary certification), I solved the problem by trading licenses to use my system, with a volume limit of application for each license and a renewal period.

Among the certifications I don't have, I can also include CNH, although I drive outside the law (I'm practically a gangster). I stopped going to school in the 5th grade, then I went back a few times, due to pressure from my parents. I would come back, I would continue enrolled for a few months, I would run out of patience, I would stop again, my parents would pressure me to come back, I would come back again, etc. I finished high school (11th grade) and entered the Physics

faculty, but I didn't like the course and I stopped for good after 2 months. In the first week of class, I reviewed the Physics I textbook and pointed out over 200 errors, sent my comments to the author, with an introductory note trying to be tactful so he wouldn't be offended, but he never responded. I also pointed out two serious conceptual errors in the methods used in the Physics laboratory, which should impact the results of the experiments; one of them, on the crumpled paper balls, is the same "experiment" carried out in the Mathematics Department at Yale University, where they also make the same mistake. In that case, Prof. Dr. Paulo Reginaldo Pascholati had an honorable conduct, he received my criticisms with humility, he did some experiments to investigate whether the error I indicated was justified, he found that I was right and, in the next class, he publicly admitted the error. I found his conduct exemplary in this regard, however the handout was not corrected and they continued to do the experiment incorrectly.

Anyway, I decided that university was a waste of time and it would be more productive to study on my own, but it's not that simple, and this decision proved questionable on some occasions. The distance from the academic career has some positive aspects, some negative ones. One of the positive aspects is that I can select my own curriculum, go at my own pace, and delve as deep into each topic as I want. One of the negative aspects is that it becomes more difficult to have access to satisfactory bibliography and even more difficult to publish in indexed journals. In doing so, I practically ostracized myself.

Therefore, certificates are useful, but it is important to understand the limitations and distortions they may present, so as not to run the risk of dealing with them in a bureaucratic way, to the point of being placed above the real capacity verified empirically on a continuous basis. Certificates reflect the opinions of people or institutions that are often not qualified enough to make correct assessments on the merits and to decide impartially. In the example of the CFA, certifications are literally distributed based on excessively condescending criteria, which are far from sufficient to select qualified people to exercise the role of manager, which is why more than 95% of certified managers generate losses for their clients. Perhaps this effect is more noticeable in the Capital Markets than in any other activity, but it also frequently occurs in Journalism, Advertising, Administration, etc., where some people without training in these disciplines may eventually be more qualified than certified people, but for protect the less competent, laws are created that prevent companies from hiring the most competent, using certificates as an instrument of discrimination and apology for mediocrity.

I wrote an extended version of this answer, in which I discuss some failures in the education system in Brazil and in the world, justifying why I moved away from academic life. I also point out and analyze the mistakes made by Richard Lynn in his study of IQs in different countries and explain why it would not be correct to try to justify the educational problem in Brazil based on the supposedly low average IQ of the population, as well as revise the estimate for the IQ average for some countries, including Equatorial Guinea, Israel and Brazil. The text was 10 A4 pages, so I thought it best to put it as an appendix.

Jacobsen: What is the purpose of intelligence tests for you?

Melão Jr.: the most important attribute of living beings is intelligence. Without intelligence there would be no Ethics, Laws, Science or Art. In order to correctly delegate the most important tasks to the most qualified people, it is necessary to correctly identify and rank people according to their abilities. That is why correctly measuring intelligence and using the results as a criterion for assigning positions and tasks, according to the level of competence, is extremely important,

but unfortunately this is not what happens. There are two big problems:

1. The first is that the world is dominated by nepotism;
2. The second is that there are no appropriate intelligence tests to correctly measure at the highest levels.

In the late 19th century, the first tests by Galton and Cattell failed to satisfactorily measure intelligence, but it was an interesting attempt. The hypothesis that the speed of reflexes, visual acuity, auditory acuity, etc. could be relevant indicative of the intellectual level proved to be inadequate. In 1904, Binet and Otis managed to solve this problem by using questions that required the combined use of various cognitive skills – rather than trying to measure primary aptitudes, as Galton did – but Binet's tests only measured correctly up to about 140. Terman's attempts in 1921 to use Binet's tests to select future geniuses failed. Among the 1528 children selected with an IQ above 135 (more than 70 with an IQ above 177), none won a Nobel or any similar prize, while two of the unselected children won Nobel prizes. The test worked very well until about 130, the selected children published more books, more articles, had a higher average income than the children in the other group, but at the higher levels, the test failed and missed some of the brightest children. The results of this study had an extremely deleterious effect, undermining the credibility of IQ tests in the eyes of the general public and in the eyes of many intellectual exponents from scientific, technological, cultural and educational fields, so it would be important to clarify the limits of until point these tests can measure correctly, so that unrealistic expectations are not created and so that they are not applied incorrectly outside these limits.

In 1973, Kevin Langdon created the LAIT (Langdon Adult Intelligence Test) and with that he managed to raise the difficulty level to close to 170 and the construct validity to 150; In 1985, Ronald Hoeflin took another important step forward with the Mega Test, raising the difficulty level to about pIQ 190 and construct validity to 170, and these contributions broadened the horizons of application of intelligence tests, which previously worked well until the approximate level of 1 in 100, while the new tests started working up to 1 in 100,000. On the other hand, from the 1990s onwards, some fantasy tests began to appear with nominal ceilings that reached 250, although the real ceiling of difficulty did not reach 180 and the ceiling of construct validity was around 150, as the ISIS Test by Paul Cooijmans. Some of these fantasy tests keep popping up to this day, and this exacerbates the prejudice many people have against IQ tests, because if a person has refined critical thinking and a skeptical attitude, he realizes that there are inconsistencies in results like Feynman's (123) and Rosner (193, 196, 198 etc.). Both are very intelligent, and the problems that Feynman solved are more difficult than the problems that Rosner solved, which could be interpreted as indicating that Feynman was more intelligent, so how is it possible for a serious standardized system of evaluation to assign 190+ to Rosner and 123 for Feynman? Something is obviously not right about this, and people often don't identify exactly where the error is, so they generally conclude that all IQ tests don't work, or they don't even know that there is more than one type of IQ test. IQ That's why clarifying the range in which each type of test works contributes to combating this type of prejudice. If Feynman's true IQ, based on the difficulty, complexity, and depth of the problems he solved on quantum electrodynamics, superfluids, etc. were put on the same scale that Rosner's IQ is represented, Feynman's correct IQ would be close to 235. And to explain this number above 200, I would first have to show that the distribution of scores is not Gaussian, etc. etc. Then that apparent initial inconsistency would disappear and everything would become clearer and more logical. The same is true for Einstein's fictitious IQ of 160, whose correct value, if placed on the same scale as the scores measured by the tests,

would be close to 250.

In 2000, the Sigma Test brought solutions to the 3 problems cited in the introductory text, with the main focus on construct validity, using questions based on real-world problems that require a combination of convergent and divergent thinking at different levels of difficulty, complexity and depth, consistent with the IQ levels to be measured. More recently, the Sigma Test Extended raised the ceiling on difficulty to about pIQ 225 and construct validity to about 210. However, in a population of 7.9 billion, the smartest adult person in the world must have an rIQ of around 210. 201, equivalent to about pIQ 245, thus far outside the limits that STE can measure. Nevertheless, for some of the smartest 100 or 200 people alive, STE could provide reliable measures of real intelligence, with good construct validity at this level, in addition to offering a stimulating intellectual challenge. This would fix some urban legends disseminated in various sources, such as that the average IQ of Nobel laureates in Science is “only” 154. With the use of a properly standardized test, with an appropriate difficulty level and good construct validity, the average IQ of Nobel Prize winners in Science should be between 170 and 190. With the use of appropriate tests it is possible to correctly reposition the scores, both up and down. This would also overcome some prejudices against IQ tests, because one of the reasons for rejection is precisely due to the bizarre results for Feynman (123), Fischer (123*), Kasparov (123, 135), Shockley (<135), Alvarez (<135), Feynman’s sister (124), etc., because that takes away the credibility of the tests, as these scores are far more likely to be wrong than these people having IQs below the 1 in a thousand level, when in fact they should be above 1 in 1 million (and Feynman close to 1 in 1 billion). When we can show that tests are able to measure correctly even at very high levels and provide realistic results, consistent with the achievements of these people in real-world problems, we can restore credibility to intelligence tests as serious and reliable instruments capable of to perform one of the most important functions, which is precisely to make early predictions of genius. [*Although many sources mention an IQ of 187, 181, or 180 for Fischer, his 1958 reports show a score of 123]

So while there are no tests capable of correctly measuring at the level needed to pinpoint the smartest person alive, or rank the 10 smartest, there has been substantial progress since Binet’s first tests, and if Terman were alive today and developing the same study from 1921, but starting in 2000, and if he used the STE instead of the SB, most likely the smartest children would all (or almost all) be selected in his group, and the subsequent results would have been confirmatory even at the highest levels, corroborating the thesis he defended, that it is possible to predict genius early, but not with the tests that existed at that time. The thesis itself was correct, as was Leonardo Da Vinci’s helicopter, but the technology still needed to advance a little further for the thesis to have the necessary subsidies to be tested properly.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Melão Jr.: I find it difficult to determine this precisely. The first time I was examined in a clinic, I was 3 years old, but at 6 months of age I was able to speak reasonably fluently, so there was some earlier evidence.

Jacobsen: When you think about the ways in which the geniuses of the past were mocked, vilified and condemned, if not killed, or praised, flattered, plagiarized and revered, what seems to be the reason for the extreme reactions and treatment of geniuses? Many alive today seem camera-shy – many, not all.

Melão Jr.: I don’t think it’s a problem of the past. It is still present in many primitive cultures,

such as in Brazil and in several African countries. The vast majority of the population adopts a posture of hostility, envy and boycott not only against geniuses, but against anyone who may be having any kind of success. Recently my girlfriend showed me a video of Ozires Silva, who was Minister of Infrastructure and president of Petrobras. He comments that during a dinner attended by some members of the Nobel committee (link to the video: <https://youtu.be/m3u-E5XdzZ4>) he asked why they thought Brazil had no Nobel laureates, since several Latin American countries with lower population and lower GDP even had more than one Nobel Prize. One of the committee members commented “you Brazilians are hero destroyers”. Unfortunately, this is a fact that is still present in our daily lives.

At the time I got to know high IQ communities, 1999, some famous names were William James Sidis, Marilyn vos Savant, Chris Langan, Rick Rosner, Grady Towers etc. Langan was a security guard at a nightclub, Rosner was a nudist model and also worked for a time as a security guard, Grady Towers was a security guard at a park and died a tragic and untimely death in 2000. Sidis spent the last decades of his life in underemployment and collecting license plates. Marilyn was a columnist for a magazine and got a reasonable standard of living out of it, as well as good prestige and recognition outside of high-IQ communities, as well as a lot of hateful envious. With the exception of Marilyn, the other people I mentioned earned minimum wage and still spent part of their time without a job, while many people are hired to fill positions that they are not even qualified, earning small fortunes as well as prestige and recognition.

This situation is very sad. Although Langan was not the smartest man in the Americas, as he claimed in 2000, or in world history, as he began to claim some time later, he is arguably a much smarter and more competent person than 99% of Ph. Ds. in any area and more than 99.9% of the CEOs of companies. He may not have had such a vast culture and expertise needed to solve major scientific problems, but he certainly would have given better administrative and political solutions than any president the US has ever had. I don’t know if he would be the best president, because being a great president isn’t just about solving problems. He would also need to have sensitivity, empathy, kindness, honesty and other attributes. But generally many people have these attributes at the required level. What they usually lack is precisely intelligence. I’m not saying that Langan or Rosner should be presidents. But, pondering the positives and negatives, I would bet on them as better presidents than the average of recent presidents.

Persecution and oppression can sometimes happen silently, and this is often even worse because it is harder to detect and combat. How is it possible that a person with Langan’s intellectual potential was not discovered by a large company that hired him for a millionaire salary so that he would solve internal problems in a way that generates more profit for the company than other less competent people working in the same role? There are grotesque errors in this. The vast majority of companies are contaminated by mobs of incompetents and cheats, who instead of hiring and promoting based on merit, do almost exactly the opposite, because they feel threatened by those who are more competent than themselves. This is a complete disaster not only for the companies they work for, but for the entire harmony of civilization. In Norway, Sweden, Holland, Finland, Switzerland, Denmark, etc. these problems are very rare, but in Brazil this is a constant that sinks the country. In the USA, the problem may not be as serious as it is in Brazil, but when we look at the cases of Langan and Rosner, it is clear that there are serious flaws in the performance of the headhunters, failing to hire some of the most qualified people in the country, who started to most of their lives in sub-professional activities. I have cited the examples of Langan and Rosner, but the same is true of a large number of people with far above average IQs, who are

working in incompatible activities, with incomes far below what they deserve, producing less than they should, while people very less capable are in high positions, making absurd mistakes and sinking companies or even sinking entire nations. My girlfriend is an environmental engineer and exceptionally smart, she worked at a large company where she solved problems that saved tens of thousands of dollars monthly by cutting waste, as well as contributing to reducing pollution. One of the solutions involving the replacement of a pipeline generated savings of a few million. If she were placed in a higher position, where her performance had greater reach, it could save the company tens or hundreds of millions. However, she was invited to participate in a corruption scheme, she refused, the person who made the invitation was afraid that she would denounce them and fired her.

In “The Republic”, Plato commented on the importance of kings being philosophers and philosophers being kings. This seems to me the most natural, substituting “philosophers” for “competent” which is usually almost synonymous with “intelligent”. And replacing “kings” with an equivalent modern meaning, which can be CEOs of big companies, mayors, governors and presidents. In the US there are several mechanisms to discover and mentor talented children and young people, there are several specialized programs. According to Eunice Maria Lima Soriano de Alencar, in the 1970s there were over 1200 educational programs for gifted children in the US. How is it possible that these programs “missed” Langan and Rosner? How could a respected entity like Hollingworth Institute not discover them? It’s not possible that they didn’t excel at school. In Brazil I would think this is normal, Brazil lets almost all the great talents go down the drain. But in the US I find it surprising that this has happened. There are records that Langan scored perfect on the SAT and received scholarships at two universities, but it appears that he lost his scholarship because he was late one day because his car broke down. This is pretty ridiculous. Even if he missed every class, he would probably learn more and better than 99% of his classmates who were present in every class. The universities did not award scholarships in recognition of his genius, but as a “handout”, with restrictive conditions to withdraw the handout if he did not meet certain criteria.

This waste of great talent is one of the main reasons that leads a country to ruin. China is catching up and surpassing the US in large part because China has invested more seriously and more heavily in special education for gifted children, while the US is making gross mistakes like this, letting great minds like Langan, Rosner, Towers are wasted on jobs like nightclub or park security, while less-skilled people lead big companies, govern cities and states.

Nepotism is not an exclusively family phenomenon. It is much broader, leading to the placement of underqualified people in positions that should be filled by others with more merit. There is no optimization in the delegation of positions, responsibilities, tasks, incentives, awards, etc. And this lack of optimization is obviously penalized. Competitors who optimize this best take the lead.

In Brazil the situation is much more serious, because there are no such programs. There were a few isolated initiatives, which reached a few dozen children, but they did not last long.

Intelligence tests are extremely important to be used in these talent discovery processes. Although the tests have several flaws, it is better that they are applied as far as possible, with errors and patches, than if they were not applied and this calamity was perpetuated. Some of the tech giants create their own tests to select their collaborators, usually these tests are not as good as the hrlQts, but at least they demonstrate that they understand the need for it. Although they are

patching up the problem badly, at least they are trying to do something to identify young talents and engage them in relevant projects, in which they can contribute to the development of Science, Technology and the common good, so these companies do better than the government in this regard.

Jacobsen: Who seems like the greatest geniuses in history to you?

Melão Jr.: Leonardo, Newton, Aristotle, Gauss, Ramanujan, Archimedes, Euler and Einstein.

It is difficult to judge the cases of Hawking, Galois, Faraday, Al-Hazen and others, because Hawking had to face extreme hardships, it is difficult to know what the magnitude of his legacy would have been had he not fallen ill. It is possible that Hawking is one of the 5 or 10 smartest people in history, although his effective work is not one of the 100 most expressive, as it is not a fair representation of his potential, as he unfortunately did not have the opportunity to “compete” in equal conditions with other great geniuses. Galois was born in a very privileged situation culturally, intellectually and economically, but unfortunately he died very young. This does not mean that he would have produced much more if he had lived to be 90 or 100, because looking at the lives of other great mathematicians and scientists, most of the most important work they did was before the age of 25, eventually between 25 and 30. In addition, there are many cases of people who produced almost everything they could before the age of 20, then showed no advance or accumulation of production (Paul Morphy, for example, or Arthur Rubin). So Galois’ remarkable precocity does not necessarily indicate that he would have produced more than Gauss or Euler had he lived much longer. But even if he had not reached Euler’s level, it is likely that he would have left a monumental legacy. Faraday – like Edison, Leonardo and me – did not receive a formal education, which could be interpreted as a disadvantage, although perhaps it is not. Academic life can get in the way, in many cases, it is difficult to judge with certainty. To find out whether people with IQs above a certain level would have an advantage or a disadvantage studying as self-taught, it would be necessary to carry out experiments with several pairs of twins with an IQ in the desired range, in which one of each pair of twins would be forced to pursue a career in academia and education. another forced not to follow. There would be several problems in running such an experiment, because twins are rare and twins with IQs above a certain level may simply not be an example case, and the study would require a sample of at least a few dozen. Another problem is the ethical issue, of forcing a person to attend the unit and forcing another not to attend. This is especially serious in the case of monozygotic twins, because both would likely have similar preferences, and one of them would have to be “sacrificed” in this situation, forced to do something different than they would like.

At the time I got to know the high-IQ communities, there was a lot of talk about Sidis as the greatest genius in history, a genius wronged and misunderstood. There’s some truth to that, but there’s also a lot of exaggeration and distortion. Sidis is an unusual case and very difficult to judge, because his story is mixed with legends and fantasies. My first contact with Sidis’ “story” was through an article by Grady Towers in 1999, which he later modified in 2000. I now know that there was a lot of incorrect information in that text, but at the time I believed what was there, and I even considered the possibility that Sidis really was the smartest person in history. I now see Sidis as a victim of his parents, a forced prodigy with maybe 180 to 200 IQ, who could have been a good researcher and led a pleasant, productive life, but has been turned into a circus attraction. The 250-300 IQ that for years has been attributed to him appears to have been his sister’s invention, the 54 languages he was claimed to speak have been reduced to 52, then 40, then 26, and currently it appears he is considered to have perhaps spoken of fact 15 to 20 languages.

The legend about him being able to learn 1 language in 1 day seems to be simply false. He didn't get a Ph.D. Cum Laude at Harvard at 16, but rather a B.Sc., which is still an impressive accomplishment, but not quite. About 12% of Yale students graduate Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude. In some years (like 1988) these percentages can increase quite a lot, reaching more than 30%. I don't know the percentages at Harvard, but I suppose it's not that different. So it is indeed expressive, but not as impressive as would be expected by someone with a supposed 250-300 IQ.

His sister's tendency to exaggerate just about everything ends up increasing skepticism about which claims about him are true. The fact is that he did not leave a scientific or mathematical legacy that justifies the overestimation that is usually made of him. His ideas about black holes were preceded by more than 100 years by Laplace and Michell, his ideas about Evolution had already been better developed by Darwin and Wallace, in fact, Sidis' approach is much more superficial than Darwin and Wallace's, being more similar to that of Anaximander and Aristotle. However, the question remains about the level of intellectual production that he could have reached if he had not withdrawn from academic life, or even withdrawn from academic life, but producing Science and Mathematics outside the university.

In terms of precocity, Gauss, Galois, Neumann and Pascal seem to me more remarkable than Sidis, not least because Gauss was a natural prodigy, while Sidis was a mixture of natural prodigy and forced prodigy. Galois, Pascal, Neumann were also natural and forced prodigies, but not as forced as Sidis. This pressure to which Sidis was subjected may have harmed him and provoked the outcome that this telenovela ended up having. I find it difficult to assess.

So if I had been asked this question in 2000, maybe I would have done a less critical and more superficial analysis and singled out Sidis as the greatest genius. Currently I would have doubts even if he would have a very high score in the hrIQts, maybe he would reach 190 in some tests, but in others he would not exceed 180. As far as intellectual production is concerned, the records do not show anything so extraordinary.

Jacobsen: What differentiates a genius from a deeply intelligent person?

Melão Jr.: The concept of "genius" is usually used to indicate exceptional ability in different scientific, artistic, sports, cultural areas, etc. In this context, one of the main differences would be the level of specificity, as the genius could indicate a remarkable talent in any area of activity (Music, Football, Ballet, etc.), including activities in which high-level intelligence is not required. In contrast to this, the profoundly intelligent person would have his talent exclusively linked to activities in which notability requires a very high intellectual level (physics, mathematics, literature, chess, etc.).

But this concept is inappropriate, in my opinion, because with the development of machines that outperform the best humans in different modalities, it becomes important not to mix "smart" machines with other machines. It might seem acceptable to say that Usain Bolt is a track and field genius, but it would be strange to say that a Bugatti Chiron is a genius, even though what the Chiron does exceptionally is the same as Usain Bolt does. It is therefore necessary to determine objective classification criteria that are equally applicable to all organic and inorganic entities, without discrimination, a criterion that works well and does not produce bizarre classifications. It would be unreasonable to say "ah, Chiron is a car, so criteria don't apply to it". That would be shallow and incorrect discrimination, because in a few decades there will be cars capable of talking about philosophy and demonstrating mathematical theorems, including hybrids that are part

human and part cars, and if one of the criteria for being considered genius is “it can’t be a car”, there would be a serious inconsistency. A serious and fair criterion needs to be well planned, it cannot be a naive guess that does not contemplate possible exceptions.

Talents for intellectual modalities, when they reach a certain level of excellence (something like 5 standard deviations above average) can be considered “geniuses”, but for activities in which the intellectual level does not play an important role (Boxing, Football, Athletics etc.), I believe that the correct term should be chosen more carefully, to avoid that non-intellectual machines are incorrectly classified as “geniuses” (a fast car being classified as a “genius” because it is fast seems to me to be an etymological error, but if this car is could perform intellectual tasks, the situation would change). In some circumstances, machines need to be recognized as geniuses, otherwise there will be serious inconsistencies in the syntax of the language, based solely on prejudice against machines. AlphaZero or MuZero, for example, in my opinion they (especially MuZero) are in a “grey zone” that is difficult to assess. MuZero can learn by himself to play Chess, Go, Shogui, Atari games, and reach very high level, superior to the best humans in the world in some of these games, which are recognized as intellectual games. So an attempt to adjust the criteria post facto, with the sole purpose of disqualifying MuZero as a genius, would seem to me to be a sign of unfair discrimination. Even because, the next generations of MuZero tend to present better and better what we understand as “general intelligence”, and at some point there will be no way to avoid recognizing that some machines also need to be classified as “intelligent”.

The question is whether MuZero would be better classified as “idiot savant” or “genius”. In my opinion, “genius” would be better, because idiot savants are usually not very creative and don’t excel in activities that require deep, sophisticated problem solving. They are very good at memorizing and repeating, whether mental calculations or playing songs, but I don’t know of any idiot savant who has excelled as a chess player or as a scientist. Perhaps it would be possible to reformulate the meanings of genius and idiot savant so that MuZero would be better classified as a savant, without compromising the essence of these meanings. A proper classification could not “push” Bobby Fischer or Kasparov into the savants group, for example. The classification would need to be careful, so as not to create inconsistencies with the sole objective of removing MuZero from the group of geniuses, nor presenting other types of arbitrariness.

In some other pursuits where there is no need for exceptional intellect, with an IQ of close to 120 being sufficient together with exceptional talent in a particular area, I believe the term “genius” should not be applicable. Mike Tyson or Usain Bolt don’t need much more than 120 IQ, and some vehicles without any trace of intelligence, who don’t think, can beat Bolt in the sport he excelled in, so excellence in that sport perhaps shouldn’t be seen as “genius”.

In some cases it is more difficult to assess whether or not the term “genius” is applicable. Artificial Intelligence Systems like AIWA, which specializes in composing music, and does it at a very high level, in my view, shouldn’t be classified as “genius” either, in which case great human composers shouldn’t be classified as “geniuses” based solely on their talent for songwriting. If this talent for songwriting was accompanied by an intellectual level commensurate with the intellectual criterion of genius, then the classification as “genius” would apply on that basis. The same would be true for boxers, farmers or professionals in any field, who would not be classified as “geniuses” based on their talents for their most prominent activities, but on their intelligence.

In this sense, there could be latent geniuses and effective geniuses. The latent genius would be in

the intellectual potential to produce relevant contributions to expand the horizons of knowledge, revolutionize scientific paradigms, etc. While the effective genius would be the one who concretely does these things. A profoundly intelligent person, who has not made outstanding contributions, could be a latent genius, having the constant opportunity to become an effective genius, from the moment he uses his potential for scientific development, or for innovations in mathematics or science. in some important field of knowledge.

Some people consider the fundamental difference between a genius and a profoundly intelligent person to be creativity, but creativity is one of the components of intelligence. People often confuse logical reasoning (which is also one of the components of intelligence) with intelligence itself. But intelligent behavior is a broad combination of many cognitive processes, including memory and creativity.

The difference between “genius” and “deeply intelligent” is more quantitative and is associated with the proportions in which certain attributes are present. Creativity appears in the genius as a fundamental element, but not because the genius is creative and the profoundly intelligent person is not (both are), or even because the genius is always more creative (although he usually is). In the set of attributes, considering logical reasoning, creativity, working memory, long-term memory, etc., the genius has and uses this set of latent traits in solving novel problems with greater efficiency. As creativity is usually one of the most important requirements for this, it ends up being natural to associate genius with creativity.

Jacobsen: Is deep intelligence necessary for genius?

Melão Jr.: For the concept of genius I described, yes. In the previous answer I ended up answering this one.

Jacobsen: What were some work experiences and jobs you’ve had?

Melão Jr.: Since 2006 I have been working on the development of artificial intelligence systems to operate in the Financial Market. I am currently interested in solving the problem of prolonging life indefinitely, preserving memory and identity in inorganic devices that have a proper communication interface with the brain, resuscitating people, restoring severely damaged bodies, and other minor problems that are subsets of these and pre-requirements for these.

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular work path?

Melão Jr.: The development of automatic systems to operate in the Financial Market is an intellectually challenging activity and offers a reasonably fair monetary reward, although the absence of a business network imposes many obstacles. The level of difficulty, complexity and depth of the problems that need to be solved to make consistent long-term profits from long-short trading is extremely high. There are some easy ways to earn 3% a year or a little more by practicing Index Buy & Hold or Blue Chips, where the gain is small but very easy. But if one wants to strive to earn profits close to 30% a year or above, the challenge is extraordinarily difficult and few people in the world actually manage to do so. As part of that work, I’ve made some interesting advances in Econometrics and Risk Management. In 2007, I solved a problem that had been unsatisfactorily resolved for 22 years by creating an index to measure risk-adjusted performance that was more accurate, more predictive, and conceptually better informed than traditional William Sharpe Nobel 1990) and Franco Modigliani (Nobel 1985). In 2015 I showed that the method recommended by the Nobel Prize in Economics Harry Markowitz, for portfolio optimization, has some flaws, and I proposed some improvements that make this method more efficient

and safe. In 2021, I pointed out flaws in the recommendation of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Economics, Clive Granger, regarding the use of the concept of cointegration, and presented a more adequate solution for the same problem. Among other contributions in processes of optimization of genetic algorithms, ranking and selection of genotypes, pattern recognition, etc.

Jacobsen: What are some of the most important aspects of the gifted and genius idea? These myths that permeate the cultures of the world. What are these myths? What truths dispel them?

Melão Jr.: There seem to be different myths among different intellectual strata. For the majority of the population, with an IQ below 130, it seems that they think of the genius as a crazy, reclusive, antisocial, physically fragile person, and every physical and psychological flaw they can imagine, as a morbid need to push down. the person for not tolerating the fact that he excels at something and has little advantage in almost everything. Many movies, books and magazines try to reinforce this stereotype. But there are other incorrect ideas that are pervasive in other IQ bands. At the 130 to 180 level, for example, there seems to be an overestimation of results on IQ tests, without a correct understanding of the limits of the extent to which these tests produce accurate and reliable scores.

Another myth is related to the rarity level. People who have no concept of Psychometrics (almost all outside of high IQ societies) think that gifted people are very rare, something like 1 in a million or even rarer. They are also generally unaware of the difference between “gifted” and “genius”, including some who think gifted is smarter than genius.

Jacobsen: Any thoughts on the concept of God or the idea of gods and philosophy, theology and religion?

Melão Jr.: My family was Catholic. I became an atheist at age 11 after studying some religions. In a transition process that lasted a few years between the ages of 17 and 25, I ended up becoming agnostic. I became interested in the Bahá'í Faith at the age of 27 and at 28 I became a deist and wrote an article in which I present serious scientific arguments for the existence of God. I say “serious arguments” because all the pseudoscientific arguments I know of on the subject are desperate attempts to “prove” an a priori belief. It is different from an impartial analysis that leads to a conclusion that had not served as an initial motivation. I’m still a deist, I even founded my own religion, and I’m writing a book on the subject.

Jacobsen: How much does science influence your worldview?

Melão Jr.: Science is the only way we know of through which adequate models can be developed to represent sentient reality, functional models, capable of making generalizations and predictions, in which the results obtained are reasonably in accordance with the predictions, without predictions depend on luck for chance hits. Science is essential in the process of acquiring knowledge and technological development. On the other hand, it is important to understand the limitations of Science, as a body of disciplines that offers us a valuable method, but that is not immune to failures. The great differential of Science is not in the knowledge it produces, but in the method that allows it to correct itself and to do this constantly, updating itself, refining itself, expanding itself, etc., so that all the Scientific knowledge, even if it is fundamentally incorrect, has some practical use and works reasonably well within the limits set by Measurement Theory. Ptolemy’s cosmological model, for example, even though it was fundamentally wrong, allowed

for very accurate predictions. Sometimes scientific theories may not structurally accurately represent natural phenomena, but even if the theoretical explanations are not the most correct, they work. Knowledge obtained through other means, such as philosophy, religion or popular culture, is generally less likely to “work”, and even when they do work, it is difficult to regulate the parameters that determine their functioning, due to the absence of an underlying theory that be organized by a mathematical model.

Jacobsen: What were some of the tests performed and scores obtained (with standard deviations) for you?

Melão Jr.: There is no simple answer to this question. In fact, among all the questions in this interview, this is perhaps the most difficult, because in addition to giving a correct answer, I need to try to be diplomatic so I don’t seem too arrogant. My girlfriend has asked me dozens of times what my IQ is, Tor has asked me this at least 5 times, and I usually shy away from the subject because it takes time to explain everything. But I’ll answer it here and when other people ask me again, I’ll provide the link to that answer, including because in previous questions and in the introductory text I commented a little about clinical trials, hrIQts, estimates and comparisons. With that, I believe it will be possible to express my opinion on this topic in a reasonably complete and accurate way in less than 50 pages, taking advantage of the previous answers as prerequisites.

I was examined for the first time at 3 years of age, and I even got to the tests for 9 years, because they were not above 9 years old for children who could not read. I don’t know what the tests are called, but the standard deviation was probably 24. There are several complex points that need to be examined about this, because the evolution of intelligence as a function of age is not linear, as in Stern’s simplified formula, the deviation default is not 24 in all age groups under 16, most very young children examined are forced prodigies that parents tried to teach a lot since they were born but it was not like that in my case, my father went out to work before When I woke up and came back after I was asleep, my mom worked most of the day, so none of them even had time to spend much time with me, let alone train me like a forced prodigy. Other points to consider are that intellectual development does not end at age 16 (nor 17 or 18 or 19), nor does it reach the limit at a fixed age for all people, nor does it remain stable when reaching a certain age. Therefore the interpretation that the mental age of 9 years to 3 years corresponds to an IQ ratio of 300 is grossly incorrect and naive. Even after converting the scale with standard deviation from 24 to 16, reaching 233, it is still incorrect. The evolution curve of intelligence as a function of age also varies from one person to another. Therefore, it is not reasonable to use tests applied in childhood as a basis to try to estimate what the adult IQ will be. There are several cases of IQs measured in childhood that prove to be very far from correct in adulthood, although some may “get it right”, as in the case of Terrence Tao, who had an IQ measured at 230 and, luckily, really had an IQ. his is close to it. In my case, it is also possible that the measured IQ came close to the correct value “luckily”, but the tests used, the method used, etc. are not appropriate.

Another detail is that I don’t know if I would continue to solve typical tasks for children over 10 years old, but it is possible that I would, but the precocity in solving typical tasks for older children says almost nothing, or says very little, about the intellectual level that will be reached in adulthood, because the skills measured do not provide useful information for this type of prognosis. The type of skill that would indicate a very high intellectual level (200+) in adulthood is not related to the same type of task that an 8, 9 or 10 year old, or even 20 year old child could perform, but with the problem solving that indicated traits of creativity and deep thinking for that

age. The event in Geography class at age 9, for example, was a much more relevant indicator than the test result at age 3, not only because at age 9 he had already reached greater maturity and was closer to the potential he would have as an adult. , but also, and mainly, because the type of problem involved was more closely related to the cognitive processes needed by genius adults.

As I mentioned in the introductory text, in other answers, in some articles and in some forums, IQ tests and hrIQts have problems in construct validity, errors in the calculation of the norm, and inadequacy of the level of difficulty. I already had a very bad experience with Paul Cooijmans in 2001 and I don't plan on wasting time on it again. Cooijmans' Space, Time & Hyperspace (STH) proposed measuring IQ up to 207 ($\sigma=16$), although the real difficulty of the hardest questions on this test is not much higher than 170. But that's not the main problem. STH contains several primary errors that completely invalidate the test and the norm, although many people consider it to be one of the "best" hrIQts. In 2001 I wrote to Cooijmans about this and pointed out one such mistake to him, but he refused to talk about it and did not admit his mistake. I don't have the patience to deal with people who act like him. I'll describe exactly what the problem is using an example:

The general wording for all STH questions was as follows:

$a : b :: c : d$

Meaning: "a" is to "b" as "c" is to "d".

Given "a, b, c" determine "d".

The statement, along with the test, can be accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20040812113534/http://www.gliasociety.org/>

Here's a print of what's in the link above:

This test contains 28 problems and has no time limit. Use of reference aids is allowed. Consulting others is not allowed, either before, during or after taking the test. Publication of answers will result in prosecution. Draw your solutions on paper or in an electronic document with name, address, age and sex. Mention scores on priorly taken IQ and aptitude tests, including the names of the tests.

Answers with the fee mentioned [here](#) to [Paul Cooijmans](#)

Draw solutions with as much precision as needed to eliminate doubt. Example (":" = "is to", "::" = "as") :

Question 10 is:



The general statement says that there is a relationship from the 1st figure to the 2nd figure that must be discovered and then that same relationship must be applied to the 3rd figure to produce the 4th figure. This is the only general statement for all questions in this test, presented at the beginning of the test, and it works like this in questions 1 through 9, but not so in question 10 or 16 other questions out of the 28 that make up this test.

He wanted question 10 to discover the relationship of the 1st figure to the 3rd figure and then

that same relationship to be applied to the 2nd figure to produce the 4th figure! But at no time did he ask for this in the statement. What the statement asks for is exactly what I described above. If the person answers exactly what the utterance is asking for, the person loses 1 point!

There are several other issues in STH with this same basic logic error. In this surreal situation, if the person hits all 28 questions exactly in accordance with what the test statement asks for, the person will receive only 11 correct answers and score 135 instead of 205 by the current norm, or 140 instead of 207 by the norm. old.

As Cooijmans did not agree to talk about it, I talked (at the time) with 3 other people able to give an opinion: Petri Widsten, Albert Frank and Guilherme Marques dos Santos Silva.

Petri Widsten scored highest on the Sigma Test, STH and was champion in several logic and IQ contests, including <http://www.worldiqchallenge.com/rankings.html>, where Petri scored nearly twice the raw score of Rick Rosner. Petri quickly agreed with me on this, even to the detriment of his own answers, because he had answered what he thought Cooijmans would like to receive as an answer, not what would be the most correct answer. Every time I think about this subject, I get stressed, because Cooijmans is a very stubborn person. I don't think Cooijmans is stupid or dishonest; I think he's smart and he tries to do what he believes is right, but his stubbornness is greater than his intelligence.

Albert Frank was a professor of logic and mathematics at the University of Brussels, a veteran champion of chess in Belgium. Albert also agreed with me and made some comments on Formal Logic that categorize the type of mistake made by Cooijmans.

Guilherme Marques dos Santos Silva is a member of Sigma V and was champion in the IQ contest "Ludomind International Contest IV", he also agreed with me and "gave up" to finish doing the STH after he saw this absurd error. He said there were few questions left to finish, but due to the serious bias in the correction, he had no interest in proceeding.

In addition to the people I talked to back then, I also recently talked to Tianxi Yu about this kind of issue. Yu scores 196, $\sigma=15$ on Death Numbers, which is considered a serious test with a deflated norm. He commented that he has already found bugs in several tests, and he has posted an extensive and detailed public critique of this in a group, citing the various types of bugs that bother him. There are several points where I disagree with Yu's opinions, but in terms of testing, our opinions are very similar.

As soon as I had my first contact with high IQ societies and discovered Miyaguchi's website (1999), I became interested in taking the Power Test, which I consider one of the best in terms of construct validity and with an adequate level of difficulty. At the time I was 27 years old and with a different opinion than I do now, I had three goals with the Power Test: one was fun, another was to beat Rick Rosner's IQ~193 record, and the third was to get into Mega Society. At that time, the standard calculated by Garth Zietsman for the Power Test was used, with a ceiling of 197, but before I finished solving all the questions, the Power Test was no longer accepted in Mega Society and the ceiling was "revised" to 180. So I completely lost interest.

Garth Zietsman is a competent statistician and the norm he calculated, probably using Item Response Theory, is consistent and very well grounded. If the same items used in Mega, Titan, and Ultra were in Power, then the individual difficulties of those items were maintained and determined the norm for Power. So when the Power Test ceiling was changed to 180, it was a mistake. The more than 4,000 applications of Meta, Titan and Ultra, which served as the basis for

the norm calculated by Zietsman, were simply disregarded, and a new norm was calculated based on a few dozen people. The correct procedure would be to add the new data (about the results of each item answered by the people examined with the Power) to the item bank that contained the Mega, Titan and Ultra questions, recalibrate the parameters of difficulty, discriminating power and casual accuracy (if applicable) of each item, then review the norms of the 4 Hoefflin tests that shared those items. Thus, the difficulty levels would be preserved equally in all tests, maintaining a unified scale.

But the way it was done, the Power norm was skewed downwards relative to the other three Hoefflin tests. To better clarify the problem, I will cite an example: in the Power Test the question about the Moebius tape is being treated statistically as if it had parameter $b = +2.81$, that is, 50% of people with IQ 145 ($\sigma=16$) should get this issue right. However, the same question about the Moebius tape, when applied in another of the Hoefflin tests, is being treated statistically as if it had a parameter $b = 3.88$, that is, 50% of people with IQ 162 ($\sigma=16$) must get this right. question. This is a serious inconsistency, because either the question has a difficulty of 2.81 on all tests in which it is used, or 3.88 on all tests. The question cannot have difficulty 3.88 on some tests and 2.81 on others. Zietsman's norming is consistent in this regard, so the Power roof produces a norm on the same scale as the Mega, Titan, and Ultra norms.

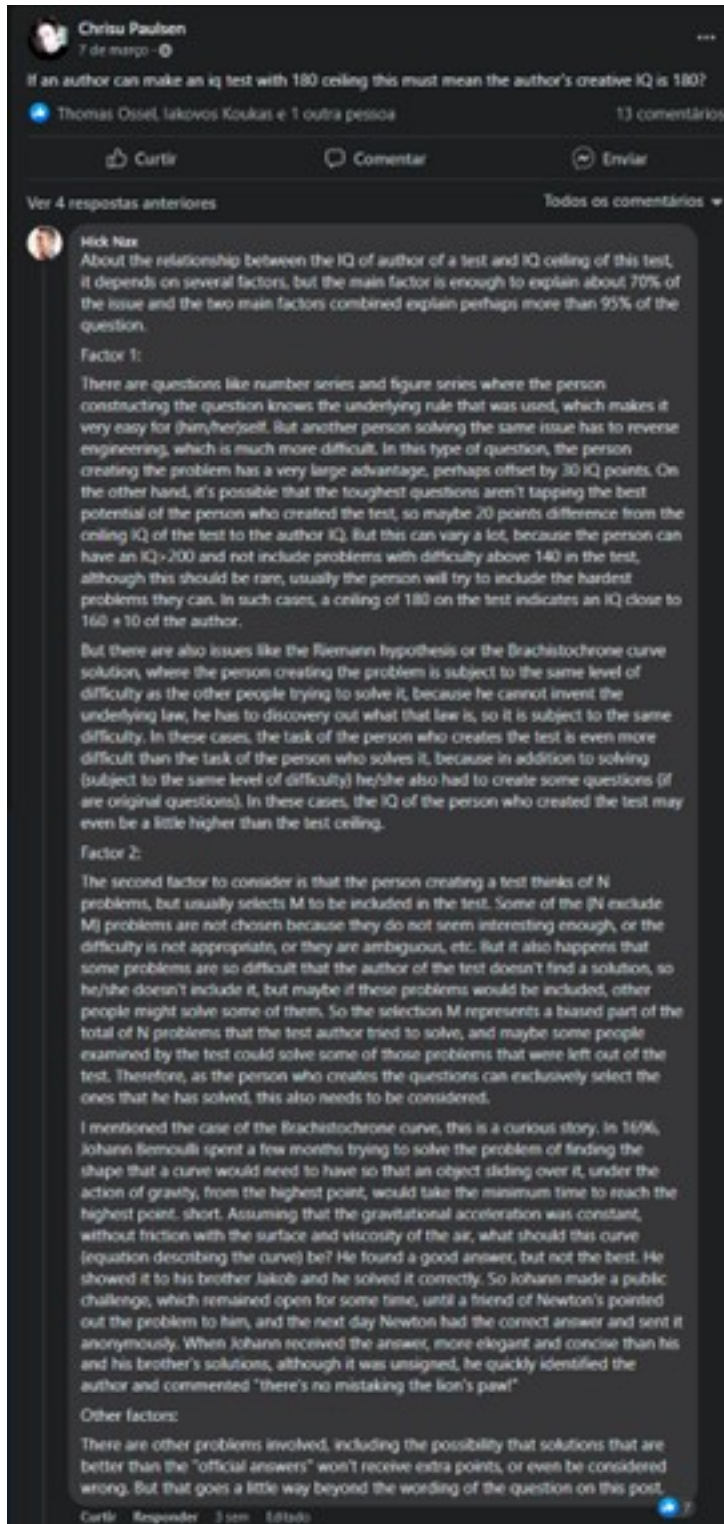
One of the reasons that caused this reduction in the Power ceiling is because some people had already taken one or more of the other Hoefflin tests in which the Power items were present, so the probability of hitting those items on the second try was higher, increasing even more on the third and fourth attempts. But the correct way to deal with this would be to adjust all the norms of all the tests that contained those items, depending on the number of times those items had already been solved by the person examined, with norms customized for each person, or based on how many and which of the three other tests the person had already solved (an equation for this could easily be determined using cluster analysis, for example).

It could also simply look at the scores of people who had taken more than one test (or the same test more than once) and the effect that had on the probability of getting each repeated item right on the second, third, or fourth test that contained the same item. While this global adjustment to the itemset was not as accurate and refined as analyzing this effect on each individual item, as I suggested above, this would already help to improve the norms across all 4 tests, rather than distorting the Power norm in relative to everyone else.

Anyway, there is a worrying amount of errors in the hrIQts, both in the calculations of the norms and in the answers accepted as correct, among other problems. That's why Sigma Test has always adopted a policy of transparency, being open to debates, if the person had a score above 180 in any test and they believed that some of their answers were right and they thought they received an incorrect evaluation, they could contest the correction of a question she chose. If she was right, she could challenge the correction of one more question, and so on, until her challenge was unfounded. The Moon Test and Sigma Test Extended have a similar transparency policy, but the minimum score on other tests to have this right to challenge is 190 on both the Moon Test and Sigma Test Extended. This allows reviewing any errors, as well as allowing the person being examined the opportunity to defend what they believe is right, in the event that they feel they deserved more points than they received. In my opinion, all tests should adopt a similar policy.

If there were any tests with appropriate characteristics, I would consider doing another test, even though I am older and dumber. Basically it should be a test with good construct validity at the

highest levels, appropriate ceiling, and appropriate difficulty. In addition, it should have a formal “grievance” system that allows contesting the result. Without that, I see no reason to waste time on these things. An hrlQt can easily take up to 50 hours and if it’s a really hard test, with the right level of difficulty, it can take over 500 hours. It is time that could be spent on more interesting and productive activities. So unless the test brings together a number of notable virtues that justify the effort, I wouldn’t be interested. In fact, there is a test that, in my opinion, meets these requirements, but I cannot solve it because I am the author. This reminds me of a topic that was discussed a few weeks ago in a group:



In fact, some problems I've already solved are more difficult than the more difficult problems in Sigma Test Extended. So there are some useful clues in that.

Some people have already estimated my IQ and made some comparisons. In 2004, Pars Society founder (IQ>180), Baran Yonter, estimated my IQ to be over 200 ($\sigma=16$, G), this is equivalent to

over 240 pIQ ($\sigma=16$, T). I thought he was being nice, but in 2005, when I was nominated for the production of the Globo TV show “Fantástico” as the smartest person in Brazil, I discovered that other people had similar opinions to Baran about me. I was flattered by the nominations, but I don’t know if I’m really the smartest person in Brazil and I told the journalist that, but he insisted, and as I had been the most nominated, and also for the sake of vanity, I ended up accepting to do the article, whose video is available on my page and my channel.

It is necessary to make an important caveat regarding the correct determination of the most intelligent person in Brazil, because there is a Brazilian who won a Fields medal (Artur Ávila) and there is a Brazilian who made fundamental contributions to the development of paraconsistent logics (Newton da Costa), both are very smart people, but with different profiles than mine, so it would be difficult to make a proper comparison to know for sure who is the smartest in Brazil, because each of them is deeply specialized in a very specific area, while my talents and achievements span a wide variety of different areas. As a result of greater specialization, the level of depth they have reached is greater, but this greater depth does not reflect greater depth of reasoning, but greater depth of knowledge. Also, I only studied until the 11th grade, while they did PhDs and postdocs with excellent advisors, which puts me in a “running with legs tied” situation compared to people who run on horseback. The people who worked on the same problems I worked on were equipped with more sophisticated mathematical tools, access to much more powerful computers, access to a vast, high-quality bibliography, received much more prolonged, intensive formal training under the guidance of experienced scientists, while all my “training” was self-administered, with virtually no bibliographic resources and modest computational resources. I often had to create my own statistical tools before using them to solve problems, and later I found that there were ready-made tools for the same purposes. During the development of my system to operate in the Financial Market, situations like this were repeated many times.

A detail that is important to clarify: I commented (in the appendix) that the average quality of education in Brazil is terrible, so what would be my disadvantage for not having attended this terrible environment? And the answer is simple: many of the best Brazilian academics will study at the best research centers and universities in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, etc. Also, there are a few really good researchers in Brazil, and when a young talent receives guidance from a first-rate researcher, it makes a huge difference. So there is a substantial advantage in Artur and Newton da Costa’s opportunities compared to my situation, because they had access to many more resources, in addition to the advantages in mentoring and training.

As for other people who have worked on the same problems as me, and I solved those problems before them or better than them or both, almost all of them are from other countries: Nick Trefethen is Head of Dep. in Numerical Calculus at Oxford University and collects some international Mathematics prizes (Leslie Fox Prize 1985, FRS Prize 2005, IMA Gold Medal 2010), Susumu Tachi is Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo and Guest Professor at MIT, Stefan Steinerberger is Professor of Mathematics at Yale, William Sharpe is a professor at the University of California and a Nobel Prize in Economics in 1990, Franco Modigliani is a Professor at the University of Rome and a Nobel Prize in Economics in 1985, Clive Granger was a professor at the University of Nottingham and a Nobel Prize in Economics in 2003, among others. So the people who worked on some of the problems that I solved constitute a “heavy competition”, in addition to having access to more resources, more advisors, etc. relevant before them, perhaps represents some merit to me, I have no false modesty in admitting it.

The fact is that the correct determination of the smartest person in a country is not something so

simple, it is not a game of egos and vanities. There needs to be a real basis for this. For example, I think Petri Widsten has excellent chances of being the smartest person in Finland, not only because of his excellent result in the Sigma Test, but also because his doctoral thesis, besides being very innovative, was awarded as the best thesis of the country in the 2002-2003 biennium and he won several logic contests. The aggregate of these results, and other minor details such as him being fluent in more than 10 languages, suggest a real intellectual level with rarity above 1 in 5 million, which is the population of Finland. However, there are other very smart people in Finland, like Rauno Lindström or Bengt Holmström. Although Finland is a culturally more homogeneous country, so that there is not as great a difference in opportunities as in my case, even so, the comparison is still difficult, so it would not be wise to categorically state that a certain person (Petri or Rauno or another) is the smartest in Finland. The most appropriate would be to assign a probability to each one. Petri would have around a 95% probability of being the smartest person in Finland, Maybe Rauno 2%, Bengt 1% and someone among other people 5 million people 2%. In the case of Brazil, my advantage would be much smaller than Petri's in relation to the other strong candidates.

In 2005, friend Alexandre Prata Maluf, a member of Sigma V, Pars Society and OlympIQ Society, estimated that my IQ should be similar or slightly above that of Marilyn Vos Savant. I think he meant it as a compliment, because Marilyn is an icon in high-IQ societies, but I didn't like the comparison, because it's not a fair comparison. The real-world problems I've solved are much more difficult than the problems she's solved. I don't exclude the possibility that she might have an IQ similar to mine, but she would need to prove it with concrete results, solving problems with a compatible degree of difficulty.

I recently learned that in 2018, in a private group, my name had been mentioned in a post titled "Name the top 5 people (alive) with the highest measured IQs in the world today! Name, IQ and Test." I found it surprising that I was quoted, because since 2006 I had been away from high IQ societies and only returned a few months ago, in February 2022, yet Rasmus Waldna from Sweden very kindly remembered me and suggested my name, and his nomination received more likes than the names of Terence Tao, Chris Hirata, Rick Rosner, Marilyn and Langan. The names of friends Tor and Iakovos were also indicated. I understand that it was an informal topic, and people's positive reactions may have been influenced by factors extrinsic to intellectual capacity, some people may have liked it out of sympathy, for example, or because they like my hair, but I was still happy with the memory and recognition, and also happy to see some friends on this list.

In 2001, David Spencer compared me to Leonardo Da Vinci and Pascal. In 2016 my friend Joao Antonio LJ compared me to Newton and Galileo, and the way he wrote and the context in which it was said, I found it a touching and sincere compliment. In 2017, I was again compared to Leonardo (by Aurius). In 2020, Empiricus magazine published an article by Bruno Mérola on risk management, in which the author compared my Melao Index with the Sharpe index (1990 Nobel), and in the analysis he did, he presented facts and arguments demonstrating that my index is higher than the Sharpe index. In fact, my index is also superior to that of Modigliani (Nobel 1985), Sortino and all the others, but in the article he only mentioned the Sharpe index because it is the most used in the world, because it is more traditional and better known, and cited mine for being the most efficient. In 2021 I was compared to Feynman and again to Leonardo, in an interesting situation, where the person (Francisco) did a reasonably detailed analysis of the comparison to justify his opinion. In 2021, I was again cited as possibly the smartest person in Brazil by Luca Fujii, one of the greatest precocious talents in Brazilian Mathematics, but as he is still very

young, he has not yet manifested all his intellectual brilliance and that is why he is not yet so famous, but it will be soon. Luca is a person with many moral virtues, as well as intellectual ones, just like Joao Antonio LJ, so I feel really honored that these people have high opinions about me, and also because I know they don't say that just to please me, but based on deep criteria, very well-founded and well-considered criteria. Joao has read over 1000 of my articles, Luca has read my two books and has surely read hundreds of my articles. So, in addition to being exceptionally skilled, they were also knowledgeable about what they were talking about.

Anyway, I think the real world problems I've solved, the people who have tried to solve the same problems and the awards these people have won and other problems they've solved, the opinions of some exponents of high IQ societies about me maybe answer a little about my IQ, certainly more and better than a standardized test could tell.

Jacobsen: What ethical philosophy makes any sense, even the most viable sense to you?

Melão Jr.: I know of no author who represents my views on any subject sufficiently accurately and completely. There are always details where disagreements occur. In my book on the existence of God, one of the chapters deals with Ethics, in which I set out my views on this. There are some articles in which I discuss issues related to Ethics, this is one of them: <https://www.saturnov.org/liberdadeedireitos>

Jacobsen: What political philosophy makes any sense, even the most viable sense to you?

Melão Jr.: There is a Polish proverb that says "In capitalism, man betrays man. In socialism, the opposite occurs. In theory, almost all political systems try to be reasonably good, with different priorities, but each aiming, in its own way, at noble and lofty goals, although utopian and superficial in basic points, so when they are implemented in practice, it becomes clear that human vicissitudes corrupt any system, because theoretical systems do not make adequate predictions about how to deal with real humans. I believe that in the not too distant future, if we do not destroy each other by war, the political leadership of the planet will be "in the hands" of intelligent machines, and there will be a system much more logical and fair than any system that currently exists. It will be far from a perfect system, but it will be vastly superior to anything we know of, as these systems will be able to analyze much more complex and profound interactions of human relationships between large groups and how those relationships evolve over the long term in much the same way. that the best chess programs far surpass the quality of analysis of humans, "seeing" much more accurately and deeper and making more accurate predictions than any human. The problem is that there is a high risk that we will be enslaved by machines, or something, or there will be a symbiotic union between humans and machines, or parasitic, it is difficult to predict, it will depend on some decisions we make in the coming years and decades.

Jacobsen: What metaphysics makes any sense to you, even the most viable sense to you?

Melão Jr.: The theory of the multiverse is on the threshold between Physics and Metaphysics. The word "multiverse" is an inadequate construction, but the meaning is plausible and even probable.

Jacobsen: What comprehensive philosophical system of worldview makes any sense, even the most viable sense to you?

Melão Jr.: What I describe in the book I cited above, in which I present arguments that seem conclusive about the existence of God, and I address other philosophical and scientific topics.

Jacobsen: What gives you meaning in life?

Melão Jr.: I don't think there needs to be something that gives meaning to life beyond itself. Life has an intrinsic meaning. But I can say that protecting my mother and providing the best possible for her was something that gave me joy. She passed away in 2016. I didn't eat properly and didn't sleep properly for a few months. I had already researched cryogenics and knew that this technology does not offer realistic prospects of bringing a person back to life, because the membranes of trillions of cells are ruptured in heat shock, leaving the cytoplasm to leak out, a process that is unlikely to be reversed. I started to think of a way to resuscitate her, but I find it very difficult that the resurrected person could have restored the exact same personality and memories, so it wouldn't be the same person. If her memories and personality had been stored entirely on an HDD or SSD, or some device with similar properties, then perhaps it would be possible to restore the same person, in a genuine process of resuscitation. The joy of living was gone with her death. In 2018 I met my girlfriend Tamara who has been living with me ever since and I can say she has been my joy of living, my life would be very small and discolored if it wasn't for her. It is an honor for the human species that there are people deeply committed to doing what is right and fair, like her, who elevate human dignity to a level close to perfection.

Jacobsen: Is meaning externally derived, internally generated, both, or something else?

Melão Jr.: In deduction the meaning is attributed, ultimately, arbitrarily. One determines what a triangle is and that will be a triangle. In finite induction, meaning is inferred from the analysis of the amplitude of variation of properties observed in entities of the same class compared to the dispersion of the same properties observed in entities of different classes.

The evolution of the concept of "planet", for example, illustrates well how this happens. The Greeks classified the Moon, Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn as planets. Not all Greeks, actually. Aristarchus, Seleucus, Ecphantus (assuming that Ecphantus actually existed) and Philolaus did not adopt the same criteria. With Copernicus, the Sun was no longer considered a planet, while the Earth was classified as a planet, because the criterion of the Greeks was that the planets moved. When Uranus was discovered in 1781, it also came to be classified as a planet, because its general properties fit this class of objects better, and the same happened when Ceres was discovered in 1801. However, shortly afterward, Pallas was discovered, Vesta, Juno and other objects with orbits very similar to those of Ceres, all much smaller than the other planets and sharing almost the same orbit. Within a few years there were more than 10 objects with these characteristics, which led to reconsidering whether the criteria used to classify planets were appropriate. Then came the concept of "planetoid" later modified to "asteroid" to include this class of objects. At the time Pluto (1930) was discovered, as it was far outside the asteroid zone and its size was originally estimated to be similar to that of Earth, it was classified as a planet. In a few years it was found to be much smaller than previously thought. The first estimates from 1931 assigned Pluto 13,100 km in diameter, then 6084.8 km, then 5760 km, then 3000 km, 2700 km, 2548 km, 2300 km, 2390 km and the latest data indicate about 2376.6 km. So, at the time it was discovered, it was plausible that it was classified as a "planet", but when it was found that it was much smaller and less massive, the situation changed. This issue is discussed in more detail in my book on the subject. When other trans-Neptunian objects were discovered, it started to be considered that perhaps Pluto would be better classified as one of those objects, rather than being considered a planet. The terrestrial planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars) had a rocky surface, average density approximately between 4 and 5.5 times that of water, diameter approximately between 5,000 and 13,000 km, while Jovian planets (Jupiter, Saturn,

Uranus, Neptune) they had a fluid “surface”, average density approximately between 0.7 and 1.7 times that of water, diameter approximately between 50,000 and 140,000 km. But Pluto was far outside these two groups, its density 1.9 was similar to that of the Jovians, but its size was smaller than that of the tellurics. It was not known if the surface was rocky, but in principle it was believed that it was. When Eris was discovered – whose mass is similar to Pluto and maybe a little larger – they finally decided to promote a debate about it and reconsider the criteria for classifying planets. In 2006, the IAU decided to create a new class of objects, the “dwarf planets”, and Pluto entered that category.

I skipped some important events, such as Galileo and Simons’ discovery of the 4 large satellites of Jupiter, which were initially considered “planets” because the concept of a “satellite” didn’t exist until Kepler suggested it. Galileo sometimes referred to these objects as “small stars”, as it was not really known what stars were, although Giordano Bruno already had a promising hunch.

The meaning of “planet” was and continues to be determined by comparison with other objects that show different levels of similarity. In cases where there are large numbers of objects to compare, such as the taxonomy of animals, classifications can be made at many hierarchical levels, with different levels of similarity, and meanings are assigned according to properties common to all elements of the same class, while trying to select criteria that allow distinguishing from elements of other classes. In classifications of dogs and cats, for example, it is not useful to consider the fact that they have 2 eyes, a tail and a snout, because this does not help to distinguish one species from the other. Average size would help if the size spread were narrower, but as different dog breeds vary over a very wide range, this criterion wouldn’t help much either. In these cases, more subtle and specific criteria, such as facial morphology, tooth morphology and number of teeth, turn out to be more useful. The size of the snout can help, but the number of teeth has a similar meaning, as it is related to the size of the snout, with the advantage of being more objective and quantitative.

Anyway, these are the two main ways of determining meanings. One is arbitrary, it allows one to impose what characteristics the entity must have. The other tries to discover which characteristics are common to all entities of the same class and, at the same time, are different from the characteristics of entities of similar classes, in order to make it possible to distinguish between entities of one class or another. These meanings are often incomplete, uncertain and subject to revision as new discoveries are made about other entities whose characteristics are borderline in a given class, leading to broadening, narrowing or reconfiguring the criteria to include or exclude the new entity in one of the classes. known, or, more rarely, create a new class inaugurated by that entity.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in life after death? If yes, why and in what way? If not, why not?

Melão Jr.: The concept of “death” is a disconnection, which for now we don’t know how to reconnect, but soon it will be possible in different ways. This is one of the topics analyzed in more detail in my book. The concept of “soul” also needs to be examined in detail to answer this, and the size of the answer would be immense.

Jacobsen: What do you think of the mystery and transience of life?

Melão Jr.: I don’t think it’s transitory. It has been for now, but that should soon change.

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Melão Jr.: It is a desperate attempt to invent a word to represent an indescribable feeling.

Appendix: Educational System in Brazil and Richard Lynn's study on IQs in different countries

The education system is usually bad all over the world, but in Brazil it is much worse than the average of countries with similar GDPs. I estimate that Brazilian education is one of the worst in the world. University of Ulster Professor Emeritus Richard Lynn offers a simplistic explanation for this in his article "IQ and Wealth of Nations". It does not deal with Education. It deals with Economics, but the argument he uses to justify differences in income would be equally (and better) applied to Education, as long as the argument is valid. But the argument starts from a false premise. There are many errors in Lynn's work. The central idea he defends is right, but quantitatively he forces exaggerated results. The thesis he defends – that there are ethnic and regional differences – is correct, but the differences are not as big as he wants to make it out to be. According to Lynn, the average IQ in Equatorial Guinea is 56. If this were right, the country would be expected to be a large tribe of nomads, they would not have mastered the technique of producing fire, they would not have built plows, spears, etc. But there is an urban civilization there. In addition, people with an IQ below 60 have a hard time learning to read and write, even though they live in countries with extensive infrastructure and literacy incentives. If more than 91% of the population of Equatorial Guinea can read (assuming this information is not made up), even in an environment with less incentive to learn, it would be very difficult to explain how this population with an average IQ of 56 is predominantly literate. Lynn tries to spread his neo-Nazi beliefs and uses this scientific research to try to gain credibility for his views. The average IQ of Ashkenazi Jews is around 114, the highest average in the world, but Lynn was able to manipulate the data from her meta-analysis so that the average IQ for the state of Israel was 94.

In the case of Brazil, Lynn's results indicated an average IQ of 87 and, in a more recent review, they indicate 83.38. If this were correct, it would be a good explanation for the low quality of Brazilian scientific production and the terrible quality of teaching. But the real problems that predominate in Brazil are a combination of student laziness, teacher laziness, low leveling in classes and bad "pedagogical" methodology.

A more serious analysis of the situation shows that the average Brazilian's real IQ is not as low as Lynn's studies suggest. Many people turn in IQ quizzes without answering, or they "guess" all the alternatives, or they answer some and "kick" the others.

In a post of mine on the profile of our friend Iakovos Koukas, I made a reasonably detailed comment about this, which I also reproduced in the IQ Olympiad group and reproduced here again:



Melao

10d

I'll copy here an answer I posted to a similar topic on our friend Iakovos Koukas' profile, 2 weeks ago:

Unfortunately Lynn and Co. waste a lot of effort in attempts to show racial and xenophobic supremacy. The tests used in the Lynn's meta-analysis were RSPM (all or almost all), which is supposed to be culture fair, however some civilizations have an important advantage training abstract thinking in many everyday situations, while others work almost exclusively with real-world practical problems. A question like Sigma Test item 34, for example, would perhaps be more likely to be correctly answered by an African +4sd than by a person from an industrialized country with +4sd or even +4.5sd. Our friend David Udbjorg, who spent many years living in Africa, for example, got this question almost completely right, while some people with scores 20 points higher than him did not get right.

In the late 1990's it was widely reported that the gorilla Koko had an IQ-95 and a few years later Lynn began to say that in some African countries the average population IQ is below 70 and some below 60. Obviously something is very wrong in that. I would say that there is a certain placebo effect on Koko's IQ, perhaps the person giving the test wanted to get a higher result and may have unconsciously forced this result. It should be a double-blind trial, to try to mitigate this effect. I believe that Koko's correct IQ might be somewhere between 50 and 80, while the average IQ in the poorest countries and with the most deficient diet in nutrients relevant to physical and mental development might be close to 85 to 105 (I wouldn't totally rule out the chance of being lightly above average, despite adversities and perhaps even because of adversities). I think there are small variations in average IQ across countries, just like there are between different people and just like there are variations in average height in different countries (and other variables like life expectancy etc.).

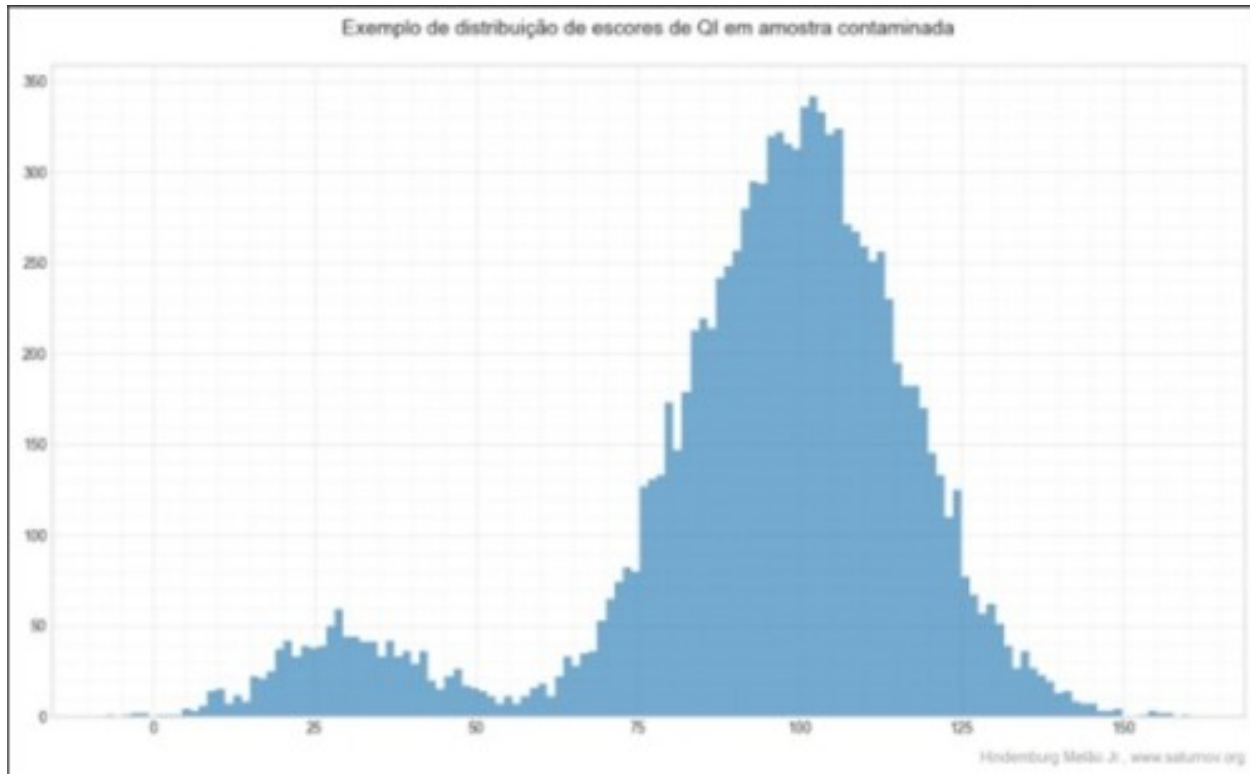
However Lynn's studies are clearly biased, he has an a priori opinion when doing his studies and this certainly influences the results he would like to obtain. In my country he found 87-88 as an average IQ a few years ago and more recently he found 83. I think the average IQ in Brazil is actually a little lower than the world average, for cultural, genetic, nutritional reasons and other factors, including random factors, but I think the difference is unlikely to be as big as 12-13 points or 17 as his recent alleged results.

In the case of Africa, people go hungry in many countries and I find it difficult that under these conditions a person seriously strives to do well on a test without an attractive incentive, especially on a multiple choice test, where a person just needs to put "x" on any square and go back to home and live her hard life. If one get nothing for a higher score, so it's obvious that the scores don't reflect the full capabilities of these people.

I would like to see the raw data he used and learn more about how the tests were applied. In Brazil, in tests applied to people with a reasonable standard of living, but who did not voluntarily choose to take the test, there are many cases of people who kick all the alternatives, pushing the measured IQ very low, without the score reflecting the real ability of those people. If Lynn did a more serious, impartial work and made an effort to filter these effects, the differences found would probably be much smaller. Also, I wouldn't be surprised if he simply tampered with data to find what he wanted, which is all too common in bad science (as Burt did) and even good science (as Mendel did).

In the image an example of a result with many people kicking all the alternatives. Obviously the "small mountain" on the left tail reflects the fraction of people who didn't even try to get a question right, and if this is not filtered out in the evaluation of the results, the average will be artificially pushed down.





There are indeed cognitive differences based on ethnicity, just as there are in relation to average height, average penis size, average concentration of melanin under the skin, etc., but the cognitive differences are much smaller than what he tries to “sell”.

On the one hand, there is the problem of naive egalism, defended by some pseudo-ideological groups, and this finds no support in the facts. At the opposite extreme, there are groups of people like Richard Lynn, Tatu Vanhanen and Charles Murray who try to exacerbate racial differences and use them to justify the misery of some peoples. Both the radical eugenicists and the radical egalitarians are wrong, but between one extreme and the other there are some truths.

Just as there are marked cognitive differences between species, there are differences between ethnicities, but less marked because the range of genetic variation within the same species is smaller. Pretending that these differences do not exist is a mistake, because the correct knowledge about the particularities of each ethnicity helps to make more accurate diagnoses of several diseases whose symptoms are not the same in all ethnic groups, the adequate time of exposure to the Sun for the synthesis of vitamin D is not the same, and many characteristics that would be interpreted as “healthy” in some ethnicities are not in others, so the correct use of this information helps to more effectively interpret the results of blood counts, analyze bone, dermatological and other anomalies. muscle. Knowing the physiological, cognitive and behavioral differences of each ethnicity is important; the problem is to use these differences for the purpose of tyrannizing, oppressing or diminishing the merits of a people, this is unethical and unscientific, and Lynn ostensibly tries to do this.

In the case of Brazil, there seems to be a distortion close to 10 to 15 points in the numbers presented by Lynn, so the correct average Brazilian IQ should be around 95, a little below average, but not so much as to justify the bad results. of Brazil in Science. The real problems seem to be

laziness and other items I mentioned above. There are recent studies that question whether apparently lazy behavior should be classified exactly as “laziness” or not, but I won’t go into that discussion either so as not to make this text even longer.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Richard Feynman was in Brazil a few times and made severe criticisms of the Brazilian education system, he did some impromptu social experiments and showed that Brazilian doctoral students often did not understand the basics of what they were doing, they acted mechanically, without the slightest idea about the fundamentals. Brazilians wrote some nice words in relation to Feynman’s criticism, saying that they intended to improve something, but the current situation is perhaps even worse than it was when Feynman was in our country. In addition to the shameful situation of education in Brazil, there are still other problems in this episode, because Brazilian “educators” showed surprise and perplexity with the problems pointed out by Feynman, as if they were in a house on fire, but they were not seeing that the fire was devouring everything, until a neighbor comes in and shows them the fire. So they thank you, look shocked, make a speech of mea culpa, but do nothing concrete about the fire, which is still devastating ... It’s unbelievable that they weren’t seeing the fire before the neighbor pointed it out to them and unbelievable that they continue without taking any action after the problem was pointed out.

Although scientists and educators have not mobilized to try to solve the problem, some Brazilian exponents of Mathematics, who had some experiences in Europe and the United States, decided to try to reproduce a small oasis, bringing to Brazil some of what they had experienced in developed countries. In 1952, IMPA (Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics) was founded. At that time, Brazil was in Group I of the IMU (International Mathematical Union), the lowest level. For 70 years, IMPA has been the only place in Brazil where there has been a sincere attempt to identify and support some outstanding talent, trying to escape the bureaucracy and inefficiency of the Educational System. But IMPA is only 1 institution located in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil is a large country, with 8,500,000 km², so people who live far from RJ are often unable to enjoy what IMPA offers. Therefore, IMPA’s reach is still small. With the popularization of the Internet, this has improved, but the number of beneficiaries is still very limited, including because there is relatively little publicity about IMPA events, most schools do not enroll their students in OBM (Brazilian Mathematics Olympiad), most of the students do not even know that OBM exists. There are some professors spread across Brazil linked to IMPA, who try to contribute to the identification of talents, but it is a difficult process, they do not receive incentives from the government or companies. Even with these obstacles, between 1952 and 2015 IMPA raised Brazil from Group 1 to Group 5 (the highest), which only 11 countries are part of: Germany, Brazil, Canada, China, USA, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, UK and Russia.

I don’t know what the criteria for being included in Group 5 of the UMC are, but I suppose it’s a combination of merit and politics, perhaps more merit than politics. I say that there is a bit of politics because there are countries with two Fields medals or two Abel awards, but they are not part of this group, such as Australia, Belgium, Iran and Sweden, while Brazil has only 1 Fields medal. Of course, these awards should not be the only criterion, but they are very reasonable indications of the cream of mathematics produced in each country. There are also several countries with 1 Fields medal and a longer mathematical tradition, which are also not in Group 5. Perhaps the criterion takes into account the pace of growth, and in this regard Brazil is perhaps, along with China and India, one of the fastest growing in the production of high-level Mathematics.

The fact is that if the average Brazilian IQ were really as low as Richard Lynn claims, and the

main problem in Brazil was really the low average IQ of the population, then IMPA actions would not have been able to substantially modify the quality and quantity of high-level mathematical production. If the problem were low IQ, the solution would come from other actions, such as nutritional improvements, for example. IMPA actions did not change the average IQ of the population; they only changed the efficiency in the identification of talents that already existed in the country, and after the identification, opportunities and incentives began to be offered to these talents.

The numbers pointed out by Lynn, that the average Brazilian IQ would be 87, are inconsistent with the results achieved by IMPA. Even with a population of 213 million, it would be difficult for some of these people to reach the world top with rarity close to 1 in 300 million if Brazil was 1 standard deviation below the average, even because IMPA cannot extend its benefits to more than 1% to 5% of the most talented population. Of course, other hypotheses would apply, such as a higher standard deviation in the IQ distribution among the Brazilian population or a more platykurtic distribution. But generally what you see in groups with a smaller mean height is a narrower rather than a wider standard deviation. This happens with virtually all variables. The standard deviation in diameter for larger screws is wider than for smaller screws. In other words, the percentage standard deviation is usually maintained, so it would be strange for a population with a lower IQ to have a higher standard deviation. Furthermore, it would be an ad hoc adjustment to try to salvage a theory that has other problems, making it more plausible to pass Occam's razor and accept that Lynn is wrong about this. The average Brazilian's correct IQ is substantially higher than he says, just like the IQs of most other non-Aryan peoples he tries to push down are also higher than the numbers he presents.

Examining the facts objectively, what the data suggests is that the average Brazilian IQ is probably much closer to 95 than to 87. A little below average, but not as low as Lynn suggests.

The IMPA results also show that perhaps laziness is a reflection of the poor education system. If laziness were a widespread problem in the country, the solutions implemented by IMPA would not have been enough to solve it either; other complementary measures would be necessary. Perhaps laziness is a striking problem that affects more than 99% of the population, but about 1% could not be labeled as "lazy", but as a victim of a very bad education system. As more than 99% of intellectual production comes from that 1%, we have a huge problem there, and a complete lack of attention to this problem, because politicians are not very concerned about making great efforts to win 1% of votes, since with less effort they can get more votes by pretending to please a less demanding, easier to deceive and much more numerous audience.

One of the big problems is that the 99% of the population are also harmed, but they don't see this themselves and don't demand from the government measures that can contribute to long-term improvements, measures that are good and fair for all. Each just wants the government to adopt measures with immediate results that benefit their own navels. In this way, the problem tends to perpetuate itself, as it has for decades.

Many Brazilian academics often complain about the lack of funds and attribute the low scientific production to this. Others do worse, pretending that there is good quality scientific production in Brazil, despite the lack of funds. But what the concrete facts show is that really very poor countries, in which most of the population lives in poverty, such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo, Kenya, Ghana, etc. had citizens Nobel laureates, while in Brazil there has never been a Nobel laureate. Furthermore, when Einstein developed his major works, for which he deserved 3 Nobel prizes

(and 2 more for later works), he was not receiving any funding for his research, not even in previous years. Therefore, although the lack of resources imposes severe limitations, it cannot be considered an absolute impediment, much less be used as a pretext in a situation like this. Great works were carried out practically without money, as was much of Newton's work during 1665.

[Here, perhaps, a small caveat fits, because as I mentioned in the part about awards and merits, it is possible that some Brazilians have performed works with merit to receive a Nobel, but were not laureates for political, bureaucratic reasons, etc. My work on Econometrics and Risk Management, for example, is more expressive than most of the work of Nobel laureates in Economics in recent decades. The discovery of the π meson, although predominantly an operational work, had a Brazilian as the protagonist (César Lattes), but as the team leader was Celil Powell, Lattes only had a B.Sc. and at the time (1950) the award was only given to the head of the team, Lattes ended up not receiving the award, although he was perhaps primarily responsible for this work and was the main author of the article. After the detection of π mesons in cosmic rays (1947), Lattes was one of the few in the world with the necessary knowledge to identify the signatures left by these particles on the emulsion plates, so he was invited to collaborate at CERN (1948) and verify if they were also able to produce π mesons, as the energy needed for this was easily exceeded by the particle accelerator used, so they were probably already producing pions for a long time (since 1946), but they didn't know exactly what to look for in the chambers bubble as being signatures of the π mesons. Lattes went to CERN and made the identifications. Again the work was distinguished with the Nobel and again Lattes was excluded from the award. In all, Lattes was nominated 7 times for the Nobel, but was never awarded. Oswaldo Cruz was also nominated for the Nobel Prize in Medicine, but was not awarded. Perhaps Machado de Assis would also have merit for a Nobel Prize in Literature. So, although there are 0 Brazilian Nobel laureates, maybe some have merit for that. There is a detailed text in which I analyze the case of Lattes, without the usual exaggerations and nationalist distortions of most articles about him, but at the same time acknowledging the merits he had that were not properly recognized.]

On the one hand, the low scientific production reflects the lack of funds, on the other hand, the lack of funds reflects the low scientific production, because if there really was scientific and technological production of good quality, large national and international companies would be interested in funding this research, as they would profit from it. If private companies do not invest in Brazilian science, it is because such "investment" does not generate an expectation of profit, because the level of production is below what could justify some serious interest from entrepreneurs. I usually use the term "donation" for Brazilian science instead of "Investment", because the meaning of "investment" is different. What Brazilian researchers demand is basically this: donation.

It is important to make it clear that I am not against funding Brazilian science, whether in the form of investment or donation. If I were against it, it would be stupid. I am against the bad management of the budget allocated to Science, combined with the terrible educational system and the complete lack of incentive for intellectual production. Intellectual production is not writing 50,000 useless papers to pretend that it is being produced and continue "sucking" on the grants of "research" funding agencies. Real intellectual production is serious effort to solve real and important problems. Therefore, instead of whining about lack of funds, the correct procedure would be a complete reformulation of the clowning that takes place in Brazilian Education and in Brazilian "scientific" research, they would need to start producing real, with high quality, as happens at IMPA, and then present substantial facts and consistent arguments to claim investments.

Without it, the tearful speech to ask for donation is fragile. Certainly a crowd of unproductive researchers will stone me for this comment, but the few serious researchers will agree with me, although they may not have the courage to publicly acknowledge the position they defend, lest they be lynched by their colleagues.

Perhaps there are less than 1% of serious researchers in Brazil, among which I had the opportunity to meet some, such as Renato P. dos Santos, Roberto Venegeroles, André Gambaro, José Paulo Dieguez, Luis Anunciação, Antonio Piza, André Asevedo Nepomuceno, Herbert Kimura, Cristóvão Jacques, George Matsas, Doris Fontes among others. But unfortunately they represent a small fraction, and they do not always openly admit the disastrous situation in which Brazilian science finds itself, because the pressure is great for them to pretend to believe in the staging of which most of the others are part. When the person takes a fair position on this and tells forbidden truths, he begins to be cowardly boycotted on all sides, so it is understandable that many prefer to remain silent, avoiding manifesting, or simply pretending to agree with the fantasy. that try to propagate the situation of Science and Education in Brazil. Many criticized Copernicus because of the preface to his book *Revolutionibus*, for not having faced the dominant beliefs openly, but when analyzing the problems faced by Galileo, it is clear that the defense of the truth that goes against the interests of certain groups can be very onerous. And it would be naive to believe that the entities that dominate the world today (media, companies, universities, politicians, etc.) are more scrupulous than the medieval ecclesiastics were. There are certainly some entities that are more reputable and more sincerely committed to defending what is right and fair, but they are exceptions, unfortunately. “Ironically” the same people who are outraged by the persecution of Galileo are the people who today practice the same type of abuse, injustice and persecution.

This is a delicate situation, because if the immense majority builds a hoax and pretends that it is real, it becomes difficult for a small minority to restore the truth. For example: Roberto de Andrade Martins is a serious researcher, with post-docs in Cambridge and Oxford, with good knowledge and good understanding of Physics, Logic and Epistemology. He is completely rejected by his colleagues and by those who call themselves “scientific” disseminators, because Roberto tells undesirable truths. Roberto has never been invited to the major channels of scientific dissemination in Brazil, although he is by far more qualified than the overwhelming majority of those invited to these channels. This happens because in these channels, the most “commercial”, more “charismatic” figures are preferred in the eyes of those who pretend to be interested in Science, instead of serious scientists who tell forbidden truths about the tragic reality of science in the country and education in the country. country. YouTubers who call themselves “scientific promoters” in Brazil have to choose between truth and popularity, and almost always prefer the second option. In this way, they are dragging a farce that at some point will cause the country’s collapse, as happened with the former USSR in 1991, or with the Lehman Brothers bank in 2008. They were sweeping the dirt under the rug, until a point where the situation became untenable and the shack collapsed. There are a few serious scientific disseminators in Brazil, but these generally reach a much smaller, more enlightened audience that already sees the problem without it being necessary for someone to show them. The public that would really need to be informed remains “armored”, to serve no one’s interests, since no one will profit from the sinking of the nation. Chomsky once declared that “the purpose of the media is not to report what happens, but to shape public opinion in accordance with the will of the dominant corporate power.” In this case it is worse, because they are not shaping public opinion according to anyone’s will. They are just acting stupidly for everyone’s harm.

Hypocrisy is another terrible problem that affects a large number of Brazilian academics and pseudo science disseminators. When a foreigner comes to Brazil and says that Brazilian science is a joke, as Feynman did, he stomps and spits on Brazilian science, Brazilian academics certainly don't like it, they are embarrassed, but even so they applaud the alpha male, like sycophantic primates. But when another Brazilian points out the same problem, they growl and rant at the heretic and try to keep him from talking about it.

There are a few more complications that cannot be overlooked: most cutting-edge science has no immediate application and can take decades or centuries to produce any return for the investor. The director of the Department of Mathematical Physics at USP, Ph.D. from MIT and Post Doctoral from MIT, Antonio Fernando Ribeiro de Toledo Piza, who in 1994 wanted to meet me in order to talk to me about a work I developed at age 19, about a method for calculating fractional factorials, in the middle of the conversation he mentioned an occasion in which Faraday was asked what the discoveries he had made about electricity and magnetism were for. Faraday responded with another question: "What good is a child who has just been born?" This phrase expresses a complex problem in the treatment of science as an "investment", because the current human life expectancy is too short for some investments in science to be seen as attractive to private investors. These are investments that will only bring a return in 50 years, 100 years or more, for the following generations, for our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, it is a tree that we will have the cost and work of planting, fertilizing, cultivating, protecting, but they are our grandchildren who will reap the rewards. For this reason, even in countries where science is prolific, it may not be attractive to private investors, whose time horizon for which they are willing to wait for results is usually shorter.

Having made this important caveat, it is necessary to emphasize that this discourse would be fallacious if used to try to save the terrible reputation of Brazilian science. What is produced in Brazil can rarely even be called "Science". Data tabulation and descriptive reports are made about the task. To use Faraday's argument I cited her above, in defense of investment in Science, it would first be necessary for Brazil to start producing real Science.

Real science involves innovation, paradigm shift, real improvement, critical, in-depth analysis that goes beyond the obvious and adds some new and useful knowledge to the legacy of humanity. In Brazil this is rarely done. In fact, this is rarely done in the world, but the level of scarcity of innovations is worse in Brazil than in other countries with a similar economic situation or with a similar HDI.

When I say "paradigm break" it doesn't have to be something as grandiose as a new cosmological system or a unification theory. It could be something basic, like adding a little boron to photographic emulsion plates to preserve the records of π mesons all the way down from the mountains, as César Lattes did, or solving a homomorphic encryption problem that was open for 15 years, as he did Joao Antonio LJ, or develop a new educational system that allows teaching 1-year content in 40 days to a child who had below-average grades and after those 40 days the child starts to have the best grades in school, as Tamara PC did Rodrigues, or revise the BMI formula, as I did. They are small contributions, but they reveal scientific facts still unknown, or correct knowledge that has been incorrectly repeated for a long time, or in some way contribute to broadening the horizons of knowledge or to redirecting knowledge to a path closer to the truth. It is not a complete deconstruction and reconstruction of knowledge, as Newton did, but it is a brick added to the right place, or removed from the wrong place and repositioned in the right

place. This is the minimum that would be expected of a scientist, but most of the time this minimum is not met, and Ph.D. they are distributed almost like a ritual, in which the candidate only has to show that he knows how to write and knows how to interpret a little of what is on some graphs – with several misinterpretations, by the way. Depending on the discipline, it is enough to show that you can write, you don't even need to know how to read a chart. After performing the ritual, the person receives the Ph.D. label. and begins to receive money to continue with this nonsense, pretending to be producing Science.

The vast majority of doctoral theses and scientific articles do not present anything innovative. These titles are awarded to inflate egos and satisfy people's vanity, but they are not associated with any intellectual merit or original scientific production. A person does elementary research, purely mechanical, to corroborate some results on which there are already hundreds of other similar studies, and receives a Ph.D. therefore, and the State pays these people to pretend that they are producing something relevant and they call it "Brazilian science", but the correct name, at best, would be "data tabulation" and "descriptive reports". I say "at best" because there are usually several blunders in these procedures, which makes the situation even more vexing.

The central problem is that there is no culture of producing innovations. It just repeats itself endlessly. There is no incentive for innovation, there is no charge for innovation, no reward for innovation and, worst of all, there are even penalties for innovation. In 1998, a friend (Patrícia EC), who was completing her doctorate at USP, found that some experimental data on dwarf galaxy morphology was inconsistent with expectations. Instead of her advisor helping her try to understand what could be causing it, he told her to redo the measurements because she must have made a mistake in the measurements or calculations. Up to this point, I agree with him, because these mistakes are often the most common. She redid and obtained results statistically equivalent to the first measurements. At this point the yellow alert turns red and her advisor should have paid more attention to the case. However, he told her to redo it again! This is complete nonsense. It's unscientific. It is to destroy "evidence" that could contribute to expanding, revising, improving what was known until then. This is the level at which the so-called "Brazilian science" sect finds itself. If any discovery is contrary to established dogmas, it needs to be adjusted in some way until it conforms to the dogmas. In addition to the fact that there are no incentives for discoveries, when there is any indication that something new may be ahead, we try to erase the traces of the possible discovery! People are trained not to produce, not to innovate, not to discover!

Part of the education problem in the country is not the fault of teachers, students and researchers. They just dance to the music. But a big part of the problem is their fault, because they determine the music that should play. In addition, they can refuse to dance to the music, they can put on headphones with better music, and they can create their own center of excellence, as in the case of IMPA.

The academic community's resistance to admitting these facts exacerbates the situation, because instead of trying to fix the problems, they pretend the problems don't exist, sweep the dirt under the rug, and move on as if everything is fine. Recently, the president of Brazil made a brutal cut in funds destined for "science". It is a delicate situation, because the problem of scientific unproductivity is not resolved in this way. The budget cut only exacerbates the situation. It is bad to allocate money to a sector that does not generate satisfactory results, but being a fundamental sector, the correct procedure is to restore that sector and ensure that it works as it should, instead of killing it, taking away its bread and water. It would need to exchange bread and water for a

richer diet, increase investment in science and simultaneously reformulate the criteria for granting scholarships, granting funds, reducing the bureaucracy of importing books and scientific and technological products, promoting exchanges with qualified researchers, creating prizes for real merit related to excellence in the original production of relevant works, rather than the political front awards, among many other changes from basic education to the titles of professors emeritus.

In the 1970s, China, India and Thailand were much poorer and less developed countries than Brazil, but they made massive investments in identifying talented children and offered differentiated conditions to encourage these children. Thailand stopped the project. China and India did. In less than two decades, they began to reap the rewards, after one generation, these children became highly skilled teachers, who provided the next generation with an even more exquisite education, and today China is on its way to becoming the greatest economic power, cultural, scientific and technological world, and India follows closely. There was a serious and profound overhaul of the education system so that they could get to where they are now. Instead of pretending they were doing science, they admitted the unproductiveness and low quality of what they produced, and started to fix what was wrong. One of the great problems in Brazil is precisely this inability to admit mistakes.

Portuguese Version

Entrevista para Scott Douglas Jacobsen

Preâmbulo:

Em primeiro lugar eu quero agradecer à minha namorada Tamara, pela paciência de ler esse texto e me ajudar a cortar longos trechos desnecessários, a Tor pela gentileza de me indicar para essa entrevista e a você (Scott) por aceitar essa indicação e por sua amável ajuda com a revisão da tradução.

Na medida do possível, procurei sintetizar e simplificar, mas sempre que foi necessário decidir entre a resposta mais curta e a mais correta, optei por aquela que me parecia a mais correta. Como resultado, acabei me estendendo mais do que gostaria e ramificando algumas respostas por detalhes que aparentemente perdem o vínculo com a pergunta, mas que, na verdade, estão indiretamente conectados por dois, três ou mais nós, de modo que se esses trechos fossem removidos, ficariam lacunas que comprometeriam a coerência.

Antes de apresentar as respostas é necessário fazer alguns esclarecimentos importantes: quando a pergunta é simples, basta dar uma resposta curta para que a interpretação seja unívoca, mas para questões complexas, antes de responder é necessário conceituar alguns dos termos utilizados, para minimizar as diferenças entre a mensagem a ser transmitida e a interpretação que dela será feita. Uma questão do tipo “Por que, no Xadrez, nem todos os Peões dobrados são debilidades?” Não há como responder de modo a proporcionar uma ideia correta em apenas 1 ou 2 parágrafos, nem mesmo se a resposta fosse simplificada e resumida. Para tentar proporcionar uma ideia razoavelmente correta e completa, são necessárias pelo menos 20 páginas, com vários exemplos comentados. Nessa entrevista, algumas perguntas envolvem situações semelhantes.

Esse tipo de dificuldade é inerente a qualquer pergunta envolvendo QI, porque o conceito atualmente disseminado apresenta algumas falhas que precisam ser devidamente revisadas, e algumas dessas revisões não são triviais, exigindo um volume considerável de esclarecimentos

preliminares para garantir que a interpretação da resposta seja suficientemente acurada e fidedigna.

Fora das sociedades de alto QI é comum que façam confusão entre escalas com desvios padrão diferentes. O escore 1579 de James Woods no SAT é frequentemente convertido em 180, enquanto o escore 1590 de Bill Gates é convertido em 154 (às vezes 160), e ambos aparecem na mesma lista como se o QI de Woods fosse maior que o de Gates, embora seja o contrário. Esse tipo de erro primário foi praticamente erradicado nas sociedades de alto QI, mas ainda há erros sistemáticos sendo repetidos ostensivamente, alguns dos quais são grandes e graves. Esses erros provocam muitas confusões e dificultam a correta interpretação de questões fundamentais. Eu não me refiro a erros individuais, cometidos por algumas pessoas, mas sim a erros “institucionalizados”, universalmente aceitos como se fossem corretos e cometidos por praticamente todas as pessoas.

Em 2000, resolvi um problema central da Psicometria que vinha se arrastando desde os anos 1950, quando Thurstone e Gardner perceberam a importância de padronizar testes cognitivos de modo a produzir escores em escala de proporção. Bob Seitz, da Mega Society, referiu-se a esse problema como “O Santo Graal da Psicometria”. Depois de investigar esse problema e resolvê-lo, publiquei um artigo descrevendo meu método e mostrando como os testes deveriam ser normatizados. Também revisei as normas do Mega Test e Titan Test utilizando esse método. Em 2003, apliquei o mesmo método ao Sigma Test e publiquei outro artigo, mais detalhado, descrevendo passo-a-passo todo o processo de normatização e explicando os motivos pelos quais esse procedimento é superior aos métodos utilizados. Entre os problemas crônicos que são solucionados de forma natural com a aplicação desse método, um dos mais importantes é a correção nos cálculos dos percentis e dos níveis de raridade. Esse é um erro sistemático que vem sendo cometido desde 1905. Comentarei essa questão com um pouco mais de detalhes ao responder a questões que tratam desse tema.

Há dois outros erros que são cometidos sistematicamente, embora as soluções para eles já sejam conhecidas, mas não são aplicadas, em parte porque esses problemas não são bem compreendidos: o problema de validade de constructo e o problema da adequação do nível de dificuldade das questões ao nível de inteligência que se pretende medir. De certo modo, esses problemas estão conectados, porque geralmente os testes apresentam boa validade de constructo para determinado intervalo de níveis de habilidade, mas não para todo o intervalo no qual o teste pretende medir, assim os resultados acabam se mostrando razoavelmente acurados e fidedignos para pessoas cujos escores estejam dentro do intervalo de validade, mas começam a apresentar sérias distorções fora desse intervalo. Um exemplo clássico para ilustrar esse problema é o Stanford-Binet V. Os processos cognitivos exigidos para solucionar as questões do SBV podem ser apropriados para medir corretamente a inteligência no intervalo de 60 a 140, mas começam a se mostrar menos apropriados entre 140 a 150, por isso os escores acima de 150 já estão representando predominantemente um traço latente que não é o que se pretendia medir. Isso compromete inteira a validade desse tipo de instrumento para a aferição acima de 150, e coloca em dúvida em que medida os escores entre 140 e 150 estão de fato refletindo o nível intelectual.

Para organizar melhor as informações, antes de prosseguir citarei 3 erros importantes que são cometidos sistematicamente pelos psicometristas profissionais e nas sociedades de alto QI:

1. A maneira como os testes são padronizados, tanto os testes clínicos quanto os high range IQ tests (hrIQts) – seja pelo uso de Teoria de Resposta ao Item, seja pela Teoria Clássica

dos Testes –, produz distorções na escala, e a maneira como os percentis são calculados conduz a resultados muito distantes da realidade. Essa distorção na escala já foi apontada desde os anos 1950, por Thurstone, e já havia sido notada (embora não tivesse sido descrita) pelo próprio Binet em 1905. Um bom método para normatização de testes de inteligência deveria produzir escores numa escala de proporção, mas os escores de QI se apresentam numa escala ordinal (<https://www.questionpro.com/blog/nominal-ordinal-interval-ratio/>). Além disso, os erros nos cálculos dos níveis de raridade apresentam distorções muito grandes nos escores mais altos, chegando a mais de 3 ordens de grandeza. Isso acontece porque os cálculos partem da hipótese incorreta de que a distribuição dos QIs é gaussiana em toda sua extensão. A morfologia da distribuição é de fato muito semelhante à de uma gaussiana no intervalo -2σ a $+2\sigma$, mas começa a degingolar fora desse intervalo. Esse fato não pode ser negligenciado quando se calcula os percentis. Da maneira como os cálculos são feitos atualmente pelos psicometristas e nas comunidades de alto QI, chega-se a resultados muito distantes dos corretos. Por isso, quando se fala em percentil 99,9999% ou QI 176 ($\sigma=16$), os significados são muito diferentes, embora sejam usados como se fossem a mesma coisa. A raridade correta para o QI=176 não é 1 em 983.000, mas sim 1 em 24.500. E isso não acontece porque o desvio padrão seja maior. O desvio padrão é o mesmo (16 nesse exemplo), porém a cauda direita é mais densa do que numa distribuição normal, tornando os escores mais altos mais abundantes do que seria esperado se a distribuição fosse exatamente gaussiana. Trata-se de um problema relacionado à morfologia da distribuição verdadeira, que não se ajusta ao modelo teórico de distribuição normal. Na verdade, não se ajusta bem a nenhuma das mais de 100 distribuições testadas, inclusive as mais versáteis, como a distribuição de Weibull com 3 parâmetros.

2. Outro problema é que o nível de dificuldade das questões mais difíceis de cada teste não é compatível com o teto nominal do teste. Como consequência, tal teste mostra-se inadequado para o intervalo de QIs que deveria medir. O teste funciona adequadamente dentro de certo intervalo, no qual contenha questões com dificuldade compatível, mas deixa de funcionar fora desse intervalo. Isso é muito mais grave nos testes clínicos, cujo teto de dificuldade raramente ultrapassa 135 a 140, mas o teto nominal pode chegar a mais de 200 (Stanford-Binet V, por exemplo). Acima de 140, os testes clínicos medem a rapidez para resolver problemas elementares, que não é necessariamente uma métrica apropriada para representar a inteligência nos níveis mais altos. Nos casos de hrIQ, no quesito “dificuldade”, as questões geralmente são apropriadas até cerca de 170 ou 180, mas não muito acima disso. Aqui seria necessário abrir um extenso parêntese para discutir o significado desses escores, porque até 130 ou um pouco acima, a raridade teórica é quase igual à raridade verdadeira, mas para 140, 150 e acima, a raridade teórica vai se tornando cada vez mais distante da raridade verdadeira. Então quando falamos em 180 de QI ($\sigma=16$), não basta informar o desvio padrão. Além disso é necessário informar se estamos falando do escore medido em um teste ou se é um percentil verdadeiro convertido em QI. Se a distribuição dos QIs fosse exatamente gaussiana em todo o seu espectro, então um QI 180 ($\sigma=16$) deveria corresponder ao nível de raridade de 1 em 3.500.000, mas a raridade verdadeira de escores 180 fica em torno de 1 em 48.000. Mais adiante, menciono link no qual descrevo como chegar a esse nível de raridade de 1 em 48.000.
3. Outro problema está relacionado à validade de constructo, isto é, se aquilo que o teste está medindo é de fato aquilo que se pretende medir. Os melhores testes clínicos (WAIS e SB) são muito bons nesse critério para o intervalo de 70 a 130, porque esse tema tem sido

amplamente debatido entre bons psicometristas ao longo de décadas e se conseguiu estabelecer alguns bons critérios para avaliar (ainda que subjetivamente) se os itens estão medindo o que deveriam medir (a inteligência, nesse caso, ou o fator g). Entretanto, fora desse intervalo de 70 a 130, a variável medida vai se tornando cada vez mais destoante daquilo que se pretendia medir. Nos hrIQts o alcance é um pouco maior, chega a cerca de 160, alguns testes chegam 170 ou até 180.

Além desses 3 problemas que são observados em praticamente todos os testes clínicos e todos os hrIQts, há também alguns problemas individuais, que são mais básicos e afetam apenas alguns testes específicos, como norma inflada, erros no gabarito, erros nos enunciados etc. Não tratarei desses, porque já são bastante conhecidos e fáceis de identificar e corrigir.

É importante não confundir a validade de constructo com a adequação do nível de dificuldade. Uma questão muito elementar, com um prazo muito curto para ser resolvida, pode ter dificuldade adequada para medir no nível de raridade 1 em 10 milhões, porque embora seja intrinsecamente fácil, como o prazo é reduzido, acaba se tornando difícil resolver dentro daquele prazo. Em casos assim, a dificuldade pode ser apropriada para medir alguma coisa em níveis muito altos de raridade, mas esse traço latente que está sendo medido não é o que deveria ser medido. Além disso, o fato de um teste ter validade de construto num determinado intervalo não implica que terá necessariamente validade em níveis muito acima ou muito abaixo daquele intervalo. Esse é um dos erros mais comuns, porque ao validar um teste de inteligência para 98% da população, isso não garante que ele continue medindo corretamente a inteligência no nível dos 1% ou 0,1% de escores mais altos. A validação precisa ser cuidadosa em todos os intervalos nos quais se pretende que o teste seja capaz de medir corretamente.

Há também alguns problemas mais sutis. O Raven Standard Progressive Matrices, por exemplo, tem sido utilizado pela Mensa em vários países durante décadas, mas é inadequado para medir corretamente acima de 120, talvez até acima de 115. O motivo é que o teste é constituído por 60 questões, mas apenas 1 ou 2 dessas questões (as mais difíceis) são úteis para discriminar no nível de 133, que é onde a Mensa pretende selecionar. Então é como se fossem utilizadas apenas 2 das 60 questões, e uma amostra com apenas 2 elementos não pode ser considerada válida estatisticamente. Na verdade, o corte em 133 não é determinado exatamente por 1 ou 2 questões, mas estas 2 questões respondem por mais de 90% do poder discriminante do teste nesse nível de corte.

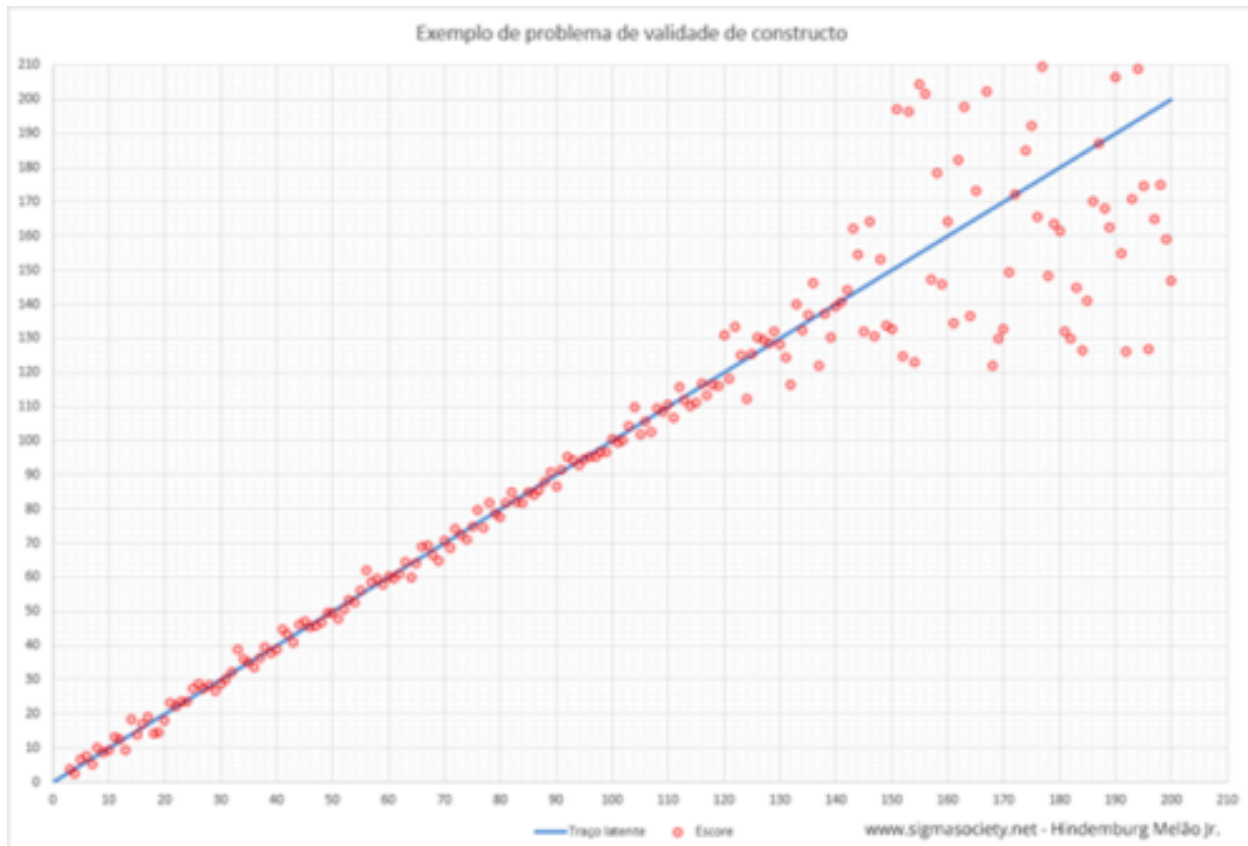
Por essas razões, se há interesse sincero em que perguntas sobre QI recebam respostas representativas da realidade, esses três problemas precisam ser corrigidos:

1. Extrapolação infundada da validade de constructo;
2. Inadequação da dificuldade dos itens para o nível intelectual que o teste pretende medir;
3. Adoção de hipóteses incorretas sobre a forma da distribuição dos escores nos níveis mais altos, com base na forma na região próxima à tendência central.

Além desses, há outros pontos que precisam ser esclarecidos. Há um mito amplamente disseminado de que testes aplicados em clínicas são “melhores” (mais confiáveis, mais acurados, mais fidedignos) do que hrIQts. Em alguns casos, realmente são. Mas não em todos. Para escores abaixo de 130, como os testes supervisionados são normatizados com base em amostras maiores e não-seletas, isso constitui uma vantagem real dos testes clínicos em comparação aos hrIQts. Outra vantagem é que os bons psicometristas conhecem maior número de técnicas estatísticas, por isso na faixa de 70 a 130 geralmente os melhores testes supervisionados produzem escores

mais fidedignos. Porém acima de 130 e, principalmente, acima de 140, os testes supervisionados apresentam vários problemas, a começar pelo teto inadequado de dificuldade. As questões mais difíceis do WAIS, por exemplo, são excessivamente fáceis para que possam medir a inteligência acima de 135. Outro problema é que a validade de constructo dos testes supervisionados é planejada para o intervalo de 70 a 130, não se aplicando tão bem fora desse intervalo.

Fiz um exemplo simulado para mostrar em que consiste o problema da variável de constructo:



A linha azul representa o traço latente[*] que gostaríamos de medir (inteligência ou fator g ou algo assim). Os círculos vermelhos representam os escores obtidos no teste convertidos em QI. No intervalo entre 0 e 120, os escores medidos são representações muito boas do traço latente, porque os pontos se distribuem estreitamente perto da linha azul, indicando forte correlação entre a variável que gostaríamos de medir e a variável que estamos realmente medindo. [* <https://dictionary.apa.org/latent-trait-theory>, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1434009>]

A partir de 120, e principalmente a partir de 130, os círculos vermelhos começam a se afastar cada vez mais da linha azul, indicando que a correlação entre a variável que gostaríamos de medir e a variável que está sendo realmente medida se torna cada vez mais fraca, portanto aquilo que estamos medindo está cada vez sendo menos representativo do que gostaríamos de medir. Se considerar o intervalo inteiro de 0 a 200, ou mesmo de 70 a 200, a correlação ainda parece forte, mas isso só acontece porque o intervalo de 70 a 120 está contido dentro do intervalo de 70 a 200, e como no intervalo 70 a 120 a correlação é forte, isso melhora a correlação média do intervalo inteiro de 70 a 200, mas quando se considera exclusivamente a correlação entre 130 e 200, percebe-se que a correlação é fraca nessa região e vai se tornando mais fraca para os escores mais

altos. Por isso para escores acima de 130 o que importa não é a correlação global, mas sim a correlação local.

Em testes de QI como o Stanford-Binet, por exemplo, algumas pessoas muito rápidas com QI verdadeiro 150 podem obter escore 190 ou mais, como consequência do problema descrito acima. Também pode acontecer o efeito oposto, e pessoas com QI verdadeiro 190, se forem muito lentas, podem ter escore 150, 140 ou até menos. O tamanho dos erros pode chegar a níveis realmente muito altos, tanto para mais que o correto quanto para menos que o correto, por isso é que a validade de constructo[*] é um quesito extremamente importante. [* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construct_validity]

Um teste que tenha boa validade de constructo deve apresentar comportamento como o do gráfico abaixo, em que os círculos vermelhos permanecem próximos à linha azul ao longo de todo espectro dentro do qual se pretende medir:



Naturalmente, se a amostra tiver distribuição normal, os dados se distribuirão aproximadamente como uma elipse, não como uma linha que foi representada acima, mas para fins didáticos esse exemplo precisa ser assim para ficar visualmente mais claro o aumento na amplitude da dispersão das medidas em relação ao traço latente que gostaríamos de medir. Também convém enfatizar que, no mundo real, situações como a do gráfico acima praticamente não existem, porque o alinhamento está excessivamente bom. Mas é desejável que os escores medidos sejam capazes de oferecer boas representações para o traço latente dentro de um intervalo tão largo quanto possível.

Nos testes de QI supervisionados, utilizados em clínicas, geralmente as disparidades começam a

se tornar graves a partir de 130 e principalmente a partir de 140, ou seja, aquilo que o teste mede acima de 140 deixa de ser uma boa representação da Inteligência. Nos casos dos melhores hrlQts, os escores continuam sendo representações razoavelmente boas do traço latente até QI 160 ou um pouco mais.

Um teste pode ter questões com nível de dificuldade apropriado, mas aquilo que as questões estão medindo pode não ser a inteligência. Ou pode acontecer de que a variável medida seja a inteligência, mas apenas num intervalo específico (como no primeiro gráfico). Alguns quebra-cabeças para crianças, por exemplo, podem ser eficientes para medir corretamente no intervalo entre idade mental de 8 a 16 anos, ou 50 a 100 de QI numa escala para adultos, mas se utilizar esses mesmos quebra-cabeças para tentar medir os QIs de adultos acima de 160 ou 170, o resultado será desastroso, porque a habilidade para resolver rapidamente esses quebra-cabeças não pode ser interpretada como uma boa representação da inteligência nesse nível. Por isso o tipo de problema precisa ser compatível com o nível intelectual que se pretende medir.

Geralmente as pessoas mais inteligentes também são mais rápidas para resolver questões básicas, mas o fato de resolver rapidamente questões simples não oferece uma boa garantia de que a pessoa também será capaz de resolver questões mais complexas, profundas e que exijam criatividade. Além disso, o fato de a pessoa ser capaz de resolver questões complexas, profundas e que exigem criatividade não oferece boa garantia de que ela será capaz de resolver rapidamente questões básicas. Como os testes utilizados em clínicas incluem exclusivamente questões básicas, o efeito apresentado no gráfico 1 acaba sendo muito frequente.

Essa questão é analisada com mais detalhes no texto introdutório do [Sigma Test Extended](#).

Também é necessário padronizar os significados de alguns termos que vou utilizar nas respostas:

rIQ = QI de raridade, ou QI ($\sigma=16$ G), ou rIQ ($\sigma=16$ G)

pIQ = QI de potencial, ou QI ($\sigma=16$ T), ou pIQ ($\sigma=16$ T)

Explicações detalhadas podem ser encontradas em <https://www.sigmasociety.net/escalasqi>.

Aqui darei uma explicação resumida: rIQ é o valor que teria o QI convertido a partir da raridade verdadeira. Isso não é o QI medido nos testes de QI nem em hrlQts. O QI medido é o pIQ, cuja distribuição não é gaussiana, a distribuição tem uma cauda densa, por isso os escores de pIQ são mais abundantes do que o previsto com base na hipótese de normalidade da distribuição. Isso não tem relação com o desvio padrão ser maior. O desvio padrão é o mesmo. A forma da distribuição que é diferente, concentrando mais casos na cauda direita e menos na região central. Nas regiões próximas à tendência central, pIQ é quase igual ao rIQ e se mantém assim até cerca de 130. A partir de então, pIQ vai se tornando maior que rIQ. Alguns exemplos:

rIQ 100 equivale a pIQ 100,00

rIQ 130 equivale a pIQ 130,87

rIQ 150 equivale a pIQ 156,59

rIQ 180 equivale a pIQ 204,93

(Uma tabela completa está disponível na página do [Sigma Test Extended](#))

A diferença entre pIQ e rIQ aumenta conforme o rIQ aumenta, porque a proporção em que a densidade real da cauda fica maior que a densidade teórica é cada vez maior à medida que o QI se afasta da média.

Quando se compara QIs estimados com base na raridade com QIs medidos em testes, é fundamental colocar ambos na mesma escala. Por exemplo: digamos que Newton seja considerado a pessoa mais inteligente da História e digamos que o número de pessoas que já nasceram seja 100 bilhões. Então o QI de Newton estimado com base na raridade e com base na hipótese de que a distribuição dos escores é normal seria $rIQ=207,3$ ($\sigma=16$, G). Mas a distribuição real dos escores não é normal, por isso não se pode comparar esse 207,3 com um escore 207 medido num teste, porque estão em escalas diferentes. Ambos podem ter mesmo desvio padrão (16, nesse caso), mas a forma da distribuição é diferente e isso não pode ser negligenciado porque a distorção produzida é gigantesca.

O rIQ de Newton seria 207,3 mas seu pIQ seria 261,8. Repetindo: ambos os escores são com desvio padrão 16, tanto o rIQ quanto o pIQ . Não se deve confundir esse processo com a mudança de escalas com desvios padrão diferentes. Os desvios padrão são iguais, mas a forma da curva é diferente. Eu estou repetindo isso várias vezes porque já vi pessoas confundindo isso apenas um parágrafo depois de isso ter sido esclarecido.

Esse ajuste é necessário para corrigir as distorções das normas e possibilitar o cálculo correto das raridades a partir dos escores medidos nos testes, ou o processo inverso de calcular o QI a partir do nível de raridade.

Desse modo, a pessoa com maior rIQ ($\sigma=16$ G) numa população de 7,9 bilhões tem rIQ 201,2 que equivale a pIQ ($\sigma=16$ T) 247,8. Os escores 201,2 ($\sigma=16$ G) e 247,8 ($\sigma=16$ T) são equivalentes, como 0°C e 32°F . O uso do termo rIQ equivale ao uso do termo QI ($\sigma=16$ G), enquanto o uso do termo pIQ equivale ao uso do termo ($\sigma=16$ T). Também posso eventualmente utilizar rIQ ($\sigma=16$ G) ou pIQ ($\sigma=16$ T).

Por isso os testes podem produzir (e de fato produzem) escores acima de 200 com desvio padrão 15 ou 16, mas o cálculo correto dos níveis de raridade ou dos percentis não deve ser realizado da maneira como tem sido feito há décadas. Os cálculos de percentis e de raridade estão errados, conforme já demonstrei desde meus artigos de 2000 a respeito disso. Eu não estou me referindo a testes com normas infladas. Claro que esse problema se torna mais grave quando as normas estão infladas, mas mesmo quando as normas foram calculadas adequadamente, como nos casos da norma do Mega Test ou do Titan Test, tanto a versão de Hoeflin quanto a versão de Grady Towers, ambas fornecem valores incorretos para os percentis. Os escores de QI estão muito próximos dos valores “corretos”, que seriam os valores ajustados a uma escala de intervalo bem padronizada. O problema não está nos QIs medidos, mas sim nos percentis calculados com base na hipótese incorreta de que esses escores teriam uma distribuição normal. Esse tema voltará a ser analisado outras vezes, com mais detalhes, quando os tópicos abordados exigirem isso. Por enquanto, essa introdução deve ser suficiente para desfazer boa parte das confusões que acontecem com uso indiscriminado do termo “QI”, sem fazer a correta distinção entre pIQ e rIQ .

Quando Chris Harding foi registrado no Guinness Book de 1966 com QI 197, com base em seus resultados no Stanford-Binet, isso foi um erro relativamente primário e grave, porque incorre em todos os 3 itens problemáticos que citei acima: o SB não inclui questões suficientemente difíceis para medir corretamente acima de 135; os processos cognitivos exigidos nas soluções não são apropriados para QIs acima de 150; o nível de raridade calculado é incorreto.

Em 1966, a população mundial era de 3,41 bilhões de pessoas, e o nível teórico de raridade para escores 197, assumindo que a distribuição dos escores fosse uma gaussiana com média 100 e desvio padrão 16, era 1 em 1,49 bilhões. Então parecia ser plausível que uma pessoa com esse

escore poderia ser proclamada a mais inteligente do mundo, ou pelo menos a pessoa com maior QI do mundo. Entretanto, uma análise correta da situação revela que o escore 197 no SB não indica nível de raridade de 1 em 1.490.000.000, mas sim 1 em 870.000 (cerca de 2000 vezes mais abundante). Além disso, a variável medida no nível de raridade de 1 em 870.000 não é a inteligência. Nessa conjuntura, o máximo que se poderia afirmar com base num escore 197 no SB é que a pessoa apresentou evidência consistente de possuir nível intelectual acima de 135 de QI, e como seu escore nominal foi muito acima de 135, há boas probabilidades de que seu QI correto seja maior que 150, talvez maior que 160, mas seria necessário prescrever um exame complementar, com questões mais difíceis e com validade constructo apropriada, para investigar qual o nível intelectual real dessa pessoa, já que os escores acima de 135 ficam fora do intervalo no qual o teste é capaz de medir corretamente.

Nos anos seguintes, começaram a surgir várias outras pessoas reivindicando o mesmo recorde, com escores 196-197. Isso prosseguiu até 1978, quando a situação se agravou, primeiramente com Kim Ung-Yong com escore 210, depois Marilyn vos Savant com escore 230, corrigido para 228, depois corrigido para 218, e finalmente Keith Raniere, em 1989, com escore 242. Todos baseados em testes clínicos que não são apropriados para medir corretamente acima de 135.

Um problema similar aconteceu com Langan, no Mega Test. O nível de dificuldade das questões do Mega Test é apropriado para medir corretamente até cerca de pIQ 194, equivalente a cerca de rIQ 177, que corresponde a um nível de raridade de 1 em 1.340.000. Esse é o nível de raridade realista correspondente ao teto do Mega Test. Em 2000 eu havia calculado para o Mega Test um teto de pIQ 186, equivalente a rIQ 169, portanto nível de raridade de 1 em 124.000, mas eu estava me baseando na amostra de 520 testes disponível no site do Miyaguchi. Porém essa amostra não é representativa do conjunto de mais de 4.000 pessoas examinadas com o Mega Test. Essa amostra está estratificada de 10 em 10 (10 pessoas com cada QI, quando possível). Por isso há uma concentração de escores altos acima do “correto”, fazendo com que a dificuldade dos itens, especialmente os itens mais difíceis (que é determinada pela proporção entre os erros e acertos) acabe sendo menor do que a correta, já que havendo mais pessoas com escores mais altos, haverá maior porcentagem de acertadores do que se tivesse sido considerada a amostra inteira. Outro fator é que mesmo considerando todas as mais de 4.000 pessoas avaliadas pelo Mega Test, há uma self-selection que produz uma concentração de pessoas com escores altos maior do que a observada entre a população em geral. Com esses dois ajustes complementares, refiz meus cálculos para essa norma e cheguei aos números que citei acima.

Portanto, com um escore bruto 47/48, obtido por Langan em sua segunda tentativa, o rIQ correspondente é 176, equivalente a pIQ 192, isto é, nível de raridade de aproximadamente 1 em 983.000. O nível de raridade real da Mega Society fica em torno de 1 em 62.000 e da Prometheus 1 em 8.000. Nos casos de ISPE, TNS etc., como estão numa faixa em que as distorções são menores, a raridade verdadeira também fica mais próxima da raridade teórica. 1 em 600. E no caso da Intertel e Mensa, praticamente não são afetadas. O percentil teórico 98,04% para escore pIQ 133 equivale a rIQ 131,8, portanto percentil 97,66%.

Há dois outros pontos que eu gostaria de comentar nesse texto introdutório, antes de prosseguir: sobre o significado de “inteligência” e sobre o significado de “certificado”, mas o texto ficou muito extenso e talvez seja melhor remover, bem como outras partes de algumas respostas. De qualquer modo, salvei o texto integral num arquivo separado, caso tenha alguma utilidade complementar ou para ser utilizado em outra ocasião.

Feitos esses esclarecimentos, agora podemos dar início às respostas.

Entrevista

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Quando você estava crescendo, quais eram algumas das histórias familiares proeminentes sendo contadas ao longo do tempo?

Hindenburg Melão Jr.: não me interessei muito por histórias.

Jacobsen: Essas histórias ajudaram a dar uma noção de um eu estendido ou uma noção do legado da família?

Melão Jr.: meus avós eram muito pobres, meu pai só estudou até o segundo ano do Ensino Fundamental (2º ano). Ele era excepcionalmente inteligente, criativo, tinha hipermnésia e uma grande variedade de talentos intelectuais e sinestésicos. Isso permitiu que ele saísse de uma situação de extrema pobreza e proporcionasse um ambiente satisfatório para os filhos, mas não muito além disso. O legado de meus pais é quase exclusivamente genético.

Jacobsen: Qual era a origem familiar, por exemplo, geografia, cultura, idioma e religião ou a falta dela?

Melão Jr.: meu bisavô materno era índio nativo do Brasil, meu bisavô paterno era português. Minha família era católica na época que nasci, mas posteriormente se converteram ao Kardecismo, preservando alguns hábitos católicos. Eu me tornei ateu, aproximadamente aos 11 anos, depois agnóstico aos 17 e deísta desde os 27. Tive interesse na Fé Bahá'í por algum tempo, mas não cheguei a participar de nenhuma atividade. Estou escrevendo um livro que trata de Ciência e Religião, no qual abordo alguns desses tópicos com mais detalhes.

Jacobsen: Como foi a experiência com colegas e colegas de escola quando criança e adolescente?

Melão Jr.: foi razoavelmente tranquilo, não tive problemas com bullying que pudessem ser associados a alguma discriminação por motivos cognitivos. Sofri bullying por outros motivos, porque eu tinha as sobrancelhas unidas, mas nada que chegasse ao ponto de me causar grandes constrangimentos, mesmo porque eu praticava artes marciais desde os 7 anos, por isso se eu achasse que estavam passando dos limites, eu reagia de forma enérgica e isso evitava que voltassem a me importunar.

Meus problemas foram com alguns professores, mais do que com colegas, porque eu tinha a visão incorreta de que os professores não podiam cometer erros na disciplina deles, mas no mundo real é muito diferente disso. Praticamente todos os professores cometiam vários erros todos os dias, e eu costumava apontar os erros mais graves. A maioria deles reagia positivamente a isso, alguns agradeciam pelas correções e revisavam imediatamente, mas outros não aceitavam esse tipo de correção, especialmente quando vinha de uma criança de 7 ou 8 anos. Um episódio marcante ocorreu numa aula de Geografia, quando eu tinha 9 anos, e a professora solicitou aos alunos que calculassem o tamanho do litoral brasileiro. Quando comecei a executar a tarefa, percebi que aquilo não fazia sentido, porque a medida dependeria do nível de detalhes do mapa, logo não havia uma resposta possível. Então expliquei o problema a ela, mas ela não entendeu minha explicação. Ela achou que eu estivesse me referindo ao fato de o mapa estar numa escala diferente do tamanho real. Então expliquei novamente, mas não adiantou, ela continuou sem entender, ficou irritada e acabou agindo de forma opressiva, ordenando que eu me calasse, e continuou a “ensinar” incorretamente. Foi um episódio muito desagradável. Geralmente os erros que eu

identificava eram erros dos professores, mas nesse caso era muito mais grave, porque era um erro institucionalizado e aceito como se fosse correto pelas “autoridades” naquela disciplina, estava errado no livro e provavelmente em todos os outros livros, sendo ensinado incorretamente a todos os alunos. Aliás, isso continua errado até hoje, 40 anos depois, em praticamente todas as fontes sobre o assunto, inclusive na Wikipedia, Enciclopédia Britânica, IBGE, Cia World Factbook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics etc. O problema não é que o número da medida esteja errado. O problema é que a pergunta não faz sentido porque não há um “comprimento” do litoral, não existe uma resposta possível com dimensão 1, porque o perímetro tem uma dimensão maior que 1 e menor que 2. Embora tenha sido desagradável, foi também um evento do qual me lembro com orgulho, por ter deduzido um dos fundamentos da Geometria Fractal, de improviso, aos 9 anos.

Jacobsen: Quais foram algumas certificações, qualificações e treinamentos profissionais obtidos por você?

Melão Jr.: a finalidade primordial das certificações deveria ser atestar que determinada pessoa ou determinada entidade cumpre quesitos que não seriam facilmente verificáveis por uma pessoa da população em geral. Por exemplo: uma pessoa sem muita instrução teria dificuldade para avaliar corretamente se um médico está capacitado para tratar da saúde dela, ou decidir se seria melhor receber tratamento de um método alopata ou de um curandeiro. Por isso há entidades reguladoras, constituídas por especialistas experientes e supostamente competentes, que estabelecem normas que teoricamente deveriam ser necessárias e suficientes para distinguir entre profissionais qualificados e não-qualificados, protegendo a população menos esclarecida contra a prestação de serviços e produtos insatisfatórios ou até mesmo nocivos. Isso é bonito na teoria, mas na prática não funciona tão bem, e a indústria das certificações acaba servindo a outros propósitos, entre os quais a reserva de mercado, o nepotismo, o culto à vaidade e egolatria.

Os certificados muitas vezes não cumprem a função para a qual foram criados, ora aprovando pessoas/entidades insuficientemente capacitado, ora deixando de aprovar pessoas sobrequalificadas. Por essa razão, mais importante e mais justo seria examinar as realizações, as competências e os méritos reais, em vez de examinar as certificações que reconheceriam esses méritos, porque os méritos têm valor intrínseco, enquanto as certificações são meras aparências que algumas vezes tentam representar os méritos, mas nem sempre acertam.

Há inclusive uma ampla indústria para comércio de certificados fraudulentos, e pouca fiscalização sobre isso. A American Biographical Institute (ABI) é famosa pela venda de certificações sem valor, e continua atuando desde 1967. Há muitas entidades similares, especializadas na impressão de certificados bonitos, promoção de cerimônias de homologação etc. Geralmente as pessoas que consomem esses produtos são vítimas ingênuas, mas também é possível que algumas pessoas comprem esses certificados cientes de que eles significam (ou não significam).

Na Wikipedia consta a seguinte descrição para a ABI:

“The American Biographical Institute (ABI) was a paid-inclusion vanity biographical reference directory publisher based in Raleigh, North Carolina which had been publishing biographies since 1967. It generated revenue from sales of fraudulent certificates and books. Each year the company awarded hundreds of “Man of the Year” or “Woman of the Year” awards at between \$195 and \$295 each.” Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Biographical_Institute

Atualmente há várias universidades de P.O. Box distribuindo títulos de Ph.D. como água. Eu assisti a algumas declarações de pessoas que compraram esses títulos, a grande maioria dessas pessoas realmente acreditava que tinham algum valor e se mostravam emocionadas, felizes e orgulhosas ao receber o título. Mas talvez nem todos sejam ingênuos e alguns compreendam que esses títulos não representam algo real, mas usam isso com finalidades obscuras. Há um membro da mensa brasil que possui mais de 50 títulos acadêmicos por uma universidade de P.O. Box, fundada em 2021, mas no site da “instituição” alega ter sido fundada em 2006. Acho engraçado, e ao mesmo tempo triste, que os jornalistas que publicam as matérias sobre isso não desconfiam que seja estranho uma pessoa de 40 anos, que tinha apenas 1 B.Sc. até 2020, de repente passou a ter mais de 50 títulos acadêmicos em 2022, inclusive vários Ph.Ds. e pós-doutorados. Além dos certificados comprados, essa pessoa também afirma que a TNS é a sociedade de alto QI mais exclusiva do mundo, ele usa o QI dele com desvio padrão 24 para comparar com um “QI” fictício 160 atribuído a Einstein, entre outras coisas, e os jornalistas publicam tudo sem conferir.

Há também pessoas que compram esses certificados, sabendo que não têm valor, sem a intenção de fazer uso desonesto, talvez como um enfeite de mesa ou algo assim. Por exemplo, Chris Harding é cliente da ABI, possui vários títulos adquiridos dessa empresa, conforme ele mesmo declara em seu perfil na OlympIQ Society. Harding tem alguns méritos reais, porque mesmo que o SB não avalie corretamente acima de 140, é reconhecido que esse teste avalia algum tipo de habilidade misturado com inteligência, e poucas pessoas alcançam o score de Harding nesse exame. Portanto, embora alguns certificados dele sejam comprados, outros são baseados em méritos reais e emitidos por instituições sérias, como os relacionados a seus recordes de QI e suas filiações a sociedades de alto QI. Entretanto, mesmo os certificados idôneos, que tentam representar méritos verdadeiros, muitas vezes atestam algo que não é uma boa representação da realidade. Conforme comentei no início, o score 197 ou 196 no SB não poderia ser interpretado da maneira como foi, e os laudos oficiais e os certificados emitidos estão dizendo algo que representa uma crença coletiva, mas muito diferente da realidade concreta.

Harding é muito inteligente, mas não com base no score que ele obteve no SB, e sim com base em várias opiniões dele sobre diferentes assuntos. Os méritos reais dele estão em sua essência, em suas ações, seus pensamentos, não em pedaços de papel.

A partir do momento em que a pessoa canaliza seus pensamentos e suas ações para produzir algo concreto, ela passa a compartilhar com o mundo sua essência, disseminando conhecimento e sabedoria, ou disseminando futilidade e desinformação, dependendo da qualidade daquilo que ela compartilha. E a percepção que as outras pessoas têm sobre aquilo que ela compartilhou dependerá não apenas da qualidade do que ela exteriorizou, mas também da sensibilidade e perspicácia de quem recebe a informação. Se uma pessoa brilhante disseminar conhecimentos de um nível muito elevado entre um público muito fútil, o valor desse conhecimento não será reconhecido e ela não terá certificações, nem prêmios, nem qualquer reconhecimento, enquanto outras pessoas que estejam disseminando conhecimentos vulgares e rasos, compatíveis com o público que o recebe e que emite as certificações, essas pessoas serão aclamadas e glorificadas.

As pessoas não são premiadas ou certificadas por suas realizações serem grandiosas, mas sim por suas realizações serem percebidas como grandiosas pelos membros dos comitês responsáveis pela homologação de prêmios e certificações. Além disso, há uma série de outros vieses de caráter político, social, racial, etc., que interferem nas decisões dos membros dos comitês, tornando as certificações e os prêmios ainda mais destoantes do objetivo que deveriam ter.

Esse efeito ocorre, por exemplo, em alguns testes de Cooijmans, em que o teste não mede o QI, mas sim quão semelhante é o QI da pessoa examinada em comparação ao QI do Cooijmans. Se a pessoa tiver o mesmo QI de Cooijmans, ela terá escore máximo. Se ela tiver QI muito maior ou muito menor que o QI de Cooijmans, o escore dela será baixo. Na questão sobre testes de QI, comento mais detalhadamente esse problema.

Citarei alguns poucos exemplos marcantes, alguns bastante conhecidos, mas vale a pena rememorar-los. Creio que um dos mais trágicos e marcantes seja o de Galileu, que em vez de ser premiado por suas notáveis contribuições à compreensão do Universo, ele foi severamente punido. Aliás, sua filha Celeste acabou sendo punida em lugar dele. Nos tempos mais recentes, um dos casos que acho muito tristes é o de George Zweig, que desenvolveu sua Teoria dos Ases na mesma época em que Murray Gell-Mann desenvolveu a Teoria dos Quarks. Ambas eram essencialmente iguais, entretanto a revista para a qual Zweig enviou seu artigo se recusou a publicá-lo, enquanto o artigo de Gell-Mann lhe rendeu o prêmio Nobel de Física. Há pelo menos 45 casos conhecidos de prêmios Nobel polêmicos, de pessoas que receberam sem merecer ou mereciam, mas não receberam. O prêmio mais respeitado do mundo está profanado por dezenas de injustiças, talvez centenas, se considerar as que não chegaram a ser descobertas. Inclusive Einstein é uma das maiores vítimas, já que merecia ter recebido 5 prêmios Nobel, entretanto recebeu apenas 1, por motivos raciais, xenofóbicos, nazistas etc.

Creio que agora eu possa responder a essa questão, dividindo-a em duas partes:

1. Prêmios e certificações.
2. Méritos até o momento não reconhecidos.

Tenho poucos certificados. Quando eu era jovem, tinha o hábito de colocar troféus e medalhas de Xadrez, Artes Marciais, Educação Artística etc. numa estante, mas numa das mudanças de endereço, um de meus troféus quebrou. Inicialmente fiquei triste, porque eram importantes para mim. Mas ao refletir melhor sobre o “desastre”, percebi que na verdade não tinham nenhuma importância. O que realmente importava eram os méritos que me levaram à conquista daqueles prêmios, bem como alguns méritos que não chegaram a ser premiados. Havia também casos nos quais eu não tinha mérito algum, mas havia sido premiado devido a alguma fatalidade da sorte. Isso não significa que eu não seja uma pessoa vaidosa. Eu sou, mas aprendi que na maioria das vezes não se recebe nada ou quase nada por algo valioso, enquanto outras vezes se recebe mais do que o justo por algo de pouco valor ou até mesmo sem valor. Infelizmente o mundo recompensa muito mais as aparências do que a essência.

Um de meus poucos certificados é o de detentor do recorde mundial de mate anunciado mais longo em simultâneas de Xadrez às cegas, registrado no Guinness Book de 1998. Talvez algumas pessoas não estejam familiarizadas com o significado de “Xadrez às cegas” e “mate anunciado”. Esse vídeo ajuda a entender a dinâmica de uma simultânea às cegas: <https://youtu.be/LUo89CI9FPY>. É um vídeo antigo e de baixa qualidade, mas para exemplificar o mecanismo do evento, creio que seja apropriado.

Farei uma descrição resumida: numa simultânea, uma pessoa (simultanista) joga ao mesmo tempo contra vários oponentes (simultaneados), cada um dos quais com seu próprio tabuleiro. É diferente de um jogo em consulta, em que vários jogadores podem se consultar mutuamente num único tabuleiro e decidem sobre o melhor lance por votação. Numa simultânea, cada simultaneado tem seu próprio tabuleiro e cada partida segue seu próprio rumo.

Nesse caso, como se trata de uma simultânea às cegas, o simultanista não tem acesso visual a nenhum dos tabuleiros, nem às peças, nem às súmulas, nem a qualquer tipo de registro dos lances ou das posições. Em nenhum momento o simultanista pode olhar para nenhum dos tabuleiros, nem solicitar qualquer tipo de informação que o ajude a se lembrar das posições das peças, nem de qualquer peça específica, nem que o ajude a se lembrar da ordem dos lances, nem qualquer outro tipo de informação que possa de algum modo auxiliar sobre as partidas. A posição de cada uma das peças em cada um dos tabuleiros fica registrada exclusivamente na memória do simultanista e essas posições são atualizadas mentalmente a cada lance. Além disso, a cada lance o simultanista precisa fazer os cálculos das variantes e sub-variantes necessários para tomar suas decisões sobre o lance a ser executado, tomando cuidado para não confundir as lembranças das variantes calculadas com as lembranças das variantes efetivamente jogadas, entre outros cuidados.

O jogo se desenvolve da seguinte forma: o simultanista permanece de costas para os tabuleiros e comunica seus lances a um assistente (speaker), que executa cada lance do simultanista no respectivo tabuleiro. Em seguida, o simultaneado daquele tabuleiro executa sua resposta sobre o tabuleiro e o speaker comunica verbalmente ao simultanista qual foi o lance executado por aquele simultaneado. Então o speaker passa ao tabuleiro seguinte, onde novamente o simultanista declara seu lance e este é executado nesse tabuleiro pelo speaker etc.

Há versões mais “fáceis” (ou menos difíceis), nas quais o jogador às cegas pode ter acesso a uma lista com todos os lances anotados, como nos torneios de Melody Amber, em que, além de serem jogos individuais, em vez de simultâneos, os competidores podem também visualizar um tabuleiro vazio, o que facilita os cálculos e reduz os riscos de se esquecer da posição de alguma peça. Mas nas regras mais rigorosas, como no meu recorde de 1997 que foi registrado no Guinness, não era permitido ter acesso ao histórico dos lances, nem ver um tabuleiro vazio, nem qualquer outro tipo de auxílio similar. É equivalente a estar todo o tempo com os olhos vendados, do início ao fim do evento.

Esse recorde estabelecido em 1997 foi numa simultânea às cegas a 9 tabuleiros, num dos quais anunciei mate em 12 lances. O rating médio de meus oponentes foi estimado em cerca de 1400. Obtive 7 vitórias, 1 empate e 1 derrota.

Os recordistas anteriores eram: Joseph Henry Blackburne (mate em 8 lances numa simultânea às cegas a 10 tabuleiros, no ano 1877), Samuel Rosenthal (mate em 8 lances numa simultânea às cegas a 4 tabuleiros, no ano 1885) e Garry Kasparov (mate em 8 lances numa simultânea às cegas a 8 tabuleiros, no ano 1985). Houve também um evento em 1899, no qual Harry Nelson Pillsbury anunciou mate em 8 numa simultânea às cegas a 10 tabuleiros, mas houve erro de contagem. Seguindo a sequência ditada por Pillsbury, o mate se produzia em 7 lances.

No caso de Kasparov, há alguns detalhes que precisam ser esclarecidos: ele jogou uma simultânea às cegas contra os 8 melhores computadores da época, inclusive o campeão mundial Mephisto Amsterdam 68000 RISC 12MHz. O rating médio dessas máquinas era cerca de 1500 e os melhores chegavam a 1800. O melhor computador do mundo em 1985 era justamente o Mephisto Amsterdam, cujo rating divulgado pelo fabricante era 2265, mas posteriormente foi medido pela SSDF em 1827 (com base em 1020 partidas). Na partida contra Mephisto Amsterdam, Kasparov jogou uma bela combinação com sequência de mate em 8 lances, mas não há registro sobre ele ter anunciado o mate. De qualquer modo, como ele sacrificou uma Torre e duas peças no início da combinação, está claro que ele calculou corretamente a sequência inteira.

Em 2005, a rede Globo fez uma reportagem para o programa “Fantástico” celebrando os 100 anos dos testes de QI, e fui indicado como a pessoa com QI mais alto do Brasil, no nível de 1 em 200 milhões. Esse é um exemplo de “reconhecimento” que eu não tenho certeza se foi corretamente atribuído. Na pergunta sobre QI, comento esse assunto com mais detalhes.

Recentemente, o amigo Domagoj Kutle me honrou com um amável convite para publicar em sua excelente revista DEUS VULT, e solicitou que eu enviasse também uma pequena biografia. Minha namorada Tamara gentilmente me ajudou a elaborar esse material, incluindo algumas de minhas realizações. Creio que isso se encaixaria aqui, por isso vou colar o texto:

Melao mini-bio, by Tamara Rodrigues:

Hindenburg Melao Jr. was born in Brazil, in a family with few resources, and only attended school until the 11th grade, having learned almost completely as self-taught.

In 1998 he was registered in the Guinness Book as the holder of the world record for longest announced checkmate in blindfold simultaneous chess games. (video)

Between 2006 and 2010 he developed an artificial intelligence system to trade in the Financial Market; in 2015, his friend and partner Joao A.L.J. incorporated a hedge fund to use this system and started to be registered in fund rankings (BarclayHedge, IASG and Preqin), winning 21 international high performance awards.

In 2007, Melao solved a problem that had been unsatisfactorily solved for 22 years, by creating “Melao index”, an index to measure performance adjusted at risk that was more accurate, more predictive and conceptually better founded than the traditional indexes of William Sharpe (Nobel prize 1990) and Franco Modigliani (Nobel 1985). (video)

In 2003 he solved a 160+ year old problem by proposing a new formula for calculating BMI, superior to the traditional one and superior to the formula proposed in 2013 by Nick Trefethen, Chief of the Dept. of Numerical Analysis at the University of Oxford, Leslie Fox Prize(1985), FRS prize, (2005), IMA Gold Medal (2010). Trefethen’s 2013 formula is an incomplete version of Melao’s 2003 formula.

In 2000 Melao developed the first method for standardization of intelligence tests that produces scores in scale of ratio and in 2003 he applied this method in the Sigma Test norm (he also calculated new norms for Mega and Titan tests using the same method), thereby solving a problem of Psychometry that exists more than 90 years ago and was pointed by Thurstone and Gardner as a central question of Psychometry more than 45 years ago.

In 2002 Melao found the best solution to a problem that has existed for more than 520 years and had been attacked for more than 65 years, the Shannon Number, which was only matched in 2014 by Stefan Steinerberger, professor of mathematics at Yale University.

In 2015 Melao showed that the method recommended by the Nobel Prize in Economics Harry Markowitz, for portfolio optimization, has some flaws, and proposed some improvements that make this method more efficient and safer.

In 2021 Melao pointed out flaws in the recommendation of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Economics, Clive Granger, regarding the use of the concept of cointegration, and presented a more adequate solution to the same problem.

In 2022, Melao solved a problem that had been open for 16 years, in which he established

a method for calculating chess ratings based on the quality of the moves. Also presented an improved version of the Elo system, applying both methods to calculate the ratings of more than 100,000 players between years 1475 and 2021, the results were published in a book, along with the description of the two methods.

At 9 years old Melao deduced one of the fundamentals of Fractal Geometry and at 13 he developed a method to calculate logarithms. At age 19 he developed a method for calculating factorials of decimal numbers without using Calculus. (more details)

Also at the age of 19 (1991) he developed an invisibility machine project, which in 1993 he inscribe in a contest of ficction Literature (although the project is consistent with Scientific Method), but did not win. In 2003 Susumu Tachi, Emeritus Professor at the University of Tokyo and guest Professor at MIT, created (independently) a simplified version of this project and built a prototype.

In 2020 Hindenburg presented a study showing that Jupiter's Great Red Spot cannot be 350+ years old, as was believed. The correct age is around 144 years old. (interview)

In 2000 Melao had a chess theoretical novelty elected one of the 10 most important in the world by the Sahovski Informator jury, the world champion Anand was one of the judges and Anand's vote was that this novelty should be the 8th most important.

In 2004 Baran Yonter, founder of Pars Society ($IQ > 180$, $sd = 16$), estimated that Melao IQ should be above 200 ($sd = 16$).

In 2005 the production of the program "Fantástico", from Globo (second-largest commercial TV network in the world), made a special report on intelligence, celebrating the centenary of the creation of IQ tests, and Melao was nominated as the person with the highest IQ in Brazil, with a rarity level of 1 in 200 million. (video1, video2)

In 2009 Melao was nominated by Albert Frank to participate in a John Hallenborg project with people whose IQ is at the rarity level above 1 in 1 million.

In 2000 Melao updated and extended his "Alpha Tests" that he had created in 1991, added new questions, and created the Sigma Test.

In 2022 he extended the Sigma Test by creating the extended version.

Melao is author of more than 1700 articles on Science, Statistics, Psychometrics, Econometrics, Chess, Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Cognitive Science, Ethics, Philosophy of Science, History of Science, Education etc.

Detailed bio of Melao (documents, videos, interviews, articles, reports etc.) at: <https://www.sigmasociety.net/hm>

Embora eu tenha praticado Artes Marciais por vários anos (talvez ~11 anos se somar todos os períodos ativos), não cheguei a obter nenhuma certificação, porque o tempo foi distribuído entre muitas modalidades diferentes e não cheguei à faixa preta em nenhuma delas. Mas cheguei a alcançar um nível técnico razoável. Para armas curtas, talvez eu esteja no percentil 99,9% e no caso específico de nunchaku, talvez 99,999%. Esse é um vídeo de 2016, eu já estava meio velho e enferrujado <https://youtu.be/jCw-5H34x4>. No mesmo canal há também vídeos com outras armas (espada, tonfa, kama, sam-tien-kuan etc.).

Em 2020 fui convidado para um grupo dos 26 melhores astrofotógrafos planetários do Brasil.

Embora não haja certificado para isso, fiquei muito feliz porque é um de meus hobbies favoritos. Eu gostaria de aproveitar essa oportunidade para agradecer ao amigo Vinícius Martins, que me ensinou quase tudo que sei sobre processamento de imagens planetárias, creio que em pouco tempo ele será um dos 5 melhores astrofotógrafos do mundo, ele combina 3 elementos fundamentais para isso: um talento extraordinário, um amor imenso por essa atividade e um profundo conhecimento que se amplia e se atualiza constantemente.

Entre as certificações que não possuo, uma das mais interessantes é a de CFA, conferida a gestores de investimentos. É interessante porque entre 2006 e 2010 desenvolvi um sistema de inteligência artificial para operar no Mercado Financeiro que entre 2015 e 2020, quando foi utilizado por um fundo europeu, conquistou 21 prêmios internacionais de alta performance nos rankings da Barclay's Hedge, Preqin e IASG, sendo também o segundo melhor sistema de investimentos do mundo entre 2011 e 2016. Entretanto, eu fui proibido pela CVM de prestar serviços de gestão porque não possuo o certificado CFA. Em 2014, foi realizado um abaixo-assinado para pleitear que a CVM (entidade reguladora do Mercado de Capitais no Brasil) emitisse para mim um certificado em caráter extraordinário. A reivindicação se apoiava na redação da Instrução 306 da CVM e no fato de que meu sistema tinha acumulado mais que o dobro do lucro do fundo que ocupava o primeiro lugar (à frente de 282 outros fundos, todos administrados por gestores certificados) no ranking da InfoMoney, maior ranking de fundos do Brasil. Entre as pessoas que assinaram a petição em meu favor, houve vários professores universitários, vários gestores profissionais e vários membros de sociedades de alto QI, inclusive Dany Provost de Giga Society. Entretanto, a reivindicação não foi aceita e continuo não possuindo esse certificado. Aliás, os dois gestores mais famosos do mundo, Warren Buffett e George Soros, também não possuem certificado de gestor, então estou em boa companhia. Buffett resolveu esse problema incorporando uma empresa que compra outras empresas, em vez de administrar um fundo. Soros resolveu o problema colocando seu amigo Jimmy Rogers como gestor (Jimmy possuía a certificação necessária), eu resolvi o problema comercializando licenças de uso de meu sistema, com um limite de volume de aplicação para cada licença e um período de renovação.

Entre as certificações que não possuo, posso incluir também CNH, embora eu dirija fora da Lei (sou praticamente um gângster). Eu deixei de ir à escola no 5º ano, depois eu retornei algumas vezes, por pressão de meus pais. Eu voltava, continuava matriculado alguns meses, esgotava minha paciência, parava novamente, meus pais me pressionavam a voltar, eu novamente voltava etc. Cheguei a concluir o ensino médio (11º ano) e entrei na faculdade de Física, mas não gostei do curso e parei definitivamente depois de 2 meses. Na primeira semana de aula, eu revisei o livro de Física I e apontei mais de 200 erros, enviei meus comentários ao autor, com uma nota introdutória tentando ser diplomático, para que ele não se sentisse ofendido, mas ele nunca respondeu. Também apontei dois erros conceituais graves nos métodos utilizados no laboratório de Física, que deveriam impactar nos resultados dos experimentos; um deles, sobre as bolas de papel amassado, é o mesmo “experimento” realizado no Departamento de Matemática da Universidade de Yale, onde também cometem o mesmo erro. Nesse caso, o Prof. Dr. Paulo Reginaldo Pascholati teve uma conduta honrada, recebeu com humildade minhas críticas, fez alguns experimentos para investigar se o erro que eu indicava era procedente, constatou que eu tinha razão e, na aula seguinte, ele assumiu publicamente o erro. Achei a conduta dele exemplar, nesse aspecto, entretanto a apostila não foi corrigida e continuaram a fazer o experimento incorretamente.

Enfim, decidi que universidade era perda de tempo e seria mais produtivo estudar por conta própria, mas não é tão simples assim, e essa decisão se mostrou questionável em algumas ocasiões. O distanciamento da carreira acadêmica tem alguns aspectos positivos, outros negativos. Um dos aspectos positivos é que posso selecionar minha própria grade curricular, seguir meu próprio ritmo e me aprofundar o quanto quiser em cada tópico. Um dos aspectos negativos é que se torna mais difícil ter acesso a bibliografia satisfatória e mais difícil ainda publicar em periódicos indexados. Com isso, praticamente coloquei a mim mesmo numa situação de ostracismo.

Portanto certificados são úteis, mas é importante compreender as limitações e as distorções que podem apresentar, para não correr o risco de tratá-las de forma burocrática, a ponto de serem colocados acima da real capacidade verificada empiricamente de forma contínua. Certificados refletem as opiniões de pessoas ou de instituições que muitas vezes não estão suficientemente qualificadas para fazer avaliações corretas sobre os méritos e para decidir com imparcialidade. No exemplo do CFA, as certificações são literalmente distribuídas com base em critérios excessivamente condescendentes, que nem de longe são suficientes para selecionar as pessoas qualificadas ao exercício da função de gestor, por isso mais de 95% dos gestores certificados geram prejuízos a seus clientes. Talvez esse efeito seja mais notável no Mercado de Capitais do que em qualquer outra atividade, mas também ocorre frequentemente em Jornalismo, Publicidade, Administração etc., em que algumas pessoas sem formação nessas disciplinas eventualmente podem ser mais qualificadas do que pessoas certificadas, mas para proteger os menos competentes, são criadas leis que impedem as empresas de contratar os mais competentes, usando certificados como instrumento de discriminação e de apologia à mediocridade.

Escrevi uma versão extensa dessa resposta, na qual discuto algumas falhas no sistema educacional no Brasil e no mundo, justificando porque me afastei da vida acadêmica. Também aponto e analiso os erros cometidos por Richard Lynn em seu estudo sobre os QIs em diferentes países e explico porquê não seria correto tentar justificada o problema educacional no Brasil com base no suposto baixo QI médio da população, bem como reviso a estimativa para o QI médio de alguns países, inclusive Guiné Equatorial, Israel e Brasil. O texto ficou com 10 páginas A4, por isso achei melhor colocar como um apêndice.

Jacobsen: Qual é o propósito dos testes de inteligência para você?

Melão Jr.: o atributo mais importante dos seres vivos é a inteligência. Sem inteligência não existiria Ética, Leis, Ciência ou Arte. Para delegar corretamente as tarefas mais importantes às pessoas mais qualificadas, é necessário identificar e ranquear corretamente as pessoas de acordo com as habilidades de cada uma. Por isso medir corretamente a inteligência e utilizar os resultados como critério para atribuir cargos e tarefas, conforme o nível de competência, é extremamente importante, mas infelizmente não é o que acontece. Há dois grandes problemas:

1. O primeiro é que o mundo é dominado pelo nepotismo;
2. O segundo é que não existem testes de inteligência apropriados para medir corretamente nos níveis mais altos.

No final do século XIX, os primeiros testes de Galton e Cattell não conseguiam medir satisfatoriamente a inteligência, mas foi uma tentativa interessante. A hipótese de que a velocidade dos reflexos, a acuidade visual, a acuidade auditiva etc. poderiam ser indicativos relevantes do nível intelectual se mostrou inadequada. Em 1904, Binet e Otis conseguiram resolver esse problema, utilizando questões que exigiam o uso combinado de várias habilidades cognitivas – em vez de

tentar medir aptidões primárias, como fez Galton –, mas os testes de Binet só mediam corretamente até cerca de 140. As tentativas de Terman, em 1921, de utilizar os testes de Binet para selecionar futuros gênios falharam. Entre as 1528 crianças selecionadas com QI acima de 135 (mais de 70 com QI acima de 177), nenhuma ganhou um Nobel nem qualquer prêmio similar, enquanto duas das crianças não selecionadas ganharam prêmios Nobel. O teste funcionava muito bem até cerca de 130, as crianças selecionadas publicaram mais livros, mais artigos, tiveram maior renda média do que as crianças do outro grupo, porém nos níveis mais elevados, o teste falhou e deixou escapar algumas das crianças mais brilhantes. Os resultados desse estudo tiveram um efeito extremamente deletério, prejudicando a credibilidade nos testes de QI aos olhos do público em geral e aos olhos de muitos expoentes intelectuais de áreas científicas, tecnológicas, culturais e educacionais, por isso seria importante esclarecer os limites de até que ponto esses testes podem medir corretamente, para que não se crie expectativas irreais e para que não sejam aplicados incorretamente fora de desses limites.

Em 1973, Kevin Langdon criou o LAIT (Langdon Adult Intelligence Test) e com isso conseguiu elevar o nível de dificuldade até perto de 170 e a validade de constructo até 150; em 1985, Ronald Hoeflin deu mais um passo importante com o Mega Test, elevando o nível de dificuldade até cerca de pIQ 190 e validade de constructo até 170, e essas contribuições ampliaram os horizontes de aplicação dos testes de inteligência, que antes funcionavam bem até o nível aproximada de 1 em 100, enquanto os novos testes passaram a funcionar até 1 em 100.000. Por outro lado, a partir dos anos 1990, começaram a surgir alguns testes de fantasia com tetos nominais que chegavam a 250, embora o teto real de dificuldade não chegasse a 180 e o teto de validade de constructo fique em torno de 150, como o ISIS Test de Paul Cooijmans. Alguns desses testes de fantasia continuam surgindo até hoje e isso agrava o preconceito nutrido por muitas pessoas contra os testes de QI, porque se a pessoa tem um pensamento crítico refinado e uma atitude cética, ela percebe que há inconsistências em resultados como o de Feynman (123) e Rosner (193, 196, 198 etc.). Ambos são muito inteligentes, e os problemas que Feynman resolveu são mais difíceis que os problemas que Rosner resolveu, o que poderia ser interpretado como indicativo de que Feynman fosse mais inteligente, então como é possível que um sistema padronizado sério de avaliação atribua 190+ para Rosner e 123 para Feynman? Alguma coisa obviamente não está certa nisso, e as pessoas geralmente não identificam exatamente onde está o erro, por isso concluem, de forma generalizada, que todos os testes de QI não funcionam, ou sequer elas sabem que existe mais de um tipo de teste de QI. Por isso o esclarecimento sobre qual é o intervalo no qual cada tipo de teste funciona contribui para combater esse tipo de preconceito. Se o QI verdadeiro de Feynman, com base na dificuldade, complexidade e profundidade dos problemas que ele resolveu sobre eletrodinâmica quântica, superfluidos etc. fosse colocado na mesma escala em que é representado o QI de Rosner, o QI correto de Feynman estaria perto de 235. E para explicar esse número acima de 200, teria antes que mostrar que a distribuição dos escores não é gaussiana etc. etc. Então aquela aparente inconsistência inicial desapareceria e tudo ficaria mais claro e mais lógico. O mesmo acontece para o QI fictício de Einstein de 160, cujo valor correto, se colocado na mesma escala dos escores medidos pelos testes, seria perto de 250.

Em 2000, o Sigma Test trouxe soluções aos 3 problemas citados no texto introdutório, tendo como foco principal a validade de constructo, utilizando questões baseadas em problemas do mundo real que exigem uma combinação de pensamento convergente e divergente em diferentes níveis de dificuldade, complexidade e profundidade, compatíveis com os níveis de QI a serem medidos. Mais recentemente, o Sigma Test Extended elevou o teto de dificuldade até cerca de pIQ 225 e de validade de constructo até cerca de 210. Entretanto, numa população com 7,9

bilhões, a pessoa adulta mais inteligente do mundo deve ter rIQ em torno de 201, equivalente a cerca de pIQ 245, portanto bastante fora dos limites que o STE pode medir. Apesar disso, para algumas das 100 ou 200 pessoas mais inteligentes vivas, o STE poderia fornecer medidas fidedignas da inteligência real, com boa validade de constructo nesse patamar, além de oferecer um desafio intelectual estimulante. Isso consertaria algumas lendas urbanas disseminadas em várias fontes, como a de que o QI médio dos ganhadores do Nobel em Ciência é “apenas” 154. Com o uso de um teste adequadamente padronizado, com nível de dificuldade apropriado e boa validade de constructo, o QI médio dos ganhadores do Nobel em Ciência deve ficar entre 170 e 190. Com o uso de testes apropriados é possível reposicionar corretamente os escores, tanto para cima quanto para baixo. Isso também venceria alguns preconceitos contra os testes de QI, porque uma das razões para rejeição se deve justamente aos resultados bizarros para Feynman (123), Fischer (123*), Kasparov (123, 135), Shockley (<135), Alvarez (<135), irmã de Feynman (124) etc., porque isso tira a credibilidade dos testes, já que é muito mais provável que esses escores estejam errados do que essas pessoas terem QI abaixo do nível de 1 em mil, quando na verdade devem estar acima de 1 em 1 milhão (e Feynman perto de 1 em 1 bilhão). Quando podemos mostrar que os testes são capazes de medir corretamente também nos níveis muito altos e fornecer resultados realistas, consistentes com as realizações dessas pessoas em problemas do mundo real, consegue-se restaurar a credibilidade para testes de inteligência como instrumentos sérios e confiáveis, capazes de desempenhar uma das funções mais importantes que é justamente fazer prognósticos precoces de genialidade. [* Embora muitas fontes mencionem o QI 187, 181 ou 180 para Fischer, seus laudos de 1958 mostram um escore 123]

Assim, embora não haja testes capazes de medir corretamente no nível necessário para apontar a pessoa mais inteligente viva, ou ranquear as 10 mais inteligentes, houve um progresso substancial desde os primeiros testes de Binet, e se Terman estivesse vivo hoje e desenvolvesse o mesmo estudo de 1921, mas começando em 2000, e se ele utilizasse o STE em vez do SB, muito provavelmente as crianças mais inteligentes estariam todas (ou quase todas) selecionadas em seu grupo, e os resultados subsequentes teriam sido confirmatórios inclusive nos níveis mais altos, corroborando a tese que ele defendia, de que é possível prever precocemente a genialidade, mas não com os testes que existiam naquela época. A tese, em si, estava correta, assim como o helicóptero de Leonardo Da Vinci, mas a tecnologia ainda precisava avançar um pouco mais para que a tese dispusesse dos subsídios necessários para ser testada adequadamente.

Jacobsen: Quando a alta inteligência foi descoberta para você?

Melão Jr.: Acho difícil determinar isso com precisão. A primeira vez que fui examinado em clínica, tinha 3 anos, mas aos 6 meses de idade eu conversava com razoável fluência, então havia algumas evidências mais precoces.

Jacobsen: Quando você pensa nas maneiras pelas quais os gênios do passado foram ridicularizados, vilipendiados e condenados, se não mortos, ou elogiados, lisonjeados, plagiados e reverenciados, o que parece ser a razão para as reações extremas e o tratamento de gênios? Muitos vivos hoje parecem tímidos diante das câmeras – muitos, nem todos.

Melão Jr.: não creio que seja um problema do passado. Continua presente em muitas culturas primitivas, como no Brasil e em vários países da África. A grande maioria da população adota uma postura de hostilidade, inveja e boicote não apenas contra gênios, mas contra qualquer pessoa que possa estar obtendo algum tipo de sucesso. Recentemente minha namorada me mostrou um vídeo de Ozires Silva, que foi Ministro da Infraestrutura e presidente da Petrobrás. Ele

comenta que durante um jantar no qual estavam presentes alguns membros do comitê do Nobel (link par ao vídeo: <https://youtu.be/m3u-E5XdzZ4>) ele perguntou por que eles achavam que o Brasil não tinha nenhum ganhador do Nobel, já que vários países latino-americanos com menor população e menor PIB tinham inclusive mais de um Nobel. Um dos membros do comitê comentou “você, brasileiro, são destruidores de heróis”. Infelizmente isso é um fato que continua presente em nosso cotidiano.

Na época que eu conheci as comunidades de alto QI, 1999, alguns nomes famosos eram William James Sidis, Marilyn vos Savant, Chris Langan, Rick Rosner, Grady Towers etc. Langan era segurança numa boate, Rosner era modelo nudista e também trabalhou algum tempo como segurança, Grady Towers era segurança em um parque e teve uma morte trágica e prematura em 2000. Sidis passou suas últimas décadas de vida em subempregos e colecionando placas de carro. Marilyn foi colunista de uma revista e conseguiu um padrão de vida razoável com isso, bem como um bom prestígio e reconhecimento fora das comunidades de alto QI, e também muitos invejosos odiosos. Com exceção de Marilyn, as outras pessoas que citei ganhavam um salário mínimo e ainda passavam parte do tempo sem emprego, enquanto muitas pessoas são contratadas para ocupar cargos que elas nem sequer estão qualificadas, ganhando pequenas fortunas, além de prestígio e reconhecimento.

Essa situação é muito triste. Embora Langan não fosse o homem mais inteligente das Américas, como ele reivindicava em 2000, ou da história do mundo, como ele começou a reivindicar algum tempo depois, ele é indiscutivelmente uma pessoa muito mais inteligente e mais competente do que 99% dos Ph.Ds. em qualquer área e mais do que 99,9% dos CEOs das empresas. Ele talvez não tivesse uma cultura tão vasta e os conhecimentos especializados necessários para resolver grandes problemas científicos, mas certamente ele daria melhores soluções administrativas e políticas do que qualquer presidente que os EUA já tiveram. Eu não sei se ele seria o melhor presidente, porque ser um excelente presidente não se resume a resolver problemas. Ele precisaria também ter sensibilidade, empatia, bondade, honestidade e outros atributos. Mas geralmente muitas pessoas têm esses atributos no nível necessário. O que normalmente falta a elas é exatamente a inteligência. Eu não estou dizendo que Langan ou Rosner deveriam ser presidentes. Mas, ponderando sobre pontos positivos e negativos, eu apostaria neles como presidentes melhores que a média dos presidentes recentes.

A perseguição e a opressão algumas vezes podem acontecer de maneira silenciosa, e isso costuma ser até pior, porque é mais difícil de detectar e combater. Como é possível que uma pessoa com o potencial intelectual de Langan não tenha sido descoberto por uma grande empresa que o contratasse pagando um salário milionário para que ele resolvesse os problemas internos de modo a gerar mais lucro para a empresa do que outras pessoas menos competentes trabalhando na mesma função? Há erros grotescos nisso. A grande maioria das empresas está contaminada por multidões de incompetentes e trapaceiros, que em vez de contratar e promover com base nos méritos, fazem quase exatamente o contrário, porque se sentem ameaçados por quem é mais competente do que eles. Isso é um completo desastre não só para as empresas nas quais eles trabalham, mas para toda a harmonia da civilização. Na Noruega, na Suécia, na Holanda, na Finlândia, na Suíça, na Dinamarca etc. esses problemas são muito raros, mas no Brasil isso é uma constante que afunda o país. Nos EUA talvez o problema não seja tão grave quanto é no Brasil, mas quando olhamos para os casos de Langan e Rosner, fica claro que há falhas graves na atuação dos headhunters, deixando de contratar algumas das pessoas mais capacitadas do país,

que passaram a maior parte da vida em atividades subprofissionais. Eu citei os exemplos de Langan e Rosner, mas o mesmo vale para um grande número de pessoas com QI muito acima da média, que estão trabalhando em atividades incompatíveis, com rendimentos muito abaixo do que merecem, produzindo menos do que deveriam, enquanto pessoas muito menos capacitadas estão em cargos elevados, cometendo erros absurdos e afundando empresas ou até mesmo afundando nações inteiras. Minha namorada é engenheira ambiental e excepcionalmente inteligente, ela trabalhou numa empresa de grande porte onde ela resolvia problemas que economizavam mensalmente dezenas de milhares de dólares cortando desperdício, além de contribuir para reduzir a poluição. Uma das soluções envolvendo a substituição de um duto gerou uma economia de alguns milhões. Se ela fosse colocada num cargo mais elevado, no qual a atuação dela tivesse maior alcance, poderia poupar dezenas ou centenas de milhões para empresa. Entretanto, ela foi convidada para participar de um esquema de corrupção, ela se recusou, a pessoa que fez o convite ficou com receio de que ela os denunciasses e a demitiu.

Em “A República”, Platão comentava sobre a importância de que os reis fossem filósofos e os filósofos fossem reis. Isso me parece o mais natural, substituindo “filósofos” por “competentes” o que geralmente é quase sinônimo de “inteligentes”. E substituindo “reis” por um significado moderno equivalente, que pode ser CEO de grandes empresas, prefeitos, governadores e presidentes. Nos EUA há vários mecanismos para descobrir e orientar crianças e jovens talentosos, há vários programas especializados. De acordo com Eunice Maria Lima Soriano de Alencar, nos anos 1970 havia mais de 1200 programas educacionais para crianças superdotadas nos EUA. Como é possível que esses programas tenham “deixado escapar” Langan e Rosner? Como uma entidade respeitada como instituto Hollingworth não os descobriu? Não é possível que eles não tenham se destacado na escola. No Brasil eu acharia normal isso, o Brasil deixa quase todos os grandes talentos escorrerem pelo ralo. Mas nos EUA acho surpreendente que isso tenha acontecido. Há registros de que Langan teve score perfeito no SAT e recebeu bolsas de estudo em duas universidades, mas parece que ele perdeu a bolsa porque chegou atrasado um dia, porque seu carro quebrou. Isso é bastante ridículo. Mesmo que ele faltasse em todas as aulas, provavelmente ele aprenderia mais e melhor do que 99% dos colegas que estivessem presentes em todas as aulas. As universidades não concederam bolsas como reconhecimento pela genialidade dele, mas como uma “esmola”, com condições restritivas de retirar a esmola se ele não cumprisse determinados critérios.

Esse desperdício de grandes talentos é um dos principais motivos que leva um país à ruína. A China está alcançando e superando os EUA em grande parte porque a China tem investido mais seriamente e mais pesadamente em educação especial de crianças talentosas, enquanto os EUA estão cometendo erros grosseiros como esse, deixando que grandes mentes como a de Langan, Rosner, Towers sejam desperdiçadas em trabalhos como segurança de boate ou de parque, enquanto pessoas menos capacitadas lideram grandes empresas, governam cidades e estados.

O nepotismo não é um fenômeno exclusivamente familiar. É muito mais abrangente, levando à colocação de pessoas subqualificadas em cargos que deveriam ser ocupados por outras com mais méritos. Não há otimização na delegação de cargos, responsabilidades, tarefas, incentivos, prêmios etc. E essa ausência de otimização é obviamente penalizada. Concorrentes que otimizam melhor isso, assumem a liderança.

No Brasil a situação é muito mais grave, porque não existem tais programas. Houve algumas poucas iniciativas isoladas, que chegavam a atender poucas dezenas de crianças, mas que não duraram muito tempo.

Os testes de inteligência são extremamente importantes para serem utilizados nesses processos de descobertas de talentos. Ainda que os testes apresentem várias falhas, é melhor que sejam aplicados na medida do possível, com os erros e remendos, do que se deixassem de ser aplicados e essa calamidade se perpetuasse. Algumas das gigantes de tecnologia criam seus próprios testes para selecionar seus colaboradores, geralmente esses testes não são tão bons quanto os hrIQts, mas pelo menos eles demonstram compreender a necessidade disso. Embora estejam remendando mal o problema, pelo menos estão tentando fazer algo para identificar jovens talentos e engajá-los em projetos relevantes, nos quais possam contribuir para o desenvolvimento da Ciência, da Tecnologia e para o bem comum, portanto essas empresas agem melhor que o governo em relação a isso.

Jacobsen: Quem parece ser os maiores gênios da história para você?

Melão Jr.: Leonardo, Newton, Aristóteles, Gauss, Ramanujan, Arquimedes, Euler e Einstein.

É difícil julgar os casos de Hawking, Galois, Faraday, Al-Hazen e outros, porque Hawking teve que enfrentar dificuldades extremas, é difícil saber qual teria sido a magnitude de seu legado se ele não tivesse adoecido. É possível que Hawking seja uma das 5 ou 10 pessoas mais inteligentes da História, embora sua obra efetiva não seja uma das 100 mais expressivas, por não ser uma representação justa de seu potencial, pois ele infelizmente não teve a oportunidade de “competir” em condições de igualdade com outros grandes gênios. Galois nasceu numa condição muito privilegiada culturalmente, intelectualmente e economicamente, mas infelizmente morreu muito jovem. Isso não significa que ele teria produzido muito mais se tivesse vivido até os 90 ou 100 anos, porque analisando a vida de outros grandes matemáticos e cientistas, a maioria dos trabalhos mais importantes que realizaram foi antes dos 25 anos, eventualmente entre 25 e 30. Além disso, há muitos casos de pessoas que produziram quase tudo que puderam antes dos 20, depois não apresentaram avanço nem acúmulo de produção (Paul Morphy, por exemplo, ou Arthur Rubin). Então a notável precocidade de Galois não indica necessariamente que ele teria produzido mais do que Gauss ou Euler, se tivesse vivido muito mais tempo. Mas mesmo que ele não alcançasse o nível de Euler, é provável que ele teria deixado um legado monumental. Faraday – assim como Edison, Leonardo e eu – não recebeu educação formal, o que pode ser interpretado como uma desvantagem, embora talvez não seja de fato. A vida acadêmica pode atrapalhar, em muitos casos, é difícil julgar com segurança. Para saber se pessoas com QI acima de determinado nível teriam vantagem ou desvantagem estudando como autodidatas, seria necessário realizar experimentos com vários pares de gêmeos com QI no intervalo desejado, em que um entre cada par de gêmeos seria forçado a seguir carreira a acadêmica e o outro forçado a não seguir. Haveria vários problemas para executar tal experimento, porque gêmeos são raros e gêmeos com QI acima de determinado nível talvez simplesmente não exista nenhum caso como exemplo, e o estudo exigiria uma amostra com pelo menos algumas dezenas. Outro problema é a questão ética, de forçar uma pessoa a frequentar a unidade e forçar outra a não frequentar. Isso é especialmente grave no caso de gêmeos monozigóticos, porque provavelmente ambos teriam preferências semelhantes, e algum deles teria que ser “sacrificado” nessa situação, forçado a fazer algo diferente do que gostaria.

Na época em que conheci as comunidades de alto QI, falava-se muito em Sidis como o maior gênio da história, um gênio injustiçado e incompreendido. Há um pouco de verdade nisso, mas também há muitos exageros e distorções. Sidis é um caso incomum e muito difícil de julgar, porque a história dele está misturada com lendas e fantasias. Meu primeiro contato com a “história” de Sidis foi por meio de um artigo de Grady Towers, em 1999, que depois ele modificou em

2000. Hoje sei que havia muitas informações incorretas naquele texto, mas na época eu acreditei no que estava lá, e cheguei a considerar a possibilidade de que Sidis realmente fosse a pessoa mais inteligente da História. Atualmente vejo Sidis como uma vítima de seus pais, um prodígio forçado com talvez 180 a 200 de QI, que poderia ter sido um bom pesquisador e levado uma vida agradável e produtiva, mas foi transformado numa atração circense. O QI 250-300 que durante anos foi atribuído a ele parece ter sido invenção de sua irmã, os 54 idiomas que se afirmava que ele falava foram reduzidos para 52, depois 40, depois 26 e atualmente parece que se considera que ele talvez falasse de fato 15 a 20 idiomas. A lenda sobre ele conseguir aprender 1 idioma em 1 dia parece ser simplesmente falsa. Ele não obteve um Ph.D. Cum Laude em Harvard aos 16 anos, mas sim um B.Sc., o que ainda é uma realização expressiva, mas não tanto. Cerca de 12% dos estudantes de Yale se graduam Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude ou Summa Cum Laude. Em alguns anos (como 1988) essas porcentagens podem aumentar bastante, chegando a mais de 30%. Eu não sei as porcentagens em Harvard, mas suponho que não seja tão diferente. Então é de fato expressivo, mas não tão impressionante quanto seria esperado por alguém com supostos 250-300 de QI.

A tendência da irmã dele em exagerar quase tudo acaba aumentando o ceticismo sobre quais alegações sobre ele são reais. O fato é que ele não deixou um legado científico nem matemático que justifique a superavaliação que se costuma fazer sobre ele. As ideias dele sobre buracos negros foram precedidas em mais de 100 anos por Laplace e Michell, as ideias dele sobre Evolução já haviam sido mais bem desenvolvidas por Darwin e Wallace, aliás, a abordagem de Sidis é bem mais superficial que a de Darwin e Wallace, sendo mais semelhante à de Anaximandro e Aristóteles. Contudo, permanece a dúvida sobre o nível de produção intelectual que ele poderia ter alcançado se não tivesse se afastado da vida acadêmica, ou, mesmo afastado da vida acadêmica, mas produzindo Ciência e Matemática fora da universidade.

Em termos de precocidade, Gauss, Galois, Neumann e Pascal me parecem mais notáveis que Sidis, inclusive porque Gauss foi um prodígio natural, enquanto Sidis foi uma mistura de prodígio natural e prodígio forçado. Galois, Pascal, Neumann também foram prodígios naturais e forçados, mas não tão forçados quanto Sidis. Essa pressão a que Sidis foi submetido talvez o tenha prejudicado e provocado o desfecho que essa novela acabou tendo. Acho difícil avaliar.

Por isso se essa pergunta me tivesse sido feita em 2000, talvez eu fizesse uma análise menos crítica e mais superficial e apontasse Sidis como o maior gênio. Atualmente eu teria dúvidas inclusive se ele teria escore muito alto nos hrIQts, talvez ele chegasse a 190 em alguns testes, mas em outros não passaria de 180. No que diz respeito à produção intelectual, os registros não mostram nada tão extraordinário.

Jacobsen: O que diferencia um gênio de uma pessoa profundamente inteligente?

Melão Jr.: habitualmente o conceito de “gênio” é utilizado para indicar capacidade excepcional em diferentes áreas científicas, artísticas, esportivas, culturais etc. Nesse contexto, uma das principais diferenças seria o nível de especificidade, pois o gênio poderia indicar um talento notável em qualquer área de atuação (Música, Futebol, Ballet etc.), inclusive atividades nas quais não seja exigida inteligência em alto nível. Em contraste a isso, a pessoa profundamente inteligente teria seu talento ligado exclusivamente a atividades nas quais a notabilidade exija nível intelectual muito elevado (Física, Matemática, Literatura, Xadrez etc.).

Mas esse conceito é inadequado, em minha opinião, porque com o desenvolvimento de máquinas que superam os melhores humanos em diferentes modalidades, torna-se importante não misturar

máquinas “inteligentes” com outras máquinas. Poderia parecer aceitável dizer que Usain Bolt é um gênio do atletismo, mas seria estranho dizer que um Bugatti Chiron é um gênio, embora o que o Chiron faz excepcionalmente seja o mesmo que Usain Bolt faz. Por isso é necessário determinar critérios objetivos de classificação que sejam aplicáveis igualmente a todas as entidades orgânicas e inorgânicas, sem discriminação, um critério que funcione bem e não produza classificações bizarras. Não seria razoável dizer “ah, Chiron é um carro, portanto critério não se aplica a ele”. Isso seria uma discriminação rasa e incorreta, porque em poucas décadas haverá carros capazes de conversar sobre Filosofia e demonstrar teoremas matemáticos, inclusive híbridos que sejam parte humanos e parte carros, e se um dos critérios para ser considerado genial for “não pode ser um carro”, haveria uma grave inconsistência. Um critério sério e justo precisa ser bem planejado, não pode ser um palpite ingênuo que não contempla as possíveis exceções.

Os talentos para modalidades intelectuais, quando atingem determinado nível de excelência (algo como 5 desvios padrão acima da média) podem ser considerados “gênios”, mas para atividades nas quais o nível intelectual não desempenha um papel importante (Boxe, Futebol, Atletismo etc.), creio que o termo correto deveria ser escolhido com mais cuidado, para evitar que máquinas não intelectuais sejam incorretamente classificadas como “gênios” (um carro veloz ser classificado como “gênio” por ser veloz me parece um erro etimológico, mas se este carro pudesse realizar tarefas intelectuais, a situação mudaria). Em algumas circunstâncias, as máquinas precisam ser reconhecidas como gênios, caso contrário haverá inconsistências graves na sintaxe do idioma, apoiadas exclusivamente em preconceito contra máquinas. AlphaZero ou MuZero, por exemplo, em minha opinião eles (especialmente MuZero) se encontram numa “zona cinza” de difícil avaliação. MuZero pode aprender sozinho a jogar Xadrez, Go, Shogui, jogos de Atari, e alcançar nível muito alto, superior ao dos melhores humanos do mundo em alguns desses jogos, que são reconhecidos como jogos intelectuais. Por isso uma tentativa de ajuste post facto nos critérios, com o único propósito de desqualificar MuZero como um gênio, isso me pareceria um sinal de discriminação injusta. Mesmo porque, as próximas gerações de MuZero tendem a apresentar cada vez melhor o que entendemos como “inteligência geral”, e em algum momento não haverá como evitar reconhecer que algumas máquinas também precisam ser classificadas como “inteligentes”.

A dúvida é se caberia melhor a MuZero a classificação de “idiot savant” ou de “gênio”. A meu ver, seria melhor “gênio”, porque idiot savants normalmente não são muito criativos e não se sobressaem em atividades que exijam resolver problemas sofisticados e profundos. São muito bons em memorizar e repetir, sejam cálculos mentais ou execuções de músicas, mas não conheço nenhum caso de idiot savant que tenha se destacado como enxadrista ou como cientista. Talvez fosse possível reformular os significados de gênio e de idiot savant de maneira que MuZero ficasse mais bem classificado como savant, sem comprometer a essência desses significados. Uma classificação adequada não poderia “empurrar” Bobby Fischer ou Kasparov para o grupo de savants, por exemplo. A classificação precisaria ser cuidadosa, para não criar inconsistências com o único objetivo de remover MuZero do grupo de gênios, nem apresentar outros tipos de arbitrariedades.

Em algumas outras atividades nas quais não há necessidade de um intelecto excepcional, sendo suficiente QI perto de 120 aliado a um talento excepcional para uma área específica, creio que o termo “gênio” não deveria ser aplicável. Mike Tyson ou Usain Bolt não precisam de muito mais que 120 de QI, e alguns veículos sem qualquer traço de inteligência, que não pensam, podem vencer Bolt na modalidade que ele se notabilizou, então a excelência nessa modalidade talvez

não deva ser encarada como “genialidade”.

Em alguns casos é mais difícil avaliar se o termo “gênio” seria ou não aplicável. Sistemas de Inteligência Artificial como AIWA, que é especializada em compor músicas, e faz isso num nível muito alto, a meu ver, também não deveria ser classificado como “gênio”, e nesse caso os grandes compositores humanos também não deveriam ser classificados como “gênios” com base exclusivamente em seu talento para compor. Se esse talento para compor músicas estivesse acompanhado de um nível intelectual compatível com o critério intelectual de genialidade, então a classificação como “gênio” seria aplicável com base nisso. O mesmo valeria para lutadores de Boxe, agricultores ou profissionais de qualquer área, que não seriam classificados como “gênios” com base em seus talentos para suas atividades de maior destaque, mas sim por sua inteligência.

Nessa acepção, poderia haver gênios latentes e gênios efetivos. A genialidade latente estaria no potencial intelectual de produzir contribuições relevantes para ampliar os horizontes do conhecimento, revolucionar os paradigmas científicos, etc. Enquanto o gênio efetivo seria aquele que concretamente faz essas coisas. Uma pessoa profundamente inteligente, que não tenha realizado contribuições notáveis, poderia ser um gênio latente, tendo em aberto a constante oportunidade de se tornar um gênio efetivo, a partir do momento que utiliza seu potencial para o desenvolvimento científico, ou para inovações em matemática ou em algum campo importante do conhecimento.

Algumas pessoas consideram que a diferença fundamental entre um gênio e uma pessoa profundamente inteligente está na criatividade, mas a criatividade é um dos componentes da inteligência. As pessoas muitas vezes confundem o raciocínio lógico (que também é um dos componentes da inteligência) com a própria inteligência. Mas o comportamento inteligente é uma combinação ampla de muitos processos cognitivos, inclusive memória e criatividade.

A diferença entre “gênio” e “profundamente inteligente” é mais quantitativa e está associada às proporções em que estão presentes determinados atributos. A criatividade aparece no gênio como um elemento fundamental, mas não porque o gênio seja criativo e a pessoa profundamente inteligente não seja (ambos são), ou sequer porque o gênio seja sempre mais criativo (embora geralmente seja). No conjunto de atributos, considerando raciocínio lógico, criatividade, memória de trabalho, memória de longo prazo etc., o gênio possui e utiliza esse conjunto de traços latentes na resolução de problemas inéditos com maior eficiência. Como a criatividade geralmente é um dos quesitos mais importantes para isso, acaba sendo natural associar a genialidade à criatividade.

Jacobsen: A inteligência profunda é necessária para o gênio?

Melão Jr.: Para o conceito de gênio que descrevi, sim. Na resposta anterior acabei respondendo a essa.

Jacobsen: Quais foram algumas experiências de trabalho e empregos que você teve?

Melão Jr.: Desde 2006 trabalho no desenvolvimento de sistemas de inteligência artificial para operar no Mercado Financeiro. Atualmente estou interessado em resolver o problema de prolongar a vida indefinidamente, preservar a memória e a identidade em dispositivos inorgânicos que tenham uma interface adequada de comunicação com o cérebro, ressuscitar pessoas, restaurar corpos severamente danificados e outros problemas menores que são subconjuntos desses e pré-requisitos para esses.

Jacobsen: Por que seguir esse caminho de trabalho específico?

Melão Jr.: o desenvolvimento de sistemas automáticos para operar no Mercado Financeiro é uma atividade desafiadora intelectualmente e oferece uma recompensa monetária razoavelmente justa, embora a ausência de uma network empresarial imponha muitos obstáculos. O nível de dificuldade, complexidade e profundidade dos problemas que precisam ser resolvidos para obter lucros consistentes a longo prazo com operações long-short é extremamente elevado. Há algumas maneiras fáceis de ganhar 3% ao ano ou pouco mais, praticando Buy & Hold do índice ou de Blue Chips, em que o ganho é pequeno, mas muito fácil. Porém se a pessoa quiser lutar para obter lucros perto de 30% ao ano ou acima, o desafio é extraordinariamente difícil e poucas pessoas no mundo conseguem isso de fato. Como parte desse trabalho, fiz alguns avanços interessantes em Econometria e Gerenciamento de risco. Em 2007, solucionei um problema que havia sido resolvido de forma insatisfatória durante 22 anos, ao criar um índice para medir o desempenho ajustado ao risco que era mais acurado, mais preditivo e conceitualmente mais bem fundamentado do que os índices tradicionais de William Sharpe (prêmio Nobel 1990) e Franco Modigliani (Nobel 1985). Em 2015 mostrei que o método recomendado pelo Prêmio Nobel de Economia Harry Markowitz, para otimização de portfólio, apresenta algumas falhas, e propus algumas melhorias que tornam esse método mais eficiente e seguro. Em 2021 aponte falhas na recomendação do Prêmio Nobel de Economia de 2003, Clive Granger, quanto ao uso do conceito de cointegração, e apresentou uma solução mais adequada para o mesmo problema. Entre outras contribuições em processos de otimização de algoritmos genéticos, ranqueamento e seleção de genótipos, reconhecimento de padrões etc.

Jacobsen: Quais são alguns dos aspectos mais importantes da ideia de superdotados e gênios? Esses mitos que permeiam as culturas do mundo. Quais são esses mitos? Que verdades os dissipam?

Melão Jr.: parece haver diferentes mitos entre diferentes estratos intelectuais. Para a maior parte da população, com QI abaixo de 130, parece que pensam no gênio como uma pessoa maluca, reclusa, antissocial, fisicamente frágil, e todos os defeitos físicos e psicológicos que eles conseguem imaginar, como uma necessidade mórbida de empurrar para baixo a pessoa por não tolerarem o fato de que ela se sobressai em alguma coisa e ainda por cima ter pequena vantagem em quase tudo. Muitos filmes, livros e revistas tentam reforçar esse estereótipo. Mas há outras ideias incorretas que são disseminadas em outras faixas de QI. No nível de 130 a 180, por exemplo, parece haver uma supervalorização dos resultados em testes de QI, sem uma compreensão correta sobre os limites de até que ponto esses testes produzem escores acurados e fidedignos.

Outro mito está relacionado ao nível de raridade. Pessoas que não tenham noções de Psicometria (quase todas fora das sociedades de alto QI) acham que superdotados são muito raros, algo como 1 em 1 milhão ou até mais raros. Eles geralmente também não têm noção da diferença entre “superdotado” e “gênio”, inclusive alguns acham que superdotado é mais inteligente do que gênio.

Jacobsen: Alguma opinião sobre o conceito de Deus ou a ideia de deuses e filosofia, teologia e religião?

Melão Jr.: minha família era católica. Eu me tornei ateu aos 11 anos, depois de estudar sobre algumas religiões. Num processo de transição que durou alguns anos entre os 17 e 25 anos, acabei me tornando agnóstico. Eu cheguei a me interessar pela Fé Bahá'í aos 27 anos e aos 28 me tornei deísta e escrevi um artigo no qual apresento argumentos científicos sérios sobre a existência de Deus. Digo “argumentos sérios” porque todos os argumentos pseudocientíficos que conheço sobre o assunto são tentativas desesperadas de “provar” uma crença a priori. É diferente de uma

análise imparcial que conduz a uma conclusão que não havia servido como motivação inicial. Continuo sendo deísta, cheguei a fundar minha própria religião e estou escrevendo um livro sobre o assunto.

Jacobsen: Quanto a ciência influencia na visão de mundo para você?

Melão Jr.: A Ciência é o único caminho que conhecemos por meio do qual se pode desenvolver modelos adequados para representar a realidade senciente, modelos funcionais, capazes de fazer generalizações e previsões, em que os resultados obtidos são razoavelmente conforme as previsões, sem que as previsões dependam da sorte para acertos casuais. A Ciência é imprescindível no processo de aquisição do conhecimento e desenvolvimento tecnológico. Por outro lado, é importante compreender as limitações da Ciência, como um corpo de disciplinas que nos oferece um método valioso, mas que não está imune a falhas. O grande diferencial da Ciência não está no conhecimento que ela produz, mas sim no método que permite que ela se corrija a si mesma e faça isso constantemente, atualizando-se, refinando-se, ampliando-se etc., de modo que todo o conhecimento científico, mesmo que seja fundamentalmente incorreto, tem alguma utilidade prática e funciona razoavelmente bem dentro dos limites que a Teoria da Medida estabelece. O modelo cosmológico de Ptolomeu, por exemplo, mesmo sendo fundamentalmente errado, permitia fazer previsões muito acuradas. Algumas vezes as teorias científicas podem não representar estruturalmente de forma acurada os fenômenos naturais, mas ainda que as explicações teóricas não sejam as mais corretas, elas funcionam. Os conhecimentos obtidos por outros meios, como a Filosofia, a Religião ou a cultura popular, geralmente têm menor probabilidade de “funcionar”, e mesmo quando funcionam, é difícil regular os parâmetros que determinam seu funcionamento, devido à ausência de uma teoria subjacente que esteja organizada por um modelo matemático.

Jacobsen: Quais foram alguns dos testes realizados e pontuações obtidas (com desvios padrão) para você?

Melão Jr.: não há uma resposta simples a essa pergunta. Aliás, entre todas as perguntas dessa entrevista, talvez essa seja a mais difícil, porque além de dar uma resposta correta, preciso tentar ser diplomático para não parecer muito arrogante. Minha namorada já me perguntou dezenas de vezes qual é o meu QI, Tor já me perguntou isso pelo menos 5 vezes, e eu geralmente me esquivo do assunto, porque é demorado ter que explicar tudo. Mas eu vou responder aqui e quando outras pessoas me perguntarem novamente, eu vou fornecer o link dessa resposta, inclusive porque em questões anteriores e no texto introdutório comentei um pouco sobre testes clínicos, hrIQts, estimativas e comparações. Com isso, creio que será possível expressar minha opinião sobre esse tema de forma razoavelmente completa e acurada em menos de 50 páginas, aproveitando as respostas anteriores como pré-requisitos.

Fui examinado pela primeira vez aos 3 anos de idade, e cheguei até os testes para 9 anos, porque não tinham acima de 9 anos para crianças que não sabiam ler. Eu não sei qual o nome dos testes, mas o desvio padrão provavelmente era 24. Há vários pontos complexos que precisam ser examinados sobre isso, porque a evolução da inteligência em função da idade não é linear, como na fórmula simplificada de Stern, o desvio padrão não é 24 em todas as faixas etárias abaixo de 16 anos, a maioria das crianças muito jovens examinadas são prodígios forçados que os pais tentaram ensinar muita coisa desde que nasceram, mas não foi assim no meu caso, meu pai saía para trabalhar antes de eu acordar e voltava depois que eu já estava dormindo, minha mãe trabalhava quase o dia todo, por isso nenhum deles tinha sequer tempo para ficar muito comigo, quanto

menos para me treinar como um prodígio forçado. Outros pontos a considerar são que o desenvolvimento intelectual não termina aos 16 anos (nem 17 ou 18 ou 19), nem chega ao limite numa idade fixa para todas as pessoas, nem permanece estável ao chegar em determinada idade.

Portanto a interpretação de que a idade mental de 9 anos aos 3 anos corresponde a um ratio IQ 300 é grosseiramente incorreta e ingênua. Mesmo depois de converter a escala com desvio padrão 24 para 16, chegando a 233, continua incorreta. A curva de evolução da inteligência em função da idade também varia de uma pessoa para outra. Por isso não é razoável tomar como base testes aplicados na infância para tentar estimar qual será o QI em idade adulta. Há vários casos de QIs medidos na infância que se mostram muito distantes dos corretos em idade adulta, embora alguns possam “acertar por sorte”, como no caso de Terrence Tao, que teve o QI medido em 230 e, por sorte, realmente o QI dele está perto disso. No meu caso, é possível que também o QI medido tenha chegado perto do valor correto “por sorte”, mas os testes utilizados, o método utilizado, etc. não são apropriados.

Outro detalhe é que eu não sei se eu continuaria resolvendo as tarefas típicas de crianças com mais de 10 anos, mas é possível que sim, porém a precocidade em resolver tarefas típicas de crianças mais velhas não diz quase nada, ou diz muito pouco, sobre o nível intelectual que será alcançado em idade adulta, porque as habilidades medidas não fornecem informações úteis para esse tipo de prognóstico. O tipo de habilidade que indicaria um nível intelectual muito alto (200+) em idade adulta não tem relação com o mesmo tipo de tarefa que uma criança de 8, 9 ou 10 anos, ou mesmo 20 anos, poderia realizar, mas sim com a solução de problemas que indicassem traços de criatividade e pensamento profundo para aquela idade. O evento na aula de Geografia aos 9 anos, por exemplo, foi um indicativo muito mais relevante do que o resultado do teste aos 3 anos, não apenas porque aos 9 anos já havia alcançado maior maturidade e estava mais perto do potencial que teria quando adulto, mas também, e principalmente, porque o tipo de problema envolvido estava mais estreitamente relacionado aos processos cognitivos necessários a adultos geniais.

Conforme comentei no texto introdutório, em outras respostas, em alguns artigos e em alguns fóruns, os testes de QI e os hrIQts apresentam problemas na validade de constructo, erros no cálculo da norma e inadequação do nível de dificuldade. Eu já tive uma experiência muito ruim com Paul Cooijmans em 2001 e eu não pretendo voltar a perder tempo com isso. O Space, Time & Hyperspace (STH) de Cooijmans propunha medir o QI até 207 ($\sigma=16$), embora a dificuldade real das questões mais difíceis desse teste não seja muito maior que 170. Mas isso não é o principal problema. O STH contém vários erros primários que invalidam completamente o teste e a norma, embora muitas pessoas o considerem um dos “melhores” hrIQts. Em 2001 escrevi para Cooijmans sobre isso e apontei a ele um desses erros, mas ele se recusou a conversar a respeito disso e não admitiu o erro dele. Eu não tenho paciência para lidar com pessoas que agem como ele. Vou descrever exatamente qual o problema usando um exemplo:

O enunciado geral para todas as questões do STH era a seguinte:

$a : b :: c : d$

Significando: “a” está para “b” assim como “c” está para “d”.

Dados “a, b, c” determine “d”.

O enunciado, juntamente com o teste, podem ser acessados em <https://web.archive.org/web/20040812113534/http://www.gliasociety.org/>

Segue um print do que está no link acima:

This test contains 28 problems and has no time limit. Use of reference aids is allowed. Consulting others is *not* allowed, either before, during or after taking the test. Publication of answers will result in prosecution. Draw your solutions on paper or in an electronic document with name, address, age and sex. Mention scores on priorly taken IQ and aptitude tests, including the names of the tests.

Answers with the fee mentioned [here](#) to [Paul Cooijmans](#)

Draw solutions with as much precision as needed to eliminate doubt. Example (":" = "is to", "::" = "as") :

A questão 10 é:



O enunciado geral diz que há uma relação da 1ª figura para a 2ª figura que deve ser descoberta e, em seguida, essa mesma relação deve ser aplicada na 3ª figura para produzir a 4ª figura. Esse é o único enunciado geral para todas as questões desse teste, apresentado no início do teste, e funciona assim nas questões 1 até 9, mas não é assim na questão 10 nem em 16 outras questões entre as 28 que constituem esse teste.

Ele queria que na questão 10 fosse descoberta a relação da 1ª figura para a 3ª figura e, em seguida, essa mesma relação fosse aplicada na 2ª figura para produzir a 4ª figura! Mas em nenhum momento ele pediu isso no enunciado. O que o enunciado pede é exatamente o que descrevi acima. Se a pessoa responde exatamente o que o enunciado está pedindo, a pessoa perde 1 ponto!

Há várias outras questões no STH com esse mesmo erro básico de lógica. Nessa situação surreal, se a pessoa acertar todas as 28 questões exatamente em conformidade com o que pede o enunciado do teste, a pessoa receberá apenas 11 certos e terá score 135 em vez de 205 pela norma atual, ou 140 em vez de 207 pela norma antiga.

Como Cooijmans não aceitou conversar a respeito disso, eu conversei (na época) com 3 outras pessoas capacitadas para opinar: Petri Widsten, Albert Frank e Guilherme Marques dos Santos Silva.

Petri Widsten teve o score mais alto no Sigma Test, no STH e foi campeão em vários concursos de lógica e de QI, inclusive <http://www.worldiqchallenge.com/rankings.html>, onde Petri teve quase o dobro do score bruto de Rick Rosner. Petri rapidamente concordou comigo sobre isso, inclusive com prejuízo para as próprias respostas dele, porque ele havia respondido o que ele achava que o Cooijmans gostaria de receber como resposta, não o que seria a resposta mais certa. Todas as vezes que me lembro desse assunto, fico estressado, porque Cooijmans é uma pessoa muito teimosa. Eu não acho que Cooijmans seja estúpido ou desonesto; eu acho que ele é inteligente e ele tenta fazer o que ele acredita ser certo, mas a teimosia dele é maior do que a inteligência dele.

Albert Frank foi professor de Lógica e Matemática na Universidade de Bruxelas, campeão veterano de Xadrez na Bélgica. Albert também concordou comigo e fez alguns comentários sobre Lógica formal que categorizam o tipo de erro cometido pelo Cooijmans.

Guilherme Marques dos Santos Silva é membro de Sigma V e foi campeão no concurso de QI “Ludomind International Contest IV”, também concordou comigo e “desistiu” de terminar de fazer o STH depois que viu esse erro absurdo. Ele disse que faltavam poucas questões para terminar, mas devido ao grave viés na correção, não teve interesse em prosseguir.

Além das pessoas com as quais conversei naquela época, também conversei recentemente com Tianxi Yu sobre esse tipo de problema. Yu tem score 196, $\sigma=15$ no Death Numbers, que é considerado um teste sério e com norma desinflada. Ele comentou que já encontrou erros em vários testes, e ele postou uma extensa e detalhada crítica pública sobre isso em um grupo, citando os diversos tipos de erros que o incomodam. Há vários pontos nos quais discordo das opiniões de Yu, mas em relação aos testes, nossas opiniões são muito semelhantes.

Logo que tomei meu primeiro contato com as sociedades de alto QI e conheci o site do Miyaguchi (1999), cheguei a me interessar em fazer o Power Test, que eu considero um dos melhores em termos de validade de constructo e com nível adequado de dificuldade. Na época eu tinha 27 anos e uma opinião diferente da atual, eu tinha três objetivos com o Power Test: um deles era a diversão, outro era bater o recorde de Rick Rosner de QI~193 e o terceiro era entrar em Mega Society. Naquela época era utilizada a norma calculada por Garth Zietsman para o Power Test, com teto 197, mas antes de eu terminar de resolver todas as questões, o Power Test deixou de ser aceito em Mega Society e o teto foi “revisado” para 180. Então eu perdi completamente o interesse.

Garth Zietsman é um estatístico competente e a norma que ele calculou, provavelmente utilizando Teoria de Resposta ao Item, é consistente e muito bem fundamentada. Se os mesmos itens utilizados no Mega, Titan e Ultra estavam no Power, então as dificuldades individuais desses itens foram mantidas e determinavam a norma do Power. Por isso quando o teto do Power Test foi modificado para 180, isso foi um erro. Simplesmente foram desconsideradas as mais de 4.000 aplicações do Meta, Titan e Ultra, que serviram de base para a norma calculado por Zietsman, e foi calculada uma nova norma baseada em poucas dezenas de pessoas. O procedimento correto seria somar os novos dados (sobre os resultados de cada item respondido pelas pessoas examinadas com o Power) ao banco de itens que continha as questões do Mega, Titan e Ultra, calibrar novamente os parâmetros de dificuldade, poder discriminante e acerto casual (se aplicável) de cada item, então revisar as normas dos 4 testes de Hoefflin que compartilhavam aqueles itens. Assim os níveis de dificuldade seriam preservados igualmente em todos os testes, mantendo uma escala unificada.

Mas da maneira como foi feito, a norma do Power ficou distorcida para baixo em relação aos outros três testes de Hoefflin. Para esclarecer melhor o problema, vou citar um exemplo: no Power Test a questão sobre a fita de Moebius está sendo tratada estatisticamente como se tivesse parâmetro $b = +2.81$, ou seja, 50% das pessoas com QI 145 ($\sigma=16$) devem acertar essa questão. Entretanto, a mesma questão sobre a fita de Moebius ao ser aplicada em outro dos testes de Hoefflin está sendo tratada estatisticamente como se tivesse parâmetro $b = 3,88$ ou seja, 50% das pessoas com QI 162 ($\sigma=16$) devem acertar essa questão. Isso é uma inconsistência grave, porque ou a questão tem dificuldade 2,81 em todos os testes nos quais ela é utilizada, ou 3,88 em todos os testes. A questão não pode ter dificuldade 3,88 em alguns testes e 2,81 em outros. A normatização de Zietsman é consistente nesse aspecto, de modo que o teto do Power produz uma norma na mesma escala em que estão as normas do Mega, Titan e Ultra.

Um dos motivos que provocou essa redução no teto do Power é porque algumas pessoas já

havia levado um ou mais dos outros testes de Hoeflin nos quais os itens do Power estavam presentes, por isso a probabilidade de acertar esses itens na segunda tentativa era maior, aumentando ainda mais na terceira e quarta tentativas. Mas a maneira correta de lidar com isso seria ajustando todas as normas de todos os testes que continham aqueles itens, em função do número de vezes que aqueles itens já haviam sido resolvidos pela pessoa examinada, com normas personalizadas para cada pessoa, ou com base em quantos e quais dos três outros testes a pessoa já havia resolvido (uma equação para isso poderia ser facilmente determinada com o uso de análise de clusters, por exemplo).

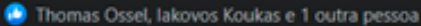
Também poderia simplesmente verificar os escores de pessoas que haviam feito mais de um teste (ou o mesmo teste mais de uma vez) e o efeito disso sobre a probabilidade de acertar cada item repetido no segundo, terceiro ou quarto teste que continha o mesmo item. Embora esse ajuste global no conjunto de itens não fosse tão acurado e refinado quanto a análise desse efeito sobre cada item individual, como sugeri acima, isso já ajudaria a aprimorar as normas em todos os 4 testes, em vez de distorcer a norma do Power em relação a todos os outros.

Enfim, há uma quantidade preocupante de erros nos hrIQts, tanto nos cálculos das normas quanto nas respostas aceitas como corretas, entre outros problemas. Por isso o Sigma Test sempre adotou uma política de transparência, sendo aberto a debates, se a pessoa tivesse algum escore acima de 180 em qualquer teste e ela acreditasse que alguma resposta dela estava certa e ela achasse que recebeu uma avaliação incorreta, ela podia contestar a correção de uma questão que ela escolhesse. Se ela tivesse razão, ela podia contestar a correção de mais uma questão, e assim por diante, até que a contestação dela fosse improcedente. O Moon Test e o Sigma Test Extended adotam uma política semelhante de transparência, mas o escore mínimo em outros testes para ter esse direito a contestação é 190 tanto no Moon Test quanto no Sigma Test Extended. Isso permite revisar eventuais erros, além de permitir que a pessoa examinada tenha a oportunidade de defender o que ela considera certo, na hipótese de ela achar que merecia mais pontos do que recebeu. Em minha opinião, todos os testes deveriam adotar uma política semelhante.

Se houvesse algum teste com características apropriadas, eu consideraria a possibilidade de fazer outro teste, embora eu esteja mais velho e mais burro. Basicamente deveria ser um teste com boa validade de constructo nos níveis mais altos, teto apropriado e dificuldade apropriada. Além disso, deveria ter um sistema formal de “reclamação” que permitisse contestar o resultado. Sem isso, não vejo razão para perder tempo com essas coisas. Um hrIQt pode facilmente consumir 50 horas e se for um teste realmente difícil, com nível adequado de dificuldade, pode consumir mais de 500 horas. É um tempo que poderia ser aplicado em atividades mais interessantes e produtivas. Por isso, a menos que o teste reúna uma série de virtudes notáveis que justifiquem o esforço, eu não teria interesse. Na verdade, há um teste que, na minha opinião, atende a esses quesitos, mas eu não posso resolver porque eu sou o autor. Isso me faz lembrar de um assunto que foi discutido há poucas semanas num grupo:


Chrisu Paulsen
 7 de março · 🌐

If an author can make an iq test with 180 ceiling this must mean the author's creative IQ is 180?


 13 comentários

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Hick Nax
 About the relationship between the IQ of author of a test and IQ ceiling of this test, it depends on several factors, but the main factor is enough to explain about 70% of the issue and the two main factors combined explain perhaps more than 95% of the question.
 Factor 1:
 There are questions like number series and figure series where the person constructing the question knows the underlying rule that was used, which makes it very easy for (him/her)self. But another person solving the same issue has to reverse engineering, which is much more difficult. In this type of question, the person creating the problem has a very large advantage, perhaps offset by 30 IQ points. On the other hand, it's possible that the toughest questions aren't tapping the best potential of the person who created the test, so maybe 20 points difference from the ceiling IQ of the test to the author IQ. But this can vary a lot, because the person can have an IQ > 200 and not include problems with difficulty above 140 in the test, although this should be rare, usually the person will try to include the hardest problems they can. In such cases, a ceiling of 180 on the test indicates an IQ close to 160 ± 10 of the author.
 But there are also issues like the Riemann hypothesis or the Brachistochrone curve solution, where the person creating the problem is subject to the same level of difficulty as the other people trying to solve it, because he cannot invent the underlying law, he has to discover out what that law is, so it is subject to the same difficulty. In these cases, the task of the person who creates the test is even more difficult than the task of the person who solves it, because in addition to solving (subject to the same level of difficulty) he/she also had to create some questions (if are original questions). In these cases, the IQ of the person who created the test may even be a little higher than the test ceiling.
 Factor 2:
 The second factor to consider is that the person creating a test thinks of N problems, but usually selects M to be included in the test. Some of the (N exclude M) problems are not chosen because they do not seem interesting enough, or the difficulty is not appropriate, or they are ambiguous, etc. But it also happens that some problems are so difficult that the author of the test doesn't find a solution, so he/she doesn't include it, but maybe if these problems would be included, other people might solve some of them. So the selection M represents a biased part of the total of N problems that the test author tried to solve, and maybe some people examined by the test could solve some of those problems that were left out of the test. Therefore, as the person who creates the questions can exclusively select the ones that he has solved, this also needs to be considered.
 I mentioned the case of the Brachistochrone curve, this is a curious story. In 1696, Johann Bernoulli spent a few months trying to solve the problem of finding the shape that a curve would need to have so that an object sliding over it, under the action of gravity, from the highest point, would take the minimum time to reach the highest point. short. Assuming that the gravitational acceleration was constant, without friction with the surface and viscosity of the air, what should this curve (equation describing the curve) be? He found a good answer, but not the best. He showed it to his brother Jakob and he solved it correctly. So Johann made a public challenge, which remained open for some time, until a friend of Newton's pointed out the problem to him, and the next day Newton had the correct answer and sent it anonymously. When Johann received the answer, more elegant and concise than his and his brother's solutions, although it was unsigned, he quickly identified the author and commented "there's no mistaking the lion's paw!"
 Other factors:
 There are other problems involved, including the possibility that solutions that are better than the "official answers" won't receive extra points, or even be considered wrong. But that goes a little way beyond the wording of the question on this post.

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Na verdade, alguns problemas que eu já resolvi são mais difíceis que os problemas mais difíceis do Sigma Test Extended. Então há algumas pistas úteis nisso.

Algumas pessoas já fizeram estimativas de meu QI e já fizeram algumas comparações. Em 2004, o fundador de Pars Society (QI>180), Baran Yonter, estimou meu QI em mais de 200 ($\sigma=16$, G), isso é equivalente a mais de 240 pIQ ($\sigma=16$, T). Achei que ele estivesse sendo gentil, mas em 2005, quando fui indicado para a produção do programa de TV “Fantástico”, da rede Globo, como a pessoa mais inteligente do Brasil, descobri que outras pessoas tinham opiniões semelhantes à de Baran sobre mim. Eu me senti lisonjeado com as indicações, mas eu não sei se realmente sou a pessoa mais inteligente do Brasil e eu disse isso ao jornalista, mas ele insistiu, e como eu havia sido o mais indicado, e também por uma questão de vaidade, acabei aceitando fazer a matéria, cujo vídeo está disponível em minha página e meu canal.

É necessário fazer uma ressalva importante em relação à correta determinação da pessoa mais inteligente do Brasil, porque há um brasileiro que ganhou uma medalha Fields (Artur Ávila) e há um brasileiro que prestou contribuições fundamentais ao desenvolvimento das lógicas paraconsistentes (Newton da Costa), ambos são pessoas muito inteligentes, mas com perfis diferentes do meu, por isso seria difícil fazer uma comparação adequada para saber com segurança quem é o mais inteligente do Brasil, porque cada um deles é profundamente especializado em uma área muito específica, enquanto meus talentos e realizações se distribuem por uma grande variedade de áreas diferentes. Como resultado da maior especialização, o nível de profundidade que eles alcançaram é maior, mas essa maior profundidade não reflete uma maior profundidade de raciocínio, e sim maior profundidade de conhecimento. Além disso, eu só estudei até o 11º ano, enquanto eles fizeram doutorado e pós-doutorados com excelentes orientadores, o que me coloca numa situação de “correr com as pernas amarradas” em comparação a pessoas que correm montadas em cavalos. As pessoas que trabalharam nos mesmos problemas nos quais eu trabalhei estavam equipadas com ferramentas matemáticas mais sofisticadas, acesso a computadores muito mais potentes, acesso a vasta bibliografia de alta qualidade, receberam treinamento formal muito mais prolongado, intensivo e sob orientação de cientistas experientes, enquanto todo o meu “treinamento” foi auto-administrado, praticamente sem recursos bibliográficos e com modestos recursos computacionais. Muitas vezes precisei criar minhas próprias ferramentas estatísticas antes de usá-las na resolução dos problemas, e depois eu descobria que já existiam ferramentas prontas para as mesmas finalidades. Durante o desenvolvimento de meu sistema para operar no Mercado Financeiro, situações como essa se repetiram muitas vezes.

Um detalhe que é importante esclarecer: eu comentei (no apêndice) que a qualidade média do ensino no Brasil é péssima, então qual seria minha desvantagem por não ter frequentado esse ambiente péssimo? E a resposta é simples: muitos dos melhores acadêmicos brasileiros vão estudar nos melhores centros de pesquisa e universidades da Europa, dos EUA, Canadá, Austrália, Japão etc. Além disso, há alguns poucos pesquisadores realmente bons no Brasil, e quando um jovem talento recebe orientação de um pesquisador de primeira magnitude, isso faz uma diferença muito grande. Portanto há uma vantagem substancial nas oportunidades de Artur e Newton da Costa se comparados com a minha situação, porque eles tiveram acesso a muito mais recursos, além das vantagens em orientação e treinamento.

Em relação às outras pessoas que trabalharam nos mesmos problemas que eu, e eu resolvi esses problemas antes delas ou melhor do que elas ou as duas coisas, quase todos são de outros países: Nick Trefethen é Chefe do Dep. de Cálculo Numérico na Universidade de Oxford e coleciona alguns prêmios internacionais de Matemática (Leslie Fox Prize 1985, FRS Prize 2005, IMA

Gold Medal 2010), Susumu Tachi é Professor Emérito na Universidade de Tóquio e Professor Convidado no MIT, Stefan Steinerberger é professor de Matemática em Yale, William Sharpe é professor na Universidade da Califórnia e Nobel de Economia em 1990, Franco Modigliani é Professor na Universidade de Roma e Nobel de Economia em 1985, Clive Granger foi professor na Universidade de Nottingham e Nobel de Economia em 2003, entre outros. Então as pessoas que trabalharam em alguns dos problemas que eu resolvi constituem uma “concorrência de peso”, além de eles terem acesso a mais recursos, mais assessores etc., portanto acho que eu ter realizado trabalhos melhores que os deles, ou ter solucionado problemas relevantes antes deles, talvez represente algum mérito para mim, eu não tenho falsa modéstia em admitir isso.

O fato é que a determinação correta da pessoa mais inteligente de um país não é algo tão simples, não é um jogo de egos e vaidades. É necessário que haja embasamento real para isso. Por exemplo, eu acho que Petri Widsten tem excelentes chances de ser a pessoa mais inteligente da Finlândia, não apenas pelo excelente resultado dele no Sigma Test, mas também porque a tese dele de doutorado, além de muito inovadora, foi premiada como a melhor tese do país no biênio 2002-2003 e ele venceu vários concursos de lógica. O conjunto desses resultados, e outros detalhes menores, como ele ser fluente em mais de 10 idiomas, sugerem um nível intelectual real com raridade acima de 1 em 5 milhões, que é a população da Finlândia. Entretanto há outras pessoas muito inteligentes na Finlândia, como Rauno Lindström ou Bengt Holmström. Embora a Finlândia seja um país culturalmente mais homogêneo, de modo que não há uma diferença de oportunidades tão grande quanto no meu caso, ainda assim a comparação ainda é difícil, por isso não seria prudente afirmar categoricamente que determinada pessoa (Petri ou Rauno ou outro) é a mais inteligente da Finlândia. O mais apropriado seria atribuir uma probabilidade a cada um. Petri teria em torno de 95% de probabilidade de ser a pessoa mais inteligente da Finlândia, Talvez Rauno 2%, Bengt 1% e alguém entre as outras pessoas 5 milhões de pessoas 2%. No caso do Brasil, minha vantagem seria bem menor que a do Petri em relação aos outros fortes candidatos.

Em 2005, o amigo Alexandre Prata Maluf, membro de Sigma V, Pars Society e OlympIQ Society, estimou que meu QI deveria ser semelhante ou pouco acima do da Marilyn Vos Savant. Creio que a intenção dele foi fazer um elogio, porque a Marilyn é um ícone nas sociedades de alto QI, mas não gostei da comparação, porque não é uma comparação justa. Os problemas do mundo real que eu já resolvi são muito mais difíceis do que os problemas que ela resolveu. Não excluo a possibilidade de que ela talvez tenha um QI similar ao meu, mas ela precisaria provar isso com resultados concretos, solucionando problemas com grau de dificuldade compatível.

Recentemente, tomei conhecimento de que em 2018, num grupo privado, meu nome havia sido indicado numa postagem com título “Name the top 5 people (alive) with the highest measured IQs in the world today! Name, IQ and Test.” Achei surpreendente eu ter sido citado, porque desde 2006 eu estava afastado das sociedades de alto QI e só retornei há poucos meses, em fevereiro de 2022, mesmo assim Rasmus Waldna, da Suécia, muito gentilmente se lembrou de mim e sugeriu meu nome, e a indicação dele recebeu mais curtidas do que receberam os nomes de Terence Tao, Chris Hirata, Rick Rosner, Marilyn e Langan. Também foram indicados os nomes dos amigos Tor e Iakovos. Compreendo que foi um tópico informal, e as reações positivas das pessoas podem ter sido influenciadas por fatores extrínsecos à capacidade intelectual, algumas pessoas podem ter curtido por simpatia, por exemplo, ou porque gostam do meu cabelo, mas mesmo assim fiquei feliz com a lembrança e o reconhecimento, e feliz também por ver alguns amigos nessa lista.

Em 2001, David Spencer me comparou a Leonardo Da Vinci e Pascal. Em 2016 o amigo João Antonio L.J. me comparou a Newton e Galileu, e a maneira como ele escreveu e no contexto em que foi dito, achei um elogio comovente e sincero. Em 2017, novamente fui comparado a Leonardo (por Aurius). Em 2020, a revista *Empiricus* publicou um artigo de Bruno Mérola sobre gerenciamento de risco, no qual o autor comparou meu Melao Index com o índice de Sharpe (Nobel de 1990), e na análise que ele fez, apresentou fatos e argumentos demonstrando que meu índice é superior ao índice de Sharpe. Na verdade, meu índice também é superior ao de Modigliani (Nobel de 1985), Sortino e todos os outros, mas no artigo ele só mencionou o índice de Sharpe por ser o mais utilizado no mundo, por ser mais tradicional e mais conhecido, e citou o meu por ser o mais eficiente. Em 2021 fui comparado a Feynman e novamente a Leonardo, numa situação interessante, em que a pessoa (Francisco) fez uma análise razoavelmente detalhada da comparação para justificar sua opinião. Em 2021, novamente fui citado como possivelmente a pessoa mais inteligente do Brasil por Luca Fujii, um dos maiores talentos precoces da Matemática brasileira, mas como ele ainda é muito jovem, não chegou a manifestar todo o seu brilho intelectual e por isso ainda não é tão famoso, mas será em breve. O Luca é uma pessoa com muitas virtudes morais, além de intelectuais, assim como o João Antonio L.J., por isso me sinto realmente honrado que essas pessoas tenham opiniões elevadas a meu respeito, e também porque sei que não dizem isso só para me agradar, mas sim baseados em critérios profundos, critérios muito bem fundamentados e bem ponderados. O João leu mais de 1000 de meus artigos, o Luca leu meus dois livros e seguramente leu centenas de meus artigos. Portanto, além de serem excepcionalmente capacitados, também tinham conhecimento sobre o que estavam falando.

Enfim, acho que os problemas do mundo real que resolvi, as pessoas que tentaram resolver os mesmos problemas e os prêmios que essas pessoas já ganharam e outros problemas que elas já resolveram, as opiniões de alguns expoentes das sociedades de alto QI a meu respeito talvez respondam um pouco sobre meu QI, certamente mais e melhor do que um teste padronizado poderia dizer.

Jacobsen: Que filosofia ética faz algum sentido, mesmo o sentido mais viável para você?

Melão Jr.: Não conheço nenhum autor que represente minhas opiniões sobre qualquer assunto de forma suficientemente acurada e completa. Sempre há detalhes nos quais ocorrem divergências. Em meu livro sobre a existência de Deus, um dos capítulos trata de Ética, no qual exponho minhas opiniões sobre isso. Há alguns artigos nos quais discuto questões relacionadas à Ética, esse é um deles: <https://www.saturnov.org/liberdadeedireitos>

Jacobsen: Que filosofia política faz algum sentido, até mesmo o sentido mais viável para você?

Melão Jr.: há um provérbio polonês que diz “No capitalismo o homem trai o homem. No socialismo ocorre o contrário”. Em teoria, quase todos os sistemas políticos tentam ser razoavelmente bons, com diferentes prioridades, mas cada um visando, a seu próprio modo, objetivos nobres e elevados, embora utópicos e superficiais em pontos básicos, por isso ao serem instaurados na prática, fica claro que as vicissitudes humanas corrompem qualquer sistema, porque os sistemas teóricos não fazem previsões adequadas sobre como lidar com humanos reais. Creio que num futuro não muito distante, se não nos destruirmos por uma guerra, a liderança política do planeta estará “nas mãos” de máquinas inteligentes, e haverá um sistema muito mais lógico e justo do que qualquer sistema existente atualmente. Estará longe de ser um sistema perfeito, mas será

muitíssimo superior a qualquer coisa que conhecemos, pois esses sistemas serão capazes de analisar interações muito mais complexas e profundas das relações humanas entre grandes grupos e como essas relações evoluem a longo prazo, aproximadamente do mesmo modo que os melhores programas de Xadrez superam por larga margem a qualidade de análise dos humanos, “enxergando” de forma muito mais correta e mais profunda e fazendo previsões mais acuradas do que qualquer humano. O problema é que existe um risco elevado de que sejamos escravizados pelas máquinas, ou algo assim, ou haja uma união simbiótica entre humanos máquinas, ou parasitária, é difícil prever, vai depender de algumas decisões que tomarmos nos próximos anos e décadas.

Jacobsen: Que metafísica faz algum sentido para você, mesmo o sentido mais viável para você?

Melão Jr.: a teoria do multiverso está no limiar entre a Física e a Metafísica. A palavra “multiverso” é uma construção inadequada, mas o significado é plausível e até mesmo provável.

Jacobsen: Que sistema filosófico abrangente de visão de mundo faz algum sentido, mesmo o sentido mais viável para você?

Melão Jr.: o que eu descrevo no livro que citei acima, no qual apresento argumentos que me parecem conclusivos sobre a existência de Deus, e abordo outros temas filosóficos e científicos.

Jacobsen: O que dá sentido à vida para você?

Melão Jr.: não acho que haja necessidade de haver algo que dê sentido à vida além dela mesma. A vida tem um sentido intrínseco. Mas posso afirmar que proteger minha mãe e proporcionar o melhor possível a ela era algo que me dava alegria. Ela faleceu em 2016. Fiquei sem me alimentar adequadamente e sem dormir adequadamente durante alguns meses. Eu já havia pesquisado sobre criogenia e sabia que essa tecnologia não oferece perspectivas realistas de trazer a pessoa de volta à vida, porque as membranas de trilhões de células são rompidas com o choque térmico, deixando o citoplasma vazar, um processo com baixa probabilidade de ser revertido. Comecei a pensar numa forma de ressuscitá-la, mas acho muito difícil que a pessoa ressuscitada pudesse ter restaurada exatamente a mesma personalidade e mesmas memórias, portanto não seria a mesma pessoa. Se as memórias e a personalidade dela tivessem sido armazenadas integralmente em um HDD ou SSD, ou algum dispositivo com propriedades similares, então talvez fosse possível restaurar a mesma pessoa, num genuíno processo de ressuscitação. A alegria de viver se foi com a morte dela. Em 2018, conheci minha namorada, Tamara, que está morando comigo desde então e posso dizer que ela tem sido minha alegria de viver, minha vida seria muito pequena e descolorida se não fosse por ela. É uma honra para a espécie humana que existam pessoas profundamente empenhadas em fazer o que é certo e justo, como ela, que elevam a dignidade humana a um patamar próximo da perfeição.

Jacobsen: O significado é derivado externamente, gerado internamente, ambos, ou algo mais?

Melão Jr.: em dedução o significado é atribuído, em última instância, arbitrariamente. A pessoa determina o que é um triângulo e aquilo será um triângulo. Em indução finita, o significado é inferido a partir da análise da amplitude de variação das propriedades observadas em entidades de mesma classe em comparação à dispersão das mesmas propriedades observadas em entidades de classes diferentes.

A evolução no conceito de “planeta”, por exemplo, ilustra bem como isso acontece. Os gregos classificavam a Lua, o Sol, Mercúrio, Vênus, Marte, Júpiter e Saturno como planetas. Nem todos

os gregos, na verdade. Aristarco, Seleuco, Ecfanto (supondo que Ecfanto tenha de fato existido) e Filolau não adotavam o mesmo critério. Com Copérnico, o Sol deixava de ser considerado um planeta, enquanto a Terra passava a ser classificada como planeta, porque o critério dos gregos era que os planetas se moviam. Quando foi descoberto Urano, em 1781, também passou a ser classificado como planeta, porque suas propriedades gerais se ajustavam melhor a essa classe de objetos, e o mesmo aconteceu quando foi descoberto Ceres, em 1801. Porém, pouco depois, foram descobertos Palas, Vesta, Juno e outros objetos com órbitas muito semelhantes às de Ceres, todos muito menores que os demais planetas e compartilhando quase mesma órbita. Em poucos anos havia mais de 10 objetos com essas características, o que levou a reconsiderar se os critérios utilizados para classificar os planetas eram apropriados. Então surgiu o conceito de “planetoide” depois modificado para “asteroide” para incluir essa classe de objetos. Na época em que Plutão (1930) foi descoberto, como ele estava muito fora da zona de asteroides e seu tamanho foi originalmente estimado como sendo semelhante ao da Terra, foi classificado como planeta. Em poucos anos se verificou que ele era muito menor do que se pensava. As primeiras estimativas de 1931 atribuíam a Plutão 13.100 km de diâmetro, depois 6084,8 km, depois 5760 km, depois 3000 km, 2700 km, 2548 km, 2300 km, 2390 km e os dados mais recentes indicam cerca de 2376,6 km. Por isso, na época em que foi descoberto, era plausível que fosse classificado como “planeta”, mas ao constatar que era muito menor e menos massivo, a situação mudou. Essa questão é analisada com mais detalhes em meu livro sobre esse tema. Quando foram descobertos outros objetos transnetunianos, já se começou a considerar que talvez Plutão ficasse mais bem classificado como um daqueles objetos, em vez de ser considerado um planeta. Os planetas telúricos (Mercúrio, Vênus, Terra e Marte) tinham superfície rochosa, densidade média aproximadamente entre 4 e 5,5 vezes a da água, diâmetro aproximadamente entre 5.000 e 13.000 km, enquanto planetas jovianos (Júpiter, Saturno, Urano, Netuno) tinham “superfície” fluida, densidade média aproximadamente entre 0,7 e 1,7 vezes a da água, diâmetro aproximadamente entre 50.000 e 140.000 km. Mas Plutão ficava muito fora desses dois grupos, sua densidade 1,9 era semelhante à dos jovianos, mas seu tamanho era menor que o dos telúricos. Não se sabia se a superfície era rochosa, mas em princípio se acreditava que sim. Quando foi descoberto Éris – cuja massa é similar à de Plutão e talvez um pouco maior –, finalmente decidiram promover um debate sobre isso e reconsiderar os critérios para classificação de planetas. Em 2006, a UAI decidiu criar uma nova classe de objetos, os “planetas anões”, e Plutão entrou para essa categoria.

Eu pulei alguns eventos importantes, como a descoberta de Galileu e Simons dos 4 grandes satélites de Júpiter, que foram inicialmente considerados “planetas”, porque não existia o conceito de “satélite” até que Kepler sugeriu isso. Algumas vezes, Galileu se referia a esses objetos como “pequenas estrelas”, já que não se sabia muito bem o que eram as estrelas, embora Giordano Bruno já tivesse um palpite promissor.

O significado de “planeta” foi e continua sendo determinado pela comparação com outros objetos que apresentem diferentes níveis de similaridade. Em casos nos quais há grande número de objetos para comparar, como a taxonomia de animais, pode-se fazer as classificações em muitos níveis hierárquicos, com diferentes níveis de similaridade, e os significados são atribuídos de acordo com as propriedades comuns a todos os elementos da mesma classe, ao mesmo tempo em que se tenta selecionar critérios que permitam distinguir de elementos de outras classes. Nas classificações de cachorros e gatos, por exemplo, não é útil considerar o fato de terem 2 olhos, rabo e focinho, porque isso não ajuda a distinguir uma espécie da outra. Tamanho médio poderia ajudar, se a dispersão nos tamanhos fosse mais estreita, mas como as diferentes raças de cachorro variam numa amplitude muito grande, esse critério também não ajudaria muito. Nesses casos,

critérios mais sutis e específicos, como morfologia do rosto, morfologia dos dentes e número de dentes acabam sendo mais úteis. O tamanho do focinho pode ajudar, mas o número de dentes tem significado semelhante, por estar relacionado ao tamanho do focinho, com a vantagem de ser mais objetivo e quantitativo.

Enfim, essas são as duas principais maneiras de determinar os significados. Uma é arbitrária, permite que se imponha quais características a entidade deve ter. A outra tenta descobrir quais características são comuns a todas as entidades de uma mesma classe e, ao mesmo tempo, são diferentes das características de entidades de classes semelhantes, de modo a possibilitar a distinção entre entidades de uma classe ou de outra. Esses significados são frequentemente incompletos, incertos e sujeitos a revisões, conforme se faz novas descobertas sobre outras entidades cujas características sejam limítrofes em determinada classe, levando a ampliar, estreitar ou reconfigurar os critérios de modo a incluir ou excluir a nova entidade em uma das classes conhecidas, ou, mais raramente, criar uma nova classe inaugurada por essa entidade.

Jacobsen: Você acredita em vida após a morte? Se sim, por que e de que forma? Se não, por que não?

Melão Jr.: o conceito de “morte” é um desligamento, que por enquanto não sabemos como religar, mas brevemente será possível de diferentes maneiras. Esse é um dos tópicos analisados mais detalhadamente em meu livro. O conceito de “alma” também precisa ser examinado com detalhes, para responder a isso, e o tamanho da resposta seria imensa.

Jacobsen: O que você acha do mistério e da transitoriedade da vida?

Melão Jr.: não acho que seja transitória. Por enquanto tem sido, mas isso deve mudar em breve.

Jacobsen: O que é amor para você?

Melão Jr.: é uma tentativa desesperada de inventar uma palavra para representar um sentimento indescritível.

Apêndice:

Sistema Educacional no Brasil e estudo de Richard Lynn sobre QIs em diferentes países.

O sistema educacional costuma ser ruim no mundo inteiro, mas no Brasil é muito pior do que a média de países com PIB similar ao nosso. Estimo que a educação brasileira seja uma das piores do mundo. O Professor Emérito da Universidade de Ulster Richard Lynn oferece uma explicação simplista para isso em seu artigo “QI e riqueza das nações”. Ele não trata da Educação. Trata da Economia, mas o argumento que ele utiliza para justificar as diferenças de renda seria igualmente (e melhor) aplicado à Educação, desde que o argumento fosse válido. Mas o argumento parte de uma premissa falsa. Há muitos erros no trabalho de Lynn. A ideia central que ele defende está certa, mas quantitativamente ele força resultados exagerados. A tese que ele defende – de que existem diferenças étnicas e regionais – está certa, mas as diferenças não são tão grandes quanto ele quer fazer parecer. De acordo com Lynn, o QI médio em Guiné Equatorial é 56. Se isso estivesse certo, seria esperado que o país fosse uma grande tribo de nômades, eles não teriam dominado a técnica de produzir fogo, não teriam construído arados, lanças etc. Mas existe uma civilização urbana lá. Além disso, pessoas com QI abaixo de 60 têm muita dificuldade para aprender a ler e escrever, mesmo vivendo em países com ampla infraestrutura e incentivo à alfabetização. Se mais de 91% da população de Guiné Equatorial sabe ler (supondo que essa informação não seja maquiada), mesmo num ambiente com menor incentivo ao aprendizado, seria

muito difícil explicar como essa população com QI médio 56 é predominantemente alfabetizada. Lynn tenta disseminar as crenças neonazistas dele e usa essas pesquisas científicas para tentar ganhar credibilidade para suas opiniões. O QI médio dos judeus Ashkenazi é cerca de 114, a média mais alta do mundo, mas Lynn conseguiu manipular os dados de sua meta-análise para que o QI médio do estado de Israel ficasse em 94.

No caso do Brasil, os resultados de Lynn indicavam QI médio 87 e em revisão mais recente indicam 83,38. Se isso estivesse certo, seria uma boa explicação para baixa qualidade da produção científica brasileira e a péssima qualidade de ensino. Mas os problemas reais que predominam no Brasil são uma combinação de preguiça dos alunos, preguiça dos professores, nivelamento por baixo nas aulas e péssima metodologia “pedagógica”.

Uma análise mais séria da situação mostra que o QI real médio do brasileiro não é tão baixo quanto os estudos de Lynn sugerem. Muitas pessoas entregam os questionários dos testes de QI sem responder, ou “chutam” todas as alternativas, ou respondem algumas e “chutam” as demais.

Em uma postagem minha no perfil de nosso amigo Iakovos Koukas, fiz um comentário razoavelmente detalhado sobre isso, o qual também reproduzi no grupo IQ Olympiad e reproduzo novamente a aqui:



Melao

10d

I'll copy here an answer I posted to a similar topic on our friend Iakovos Koukas' profile, 2 weeks ago:

Unfortunately Lynn and Co. waste a lot of effort in attempts to show racial and xenophobic supremacy. The tests used in the Lynn's meta-analysis were RSPM (all or almost all), which is supposed to be culture fair, however some civilizations have an important advantage training abstract thinking in many everyday situations, while others work almost exclusively with real-world practical problems. A question like Sigma Test item 34, for example, would perhaps be more likely to be correctly answered by an African +4sd than by a person from an industrialized country with +4sd or even +4.5sd. Our friend David Udbjorg, who spent many years living in Africa, for example, got this question almost completely right, while some people with scores 20 points higher than him did not get right.

In the late 1990's it was widely reported that the gorilla Koko had an IQ-95 and a few years later Lynn began to say that in some African countries the average population IQ is below 70 and some below 60. Obviously something is very wrong in that. I would say that there is a certain placebo effect on Koko's IQ, perhaps the person giving the test wanted to get a higher result and may have unconsciously forced this result. It should be a double-blind trial, to try to mitigate this effect. I believe that Koko's correct IQ might be somewhere between 50 and 80, while the average IQ in the poorest countries and with the most deficient diet in nutrients relevant to physical and mental development might be close to 85 to 105 (I wouldn't totally rule out the chance of being lightly above average, despite adversities and perhaps even because of adversities). I think there are small variations in average IQ across countries, just like there are between different people and just like there are variations in average height in different countries (and other variables like life expectancy etc.).

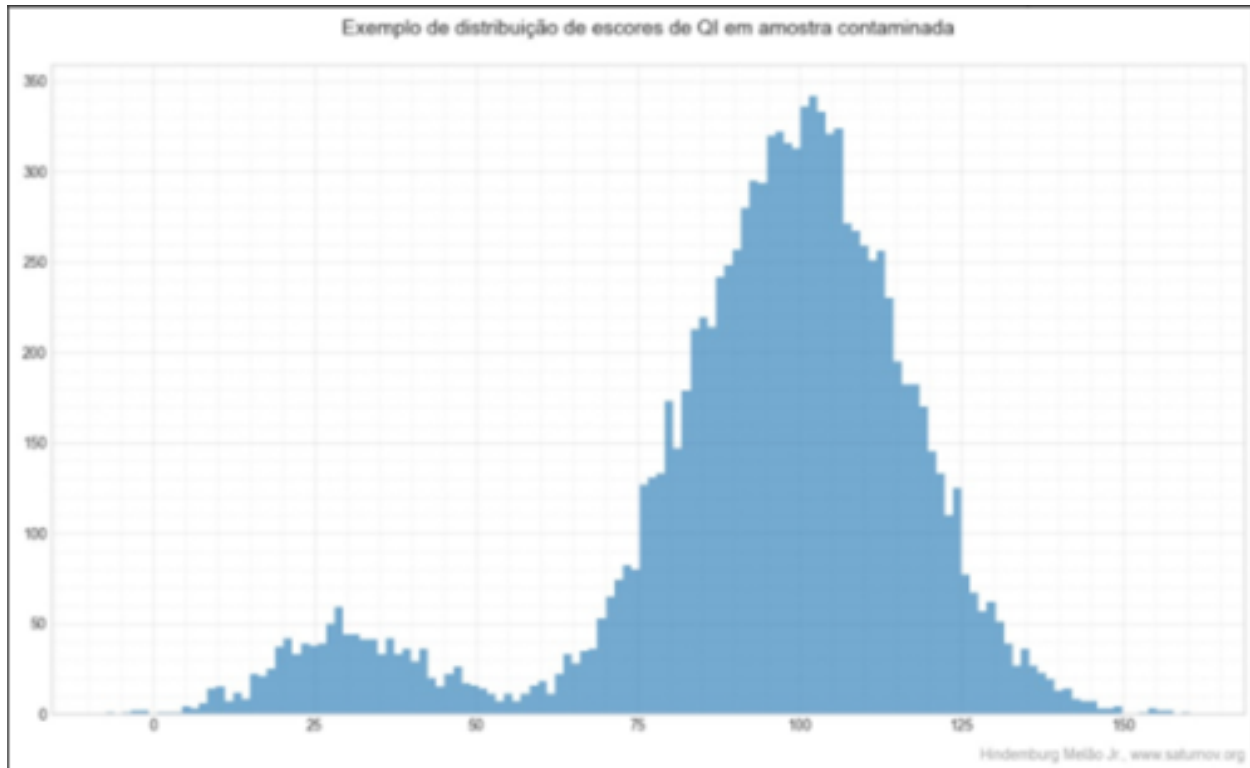
However Lynn's studies are clearly biased, he has an a priori opinion when doing his studies and this certainly influences the results he would like to obtain. In my country he found 87-88 as an average IQ a few years ago and more recently he found 83. I think the average IQ in Brazil is actually a little lower than the world average, for cultural, genetic, nutritional reasons and other factors, including random factors, but I think the difference is unlikely to be as big as 12-13 points or 17 as his recent alleged results.

In the case of Africa, people go hungry in many countries and I find it difficult that under these conditions a person seriously strives to do well on a test without an attractive incentive, especially on a multiple choice test, where a person just needs to put "x" on any square and go back to home and live her hard life. If one get nothing for a higher score, so it's obvious that the scores don't reflect the full capabilities of these people.

I would like to see the raw data he used and learn more about how the tests were applied. In Brazil, in tests applied to people with a reasonable standard of living, but who did not voluntarily choose to take the test, there are many cases of people who kick all the alternatives, pushing the measured IQ very low, without the score reflecting the real ability of those people. If Lynn did a more serious, impartial work and made an effort to filter these effects, the differences found would probably be much smaller. Also, I wouldn't be surprised if he simply tampered with data to find what he wanted, which is all too common in bad science (as Burt did) and even good science (as Mendel did).

In the image an example of a result with many people kicking all the alternatives. Obviously the "small mountain" on the left tail reflects the fraction of people who didn't even try to get a question right, and if this is not filtered out in the evaluation of the results, the average will be artificially pushed down.

Exemplo de distribuição de escores de QI em amostra contaminada



Realmente existem diferenças cognitivas em função da etnia, assim como existem em relação à altura média, tamanho médio do pênis, concentração média de melanina sob a pele etc., mas as diferenças cognitivas são muito menores do que ele tenta “vender”.

De um lado, existe o problema do igualismo ingênuo, defendido por alguns grupos pseudoideológicos, e isso não encontra nenhum respaldo nos fatos. No extremo oposto, existem os grupos de pessoas como Richard Lynn, Tatu Vanhanen e Charles Murray que tentam exacerbar as diferenças raciais e usá-las para justificar a situação de miséria de alguns povos. Tanto o grupo dos eugenistas radicais quanto o dos igualitaristas radicais estão errados, mas entre um extremo e outro existem algumas verdades.

Assim como há diferenças cognitivas marcantes entre espécies, há diferenças entre etnias, porém menos marcantes porque a amplitude de variação genética dentro de uma mesma espécie é menor. Fingir que essas diferenças não existem é um erro, porque o conhecimento correto sobre as particularidades de cada etnia ajuda a fazer diagnósticos mais acurados de diversas doenças cujos sintomas não são os mesmos em todos grupos étnicos, o tempo adequado de exposição ao Sol para a síntese de vitamina D não é o mesmo, e muitas características que seriam interpretadas como “saudáveis” em algumas etnias não são em outras, por isso o uso correto dessas informações ajuda a interpretar com mais eficácia os resultados de hemogramas, analisar anomalias ósseas, dermatológicas e musculares. Conhecer as diferenças fisiológicas, cognitivas e comportamentais de cada etnia é importante; o problema está em usar essas diferenças com o propósito de tyrannizar, oprimir ou diminuir os méritos de um povo, isso é antiético e anticientífico, e Lynn tenta fazer isso de forma ostensiva.

No caso do Brasil, parece haver uma distorção perto de 10 a 15 pontos nos números apresentados por Lynn, então o QI médio correto do brasileiro deve ser cerca de 95, um pouco abaixo da mé-

dia, mas não tanto a ponto de justificar os péssimos resultados do Brasil em Ciência. Os problemas reais parecem ser a preguiça e outros itens que mencionei acima. Há estudos recentes que questionam se o comportamento aparentemente preguiçoso deveria ser classificado exatamente como “preguiça” ou não, mas não vou entrar também nessa discussão para não tornar esse texto ainda mais longo.

Nos anos 1950 e 1960, Richard Feynman esteve algumas vezes no Brasil e fez críticas severas ao sistema educacional brasileiro, ele fez alguns experimentos sociais de improviso e mostrou que estudantes de doutorado brasileiros muitas vezes não compreendiam o básico sobre o que estavam fazendo, agiam mecanicamente, sem a menor noção sobre os fundamentos. Os brasileiros escreveram algumas palavras bonitas em relação às críticas de Feynman, dizendo que pretendiam melhorar alguma coisa, mas a situação atual é talvez até pior do que era na época em que Feynman esteve em nosso país. Além da situação vergonhosa da educação no Brasil, há ainda outros problemas nesse episódio, porque os “educadores” brasileiros demonstraram surpresa e perplexidade com os problemas apontados por Feynman, como se estivessem numa casa pegando fogo, mas não estivessem enxergando que o fogo estava devorando tudo, até que um vizinho entra e mostra o fogo a eles. Então eles agradecem, mostram-se chocados, fazem um discurso de mea-culpa, mas não fazem nada concreto em relação ao incêndio, que continua devastador... É inacreditável que não estivessem enxergando o fogo antes de o vizinho indicar a eles e é inacreditável que continuem sem tomar qualquer providência depois que o problema foi apontado.

Embora os cientistas e educadores não tenham se mobilizado para tentar resolver o problema, alguns expoentes brasileiros da Matemática, que tinham algumas experiências na Europa e nos Estados Unidos, decidiram tentar reproduzir um pequeno oásis, trazendo para o Brasil um pouco do que haviam experimentado em países desenvolvidos. Em 1952, foi fundado o IMPA (Instituto de Matemática Pura e Aplicada). Naquela época, o Brasil estava no Grupo I da IMU (International Mathematical Union), o nível mais baixo. Ao longo de 70 anos, o IMPA tem sido o único lugar no Brasil onde houve uma tentativa sincera de identificar e apoiar alguns talentos notáveis, tentando escapar da burocracia e da ineficiência do Sistema Educacional. Mas o IMPA é apenas 1 instituição situada no Rio de Janeiro. O Brasil é um país grande, com 8.500.000 km², de modo que as pessoas que moram longe do RJ muitas vezes não conseguem desfrutar o que o IMPA oferece. Por isso o alcance do IMPA ainda é pequeno. Com a popularização da Internet isso tem melhorado, mas o número de beneficiados ainda é muito limitado, inclusive porque há relativamente pouca divulgação dos eventos do IMPA, a maioria das escolas não inscreve seus alunos em OBM (Olimpíada Brasileira da Matemática), a maioria dos alunos nem sequer sabe que existe OBM. Há alguns professores espalhados pelo Brasil ligados ao IMPA, que tentam contribuir para a identificação de talentos, mas é um processo difícil, eles não recebem incentivo do governo, nem de empresas. Mesmo com esses obstáculos, entre 1952 e 2015 o IMPA elevou o Brasil do Grupo 1 para o Grupo 5 (o mais alto), do qual fazem parte apenas 11 países: Alemanha, Brasil, Canadá, China, EUA, França, Israel, Itália, Japão, Reino Unido e Rússia.

Não sei quais os critérios para ser incluído no Grupo 5 da IMU, mas suponho que seja uma combinação de mérito e política, talvez mais mérito do que política. Digo que há um pouco de política porque há países com duas medalhas Fields ou dois prêmios Abel, mas não fazem parte desse grupo, como Austrália, Bélgica, Irã e Suécia, enquanto o Brasil tem apenas 1 medalha Fields. Claro que esses prêmios não devem ser o único critério, mas são indicativos bastante razoáveis sobre a nata da matemática que se produz em cada país. Também há vários países com 1 medalha Fields e uma tradição matemática mais longa, que também não estão no Grupo 5.

Talvez o critério leve em consideração o ritmo de crescimento, e nesse quesito o Brasil talvez seja, ao lado da China e da Índia, um dos que mais tem crescido na produção de Matemática de alto nível.

O fato é que se QI médio do brasileiro fosse realmente tão baixo quanto alega Richard Lynn, e o problema principal no Brasil fosse realmente o baixo QI médio da população, então as ações do IMPA não teriam sido capazes de modificar substancialmente a qualidade e a quantidade da produção matemática de alto nível. Se o problema fosse baixo QI, a solução viria de outras ações, como melhoras nutricionais, por exemplo. As ações do IMPA não alteraram o QI médio da população; apenas alteraram a eficiência na identificação de talentos que já existiam no país, e após a identificação passou a existir oferta de oportunidade e incentivo a esses talentos.

Os números apontados por Lynn, de que o QI médio do brasileiro seria 87, mostram-se inconsistentes com os resultados alcançados pelo IMPA. Mesmo com uma população de 213 milhões, seria difícil que algumas dessas pessoas chegassem ao topo mundial com raridade perto de 1 em 300 milhões se o Brasil estivesse 1 desvio padrão abaixo da média, mesmo porque o IMPA não consegue estender seus benefícios a mais do que 1% a 5% da população mais talentosa. Claro que outras hipóteses seriam aplicáveis, como um desvio padrão maior na distribuição de QI entre a população brasileira ou uma distribuição mais platicúrtica. Mas geralmente o que se observa em grupos com altura média menor é um desvio padrão mais estreito, em vez de mais largo. Isso acontece com praticamente todas as variáveis. O desvio padrão no diâmetro de parafusos maiores é mais largo do que em parafusos menores. Em outras palavras, o desvio padrão percentual geralmente é mantido, então seria estranho uma população com QI mais baixo ter desvio padrão maior. Além disso, seria um ajuste ad hoc para tentar salvar uma teoria que apresenta outros problemas, sendo mais plausível passar a navalha de Occam e aceitar que Lynn está equivocado sobre isso. O QI médio correto do brasileiro é substancialmente maior do que ele diz, assim como os QIs da maioria dos outros povos não-arianos, que ele tenta empurrar para baixo, também são maiores do que os números que ele apresenta.

Examinando objetivamente os fatos, o que os dados sugerem é que o QI médio do brasileiro provavelmente está bem mais perto de 95 do que de 87. Um pouco abaixo da média, mas não tão abaixo quanto Lynn sugere.

Os resultados do IMPA mostram também que talvez a preguiça seja um reflexo do péssimo sistema educacional. Se a preguiça fosse um problema generalizado no país, as soluções implementadas pelo IMPA também não teriam sido suficientes para resolver isso; seriam necessárias outras medidas complementares. Talvez a preguiça seja um problema marcante que atinge mais de 99% da população, mas cerca de 1% não poderia ser rotulada como “preguiçosa”, mas sim como vítima de um sistema educacional muito ruim. Como mais de 99% da produção intelectual vem desse 1%, temos aí um gigantesco problema, e uma completa falta de atenção sobre esse problema, porque os políticos não estão muito preocupados em empreender grandes esforços para conquistar 1% de votos, já que com menos esforço eles podem conseguir mais votos fingindo agradar a um público menos exigente, mais fácil de ludibriar e muito mais numeroso.

Um dos grandes problemas é que os 99% da população também são prejudicados, mas eles próprios não enxergam isso e não cobram do governo medidas que possam contribuir para melhorias a longo prazo, medidas que sejam boas e justas para todos. Cada um quer apenas que o governo adote medidas com resultados imediatos que beneficiem seus próprios umbigos. Desse modo, o problema tende a se perpetuar, como tem acontecido há décadas.

Muitos acadêmicos brasileiros costumam reclamar de falta de verbas e atribuir a baixa produção científica a isso. Outros fazem pior, fingem que há produção científica de boa qualidade no Brasil, apesar da falta de verba. Mas o que os fatos concretos mostram é que países realmente muito pobres, nos quais a maior parte da população vive na miséria, como Etiópia, Nigéria, Congo, Quênia, Gana etc. tiveram cidadãos laureados com o Nobel, enquanto no Brasil nunca houve um ganhador do Nobel. Além disso, quando Einstein desenvolveu seus principais trabalhos, pelos quais ele merecia 3 prêmios Nobel (e mais 2 por trabalhos posteriores), ele não estava recebendo nenhuma verba para suas pesquisas, nem nos anos anteriores. Portanto, embora a falta de recursos imponha limitações severas, não pode ser considerada um impedimento absoluto e muito menos ser usada como pretexto numa situação como essa. Grandes trabalhos foram realizados praticamente sem verba, como boa parte da obra de Newton, durante em 1665.

[Aqui talvez caiba uma pequena ressalva, porque conforme comentei na parte sobre prêmios e méritos, é possível que alguns brasileiros tenham realizado trabalhos com méritos para receber um Nobel, mas não foram laureados por questões políticas, burocráticas etc. Meus trabalhos sobre Econometria e Gerenciamento de Risco, por exemplo, são mais expressivos do que a maioria dos trabalhos dos laureados com o Nobel de Economia nas últimas décadas. A descoberta do méson π , embora tenha sido predominantemente um trabalho operacional, teve um brasileiro como protagonista (César Lattes), mas como o chefe da equipe era Celil Powell, Lattes tinha apenas um B.Sc. e na época (1950) o prêmio só era concedido ao chefe da equipe, Lattes acabou não recebendo o prêmio, embora tenha sido talvez o principal responsável por esse trabalho e foi o autor principal do artigo. Depois da detecção dos mésons π nos raios cósmicos (1947), Lattes era um dos poucos no mundo com o conhecimento necessário para identificar assinaturas deixadas por essas partículas nas placas de emulsão, por isso ele foi convidado a colaborar no CERN (1948) e verificar se eles também estavam conseguindo produzir mésons π , pois a energia necessária para isso era ultrapassada com folga pelo acelerador de partículas utilizado, portanto eles provavelmente já estavam produzindo pions há muito tempo (desde 1946), mas não sabiam exatamente o que deveriam procurar nas câmaras de bolha como sendo assinaturas dos mésons π . Lattes foi ao CERN e fez as identificações. Novamente o trabalho foi distinguido com o Nobel e novamente Lattes ficou fora da premiação. Ao todo, Lattes foi indicado 7 vezes para o Nobel, mas nunca chegou a ser premiado. Oswaldo Cruz também recebeu indicação ao Nobel de Medicina, mas não foi premiado. Talvez Machado de Assis também tivesse mérito para um Nobel de Literatura. Então, embora haja 0 brasileiros laureados com Nobel, talvez alguns tenham méritos para isso. Há um texto detalhado no qual analiso o caso de Lattes, sem os habituais exageros e distorções nacionalistas da maioria dos artigos sobre ele, mas ao mesmo tempo reconhecimento os méritos que ele teve e que não foram devidamente reconhecidos.]

Por um lado, a baixa produção científica reflete a falta de verba, por outro lado a falta de verba reflete a baixa produção científica, porque se houvesse realmente produção científica e tecnológica de boa qualidade, grandes empresas nacionais e internacionais teriam interesse em financiar essas pesquisas, pois teriam lucro com isso. Se empresas privadas não investem na ciência brasileira é porque tal “investimento” não gera expectativa de lucro, porque o nível de produção fica abaixo do que poderia justificar algum interesse sério dos empresários. Eu costumo usar o termo “doação” para a ciência brasileira em vez de “Investimento”, porque o significado de “investimento” é outro. O que os pesquisadores brasileiros reivindicam é basicamente isso: doação.

É importante deixar claro que não sou contra o financiamento da ciência brasileira, seja na forma de investimento, seja na forma de doação. Se eu fosse contra isso, seria uma estupidez. Eu sou

contra a péssima gestão da verba destinada à Ciência, aliada ao péssimo sistema educacional e a completa falta de incentivo à produção intelectual. Produção intelectual não é escrever 50.000 papers inúteis para fingir que se está produzindo e continuar “mamando” nas bolsas das agências fomentadoras de “pesquisa”. Produção intelectual de verdade é se empenhar seriamente para resolver problemas reais e importantes. Por isso, em vez de ficar choramingando por falta de verba, o procedimento correto seria uma reformulação completa na palhaçada que acontece na Educação brasileira e na pesquisa “científica” brasileira, precisariam começar a produzir de verdade, com alta qualidade, como acontece no IMPA, e então apresentar fatos substanciais e argumentos consistentes para reivindicar investimentos. Sem isso, o discurso choroso para pedir doação é frágil. Certamente uma multidão de pesquisadores improdutivos me apedrejará por esse comentário, mas os poucos pesquisadores sérios concordarão comigo, embora talvez eles não tenham coragem de reconhecer publicamente a posição que defendem, para não serem linchados pelos colegas.

Talvez haja menos de 1% de pesquisadores sérios no Brasil, entre os quais tive a oportunidade de conhecer alguns, como Renato P. dos Santos, Roberto Venegeroles, André Gambaro, José Paulo Dieguez, Luis Anunciação, Antonio Piza, André Asevedo Nepomuceno, Herbert Kimura, Cristóvão Jaques, George Matsas, Doris Fontes entre outros. Mas infelizmente representam uma pequena fração, e nem sempre eles admitem abertamente a situação desastrosa em que se encontra a ciência brasileira, pois a pressão é grande para que finjam acreditar na encenação da qual a maioria dos outros faz parte. Quando a pessoa assume uma posição justa em relação a isso e diz verdades proibidas, ela começa a ser covardemente boicotada por todos os lados, por isso é compreensível que muitos prefiram permanecer em silêncio, evitando se manifestar, ou simplesmente fingir que concordam com a fantasia que tentam propagar a situação da Ciência e da Educação no Brasil. Muitos criticaram Copérnico devido ao prefácio de seu livro *Revolutionibus*, por ele não ter enfrentado de peito aberto as crenças dominantes, mas quando se analisa os problemas enfrentados por Galileu, fica claro que a defesa da verdade que contraria os interesses de determinados grupos pode ser muito oneroso. E seria ingênuo acreditar que as entidades que dominam o mundo atualmente (mídias, empresas, universidades, políticos etc.) sejam mais escrupulosos do que eram os eclesiásticos medievais. Certamente há algumas entidades mais idôneas e mais sinceramente empenhadas na defesa do que é certo e justo, mas são exceções, infelizmente. “Ironicamente” as mesmas pessoas que se mostram indignadas com a perseguição a Galileu são as pessoas que hoje praticam o mesmo tipo de abusos, injustiças e perseguições.

Essa é uma situação delicada, porque se a imensa maioria constrói uma farsa e finge que ela é real, torna-se difícil para que uma pequena minoria restabeleça a verdade. Por exemplo: Roberto de Andrade Martins é um pesquisador sério, com pós-doutorados em Cambridge e Oxford, com bons conhecimentos e boa compreensão de Física, Lógica e Epistemologia. Ele é completamente rechaçado pelos colegas e pelos que se dizem divulgadores “científicos”, porque Roberto diz verdades indesejáveis. Roberto nunca foi convidado para os grandes canais de divulgação científica do Brasil, embora ele seja de longe mais qualificado que a esmagadora maioria dos convidados para esses canais. Isso acontece porque nesses canais prefere-se as figuras mais “comerciais”, mais “carismáticas” aos olhos de quem finge se interessar por Ciência, em vez de cientistas sérios que digam verdades proibidas sobre a realidade trágica da ciência no país e da educação no país. Os youtubers que se dizem “divulgadores científicos” no Brasil precisam escolher entre a verdade e a popularidade, e quase sempre preferem a segunda opção. Desse modo, vão arrastando uma farsa que em algum momento provocará o colapso do país, assim como aconteceu com a ex-URSS em 1991, ou com o banco Lehman Brothers em 2008. Foram varrendo a

sujeira para baixo do tapete, até que chegou a um ponto em que a situação se tornou insustentável e o barraco caiu. Existem alguns poucos divulgadores científicos sérios no Brasil, mas estes geralmente atingem um público muito menor, mais esclarecido e que já enxergam o problema sem que seja necessário que alguém mostre a eles. O público que realmente precisaria ser informado permanece “blindado”, para atender aos interesses de ninguém, já que ninguém lucra com o naufrágio da nação. Certa vez Chomsky declarou que “o propósito da mídia não é o de informar o que acontece, mas sim moldar a opinião pública de acordo com a vontade do poder corporativo dominante”. Nesse caso é pior, porque não estão moldando a opinião pública de acordo com a vontade de ninguém. Estão apenas agindo estupidamente para o malefício de todos.

A hipocrisia é outro problema terrível que atinge grande número de acadêmicos brasileiros e de pseudo divulgadores da Ciência. Quando um estrangeiro vem ao Brasil e diz que a ciência brasileira é uma piada, como fez Feynman, pisa e cospe na ciência brasileira, os acadêmicos brasileiros certamente não gostam, ficam envergonhados, mas mesmo assim eles aplaudem o macho alfa, como primatas bajuladores. Porém quando outro brasileiro aponta o mesmo problema, eles rosnam e vociferam contra o herege e tentam evitar que ele fale sobre isso.

Há mais algumas complicações que não podem ser negligenciadas: a maior parte da Ciência de ponta não tem aplicação imediata e pode levar décadas ou séculos até produzir algum retorno para o investidor. O diretor do departamento de Física Matemática da USP, Ph.D. pelo MIT e Post Doctoral pelo MIT, Antonio Fernando Ribeiro de Toledo Piza, que em 1994 quis me conhecer para conversar comigo sobre um trabalho que desenvolvi aos 19 anos, sobre um método para calcular fatoriais fracionários, no meio da conversa ele citou uma ocasião na qual perguntaram a Faraday para que serviam as descobertas que ele havia feito sobre a eletricidade e o magnetismo. Faraday respondeu com outra pergunta: “para que serve uma criança que acaba de nascer?” Essa frase exprime um problema complexo no tratamento da Ciência como “investimento”, porque a expectativa de vida humana atual é curta demais para que alguns investimentos em Ciência sejam enxergados como atraentes aos investidores particulares. São investimentos que só trarão retorno daqui a 50 anos, 100 anos ou mais, para as gerações seguintes, para nossos filhos, netos, bisnetos, é uma árvore que teremos o custo e o trabalho de plantar, adubar, cultivar, proteger, mas são nossos netos que colherão os frutos. Por esse motivo, mesmo em países nos quais a ciência se mostra prolífica, pode não ser atraente aos olhos dos investidores particulares, cujo horizonte de tempo que estão dispostos a aguardar por resultados costuma ser mais curto.

Feita essa ressalva importante, é necessário enfatizar que esse discurso seria falacioso se utilizado para tentar salvar a péssima reputação da ciência brasileira. O que se produz no Brasil raramente pode sequer ser chamado “Ciência”. Faz-se tabulação de dados e relatórios descritivos sobre a tarefa. Para usar o argumento de Faraday a citei acima, em defesa do investimento na Ciência, antes seria necessário que o Brasil começasse a produzir Ciência de verdade.

Ciência de verdade envolve inovação, quebra de paradigma, aprimoramento real, análise crítica, profunda, que ultrapassa o óbvio e agrega algum conhecimento novo e útil ao legado da humanidade. No Brasil raramente se faz isso. Na verdade, no mundo raramente se faz isso, mas o nível de escassez de inovações é pior no Brasil do que em outros países com situação econômica similar ou com IDH similar.

Quando digo “quebra de paradigma” não precisa ser algo tão grandioso quanto um novo sistema cosmológico ou a uma teoria de unificação. Pode ser algo básico, como adicionar um pouco de boro às placas de emulsão fotográfica para preservar os registros dos mésons π até descer das

montanhas, como fez César Lattes, ou resolver um problema de criptografia homomórfica que estava em aberto há 15 anos, como fez João Antonio L. J., ou desenvolver um novo sistema educacional que permite ensinar em 40 dias o conteúdo de 1 ano a uma criança que tinha notas abaixo da média e depois desses 40 dias a criança passa a ter as melhores notas da escola, como fez Tamara P. C. Rodrigues, ou revisar a fórmula de IMC, como eu fiz. São contribuições pequenas, mas que revelam fatos científicos ainda desconhecidos, ou corrigem conhecimentos que vinham sendo repetidos incorretamente há muito tempo, ou de algum modo contribuem para ampliar os horizontes do conhecimento ou para redirecionar o conhecimento para um caminho mais próximo da verdade. Não é uma completa desconstrução e reconstrução do conhecimento, como fez Newton, mas é um tijolo adicionado ao lugar certo, ou removido do lugar errado e reposicionado no lugar certo. Isso é o mínimo que seria esperado de um cientista, mas na grande maioria das vezes esse mínimo não é atendido, e os títulos de Ph.D. são distribuídos quase como um ritual, em que basta o candidato mostrar que sabe escrever e sabe interpretar um pouco do que esteja em alguns gráficos – com várias interpretações erradas, diga-se de passagem. Dependendo da disciplina, basta mostrar que sabe escrever, nem precisa saber ler um gráfico. Depois de cumprir o ritual, a pessoa recebe o rótulo de Ph.D. e começa a receber verba para prosseguir com essa palhaçada, fingindo que está produzindo Ciência.

A franca maioria das teses de doutorado e dos artigos científicos não apresenta nada de inovador. São títulos conferidos para inflar os egos e atender à vaidade das pessoas, mas não estão associados a nenhum mérito intelectual nem à produção científica original. A pessoa faz uma pesquisa elementar, puramente mecânica, para corroborar alguns resultados sobre os quais já existem centenas de outros estudos similares, e recebe um Ph.D. por isso, e o Estado paga a essas pessoas para fingir que estão produzindo algo relevante e chamam a isso “ciência brasileira”, mas o nome correto, na melhor das hipóteses, seria “tabulação de dados” e “relatórios descritivos”. Digo “na melhor das hipóteses” porque geralmente há vários erros crassos nesses procedimentos, o que torna a situação ainda mais vexatória.

O problema central é que não existe uma cultura de produzir inovações. Apenas repete-se interminavelmente. Não há incentivo à inovação, não há cobrança de inovações, não há recompensa para inovações e, o pior, há inclusive penalidades para inovações. Em 1998, uma amiga (Patrícia E. C.), que estava concluindo seu doutorado na USP, verificou que alguns dados experimentais sobre a morfologia de galáxia anãs era inconsistente com as expectativas. Em vez de seu orientador ajudá-la a tentar compreender o que poderia estar causando aquilo, ele disse a ela para refazer as medições, porque ela deveria ter errado nas medidas ou nos cálculos. Até esse ponto, concordo com ele, porque esses erros costumam ser os mais comuns. Ela refez e obteve resultados estatisticamente equivalentes aos das primeiras medições. Nesse ponto o alerta amarelo se torna vermelho e o orientador dela deveria ter dado mais atenção ao caso. Entretanto, ele disse para ela refazer outra vez! Isso é um completo absurdo. É anticientífico. É destruir “provas” que poderiam contribuir para ampliar, revisar, aprimorar o que se conhecia até então. Esse é o nível a que se encontra a seita chamada de “ciência brasileira”. Se alguma descoberta se opõe aos dogmas estabelecidos, precisa ser ajustada de alguma maneira até que fique em conformidade com os dogmas. Além de não haver incentivos às descobertas, quando há algum indício de que se pode estar diante de algo novo, tenta-se apagar os vestígios da possível descoberta! As pessoas são adestradas para não produzir, não inovar, não descobrir!

Parte do problema da Educação no país não é culpa dos professores, alunos e pesquisadores. Eles apenas dançam conforme a música. Mas uma grande parte do problema é culpa deles, porque

eles determinam a música que deve tocar. Além disso, eles podem se recusar a dançar conforme a música, podem colocar fones de ouvido com músicas melhores e podem criar seu próprio centro de excelência, como no caso do IMPA.

A resistência da comunidade acadêmica em admitir esses fatos agrava a situação, porque em vez de tentar consertar os problemas, fingem que os problemas não existem, varrem a sujeira para baixo do tapete e seguem em frente, como se estivesse tudo bem. Recentemente o presidente do Brasil fez um corte brutal nas verbas destinadas à “ciência”. É uma situação delicada, porque o problema da improdutividade científica não se resolve assim. O corte de verba apenas agrava a situação. É ruim destinar verba a um setor que não gera resultados satisfatórios, mas sendo um setor fundamental, o procedimento correto é restaurar esse setor e assegurar que ele funcione como deveria, em vez de matá-lo, tirando-lhe o pão e a água. Precisaria trocar pão e água por uma dieta mais rica, aumentar o investimento em Ciência e simultaneamente reformular os critérios de concessão de bolsas, concessão de verbas, desburocratizar a importação de livros e de produtos científicos e tecnológicos, promover intercâmbios com pesquisadores capacitados, criar prêmios por mérito real relacionado à excelência na produção original de trabalhos relevantes, em vez dos prêmios políticos de fachada, entre muitas outras mudanças desde a educação de base até os títulos de professores eméritos.

Nos anos 1970, a China, a Índia e a Tailândia eram países muito mais pobres e menos desenvolvidos que o Brasil, mas fizeram investimentos massivos na identificação de crianças talentosas e ofereceram condições diferenciadas de incentivo a essas crianças. A Tailândia interrompeu o projeto. China e Índia mantiveram. Em menos de duas décadas, começaram a colher os frutos disso, depois de uma geração, essas crianças se tornaram professores altamente capacitados, que proporcionaram à geração seguinte uma educação ainda mais primorosa, e hoje a China caminha para se tornar a maior potência econômica, cultural, científica e tecnológica do mundo, e a Índia segue de perto. Houve uma reformulação séria e profunda no sistema de ensino para que pudessem chegar onde estão agora. Em vez de fingir que estavam fazendo Ciência, admitiram a improdutividade e a baixa qualidade do que produziam, e começaram a consertar o que estava errado. Um dos grandes problemas no Brasil é exatamente essa incapacidade de admitir os erros.

Footnotes

[1] Founder, Sigma Society; Creator, Sigma Test Extended.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 8, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/melao-1>; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: <https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/>.

*High range testing (HRT) should be taken with honest skepticism grounded in the limited empirical development of the field at present, even in spite of honest and sincere efforts. If a higher general intelligence score, then the greater the variability in, and margin of error in, the general intelligence scores because of the greater rarity in the population.

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