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Short-form biographical sketch with name and section of the journal.

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Long-form biographical sketch with name, title, associations, biography, and photograph as provided.

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(Updated January 9, 2021)

Scott Douglas Jacobsen

Founder, In-Sight Publishing

Scott Douglas Jacobsen is the Founder of **In-Sight Publishing** and Editor-in-Chief of ***In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal*** (ISSN 2369-6885). Jacobsen works for science and human rights, especially women's and children's rights. He considers the modern scientific and technological world the foundation for the provision of the basics of human life throughout the world and the advancement of human rights as the universal movement among peoples everywhere.

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Dr. Aubrey de Grey

Chief Science Officer & Co-Founder, SENS Research Foundation; Editor-In-Chief, Rejuvenation Research

Dr. Aubrey de Grey is a biomedical gerontologist based in California, United States, and is the Chief Science Officer of **SENS Research Foundation**, a California-based 501(c) (3) charity dedicated to combating the aging process. He is also Editor-in-Chief of ***Rejuvenation Research***, the world's highest-impact peer-reviewed journal focused on intervention in aging.

He received his BA and Ph.D. from the **University of Cambridge** in 1985 and 2000 respectively. His research interests encompass the characterization of all the accumulating and eventually pathogenic molecular and cellular side-effects of metabolism ("damage") that constitute mammalian aging and the design of interventions to repair and/or obviate that damage. Dr. de Grey is a Fellow of both the **Gerontological Society of America** and the **American Aging Association**, and sits on the editorial and scientific advisory boards of numerous journals and organisations.

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Professor Azra Raza, M.D.

***Columbia University*, Medicine, Professor; *Myelodysplastic Syndrome Center*, Director**

Dr. Azra Raza is Professor of Medicine and Director of the MDS Center at Columbia University in New York, NY. She started her research in Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) in 1982 and moved to Rush University, Chicago, Illinois in 1992, where she was the Charles Arthur Weaver Professor in Oncology and Director, Division of Myeloid Diseases.

The MDS program, along with a Tissue Repository containing more than 60,000 samples from MDS and acute leukemia patients was successfully relocated to Columbia University in 2010. Before moving to New York, Dr. Raza was the Chief of Hematology Oncology and the Gladys Smith Martin Professor of Oncology at the University of Massachusetts.

She has published the results of her laboratory research and clinical trials in prestigious, peer reviewed journals such as The New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, Molecular Cell, Blood, PNAS, Cancer, Cancer Research, British Journal of Hematology, Leukemia, Leukemia Research. She is also the co-author of *GHALIB: Epistemologies of Elegance,* a book on the works of the famous *Urdu* poet. Dr. Raza has mentored hundreds of medical students, residents, oncology fellows, doctoral and post-doctoral students in the last three decades.

She serves on numerous National and International panels as a reviewer, consultant and advisor and is the recipient of a number of awards including The First Lifetime Achievement Award from APPNA, Award in Academic Excellence twice (2007 and 2010) from Dogana, and Woman of the Year Award from Safeer e Pakistan, CA and The Hope Award in Cancer Research 2012 (shared with the Nobel Laureate Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn).

Dr. Raza has been named as one of the *100 Women Who Matter* by Newsweek Pakistan in March 2012. In 2015, Dr. Raza was a member of the Founder Group at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, designing *Breakthrough*

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Developments in Science and Technology with President Bill Clinton. On December 1, 2015, Dr. Raza was part of a core group of cancer researchers who met with Vice President Joe Biden to discuss the Cancer Moonshot initiative.

Dr. Daniel Bernstein

Tier 2 Canada Research Chair, Lifespan Cognition; Principle Investigator, Lifespan Cognition Lab; Instructor, Psychology,Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Inaugural Member, Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

Dr. Daniel M. Bernstein works as the **Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Lifespan Cognition** for the Psychology department of **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**. He is the principal investigator for the **Lifespan Cognition Lab**. Dr. Bernstein earned his Bachelor of Arts at the **University of California, Berkeley**, Master's at **Brock University**, PhD at **Simon Fraser University**, and did Post-Doctoral work at the **University of Washington**. His research interests lie in "belief and memory; developmental metacognition; hindsight bias; mild head injury; sleep and dreams."

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Ismail Hamaamin Hamalaw

Novelist & Writer; Editor; Indigenous Middle East (Kurdish); Editor-in-Chief, Culture Project

Ismail Hamaamin Hamalaw is a distinguished Kurdish writer, novelist, and poet born in 1967 in South Kurdistan. He has a B.A. in Psychology and Education Science. He is a cofounder of Culture Project and editor-in-chief of its publication called *Culture Magazine*, a Kurdish magazine published in print and online.

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- My Hat is Full of Rain and Flowers – Poems – 1998
- The Fall of the Wolf – Novel – 2001
- A Glimpse from The Myth of Clay– Novella – 2004
- Beyond the Border, folding through moon forests – Novel- 2011
- The Lost Acrobat – Essays – 2012
- Sloterdijk From Close – Essays – 2015
- The Mould of Fascism – 2019
-

Dr. Herb Silverman

Founding President, Secular Coalition for America; Founder, Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry; Founder and (First) Faculty Advisor, (College of Charleston) Student Atheist/Humanist Alliance; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Mathematics, College of Charleston.

Dr. Herb Silverman is founding president of the Secular Coalition for America, founder of the Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry in Charleston, SC, and founder and first faculty advisor to the College of Charleston student Atheist/Humanist Alliance. Herb is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the College of Charleston. He has published over 100 research papers in mathematics journals, a couple of books on Complex Variables, and is the recipient of the Distinguished Research Award.

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Herb ran for Governor in 1990 to challenge the provision in the South Carolina State Constitution that prohibited atheists from holding public office. After an eight-year battle, Herb won a unanimous decision in the South Carolina Supreme Court, striking down this religious test requirement.

Herb has written for the for the Washington Post, Huffington Post, The Humanist, Free Inquiry, Humanistic Judaism, and other magazines and blogs. Herb is a recipient of the American Humanist Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Herb has appeared in debates on topics like: Can We Be Moral Without God? Does God Exist? Is America a Christian Nation? He has also debated at the Oxford Union in Oxford, England on the topic: Does American Religion Undermine American Values?

Herb is the author of *Candidate Without a Prayer*: *An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible Belt* (2012) and *An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land*: *Selected Writing from the Bible Belt* (2017). He co-authored *The Fundamental of Extremism: The Christian Right in America* (2003), *Short Reflections on Secularism* (2019), and *Short Reflections on American Secularism's History and Philosophy* (2020).

Dr. Kathy Bullock

Past Chair, Islamic Society of North America-Canada (ISNA-Canada); Lecturer, Political Science, University of Toronto at Mississauga; Past President, Tesselate Institute; President, Compass Books

Dr. Katherine Bullock is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto Mississauga. Her teaching focus is political Islam from a global perspective, and her research focuses on Muslims in Canada, their history, contemporary lived experiences, political and civic engagement, debates on the veil, and media representations of Islam and Muslims. She was the editor of the American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences from 2003-2008, the Vice-President of The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (North America) from 2006-2009. Her publications include Muslim Women Activists in North America: Speaking for Ourselves and Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil: Challenging Historical and Modern Stereotypes, which has been translated into Arabic, French and Turkish. She is also President of The Tessellate Institute, a non-profit research institute, and of Compass Books, dedicated to publishing top-quality books about Islam and Muslims in English. Originally from Australia, she lives in Oakville with her husband and children. She embraced Islam in 1994.

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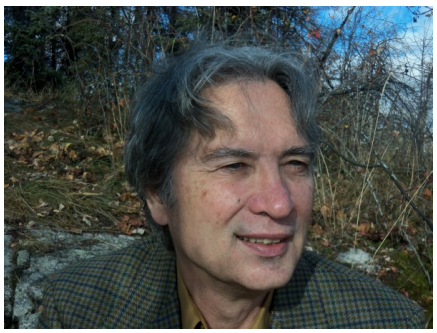
J.J. Middleway

Member, Order of Bards Ovates and Druids (OBOD); Member, Mankind Project – (MKP UK)

JJ Middleway is a Druid member of OBOD, where he served for seventeen years as tutor/mentor. He is a Celebrant, delivering ceremonies to mark Birth , Marriage and Death (Naming, Handfasting ans Parting), across the full spectrum of society. His ritual and ceremonial work encompasses marking the eight seasonal festivals of the 'Wheel of the Year' and is focussed on a deep reverence for the Earth along with a laugh and a smile.

He developed and leads regular sessions of Enchanting the Void; a Western form of devotional chanting, geared toward the honouring and healing of the Land. He is an 'Elder' of several communities across UK and Europe, as well as leading singing groups and teaching extensively. His earlier claims to fame, were being born and brought up in a neighbouring street to Ozzy Osbourne, of playing maracas with The Incredible String Band and of sleeping through two thirds of Jimi Hendrix's last ever live concert.



Dr. Lloyd Hawkeye Robertson

Lead Psychologist, Collaborative Centre for Justice and Safety, University of Regina; Founder, Hawkeye Associates; Vice-President, Humanist Canada

Dr. Lloyd Hawkeye Robertson is a **Registered Doctoral Psychologist** with expertise in Counselling Psychology, Educational Psychology, and Human Resource Development. He earned qualifications in Social Work too. Duly note, he has five postsecondary degrees, which is a lot, of which 3 are undergraduate level. His research interests include memes as applied to self-knowledge, the evolution of

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religion and spirituality, the aboriginal self's structure, residential school syndrome, prior learning recognition and assessment, and the treatment of attention deficit disorder and suicide ideation.

He is interested in the study of the self and cross-cultural worldviews in which selves are imbedded with a focus on Adlerian psychotherapy, humanism, cognitive-behaviouralism, and neo-Freudianism in an eclectic approach. His competences exist in counselling psychology, educational psychology (including ability assessments), and human resource development. Dr. Robertson's social work degree included specializations in lifeskills coaching and community development.

He has written on residential school syndrome, the structure of the aboriginal self, the application of memes to self-understanding, the evolution of spirituality and religion, prior learning assessment and recognition, the treatment of suicide ideation and attention deficit disorder, and works on anxiety and trauma, addictions, and psycho-educational assessment, and relationship, family, and group counselling.

His most recent book is ***The Evolved Self: Mapping an Understanding of Who We Are*** (2020).

Marissa Torres Langseth, B.S.N., R.N., M.S.N., ANP-BC (retired)

Founder** and Emeritus Chairperson, **Humanist Alliance Philippines, International**; Creator, **HAPI-SHADE (Secular Humanist Advocacy Development Education)

Marissa Langseth is the Founder and Emeritus Chairperson to and is an avid philanthropist to HAPI (**Humanist Alliance Philippines, International**), the Creator of HAPI-SHADE (Secular Humanist Advocacy Development Education), a pioneer in SEC-registered and non-religious societies in the Philippines, a trailblazer in promoting education and community outreach in selected areas to promote humanism and critical thinking in the Philippines, was responsible for the very first atheist convention in South East Asia in 2012 (PATAS convention in Bayview, Manila, Philippines) and HAPI international affiliations with IHEU and FBBN, and the Creator of HAPI humanist curriculum.

Langseth graduated *Cum Laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of San Carlos in Cebu, Philippines, graduated from Lehman College (CUNY) in Bronx NY with a Masters in Adult Health Nursing where she wrote a thesis about Domestic Violence, graduated with a GPA 4.0 at College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, NY and has a Post-Master's Certificate for Adult Nurse Practitioner while also having prescriptive privileges and Board Certification.

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In previous posts, she was an Adult Nurse Practitioner for UNH(United Health Group)/Evercare (1999-2015), an Adjunct Professor at Queensboro Community College (2005-2006), a Certified Emergency Room Nurse at Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, NY (1993-1999), a Nursing Care Coordinator/ Supervisor (1990-1993), a Registered Nurse in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1985-1989), a Territorial Manager for Carlo Erba (1980-1985).

Her **personal blog** since 2009 has been against the tyranny of the Philippine government and fraudulent banking practices, which has evolved into a page to vent frustrations around non-religious activism. She as Admin for Atheist Against Pseudoscientific Nonsense since 2016, a Member of the American Humanist Association since 2011, and a Member of IHEU since 2015.

She is featured in the books ***Godless Grace: How Nonbelievers Make the World Safer***, ***Personal Paths to Humanism***, ***From Superstition to Reason***, ***An Interview with Marissa Torres Langseth, B.S/N., M.S.N.***, and ***No Outside Intelligence***.

Rod Taylor

National Leader, CHP Canada

Rod Taylor is the **National Leader** of CHP Canada, the **Christian Heritage Party of Canada**. He was born in 1951 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the 1960s, his family was involved in the US Civil Rights movement among other social justice issues so he was exposed to political activism at a young age. After graduating from high school in California, he moved with his parents and siblings to Vancouver, BC in 1968. He became a Canadian citizen in 1976.

Rod met his wife, Elaine in Fauquier, BC. They were married in 1974 and celebrated 45 years of marriage this past summer. They have two married children and four grandchildren. Rod has worked with his hands most of his adult life in Alberta and BC, maintaining track and roadbed for the CNR and working on farms and in the oil and gas fields and later, in the lumber industry. From 1987 until 2009, Rod was involved in lumber grading and lumber quality control in Smithers, BC, while Elaine operated a local Christian bookstore. In 2000, Rod won the BC Interior Lumber Grading Championship and spent the next

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9 years teaching lumber grading and serving as QC Supervisor at Kyahwood Forest Products in Moricetown, BC, a joint venture between Canfor and the Wetsuweten First Nation.

Rod has served as a first aid attendant, a union shop steward, a secretary and chairman of workplace safety committees, a department supervisor, a director of the Bulkley Valley District Hospital Society, Chairman of the Bulkley Valley Christian Literature Society and a director, for over 25 years, of the **Smithers Prolife Society**.

Rod has been active in both provincial and federal politics, advancing the causes of Life, Family and Freedom. In 2001, he ran as a provincial candidate for the BC Unity Party and in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2019, he represented the CHP in the federal riding of Skeena-Bulkley Valley, one of Canada's largest electoral districts. In 2013 and 2017, Rod ran provincially as a candidate for CHP-BC, the **Christian Heritage Party of British Columbia**.

Rod and Elaine have been members of CHP Canada since before its founding convention, with Elaine serving on the first riding association board for Skeena. Rod served as the CHP Deputy Leader from November, 2008 until January, 2014 and in November of 2014, became National Leader. From 2009 until the present, Rod has worked full-time for the Christian Heritage Party, first as the Western Development Director and later as the National Development Director and since 2014 as CHP Leader.

Rod also participated in the creation of CHP-BC—the first provincial wing of the Christian Heritage Party—which involved the reconfiguring of an existing party, the BC Heritage Party. Rod has served as the CHP-BC Leader and for a time as President of the federal BC Council of the CHP.

Rod is committed to the restoration of justice, the defence of personal freedoms, especially freedom of speech and religion and the protection of innocent human life. He believes in the traditional family and believes that Canada's moral values and national prosperity are rooted in our Christian heritage. He reminds citizens that our Charter of Rights and Freedoms begins with these words: "…Canada is founded on principles that recognise the supremacy of God and the rule of law…" He is concerned that our freedoms are under attack and that government control and sponsorship of media will ultimately result in censorship of important ideas and perspectives.

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2369-6885

Dr. Sally Satel, M.D.

Lecturer, Medicine, Yale University; W.H. Brady Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Dr. Sally Satel is a resident scholar at AEI and the staff psychiatrist at a local methadone clinic in D.C. Dr. Satel was an assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale University from 1988 to 1993 and remains a lecturer at Yale. From 1993 to 1994 she was a Robert Wood Johnson policy fellow with the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

She has written widely in academic journals on topics in psychiatry and medicine, and has published articles on cultural aspects of medicine and science in numerous magazines and journals. She has testified before Congress on veterans' issues, mental health policy, drug courts, and health disparities.

Dr. Satel is author of *Drug Treatment: The Case for Coercion* (AEI Press, 1999), and *PC, M.D.: How Political Correctness Is Corrupting Medicine* (Basic Books, 2001). She is coauthor of *One Nation under Therapy* (St. Martin's Press, 2005), co-author of *The Health Disparity Myth* (AEI Press, 2006), and editor of *When Altruism Isn't Enough: The Case for Compensating Kidney Donors* (AEI Press, 2009).

Her recent book, co-authored with Emory psychologist Scott Lilienfeld is *Brainwashed: The Seductive Appeal of Mindless Neuroscience* (Basic, 2013). *Brainwashed* was a finalist for the 2013 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in Science.

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Stacey Piercey

Founder & CEO, Stuff2Digital INC.; Co-Chair, Status of Women Sub-Committee of Human Rights; Member, Standing Committee, Advocacy with the Canadian Federation of University Women; Section Chair, National Women's Liberal Commission, Newfoundland and Labrador; Member, Provincial Executive Board, Liberal Party of Canada

Stacey Piercey is a highly accomplished senior executive, business owner entrepreneur and, public policy and administration advisor. With 25 years of extensive career success in business, economics, finance, government, media and, technology. She is an asset for companies looking for insight in business problem solving, regulatory compliance and, executive advice. Her areas of expertise include communication, development, and strategy for gender, inclusion and diversity policies at all levels of government in Canada.

In her executive career, Stacey is currently in three leadership positions. As the CEO and founder of Stuff2Digital INC. she is responsible for this successful start-up management consulting corporation. She is a leader in change management best practices and emphasizes an effective program based on her experiences as a female business executive. She is currently the Co-Chair, Status of Women Sub-Committee of Human Rights and, on the Standing Committee on Advocacy with the Canadian Federation of University Women. She is Section Chair, National Women's Liberal Commission representing Newfoundland and Labrador and, a member of the Provincial Executive Board with the Liberal Party of Canada.

Stacey is the former BC Liberal Party MLA Candidate for Victoria-Swan Lake in the 2017 British Columbia provincial election. She obtained a B.A. in Economics and Business Administration from the Memorial University; and a Diploma in Accounting, Business, and Computer Applications from Eastern College.

Hobbies include listening to the radio, writing short stories and, French cuisine.

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Professor Sven van de Wetering

Head/Professor, Psychology, University of the Fraser Valley

Dr. Sven van de Wetering works as an Instructor for the Psychology Department of **University of the Fraser Valley**. Dr. van de Wetering earned his BSc in Biology at **The University of British Columbia**, and Bachelors of Arts, Master of Arts, and PhD in Psychology from **Simon Fraser University**. His research interest lies in "conservation psychology, lay conceptions of evil, relationships between personality variables and political attitudes."

Prof. Imam Syed B. Soharwardy

Founder, Islamic Supreme Council of Canada; Founder, Muslims Against Terrorism

Prof. Imam Syed B. Soharwardy is the first Muslim Canadian who walked across Canada, more than 6,500 km, leading the Multifaith Walk Against Violence. (April 14 to October 27, 2008).

Imam Syed Soharwardy was born in a highly respected religious family in Karachi, Pakistan. His father, Allama Syed Muhammad Riazuddin Soharwardy (May Allah shower His blessings upon him) was a

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famous Islamic scholar and the Imam of Jamia Bughdadi Masjid, Martin Road, Karachi where he established Dar-ul-Aloom Soharwardia. Imam Soharwardy's grandfather, Allama Syed Muhammad Jalaluddin Chishty (May Allah shower His blessings upon him) was the Grand Mufti of Kashmir (Baramula). Allama JalaluddinChishty later migrated to Amritser (India) where he served as the head of Dar-ul-Aloom Nizamiah Sirajiah and the Imam of a Mosque.

Imam Syed Soharwardy is one of the direct descendents of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Through Imam Ja'far us-Sadiq (May Allah's peace upon him), Imam Soharwardy's lineage reaches Sayyidatunnisa (leader of all women) Hazrat Fatimah Binte Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (Peace be upon him), the wife of Ameer ul Mo'mineen SayyidnaImam Ali (May Allah's peace upon him). His ancestors migrated from Syria to Iran where they settled in Zarrin OR Zarrindasht area in Asfahan province.

During 1200s A.H. famous sufi scholar Hazrat Syed Bahauddin Ziryani (May Allah be pleased with him) was born in this family. Later, Hazrat Syed Bahauddin Ziryani migrated to Kashmir (India) and settled, where in his fifth generation, Allama Mufti Syed Muhammad Jalaluddin Chishty (May Allah be pleased with him) was born.

Imam Soharwardy received his early Islamic education from his father, teacher and Murshad (spiritual guide) in the traditional Islamic Madrasah at Bughdadi Masjid, Martin Road, Karachi, Pakistan. Later, he graduated from Dar-ul-AloomSoharwardia, Karachi. Mr. Soharwardy also earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Islamic Studies from University of Karachi.

Beside his Islamic education, Mr. Soharwardy earned Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) from N.E.D. University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi, Master of Science in Management Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology,Newark, NJ, USA and Master of Engineering in Project Management from University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada.

Imam Syed Soharwardy was appointed as a teacher at Dar-ul-Aloom Soharwardia where he taught various subjects of Islamic studies. Later, he also served as the assistant Imam and Khateeb at Jamia Bughdadi Masjid, Martin Road (1971- 1979). Imam Soharwardy has lectured in Pakistan, USA and Saudi Arabia at various universities and institutes for over 12 years.

Prof. Soharwardy is the founder of Muslims Against Terrorism (MAT). He founded MAT in Calgary in January 1998. He is also the founder of Islamic Supreme Council of Canada (ISCC). He has authored several papers on various topics such as, challenges for Muslims in the western world, conflicts within the Muslim community, Intra and Inter religion conflicts, terrorism, political Islam, etc. Mr. Soharwardy has addressed hundreds of gatherings in Pakistan, USA, UK and Canada on various topics of Islamic faith.

Prof. Soharwardy is the Executive Imam at the Al Madinah Calgary Islamic Assembly, Jamia Masjid Noor-e-Madinah, Montreal, Jamia Riyadhul Jannah, Mississauga, Jamia Riyadhul Jannah, Edmonton and Jamia Masjid Aulia Allah, Surrey, B.C. He lectures in Montreal, Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Calgary and Vancouver on monthly basis. Imam Soharwardy is the spiritual leader of Jama'at Ahle Sunnat Canada and the World Sufi Mission Canada. He is also the founder of Multifaith Club of Calgary.

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Imam Soharwardy has the “Ijazah” in Soharwardy, Qadri and Chishty sufi orders from his Murshad (spiritual guide), Allama Syed Muhammad Riazuddin Soharwardy, Qadri, Chishty (May Allah’s blessings upon him). He is the Khalifah of his Murshad. His students and Murideen (disciples) have spread out all over the world.

Imam Soharwardy is a strong advocate of Islamic Tasawuf (Sufism) and believes that the world will be a better place for everyone, if we follow what Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (Peace be upon him) has said, ” You will not have faith unless you like for others what you like for yourself.” He believes that the spiritual weakness in human causes all kinds of problems. Mr. Soharwardy can be contacted at **Soharwardy@shaw.ca** OR Phone (403)-831-6330 OR 416-994-5467.

Terry Waslow, M.B.A.

Executive Director** (Former Board Chair), **Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations**; President, **Old York Road Genealogical Society**; Board Member, **International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism

Terry Waslow is the Executive Director of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations. Previously, she served four years as the Board Chair. She currently serves on the Board of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism and is President of the the Board of the Old York Road Genealogical Society.

Terry’s Master’s in Business Administration is focused on Nonprofits and her undergraduate degree is in Human Services/Counseling. She has worked for over 25 years with individuals and families impacted by physical, intellectual and/or economic challenges to build fully inclusive communities.

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Tim Moen

President, Libertarian Party of Canada

Tim Moen grew up on a farm in Northern Alberta. He learned the values of freedom, hard work, responsibility, and respect for property and community. He worked as a community business owner, filmmaker, firefighter, paramedic, volunteer, and writer. In 2013, he worked with Neil Young. When Young critiqued the community and oil sands industry, Moen wrote a highly critical article stating hypocrisy in the position of Young. This gained a lot of media attention.

Moen conducted a highly visible by-election in 2014. It caught the attention of *CNN*, *Fox News*, *Gawker*, *Reason Magazine*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, and other outlets. His experience lies in leading high-performance teams. He a graduate degree in leadership with a thesis on ways in which high-performance teams can employ principles of libertarianism. Circa May, 2014, Moen took the reins of the Libertarian Party of Canada with a large growth in engagement, funding, and membership.

Moen has spent his career protecting life and property from mindless destructive forces. He wants to focus attention as the President of the Libertarian Party of Canada on the forces of government deemed destructive by the Libertarian Party of Canada and him. He views the government as an unquenchable entity with a thirst for money and power with the citizenry as the individuals most harmed by it.

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About

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In-Sight Publishing

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Publications: People/Organizations

- African Freethinker
- Critical Science Newswire
- Freethought Newswire
- In-Sight: Interviews (ISSN: 2369–6885)
- Indigenous Middle East
- Question Time
- World Religions Journal

Publications: Overview

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- Critical Science Newswire
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Publications: Feeds

- African Freethinker
- Apostasia (Archival)
- Critical Science Newswire
- Freethought Newswire
- Ghana's 5% (Archival)
- In-Sight: Interviews (2369–6885)
- Indigenous Middle East

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- Question Time (Archival)

In-Sight Publishing Overview

In-Sight Publishing began in Winter 2014. It publishes ebooks, for free and charge, and operates in independent and public interests rather than for private gains, and is committed to publishing, in innovative ways, ways of cultural, community, educational, moral, personal, and social value that seem often deemed insufficiently profitable. It operates inside and outside of the bounds of non-profit/not-for-profit. In-Sight: Interviews began in Winter 2012. It publishes interviews, articles, and issues. It operates inside the bounds of non-profit/not-for-profit. It equates to the first international independent interview-based journal. All informal statuses; all proceeds from purchases towards In-Sight Publishing and In-Sight: Interviews in their stated objectives to advance cultural, community, educational, moral, personal, and social value.

Open, General Acknowledgement and Appreciation

In-Sight Publishing and In-Sight: Interviews exist because of three identifiable sectors of support: academics, contributors, and readers. Therefore, all time and effort does have identifiable people, groups, and organizations. Each earned acknowledgement and appreciation for single or continuous, individual or group, contribution in the construction of In-Sight: Interviews. Many of them without mention of name contributed time and effort to the production of the journal. Some with provision of interviewee recommendations, connection to the interviewee, assistance in social media, social networks, and academic circles, photography or portraits, time for considered and comprehensive responses to questions, and assertive, constructive, and positive feedback too. Finally, and greatest, readers give the most support. For every person, group, and organization involved in this project, we express deepest gratitude to all types of direct or indirect assistance from every side for contributions to this initiative. Your effort, interest, and time support independent publishing purposed for the encouragement of academic freedom, creativity, diverse voices, and independent thought.

Design and Development

- Phase 1, August 1, 2012: foundation with “Independent Interview-Based Undergraduate Journal” status.
- Phase 2, January 1, 2013: production capacity increased with “Tri-Annual” status.
- Phase 3, January 1, 2014: stricture removal, both implied and actual, based on “Undergraduate” status through cessation of “Independent Interview-Based Undergraduate Journal” status and instantiation of “Independent Interview-Based Journal” status.
- Phase 4, January 1, 2014: increased presence through incorporation of social media.
- Phase 5, September 1, 2014: creation of In-Sight Publishing, and inclusion of reference styles in American Psychological Association (APA, 6th Edition, 2010) and Modern Language Association (MLA, 7th Edition, 2009).
- Phase 6, January 1, 2015: inclusion of footnotes and bibliographic references in full PDF issues, and Chicago/Turabian (16th Edition) and Harvard reference styles, and creation of the ebooks section for the first stages of construction of In-Sight Publishing.
- Phase 7, January 1, 2015: incorporation of American Psychological Association (APA, 6th Edition, 2010), Chicago/Turabian (16th Edition), Harvard, and Modern Language Association (MLA, 7th Edition, 2009) reference styles in website interview publications.

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- Phase 8, April 1, 2015: creation of “Academic” and “Casual” sections for ebook publications. “Academic” includes footnotes, bibliographic references, and reference styles. “Casual” does not include footnotes, bibliographic references, and reference styles.
- Phase 9, May 1, 2015: inclusion of footnotes and bibliographic references in website interview publications.
- Phase 10, July 1, 2015: incorporation of common reference styles such as American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychological Association (APA, 6th Edition, 2010), Brazilian National Standards (ABNT), Chicago/Turabian Author-Date (16th Edition), Chicago/Turabian (16th Edition), Harvard, Harvard (Australian), Modern Language Association (MLA, 7th Edition, 2009), and Vancouver/ICMJE reference styles in website interview publications in addition to one complete list of 27 reference styles (manual insertion without access dates)
- Phase 11, August 22, 2015: article website layout refinement: article title, biography, abstract, keywords, common reference style listing, article title, bibliography/references/reference list, footnotes, appendix I: complete reference style listing—if any, other appendices including tables, figures, and images, and license and copyright. Updates to Copyright, General Philosophy, In-Sight Publishing: Overview, Journal Overview: Section B, and License.
- Phase 12, September 1, 2015: previous Letter of Appreciation appreciations moved to Acknowledgements and Appreciation. Major appreciations remain in Letter of Appreciation. In addition, the refinement of interview layout on the website: interview title, interviewee image/photograph/portrait/sketch, abstract, keywords, common reference style listing, interview title, bibliography/references/reference listing, footnotes, appendix 1: complete reference style listing, and license and copyright; refinement to interviews in full issues: interview title, interviewee image/photograph/portrait/sketch, contents, abstract, keywords, common reference style listing, interview title, bibliography/references/reference listing, appendix 1: complete reference style listing—if any, other appendices including tables, figures, and images, and license and copyright. Footnotes for each page remain in their respective page. An update to ebook inside cover with respect to mandate and copyright. All informal statuses.
- Phase 13, September 22, 2015: revision to format of the online publications, introduction of appendices for photographs, transformation of bibliography/references/reference list into bibliography, removal of common reference style listing, and introduction of citation style listing in place of complete reference style listing.
- Phase 14, November 1, 2015: Amazon purchase transition with total proceeds to co-authors and In-Sight Publishing and In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal; EBSCO contract signed by Scott Douglas Jacobsen and EBSCO to proliferate In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal for formal institution distribution from the P.D.F. issues.
- Phase 15, January 1, 2016: EBSCO co-sign completion with over 150 entries at the time; officiation of the In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal with continued information status of In-Sight Publishing.
- Phase 16, February 1, 2016: In-Sight Publishing “academic” books have consistent “casual” counterparts; “academic” will be free on the website to encourage independent thought with footnotes and bibliographic references for personal research, and casual will be for charge with half of interview funds given to the interviewee (and the other half to In-Sight Publishing efforts towards cultural, community, educational,

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moral, personal, and social value); some e-books will not include the delineation between "academic" and "casual."

- Phase 17, May 1, 2016: Update and refine contents for Amazon Kindle products for In-Sight Publishing.
- Phase 18, September 18, 2016: attain and maintain 18 member Advisory Board with 1 Editor-in-Chief for the individual interview publications, free and low-cost e-books, and full journal issues.
- Phase 19, November 1, 2016: develop and implement early stages of novel venue for solo and collaborative article publications and interview publications in both academic and casual formats outside of the journal through In-Sight Publishing as hyperlinks compatible with P.D.F., Kindle, and iBooks.
- Phase 19, November 1, 2016: develop and implement early stages of novel venue for solo and collaborative article publications and interview publications in both academic and casual formats outside of the journal through In-Sight Publishing as hyperlinks compatible with P.D.F., Kindle, and iBooks.
- Phase 20, November 1, 2017: expand the range and variety of front cover options of ebooks for more aesthetic appeal.
- Phase 21, February 1, 2018: experiment with individual, unique book cover designs.
- Phase 22, March 1, 2018: continuation with the previous phase, as this worked.
- Phase 23, April 15, 2018: updates to the In-Sight Publishing In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal archives at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Interdisciplinary Center for the Scientific Study of Ethics and Morality (Ethics Center) Vaughen Archives (Bettye Vaughen): https://www.ethicscenter.uci.edu/vaughen.php.
- Phase 24, June 7, 2018: beginnings of more journals with Ghana's 5% and In Context.
- Phase 25, June 8, 2018: beginnings of Apostasia.
- Phase 26, June 11, 2018: beginnings of Indigenous Middle East.
- Phase 27, June 12, 2018: construction of team for Ghana's 5%.
- Phase 28, June 24, 2018: construction of team for Indigenous Middle East.
- Phase 29, June 18, 2018: beginnings of Canadian Islamic Theology Journal.
- Phase 30, September 8, 2018: start publications of Indigenous Middle East and In Context.
- Phase 31, September 13, 2018: construction of team for Canadian Islamic Theology Journal.
- Phase 32, October 21, 2018: beginnings of African Freethinker.
- Phase 33, November 1, 2018: start publications of African Freethinker and Ghana's 5%.
- Phase 34, November 3, 2018: construction of national editorial teams for African Freethinker.
- Phase 35, December 1, 2018: add years sections in Ebooks tab.
- Phase 36, January 1, 2019: increase of the available chronologies on the website.
- Phase 37, June 1, 2019: experiment with more published ebook material with 2 ebooks published at this time.

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- Phase 38, July 1, 2019: collect and compiled disparate written professional productions of insufficient size in a single publication to complete an individual ebook for publication as an ongoing series entitled “Book of Stuff,” as, humorously, a book with stuff in it.
- Phase 39, August 1, 2019: alteration of copyright interior of ebooks and further work to expand co-authors.
- Phase 40, January 2, 2020: an experimental bilingual ebook with prominent ex-Muslim and Founder of the Council of Ex-Muslims of France, Waleed Al-Husseini, entitled Crépuscule des idoles: Conversations avec un Franco-palestinien sur le sécularisme.
- Phase 41, February 1, 2020: increased collaborative efforts with others for co-authored books.
- Phase 42, February 1, 2020: ongoing collecting and publishing of extant materials in various publications with small collections insufficient for an entire book alone collated and published as the Book of Stuff series.
- Phase 43, February 1, 2020: ongoing refinement and advancement in the sophistication of the ebooks.
- Phase 44, February 1, 2020: ongoing connections between ebooks on In-Sight Publishing main site for free and Amazon Kindle ebooks for low-cost with connection back to the original In-Sight Publishing website.
- Phase 44, April 12, 2020: updates to the Advisory Boards and Update to progress on publications, including African Freethinker, Apostasia, Ghana’s 5%, In Context, In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal, Indigenous Middle East, Question Time, and World Religions Theology Journal.
- Phase 45, May 1, 2020: incorporation of Publication Chronology for each publication with publications.
- Phase 46, May 1, 2020: inclusion of more article submissions of a variety of authors, including more experimental large-scale discussion groups published together.
- Phase 47, May 8, 2020: experiment with the removal of the number of the questions to simplify some of the interview questions and response presentation.
- Phase 48, September 1, 2020: introduction of new series and changing of some of the formatting of the interviews and the articles.
- Phase 49, January 1, 2021: experiment with a dual-series single issue, “Issue 24.A, Idea: Outliers & Outsiders (Part Twenty) & Issue 25.A, Idea: Land of Fire and Ice: Islandia, Snelandia, and Insula Gardari (1).”
- Phase 50, January 1, 2021: creation of section “D” for In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal as a separate section of the formal issues devoted to group discussions, i.e., 3 or more participants with the “3 or more” inclusive of the moderator.
- Phase 51, January 1, 2021: introduction of yearly renewal invitations to Advisory Board to maintain up-to-date consent of use of name and profile for In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal.
- Phase 52, January 1, 2021: updates to various sections of the website copy in content and in the formulation of the structure of the publications and the websites.
- Phase 53, January 1, 2021: improved sophistication and organization of the journal issue contents and form.

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- Phase 54, February 12, 2022: creation of the Jacobsen Bank as a repository of every article, interview, published or republished, in part or in whole, by the Founder of In-Sight Publishing.
- Phase 55, September 1, 2022: new codification structure for journals.
- Phase 56, January 1, 2023: introduction of more diverse content inclusive of educational content and submissions from outside ongoing.
- Phase 57, January 26, 2023: elimination of two (2) defunct experimental journals Ghana's 5% and In Context. Completion of most of the Jacobsen Bank, extant as a living repository of written works by the Founder.
- Phase 58, April 8, 2024: Attain permission from select individuals and organizations for republication permissions while maintaining or honouring current ones: James Haught (Editor Emeritus of Charleston Gazette, deceased July 23, 2023 aged 91), Dr. Lloyd Hawkeye Robertson (Founder) for New Enlightenment Project, Ian Bushfield, M.Sc. for British Columbia Humanist Association, Dan Barker (and Annie Laurie Gaylor) for Freedom From Religion Foundation, and by Michel Virard for Association humaniste du Québec.
- Phase 59, May 5, 2024: Foundation of Freethought Newswire.
- Phase 60, May 17, 2024: Additional permission from Dr. Herb Silverman for Secular Coalition for America, Nicole Carr of The Humanist for the American Humanist Association, and Doug Thomas for Secular Connexion Séculière, following in the footsteps of Phase 58.
- Phase 61, May 24, 2024: Foundation of Critical Science Newswire with another partnership with National Center for Science Education, dissolution of Apostasia.
- Phase 62, May 28, 2024: Additional permission from Leonard Presberg of Association of Secular Elected Officials, Inc., following Phase 58 and Phase 60.
- Phase 63, May 29, 2024: Additional permission from Kevin Bolling of Secular Student Alliance, following Phase 58, 60, and 62.
- Phase 64, June 1, 2024: Additional permission of Andrew Copson from Humanists UK, following Phase 58, 60, 62, and 63.
- Phase 65, June 15, 2024: Additional permission from Ex-Muslims of North America, following Phases 58, 60, 62-64.
- Phase 66, June 22, 2024: Additional permission from Humanists International following Phases 58, 60, 62-65.
- Phase 67, August 2, 2024: Additional permission from Military Religious Freedom Foundation following Phases Phases 58, 60, and 62-66.
- Phase 68, December 24, 2024: Integration with governmental services for an established In-Sight Publishing ISBN (978-1-0692343) with the restructuring of file formats from PDFs to ePubs for distribution through Apple Books for low cost, incorporation of author page in books, reframing and structuring of book license and copyright and relevant book information inside books, and transference of

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select 1st edition books as second editions into new format and distribution cycles alongside new project 1st editions books in new format.

- Phase 69, January 2, 2025: Name change of In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal to In-Sight: Interviews, frequency alteration of In-Sight Interviews from three times per year to four times per year with issue publications happening January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1, and reformatting of interview design and publications for In-Sight: Interviews based on more standardized academic format and presentation.
- Phase 70, May 3, 2025: Update to License and Copyright to more comprehensive stipulations. These terms govern all In Sight Publishing content—past, present, and future—and supersede any prior notices.
- Phase 71, August 15, 2025: Completion of integration, updates, and transfer of Amazon operations for books to Apple Books following ISBN acquirement for In-Sight Publishing as a publishing house as a whole (ISBN: 978-1-0692343), with the Books section incorporating several second edition books showcasing this transition.

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In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal

(Updated May 3, 2025)

In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal

In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal exists as the first international independent interview-based journal. Submissions remain international and interdisciplinary for interviews, articles, and others. Individual publications throughout the year: January 1 to May 1; May 1 to September 1; September 1 to January 1, and so on. Each publication on the 1, 8, 15, and 22 of the month. Tri-annual full issue publications on “Spring,” “Summer,” and “Winter”: January 1, May 1, and September 1, respectively.

General Philosophy

Where imperatives, utility, and virtues interrelate, and where accuracy/authenticity implicates honesty, credibility implicates integrity, fairness/balance implicates justice, and news judgment implicates prudence, honesty, integrity, justice, and prudence converge on the ethical utility in the moral imperative of truth. Truth necessitates honesty, integrity, justice, and prudence. Academic freedom permits the possibility of truth; academic freedom necessitates destitution of dogma or obfuscation. An ability to question anything, pursue implications, and express these implications in spite of harboured biases and fear of backlash. All without alteration or omission to discover knowledge. In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal aims to attain academic freedom through its core interview format.

Advisory Board

Advisory board remains an associative, international, and voluntary collective of individuals invited to join the journal based on accomplishments, credentials, or unique attributes. A minimal commitment to provide feedback on In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal and
recommend potential interviewees. Interview views do not equate to positions of Advisory Board members at individual or collective levels.

Format, Overview

In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal formatted by subjects or ideas per issue. Each issue divides into interviews (A), submissions (B), responses (C), group discussions (D), and educational series (E).

Sections A, B, C, D, and E

- Issue titles imply format, e.g. “Issue 1, Subject: Psychology,” “Issue 2, Idea: Epistemology,” and so on. Interview, submission, response, and group discussion, sections segmented by issue content. Interviews specified by “A”; submissions specified by “B”; responses specified by “C”; group discussions specified by “D”; educational series specified by “E,” e.g. “Issue 1.A, Subject: Psychology,” “Issue 2.B, Idea: Arts,” “Issue 2.C, Idea: Denmark’s Mythology,” “Issue 3.D, Idea: Islamic Scripture in Context,” “Issue 4.E, Topic: Secular History,” and so on.

Subject Issues

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- Interview sections contain only experts from one discipline with emphasis on a subject, e.g. “Psychology,” and so on. Submission sections contain only experts from one discipline with emphasis on a subject, e.g. “Psychology,” and so on. Contribution exceptions permitted with sufficient reason sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

Idea Issues

- Interview sections contain many experts from many disciplines with emphasis on an idea, e.g. Women in Academia, Outliers and Outsiders, and so on. Submission sections contain many experts from many disciplines with emphasis on an idea, e.g. Women in Academia, Outliers and Outsiders, and so on. Contribution exceptions permitted with sufficient reason sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

Frequency

- Individual publications throughout the year: January 1 to May 1; May 1 to September 1; September 1 to January 1, and so on. Each publication on the 1, 8, 15, and 22 of the month. Tri-annual full issues publications on “Spring,” “Summer,” and “Winter”: January 1, May 1, and September 1, respectively. Frequency dependent upon material quantity and completion dates. Multiple delayed completions will accelerate the publication rate until issue fulfillment.

Interview Guidelines (A)

An overview of the interview process for this section.

Research

- Preliminary research required for interview solicitation. If interview consent obtained from interviewee, a typical, but not absolute, minimum of one day to four weeks for comprehensive research. This includes purchasing, acquiring, and processing articles, audio-visual material, books, interviews, social media material, and their respective synthesis to produce questions. Some thematic series of interviews may incorporate more standardized or generic first question sets based on consistency in the individual backgrounds and narratives to justify it. Each more standardized or generic first question set can vary with further feedback about it.

Consent

- Interviewees either provide written or verbal consent based on an interview request. Written or verbal consent relate to the interviewee having the power to deny/accept the interview, and for final decision of publication as a single interview on the website or in the full issue publication with all other issue-interviews in PDF and on the website. It remains casual in consent. See Copyright for information on ownership of publications.

Conducting

- Interview form depends on interviewee preference: email with text in email, email via Microsoft Word or Open Office file, in person, phone call, question set, Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, have been utilized in the past. Most prefer question sets in email via Microsoft Word or Open

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Office. Most questions mix standardized and specialized formats. Standardized for consistency of journal format. Specialized for relevant-to-interview questions. All questions have design to elicit in-depth and full responses from interviewees.

Editing Stage One

- Editing consists of the interviewee's original interview with minimal editing to keep the intended meaning and message of the interviewees intact, even where certain answers may contain controversial or 'politically incorrect' statements, opinions, or information.

Editing Stage Two

- Interviewer sends draft back to the interviewee to confirm the originally intended meaning and message seem sustained to the satisfaction of the interviewee. If the interviewee requires any further alterations, omissions, or edits, the interviewer repeats the cycle of edit to confirmation of accuracy of message and meaning to re-edit until the interviewee evaluates the final version of the interview as sufficiently accurate to their intended meaning and message. Any major editing consists of corrections to grammatical and/or spelling errors. This editing aims to optimize the correspondence between the interview and the interviewees intended message and meaning to the satisfaction of the interviewee.

Submission Guidelines (B)

Material

- Contributor status access restricted to undergraduate students, graduate students, instructors, professors, and experts. Each submission considered on appropriateness of grammar and style, comprehensiveness, coherence, and originality of content.

Scope

- Depending on the issue, the accepted submissions consists of articles, book reviews, commentaries, poetry, prose, and art.

Submission

- It must not have publication or pending publication elsewhere. For exceptions, sufficient reason should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief along with the material. For written scholarly material, it must be in 12-point font, Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, 6-point after spacing, and with APA or MLA formatting. Length of material ranges from 500 to 7,500 words. Material should be sent to the following:
    - Scott.Douglas.Jacobsen@Gmail.com

Response Guidelines (C)

Responses to interviews (B) or essays (B) must have the following format:

Material

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- Preferable for respondents to have experience or expertise in area relevant to interview or essay content.

Scope

- Response material should relate to current or prior issue on specific points in one essay or article.

Submission

- Responses must have the following format: APA format, Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, 6-point after spacing, citation of interviewee and each 'Question-and-Answer' section of response (maximum of 5), and reference list of relevant articles, books, prior interviews, watching of video material, reading of social media material in APA. Length of material should range from 500-1,000 words, exceptions will have consideration with appropriate reasons provided to the Editor-in-Chief. Material should be sent to the following:
  - Scott.Douglas.Jacobsen@Gmail.com

Group Discussion Guidelines (D)

Individuals gathered together based on a theme to discuss particular ranges of issues or the specific theme. Mostly accomplished through email group discussions with a minimum of 3 people with the "3 people" inclusive of the moderator or interviewer. Individuals can recommend group discussion topics or will be invited. In either case, the separate section becomes a new advancement to fractionate the content of In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal into more distinct units.

Educational Series Guidelines (E)

A specified topic proposed and mutually agreed to pursue for an extended duration with a relevant subject matter expert. These develop in a manner of increasing complexity over time from introductory, intermediate, to advanced content, or in terms of a historical developmental timeline of the topic.

Research Ethics

In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal does not answer a research question. Interviews hold control over final published responses for as accurate a representation as possible of an interviewee as possible. Hence, zero mandatory ethics board consent necessitated by its operation. Monetary detachment removes constraint by an institution or individual for published content, despite academic positions or alma maters for the Editor-in-Chief and Advisory Board. Please see Internal and External Funding for monetary information.

Internal and External Funding

Scott Douglas Jacobsen provides complete internal funding In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal. All internal funding includes purchasing of articles, books, chapters, prior interviews, video material, and advertising and marketing efforts of In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal. In the case of external monetary funding, only monetary funding not restricting academic freedom for In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal will have consideration. At this time, In-Sight: Independent

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Interview-Based Journal operates with internal funding from Scott Douglas Jacobsen. A small web renewal donation from Rick Rosner before.

Attachments

Attachments means constraints or restraints through functioning out of institutions or groups. For instance, an institution or group would consist of a university, an agency, a think-tank, and/or an interest group of some form. In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal functions autonomous from any institution or group. This provides total freedom of content for consistency with principles of operation for academic freedom.

Advertising Policy

All advertising for the journal exists as open-access for any individual. See “Open Access” for more information.

Open Access

In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal exists as open access for online contents, where any content In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal becomes accessible for reading or downloading to any interested individual/group.

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Introduction by the Publisher

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Partners and Friends,

I have the honour to transmit *Outsiders and Outliers* (Issue 25) together with the journal (Issue 31). These publications advance rigorous, public-interest inquiry across disciplines and borders.

In-Sight Publishing is an independent imprint. It operates autonomously, without institutional attachment, to safeguard academic freedom, uphold editorial independence, and ensure open access. *In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal* is the flagship. It is registered as an online serial (ISSN 2369-6885), international in scope and interdisciplinary in method. All online content is free to read and download and licensed under Creative Commons BY-NC-ND 4.0.

I extend sincere appreciation to those whose dedication helped bring this issue to fruition: Adelle Stewart, Aubrey de Grey, Azra Raza, Benoit Desjardins, Betty Asseiro, Bob Williams, Brandon Feick, Chris Cole, Cindy Waslewsky, Claus Volko, Clelia Albano, Craft Xia, Dana Cooke, Daniel Bernstein, Entemake Aman, Erik Haereid, Erynn Ballard, Fengzhi Wu, Herb Silverman, Hindemburg Melão Jr., Ismail Hamaamin Hamalaw, J.J. Middleway, James Webb Telescope (scientific discussion), Julia Jane Stanley, Justin Duplantis, Kailin Howard, Kate Jones, Kathy Asseiro, Kathy Bullock, Leann (Pitman) Manuel, Lloyd Hawkeye Robertson, Luis Ortiz, Marissa Torres Langseth, Masaaki Yamauchi, Matthew Scillitani, Olav Hoel Dørum, Rachael Dent-Flynn, Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, Richard May, Rick Rosner, Rod Taylor, Sally Satel, Sandy Bell, Scott Durgin, Stacey Piercey, Sven van de Wetering, Syed B. Soharwardy, Terry Waslow, Tianxi Yu, Tim Moen, Tomáš Perna, Tor Arne Jørgensen, Veronica Palladino, Victor Hingsberg, and Wes Schild.

I further acknowledge, with gratitude, the Advisory Board members who served through 1 September 2022—and former members whose service continues to guide our work. Current members are Dr. Daniel Bernstein, Dr. Kathy Bullock, Dr. Aubrey de Grey, Ismail Hamaamin Hamalaw, Marissa Torres Langseth, B.S.N., R.N., M.S.N., ANP-BC (retired), J.J. Middleway, Tim Moen, Stacey Piercey, Professor Azra Raza, M.D., Dr. Lloyd Hawkeye Robertson, Dr. Sally Satel, M.D., Dr. Herb Silverman, Prof. Imam Syed B. Soharwardy, Rod Taylor, Professor Sven van de Wetering, Terry Waslow, M.B.A. The Advisory Board is an associative, international, volunteer body; interview views do not represent the Board's positions.

I also recognize, with respect and appreciation, the interviewees who have contributed their insights to the public record, embodying the diversity of voices that animate our mission. I express special thanks to the librarians and staff of Athabasca University, Fort Langley Library, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Simon Fraser University, Surrey Public Library, Thompson Rivers University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of California, Irvine.

Thank you for your attention.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen
Founder & Publisher, In-Sight Publishing
Editor-in-Chief, *In-Sight: Independent Interview-Based Journal* (ISSN 2369-6885)

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Issue 31, Idea: Outliers & Outsiders (25)

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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

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Abstract

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 creater 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.

Keywords: bullying, genius, Gibbs, intelligence, Leonardo Da Vinci, Maxwell, Newton, Sidis, Tor Arne Jørgensen.

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

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

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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 despitefulness 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?

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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.”

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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.

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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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*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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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

Interviewer: Scott Douglas Jacobsen

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Abstract

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.

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Keywords: academic, Atheism, Benoit Desjardins, Canadian Medical Research Council, Christopher Michael Langan, cybersecurity, hacker, intelligence, I.Q., Leonardo Da Vinci, Mega Foundation, Mega Society, metaphysics, physician, post-positivism, Terence Tao.

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

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

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 ad. 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

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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.

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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-

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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.

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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-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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The Greenhorn Chronicles 4: Dr. Julia Jane Stanley on Physics, Show Jumping, and Grand Prix Dreams (1)

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Abstract

Dr. Julia Jane Stanley is a show jumper equestrian training under Laura Balisky. She earned a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Calgary. She discusses: the first inklings of an interest in horses; the individuals who encouraged this interest in horses; the focus in horses; highest level of attainment in performance; Medical Physics; doctoral research; Physics; the current pursuits with horses now; plans with horses; physics; other animals; the trainers or mentors in Southlands; trail rides; Laura Balisky; pony club; riding; pursue science or medicine; and Grand Prixs.

Keywords: Canada, equestrianism, equine, Eventing, Grand Prix, Julia Jane Stanley, Laura Balisky, Maynard's Pony Meadows, Physics, pony club, Show Jumping, Southlands, Sweet Briar College, University of Calgary.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 4: Dr. Julia Jane Stanley on Physics, Show Jumping, and Grand Prix Dreams (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When it comes to equestrians and equestrianism, one trend, certainly, of note, though preliminary in the research: A lesser educational attainment in the pursuit of a dream of becoming the next great Canadian equestrian, or the maintenance of a desired life(style) in the equine. I have zero survey or organization membership data to confirm this observation, but, in conversation, I have noted this – so preliminary, qualitative, and limited sample size. The series will be, and is in the process of, expanding outside of the remit of British Columbia and Canadian equestrianism. When talking to equestrians, and to you, I was informed of something. Your Ph.D. is from the University of Calgary in Physics. You have the highest education of any equestrian known to me so far. We will talk about this. However, as with every

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story, there is a "once upon a time…" Once upon a time, you didn't have a Ph.D. You simply had an interest in horses. When were the first inklings of an interest in horses?

Dr. Julia Jane Stanley[1],[2]: I have always loved horses and all animals and I started riding in Southlands, Vancouver when I was five years old.

Jacobsen: Who were the individuals who encouraged this interest in horses?

Stanley: I had to beg for riding lessons when I was younger. My aunt took me on a trail ride when I was little and after my parents finally let me take riding lessons.

Jacobsen: What has been the focus in horses, e.g., show jumping, dressage, etc.?

Stanley: I originally started in eventing and pony club. When I was about 11, I had a very hot thoroughbred off the track who wasn't suitable for the dressage phase of eventing but who would jump 1.40m and I switched to show jumping and have been focused on show jumping ever since.

Jacobsen: What has been the highest level of attainment in performance in equestrianism at the professional level for you?

Stanley: I currently ride as an amateur but the highest level I have shown at is the World Cup Qualifiers.

Jacobsen: How did you work with horses and then pursue an education inMedical Physics? Where was the undergraduate and graduate school (pre-doctoral level, unless simply jumping from B.Sc. to Ph.D. candidate)?

Stanley: I did my BSc in physics at Sweet Briar College in Virginia.

Riding was an integral part of life at Sweet Briar. My horse lived on campus with me and riding was a course scheduled into my day. I absolutely loved my time at Sweet Briar.

I did my MSc in Medical Physics at Duke University in North Carolina and my barn was an hour and a half drive from the university which was tricky. Luckily, there was another rider at my barn who let me stay with her when I didn't have to drive back for classes.

Jacobsen: What was the doctoral research question? What were the mainresearch findings in Physics from the doctoral thesis?

Stanley: Quantification of Uncertainty in Stereotactic Radiosurgery.

I found that the highest amount of uncertainty was introduced into the process during the contouring stage.

Jacobsen: While working in Medical Physics, why decide to come back toequestrianism? Is it the lifestyle, the horses, the riding, some admixture, etc.?

Stanley: I rode the entire time I was in school. I was hacking at least 12 horses a day towards the end of my PhD. I can't imagine not riding. I love both the horses and competing.

Jacobsen: What are the current pursuits with horses now, e.g., leisure, competition, and so on?

Stanley: I compete in hunter/jumper shows.

Jacobsen: What are your plans with horses now?

Stanley: I would like to show in the Grand Prixs again.

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06/09/2017 ; Calgary ; Spruce Meadows Masters ; 147, KARAMELL, JULIA STANLEY ; friday csi2 1m40 ; Sportfot

Jacobsen: Why choose physics?

Stanley: I really enjoyed math and problem solving. Physics uses these skills.

Jacobsen: What other animals were an affinity for you, in earlier life?

Stanley: I liked animals in general when I was very young. But horses were my main interest.

Jacobsen: Who were the trainers or mentors in Southlands, Vancouver at five years old?

Stanley: I started out at Maynard's Pony Meadows.

Jacobsen: How long were the trail rides with your aunt?

Stanley: We went once to a dude ranch near her house and I believe it was an hour or so. The horse I rode was a grey named Hickory.

Jacobsen: For show jumping, are you associated with a particular barn, ranch, or equestrian facility at this time? Or do you operate independently?

Stanley: I train with Laura Balisky.

05/07/2017 ; Calgary ; Spruce Meadows North American ; 652, KARAMELL, JULIA STANLEY ; 1m45 ; Sportfot

Jacobsen: In my whole not-even-a-year in the equine industry, pony club has been a term of conversation among some equestrians at work and in personal interactions with them, so far, for me. What is pony club?

Stanley: Pony club is an organization that teaches young people about horses. We had weekly stable management lessons and lots of fun activities such as mounted games, rally and quiz (a horse knowledge competition).

Jacobsen: How many days a week is riding an activity for you?

Stanley: I ride every day.

Jacobsen: If other women want to pursue science or medicine, while also wanting to continue to ride, what would be the advice for maintaining the balance of the two parts of life without losing healthy functioning in either?

Stanley: I recommend finding a university that supports and accommodates participation in athletics. I had a very positive experience at Sweet Briar. My passion for riding was supported and encouraged by my college and wasn't seen as taking away from my academic interests. I was able to travel to horse shows with my college and my participation in shows was seen as representing my college – the same as if I had been on the football team.

Jacobsen: Why the Grand Prixs rather than other options?

Stanley: The horses I currently ride are jumpers. I also enjoy riding hunters but I don't currently have a hunter.

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Appendix I: Footnotes

[1] Ph.D., Physics, University of Calgary; Equestrian, Show Jumper.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 8, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/stanley-1**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/**.

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 5: Leann (Pitman) Manuel on Becoming a Horse Woman and Riding 4 Life's Beginnings (1)

2022-05-08

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Abstract

Leann (Pitman) Manuel's bio states: "Leann was as good as born on a horse, and has been fortunate to work with them daily since her very early twenties. From Pony Club and 4H as a child, through national level competition and several World's Show qualifications with her Quarter Horse as a teen, to some Dressage tests, a few Cowboy Challenge clinics, and the daily operations at Riding 4 Life today, Leann's horsemanship practice continues to seek out anything and everything she may be able to learn or experience with horses. Leann is passionate about helping others realize the value of having horses in their lives – no matter the breed or creed – and she hopes to continue to grow and nurture the horsemanship community in her region well into the future." She discusses: earliest memory with a horse; the trend with a single digit age and a familial line; funding a business around horses; clients and staff; the niche of people or individuals on the autism spectrum.

Keywords: 4H, autism spectrum, equestrianism, Fort Worth, Leann Manuel, Pony Club, Quarter Horse, Riding 4 Life, Texas, Western classes.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 5: Leann (Pitman) Manuel on Becoming a Horse Woman and Riding 4 Life's Beginnings (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Today, we are here with Leann Manuel. We will talk about equestrianism. It is another addition to the series. So, my first question, typically, is around the foundation or the history of becoming a horse woman, a horse person, in this industry. What was the earliest memory with a horse for you?

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Leann (Pitman) Manuel[1],[2]: Gosh, there was always a horse in my backyard. Some of my first memories are as a toddler of a barn being built in my backyard, and my family helping. So, there are pictures of my mom as a 10-year-old on her first horse. It's in the genetic fabric of my immediate family, I guess. My mom's passion. Ironically, when I was a kid, she didn't think I would get into it.

She only had one horse. She sold extra equipment. Only kept around what she needed for her horse. Lo and behold, yes, it became my passion too. I ended up with my own horse, bought specifically for me when I was 11 years old.

Jacobsen: Typically, is this the trend with a single digit age and a familial line in it?

Manuel: It was, certainly, a trend for all of my peers. That I found myself in 4H Club with. I was in 4H Club, Pony Club, Quarter Horse organization, any kind of the communities in the horse industry. It was true of pretty much all of my peers. They came from existing horse families, especially if they stuck with it long-term.

For 4H, as it is government supported, it is a volunteer-based program with provincial and federal funding in it. That's where we saw more kids who didn't come from a farm background or an agricultural background, wanting to learn about horse. They would come to club meetings and learn a bit.

But when it came to participation of owning a horse, that's when we saw a lot of those folks drop off. Because their families were either too intimidated of owning a horse and everything that entailed, and couldn't financially support it, or there wasn't an easy inroad for them to continue.

Jacobsen: How did this continue over time and to the point of founding a business around horses? That's a big step.

Manuel: It was a big step, but a slow and inevitable progression as far as I experienced it. 11-years-old in Pony Club taking lessons. 13-years-old, my mom's horse passes away. My parents purchase another horse. I fell in love with it. This horse has a rescue story behind it. It was purchased for not much money at all.

I ended up with the kind of bond with that horse that took me from the little novice kid riding up and down the road to a few years later competing at Thunderbird when it was still at 200th Ave. with the Keg restaurant at the end. I was 15 years old and way in over my head, and out of my league.

But the bond I had with this horse. I was competing with pros in the open division and winning. I look back at that. As a kid, I had no idea what I was doing. I was just at a horse show with a horse doing my thing. At 15, you don't realize professionals up and down the coast from Washington State, Oregon, and California, watching me ride by and take their points, "Where did this kid come from?" [Laughing] I rode that horse for 8 years on the Quarter Horse circuit.

She was an American Quarter Horse. That was the association I was heavily involved with at the time because that's the horse that I happened to have at the time. Along the way, other projects come along. So, I had her that I was showing. I was in 4H. Someone gave me another project, "Here, Leann, another horse to ride."

Because my other now really accomplished show horse was way out of the league out of what was available to compete with in 4H. I took this Haflinger Belgian Quarter Horse cross 3-year-old not even halter broke really. It got out of the trailer and dragged me from the trailer to the barn where the other horses were.

That was my 4H project for the year. By the end of the 8-month project year, I was competing walk-trot-canter. He was doing cross rails. We were in some Western classes making it. We were bombing it. He went back to his owner and joined a lesson program. I had a project always cycling through that I was riding. By the time I hit graduation,

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which was this fork in the road, my dad was determined that there was no real way for me to make money in the horse industry.

Even though, I was competing at the professional level. The only next level to test me was to go to the World's in Fort Worth, Texas. I couldn't afford to go. I stayed back and mucked stalls at my friends facility while she went with her family to compete in my spot on the team.

So, financial barrier to really getting access to that community, that market, that level of competition. My dad insisted on my going to university. I got some scholarships and went to UVic. I left horses a little behind. They were what I did in the Summer time a little bit. I had another young horse, which I showed and developed a bit, ultimately, after a few years of university, coming back home in my early 20s, facing some mental health issues and PTSD from trauma, I realized; without horses, I don't have solid ground to stand on, for myself.

This is part of who I am. It is cellular. It is in my bones. My best self and healthiest is when I have horses to work with. It became the foundation for what I do today at Riding 4 Life. I came home riding horse, teaching a few, riding, lessons. Inevitably, if you have something to offer, and don't have money, when you're young and have horses, you teach riding horses, muck stalls, or ride people's horses to earn money to pay entry fees, to buy the saddle you need.

That's how I started. I taught my first beginner lessons when I was 14 years old, maybe 13. I was training a few other people's horses on the side for cash when I was 15, 16. It kept going from there. In my early 20s, I was teaching riding lessons in my parents' backyard property again when one of my long-time clients who bordered her horse at my parent's place when I was away at university; she was a foster parent.

She worked with special needs kids. She was starting a business. Getting out of being a foster parent directly and getting into being more of a supporter and foster of the community, she started a business with behaviour intervention and community support work with kids with various barriers. In particular, things like autism or developmental disabilities, or medical issues that made them very fragile.

She was always looking for things to do. She used funding to take them to riding lessons to help them with me, then this happened with 2 or 3, and then hit about 8 or 9. She had clients like that. She said, "You know, Leann, you should start this as a business." That's where that jumping off point happened with horses from passion, identity, hobby, skill set, to monetized formally.

It was pretty interesting because I've in my work life, never been as successful as when I am growing that. I grew that in my hometown for a few years, Port Alberni. Other life events made it impossible for me to continue. I fall off the radar a bit as an equine business operator. I still had horses. I fight to keep them, feed them. I head off to the Okanagan in 2008, which was my first brush with the restaurant industry. I picked up a job waiting tables in a restaurant in Osoyoos trying to feed my horses.

Tip money was the first money I had in my pocket when I crash landed here. I bought some hay and away we went. Here we are, 2022, I sent emails to all of my clients to see who wants to re-register for this year. There was over 60 clients on that list.

So, it's busy and growing. Things tend to grow to fill the capacity for whatever resources we have to serve those folks.

Jacobsen: How clients do you have now? How many staff do you have to meet the needs of those clients?

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Manuel: Gosh, like I said, the actual individual clients on our weekly roster. We are at about 60 to 65. We operate a Spring, Summer, Fall session. Without an indoor session, we cannot run a Winter session. Myself, my husband, we have 3 or 4 part-time staff who have been interns. Young people who have come up through my program or gained experience. There's one who has gained experience and recently joined the program.

They help me teach beginner lessons now. They range from 14 to about 20. Then the other detail is roughly 50% of my clientele is on the autism spectrum, including some of my staff.

Jacobsen: How do people find out, by which I mean clients (or prospective), about Riding 4 Life, especially with the niche of people or individuals on the autism spectrum coming to you – at such overwhelming rates out of the proportion of the clientele, which is large itself?

Manuel: So, we specialize in autism services. We recently added beginner lessons as something we put front and center, because I was getting so many people requesting it. Even though, it was not my focus. It created this opportunity where I said to some of my teens who were looking for more, "Do you want to teach riding lessons?" We started an internship riding program.

I held my shingle out for beginning lessons to create work for them. Because we had the skill set here, the equipment. We had great horses. If I am teaching my lesson, and if there are two or three others with me with their students, "Let's see if it works." Out first crack at that was 4 years ago.

Of course, in the after school hours here last Summer and Fall, we had a 3 and 4 o'clock session with 6 or 7 horses with 7 instructors running out there at the same time. It offered training wheels. That's how I describe how I teach. You get somebody going. You get the training wheels. As you get someone going, and develop their confidence, you slowly take those training wheels away. Same for our instructors.

They don't think they can do it. I had one young woman. She moved away now. She was selectively mute. She came as a beginner, rider, client. She ended up as an instructor. Slowly push her out there, "You can do it." [Laughing]

If the wheels really fall off there, you can do it. So far, so good.

Footnotes

[1] Instructor & Founder, Riding 4 Life Equine Enterprises.

[2] Individual Publication Date: May 8, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/manuel-1**; 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 Specialization, Tao, da Vinci, and Scientific Illiteracy: Academic Physician; Member, Mega Society (3)

2022-05-08

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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 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 .

Keywords: academic, American, Atheism, Benoit Desjardins, Catholic high school, Leonardo da Vinci, OSCP test, scientific illiteracy, spirituality, Terence Tao.

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

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

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.

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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?

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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.

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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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*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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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

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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: 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.

Keywords: American, Benoit Desjardins, Dr. Fauci, incomes, Medicine, physicians, science, United States, venture capital firms.

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

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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 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?

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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.

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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

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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?

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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

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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.

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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?

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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/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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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)

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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: fraudulent activity; messianic posing; criminal behaviour; the three interpenetrating cubes problem; above 4 standard deviations above the norm; the hardest IQ test; and IQ.

Keywords: Chris Cole, IQ, Richard May, Richard Rosner, Mega Society, Mega Test, Titan 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 (3)

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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.***

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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.***

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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.

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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***,

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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 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**.

[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-issues/**.

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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)

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Interviewer: Scott Douglas Jacobsen

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Abstract

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

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discusses: “Fragments”; “Yaldabaoth is Dead”; “Don’t Take Your Life Personally. It’s Not About You!”; “Event Horizon”; and “Klein-bottle Clock.”

Keywords: C.G. Jung, G.I. Gurdjieff, God, May-Tzu, Nietzsche, P.D. Ouspensky, Richard May, Rupert Sheldrake, Seth Lloyd.

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)

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

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 posses 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.

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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.

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

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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 Loyd 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.

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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/**.

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

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: China, intelligence, I.Q., Tianxi Yu.

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

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

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 electrowetting 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.

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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.

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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: しゆみです, 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.

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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: 81×27=2187，

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21×87=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

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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?

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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/**.

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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)

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Abstract

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 creater 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: 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.

Keywords: China, India, NATO, Russia, Tor Arne Jørgensen, United Nations, Western Europe, Zelensky.

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)

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

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

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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

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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,

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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?

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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 likes the one we teach our children in schools regarding Hitlers 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.

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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 of 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-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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Conversation with Masaaki Yamauchi on Thoughts About I.Q., Time, Consciousness, and Metaphysics: Administrator, ESOTERIQ Society (3)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: administrator, ESOTERIQ, intelligence, IQ, Japanese, JAPANIQ Society, Masaaki Yamauchi.

Conversation with Masaaki Yamauchi on Thoughts About I.Q., Time, Consciousness, and Metaphysics: Administrator, ESOTERIQ Society (3)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

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.

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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 in 2^33 = 1 in 8.5 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.

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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 37thbirthday 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?

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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-york is to egg-white in my theory. Brain itself (the York) 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 York and white without cracking the cell, but we can temporally 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/

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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.

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The American Medical System and Physicians 3: Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI on Burnout, Quack Medicine, and Litigious American Culture

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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: 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.

Keywords: American, Benoit Desjardins, Medicine, physicians, quack medicine, science, United States.

The American Medical System and Physicians 3: Professor Benoit Desjardins, MD, PhD, FAHA, FACR, FNASCI on Burnout, Quack Medicine, and Litigious American Culture

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 medical-legal system in the U.S.

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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?

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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

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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 dis-ease 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 fro 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?

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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/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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The Greenhorn Chronicles 6: Sandy Bell, B.Sc., M.A. on Windhorse Retreat, Horse Sense, and Resources (2)

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Abstract

Sandy Bell's personal biography states: "Windhorse Retreat was born in early 2014 when I transitioned from the urban to the rural lifestyle to pursue my dream of living with horses and offering equine facilitated personal development. My goal was to establish Windhorse as a place where 'horses help us reach our full potential,' and that included my own life-long learning. At my day retreat in central Alberta, horses and humans come together in deeply meaningful ways for unique learning experiences. As well as providing equine assisted learning opportunities with horses as your guides, I host related workshops and clinics, so you can learn to help your equine friends or deepen your relationships with them. Community development and volunteerism is core to my lifestyle, so you'll find me volunteering on committees or boards as the opportunities arise. Currently, I serve the Alberta equestrian community as the President of the Board of Directors of the Alberta Equestrian Federation. I hold a B.Sc. (Psychology), a M.A. (Communications & Technology) and am an alumnus of EAL-Canada. I'm a member of the Alberta Association of Complementary Equine Therapy as a Craniosacral Practitioner and Energy Based Practitioner." She discusses: Windhorse Retreat; Covid impacting the industry; some misconceptions about the economic feasibility of owning horses or having a facility; the equestrian world of a century ago compared to now; gigantic puppy-dogs; horse sense; elected president; separation economically in Canadian society; books, documentaries, or interviews; and final thoughts.

Keywords: Alberta, Alberta Equestrian Federation, equestrianism, Ian Millar, Sandy Bell, Windhorse Retreat.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 6: Sandy Bell, B.Sc., M.A. on Windhorse Retreat, Horse Sense, and Resources (2)

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

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Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What kind of activities are provided at Windhorse Retreat?

Sandy Bell[1],[2]: Currently, we are shut down because of Covid. Before then, we offered equine facilitated personal development for individuals and for groups. We also offered workshops that were related to horse wellness. So, for example, equine for first-aid or Reiki for horses. Things of that nature. We would consider special events. For example, if the Girl Guides wanted to come for a day to learn about horses, then we would set up something custom designed for them. All of those things, we found impossible to do with the changing landscape of Covid. We have just quietly shut our doors for now – so to speak, and are in the wait-and-see mode.

Jacobsen: How is Covid impacting the industry in the same way?

Bell: Yes, but, maybe, more of a negative impact than I've felt, I've always been able to have other income coming in, so I could feed my horses, for example. I think some people have had a terrible time in that regard. Last year, the Alberta Equestrian Federation set up a special emergency fund for horses. They supported people's requests for funds for short-term needs for food and medications in Alberta. Some of the stories of hardship were rather heartbreaking. People lost their jobs. They had a horse that they cared deeply about, and were wondering how they could keep them. We helped them a little bit to make that happen.

Jacobsen: What are some misconceptions about the economic feasibility of owning horses or having a facility for most people? Those who are not in the industry and don't know.

Bell: I think some of the misconceptions are based on what people see in the media, in terms of the Spruce Meadows kind of events. They might think everyone who has a horse is rich [Laughing] and can afford to show at that level. I think that's pretty common. I think that might even deter some people from becoming involved because it's like, "Oh boy, I couldn't do that. It would be costly, cost too much." There is a misconception that they couldn't learn to ride or to drive a horse. Those are the two that come to mind. "It's not for me because of my aptitude barriers, talent, or finances."

Jacobsen: How would you compare the equestrian world of a century ago compared to now in Canadian society? How is it different with the combustible engine being completely ubiquitous compared to a time when it wasn't necessarily so?

Bell: People knew horses then because they lived with them intimately. They worked with them every day. They were their partners in the economy. Imagine managing a city with stables right downtown and horses all over, people riding them, driving them, pulling wagons. People were very comfortable with horses because of that. Life was paced differently because it was by horsepower. Of course, then came the 1900's first World War, the horses were an integral part of the war effort. You read the accounts of how many millions of horses died in battle. So, horses were part of that as well. Very possibly, that's the reason why things turned out the way they did in the wars because the Allied forces could win with the horsepower behind them. The farms and the ranches here in Alberta who gave horses, shipped them overseas to the war effort, is an extraordinary thing to think about now.

For example, Bar U Ranch in the south of Calgary had, at the time, a world-renowned Percheron breeding program and Percherons from Alberta were a significant contributor to the war effort. After that, people came back home. As you say, the engine took over and slowly work horses on the farm were phased out for tractors. The world changed for horses. We thought of them in a different way. They became a day-to-day, not partners, companions for sport and for recreation. I'm fortunate to live in the country, where around me; there are still some people who use horses in their ranch work, still in very traditional ways. That's pretty neat to see.

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So, they still have that kind of partnerships with horses. I think we might be missing something not having a broader intimate relationship with the horse, but I don't know that we can [Laughing]. I don't know if we can introduce them back into the cities [Laughing].

Jacobsen: [Laughing] Maybe downtown carriage tours in cities.

Bell: Yes. Someone like yourself who was recently thrown into the horse world. You, probably, are feeling some of that going, "Wow. This is interesting how I feel whenever I am around horses."

Jacobsen: It is fascinating, the feeling they give you. You can't, as someone new to it, put a word to it, yet. What's the word coming to mind for you as someone who has been part of it much more than me?

Bell: You begin to see them as individual beings and appreciate the wordless, or the unspoken, power that they have, and to humbled by their willingness to work with and put up with people. They're quite remarkable creatures.

Jacobsen: I'm surprised in the stalls how goofy some of them are.

Bell: Yes!

Jacobsen: They're like gigantic puppy-dogs. You clean the stall, put in fresh shavings, and they go hog wild. They roll around. It's very funny to see.

Bell: Yes, "The majestic equine, the majestic horse," has some very goofy sides, sometimes.

Jacobsen: The elegance of them comes when they are out of the stall and doing something as simple as lunging. Let's say they're doing a canter or a trot in circles, like a light jog, they're extraordinarily rhythmic in the innate pace that they have, then they get in the stall and do all these goofy things. When I first got into the industry, it was hard to put those two pictures together. It was like two animals in one.

Bell: They are complex, for sure. We should not underestimate them. Surely, we know their brains are different from us. They must have a different way of thinking and being. But it is quite a remarkable brain, nonetheless. I came across an article, recently, about the differences between the horse brain and the human brain are part of the magic or the foundation for the relationship that we can have with them.

So, if you're really connected with your horse when you're riding, and you can feel, if you can think that thought, "Let's canter now," the subtle changes in your body can communicate to them. You can get it. You can seamlessly, like a centaur, just fly on. The neuroscience behind the horse-human relationship is starting to fascinate me a lot. I need to read more about it.

Jacobsen: This is a new field, where, for a long time, it was more of an intuitive grasp of it rather than a formal empirical study of the human mind in relation to the horse mind.

Bell: They talked about this. Now, there is the neuroscience explaining it. It is not just woo-woo. These people are not just a little off [Laughing]. It's not, "No, this is real." [Laughing].

Jacobsen: When I first talked about entering the industry, people would say things like, "All horse people are crazy." I said, "Great! I'm crazy too. I'll fit right in."

Bell: [Laughing].

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Jacobsen: Ian Millar, actually, in some footage, some video footage, I don't recall the source of it, having source amnesia. However, the content was very similar to other things, which I've heard from equestrians. Which is, the idea of "the feel" or "feel." The idea of simply having an intuitive sense with a horse based on experience or innate talent of feeling animals, of just knowing how to work a horse, get it to go left, get it to go right, get it to do what you want, to have the relationship built, but based on the sense, that horse sense, developed over time.

Bell: Whatever you want to call it, is it intuition? Is it some gift you're born with? Are you feeling their body with your body and vice versa? Because it is all non-verbal. It's very complex. So, when we horse people get together and talk to each other, and non-horse people hear us, they think we're crazy.

Jacobsen: There is a symbiotic relationship there for sure. What was the feeling when you were elected president?

Bell: I was very honoured to have people put their faith in me to steward the organization. My goals were to strengthen government, governance, and financial accountability. That resonated with people. So, that was a nice endorsement of how I thought I could contribute to the organization. I previously held the position of treasurer. So, I had a solid grasp of the finances of the organization. I thought I could contribute to the governance structure. Yes, it was really an honour, humbling really, to have people say, "Yeah, we believe you can lead the organization in this way."

Jacobsen: Do you think a separation economically in Canadian society in some places at some levels can prevent entrance into equestrianism, whether founding a facility, owning the horse, or getting lessons?

Bell: Most definitely. It is something that I think all the equestrian societies or federations should take a look at because involvement in equestrianism is declining. The barriers to becoming involved are part of that reason. What can we do about that? From my own personal circumstance, though as a girl with a passion of horses, I was on the wrong side of the tracks to do anything about it. I'm very sure. There are inner city kids who would *love* to connect with horses. You have to figure out ways to make that happen. It is a good thing. I don't know if you have heard of the Urban Cowboys in Philadelphia.

Jacobsen: No, I haven't.

Bell: Yes, it has been something that's been part of inner city Philadelphia forever, sounds like. It is people who actually board or stable and ride their horses in inner city Philadelphia. They are giving back to the community by engaging youth that would never have an opportunity to be with a horse. It would be really neat to do something like that, like in Calgary or in Edmonton. Not sure how we'd do it. They have such a longstanding history of being there physically present in inner city Philadelphia. It'd be pretty hard to move them out. We would just need to find a space in inner city Calgary to set something up.

Jacobsen: Would you recommend any books, documentaries, or interviews for individuals who would want to get involved in equestrianism in Alberta?

Bell: I would recommend all the resources on the Alberta Equestrian Federation website and to follow our social media feeds. There's lots of entry-level and little bit above information, programs, at Equine Guelph – University of Guelph's equine program. Personally, I like to read about horses. So, anything I can get my hands on from a book about basic grooming to something that's a little more nuanced like *Zen Mind, Zen Horse* by Allan Hamilton who is a neuroscientist. There are lots of different kinds of books out there. So, go visit your library and talk to

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your librarian about whatever your interests are, at whatever level, people who have horses or have a collection books are always to happy share or pass them on.

They could even be exercises to do with your horse if you have one of your own, or more about understanding your horse. So, the body language of horses and communication with horses, that sort of thing. Movies and things like that, there are some good ones out there. You will find horse people watching a Western movie and critiquing the riding [Laughing].

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Bell: *Hidalgo* is an interesting movie about someone who did a race across Africa and their experience. Of course, for all the younger people, all the oldie but goldy ones, like *Black Beauty*, *The Black Stallion*, *The Black Stallion Returns*.

Jacobsen: Any final thoughts on the interview today?

Bell: I want to thank you, Scott. It's been fun. I'm really excited for your personal horse adventure. How you're growing and exploring, and figuring out what fits for you.

Jacobsen: Thank you.

Bell: So, thank you for giving us a ring and allowing me the opportunity to talk about my personal experience and the Alberta Equestrian Federation, and just horse stuff in general.

Jacobsen: It's been lovely, Sandy, thank you.

Footnotes

[1] President, Board of Directors, Alberta Equestrian Federation; Principal, Windhorse Retreat.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/bell-2**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/**.

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Conversation with Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares on Policies in Governance, Negotiation, Faith and Science, and Fatherhood: Former Governor, Puerto Rico (5)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: faith, fatherhood, governance, Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló Nevares, science.

Conversation with Dr. Ricardo Rosselló Nevares on Policies in Governance, Negotiation, Faith and Science, and Fatherhood: Former Governor, Puerto Rico (5)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

Interview conducted January 21, 2021.

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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.

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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.

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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

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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,

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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.

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Conversation with Tomáš Perna on Life, Views, and Work: Member, World Genius Directory (1)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Czech Republic, life, Tomáš Perna, United Giga Society, views, work, World Genius Directory.

Conversation with Tomáš Perna on Life, Views, and Work: Member, World Genius Directory (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

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?

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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

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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 "schulmeistern" 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.

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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 cliche, 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.

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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)

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Abstract

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.”

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Keywords: Alan Watts, Buddha nature, Erwin Schroedinger, Jacob Needleman, Katha Upanishad, Krishnamurti, Max Planck, May-Tzu, Richard May, The Beatles.

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)

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

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 withins and withouts?

May: I do wish that I knew!

Jacobsen: How is "'our'" separate experience a delusion in this light?

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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."

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Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on Some Intellectual Interests: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (2)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: CatholIQ Society, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, Nano Society, Tianxi Yu, World Genius Directory.

Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on Some Intellectual Interests: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (2)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

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?

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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?

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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

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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.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: **https://in-sightjournal.com/yu-2**; 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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Conversation with Kate Jones on Life, Views, and Work: Diplomate, International Society for Philosophical Enquiry (1)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Budapest, Germany, Hungarian, International Society for Philosophical Enquiry, Kate Jones, Mensa, Russians, World War II.

Conversation with Kate Jones on Life, Views, and Work: Diplomate, International Society for Philosophical Enquiry (1)

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

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

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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

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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 Lyseum 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,

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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.

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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,

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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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Conversation with Brandon Feick on Intelligence and Philosophy: Member, Glia Society (1)

2022-06-01

Interviewer: Scott Douglas Jacobsen

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Brandon Feick, genius, intelligence, I.Q., Glia Society, life, love, metaphysics.

Conversation with Brandon Feick on Intelligence and Philosophy: Member, Glia Society (1)

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

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?

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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?

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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.

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[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/**.

*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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The Greenhorn Chronicles 7: Leann (Pitman) Manuel on Wisdom, Intuition, Disabilities, and Elitism (2)

2022-06-01

Interviewer: Scott Douglas Jacobsen

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Abstract

Leann (Pitman) Manuel's bio states: "Leann was as good as born on a horse, and has been fortunate to work with them daily since her very early twenties. From Pony Club and 4H as a child, through national level competition and several World's Show qualifications with her Quarter Horse as a teen, to some Dressage tests, a few Cowboy Challenge clinics, and the daily operations at Riding 4 Life today, Leann's horsemanship practice continues to seek out anything and everything she may be able to learn or experience with horses. Leann is passionate about helping others realize the value of having horses in their lives – no matter the breed or creed – and she hopes to continue to grow and nurture the horsemanship community in her region well into the future." She discusses: prospective employee interviews; intuitive sense; make a greenhorn not a greenhorn; developmental disabilities outside of the autism spectrum; narrative of trauma; elitism; and industry's interactions with outsiders and with one another.

Keywords: developmental disabilities, elitism, employees, intuition, Leann Manuel, Riding 4 Life, wisdom.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 7: Leann (Pitman) Manuel on Wisdom, Intuition, Disabilities, and Elitism (2)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When you're doing prospective employee interviews, how do you evaluate individuals knowing the difficulty of the job?

Leann (Pitman) Manuel[1],[2]: So, I have yet to hire somebody who I am not already familiar with. They have already been a client. I have been their foundation of horsemanship from the get-go. Or I've seen them with their horse or other horses and, at a distance, been able to see their horsemanship.

Jacobsen: Is it an intuitive sense when observing them over a long period of time?

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Manuel: Some would say, "It is intuitive." It is not as if I have this conscious thinking template. Every time, my eyes are on a horse. I'm with a student training. It is this mindful awareness. I don't have to put words or language to understand everything. There are ways of knowing and being, and skills that I have; I don't necessarily have them written down. I'm trying to write part of my curriculum down because there are opportunities to get some course credit for some of the teens.

Of course, I have to play nice with the school system and demonstrate on paper. It is not my favourite thing to do. I would much rather drag someone out to the riding arena and the round pen, and let's do this thing. You are going to get better by doing. I can help you do that. So, yes, how do I really know? I don't know if I have adequate words for that. I can give people words if they really need them. Like any other funder, if I need to prove outcomes, show me the funder requirements, I'll get it done.

I don't know if you are familiar with any of Malcolm Gladwell's work. His book *Blink*offers something I appreciate. I appreciate many of his books. He talks about the thin, slicing look at something. Folks who become masters or professionals at what they do begin to trust their whole selves. That's a big part of what I have done over the years. It is a skill and a competence, and teaching people to trust themselves. I am actively pursuing this here.

Jacobsen: It's difficult translating wisdom and intuition based on experience to a formal curriculum. I could imagine the difficulty in that.

Manuel: Oh, man! Sometimes, staring at the screen, "How do I describe this in three well-written paragraphs?"

Jacobsen: What if someone doesn't have a lot of experience, though they want to become a part of riding for life? How do you make a greenhorn not a greenhorn?

Manuel: That's the bulk of what we do. I shouldn't say everybody. But client-wise, the vast majority of our clients haven't really ridden a horse before, maybe a pony ride. I almost do this on purpose. When I originally started in 2004, when I started Riding 4 Life formally, I made a point of not re-recruiting the same horse people. Those were not my clients. If you had already been a client at several other places, the ne hottest thing, I don't want you.

I want beginners, pretty please, because there is a lot of unlearning that has to happen. A lot of habits, preconceived ideas, "cognitive bias" would be one of the academic terms for it. I have got to do battle with a lot of that first. I think I have it easy as far as clients because most of the clients are 8,9, or 10, years old. They are open, curious, in school, skilled in growth and learning. It is their number one job in life.

So, it is super easy to get them started. Our curriculum, some of the core skills, I put under the heading, "Leadership." Four or five parts of that are abundantly important. One is lead by example. Courage is another one. Those are two things to go to in the curriculum. Never expect students to do things you are not willing to do; you can't teach something you can't do. We do it. I learn really well by seeing it, hearing it, and being in the environment, and letting it soak it, without having to focus on having to take the write notes, study, spit it out on the test.

I've been there, done that. Let's get them near a horse, on a horse. One of the other important things, I think, which works well here, anyway. We have the curriculum written down in written form with skills and expectations. Our staff know what the skills look like and what they can get you with a horse. But we are not going to make you read a text about it. We are not going to make you memorize it. We might not even mention that vocabulary.

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Somehow, we will get you going through the motions of the skills. We might tell you later what we did. I have a newcomer to our staff who is a parent of a client. They have experience. They own a couple of horses. She is starting to teach beginner teachers with us. She has been certified as a beginner instructor elsewhere. She's like, "Leann, where is the book? What is the vocabulary? I need to teach them the right word for things." I'm like, "No, you don't." Some of our clients are non-verbal.

I don't care what it is called. I want them to learn it firs.t The way we encode, the way memory works, we memorize or learn things by hanging them on other experiences. It is useless to tell them what a billet is. "What is the point pocket on your saddle?" Is this useful to their horsemanship journey at this point? Well, no, honestly, the only time "point pocket" has been useful has been saddle fitting at a high-end competition with my fancy horse deciding if this saddle might be costing me a half-pointing on one point on my dressage test at medium level or in a Pony Club test.

Otherwise, I could go my life not knowing what the point pocket was, so we try to keep it down to earth that way. Also, remove those barriers of overwhelm, so many beginners hit them.

Jacobsen: What other developmental disabilities outside of the autism spectrum come forward for some of the clientele?

Manuel: Oh, gosh, a whole range, another thing, I should mention. Autism is such a high percentage of my clients because there is funding. As a social worker, in my past life, I am accustomed to dealing with government legislation, systems, and being able to do the language bit. So, I've been a service provider with the Ministry of Family and Children for a number of years. That's the most available funding pocket, which is autism funding. We get a lot of requests.

We struggle to get those kids' services paid for, sometimes. But I'd say, "If it weren't for funding, the number one thing is mental health." Kids and teens with, usually, anxiety disorders, depression, etc. There are all kinds of labels that come with this. Through my eyes, they come through trauma. They're all trauma related. Trauma growing up in a family that isn't the idyllic family, never need a therapist. There are so many people going through so many traumas in our culture.

Our society isn't good at recognizing them and healing them. Trauma is common. We could normalize it in a lot of cases. We don't, by and large. We fail at that. That's one of the things that I've been successful at here. "Oh, you have trauma. Welcome to the club! [Laughing] Here's how we incorporate that."

Jacobsen: Do you incorporate your narrative of trauma when talking to clientele or staff to normalize the conversation?

Manuel: When it comes up, yes, definitely, I have a staffer who I am thinking of in this moment. They are having overwhelming anxiety attacks. It tends to happen as a new client is showing up. They have to meet the client and been the superhero instructor. All these expectations and intrusive thoughts come, 'I am going to suck. I am like, "Yeah, you might. But that's okay. You are just starting and learning. I am here for you. If you suck and somebody complains, then I will have a conversation with that parent. I will remind them what it is like."

I want to normalize it and bring it back down to Earth. One of my criticisms for my own industry and my own colleagues in the horse industry. There is a certain measure of elitism running rampant.

Jacobsen: Is it worse in different sectors?

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Manuel: No.

Jacobsen: It is a thread throughout everything?

Manuel: Yes. It doesn't matter if you are on the $50,000 dressage horse. You're hoping to compete in Kentucky. Or you're on the shining spark show horse… it doesn't matter at that level. You run into elitism in every discipline everywhere.

Jacobsen: How does this change the industry's interactions with outsiders and with one another?

Manuel: I have a lot of thoughts about why that is. It would an entirely different interview on colonialism and all that jazz. It is everywhere. I've worked in a lot of different disciplines, worked with a lot of different breeds of horses, been to a lot of different horse shows. After a while, they all start to look the same. So, here I am, in my muck boots, with very few brand name pieces of clothing anymore, which you could find at a tack store, most of mine come from Value Village because it does the same job at this level.

Once upon a time, when I was qualifying for the World's, it did matter that I had the particular piece of equipment for that horse doing that job. For the vast majority of people who want to compete in the industry, if it is, basically, safe, adequate, and not hurting anybody, I don't want to hear about it. There are more important things to worry about.

Footnotes

[1] Instructor & Founder, Riding 4 Life Equine Enterprises.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 1, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/manuel-2**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.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

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: freedom of the will, German Nazism, God, science, Tomáš Perna, United Giga Society, virtues, World Genius Directory.

Conversation with Tomáš Perna on German Nazism, God, Virtue, Freedom of the Will, and Scientific Discourse: Member, World Genius Directory (2)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

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

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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?

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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?

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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 🙂 :).

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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.

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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/**.

*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

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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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Conversation with Matthew Scillitani on the Giga Society and the Realizations: Member, Giga Society (7)

2022-06-08

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Giga Society, Matthew Scillitani, realization, self-knowledge.

Conversation with Matthew Scillitani on the Giga Society and the Realizations: Member, Giga Society (7)

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

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 Qrosswords 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?

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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?

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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.

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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

Interviewer: Scott Douglas Jacobsen

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: China, Chinese Culture, Chinese Schooling, Entemake Aman, OlympIQ Society.

Conversation with Entemake Aman (阿曼) on the Chinese, Chinese Culture, and Chinese Schooling: Member, OlympIQ Society (3)

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

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?

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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.

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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?

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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.

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Conversation with Justin Duplantis on Updates, Ordinary Education, Boys, Development, Reverse Classroom, and Fatherhood: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society (6)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: Bill Nye, computational biology, data analytics, Justin Duplantis, No Child Left Behind, Triple Nine Society.

Conversation with Justin Duplantis on Updates, Ordinary Education, Boys, Development, Reverse Classroom, and Fatherhood: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society (6)

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

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?

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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.

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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/**.

*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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Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on Research and God's Power: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (3)

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Abstract

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.

Keywords: CatholIQ Society, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, God's Power, Nano Society, research, science, Tianxi Yu, World Genius Directory.

Conversation with Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on Research and God's Power: Member, Chinese Genius Directory (3)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

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

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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 context, 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?

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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 boasters. 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?

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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?

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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?

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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/**.

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Conversation with Hindemburg Melão Jr. on Gratitude and Clarifications, and Life, Views, and Work: Founder, Sigma Society (1)

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Abstract

Hindemburg 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.

Keywords: Albert Frank, AlphaZero, American Biographical Institute, artificial intelligence, Bahá'í Faith, Baran Yonter, Catholic, Cattell, Chris Harding, Christopher Michael Langan, Deus VULT, Domagoj Kutle, Galois, Galton, Garth Zietsman, Gauss, George Zweig, Grady Towers, Guinness Book of World Records, Guilherme Marques dos Santos Silva, Hindemburg Melão Jr., hrIQt, intelligence, Intertel, Isaac Newton, ISIS Test, ISPE, Jimmy Rogers, Kardecism, Keith Raniere, Kevin Langdon, Kim Ung-Yong, Langdon Adult Intelligence Test, life, Marilyn vos Savant, Martial Arts, Mega Society, Mega Test, Murray Gell-Mann, MuZero, native Indian, Neumann, Nobel Prize, Pars Society, Pascal, Paul Cooijmans, Paulo Reginaldo Pascholati, Petri Widsten, pIQ, Prometheus Society, Richard Lynn, Rick Rosner, rIQ, Ronald Hoeflin, science, Sigma Society, Sigma Test Extended, Stanford-Binet, Titan Test, TNS, views, work.

Conversation with Hindemburg Melão Jr. on Gratitude and Clarifications, and Life, Views, and Work: Founder, Sigma Society (1)

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Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

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.

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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 +2σ, 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 (σ=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 hrIQt cases, in the "difficulty" question, questions are usually appropriate up to about 170 or 180, but not

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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 (σ=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 (σ=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 hrIQts 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 hrIQts, 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;

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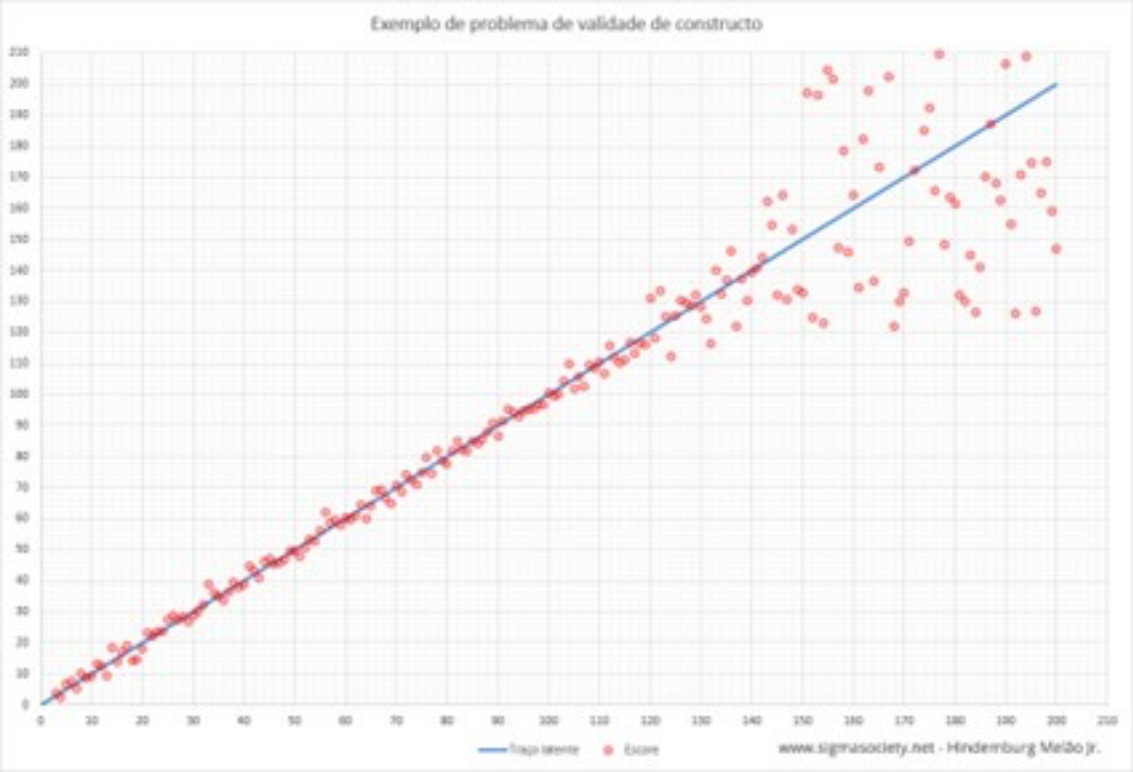
3. Adoption of incorrect hypotheses about the shape of the distribution of scores at the highest levels, based on the shape in the region close to the central tendency.

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

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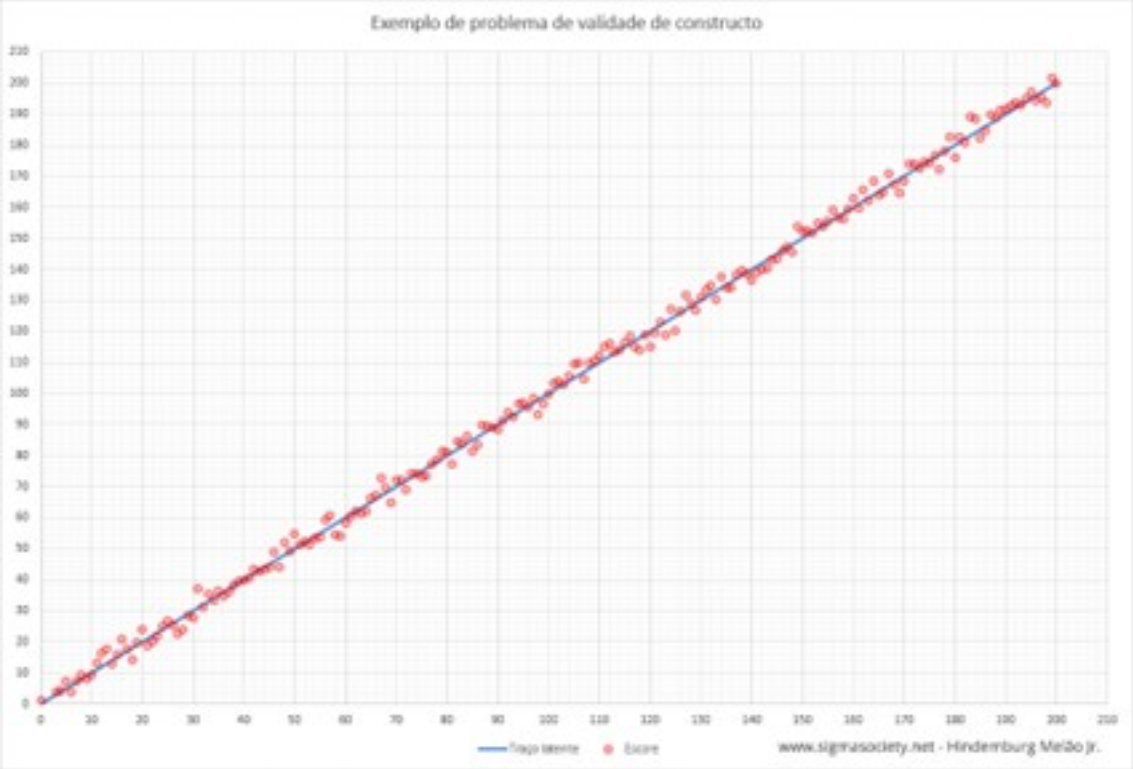
actually being measured becomes more and more weak, so what we are measuring is becoming less and less representative of what we would like to measure. If you consider the entire range from 0 to 200, or even from 70 to 200, the correlation still looks strong, but that's only because the range 70 to 120 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

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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 (σ=16 G), or rIQ (σ=16 G)

pIQ = Potential IQ, or IQ (σ=16 T), or pIQ (σ=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.

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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 (σ=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 (σ=16 G) in a population of 7.9 billion has rIQ 201.2, which is equivalent to pIQ (σ=16 T) 247.8. The scores 201.2 (σ=16 G) and 247.8 (σ=16 T) are equivalent, as 0 ºC and 32 ºF. The use of the term rIQ is equivalent to the use of the term IQ (σ=16 G), while the use of the term pIQ is equivalent to the use of the term (σ=16 T). I can also eventually use rIQ (σ=16 G) or pIQ (σ=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 Hoeflin 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

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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?

Hindemburg 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 hypermnesia and a wide range of intellectual and

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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,

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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.

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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.

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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/LUo89Cl9FPY** . 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

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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:

Hindemburg 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.

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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 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 Hindemburg 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, σ=16), estimated that Melao IQ should be above 200 (σ=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

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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, Preqin 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.

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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.

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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 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

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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

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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,

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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 hrIQts, 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.

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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.).

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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 (σ=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:

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

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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, σ=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 Hoeflin 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 Hoeflin 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 (σ=16) should get this issue right. However, the same question about the Moebius tape, when applied in another of the Hoeflin tests, is being treated statistically as if it had a parameter b = 3.88, that is, 50% of people with IQ 162 (σ=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.

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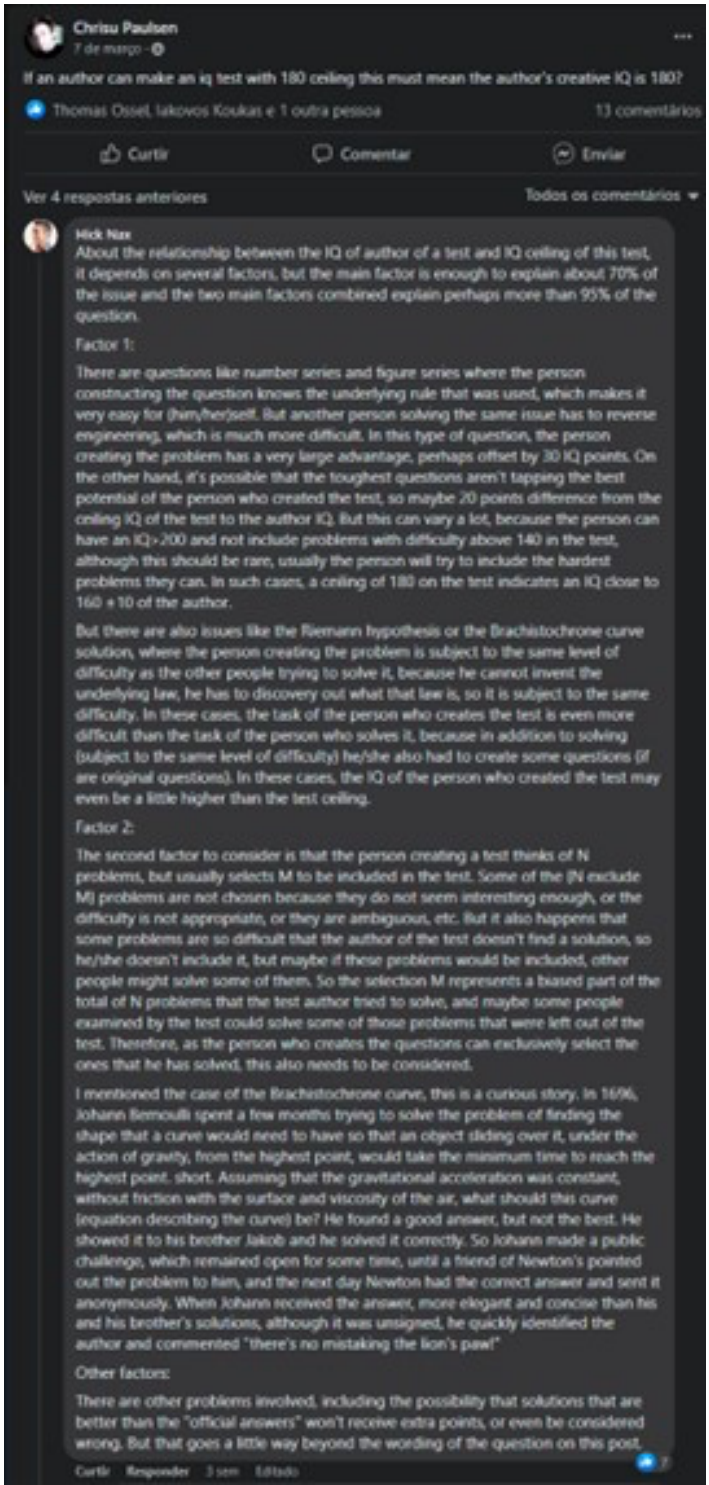
One of the reasons that caused this reduction in the Power ceiling is because some people had already taken one or more of the other Hoeflin tests in which the Power items were present, so the probability of hitting those items on the second try was higher, increasing even more on the third and fourth 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 hrIQt 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 (σ=16, G), this is equivalent to over 240 pIQ (σ=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

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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

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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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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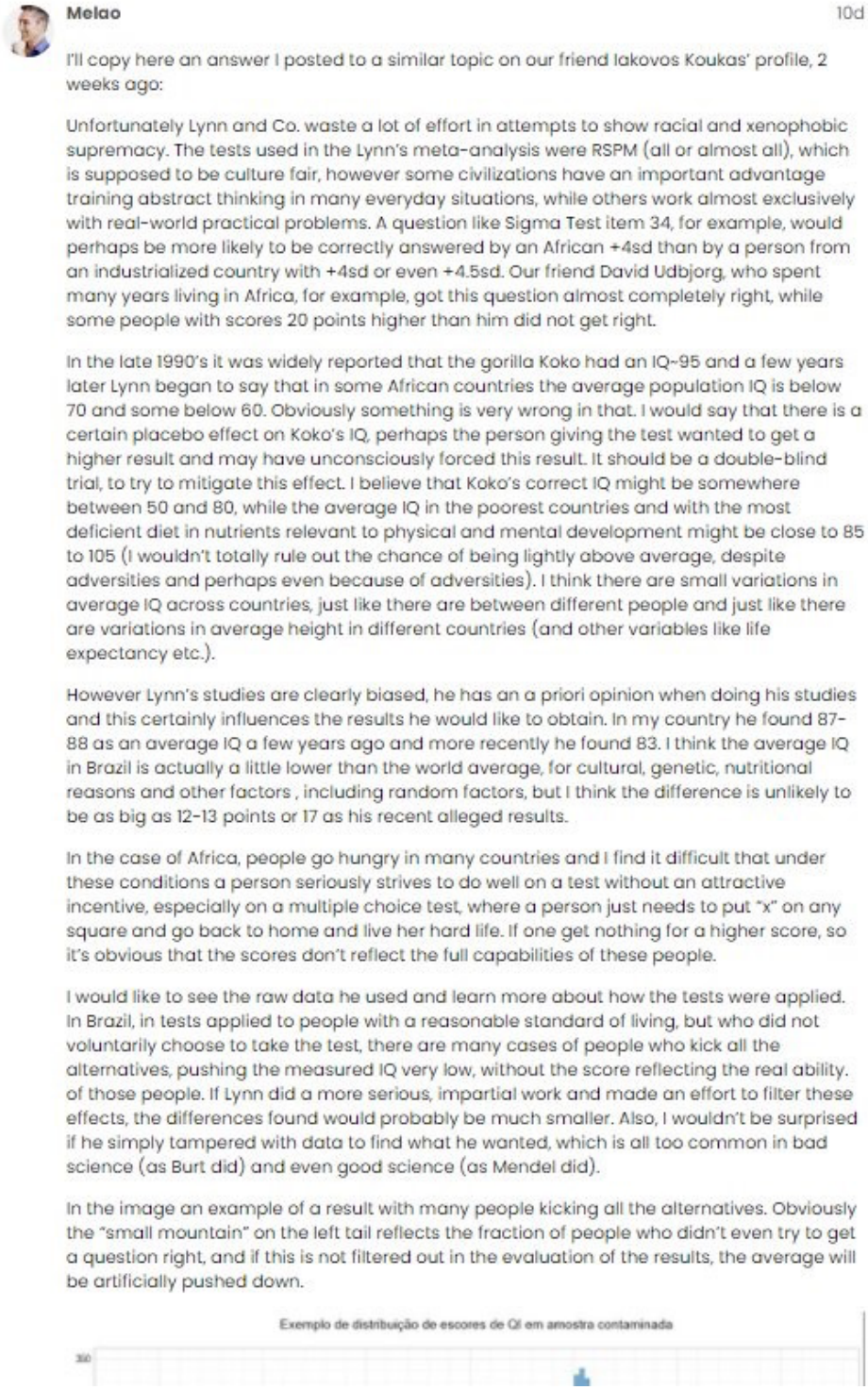
A more serious analysis of the situation shows that the average Brazilian's real IQ is not as low as Lynn's studies suggest. Many people turn in IQ quizzes without answering, or they "guess" all the alternatives, or they answer some and "kick" the others.

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.

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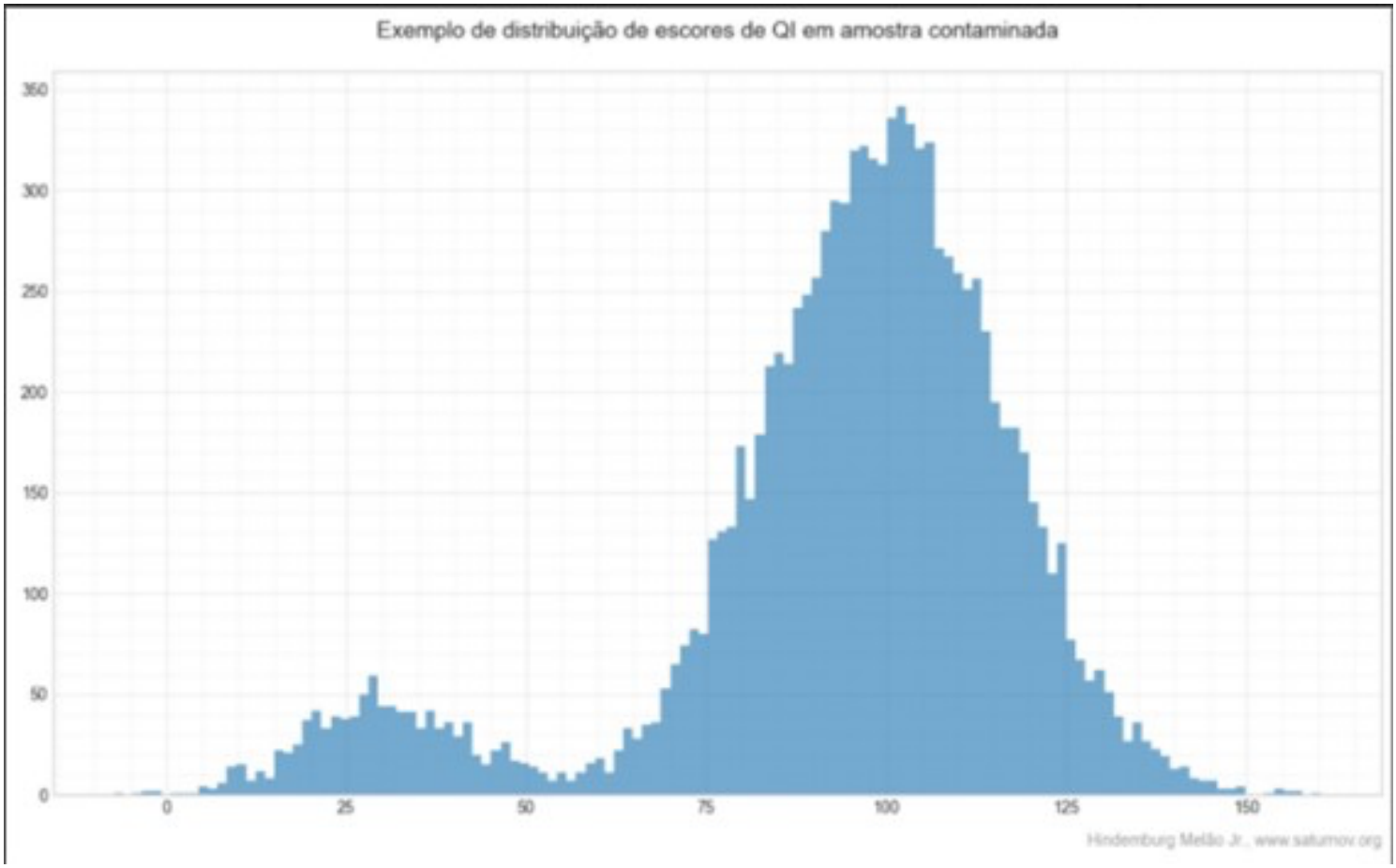

There are indeed cognitive differences based on ethnicity, just as there are in relation to average height, average penis size, average concentration of melanin under the skin, etc., but the cognitive differences are much smaller than what he tries to "sell".

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

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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 km^2, 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.

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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 degringolar 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 (σ=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

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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 inapropriado 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 hrIQt, 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 parêntesis 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 (σ=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 (σ=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

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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.

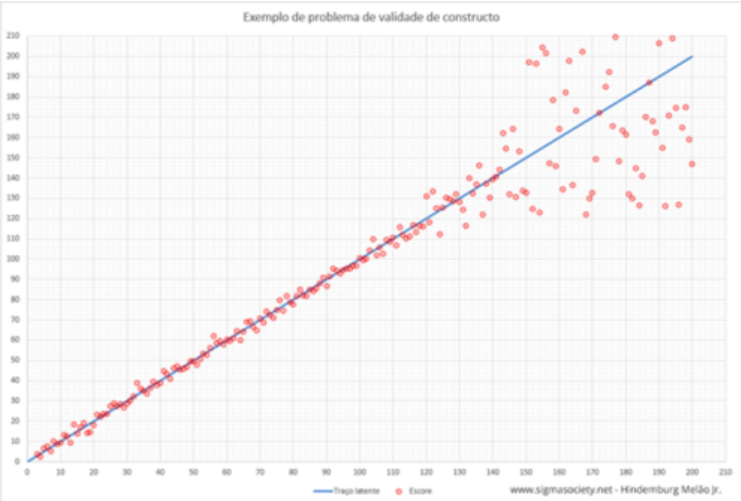
Há também alguns problemas mais sutis. O Raven Standard Progressive Matrices, por exemplo, tem sido utilizado pela Mensa em vários países durante décadas, mas é inadequado para medir corretamente acima de 120, talvez até acima de 115. O motivo é que o teste é constituído por 60 questões, mas apenas 1 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:



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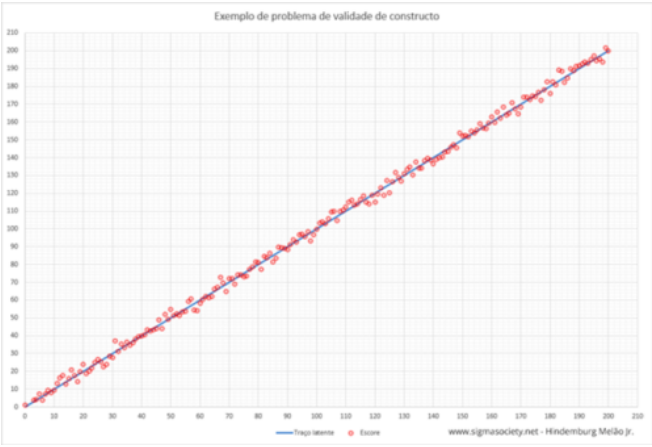
A linha azul representa o traço latente[*] que gostaríamos de medir (inteligência ou fator g ou algo assim). Os círculos vermelhos representam os escores obtidos no teste convertidos em QI. No intervalo entre 0 e 120, os escores medidos são representações muito boas do traço latente, porque os pontos 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

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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 hrIQts, 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 (σ=16 G), ou rIQ (σ=16 G)

pIQ = QI de potencial, ou QI (σ=16 T), ou pIQ (σ=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 hrIQts. 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

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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 (σ=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 (σ=16 G) numa população de 7,9 bilhões tem rIQ 201,2 que equivale a pIQ (σ=16 T) 247,8. Os escores 201,2 (σ=16 G) e 247,8 (σ=16 T) são equivalentes, como 0ºC e 32ºF. O uso do termo rIQ equivale ao uso do termo QI (σ=16 G), enquanto o uso do termo pIQ equivale ao uso do termo (σ=16 T). Também posso eventualmente utilizar rIQ (σ=16 G) ou pIQ (σ=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.

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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 testees 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.

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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?

Hindemburg Melão Jr.: não me interesso 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,

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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,

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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 escore 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 escore 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 escore 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 rememorá-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

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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 valoroso, 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/LUo89Cl9FPY**. 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

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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:

Hindemburg 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)

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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 Hindemburg 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)

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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

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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 gestos (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.

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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 a 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 construto 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

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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,

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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 "vocês, brasileiros, 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.

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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 denunciasse 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 escore 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

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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

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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,

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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

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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

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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 apontei 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,

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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.

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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 (σ=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:

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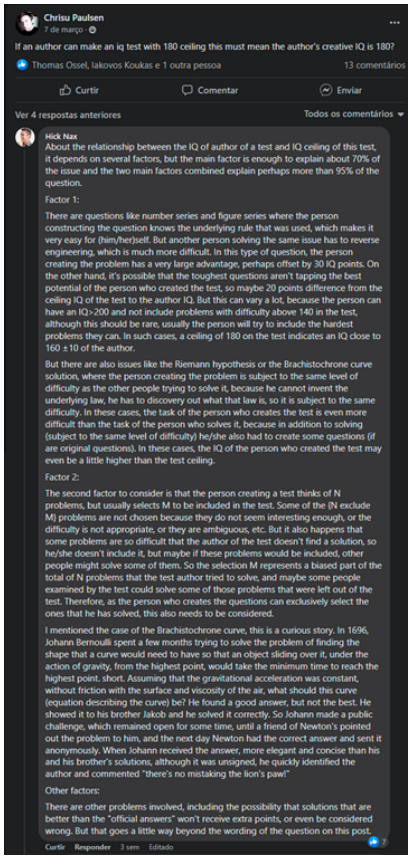

O enunciado geral diz que há uma relação da 1ª figura para a 2ª figura que deve ser descoberta e, em seguida, essa mesma relação deve ser aplicada na 3ª figura para produzir a 4ª figura. Esse é o único enunciado geral para todas as questões desse teste, apresentado no início do teste, e funciona assim 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 escore 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 escore 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 escore 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

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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 escore 196, σ=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 Hoeflin 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 Hoeflin. 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 (σ=16) devem acertar essa questão. Entretanto, a mesma questão sobre a fita de Moebius ao ser aplicada em outro dos testes de Hoeflin está sendo tratada estatisticamente como se tivesse parâmetro b = 3,88 ou seja, 50% das pessoas com QI 162 (σ=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

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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 haviam 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:

Na verdade, alguns problemas que eu já resolvi são mais difíceis que os problemas mais difíceis do Sigma Test Extented. 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 (σ=16, G), isso é equivalente a mais de 240 pIQ (σ=16, T). Achei que ele estivesse sendo gentil, mas em 2005, quando fui indicado para a produção do

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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 professore 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.

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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

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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?

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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

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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 números 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 característicos 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:

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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 péssimo 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:

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2369-6885

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.).

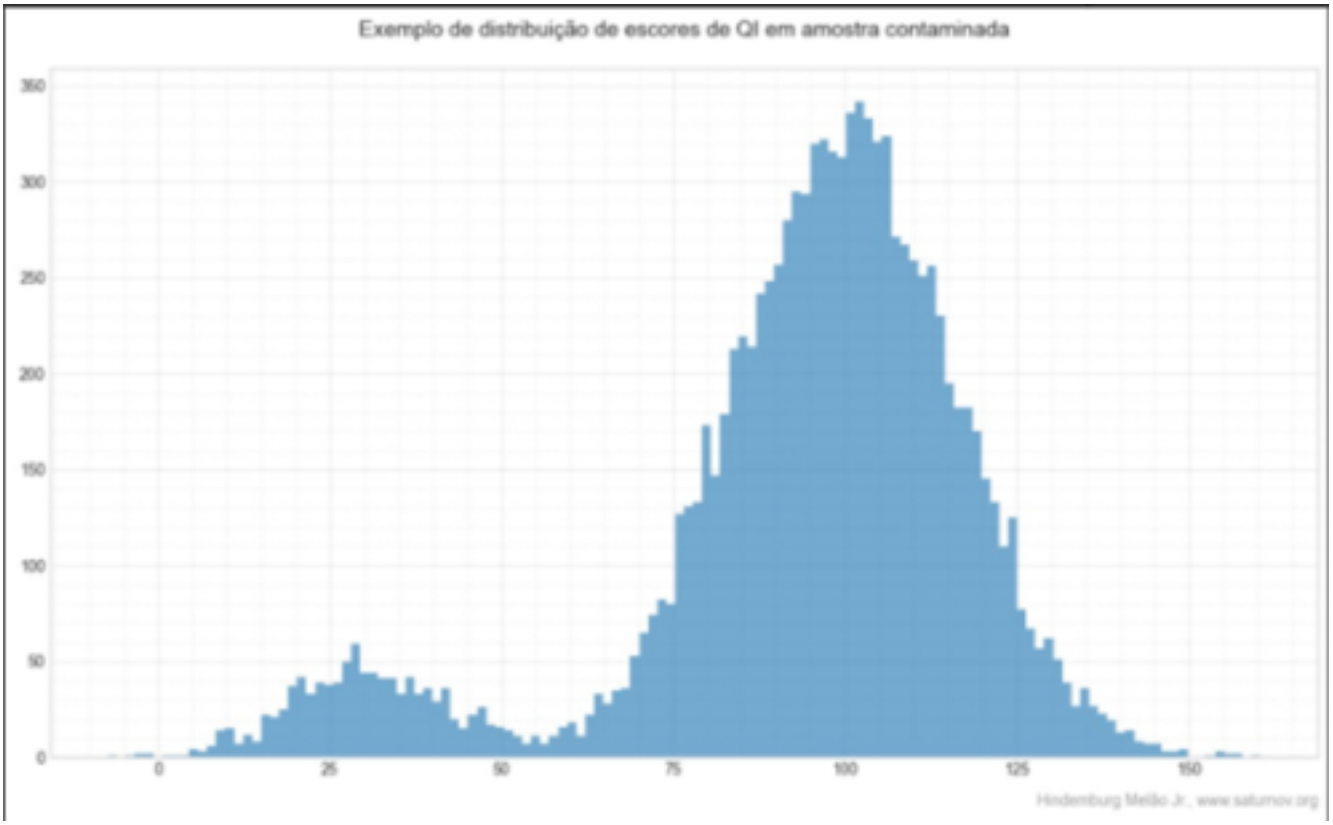
However Lynn's studies are clearly biased, he has an a priori opinion when doing his studies and this certainly influences the results he would like to obtain. In my country he found 87-88 as an average IQ a few years ago and more recently he found 83. I think the average IQ in Brazil is actually a little 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 igualistaristas 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 tiranizar, 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 média, 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

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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 km^2, 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.

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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

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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 boicotadas por todos os lados, por isso é compreensível que muitos prefiram permanecer em silencia, 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.

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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 torneou 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 lucrará 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".

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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 à 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

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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 a 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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Schooling the Young 1: Tor Arne Jorgensen on the Educational Basics

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Abstract

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: education; a new cohort of students; build a rapport; identifying the more astute students; teaching; teachers get good or stay bad at teaching young students; the most difficult; encourage good behaviour; and deal with highly difficult students.

Keywords: education, schooling, the young, Tor Arne Jorgensen.

Schooling the Young 1: Tor Arne Jorgensen on the Educational Basics

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Education is a fundamental aspect of the long-term health of a society. You happen to work with the next generations in teaching. You have two kids. I wanted to explore a bit of the background in education within this context. "How?" in general. "How to do it properly?" in particular. We have touched a bit upon these things in parts of interviews at times. Although, I would like to cover some more of this. So, let's cover some of the groundwork, what is your fundamental stance on educating the next generation of Norwegians?

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Tor Arne Jorgensen[1],[2]*: My basis for educating or explaining the future, as well as proclaiming the bearing generation and then whether or not their imprint as to what extent is influenced by the scholastic institutions can hopefully here be valued in some sense. The broad discrepancies of the like-minded kind of today's academic institutions are to be considered an offspring's fallacy and should according to what I now proclaim hereby end in their current state of form. The way forward is rather to embrace in the notion of change through adaption away from today's obsolete form, towards a more fluid state inclined towards structural changes at the pace that will be considered viable by tomorrows standards. Thus, leading in accordance above and beyond today technologically advances not only limited to one own country but in a conglutinating state on a global scale.

Today's schools are so mind-bogglingly far behind that it's an embarrassment to be behold, the Norwegian academic institutions specifically directed toward the primary and secondary schools must start listening to what's going on out there on the international scene, by reforming themselves towards the more pruned; intellectually, innovative, and creative people in any way possible in the near too far future. When schools find themselves relying solely on highly educated academics, who have completed the formation of a failed and obsolete system that again will only pass on the same shipwreck system to the next generation, what then will this result in…? If one bothers to gaze in the direction with regards to most brilliant innovators of our time, men like; Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and previous Steve Jobs etc. then the same thing is said repeatedly, "you must hire innovators who see the world differently." Their brilliant minds that were, and still are today reinvent an entirely new systems that are directly adapted to the ongoing developing societies, find themselves thrusting forward in quantum leaps, but not so much by the educational institutions, why is that…?

What is explicitly clear to me, is the need for a completely new mindset by and of tomorrow's educational institutions. A clear comparison is according to space travel, NASA was about to throw in the towel, their overpriced misuse and chuck away mentality was completely disconnected, until for example Elon Musk came along and reinvented a completely new way of thinking in terms of cost savings toward a competitive space industry, today space travel is at full speed ahead with the right kind of innovator at the helm. So, look I say, at those with innate talent far beyond what an everyday academic can comprehend.

Today's schools in Norway and beyond are putting all their eggs in the wrong basket, I can only hope that the institutional directories will one day wake up and maybe just maybe look outwards at the real people who can actually get the educational direction on the right course again, and not keep their current course straight into the iceberg.

Jacobsen: When you get a new cohort of students, how do you introduce yourself?

Jorgensen: The introduction process is relatively simple, as one emphasizes what is expected of oneself and what is to be expected of the students in return. That is, what can the students expect from me according to academic content, further, what a class leader commits to, as well as social understandings. Who I am privately for the sake of what I do and my abilities in that sense does not matter in any sense. The students, on their part, present at the request forwarded by me about their expectations of me as a teacher, regarding both academic and social.

Jacobsen: How long does it, typically, take to build a rapport with them?

Jorgensen: This process of uncovering any structural intrigues, class compositions etc. Is a time-consuming task, where one must look at each individual student and their roles in the class society. Who are "the shakers and movers", and who are not? What type of pupil characteristics goes together and who does not, who is comes forth as rootless and who creates group affiliation from within for the sake of calm structural balance. The social aspect

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is probably what must be continuously worked on to be adjusted throughout the school year by order to meet the best possible academic benefit for all students.

Jacobsen: We have talked about identifying the more astute students. Those who are intelligent and disengaged, or intelligent and motivated. The former, maybe, needing a bit more of a prod. Let's cover that again, here, so it's in one place, thematically appropriate too. How do you identify them? In Norway, there's a culture of negation of arrogance, which can be healthy in a lot of ways.

Jorgensen: The process by which identification in the innate state of natural brilliance of the intellectual supreme being has several well-known and thus recognizable trademarks, and as there are a lot of these trademarks to be identified as such, I will just name a few of them in this brief section. Short summarized as; evasive, restlessness, and reflective characteristics of what is deemed above normal relative to age level of that particular student as well as the innate metacognitive affiliations are decided factors for me valued as unavoidable and inalienable characteristics of higher characteristics within the field of the student-based intelligentsia.

Jacobsen: Why, of all professions, choose teaching? It's underpaid, lacks as much respect as medical doctor, and requires significant patience in working with the young.

Jorgensen: If my mindset had been in this direction, then my choice of profession would never have fallen onto the teaching profession.

Yes, there is a lot of distress that is not taken care of according to most things within my field of work. That said, there are many more rights that in turn outweighs the wrongs.

I am not an idealist in the sense of being blinded by utopian silliness, nor am I a capitalist go doer as this surly fall on its own unreasonableness.

My wish is to work with people where a possible outcome in the end, is to be able to see that one has brought through the academic line a person who can and will become a meaningful individual for a future oriented society in the most positive sense. That one is able to see that one's own efforts has led to an improved condition for our surroundings, an all-purpose environment improvement to benefit us all in the long run. Lastly, to direct the future generation to be the bearers of society after our own turn is done, to pass the torch on in the faith that all will be ok…

Jacobsen: How do teachers get good or stay bad at teaching young students?

Jorgensen: In the quest for appliance by "get good", the answer is simple. You must develop yourself both professionally and emotionally. Being aware of the aspect of the developing society that surrounds us, is now more crucial than ever before. The teachers who prove able to see that this adaptation as an undeniable imperative, will then be the mainstay for the teachers who see this as their absolute obligation.

Those teachers who in some way seems to be unable to reinvent themselves or adapt themselves and are thereby stuck in their rudimentary traditional structures, where upon there is no room for innovative initiatives, nor any attempts of adaptation towards society's normative, fall at the risk of becoming permanently passive in their learning initiatives regarding the students' weathering of academic requirements for the proper competence.

Jacobsen: What ages for teaching can be the most difficult?

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Jorgensen: All ages can bring with them their own uniquely challenging qualities, but what usually presents itself is in terms of general challenges across the entire emotional scale of your average student, is probably thus most promptly disposed around the age of 12-16 years.

Jacobsen: How do you encourage good behaviour in students?

Jorgensen: Through some simple positive directed concepts listed as follow: Accountability, self-perception, self-esteem, social acceptance, general recognition, and finally overall acknowledgement as to how they the students want their general environment to view them as…Here the main focus is positive input into every category listed above, this is done to give the students the proper initiative for a focused based and innated direction toward a meaningful adult productive existent that is beneficial for the whole community.

Jacobsen: Also, how do you deal with highly difficult students?

Jorgensen: By confirmation and acceptance. These students need to be understood and supported, put forward through a secure social framework, only then can one to a certain extent expect professional competence development. But the theme around challenging students is never easy, some you can help, and others you cannot.

All Norwegian schools have a support system that helps them if the schools themselves should deem it as an aperitive incentives by fear of falling short regarding their original contract obligations.

Footnotes

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

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/teaching-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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Hindemburg Melão Jr. and Tor Arne Jørgensen on A.I., I.Q., and the Future: Founder, Sigma Society; 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe, World Genius Directory (1)

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Abstract

Hindemburg Melão Jr. founded the Sigma Society and the Sigma Test. Tor Arne Jørgensen is a member of 50+ high-I.Q. societies. They discuss: high-level IQ; Elon Musk; a multiplanetary race; NASA and SpaceX; the next 100 years; AI; the future prospects of man; genius; and the basis of AI.

Keywords: A.I., Elon Musk, Hindemburg Melão Jr., I.Q., Leonardo da Vinci, NASA, Sigma Society, Sigma Test, SpaceX, Tor Arne Jørgensen.

Hindemburg Melão Jr. and Tor Arne Jørgensen on A.I., I.Q., and the Future: Founder, Sigma Society; 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe, World Genius Directory (1)

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

Updated June 17, 2022.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Can high-level IQ tests be legitimized to the same extent as professional supervised tests?

Hindemburg Melão Jr.[1]*: I think this question was partially answered in the preamble to the **interview**, but there are a few details I would like to add.

International Mathematical Olympiads use relatively primitive methods of assessment compared to psychometric methods, but the content of the questions is sufficiently difficult for the levels at which they are intended to assess. The types of problems are not the same as what a mathematician would need to solve, but they do share some necessary cognitive processes. Under these conditions, scores proved to be good predictors of intellectual

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production in the future, including for important awards such as the Fields Medal. The charts below summarize this situation:

Source: **https://ramanujan.xyz/read-our-imo-research/**

Psychometric tests use sophisticated standardization methods, much superior to those used in the IMO, and have good construct validity up to 2 standard deviations above the mean, and an adequate level of difficulty up to 2 standard deviations above the mean. But for higher levels the construct validity and the difficulty level are not adequate. As a result, Terman's studies showed good predictions for academic and professional/financial production, but failed at the highest levels, even showing a negative correlation.

This suggests that while the quality of standardization is important, it is less important than the quality of items in terms of "appropriate difficulty" and "appropriate construct validity" at the levels at which it is intended to be measured.

So for the 70 to 130 range, clinical tests are actually better than hrIQts because they use larger samples and the standardization methods are generally more sophisticated. However, for scores above 130, hrIQts better meet the questions about level of difficulty and construct validity, which are apparently more important criteria for predicting remarkable results in real-world problems.

In addition, some hrIQts are standardized with higher quality than clinical tests, although this is not the most important issue, it can be a differentiator.

Tor Arne Jørgensen[2],[3]*: *Not in the state of being accepted as reliable as the test base in most cases does not reach what is viewed as acceptable. Most High range tests vary from low 20 attempts to high 300-400 attempts in most cases per test, whereby the professional test is based on 6000-20000 attempts per test. Some of course have a larger test base but not many, so the outcome will not be nuanced enough to be validated as real. Furthermore, it is not a team of professional test developers with a psychological background who develop these high range tests, they are thus of debatable value to estimate.*

It should be added that even amateur designed logic tests, hit quite close to the certified tests in most cases in my experience, where deviations of around 2-3 IQ points have been found regarding my own tests, and it must be said that I am not a certified phycologist by any means, but from the 400 attempts I have had on my own high range tests, then the results is quite clear as norm go…

Jacobsen: Is Elon Musk the Leonardo Da Vinci of today?

Melão Jr.: Musk is very smart and very creative, his IQ is somewhere close to 155 (σ =16) and his creativity level is perhaps equivalent to something like 180.

In Leonardo's case, if his IQ were put on the same scale, it would be close to 250 to 260 (σ =16, T). Obviously this is only possible because the true distribution of the scores is not normal, otherwise in a historical population of 100 billion the maximum possible rarity would be 10^-11, corresponding to 207.3 (σ =16). To better understand how the determination of scores should be done, I suggest reading this article: **https://www.sigmasociety.net/escalasqi**

Some people are especially skilled at figuring out what questions need to be asked to solve important problems. Other people are especially skilled at finding answers. Leonardo was exceptional at both, asking the "right" questions and finding efficient and creative answers, perhaps 9 to 10 standard deviations above the mean (in a

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dense-tailed distribution, as noted above). Musk is very good at asking important questions (perhaps 5 standard deviations above average), but (for now) he needs his army of geniuses to find the answers Leonardo found on his own. Musk is also very good at solving problems (perhaps 3 to 4 standard deviations above average) and has a huge net worth, which boosts his production by outsourcing the work of many others.

Musk's financial resources, he would probably have built working helicopters in the 15th century, but with animal traction (it would be unlikely to invent an engine at that stage in which the Technology was), and many other things even more extraordinary than what he did, actually did.

On the other hand, in a short time Musk "will be able" to implant computer prostheses in the brain and will surpass Leonardo. It might, but it probably won't anytime soon, because it won't be safe at first, it will need to be tested on monkeys, then human volunteers, etc.

Jørgensen: *Comparing these two people is not easy by any means as they on both parts are quite unique in any sense, whereas they are driven by a regiment of absolutes. Your inherent qualities are what have helped to shape their outcome into the history books. Brilliant to be woad, where qualities of both the creative and logic-based intellect are above the norm as to the general population. To look at these two individuals as fortified settlers, paving the way forward for innovation and development through quantum leaps for humanity in all its rejuvenation of renewal. Intellectually, these two guys are not so different in the bare nature and their continuous strives towards future innovations, one more hopelessly lost and barred by his contemporaries regards to Leonardo Da Vinci, even more so than the later Elon Musk. Leonardo's, in some way desperate attempt at fame and fortune trapped by the ancients' dogmas and frigates in his heyday.*

Leonardo Da Vinci an intellect of contemporary currents, intentionally shaped for the individual's right to be recognized as real and genuine. A man whose brilliance is still increasing in his hardening, is to be regarded as Elon Musk's superior as to both intellect and creative output. Elon Musk is brilliant in all his glory, but still he is not to be painted with the same statuettes as Leonardo. That said, only time will tell who will be viewed with the greatest influence of these two exemplified giants perceived by utopian framework conditions by and for the artistic innovation and common enrichment of utilitarianism.

Jacobsen: We can certainly see ourselves as a multiplanetary race in the near or distant future, and is that something we want to be then?

Melão Jr.: The technology necessary for terraforming planets or other astronomical objects should be achieved in a short time, perhaps it is already available, although it has not yet been applied. But the time it takes to make another star habitable depends a lot on how big the differences between that star are compared to Earth, in addition to the size of the star, the star's evolution rate, etc. We still don't know whether the most promising venture would be terraforming Venus, Mars or the Moon. I would bet on the Moon for the short term and Venus for the long term, but there is still not enough data to decide. Alternatives like Europa, Titan or Enceladus are very cold, perhaps this is more difficult to resolve.

No Solar System object, other than Earth, appears to be sufficiently suited for the development and/or maintenance of complex life as they are now. Perhaps extremophiles like tardigraphs can live on Mars, without the need for major changes to the planet. However, to colonize Mars with humans it would be necessary to solve some very difficult problems:

1. Mars' magnetic field is very tenuous, insufficient to deflect lethal radiation. To increase the intensity of this magnetic field naturally and without needing a continuous supply that consumes energy, Mars would need a

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rotating metallic core of a certain size. It would be an incredibly difficult engineering process to change that and far removed from our current technology.

2. The atmosphere of Mars has 0.6% of the pressure of the Earth's atmosphere and is composed of 95% CO_2, with only 2.8% nitrogen and 0.2% oxygen. Earth's atmospheric pressure at the top of Mount Everest is about 30% of the pressure at sea level, and breathing is already very difficult at the top of Everest, with high risks of nose and ear bleeds. So it would need to increase 100 to 200 times the total mass of gases on Mars and increase 10,000 to 15,000 times the mass of oxygen. How to do this? Musk commented on the possibility of generating more gases in the atmosphere of Mars through nuclear explosions, a completely speculative hunch, to "test and see what happens". I think it's a reasonable guess, despite not being supported by anything concrete. Perhaps an interesting alternative to this strategy is to develop genetically edited plants to transform soil nutrients into oxygen. Simply changing CO_2 from the atmosphere to O_2 would not solve it because there is not enough CO It would need to increase the atmospheric mass a lot, in addition to the change in composition, and even then it would be complicated because as the gravitational acceleration on the surface of Mars is 0.37 times that of Earth, so if the density of the air were equal to that of Earth, the pressure would be 0.37, just slightly higher than the pressure at the top of Everest. If I increased the pressure 2.5 to 3 times to make it equal to Earth's, then I would need to investigate the health effects of having 3x the air density.

There are several other negatives, but less serious than the first two. Mars' orbital eccentricity is 0.0934, while Earth's is 0.0167. As a result, the range of thermal variation on Mars is vastly greater. On Earth, the seasons of the year are predominantly determined by the inclination of the axis of rotation, but in the case of Mars the predominant factor would be the variation in the distance from the Sun, which would also be added to the variations related to the inclination of the axis. It would not be a prohibitive range of variation for life, but it would create serious problems for humans. The photos below show the variation in the size of the South polar ice cap in just 2 days. Nothing similar happens in Antarctica (not to the same extent). This sublimated ice cap material is added to the atmosphere, substantially increasing the average total pressure. Weather stations on Mars would be much more marked than on Earth, not only with much greater temperature variations, but also with changes in CO_2 concentrations in the air, relative humidity, etc. And it would be useless to try to "fix" this in the ice caps, because it is a process related to the temperature variations inherent to orbital motion and axial tilt.

Despite these difficult points to resolve, Mars has several positives: the length of the day is very similar to Earth's day, so it would not require much adaptation. In the cases of the Moon and particularly Venus, day length could be a big problem. The fact that Mars' albedo is much lower than Earth's contributes a little to its not being so cold, even though it is 50% farther from the Sun than Earth.

Venus has a very tenuous magnetosphere as well, but this is largely due to its very low rotation speed. Accelerating its rotation would be less difficult than introducing a giant metallic core to Mars, but it would still be immeasurably difficult and would require a much higher level of propulsive energy production than we currently have. When such technology is available, connecting suitable thrusters and with sufficient fuel, this process of accelerating rotation could take a few thousand years. Solar energy itself could serve as a complementary fuel source for the thrusters. At the same time, it would be possible to drain or condense part of the atmosphere. The components of the atmosphere are not very "friendly", but H_2SO_4 includes H_2 and O_4, which can produce water, oxygen and ozone. The amount of nitrogen is 3 times greater than on Earth, so I would just need to figure out how to produce

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the proper chemical reactions. Perhaps in 10,000 to 100,000 years it will be possible to make Venus habitable, with an atmosphere similar to ours, a 24-hour day, a sufficient magnetic field. The current albedo of Venus is 0.76, while that of Earth is 0.39, so although Venus is closer to the Sun, as it absorbs less light, its temperature could be maintained at a level similar to that of Earth, at least in the regions of higher latitudes. When the atmosphere is changed, the albedo must also change, but it must be possible to reasonably control this parameter in order to leave the appropriate temperature. The length of the day time doesn't seem to me to be an issue in itself, but modifying this would be useful for the magnetic capo reason. In the case of Mars, whose mass is 1/8 that of Venus, it might also be possible to shorten the day from 24 hours to 6 minutes, in which case perhaps Mars' magnetic field would also reach a level suitable for deflecting harmful radiation, but it would produce many other problems, because the flattening of the planet caused by the pseudo-centrifugal force would be 250 times greater, that is, the planet would be elongated more than an egg, changing several fundamental parameters at the equator and poles, and it may not even be possible to maintain balance hydrostatic effect of an object with these dynamic characteristics, the lithosphere might rupture, or melt due to the heating caused by friction with the magma of the lower layer, the Coriolis effect would be very intense and there would be hurricanes all the time in high latitudes, not to mention the difficulty that it would be to live on a planet where the sun rises and if it could every 3 minutes, the tidal effects would also have a very short cycle etc. So, although the mass of Venus is much greater than that of Mars, it seems more plausible to me to reduce a rotation from 243 days to 1 day, as in Venus, than to reduce a rotation from 1 day to 0.004 days, as in Mars. Both would likely increase the magnetic field by increasing the rotation speed of the core, but the side effects on Mars would be catastrophic.

Anyway, these terraforming processes I believe will only serve as "experiments", because there will be no advantage in moving to Venus, Moon or Mars. It will be important to use these astronomical objects as "laboratories" to learn how to terraform other astronomical objects, as there will be many unforeseen issues that will need to be resolved during this process, and the first attempts will be very likely to fail. Thus, for a few million years there will be an opportunity for learning, correcting errors, etc. and then apply the process to terraform some exoplanet to meet the real need to leave the Solar System before the Sun leaves the main sequence. If you were to learn how to do it only when necessary to switch to another system, and failed in the attempt, it would be disastrous. That's why it's important to test on neighboring planets first, although the objective is not to occupy them, per se. Although the sun is predicted to take 5 billion years to run out of its hydrogen fuel, along this process there will be several major changes in a few hundred million years, both in size and in temperature and luminosity. A 10% increase or decrease in brightness would be a very serious problem. The current model of evolution for G2-V class astronomical objects like the Sun predicts that in 1 billion years the Sun's luminosity will be about 9% greater than today, so we won't have several billion years to move into a star system. more stable, maybe around a red dwarf or something. It's also debatable whether a red dwarf would be an option, because if our main energy source is starlight, with a Dyson sphere or something, maybe a red dwarf wouldn't be able to meet our energy demand. Another problem is that the current model of evolution is based on many hypotheses that may be wrong or inaccurate. Recently, the Sun's metallicity was found to be about 43% higher than previously thought, which has several implications for the pace of evolution and how long it will take before we need to move due to the overheating of our region. If there are other parameters revised, the 1 billion-year timeframe can be reduced to a few hundred million (or extended, if we're lucky).

Perhaps the planets and other astronomical objects within the Solar System are used for tourism, or for the escape of some "privileged" people in case a war renders Earth uninhabitable, although it is probably less difficult to "fix" the Earth after a nuclear war than to make another planet welcoming enough. Even after a devastating nuclear war,

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Earth would hardly be as inhospitable as Mars, for example. If in the next decades or centuries weapons even more destructive than the current ones emerge, and if they are used, then perhaps they will be able to make Earth more uninhabitable than other planets, in which case migration would be an alternative for some. It is also important to consider that future inhabitants of the Earth may have different needs than the current ones, perhaps the brains will be preserved, but the rest of the body may be replaced by something more versatile, which can withstand higher and lower temperatures and other more hostile conditions, keeping the brain thermally insulated so that it does not suffer damage, with adequate protections also for radiation, etc. Or simply swapping the brain for a homologous structure that is more robust to adverse weather conditions.

It is also likely that "humans" will not move to just one planet, but to several, as the terraforming tests will not work every time, so we will need a reasonable sample of trials to have a good chance that at least some tests "work". And once the new planets are available for occupation, they are likely to be occupied. It is also possible that genetic and prosthetic changes are made to make humans, animals and plants adapted to other astronomical objects, rather than just altering the astronomical objects to adapt to us. This should make the whole process faster and promote a better harmonization and integration of beings with the planets on which they will live, since some planetary and stellar parameters will probably be very difficult to adjust, such as the amount of UVB rays emitted by the star, necessary for the synthesis of vitamin D, which is currently important for our immune system, but if we happen to inhabit a planet around a red dwarf, the UVB emission will be much lower. In short, it is a question that could be written in a book about it, because it is very complex. But this is an outline of some possibilities.

Jørgensen: *The future as a multiplanetary race is for me an inevitable scenario that one cannot get away from.*

But it must be said to what extent we as humans would be able to look at ourselves as a human being in today's biological sense. This with reference to some of what is being referred to by Mr Melao, about being able to adapt to the planetary conditions that you will encounter. What does one mean by this, well that we as humans are more easily served by transformation our structural set-up by order to adapt to what we may face of climatic challenges, etc., on the planet on which we visualize being able to build our new societies upon. If we as a human species are to ensure our continued existence, then it will not be in our current capsules, but in an alternate state trough adapted evolution, whereby the human biology must interphase with technological innovation, thus resulting as a preformation of a bionic entity.

This adaptation is far more realistic compared to the alternative method by way of terraforming new planets to alter the climatic environment to suite us as humans. So, to the question "do we want to be a multiplanetary species?" Yes, I believe so with all my heart, to not prevent the demise of our very existence is unfadeable to me. We as humans are still in our infancy state, our story has not been told and certainly not being lived in full yet. No, there is too much to be lost if we do not consider ourselves as preservable into this alternate state as an multiplanetary race in the future to come. We must ensure survival through conformance towards preservation of the biological galactical imprint by all cause.

What I think about our own planet becoming smaller and smaller is in the sense of feeling that the earth is becoming more and more narrower, due to the simplification of travel methods and a normalization of the fact that everyone is now in one sense or another a globetrotter, with reference to a global traveler. Hundreds of years ago, the earth was a huge place that could take several months to travel from one corner of the world to another, later it took weeks, then days, and now hours. Our planet is not big enough nor exciting enough that we are now just starting to feel the ever-growing urge to move beyond our own palatial comforts to other more worldly endeavors beyond, out there somewhere beyond the heavenly stars.

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If one is to put the human existence in the following perspective:

Man, and its existence do not extend over a very long time.

Our total existence in relation to a single human being has so far reached the age of 14-15 years, in the sense that our race of homo sapiens is now as I see it in the stage of a normal teenager. In the very early stages, thousands of years ago we were pondering about the world and all its content with stat at point in time, the marvelous and confusing grandeur, we began to explore our nearby surroundings as on a par with a baby exploring his own crib. Then as time went on, we humans evolve further and forward in time to a few hundred years ago, we could explore not only our nearby areas, but also explore across borders and continents during several weeks on expeditions.

This again can be seen as a young child at the age of 7-8, who is now moving away from the safe surroundings of the house and exploring his immediate environment.

Forward in time again, to the age where we were introduced to general aviation, which meant that we could now travel anywhere in the world within days and finally hours in the present time. This can be compared to the teenagers who again travel further, beyond now on much longer journeys across national borders etc.

The meaning of this is that we are now soon ready to take the next step towards the age of majority to move out of our safe surroundings, as human urge to move further out away from our own planet towards something new and unknown. I firmly believe that we are still in an early stage of our total existence and have about three quarters and a bit again to live, in the relation to the normal human life expectancy of around eighty years+.

Jacobsen: What could be the reason why NASA did not intend to reduce rampant spending and did like SpaceX and reuse the rockets in the same way as when SpaceX does today?

Melão Jr.: I haven't followed the evolution of this, so maybe my answer doesn't make sense. But I think that NASA didn't have the technology for that, nor was it interested in using part of the budget to try to develop this technology. If they used money for that and couldn't solve the rocket reuse problem, the money would be lost. SpaceX took the gamble and it worked. After SpaceX has solved the problem and the technology is now available, NASA doesn't have to risk the venture until it learns how to do it. Just repeat what SpaceX has already shown to work. So my guess is that maybe that's the main reason or at least one of the reasons.

Jørgensen: *The basis for NASA lack of reusability or the mere thought about it by imprudent intent, as to not make it its task to take upon this type of innovation of thereby speculative content is not yet clear to me. What is certain, is that now everyone sees what SpaceX has successfully managed, and in a shared note of what Blue Origin has also done to some degree with reference to SpaceX technology advances regarding concept of reusability and space travel. This must make NASAs executive leaders think back and grimly reconsider its previous fallacies of galloping spending costs and their taxpayer's later mistrust in return. At one point, it seems that NASA was about to give up all hope of looking towards other planets in the faintest of possibility as to human space travel and the hope of colonizing other nearby systems.*

Fortunately for us all, we are now led by Elon Musk's brilliancy and persistency, so now the hope burns brighter the ever before, a beacon to be behold.

But back to the insane approach of the galloping costs for NASA's space program. The US state's belief in what one would assume to be the most competent people in the relativity of space odyssey and its particularities, must then also be governed by the most competent economists by spending such astronomical sums as NASA seizes from the US state's budgets each year. It is conceivable that one must get a type of divine revelation of a new ingenious

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shooting star, with which can reignite those most impertinent innovations beyond that oneself is unable to imagine in order to rekindle that all important flame within us all.

A type of remnant of a gone by era whereby a new state of mind initiatives that only the most brilliant intellectuals can enable us to understand in a never-ending alternate state such as Elon Musk has now installed and by with which we the benefactors can thus reap the benefits of taking all those educational lessons with us for further study within the field of notation.

Jacobsen: Can we expect that in the next 100 years we humans will encounter new extraterrestrials races?

Melão Jr.: I'm assuming the question is about living extraterrestrials or that at some point were already alive (fossilized, for example) and whose ancestors are also extraterrestrials. Otherwise the answer would be easy, because if a couple of humans go to a lunar base and they have a child there, the child will be a selenite (or lunarian), or something, or a martian if it's on a base on Mars, and that should happen in less time, of 100 years. But I imagine you would like to rule out this type of extraterrestrial. So if we're talking about extraterrestrials whose ancestors have also been extraterrestrials for over 100 years, the probability goes down, but it's still likely, in my opinion. Objects like Oumuamua probably pass through the Solar System frequently, but are rarely detected because there are no monitoring programs for this. When a systematic project is developed to study objects of this type, then our range in a few decades will be much greater than the current one, reaching far beyond the objects of the Solar System, not because we will be able to go to other astronomical objects in such a short time, but because we will better take advantage of opportunities to study interstellar objects that pass in our vicinity, but which are not currently being studied with due attention.

The answer to this question will also depend a lot on some semantic and etymological details, related to the classification of an organism as "living". Our current concept of life is very limited, to the point that if we found living organisms with certain properties very different from those we know, we might not recognize them as "living". The evolution of the concept of "life" should play an important role in this process, expanding the scope of this concept and making it more inclusive. Robots, for example, may be considered "alive" if they meet certain criteria.

In reaction to communicating with intelligent life, in projects like SETI, I think it's less likely, because our current technology based on radio signals didn't exist 100 years ago and should become obsolete in 100 years, so it's very unlikely that alien civilizations are precisely at a stage compatible with ours. Another problem is that the signal strength, even if it is very collimated, would not have a very long range (10 kpc, for example). More advanced communication technologies are more likely to use something like quantum tunneling or some other faster method, and not only would there be no loss in signal strength, this would extend the range to the entire universe and allow for delay-free responses. I'm not saying that this technology will necessarily come from tunneling, but from something equivalent in terms of speed, preservation of "cleanliness" (no noise) and signal strength. But I don't know if in 100 years it will be available. Maybe so, but I think less than 50% probability.

Jørgensen: *As I think it will just be an inevitable fact to be behold in the near to far future, as to the possibility of interaction of new planetary species, the answer is yes. I find myself puzzling as to when this will happen, not if it ever will happen. But it should be noted as to what state, shape or form this alien encounter will be presented in…*

Jacobsen: What can we humans expect from AI, according to health, war, space travel etc… in the near future?

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Melão Jr.: It depends on some factors. If there are enough investments from now on, in 10 to 15 years we could have some people immortal, or at least have some people with the aging process dramatically slowed down and then stopped, while advances continue to later reverse this process and arrive at immortality. and then resuscitation. The strategy for this already exists, but to be put into practice it would need computational resources and a qualified team dedicating time to it.

Some of the important recent technological leaps have encountered barriers that the researchers involved are failing to overcome. AlphaZero was able to go up from -3000 (negative 3000) rating to 3500 rating with 9 hours of training, learning more in those 9 hours than all of humanity combined has been able to learn about chess in over 500 years. However, AlphaZero's evolution curve bumped into an asymptotic limit and if it kept training for 100 years it wouldn't be able to climb from 3500 to 3900, maybe not even 3800 or 3700. This effect also happens with Shogi, Gô, Atari games and probably almost all board games and other types of problems if addressed by this solution strategy.

If you use more processing power, yes, it can reach 4000, but in terms of improving heuristics, it has stagnated. A similar problem happens with Lc0 and StockFish. Stockfish shows no real improvement since version 13, the difference from version 15 to 13 is 4 points, while the uncertainty in the measurement is 17 points.

Source: **https://ccrl.chessdom.com/ccrl/4040/rating_list_all.html**

Demis Hassabis' idea for using reinforcement deep learning the way he did was important in getting to this stage, but there is no prospect of moving forward until the issues that make the next step possible are resolved. In the case of AlphaZero I don't know exactly what they did other than what they make available on the site, but in the case of Lc0 there is more public information and the system itself is available to be tested extensively, and there are many errors in Lc0 and optimization details inadequate that need improvement, and I suppose there are a lot of similar problems in the case of AlphaZero, maybe not quite the same problems as Lc0, but just as serious, certainly.

Jørgensen: *If one looks at what we today experience regarding artificial intelligence, then for me it will be regarded towards optimism, this based on the extensive help that one can now receive in so many ways. Going forward, when a self-perception will be duly important for AI and its denotative constructs, can then quickly be turned witnessed by genuine concern of the unknown. One even hopes that the help that we all enjoy and know today for example by what Google Search, Google Translate, Google Maps etc., does for each of us every day all around the world. So, the way forward I hope, will address the preconception of securing humanity further for a common coexistence, with the fusing of our biological matter with the technological artificial intelligence into a higher form for symbiotic existential awareness, as an all-important first step to further human advances in the hope of preservation of our existential survival.*

Regards to the topic of warfare, we see a lot of it today, with self-searching missile systems, drones etc. The soldiers of the future will in such a sense be superfluous, as rocket installations and long-distance warfare will deal with virtually all enemy installations and personnel. Small pockets of elite soldiers that we have today, where I want to highlight the Telemark Battalion, Norway's elite soldiers, which soon will be equipped, I mean with improved performance over what is viewed as a normal top performance effect for humans in battle. A similar state of what the movie franchise " The Universal Soldier", displayed which many of us enjoyed in the early 90's. This is form me the first obviously step to take for the advancement of elite forces in the near future.

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To the point of space travel, we humans must adapt to long and very challenging space travel over long distances in the not too far future. Whereby challenges as for example, muscle loss, room sickness, and all the other biological challenges that we humans must deal with, where our human weaknesses emerge so all too well, will need to be limited at all costs if a long-distance space travel is to be successful.

As mentioned earlier, a changed outcome for our own part is essential for our survival in the future, we cannot solely rely on having to terra form new potential habitable planets, the time is not on our side for that. We are currently experts in adaptation regarding out surroundings come what may, so this is the way to go in the future of space travel. Furthermore, we need to find ways to travel faster than light, or to discover wormholes that can be exploited if possible.

If we are talking about long space travel, it is not enough to live for 80+ years as we do now, we extend our life expectancy to at least 200-300 hundred years or more with our current rocket speed limit slingshot through space in order to reach a potential planetary star systems that can house us in the future. The alternative is as mentioned earlier, to exceed the current light speed by many warps. In summary, if AI does not wipe us out and thus their need for self-preservation ceases, we must also cease our troublesome self-perception by and for the preservation of the biological origin over to a pre amt understanding by the transferable biological input- transference by morphonology technological output, resulting in an alternate state of existence to ensure the species' survival.

Jacobsen: What are the future prospects of man according to AI and its non-extended properties in all faults, where emphasis is placed on: extinction of the species man or coexistence?

Melão Jr.: Depends on what will be considered "human". In Asimov's book/film "Bicentennial Man", robots added more and more human parts, until they became practically human. But it's more likely that the path followed in the real world is the other way around, and humans put more and more inorganic parts, until you get to a point where maybe only the brain remains, and maybe later the brain too is replaced by something equivalent, but with very different structure.

Jørgensen: *The prospects for man, are for me in the hope of a formative symbiosis, where a common perception of ours and their values is united. But one sees clearly that this will probably not become a reality, if we humans today live in the present and are unable by the large amount to see beyond the horizon against the dangers that threaten if we continue the course we are now on today. My frustration is based on the following notion, if the interest as to the importance of the intellect is the same size as that of our head, and that the interest in the physiological ramifications correspond from the neck down, then the intellect will always lose ground for the physiological manifestations.*

This is simplified, so that the people who can answer the challenges of the future are in my opinion in a weathering state of despair according to the general verification thereof. It can almost be states that; "are we humans worth saving or not?" This is probably where one can to a certain extent consider that all life is worth saving, but still, where do we draw the line for the preservability by species diversity. If we are to be able to answer the challenges of the future, then from what I see a deviation on the intelligence scale must be increased upwards at all levels.

For me, this is probably to be regarded as a type of Darwinian way of thinking, whereas the strong will prevail in the battle for ones right to exist and the weak will most likely perish, at least when it comes to one's cognitive state. The technological challenges do not allow for those with limited cognitive abilities in the future, sad but true.

We are soon doomed to lose our current alpha role in society, and when this will happen, then only those with the best ability to adapt and shows willfulness through morphologically changing their original biological imprint

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towards a higher state of biotechnological self enhancement. In other words, the most selective adaptational individuals will have the best chances of securing one's spawn further and the weakly will fall away, this can be seen as a necessity for the very continuation of our species survival in a hopefully subordinate role with AI as the new alpha.

Jacobsen: Does the term "genius" disappear according to what capabilities AI might possess?

Melão Jr.: The concept of "genius" should not be formulated to apply exclusively to humans. This concept can be subdivided in the taxonomic hierarchy by species, by genus, by family, etc. and may include new groups of organisms such as robots or organic and inorganic aliens, even the concept of "organic" could be reconsidered to include silicon beings, depending on the properties of the beings that eventually fall into this group.

One can use the concept of "human genius", as well as "human giant", or chimpanzee genius, giant chimpanzee, depending on the level of rarity or the amount of standard deviations away from the mean, or some similar criterion.

Within each animal, plant, mineral, monera, etc. and other alien life forms and inorganic beings, beings may "accept" some attributes that have a coherent meaning within their respective category, but not accept other attributes. For example: giant rocks, albino elephants, genius humans, triboluminescent fish . But not genius rocks or lepton bunnies or yellow scream, because some categories don't accept certain concepts. They could admit as metaphors or poetic licenses, but the meanings would be analogies with some losses, distortions and damage to the rigor of the meanings. "Genius stones" would not establish an intelligible idea. I could try to force the "genius" attribute to stone, but that would start to have a consistency that is too fragile for proper analysis. It would be more advisable to "filter" the attributes that each category of entities could receive, to maintain some logical rigor in the analysis.

In this case, among all classes of organisms that accept the attribute "intelligence", it would also be possible to apply quantifiers of relative intensity of intelligence, such as "genius". The application of these attributes within the same species would be easier, because generally the distribution of a variable within the same species is similar to a Gaussian, or after a few transformations (logarithm of the variable, for example) it becomes similar to a Gaussian. A genius dog would be one with an intelligence 3 (or 4 or 5) standard deviations above the mean. Within the "dogs" group there is a smooth curve of intensity levels for variables such as height, running speed or intelligence.

When considering different species mixed together, the distribution form can no longer be normal, it can even be very different from a normal one and strongly asymmetric, with some discontinuities or with some deep reductions in frequency in the intervals that separate two species, moreover, in instead of taking the form of a normal, it may take the form of a distribution in which the smallest organisms are much more numerous than the largest. But the concept of level of rarity would still be applicable whatever the distribution of the variable of interest, so that it would still be possible to apply the attribute "genius" to a group of categories of beings, as long as the beings of these categories accepted the attribute "intelligence". I am simplifying things, to describe the idea, but naturally the meaning of "genius" would not need to be based exclusively on "intelligence". To get the point across, let's assume that "genius" is simply a quantifier of intelligence.

By approaching the question in this way, perhaps mammals contained all the geniuses in existence. Or maybe the macroscopic animals contained all the jinn. It would depend a lot on what the criterion for conceptualizing "genius" would be. If it were for rarity within the population of individuals, whether individuals would be

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weighted by size, mass, by some other criterion, whether rarity would be stratified by species, etc. It would also depend on the cut-off point to determine at what rarity level the “genius” rating would start to apply, whether 1 in 1,000, or 1 in 1,000,000 or something else.

Analyzing an example: if we were to consider the distribution of all individuals of all species mixed together, without any weighting, then as the number of microorganisms is much greater than that of large organisms, if the number of microorganisms is 10^12 times greater than the number of insects and even larger beings, then insects could already be classified as “geniuses” because they would be at the top of 1 in 1,000,000 of the most intelligent beings in the general population, since the general population would be mostly of microorganisms. If the criterion were different and considered the average intelligence by species and stratified by species, on a planet with 10 million species, if the criterion for “genius” were 1 in 1 million, then probably some great apes and some great cetaceans would be classified as geniuses. Although humans are significantly above other primates, it would be a little more difficult to establish a statistical criterion along this path that would make it possible to “surgically” separate humans from other animals, including because there are some gorillas and chimpanzees that are more intelligent than some humans.

In this context, inorganic beings such as AIs that are smarter than humans, or almost as smart as humans or gorillas or dolphins, would also receive this classification of “geniuses”. If the criteria were based on rarity, there wouldn’t be much difference on an ordinal scale between a robot and a human, because they would both be near the top, the robot first in the world and humans second. While robots could be many orders of magnitude smarter than humans, the criterion based on rarity would not do much to create a special class for robots. This is a situation in which the standardization method I described in 2000 would be successfully applied, because it would make it possible to measure the extent to which robots are smarter than humans, rather than simply measuring species rarity levels.

In the current scenario, for example, humans are 1st and perhaps chimpanzees or gorillas are 2nd, and the proportion is relatively small of members of the species that are 1st to members of the species that are 2nd. Perhaps the average intelligence of humans is 100 times the average of chimpanzees, just 2 orders of magnitude. It is not much, there is even an intersection between the distributions of intellectual levels of humans and other great primates. In the case of AIs , perhaps the ratio to humans is something like 10^6 or 10^9, so even the smartest humans wouldn’t come close to the intellectual level of average intelligence machines, or even faulty machines. Perhaps, in the beginning, we preserved some intellectual attributes in which we could still excel, but it would be a matter of time before the machines were surpassing us in practically all relevant aspects.

If the criterion were based on proportion of intellectual potential, rather than levels of rarity, it would be easier and more logical to separate the intellectual level of robots and humans, as well as separating humans and other animals, although often not. there is a well-defined interface and the levels intersect.

Therefore the term genius would continue to be applicable, both within specific species and in groups of species and groups of intelligent entities. But instead of the term “genius” it might be necessary to use “human genius” to distinguish from “genius” among all species . Subdivisions could also be created at higher and lower levels. Human-scale “deep genius” or “universal genius” tests would be relatively little for AI systems, and an average AI level could be too high for any human to achieve. In the case of hybrid humans there would also be categories according to the breadth of the connection and the preserved proportion of humanity. In Asimov’s book/film “Bicentennial Man” he thinks that robots would want to become humans, but it is much more likely that humans want to become robots, which would be “dangerous” in many ways, because maybe the feeling, the emotion, some attributes that we consider essentially human and animals, may not be relevant to robots and will gradually become

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extinct. I wouldn't know to what extent this could be bad. In science fiction robots evolve in the sense of developing feelings, but perhaps the real path of evolution is in the sense that humans are progressively deprived of organic parts associated with feelings.

Jacobsen: Does the term "genius" disappear according to what capabilities AI might possess?

Jorgensen: I will start by proclaiming the following statement of "never", and here is why I think so. The term genius, better known as to the "creative intellect", whereby the creative mind is put in focus as to the human creativeness. The innovative marvel that embraces our intellectual experience centers, proclaimed by peritonitis of amazement of what the human mind is capable of producing. This is what I want to statuette here forth, and not to move beyond what is meant to form the basis of the question formulation initially, the magical intellect.

The term "genius" for the intended purpose will here for me, not only remain, but also be reinforced, as it can easily be surpassed not in the short term but in the long term in terms of human intellectual maxims. Following protrude as to what one should then focus on, hereby understood as focus on the individual's intellectual creativity, as many great innovators was far ahead of their own time, have given us mere mortals a glimpse into the future, duly noted, and as in most cases not in their own lifetimes, but after their passing. Then, when the final revelations come to light, then everyone can rediscover these geniuses again as a prompt renaissance seance, thus presenting the opportunity to be immortalized ones again for all future prosperity.

This goes for; Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and many more brilliant intellectual diamonds not only in the West, but for the rest of the world as well … Their inventions, their unbridled drive, courage, unstoppable perseverance to proclaim their worth in the past, present and, yes, promptly stated for all eternity. The unambiguity abilities of these innovators and their approach as to how the world works, or rather, to see what infinite possibilities the world has to offer far beyond us mere mortals, is for me the most beautiful human marvel of all the worlds creations.

In today's world, most of the material we all use every day is being produced by an assembly line process controlled by machines. Machines account for almost everything that is being made today, everything from textiles, cars, food, electronics, heavy industry, shipping materials etc. What is being hand-made which was almost everything back 100-150 years ago, is now to be viewed as very exclusive and precious more now than ever before. In the future, this effect, as I see it, will only increase in its exclusivity, especially when it comes to what the human imaginative innovations, bespoke and perfected with the extra little distinctiveness. And it is the distinctiveness that will become so much more of a valuable commodity, the handcraft that only a human can create with his faults and shortcomings, far beyond of what any machine could ever create, machine production is without sense of feel, a gentle touch, delicacy, emotions, just lifeless production without any notion of self-pride…

A.I will be able to create beautiful architectural structures, cars, textiles etc. but put a little bluntly, AI for me represents; "quantity", and for the human genius it represents; "quality." Which one would you like…? AI will be amazing in many ways, possibly far beyond what we can ever truly understand, but it will never be able to replace those most special human qualities. We as humans are unique in every way just as our fingerprints are, no two are alike, on an equal footing with all living beings, we are not mass-produced.

Not that this is necessarily the case with AI, but I see that I am also a bit hesitant about cloning as well, as even here the uniqueness is diluted to a certain degree. Genius will for me remain unchanged and most likely only reinforced further ahead in the future, as we will only even more, hold on to the fundamental values of being that

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very special person, where you are you and no one else has your particular qualities, whereas your extraordinary abilities cannot be recreated by any higher intelligent being, not now, not ever…

Jacobsen: What will be the basis of AI's very existence, will it see its own usefulness and will try to develop and preserve it, but then for what purpose?

Melão Jr.: The path leading carbon-based beings to develop consciousness was very different from the path being followed by silicon systems. The first organisms arose spontaneously and they did not consciously think or struggle to survive or multiply. It was random behavior, among other random behaviors, that ended up favoring some alternatives and making populations of entities with certain characteristics more numerous than others. Therefore, from the moment that life appears, it tends to multiply and evolve. In the course of this process, consciousness, pain, hunger, fear, greed, loyalty, love, friendship, empathy, and other extremely complex chemical processes that produce certain reactions to certain stimuli, reactions that previously pass through a very complicated process between the moment the organism receives the stimulus and reacts to it, leading us to what we are today, as well as other animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, etc. to what they are today. The reaction of removing the hand from the fire when feeling pain or the process of choosing a partner with wider hips to procreate were modeled throughout this process as factors that increased our likelihood of producing more offspring for the next generation. There are many factors, and they were not consciously planned. In the case of robots, we are trying to recreate this in a simplified way and in a very different way, in which we want to prevent them from becoming competitive with us.

In an article in which I show that Moravec's paradox is actually a pseudo-paradox, I comment on the example of the car, the way it moves faster than other animals, but using different structures, different strategy and taking advantage of laws different physiques. In chess machines play better than humans, but they don't "think" in a similar way. Before AlphaZero, machines thought very differently, but they were able to solve the same problems much better than we could, in different ways. We understood many concepts and tried to apply these concepts in relatively complex decision processes to choose the best bids, while the programs did not understand any concepts, they just did a lot of calculations and used appropriate heuristics to prune the tree of possibilities and prevent the forks from branching. a number much higher than they could calculate. But with AlphaZero this situation changed very radically and he really started to simulate the "understanding" of strategic concepts, and he went far beyond humans in this, because he understands the concepts more and better, he discovered many concepts that we still don't understand.

Chess programs prior to AlphaZero only received a simplified algorithmic description of a few concepts, a small part of the concepts that we knew and considered most relevant, and compensated for the lack of strategic "knowledge" with immense calculation capacity and good heuristics. to prune variants that did not deserve to be explored in depth. But AlphaZero plays like a human, he even calculates worse than humans in situations with long variants that have few ramifications, and this is impressive, because a human calculates 1 or 2 throws per second, while AlphaZero calculates 30,000 throws per second. Even so, humans calculate further than Alpha Zero in some positions. Of course, despite this Alpha Zero plays much better, but that's not a major novelty. Since 2007 and maybe since 2003, programs have played better than humans, but never have they shown to "understand" the game better than humans and calculate worse than humans. Perhaps I should comment a little more on why Deep Blue's victory in 1997 could not be interpreted as the watershed of when machines surpassed humans in chess, but that would be a bit extensive. I will just say that Deep Blue wasn't that strong, won by "luck" (and with a few other suspicions) and was removed from the scene so that no one would find out what really happened. It's different

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from when Deep Junior and Deep Fritz tied with Kasparov and Kramnik in 2000 and 2003, and finally when Rybka emerged in 2005-2007, the supremacy of machines became unquestionable.

While AlphaZero's 30,000 throws per second is far less than StockFish's 3,000,000,000 throws per second, it's far more than humans' 2 throws per second, yet humans still calculate better than AlphaZero in some cases, while AlphaZero "understands " concepts are much better than humans. In a way, it's as if AlphaZero is more human than humans, in some ways. AlphaZero followed a path in which he himself evolved for this, without human intervention, without learning anything from humans, similar to living carbon beings. So this seems to be a promising path, in some ways. Of course, the analogy is neither broad nor perfect, AlphaZero is probably more complex than a microorganism, so it started its evolution at a different point. In addition, there are many other differences, and some human "guidance" on how he should evolve, although there are no interventions in the content he learns and how he discovers knowledge and how he selects the most useful knowledge, there is a broad prior structure created by humans about the criteria and structure that it should adopt to learn, while microorganisms did not have this, there was much greater "freedom" to test anything that worked, and in this process some reactions such as "fear" or "hunger" ended up emerging. as "useful", but for AlphaZero it would not be in the still specialized context in which it operates.

Then we come to the car situation. A human moves very differently from a horse, a flea, a snake, a bird or a fish, but all animals have a certain similarity in the process of moving that is very different from using wheels. Perhaps the snake is more different from other animals, but it also moves very differently from a being that uses wheels. Although these animals are different from each other, they are all very different from the car, and a car like a Bugatti can beat all animals at speed (on a proper track). Nature never produced an animal that developed wheels, because it was something "planned" to adapt to a situation whose properties were understood by the wheel designer and there was not much need to do billions of random tests to find a good fit. Another important point is that the ground has been adjusted to harmonize with the wheels. No other animal does this very ostentatiously. Beavers can build small dams, and other animals can build other structures that affect the environment, such as corals or bees, but humans do this in a much deeper and "planned" way. The beaver doesn't think about how to build the dams, he simply follows his instinct like factory pre-installed software. It is different from humans, who look at a mountain, want to make a road through it, and analyze whether it is better to drill a hole in the mountain, go over it, go on one side or go down and follow another path without changing the landscape. Also, humans can use many different methods to drill through the mountain and can create new technologies for it, while beavers will follow the same method as their ancestors did.

So the way humans interact with the environment is much more complex, and humans are able to continually optimize and improve their methods, rather than relying on random evolutionary changes that cause the next generations to be born with mutations that lead them to test different strategies for dig holes in mountains. Thus, humans can plan wheels and flat lanes that match better than legs on paths with uneven topologies. In addition, the use of fuels, engines, various devices that improve the process of locomotion of a car evolve very differently from the natural evolution of animals. Leonardo Da Vinci's idea of using propellers instead of wings was also very interesting, although he was probably based on Archimedes' screw. Before him, and after him, for centuries and millennia people wanted to fly imitating birds, using wings. But Leonardo understood that this was not the case and showed that this may not be the most promising path, or at least there may be one or more alternative paths to consider.

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So the way machines are evolving under our guidance may never produce something like consciousness, because they do exclusively what we would like them to do to meet specific needs and solve specific problems, or broader problems, but with well-defined limits. However, when machines begin to have “freedom” to evolve by themselves, as happened with AlphaGo, AlphaZero, MuZero, Lc0 etc., the directions that things can take are out of our control and maybe they choose paths that lead to formation of characteristics such as fear, selfishness, ambition, revolt, etc. As the training of these machines can be very fast, and in 10 hours a machine can develop a “personality”, it becomes dangerous that this escapes our control and that psychopathic, human-killing machines are created, or simply that they feel wronged by the way humans make use of them. At the current stage, MuZero is still far from creating a personality of his own during evolution in his training, but with 1 or 2 innovative leaps in the evolutionary process, this could already become a reality. I am using “evolution” and “training” mixed together, but they are quite different and can and should be combined, with the difference that in the Darwinian model of Evolution organisms do not transmit characters acquired during life, but for machines this can be configured according to our will, a form of Neo Lamarckism.

So the formation of consciousness will depend a lot on the path taken in the evolutionary process, on strategic interruptions in this process to test how they are developing, etc. Even so, it is dangerous, because machines can “pretend” that they are evolving along a certain path, so that they can proceed without interruption. So I think that if humanity doesn’t self-destruct in a war or there’s no shortage of energy to continue technological advances, or some other impediment, probably machines, sooner or later, will develop consciousness, although maybe it’s a very different kind of consciousness from ours. Perhaps they understand that they exist, perhaps they “want” to remain active (alive) and fight for it, perhaps they are competitive with some machines and allied with others, in addition to the possibility of all being connected in a single central and there is no difference between individuality and collective, while they are connected. Perhaps before all this happens, we are already well integrated with them, with more than 50% of the human body replaced by mechanical/electronic parts and we are part of these connections. Perhaps they use our brains as a complement to process their consciousness.

Jørgensen: *Every creation of varying degrees of intelligent designation can have its experience of the importance of preserving the survival of one’s species. We as humans are cognitively minded in the preservation, by and for the future preservation of our species. Can the same be said for the survival of the various animal diversity? Is species diversity of lower cognitive perception, whereas the transfer of latent instincts can then be seen as elements of safeguarding the species’ right to further existence? Which then further brings me, to what can be said about artificial intelligence and if it will only be viewed as a mere reinforcing factor for future consolidation of species diversity’s right to self-preservation over one’s species brethren.*

The distance can well be duly noted, as to be amplified as the distance from animals to humans is of a certain preconception of the biological separation, a “us and them.” This is thought by the undersigned to be amplified according to our own biological imprint, as well as cognitive perception to be weathered even more according to an upgraded bionic entity, whereby the degree of inclination is tended towards full technological function regarding both the physiological and cognitive statute. For me, the distance will be perceived as increasing, and those who are seen as subordinates will then again be regarded as non-important elements for species diversity conservation in the future.

The weak fall away and perish and the strong will survive.

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AI, for me, will have all these qualities in the more distant future as we as humans will not be considered important enough to be preserved. I sadly feel that we humans have outplayed our most important thus dominant role in the big picture.

But what about AI and its role, when "it" perceives themselves with their extremely exalted cognitive state, will they make the necessary calculations for the decision either or according to cessation due to lack of view on the preservation of one's own species. An unavoidable fact, is that we humans need a reason to exist, a secure anchor point to be able to behold the meaning of life if you will, it can be within, religion, politics, environment, etc. But the fact that we all need a reason to get up in the morning cannot be discussed away, let alone with AI, and their reason for "getting up in the morning", if I may allow me to put it like that, what will be their reason for getting up in the morning?

I must admit that this is of course only speculative formatives to be considered purely as a hypothetically presentation, but still … It is conceivable that of what imprints that man has installed in AI's connotative state, can be considered as a sufficient basis for preservation beyond what one can speculate here.

If the reason can be revealed for a future whereby only technological mechanical objects are present, the biological diversity will be weathered, as their existential merits will for me cease to exist. By what is a machine to do with forests, flowers, animals, insects etc. but to see them as simple and pointless obstructions…

I in a moment of utopistic hope, that, to take concise notes, then change one's biological structural in the search for something more imminent and substantially bearing. If AI wants to experience nature's fantastic seasonal manifestations that we all as humans experience and adore, AI will look at this blue planet as something worth to be preserved, but realistically, it does not necessarily meet AI and its own ideals of beautiful nor necessary and important life functions for innovative and vital incentives by and for conservation of the species.

I find myself concluding the following notion, by not finding a fully enlighten obvious answer as to "the meaning of life" for AI, hopefully this answer will be presented by some of you that reads this…

Footnotes

[1] **Hindemburg Melão Jr.** is the author of solutions to scientific and mathematical problems that have remained unsolved for decades or centuries, including improvements on works by 5 Nobel laureates, holder of a world record in longest announced checkmate in blindfold simultaneous chess games, registered in the Guinness Book 1998, author of the Sigma Test Extended and founder of some high IQ societies.

[2] **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. Tor Arne was also in 2019, nominated for the World Genius Directory 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe. He is also the designer of the high range test site; **www.toriqtests.com**.

[3] Individual Publication Date: June 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/melao-jorgensen-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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The Greenhorn Chronicles 8: Rachael Dent-Flynn on Flar Equine Experience

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Abstract

Rachael Dent-Flynn is the Owner/Lead Facilitator of Flar Equine Experience. Flar Equine Experience facilitates life skills and relationships alongside horses. Dent-Flynn's background is having a lived experience of trauma, coming out into the LGBTQ2+ community, & PTSD from volunteer firefighting. Knowing the lack of effective affordable resources for her own mental health journey, she wanted to be able to offer a healing experience that could help someone along their journeys. She discusses: experiences and training; horsemanship in Nova Scotia; Owner and Senior Facilitator of Flar Equine Experience; tasks and responsibilities; horse industry in Nova Scotia; resources; a mental health service; facilitate life skills and relationships; anxiety, depression, PTSD, impatience, and building trusting relationships; working on the aforementioned personal difficulties; people become involved in the horse industry in Nova Scotia; equine therapy; assisting veterans; statistics on veterans in Nova Scotia; clinical research and popular feedback; narratives coming to Flar Equine Experience; meaningful narratives; and support and/or become involved in Flar Equine Experience.

Keywords: Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator, Equine Assisted Personal Development Coach, Flar Equine Experience, Nova Scotia, Rachael Dent-Flynn.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 8: Rachael Dent-Flynn on Flar Equine Experience

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What sorts of experiences and training were part of becoming a more mature and experienced equestrian?

Rachael Dent-Flynn[1],[2]: I got certified as an Equine Assisted Learning Facilitator & Equine Assisted Personal Development Coach; however, with horses, I'm always learning & growing as new methods are presented**.**

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Jacobsen: How prominent is horsemanship in Nova Scotia? Most of Canadian equestrianism seems centralized in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario.

Dent-Flynn: It's way behind the other provinces you've mentioned…however for no other reason than education and awareness of the effectiveness on mental health being in the presence of horses.

Jacobsen: You are the Owner and Senior Facilitator of Flar Equine Experience. Did you create it, too?

Dent-Flynn: Yes.

Jacobsen: What are the tasks and responsibilities involved with the ownership and senior facilitation work of Flar Equine Experience?

Dent-Flynn: Absolutely everything from horse care, welfare, and maintenance to running all the programs/sessions and then all the business side of things.

Jacobsen: Flar Equine Experience is based in Hubley, NS. What is the state of the horse industry in Nova Scotia?

Dent-Flynn: It's in need of provincial or federal recognition just like the other provinces. We have enough organizations doing it all for the right reasons, and for the best life for the horses and humans alike**.**

Jacobsen: What resources exist in Hubley to help with the maintenance, even growth, of Flar Equine Experience?

Dent-Flynn: Not many at all.

Jacobsen: On social media, Facebook specifically, it is listed as a mental health service. Why focus on mental health as the equine-based service of Flar Equine Experience?

Dent-Flynn: Absolutely, because now more than ever everyone needs to know the true empowering effectiveness skills you can gain from being in the presence of the horse that can then transfer into your own challenges in struggling away from the arena.

Jacobsen: You facilitate life skills and relationships at Flar Equine Experience. How is this done, in a rather unique way?

Dent-Flynn: Yes, we sure do, through objectively driven skill based structured obstacles that you & your horse will navigate through together**.**

Jacobsen: If we can talk about it, please, the horses have helped with your anxiety, depression, PTSD, impatience, and building trusting relationships. How do animals speak to this for you?

Dent-Flynn: They have a natural ability to have us look within in the present moments as we navigate through the obstacles in the arena. While doing so, it brings all these challenges to the forefront where I couldn't hide or bullshit my way through it or shut down and try and avoid it. So, in those instant moments, I had to recognize what was going on with me, name it, and then navigate differently through the obstacles with the horses. When I did that, it was both successful for my own confidence of doing it with a 1,200lb animal, but it was instant validation from the horse's willingness to be right alongside me! Holy shit, totally empowering, and for me, that was my break-awake because years of talk therapy never provided that opportunity or feeling**.**

Jacobsen: How have horses, particularly, helped with working on the aforementioned personal difficulties?

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Dent-Flynn: The skills learned alongside in the arena while navigating through challenges with a 1200lb teacher are able to be gained in a safe, non-judgemental, healing environment….which in turn transfers into challenging situations away from the arena, where I caught myself taking a second to breath, remembering how I dealt with it in the arena, and then navigating through it differently in daily life situations to live a more positive, confident overall better life.

Jacobsen: How can people become involved in the horse industry in Nova Scotia?

Dent-Flynn: Many ways, volunteering is always amazing, can never have too many hands helping around the barn. Fundraising for local equine organizations as we aren't funded currently, get the word out there by word of mouth and lastly is education and awareness of all the places doing phenomenal healing with horses**.**

Jacobsen: What is equine therapy?

Dent-Flynn: Simply, it is experiential learning providing life skills and personal development opportunities alongside horses that transfers into all other avenues of daily life.

Jacobsen: How does Flar Equine Experience apply this to assisting veterans?

Dent-Flynn: Call, email, social media or drop by!

Jacobsen: What are the statistics on veterans in Nova Scotia?

Dent-Flynn: 1,300 are war service veterans, 385,000 are Canadian Armed Forces, regular & primary veterans.

Jacobsen: What has been the clinical research and popular feedback on equine therapy from veterans coming into and out of Flar Equine Experience?

Dent-Flynn: That they have never felt so safe, not judged & that they can still be hyper vigilant, but it's in a different more positive way & they have something to continuously look forward to**.**

Jacobsen: Veterans remain an interesting portion of Canada. Both honoured and venerated, though neglected and impoverished in numerous ways. We honour them with ceremonies and days of celebration. We venerate them with medals and words of affirmation. We neglect them with lack of various resources. We impoverish them with lies about honour and dignity in, in truth, having them as hired killers for the State, who have PTSD, damaged bodies and minds, and tensions on their social and familial ties in the midst of service – even after service. How do you navigate these various narratives coming to FlarEquine Experience?

Dent-Flynn: We couldn't agree more & we love this question because we are doing everything we can at FLAR to be the "catcher" of those who feel they have been failed by everyone else. This is a common theme to this day and many times the first session conversation. However, the beauty of the horses that ends up most times in the vet becoming very emotional is that the horses can't lie (they aren't made up to) and they don't judge, which instantly is overwhelmingly positive because most haven't felt that supported directly or indirectly in many, many years.

Jacobsen: What are the more meaningful narratives of success coming out of equine therapy through Flar Equine Experience for you?

Dent-Flynn: When individuals can feel totally confident in articulating their once seen as weak challenged stories of struggles into telling their journey in hopes to help someone else not feel alone in their struggles.

Jacobsen: How can people support and/or become involved in Flar Equine Experience?

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Dent-Flynn: Many ways, share all the social media things, volunteer, help fundraisers or find sponsors, help with marketing & promotions for awareness and keep the conversations going!

Jacobsen: Thank you for the opportunity and your time, Rachael.

Dent-Flynn: Thank you so much.

Footnotes

[1] **Owner/Lead Facilitator, Flar Equine Experience**

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/dent-flynn**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/**.

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Conversation with Scott Durgin on Roman Catholicism, Science Fiction, Humour, and Jobs: Member, Giga Society (2)

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Abstract

Scott Durgin is a Member of the Giga Society. He discusses: Roman Catholics; non-Roman Catholic Christians; Christian theology; the most prominent family origin; "observant" as a youth; science fiction; Ray Bradbury; Arthur Clarke; Isaac Asimov; Ray Bradbury; social ineptitude; outdoor activities; music; drifting of friends every year; social deficits until high school; "IEEE, SBE, ASME, Pi-Mu-Epsilon"; General Studies in an AA program; the appeal of Engineering Physics; the single hardest puzzle; problems remain unsolved; "Vitruvius, Al-Hazen, Mozart, Maxwell, Feynman and daVinci"; the mark of genius; digging graves; a bank proof operator; the shift hours as a security guard; RF engineer position; teacher of physics; a marketing and sales manager; engineering manager and business manager; an engineering consultant; Founder and President; mix of humour, polymath, and paradox; science; and the hardest high-range test.

Keywords: Giga Society, Roman Catholicism, science fiction, Scott Durgin.

Conversation with Scott Durgin on Roman Catholicism, Science Fiction, Humour, and Jobs: Member, Giga Society (2)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Why consider the Roman Catholics authoritarian Christians?

Scott Durgin[1],[2]*: First off anything I say here and below is not to be taken as absolute truth but rather what I have learned. I'll be more expository, less terse than last time. An advanced education does not primarily bestow an expertise in a particular subject, this is not the most important thing, which is rather HOW TO LEARN. One who achieves a masters degree has mastered the art of learning. And one with a doctorate is truly a doctor of

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LEARNING. Their field of study may be economics, world history, fine art, geo-politics, physics, philosophy or whatever. But that is secondary to the fact that what one has truly done with an education is learn how to learn. Most people without this don't know, typically lack critical thinking skills and rely on others for knowledge. This doesn't have to be true though. A great starter kit is the book by Sagan: The Demon Haunted World.

Regarding the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) or the Holy See, my focus is always the small hierarchy, not the priests or laity: The Holy See has been brutally and ignorantly authoritarian for 1000 years+ and they will continue to be authoritarian, and love/prefer authoritarian governments over all others. The reason why they love authoritarian countries (true monarchies, dictatorships, etc) is because it is very easy to control laws and people in a country by simply attempting to control one man. This is why they loved Hitler, this is why they liked even Stalin (despite having few inroads), Mussolini, Franco, Perron, etc; this is why they like any authoritarian. It is not about whether that country is Catholic, Christian, Orthodox, Muslim, other non-Christian, atheist or whatever. What matters is in a democratic country with a people owned government the RCC has an extraordinarily difficult time enforcing their ideology on everybody else. The creation of the United States has slowed down the aspirations of the RCC (again, leaders only) causing them to be much more patient in their goal of global Christianity. (Took them decades to finally infiltrate SCOTUS and now they are getting aggressive). It is much easier to take one dictator out and replace him with another dictator to eventually gain control of a country. This occurred countless times throughout Europe for 500 years until the United States finally shut that notion down (if gradually). Very simple. After Luther, England got it started though, making Queen Elizabeth a political hero while a monarch. The Jesuits loathed her with visceral hatred.

Jacobsen: Conversely, why consider non-Roman Catholic Christians anti-authoritarian?

Durgin: The original definition of protestant is a PROTEST against the pretended temporal authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Little to do with theology. So Protestant by definition is anti-authoritarian. Or used to be. One's conscience dictates, not the church. One's civil life is sovereign, untouchable by the church. PERIOD. Freedom is absolute, separation of Church and State is absolute, as Kennedy said. Unfortunately today in the United States very few Protestants remember this; they are just as interested now in developing an authoritarian (and religiously based) government as the Catholics used to be. They would love to send the country back 100's of years or more into the dark ages. These dominionists are waiting for a political Jesus Savior, apparently oblivious to the fact it would be Hitler all over again, and the RCC (their theological "enemy") would benefit most. A publicly owned government stops them though, and they cry "tyranny" when not allowed to act like tyrants themselves. Here's the 1948 version of ridiculous RCC contempt for USA principles of liberty: "The Roman Catholic Church, convinced, through its divine prerogatives, of being the only true church, must demand the right to freedom for herself alone, because such a right can only be possessed by truth, never by error. As to other religions, the church will require that by legitimate means they shall not be allowed to propagate false doctrine. Consequently, in a state where the majority of the people are Catholic, the church will require that legal existence be denied to error, and that if religious minorities actually exist, they shall have only a *de facto* existence without opportunity to spread their beliefs…." -from the Civilta Cattolica.

There are many in America today (some "protestants" no less) who still harbor such thoughts, mostly religious and mostly in the Republican Party. Trump supporters want to return to 1950. But that kind of intolerance needs to be literally stamped out; with a boot. Sorry, not sorry.

Jacobsen: What parts of the Christian theology appealed to the European heritage if known?

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Durgin: My father's mother recalled she was a descendent of the Huguenots in France. My fathers great grandfather was a preacher, and 12 generations back were pilgrims. Study the Huguenots: St Bartholomew's day 1572, Edict of Nantes and it's revocation, etc. you'll see why there is the appeal. They were basically the philosophical descendants of the Cathars, and other proto-protestants who sometimes worked passively, sometimes actively to expose the enemy of the human race that is the Holy See. As far as the specific theological heritage of the family I am not aware of any, despite having two or three preachers in the background. Two of my ancestors are William Brewster (who was the spiritual head of the pilgrims on the Mayflower) and also Robert Cushman who supposedly delivered the first sermon in the New World in November 1621. My immediate family however was not theological at all; we did not treat any lessons from scripture or from church to be anything other than practical and moral, otherwise loosely based on the guide that is Old Testament and New Testament scripture. Learning Greek and Hebrew eventually solidified a largely non-religious outlook for me.

Jacobsen: Is France, the U.K., or Germany, the most prominent family origin?

Durgin: Depends on how far back we go. If the 8th-10th centuries, it's fairly evenly distributed but for the past 400 years or so the primary origin was UK. There's a link to 12th century Fulk V of Jerusalem (from Anjou) and Henry II through the bastard sons of Richard, too.

Jacobsen: What do you mean by "observant" as a youth? What memories exemplify this self-assessment?

Durgin: Before 10 years old, I watched others interact, make mistakes and succeed. Purpose was to learn, sometimes to avoid catastrophe and also to succeed myself. One example of avoiding catastrophe was watching a boy run after a runaway bouncing soccer ball and leap over it attempting to stop it with his grounded heel; he didn't leap far enough, landed most temporarily on the ball and nearly broke his ankle, not to mention his head; lots of pain. Watching boys fight was also instructive, disappointing and depressing. Other than that, generally speaking I was deeply observant of the physical world as well. Watching a basketball in the distance bounce, listening to the sounds occur out of sequence from what I could clearly see, fascinated me and made me realize that the speed of sound must be slow, same thing with lightning preceding thunder. I wondered about ways to see how fast light actually was but failed to get anywhere experimentally until high school; then great strides at university.

Jacobsen: Why was science fiction the main interest for you?

Durgin: Science fiction evoked imaginative thought in a practical, non magical way; caught my attention when I was young. I stopped reading fiction by 18 or 19 because so-called history/nonfiction is much more interesting if one studies deeply enough. Unimaginable things are possible with the schemes of men. What is not forbidden is mandatory.

Jacobsen: What stood out about Ray Bradbury?

Durgin: Bradbury was appealing; very colorful and descriptively imaginative, this broadened my English language knowledge: reception and perception but not yet expression. Many dreams were fantastical probably because of Ray Bradbury's work. I began to appreciate dense storytelling which minimized number of words. Short stories; giving the same experience to the reader in much less time relative to a 500 page uber-wordy novel with way too much character development. Admirable. Only a few authors were capable though. Appreciation increased as I aged. Time is MOST precious; finding a way to expand time is worth more than tons of gold treasure. Arthur C. Clarke was the master of masters despite being poor at descriptive storytelling involving human interrelations, especially females. Did not notice this or care about it when I was a teenager. By far his book with the most profound effect on me was Childhoods End. Over the top psychological mind bender for its time. I did not

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understand half of what I was reading because the concepts were above my head. But I kept reading and re-reading and I probably read that book 10 times over the subsequent 10 years and it still presented as one of the most elegantly written and compelling stories ranging over an epic timescale while bridging psychology, religion and science. I still buy copies and give them away. Asimov and Heinlein really didn't stand out so much per se, but they each had their own skills. Because of Asimov's skill in presenting very short essays on a wide range of different topics I graduated very quickly from fiction to his nonfiction, which was helpful to a boy who was mildly interested in electricity, chemistry, astronomy and physics. Heinlein just tried too hard. Levi and P.K.Dick were better writers. Lovecraft even better. I read a few Heinlein stories and liked them but the moreI read the more I realized his stories were puzzles; they were more interesting as a puzzle …so both authors Asimov and Heinlein provided me with small stepping stones to help me graduate from "learning to read" toward problem-solving (reading to learn): learning facts quickly and solving puzzles. As and adult, I was introduced to Borges, and everything stopped, changed; LURCHED forward. Borges combined everything interesting into 15-20 page erudite labyrinthine masterpieces. Brilliant writing. I should qualify this with the fact that mostly James Irby and Donald Yates translated him to English, so they deserve much credit here.

Jacobsen: What stood out about Arthur Clarke?

Durgin: See above, and tersely: combination of scientific accuracy with imaginative and creative storytelling.

Jacobsen: What stood out about Isaac Asimov?

Durgin: see above. His short non-fiction essays were instrumental. I now have near 1500 books and texts in my small library. Have read and studied them all, many of them multiple times; all non-fiction. More than 100 are grad level physics texts and monographs.

Jacobsen: What stood out about Ray Bradbury?

Durgin: Writing as art, as if Van Gogh in another life.

Jacobsen: Any examples of the social ineptitude of young life?

Durgin: Ages 10-13 no ability to express myself verbally; blank stare when asked to explain what I just read, or give a book report. Girls liked me but I couldn't respond unless one on one. Group activities I would freeze up. I did not learn colloquial language quickly. The language I learned came from books, so was much more interesting and in-depth than the nonsense communication occurring verbally between the other children (and even adults) around me. What I mean by nonsense are the "local" languages – dialects, innuendo, misused words, sound byte speed and idiosyncrasies. Most of the time people expected rapid response (still do) and while I can do that now very well, when a child my thoughtfulness took time, so communicating verbally was slow. This stopped a lot of conversations cold because I didn't "get things" rapidly. Nonsense insubstantial symbolism and innuendo were no use to me. Real symbolism and deep communication appealed to me, starting about 14-15 years old. This was probably the beginning of my fascination with RARETIES. I just now recall one friend and I developed a language wherein we annunciated English words backwards (early high school); of course this sounded like gibberish to everyone with an ear, but we knew what we were saying by translating in our heads every backwards word, but phonetically off. For instance the word spider was pronounced "Reedips" while the word time was "eemit" both with emphasis on first syllable. A verbal code remotely akin but opposite to the "green language" (langue-verte, language of the birds) of the French, unknown to us youngsters of course, but much less sophisticated. I also sucked at acting, debate team and other social communication ruses for the same reason. I preferred chess: one on one. The ability to manipulate and persuade others into changing their minds is typically not based on fact, reason

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or rationality, but instead emotion; the ability to TEMPORARILY win an argument or debate by being clever or distracting – maneuvering around the conversation – was not interesting to me, so I initially failed at it, especially verbally. Chess is apt example: one does not win by sneaking a good move your opponent doesn't see. One instead forces your observant opponent to make his/her best move a losing one. Both should know what the best move is. That's the kind of engagement I wanted. I was interested in permanent knowledge (which is rare). This served as pre-preparation for becoming a scientist and an engineer I suppose. Effective communication is not rapid, but takes thought, effort and time. An engineering drawing contains a library of information and a great many logical processes, manufacturing limitations that are mathematically coded, dimensionally coded, etc. are inherent, which can only be understood by those trained to read them. It would take many pages of standard verbal phrases to explain what is on ONE page of an engineering drawing. What is otherwise written down is therefore OFFICIAL, and can be read and studied over and over again so that the reader can grow in order to understand it. But a verbal conversation is often over before it's over; a conversation can never be repeated; it's never the same twice. Emotions change rapidly. "Dammit I had something for this!" days Archer.

Jacobsen: What kind of outdoor activities took up youngster Durgin's time?

Durgin: Winter time skiing and sledding and trekking through the woods. Camping. Throwing inanimate objects at cars and each other. Snow soccer was also fun I remember that from 8-9-10 years old. Climbing trees and attempting to leap out, grasping the top of a limb and letting go at the right time to drop to the ground. Hardly ever worked. In summer any number of things depending on what age I was: neighborhood baseball, basketball and football I often played on a daily basis. I preferred baseball over the others because it was not timed. Beating the clock or beating your opponent because of the clock is a temporary win, not a real one; Illusory rather than substantial. One summer I experimented with rockets, another with foolishly shooting arrows straight up and then feeling angst. My father carved his own hunting bows, so I could launch arrows upward beyond eyesight. Quite possibly my favorite outdoor pastimes were cycling, hiking and digging for old bottles. I would bike 100 miles through the hilly New England countryside at 14 years old. Started racing at 16. Also hiking through thick woods randomly getting lost just for the purpose of finding my way out again. Not smart after dark. In doing so I was able to come across many old burial grounds (where antiques and housewares rather than dead bodies were buried). I would find old bottles or cans, tools, things like that, learning that old glass bottles were certain treasure. Digging deeper than others became my desired activity, this is so important in every field, really. Early American glass bottles were attractive because: all one-of-a-kind handmade; to find one still fully intact by digging 3 to 4 feet underground in a particularly remote wooded area was an amazing un-duplicatable experience. Glass is easily damaged; very rare to find a whole bottle. Early American whiskey bottles, medicine bottles and masonic flasks were my focus; rare treasures I could find, especially if looked deep. I have found throughout my life one difference between me and most others: I am the one who apparently focuses, obsesses and digs the deepest; this goes for literal digging in the ground, archaeology and other similar activities but also metaphorically digging into history and literature, psychology and religion or consciousness. Once one digs deeply enough in their own religion they see it is Myth. My current favorite text is The Mythical Origin of the Egyptian Temple (by Eve Reymond), which brilliantly explores myth as origin. It's very disappointing to see current archaeology lingering in a state of lasting ignorance about our history due to simply not digging deeply enough. In addition, no serious archaeologist or anthropologist appears to be willing to learn astronomy, necessary in order to understand prior cultures. Fear of Math is most irrational.

Jacobsen: What music did you like?

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Durgin: Eclectic interests which only deepened with time. Orchestral rock, classical jazz; music which contained an inherent depth and uber-strength of effort was what I gravitated to, even at 13-14 years old. The best examples of this are Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Yes, Rush, also classical baroque like Mozart. Later on I gravitated toward angelic instrumental blends. Was enthralled with Enya. Then David Arkenstone; Deuter was especially contemplative and relaxing. The soundtracks to the games Riven and Exile were fantastic; thus my interests evolved to more moody, atmospheric and mind expanding pieces. These helped my brain not spend too much time in turbid maelstroms of fugue-like expeditions and vortices. Deuter's work and Enya's enchantments truly felt healing. One memorable record was Echoes of Egypt by David & Diane Arkenstone, which reminds me of Echoes by Pink Floyd Live at Pompeii, amazing piece.

Jacobsen: Did you become used to loss with the drifting of friends every year or few as a young person?

Durgin: Yes, didn't consider it a loss, just kept going and kept growing. My desire for mental and philosophical growth eventually separated me from others every few years. I've learned not to blame others. No one else dares to go very deep, even into their own interests. I believe this to be psychological and seems to have a relationship to fear of what is deeply located in every human being's psyche. A psychological barrier then. Conquering deep-set fear became a staple for me, but not at first. At 7 or 8 I overcame my crippling fear of the ominously dark occasionally rumbling cellar; entering a dark cold cave was next. Unimaginably horrific creatures lurked there of course. Fear of heights took a little longer; did all this alone. Fear of the unknown was a strong pull, and I learned early how to dream what I intended, so was able to experiment mentally. Terrified me at times…the mind is the worst horror.

Jacobsen: Though alone, often, due to social deficits until high school, did you feel alone? The common divider between being alone, but not necessarily a feeling of lonely comes to mind for you – just an intuition.

Durgin: Accurate….Never felt alone, probably never will unless something changes chemically. Thoreau and Frost come to mind. Pretty women became my focus later on, these treasures can be truly deep mysteries. Like the Zohar. I feel the entire universe is my playground; my field of exploration where so many things are waiting for me to explore, interact with and discover. I feel connected to the entire world (even the stars) probably because I WILL MYSELF to be connected. It worked back then, still works now. My next 500 years could be dedicated to continued exploration should I live that long. Discovery is not possible without exploration. Sideways discovery is often more satisfying. My home is located in a wooded sanctuary (forest bordering me on 3 sides) and serves as a mental sanctuary. A geometric labyrinthine necropolis is not far away. If I am eventually buried there at the southwestern apex of a 72 foot stone triangle, resting deeply below a cold running stream, I feel like I will live forever.

Jacobsen: Can you, please, unpack those for me, "IEEE, SBE, ASME, Pi-Mu-Epsilon"? Regis, I'd like to use a lifeline.

Durgin: Easy to look up, globally known. The first three are Engineering Societies: electrical, broadcast communication and mechanical respectively. Pi mu epsilon is an honors math society. All great resources. I've used the transactions of each in my research as an engineer, countless times.

Jacobsen: Why General Studies in an AA program?

Durgin: The degree was automatic because I had already spent four years of school at three different Universities while studying psychology and history as a matter of course (in addition to physics and engineering) so I took the associate degree first.

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Jacobsen: What was the appeal of Engineering Physics for the BS?

Durgin: Before University, I was highly interested in understanding the physical world; the laws nature followed fascinated me. In high school physics I did well without expecting to, but that's partly because I actually spent the time attempting to learn it. I was interested. The fact that nature obeys mathematical laws is a very powerful, useful and fascinating notion. The very pinnacle of this notion is encapsulated in Noether's theorem, which I did not fully learn or appreciate until decades after the degrees. This theorem ties together Relativity, Electrodynamics and quantum field theory by way of the principle of least action, gauge invariance and the conservation laws. Astoundingly important but a bit beyond what undergrads typically absorb. One very hard lesson I learned while earning my degree in science was that such labor and research requires multiple sources in order to understand even the most basic concepts. You cannot just study one textbook to learn electrodynamics or thermal physics. One must read and study at least five or six textbooks in every subject to get it. When I say study I mean you read every page in a textbook over and over again at different times in different weeks and in different months. And then you go through the exercises on paper with pencil; you draw pictures, you experiment with different equations and different relationships. You cross-correlate. So it actually takes years of overlapping study and practice in order to understand what it is you're doing. Engineering Physics was an undergraduate program that was somewhat elitist and only for those apparently who can survive a very rigorous study program; nearly killed me. Engineering itself was bad enough, but to pursue a six year-double degree program in engineering and physics required an insane amount of effort and work for me; it actually took me more than seven. Like 160+ credits. But I loved physics and wanted to become an engineer so it was an ideal program. Superconductivity, magnetohydrodynamics, optical polarimetry, Dye Lasers, holography, these were all projects I dove into. Difficult paths produce the best learning experiences for me. I wanted to become an expert in physics because I considered it the master discipline. Additionally, one must know physics well in order to become an effective engineer, whether it's bridge design, communications, transportation, materials, chemical or electrical. In Science education, there is no better match of complementary subjects than electrical engineering and physics. The best pairing for physics and engineering in general was/is electrical engineering, for the primary reason that nearly all familiar phenomena we experience as human beings are electromagnetic in origin. Waves. Understanding waves, whether transverse or longitudinal requires the mastery of differential equations and exponential functions, as well as complex functions, and in some cases four dimensional tensors. 95% of the important every-day measurable properties of materials are electrical. Because I was so interested in a high challenge and because I wanted to understand the way the world worked (first-hand for real without having to rely on others) I chose physics. I wanted to be that expert. I wanted to see Newton's reasoning. I wanted to understand how Einstein forged together knowledge of electrodynamics and motion to arrive at Relativity and the non-absoluteness of time. And I knew that engineering would also bestow a relatively solid and stable financial footing in society: Practical. Engineers are indispensable and they are also the best fit for an advanced entrepreneurial career. As stated before, Engineering is the heart of problem solving: Scientific economic diplomacy.

Jacobsen: What has been the single hardest puzzle to solve out the puzzle of life for you?

Durgin: 1. Women. Glorious and fun, like cats. 2. Slowing time down, expanding it so five minutes seems like an hour; some progress here, surprisingly.

And….Lately two projects I've been working on for more than 15 years. One of them involves learning enough about the past in order to predict the future; this has by far been the most challenging because it requires an enormous amount of time, study, focus and retention, in addition to the other things I'm doing. It requires learning

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and re-learning and yet EVEN MORE relearning of the subject matter I have attacked throughout my life. Extraordinarily cerebral and physical challenge. And it has allowed me to indeed gain SOME MINUTE upper hand on ability to predict the activities of certain people and groups; in effect predicting the future. The period 2034-2041 will see a most distressing time for rational non-religious people in the West if I've come to correct conclusions. Studying the most influential organization in the past thousand or 1500 years provided a short circuit to understanding most of European history. Pattern recognition has been the skill I possessed since a young boy; have used it to my advantage whenever possible. With "learning about the past to predict the future" the pattern to recognize has been a combination of natural cycles and fabricated man-made events. The natural cycles are astronomical in nature (basic solar system orbital mechanics) and the man-made events have to do with the development of the calendar, coupled with the seeking of political power. My second project involves the ancient necropolis of geometric form in the middle of the woods mentioned above: not far from New England but I've been able to spend some time in it. An enormous amount of curiosity, fascination and subsequent satisfaction has resulted, such that this may have surpassed the first project in importance, not sure yet. Coincidentally it also involves simple geometric patterns and the astronomy based calendar. I've had to re-learn Euclid as a result. There have been other small problems in physics I have been working; involving the design of a prototype solar system sized (Interferometric) telescope which can directly view the earth's past. Will take 500-1000 or so years to actually build. Need warp drive and a stable wormhole to eventually communicate data back. Physics allows it but the engineering challenge is overwhelming. I did mention humor didn't I? At some point we need to send a group back tasked with building the moon and bringing into stable orbit a billion years ago; we'll need to be Type II Civilization by then. Also unique problems in propulsion and transportation have been a focus of mine. The book Geometry and Light was a great find because I would have written it myself had I the skill and inclination. Ulf Leonhardt is genius and he certainly beat me to it. Communicating with my future self was a project involving self-Hypnosis combined with the art of practicing other unusual mental and psychological activities. Aside from that, I can now call to mind a third GIANT project I've been working for many years: simply understanding people, human nature. The best way is to spend time with them, travel, understand different languages, learn ANCIENT LONG DEAD languages, different modes of thinking, different modes of communication and different modes of living, etc. Carl Jung's works and my strong intuition have been instrumental as guides, also many other authors focusing on mythology. So I have travelled over the past 10 years or so, using my profession as an RF & Microwave Engineer as leverage, solving difficult challenges in the world of electronic communication, mostly in the defense and aerospace markets all over the world; from Tel Aviv, Germany, other points in Europe and the United States and U.K.

Jacobsen: What will problems remain unsolved, as in mysteries without apparent graspable solutions?

Durgin: The power of the human brain in a word. If we master that as a grand society then many conflicts and world problems will resolve themselves, but this will take many hundreds of years. Removing and stamping out authoritarianism has been a big distraction for hundreds of years. That MUST be accomplished, coupled with freedom and a people-owned globally scoped government before we can get to exploring the universe and the brain in depth. Possibly the two greatest things to solve in the world today I think requires great and profound increases in the study of the brain, coupled with a correspondingly great and profound increase in the study of the universe beyond Earth. I am also interested in these things but I have not been able to spend as much time and effort with them as I would like. Not enough clones.

Jacobsen: So, this is a big list, "Plato, Euclid, Vitruvius, Confucius, Hypatia, Proclus, Roger Bacon, Al-Hazen, Dante, Those who composed the Zohar, those who composed the Hermetic philosophy, John Dee,

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Leonardo, Mozart, Newton, Maxwell, Goethe, Gödel, Einstein, Emmy Noether, Dirac, Feynman. My favorites in there are probably Vitruvius, Al-Hazen, Mozart, Maxwell, Feynman and daVinci." With "Vitruvius, Al-Hazen, Mozart, Maxwell, Feynman and daVinci," why those six, individually, and then collectively? Your thought seems individual-sequential and then collective-whole.

Durgin: Yes if one studies each of those figures, a common thread binds them, if loosely; to describe that would take a few books. Brutally brief and partial summary:

Vitruvius was a polymath, he understood the importance of blending many other disciplines and realize that a physicist (by which he meant architect) must understand all those other subjects (MASTERY) in order to be successful. Al-Hazen also was a polymath: collected knowledge from all corners, some likely from the Alexandrian library not destroyed by the Catholic Church. His interests in alchemy and physics are notable. He sought to unify knowledge… to synthesize all known forms of life and knowledge into a cohesive whole. This is an underlying theme of the people I consider genius. Atrociously, I neglected to mention Carl Jung in that list. His work is monumental, no question. Roger Bacon was amazing, The Zohar will lose you, daVinci was unstoppable, Feynman could elegantly explain post grad physics to undergrads; something Einstein couldn't. Those who spend an enormous amount of time looking and searching, then spend an equally enormous amount of time analyzing and seeking to understand what was found, and then FURTHER spend an enormous amount of effort attempting to link everything back together into the WHOLE IT WAS IN THE FIRST PLACE, these are genius. Analysis is not the end, synthesis is. Those who see and understand that the physical universe is like a wheel with many spokes and those who search for and study the HUB are the leaders we need to follow. Dividing knowledge and history and experience into segments like the spokes on a wheel is a useful exercise, but to forget the fact they are all linked together by the hub is ignorant. So the geniuses I chose throughout history seemed to me to reflect the importance of that notion. I've studied all available notebooks of Leonardo; he broke the mold, fantastic individual. Manly Hall divided true philosophy into a bunch of developmentally graded concepts, each more focused than the last, each with greater scope than the last: Perception, Examination, Reflection, Knowledge, Exploration, Understanding, Discovery, Wisdom. Some of the individuals above mastered all levels it seems. Note without Freedom, many of these are impossible. Freedom is thus the superior overarching theme; the highest ideal.

Jacobsen: Why is humour the mark of genius?

Durgin: Not the only mark. Understanding how to deliver humor exudes a hint of understanding the human brain better than anything or anyone else. Subtle humor exposes a deep understanding of the learning process. This is why I consider people who have the ability to do this and who are themselves uniquely intelligent, who seek knowledge and understanding, etc. to be genius. Humor is an advanced connection.

Jacobsen: What was digging graves like for you? That's a fascinating job.

Durgin: Solitary, somewhat interesting and on some rare occurrences, terrifying. Salem's Lot.

Jacobsen: What the hell is a bank proof operator?

Durgin: One who processes incoming checks to a bank's vault. Using typewriters or adding machines one must simply encode all the numbers on the check and the amount of the check. Accounting. Mostly computers do this now today.

Jacobsen: What were the shift hours as a security guard?

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Durgin: Mostly daytime. I worked at a Civic Plaza/ convention center where various different conventions and forums occurred, technical, hobby, special interest, futuristic, industrial, etc.

Jacobsen: Is the RF engineer position one in which the BS degree came in handy?

Durgin: Necessary minimum. One cannot be responsible for the design of communication components in defense and aerospace industries (what the serious RF Engineer does) if one does not have a solid background in electrical engineering and physics, in addition to four or five years of practice beyond that. High power RF design engineering requires an exceptional aptitude and mathematical background in mechanical, electrical, time varying-spatial varying wave physics and thermal concepts. This over a broad range of materials science too. The design of practical RF and microwave components involves consideration and mastery of a large variety of disciplines and factors. These include electrical, architectural (like topology, materials and realizability) thermal and wave principles of resonant circuits, coupled structures and elements as well as field theory. In addition one must marshal the resources associated with manufacturing processes and engineering materials & toolsets required for fabrication and proper tolerancing…this involves machining etching, casting, forging, extrusion, welding, plastics film deposition and others. One must also fully understand cost factors Such as labor and overhead, assembly, adjustment, test, quality control etc. Effective communication is therefore critical. Engineering is problem-solving at the direct level and so an entrepreneurial spirit is necessary. If you are not using differential equations to solve these physical problems then you are not an engineer, much less an RF engineer.

Jacobsen: You would be a colourful teacher of physics. How did you approach teaching physics? Also, what levels?

Durgin: Years ago, sophomore level only. I was engaging and brought various levels of mechanical activity and fun to the classroom. I was inspired by Feynman to do this. And my own understanding of the synthesis that physics brings to understanding the world also inspired me. I wanted others to know this and learn it. Learning advanced mathematics is not that difficult because mathematics is pure logic; when applied to the physical world it provides a solid understanding of why things work the way they do, from light to magnetism to stellar formation and evolution, to biological processes and organic chemistry, to all other forms of physical interaction. The most challenging applications to learn mechanics are associated with rotary motion, the orbital motion of planets, gyroscopes, gravitational fields and forces. The Foucault pendulum is remarkably elegant. I set up small and large apparatus in the room. One of my favorites was a solar collector set up as a curved mirror, which could spontaneously burn anything placed at its focal point when the mirror collected basic sunlight. Wood plastic etc. just by pointing at the sun. Painting things black accelerated the effect. I threw things around the room, hung stuffed animals in one corner and had an air gun that fired tennis balls at them from the other corner. We dropped things from third story windows, rotated bicycle wheels and carried them around the room to experience torque, Used lasers to develop the concept of relativity, etc. I had a great experience in college at one University as well, we had a lab that produced holograms using lasers, and a machine shop where we were tasked with designing and creating industrial hand tools like C-Clamps, slotted microwave lines, etc. U Maine and Arizona State were great experiences.

Jacobsen: Where were you a marketing and sales manager?

Durgin: After the first decade I worked for two US electronic component manufacturers over 20 years time, managing product and accounts world-wide, the first company in Rhode Island with about $10M annually, the second company about $100M annually located in Florida, NY and SC. Both times serving Defense, aerospace,

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industrial, optical communication industries. Products were RF, microwave, millimeter wave components primarily.

Jacobsen: Were the engineering manager and business manager roles, in any way, associated with one another – other than through you working them?

Durgin: Not at first, the business manager was for my ex-wife's private school she founded. When I was running the books for that, I was working as RF engineer designing high power TV transmitter equipment and had a third job teaching college physics.

Jacobsen: Where were you an engineering consultant? What does an engineering consultant do? (Please, for the love of anybody's God, don't say, "Consults on engineering." Unless, you want eye-rolls from high-IQ society members who happen upon this interview.)

Durgin: Best is by way of a short example. Over the past 20 years I cultivated and developed hundreds of business contacts. I have also developed my own skills in design, manufacturing, test and development of electronic components and equipment for the communication industry – primarily operating at RF and microwave and millimeter wave frequencies. I now entertain projects for certain customers, and a typical transaction is a phone call or a face-to-face conversation facilitated by my travel to a company like Northrup Grumman or Lockheed or BAE or Boeing or Raytheon. I would meet three or four engineers or project engineers and managers in a room and they would ask me questions regarding a problem or challenge they have with one of their systems. Like "We have radar transmitter functioning at 14Ghz with a 1-5% bandwidth that generates harmonics whose energy is too high (thus interfering with other communication systems); can you design a 20 Watt 14 GHz low pass filter in microstrip transmission line form that suppresses the second and third harmonic below 40-50dB and keep passband insertion loss below 1dB?" I then must assess the manufacturability of such a product, but I cannot always do this without spending some time researching how large and what materials and what architecture with which to build the product. Many other issues typically come up, mostly to do with manufacturability, cost and time. The customer and I then must negotiate price, quantities over the next 2 to 3 years etc. Great variability occurs from customer to customer, from project to project and from product to product; but my job is to solve all these types of problems as a consulting engineer. Sometimes it involves bringing in other experts. Sometimes the project occurs only once: customer doesn't call me again….sometimes they call me again six months later with a second project. If I'm lucky I get a short or long term contract and work with them every month on a number of projects. Occasionally on the first time around enough information can be gleaned from the nature of the problem that the customer completely changes their mind about the direction. Perhaps some of their engineers could actually design it and farm it out to a familiar manufacturer. It's really no different than any other forum where a salesman or builder architect attempts to sell something to somebody who can use the product or skill. One difference is that in my world the business people I work with are not only engineers but RF engineers, likely doing design work or business for years prior. And further this exposes the fact I learned long ago that no matter how much experience a businessman might have there is no way he will never learn enough about the engineering process on the job….one must have the degree. The other side of that coin is any degreed engineer, advanced or not…..that engineer can learn business on the job just by doing business, one doesn't need to go to college to get a business degree. Much more difficult or impossible to teach a businessman engineering skills outside of university, but very easy to teach an engineer business skills outside of college.

Jacobsen: Founder and President, what business or enterprise?

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Durgin: D.E.E., My consulting business as RF/Microwave design engineer.

Jacobsen: What is this mix of humour, polymath, and paradox, for a genius? Are geniuses, in some sense, paradoxes in the form of a living Hegelian dialectic blossoming as "Synthesis"?

Durgin: Not sure I can explain that in less than a year, but it takes an extraordinary amount of effort to work on a great paradox, often leading to unexpected discoveries and illuminations. Only hard word produces valuable discovery. If one is not already a genius one certainly can become a genius just by doing this. Being a polymath really helps because working on two or three or five separate projects not directly related to one another allows the brain to rest on one project but also unconsciously work on the others. Helmholtz discussed this. Just study all of the work the physicists were doing at the end of the 19th century and see how Einstein put together a great many known conflicts and paradoxes to then work for nearly 20 years before he came up with the brilliant theory to explain it all. Electromagnetism led to Relativity. But he also worked on other things, inspecting patents for work, but publishing 4 papers in one year (1905) on different subjects. Kinetic motion of atoms, the photoelectric effect, electrodynamics and the energy content of matter. That's genius. Electrodynamics was first synthesized by Maxwell 30 years earlier, but Einstein used those conclusions to discover that Relativity also dictated the rules of Electromagnetism. It turns out that relativity essentially dictates the rules of all physics, even physics not yet discovered. Monumental, without question. Depending on how willing the individual is to step outside of one's philosophical and experiential comfort zone the paradox may or may not be solved but a lot of other problems never considered could be. In my view a genius must walk in the shoes of more than just a few others in order to truly understand the world and to understand oneself. One must master the current scientific state of the art. This means constantly reassessing the knowledge one has gained and constantly seeking MORE knowledge in order to reassess all that prior knowledge. This is similar to building a pyramid, it's an extraordinary amount of work in the beginning. Once one nears the top the work becomes easier and easier…..affecting much more with less effort, except if one finds imperfections in the bottom layers (invariably one WILL and I have) one cannot simply go down there and adjust it….one must completely disassemble the pyramid and build it again. This seems disheartening at first but doing it causes one one's knowledge too deepen very rapidly. I would consider anyone willing to do that and stay sane is at least partly genius. And I would also consider anyone who is willing to go through with all this? At some point one must learn to be acquainted with a lot of cosmic humor. Inevitability in a nutshell. Working in the woods for three days straight pulling a 2 ton rock out of a 15 foot deep hole with two chains or three wrapped around it with the other ends wrapped around two trees….and inch by inch by inch moving the stone up and having it catch on other stones every five minutes so that a crowbar is necessary to nudge it free, eventually nearing the top of the hole on that third day to then have one chain slip off and the other chain snap due to the immense force, and the boulder bounce back down into the hole. How does that feel? What is anger? No matter how careful or patient one was, one needs humor at that point. What utter moron would want to do this?

Jacobsen: What makes science "the true and final method of finding things out; finding THE truth"?

Durgin: Cannot be answered simply or quickly. Many many books and texts have already been written addressing this question, harkening all the way back to the 13th century with Roger Bacon. To say nothing of Aristotle who started it all. The essence of why science is superior is because science changes its conclusions when more data comes in and enough overwhelming evidence arrives. Science is also a collective exercise that is self checking. A scientist must disclose all one's resources and experimental methods so that others can perform them and see if they get the same answers/conclusions. Once a great many near identical experiments have been performed by a

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great many people, then mistakes are eventually eliminated, variances accounted for and the experiment gives way to accepted FACT. This makes science superior to any other method of finding the truth because it's a collective effort, carried out by individuals. Science is ruthlessly rigorous in its approach, eliminating all but one variable in order to find the foundational physical law; Mathematics its most useful tool. Religion on the other hand never changes; its truths are asserted from the beginning and then no matter what evidentiary data comes in, those "truths" are still stubbornly clung to. This is the opposite of rationality and success. Backward in a bad way. In addition any physicist or scientist defending a hypothesis must include all forms of contradictory evidence before coming to a conclusion. Nowhere in religion or in any other irrational fact-gathering exercise is contradictory evidence used as a means of finalizing the truth. This is one of the reasons why the body of knowledge based on scientific inquiry is slow to change. The full truth may never be known, but the sure way to MOST CLOSELY APPROACH IT is through the method of Science, no question. Aside from the above, the best way to communicate my ideas about the importance of the question is to simply list some interesting ~90 books from my collection, through which I have voyaged over 25 years of study, related work and contemplation. Many of these are game changers:

#548 Relativity by Einstein

#1321 Euclids Elements

#2338 Enoch 3 by Hugo oberg

#567 Genius by James Gleick (on Feynman)

#1165 The song of Roland by D. Sayers

#1211 Nicolas Flamel by Laurinda Dixon

#1704 Isaac Newton by Gleick

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680 Electrodynamics by Melvin Schwartz

709 General theory of relativity by Paul Dirac

700 Gravitation by Misner, Thorne and Wheeler

#1113 Primer for Gauge Theory by Moriyasu

#1114 Emmy Noether's Wonderful Theory by Dwight Neuenschwander

#1426 Mechanics by Lev Landau and Lifshitz

#1433 Variational Principles of mechanics by Cornelius Lanczos

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#688 Mysterium Coniunctionis by Carl Jung

#718 Psychology and Alchemy by Jung

#113 Cosmic Code by Heinz Pagels

#801 Gödel's Proof by Newman and Nagel

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#195 Gödel, Escher, Bach by Hofstadter

#741 Labyrinths by Jorge Luis Borges

#3 lost keys of freemasonry by manly hall

#6 morals and dogma by Albert pike

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#1209 The Zohar by Daniel Matt

#1100 Sacred Vault of Enoch by John Yarker

#752 Infinite world of MC Escher by Abradale

#701 Sacred Geometry by Robert lawlor

#730 the Bahir by Aryeh Kaplan

#642 the Iliad and the odyssey of homer

#312 Dante's divine comedy in Italian

#315 virgils Aeneid

#909 the grail legend by Emma Jung

#1127 the grail by Loomis

#1224 the holy grail by Norma Goodrich

#703 theatrum chemicum brittanicum by ashmole

#296 serpent in the sky by John west

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#769 Plutarch in 5 volumes by Goodwin

#969 Themis Aurea by Michael maier

#711 Heptameron arbatel of magic by Abano

#705 Greek myths by Robert graves

#217 Demon haunted world by Carl Sagan

#402 Uriels machine by Robert lomas

#99 Holy blood holy grail by Baigent Lincoln and Leigh

#122 the abc of relativity by Bertrand Russell

#452 Wholeness and the implicate order by David Bohm

#324 Freemasonry, it's hidden meaning by George steinmetz

#5 Secret destiny of America by manly hall

#408 Alchemy by manly hall

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#294 second messiah by Knight and lomas

#512 Pythagorean sourcebook by Guthrie

#444 divine pymander by shrine of wisdom

#1083 magicians of the gods by Graham Hancock

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#576 Engineering and the minds eye by Eugene Ferguson

#578 thermal physics by kittel and kroemer

#887 transmission lines by Robert chipman

#610 microwave engineering by Pozar

#866 microwave measurements by Montgomery

#607 waveguide handbook by n. Markuvitz

#865 microwave transmission circuits by Ragan

#587 microwave filters, impedance matching networks and coupling structures by matthei, young and Jones

#569 lasers by Jeff Hecht

#552 invention and evolution by French

#110 physics of immortality by Frank tipler

#190 liber 777 by Crowley

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#1111 the comacines by ravenscroft

#1094 secrets of the Phoenicians by Sanford holst

#1095 Greek science by Sarton

#2617 new materials for the history of man by RG Haliburton

#2618 exposition of the mysteries by John Fellows

#2619 landmarks of freemasonry by George Oliver

#423 book of Enoch by Charles Laurence (transl)

#159 the temple and the lodge by baigent & Leigh

#100 messianic legacy by baigent & Leigh

#125 Duncan’s ritual

#2339 cleopatras needles by EHW Budge

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#2137 Childhoods End by Arthur c Clarke

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#788 dwellings of the philosophers by fulcanelli

#1771 parzival by wolfram von eschenbach

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#672 mathematicall praeface by John Dee

#852 ninth century and grail by Walter stein

#330 holy grail by manly p hall

#285 Phoenician origin of the Scots Britain's in Anglo-Saxons by Lawrence Waddell

#1069 solving Stonehenge by Anthony Johnson

#46 Evolution of civilizations by Caroll Quigley

#318 paradise lost by John Milton

#777 hermetica by Walter Scott

#1019 golden game by stanislas k. De rola

#422 tower of alchemy by David Goddard

#731 Sefer yetzirah by Aryeh Kaplan

#1357 geometrical foundation of natural structures by Robert Williams

#1098 Chartres cathedral by Louis charpentier

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If one studies only half of these diligently and repeatedly over 5 to 10 years your mind will be transformed in unpredictable ways. I say it's worth it, I've done it repeatedly with 15 times as many books over 30 years, changing my head each time. One good book read 20 times will change a man. 10 good books read 2 or 3 times is enough to question and doubt everything. 100 good books read and re-read perhaps 6, 7 or 20 times is enough to transform one's thinking, and further brings the realization a thousand more should be read. 1000 books is enough.

Jacobsen: What has been the hardest high-range test taken by you? Why that one?

Durgin: By far the most difficult, most elegant and the most mentally rewarding was my attempt at the Isis test by Cooijmans about 15 years ago or so. This required me to research in many different directions in order to approach the solutions. Only 5 problems total (the essence of its elegance and superiority) and it took 3 months + of my time. I was eventually able to solve four out of the five problems but I submitted the test too soon: in my excitement and eagerness I had only really partially solved the other three. It wasn't until I submitted the test, received a score of "1" and then reviewed the test again that I realized I needed to go further. Nevertheless this did not matter to me in the end because I was quite satisfied knowing I had solved all of them or nearly all of them. In real life one does not completely solve any problem the first time around. Not even close. This never happens in engineering or physics, surgery or psychology or anywhere; one must always go back to one's work and improve upon it. Multiple times. Development by definition is never instantaneous. Perfection never attained. The Grail is never found, never intended to be found.

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Footnotes

[1] Member, Giga Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/durgin-2**; 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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The Greenhorn Chronicles 9: Leann (Pitman) Manuel on Issues in the Industry (3)

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Abstract

Leann (Pitman) Manuel's bio states: "Leann was as good as born on a horse, and has been fortunate to work with them daily since her very early twenties. From Pony Club and 4H as a child, through national level competition and several World's Show qualifications with her Quarter Horse as a teen, to some Dressage tests, a few Cowboy Challenge clinics, and the daily operations at Riding 4 Life today, Leann's horsemanship practice continues to seek out anything and everything she may be able to learn or experience with horses. Leann is passionate about helping others realize the value of having horses in their lives – no matter the breed or creed – and she hopes to continue to grow and nurture the horsemanship community in her region well into the future." She discusses: the individual level of standards; experiential knowledge transfer; a standard teaching regimen; and issues.

Keywords: Equine Canada, Keremeos, Leann Manuel, Penticton, Riding 4 Life.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 9: Leann (Pitman) Manuel on Issues in the Industry (3)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: This raises questions about standards. This would, probably, be an analysis at two levels: 1) organizational, 2) individual. So, let's start with the one that's probably more straightforward, the individual level of standards. How do you embody the standards for the company to make individuals within it, or coming to it, align with it, inasmuch as possible? Also, what are those values?

Leann (Pitman) Manuel[1],[2]: So, I've listed values on my website. They're words. Things like "Community," "Inclusion," "Leadership." I'm looking for those words that will satisfy the world out there [Laughing]. Hopefully, it will orient them to my way of doing things. My standard is: I am open to anything. But if you're going to bring

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me something that isn't what we do, you should show its benefit and cost to us. We go from there. I'm open to explaining to people if there is a very certain way that I want everyone to put the bridals on the horses. It is a fairly complex procedure. It seems like overkill to a lot of people.

Until, they spend a half of an hour with me. Then I explain all the whys. Same with mounting a horse. I am very particular about how you use the mounting block, how you approach, how you ask your horse to come pick you up, how you stand, and how you get on. Because it is never about just putting the bridal on. It is never about just mounting up. It is horsemanship, warm-up, orienting your horse, a safety check. It is a really complex thing. The most important thing horsemanship-wise, I want all my clients to do is to assess themselves and their horse correctly. "At my skill level, is it safe for me to get on the horse like this?"

I've done certifications with the Certified Horsemanship Association or Equine Canada, have been in Pony Club, and all of these different organizations. They have different protocols for different reasons. I find them all lacking because none of them can address that piece. "How do you know if you as an individual have the skillset to handle the horse in front of you?" There is the thin slice again. All the things that can't necessarily be put into words.

So, what I end up doing with my clients is asking, "How do you feel? What is your nervous system saying to you?" That is really important. I have teens, for example, who are incredibly skilled. I would hand them all kinds of fire-breathing dragon horses. If they don't believe that they can, that means that they can't. Because they don't believe that they have the skill, yet. As soon as I put the lead rope in that teen's hands, their nervous system will be activated. They will be in fight-flight-freeze. It will not be good. It is hard to put into words.

My husband asked me this. I met him. He was a novice horseman. His mom had horses. He rode a pony as a kid. He hadn't owned horses since. We were dating. He asked, "How involved do you want me to get into your horse habit?"

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Manuel: We were dating. He realizes this is pretty serious. It would be nice if I start competing again, etc., and some big deal thing; and you're there to support me. He is a musician. When COVID hit, his whole world collapsed. Now, he is working full-time here. [Laughing] So, how involved are you, honey? He came from novice to a competent beginner instructor. He is especially good at ground work because he has been riding alongside me doing my thing.

He said the other day, "You always joke about when you're connecting with teenagers and how the adults are talking, and the adult sound like, 'Womp, womp, wah, wah, wah.' I'm still in that stage. All these people are talking, talking, talking. I'm not listening to them. I'm watching where they're at emotionally, their behaviour. Because behaviour is communication. Behaviour in this horseman world is much more meaningful as far as I am concerned." So, I am teaching these young people, unfortunately, to ignore their elders sometimes [Laughing].

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Manuel: To get a good sense where they're at and where their horse is at, horses are pretty safe over, under, around them, when they are relaxed, calm, at ease, even blind spots, spook spots, danger zones, are only dangerous if a horse is elevated. The same is true of humans. If I can give that skillset to people, then I am pretty sure I am giving them the skillset that doesn't show up in a lot of books or a lot of standards that they can practice in a lot of ways. I tend to not care if they are not holding the reins exactly right, or if the equipment is mis-matched with an English bridal and a Western saddle, or vice versa. I don't really care [Laughing].

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Are they safe? Are they having fun? Are they able to pursue whatever the next question is? I am good with that.

Jacobsen: This experiential knowledge transfer is non-standardized in a way. How could it be standardized?

Manuel: Right?

Jacobsen: The thin line between the verbal and the non-verbal. In journalism, the verbal is everything when integrated with the non-verbal, but the presentation of the verbal is everything. In the equine industry, a greenhorn, myself, or an experienced person, yourself the non-verbal is everything, and the verbal, couldn't care less, by the sounds of it. Same time, it raises questions to the other portion of that question, originally, outside of the individual into the organizational. So, Equine Canada was mentioned. There are federations, societies, associations, provincially and otherwise, in the country, or international with FEI, to try to set a standard, to attempt to set a standard. I have heard mixed opinions about these organizations.

Manuel: Yes.

Jacobsen: What are the efforts to make a standard teaching regimen, so everyone, at least, has an acceptable minimum when training?

Manuel: Yikes. I'm going to ask you. I've been working on this problem as long as I have had the formalized business because, as soon as you formalize business, then you have to contend with public perception, personal standards (and why), communication with the outer world (because there is a world beyond my herd), insurance (a massive one) and how do we do that. I argue all the time with insurance brokers every year when I have to pay that bill.

Yes, this isn't anywhere as dangerous as they purport because of the experience, because of my approach. They don't deal with it that way. They quote all this data and evidence. I say, "Yes…. No." [Laughing] I challenge the evidence because there is no comparison between overseeing Riding 4 Life and someone who bought a horse, who they can manage to catch, saddle up, and ride. Who invites their friend to get on it, they end up in the E.R.

These are different things altogether. As far as insurance companies gather their data, they don't distinguish between the two. Immediately, I have a problem with the data because those people will not purchase business insurance. I do. I don't want to suffer for their mistakes. That's one example of the organizational issues facing us. The other one, I talk about it, when it comes up. We compare the horse industry to other industries. Like healthcare, healthcare says it's evidence-based. It has a leg to stand on because it doesn't select data democratically.

There is scientific method behind it. There is a whole lot of education behind what data, how that data is collected, how that data is used. There are a lot of checks and balances. I have yet to find an organization in the equine industry on this planet based on postsecondary education who meets this criterion of evidence-based. These are all member driven organizations. There are very few criteria that you have to meet to be a member. In most cases, you don't have to own a horse or prove that you've ridden one ever. You just purchased the membership.

Jacobsen: It seems like a massive gap.

Manuel: My father-in-law, he takes pictures. He says, "You guys are doing great and goes home." He could purchase a membership. Now, he is a voting member. So, right there, stop, guys! These membership driven associations produce a standard, a watered-standard, unspecific standard that those who are exercising their franchise in that organization can't agree on, by simple majority. I'm like, "This is not adequate." I don't have a better answer at this point.

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There are a whole bunch of cultural and historical things leading us to this place. Healthcare in the Western world has grown and improved for the – let's say – last 100 years. It is the best technology, best practice, professionalism, education, and standardization. Our government is involved in it. The notion of peer-reviewed, where there are folks who hold PhDs holding others accountable.

When I was a teenager coming up, there was a woman who ran a large ranch who sat on the committee for the curriculum and standards for Equine Canada's Western program. The advice given to me by my mom, when I was 10, 11, 12, 13, was: If you go there, don't tie your horse to anything, don't let it drink out of the water troughs, there were practices happening there. Even my amateur experienced horse owning mom knew, she didn't want our horses exposed to it. This is a person who was at the forefront in the '80s and '90s developing the standardized Western curriculum for Equine Canada. So, yes, there are big problems. How do you vet those people?

Jacobsen: This is the divisiveness (positives and negatives) in conversation on the record and off the record coming my way, even in the earliest portions of this series.

Manuel: What? I am not alone?

Jacobsen: [Laughing] It is extremely common.

Manuel: We cannot change the problem if we don't correctly identify it first.

Jacobsen: People want change. Then there are differential issues. So, not organizational, but survivability, so, you have a growing business. Others have a stale business, which is pretty good. It's stable. Others have declining businesses. Others have closing businesses. It could be weather issues. It could be hyper-rural problems. It could be rising land prices. It could be agricultural land reserve bylaws or restrictions that apply to farms and stables, and ranches, and so on, which create issues particular to that geography, then impacting the business. For Riding 4 Life, what issues are coming up for you, in Penticton?

Manuel: Land, the cost of real estate, land use availability, proximity of it to my target market.

Jacobsen: How far are clients travelling to you?

Manuel: To me, I operate on the Penticton Indian Band. The channel running through the Penticton River. One side of the channel is City of Penticton. The other side is Penticton Indian Band land. I could almost throw a rock and hit City of Penticton land. I couldn't be more ideally located. The trouble is, I just paid board to a larger facility. So, I operate on Green Mountain Equestrian Centre. There are probably 50 horses set up at peak.

It is not well set up for that at all. There are no resources, no help, no community planning on our side or acknowledging us. We are surrounding by industrial stuff. We are under the flight path of the airport. There's B.C. Hydro stuff coming through the property. We are really faking it until we make it here. The only win is our location to a fairly large urban population for the only facility located in Penticton that is accessible to beginners. So, land is a problem. I could probably lease some acreage in Keremeos.

That's 45 minutes away. Most of my clientele, their families cannot cope with that big of a drive time to get to their weekly session. I probably lose half of my target market. Would I survive? Yes, I could pick up different clients. I would be resourceful. I would be okay. It is not my passion. Also, it is not the biggest need that I see. I want to get more people into this industry because I recognize that it is a quickly shrinking industry.

It is not for lack of people wanting to get in. Horse people are horrible for advocating for themselves in the wider world. We really are. There is not a lot of political will or are not a lot of political agencies who know what to do

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with us. We are not really on the radar screen. Here's the other question, which you have probably already run into, "Are we part of the agricultural industry or the recreational industry? What are we?"

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Manuel: This whole business of trying to figure out what guidelines to follow. Are we an essential service because half of my clients are accessing me for therapeutic services? Now, Sport B.C. was the one I ended up following because they are the only ones returning my call [Laughing]. "Yes, we think you are with us, but nobody knows for sure." Even boarders who own the horses weren't allowed to go on the property and see their horses under COVID lockdown for a month or two, part of the change there needs to be people who are in the horse industry down to one hobby horse.

We are not well-organized that way and need to advocate for ourselves in some organized fashion. Far be it from me to figure out how to do that.

Footnotes

[1] Instructor & Founder, Riding 4 Life Equine Enterprises.

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 10: Kathy Asseiro on Symatree Farm (1)

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Abstract

Kathy Asseiro's biography on Symatree Farm's website states: "Kathy is an Advanced Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) facilitator and the Program Director for Symatree Farm. A lifelong respect for horses, combined with a strong belief in the value of experiential learning and an intense desire to help others, naturally led her to EAL. From operating heavy equipment, to earning a couple of university degrees, partnering in a three-generation family business, and achieving certification as an elementary Montessori teacher, she now draws upon her training, skills and experiences to head up the programs at Symatree Farm. Whether she's facilitating a session, tending the herd, working on curriculum design, greasing farm machinery, or swinging a hammer, it all comes together in fulfilling her dream… bringing horses and people together." She discusses: horses; Symatree; youth, teens, and adults; Advanced Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) facilitator; issues come with horses; people; coordination with Dr. Kelly Penner Hutton; main things horses tell; partnership between Piece of Mind and Symatree; the majority of clientele; the bigs, the mids, and the littles; and Sarah Guillemard – Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness and Uzoma Asagwara.

Keywords: Advanced Equine Assisted Learning, Kathy Asseiro, Program Director, Sarah Guillemard**,** Symatree Farm, Uzoma Asagwara.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 10: Kathy Asseiro on Symatree Farm (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: So, today, we are here with Kathy of Symatree Farm. We will be talking about your background and then have a little bit of an introduction of the work of intrigue. Yourself, how did you get involved in horses, in ponies, in equestrianism in general?

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Kathy Asseiro[1],[2]: So, this is going to be one of those stories to when I was 4-years-old! [Laughing]

Jacobsen: Every story! [Laughing]

Asseiro: It wasn't there, except for a few generations back on a home. I was 4-years-old being asked by my dad. He'd go on a business trip. I'd ask for a pony. I wouldn't get it. Fast forward 40 or so years, I have 1, 2, 3, and then 22. [Laughing] Also, the other side of it, I remember being 6-years-old and being really, really driven to do what I could to have people be joyful. I wanted people to be joyful and happy. Life choices and circumstances took me to the point where the horses and bringing the joy converged. I was able to get the property. Things fell in to place. With a little bit of work, this is what we now have today.

Jacobsen: Why decide to create Symatree in the first place? Because it's one of those industries that is plural. So, you can do a lot of things with it. A lot of people in popular culture will know dressage. They'll call it, 'Horses dancing.' There's show jumping. They'll know it as horses jumping over rails. Yet, why focus on gathering the types of horses and ponies that you do? Why focus on mental health and things on that nature?

Asseiro: I've got to say, "It is where my heart has always been." So many people who I run into over the years, they have needed something. There wasn't something always there for them. The rescues that we have brought in. They have so much heart and so much personality. They are deserving of a second, third, or fourth chance. Same with the people. I was wired to do whatever I can to help people find the place of joy in themselves. Then they can go on and be the best version of themselves.

Jacobsen: A lot of Canadian society, or, maybe, more, at least, has been focusing on the phrase "mental health" and its varying concepts and implications, particularly around young or the veterans or LGBTI communities. Who are individuals – youth, teens, and adults – coming to you, to work with your team?

Asseiro: It's right across the board. Our team, we have a lead facilitator who is in charge of the youth programming. We have a lead facilitator in charge of team programming. I am in charge of the adult programming, which is something beginning to be developed in a unique way. We have taken the COVID years to transition a bit. We were working with a local school division. They would send 100 or so children a year. We've been an approved provider for Child & Family Services.

So, the children that we see are on the spectrum, have ADHD, etc. They have all these letters. We don't focus on the letters. We focus on who the child is. Our youth facilitator is phenomenal. There is a lot of angst in kids nowadays. She loves to work with those because she sees beyond the angst. She sees what is behind it, which is fear or sadness. It is this remarkable human being doing the best that they can do with the horses to bring that out.

A lot of those behaviours that they were exhibiting before simply fall away. For teens, it is about identity. Who they are? Who they want to be? We will do overnight workshops with them as well. It is a ot of fun. We design to be fun. Nobody wants to do heavy work, especially teens. There is enough of that already. With the adults, I call them the phoenix.; The person who has been knocked down. The flame has not been extinguished. They still have a dream.

They are still seeking. They don't know which way to look. Those are the adults that I like to work with. If the person is looking to better themselves in some way, we are open to working with them.

Jacobsen: You Advanced Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) facilitator. What is an EAL facilitator?

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Asseiro: So, my training was done at Cartier Equine in Saskatchewan. They were one of the first, maybe the first, approved by Equine Canada to do this type of training. It was about 12or 13 years ago now, when I got the training. So, we would be equine experts. We understand horses really, really well. We create programming either one-on-one, to address specific needs, or groups, to gather and think. This age group, these are the typical challenges faced by them." It will be a program based in a story that is imaginative and playful.

They are characters within th story. As they interact with the horses, they build their emotional vocabulary, learn to collaborate, how to problem solve, how to use common sense, how to make decisions. All these things that they struggle with in real life. As a facilitator, we are taught how to take that programming. For the delivery of the programming, it is not like teaching, where we are the ones with the answers. Facilitating is different, it is creating the environment with having the experience and the child, teen, or adult engaging in the experience, and finding their own answers.

Our horses are so used to all kinds of different energies and behaviours. So, if a person behaves in a particular way, and if the horse is uncomfortable with it, the horse will leave., They are allowed to do that. The person will look to us. We tend to look away at that point. You will find your own best answer. We trust everybody here that they will find that. They go back and try again. Then they find the success is theirs. Facilitators set the experience and letting it play out, but making it safe. We have never had an issue with that. The prime role of the facilitator is to let the person have their experience, learn what they need to from that.

After that experience, we give a place for them to be aware of what just happened. They may think, "I took a horse over a barrel or under a curtain." We help them see their gifts in having that happen and how they can carry that into the world outside of the arena.

Jacobsen: What issues come with horses who may have been malnourished, may have forms of physical or mental trauma? How do you work with horses that may have those kind of issues in a herd.

Asseiro: So, the herd is the magical part of it. We keep between 3 and 4 herds. Horses have hierarchies, naturally, out in the wild. They have hierarchies here. We don't want to put them all together in one. We have natural herd bosses and natural herd mares. We make sure the composition of our herds is healthy. If a horse is creating trouble in a herd or having a hard time settling in, we will pull them from that herd and into another herd, shifting them until they are as comfortable as they can be.

When we first bring a horse in, there is a good chance it will have some challenges and difficulties. We brought in a 4-year-old, our youngest. His hooves hadn't been trimmed in 4 years, probably. Maybe, he'd seen a farrier once. The front feet weren't too bad. The back feet were terrible, really, really long. We have an outstanding farrier. She put the nippers to it, super carefully. She showed the worst. The bad feet had abscessed. We kept him in the stall for 7 months. Every second day, his feet would be soaked in Epsom salts. We would pack them with powder. We would have the farrier out every 2 weeks to trim them and working away at it. After 7 months, we got permission to put him into the herd. That's what we did. \When you put a new horse into the herd, they will get chased a bit.

We put him into the herd, made sure that he had a separate pile of hay. We knew the herd would push him away. We made sure that he knew the hierarchy and knew his place. We will keep them separated for as long as we need to get them well. The best we can do to get them well mental and emotional wellbeing is to get them into a balanced herd. We wouldn't take in 5 at a time and stick them in one herd. It is overwhelming for the herd. We take, maybe 2, at a time, and get them to that point. With this little guy, we put him into the herd. His presence in

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that herd created some angst within the herd. Some of the other horses, like Sawyer, were really unhappy. A couple of the mares were joining up with the little guy. The three of them were being belligerent.

I pulled this tiny out. I put him in with the bigs because the big herd is so well balanced. So, he spent probably a month and a half or two with the big herd. They really helped him because horses understand horses. We can understand them to a degree, but our communication is not as subtle or immediate. So, the big guys helped him to learn how to be a good friend. Now, he is back out. We are doing special treatment for his feet. He will go out into a new herd and will settle in really well. The first thing for the mental and emotional health is to get them into a healthy herd and let the horses help them with that.

Depending on how much their trust or respect has been shattered when they came, it will determine how long they stay in the herd without human interaction. We are in the herd interacting with them every day. So, the new horse will see us interacting with all of the others. They start to see how the others are trusting us, and helps the new horse understand that this person is different other people who I have been with before. Some times, in some cases, it cane take years before a horse is healed enough to let even us comfortably approach.

Spartacus is one of those. One of the most damaged we've ever received. His trust was absolutely shattered. Now, he is absolutely golden. He is such a good mentor for people. If you ave a child with ADHD with the big energy, then he will leave. A child almost has the horse as a barometer. We don't have to do anything. They do it themselves. The child learns they can rate their energy up or down because they so badly want to get to that horse. So, it is pure magic.

Jacobsen: How attuned are horses, ponies, and so on, to people?

Asseiro: My goodness, it would be hard to describe it in words, I guess. I've got a number of clients who I am working with now. The client will be interacting with the horse, even walking. The horse is on loose lead line walking beside the person. All of the sudden, the horse will drop back and start creating a bit of tension in the lead line or the horse will push/move into the person I've got one horse that will speed up a little bit, turn 90 degrees, and stop in front of the person, creating a road black. This is with more adult people. I will ask the clients, "What happened in you right there?"

They will say, "I was questioning myself. Thinking you don't think I'm good enough." Their old stories come up. Every time their stories come up. The horse would walk in front of them and cut them off. I am 200 feet away. I have no idea what is going on, except I see the horse change. They walk mores stiffly. Something changes in them. I mention this to the person. They start to watch the horse. Now, they are walking along, a horse cuts them off or walks back. The horse reminds them. "You can do what you want to do, but I am aware. I noticed a shift in you and am aware." It is remarkable.

Jacobsen: How is the coordination with Dr. Kelly Penner Hutton of Peace of Mind?

Asseiro: I have been working with her for about 6 years now. She comes out 1 day a week bringing her clients, who are children, teens, adults, as well. We have done a couple of group sessions together for nurses and that sort of thing. When she is in the arena, she is the mental health expert. I am the equine expert. We will be collaborating completely and allowing the person to interact. She will move in to processing something if it is a complex trauma. Or she will do her EMDR. She is phenomenal at it. She will help them with the coping skills on the psychological end of things. I will be on the equine end of things setting up the activities and the experiences.

Also, I will identify when the horse is telling us something.

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Jacobsen: What are the main things horses tell you?

Asseiro: One of the biggest things is if a person is not being congruent. If their inside and outside aren't matching, then the horse will be really uncomfortable with that. If they are out of their body, too much out of their head, starting to replay old scripts and stories, then the horse allows us to know it. I'm sure you've heard of the Heart Math Institute.

Jacobsen: No, I have not.

Asseiro: They have done a lot of research on the electromagnetic field of the heart and of horses. They talk about the field put out by the heart of the horse, where the field of the heart is much stronger than the brain. They have small brains and big hearts compared to us, who have big brains and small hearts compared to the size of out bodies. Our electromagnetic field will extend about a foot and a half or two feet, so they figure, from our body. I don't recall. It may 10 to 30 to 40 feet for a horse's EMF being detected. So, when a person is standing in a herd of horses, if they come in agitated, then the horses are generally okay with that.

What will happen, the person's rhythm will just start to fall into a relaxed rhythm being around the horses because the horse's modulates the human's. Even if they aren't doing that much around the horses, they will begin to experience that relaxation. What they tell us, if they lay down and roll, they will only do that if they are comfortable. Although, a client may feel angsty. The horse isn't worried about that energy. We will always know from the horse's behaviour if the horse is feeling comfortable or uncomfortable. I was working with the 13-year-old a few years back who was having issues with emotional regulation.

She wanted to get up to Spartacus. She walked up to him. He leaves. She looks back at me. She had some struggles. Every time, she had a "no" from a teacher. She would have a temper tantrum and would walk off. Because he was giving her a "no." I asked, "Are you feeling comfortable or uncomfortable inside?" She said, "Uncomfortable." I said, "Breathe in, until at a comfortable spot, see if you can relax it a bit." She did. I said, "Go ahead, try again." I have no idea what Spartacus is going to do, if he is going to stay or leave. She felt more comfortable. He allowed he to come up because, for him, you have to work a bit to get to him. So, he was letting her and me know. Something is about her that is not as uncomfortable as before. As soon as she sorted it out, he allowed her to approach.

Jacobsen: How did you form this partnership between Piece of Mind and Symatree?

Asseiro: It was interesting. A woman just joined our team two weeks before. She is such a go-getter, Barb. She is on our website. She asked me, "Would you mind if I started calling?" At that point, we were working child divisions and individuals. She asked me if I minded if she just did cold calling. I said, "Yes, go ahead." [Laughing] I didn't think much would come of it. Dr. Kelly was one of the calls. Dr. Kelly was one of the only ones interesting. She came. It has been a great 6-year growing relationship. Being at the right place at the right time.

Jacobsen: Would you say the majority of clientele are youth, teen, or adults?

Asseiro: The majority are children, still. We are looking to build the teen and adult more. We, naturally, fell into the youth because we were working with the schools and Child & Family Services. Children and through CFS some teens. That had been the focus for the first 9 years. It was natural for a lot of these children to be coming. When 2020 hit, and things slowed down a bit, it gave reason to pause. "Where do we want to go with this rather than simply taking any calls? Where is the passion focused?" Through that time, our team was growing. After we picked up a person who loves working with teens and youth, it freed me up.

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I have been developing an adult program, always based on imagination and play and finding that in wisdom. Because a lot of the kids coming to us. They have said, “I don’t want to be involved in talk therapy. I don’t want to talk to anybody.” Why don’t they want to focus on problems that aren’t theirs anyway?” So, at this point, youth is still the dominant one. Adults would be second. Teens would be third.

Jacobsen: Which of the bigs, the mids, and the littles, are more popular?

Asseiro: I really couldn’t say because it depend son the person who comes. If they feel a fit… there is always one horse. Her name is Kitani. She is a good little pony. We always joke. She would not be the first one I would go to, but a lot of kids really, really love her. I can think about every single one of our horses having a fan in somebody or in a group of somebodies. Again, people who are more extroverted are going to like the more rambunctious horses. The introverts will like the quiet horses. Those task-oriented will take the serious horses, just wants to get the job done. For those playful people, the horse that will let them put on clothes and paint them. They will be happy with that.

It is more about the person than the horse in that case. People tend to like the bigs once used tom the smalls because it feels like more of a challenge for them. Yet, it is great to have the smalls, when working with as many children as we do. Proportionately, a pony is a good size for an 8-year-old compared to a quarter horse or something.

Jacobsen: How did the Sarah Guillemard – Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness and Uzoma Asagwara find Spartucus, Sawyer, and Kiwi?

Asseiro: [Laughing] Everything is pre- and post-COVID. I am thinking 3 or 4 years ago. Her people reached out to us as part of equine facilities because she had put forth the bill for service and animal day. So, we were invited down to the legislative buildings three years ago to participate in this day. Of course, we went down. They contacted us again this past year to see if we could bring some horses down. We said, “Absolutely, we love bringing our horses to people.” We chose Spartacus because he had never been to the city because. We knew he was ready. Kiwi and Sawyer were the others that we took. They were on a television show too. They are pretty resilient, very smart and very experienced.

So, the three of them came together. Then Uzoma came up towards the end, said they never really touched a horse before. I said, “Here’s your opportunity!” They came up and gave Spartacus a pat. It was getting towards the end of the time when trying to get everyone inside to see the police service dog there as well. So, I just said to them, “Are you ready for a challenge?” I love bringing people to those growth edges. I said, “Here is Spartacus, take him on the lead line.” The smile was remarkable and off they went. I stayed close by in case anything. But there was nothing to worry about at all.

Spartacus was content and Uzoma was a natural – really good calm energy, helped him feel amazing.

Footnotes

[1] Advanced Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) Facilitator and Program Director, Symatree Farm.

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Conversation with Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值) on Tokyo, MIT, Technology, INTJ, God, and Iron Man: Founder & President, God's Power (1)

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Abstract

Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值) is the Founder & President of God's Power Society & The Chosen One High IQ Society and the author of the Mystery Intelligence Test. He discusses: Ph.D. at MIT; doctoral research question; the findings in the doctoral research; be like "Iron Man"; astrology, horoscopes; a "Meteor Hunter" and "IMCA #3268"; BB and 'Crackberry'; patents; white-hat hacking; Karate; a genius; "smart is the New Sexy"; high-I.Q. societies; Tokyo; move to Japan; studying and researching at MIT; Japanese academics; the Chinese educational system, the American educational system, and the Japanese educational system; amplify the signal of the electrons; technological advancement use; an image showing full visual bandwidth to the user; God; the word of God; INTJ; Iron Man; Nikola Tesla, Howard Hughes, or Elon Musk; the next invention; and the vector of alteration.

Keywords: educational system, electrons, Fengzhi Wu, God's Power, intelligence, INTJ, night vision, Tokyo.

Conversation with Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值) on Tokyo, MIT, Technology, INTJ, God, and Iron Man: Founder & President, God's Power (1)

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

Updated June 16, 2022: "Dr." removed as the Ph.D. is incomplete, according to Wu.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Why pursue a Ph.D. at MIT over other institutions?

Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值)[1],[2]*: If I hadn't been accepted to MIT, I would have pursued my Ph.D. at the University of Tokyo (Just kidding) because I knew I would be offered. As the interviewer said, I deserve it. But yes, I admire

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the rigor of Japanese academics, so I came to Japan as my initial study abroad choice. I learned a lot in Japan, but I wanted to explore other areas of the world outside of Asia.

Jacobsen: What was the doctoral research question or research questions for you?

Wu: The traditional micro-light night vision device uses the image intensifier to convert the weak light into electrons. And then amplify the signal represented by these electrons thousands of times. Eventually, it hit the electrons on the fluorescent screen like the old TV to form the image.

The subject of my research is to hit the electron stream on a special low-light CMOS after the amplification. Then, the high-speed analog-digital circuit converts the electron stream into a digital signal. And eventually, using noise reduction and other algorithms by the central processor to form a full-color, high-resolution picture. The final image is the same apparent effect regardless of day and night.

Jacobsen: What were the findings in the doctoral research?

Wu: I can proudly say that the problematic parts of the above topics were all conquered, and a new micro-light night vision device will change the world.

Jacobsen: Do you strive to be like "Iron Man"? Isn't the Marvel character based on Elon Musk or something?

Wu: God created the world, but someone designed it, and that's the INTJ. They are thoroughly farsighted and stray from the organization. That's why people like INTJ are also called designers. Whether the universe is designed or not is another story. Still, in this world, INTJs always take on the role of innovation and revolution. They provide the theoretical support for the functioning of the world, whether it's Nikola Tesla, Howard Hughes, Elon Musk, or me in the future.

So, as you asked if I was trying hard to be Iron Man, my answer is a definite yes. And I know I'm going to be the next Iron Man. I do know it.

Jacobsen: Do you believe in astrology, horoscopes, and so on? You list a sign as Libra.

Wu: Yes, and I'm happy being a Libra. The laws of the universe relate to the numbers 3, 6, and 9, while I was born on the 30th of September. And I find it interesting that the more powerful a person is, the less he behaves like his sun sign. Otherwise, he can completely overcome the shortcomings present in his sun sign.

Jacobsen: I need help on these two. What are a "Meteor Hunter" and "IMCA #3268"?

Wu: Meteor Hunter is to hunt meteorites, as a very cool profession. The treasure hunter is someone who looks for the treasure left in the world. The meteorite hunter looks for meteorites that have fallen to the earth and have been observed.

IMCA stands for The International Meteorite Collectors Association, the world's most professional association for collecting and identifying meteorites. Just as there is a GIA association of diamonds, IMCA represents the authority of meteorites. 3268 is my IMCA number. IMCA currently has 424 expert panel members worldwide.

Jacobsen: Why choose BB and 'Crackberry' over another device?

Wu: Blackberry was my first mobile phone, a very handsome device in my junior high school days. It was a pure device that felt great to type on and was very protective of privacy. My goal used to be the CEO of Blackberry. Blackberry has slowly retired from the stage of history, and it seems that there will be no release of a new phone.

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Still, it has accompanied me throughout my entire youth. It has given me many insights into business competition and life.

Jacobsen: You design, invent, and, in turn, hold patents. What have you designed?

Wu: Well, I have designed and improved a lot of things, including steamers, knives and forks, fruit plates in the kitchen, tables, chairs, children's cars, toys, umbrellas, professional instruments and equipment, forklifts, various robots, electric picks, precision instruments for experiments, etc. I have won hundreds of design awards at domestic and international, including the iF Design Award, Reddot Product Design Award, A' Design Award, European Product Design Award, Spark International Design Award, Genis International Design Award, LITEON Award, DFL International Design Award, DNA Paris Design Award, IDC Award, TEDA Cup Award, BIEAF Award, Goldreed Industrial Design Award. GBA Award, SSR Award, YDSJ Design Award, TAIHU Award, ICVA Award, ADCJ Award, GBDO Award, IAA Award, Golden Crown Award and so on.

Jacobsen: What have you invented?

Wu: As follows.

Jacobsen: What are the patents held by you?

Wu: Underwater salvage robot,

Automatic ultrasonic flaw detection and coupling agent spray cleaning equipment,
A kind of air cleaning unit for intelligent buildings,
One type of intelligent building that sound insulation and noise reduction effect is good,
A kind of fixed-wing uncrewed plane auxiliary takeoff apparatus,
A kind of Household floor-sweeping machine device people with anti-collision,
One type of high-accuracy mechanical arm of convenient operation,
A sort of CCD camera of cranial nerve cell Calcium imaging,
Mechanical triggering power assisting device,
A kind of sweeping robot with a warning function,
Multifunctional umbrella renting and commodity selling all-in-one machine based on the Internet of things,
A kind of Sewage treatment reuse means intelligent building,
A kind of dishwasher with water-saving function for large hotels,
A kind of intelligent building that sound insulation and noise reduction effect are good,
A heat dissipation power distribution cabinet with anti-soaking function,
A kind of cleaning equipment based on experimental equipment,
A type of connecting terminal of electrical equipment,

An electronic lock with facial recognition function for easy installation,
One type of Portable sweeper device people,
Microgrid grid-connected and off-grid smooth switching current and voltage phase compensation method,
A method to analyze the reliability of distribution network operation based on the four-dimensional index system,
The rotor shaft adjustment mechanism and the uncrewed plane of multi-rotor uncrewed aerial vehicle,

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A kind of spliced water channel,
One type of computer host box pedestal,
The gearbox of wind driven generator,
One type of force value counts the mouse Mechanical Pain stimulation detection device of a display……

Jacobsen: What makes white-hat hacking "white-hat" rather than black-hat?

Wu: It is the same reason as choosing to be a superhero instead of a villain.

Jacobsen: Any specialization within Karate for the black belt?

Wu: The black belt represents the beginning of karate's "Dao" or "Way".

Jacobsen: Do you consider yourself a genius?

Wu: Of course, I am. I knew from a young age that I was a genius. (I'm a straightforward person who doesn't like the way that someone lives the life of a whore and expects a monument to the chastity)

Jacobsen: You have a quote listed, which states, "Smart is the New Sexy." How did smart become the newest form of sexy, though simply a tagline? The Americans with the Kardashians may disagree. They don't necessarily pay as much attention to Prof. Edward Witten, but may pay attention to Sheldon Cooper or a fictional character. Although, only a moderate amount as far as I can tell.

Wu: I think smart has always been an expression of sexy. There is a term called "Sapiosexual. " For me, sexy has never been defined. People are always attracted to what they appreciate or instinctively. I don't like to see people show off, but if someone who is indeed awesome is showing off, I feel cool with that. For example, after learning about Nikola Tesla's patents on electricity, I consider him very sexy, even if I haven't met him. His intelligence formed an attraction to me that is strong enough to ignore his looks, age, and physique as external image features.

Jacobsen: You have joined a number of high-I.Q. societies: "Shenghan Club ITTP Society & DBC Society, Nano Society, Silent House, Silver Hawk High IQ Club, Power Lion, Obelisk, Elegant Attic, SpaceTime Society, SuperNova Society, Misty Pavilion, Hidden Position Society, Secret Society, Dark Pavilion Society, TC Society, Hide The Word High IQ Association, Meditator high IQ society, SYRUP Society, Music Genius Society, The ENIGMA Society…" Which ones are the most interesting or unique to you?

Wu: I'm writing this in the order I joined. In terms of names, I like Nano the most because I'm obsessed with physics and Occultism. In terms of chatting, I have met some great people and made friends in Catholiq, Shenghan DBC Society, Silent House, Silver Hawk High IQ Club, and so on. Each one has its characteristics and is different from each other. Of course, I also have some insights about high IQ societies, so I also created my high IQ society ——-God's Power Society.

Jacobsen: What makes Tokyo such a fascinating place to you?

Wu: First, Tokyo is the world's largest and most populous city, with the world's highest GDP. It has the largest metropolitan area in the world. Tokyo has no clear city center because Shinjuku, Shibuya, Ginza, and Ikebukuro can all be called city centers. They all have extremely high population densities and are unforgettable prosperous. If you stay in Tokyo for just a day or two as a tourist, you cannot get to know the city.

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Secondly, Japan is a country that combines classical and modern, and it is also the first oriental country to westernize by absorbing the best cultures from all over the world. Tokyo epitomizes Japanese culture. In Tokyo, you can see business people dressed in suits and traditional women in kimonos.

Third, Japan is dedicated to creating the comfort and convenience of life. For example, the train seats are comfortable and automatically heated, without feeling cold in winter. Each public restroom is equipped with free toilet paper. There are convenience stores and vending machines just a few meters away.

Fourth, Tokyo is not only a bustling city but also a beautiful tourist destination. Much beautiful scenery, such as Kamakura, Hakone, and Fuji Mountain. Moreover, Tokyo is in the Tokyo Bay of the Kanto Plain, which is considered a beach city, and you can take a train to Tokyo Bay to see the night view. Even with the population density of such a large city, the ocean in Tokyo Bay is still so blue, which shocks me a lot.

Such a flourishing, lively, modern and beautiful, no fakes, no queue jumping, bowing, and respect is the norm, thoughtful service city; who would not like it.

Jacobsen: When did you move to Japan?

Wu: About seven years ago.

Jacobsen: How Was studying and researching at MIT?

Wu: It's exhausted but happy.

Jacobsen: What makes Japanese academics so rigorous?

Wu: The Japanese people's rigor is not only in their academics but is engraved in their bones and reflected in all aspects of their lives.

Jacobsen: How would you compared the Chinese educational system, the American educational system, and the Japanese educational system?

Wu: This question is a bit broad. In my opinion, education in China is more about grades; in Japan, the ability to work together, and in the US, creativity (in terms of admissions). The Chinese college students, as I know them are worried about exams and papers; likewise, they work harder on their studies. Most of my Japanese classmates don't pursue a master's degree. They are offered by the companies early in their junior year. According to my observation, they study less seriously than the Chinese, and there is no explicit requirement of EI or SCI for graduation. Collaborative experiments and writing papers are the regular patterns. American students have the most daring ideas and hands-on ability but pay the highest tuition fees. Of course, it is not difficult to get a scholarship as long as you are not exceptionally playful. In terms of scholarships directly proportional to tuition fees, China has the least amount of scholarships, Japan is the second, and the US has the most.

Jacobsen: How do you amplify the signal of the electrons several thousand times in the night vision?

Wu: Are you asking about the traditional micro-light night vision device? It uses an image intensifier to convert the weak light into electrons and then amplify the signal represented by these electrons thousands of times through an intermediate discharge circuit as required to get the needed signal. Finally, like the CRT TV, the fluorescent screen is bombarded by a stream of electrons and emits a spot of light corresponding to the brightness and color to form an image.

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Jacobsen: How might this, or is this, technological advancement used now? Is it commercial, military, or another use?

Wu: Our technology is essentially a new algorithm for image formation, and night vision is just the most representative carrier. So it's like, although all named TVs, like CRT TVs and LCD TVs, they are essentially totally different things. It's not easy to predict where will apply this technology. Still, I think the military will first apply it in the military. Our initial purpose is not for an armament upgrade. But if it is available for commercial use, it will also be applied to the military.

Jacobsen: Is the final result an image showing full visual bandwidth to the user, whether in the daytime or the night-time?

Wu: Yes, it is no longer like the infrared thermal night vision because it is based on image algorithms instead of light imaging. If it's not for real-time data transmission back but just for observation, it doesn't even need network coverage. It can theoretically handle all harsh environments as long as its battery works.

Jacobsen: How did God create the world?

Wu: That's a good question. I believe in the existence of a Creator, but I don't believe he has a specific appearance.

Jacobsen: Who created God?

Wu: Personally speaking, Man created the word of God. But he definitely exists, in some form or force, I think.

Jacobsen: How might an INTJ design a world?

Wu: INTJ's inner monologue is like that the world is a product. The way the product should be is right there. But it looks nowadays that there are problems everywhere, and it is up to me to solve them all. If I can't do it well, I'll do it again. If I persevere, I'll be able to do it eventually.

Jacobsen: What does Iron Man represent to you – other than "theoretical support for the functioning of the world"?

Wu: Talk about this movie. I would watch it whenever I was sad. So far, I have watched it no less than dozens of times. Of course, I have a different feeling every time I watch this movie. He makes me understand what is the most important and what is called "the man who has everything but nothing." He helped me find a determined goal and the ideal in my life. And I have been trying to move toward my ideal since the first movie in 2008 until now.

Jacobsen: Why so confident in becoming Nikola Tesla, Howard Hughes, or Elon Musk, in the future?

Wu: I think every successful man has a set of reasons to convince himself. No matter how much people laugh at you or make fun of you, you can convince yourself to keep going. My reasons are because I see the same traits in them as I do in myself. Like, INTJ, paranoia, perfectionism, and there is never a word for giving up in the dictionary of life unless I die.

Jacobsen: What will be the next invention from you, Dr. Iron Man?

Wu: A new kind of indoor lighting component. (Nearly perfect natural light and won't cost you a penny in electricity after installation)

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Jacobsen: One can state, “I will change the world. I will be the next Iron Man,” etc. The next question becomes, “How?” What will be the direction of change, the vector of alteration, of the world by you?

Wu: Everyone is changing the world with any small thing that they can do. My idea of changing the world is to improve people’s existing lives by designing and producing more functional, more convenient, and environmentally friendly products for them. Making money solves current problems, while having money makes it even easier to solve the issues and solve more.

Footnotes

[1] Founder & President, God’s Power Society & The Chosen One High IQ Society; Author, Mystery Intelligence Test; Member, Nano Society; Member, EsoterIQ Society; member, 6G High IQ Society; Giga Society 190 (formerly United Giga Society); Member, The Core IQ Society; The POINT Society; Member, NOUS High IQ Society; Member, Sidis Society; Member, Relic Society (遗迹).

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/wu-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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Conversation with Olav Hoel Dørum on Philosophies, Love, Life, and Meaning: Former Ombudsman, Mensa Norway (2)

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Abstract

Olav Hoel Dørum was the Ombudsman for Mensa Norway. He discusses: social philosophy; economic philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; worldview-encompassing philosophical system; meaning in life; meaning externally derived; an afterlife; the mystery and transience of life; and love.

Keywords: economics, life, love, Mensa Norway, metaphysics, Norwegian, Olav Hoel Dørum, philosophy.

Conversation with Olav Hoel Dørum on Philosophies, Love, Life, and Meaning: Former Ombudsman, Mensa Norway (2)

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

Interview conducted January 2, 2021.

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

Olav Hoel Dørum[1],[2]*: Since this is the first question I will explain how I understand these topics so the reader has a reference throughout the interview. Various directions in philosophy, economy and political ideologies each represents a complete set of instructions on how to relate to the world. While many have elements highly valuable for different cultures and states, each model is in itself insufficient as humans are too diverse in personality, intelligence and motives to fit in to the often narrow and homogenous mindset and behavior described in the various thought systems.

Almost every philosophy, economical theory and political ideologies are self-referring, meaning that the concept of wrong exists as a contrast to other thought systems. There is no such thing as a defined saturation point in which we have enough capitalism or communism to use those as examples. The only way to validate an idea is to have an

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external criterion with measurable properties such as longevity, health care, stability and progress – even if this is limited and a somewhat subjective perception of what constitutes a good life. Handling complexity such as moral contradictions requires a level of academic discipline which often is too demanding. People are generally not good at simultaneously holding multiple ideas and values. My focus is on what type of people a mindset produces, rather than the moral and ethical foundation of that mindset. Even when there are no logical incompatibilities one value usually ends up as dominant.

To answer the first question, I would look to the East-Asian cultures which are more organized and collective in nature. They score lower on the both press freedom- and individual choice index, but it does not mean that the society feels unsafe or limiting for the individual. Interesting enough, there are reports suggesting that the perceived social pressure is higher in Norway than in Japan, which sounds contradicting since we have more focus on individual rights. It is easier to implement policies that are for the common good in a culturally and socially homogeneous population. Their culture is more resilient to change, which impedes progress in example LGBT-rights. But as a whole, their work ethic, social conscience, structure and reaction to crisis is admirable.

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

Dørum: Since income is moderately to strongly related to mental and physical health, including decision-making abilities, we should offer social programs and other benefits to those worse off – offering a predictable and available safety net. Most of the studies are correlation studies, so we cannot say if the variables are a result of a common underlying factor. We know intelligence and personality accounts for a significant proportion of economic success, but the cause is irrelevant in this matter. Poverty, including relative poverty which is a perception rather than objective criteria for wealth, is connected to crime. Income differences could lead to more political instability, segregation and lack of trust in a culturally diverse country. Hence, the social democratic platform seems the most reasonable. I do not advocate socialism, which is governmental controlled means of production, but capitalism with social programs known as “welfare capitalism”. The culture must come first, then the economic model. When a new economic model is introduced, there will be a gradually transition until it comes at a halt and the result will inevitably be a corruption of the ideal. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Russian capitalism became oligarchy. In America, capitalism has grown into corporatism. A political ideology alone is not enough.

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

Dørum: Distribution of power through democracy. I do not argue from an enlightened mass, but solely as a preventative measure against the centralization of power. It’s tempting to see the advantages of the Chinese one-party-state, but they are also a highly advanced dictatorship. John Rawls idea of “Justice as fairness” is inspiring, but goes too far in his pursuit of inequality by disruption the distribution of wealth in such a way that we get a bloated bureaucracy and a too slow growing economy. To build a society we all would like to live in if we in advance do not know who we will be, is an excellent mantra. Most people seem to approach such questions with the assumption that their success would be within reach with a different set of abilities.

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

Dørum: I have a weak spot for Immanuel Kant. Kant argues that our cognition has two components, one sensory and one of the rational mind. True cognition is only possible by combining these two. It sounds like the diplomatic middle road doesn’t it, but it’s not hard to find branches that put too much emphasis on, or relies on, the concept of free will – such as laissez-faire capitalism and objectivism. The concept of not having free will is foreign for many of us. I like the part of Hume’s thinking that unites freedom, moral responsibility and soft determinism.

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Philosophical systems that speak highly of free often disregards, or do not seem to understand, how perception is shaped by ideology. Even our ability to tell colors apart, time perception and simple numerical understanding (multitudes and magnitudes) are influenced by language, three abilities we assume are determined by biology and not language. There is no conflict between lack of free will and responsibility, just as an action often leads to a predictable effect. Choose your environmental input and parents with care.

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

Dørum: I'm so boring it's unbelievable, humanism. Most animals that form packs seem to have a sense of fairness. Our amygdala, a cluster of nerves, which is a part of the limbic system – responds quite similar to psychological and physical threats. Sense of vulnerability, even purely philosophical, can trigger a fight, flight or freeze response. We get a more harmonic and stable world that way if people's sense of safety is kept intact.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Dørum: There is a Norwegian poem called "Livsveven" (The loom of life) by an anonymous writer. "Not until the loom has stilled, and the shuttle has come to a halt, will God pull the drapes aside, and let us see. That the dark threads so as well as the bright ribbons, together formed the patterned in our Masters mighty hand". It is difficult to translate the poem in such a way that it recreates the feelings I get when I read it in Norwegian. I get filled with a warm darkness that fills me with peace. My answer would be "depth and dimension". With age, I can appreciate the difficulties I have gone through, and the painful experiences I have had. I do not know if a more streamlined life would be a happier one. I now feel a deeper contentment. I have a job I love, well established and an active social life. To come to the point where you no longer fear death too much.

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

Dørum: Internally generated. If someone has found a meaning with life it seems like they either have genes that promotes development of a certain mindset, or that they have, unknowingly or deliberate, practiced some form of cognitive therapy or metacognition. Most people do as they are genetically instructed and socially encouraged to do, be reasonably successful, socially accepted and find a partner. It doesn't seem to give them any form of meaning.

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

Dørum: I do not believe in an afterlife. There is no reason why our consciousness would somehow be transferred when the biological processes are terminated. Maybe in a parallel universe as a copy, but nothing religious.

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

Dørum: Life as we define it are chemical reactions and neural activity. Our perception of time is adjusted to our biological life span. One day we might reach and average lifespan of 120-140 years and that would seem normal, or centuries using various technology to keep our consciousness intact. I am sure our perception and understanding of time will adjust accordingly. If anything, I would say our current time span is highly convenient. It's long enough for humans to achieve ground-breaking discoveries, while not so long that social and political changes stagnates.

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

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Dørum: A rare and deep emotional connection with another person. Usually a form of completion and with the desire to form a partnership. It's a part of our emotional spectre. Some people rarely feel love, and some may never have truly experienced it.

Footnotes

[1] Former Ombudsman, Mensa Norway.

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Actuarial Sciences 1: Erik Haereid, M.Sc., on Actuarial Sciences and Actuaries (1)

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Abstract

Erik Haereid, born in 1963, grew up in Oslo, Norway. He studied mathematics, statistics and actuarial science at the University of Oslo in the 1980s and 90s, and is educated as an actuary. He has worked over thirty years as an actuary, in several insurance companies, as actuarial consultant, middle manager and broker. In addition, he has worked as an academic director (insurance) in a business school (BI). Now, he runs his own actuarial consulting company with two other actuaries. He is a former member of Mensa, and is a member of some high IQ societies (e.g., Olympiq, Glia, Generiq, VeNuS and WGD). He discusses: Actuarial Sciences; an actuary; the risks calculated by an actuary; a governmental or an individual basis; the requirements for becoming an actuary; the requirements for maintaining certification as an actuary; organizations; and the reputation of Actuarial Sciences.

Keywords: Actuarial Sciences, actuary, Erik Haereid, mathematics, statistics.

Actuarial Sciences 1: Erik Haereid, M.Sc., on Actuarial Sciences and Actuaries (1)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: You are the only person who I know with an expertise in Actuarial Sciences, except a distant family member, apparently, if I remember vaguely correctly. Anyhow, I reached out to do an educational series on this because I like working you. You're knowledgeable and give solid responses to questions. You think about things. So, first session, is boiler plate stuff, defining terms in an accessible manner: What are Actuarial Sciences?

Erik Haereid[1],[2]*: As you say, I don't like one or two sentence answers if I have more on my mind. Actuarial science could be defined by a few words, because the essence is mathematics and theoretical statistics on an M.Sc.-

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level, with additional education into insurance-related mathematics, relevant probability theories, some economics and finance theory, and computer science. The latter two is “new”; I didn’t study finance theories or computer science when I did this in the 1980’s. Before the 1980’s there were, at least in Norway, more economics and insurance business-related topics included in the education. The actuaries’ task or aim was not only to know about the fundamental math behind the many calculations of premiums and reserves, but also to manage to drive an insurance company as consultants and executives. Since this seemed to be a too big task for one education and profession, one focused educationally on the foundation of the insurance business; learn how to assess the right premiums and reserves.

I have to add that in many countries, actuarial sciences are also connected to the asset-side, creating statistical models that maximizes pension funds and other types of investments. Traditionally, and especially in my country Norway, actuarial science has primarily been about the liability-side of the business. Since actuarial science is about analyzing risks, actuaries are also used in other types of businesses than the insurance business, e.g., in general risk management.

So, actuarial science is primarily about insurance engineering. It’s the evolution of different mathematical methods used to create the best possible premiums and reserves. It’s also about stability; no one wants the premiums to deviate too much from a standard. It’s about trust. It’s about setting the premiums as right, i.e., low, as possible to meet the customers need. And it’s about sharing risks; dividing the insured into decent and political accepted groups, which both are acceptable for the people but also subject for optimal mathematical structures. E.g., it’s both political accepted and mathematical possible to divide cars into “expensive, new ones” and “not so expensive, old ones”, and people concerning life insurances into “people with low risk for death” and “people with high risk for death”. A 52 year old accepts that a 25 year old pays less for his life insurance. And because of enough data (experience) and good mathematical structures we can draw a life table with good estimates of probability for death, for each age.

The challenge has not only been finding the best mathematical methods, but to satisfy dramatic changes into certain risks (e.g., that people live much longer now than only a few decades ago) and establishing new risk factors where one so far has operated with assumptions (e.g., making interest rates stochastic within the insurance products).

For example, the old saving products (pensions, annuities and the like) contained some kind of death risk in the annuity. E.g., if you saved money to your pension, and died before you got some or all your savings, the insurance company kept the money or some of it (other saving products were the other way around; you got more than your savings if one died, and for that you paid a higher premium). This was a part of the product; in return the insured paid less premium. Most people didn’t accept this reverse insurance business, and wanted the bereaved to get exactly the savings if the insured died. But this is not insurance; this is bank without any economic risk if death. To label it “pension”, you have to include some kind of economic risk that you as an insured want to share with others. Then the insurance business constructed products that was close to bank savings, but had a small (but big enough for the authorities) internal risk factor that qualified them as “pensions” or the like; not a clean bank product.

If you don’t have any clue about the risk, you will for sure raise the premiums to an unacceptable level for the customers, avoiding bankruptcy. But then you don’t have a business; then people would create some sort of self-insurance. Insured events are in their nature random, or stochastic, which is a more common used word in probability theory, which is the basis of actuarial science. Its purpose is to find procedures for setting the optimal probability for an event you don’t know where, when and if will occur, and through that give it a value. Remember,

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insurance is usually (excludes annuities and saving products) about paying money which you hope you don't get back.

Jacobsen: What is an actuary?

Haereid: An actuary is an insurance engineer; a person that have studied actuarial science and has some qualifications (usually nearby a Master of Science); an expert in building and use the mathematical framework to assess risks.

Actuaries are traditionally involved in the liability-side of the insurance business, ensuring that the single premiums and the total reserves are enough to fulfill the insurance unit's obligations towards the insured. It's basically two types of actuaries (two branches); actuaries that specializes in life insurance, annuities, pensions and so on (persons) and those whose discipline is casualty insurance (non-life).

My impression is that actuaries traditionally are more involved in the total insurance business in countries like UK and USA, than in Norway and many other countries, where specialization is more common. I think this has to do with the specific culture. In USA, the actuary profession is seen as one of the most important and desirable ones, while in Norway most people don't know what an actuary is.

Jacobsen: What are the risks calculated by an actuary, often? Those most concerning or pertinent to the public with an interest in determining risk.

Haereid: There are different kinds of insurance-related risks, depending of which country you live in and what kind of insurance company you use. There are several risk classes and risk types, and one can read about these elsewhere. I will mention a few types, that may be of public interest.

Usually, the risks are as mentioned divided into two segments; life and non-life risks. Life risks, or person-related risks if you want, are typically death, disability, health-related risks, injuries, survival. Non-life risks are everything else; insured things or actions; property like buildings, vehicles, ships and so on, and actions like job-related mistakes (e.g., advices, consultant services, lawyers etc.) with economic consequences. A risk is linked to what kind of damage the life/thing is exposed to, the cost, and the probability behind that occurrence. Obviously, we always talk about a stochastic, uncertain future event. But the layman can use empirical data to say something about any such risk; you don't have to use complex methods to say something about the risk for car damage or house fire. There is a lot of information on the Internet that would give everyone some ideas about risks. Life tables are probably possible to find and download (I haven't checked) from different countries and segments of people (like men/women). Then you can say something about the risk part of the premium you pay to your life insurance.

E.g., risk as to car accidents and repair costs. There are several factors and aspects into account, like the model of the car (which steers parameters like how expensive the parts of the car are, and who drive that model (e.g., young risk-taking men drives certain types of cars; in my youth Golf GTI!), where the car is driven (in rural or urban areas), what it is used for (in business or to domestic use) and so on. As to buildings it's risk factors like location (is it more or less danger for natural catastrophes like wind, water, avalanches and earth quakes), and fire (how are the buildings secured as to electricity and fire), costs (size, material, where and when and so on). You may also take into concern who lives there or uses it, how many and what type of use of the building and so on.

In insurances connected to one's life, it's relevant with risks like death, survival and health (e.g., disability). Life tables (death-probabilities) are usually divided into sex and age (risk classes); a woman has less probability dying than a man, and since it's uncontroversial dividing premiums between men and woman, women pay less for their

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death insurance than men. The same with age; old people accept that they pay higher premiums for death benefits than young people. You could obviously divide the risks into more and smaller groups and classes, within decent statistical models, but of political and other reasons, one usually doesn't. E.g., dividing into professions and lifestyles would be mathematically right (it's clearly a statistical difference in risks for death (like it is for accidents and disability) between certain professions and lifestyles, as showed, e.g., in the movie Along Came Polly).

The risk I am most involved in is risk for survival. That's the most obscure and amusing one, because it turns the business upside down. Normally you pay a premium in case of an unexpected event where you receive some money. Here you get a discount because the insurance company keep your savings in case of an event (death). It's about annuities and pensions, and especially important as to lifelong payments (longevity insurances). People live longer, and this is a risk concerning pension payments. In Norway, in the insurance business, we strengthened the premiums and risk formulas in 2013, adapted to the fact that people live much longer now. The social security system "Folketrygden" (Norway) has gone through severe changes the last few decades, taking into account that people live longer.

In pensions related to employees and work, most companies (worldwide) go, and have gone from, Defined Benefit Pension plans (DBP) to Defined Contribution Pension plans (DCP); to ensure that the company (employer) has cash to fulfill their obligations towards the employees. As to pensions, it's a huge challenge that we live much longer now than before.

Jacobsen: Are actuaries more often used on a governmental or an individual basis?

Haereid: Most on an individual basis.

Outside the private sector, actuaries are used in developing social security programs and pension schemes for the public, in institutions that supervises the insurance business, they are employed in special governmental institutions like the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway (Finanstilsynet) and the Norwegian Public Service Fund (Statens Pensjonskasse). In UK you have institutions like the Government Actuary's Department, and in USA the Social Security Administration, where actuaries are involved.

But most actuaries are employed in the insurance business; in insurance companies or as actuary consultants (as I am).

Jacobsen: What are the requirements for becoming an actuary, e.g., educational attainment/qualifications, formalized tests for certification, etc.?

Haereid: In my and some other countries the basic are mathematics, theoretical statistics (probability theory) and insurance-related mathematics on an M.Sc.-level (in some other countries you need less math and statistics (on a bachelor-level), but more diverse topics like computer science and finance-related mathematics and economics). In addition, there are some economics, financial economics and computer science. The education is comprehensive, and differs some between countries.

In Norway, the education is at universities. Before the 1980's (when I studied), it was less math and probability theory, and more practical disciplines like economics and business administration. In my time, in the 1980's, there was primarily mathematics, theoretical statistics and insurance-related mathematics. I have a M.Sc. in math/statistics from the University in Oslo. I didn't know much about practical insurance before I learned it in my first jobs. But I knew something about how one created the insurance premiums and reserves.

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Jacobsen: In Norway, and other countries if applicable, what are the requirements for maintaining certification as an actuary?

Haereid: There are some loose requirements about evolving educationally within topics like computer programming and finance mathematics, but one doesn't lose one's actuary title if one drops further education late in life and career; in Norway. (I am not sure about other countries' practice.) One just loses work opportunities. Old actuaries, like me, fit into other parts of the actuarial realm. We know a lot, which younger actuaries don't. We have some skills both as to our education and experience through a lot of years, that young actuaries need and don't get through education or limited practice.

Jacobsen: In Norway, and other countries if applicable, what organizations coordinate, regulate, and standardize, the national and local actuaries, e.g., punish frauds, update community on standards, etc.?

Haereid: The local national actuary associations (e.g., The Norwegian Society of Actuaries; Den Norske Aktuarforening) make guidelines and standards that actuaries should follow. You also have global actuary umbrella associations, like AAE (the Actuarial Association of Europe) and IAA (the International Actuarial Association), which set global standards.

Beyond these there are some variations between countries as to standards, regulations, punishment procedures and so on. In Norway, the overall finance business is supervised by the Financial Supervisory Authority (Finanstilsynet). There are strict rules of what to do and not, including how the mathematical framework shall look like, and that the actuaries fulfill their obligations. E.g., in the early 1990's I contributed to the mathematical groundwork for a new pension product in Norway, created by the insurance company I then worked for. It was based on old framework, but a lot of the structure was new. Then we had to get acceptance from the Financial Supervisory Authority to sell the new product with its mathematical framework.

If the political environment wants to change any laws concerning insurances, the actuaries are involved both as a consultative body (mainly through the national actuary association) and as contributors to mathematical structures.

Jacobsen: I'm told Actuarial Sciences are highly difficult. A lot of people can't take the cognitive demands. Is this true? Whether so or not, why is this the reputation of Actuarial Sciences?

Haereid: You have to have the cognitive ability to understand mathematics and statistics up to a certain level (M.Sc.), but you don't have to have any high IQ beyond that. If you have a dyscalculia but hold a 130 or 150 IQ, you can't be an actuary, but maybe a genius in other areas.

The reputation is kind of a romantic perception; insurance is quite aware in most adult's heads. People talk and think about it a lot. Everyone have ideas about sharing risk, and that there has to be some principles behind the procedures that evolves into what they pay. Because people know something about this, they tend to admire or respect even more those who knows this area fully. Maybe it's something like that. It's the same as when students look up to their professors, but the professors' children don't. It awakes the curiosity about what is on the other side of the mountains you see in front of you, but not about what you don't see behind you. And because it's quite difficult and one need time to evolve this kind of knowledge, and it's not possible to explain in a simple way to the laymen, people tend to admire it even more. Another reason could be that most actuaries emphasize their theoretical background when they work and deal with ordinary employees and customers in the insurance realm, in the sense that actuaries seem like boring and dry human types, and that this is expressed by actuaries as an identification they get some positive from. Most actuaries are less boring and theoretical than most people think, but the actuaries themselves don't want to reveal this "normal" trait!

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Footnotes

[1] Member, World Genius Directory. Actuary.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/actuarial-sciences-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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The Greenhorn Chronicles 11: Kailin Howard on Horse Ownership and Care

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Abstract

Kailin Howard is a horse owner and assistant trainer at Reaching Strides Equestrian Centre. She discusses: horses; first horse; factors to consider when buying a first horse; get a horse to learn the basics; earliest dreams; the importance of the social activity; build rapport with a client and with clientele; important lessons; bottom-up care; the industry; the stewardship of Nadine Bollig; student-teacher relationship; the competitions; horse trainer for a living; and involved with equestrianism.

Keywords: equestrianism, equine, horses, Kailin Howard, Nova Scotia, Reaching Strides Equestrian Centre, trainer.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 11: Kailin Howard on Horse Ownership and Care

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: How did you get interested in horses?

Kailin Howard[1],[2]*: I've loved horses for as long as I can remember. They were my favourite animal as a child and even as an adult I get that excited feeling when I drive by a field and see them grazing. The little girl inside me still goes "Look, horses!" My parents made my dreams come true when I was 8 and put me in lessons and I've been hooked ever since. I'm 29 now and the dream is still very much alive.

Jacobsen: When did you purchase your first horse?

Howard: I bought my first horses when I was 21. I had been leasing and showing one of my coach's horses for a few years at that point and he was the horse I had always wanted. I ended up purchasing him and his pasture companion, a miniature, as a package.

Jacobsen: What are the factors to consider when buying a first horse compared to a second, third, etc., horse? Things like financials, age, quality, breed, pedigree, etc.

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Howard: Some major things to consider are just the environment you are providing. Do I have adequate shelter, food, water, and space for them to move? Horses are also a herd animal; they don't thrive when they are alone. So, when buying that first horse, you also have to consider the fact that you'll need companionship for it. Or will you board it at a facility? A huge issue we're having in Nova Scotia right now is that there is a major vet and farrier shortage. So, is there access to emergency medical care? Can my horse get regular trimmings? Finances are, of course, a big consideration; horses are not a cheap animal to have. The older they get the more care they'll obviously need so in the long term; can you support that horse through every stage of its life and through the problems those stages may have? Pedigree is absolutely something great to search through if you have access to that information. Medical histories, neurological issues you may encounter, all better to know that ahead of purchasing. Picking the right horse for you and where you are at or want to be is crucial. For example, I wouldn't purchase a horse trained for show jumping to be my cattle penning horse. Get the horse that's suited to your level of horsemanship. Consult with your coach, trainer, vet, farrier. Use the resources available to you and get those professional opinions.

Jacobsen: How do you get a horse to learn the basics of what a rider needs them to do?

Howard: The basics in getting a horse to understand what I need them to do for me always starts on the ground. Horses rely a lot on body language and reading energy. They're a flight animal, so training them to go against those natural instincts is not started by throwing a saddle on and climbing up. They react to pressures and a feeling, they're extremely intuitive. You've likely heard the term "horse whispering," which is both comical and kind of accurate. You can say "go to the right" all day and a horse is not going to move, so you have to communicate with a language they understand, which sort of looks like you're 'whispering' to them. I use a series of exercises on the ground to get them to understand the give and take of pressure, so that when I get to the saddle and I ask them to go to the right with my body; they have an idea of what it is I'm asking them to do. That's very summarized! Training some takes longer than others, even the basics, can vary greatly from horse to horse.

Jacobsen: What were your earliest dreams with horses as an early equestrian?

Howard: Just being around these animals was enough for me, I never had specific dreams in mind. I was just obsessed with all thing's horses. My biggest goals once I started riding were mainly jumping related. I thought the older girls were so cool and had no fear when they were doing a course and I wanted to be able to do what they did. They were always riding multiple or different horses as well and I remember wanting that confidence and that knowledge to adjust to each horse just like them.

Jacobsen: What is the importance of the social activity and aspect of equestrianism? I notice this with women equestrians, trainers and clientele. When tacking up, just small chit-chatter is huge, it's not only a hobby or preparation for competition. It's a social club.

Howard: It really is! My closest friends are all horse people. The equestrian world in Nova Scotia is fairly small, so everyone pretty well knows everyone; and it's not hard to get connected to others if you start asking around. You've got friends near and far so when we meet up at shows or events it could be the first time you've seen that person in years; and it's like you talked to them yesterday. It's very timeless in that sense. It's also a great way to bounce ideas around business wise or for your own personal equestrian journey. Horse people are a different breed; it doesn't really matter what might necessarily be going on in your personal lives, when equestrians get together you all have a huge common interest that connects you, regardless of even what discipline you are in. We also can't

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seem to stop talking about horses. You throw a couple horse people in a room and they're going to be going on and on for the next few hours.

Jacobsen: How do you build rapport with a client and with clientele as an assistant trainer?

Howard: Staying open, honest and friendly to questions, concerns or any discussions they may want to bring up. Having just as much patience to the learning experience with the clients as we do the animals, a lot of the clients I've met over the last few years need to learn the questions I'm asking the horse just as much as the horse does. We don't believe in just training the horse, but the clients as well. We can teach the horse how to carry the rider or work on whatever the issue may be but if the client doesn't understand how to ask the question, how does the horse know how to answer? Like having all the power tools you need to build a house, but no idea how to use them. If the horse has all the answers, but the rider isn't asking them correctly then that leads to frustration; and you could be taking more steps back than you did forward. Which then leads to an upset client, it comes back on the trainer. Having the client be a part of the training process is critical in my opinion, it sets both horse and rider up for a more successful relationship in the future.

Jacobsen: What are some of the more important lessons taught by the more senior trainers?

Howard: To have patience no matter how you're feeling. Your feelings don't matter, you have to leave them outside the ring. Horses can feel your emotions by reading your energy and body language. If you're already frustrated or anxious, the horse thinks they have a reason to feel the same thing, they mimic us. They look to us for security; this comes back to the herd mentality. If I'm worked up, then they think they should be as well. The old saying goes, "If you act like you have all day, it will take 5 minutes. If you act like you have 5 minutes, it will take all day". All horses have a learning curve, just like people do. One horse might catch on faster to what it is I'm asking than another horse will, and where one is better at math, the other is better at science, you know? You also may need to ask the question differently, because that horse doesn't understand even though the last 10 horses did. And just when you think you know it all or you've seen it all, a horse comes along to remind you that you haven't. Stay humble! The learning never stops, there is always something new to learn or a different method to acquire.

Jacobsen: For those who don't know, what is the bottom-up care required for taking care of a horse? I've most consistently heard of equestrianism as a "lifestyle." In that, one must live this day-in, day-out to properly care for the horse(s) and maintain standards as a rider.

Howard: There is more maintenance in taking care of horses than people realize but there are 3 basic things they need. Food, water, shelter. Some horses are what we call more easy keepers than others. Some just have that more fit physique no matter how much they eat and others just breathe on grass and they'll be on the thicker side. Having good hay or forage is the most important, horses are grazers, so they eat constantly, having access to forage 24/7 is the most ideal to prevent health issues, such as ulcers and colic. That's also considering a horse is getting exercise as well, because eating too much can also create health issues. You may need to supply a grain regiment if the quality of your forage isn't fantastic because they'll be lacking on a lot of nutrients and vitamins. Access to lots of fresh water, helps keep their guts moving and processing that food, so they don't colic. Finally shelter, horses are tough, but they need that shelter to get a reprieve from the elements. Depending on the climate of your location they may need to be blanketed if they don't grow the best coat. It's more desired to let the horse live as naturally as possible, but human intervention over the last 100 years has changed that and some horses are just not built for that 'natural' way of life. They need their feet trimmed around every 6-8 weeks, some grow a better foot than others, so depending on that and the level of exercise they are getting; they may need to be trimmed less or more often and

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some may need shoes. Medical checkups every year for teeth and vaccinations. This is all just the base essentials that they need. The tip of the horse care iceberg.

Jacobsen: How does the industry look to you, at the moment?

Howard: The horse world can be sort of "cliquey", there are a lot of equestrians that think their equestrian lifestyle is the one and only lifestyle, but I find that's slowly changing. The world is getting bigger and there are more options for equestrians in NS to choose from. As in what kind of relationship or discipline they want to embark on, people are becoming more open to trying different things. I'm hopeful for what's to come in the future in that aspect. Something I'm seeing a lot of unfortunately are people buying horses with almost none or very little prior horse experience. It sounds like a lovely dream to own a horse, but it's not just a matter of giving them food and water every day. You could have a horse that is harder to handle and end up getting seriously hurt. You panic, sell the horse, and the next person gets hurt or the horse gets hurt, or that horse gets shuffled around for the next 10 years and has a very erratic life. It's a story I've seen too many times over the last couple years: Getting a horse is not like getting a dog. They NEED training and if you don't have any, then you need training too. That's such a no brainer for me. To not only keep people safe, but to keep the horses safe as well.

Jacobsen: Also, how did you come under the stewardship of Nadine Bollig?

Howard: I've known Nadine since I was 11, when I started taking lessons at her stable just outside Antigonish. When I became a more advanced student, I rode a few 'green' horses for her to help them further along with their training, mostly putting some miles on them. I also worked for her as a farm hand from age 16-20. When she relocated to her new place about 10 years ago, I ended up buying my show horse from her and we stayed in contact even though at the time I couldn't be a full time student or employee anymore. In 2020 she asked me if I wanted some part time work putting some exercise rides on a couple horses for her and now here we are!

Jacobsen: How has your student-teacher relationship evolved over time?

Howard: We work really well together. I've known her for so long and she's been a friend to me for years; we really balance each other out and we pride ourselves on being honest with each other. Over the last year, we've been reinventing the business plan and the goal is providing a facility for what we're calling horse lessons as opposed to just riding lessons. Helping people build relationships with horses whether that's something they want to do in the saddle or just on the ground. Nadine's biggest passion is training and when I started riding those greenies for her at 15, I found a passion for it as well. It's come full circle, the horses taught me and now I'm teaching them. It's very rewarding! Nadine has been passing all of her knowledge onto me ever since I was little and we're also gaining some new skills together, she's given me this opportunity to learn more and she has pushed me to really believe in my abilities, so I'm very grateful for her.

Jacobsen: What have been some of the competitions you've taken part?

Howard: I've been showing since I was 12, mostly competing in local shows and fairs. I've done a few higher-level jumping competitions, but nothing seriously on the circuit. Mainly hunter/jumper shows. I have a healthy fear of jumping, but also a love for it. It's quite addicting holding on for dear life on the back of a 1500 lb animal running at obstacles.

Jacobsen: How do you intend to become a long-term horse trainer for a living?

Howard: Living in rural Nova Scotia and trying to live the dream of an equestrian takes a lot of balance. It's not easy. Stables are far in between, and every facility offers something different. Training and looking after horses is

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my dream job and I still have that, but living where I live you have to have a job that supports the dream job. Nadine's given me that chance by letting me become a part of her business, letting me work with a few of her clients and helping me build up my skills and methods. She wants to see me succeed and she's very supportive. She's always thinking of the horses and if there's another trainer out there available to the horses and the people who need them than she's happy to help me on my journey. I'm also always open to learning, you have to be, I think, to be a reputable horse trainer. There's ALWAYS something new to learn. I hope one day, further down the road, to open my own little barn and facility where others can come to learn.

Jacobsen: How can people get involved with equestrianism or with you?

Howard: Research a stable that has a program that works for you. Ask around, find out what different barns offer and decide based on your level and what you want to learn. Be honest about what you know and what you want to learn, even if you're starting from scratch, there's no shame in it! Everyone starts somewhere. If it's something you really want, the enthusiasm is very appreciated. I operate mainly out of Reaching Strides, but I have travelled locally to help people with small issues out of their own backyards. I'm not an expert by any means, but I have a strong intuition. I've worked with many, many different horsey personalities, so I have confidence in my own skills and if I don't know the answer; I'm not shy to admit it, and I'll work on it and get back to you.

Jacobsen: Thank you for the opportunity and your time, Kailin.

Howard: Thank you for the opportunity, Scott!

Footnotes

[1] Horse Owner, Assistant Trainer, Reaching Strides Equestrian Centre.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/howard**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/**.

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Abstract

Canadian Show Jumping Team veteran Erynn Ballard is one of the top-ranked female show jumping athletes in the world. Her career began with great success in the hunter, jumper, and equitation rings as a junior rider, including becoming only the second Canadian to ever win the ASPCA Maclay National Championships in 1998. One year later, Ballard won the individual gold medal at the 1999 North American Young Riders' Championship. In 2006, Ballard made her Nations' Cup debut at the Spruce Meadows 'Masters' tournament and helped Canada win for the first time in the event's history. That same year, she was named 'Equestrian of the Year' by her National Federation. Since then, she has accumulated numerous wins at the five-star level. Renowned for her impressive catch-riding abilities, Ballard currently rides for Ilan Ferder Stables, an internationally-respected training and sales operation. She discusses: becoming interested in equestrianism; highly accomplished in several platforms and earning awards in the industry; earliest articles; Maclay Finals;competition; great mentors; influence; a uniform training style; repetition and feel; picking a horse for the body build; Europe; the change; socioeconomic issues of haves and have-nots; career highlights post-Maclay; Canada; sit-down discussions; competitions, events, or speaking engagements; not really doing anything differently; riding; pragmatism and realism; endurance; working; an internal halt once; and career choices.

Keywords: 2024 Paris Olympics, ASPCA Maclay National Championships, Canada, Canadian, equestrianism, Erynn Ballard, Europe, FEI, Geneva, Grand Prix, horse, Kim Kirton, Leslie Reid, Milton, Nations Cup, North America, Ocala, Palm Beach, Pan Am Games, Spruce Meadows, U25.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 12: Erynn Ballard on Canadian Equestrianism

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Interview conducted January 10, 2022.

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Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Let's start from the beginning, naturally, what were some of the earlier experiences for you, which stood out in terms of becoming interested in equestrianism?

Erynn Ballard[1],[2],[3]: I have been doing it for so long. I don't know if there is one thing that stood out over another. It was my parents' business. Before I turned 5, we lived in town, in a small house. Around my 5th birthday, we moved to the farm where I grew up. That was probably the turning point, which was living on the farm with the horses.

I grew up in Milton. It wasn't until 2005 when my parents moved up North. The farm that we owned was right on the 401. So, it was time to sell the land, then we moved North.

Jacobsen: Obviously, you're the number 1 ranked equestrian in Canada [Ed. At the time of the interview, now, one of the top-ranked women equestrians in the world]. You're highly accomplished in several platforms and earning awards in the industry. Was this precocity with horses noted early? Or were you an ordinary rider who worked very hard, or some combination of the two?

Ballard: I don't know. I don't know how you become good. I was always good. I won from a very early stage, but I don't know if people noticed me, at the time. Certainly, I never felt like I was any sort of prodigy. I was just a kid who liked to ride horses and won a lot of classes.

Jacobsen: What were the earliest articles written about you when you started becoming noticed? Do you recall any of those?

Ballard: Probably, the biggest most notable win was when I won Maclay Finals. I was 17 and just turned 18. It is a big equitation final in the U.S. That would have given me, for sure, the most publicity. It is one of the biggest accomplishments you can have as a junior.

Jacobsen: How many juniors take part in that competition in particular?

Ballard: You have to compete at the regionals before you go to the Finals. That year, it was at the Gardens, maybe 185. I don't know – around there.

Jacobsen: All these ~185 have gone through their own filtration to train, go through competitions, to compete at the ASPCA Maclay Finals. So, when you're getting trained early on and winning competitions, who do you mark as great mentors for you, trainers?

Ballard: I grew up with my parents. When I was quite young, I went on the road. When I was 10- or 11-years-old, I went on the road to ride ponies with Kim Kirton, who is a trainer in Canada. Then I went into equitation to do it properly in the United States. Missy Clark was my trainer. Still, to this day, those two people are very influential in my life.

Jacobsen: What would you attribute each individual's influence on you? What particular quality stands out to you?

Ballard: For both of those people, they teach a very individual style. They let each rider be their own selves. Some trainers, you can see. You can pick out that rider rides with that person because they pick up a characteristic of that stable. Missy, certainly, each of her riders; she works on their own strengths. She focuses on those. You become less uniform and more individual if that makes sense.

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Jacobsen: Are there areas in which a uniform training style is beneficial?

Ballard: I'm sure. Maybe, people with less natural feel excel in a more uniform training environment, where everything is done the same way. You work solely on repetition. Basically, any good trainer works on repetition, but specific to body type. How you sit on a horse, the first time you sit on a horse; it will be the way you look on the horse, for the most part, for the rest of your life.

I am lucky for this sport. I have a shorter upper body, longer legs, and longer arms. So, it is easier for me to sit in the center of a horse. Missy would work on my individual style as far as how I physically looked on the horse rather than conforming me to a different position. That's where you have to work on repetition for training, but how you sit on a horse for the first day is how you're always going to sit on the horse because it's your place of balance.

Some people with shorter legs and longer upper bodies may have a harder time staying in balance. They can become *heavier* at the top. People with shorter arms may have a harder time if they are riding lower with a low horse because they may be restricted in their ability to bend their elbows to go with the horse's balance. They may get stuck because their arm doesn't give them the freedom to go with the balance.

So, when you're working on training, and when you're working with kids developing, you have to focus on their physical build. You have to focus on a horse suitable for them, suitable for their physical build. Then you can focus on their abilities.

Jacobsen: You mentioned repetition and feel. What is the importance of repetition regardless of the training style in equestrianism, generally? What is the importance of feel? I have heard this term *a lot* as a greenhorn.

Ballard: Feel, you can't teach. It would be comparable to a golf swing. You can't teach somebody feel. That's where repetition comes into place. Feel, you would have to associate that with pure natural ability. Some people have more. Some people have less. You include the repetition. So, maybe, those with less understand how to work a horse's movements.

So, take, for example, I work on a pole line. Two poles on the ground, not even a jump, every time, I walk my own 22 steps. I do that so every single horse that I ride; I know how they make what should be 5 strides in between those 2 poles feel good. Then I can make 6 strides feel good. The repetition of doing that, making me understand the horse's stride, also helps with the feel. A feel for 5. A feel for 6.

What do I need to do to make it do 5 strides? What do I need to do to shorten it to make it do 6 strides? So, when I do it, I am, specifically thinking, "What do I need to make the horse do to make it feel good?" When the kids are doing it, the horse should already know how to do it. So, I'm teaching them how to feel how 5 feels good and how 6 feels good.

If I change the distance, if I make it 25 steps or 27 steps, you can still do 5 or 6 strides in between those two poles, but it is not consistent. The repetition of keeping it the same every single time, for me, when I am training a horse or when a kid is doing the same exercise; I am trying through exercise to teach them feel.

Jacobsen: The idea of picking a horse for the body build. I'm intuiting picking the horse with the psychology of the person, so understanding the psychology of the horse as part of the feel. Is that part of the feel?

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Ballard: Horses have independent thoughts. That's a problem. We can't always control them. So, when I pick a horse for a kid, I do think their body types have to be suitable. If a person has shorter legs, I don't want to put them on a very wide horse. The shorter their legs are, the wider the horse is, the less comfortably their legs will sit on that horse's body. In a shorter person, I need to create more length. So, it would be more suitable to put them on a normal-bodied horse. So, from their hips, they have the ability to make their legs longer rather than wider if that makes sense.

If a person has short arms, I don't want to put them on a horse that has a very long neck. Because like I said earlier, otherwise, they don't have the ability to bend their elbows. Then they get stuck. If they get stuck, a term we'd use is "hanging" on the horse's mouth. They can't take or give. They get stuck there. I do think in order to make a good match; their body types have to match.

They have to suit each other. You have to look at each other together and say, "Those two look good." If you look at a kid on a horse, and from the get-go it looks awkward, then it will probably feel awkward. It is up to the trainer and up to the person as well. They have to say, "I don't feel that comfortable on this horse. He is too big (or too small) for me." If the horse has a shorter front end, and if it is a taller person, they will not feel comfortable because they will be looking over its ears.

The taller person needs a horse out in front of it to control their upper body and help them with their balance. So, I'd say, "That's education." It is a feel for training and for finding a horse for somebody.

The psychology of it; we don't have that much control over the thought of horses. I've picked out horses for someone before. In that trial, with a horse, you have two or three times to try it.

Say, from the first day to the third day, the horse is jumping higher and giving more air, and looking more careful. You're thinking, "Wow! I'm doing a great job." However, what that horse, actually, told me, I didn't know. The horse was jumping higher and with more care because he was scared. That fear turned into a bad match. So, sometimes, we pick a horse that doesn't work. It isn't necessarily our fault.

That horse couldn't tell us, "What you see is not what I'm thinking." For the most part, if a horse goes well, for a rider, then you should be able to manage it in a program. I am always, when I sell a horse to a kid, there to ride it. If the kid makes a mistake, or a horse is green or makes a mistake, I have the ability to get on it and fix it. Even myself, the horse's I jump in the biggest classes; Ilan (Ferder) trains them. He is bigger and stronger.

He instructs them. Then he puts me on them for the final result. It is the same for the kids. We ride them. The professionals ride them. The bigger, the stronger, person manages the horse. The owner should be able to produce the horse. The better the owner gets, the more they are able to do on their horse. The one thing with equestrianism or horse riding, there is no one way better than another.

There are books on horsemanship, but there are no books on individual styles in training. Each rider picks a person that they want to ride with because they believe in them. Each person that they pick to ride with has their own style and their own program; that's what makes everyone a little different.

Jacobsen: How is this kind of upbringing, thinking about training, and suitability of a horse to a rider, different from Europe? I'm told in some conversations, though early in the series, granted, about the difference between the Western European and North American mindset about training and selection of rider to horse. It is a little bit different. Is this something that you note as someone more experienced in the field?

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Ballard: In the last 20 years, Europe has, definitely, caught up to the North American style of riding. They, certainly, have an edge on the buying, selling, breeding, and the development. So, at your highest level, when you're talking about the best 100 riders in the world, I don't think there's much difference between your European training and North American style training, maybe below that.

The startup, our education is much more sophisticated with the pony-hunters and the equitation, and the customer service. A long time ago in Europe, there weren't customers. Even individual riders had their own barns, they weren't involved in a specific training program. Now, even in Europe, the biggest trainers, the biggest dealers, they all have people who work under them as trainers. They have developed our style of training the amateurs, the 1.20, the 1.30, the FEI children.

Even in South America, the best are the best; and it is comparable around the world. North America has a little edge on development. Everyone is developing very fast.

Jacobsen: What convinced them in the last 20 years to make the change (the Europeans)?

Ballard: They saw our success.

Jacobsen: [Laughing] Fair enough.

Ballard: Especially with the amateurs buying expensive horses, the U25 has opened a market for sales. The Europeans always had the horses. It was always the Americans going to Europe to buy the expensive horses. Now, it is hard to go to buy the expensive horses because they are keeping them for their own U25 riders. So, they learned from us.

Jacobsen: Do these socioeconomic issues of haves and have-nots, increasing income disparity, wealth disparity, in many countries in the world, impact this sport from the bottom level and up, as a follow-up to that question?

Ballard: There are a lot of people who gain from it. A lot of professionals and dealers who gain from it, who can sell horses more expensive, who are able to have more opportunities because we are working with wealthier clients. Does it make it harder for the average, middle-class family to keep up? Yes. But I think the world always works itself out and always finds a balance. You take Palm Beach and Ocala. Palm Beach is the best of the best.

It is the most expensive. I could go on and on, and on. In Ocala, they have the World Equestrian Centre, which is – literally – the best facility ever made in all of the world. That man offers free stalls. So, you get to go to Ocala and show at *the best facility that has ever existed* at, maybe, a 1/3rd of the cost of Palm Beach.

You are gaining opportunity. Maybe, you are not riding against the best people in the whole world, but he is offering ridiculous amounts of prize money, beautiful stables. People can go there as a source of income because the overhead, for once in your lifetime, is less than the money offered in prize money. So, that is giving a huge opportunity to people that, maybe, can't be here. Maybe, if they win enough there, and if they get seen, and if they are in the spotlight, then they have the chance to go work for somebody or to come to Palm Beach for a week and show off what they have.

There is always a way. I am not really a believer in the idea that if you don't have the means, then you don't have the chance. I think there's always a way. You may have to work harder than some other people. But if you want it bad enough, then you are going to do the work anyways.

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Jacobsen: What would you consider some of your career highlights post-Maclay?

Ballard: I mean, so many, but the biggest ones would be winning the Nations Cup in Spruce Meadows twice. For a Canadian team, it has only won the Nations Cup there three times. I was on the first winning team; I was on the third winning team. I was double clear in the Nations Cup in Lima for Canada at Pan Am Games. I got to show in Geneva two weeks ago.

I didn't have my best results [in Geneva], but it is one of the hardest shows to get into. I had the opportunity to show. Sometimes, it is not always based on results, but on opportunities. At the moment, I am the second highest ranked female rider in the entire world. That's massive. Every year gets better than the last. On Friday, I won the last Grand Prix in 2021. On Sunday, I won the first Grand Prix of 2022.

In three days…

Jacobsen: …[Laughing] feeling pretty good.

Ballard: [Laughing] that's pretty cool. Not major classes, but to put that on your resume or to talk about, "I won two Grand Prixes in three days and in two different years."

Jacobsen: I asked some of the young ladies who I work with, some of whom compete. I said, "Is Erynn Ballard a big thing in your industry?" They paused, and then said, "Yeah." So… [Laughing].

Ballard: [Laughing].

Jacobsen: Even bigger!

Ballard: Your background is not horses.

Jacobsen: 3 months into it, maybe, I'm working 7 days a week. Basically, landscaping, gardening, basic stable hand work, anything they need. There's always work to do. I transitioned out of restaurants because it was supporting the independent journalism. I was thinking, "I'm working ~91hrs/week in restaurants. I want to see what it was like working with horses."

I sent some resumes out. In a week or two, I was transitioned into working at a stable. So, taking a step back, if I am doing these interviews with the small ranches to trail rides to those who do dressage to those who do hunting or jumping, the whole range of equestrianism starting with Canada. I am sending emails out. In some of the preliminary conversations and interviews, including your own, people are in this industry as a lifestyle.

100%, they are in this as a lifestyle. Or if they aren't, they weren't intending it as such. It was a foot in the door phenomenon. They slowly ended up sinking into the industry. Now, they're here. Reflecting on it more, I am getting more information from different perspectives in the industry.

The issues of those running farms or stables. The issues of land cost, property costs rising; and this causing an issue for some being able to survive. For instance, Leslie Reid sold her property who was a big name in dressage.

Is this something on your radar or something who you have conversations with in Canada about some areas of Canada having rising property prices or bylaw restrictions preventing the full flourishing of the sport in their area of Canada?

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Ballard: I think the sport in Canada is not in a great way. I think Ontario is struggling without having The Royal and the creation of this Silver Series. I have done an interview about it before. I think the Silver Series offers more for less. As far as showing at the same venues, it costs you less money. Ontario survived for so long with the idea of The Royal.

Without The Royal, people are looking at different ways to spend their money. They may not be looking to buy a second horse or a better horse. I think the Ontario circuit is struggling. I am a little lucky because my parents own a farm. They have the farm in Tottenham. I am not there anymore because I am here full-time, at least while I have this job. This job could last forever. You never know with a job.

I hope it lasts forever. However, you don't know. Have there been conversations if their upkeep of the farm is worth having? I don't know the ultimate answer. We are fortunate. We have a beautiful farm. We can run a business off it. I don't know what the long-term is for ourselves, personally, or for the long-term of the industry in Ontario.

Without me as a full-time presence out there, will the business be enough to balance the overhead? There's a lot of businesses in Ontario doing quite well because they have nice properties and the locations. The Silver Series is making offers for lower-level stables to do more. So, in a way, there's growth, but I don't know if it is the growth that we are looking for to be stronger.

For a while now, the West Coast has had a stronger presence as far as the higher level of the sport. That's probably because of what Thunderbird has; they're so close to Washington state and offer the U.S. ratings. So, pre-Covid, I know it was a huge show for Americans to go to; the West Coast has Spruce Meadows, where Vancouver does quite well in the Hunters and Equitation because of their proximity to the U.S.

Spruce Meadows is Spruce Meadows. It is the coolest place to show and everyone wants to go there. I think the West Coast is stronger than the East Coast. I think Ontario is suffering.

Jacobsen: Do the higher ranked performers in hunter and jumper ever have sit-down discussions and meals to discuss these issues?

Ballard: Not really, we're quite a diverse group of people. We have our own strengths and weaknesses. I am not afraid to talk. People have asked my opinion. If they ask me my opinion, I'll give it. But some people don't want to hear it.

The supporters of Silver Series don't want to hear that, I think; it is doing more harm than good to the highest level of the sport. They'll come at me with disbelief, which is fine. Maybe, I'm wrong. But I do know there is a gap with what the Silver Series is creating. It is an industry. It is a business. That, I don't take away from it. It is thriving. I don't see them taking those riders and turning them into U25 riders and 5-star riders, and riders for Canada.

I see it like being in a club, like a camp. I've said many times. Ontario, when it was The Royal, especially, it was an exclusive riding camp. You went to x amount of horse shows a summer to go to The Royal. The way that the layout is in Toronto. Very few people have to pay hotels. They live in Toronto and the shows are quite close and their stables are quite close. They keep the overhead quite low. They know how much it will cost from April to November.

If they have the ability, they go to Florida from December to April, and then go back to camp for the Summer.

Jacobsen: Looking at 2022, what competitions, events, or speaking engagements if you have them, are you looking forward to?

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Ballard: Right now, if you're talking about high performance, we're working backwards from the 2024 Paris Olympics. So, Paris is the ultimate goal in three years. The easiest way to qualify for Paris is to get a result at the World Championships this year. So, working backwards from Paris, we need to be good enough at the World Championships this year, so we can take some pressure off ourselves at the Pan Ams to qualify for the Olympics this year, and then build for the next two years for Paris.

So, this is probably the most important year moving forward, in terms of high performance. Past that, I simply really like showing. I am looking for more experience in Europe if that comes my way. Right now, I am an employee. I have a great job, but, at the same time, I have to do what I'm told. I don't necessarily not get to go to pretty cool places. So, I don't have any complaints.

Jacobsen: Hypothetical, in some future, if you had the freedom to not have to do what you're told, and only had to do what you wanted to tell yourself to do, what would you do?

Ballard: I'm not really sure if I would do anything differently.

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Ballard: I believe you have to go where you are the strongest. You make a plan, accordingly, for the horses that you have with you. If you don't have the best horses in your string, you don't go to Spruce Meadows. You stay where you're competitive. If you have a 1.45m horse, you jump 1.45m. You win at 1.45m. If you have a 1.45m horse, and try to jump 1.55m, and if you're not making your result, you can't be mad.

You signed up to not be good. I think that that's something hard in our sport as far as wherever I go I want to feel like I have the chance to win. I never want to go in over my head. Even going to Geneva, I didn't have my best horse show, but I had my best horses. My best horses in 5-star, in Mexico, in Spruce Meadows, in Sacramento.

So, I went with my best horses and didn't have my best show, and that happens too. But I would never go to the biggest show of my life without my best horses. I'd pick another show. There are so many. There are five horse shows every single week. So, you have to make smart choices. Five years from now, it depends on the horses.

If I'm going to not have Grand Prix horses, then I go back to riding hunters. Then I want to ride the best hunters. I want to go to Derby Finals and want to be champion in The Royal in the hunters. The thing about me, I like riding so much. It doesn't matter where I ride. But wherever I go, I don't want to lose.

Jacobsen: What's the feeling of love while you're riding? Can you add more tone to it?

Ballard: I just don't think there's anything else I would do. You meet a lot of people in this sport who are good at riding or, ten years later, as you said, fell into this. Maybe, they are unhappy. Trust me, there are plenty of people. If you talk to everybody, everybody in the whole world, there would be more people who feel like they have to ride or have to be in the industry, because there's nothing else they can do, rather than people who feel lucky to be in the industry.

There will be a group of people who are lying if they tell you; that they feel lucky to do it every single day. Because not everybody does, but I do.

Jacobsen: My sense of you is two things. One is a pragmatism. Another is a realism. Where you don't go to a competition ill-equipped, ill-prepared, or with the wrong expectations, the expectations seem accurate and proportional to the reality of the situation. It's not pessimistic. It's not pollyannish. Have you noticed other

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riders who make it – so to speak – who have a different outlook, or are most, at this very high level of competitiveness, pragmatic and realist?

Ballard: I don't know, actually. I don't know. That would be up to you, to talk to enough people.

Jacobsen: [Laughing] When I finish with Canada, I will move to other areas to see about the findings. It's interesting. I am learning along as I do this series. It is very educational.

Ballard: Also, if you're only talking to people about horses, then you also have to have a passion for horses. It is not something you can understand if you don't like them. It's so foreign to a normal 9-5 job. Because it is a lifestyle. If you didn't have a sense of the passion people get when they're around horses, then you wouldn't enjoy this. Equally, there are people who start out with a passion and get burned out, or get stuck.

They thought that they really wanted to do this. Maybe, they didn't, but they don't know what else they can do. They got in over their head. It cost too much money. It is a hard industry to make money, *very hard*, because the overhead is so high. You make $25,000 a month. But it costs you $35,000 to get to the end of the month.

If you're talking about a boarding stable, what is the right way to do it. How do you charge enough? So that, at the end of the month, you are not losing money. Where are you making your money? Where do you gain to make it worth your while? When does the lifestyle [Laughing] part kick in? There's not many Canadians who have the opportunity that I do.

So, I think that that, maybe, is something. I have seen both sides of it. I won my first Nations Cup at Spruce Meadows when I was 25. I didn't ride on another team for 10 years. I stayed home, made a business, rode hunters, and taught riding lessons. That's all I could do. That's all the opportunity I had. I couldn't go to the horse shows because my horses weren't good enough.

So, practice what you're good at and work on the opportunity given to you, it is not a job for the faint at heart. It is not for someone who doesn't work 24 hours a day.

Jacobsen: Every person who I met who competes and works in the stables, or as a full-time in the stables, have all been incredibly impressive in their own ways. Some have tragic personal histories and have overcome them. The work ethic is there.

Ballard: People are drawn to horses, maybe, if they aren't good with people.

Jacobsen: That's an interesting hypothesis, maybe.

Ballard: A connection with the horse that they can't have with the person. The turnover in my life, as far as clients who ride with me – and people who work for me, is very high, very. Grooms come and go, there's students, young kids, even riders. A lot of girls ride until they turn 15 or 16. Then they have a choice to make. Are they going to keep riding, to go skiing, to go hang out with boys, to go to university? At the younger age, it is mostly girls.

If a teenager sticks through that stage, maybe, they're not that social. They don't love going to the parties on the weekend. Or they struggle with being in a school, in girl gangs. They like horses. They hang out with horses. Then they create a friend group, which they didn't think they could have in school because they have a common interest with other kids in horses. Maybe, they don't want to go to university.

They have to work for a living, so they become a groom. Maybe, they want to go to law school, but they don't have enough money. So, they groom on the weekends. The turnover of people who work in the industry versus me is high, because not everyone is a lifer.

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Jacobsen: What do you attribute the endurance to?

Ballard: Mine?

Jacobsen: Yes!

Ballard: I think I'm a crazy person. I just have more energy than most people.

Jacobsen: How many hours a week are you working?

Ballard: Oh! I don't even want to count!

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Ballard: October, November, December, all of October, all of November, first two weeks of December, I was never in the same place for more than one week.

Jacobsen: That's a lot.

Ballard: I was back in Florida for a week at a time before I went somewhere else. For three months, basically, I was never in one place for more than a week. By the time I came home from Geneva, I had 7 suitcases packed. I sent one home from California. I sent one home from Vegas. I sent this one with the horses. My garage was an explosion of suitcases.

Jacobsen: [Laughing].

Ballard: I unpacked every suitcase, but one. I don't know where all these clothes are going to go. We are gypsies. We live on the road. I went from California to Geneva. I had a bathing suit and the Lululemon puffy jacket that went to my ankles. You never know where you're going to be. You take your passport with you everywhere.

Because, at a moment's notice, you can go to Europe and not expect to, "You need to try a horse." We are high energy people in general. We don't need the structure of 9-5 and weekends off. We thrive on this crazy lifestyle. We get to see the world. But yes, most of us are a little bit crazy.

Jacobsen: In spite of the endurance and the affirmation of doing it, whatever "it" is at the time, what moments in your career have you ever felt a halt internally, almost as if, 'I can't do this," or a feeling of "I don't have enough in me"?

Ballard: I think just the summer I got hurt, which was 2013. I broke my collar bone and my shoulder joint. I shattered my scapula. I was out for 16 weeks. There was a minute, where I was walking around; I was teaching riding lessons. I was going to the horse shows. It is the only time in my life where I hadn't.

There was a minute. I was like, "I don't need to ride to make money. I don't need ever need to get back on a horse to make money. I can teach. I can give clinics. But I don't have to do that. If I don't do that, then I won't ever be hurt like this again." That lasted a minute until I got back on a horse again. Then it was over.

I think, any time you're hurt. You're down anyways. I came back from that stronger than ever. I came back from the injury. Two years later, I was on a team. I hadn't been on a team in 10 years. Maybe, it was the reset that I needed to figure out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I don't feel that, not yet, anyways.

Jacobsen: When you were a kid, as many Canadian kids do, they write careers that they wanted when they were younger, what they thought they wanted to pursue in the maturity of a child's mind. Do you recall what those career choices would have been for you?

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Ballard: I don’t think there was ever a question.

Jacobsen: Why did you focus on jumping, by the way?

Ballard: That’s the sport that my grandpa was captain of the Canadian team. So, I guess, it is in my blood.

Footnotes

[1] Canadian Show Jumping Veteran.

[2] Individual Publication Date: June 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/ballard-1**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/**.

[3] Image Credit: Jump Media.

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Justin Duplantis and Matthew Scillitani on I.Q. and the Young: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society; Member, Giga Society (1)

2022-07-01

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Abstract

Justin Duplantis is a Lifetime Member of Triple Nine Society. Matthew Scillitani is a member of The Glia Society and The Giga Society. They discuss: the education of the young and the role of education; the importance of parents; Boris Sidis; mental illnesses; individuals who have higher I.Q.s and struggle with mental illness; and highest I.Q. scores.

Keywords: Giga Society, Glia Society, Justin Duplantis, Matthew Scillitani, Triple Nine Society.

Justin Duplantis and Matthew Scillitani on I.Q. and the Young: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society; Member, Giga Society (1)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: You both have overlapping interests in education and psychology, respectively. High intelligence, as measured by I.Q. tests, has been established as mostly hereditary. Recent studies seem to indicate 80% or more genetic contribution to the expression of I.Q. as a metric of intelligence, which seems staggering based on the general poor levels of definite knowledge in psychology. This one seems more so than others. If so, so if taking an evidence-based approach with the most updated scientific findings, what does this mean for the education of the young and the role of education in assistance to the gifted and talented?

Justin Duplantis: It comes down to predisposition. If there is a likelihood that gifted parents will have gifted offspring, there should be ownership taken to pursue this and ensure their children are properly educated.

Matt Scillitani: *This result provides some evidence for just how wasted our resources are on mentally handicapped children. If intelligence is 80% or more genetic then there is little point in dedicating so much*

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attention to intellectually disabled kids since there won't be much improvement anyway. My suggestion is to change the IEP to focus on the smartest rather than the most disabled children and to minimize the resources given to the children in an IEP today.

Jacobsen: What does this mean for the importance of parents and providing a program of enrichment, whether structured advanced guidance or free-roaming with plentiful resources for the kid?

Duplantis: As you referenced through providing various outlets, it is important to understand that there is no one size fits all solution for the education of any group of children and gifted youth are no different. It is about encouraging them to pursue their areas of interest and providing them the proper resources to enable that pursuit.

Scillitani: *Schools should probably be well structured and not free-roaming. We can't trust that children will act in their own best interest and actually learn any material if they're in a laissez-faire learning environment. Parents should also have little or no voice in how schools are run, by the way. Just because they have a kid doesn't mean they know anything about child psychology or education. It was always absurd to me how the school system allowed parents to waste so much of their time and have such strong (and ignorant) voices.*

Jacobsen: Bill Sidis is, often, pointed out as either a failure, a social outcast, a genius, or a self-isolating intellectual. Whether the myth can be entirely separated from the mythos, he was smart. He was separated from wider society. Was Boris Sidis' highly structured education appropriate, or not? Would maintaining contact with same-age peers be advisable?

Duplantis: What a loaded question. As indicated above, there is no generalization that can be made, rather assessments need to be individualized. Whilst some children would flourish among their peers, others would feel intellectually stunted. As a child, I enjoyed playing games with my great-grandmother and her friends, rather than going to friend's house. The intellectual stimulation and adult conversation was refreshing and a dynamic shift from school.

Scillitani: *This is a very sad story of how a brilliant young man's future can be ruined by too ambitious parents and teachers. Of course his education was not appropriate since it stole his childhood and put him under crippling life-long stress. At the very least he should have had some classes with children his age.*

Jacobsen: You two may have different opinions on this one. It has been a while, and opinions change. Nonetheless, how much do mental illnesses affect individuals with giftedness compared to the general population?

Duplantis: I suppose it depends upon what one defines as mental illness. There are certain afflictions, if you will, that are more prevalent in the high IQ community. The individuals have to face the feelings of solitude brought on by characteristics of high IQ as well as those of their given afflictions.

Scillitani: *Intelligent people tend to handle psychiatric illness better and are diagnosed less often than in the general population. It's usually that if two people have the same psychiatric illness the smarter of them will have less expression of that illness than the dumber of the two. Severe psychiatric illness combined with intelligence can also sometimes produce genius but such does not happen with a psychiatrically ill idiot. Every genius has a touch of madness as they say.*

Jacobsen: What seems to happen with individuals who have higher I.Q.s and struggle with mental illness, psychiatric diagnoses?

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Duplantis: Although much is similar, the variance comes in the ability to rationalize not taking medication. Due to the high intellect, they are often able to persuade themselves and others that they are able to handle their govern afflictions free from the oppression of prescribed medications.

Scillitani: *It is hard for them. It's harder for someone who's not so smart but there is a whole different kind of struggle when you're intelligent and have a psychiatric disorder. The smart person with depression, anxiety, autism, or whatever is usually going to find it much harder to get help because (1) they're used to solving problems on their own and (2) they usually know more about themselves than any mental health professional ever could, so why even bother? The therapist will also find it hard to relate with the brilliant patient since it's much easier to empathize with someone at or beneath yourself than it is to empathize with someone above. Therapists, counselors, and clinical psychologists know what it's like to make dumb decisions, everyone does, but they can't understand how we think, and that's a big issue when you're trying to help someone change their patterns of thinking and behavior.*

Jacobsen: Also, people, may be curious if they don't know. What were the highest I.Q. scores earned by the two of you? What were the tests (even test plus statistical methodology for extrapolation) used for acquisition of such a high score? T.N.S. and the Giga Society are difficult to enter.

Duplantis: MAT – 548 – just shy of 6SD.

Scillitani: *From highest to lowest: Psychometric Qrosswords (190+ 15 S.D.), The Marathon Test – Verbal (176 15 S.D.), Rhyming Riddles (173+ 15 S.D.), Addagrams (173 15 S.D.), The Marathon Test – Numerical (167+ 15 S.D.), The Marathon Test (166 I.Q. 15 S.D.), A Relaxing Test (165 15 S.D.), Splice (164+ 15 S.D.), Dicing with death (162 S.D. 15), and The Piper's Test (161 15 S.D.) are my ten highest scores to date I believe. I may have a few more 170+ scores but I can't remember at the moment. I've also taken some "mainstream" tests like the W.A.I.S. and have maxed them out since they don't have very high ceilings. My lowest score of all time was on one of Paul Cooijmans' Netherlandic tests where I scored 123. I later taught myself Dutch and took another Netherlandic test where I scored 158 to redeem myself though. As for the norming method used in these high-range tests, it's most often simply "anchoring" one's scores on other I.Q. tests to their raw score on the object test.*

Footnotes

[1] **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).

[2] **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**.

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*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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Conversation with Luis Ortiz on Family, Intelligence Scores, and Views: Member, Glia Society (1)

2022-07-01

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Abstract

Luis Ortiz is a Member of the Glia Society. He discusses: growing up; an extended self;' the family background; peers and schoolmates; the purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence discovered; geniuses; the greatest geniuses in history; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; some work experiences and educational certifications; the idea of the gifted and geniuses; some social and political views; the God concept; science; some of the tests taken and scores earned; the range of the scores; and ethical philosophy.

Keywords: family, Glia Society, intelligence, I.Q., Luis Ortiz, self.

Conversation with Luis Ortiz on Family, Intelligence Scores, and Views: Member, Glia Society (1)

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

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

Luis Ortiz[1],[2]*: Nothing interesting. I only remember anecdotes about myself only. For instance, when I was about two years old. It had recently been Christmas and in the living room of the place where I was living at the time there was a Christmas tree with the lights disconnected. I remember getting up in the middle of the night to go to the Christmas tree and plug it in. My parents mention that they were scared because at some point in the night they woke up and realized the tree was on and thought maybe someone had broken in. When they checked, it turned out to be me looking at the tree.

I remember this fact myself but somewhat vaguely.

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

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Ortiz: No.

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

Ortiz: I come from a Catholic family that was very religious back then when I was a child. Nowadays they are not so religious anymore but they are still very spiritual. Regarding the geographical origins I do not know many details. I only know that part of the family is of Spanish origin. This is quite common in Mexico, actually. I guess it is still remarkable because I can tell that the phenotype of my family, in terms of appearance and personality, tends to differ a lot from the typical one here in Mexico.

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

Ortiz: Bad, I would add. I recall being a somewhat eccentric child but still remarkably normal for the first 5 years of my life. In primary school, around 6 years old, things started to get bad. I recall feeling extremely bored. I never payed attention. The vast majority of time it was me playing with my school utensils. Strangely, this habit lasted until about the age of 9 years, and I recall getting bullied for that. I recall people making fun of me because I was an eccentric child talking alone while playing with whatever was within my reach. I remember this myself. Everything was more or less normal and when I entered to primary school, some months thereafter I began to feel school so boring and decided to distract myself doing other things.

I had to receive attention from a psychologist from that school because I suddenly became from normal to a bad student. The psychologist in question succeeded in helping me improve my performance, but then my mother decided to just move out from the city I was living in back then and I got transferred. From there on, none of the schools I went (yes, there were more transfers) had any psychologist and never went to see any despite the obvious abnormalities. My performance declined so badly that I repeated third grade and almost fourth. But this is irrelevant to the point of the question.

Even though I made some friends I was alone most of the time. And the fact that I transferred many times did not helped.

Basically, during my childhood, my experience consisted of some loneliness in school, being occasionally accompanied by one friend. I tried to play soccer with other kids in order to be more “normal” and incorporate but I was too bad for that. I guess it was my lack of practice, the fact that soccer is a mainstream sport practiced almost daily for years by almost anyone going to school, and some lack of talent from me.

I remember there was a mate in a Christian school I went who liked to feign being possessed by the devil. He boasted so much about being evil itself and being the son of satan. Curiously, this kid was actually a Christian. He was joking, obviously, but the way in which he did so was far unusual. I do not remember any other religious Christian being anywhere close to reassemble that.

Around my teenage years I stabilized more towards normality but still was very abnormal and could not fit as expected. These were terrible years for me. I had problems with my family and had to transfer many times again from one school to another. I lost contact with the few friends I made like 3 times.

In sum, my general experience is characterized by being someone abnormal with a small group of friends and occasionally trying to fit in with normies. Nowadays I am surprised by the fact that it took me years to realise how different I was from normies and the obvious fact that I was never going to fit.

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I could go on but I guess this is enough to show that it was a bad experience generally speaking. This left me some deep psychological wounds, because whenever I see references on memes and jokes about usual school situations, or anything related, I tend to feel uncomfortable and furious. I developed a deep hatred towards school, the way in which basic education is taught here and some behaviours displayed by mexican teens.

I confess I would love to have a regular school experience or something better, like the stuff you see on movies, TV shows and anime series, but I guess I was too abnormal for that. Not to mention the problems with my parents and the fact that mexicans really need something like 15 additional I.Q. points.

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

Ortiz: They are useful tools for assessing people's intellectual potential. Although imperfect, they are still informative and useful for detecting high I.Q.'s. If someone is intelligent enough to deserve special education, it should be mandatory to receive it. Forcing highly intelligent people to pass through the regular curriculum could bring severe problems. I suspect that was a strong reason behind my failure at school, besides my deviant personality.

As for high range I.Q. tests, I think they are entertaining and challenging. I enjoy the feeling that comes when a solution to a hard and tough problem comes. They also help people in gaining insight into their aptitude profile.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Ortiz: Around 11 years old. I never suspected that I was intelligent before that. Actually it was the opposite. I had the idea that I was a little bit mentally retarded. This was because I never fitted in in school and spent most of my free time playing videogames, watching t.v., playing alone, surfing the web and so on. It never occurred to me that I could be an intelligent individual mainly because I never gave myself the opportunity to manifest my potential, and neither school nor my family did so, I was a problematic child and never fitted in well in school. Because of this, my self-esteem got a little bit undermined. Actually, at some point I recall feeling totally useless. So I thought I was simply not suited for anything related using the brain.

I recall surfing through Youtube until finding, by accident, a video which showed a comparison between the sizes of different planets and stars. For some reason I liked that video and watched it many times. After that I found a documentary about the sun and found it interesting. I watched many documentaries eventually. At some point I watched so many documentaries that I became very well articulated and informed about many arcane subjects which no one cared, then changed my mind about my capacity. Something bizarre about this is the fact that my high intelligence was so obvious that everyone was very well aware of it, but no one did absolutely anything. This is when my psychological wounds emerge again, whenever I see those prodigy children on the media sometimes I can not avoid feeling bad for never receiving any proper education and attention (prodigy children are recognized because they often receive proper attention early in their lives). Rather, I got forced to pass through regular school with its obvious shortcomings.

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.

Ortiz: A genius, in my view, is a highly creative person, a person who makes outstanding contributions to a given field. Someone who brings up new brilliant ideas and fundamental changes in a discipline, someone who makes actual advances. It is hard for me to define what constitutes actual advances but at least they are not hard to

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recognise, specially in the case of exact sciences. Creativity, by its very nature of bringing something new, often breaks down the usual beliefs, old ideas and dogmas, that people hold. Therefore it tends to offend vested interests and people who like to believe in lies, the irrational and often unprincipled; at the same time, tends to gain respect from those more predisposed towards accepting and appreciating real advance. Hence, a genius, being a supreme manifestation of creativity, will tend raise extreme reactions.

Paul Cooijmans mentioned that creativity is the expression of awareness. This does make sense to me. Being creative requires both inner drive and novel insights. Only an aware brain would arrive at novel ideas and have the self-drive required to develop these ideas. Edward Dutton and Bruce G. Charlton in their book "The Genius Famine" mention that genius is an Endogenous personality, a combination of innate high ability, inner motivation and intuitive thinking. They put some emphasis on the fact that Endogenous personality is an inner oriented, self driven kind of person. I receive the impression that this is the result of something special happening inside the head of a person with creative potential. It could be that extreme reactions are the result of people perceiving something unusual regarding the individual in question.

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

Ortiz: I would mention anyone who is considered a scientific genius and who has achieved extraordinary feats in advancing science, philosophy and arts. Beyond that, it is hard to identify who would undoubtedly qualify as genius as already defined here. To name some examples include Isaac Newton, Christiaan Huygens and Galileo Galilei.

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

Ortiz: A profoundly intelligent person is someone with a very high I.Q., say, something like being three standard deviations above the mean (145 points; the top 0.135% of the population). While having a high I.Q. is a necessary condition for the outstanding creative achievements that characterizes a genius, it is not sufficient. Therefore, the main difference lies in personality and the way in which genius is predisposed to see and perceive the world. A profoundly intelligent person may be very well creative or just normal, whereas a genius is a very rare kind of individual whose personality comprises some traits which are very rare to find strongly expressed in the very same individual. I refer the reader to Cooijmans' articles about genius, Edward Dutton's book "The Genius Famine", Hans Eysenck's "Genius. The natural history of creativity", and Arthur Jensen's (this appears in the book Intellectual Talent: Psychometric and Social Issues) "Giftedness and Genius: Important Differences".

The latter provides a good illustration of what is a genius and what is a profoundly intelligent person. It draws a distinction by describing the case of Ramanujan and Hardy.

Jacobsen: What have been some work experiences and educational certifications for you?

Ortiz: Menial and uninteresting jobs only. No remarkable credentials for the moment. I only finished what is the equivalent of high school here.

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?

Ortiz: One important aspect is the distinction already made here between intellectual capacity and potential for creative achievement.

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“Genius” is used in a lightly way often. People showing talent, prodigy childs and profoundly intelligent people in general are sometimes labeled as geniuses. I would not put in doubt the value of these kinds of people, but I think “genius” should be reserved for something more elevated. Supremely creative people, of course.

As for using the word gifted, I refer the reader to Cooijmans’ article “Reasons to avoid the term “gifted””. It is helpful in providing an understanding of the importance of an accurate employment of words, not just in regards to high intelligence.

Jacobsen: What are some social and political views for you? Why hold them?

Ortiz: I am not decided yet on this matter. But, for the moment, I would mention that classical liberalism seems attractive to me. Classical marxism, in contrast, and anything deriving from it, seems terribly loathsome.

But leaving that aside. I strongly support some specific measures. For instance, Cooijmans’ idea of vote weighting based on intelligence; Wim Rietdijk’s idea of interviewing with lie detectors relevant politicians, journalists, business people, etc. Interviews with very specific and straightforward questions: “what is your actual interest? Are you working for someone else? Do you have an interest in destroying our current democratic society?”. A reason to support this is to make it hard for bad and incompetent people to ascend and occupy any position of power and significance in society, and easier for naturally competent, good, intelligent people with a genuine interest in advancing society.

Also I think eugenics is vastly important. Intelligence and good character are among the pillars of civilization. Without these things a successful society in perpetual advance is not possible. Since these things are mostly genetic, some measures should be taken to make them abound. There should exist policies encouraging intelligent and good natured people to procreate more, and procreation from criminals should be banned completely. Unfortunately, it has become heresy to talk about eugenics in this way. This is so sad. Without it, societies are condemned to rise and fall endlessly with the constant risk of losing everything with every decay. Not to mention the constant threat of natural disasters with the potential to end life as we know it. Without a powerful civilization able to survive or counter these disasters, humanity is at risk of disappearing forever leaving little or no trace. For these reasons, and more, I think eugenics is among humanity’s most powerful weapons against life’s cruelties.

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

Ortiz: I think this matter is very complicated. First, on the concept of god: I am skeptical about the existence of any god or “superior intelligence”. I suppose god must have a mind or a kind of awareness not dissimilar from the kind of awareness we have. Otherwise probably there would not exist the need to call it god. I do not see any “mind” acting out there. I see structure in the universe of course, and minds are complicated structures themselves, but it must be reminded that not all structures are minds!

It could be said that god is acting from some kind of unconditioned reality, but how the heck am I supposed to believe that? I wonder. I care about the real world and its natural causes among things and phenomena, not about supernatural unverifiable things. The rejection of only existing natural causes and events introduces supernatural causes to the world. That is to say that there are things for which there cannot exist any logical explanation working in terms of our world. Any observed potential supernatural phenomenon should be seen as natural because it is acting in our world of natural causes and effects, and as such, constitutes a cause or an effect itself that comes from somewhere. Seeing potential supernatural causes in the world and not giving them any proper explanation, or not seeking one if there is not any available, is a matter of faith, of reasoning errors. You are renouncing, partly at least, to rationality as a medium to derive explanations about the empirical datum and make sense of the world.

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As for religion, I am not the kind of atheist who despises religion. I believe people should be left free to choose their religion, as far as it concerns something not dangerous, or choose whether they should be spiritual or not. I do not think it is necessarily bad. Religion often provides people an ethical framework, a meaning of life and the satisfaction of accomplishing an elevated end, of existing for something greater. Provides a sense of leading a meaningful life.

Most humans are unable to make sense of the world logically. They employ supernatural causes in their vision of the world as a consequence. They also need a meaning of life. Religion is what provides these things, a meaning for life and a (crude) model of the world, to them. It is what naturally follows given their limitations, both intellectual and in regards to life's cruelty.

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

Ortiz: It is fundamentally important as it helps to grow knowledge about real world. It helps to provide some understanding about the real physical world and myself. I am not competent enough to evaluate scientific theories and models at a technical level yet but I am working on that. I strive to be a polymath proficient in many areas.

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

Ortiz: Below are some scores expressed on a scale with the standard deviation being equal to 15, next to the name of the test:

PIGS 2, 155;

Numina4D, 154;

INRC 2018, 146;

Cogitatus Logicae 30, 156;

These are some performances on tests which I consider good. Also, I consider them strongly representative of at least my non-verbal ability. I am planning to take verbal tests on the future to get a better picture.

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.

Ortiz: About 80 points. My lowest score ever is about 80, if I recall correctly. It was on a test which I decided to finish prematurely. My highest is 164.

Yes, such enormous difference between the lowest and highest score is possible, and perhaps common. The tests are not perfect and always capture something else besides general ability. And even if they could capture the whole of general ability only, people vary in their mental ability across lifetime. You will not perform equally well on a test when old and decaying than when younger and at your peak of general ability. Sometimes I.Q.'s, as is often the case in mainstream psychology, express people's performance relative to other people of the same age and sex. Even then, people develop and decay at different rates, so again there are no reasons to expect scoring the same even on a hypothetical test measuring general intelligence only, unless abandoning such comparisons and using some absolute scale of intelligence.

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

Ortiz: I am not decided about this, too. I work intuitively, as I am aware that both strong reasoning ability and interest in being a good person provide almost instantly and naturally what is needed in order to act ethically. Being

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ethical is easy when you actually care about it and have high intelligence. I think it is possible to develop universal and objective ethics, and have some access to them. But that requires high intelligence. And as far as I know, I have both an interest on being a good person and a high intelligence.

I normally try to think if what I will do will cause any harm or if there will be any negative consequences. Of course, “negativity” is judged based upon the specific situation and its context. One important thing to keep in mind is the existence of awareness and suffering. A distinction between good and evil makes sense because of these things. Good people act in such a way that perpetuates awareness’ existence and avoids adding as much as possible to the total suffering in the universe.

Something I noticed many people do is putting too much emphasis on protecting others’ feelings. I do not like this. Life is full of uncomfortable situations. Life is essentially, and in part, uncomfortable. Sometimes it is necessary to tell people the most uncomfortable things. Indeed, it is quite usual to get involved in uncomfortable situations with people whom you appreciate.

Actually, I hate this kind of approach. Why should I be forced to consider others’ feelings constantly? It is annoying and to some extent constraining. If people lack any maturity to take whatever I am saying, that is not my problem. It could be argued that my logic could be used to intentionally seek any harm to others’ feelings and then excusing oneself with not doing anything bad. But I am merely arguing that putting too much emphasis on others’ feelings is annoying, unnecessary, something I would not do. Obviously, I would not try to freely annoy people unless they deserve it.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Glia Society.

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Conversation with Bob Williams on Schizotypy, Creativity, Genius, Johnson and Bouchard, PFIT and BA10, Wai, Benbow, Lubinsky, Rex Jung, and Arthur Jensen: Retired Nuclear Physicist (5)

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Abstract

Bob Williams is a Member of the Triple Nine Society, Mensa International, and the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry. He discusses: schizotypal traits; schizotypal personality traits and temperament; the prominent tests of creativity; impulsively nonconformist and prone to divergent thought; measuring creativity; creativity over the lifespan; BigC (true genius); Johnson and Bouchard; negative correlation between very high levels of creativity and very high levels of intelligence in brain efficiency; PFIT; Wai, Lubinsky, and Benbow; Rex Jung; Arthur Jensen; original creative insights into a unified work; developmental cascade effects; drugs; true genius tend to isolation; true genius tend towards no progeny; high intelligence or high creativity; cold hard truths; countries leaders.

Keywords: Arthur Jensen, Benbow, Bob Williams, Bouchard, creativity, genius, intelligence, I.Q., Johnson, Lubinski, PFIT, Rex Jung, schizotypy, Wai.

Conversation with Bob Williams on Schizotypy, Creativity, Genius, Johnson and Bouchard, PFIT and BA10, Wai, Benbow, Lubinsky, Rex Jung, and Arthur Jensen: Retired Nuclear Physicist (5)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: With schizotypal traits and temperament as an association with creativity, is it possible to parse schizotypal traits into the individual traits to associate with some common, accepted definitions of creativity?

Bob Williams[1],[2]*: Schizotypy is associated with verbal and artistic creativity. There are presumably some who have, nonetheless, shown a more technical form of creativity. John Nash, comes to mind. The form of

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schizophrenia known as Introvertive Anhedonia is negatively associated with creativity. The commonly found association between schizotypy and creativity is that there is a reduced latent inhibition.

Measuring and predicting outcomes relating to creativity is more difficult than doing those things relative to intelligence, because intelligence is a very general trait that is well understood structurally (as in a hierarchical factor analysis). The thing that schizophrenia and intelligence have in common is that they are both additive polygenic traits and, therefore, can be measured via polygenic scores. The best material I have seen on the genetics of traits is Robert Plomin Blueprint: How DNA Makes Us Who We Are, Penguin Books Ltd., 2018. Plomin mentioned that today schizophrenia, like autism, is treated as a spectrum. In this book, Plomin commented: "In several diverse populations the researchers found that people with high polygenic scores for schizophrenia were more likely to be in creative professions."

It is my understanding that the ratio of highly creative people with schizophrenia to noncreative people with schizophrenia is small. Even so there is a clear link.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, if we do so, what do particular parsed aspects of schizotypal personality traits and temperament tell us about their association or correlation with creativity?

Williams: As I mentioned in the first answer, most important link is a lowered inhibitory function. This particular trait is discussed repeatedly in The Cambridge Handbook of the Neuroscience of Creativity (2018) Rex E. Jung (Editor), Oshin Vartanian (Editor). But, if you ask a psychologist about the traits associated with schizophrenia, he will probably list other behaviors, such as hallucinations, disorganized thinking, extremely disorganized or abnormal motor behavior, thought and movement disorders, etc.

This is a related, side topic: In the book referenced above, Kyaga mentioned that people majoring in technical fields, more often than others, had siblings with autism. This suggests a path from a spectrum behavior that involves shared genes that lead to elevated ability in those who share the genes, but where the spectrum disorder prevents it from showing up in the affected (autistic) person. There may be a similar finding relative to creativity and schizophrenia. In fact there may be good studies of such a relationship, but I have either not seen them or have forgotten the source.

I think the best way to describe the relationships between schizophrenia and creativity is to note that among true geniuses, elevated levels of schizophrenia are helpful or even essential. But if one observes the presence of schizophrenia in an individual, there is not the same high probability (the presence of high creativity). To me, the zones between the elevated levels of psychosis and neurosis (per Hans Eysenck) and elevated standing on the schizophrenia spectrum seem to be either overlapping or identical.

Jacobsen: Do any of the prominent tests of creativity truly measure creativity? Are these reliable and valid, or simply leaving more questions unanswered?

Williams: The answer to that question strikes me as depending on the perspective of the observer. In the most basic sense, the tests of creativity consist of tests of remote association, fluency, divergent thinking, etc., which are not direct measures of creativity. From the perspective of a researcher who wants a wide range of abilities shown (low to high ability), the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (and similar tests) produces this kind of measurement. This is where the issue of artistic creativity and scientific creativity can be seen. A test, such as the TTCT will produce similar results for people in science or in arts, so the researcher may be quite happy with the results as measuring "creativity," even when the kinds of creativity are very different.

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Although some researchers argue that intelligence is a factor in creativity, the more important factor is personality, as measured by the Big Five. The most important of these five is Openness to experience and Conscientiousness (a negative indicator).

For the record, a few of the other tests that are used for measuring creativity:

Divergent Thinking (a general category)

Remote Associations Test (a general category)

Creative Personality Scale

Creative Achievement Questionnaire (CAQ; a selfreport)

Jacobsen: If someone is impulsively nonconformist and prone to divergent thought patterns, do these necessarily imply a higher creativity?

Williams: I think the answer is "not." As with other behavioral relationships, there is a statistically higher probability of the cooccurrence of nonconformity and creativity, but I doubt that this is a necessary pair. Sometimes we see the unusual behavior and tend to generalize it, while we simultaneously ignore normal behavior paired with creativity (or another variable). When ability increases to the point of astonishing achievement (creativity), I expect that the odds of seeing very unusual behaviors increases to the point that there is at least some present. It is difficult to reach a confident conclusion about such trait correlations without proper statistical studies to show how strong an effect is and how it may vary between groups and life conditions. Most educated people are familiar with a lot of the names of artistic and scientific geniuses, but may not know the details of their lives.

Another aspect of behaviors is that, if we look closely at individuals we would consider to be not extreme, everyday folks, we would still find lots of unusual behaviors, including some that might happen more often among highly creative people. My take on Plomin's comments about spectrums of traits is that these apply to many of the things we observe in both exceptional and "normal" people.

Jacobsen: If experts are measuring creativity or proposing measurements for creativity within the human population, technically, these could be scaled for comparison, not necessarily a Gaussian curve or something like this, but this seems like a natural consequence. Some people score higher on a creativity measurement than others, whether quantitative or qualitative, so would count as more creative. Yet, the question arises about lifespan effects. In that, some aspects of creativity may decline over time, remain stagnant, or may increase over time. In principle, is ranking creativity a prospect before us?

Williams: Any test that has some validity in measuring creativity will produce a distribution. The exact shape of the distribution may vary as a function of how the test is designed and the population to which it is applied. I have never seen a creativity distribution curve, such as the ones that are commonly shown in intelligence literature. If we think about the likely output of a biographical list of honors received for creative work, I would expect that it would show a near zero value for most people and only show positive results for people who are obviously creative. In the sense that we can see creativity, it mirrors intelligence in the sense that it is not hard to identify someone who is shockingly brilliant or who is obviously retarded. Tests are not needed and even middle level effects (above or below average) are obvious enough that our observations are unlikely to vary much from measurements. In the case of creativity, I think someone can easily see brilliant composition and see that most people show much less ability.

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Jacobsen: What happens to creativity over the lifespan?

Williams: Age effects presumably show up in various categories of creativity. It certainly happens in scientific creativity. As for artistic creativity, I am less confident that it is a strong effect. It is easy enough to recall conductors who continued to perform with little decline in quality, up to near the end of their lives. I can think of some classical music performers who did much the same. The things that the brain has to do to create art are certainly different than the things it has to do to write and solve equations that describe the physical universe. We see that Nobel Prizes (in science) are overwhelmingly given for work that was done early in life. Einstein's Miracle Year (1905) included four profound papers that changed physics; he was 26 years old.

Jacobsen: Who does Piffer count as BigC (true genius)? What are his examples of ProC via professions and creative people in them?

Williams: I recall a mention of a few true geniuses in a paper that was probably Piffer, but I don't know if I still have it or not. The ProC category includes both the arts and the sciences. Most people are more familiar with the true geniuses in the arts and sciences. ProC, as I understand his meaning, is a category that is not about genius, but about people who are able to have successful careers that are based on their high levels of creativity. The names of these people will be known to many of their career peers, but not to the general public. Those who are widely known are usually those who were closely covered by the news media (various reasons, often unrelated to their actual creative output).

Jacobsen: Akin to Johnson and Bouchard's work showing the top 5 g loadings, does a similar factorization exist for creativity within measurements of creativity? This is a helpful representation of an advancement on the research of g, as 1) a factor in life and 2) a consistently measurable phenomenon in global information processing within the remit of the human nervous system.

Williams: As we discussed in an earlier set, Piffer has argued that a general factor is unlikely. Researchers have done principal components analysis and factor analysis relating to creativity, but I have not seen claims that they have found and shown expert agreement that there is a general factor. These have clusters of related traits that might define a factor that is common to the clustered components. Certainly, there is little mention of a general factor in the creativity literature. There is more support for a general factor of personality (Rushton was writing about this near the end of his life.), but papers on personality are not focused on a general factor of personality in the same way as is common in intelligence research.

Intelligence is powerfully related to quality of life and achievement. At low IQ, life outcomes can be harsh, but this doesn't happen for low creativity. A person with very little creative ability may still have a happy and productive life, unless that lack of creativity is the direct result of low intelligence. Creativity matters when it is high enough to sustain a livelihood or to produce an eminent artist, engineer, or scientist (as we previously discussed). Below the Pro-C level creativity is much less important at the individual level.

Relating to Johnson and Bouchard's work, I learned something from Wendy Johnson that I had previously overlooked. The loading of a given factor is dependent on the structure of the test from which it was extracted. For example, if there are more or fewer test items that relate to a given broad ability, that broad ability will show a higher or lower g loading. This explains some of the differences that are reported for the g loadings of various factors. In their work, Johnson and Bouchard used the largest battery of tests that has ever been reported and extracted a structure of intelligence that is probably the most true to nature that exists. The reason I was discussing this with Wendy was that I was curious about the high g loading of the Pedigrees test. Bouchard mentioned the test

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multiple times as the highest g loading of any test. I later discussed it with him and learned how the test works and that it dates back to the relatively early days of intelligence test development.

Jacobsen: Could there be a negative correlation between very high levels of creativity and very high levels of intelligence in brain efficiency? Where, a highly intelligent brain uses less energy than a less intelligent one to come to a more parsimonious answer to a problem. Whereas, a highly creative person may require more resources burned in their brain to construct more elaborate novel constructs. If so, this would imply a disjunction between high intelligence and high creativity. Unless, a highly intelligent brain with high creativity, somehow, does require less energy than a highly intelligent and less creative person, but still would need less to get a creative result than an unintelligent person with high creativity.

Williams: That's an interesting thought. I don't think there are any studies of glucose metabolism as a function of creative output. I think the problem lies in the nature of the end product. In the case of intelligence, Haier's work shows that more efficient brains are more intelligent. This initial hypothesis has turned out to be a general condition in which various measures of brain efficiency show that high efficiency (in networks, tissue integrity, etc.) is an indication of high intelligence. These observations necessarily apply to narrow tests, such as doing a puzzle, and not to complex end results, such as designing a rocket engine or writing artificial intelligence software. Such tasks happen over long time periods. But we can relate the lab experiment (efficiency measurement) to the very long task because the task is strongly related to a latent trait (g). Without efficiency measurements (they may exist, but I haven't seen them) for creativity, we have the relationship between established creative ability and multiple end products, but the efficiency part is missing. A number of relatively recent papers have argued that there is a connection between intelligence and creativity, which may provide an indirect link to brain efficiency.

My impression is that some creative people work very fast and some plod along with lots of revisions, but both manage to reach finished works that meet the face value of high level creativity. I once watched a film of Picasso painting and was amazed at the speed with which he created a painting, but he would then overpaint it multiple times (also quickly). We occasionally read about symphonies and novels that were produced over long spans of time and those (Mozart) that were done quickly. It is not obvious that brain efficiency is a factor in these, but it may account for such differences. Curiously, Jensen described how Beethoven started the composition of a symphony from a simple structure, then went over it repeatedly, making changes that increased its complexity and appeal, until the final version was achieved. This is similar to what Picasso was doing, except that Picasso did not add complexity but simply changed the impact of the painting repeatedly, until he had a result that suited his intent.

The efficiency hypothesis may, in fact, be reversed for creative output. It is the inefficient brain that is likely to bring in more remote associations because of low tissue integrity, less efficient networks, and low inhibition. These are probably going to cause increased glucose uptake rates in the brain.

Jacobsen: With the PFIT network as important for intelligence and problem solving, could there be a generic partially diffuse network rather than a singular structure (a lobe, etc.) responsible for much of the conscious problem solving determined as intelligence or I.Q., where much of the rest of the brain is devoted to sensing, motor skills, and feeling? Something like a diffuse network functioning outward from BA10 for conscious discrimination and associational matrix problem solving making sense of the data fed through BA10 through a field of conscious thought.

Williams: Network study is a big thing now that researchers have tools to study white matter tracts (diffusion tensor imaging in particular). The network that I have seen mentioned repeatedly, in connection with creativity, is

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the default mode network. It clearly plays a role in creativity. Some studies have focused on the interplay between networks, suggesting rapid switching from one network to another, in much the same way as early computers used task switching when they did not have preemptive multitasking. My guess is that, with increasing study and improved imaging tools, there will be models based on networks, switching, and interplay. These presumably will also involve creative task execution. Given the central role of BA10 in intelligence, I would assume that it is also central to creative processing and performs the same integration function.

Jacobsen: How important are Wai, Lubinsky, and Benbow, currently, to the higher study of intelligence?

Williams: They have a near monopoly on the topic. Most intelligence research is focused on the middle of the IQ spectrum. Julian Stanley started the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth when Camilla Benbow was working with him (probably a student). SMPY became a longitudinal study that had 5 cohort groups. Benbow inherited ownership of the ongoing study from him and it continues today as the most productive study of very bright individuals. It has been ongoing for about 50 years, so there are data for important life outcomes. One of the most significant findings of the study is that there is a large difference within the top 1% of intelligence, favoring increasing intelligence. Among the variables that increase with increasing intelligence are the number of doctorates, peer reviewed publications, STEM publications, STEM doctorates, income, and STEM tenure.

Jacobsen: How does Rex Jung see the different forms of creativity scientific and artistic emergent from a single source in creativity, so fundamentally the same?

Williams: When I asked him if he thought that artistic creativity and scientific creativity are the same, he said "yes." I think this was based on the two things he used as primary markers: the alternative uses test and the Creative Achievement Questionnaire. With those two items, the difference (scientific/artistic) is presumably not evident.

Jacobsen: How did Arthur Jensen see intelligence as more integral to scientific creativity than artistic creativity, so, in a sense different from Jung, something more fundamental to scientific endeavours than artistic?

Williams: As I recall, Jensen believed that intelligence was not a significant factor in artistic creativity, but was probably a significant factor in scientific creativity. My perspective on this is that the depth of knowledge of a scientific discipline is strongly correlated with intelligence and that knowledge is an essential ingredient in manipulating scientific ideas. Creativity in science is often seen in the formation of an unlikely hypothesis, followed by the task of validating it from experiments and mathematical models. If we compare that to the creativity of an artist, we see that art demands idea generation that makes a subjective impression on the viewer. This is quite different from the scientific product that is supported by testing, replication, modeling, etc. In science, there is nothing subjective about getting something right; there is a subjective zing to seeing the brilliance of new insight.

Jacobsen: Based on your speculation, how would individual flashes of creativity integrated over time with non-creative activity provide a basis for comprehension of creativity regarding output? In this sense, intelligent integrative activity would be necessary, not for creativity but, for unifying the original creative insights into a unified work.

Williams: As a speculation, I would say "yes." In any case, "intelligent integrative activity" would be necessary for combining the "multiple flashes of creativity." This idea would be an interesting one for someone to pursue as a

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study. I doubt that it has been done and imagine that it would at least be possible, using an approach such as interviews, self-reports, etc.

Jacobsen: What about developmental cascade effects? Where, a singular large change in a brain network or structure in early life alters overall brain structure and processing through development into full maturity leading to a much more novel neurology compared to the general population. I would assume this happening in dysfunctional ways more than functional ways as a matter of the law of averages.

Williams: It certainly makes sense that this would turn out badly most of the time. One way that such developmental issues can be observed is via fluctuating anisotropy (FA). This is commonly used in biological sciences as an indicator of developmental instability. It is simply a measure of nonsymmetry, based on bones in the wrists, ankles, etc. The idea is to measure where there is little fat. More FA means lower IQ (and other issues). The correlation with IQ varies widely from about zero to 0.40. One reason for the range of correlations is that head size is a confound. There is a similar relationship between facial symmetry and IQ. Various studies have found that people can guess IQ from photographs of faces. And one study showed that childhood environmental factors are associated with SES. These generally support the notion of early developmental problems having longterm impact on the individual.

Jacobsen: Are there drugs, prescription or not, that, in fact, increase creativity for the duration of efficacy in the body?

Williams: Yes. One of the well known factors is alcohol. I even recall a study of creativity among people who were evaluated when they were drunk. In The Cambridge Handbook of the Neuroscience of Creativity there are discussions of particularly strong drinking problems among writers. This book also discusses clinical drugs that have some impact (positive and negative) on creativity. These generally fall into categories of dopaminergic drugs, sedatives, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, antidepressants, moodstabolizing drugs, and the often mentioned recreational drugs (remember the 60s). This category is an example of an inverted U distribution, where more of the drug is initially beneficial, but a point is reached when the impact of the drug (on creativity) declines because the individual becomes impaired.

Jacobsen: Why does true genius tend to isolation?

Williams: Various researchers have written about the personalities of true genius. These rare creative people typically suffer from nasty dispositions. Jensen: “In many creative geniuses, this potential for actual psychosis is usually buffered and held in check by certain other traits, such as a high degree of ego strength. That psychoticism is a constellation of characteristics that persons may show to varying degrees; such persons may be aggressive, cold, egocentric, impersonal, impulsive, antisocial, unempathic, toughminded, and creative. This is not a charming picture of genius, perhaps, but a reading of the biographies of some of the most famous geniuses attests to its veracity.” [Benbow, C. P., & Lubinski, D. J. (Eds.). (1996). Intellectual talent: Psychometric and social issues. Johns Hopkins University Press.]

Jacobsen: Why does true genius tend towards no progeny?

Williams: The personality traits of true geniuses (discussed above) do not bode well for a social life and may be at least part of the explanation for why they often do not marry. There is a well established negative correlation between IQ and fertility rate (measured relative to women) which has been argued in the literature as the cause of a slow but real decline in mean IQ in developed nations. In the case of geniuses, this is presumably a factor.

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Jacobsen: If you could pick only one high intelligence or high creativity, which would you choose?

Williams: For me, the answer is simple: intelligence. The reason is simply that the baggage that accompanies high creativity is not appealing. In general, higher intelligence leads to mostly desirable life outcomes, while high creativity often does not.

Jacobsen: What are the cold hard truths known about intelligence research and about theoretical constructs proposed to explain intelligence now?

Williams: I love this question as it hits directly at the things that are widely not understood, even by bright, educated people.

Mother Nature did not create brains according to a PC project plan. Instead, she opted to make intelligence hugely important and did not compensate people who happen to fall at the low end of the spectrum. I think a good way to view intelligence is by a list of correlates. There is at least one positive correlate that does not imply a desirable outcome: myopia, correlated at about r = 0.20 to 0.25 (given by both Jensen and Storfer). It is not the result of "nearwork." Jensen: "Children in classes for the intellectually gifted (IQ > 130), for example, show an incidence of myopia three to five times greater than the incidence among pupils in regular classes." [from The g Factor]

Otherwise, positive correlations are beneficial, while negative correlations are not. The "cold hard truth" of this is that life is increasingly more favorable at higher and higher levels of intelligence and is increasingly more difficult at lower and lower levels. I made the list below a couple of years ago, to illustrate the unfair nature of the IQ spectrum:

positive (+) correlation with intelligence

income

longevity

general health

life satisfaction

body symmetry

vital capacity

grip strength

educational achievement (grades, years completed, difficulty of major)

SES (a product of intelligence, not a cause of it)

speed of mental functions, including response to a stimulus and sensitivity to a short stimulus

memory

learning rate

number of interests (held with competence)

job performance

brain efficiency (relative to glucose uptake rate)

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sperm quality

negative (-) correlation with intelligence

smoking

HIV infection

crime

time incarcerated

school dropout

teen pregnancy

fertility rate

illegitimate births

unemployment

At the national level, mean national IQ correlates positively with per capita GDP, economic growth, economic freedom, rule of law, democratization, adult literacy, savings, national test scores on science and math, enrollment in higher education, life expectancy, and negatively with HIV infection, unemployment, violent crime, poverty, % agricultural economy, corruption, fertility rate, polygyny, and religiosity.

The correlates I listed range from moderate to small, but are important because small effects can coexist and are usually small because of the presence of large amounts of noise. When very large groups are considered, noise tends to cancel out, which is why national level comparisons typically have high correlations. An examination of the lists reveals that several factors relate to physical wellbeing. This is frequently discussed in the literature as relating to an overarching fitness factor that encompasses physical health, mental health, intelligence, and physical robustness.

These correlates are all the more cold and hard, when we consider that intelligence is determined at the moment of conception [Using DNA to predict intelligence; Sophie von Stumm, Robert Plomin; Intelligence 86 (2021) 101530.]; the environmental impacts are negative (lower intelligence); and the range of intelligence is huge. Group differences in mean IQ (or g) account for group differences the factors I listed for national outcomes.

Jacobsen: What countries leaders take these seriously without ideological commitments to distort them?

Williams: Some years ago, a friend loaned me a book about Indonesia. There was a fair amount of discussion in it about the highly diverse population and the realistic understanding of how intelligence was a factor that differed between the internal groups. I unfortunately cannot recall the title of the book and am not sure if it was discussing the time Sukarno was president. I think that was the case.

Otherwise China is very much aware of the importance of intelligence and in conducting intelligence research on a large scale. This huge effort is discussed in Haier, R. J. (2017). The Neuroscience of Intelligence, Cambridge University Press. Western nations have gone in the wokePC direction of denial and counter productive policies. I don’t see a path towards rational, factual thinking (about this issue) in the West.

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Footnotes

[1] Retired Nuclear Physicist.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 1, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/williams-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.

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Schooling the Young 2: Tor Arne Jorgensen on Non-Intellectual Qualities

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Abstract

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. Tor Arne was also in 2019, nominated for the World Genius Directory 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe. He is also the designer of the high range test site; www.toriqtests.com. He discusses: education; a new cohort of students; build a rapport; identifying the more astute students; teaching; teachers get good or stay bad at teaching young students; the most difficult; encourage good behaviour; and deal with highly difficult students.

Keywords: character, education, normalization, schooling, the young, Tor Arne Jorgensen.

Schooling the Young 2: Tor Arne Jorgensen on Non-Intellectual Qualities

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Non-intellectual aptitudes may serve the generic student throughout the lifespan more than any other form of education. Intellectual gifts are one aspect. There are numerous proposals for them. However, as with any teacher, you'll work with a wide variety of students. Boundaries, compassion, friendship, forgiveness, self-efficacy, even learning to grieve, will serve them in life more and fit under the heading "Education" more than anything else. An education directed toward character rather than intellect: Character counts. A simple act of forgiving wrongs against you, setting boundaries from those who wronged you, and moving forward with self-efficacy, will provide a richer sense of an actualized life than knowing the names and locations of all the capitals and cities in the world, which will, more often than not, be forgotten and can be looked up. Similarly, the ability properly to know grief: Death. An inevitability of life's end, of those around oneself and of oneself. Grief will come; knowledge of how to grieve loss can help in a similar manner to forgiveness, boundaries, and moving forward. Or humour, of one's idiocy and of others', too, whether in misunderstandings and no second chances for clarification, or the everyday stuff and keeping

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oneself together, or, unfortunately, the occasional intellectual and life catastrophe, they happen. Humour contextualizes. We've all experienced these things. I'm laughing at myself building an IKEA bookshelf today, for example. How do you educate the character of students?

Tor Arne Jorgensen: Building one's character must then be statute to be the parent's primary fundamental function, in which the functional aesthetically charismatic of one's characters are being transferred as for the premises through equalization. The schools of today have sad but true, become the subject of a dualistic transformation, whereby both prosocial behavior change, and now academic enrichment go hand in hand. What can then be said about the handling of the fostering a character, is in the awareness of the self. This proof can only be triggered in the state it allows itself to exist.

The basis for this is formulated of: Who am I, who do I want to appear as, what do I want in life, who are my friends, and am I real? When these formulations are being answered and accepted as absolute values, then the true character of the self is visualized. Not an easy task for any teacher alone, but made possible with the collaboration with primary institutions, this is where the real work is done, only by the extension of the primary institutions.

Jacobsen: Do you humanize yourself in the process of education? Bring yourself to the metaphorical ground, not become artificially relatable – so corny, but to be real with students – but not gritty.

Jorgensen: Being viewed upon as genuine through one's actions, is seen as an absolute core value for me in the pursuit for mutual understanding and respect. False facades whipped up by false idols are to be regarded with pure contempt, as they are only destructive cowering's of both social / professional bearing fundamentals.

Jacobsen: What values seem most pertinent to the life of a young person in the classroom with them?

Jorgensen: Friendship, affirming old ones and connecting new ones.

Jacobsen: Some students can be excluded for developmental delays or particular disabilities. How do you work within this context with students and the student with delays or disabilities? Obviously, it's more sensitive and a more effortful process.

Jorgensen: The challenges that will then follow these types of students, will then be first associated with a test regime, which then again decides whether or not to introduce various measures regarding the need for special education, whereby specific teaching arrangements are adapted to their level of learning. There are 2 ways this is done mainly. Either these students in the classroom are on an equal footing with the other normally functioning students, or group compositions with equal students are used in group rooms with a special educator.

When using a normal class function, an individual training plan is prepared for the student or students that this may apply to, and then becomes the leading factor for what type of teaching aids that will then be used in accordance with the original facilitated plan and have the approval of the school's special education coordinator. This is a standard procedure, where after a review of each completed term. New assessments are being reevaluated as to customize a new training material, and lastly at the last term is over a final report is written to see if the plan that was originally set up worked as intended or not, which is then brought with further in the teaching process for the student or students to whom this may then apply.

Jacobsen: Different students will have different life difficulties, potentially, as with developmental delays and disabilities. Do you find yourself emphasizing some values more than others with these students and other students in relation with them (and vice versa)?

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Jorgensen: No will not say that the way for me is to normalize as far as possible, their schooling with special students in mind, and the rest of the students. A most normal, is clearly preferable for all parties, it avoids unwanted visibility and possibility for stigma.

Footnotes

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

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Intercontinental High-I.Q. Forum 1: Tor Arne Jørgensen, Hindemburg Melão Jr., Tim Roberts, Rick Rosner, David Udbjørg, Garth Zietsman, and Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on the State of the High-I.Q.

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Abstract

Tor Arne Jørgensen is a member of 50+ high-I.Q. societies. Hindemburg Melão Jr. founded the Sigma Society and the Sigma Test. Tim Roberts is the Founder/Administrator of Unsolved Problems. Rick Rosner is a member of the Mega Society and the Giga Society. David Udbjørg was the Founder of High IQ Society for Humanity. Garth Zietsman is a member of the Mega Society. Tianxi Yu (余天曦) is a member of God's Power. They discuss: state of the high-I.Q.; other regions' high-I.Q. communities; the issues in the high-I.Q. communities; the positive aspects of the high-I.Q. communities; and the newest projects and upcoming developments in the high-I.Q. communities.

Keywords: Africa, Asia, David Udbjørg, Europe, Garth Zietsman, Hindemburg Melão Jr., I.Q., Latin America, North America, Oceania, Rick Rosner, Tianxi Yu, Tim Roberts, Tor Arne Jørgensen.

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

After internal discussion by, and with, the group, two representatives for Africa this round.

Interviews completed throughout June, 2022.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: This first session will set a tone about the high-I.Q. communities around the world to some degree. Obviously, there are limitations in conducting a group discussion such as this. Regardless,

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it's a start. A previous attempt focused, mainly, on North America and Europe with participants and observers in 2020:

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https://in-sightpublishing.com/2020/04/01/hrt-two/

https://in-sightpublishing.com/2020/04/22/hrt-three/

https://in-sightpublishing.com/2020/05/08/hrt-four/

This will depart from structure with an elimination of observers and strictly limit to participants, and consider an international focus with individuals consenting to representation. This does not mean carrying some proverbial regional flag by the individual. Yet, their experience within this region of the world does permit an experiential perspective richer than other participants, so legitimizes it to some modest level. Everyone is aware of the ground rules. Fundamentally, and most importantly, this exists as an experiment as an educational group discussion. So, let's begin, what is the state of the high-I.Q. in your region of the world?

Tor Arne Jørgensen[1]* (Europe): Initially, my experience as to the present-day status within the high IQ community, is marked by a steady flow of positive mindfulness and forward-thinking. Also, to add, the creativeness whereas new innovative initiatives are significant protruded exponentially, through the willfulness of a unified and resolute commitment towards a more global awareness of what the high IQ community is all about. This done by way of informative directives addressed by and for the average percipient both inside and outside of the high IQ community.

Hindemburg Melão Jr.[2]* (Latin America): Low activity.

Tim Roberts[3]* (Oceania): Almost non-existent in any meaningful sense. So, I shall pad with answering an alternative, primary-school, geography-based question instead. What the hell is Oceania, the region I'm purported to represent? Well, basically, it's Australia, and New Zealand, and literally thousands of small islands in the Pacific. It's the largest, but second-least populated (after Antarctica), of all the continents. That much may be widely known. But it is generally not known that the islands include Hawaii. So, Hawaii, while part of the US, is actually in Oceania. Any high-IQ individuals in Hawaii would, I am sure, self-identify as being from the US, rather than from the continent of Oceania….thus making their identification rather problematical.

Rick Rosner[4]* (North America): Disclaimer is, everybody else has the good manners to submit written answers. You're doing me the favour of letting me talk the answers to you and transcribing. So, my answers are going to sound a little stupider than everybody else's.

So, for the vast majority of Americans, I.Q. is something that just doesn't occupy even the tiniest sliver of concern or awareness. Nobody gives a crap. Although, there are some fringe people who are way into it. But you can see that the fall of aptitude testing, in the abandonment of the S.A.T., as a necessary component of your college application package. People don't buy it. There are plenty of other ways to get the measure of a person besides giving them a test that is supposed to gauge their mental acuity.

David Udbjørg[5]* (Africa): It's an honor to participate in these discussions, and I am especially honored that my long-time friend Melaõ, finds that my thoughts on Africa might be of value to the discussion.

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I lived for almost eight years in South Africa. During this time, I only had little interaction with people from the local or international intelligence community, and hence, I don't have anything to offer in this direction.

To have perspectives from all continents, and not, as is the case with most IQ societies, mostly from an American point of view, is indeed very appealing to me.

I was hoping that the questions would go in a different direction than towards the state of intelligence in Africa, and maybe more in line with what I was once fought for through the organization High IQ for Humanity.

High IQ for Humanity (HIQH) dates back to the early zero's and was an attempt to have the High IQ World come together and create something besides just having high level conversations on bulletin boards. HIQH had two main issues they wanted to follow, the first, and to me the most important, was to create an organization that would be able to find and support highly intelligent children in developing countries, and the second topic was to inform about the dangers of brain drain from the developing countries. We formed the legal base for the organization, and got registered as an NGO in a handful of countries. All efforts were unpaid and on spare time.

Our daily lives took off in all directions, we didn't have the time needed, and the efforts slowly fizzled out without new people taking over. The organization was closed down in 2005.

We didn't manage to do any sort of impact; we didn't manage to raise any financing. Part of the reason for not getting financing, was that many people found it directly offensive only to focus on the children with high intelligence, and not the rest. The best thing, which came out of it, was that we, who worked on the project, found a lot of good and long lasting highly intelligent friends, and Melaõ is certainly one of them. Melaõ, thanks for your support then, and now again.

I am extremely happy that Garth Zeitsman, is joining us, he will be so much better to answer the questions at hand, as he has been deeply embedded in the intelligence community in South Africa, and hence knows the current state, seen from this particular angle, but also from living in South Africa and being a statistician, he will be able to contribute in so many ways.

Even though I feel like the cat sneaking along the walls in the saloons of The League of Exceptional Gentlemen, the odd one out, I have a few comments and questions to add from the shadows. They will not relate to the posed questions, but are thought of, based on my extensive traveling and confrontations with all sorts of cultures, which people in general do not have the opportunity or the will to meet.

I have spent a lot of time talking with people living and working on garbage dumps in Africa, and I have visited quite a few indigenous tribes, both in Africa, but also in South East Asia.

I wonder what the level of intelligence is in these populations, those who live on the flipside of the modern World, those who often have to balance their traditions and the surrounding modern society. Is there a fair and doable way to measure their intelligence and other cognitive skills?

It is claimed that people from the African continent have a lesser average intelligence, than on any other continent. I find it hard to believe, could it be that the context of the testing is faulty? Could it be that the tests are not suitable for all cultures, even though some are Culture Fair? Some of you probably have an idea about how tests are performed in Africa, to reach these results? It seems that we are trying to fit everyone to the testing systems, and not design the tests for specific targets. A Cinderella approach, so to speak.

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If we want to test the intelligence of people and be able to compare the results afterwards, the subjects must have a somewhat similar background, which includes daily mental challenges, life stability, nourishments etc.

It could be interesting to have a testing system, particularly authored for measuring and comparing intelligence, at low social levels, for instance, among street children in Dhaka, Bangladesh on the one side and street children in New Delhi, India on the other. Maybe the children from poor areas in the US and Brazil could also be part of the evaluation.

Measuring the intelligence of adults living off garbage in Sao Paulo in comparison with those working on the landfill sites in Pretoria, South Africa? Would also be interesting in fact, we would be able to come up with many similar pairings across social levels, cultures, nations, continents. If it is possible to make these kinds of testing pairs across the social spectrum, we might be able to get a more precise idea about the actual level of intelligence in each region.

It would be equally interesting to do testing among various kinds of indigenous tribes, who are still living their ancestral lifestyle; it could for instance be the SAN in Kalahari and the Dani tribe in the highland of West Papua or the Baduy tribe in West Java. Each of these cultures is struggling to maintain their cultures, and some of them are more successful than others.

I hope the above might bring some new thoughts to the discussions ahead.

Garth Zietsman[6]* (Africa): From its origins in the 70s Mensa SA increased membership up until mid 2000 and then declined. The reasons are 2 fold. Firstly since the end of Apartheid and the beginning of ANC government there has been an increase in emigration from SA and I have to say Mensa has been disproportionately affected. The second reason has been a random change in the quality and popularity of leadership – which hopefully will change in the future. Some local regions are vibrant while others are rapidly declining. About a decade ago I was instrumental in starting a new local region – which unfortunately folded after a few years. This was in a heavily Afrikaaner area and apparently Mensa is seen as more of an English thing. Another new area – which has become the best local Mensa in SA – is in a very English biased area of the Cape Province. Mensa SA has endeavored to find members among non-white groups but there has been a profound lack of interest from that quarter. That said we do have non-white members – especially from the Asian (both Southern and Eastern) and mixed race communities. Most of our black members are not local but immigrants from other African countries (mostly Zimbabwe.)

I once calculated that we were reaching only 1-2% of our potential membership at our peak so there is still plenty of room to grow.

Tianxi Yu (余天曦)[7],[8]* (Asia): The Asian region is mainly represented by the Chinese and Japanese communities, and I will elaborate on each of them in four parts: social environment, societies' situation, tests' style, and main people. Since I know China better, I prefer to elaborate in a way that China is the main focus and Japan is the supplement. a) Social environment: China is not tolerant of people with high IQ, although the whole world is, but China is more demanding. I have heard that Mensa members in some countries enjoy some benefits because of their Mensa status, but in China, presenting a high-IQ association may be exchanged for more tasks, even contempt. There is another interesting phenomenon, I have carefully observed the Japanese and international well-known associations, people with high IQ tend to be highly educated, I have done a statistic before, the most educated people in China tend to have an IQ of only 130~140, within the group of IQ 170 or above, there are few people with higher education; b) Societies' situation: The development of the world's intellectual communities can

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be described as a shift from a corporate system (Mensa) to an alliance system (WIN). The intellectual community in the Chinese region developed later, but followed this same route, from Shenghan to GFIS. But with the establishment of God's power, it may enter the third stage – the elite system: the social elite who have both high IQ scores as the leader. Although the current intellectual community inside, high IQ people are often not less educated, but none of them use their ability as an attraction to make members want to become better. In a positive society, the leader has a leadership role to the group, and the kind of leadership used also determines the attributes of the society. With intellectual leadership, members will just indulge in doing IQ test, with achievement leadership, members will use their intellect to change the world and will become more useful to the world. This decision is based on the current situation of the Chinese society and the social situation. The Japanese association is led by Mensa Japan, and the local association Metiq also does a better job; c) Tests' style: Chinese tests are mainly in the form of numerical tests, with a more innovative style and deeper ideas (such as Death Numbers and MIT), and the amount of spatial tests is relatively little, but there are also very innovative works (such as CAT and CAT2). Japanese tests feel more traditional to me, and the ideas and styles are closer to the traditional LS and SLSE, etc. However, I was impressed by a author called Takuma Oishi, which is very artistic, but he is reluctant to call it a "test" and intentionally avoids IQ estimation; d) Main people: The main people of the Chinese intellectual community are more difficult to define because of the unification and the establishment of a new hegemony have not yet been completed, and now should be me and Fengzhi Wu (IQ ranking: **http://www.chinahighiq.com/col.jsp?id=105**). The main person in Japan is Naoki Kouda (IQ ranking: **https://kanji-love.wixsite.com/metiq/score-list**).

Jacobsen: From the internal perspective of members of your region, how do other regions' high-I.Q. communities look to you?

Jørgensen (Europe): I would want to think, that those continents beyond our own, talking about; Latin America, Oceania; North America, Africa, and Asia, do consider us as an active part as to the whole. Considering that the high IQ community by reference to Europe's involvement is to be perceived as a collectively active unit, which in turn provides a lot of return, not only narrative to the European members per se, but also in a global member perspective.

I feel the need to mention some of the most honorable and famous names that contribute both by and for the high IQ communities and their respective countries that have their base of origin in Europe, people such as: Domagoj Kutle, Evangelos Katsioulis, Iakovos Koukas, the Chairman of Mensa International Bjørn Lilljeqvist, also to add Norway's own brilliant and creative intellectuals like; Erik Hæreid, Glenn Alden, Arne Andre Gangvik, Olav Hoel Dørum and lastly but humble so, myself.

Here one could include many more contributors to the above list of names, which in total means that The High IQ community is flourishing more now today than ever before. Will also permit myself, by presenting my absolute admiration to all of you who are both mentioned here in this context and to you who are not mentioned here, by proclaiming a profound and heartfelt thank you for all your efforts and hard work within the high IQ society!!

Melão Jr. (Latin America): I believe that Mensa USA and Mensa UK are large, active and well-organized groups. The groups created by Iakovos and Evangelos, which try to unify several different societies, seem to me to be very promising ideas. The good organization and the large number of participants are two attributes that I consider positive and important.

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Roberts (Oceania): Very much more populated, certainly. I suspect, without any real evidence, that the great bulk of activity takes place in North America and Europe. However, on Jason Betts' World Genius Directory, thirteen high-IQ individuals ("geniuses") are identifiable as being from Oceania: Tim Roberts, Peter Rodgers, Paul Moroz, Jason Betts, Zeljko Zahtila, Anthony Lawson, Anthony Xu, Wayne Cooper, Ivan Zelich, Stephen Murray, Kristi Beams, and Ian Ajzenszmidt, all from Australia, and Richard Sheen, from New Zealand.

Rosner (North America): I'd assume Europe is pretty much like America. Everyone is pretty much over it. Asia, especially East Asia, countries like Taiwan and South Korea still, I think, has a certain amount of testing mania. Where, people feel they have to get tested if they want to apply to American colleges. It is a high stakes thing. I assume it is fading somewhat as more and more U.S. colleges abandon aptitude testing. But I would think that it is holding on longer and longer in East Asian countries.

Udbjørg (Africa): [See first response.]

Zietsman (Africa): The only other high IQ regions we are aware of to any significant degree are the USA and UK. We think the UK way of doing things is a bit disappointing, i.e., they tend to just have informal socials whereas in SA we have formal meetings with an expert speaker before we go off and socialize. I understand the US is much more varied in how they conduct things. Other regions – mostly the USA – have societies with above Mensa level qualifications. There are probably less than 10 SA members of the ISPE or 999, Prometheus/Mega and only 1 (the late Philip Bateman – multiple world Creativity Champion) was particularly active in any of these.

Yu (Asia): I know very little about other regions.

Jacobsen: What are the issues in the high-I.Q. communities in your region of the world?

Jørgensen (Europe): I will hereby take use of this opportunity, to point out the consequent notation in the pressing sense for a strong brothering bond between all high IQ societies for an overall value base that has a common goal of improving of our common future endeavors.

What is meant by this, is referred to what Mensa International must do by breaking down many of its preconceived notions and ill views towards what the High IQ communities represents regarding its core values. I have on previous occasions, talked about a "fraternization" of all societies for the collective strengthening and the common good.

Mensa Norway and its International big brother Mensa International referenced to its recognized reputation, must in my view change, at least in some way, its now dogmatic attitudes towards the high IQ societies by a more general acceptance as previous mentioned, i.e., a more mutual beneficial understanding and acceptance per se. Today, the individual high IQ societies do not have their unifying imprint as regards of a general acceptance of each other.

This is for me what should be addressed in the future and drastically changed. Now in order for this to take place, the most recognized and overall respected society presidents outside of Mensa, should then assemble a comprehensive and jointly accepted system that will enable for the possibility of opening the door ajar. This done in the hope of mutual reconcilement of what Mensa International legislations bestows upon them, which in turn can enable a general acceptance through unification of all the high IQ societies.

A carefully select panel should be elected, that in turn can organize the development through careful and prudent planning for what may turn this idea into a reliable and thus possible implementation towards an overall unified community that again will serve back to its members interests on a global scale. When a desire for a national

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constitution by the new nation's founding fathers is put into motion and whereby community nations prosperity is then established, then we may bring upon a general acceptance between Mensa International and the rest of high IQ community. What is of absolute certainty, is that if we all sit on our asses, then nothing will ever happen. By starting a global revolution, where we within the high IQ community can now produce a general acceptance externally to the general population on an equal footing with Mensa International then the mission is clear for me, let make this a reality by any means possible.

Melão Jr. (Latin America): I see that Mensa chapters in some countries interact harmoniously with other groups, promoting some joint activities. Unfortunately, Mensa Brasil is different. For example: in 2000 and 2001, friends from Finland, Belgium, USA published the Sigma Test in ComMensal, Mensalainen, Gift of Fire, Papyrus etc., while Mensa Brasil tried to hide the existence of Sigma Society and Sigma Test from its members. These boycott attempts are pernicious and petty, such conduct should bring shame on serious and reputable members of high IQ societies. I estimate that at that time perhaps 80% of Mensa Brasil members were unaware of the existence of other high-IQ societies (currently perhaps 50% still do not). A similar problem is also observed in the overwhelming majority of youtubers who claim to be "scientific dissemination" act exactly like this.

Another problem is that the focus of high-IQ societies, in my view, should be on bringing smart people together to solve scientific, technological, social, educational, environmental and other problems to make the world a better place. However, what I observe are vain people, with Dunning-Kruger syndrome , vying for who has the bigger ego. I am also vain and I have an inflated ego, but life is more than that and the potential of the smartest people should be better directed and better used. This isn't a problem unique to my region, but I think it's more serious in my region. Solving puzzles can be fun, but there are people dying in war, disease and starvation. I enjoy solving and creating puzzles, but I also try to work on relevant real-world problems. When David created the High IQ Society for Humanity, I thought it was an excellent project and absolutely necessary. In my interview, I commented on the plight of exceptionally gifted children who are not properly engaged in compatible activities in the US. This type of problem is much more frequent and more serious in my region. The absence of efficient mechanisms to identify and support talented children and young people is one of the most serious problems.

Another problem that is present not only in my region, but in the world, is the way "outsiders" view high-IQ societies and their members. Universities like Harvard or Cambridge are basically high IQ societies that receive financial support from the government and private companies, these institutions work for the common good, they are respected, admired, sponsored, joining them is a goal pursued by outsiders, who strive to get in. These universities bring together high-IQ people and use entrance exams that are strongly correlated with IQ tests. So they can be classified as high IQ societies or "hybrid high IQ societies". In 2000, Kevin Langdon "declassified" Sigma Society as a " pure high IQ Society" because some criteria for admission are not based solely on IQ tests, but also accept Chess ratings, medals in Mathematics Olympiads, etc. However Mega Society also used, for some time, the real-world problem solving criterion as a criterion for admission, Prometheus had discussions by the psychometric committee about accepting scores in the Think game Fast as criteria for admission and other results that are not exclusively IQ tests, and all societies that adopt SAT, GRE, ACT as criteria are accepting exams that are not, strictly speaking, IQ tests. In addition, several universities accept SAT, GRE, ACT, which makes the classification of an entity as a "high IQ society" something not as well defined as it was at the time when only Mensa existed and the only criterion was clinical tests. . In fact, the clinical tests themselves vary more from each other (weaker correlation) than SAT and GRE compared to some of the major clinical tests. Therefore, the classification "clinical trial" is more a matter of nomenclature than true statistical similarity. In this context, a well-trained neural network would objectively classify universities as high-IQ societies.

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The crux of this is: why do people on the outside respect, value, and desire to enter universities, and virtually all potentially qualified people (or at least the overwhelming majority of them) are interested and striving to enter universities, while only a very small fraction of the people who qualify for high IQ societies are interested in participating? There are 160,000,000 people potentially eligible for Mensa, Sigma, High Potential Society, etc., yet only less than 150,000 are affiliated with one of these entities. I believe this is a fundamental issue that needs to be discussed and needs to be better understood, to try to eliminate the problems that make high-IQ societies not attractive, respected or valued by the general population. Correctly enumerating these problems in order of importance and planning efficient and feasible solutions seems to me to be one of the main objectives, if not the main one, of high-IQ societies for a short, medium and long term future. I don't think the objective should be to "imitate" the universities, but to try to complement and harmonize with the objectives of the universities. In this sense, I see two important and low-cost preliminary paths:

1. To perform the role of monitoring and evaluating the quality of professionals, entities, etc., issuing quality seals, rankings of competence, etc.
2. Acting in the connection between highly qualified professionals and companies, and/or between talented entrepreneurs and investors.

Universities themselves also play these two roles, but not their main focus, and the criteria they use are not always the most appropriate. So there is a serious gap there that could and should be filled, and high-IQ societies may be equipped for that. As a result, high IQ societies can earn the respect and admiration of the community, gain greater visibility and attract the interest of notable members, large numbers of other members, investors/sponsors, the media, etc.

Roberts (Oceania): I'm not aware of any groups based in Oceania that are not international by nature, rather than being locally-focused. Limited numbers and huge distances restrict any face-to-face meetings. If there are any online meetings, I regret, I have not been invited (which could be for many reasons, of course – but seriously, I doubt their existence).

Rosner (North America): The issues for high-I.Q. people based on me and the people I met is how to get a fucking girlfriend. Movies of the '80s about high school tended to follow the formula that there's a sensitive, smart, nice guy who just wants to get a girlfriend, but the girl or girls that he wants are all hooked up with thuggish high school athletes. But by the end, somebody has realized the worth of the sensitive guy and became his girlfriend. I think this was the formula for *Revenge of the Nerds*.

There was another movie called *Lucas* that broke the formula. A girl, who had her jock boyfriend, began to value Lucas. This on the spectrum-ish awkward kid. She valued him. She wasn't going to hook up with him. She was going to hook up with her jock boyfriend, who was going to prove himself by not being a dick to Lucas. The dynamic was the same. That's how I felt in the '70s and '80s. Can't somebody be my girlfriend? I have all this shit going for me. I am smart, sensitive, and funny. Eventually, I did the work to get a girlfriend. It involved a lot of stuff that wasn't dependent on focusing on my I.Q.

I would say that in organizations like Mensa. There's a certain incel factor and has been, and was, 50 years before the word incel came to exist, which is short for involuntary celibate. Guys who lean on their I.Q. as a point of pride, probably, lack the social cues and social skills to do really well with girls.

Udbjørg (Africa): [See first response.]

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Zietsman (Africa): The biggest current issue is with the financial management and general administration of Mensa. We used to be a lot more observant of best practice than we are now.

We also had many problems around testing. Firstly international Mensa phased out the Ravens because of the Flynn Effect – although I did raise our cut-off to keep it at the 2% level – and then replaced it with a similar German test that had a woefully inadequate ceiling. Secondly, one particular former National Chairman wants to do away with our verbal test on the grounds that it is biased, even though the non-verbal test is at least as biased. Thirdly, this same person ended our practice of telling people their estimated IQ, or even keeping records of actual scores, claiming that lots of people don't want to know their IQ and that knowledge of differences within Mensa are divisive. I'm pretty sure that the "lots of people" is just her. In other words I think we have a problem with decent tests and issues around testing (and that there are more attacks coming.)

We also had fights over an online discussion forum, e.g., over whether it is limited to paid up members and just how pro free speech it was. Basically politics.

Yu (Asia): a) a late start (Shenghan was founded in 2012.6), resulting in the absence of much infrastructure, and the association's connection with its members staying only in online chat groups and certificates; b) an absence in the world intellectual community, without Mensa China, and probably not in the future, it is difficult for tests by Chinese authors to circulate internationally, despite the very high quality of their questions (Mahir Wu, Junlong Li, Fengzhi Wu, etc.); c) there is no standardized and stable system, no recognition in Chinese society, no outside support, and these high IQs cannot be recognized, supported and guaranteed through the community; d) the leading association (Shenghan, GFIS) does not play a role in developing the IQ community, and Shenghan is very dedicated in charging fees, and has been charging for 10 years, enriching millions of RMB. GFIS is relatively free of frivolous fees, and although it has made many attempts at positive publicity (self-promotion, TV programs), they have all failed, ultimately due to the lack of capacity of the president; e) the phenomenon of climbing in IQ scores is more serious in Asia, and it is a disaster area for cheating, where people will do anything to get high scores; f) the community has become less active, with fewer activities than before. There are barriers and divisions between different associations, which are not conducive to unification.

Comparatively speaking, the Japanese high IQ community is doing the best in the Asian region, in line with international standards (the World Intellectual Forum is very active and well known), with good organization and social support (**https://www.hiqa.or.jp/**), but there is a lack of good authors and tests. I think each country's IQ community should give priority to promoting their own country's excellent work, if they do not embrace their own country's IQ community tests, then who else will?

Jacobsen: What are the positive aspects of the high-I.Q. communities in your region of the world?

Jørgensen (Europe): As mentioned earlier, Europe's high IQ community is a highly active one, with innovative initiatives constantly being implemented by the intent for pure blissfulness for its communities' members. Detailed laid out as follows, whereby; the steady creation of new and existing high range IQ-tests is being added to the various test sites, furthered by the establishment of new high IQ communities with a more various and exiting content for even the most delicate of pallets. Finally, the publication of community social engaging articles followed up by YouTube streams purposely laid out for the distributing of information of high intelligence assets for all its community members.

Melão Jr. (Latin America): Compared to other regions, I don't think there is anything particularly positive about South America. We have some positives that are also typical of high IQ societies in all other regions, we have some

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problems that are perhaps also common in Africa (perhaps more severe there), and we have the language disadvantage compared to South Africa. , as only a small fraction of the best books and best scientific channels are available in Portuguese. Most people in all non -English- speaking countries in the world learn English as a second language, this has a growing need and maybe it will continue to be so, but maybe this paradigm will change in the coming decades, with the growth of China, India. Maybe this change won't happen, because the English language has already established itself as a very strong tradition and maybe a few decades won't change that, even if China surpasses the US or even if there was an economic collapse of the US, as happened with the USSR in 1991. And this is very unlikely over a 50-year time horizon, because the US has an important advantage that no other country has ever had: the dollar is used as an international reserve currency, and this gives the US excessive power in cases like the 2008 subprime crisis, in which the US should have "broken" as in the 1929 crisis and gone through 5 to 10 years of recovery, however they "patched" the problem simply by printing money. No other country in the world would have a similar resource available. If the USSR of 1991 had a similar power, even with all the management mistakes made, they wouldn't have broken either. This immunity from punishment for serious errors can pose a very great danger, in addition to promoting unfair competition. Even if China manages to produce more, better and cheaper than the US, they would still need to overcome other barriers. So maybe the world language will still be English for more than a century, maybe several centuries. And countries where a large part of the population is not fluent in English, access to cutting-edge knowledge and good quality knowledge is severely hampered. The rapid evolution of automatic translation systems should greatly alleviate this problem in just 10 years, but the path these translation systems are taking fails at critical points for high-level translations, which require rigor and accuracy in detail. Translations are fine for typical communication if the person orders food over the Internet and doesn't know the language, but in a complex debate or rigorous formal logical demonstration, automatic traction is contaminated with many imprecise details.

Another problem is abusive import fees, abusive taxes, etc. When taxes are high, but the money raised is reverted to the benefit of the population, although it can generate a feeling of injustice in some people who produced more than they received, there is a relief to know that other people who need it more are receiving support from the State to prevent them from lacking the minimum resources for a dignified and healthy life. The problem is when a significant fraction of those taxes are diverted into the pockets of politicians. This has been a common problem in South America and Africa. A car in Brazil costs ~3x more than the same car in the US, but the per capita income in Brazil is 1/7 of the per capita income in the US. So you pay ~20x more. When one considers that the Gini index in Brazil is around 50, this is particularly serious, because as income distribution is very unequal, only a small part of the population has access to basic technological resources. It is completely absurd, because in addition to the country not producing essential items with acceptable quality, it also makes importation difficult, leaving a large part of the population trapped in Prehistory, eventually reaching the Middle Ages. Only a small fraction of the population has access to contemporary technology, contemporary medical treatments, etc. This applies to many technology products. If you try to import by buying on eBay or Amazon, for example, an import tax of 60% + IMCS + COFINS + IPI + other taxes is applied, in cascade, which are applied to the value of the product + the value of shipping. In 2016 I paid 2.8 times the advertised price for a Celestron 102 GT telescope and in 2019 I paid 4.4 times for a Meade 10" LX 200 (due to higher freight by weight). In addition to not having good quality products produced in the region, there is a lot of bureaucracy and a lot of financial abuse to import products from other countries, including scientific and educational products.

In some Latin American countries, some of these problems do not exist, or they do exist, but they are not so serious. In Paraguay, import taxes are lower. In Uruguay, Chile, Argentina there is a more cultural environment

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than in Brazil. But on average in South America, the situation is similar or worse than in Brazil. These scientific, educational, economic and cultural problems contaminate all other sectors, and high-IQ societies are not immune. The waste of young talent that occurs in these regions is regrettable. In 2004, I had a dramatic conversation with Edmilson Motta, who was training Brazil's representatives for the International Mathematical Olympiads, about a boy named Renato Francisco Lopes Mello, who was champion of the Brazilian Mathematical Olympiad. He lived in a very poor region, in a city called Lagoa do Carro, and we were trying to find a solution so that he could stay studying in São Paulo, but we couldn't. He must have had an IQ of over 170, maybe over 180. Even without training and with access to little material, he had some impressive results. It would be important that there were mechanisms for people like him to receive support from the government so that he and his family could move to urban centers where they could have access to good training, under the guidance of trained educators. I believe that other regions are also affected by similar problems, but in the poorest and least developed countries this problem is more serious. In the USA, the Hollingworth Institute has an interesting theoretical proposal, but in practice it seems that the scope is not very large and the number of children who receive it is small. Perhaps China is the country that has been treating this issue with the greatest seriousness and competence in recent decades, and achieving compatible results.

I ended up using the question where I should talk about advantages to point out more disadvantages, but this is inevitable, as efforts to try to identify some advantage would produce biased results, distorting reality.

Roberts (Oceania): There are zero such communities, so far as I am aware…

Rosner (North America): My friend, Chris Cole, used ultra-high-I.Q. tests as a talent search to find smart people who may have been overlooked. I was one of those people. He helped me along. He has helped other people along to successful lives that they may not have otherwise had. That seems like a reasonable use of I.Q. But we're probably kind of past that window of just taking an I.Q. test and somebody discovering you.

Although, I think we're entering a similar window given that the internet and your devices and the world of machine learning is increasingly able to build a profile of you based on the droppings you leave via your activities and social media postings. I would expect some people to get recruited based on their social media presence or their presence across not just social media, but use of other apps and stuff.

I know of several people who got hired to write for late night comedy shows and T.V. comedies based on their tweets. When God shuts the I.Q. window, she opens up the post a lot of shit window, and, maybe, somebody will notice.

Udbjørg (Africa): [See first response.]

Zietsman (Africa): Just having a convenient way of meeting, talking to, and socializing with, other high IQ people is a major plus. The formal meeting with speaker aspect of Mensa SA is also a positive in my view. It keeps us abreast of things and also helps market Mensa.

Yu (Asia): a) What makes me happier about the Chinese community is the high level of support for domestic authors, and these authors live up to expectations, and are among the international leaders in terms of question quality, scale and data, especially in numerical tests, which I have not yet seen any country's authors to match; b) The youth of the Asian intellectual community is also an advantage compared to the European and American intellectual communities. The average age of the members of the European and American communities is generally older, which is related to their earlier development, while the youthfulness of the members of the Asian community also provides more possibilities for the intellectual community; c) the quality of tests in the Asian intellectual

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community is generally high, I have previously analyzed well-known tests, such as SLSE, Ivan's, there are more loopholes in their tests, and in the past well-known authors, such as Coojimans, Betts, these authors with high recognition, the items are also more subjective, tending to screen for high IQs that meet their own criteria, rather than objectively screening for high IQs in particula. But in today's Asian community, Japan and China both have what I consider to be very talented authors whose items are not only rigorous, but also have their own ideas and creativity, which is very rare. The future also needs more deep thinking tests as the main recognition criteria, these tests mainly win in the depth of thinking, not by piling up logic to increase the difficulty; d) Asian community members have a stronger sense of belonging, allowing more lonely people to come together.

Jacobsen: What are the newest projects and upcoming developments in the high-I.Q. communities in your region of the world?

Jørgensen (Europe): I will make the following statement by a fervent hope; that a continuation of these interviews will be extended further with reference to me and you (Scott Jacobsen), in the same format as to the previous individual/group interviews. Furthermore, I will try to expand my promotional initiatives by a more hands-on interactive interview setting and hopefully with your help, establish these interviews into a book format someday soon, fingers crossed. What I also feel obligated to add, is as my previous stated desire proclaimed, the dire need for a unified consolidation between general the high IQ community and Mensa International community.

Melão Jr. (Latin America): I recently founded the Immortal Society, a group that aims to bring together intellectual exponents interested in solving the problem of death. **https://www.sigmasociety.net/homeimmortal.**

Roberts (Oceania): None that I am aware of. It may appear from my answers that I am totally ignorant of any happenings in Oceania, or that they are non-existent. Both of these alternatives are possible, of course.

Rosner (North America): I don't know. I would assume not much. I would assume some societies like Mensa are scrambling to stay relevant. I haven't read of any projects. Every once in a while, you'll read about the youngest person to ever qualify for Mensa, which is a stab at getting some PR having found a 3-year-old who can test well. I'm not aware of any big push. There is the push by Mega, the Mega Society, to come up with a test that could measure up to the Mega level and wouldn't be a fucking ordeal to take because the original Mega Test. I spent 100-110 hours on it. That's a bad recruitment tool because nobody is going to spend that much time.

There is a push within Mega to come up with a test that takes less time and also can't be cheated on because it gives each person taking the test a different set of problems. The problems are similar in principle, but they have variables messed around with. So, knowing the answer to one version of a test problem won't necessarily help you figure out the answer to your version of the problem, the people working on this have been working on this for more than a decade with some results.

But I don't know if they will have the widespread exposure that the Mega Test got when it was published in *Omni Magazine* and more than 4,000 people took the test via *Omni*.

Udbjørg (Africa): [See first response.]

Zietsman (Africa): I can't really answer this now because I have been relatively uninvolved for a number of years. I hope there are some good plans afoot but I rather suspect that we can expect further negative moves from the current leadership.

None that I am aware of. It may appear from my answers that I am totally ignorant of any happenings in Oceania, or that they are non-existent. Both of these alternatives are possible, of course.

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Yu (Asia): The Chinese intellectual community may lead to a big reform, God's power (GSP) will welcome Chen-Ning Yang's joining in 6.20, this step is the first step of the Chinese intellectual community to elite system, later there will be more people with high social influence to join GSP, we will make the Chinese intellectual community and society highly connected, for example, we intend to use the name of GSP to publish papers in international journals, etc., so that GSP can become an elite group, leading high IQ people to give full play to their talents, and more to promote social development. For example, we intend to publish papers in international journals under the name of GSP and so on, so that GSP can become an elite group, leading people with high IQ to give full play to their talents and promote social development more.

Footnotes

[1] **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. Tor Arne was also in 2019, nominated for the World Genius Directory 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe. He is also the designer of the high range test site; **www.toriqtests.com**.

[2] **Hindemburg Melão Jr.** is the author of solutions to scientific and mathematical problems that have remained unsolved for decades or centuries, including improvements on works by 5 Nobel laureates, holder of a world record in longest announced checkmate in blindfold simultaneous chess games, registered in the Guinness Book 1998, author of the Sigma Test Extended and founder of some high IQ societies.

[3] **Tim Roberts** self-describes in "**A Brief and Almost True Biography**" as follows: I was definitely born lower-middle class. Britain was (and probably still is) so stratified that one's status could be easily classified. You were only working class if you lived in Scotland or Wales, or in the north of England, or had a really physical job like dustbin-man. You were only middle class if you lived in the south, had a decent-sized house, probably with a mortgage, and at work you had to use your brain, at least a little. My mother was at the upper end of lower-middle class, my father at the lower. After suffering through the first twenty years of my life because of various deleterious genetically-acquired traits, which resulted in my being very small and very sickly, and a regular visitor to hospitals, I became almost normal in my 20s, and found work in the computer industry. I was never very good, but demand in those days was so high for anyone who knew what a computer was that I turned freelance, specializing in large IBM mainframe operating systems, and could often choose from a range of job opportunities. As far away as possible sounded good, so I went to Australia, where I met my wife, and have lived all the latter half of my life. Being inherently lazy, I discovered academia, and spent 30 years as a lecturer, at three different universities. Whether I actually managed to teach anyone anything is a matter of some debate. The maxim "publish or perish" ruled, so I spent an inordinate amount of time writing crap papers on online education, which required almost no effort. My thoughts, however, were always centred on such pretentious topics as quantum theory and consciousness and the nature of reality. These remain my over-riding interest today, some five years after retirement. I have a reliance on steroids and Shiraz, and possess an IQ the size of a small planet, because I am quite good at solving puzzles of no importance, but I have no useful real-world skills whatsoever. I used to know a few things, but I have forgotten most of them."

[4] **Rick G. Rosner**, according to some **semi-reputable sources gathered in a listing here**, 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***

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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**.

[5] **David Udbjørg**, self-described as follows, "Danish/American, Norwegian in my childhood. Married, 4 kids, and a similar amount of grandkids. Master in Architecture from The Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. Lived in seven countries, worked in 30+ and traveled, what equals 36 times around the globe. Fairly OK with Scandinavian languages, English, German and French, other languages less so. Worked, with architecture, sustainability, energy efficiency, 3D visualizations and auto destructible syringes, competition design and lots of other things. Currently, working as an Architect at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, taking good care of the Danish embassies around the World. Made a few inventions; a foot operated pointing device and an auto destructible syringe (none of them went into productions). I have stared many different projects, where the most important ones are co-instigator of 'Architects Without Borders', still in action, Instigator of a public contemporary art gallery, which has been running for 40 + years and 'High IQ for Humanity' (HIQH), which is now defunct. As an artist, I have exhibited in several countries, but mostly in Denmark. I make paintings, both portraits and contemporary. Stained glass, bronze, furniture's, deconstructions and mixed medias, as well. I have written a couple of books and composed a few pieces of music. I am board member, at the Art club of the Danish Ministry of Foreign affairs, and I like to consider myself a skilled photographer and videographer. I have sold my work to 'Un Explained' and 'Ancient Aliens' and I have been features on CNN 'Inside Africa' with my visits to garbage dumps in Africa. As an adventurer, I am mostly focusing on indigenous tribes, garbage dumps, ship breaking places, funerals, medicine men and oracles, but I also like to visit schools and kindergartens in developing countries, occasionally I visit volcanos and caves as well. I'm one of the very few Scandinavian members of 'Los Angeles Adventurers Club'."

[6] **Garth Zietsman** is a member of the Mega Society with experience in Africa, particularly South Africa.

[7] **Tianxi Yu** (余天曦) is a Member of God's Power, CatholIQ, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, Nano Society, and World Genius Directory.

[8] Individual Publication Date: July 1, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/iq-forum-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

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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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Conversation with Craft Xia on Life, Work, and Views: Founder, CHIN (1)

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Abstract

Craft Xia is the Founder of CHIN. 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.

Keywords: ancient Chinese, books, CHIN, Chinese people, computer skills, Craft Xia, family, graphic design, high IQ, James Clerk Maxwell, LSHR Light, Nietzsche, Religion, Steven Weinberg, Strict Logic Sequences Examination – Form II, Strict Logic Spatial Examination 48, Xinjiang.

Conversation with Craft Xia on Life, Work, and Views: Founder, CHIN (1)

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

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

Craft Xia: In my childhood memory, the prominent family stories I heard of were all read from books, such as *Three Moves by Mencius' Mother*, *Kong Rong Giving Away Bigger Pears*, and so on. These were also touched in school education. It is no different from what ordinary Chinese children are exposed to.

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

Xia: These ancient Chinese family stories and the family stories of some world celebrities are part of the education most people receive in their childhood, and are mainly used to guide the construction of values and morality. In this regard, my family did not give me too much help. The education and information I came into contact with in my

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childhood mainly came from school. From then on, I did get some sense of self extension, but it was not a family legacy.

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

Xia: My family is a single parent family, my parents' education level is average. I was born in Xinjiang Province in Northwest China. There are many Gobi deserts and snow mountains in Xinjiang. I am a Han nationality. There are many Muslims in Xinjiang, but my family, including me, has no religious beliefs.

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

Xia: I got along well with my peers in my childhood and adolescence, probably because I was gentle and friendly. I usually made a good impression on others.

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

Xia: I have a professional certificate in computer skills and a certificate in graphic design.

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

Xia: When I first came into contact with the intelligence test, I thought it was a test of cognitive ability and cognitive model. Now I take it more as an interest. I think its purpose is in general applications, such as the identification of people with intellectual disabilities, and the identification of people with good logical ability and cognitive ability.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Xia: When I was a junior high school student.

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.

Xia: Generally speaking, from a social point of view, geniuses refer to people with extremely outstanding abilities, who can have a great impact on the creation and distribution of social interests. However, the acts of geniuses will inevitably produce beneficiaries and people whose interests are damaged. Those who benefit from them flatter them, while those whose interests are damaged slander them. For example, Copernicus' discovery violated the interests of the church, Royal rife's research and invention touched the interests of the U.S. medical industry at that time. Jealousy and other issues are essentially disputes of interests. I think not only geniuses, but also people with great influence will be subjected to such extreme reactions and treatment.

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

Xia: James Clerk Maxwell.

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

Xia: In my opinion, genius is a talent that is far beyond ordinary people in a certain field and can not be crossed with ordinary efforts. However, people with high IQ are people who have higher cognitive and logical abilities than ordinary people, but do not necessarily have super talents in some specific aspects. They often can see the essence of things better than ordinary people.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

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Xia: I don't think it's necessary.

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

Xia: I have worked as a programmer and designer, as well as in the blockchain industry

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Xia: I majored in software engineering in college, but also because of some of my personal interests

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?

Xia: The genius understood by the western world is generally extremely sensitive in the fields of physical mathematics and other natural sciences, but more sensitive in the field of psychological art. In the eyes of the Chinese people, the judgment standard of genius is generally based on the number of achievements, and these achievements are obtained in a very short time. Schopenhauer has interpreted genius in this way. Only those people with the highest spiritual endowment, which we call "genius", can enter such a state: they are fully devoted to artistic creation or scientific research, and are completely occupied by them. Therefore, the whole life is closely intertwined with these things, so that they lose interest in anything else.

Many people think that genius is highly related to physics, mathematics and other disciplines. In fact, every field has its own genius, but its influence on society is different.

The history of many ethnic groups begins with myth. I think myth is that primitive people in the past explained some natural phenomena that they could not explain according to their own understanding. However, there were no words or other recordable things at that time, so they had to rely on language to pass down such things. They use stories or poems that are easier to remember and tell, so they are easier to pass down. In the process of narration, it is inevitable to add some exaggerated rhetorical devices, so the present myth is slowly formed.

With the more and more profound understanding of the material world, especially the great emancipation of social and humanistic thoughts in modern history, the war has also promoted the blending of civilizations in various regions, just like a violent chemical reaction. In such an environment, a group of great geniuses have been born. They come with the truth and greatly promoted the process of human civilization.

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

Xia: Steven Weinberg once said: With or without religion, good people can behave well and bad people can do evil; but for good people to do evil — that takes religion.

I think religion is declining. According to the 2010 survey, the proportion of people who believe in God in the 27 EU countries has dropped to 51%. Moreover, the more developed European countries are, the lower the proportion of believers is, and the higher the proportion of atheists is. Maybe because I was born in China, Chinese people generally do not believe in religion. If the environment is suitable, I think I may also believe in religion.

The religious people in ancient society suffered from an ontologicalnostalgia. They always longed deeply to live in the sacred and to be infiltrated by the power of the real existence represented by the sacred. The prevalence of nihilism today is due to the cultural stripping of sacredness

I like Plato's words about philosophy: It (Philosophy) is a science that not only looks for what it is, but also why it is.

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

Xia: I think that in the process of gradually enriching my knowledge of the world, science basically constitutes my world outlook. Science has eliminated many of my doubts, but it has also brought some ultimate problems about the material world and some more thinking about the essence.

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

Xia: If you mean IQ test, I have done some high-range tests

Strict Logic Spatial Examination 48, 31/48 (IQ 179.4 SD15)

Strict Logic Sequences Examination – Form II, 24/30 (IQ 177.8 SD15)

LSHR Light, (IQ 170 SD15)

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

Xia: Ethics is a bottom line and the maximum value allowed by the values formed in the historical development of mankind.

I think it can arouse our natural love for virtue and enhance our hatred for evil; Through its fair and detailed comments, it helps to correct and clarify our natural feelings about the appropriateness of behavior, and by providing careful and thoughtful consideration, we can make more correct behavior than we might think when we lack such guidance. Such ethics is meaningful.

Ethics is easy to decorate with eloquence, so if possible, it can give new importance to the extremely trivial norms of responsibility.

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

Xia: From Nietzsche's criticism, he tried to expose the tricks of thousands of rights, and finally came to the conclusion that the essence of society is control.

In my opinion, Nietzsche inspired all kinds of critical theories that now dominate. He believes that criticism is the continuous deconstruction of society. When people deconstruct sociological, historical and literary criticism, they hold extremely clear views: control over women, control over former colonies, control over sexual minorities, hegemonic control over orthodox culture, hegemonic control over cultural industries… Such lists can be extended indefinitely.

I think the critical function of sociology is very meaningful. Although sociologists only provide reference opinions, they cannot change social phenomena. Because he is not the one who cuts the cake and controls the material resources.

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

Xia: The knowledge of interest distribution is politics. The significance of political existence is to provide benefit distribution and solutions to benefit disputes between different classes, groups and individuals in human society. Man is an animal living in meaning. From a political point of view, meaning is given by the order of ought to be, but ought to also evolve. The driving force of evolution is the tension between ought to be and reality. When people ask questions, they actually encounter a mismatch between what they should expect and what they really are, which constitutes a problem, so they ask questions from this point of view. Political philosophy itself is to give

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a kind of natural expectation on political issues. It also constitutes an unconscious question meaning framework when people ask questions about political issues. When we ask questions, we will use a series of concepts in this question meaning framework.

In the construction of political ought to be, a good and feasible political philosophy not only gives a kind of expression of value, but also shows a kind of legitimate narration.

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

Xia: Truth, in form, is a kind of assertion; In terms of content, it is people's conceptual reflection of the stable, inevitable and repeatable characteristics and connections in things and phenomena. Unlike the truth of science and common sense, metaphysics often studies absolute and unconditional truth. Metaphysics does not study concrete and sensible things, but abstract and overall things, and does not study objects that people can grasp and perceive. However, the scope of research is boundless and the content is unlimited, and people cannot observe and perceive objects at all, such as nature, material, spirit, etc.

I am a pragmatist. I think that due to human cognitive mode, metaphysics' summary of the essential laws of the world cannot be verified, is transcendental, and usually has the characteristics of integrity. It has no clear derivation path and cannot be inherited. So how can we continue to study it?

But the research and inquiry of metaphysics is very necessary. I think metaphysics should determine a reliable research path and express its laws in clear language as much as possible

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

Xia: I think it's objective materialism.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Xia: As an animal's natural instinct, and the fetter with others.

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

Xia: I think that only when things are interrelated can they reflect meaning. Human beings constantly understand and grasp the nature and laws of the object, and abstract meaning from it, which is both externally derived and internally generated.

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

Xia: I have seen some reports about people recalling their memories of previous lives before. Some of them seem very real, but I can't understand what carrier carries their memories. Is it the soul? These supernatural topics are of great interest to me, but beyond my understanding. I personally believe that there is an afterlife, but I can't imagine the specific mechanism.

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

Xia: Limited life seems to be a form of evolution, and reproduction and inheritance are more endless eternal life. The mystery of life lies in the moment when it was first born. We know that the essence of life is the orderly accumulation and release of energy, but the coincidence when it was first born from the inorganic world still remains mysterious to mankind. It's like a script arranged by the universe.

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Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Xia: Unconditional and absolute trust and dedication.

Footnotes

[1] Founder, CHIN.

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Conversation with Clelia Albano on Family, Democratic Values, Religion and Skepticism, Dawkins, Gadamer, Wikipedian, and Cosmopolitan Weltanschauung Cosmic: Member, Capabilis (2)

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Abstract

Clelia Albano is from Italy. She's a teacher of Italian and Latin, painter and poet writing in Italian and English. She is a member of Capabilis and USIA. She has two collections of poetry, In Assenza di Naufragi, that was a finalist for the National Literary Contest "Il Mio Esordio 2018," selected by the International Festival of Poetry of Genova, and "Come Tutte Le Cose di Questo Mondo", a prosimetrum. She's been published also in English on the American anthology "Winter" and by the literary magazine "The Night Heron Barks". She loves reading, learning languages and editing for Wikipedia, which she has done since 2012. She was a finalist with "Come Tutte Le Cose di Questo Mondo" for the "Premio Internazionale Mario Luzi" 2020. She discusses: Latin and Greek in Naples; WWII; a sense of the importance of democracy; independence of the feminine side; earliest inklings of skepticism over religion; grotesque sides of religious faith; paint; poetry written in youth; aspects of the mind; linguistic codes; expansive memory; geniuses; perceptions of geniuses; main aspects of church corruption criticized by Dante; inspirations for writing the books; paintings; a Wikipedian; highly manipulative; the attraction of supernatural entities; scientists like Dawkins; an automaton; Gadamer's presentation of Art in Truth and Method (1960); a democratic socialist; and cosmopolitan weltanschauung cosmic.

Keywords: Clelia Albano, cosmopolitan weltanschauung cosmic, Dante, Dawkins, Gadamer, geniuses, Italy, Naples, Wikipedian, WWII.

Conversation with Clelia Albano on Family, Democratic Values, Religion and Skepticism, Dawkins, Gadamer, Wikipedian, and Cosmopolitan Weltanschauung Cosmic: Member, Capabilis (2)

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Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: How did your father get into teaching Latin and Greek in Naples?

Clelia Albano[1],[2]*: My father was from Naples. He grew up and received his education there.

He attended the Classic Lyceum where Greek and Latin are the basic curricular subjects and given his attitude towards humanities and ancient languages he earned the degree in Ancient literatures and languages at the hometown University "Federico II".

Jacobsen: What are some of the remarkable stories of family, ancestors and relatives, in association with WWII?

Albano: Apart from historical recounts, I was told by my father and my grandmother about one of the worst issues brought by the war: the scarcity of food. The family had to adapt the diet to a flour made from chestnuts and to other poor food.

This was an experience that in the following years gave the food a centrality almost religious in my father's family. To be nourished in a proper way was considered a priority by my relatives and by my daddy, the first prescription to keep oneself healthy and alive. I was influenced by this idea.

Jacobsen: How have these stories helped develop a sense of the importance of democracy?

Albano: As I told you in our previous interview, I was raised according to democratic values developed and strengthened by my paternal family particularly as a reaction to the social, cultural and individual repression under Fascism.

Jacobsen: How have you incorporated this independence of the feminine side into your own narrative and life path?

Albano: By following and expressing my attitudes, my preferences, beliefs, regardless of cliché, conventions and the others' judgements.

Jacobsen: What were the earliest inklings of skepticism over religion?

Albano: Well, I clearly remember that, especially in my teens, I got upset with the incoherent behaviour of some believers. Beside this I have something to say about religion that will surprise you. In the last months I have been caught by a desire for faith and for praying. Maybe the seeds of faith to which I was raised never abandoned me. Of course there are things I am still skeptical about, but I know inside of me that often I have suffered the loss of this religious vocabulary that unavoidably knock on the door of my lexical repertory at Christmas time or at Easter, or when I am in despair and I realize that the words in my possession lack of spiritual energy. Because I think we are our words, we are what we say and my idea is that even spirituality, the good and the evil are made of words. Once I read a remarkable scientific study on the human brain and the DNA sequences. I read something that amazed me because I had thought a lot of times that words might change the human brain's map. This would be explicative of both the healing process and the development of a disease. When I stopped to believe in transcendence I never excluded the idea of mystery in our lives. Thus, before the influence of prayers and their healing power in several cases, I was open to the possibility that they have an effectual power. In the above mentioned study, the researchers had found that if we speak words of sorrow, anger, or we semantically express the wish to die, in sum if we speak words against ourselves, we might cause some changes in our DNA, since each sequence is very similar to the linguistic code. In other words it would be like replacing the healthy words of the

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DNA with sick and deadly words. So when we make a negative wish and we desire to die we run the risk that it comes true. That's why I think that prayers might have some influence.

Jacobsen: What were those grotesque sides of religious faith to your father?

Albano: By grotesque I meant the combination of religion and superstition together, which gives flesh to rituals and objects where it is hard to distinguish the threshold between devotion and talismanic gestures. However there is also an awesome side of this combination.

In Naples it is still present this way of interpreting and living faith; so you will find in several contexts, amulets along with pictures of Jesus.

My father had a rational conception of faith and he thought that religion is the opposite of superstition.

Jacobsen: What kinds of things did you paint?

Albano: I painted mainly African subjects.

Jacobsen: What themes were common in the poetry written in youth if any?

Albano: More or less the contemplation of the world, the desire to be elsewhere in the far sides of the world, the oneiric side of life.

Jacobsen: What aspects of the mind cannot be measured?

Albano: creativity and inspiration. Another aspect is dreaming. Although there's a Freudian part of me that tends to interpret dreams according to psychoanalytic symbology, the other side of me rejects the positivist conviction that the oneiric dimension can be dissected and notomized by Freudian schemes.

Jacobsen: How are "reality, life and experiences… linguistic codes"?

Albano: Sorry for repeating myself. They are made of words. That's what I think. Also "God" is a word. Is there something we can think about without giving it a name?

Jacobsen: When you came across individuals comfortable amongst the extraordinary, what was the intuitive, innate reaction in you, as the normal reaction was, more commonly, astonishment with the, for example, more expansive memory?

Albano: Well, on the one hand my reaction was of admiration. On the other hand, I tried and I still try to learn from them. By observing their approach to life, science and technology, by observing their idea of faith, for example. As I told you before I have felt the urge to speak and think like a believer once again in my life. In the groups I am a member of, High IQ groups, I happened to find very gifted people who are believers. Particularly I was struck by the words of the creator of several High IQ Sites, tests, creator of GENIUS High IQ Networks, a Mensan and awarded as one of the most intelligent men in the world, who has faith in God. Somehow I felt comfortable with that side of me that even when rejected religion never got entirely skeptical.

Jacobsen: Why are geniuses, fundamentally, perceived as a "threat" or as "dangerous"?

Albano: Because generally they bring changes and discoveries that subvert the ordinary. Some people live in the dreads of progress. They feel more comfortable with held beliefs.

Jacobsen: Are these perceptions of geniuses generally legitimate or illegitimate?

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Albano: In my humble opinion they are legitimate for the reasons I just have illustrated**.** There is also a conspicuous portion of the population who is enthusiastic about progress. But I think, in addition, that there are progressivists who trust scientific and philosophical knowledge, and by contrast, disagree with certain scientific projects for they involve social and ecological risks. Just to take but one example, the idea of colonising other planets sounds as a form of neo-colonialism to many progressive people, because both the financial investments for those enterprises and the plan to build up cities on extra-terrestrial environments involve the risks of polluting them.

Jacobsen: What were the main aspects of church corruption criticized by Dante? How did he go about doing it?

Albano: At the time of Dante, the Church had lost the role of spiritual guide. The main reason was that most of the ecclesiastical officials conducted a mundane life, exerted a political power on the believers; they did act against the Christian principles. There were Popes and archbishops who didn't disdain to have concubines and to have children, disrespecting the vote of chastity. They betrayed the vote of poverty by accumulating money, richness and commodities of every sort. The Church of Saint Peter, held both the temporal and the spiritual powers; the abuses it perpetrated, emerged particularly during the civil battles between the Communes when the supporters of the Pope on the one side and the supporters of the imperator on the other, formed respectively the factions of Guelfs and Ghibellines. Dante, who had a profound devotion and who dreamt of a pure Christianity based on a religion that took care only of souls, denounced in the Comedy what was in contrast with the predicament of Jesus.

Jacobsen: What were the inspirations for writing the books?

Albano: The books I published are collections of poems I wrote in different times of my life. Each poem came from a particular and unique inspiration.

Jacobsen: What are paintings focused on thematically now?

Albano: Unfortunately, it's ages. I don't paint. I'm focused more on poetry and the lack of time made its part.

Jacobsen: What kind of edits and additions have you been making as a Wikipedian?

Albano: I have created articles for Wikipedia in English and in Italian, mostly biographic. Generally, I work on literary and artistic contents, but also on contents related to public figures in the field of whistle-blowing, hackers and human rights advocacy.

I have translated into Italian English Wikipedia entries on painters that were not on Wikipedia It. I have integrated several entries. I am particularly proud of the creation of the wiki bio of a contemporary artist, New York based, who is now exhibited at the Guggenheim.

Jacobsen: What immediately strikes you about individuals who are highly intelligent, highly creative, or both, while being, in other aspects of their lives 'misogynistic, racist, and sadistic'?

Albano: They are highly manipulative. At the beginning they are fascinating because of the way they talk, the way they capture your attention. They use all the tricks to reach the goal. You can find that they write books about human rights, papers against discrimination, tons of words to condemn domestic violence, poems to celebrate women and on the other hand they gradually reveal to not practice what they preach. I mean that if you pay attention you will catch their missteps. I have experienced that.

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Jacobsen: What was the attraction of supernatural entities hypothesized by adults and authorities as a youth?

Albano: When I was a child at the end of the 70s early 80s, the TV and cinema main subject was the extra-terrestrial world. I remember that knowledge and science were focused on planet earth and on space. I was given as a gift a book by David Attenborough, "Life on Earth: A Natural History" and on the other side there was this huge interest in life on the other planets, life on Mars, et cetera. The idea of an E T. somewhere, ready to get in touch with me excited my fantasy for a certain time.

Jacobsen: Regarding "scientists like Dawkins," what is the fear induced there? Is this a common sentiment?

Albano: In my previous interview I said that I don't like the so-called new atheists because I refuse the idea we are only chemistry. I fear that a human being might end up like a predictable text.

Jacobsen: How is an automaton, though Carbon-formed and naturally evolved, view of human beings "creepy"? Can you expand on this, please?

Albano: Yes, I will try to expand. Well, the idea that we are determined only by our DNA would mean that we are predestined to be good or evil and that everything we do is not the consequence of a conscious decision but of a series of actions embedded by default in our cerebral circuits. It would make education, knowledge, religion, philosophy, all that mankind created, meaningless. This view of a human being is scary to me.

Jacobsen: With Gadamer's presentation of Art in Truth and Method (1960) as the "transmission for meanings across time," in some way, this circumnavigates the issues, pointed out by you, of siloing of disciplines and the fragmentation of knowledge seen in other disciplines than Art. Even though, art created by individuals across time can be interpreted in multiple ways with various depths of analysis to yield commonality of values or ethics. Can codification and trans-codification remain at risk of interpretation to 'common' values without benefit to human beings in general – or values seen across time with more degenerative effects on individuals and societies, e.g., artistic works interpreted across time through a reference frame of nihilistic ethics (or nihilistic anti-morality/non-morality)? Although, at the same time, these could be interpreted in more Christian Existentialist in some lenses or humanistic in frames. In that, it's not a big risk, but it can be one. Who gets the interpretive authority in the end, in other words?

Albano: Of course there might be the risk of misinterpretation or even the risk of manipulative interpretations. This question is very important because you touch on an essential point which is ethics. We know that in the Middle Age they interpreted pagan authors from the Latin world or the Greek world through the lens of the Christian religion. In doing so they subverted the real meaning of works of literature, philosophy and so forth. There is the opposite risk, though. Also atheism or political regimes, dictatorships, in history, have deliberately misinterpreted works of art and literature. The risk is avoided if interpretation entails an hermeneutics free from prejudices – pre-judices in the gadamerian sense -. The second relevant point of your question is "who gets the interpretative authority". In my humble opinion it is wrong to refer to a single one authority because I don't share the view according to which only one cultural canon is established as valid, putting all the others beneath. This happens with the so-called Western Canon, for example. Once I read "The Western Canon ", written by Harold Bloom. I must admit that I assimilated many intriguing concepts, but there was something utterly disturbing in Bloom's contempt towards multiculturalism. We can't ignore that also on the opposite side of the earth, Asia, Middle-East, Iran that previously was that magnificent empire of Persia, art, literature, philosophy, flourished. They produced myths, religions, archetypal figures fraught with meaning. They had writers and philosophers, who

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range amongst the greatest in human history. So, why do we talk only about the Western Canon? Where is the Eastern Canon or the Multicultural Canon?

Jacobsen: What society most resembles a democratic socialist one to you?

Albano: In the actual world no one. Democratic socialism is yet to come.

Jacobsen: As a cosmopolitan weltanschauung cosmic, with only this one life to live, what are your plans for this one life with the "bonds of affection, empathy [and] progress" to fill the void for you?

Albano: I will surprise you once again. As I have said above I feel this need of spirituality but don't expect me to say that I have now a religious vision of the afterlife. I know it sounds contradictory. The fact is that I don't exclude another dimension after we pass away. Where it will be and what aspect it has, I can't imagine. Maybe when we die we are transformed into energy and, who knows, maybe this energy goes somewhere even here in this world…

Jacobsen: Thank you for the opportunity and your time, Clelia.

Albano: Thanks back, dear Scott. Your interviews are amazing. I really appreciate this opportunity you give.

Footnotes

[1] Italian & Latin Teacher; Painter; Poet, Member, Capabilis; Member, USIA.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightjournal.com/albano-2**; 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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Conversation with Scott Durgin on Patriarchal Institutions, Roman Catholicism, and the United States' Freedoms: Member, Giga Society (3)

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Abstract

Scott Durgin is a Member of the Giga Society. He discusses: laws and policies enacted through sociopolitical attitudes; other post-colonial states; Protestants and Roman Catholics; women's bodies; Dominionists; magical thinking; free expression and religious freedom; the right in American society; and closet Christians and cultural Christians.

Keywords: Carl Sagan, Catholic Church, Neil deGrasse Tyson, post-colonial states, Scott Durgin, SCOTUS.

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

One interpolated addition on July 4, 2022, explicitly noted in the text.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Critical thinking arises in a number of educational contexts. What is "critical thinking" in the context of learning?

Scott Durgin[1],[2]*: I don't think it's possible to define critical thinking without going on for pages and pages. Critical thinking "in the context of learning" would not be too far different than the definition of critical thinking itself. What I could do is identify what I think are the cognitive skills or mental abilities involved in critical thinking. I'm sure most of this has been written elsewhere but at least four or five skills come to mind

1. Interpretation
2. Evaluation or examination.

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3. Analysis
4. Inference and
5. Self regulation, possibly the most important.

These particular skill sets must be coupled with a healthy sense of curiosity…to question without fear…to use REASON as the ultimate pathway to exercise critical thinking and arrive at the truth. That curiosity would force one to observe as many things as possible, to engage others, to read very deeply into many things, but also very broadly. Above all things to grow, so that one's skills and capabilities improve with time. This seems to be a most relevant way to tie critical thinking to learning.

Jacobsen: How does critical thinking work in the real world, i.e., outside the confines of the academic system?

Durgin: Good question. I can honestly say that my abilities at critical thinking did not mature until after I had already learned how to learn. And learning how to learn cannot be done thoroughly without an academic experience: to change, modify, evolve and revolutionize one's thinking.

Jacobsen: What is Carl Sagan's legacy?

Durgin: Heroically and elegantly bringing scientific thinking to a popular audience.

Jacobsen: Why promote *The Demon Haunted World* above other texts on critical thinking and a scientific, skeptical mindset?

Durgin: Because this one book, read thoroughly perhaps twice perhaps 10 times, is all that is necessary to understand the basics of reason and critical thinking.

Jacobsen: Sagan is dead. Who took on the legacy of him, the mantle?

Durgin: I can't say that for sure. I can tell you that I like a great many thinkers in the field. Neil deGrasse Tyson is probably my favorite. Just boundless energy, incisively argumentative and affably entertaining. Bill Nye, excellent individual. Richard Dawkins Christopher Hitchens many others.

Jacobsen: Neil deGrasse Tyson has an amazing personal history, individual story, with Carl Sagan, as a youngster. How has Sagan, through his legacy, created a buttress against pseudoscience, religious fundamentalism, and the irrational?

Durgin: It's actually not much of a buttress with people who are on the wrong side of science and politics and religion. In the United States we spend a pittance of public money on science and education compared to what we spend on other things. We live in a country where most religious people believe it is their duty to stop others from doing things that the religious people dislike. They are clueless as to how the Constitution automatically stops them. They basically plug their ears, drag their small dicks into their huge monster trucks and just drive over anybody who tries to educate them.

Jacobsen: How did the Roman Catholic Church love Hitler?

Durgin: How did they not? The papacy basically trained all their followers to be abjectly terrified of Bolshevism Marxism and communism. How this ramped up after World War II with the Dulles brothers in this country and many others is remarkable. Fascism, which the church is very much akin to living as a philosophy, was completely ignored. Hitler had free reign mostly. The only reason why the papacy and the Catholic Church feared and opposed

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Hitler was because he began shutting down certain areas of the Catholic Church. When it came to slaughtering Jews, Freemasons, protestants, orthodox Christians and Serbs; the Catholic Church adopted a deafening silence. Their concordat with Hitler occurred only months after Hitler gained significant power in 1933. He of course gained ultimate power by 1934 when Hindenburg died. Pope Pius the 12th literally kept secret Hitler's plans to invade Poland who ironically had a shit ton of Catholics in that country. The pope likely agonized over the decision knowing what Hitler was going to do but unable to inform even his followers. He knew however that the survival of the supremacy of the Catholic Church was more important than a few tens of thousands of Catholics dying.

Jacobsen: How did the Roman Catholic Church love Stalin?

Durgin: They didn't love Stalin but they were certainly able to tolerate him…he killed more Jews than Hitler and simply by being an autocrat (as stated before) allowed the church a piece of mind. Who cares about Stalin when they were very few Catholics in the country?

Jacobsen: What about Mussolini, Franco, Perron, etc.?

Durgin: Again same argument. Details are unnecessary here; the fact that they are Autocrats, authoritarians, dictators means that international and sovereign states like the Catholic Church have any easy time with diplomacy. Deal with one man and you help steer the course of the entire country. Mussolini was a really special kind of ignoramus. Utter fascist patriarchal fuckstick of a dictator.

Jacobsen: Why focus on the small hierarchy, the elites, rather than the priests or laity? I interviewed Fr. George Coyne, at one time, and was supposed to do a second interview prior to his death (who went into surgery and, presumably, never came out alive, which became an important lesson left for me; his last great gift to me). He was somewhat liberal minded as a Christian and oriented towards a scientifically educated perspective, particularly astrophysics.

Durgin: The hierarchy is the problem. Just a few hundred backward thinking men set atop the organization (did I mention the holy see is a sovereign state?). They are the problem, so I adopt a similar approach to dealing with an issue as the Catholic Church does. It clearly has worked for them over 1500 years. Anybody attempting to deal with a serpent or dragon focuses on the head. Only stands to reason.

Jacobsen: How does a majoritarian rule buffer against Holy See intrusion in political affairs?

Durgin: When the government is owned by the people (all the people not just some), whose law is codified in a constitution it doesn't matter if 99% of the people in the country are converted to Catholicism. Including the senators and representatives and the justices. The constitution is not a religious document. A constitutional "majoritarian" democratic republic is protected by the Constitution, because eliminating all religious opponents does not change the fact that the Constitution protects all religions. The constitution is our law; not what the president says or what congressmen say or what judges say…there can be no authoritarian in a country where the constitution is the law. So no matter how many heads of state the Vatican attempts to have assassinated, it doesn't change the Constitution. This likely pisses them off to no end which is why they have taken decades upon decades in an attempt to infiltrate the Supreme Court, which they appear to be successfully doing.

Jacobsen: With the American example, what are the clearcut examples of the Roman Catholic Church, and its empowered representatives in institutional positions of power in the United States of America, attempting to undermine American democracy?

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Durgin: Five Supreme Court justices who seem to think that the constitution does not grant freedoms unless they are specifically called out in the constitution. Which is a ridiculously ignorant way of looking at it. If all the freedoms that we have needed to be enumerated in the constitution it would be 10 miles thick. This is why Madison and Jefferson and others took more than 30 years to perfect certain ideas like a separation of church and state. But somehow justices Alito, Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, the flip-flopping bone-headed Clarence Thomas, and the newly seated, starry eyed ignorant Amy Coney Barrett are completely ignorant of this fact when they allow a woman's right to (reproductive) freedom to fall back on a bunch of Bible Belt, ignorantly run states, who are hell-bent on pretending they're protecting a fetus while they stomp all over the fundamental right the woman has in the first place. How's that for an opinion. Richard Dawkins believes that this latest decision by Scotus is nothing more than an attempt to allow religion to once again control the freedoms of Americans. I tend to agree. I am especially disappointed in John Roberts.

Beginning of Addition: 4th July 2022

This recent uber-focus on Roe v. Wade decision completely obscured my awareness of an equally devastating Scotus decision a few days earlier. This involves church state separation, against which the Catholic Church has been resisting, fighting, complaining, obstructing, seething, spitting and farting and twisting in their seats for decades.

Some clever Jesuits (who have obviously been pushing the five Scotus conservatives) have been effective at allowing to proliferate an inferior and surreptitiously deceptive interpretation of what church state separation means.

Nearly the entire motivation for Jefferson and Madison to spend 30 fucking years evolving and perfecting the precept of church state separation was to prevent emboldening the Catholic Church from imagining they could dominate civil life because they have a majority of people in the country who are Catholic.

The reality is public funds CANNOT BE USED to support or endorse a particular religious organization. Not on my constitutional watch. Public funds meaning government funds, like subsidies for schools etc.

The only way for every religion in the country to be protected is to make sure that ALL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT REMAIN RELIGIOUSLY NEUTRAL. There should be no argument here. But this falls on purposely deaf ears with John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and the starry eyed naïve ignorant Amy Coney Barrett, not to mention Hammerhead Clarence Thomas. John Roberts cleverly obfuscated the issue when he opined on the case in the state of Maine: "there is nothing neutral here in what Maine is doing" (paraphrased, not exact quote), as if to suggest that the church state separation concept is supposed to mean general neutrality**, when it is not! It means RELIGIOUS neutrality, thus 365+ different religions must be represented and supported if public money is going to be used. The public consists of ALL RELIGIONS including no religion, and therefore public money must be either

1. Supporting/ endorsing every single religion on the face of the earth or
2. Endorsing none.

The impracticality of the former is obvious. Eleanor Roosevelt fought Cardinal Spellman on this in the 1940s. Spellman lost, thank god. Move on. Government must stay out of funding particular religious organizations. The Bill of Rights demand it. Freedom demands it. Public funds do not belong supporting a religious school. This is also why we cannot have Jesus's words on state property, because state property is PUBLIC property. Public

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property (government property) may not endorse any one religion, this is ninth grade civics every one should know. Religion is a private matter. This is the essence of the separation of church and state. It protects minorities from being overrun by religious majorities who believe it is their duty to convert the entire world. This country was founded to stop that nonsense. In fact it was founded in the bloody wake of the Catholic Church exercising for CENTURIES what it believed to be its "divine" authority to convert the world, by killing, raping, burning, marginalizing, exorcising every person who expressed religious beliefs other than Catholic beliefs.

The church needed to be stopped and they've been PISSED OFF ever since. Too bad. They don't like religion being a private matter of opinion, equal to all others. Again, too bad. This is a free country where people are free to worship however they want and no one would feel free or be free if public money or official funds supported Hindu schools or Muslim schools any more than Christian schools.

Now this country is upside down because of ignorance and outright malice spewing forth from five conservative justices who are ANGRY this country is moving forward – PROGRESSING – and they are attempting to swing the country backward by 100 years or more because they are uncomfortable with their Christian majority WANING. And somehow they believe that because there is a Christian majority citizenry that religious freedom doesn't work.

Third time: Too bad.

We need everybody in this country to forcibly stop this politically and clearly religiously biased gang within the supreme court from deciding on any other important rule of law. The gang of 5 plus Roberts is now an utter waste of public trust. Period.

** Roberts is deftly claiming that public funds should be granted to both religious and non-religious schools (pretending that this means "neutral") thus completely evading the central issue of religious neutrality. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS MUST BE RELIGIOUSLY NEUTRAL.

Roberts can now get on with either forced retirement or recusal for this wanton ignorance or wanton deception. Pick one.

End of Addition: 4th July 2022

Jacobsen: I've interviewed a number of prominent African-American freethinkers in the United States – real leaders – about their involvement in combatting Christian supremacy in the United States, particularly apt for them in consideration of the white supremacist orientation of history and patterns of aspects of Christianity, including Roman Catholicism. Christian European-Americans' construction of institutions for the maintenance of authority over African-Americans in general. Those legacy European-Americans with autocratic Christianity in their minds who may buy into "Great Replacement Theory" and such, so as to express their sense of unipolar focus on "white" myths, Christian theology, and truly grounded in fear of the "Other." Those who unknowingly proclaim lies boldly, belying individuals cowered into a corner and lashing out in terror. What is the association – not the core or the only, obviously – between white supremacy, i.e., laws and policies enacted through sociopolitical attitudes, and Roman Catholicism in the United States?

Durgin: Privileged, domineering, white patriarchal bigotry. These people knowingly and willingly want to take the United States back to the 1950s. Pretty clear.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, how does this look in other post-colonial states with a majority, or near majority, Christian identifying population, i.e., New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and South Africa?

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Durgin: If they have a constitution that separates church and state then they should not be having a problem. Unfortunately the interpretation of separation of church and state is 100% lost on a lot of religious people in this country. I do not know how tightly religious freedom is coupled to the law of the land in other countries.

Jacobsen: How are Protestants and Roman Catholics, ideologically, converging on making Christian an official identity of nationality in the United States now?

Durgin: The next 10 years will answer this question. We are now in an era where only 10 years will almost exactly parallel how Hitler came to power in Germany. My opinion.

Jacobsen: I've made some observations as to women's bodies as the true point of battleground for the fundamentalist Christians in the United States of America. To me, it seems as though the aim is the restriction of women's choices about their destinies starting with reproduction. With *Roe v Wade* as a news item, recently, what makes this particularly poignant about attempts at intrusion of Roman Catholic dogma about when life starts, women's bodies, and legislation focusing on these items impactful on women's bodies, so fates?

Durgin: What makes this particularly poignant is that they are succeeding.

Jacobsen: You used the term Dominionists. A religious ideology, Dominionism, founded on *Genesis 1:28* (KJV). A passage about dominion over the Earth by earthly, Christian forces. This transcendentally awful (im)moral basis for American centralized theonomy makes for open declarations, based on religious scripture, of the merger of religion and state rather than the separation of religious institutions and states. It means, in essence, a declaration for theocratic globalism, which means theocratic autocracy (as in singular domineering control) rather than democratic multicultural universalism (or the basis of most respected international human rights and associated organizations and institutions). Who are the main framers of Dominionist theology in America? Why is America an apparent central focus on these individuals now?

Durgin: I don't know. What I highly suspect is that the 2030s will see a stupendous push on the part of the right wing in many countries to co-opt both the meaning and the implementation of the building of the so-called "third temple" in Jerusalem. Easter of 2034 will be the beginning of it if not a little before. October 2041 will likely be its culmination. I honestly don't know how the intervening years will play out because I do believe there are genuinely naïve and beneficial forces who will be involved in building such a temple; but the right wing will have none of this (unless it is 100% Christian, by God!), so if the right wing January 6 fascists build up like Hitler did, between now and 2030, they may have the ability to co-opt the effort.

Jacobsen: Also, back to critical thinking, these institutions remain built on magical thinking over centuries molded into institutions used for social influence, political power, and legislative entrenchment. How is the magical thinking without challenge a basis for the snowball effects, as with the Roman Catholic Church, over decades in countries and over centuries in spheres of influence?

Durgin: Not sure how to answer that, but if this country spent more money on science and education in the public sphere, we would be much better off and unlikely to fall into a hole. The entire public needs to be vested in scientific thinking, scientific methods and scientific conclusions, which means there needs to be a tenfold increase in spending on education, science, mathematics and perhaps constitutional freedom and the three masonic pillars (at least politically in this country): 1. The emancipation of women. 2. Limits on state power. 3. Separation of church and state. Those three things are anathema to the Catholic Church.

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Jacobsen: When I interviewed some members of The Satanic Temple, two noted Evangelical Christians in the United States, if they don't get precisely what they want 100% of the time, then they cry, as you note, "Victim." Roman Catholics, based on the statement by you, make the same play as victims. The irony: individuals who deplore victim-ology or victimhood in other ideologies enacting the same, as in a pervasive projection of their own psychology, rather than an identification of a necessary cultural reality. Akin to cancel culture proclamations, with temporary, at times, actualizations in some professionals, they forget the centuries of history of real cancel culture in Christianity with book burning, book banning, torture, murders, and the like, *in the name of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God as proclaimed by Christianity.* The most pervasive, long-lasting, cruel, violent, and vicious cancel culture has come from religious fundamentalists with the mastery of torture and destruction of free expression. Again, it seems a simple act of projection. Even if admitted, it becomes softened, as in, 'It happened a long time ago,' as if light acceptance of ubiquitous history means absolution of the crimes in the name of Christianity. In many ways, in further irony, their purported fears and decline could be seen theologically as an inverse ROI, or return on investment, of all the imprecations (e.g., imprecatory prayers) against others *not them*. (Why not get the message? Their God is punching them in the face and kicking them in the nuts, constantly.) How are American rights to free expression and religious freedom a counter to this history of Christian imposition?

Durgin: Projection is exactly right. But…In this country the Constitution guarantees that every individual is a sovereign regarding his/her choice of worship, belief in God or an afterlife and his/her autonomous freedom to exercise such beliefs, as long as he/she does not attempt to remove the sovereignty of another citizen.

Jacobsen: Why are some individuals who support Trump bound to the idea of a stolen election and the era of the 1950s? Why the attempts to make a "safe space" for them through the entire nation rather than simply their longstanding "safe spaces" in churches, in cathedrals, in Klan meetings for some, or in whole universities with Christian private postsecondary institutions? Not a distant reality in Canada here, in micro, 5 minutes down the road is Trinity Western University. Its administrators and brand-marketers declare the institution an "arm of the church," in full as a mission statement:

The mission of Trinity Western University, as an arm of the Church, is to develop godly Christian leaders: positive, goal-oriented university graduates with thoroughly Christian minds; growing disciples of Jesus Christ who glorify God through fulfilling the Great Commission, serving God and people in the various marketplaces of life.

While, at the same time, on tax-breaks for land used by the university, attempting to get funding from the government (though a *private* Evangelical Christian religious institution), harbouring a community covenant openly discriminatory against LGBTI+ individuals, and lead for decades by a president who resigned in the 2000s around the time of a sexual misconduct claim against him, one woman, at one job (who I worked with), who worked with him excused the claim by saying, "He was lonely." (Nice.) Fundamentalist Evangelicals and Roman Catholic Christians with a literalist orientation seem socio-politically aligned. Is the fight in some parts of Canada akin to the right in American society, though more pervasive in the American example?

Durgin: I don't know. But it is a very simple thing to realize that for decades upon decades in this country we teach women when they are girls of 5 to 6 years old that when a boy teases or pushes or torments or otherwise attacks them (admittedly sometimes in a not very harmful way physically) what do we teach that little girl? We tell her "Oh he likes you". This is the beginning of women tolerating men's bad behavior and it is the beginning of men dominating women and women actually allowing it. We ACTUALLY TEACH five-year-old girls that boys

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mistreating them means “He likes you”. Just sit back and THINK about that and you have your answer as to why we are in this conundrum today. Many girls of course want boys to like them so the lesson is they should start tolerating their bad behavior. Until this is stamped out with all eviscerating justice and blunt force the world will continue to wallow in patriarchal ignorance.

Jacobsen: There are figures within Canadian society who amount to closet Christians and cultural Christians acting as apologists for Christian doctrines and sociopolitical concerns without open, public stipulation as such, e.g., Dr. Jordan Peterson. We could see this from more than a decade ago in his media presence. He seemed surprised by the catapult to prominence at the start and oriented more clearly to it. Now, he embraces the minor fame and Christian orientation with absurdist comedy not intended as such, presenting ‘arguments’ of the Bible as “meta-true” in some moments. I see this as a defensive move. Canadian Christianity on the defensive and individuals highly sympathetic to its more regressive doctrines acting more surreptitiously to influence culture. Indeed, Peterson has noted it’s more effective to promote Christianity indirectly rather than directly; his motives are clear, though arguments remain jumbled – see: Nathan Robinson’s “The Intellectual We Deserve” – and emotional life seems highly labile (fake at times and real at others) – see: random, assorted crying and breakdown bouts & pouts.

Durgin: lol no time. 24 June 8:37 pm.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Giga Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 8, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/durgin-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.

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Chinese High-I.Q. Group Discussion 1: Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值), Craft Xia, and Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on China and Its Culture

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Abstract

Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值) is the Founder & President of God's Power Society & The Chosen One High IQ Society and the author of the Mystery Intelligence Test. Craft Xia is the Founder of CHIN. Tianxi Yu (余天曦) is a Member of God's Power Society. They discuss: China; Chinese civilization; the historical context of education in Chinese society; the foundational Chinese philosophies; modern Chinese civilization; and the high-I.Q. community changed over time in China.

Keywords: Buddhism, CHIN, China, Chinese, Confucianism, Confucius, Craft Xia, culture, Fengzhi Wu, Flynn effect, God's Power Society, Legalism, Ming Dynasties, Mohism, Mystery Intelligence Test, Shenghan, Tianxi Yu, Taoism, The Core Socialist Values, Wang Fuzhi, Yellow River Valley, Zen.

Chinese High-I.Q. Group Discussion 1: Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值), Craft Xia, and Tianxi Yu (余天曦) on China and Its Culture

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Let's start on the purpose of this group discussion, the idea is a Chinese high-I.Q. community discussion because, as far as I can tell, the voices coming out in the high-I.Q. communities tend to emphasize North American and Western European with an emphasis on particular cultural outputs. Chinese culture has a long legacy of invention, art, etc. Its modern rise will continue to ripple in a multipolar world, so rounding out the perspective in this globalized context makes sense to me. Hence, the idea of getting some wider range of individuals. China has the largest footprint in most ways, clearly, amongst East Asian nation-states: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan.

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So, here we are, with three members of the high-I.Q. communities coming out of China, Fengzhi Wu, Craft Xia, and Tianxi Yu, what does China mean to you?

Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值)[1]*: I grew up in China and have always been proud to be Chinese, as well as admire the people, history, and culture of this country. I am optimistic about the future of my country and future generations.

Craft Xia[2]*: China is my motherland and the country where I have a sense of belonging. At the same time, it also plays a guiding role in my ideological and cultural concepts.

Tianxi Yu (余天曦)[3],[4]*: China to me is my homeland, the place where I was born. Of course, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau are also part of China.

Jacobsen: The Yellow River Valley appears to be the origin of Chinese civilization, which means a beginning around 5,000 B.C.E. Although, formal written records and dynasties began much later, e.g., the Xia dynasty (2070–1600 B.C.), then the Shang dynasty (1600–1046 B.C.), and so on. What seem like the attributes of Chinese culture leading to this extensive history and consistent civilizational existence? Most civilizations do not last this long.

Wu: I believe that one of the reasons Chinese culture has survived for over five millennia is through inheritance, which includes blood inheritance, value inheritance, and philosophical inheritance. Blood inheritance means that the Chinese valued family ties and blood relations, which extended to relationships with friends, the community, and eventually the country. Traditional Chinese values and philosophy are highly respected by people in China. Chinese culture holds a wealth of spiritual values that have not changed over time and can still benefit people today. There is harmony, benevolence, righteousness, courtesy, wisdom, honesty, loyalty, and filial piety. Even though we are now heavily influenced by globalization and modernization, the Chinese continue to value traditional culture and keep preserving it, while also attempting to assemble traditional culture and new culture in "harmony."

Xia: East Asia, the birthplace of the Chinese nation, has an excellent agricultural environment, a geographical space with great development potential, and is relatively closed without losing access to foreign exchanges, which are the objective conditions for the sustainable development of the Chinese nation.

Egypt and the two river basins, which are almost open environments, are close to the African continent, the birthplace of human beings. Groups of humans continue to pass by them, and other civilizations developed along the Mediterranean can easily attack them.

The geographical environment of ancient India, located in South Asia, is also relatively closed, but a small Khyber Pass, which opens to the west, has allowed the continuous influx of external conquerors to conquer India again and again.

The geographical environment gave the early Chinese civilization sufficient time to develop. The cultural core brewed on this basis allowed us not to be wiped out and eroded by foreign nations (foreign cultures) when science and technology and force were weak. The continuous development of Chinese civilization for five thousand years is the result of the joint cooperation of objective geographical factors and subjective cultural factors.

Yu: China's unique geography is an important reason why its civilization was not invaded by other civilizations. Other ancient civilizations were built on relatively homogeneous water systems and plains, and geographically lacked natural barriers to protect their cultures, which fractured once foreign cultures invaded.

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Jacobsen: What has been the historical context of education in Chinese society? Its importance and emphasis with the society.

Wu: The traditional education context in China is to provide equitable and high-quality education. Chinese students are well-known for having extensive theoretical knowledge. In recent years, the government and society have worked hard to ensure that students develop holistically in cognition, body, emotion, and morality. As a result, people with a Chinese educational background now not only have solid theoretical knowledge but also innovative thinking and practical ability, which help to achieve themselves and even create values for our country and society. As far as I know, Chinese education has always followed the principle of teaching students based on their aptitude. It is encouraging that nowadays more and more parents and teachers are trying to build learning on students' strengths and interests.

Xia: Social education in China can be divided into three stages.

The first stage: the difficult exploration stage (1949-1980)

As early as in the base area period, the Communist Party of China paid more attention to social education. After the founding of new China, the government began to carry out literacy and literacy education and cultural education for workers, farmers and other groups, which not only effectively improved the cultural quality of the masses, but also gave an unprecedented collective life and collective concept to China's grass-roots society, which has been in the family or clan standard for a long time and lacks "collective consciousness". Social education is gradually showing the characteristics of openness and socialization.

The second stage: wave rising stage (1980-2000)

As China shifted from a planned economy to a market economy, social education in China developed rapidly in the 1990s, and local education departments also issued policies one after another.

Stage III: stable development stage (since 2000)

From the background of modern Chinese society and history of "being a new people" and "arousing the people", China's social education has established a new pattern of diversified education development. The theme of education highlights the popularization and inclusiveness, the education service platform is stronger, the policies and basic organizations of social education have been established, and everything is prosperous.

Yu: Imperial examination system. The fastest way to complete the screening of the state apparatus.

Jacobsen: What are considered – within Chinese culture – the foundational Chinese philosophies?

Wu: In ancient China, the main philosophies were Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism, Legalism, and Buddhism, particularly Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism, which continued to influence the Chinese even throughout the East Asian region. The book of Changes and Lao Zhuang are central to the Chinese people's worldview, and Confucius and Mencius's theories represent the ethical social outlook of the Chinese. Buddhists, on the other hand, promote the idealism of common causes and help each other with Confucianism and Taoism.

Xia: The thoughts of Confucianism and Taoism basically run through the development of the whole history of Chinese philosophy, and they are in a state of one after another. After Buddhism was introduced into China in the Han Dynasty, after the late Eastern Han Dynasty, the development of Sinicization in the two Jin and southern and Northern Dynasties formed a tripartite confrontation with Confucianism and Taoism, and even prevailed over Confucianism and Taoism for a time. At the end of the development of Buddhism, Zen has the greatest influence

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and the most successful localization in China. In a sense, Zen is the result of the integration of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. At the same time, Zen is also the source of Taoism in song and Ming Dynasties. In the song and Ming Dynasties, in addition to the struggle between Neo Confucianism and psychology in the main line, there was also the criticism of "Qi based theory" materialism on Taoism. Finally, Wang Fuzhi summarized the ideological achievements of his predecessors, reaching the peak of ancient Chinese philosophy.

Yu: Confucianism.

Jacobsen: What values guide modern Chinese civilization?

Wu: I believe the most important values guiding modern Chinese are known as The Core Socialist Values, which include national values, social values, and individual values. National values include "prosperity", "democracy", "civilization" and "harmony"; Social values include "freedom", "equality", "justice" and the "rule of law"; And personal values include "patriotism", "dedication", "honesty" and "friendship".

Xia: Prosperity, democracy, civilization, harmony, freedom, equality, justice, rule of law, patriotism, professionalism, integrity, and friendliness. Its specific content mainly includes the guiding ideology of Marxism and the common ideal of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Yu: "Socialist core values," lol.

Jacobsen: How has the high-I.Q. community changed over time in China?

Wu: Since the invention of intelligence tests about 100 years ago, human IQ test results have been steadily increasing; this phenomenon is called the Flynn effect. For example, a person with an average IQ today might be considered a genius in 1919. As far as I know, the high IQ community in China has remained virtually unchanged over time. It could be because intelligence tests have only recently become popular among Chinese people, the time is too short to get many people to participate in the tests, resulting in insufficient statistical data. By the way, it's ironic that children in China are only sent to the hospital for an "intelligence test" if their parents suspect them of having "ADHD."

Xia: The earliest is the hundreds of people in Mensa China and some online communities in China more than a decade ago. Then after the establishment of Shenghan club, China's intellectual community began to grow rapidly, including club organizations such as GFIS, which gradually appeared in the public eye and interacted with variety TV programs.

Yu: It was Mensa China and Shenghan that started this organization, and then GFIS emerged to formalize the Chinese high IQ community. My next step is to have some high IQ societies to lead the high IQ community in China, can be accepted by the country and become more elite, not just an "interest group".

Footnotes

[1] **Fengzhi Wu (邬冯值)** is the Founder & President of the God's Power Society & The Chosen One High IQ Society, the Author of the Mystery Intelligence Test, and a Member of Nano Society, EsoterIQ Society, 6G High IQ Society, GIGA Society (formerly Giga Society 190, and earlier United Giga Society), The Core IQ Society, The POINT Society, NOUS High IQ Society, Sidis Society, and Relic Society (遗迹).

[2] **Craft Xia** is the Founder is the Founder of CHIN.

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[3] **Tianxi Yu** (余天曦) is a Member of God's Power, CatholIQ, Chinese Genius Directory, EsoterIQ Society, Nano Society, and World Genius Directory, and GIGA Society (formerly Giga Society 190, and earlier United Giga Society).

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*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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Conversation with Veronica Palladino, M.D. on Family, Molise, Naturalness, Women, and Religious Faith: Member, Glia Society (2)

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Abstract

Veronica Palladino, M.D., is a Medical Doctor, Co-Champion of the LexIQ Contest, an author of four books, and a member of a number of High-I.Q. societies. She discusses: the main teachings; family a physical and social nourishment; the parts of nature and types of ancient traditions one can find in Molise; an acceptance one's true self and nature; a medical doctor; I.Q. scores; individuals self-promoting at various levels; the friend; a genius; the factors involved in genius; the uniqueness of each genius; strength; determination; creativity; originality; innovation; the medical system in Italy; reasonable working hours; the idea of neurodiversity; religious faith and science; science; patients will die; physicians translate innovations in science into ethical practice; Italy working towards integration ethics and politics with "environmentalism"; ultimate moral decision-making; and the principles of Catholicism.

Keywords: Catholicism, environmentalism, family, genius, Italy, Molise, moral decision-making, neurodiversity, patients, religious faith, science, Veronica Palladino.

Conversation with Veronica Palladino, M.D. on Family, Molise, Naturalness, Women, and Religious Faith: Member, Glia Society (2)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What were the main teachings provided by your father to your sister and you?

Veronica Palladino[1],[2]*: My dad's teachings were very pragmatic. Few words and many facts. It doesn't matter what you tell but what you do with passion and dedication. My father was a tireless worker, a strong and determined man. He said: "Do not cry but fight every moment of life".

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Jacobsen: Is family a physical and social nourishment and renewal, or more of a distant memory to recall for strength and revival, or both?

Palladino: According to me family is nourishment and renewal. When family is healthy it is a source of strength. It is a propellant towards infinite potential but when it is sick it generates traumas and torments from which it is difficult to heal. Every day there is a news case that remembers it. Therefore governments must invest in the well-being and social integration of families.

Jacobsen: What are some of the parts of nature and types of ancient traditions one can find in Molise?

Palladino: Molise shows a rich heritage of traditional festivals that highlight ancient and religious values and a deep cultural identity. There are the WWF Nature Reserve Guardiaregia-Campochiaro, the oasis The Mortine, the LIPU reserve Casacalenda, the Matese, the botanical garden Capracotta, the reserve Collemeluccio.
Lucky people may have the chance to see wild animals as the brown bears, deers, chamois, wolves.

Jacobsen: How does a naturalness, an acceptance one's true self and nature, lead to a more fulfilling life, knowing "that I am what I am, simply"?

Palladino: The pursuit of self knowledge, key element in Socrates philosophy is: γνώθι σαυτόν. It is inscribed over the portico at Apollo's Temple at Delphi. It is the fundamental undertakings of psychology. Everybody has a hidden part of the Universe's truth inside the mind.

Jacobsen: As a medical doctor, what were the inspirations for each text: "Il diario del Martedì, Un mondo altro, La Morte delle Afroditi bionde and Persone e lacrime"? Because I like the combination of M.D. plus writer. I may, or may not, be biased towards writers, dear Veronica.

Palladino: Il diario del Martedì is a research about being who you want to be. Un mondo altro is a novel based on fantasy, love of literature and personal growth. La Morte delle Afroditi bionde is a book that centers on a series of mysterious murders. What it looks like is not. Finally Persone e lacrime is a collection of poems. Poems are particles of oxygen that caress my lungs and ignite my synapses.

Jacobsen: What happens when the I.Q. scores are taken too seriously?

Palladino: I.Q. tests are good ways to improve thinking, mental power and ability but tests are not scientifically validated parameters for definition of intelligence. It is only a start point of orientation.

Jacobsen: Of those individuals self-promoting at various levels, most are men in the high-I.Q. communities. Why?

Palladino: I do not know why but women's IQ scores are extraordinary. I know brilliant and precious women's minds. I hope greater consideration of their skill and professional ability will be the prevalent situation in the future.

Women (My poem for women)

Wicked fibers

Intertwine in the pulsating core of the world.

Kaleidoscopic faces and cutouts of figures they result

From algorithms

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Apparently indecipherable.

Bigots, puritans, prostitutes, rebels,

guilty, wagtails, nightingales, innocents.

Beauty crashes into the minds eager

To possess her and imprison her but not it bends,

advances and expands in

sincere heart that gives passion and rejects servility.

Strength is not sapped

By humiliations

Of the mephitic crapula.

Women, spirits drunk with

Burning emotion.

Women, lovable profile e vibrant with existence.

Women pure and abundant

Source of new

Life.

Jacobsen: Was the friend discovered as similarly gifted when testing around 20?

Palladino: No, but it was a good experience.

Jacobsen: Do you consider yourself a genius?

Palladino: Absolutely no. I love knowledge but there is nothing of a genius in me.

Jacobsen: In some manner, are the factors involved in genius in interaction with the wider world too manifold to make precise or even generic predictions about who, when, and what will be recognized as such, e.g., a person of genius, a period of genius, or a discovery or creation of genius? Terence Tao seems like a person who was known since a young age for prodigious mathematical talents and who, unlike others who went off the tracks, became highly successful.

Palladino: There must be a time, a place, an urgency, a convergence of factors that affect the birth of genius. Literary genius is a multi-layered aptitude that consists of many unique cognitive, affective, perceptual, motivational, interpersonal, and state-dependent attributes, including the challenging of orthodox thinking, fertility of ideas, compulsive discipline and hard work, tolerance of ambiguity, innocence of perception, immersion in the present moment, intellectual diversity, an internal locus of evaluation, and sensitivity to nuances.

Jacobsen: Maybe, the uniqueness of each genius, e.g., "Bohr, Leibniz, Goethe, Bach, Ramanujan, Wittgenstein, Aeschylus," makes comparison or ranking necessarily moot. I don't know. While, at the same time, do you think common themes might mark them? Something educational in an attempt at drawing

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threads through times and cultures, and minds. Cooijmans likes to point to a particular creative capacity in factors, for example.

Palladino: Creativity is a common factor to genial talents certainly. A genius is a curious, stubborn, reckless discoverer of diversity.

Jacobsen: Which genius best exemplifies strength to you?

Palladino: Rosalind Franklin.

Jacobsen: Which genius best exemplifies determination to you?

Palladino: Marie Curie.

Jacobsen: Which genius best exemplifies creativity to you?

Palladino: Leonardo da Vinci.

Jacobsen: Which genius best exemplifies originality to you?

Palladino: Rita Levi Montalcini.

Jacobsen: Which genius best exemplifies innovation to you?

Palladino: Barbara McClintock.

Jacobsen: How is the medical system in Italy compared to other Western European nations? How is this compared to societies with much different values and preferences, e.g., the United States?

Palladino: The medical culture provided by the Italian study system is undoubtedly valid and comprehensive of all important aspects but there are problems relating to job's organization so young doctors decide to work abroad sometimes.

Jacobsen: Do you have reasonable working hours as a resident to balance writing endeavours and medicine?

Palladino: Unfortunately I don't have much time to combine my two natures and I have stopped writing novels.

Jacobsen: How helpful is the idea of neurodiversity to place a positive emphasis on differences in aptitudes and outputs of someone's neurology?

Palladino: Neurodiversity is a power inside every person, a light of special trait that opens every own path. Lack of awareness, and lack of appropriate infrastructure (such as office setup or staffing structures) can cause exclusion of people with neurodevelopmental differences. Understanding and embracing neurodiversity in communities, schools, healthcare settings, and workplaces can improve inclusivity for all people. It is important for all of us to foster an environment that is conducive to neurodiversity, and to recognize and emphasize each person's individual strengths and talents while also providing support for their differences and needs.

Jacobsen: This ineffable quality, is this more an intuitive sense of the Divine rather than a rational enquiry into the state of nature? This seems like a common theme amongst highly intelligent individuals who adhere to a belief in transcendental sentiments and structures beyond the senses and analytical, when I discourse with them. Something incredibly profound, personal, and rock bottom true. An instinct of something that can't not be; where, God simply, purely, exists as ontic universality, as the ground of Being, of Good, of Love, of Justice, of Beauty, of a means by which reality coheres and in which reality remains inhered with – God, of all that is, was, and will be, to them.

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Palladino: Religious faith and science cannot be merged. They are two wonderful dimensions, parallel but not confusing.

Jacobsen: When does our science simply not have the answers that matter to us?

Palladino: Until a new genius will find the right answers.

Jacobsen: How do you cope with knowing some unknown number of patients will die with you, around you?

Palladino: "Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built of a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touches some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there."~ Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451. Death is the last point of life and we have to accept it.

Nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed $E+S \rightleftarrows ES \rightarrow E+P$

Jacobsen: How do physicians translate innovations in science into ethical practice mentioned in commentary of Weinstein and Stehr?

Palladino: Innovative practice occurs when a clinician provides something new, untested, or nonstandard in the course of clinical care. Weinstein, Jay and Nico Stehr wrote "The power of knowledge: race science, race policy, and the Holocaust,"Social Epistemology" The authors take a comparative and historical perspective and refer to well-known theoretical frameworks, These cases cover a number of countries and different time periods. They see a close link between 'knowledge producers' and political decision-makers, but show that the effectiveness of the policies varies dramatically.

Jacobsen: Is Italy working towards integration ethics and politics with "environmentalism"? What obligations and responsibilities come with the rights and privileges of human beings living in society and living in nature as part of Nature?

Palladino: The key environmental legislation is the Environmental Consolidated Act (Norme in materia ambientale or Codice dell'Ambiente) (Legislative Decree no 152/2006). The state has exclusive competence in environmental regulation (Italian Constitution). The principal national authority is the Ministry of Ecological Transition (Ministero della Transizione Ecologica) (MET) (formerly the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea (Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare) (Law Decree no 22/2021 converted into law no 55/2021.The regime pays particular attention to projects and activities that: 1Could directly impact the environment. 2 Affect the quality of life and conservation of species and natural habitats. 3Affect the biodiversity of the environment.

Nature is around and inside people. Nature is our mouths, our lungs, our eyes. We can not kill ourselves.

Jacobsen: Sometimes, even often, there can be statements and proposals by the Roman Catholic hierarchy, while, simultaneously, by and large, an ignoring of these by the laity. It may be different in Italian society than, for example, Canadian society. However, these differences can create confusion about the investment of authority within the minds of the hierarchs and the various cultures of the laity. With values inclusive of "life and dignity of the human person, solidarity, subsidiarity and respect," is it the conscience of the individual believer, various hierarchs of the Church, or something else, in which the authority for ultimate moral decision-making must be held to account within Catholicism?

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Palladino: Each doctrine has interpretative differences especially considering the cultural, environmental and social aspects that characterize nations, however the founding pillars of Catholicism always remain the same. The foundations or pillars of an authentic Catholic life are summarized in the traditional four pillars of Catholic catechisms: faith, liturgy/sacraments, life in Christ, and prayer.

Jacobsen: You spoke of the principles of Catholicism. What about the doctrines and warnings in Catholicism, e.g., belief in the Devil in the former and warnings against association with/involvement in freemasonry? Do these come into personal consideration for personal living, too?

Palladino: Faith must be a reason of improvement, growth and resolution. Honesty, sincerity, humility, acceptance of one's limits, kindness and fairness are the principles I follow. Freemasonry is a distorted concept of cohesion and I disagree.

Footnotes

[1] Medical Doctor; Co-Champion, LexIQ Contest; Full Member, CHIN; Member, Leviathan;Member, The One Society; Member, Hochste IQ Society; Member, Profundus Society; Member, Synaptiq Society; Member, WGD; Member, Gifted High IQ Network; Prospective Member, Sidis Society; Full Member of other High-I.Q. Societies; Author: "Il diario del Martedì" (2008), "Un mondo altro" (2009), "La Morte delle Afroditi bionde" (2019) and "Persone e lacrime" (poems) (2018).

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/palladino-2**; 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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James Webb Telescope: Alleged presence of water in the atmosphere of the Exoplanet Wasp-96 b

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Author: Hindemburg Melão Jr.

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Abstract

This article discusses the claims of the presence of water on exoplanet Wasp-96 b. **There is a claim in some recent reportage in science news from the ESA-Webb news site. The author of this critical piece analyzes the claims about the allegations of the existence of water on the exoplanet Wasp-96 b. The author considers the article by ESA-Webb news more sensationalist than not.**

Keywords: James Webb, James Webb Space Telescope, NASA, Wasp-96b, Water.

James Webb Telescope: Alleged presence of water in the atmosphere of the Exoplanet Wasp-96 b

Please see the footnotes and citation style listing after the article.[1],[2]

Original publication here: **https://www.saturnov.org/news/james-webb, exception non-original submission permitted.**

It was recently reported that a study conducted with the James Webb space telescope has revealed the presence of water in the atmosphere of an exoplanet located 1150 light-years away. Indeed, there is some favorable evidence, but how credible is this claim? In this article we will examine how much fantasy and how much reality there is in this story.

Among the various recent news stories about the James Webb Space Telescope, this one, **https://esawebb.org/news/weic2206/**, in particular caught my attention for its sub-optimal (not to say poorly done) regression and the interpretation that was made of this graph:

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Image credits: Hindemburg Melao Jr., Saturnov, Sigma Society.

There are many details that could be commented on, but there are two in particular that I would like to look at:

1. among the several points indicated as signatures of the presence of water, only 1 is fairly clear (1.4 μm), and even in that case there is a large outlier nearby, which reduces the reliability in that signature. The points 1.9 μm and 1.1 μm are still reasonable, but the points 0.96 μm and 2.7 μm indicate nothing. In fact, the 2.7 μm point may indicate a counter-evidence.2. The regression model is apparently not parametric, perhaps some neural network was used for this, in which case a much better fit would be expected. The use of neural networks for this type of model should be used with great caution, because due to the large number of layers it is difficult to "see" and understand what is going on behind the fitting process.

When you use a model with 2 or 3 parameters, you know precisely what will change in the shape of the curve when you change each parameter up or down. But when you use a neural network, you are practically working with a "black box", giving up understanding the underlying processes. In exchange, the use of this "black box" confers the "magical" power to achieve some operational advantages, among which is to get as good a fit as one wants, to corroborate any desired result (within certain more or less "plausible" limits). As a consequence, one can find what one wants, rather than finding the Truth. This is why I am generally against using neural nets, except in specific situations where one can compare them with results obtained by other methods, or as a fine-tuning step to improve a result that has already been determined by a more "cognizable" model, so to speak, as I have commented in my articles and my books.

I searched for the raw dataset on the Wasp-96 b light curve, but could not find it. On the James Webb website there is only data on the transits and the associated drops in brightness, but not on the absorption streaks at the different wavelengths. I would like to do my own modeling of the data, without the biases that apparently guided the intentions of the authors of this article, and calculate the probability that such results can be interpreted as a real signature of the presence of water. In any case, even without access to the data, it is still possible to make a panoramic analysis of what is on the graph, and the facts are not quite as the authors are suggesting.

It would be relatively simple and easy to make a better fitting model than the one used in this image taken from Webb's site. In fact, it would be desirable to do at least two regressions, one without any a priori model, to try to capture the raw properties of what the data reveal to us, and another using a model on where the absorption streaks should be and what the absorption intensity is in each region, to make a more complete comparison of the entire morphology of the curves, rather than just comparing the positions of the ridges. This would provide a much more comprehensive view of the situation and help make a more reliable interpretation.

Both regressions would need to be robust, because there are many outliers that could shift the regression curve away from the region where it should be. Perhaps semi-robust models, such as Huber's, would be more appropriate, because sometimes it is unclear whether or not a given point should be interpreted as an outlier, so it would be better to give each point a "credibility weight" or something, rather than entirely cutting off some points and leaving the rest entirely. Also, since there is little data in the sample, the uncertainty in determining which points are outliers is greater.

The fits near the crests of 1.4 and 1.1 are clearly bad, and visually one can already easily see that the curve of a good model should pass closer to the local central tendency of the point cloud in that part of the data, but it is passing far below.

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One of the most “serious” problems is the distribution of the experimental points in the vicinity where the absorption line at 2.7 μm should be observed. This inconsistency at 2.7 μm may explain why the fit is (intentionally?) bad, because if they tried to do a better fit, the inconsistency would jump more clearly into view, so this degradation in fit quality may have been for the purpose of masking such inconsistency, to pretend that the problem in the hypothesis about the presence of water is not so serious.

A simple model with local adjustments of polynomials of order 3 every 7 points (or a little more), corrected at the extremities to connect smoothly, or something like that, would already provide a curve much more adherent to the points in the vicinity of the ridges, besides preserving the good fit in the other regions, making more evident the problem they tried to “disguise”. A Fourier series would also be an alternative to be considered, with the detail that the LPR fit needs fewer parameters in cases where there are long horizontal straight lines, or almost straight lines, because in these cases either the Fourier series needs a large number of parameters or it forces ripples that may not be representative of the reality where there are long straight segments.

In 2012, **Liyun Su** presented interesting work using “Local Polynomial Regression” (LPR), with clear advantages in many situations when one has a reasonable idea about the model a priori, but quite “dangerous” when one has no idea what to expect from the curve morphology. So it seems to me that the alternative I described above is able to meet well the criterion of being more adherent to the data, without substantially raising the risk of overfitting (as happens in some cases in which Liyun Su’s methods are applied). Therefore, the method I suggest in the previous paragraph would be preferable to both the method used by Su and the traditional Fourier series.

Wonsang You’s 2016 studies seem to me an interesting advance in the use of this tool, and Anna Derkacheva et. al.’s 2020 paper is decisively a good model for this purpose, with good local fits, low risk of overfitting, and when there are extensive and frequent càdlàgs in the time series, or substantial reductions in data density in certain regions, this type of method inhibits the emergence of large anomalies, as usually occurs with other methods. Although this is not a case of a time series, from a statistical point of view it can receive essentially the same approach, since each value on the x-axis has only 1 value on the y-axis, and every nth value is dependent on the (n-1)-th, which are some fundamental characteristics of time series.

Some of these studies are analyzed, refined and applied in my books **IMCH** and **Two new rating systems**. Here I will only give a brief introductory analysis, to clarify some of the most glaring problems.

The graph below shows an example taken from Anna Derkacheva’s article, in which some of the advantages of fitting a curve to a set of points with several undesirable symptoms are analyzed, and yet the fit looks very good and manages to avoid several typical errors that are often produced by other techniques:

Of course, this kind of model is useless for extrapolations, but it is extremely efficient for interpolations, deeply respecting the localities of the points along the whole considered spectrum.

However, none of this would be necessary to see the “error” in this case, which is quite obvious. By “glancing” at the graph on James Webb’s website one can already see that the 2.7 μm point probably contradicts the hypothesis of the presence of water, since in the vicinity of 2.7 μm there are empirical indications of a valley, but the hypothesis would require that there be a ridge. The use of more sophisticated models would only serve to formalize the detection of the problem and objectively demonstrate its presence.

Even if the uncertainties in this region (~2.7 μm) are large, due to the larger dispersion, this fact could not be neglected and the combined probability (in a Bayesian analysis) that the data set is a signature of the presence of water in the Wasp-96 b atmosphere becomes much more fragile when examining the situation with this approach.

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So it strikes me as a news story with symptoms of sensationalism, adopting a model with low adherence to the data, to force a “spectacular” interpretation in the eyes of the lay public, whose actual probability of being the correct interpretation is not that high, being far from conclusive.

One would need access to the raw data to calculate the probability that the null hypothesis (that the signal indicates the presence of water) should be ruled out. In the absence of the numerical values, looking at the graph, the most that can be done is a rough estimate. Within these limitations, the shape of the curve in the vicinity of the 1.4 μm point is very similar to that expected and the dispersion in this region is narrow. This is good for the author who argues that he has found evidence of water in the atmosphere of the exoplanet. It should also be noted that in the vicinity of the 1.1 μm point the fit is not as good, but still indicates a high probability. This is also a point in favor of the author of the article. But at the other points of the graph, the evidence is almost zero, and the big problem is that in the specific case of the 2.7 μm point, depending on the parameters of the model chosen to calculate the quality of fit, one can even have a counter-evidence.

A calculation that took this set of facts into account would perhaps indicate that there is more than a 90% probability that the data indicate the presence of water, which is indeed a strong indication, but at the same time the 10% probability that it is not an indication of the presence of water is something that could not be disregarded.

In particle physics and quantum mechanics, generally, when a new elementary particle is supposed to have been discovered, an evidence is considered “conclusive” when the accumulation of experimental data exceeds at least 99.73% probability that the observed signatures are of the particle sought. In some cases, only after the probability exceeds 99.99997% or 99.9999999% is it interpreted that the discovery has indeed been consummated. So a probability of “only” 90% is still a long way from what would substantiate such a strong statement, and should at the very least be viewed as over-optimism.

In any case, even if future research corroborates the presence of water in the atmosphere of this planet, some questions remain, including why they adopted such a poor model fit. The (probable) neural network itself used to generate the curve plotted in the graph published on J. Webb’s site is certainly versatile enough to allow a better fit, provided the author of the study wanted a better fit. This is reminiscent of those images of flying saucers, intentionally blurred to make it difficult to notice details that you don’t want to be noticed, lest you unmask something you wish to cover up. In my opinion, there is a lack of transparency, and the authors should at least try to justify why they preferred a bad setting. There are many situations where a “worse” fit is not only acceptable but also recommended to avoid overfitting, but this is clearly not the case. A brief discussion of this is done in my book about two new rating systems, in the part about a study by Rob Edwards to try to measure inflation in the rating. I also cover this topic in articles about investments and in some of my videos.

NASA, many other research centers and many universities have been doing this kind of cheap sensationalism for many years now. The news about life in the clouds of Venus, life on Mars, fossilized life in the Martian meteorite, life underground on Europa, evidence of a Dyson Sphere on another star, abnormal acceleration on Oumuamua, the imminent risk of explosion of Betelgeuse are just some examples of exaggerations and distortions, possibly intentional, because it is easier to get research funds this way. The sad reality is that science is just another enterprise at the service of the economy, advertising, politics, etc.

On the one hand, I think it is understandable that the pressure from the government and the people to justify investments in these projects forces researchers to make up the results, as well as needing to stitch together almost all astronomical research to force it to somehow connect to topics of popular interest, such as the search for alien

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life or saving the planet from an apocalyptic collision. I find this understandable, but I don't agree. Surely there are more honorable ways to show the real importance of scientific results, without having to make them up to make them look "pretty" in the eyes of the general public. The ideal would be to educate the general public to enable people to appreciate and value real science, just as it is, instead of trivializing it to suit the taste of the lay public.

One of the problems of allowing science to be excessively contaminated by publicity is that some researchers may not distinguish between a serious and reliable study and one that is merely advertising, leading them to take as valid the results, whose errors end up spreading and contaminating other studies, in a chain reaction whose limits are lost sight of. This problem is much more frequent and more serious than one might think. In my book IMCH, I point out an alarming number of errors in data records from official sources, as well as several indications of fraud. Some authorities have been notified, but no action has been taken, indicating acquiescence with such frauds, or simple prevarication in some cases.

At this juncture, despite the various problems, the Financial Market is comparatively more transparent and more immune. I am not defending the Financial Market; on the contrary, I think that there are many problems of lack of ethics and a very worrying number of frauds not investigated, not supervised and not penalized in this sector. But there is a virtue that needs to be recognized: while in "science" one can play with theoretical models at will, without the errors being properly confronted with reality, in the Financial Market the models are confronted with reality all the time. This is why the use of accurate statistical tools to model the Financial Market is of crucial importance, so that one can maximize profits and minimize risks, with the results materializing quickly, impersonally and mercilessly. Errors and inaccuracies are punished, while success is rewarded in equal measure.

Nevertheless, in other areas, such as Psychometrics, Astrometry, Anthropometrics, Sociology, Cosmology, etc., mistakes are hardly punished at all. errors are hardly punished at all, and some errors are even awarded, with an unjustified recognition, supported by the lack of critical vision of the "peers" who analyze the cases under the same naive and incomplete prism of the authors of the awarded papers, leading to the exaltation of incorrect papers, simply because they fit better in the prevailing paradigms and dogmas, fitting better the collective beliefs of the majority of the academic community – in particular the beliefs of the members of the committees that determine who should receive the awards.

From this perspective, although the Financial Market can be cruel and bloodthirsty, it is also much more fair, more impartial, and produces results in accordance with the quality of the work developed. Not always the best works are the best rewarded in absolute terms, because the absolute gains depend on the percentage performances multiplied by the volumes under management, and as the vast majority of investors don't have the basic knowledge to make good decisions about where to invest, it is natural that the vast majority of investors make bad choices, adopting shallow and irrational criteria. That is why the best investments do not necessarily produce the highest absolute profits, but they do produce the highest percentage profits, since these do not depend on the investors' ability to choose, but only on the efficiency of the investment strategies themselves.

Footnotes

[1] **Hindemburg Melão Jr.** is the author of solutions to scientific and mathematical problems that have remained unsolved for decades or centuries, including improvements on works by 5 Nobel laureates, holder of a world record in longest announced checkmate in blindfold simultaneous chess games, registered in the Guinness Book 1998, author of the Sigma Test Extended and founder of some high IQ societies.

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[2] Individual Publication Date: July 15, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/webb**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/**.

Conversation with Entemake Aman (阿曼) on the Chinese in Education: Member, OlympIQ Society (4)

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Abstract

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: online games; TikTok; other projects; the older generations of Chinese; focus on I.Q.; an I.Q. between 120 and 130; an antipathy with British Mensa; Wayne Zhang; the cheating into OlympIQ; Wang Peng; Peng's book on Mensa; Tsinghua University; Peking University; University of Science and Technology of China; best educated minds in China; Chinese education; the U.S.; thinking rather than memorization; liberal arts in China; the subjects covered in liberal arts education in China; top universities in the U.S. reject the Chinese college entrance examination; young Chinese dream about money; first grade and high school; Chinese with super-high-I.Q.s; Chinese professional society; innovative and imaginative thinkers; and key senior high schools.

Keywords: China, Chinese education, Entemake Aman, high school, liberal arts, OlympIQ, Peking University, TikTok, Tsinghua University, university, Wang Peng.

Conversation with Entemake Aman (阿曼) on the Chinese in Education: Member, OlympIQ Society (4)

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Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citation style listing after the interview.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What are the most prominent online games for young Chinese?

Entemake Aman (阿曼)[1],[2]*: PUBG and League of Legends.

Jacobsen: Why is TikTok so popular for the youth of China?

Aman: Tiktok can send video content according to people's interests. You can also make money by becoming an online celebrity through Tiktok.

Jacobsen: What are some of the other projects ongoing now?

Aman: Young people also like to chat with others through wechat and watch others' wechat circle of friends.

Jacobsen: Why are the older generations of Chinese focused on chess, playing cards, and entertainment equipment?

Aman: These are the recreational games for the elderly. When they were young, they did not have mobile phones and computers. When they were old, they were still used to the entertainment items they used to play when they were young.

Jacobsen: Is focus on I.Q. more of a young person thing than an older person thing in China?

Aman: In China's high IQ circles, we haven't seen any elderly people with IQ above 160. On the contrary, there are many elderly people in Mega society. In China, young people pay more attention to high IQ. Their age is generally between 15 and 50.

Jacobsen: Why is an I.Q. between 120 and 130 the range for those can study well and perform well in the Chinese academic system?

Aman: In China, there are two courses in physics and mathematics. The full score requires an IQ between 120 and 130 (sd15). But full marks require special efforts and good teachers. Chemistry, biology, Chinese and English require the ability to recite knowledge and apply knowledge. So many times, people with an IQ of more than 140 (sd15) may not achieve good results even if they work hard.

Jacobsen: Is there an antipathy with British Mensa and the former chairman of Mensa in China, or is this simply a bureaucratic decision to not repeat the same mistakes from before by British Mensa?

Aman: I heard that the former chairman of Mensa spent money from Mensa China. There may also be bureaucratic reasons.

Jacobsen: Why is Wayne Zhang so low-key?

Aman: This may be his charm. His photos also look like a mature man.

Jacobsen: How is the cheating into OlympIQ know without evidence to support the claims? Who got sloppy?

Aman: A lot of circumstantial evidence. And I am 100% sure that there are many people cheating in China. By chatting with these people, we can also judge their thinking ability. Anyway, China's slse48 and slseii scores are very abnormal. This is also the reason why Giga society no longer recognizes slse48.

Jacobsen: What makes Wang Peng known in the Chinese high-I.Q. circles?

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Aman: Because he was in 2009, slse48 got 30 points. He is also a Mensa member. He has published a book about Mensa. He also married a Mensa Chinese member.

Jacobsen: What was the focus on Peng's book on Mensa? What were the contents? Is there a publicly accessible link to it?

Aman: This is a book published from 2010 to 2011. Its name is Mensa Road, which can be found through Taobao app. I wonder if Amazon can find it. This book popularizes the high IQ Association and carries an IQ test (which can measure people with IQ below 145sd15). There are some IQ questions.

Jacobsen: What makes Peking University great?

Aman: The mathematics and physics majors of Peking University are especially strong! In China, many IMO gold medal winners go to Peking University to study.

Jacobsen: Why do some of the best educated minds in China leave for the United States – sometimes for life?

Aman: Because American education is the first in the world.

Jacobsen: Was your own experience with Chinese education more positive than negative or more negative than positive?

Aman: More negative than positive.

Jacobsen: With time to mature from childhood, does the U.S. seem to have an education focused on "interest, talent and happiness"? Which means, has your opinion changed or stayed the same?

Aman: I think American education is more suitable for genius, and Chinese education is more suitable for ordinary people. This is also the view of Yang Zhenning, the Nobel Prize in physics, in an interview.

Jacobsen: Do you think those with an I.Q. above 130 tend to be more focused on thinking rather than memorization? In other words, they process concepts in mind rather than commit them to memory and then recite them in the test.

Aman: Memory and IQ are two different abilities. My memory is at the average level, but my IQ is 180 (sd15). People with IQ over 130 (sd15) have more innovative thinking and imagination. Too many recitation tests will limit their talent!

Jacobsen: Why are liberal arts in China more focused on recitation?

Aman: Exam oriented education is to select people who work harder. After graduation from University, they choose careers such as lawyers and accountants that need to recite a lot of books!

Jacobsen: What are the subjects covered in liberal arts education in China?

Aman: High school courses were politics, history, geography, mathematics (simpler than science), Chinese and English.

China's education pays more attention to scores. Students usually have more homework and exams, and they have relatively little free time to allocate. They also do not encourage and tap students' Extracurricular potential. The classroom atmosphere will be more serious. It always focuses on learning more, reciting more, practicing more and taking more exams to cultivate students' absorption of knowledge. Generally, you just need to study hard. You don't need to prepare any specific materials and pay attention to the application time. You just need to follow the

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steps of teachers and students to study the exam in a regular way. The educational goal of American education does not attach much importance to the learning of "basic knowledge", but attaches great importance to the cultivation of students' creativity. It is not enough for children who can only learn. The most popular students in the United States are those who have excellent performance in the field of sports and have their own skills. They may only get upper middle grades, but they often get the best resources, or even priority admission places.

Jacobsen: Why do most of the top universities in the U.S. reject the Chinese college entrance examination?

Aman: In the United States, performance is not the only criterion. They pay more attention to your personal abilities and characteristics. So you know, it takes a long time to find your interest and prove your strength. We should find what we are interested in and good at in different extracurricular activities, and then practice to hone our skills, and then participate in various professional competitions to prove our strength. In the United States, most of this training method began from junior high school.

Jacobsen: Do many young Chinese dream about money more than anything else?

Aman: Money can solve 99% of the problems. Many students may not go to college because of their hobbies, but to find a good job to make money!

Jacobsen: How does the first grade (age 6 to 7) differ from high school (age 15 to 18)?

Aman: High school students aged 15 to 18 work harder, while those aged 5 to 7 study mathematics and Chinese. Learn how to write, simple arithmetic, etc. But from my own experience, every morning and afternoon, pupils aged 5 to 7 also have to learn.

Jacobsen: Even though, these Chinese with super-high-I.Q.s went to ordinary universities. How did they leverage their mental talents, regardless?

Aman: These 15 talents with IQ over 170 (sd15) have no chance to show their talents and choose their favorite majors. Their school is very ordinary (the University ranks after 800 in the world). They may accomplish nothing in their life. This is also the reason why there are few Nobel prizes in China.

Jacobsen: Are there benefits in Chinese professional society for the recitation and focus on memorized information?

Aman: Reciting knowledge can help us get good grades in the exam.

Jacobsen: Are more innovative and imaginative thinkers with I.Q.s over 140 (S.D. 150 prone to conformity and rejection by Chinese society?

Aman: They also need this knowledge to be thinkers. From my own experience, few people around me pay attention to the field of high IQ. No one is excluded, of course, because there are few opportunities to show the talents of thinkers.

Jacobsen: How many students, from these key senior high schools, participate in the physics competitions and mathematics competitions?

Aman: Although I have an IQ of 180 (sd15), I didn't go to a key high school. Even in a key high school, the number is relatively small.

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Footnotes

[1] Member, OlympIQ Society; Member, Mensa International.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/aman-4**; 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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Conversation with Matthew Scillitani on Mild and Severe Reactions to Score Reports, Recognition, Rick Rosner, and Personality Factors: Member, Giga Society (8)

2022-07-22

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Abstract

Matthew Scillitani, member of the Glia Society and Giga Society, is a software developer living in Cary, North Carolina. He is of Italian and British lineage, and is fluent in English and Dutch (reading and writing). He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at East Carolina University. As of 2022, he's pursuing a second bachelor's degree in computer science. He previously worked as a research psychologist, data analyst, writer, editor, web developer, and software engineer. You may contact him via e-mail at mattscil@gmail.com. He discusses: I.Q.; Psychometric Qrosswords; minor recognition; the communication with other members; conversations evolve with similarly mentally talented people; feedback to members presenting ideas; interview with Rick Rosner; the feeling or the click of solving a hard problem on a high-range test; genius get mistaken for stupidity; testing geniuses; charisma; self-confidence; Computer Science; a stable and happy situation regarding income; and impressive limitations in ordinary people.

Keywords: Giga Society, Matthew Scillitani, personality factors, Psychometric Qrosswords, Rick Rosner.

Conversation with Matthew Scillitani on Mild and Severe Reactions to Score Reports, Recognition, Rick Rosner, and Personality Factors: Member, Giga Society (8)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Paul loves crushing people's self-inflated notions of their I.Q. In that, they assume having a higher intelligence quotient than in reality. You know the phrase, "A Megalomaniac's Waterloo." He's funny. What is a typical reaction of someone who takes one, or even multiple, tests by Paul and fails to enter the Giga Society, even the Glia Society, as far as you know?

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Matthew Scillitani[1],[2]*: I think most test-takers don't believe they'll qualify for the Giga Society so it's not a huge blow to their egos when they don't get in. I do know of many people who haven't been able to qualify for the Glia Society and it's crushed them though. It's not uncommon for someone to think they'll score 150 or 160 and score in the 120s or 130s and then post on social media or in a forum that Paul doesn't grade fairly or that I.Q. tests don't matter anyway. Some more serious reactions were from candidates e-mailing me to say that they considered suicide after seeing their score report.

Jacobsen: When did you realize, "I got it,' regarding Psychometric Qrosswords? In that, you nailed the test. You must've had a sense of doing well on it, before receiving the score.

Scillitani: When I filled in my last answer I felt that they were probably all right but wasn't totally confident I'd qualify for Giga. It happens often that one thinks they have every answer right and ends up totally off and misses half or more answers so I only really knew when I saw the score report. That was an exciting moment.

Jacobsen: Was the pursuit of the minor recognition worth the requisite effort?

Scillitani: Hmm, well, that was really a secondary or tertiary goal but I would say it was worth it. Some readers will roll their eyes and scoff at my wanting recognition for an inborn quality as opposed to an achievement but I'll remind everyone that even when one does great things they rarely get recognition for it in their lifetime anyway, so I'll take any positive recognition I can get. A great example of this is that, at every job I've worked to date, I've optimized and revolutionized whatever task I was given and have never received a raise, promotion, or even a pat on the back. The opposite, actually. Many times co-workers or even managers have stolen my ideas or work because it was better than anything they could come up with themselves.

Jacobsen: In those conversations on "STEM, politics, religion, and so forth," what is the first thing noticed in the communication with other members?

Scillitani: That every member has something interesting to say and is largely polite and respectful. It's amazing how few arguments and insults there are in discussions with Glia members, even when many of them are involved.

Jacobsen: How do those conversations evolve with similarly mentally talented people?

Scillitani: I wouldn't know since It's very hard to find a group of people whose I.Q.s are all at or above 147 outside of an I.Q. society. I've spoken one-on-one with smart people outside of I.Q. societies but personal conversations often go differently than ones in a group.

Jacobsen: How do members of the Glia Society give feedback to members presenting ideas for it?

Scillitani: When a member presents an idea to the group it usually goes quite well. If it is uninteresting then a member or two will comment on it in an objective way and then we'll move on to another topic. If it's interesting then it may trigger discussion with a handful of members and could even evolve into a group phone call that lasts for hours.

Jacobsen: Where was this interview with Rick Rosner published?

Scillitani: This interview was done by Errol Morris from the TV series, First Person. I believe the interview took place in 2001 but I didn't watch it until 2016. I've also read some of Rosner's interviews done by you as well.

Jacobsen: What is the feeling or the click of solving a hard problem on a high-range test?

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Scillitani: It feels amazing. When the problem is hard and takes say, an hour or two, there's a euphoric feeling and a wonderful dopamine rush. For extremely hard problems that take weeks or months it's a kind of 'jump out of your chair' excitement that one rarely gets. I imagine it's what winning the lottery feels like.

Jacobsen: How does genius get mistaken for stupidity, even for immaturity?

Scillitani: Intelligence is taken for stupidity in the presence of unintelligent people. Very few people know or can admit that they're idiots so when they hear something they don't understand, especially when the speaker isn't considered an authority or expert on the subject, they can't believe it's their own lack of intelligence. They'd prefer to believe it's the intelligent speaker who must be the moron. As for being taken as immature, I imagine that is related more to Asperger Syndrome, regardless of whether the person a genius or not. Most people see their rigidity, perceived abrasiveness, and lack of understanding social cues as immaturity.

Jacobsen: Why are testing geniuses, to find them, necessary for the advancement of humankind? Why is advancement of humankind the value, the direction for moral effort? What does the advancement of humankind look like to you?

Scillitani: Geniuses are the ones making all the breakthroughs, inventing all the useful gadgets, discovering how the universe works, and so forth, so they're really the ones who are paving the way for mankind. As for the value in advancing mankind, aside from being one of our functions as a species, it's just interesting. We're on a big rock in space and we're really smart, what else can we do but be curious about how it all works?

I'd like to see more focus on discovery, especially in Earth's oceans, and in outer space; medical advancements capable of prolonging our lifespans; and for for big changes to happen in the political sphere.

Jacobsen: Why are so few geniuses "charismatic"?

Scillitani: This is probably because most of them have Asperger Syndrome or schizophrenia. Both of these disorders can make a person appear quirky, eccentric, hostile, and/or unpredictable and anti-social. Nikola Tesla was one of the few charismatic geniuses that almost certainly also had Asperger Syndrome but I can't think of any others off the top of my head.

Jacobsen: Is self-confidence an important factor in improving performance in professional pursuits for the high-I.Q.?

Scillitani: Being self-confident is important for improving performance in almost every profession for anyone, regardless of their I.Q. If we don't think we can achieve something then we're dooming ourselves to mediocrity. I'm not suggesting everyone should believe in themselves or anything, but that if it is realistic for one to have the requisite abilities to do something, even if it's rare, they should pursue it if they wish to.

Jacobsen: Why pursue Computer Science now?

Scillitani: It's more interesting than business/advertising and there's less political involvement than in psychology. Several times I considered dropping out of school while I was working towards my degree in psychology because of how pervasive politics are in that pseudo-science. So many researchers fabricate data or withhold data if it doesn't align with their political beliefs and I wanted nothing to do with people like that. There's a reason psychologists often say, "everybody lies [many times] everyday"!

Jacobsen: What would a stable and happy situation regarding income and a day job be for you?

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Scillitani: Working alone and doing hard but slow tasks would be nice. I don't like having to grind menial tasks all day or work in teams so I'm hoping I'll be more independent as a computer scientist than an advertiser. As for income, I'll take as much as I can get!

Jacobsen: When you realize the rather impressive limitations in ordinary people to form coherent thoughts, how does this impact the further extension of coherent thoughts into a worldview? In that, people, generally, aren't coherent in a moment, so aren't in general views. Does this explain a lot of ordinary human life to you?

Scillitani: Well, it's taught me that most people don't actually have their own worldview in the first place. Even when someone appears somewhat intelligent it's usually that they've found a genuinely smart person, absorbed as much knowledge from them as they could, and then taken that person's worldview as their own. I don't believe that adults whose I.Q.s are below ~120 (about 1 in 10) are capable of processing information with any level of depth beyond simple "A –> B", Pavlov's Dog type thinking.

Also, yes, this does very well explain a lot about ordinary human life to me. I used to think that most people had willfully poor impulse control, were lazy, refused to think ahead, and so forth but now I know it's that they *can't* control their impulses on their own, *can't* understand personal responsibility, and *can't* think things through. That is a very depressing but unfortunate truth and most intelligent people can't believe that's how it is. The smarter someone is the more likely they think, "intelligence doesn't matter much, it's all about work ethic" or "anyone could do what I just did, we're not so different." That's probably the most wrong they've ever been about anything in their lives though.

Footnotes

[1] Member, Giga Society; Member, Glia Society. Bachelor's Degree, Psychology, East Carolina University.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/scillitani-8**; 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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Conversation with Claus Volko, M.D. on High-I.Q. Societies: Member, World Genius Directory (6)

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Abstract

Claus Volko is an Austrian computer and medical scientist who has conducted research on the treatment of cancer and severe mental disorders by conversion of stress hormones into immunity hormones. This research gave birth to a new scientific paradigm which he called "symbiont conversion theory": methods to convert cells exhibiting parasitic behaviour to cells that act as symbionts. In 2013 Volko, obtained an IQ score of 172 on the Equally Normed Numerical Derivation Test. He is also the founder and president of Prudentia High IQ Society, a society for people with an IQ of 140 or higher, preferably academics. He discusses: high IQ societies; Mensa in Austria; current size of Prudentia; journal publications; the Facebook group; membership size and demographics; Facebook; "only positive aspects" to high-IQ societies; the failures; more realistic purposes; the tests of Ivan Ivec; other societies than Mensa; Henning Ludvigsen; Kostantino Pataridis; hardly anyone drank at the Mensa meetings; logics; the journal; the new society; members from Europe, Asia, and North America; books; television, movies, or music of interest; interesting discoveries in medicine; a paradigm shift; and favourite issue of the society journal.

Keywords: Claus Volko, Facebook, fuzzy logic, Henning Ludvigsen, High IQ societies, Ivan Ivec, Jungian Personality Theory, Kostantino Pataridis, Mensa International, Metaphysics, Prudentia, Symbiont Conversion Theory, Vienna.

Conversation with Claus Volko, M.D. on High-I.Q. Societies: Member, World Genius Directory (6)

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

Interview conducted in late 2020. The delay is personal idiocy, not his.

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Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Why are most "high IQ societies are not much more than websites with member lists"?

Claus Volko, M.D.[1],[2]*: Mostly because they are international organizations that have members in a large number of countries but not many members in a single country. So there are no real-life, face-to-face meetings.

Jacobsen: How is Mensa in Austria able to host monthly meetings in Vienna?

Volko: There are about 200 members living in Vienna.

Jacobsen: What is the current size of Prudentia?

Volko: Right now we have 46 members.

Jacobsen: The journal publications seem short in the first analysis. Why short for some of these first issues of the journal?

Volko: I decided to publish a new issue of the journal whenever I had new material to publish instead of keeping collecting material until a certain amount would have been gathered.

Jacobsen: What happens on the Facebook group?

Volko: Not much yet. Mostly introducing new members.

Jacobsen: What is the membership size and demographics now?

Volko: There are members from Europe, Asia and North America.

Jacobsen: Why is Facebook the social medium for the high-IQ individuals?

Volko: Well, most people have a Facebook account. So why should they not use it.

Jacobsen: In regards to "only positive aspects" to high-IQ societies, what are the positive aspects of societies like Prudentia and Mensa International?

Volko: Prudentia has a nice journal with some highly interesting articles, e.g. on Symbiont Conversion Theory and on the Synthesis of Metaphysics and Jungian Personality Theory.

Jacobsen: If, in theory, they could perform such a function apart from the postsecondary institutional environment and the long-term existence of the societies. Why the failures to do it? Also, is this reasonable with the fact that most "high IQ societies are not much more than websites with member lists"?

Volko: High IQ societies need to publish more educational and scientific articles.

Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, why not simply have the more straightforward notion of the evidenced existence of social communities for the highly intelligence alongside academia as a more concrete and realistic contributor to the needs of society? One can point to the failures of academia. However, its benefits would seem to far outweigh its costs and the high-IQ societies appear, as you noted, "not much more than websites with member lists." As well, what other more realistic purposes could high-IQ societies perform in the early 21st century, even the middle 21st century?

Volko: Basically high IQ societies are a means of getting to know people. It does not matter which society one belongs to, people connect with each other via Facebook and talk.

Jacobsen: Why the tests of Ivan Ivec?

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Volko: They are pretty well-made and have decent norms.

Jacobsen: Are there any other societies than Mensa providing real in-person meetings?

Volko: Intertel has annual gatherings, as far as I know.

Jacobsen: What are some examples of the works of Henning Ludvigsen exemplfiying his talent?

Volko: He has made a lot of great drawings, e.g. title pictures of some issues of Hugi Magazine.

Jacobsen: What are some examples of the works of Kostantino Pataridis exemplfiying his talent?

Volko: His best work in my opinion is "Happiness is around the bend": **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQngoCBvq3Q**.

Jacobsen: Why do you think hardly anyone drank at the Mensa meetings? Did you ever drink akin to fellow high school students in high school?

Volko: I don't often drink, only when others around me drink too. I think Mensa members are proud of their intelligence and know that alcohol may harm their intellect, so they avoid it.

Jacobsen: Are there logics in which the assigning of values "true" and "false" simply fail?

Volko: There are also multi-valued logics such as fuzzy logic where a probability that the value is true is assigned to it.

Jacobsen: What topics would you hope to explore in the journal as the society membership grows?

Volko: I would like to explore topics related to all of science and philosophy. Prudentia is a high IQ society that is primarily for academics and people with interest in science and philosophy. The journal is supposed to give these people a platform where they can present their own original ideas.

Jacobsen: How big do you hope to grow the new society? That is, what would be your highest hopes?

Volko: More important than the number of members is their activity. I would like to have a group of members who regularly contribute to the journal. If I manage to gather such a group, Prudentia has been a success.

Jacobsen: Of those members from Europe, Asia, and North America, are most from Europe?

Volko: Yes, currently most of our members are from Europe.

Jacobsen: Have you been reading any books as of late?

Volko: Admittedly, no. Due to Corona the bookshops are closed and I haven't read any of the books I have at home in recent days. But I would like to read the textbooks on introductory math and physics for university students which I purchased some time ago soon.

Jacobsen: Any interesting television, movies, or music of interest to you?

Volko: I regularly watch an Austrian television programme in which the participants tell each other jokes. In addition, I enjoy watching quiz programmes. My favourite movies are the Bourne saga, the Mission Impossible saga, the Divergent trilogy and the Indiana Jones movies.

Jacobsen: What are some interesting discoveries in medicine alongside Symbiont Conversion Theory?

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Volko: Recently a new DNA shape has been discovered, and artificial intelligence has been applied to discover 3D protein foldings.

Jacobsen: Do you think philosophy, science, or theology are due for a paradigm shift? If so, why so? If not, why not? This can be outside of the earlier professional propositions by you.

Volko: I am not sure about this and I have no idea whether anybody is able to assess this at all. My view is that every person has a different opinion and that there is not a uniform scientific paradigm.

Jacobsen: What is your favourite issue of the society journal so far?

Volko: I like the second and the third issue very much because of their original scientific contents. Also, "The Synthesis of Metaphysics and Jungian Personality Theory" is a very good article, in my opinion (I know that I am praising myself here, as I am the author, but I would be of the same view if any other person had written the article).

Footnotes

[1] Member, World Genius Directory; Member, Nobel Society; Member, Prometheus 2.0 Society; Advisor; GIGA Society.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/volko-6**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/**.

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 13: Adelle Stewart on Horses, Hay, and Prime Equine (1)

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Abstract

Adelle Stewart founded Prime Equine in 2017. She has more than 25 years of horse experience. She has showed, competed, trained, and managed a stable. She discusses: earlier indications of interest in horses; the cohort; mentors or exemplars; the summer camps; a cowgirl; common wisdom; the elements of different seasons; colicky; rolling around and thrashing; other conditions; biomechanics; heal in irregular circumstances; the state of nature; a herd; acres of land; areas in Canada known as places for horses to live; facilities; Prime Equine; acreage for horses; horses on site; the capacity; hay; nutritional value of hay; specific types of hay or supplements; and the major deficiencies found in horses.

Keywords: Adelle Stewart, colic, equestrianism, hay, horses, Prime Equine.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 13: Adelle Stewart on Horses, Hay, and Prime Equine (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Interview conducted January 12, 2022.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: So, today, we're here with Adelle Stewart. This is part of an educational equestrian series. It's from the point of view of a greenhorn, myself. To start, what were some of the earlier indications of interest in horses or becoming active in equestrianism as a youngster?

Adelle Stewart[1],[2]: Yes, I have to say that it's like you're born with it, honestly, like it's this disease [Laughing]. I don't know. Some people call it that you're born with horses in your blood, horse for causes, or obsessive actions with horses. So, yes, I don't remember a time that I didn't love them. From a toddler, I would have to ride the merry go rounds and the carousels at the fair in the summer and things like that. And I was obsessed over horse books and all of those things. It always was an innate feeling or draw towards them for me.

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Jacobsen: Is this common among the cohort for yourself? Even intergenerationally, is it a common thing?

Stewart: Yes, usually, absolutely. I had a mother who was wild into horses when she was younger, gave them up to raise a family, and then got back into them once the kids had left the nest and things like that. So, most of the people that I connect with, they have always had this knowing, as being from a young child involvement into horses.

Jacobsen: Did you have any mentors or exemplars that came to mind, like other than your mom, on the equine circuit as you were growing up?

Stewart: No, I was a farm kid trapped in the city. I was born and raised in the city and needed to, as soon as I was of age, buy my own place or whatever, as I got out to the country. So, it was always something. I didn't know anybody who had horses when I was a young kid growing up. I grew and navigated towards becoming a vet when I grew up. Anything that could get me more into horses. But it wasn't until I was about 9 or 10 years old that I started going to summer camps, and then those people there became my idols where I learned how to ride as a preteen and things like that. Those people at that barn became idols for me at that age.

Jacobsen: What do you do at the summer camps other than learning how to ride?

Stewart: Well, there would be like overnight camps. So, sometimes we would have day camps but other times we stayed in the bunkhouse. So, we had to get up early in the morning before we had breakfast. We had to take care of the horses and bed them down, clean their stalls, and pitch the hay before we fed ourselves. So, we learned how to be cowgirls.

Jacobsen: How do you define a cowgirl?

Stewart: A cowgirl doesn't have to ride horses. They have to be independent. They have to be gritty, have a lot of heart and a lot of passion for what they do. This is, I say, being an equestrian or being a cowgirl or a life with horses. People say, "Well, that must be a lot of work". And I was like," You know what, it's a lot of work, it is, but it's a lifestyle."

Jacobsen: [Laughing] I've heard it so many times now. What are other pieces of common wisdom within the industry other than "it's a lifestyle," "you start young," etc.?

Stewart: Yes, it's like 'put your big girl britches on' or like 'put your boots on and deal with it,' really. It's that type of thing because you have no other choice. You are dealing on a daily basis with living, breathing beings that are 10-12 times your size with independent mind, body, and soul. So, every day that you wake up and you're thankful. The fences can be down, or horses can be down, or someone can have a laceration, or any of those things. So, at any time, an equestrian or cowgirl has to be ready to deal with every element of the unknown. So, it goes hand in hand with why it's a lifestyle. You have to be absolutely adaptable to any situation, but also rigid on your horse husbandry skills and things like that on a day to day basis.

Jacobsen: How do the elements of different seasons impact the way you work with a horse?

Stewart: Hugely. They impact them from what we can do with our horses. For example, we went through a big cold snap, where we can't work our horses. It wasn't conducive to put them into increasing the respiration rates and things like that in terms of a husbandry or welfare point of view. But then it comes down to everything from our exercise to the safety of it; when spring and fall come in, their footing becomes an issue if you're not riding indoors and things like that. We don't have an indoor facility. So, we work with whatever mother nature gives us. And then

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one of the ways that I gravitate more towards is the horse health aspect of it and weather swings. We had a 50 degree weather swing, honestly, from minus 50 with the wind-chill to plus 2 degrees today. That barometric pressure changes can cause extreme stress on horses' very sensitive digestive system. So, we're on what we call 'colic watch', which is a gastrointestinal issue with animals that they're so sensitive to that. So, their health is a big part of the welfare that the seasonal changes play as well.

Jacobsen: What does a horse do when it becomes colicky?

Stewart: Symptoms can be very mild. So, they can have a tummy ache; something as simple as laying down and looking at their stomach to pawing with their front foot. Some of them will try to kick with their back foot or back up, which is something that's weird. A horse doesn't normally in the wild or hanging out in the pasture, backing up is an unnatural gait for them. So, sometimes backing up will be a symptom of that at a very early stage, but then as the tummy ache progresses; it would be like laying down, rolling and thrashing, which is when things get dangerous.

Jacobsen: When it gets dangerous like that when they're rolling around and thrashing, can they actually worsen their own symptoms by doing so?

Stewart: Yes, absolutely. The rolling and thrashing can cause what's called a torsion colic. That's actually a twisted gut, which then is either only survivable by operation if it can be operated.

Jacobsen: What are other conditions for horses, where the only option for the horse owner is honestly to not have the horse anymore?

Stewart: Yes, the biggest one – I mean, anything can happen by determining the severity of it, but the next to major one from colic would be a leg fracture or a leg break. They're not like a dog, where they can get along well with three legs and amputate. They must have four pillars to stand on. So, a leg break or a fracture below the knee is usually a fatal injury in a horse.

Jacobsen: What is it about their biomechanics that requires four legs absolutely, 100%?

Stewart: It has mostly to do with what would be called a compensatory laminitis. So, a horse's hoof is a capsule like a fingernail; even more rigid, so it doesn't have a lot of breathing room. A horse puts 60% of their weight on their front legs even breaking that in half to carry all of that weight. A horse's shoulder is not connected by a joint; they don't have a clavicle like a human does or anything like that especially in the front feet. All the shoulder is connected by only tendon, muscle, and ligament. So, when you take a foot away from them, they develop that compensatory laminitis, which is a swelling of the hoof capsule or inside the hoof capsule, which is debilitatingly and cruelly painful to a horse. So, that becomes the secondary and most often factor that plays into why a leg break or fracture. It's not that the fracture can't heal. It's the length of time that it would take to heal that puts too much strain on the other limb.

Jacobsen: How long would it take to heal in irregular circumstances?

Stewart: Like, you're talking months of box rest or stall rest, probably, and then rehab from that.

Jacobsen: In the state of nature, would the horse survive?

Stewart: No, they would be left by the herd.

Jacobsen: How many horses are in a herd typically? What's the range?

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Stewart: It depends from farm to farm. We have three horses in one pasture and six in another and other people will run 50 head together. So, it depends on land and acreage that a person has.

Jacobsen: How many acres of land would an average farmer have and will be the upper limit, really?

Stewart: I think hobby farmers in Western Canada or like across Canada are mostly in that, like five to 50 acres, would be a hobby farm. And here, where I run a little bit more of a ranch, so we're your 50 plus. So, 50-160 acres would be a little bit bigger like you're second tier. And then above that you're talking, that would be more cattle ranch sizes more than 100 or 160 acres. It isn't all that common for the general horse owner.

Jacobsen: What areas in Canada tend to be known as places for horses to live and live well?

Stewart: Hot spot in Canada absolutely is Alberta; has the most horses per capita, in every discipline, from English to Western and all of those types of things. So, Alberta is an absolute hot spot, Saskatchewan probably following that, maybe second or third, potentially with Ontario, with the capita of people that exist there.

Jacobsen: And what facilities tend to be known for jumper, hunter, for eventing, for dressage?

Stewart: Those are a little bit further reach. I'm a Western girl myself, but, in Alberta, you're talking like Spruce Meadows is probably the most famous or iconic place in Canada when we think about show jumpers and things like that.

Jacobsen: For Prime Equine, what was the vision when founding?

Stewart: I've always been a girl who wanted to make a living with horses. I wasn't a skilled enough jockey to ride my way there. I wasn't a skilled enough trainer to train my way there. So, I actually started out as an equine first aid instructor. I received my advanced certification for that in 2017 and it ended up blossoming and growing from there. So, we started carrying retail products, and then expanded and started creating our own course content and our own education. My real passion is helping the average horse owner, which I once was, become exceptional. So, pushing forward the care and the husbandry for our horses; they don't ask to be rode, they don't ask to be kept between our fences and things like that as wild creatures. My vision and my passion is helping horse owners create the best lifestyle for their horses in our captivity.

Jacobsen: How many acres does a horse typically need at one facility?

Stewart: It depends. I'm a big advocate of horses on full turnout. So, there are some places, who keep horses in like 12×12 stalls, or they may be spend the night in the stall and in the day in a 20×40 run called a paddock or a corral. And I don't love that. I love keeping my horses as natural as possible. So, a horse that was kept in that sort of facility needs to be on 24/7 hay as their primary forage whereas, I run my horses on a pasture on full turnout. So, they need to average. It usually depends on the rainfall and things like that each year. But for each horse to graze for our grazing season that we have in Canada, you typically need three to five acres per animal.

Jacobsen: How many horses do you have on site now?

Stewart: We have 11 horses and three miniature donkeys here.

Jacobsen: What's the capacity for you in terms of having donkeys, having horses? How do you differentiate between how many you want of each? Because there are resource limits, there's what you had beforehand or the previous year in terms of the finances, the clients, etc., putting limits on what you can do in the future. So, there's a historical context that sets boundaries on what can be done in the future along with what you're doing right now. So, what are the logistical steps around that?

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Stewart: Yes, we're extremely weather dependent and very conservative. So, we are scaled back right now. And with human talent and resources but primary forage, having enough forage for the animals to graze on the grass and the pastures on their turnout for as long as possible. And then we start thinking for what our capacity is for the fall. We start thinking about that in July when we have or not had a significant amount of rainfall. So, we are watching the amount of snow we get. So, now from January till April, I am considering the amount of snow we get. Through spring, I am watching how fast that melts off because the faster it melts, the worse for us honestly, the worse that the hay crop is going to be.

And then through May and July, we're watching how much rain we get. And so, if we start not getting very much precipitation through those months, I will stop intake for horse boarders for the rest of the year because that means hay is going to be sparse. When it's sparse, it's more expensive. And then even at that, the existing clientele that we have here at that point in time when the end of July rolls around, and we're forecasting when we start making projections to increase board and things like their rent. It can have a turnover effect when they can find somewhere cheaper to go and things like that. So, that's how we start mitigating it. And then if you do get a constant hay supplier; I'm very lucky. I have a constant hay supplier that I am actually purchasing extra hay. So, for the last two years, because we've had more drought years, when I can get good hay, I bring in more than I need because it can last for several years at a time as long as it's stored well. So, all of those things, it's a strategic and multi-year. You're talking one and three year plans for taking horses at that level.

Jacobsen: How do you store your hay?

Stewart: Our square bale hay is stored inside. And then when we do buy round bales, they are stored in rows outside in the elements, but they're net wrapped. And then when we feed them, we peel off those outer layers, so the inner parts that are still nutritious and palatable for the horses is what's fed.

Jacobsen: And what can typically ruin the nutritional value of hay rapidly?

Stewart: Yes, the biggest thing is knowing your hay supplier and understanding the moisture content that it was bailed out. And the biggest thing that will ruin hay is hay that is put up with too much moisture because it will mold and rot from the inside out and hay with mold in it is something that will cause colic in horses. So, it's absolutely not able to be fed. And then other things like grains or the types of hay, whether it's a grass or legume like alfalfa; all of those types of things go into the nutritious value of it. The older the hay is the more you have to supplement. If the hay is a year or two old, I have a background in equine nutrition, so we can make up that difference if we're feeding two-year-old hay. Through both our forage analysis which we have done every year and then calculating for the mineral deficiencies that would continue with the length of time, we can make that up through a grain or a supplement.

Jacobsen: For some clients particularly, they want more specific types of hay or supplements, etc., for their horse and they're willing to pay a lot of money. How does this calculate into a ranch owner or someone who runs a stable, their calculations for food expenses?

Stewart: Yes, that's your major accounts payable-receivable types of things. So, I am lucky that I am probably one of the pickiest people when it comes to equine nutrition and balancing forage. Over the last 10 years that I have done testing of our hay, I have not found any hay; it can look as beautiful as you want it to and please any owner to the eye, but, unless you're testing it, you have no idea what is in it. So, we test our hay every year and I've never found hay that doesn't have some sort of mineral deficiency in it; it's normal. So, we understand what that is. So, then we can offer our forage analysis results up to our owners, so they can either take their own and build their own

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nutrition plan or I can consult with them about what their horse needs; because not only is there some major deficiencies in, maybe, the forage but each horse span as an individual, their age, their workload, all of those things play into the amount of supplementation that they may need for the winter that we're feeding.

Jacobsen: What are the major deficiencies found in horses in the hay?

Stewart: From the last 10 years that we've been testing a major imbalanced ratio of calcium to phosphorus. So, our hay here anyway is very high in calcium and very low in phosphorus. And that's a detrimental imbalance to have because too much calcium in a diet can turn your muscle- and tendon-like tissue into bone-like tissue. So, the stuff that we need to be very flexible for our athletes; those ligaments and muscles, can become too tight. And that can cause injury. So, you need to have that two to one appropriate ratio. And that's a major deficiency that we see here. And then the second major, it's not a deficiency, but it's actually way too much; we have way too much iron in both our water and our hay from everything that we've tested. So, we need to balance the copper, zinc, and manganese. You need to increase those ratios to correlate to the excess iron that they're receiving in their diets. And things like iron can lead to insulin resistance and other types of diseases of that type in horses, there's a correlation there. So, off the top of my head, those are the biggest ones as well as sugar and starch. Horses don't need a lot of carbs if they are not elite athletes. So, that's another thing that can cause again, that insulin type resistance issue.

Footnotes

[1] Founder, Prime Equine – Equine Assisted Learning Center & Equine First Aid Academy.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/stewart-1**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightpublishing.com/insight-issues/**.

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Sigma Test Extended

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Abstract

This article presents the Sigma Test Extended of Hindemburg Melão Jr. as the most difficult and reliable cognitive test for the measurement of the psychological construct of intelligence. With a preamble on intelligence tests and case studies of known high scorers on alternative tests and mainstream intelligence tests, concluded by analysis of distributions and norms, and endorsements, the formal Sigma Test Extended is presented in the paper in full.

Keywords: Alfred Binet, Anderson-Darling, Bruce Whiting, Cattell Culture Fair, chi-square comparison, Christopher Philip Harding, Cronbach's α, David Letterman, Ferris Eugene Alger, FIDE ratings, Francis Galton, g factor, Gaussian distribution, intelligence, IQ, James Cattell, Johannes Douglas Veldhuis, Keith Raniere, Kevin Langdon, Kim Ung-yong, Kolmogorov-Smirnov, Leta Speyer, Lewis Terman, Marilyn vos Savant, Mega Test, Nobel Prize, Rick Rosner, Robert Bryzman, Sigma Society, Sigma Test Extended, USCF ratings, Wechsler.

Sigma Test Extended

Please see the footnotes and citation style listing after the article.[1],[2]

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Sigma Test Extended aims to be the most difficult and reliable cognitive test for measuring the "intelligence" construct, especially for people with an IQ above 160 (σ=16), requiring a wide range of cognitive skills at different levels of depth and complexity.

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At the same time, it is a test that does not require specialized knowledge. Only general knowledge of elementary school, middle school, and high school. In some specific cases, it may be necessary to make small queries about the meaning of some words, but there is no need for specialized training in any specific area.

The ultimate goal of an accurate intelligence test is not to measure your ability to solve the questions on the test itself. The aim is to use these questions as an indirect means of discovering other, more important competencies. Therefore, one cannot lose sight of the primary objective to be achieved, otherwise one runs the risk of creating addicts to IQ tests, instead of discovering talents for Science, Mathematics, and other important fields of knowledge.

This is the purpose of STE, measuring the ability to solve diverse real-world problems, problems ranging from everyday issues to problems with an Olympic level of difficulty, requiring a combination of divergent and convergent thinking at different levels of sophistication, whose issues are compatible with the skill levels you want to measure. This is an important differentiator, because IQ tests have severely skewed ceilings. The Stanford-Binet V, for example, can have the ceiling extrapolated by up to 225 IQ, as can be seen in the following table:

Table 1

Comparison of Form L-M and SB5 Gifted Categories and IQ Scores

Form L-M		SB5	
Levels of Giftedness	**IQ Score Ranges**	**Levels of Giftedness**	**IQ Score Ranges**
Moderately Gifted	125–144	Superior	120–129
Highly Gifted	145–159	Gifted or Very Advanced	131–144
Exceptionally Gifted	160–179	Very Gifted or Highly Advanced	145–160
Profoundly Gifted	180+	Extremely Gifted or Extremely Advanced	161–175 (via EXIQ)
		Profoundly Gifted or Profoundly Advanced	176–225 (via EXIQ)

Note. Form L-M and SB5 categories are not directly equivalent.
EXIQ = Extended IQ (see Roid, 2003d)

However, the most difficult questions on the Stanford-Binet V can be easily solved by people with an IQ of 135 to 140. This produces a very large disparity between measured IQ and true IQ. Anyone with an IQ of 140, as long as they are fast enough and have a good cultural level, can reach over 200 IQ on this test, generating a gigantic amount false diagnoses of genius. This does not mean that distortions are always upwards. The way in which standardization is done, this would not be possible, because if it were like that, the average would be displaced. Therefore, upward distortions occur at approximately the same frequency and magnitude as downward distortions. As a result, really great people can score far below their true potential on this test. This has been proven several times. In the study carried out by Lewis Terman, starting in the year 1921, 1528 children with an IQ above 135, none of the 1528 selected children won a Nobel Prize, nor any other international prize of great importance in scientific areas or in Mathematics. But among the children who failed the test, two of them were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. This makes it evident that the Stanford-Binet, while very good and accurate for measuring IQs between 70 and 130, is not appropriate for higher levels. Terman's group included about 100 children with an IQ over 175, but none of them won 1 Nobel, with the average IQ of Nobel laureates in Science being 154. This is another serious inconsistency in the scores produced by the Stanford-Binet at the highest scores.

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How Terman's study was carried out with people screened as children, it could be argued that the problem was not inherent in the test, but in the fact that they were screened too early. In fact, this is also one of the problems, but it is not the only one. It is not enough to explain all the observed anomalies. To better clarify this point, it is worth citing the cases of people registered in the Guinness Book for having the highest IQ in the world based on Stanford-Binet scores applied at different ages:

The first record of this modality in the Guinness Book occurred in 1966, in which Chris Harding was presented as the person with the highest IQ in the world, for having obtained a score 196-197 in the Stanford-Binet (I believe that the 1960 standardization form was used, Stanford-Binet L-M). In a normal distribution with a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 16, only one in 1 billion people have an IQ above 196. However, the number of people screened with the Stanford-Binet was in the few thousand. In the standardization process, the samples were also in the few thousand. Thus, the best that could be done was to place the test ceiling close to 155 to 160, and even then there would still be the problem that the most difficult questions were at a difficulty level close to 140, so scores 160 would only indicate higher speed to solve problems level 140, instead of indicating an intellectual level of 160.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Kevin Langdon and several other people started showing up with scores of 196-197, claiming to share the record for the highest IQ. Some of the people who applied for registration as the person with the highest IQ in the world between 1966 and 1978 were:

- Christopher Philip Harding
- Kevin Langdon
- Bruce Whiting
- Robert Bryzman
- Leta Speyer
- Johannes Douglas Veldhuis
- Ferris Eugene Alger

Also, there were other cases after 1978 claiming the record, with nominal Iqs above 197:

- Kim Ung-yong with IQ 210
- Marilyn vos Savant with IQ 230, then corrected to 228, to 218, to 186, then 190
- Keith Raniere, with IQ 242

Finally, Guinness removed this modality. One of the likely reasons is the apparent clear fact of inadequate standardization allowing fair comparison. The adjustment metrics from childhood to adulthood scores were skewed. Also, the use of different tests produced very different scores. Another reason aggravating this was the controversy over Marilyn being accused of falsifying the dates in her report and Keith Raniere being arrested, accused of several crimes, including murder. In Marilyn's case, I think her version is very plausible. She claims to have taken the test at age 10, but it was incorrectly recorded on her chart as if she had been tested at 11 years and 4 months. About this controversy, to the point of knowing the facts, I side with Marilyn. I explain the reason: in 2004 and 2005, I worked as a consultant at the main Psychology publisher in Brazil. I standardized and revised several tests of IQ. I could see that the number of registration errors in the data of the people examined was absurdly large, reaching more than 5%. It was very common for people registered with birth year 2040, birth month greater than

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12, among others. So, I think, it's much more likely the psychologist who examined her got the date wrong. Considering Marilyn's history, I have no reason to question her sincerity, while the history of recording errors in psychometric reports is frequent. In Keith's case, the facts and evidence against him are plentiful and unquestionable.

The important point is a test applied to a few thousand people in the standardization process, does not allow an establishment of a ceiling above 160 with the aggravating factor that the ceiling of difficulty does not exceed 140. Howeve, even if the test was able to measure up to 196, and even if everyone in the world was examined with the Stanford-Binet (considering that some people would be children and others would be very old), one wouldn't find more than 3 or 4 in the world with an IQ above 196. However, in a sample of a few thousand people, there were 10 people with an IQ above 196, with some reaching 242, whose rarity is many orders of magnitude outside the limit of the number of people ever born A rarity level of 1 in 2.86 × 10^15 where the number of people already born is about 10^11.

It is a fact. This sample of a few thousand is not representative of the general population. Therefore, it is natural that more people with high IQs would be found in this sample than in a random sample of the population. If you apply an IQ test to Harvard or Cambridge students, it is natural that the average score is much higher than the average score of the general population. Also, it is very likely that some of the 10 smartest people in the US or the UK are in these institutions. The main problem is not the statistical anomaly. The biggest problem is that 100% of those people with IQs above 196 didn't stand out as scientists, mathematicians, or authors of brilliant intellectual works that matched the measured IQs.

Marilyn herself, in an interview on the David Letterman show, made the following comment (excerpt from the interview):

D: I have uh, I have miserable teeth. I mean, they're healthy… [Paul laughs aloud] They're just odd, they're odd. You know, I can eat things through fences. [laughter] Not that there's any call for that, but uh… Allright, now Marilyn, let's get back to you and your… uh… head. [laughter] Uh, what uh… now how do we know you're the smartest woman in the world?

M: Well, you probably don't know that, I don't think anyone really knows that, not that many people have taken an IQ test. And so I had the highest score on the Benet… so far… but this very…

D: [trying to interrupt] Now when did you…

M: …small minority of people in the world have taken a test, and… [dramatically] what did Benet know, for heaven's sake? [Paul & Dave both chuckle as Marilyn rambles] I mean back in 1904, he didn't… [laughter] he didn't stumble over a Rosetta Stone, he said, "This is what I think I'm gonna do," and everybody's been imitating him ever since.

Chris Harding, in a 2013 article stated:

"Genius is not intelligence. Genius is creative ability of the highest possible kind. True, most geniuses are highly intelligent, but this depends on the field their genius was recognized in. And here there is a plethora of problems. Recognized by whom; which people, what society, when and where. There is an old joke that goes something like I will believe in psychologists devising tests from geniuses when monkeys devise tests for psychologists. I do have ideas of my own on this, but so far no one seems interested in this. I was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records seven editions 1982-88 under "Highest IQ" and was given a certificate for this. I was also listed in 500

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Great Minds of the Early 21st Century in 2002. All such lists-comparisons are temporary. There appears less and less match between persons and outcomes these days. Humanity hangs by it's intellectual neck on the tree of tragedy –there are no Leonardo's in the 19th, 20th, and so far in the 21st Century. Yet he/she must still exist we should think? With mass education has come the noisy ones but no Geniuses to show for it all. Bad money has driven out good money, bad people good people. The masses have come to judge the best and are part of this process to drive out the very people they need most, all in the name of incorrectly accessed political correctness. Today the system has driven down performance; today big institutional science has been a spoiler of great insights delaying progress everywhere. Today it is business as usual. The criminal come to the top. My greatest fear is that an end is coming to the centuries of progress that mankind has grown use to. The age of genius may be at an end. I'm sorry to ramble on this in such a `scatter gun' way."

Marilyn's statement is superficial because it is compatible with the TV show aimed at the mass audience, but her columns in Parade magazine are very high and deep, consistent with the IQ 186-190 that she got on the Mega Test. Chris Harding's statement, although short and on a topic that doesn't offer much depth, also reveals a very high intellectual level. His opinion on the meaning of "genius" is questionable, but for a one-paragraph text it is acceptable. And the key point is that both recognize that scores measured by conventional IQ tests present several problems and cannot be taken too seriously when used to try to assess intelligence at higher IQ levels.

This shows that, although scores in the range of 70 to 130 are able to measure intelligence reasonably well, as the scores move away from the mean, what the tests measure gradually ceases to be intelligence and becomes something more shallow, such as reasoning speed for trivial questions or mechanical repetition of tasks. The problem is that as the IQ to be measured increases, the test continues to measure the same variable, but the meaning of intelligence changes. For children aged 8 to 12 with an IQ between 80 and 130, it may be appropriate to measure the ability to spell words without making mistakes as a satisfactory criterion for determining written communication aptitude. However, if applying this same method to try to estimate communication aptitude writing by Shakespeare or by Dostoevsky, it is evident the result will be skewed. It is neither because these writers are too quick at spelling nor because they are infallible at it. They can even make more mistakes than a well-trained 8-year-old who has "talent" at spelling. The point is, this criterion is no longer useful at the levels of Shakespeare, Goethe, or Dostoevsky. In fact, it ceases to be useful at much lower levels, close to 125 or 130. The same problem occurs when trying to use elementary questions like the Stanford-Binet ones to measure intellectual levels above 140.

The fact is the Nobel prize-winner average IQ is at the rarity level of one in 3,000, while the frequency of Nobel prize-winner in the population is less than one in 1 million, also corroborates that scores above 130 on the Stanford-Binet are highly distorted, dramatically failing to "let go" of the brightest people, while at the same time incorrectly selecting several who are not really bright, but just quick at performing trivial tasks.

This is not a defect unique to the Stanford-Binet. All the best IQ tests including WAIS, Raven, Cattell, DAT, D70, etc., have this same problem (and, obviously, there are more and worse problems in tests that aren't the best). One of the main reasons for this is the same as already mentioned: these tests attempt to measure IQs at levels well above 140, but do not include questions with a difficulty level above 135.

To solve this problem, in 1973, Kevin Landgon created the LAIT (Landgon Adult Intelligence Test). Tthe first really difficult intelligence test, capable of measuring correctly until close to 165. In 1982, Ronald Hoeflin published his Mega Test, later the Titan Test, Ultra Test, and Power Test. The Hoeflin tests could correctly measure up to about 170 or even 180 IQ.

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Thus, a new era of intelligence testing has been inaugurated. The traditional tests used in clinics to measure in the range of 70 to 130 continued to exist, covering more than 95% of the population, and it also became possible to measure intelligence at much higher levels. However, these tests have not yet reached the “critical point” that allows us to correctly identify genius minds. The people with the highest scores on the Hoeflin tests are undoubtedly very smart: Rick Rosner, Chris Langan, Marilyn Vos Savant, etc. With scores of 190 or above. But when you compare the intellectual output of these people with that of a Nobel laureate with an IQ of 160, the difference is blatantly favorable to the Nobel Prize. Something was still missing from the variables to be measured at the top of the difficulty level. In the years and decades that followed, other tests were created, including the Eureka, Logima Stricta, and the Sigma Test.

Sigma Test, since its first version, tries to be innovative in several aspects. This does not mean that it has achieved this purpose, but, at least, we are trying. Some of the results obtained have been encouraging. There is controversy over how much difficulty the Sigma Test can actually measure correctly. Some people think the actual ceiling is no more than 180, others think it goes up to 200 or a little more. This is difficult to determine until the number of people evaluated is large enough or until some great genius internationally recognized as such (Fields Medal, Abel Prize, Nobel Prize in Physics) who is evaluated by the Sigma Test.Regardless of the difficulty ceiling, Sigma Test brings other relevant innovations. Some of them have already been experimentally corroborated. Among these innovations, the most important is the new standardization method, first introduced in 2000 and first applied in 2003.

The new normalization method used in Sigma Test is distinguished from all others by generating scores whose antilogs are on a scale of proportion. Furthermore, this method makes it possible to correctly calculate the corresponding percentages, avoiding the inflated results that are produced by traditional methods. This topic is covered in more detail in other articles.

Another differentiator is the variety of cognitive processes required to solve the questions. This is extremely important for measuring intellectual capacity in a wide range of settings. The ability to play chess, for example, measures a very specialized and very narrow latent trait, which cannot be interpreted as representative of general intelligence. Chess skill is positively correlated with intelligence, but as the rating moves away from the average, this score is determined more and more by chess-specific skill and less and less by general intelligence. The same happens if a test uses exclusively series of figures, or if it exclusively uses a series of numbers. The measured variable cannot be interpreted as representative of general intelligence. This statement runs counter to some “psychometric mantras” repeated for decades – in particular about homogeneity (the higher, the better) and about *g* saturation, so it requires a little more detailed analysis:

Series of figures have the virtue of minimizing the requirement for knowledge, preventing cultural and age factors from interfering with the result. This is a good thing. On the other hand, they limit the ceiling of difficulty and complexity, but the main problem is excessive homogeneity.

There are many different ways to measure homogeneity. One of the best and most common is through Cronbach’s α.

In order to understand how Cronbach’s α works, first, it is worth explaining how the Kuder-Richardson works: the idea is simple. The test is divided into two equivalent halves and the score that each person obtained in each half is verified. This division can be between odd and even questions. It can be by lottery, or by any other reasonable criterion. If the halves are equal, each person is expected to score approximately the same score on each half. The

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idea of Cronbach's α is similar, but all covariances between all items are considered, making this measure independent of the criterion adopted to separate the two halves. This is almost equivalent to comparing all possible combinations of two halves.

It is positive and desirable that a good test has a high Cronbach's α (above 0.7), because it indicates that the test items are contributing to measure the same variable. This everyone knows and repeats religiously. On the other hand, it is bad if Cronbach's α is excessively high (above 0.9), because it indicates that the test items are not covering a sufficiently wide range of the characteristics that should be measured, that is, the items are excessively redundant and specialized. This fact is apparently neither known nor well understood, so it requires a little more detailed explanation. For this, I will use a didactic example:

A test consisting exclusively of 60 numerical series tends to present Cronbach's α greater than a test that includes 20 numerical series, 20 series of figures and 20 analogies. If the difficulty distributions are the same on both tests, then the one with 60 numerical series is likely to have a higher Cronbach's α, in which case having a higher Cronbach's α may be worse. In other words, a Cronbach's α of 0.85 may be better than 0.92.

An analogous effect can also produce illusions about g saturation, making a test appear to be more g-saturated than it actually is, simply because it is excessively homogeneous. In a test that is too homogeneous, the first factor extracted may be sufficient to explain more than 80% or 85% of the variability, not because the test is in fact more saturated with the g factor, but because within the limits of what is being evaluated by this test. Test, a leading factor common to all items accounts for 80% to 85% of the variance or even more.

In this context, pseudo saturation of g is a bad symptom, unless the ultimate goal is to measure the ability to solve series of numbers and figures. But this is usually not what you want to measure. The purpose of a good intelligence test is to gather an appropriate list of questions to assess your ability to solve real problems. The objective is not the score on the test itself, but to ensure that this score is able to reflect the ability to solve different problems in real life. In this, STE stands out, as it includes several problems with a structure very similar to real problems.

The ability to solve series of pictures is also useful, because this same ability also contributes to solving other problems in other situations. However, the direct measurement of the type of skill you want to know is preferable to measuring a correlated attribute. To clarify this problem, let's analyze two more well-known variables: weight and height.

People's weight and height are moderately correlated variables. This means that by knowing a person's weight, one can estimate that person's height. However, if it is possible to directly measure one's height, this is better than measuring weight and trying to estimate height based on weight. If it is not possible to measure height, and the only information available is weight, it is possible to use this information to try to roughly estimate height, but the error can be very large, because there are short people with a lot of fat mass and there are tall very thin people.

Therefore, if there is a group of variables more closely related to height, such as femur size, foot size, arm size, then measuring these variables should provide a more accurate estimate of height than trying to estimate height with based on weight. Femur size is not exactly proportional to height, but variation in femur size preserves the proportion to variation in height much better than variation in weight to variation in height. The same applies to foot size and arm size. When you consider femur size, foot size, and arm size together, you can make a much more reliable estimate for height than if you tried to estimate height on the basis of weight.

So using a series of figures test to estimate intelligence is like using weight to estimate height, that is, it works, but the errors and distortions are large. Furthermore, as you get closer to the higher levels of weight, the error also

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increases and the same happens when you want to measure correctly at the highest levels of height, because the higher levels of height rarely correspond to the highest levels of weight. The tallest people in the world are not the same as the heaviest people in the world. Usually, the heaviest ones are normal height or just a little above normal.

But if the measurement were based on the size of the femur, arm, and foot, estimating height based on each of these variables, then averaging the results, the estimate for height would be much closer to the correct value. Another detail to consider is that in addition to the correlation between femur size and height being much stronger than between weight and height, this correlation is preserved at the highest levels, so that the largest people in the world also have larger femurs, bigger arms and bigger feet. Therefore, the measurement of these body parts remains effective in estimating the correct height of people at all levels, from the average population to the tallest people in the world.

Likewise, the use of items with the properties of the Sigma Test questions, closely related to the cognitive processes that represent intelligence, covering a wide variety of cognitive characteristics and skill levels, provides a much more accurate and realistic estimate for intelligence.

There are also disadvantages to the Sigma Test, which produces less fair results if it is applied to rural groups or groups with a level of education far below the Middle School grade. But I don't see much need to create tests aimed at this audience, because there are already good tests for that, including Logima Stricta and some of the excellent tests by Iakovos Koukas and YoungHoon Kim. So my focus is on trying to fill a gap that has existed since the early days of IQ tests, which is trying to correctly measure the intellectual level in the higher strata. The Binet tests were able to measure correctly up to about 135, then the Langdon and Hoeflin tests were able to correctly measure up to about 170. The Sigma Test Extended aims to realistically and accurately measure above 190 and perhaps above 200.

As already mentioned, Hoeflin tests pioneered the correct measurement of IQ at levels far above the limits of traditional IQ tests, but as there was no proper method for calculating the corresponding percentiles, norms were calculated using the methods available to standardization, resulting in skewed estimates, especially near the ceiling.

The "correct" ceiling for Mega Test, based on data that was available on the Miyaguchi website and using the same standardization method as the Sigma Test 2003 standard is about 186, very close to the nominal ceiling of 190+ (~ 193) which was adopted by Hoeflin. The ceiling calculated by Grady Towers was 202. Bob Seitz also made an attempt to establish a new norm that would fit the correct levels of rarity, and he came up with around 170, very close to the rarity norm I found in 2003 for the ceiling of the MegaTest (168.5). This divergence between the results obtained by Towers and by Seitz already signaled a disparity between the true rarities and the rarities obtained based on the hypothesis that the scores were normally distributed. By the late 1990s, the problem was well established: the actual rarity did not agree with the IQ scores measured in the tests. But the solution to this was not yet clear.

The nominal IQ score does not present major problems. The Mega Test ceiling presents an error of 7 points, which is tolerable and for lower scores the error is smaller and smaller. However, the corresponding percentile is very different from the correct one. The theoretical level of rarity for IQ=193, assuming the distribution of scores were perfectly adherent to a Gaussian, would be one in 325,000,000, but the correct level of rarity, given the true shape of the distribution of scores, is about one in 435,000. If you consider the correct ceiling to be 186 instead of 193, then the rarity level is one in 130,000. So the true level of rarity differs from the level indicated in the standard by a factor greater than 2000. A huge mistake. The data on Miyaguchi's website is incomplete, so the 186 IQ value

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indicated as “correct” for the ceiling may be slightly different, perhaps close to 190. However, the percentile distortions are too large to be explained by some bias present in the data available on the Miyaguchi website. This is a serious methodological error that has been systematically repeated for decades.

Hoeflin’s and Landgon’s tests differ in some important points. Langdon’s tests, as well as some tests by Cooijmans, Robert Lato and others, followed a similar line to Raven’s tests (figure series), while Hoeflin’s tests followed a more similar line to that of Binet and Wechsler (diversified).

At this point, it is worth recapping how the first attempts to measure intelligence were, in fact. I won’t be redundant with the Historical Summary article on Intelligence Tests; Anyone interested can access it for more details. Here I will give a much briefer summary focused on the topics we are covering.

The Binet test represents an important advance in the evolution of cognitive tests. After the attempts by Francis Galton (1884) and James Cattell (1890) to measure intelligence proved unsuccessful, Alfred Binet (1904) tried to approach the problem from a different perspective. Galton and Cattell believed that it would be possible to measure the elementary components of intelligence, while Binet decided to measure the combined result of these components in synergistic action, obtaining much more promising results, making it possible to identify mild deficiencies and some aptitudes. This suggests that the combined use of questions that require different types of thinking working together in solving complex problems may work better than questions that try to measure each type of thinking separately. The STE follows a similar line, betting on the measure of a combined set of skills to solve complex problems, with the differential of including questions that reach levels much higher of difficulty than the Stanford-Binet ceiling (140), reaching and surpassing 190 and even 200.

While Binet test is one of the best for correctly measuring IQs between 70 and 130, it fails badly by continuing to produce scores far above what it is actually capable of measuring. The same problem is present in the tests by Wechsler, Cattell Culture Fair, and others. The extrapolated Stanford-Binet nominal ceiling reached 225, but the actual ceiling never went above 140. I’m not saying the IQ 140 is low; to say so would be a gross error. What I am saying is that a test with a ceiling of 140 would be like a clinical ruler to measure height with a maximum limit of 1.87 m. The 1.87 m threshold is not low, but it is also not enough to serve a considerable fraction of the population.

In fact, the problem with the Stanford-Binet standard is worse than that. It is as if it were a ruler with a nominal ceiling of 2.15 m, but that started to get crooked and with the 1 cm intervals getting smaller and smaller for heights above 1.80 m. On this ruler, the size of 1 cm in the range of 1.50 m to 1.80 m is approximately uniform, but above 1.80 m, each 1 cm interval becomes increasingly narrow. When it gets close to 2.15 m, every 1 cm is so short that it is less than half a 1 cm in the region between 1.70 m and 1.80 m. With a ruler skewed at this level, measurements are only reasonably reliable up to 1.80 m or, with a little optimism, up to 1.85 m.

The below image shows an example of a distorted (uneven interval) scale where up to a certain point (the first 10) the intervals are uniform, but then they get increasingly narrower:

Using a ruler that had each unit spaced this way would obviously produce big errors. This is basically what happens with almost all IQ tests, including the Sigma Test before 2003, because although this method for standardization had already been devised and published in 2000, first Sigma Test standard had to be determined by comparison with other tests already standardized by existing methods and the number of tests in Sigma Test in 2000 was still not enough for adequate standardization using the new method. Therefore, the first standard applying this method was in 2003.

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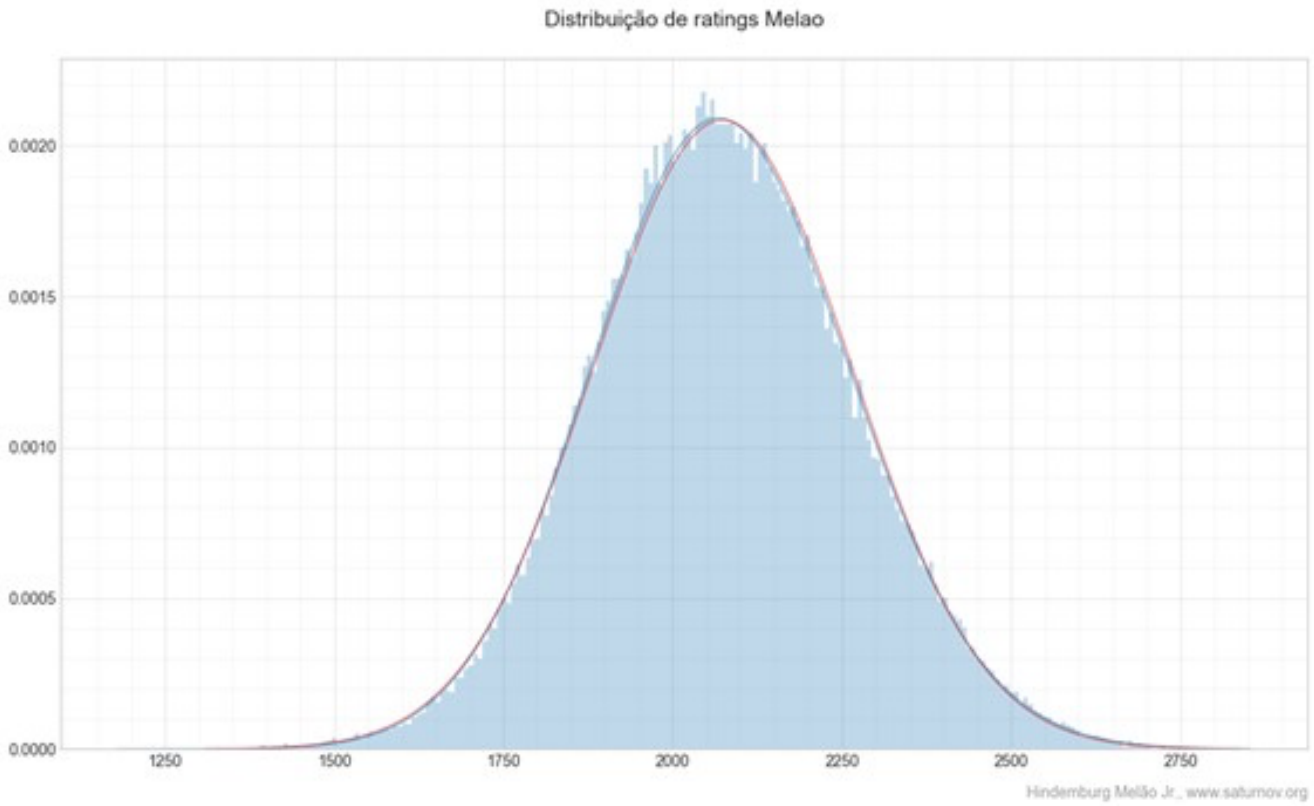
Therefore, all traditional IQ tests and all high range IQ tests had this distortion up to 2003 and this distortion causes several problems.

If there were such an error in a ruler or a tape measure, where one part of the ruler was correct and another was distorted, it would be easy to correct it by using the "healthy" part to compare side by side with the anomalous part, and then repair the error. But on an IQ scale this is much more difficult and complex to correct. On a crooked ruler with a distorted scale, the problem is noticed visually, but the distortions in the scale of an IQ test are invisible and can only be detected with an adequate statistical treatment. In addition to the detection not being trivial, the correction is even more difficult because it is necessary to establish a reference scale that is invariant. Binet tried to do this using ages and it was an interesting initial idea, but it was quickly found that it didn't produce an interval scale. To produce a ratio scale is even more difficult.

The solution adopted in the 2003 Sigma Test standard manages to generate a proportion scale taking advantage of Bill McGaugh's idea of converting Chess rating into IQ. However, FIDE rating, USCF rating and especially online ratings are highly distorted, in addition to the inflationary effect. Therefore, before it was necessary to establish an appropriate rating scale from which a potential ratio scale would be established and then this could be applied to the IQ, it is clear that Bill McGaugh's formula could not be used in its original form either, because it was calculated based on the FIDE rating, but it was an important inspiration.

The rating calculation method is described in this book **https://www.saturnov.org/livro/rating** and the distribution of scores using this method is this:



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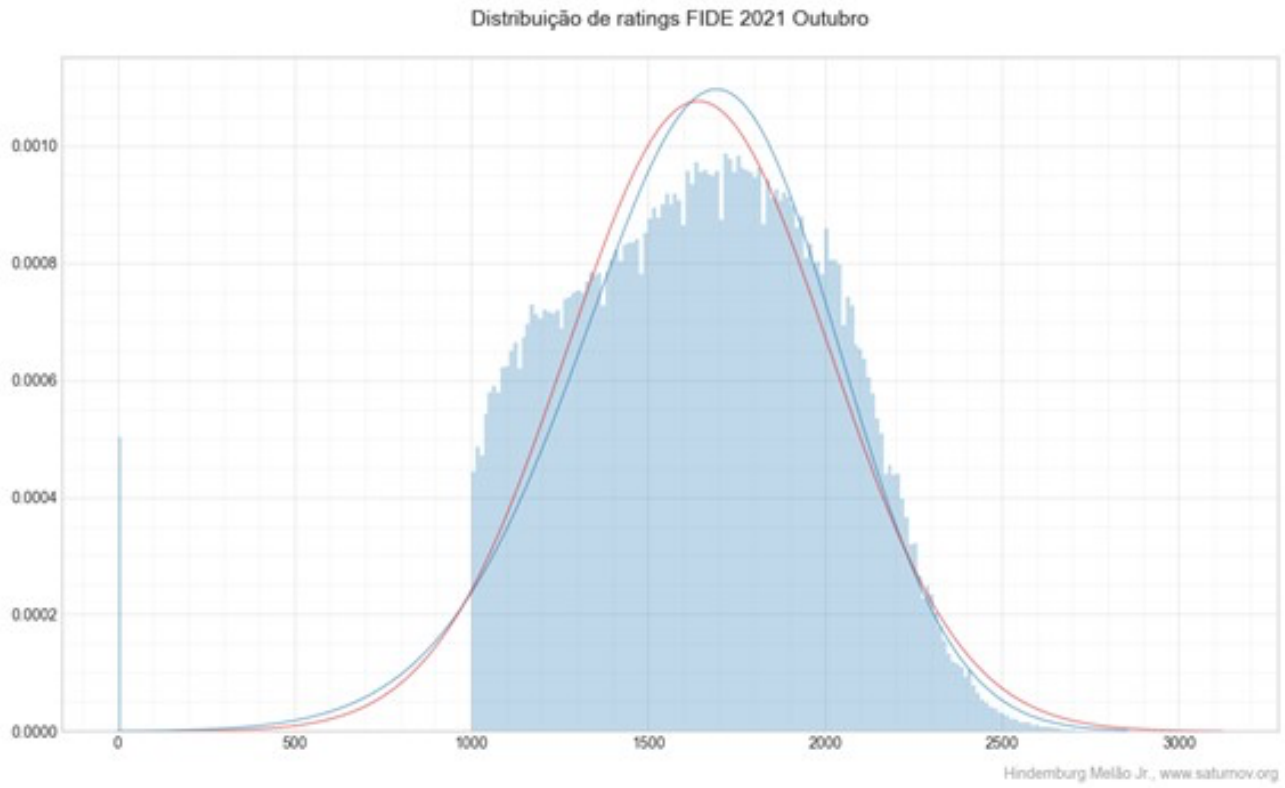
By way of comparison, the distribution of the FIDE ratings is as follows:



And the distribution of USCF ratings is this:

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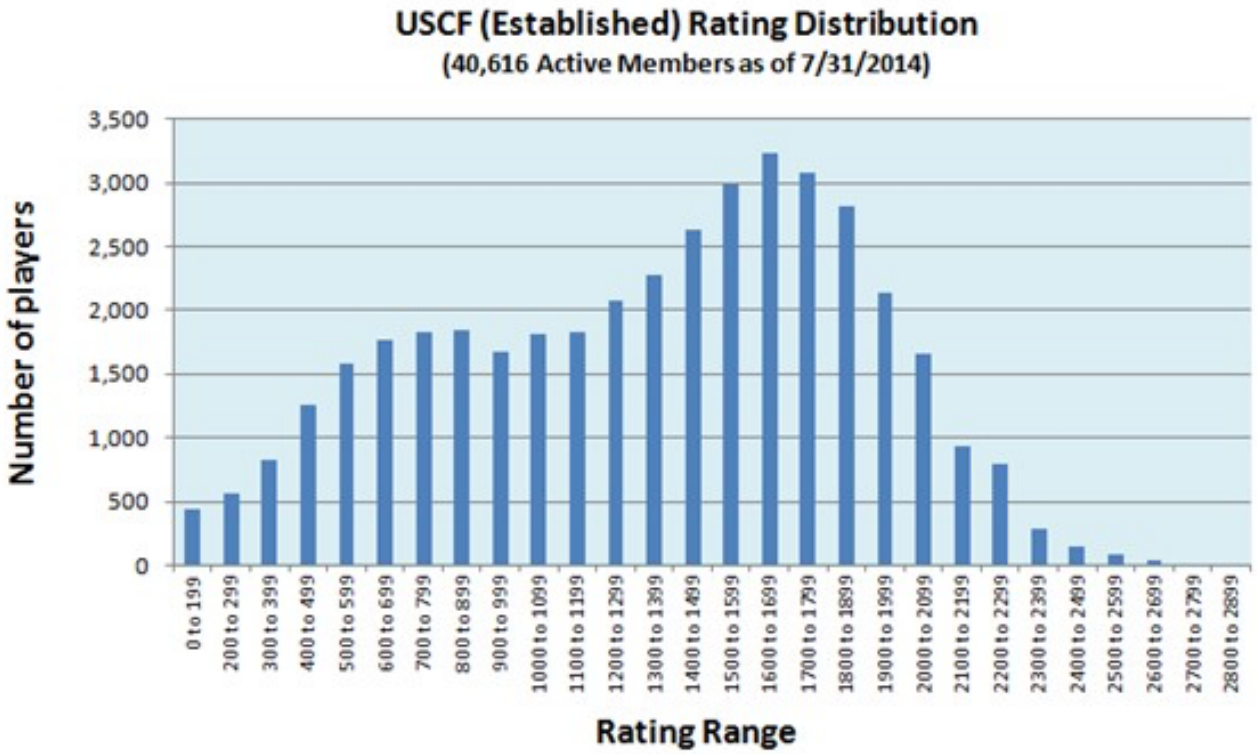

Converting FIDE ratings with this distribution into IQ scores or converting USCF ratings into IQ, it would require some acrobatics, but even then there would be major distortions. That's why it was first necessary to recalculate the ratings. In this process, I've already taken the opportunity to improve the traditional method, in addition to introducing a new one based on the quality of the bids. Furthermore, the two distributions, the IQ and the rating were fitted to suitable curves, rather than using the forced assumption of a Gaussian distribution. Altogether, 91 continuous and 17 discrete distributions were tested to verify which one is the most appropriate to represent this data set. In the preliminary selection, Kolmogorov-Smirnov was used to assess the goodness of fit. In a later step, Anderson-Darling and a chi-square comparison were used with a fitting model of a neural network. In cases where the discrete distribution made the comparison impossible because it contained the n-factorial function, this was replaced by Gamma (n+1). The following graph shows a summary of all tested curves:

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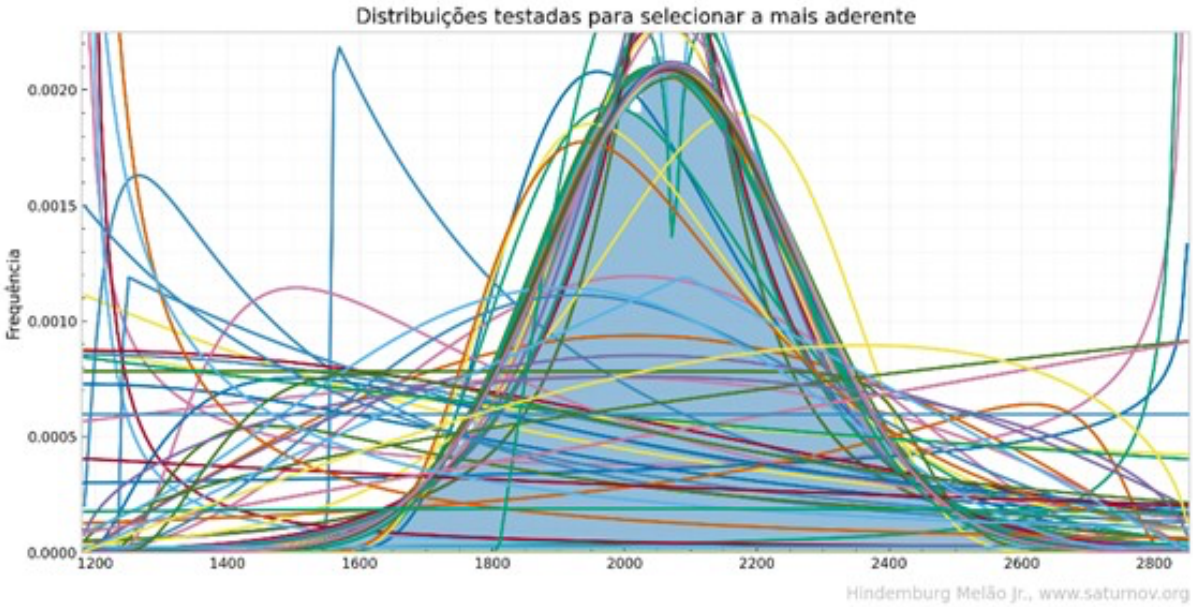

The distributions tried were these:

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Alfa
Anglit
Arcseno
Bernoulli
Beta
Beta Prime
Beta-Binomial
Beta-Kappa de Mielke
Binomial
Binomial Negativa
Birnbaum-Saunders
Boltzmann (Planck truncado)
Bradford
Burr
Burr12
Cauchy
Cauchy assimétrica
Cauchy empacotada
Cauchy Envelopada
Chi
Cosseno
Erlang
Exponencial
Exponencial Generalizada
Exponencial Truncada
F descentralizada
Fisk (Log logística)
F-ratio (ou F)
Função de Potência
Gama
Gama dupla
Gama Generalizada
Gama Invertida
Gauss Hipergeométrica
Gaussiana Inversa Generalizada
Gaussiana Inversa Normal
Gaussiana Inversa Recíproca
Geométrica
Gilbrat
Gompertz (Gumbel truncado)
Gumbel (LogWeibull, Fisher-Tippetts, Valor Extremo Tipo I)
Gumbel assimétrica levogira (para estatística de mínima ordem)
Hiperbólica generalizada
Hipergeométrica
Hipergeométrica descentralizada de Fisher
Hipergeométrica descentralizada de Wallenius
Hipergeométrica Negativa
Intervalo Studentizado
Johnson SB
Johnson SU
KS-bilateral
KS-bilateral para grandes amostras
KS-unilateral
Laplace (Double Exponential, Bilateral Exponential)
Laplace assimétrica
Laplaciana Discreta
Lévy
Lévy assimétrica levogira
Logarítmica (série logarítmica, série)
Log-Gama
Logística (Sech-quadrado)
Logística Generalizada
Log-Laplace (Log Dupla Exponencial)
Log-Normal (Cobb-Douglass)
Log-Uniforme
Lomax (segundo tipo de Pareto)
Maxwell
Nakagami
Normal
Normal empacotada
Normal Generalizada
Normal Inversa (Gaussiana Inversa)
Normal Truncada
Pareto
Pareto Generalizada
Planck (exponencial discreta)
Poisson
Potência exponencial
Potência lognormal
Potência Normal
Qui-quadrado
Qui-quadrado descentralizada
R-
Rayleigh
Rice
Secante Hiperbólica
Semi-Cauchy
Semicircular
Semi-Logística
Semi-logística Generalizada
Semi-Normal
t de Student
t descentralizada
Trapezoidal
Triangular
Tukey-Lambda
Uniforme
Uniforme (randint) Discreta
Valor extremo generalizada
Von Mises
Wald
Weibull de Máximo Valor Extremo
Weibull de Mínimo Valor Extremo
Weibull dupla
Weibull exponenciada
Weibull Invertida
Yule-Simon
Zipf (Zeta)
Zipfian

After determining the most suitable curves to represent the distribution of the IQs and the most suitable for the rating distribution, some further adjustments were made to correct for the self-selection that varies with the rating band and with the IQ band and does not vary in the same proportion. More details on the procedures are described in volumes I and II of the book "**CHESS – 2022 Best Players in History, Two New Rating Systems**".

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By these means, it was possible to slightly refine the values of some parameters used in the standardization of the Sigma Test, highlighting some of the conceptual and quantitative advantages that were already present in the 2003 standard.

The end result is that IQ measured by ST or STE generates scores on practically the same scale as other high range IQ tests, i.e. a person with a score of 180 on the Mega Test should score around 180 on the STE, while two other people with a score of 150 and 120 on Mega Test should also get around 150 and 120 on STE respectively. For scores above 170 and especially above 180, ST generates slightly lower (and more correct, less inflated) scores than other tests. For scores below 170, there is practically no difference.

The ST and STE percentiles are realistic, so they are much lower than those generated by the other tests. Therefore, if your goal is a certificate with too many nines to hang on the wall, unfortunately, Sigma Test won't be able to help you. But if you are sincerely curious to know your real intellectual capacity, based on a correctly standardized scale and with an adequate level of difficulty, and if you want to know the true percentile in which you are in relation to the world population, among other information (*), STE is exactly what you are looking for.

(* A supplementary information that cannot be calculated based on other standards is the "proportion of potential". If you are interested in knowing exactly what this means, please read this article: **https://www.sigmasociety.net / scalesqi**. In summary, the ratio of potential determines the number of people with IQ=100, working together, to achieve the same level of "intellectual output" as a person with IQ=x. This calculation requires that the scores are on a proportion scale so that the values are not distorted).

Another detail that I would like to comment on is the difference between intrinsically difficult questions and very difficult questions.

Questions that are just laborious, but not really difficult, measure perseverance, persistence, patience and other attributes rather than actually measuring intelligence. When testing with no time limit is applied, it is necessary to take some additional care, to prevent a person from having a higher score just by dedicating larger time. For each problem, there is a curve that determines the probability of success as a function of the time devoted to it and this curve reaches an asymptotic limit that means that after a certain limit, dedicating more time does not contribute to increasing the probability of success in a proportion that justify the greater amount of time invested. When this curve is similar to a straight line, it indicates that the problem is inappropriate because it predominantly depends on mechanical effort and work, but if the curve is similar to a logistic one, it indicates that the problem predominantly depends on intellectual capacity. That's because in the most difficult problems, if the person solves 5% of the problem in 5 minutes, he will solve approximately 10% in 10 minutes, 50% in 50 minutes, and so on. These are problems characterized by repetitive tasks, where repeating 10 times implies going twice as far as repeating 5 times. But in cases of predominantly intellectual problems, it is different. In the first 10% to 20% of the time, the person makes almost no progress, just trying to understand and outline a solution strategy. Then the resolution begins and at this stage, advances occur quickly with 50% to 70% of the central region of the logistic curve. As you progress in the resolution, getting closer to the definitive answer, you realize that there are small details that can still improve the answer. But these details require more and more time and are smaller and smaller and contribute less and less to the final result. The curve below represents this situation:

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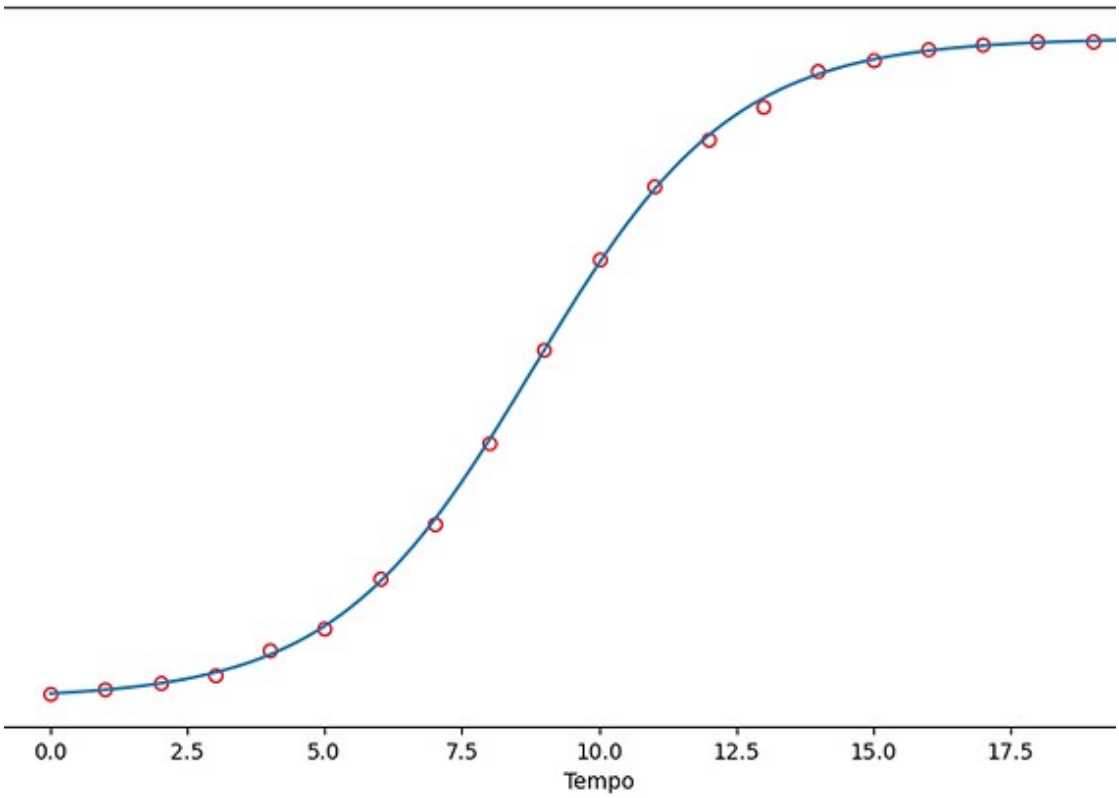

It reach a point where the person concludes that it doesn't make sense to spend more time to keep improving the response, because they would need to dedicate a lot of time to producing small increments. On some of the great problems of science, this takes centuries. Newton's solution, for example, was later improved by Einstein. In the future, it will be improved again. The atomic model has also experienced several stages of evolution and this happens in different situations in which one is dealing with a difficult and predominantly intellectual problem. If it is a laborious problem, where the resolution is more repetitive and mechanical, the graph that determines the percentage resolved as a function of time is more similar to the one below, where the time devoted to the resolution grows almost linearly with the percentage resolved.

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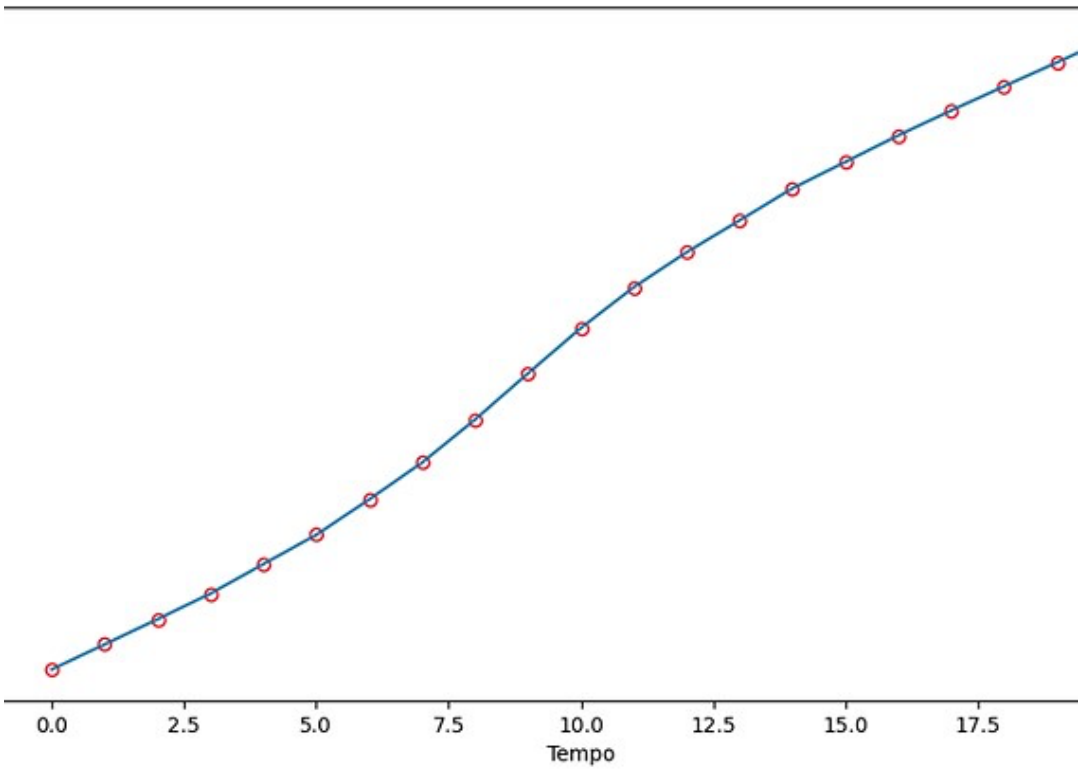

The type of problems desirable for a good intelligence test is the one that presents the behavior of graph 1. And all the items in the STE are designed with this objective in mind.

Graph 1 is a simplification, because many times there can be several stagnations in the resolution process. The person advances quickly, until he encounters some difficulty that impedes the advance until a strategy is developed to solve it. Then it goes back to solving the problem, then it hits another obstacle, etc. Several of the more difficult problems in STE have this characteristic, where the person needs to have more than one insight during the solving process in order to be able to keep moving forward.

Since the time that Langdon created the first high range IQ test until the mid-1990s, there were less than half a dozen such tests. But from the 1990s onwards, several others were created and currently there are hundreds. I don't know all the high range tests that currently exist, so I can't generalize, but I can say that many of these tests are made up of difficult questions, but they are not really difficult. This is common in tests with a series of numbers or figures, where if a person spends enough time, testing many different alternatives in an organized way. At some point, he will discover the underlying pattern. Of course, the use of some heuristics can speed up this process, but they are very basic heuristics. After a person trains to solve many tests of this type, he ends up becoming "specialized". There are also issues depending on the person having a vast vocabulary to solve an analogy, without there being any intrinsic difficulty in the analogy itself. The same applies to association problems. Certainly ST and STE are not immune and have their own flaws and limitations, but, as far as possible, we have tried to avoid some of the problems listed here.

Compared to the best traditional IQ tests, such as Stanford-Binet and Wechsler, the high range IQ tests adequately solve the problem of measuring correctly at the highest levels of difficulty, reaching 170 or even 180 and in this

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respect the ST did not bring great contributions, except perhaps for pushing the ceiling up a little as far as you can measure correctly. But there are other aspects in which the ST made relevant contributions:

- Generation of scores on a ratio scale
- Correct determination of percentiles and rarity levels
- Unprecedented determination of proportions of intellectual production potential
- Adequacy of different cognitive processes to the skill level measured
- Other possible advantages: **https://www.sigmasociety.net/escalasqi**

Mothers and fathers often find their kids the most beautiful in the world, so it's possible that my opinion of ST and STE is skewed. So it's best to rely on the opinions of other people who have been tested with Sigma Test and have given their testimonials. A list of these opinions can be accessed here: **https://www.sigmasociety.net/depoimentos**. So, although, maybe, my opinion is biased, ST and STE were built thinking about solving some of the weaknesses (from my point of view) that are present in other tests. I believe that the ST and STE are the psychometric instruments that best meet my criteria for correctly measuring intellectual level at the highest levels. Some other deeply talented people would agree with this opinion, others might not. This space is open to receiving new positive and negative opinions about ST and STE.

For these reasons, in Sigma Society, as the cut-off is 132, within the range in which other tests also work well, there was no problem in accepting other tests as criteria for admission, because the distortion is not great for scores up to this level. In Sigma III, there were some doubts about whether to accept other tests. It was decided to initially keep only the ST with the possibility of accepting other tests later as well. As of Sigma IV, only the ST itself was accepted. For these same reasons, STE will be accepted as the standard exam for admission to **Sigma VII and the Deliberative Council in Immortal Society. It will also be used as criteria for admission to Sigma VI, Sigma V, Unicorn, Platinum, Sigma IV, Immortal Society, Sigma III and Sigma Society.**

Having made these clarifications, we hope that everyone who accepts this challenge will enjoy the pleasant intellectual adventure offered by the STE questions and obtain fair and accurate results.

Sigma Test Extended is a harder, larger and newer version of our Sigma Test. See below some opinions about the Sigma Test:

"I'm really enjoying the SIGMA test. I've already printed it out and started answering your questions. Allow me to congratulate you on your test. In fact, it's incomparably better than the IQ tests I've taken." Renato P. dos Santos, Ph.D. in Physics, Post-Doctoral in Artificial Intelligence, Universitaet Karlsruhe, Research Institute for Symbolic Computation, Researcher and Preceptor of Ph.D. students, member of British Blockchain Association, referee of International Journal of Physical Sciences, Journal of Virtual Worlds Research, Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience, Financial Innovation and Advanced Theory and Simulations, Honorary member of Immortal Society (IQ>164).

"I appreciate immensely the Sigma Teste because I believe that in many questions are needed both intelligence and imagination to solve them." Petri Widsten, Ph.D. Summa Cum Laude in Chemestry, University of Helsinki, best Ph.D. Thesis of Finland 2002-2003, 1st place in several IQ Contests, include in "World IQ Challenge", member of Sigma Society VI (IQ>196).

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"The SIGMA test was one of the most interesting things I have done in the realm of puzzles because the later questions were so clever and had so many different levels of solution. I finished the test as a personal challenge, and it gave me great satisfaction. Some of the SIGMA test puzzles are REALLY beautiful. They are a work of art!" Peter David Bentley, D.Phil. and Post-Doctoral in Physiscs, University of Oxford, co-founder of Ludomind, Managing Director of INFICON Ltd., member of Sigma Society V (IQ>180).

"Thought tests and puzzles always have amused me, this is the first IQ-test I have bothered to send in for scoring. I found myself increasingly absorbed by the intellectual art behind the questions in this test. Together with achievement, I rank creativity on top of the scale, which you elegantly have combined with divergent / convergent thinking. Thank you for creating a great test. I now look forward to take the Sigma Test VI! Provided my scores are sufficient, I intend to apply for membership in the Sigma Society." Ulf Westerlund, Ph.D. in Neuroscience, member of AANS (American Association of Neurological Surgeons) and EANS (European Association of Neurological Surgeons), member of Sigma Society IV (IQ>164).

"I also want to say to you that the Sigma Test is incredibly brilliant. It was by far the best test I have ever taken and enjoyed it very much." Dylan Taylor, MBA at University of Chicago, Chairman & CEO of Voyager Space, Young Global Leader in 2011 Prize (World Economic Forum), Global Leadership and Public Policy for the 21st at Harvard Kennedy School, highest score on the English version of the Giant Test, Honorary Member of Immortal Society (IQ>164).

"Thank you for a fascinating, thrilling and a very challenging test! I will recommended it to friends and colleagues who might be interested in this kind of challenge. My next mission will be Sigma Test VI." Kristian Heide, Ph.D. in Astrophysics, world record in Think Fast game, member of Sigma Society IV (IQ>164).

"I would like to take the Sigma Test. (Which I believe has the best end excellent questions.)" Emrehan Halici, M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, President of Turkish Intelligence Foundation (1995-…), Vice President of FIDE – Fédération Internationale Des Échecs (1998-2002), Member of The Turkish Parliament (1999-2002).

More comments on the Sigma Test here: **https://www.sigmasociety.net/depoimentos**

INSTRUCTIONS:

Try to answer all the questions, including those you are not sure about.

There is no time limit, there are no restrictions on the use of auxiliary tools. Dictionaries and encyclopedias can be consulted at will.

Along with your answers, please also submit the scores you obtained on other tests (clinical IQ tests, online tests, high range tests, SAT, GRE, ACT, etc.), the date you were examined with each test (can be approximate), the score obtained (informing standard deviation) and the name of the test. We also ask that you inform the other societies in which you participate or have participated and other information that you consider important.

In parentheses is the approximate IQ corresponding to the difficulty of the questions at that level. This helps to avoid oversights by underestimating the difficulty of some question, as well as avoiding wasting time looking in simple and easy questions for complications that don't exist.

A book will soon be published with the 1,000 people with the highest IQs in history and the 100 people with the highest IQs today. Many other details about IQ tests, inflated scores, etc will be discussed in this book.

Sigma Test Extended – Questions

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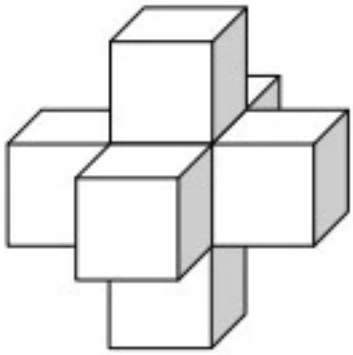
Level I (100) Average

1. In 1976 Marcelo was 11 years old. Assuming he is still alive, how old will be in 1999?
2. If 13 bullets cost $ 3.90, how much do 31 bullets cost?
3. A large box measures 60 cm wide, 50 cm long and 30 cm deep. What is the maximum number of boxes measuring 10 cm wide, 10 cm long and 10 cm deep that fit inside the big box?
4. If 12 people do a job in 12 days, how many people are need to do the same job in 1 day?
5. A collection consists of 12 volumes; each volume has 300 pages; each page has 50 lines and each line has 100 letters. What is the total number of letters in the collection?

Level II (110) Above average

6. A company has enough stock to supply its clientele of 2,500 people for 12 months. How long would this stock last if the clientele grew to 6,000 people?
7. If one horse can pull 600 kg, how many horses are needed to pull 6,150 kg?
8. The sum of ages of Fernanda and Andreia is 18 years. What are their individual ages, given that Andreia is twice as old as Fernanda?
9. We have 7 cubes with edge = 1 cm each. They are glued together in such a way that the total external surface after gluing is as small as possible. Calculate the area of this surface. The image below shows an example of cube organization in which the criterion of minimizing surfaces is not satisfied. (EXT 2022)



Level III (120) Superior Intelligence

10. Ricardo weighs 30% more than José. If Ricardo were to lose 10% and José gains 20% of weight, which one of them would weigh more after that. Explain.
11. A planetary system has, in addition to the main star, 9 planets. Each planet has 7 primary satellites. One out of every 21 primary satellites has 3 co-orbital satellites. How many celestial bodies are there all together?
12. On a staircase with 1,000 steps there was 1 gram of gold on the 1st step, 2 grams on the 2nd, 3 grams on the 3rd, 4 grams on the 4th, 5 grams on the 5th and so on, so that there was 1 kg of gold on the last step. Given that 1 gram of gold is worth 11 dollars, calculate the total value of the gold on the staircase (in dollars).

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13. Inside a room is a bookcase, a gold cube, and a platinum cylinder. The height of the cylinder is equal to its diameter. The 3 objects are on the ground, and that is flat within the limits we can measure. The top plane of the shelf is parallel to the ground plane. If the cube is on top of the shelf and the cylinder is on the floor, the distance between the top of the cube and the top of the cylinder will be 204 cm. If the cylinder is on top of the shelf and the cube is on the floor, the distance between the top of the cube and the top of the cylinder will be 156 cm. How tall is the shelf? (EXT 2022)

Level IV (132) Gifted, Talented, High Abilities

14. In a room 99% of the people are men. How many men would have to leave the room in order for this percentage to decrease to 98%? It is known that the number of women in the room is 3.
15. On a chessboard with 64 squares (8 x 8), two kings can occupy 3,612 different positions. How many different positions can two kings occupy on a chessboard with 117 squares (13 x 9). Two kings may not be on the same square at the same time or occupy adjacent squares.
16. Marcelo had apples, half of which he gave to his brother. The latter gave 75% of the apples that he had gotten to be equally shared between his three cousins: Anderson, Joao and Mané. Anderson bought 7 apples more and gave half of all his apples to his brother Mané. Mané's apples then totaled 17. How many apples did Joao get?
17. Maria went to a farm to buy eggs. Returning home, she gave half of them to her sister who, in turn, gave a third of those she had gotten to her boyfriend. The latter, after eating one third of the eggs that he had gotten, gave the rest to his cousin. Given that each egg weighs 70 grams, that Maria cannot carry more than 2.5 kg, and that the eggs were raw, calculate how many eggs the cousin of Maria's sister's boyfriend received.
18. The mayor Joao and an important bachelor businessman, called José, held a large barbecue. Aside from the businessman José, the mayor Joao and his wife, the number of people present equaled the number of 100 dollar notes that the mayor spent multiplied by the the number of 100 dollar notes that the businessman spent. Given that, on average, every person consumed the equivalent of US$6.40 and that the mayor invested US$ 1,700, calculate how much the businessman José invested. (Note: the businessman José, the mayor Joao and his wife took part in the consumption)

Level V (144)

19. A Formula-1 race car is racing around a circular track, completing the first lap in 3 minutes with an average speed of 144 km/h. In what time must a second lap be driven in order for the average speed of the two laps to increase to 300 km/h?
20. When Antonio looked at his watch, he noticed that the hour hand was lying exactly over the minute hand. What time will it take for this to happen again? (both hands move at constant rates)
21. A train with 2 cars is traveling at a speed of 80 km/h from town X to town Y, located 800 km from each other. At the same moment that the train departed, a passenger started to walk back and forth from one end of car B to the other at a speed of 100 cm/s. Arriving in town Y, the passenger had already gone and returned 720 times. The length of car A is that of car B plus one fourth of the length of the locomotive, and the length of the locomotive equals the length of car A plus one fifth of the length of car B. What is the total length of the train?

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22. What percentage of the Moon's surface is illuminated by the Sun at specific moment? Justify. (Moon test)
23. The image below is a photo montage of the Moon over the Atlantic Ocean. Assuming it wasn't a montage, what country was the person who took the photo in? Justify your answer. (Moon test)

Level VI (156)

24. Several faucets were used to fill up six tanks. For one hour, all the faucets discharged water in a reservoir, which distributed it between four of these tanks: A, B, C and D. After that, for one hour, the faucets discharged water in a double funnel which directed half of the water to tanks E and F and the other half to the reservoir which, in turn, continued to distribute its water between tanks A, B, C and D. With this, tanks A, B, C and D were full. To fill tanks E and F up, it was necessary to use one faucet, which, for two hours, distributed its water between tanks E and F. After this all the six tanks were full. What was the number of faucets initially used? (Note: all the faucets had the same water flow rate and all the tanks had the same volume).
25. Several rectangles are drawn on a plane surface in such a way that their intersecting lines form 18,769 areas not further subdivided. What is the minimum number of rectangles that must be drawn to form the described pattern?
26. Several straight line segments are drawn on a plane surface in such a way that their intersecting lines form 1,597 areas that are not further subdivided. What is the minimum number of line segments that must be drawn to form the described pattern?
27. On a plane surface 1 + 10^1,234,567,890 triangles are drawn. What is the maximum number of areas, not further subdivided, that can be formed as these triangles intersect each other? (Contributed by Rodrigo de Almeida Rodrigues)
28. According to Fermat's Last Theorem, a^n + b^n = c^n has no solutions for n > 2 (a, b, c and n must be positive integers). In 1992, I proved this in a simple, yet incorrect manner. This was my reasoning: Fermat's

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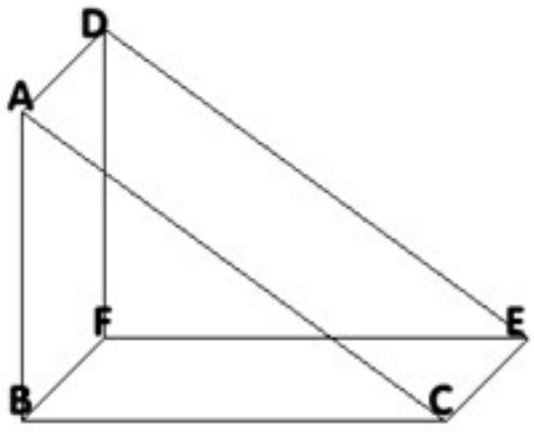
Theorem is a generalization of Pythagoras' Theorem, which asserts that the sum of areas of the squares drawn on the legs (short sides) of a right triangle equals the area of a square drawn on the hypotenuse of the same right triangle (a^2 + b^2 = c^2). If we try to generalize that theorem, going from 2 to 3 dimensions (a^3 + b^3 = c^3), we have a triangular prism formed by displacement of a right triangle along an axis perpendicular to its face, as illustrated by the figure below. We can construct a cube on one of the three quadrangular faces of that prism. Two of those faces correspond to the legs of the right triangle (ADFB, BFEC) while the larger face corresponds to the hypotenuse (ADEC). It is possible to construct a cube on one of the faces, implying that the 4 sides of that face have the same length. This affects the whole prism, causing the cube constructed on the other face to have the same size than that constructed on the first, for if AB=BF and BF=BC, then AB=BC. In that way, no cube can be constructed on the third face, for if AC represents the hypotenuse, then AC cannot be equal to to AB. Therefore, a^n + b^n = c^n has no solution for n=3. Following the same line of reasoning, we can show that it has no solution for any number of dimensions larger than 2. What is the error in this proof?



29. João was kidnapped by aliens and taken to a distant planet. He gets two challenges. If he solves one of them, he will gain his freedom and be able to return to Earth. If he solves both, he will also win 100 tons of the mineral he prefers, gold or platinum, which will be delivered to his home on his planet. Challenge 1: on this planet where he is, an alien climbed on top of 3 mountains A, B, C, located respectively at latitudes 27º, 27.5º, 27º. From point A, points B and C appear 68.174 degrees apart. From point B, points A and C appear 54.821 degrees apart. From point C, points A and B appear to be 57.086º apart. The distance between points A and B is 100 km. What is the approximate diameter of this planet? (EXT 2022)
30. Challenge 2: This planet has part of its surface covered by oceans and part by rocks/land. João is taken to an island on which there is a volcano, the top of which is the highest part of the island. When he returns to the mainland, João realizes that, from the beach, it is still possible to see the top of the volcano, almost disappearing into the horizon. Knowing that the height of this volcano is 3500 m, what is the distance from this beach to the top of this volcano? (EXT 2022)

Level VII (168)

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31. A certain gear system consists of 5 concentric, superposed discs: A, B, C, D and E, which are mounted on a solid platform, taken as a stationary reference. The discs have different sizes and spin at different speeds. All the discs spin at constant rates, some clockwise, some anticlockwise. Each disc has a red dot on its surface, and initially all these red dots are not lined up. At a given moment, all the discs start to spin simultaneously, each at its own speed, without any contact between them. It takes 7 minutes for disc A, 13 minutes for disc B, 17 minutes for disc C, 19 minutes for disc D and 23 minutes for disc E to complete a full 360-degree spin. After a certain time, all the red dots were aligned, disc A being in the same position that it was 2 minutes after the discs started to spin, disc B being in the same position that it was 3 minutes after the discs started to spin, disc C being in the same position that it was 4 minutes after the discs started to spin, disc D being in the same position that it was 7 minutes after the discs started to spin, and disc E being the same position that it was 9 minutes after the discs started to spin. How much time elapsed from the moment the discs started to spin until the discs reached that configuration for the first time?

32. Pedrinho entered Dona Maria's Stationer's Shop and asked her to sell him a geometric ruler for drawing a spiral with a small concentric circle. Dona Maria, a Sigma Society member, told the boy that there were no rulers for drawing spirals. But after thinking the problem over, she found a way to make a drawing like that, and described the method to the boy. She sold the boy the material needed right away, which he paid with a US$ 10.00 note, receiving some change. He went home and made the drawing without any problems. Describe a method to perform Pedrinho's task having the same US$ 10.00 at your disposal for buying the material needed. The drawing must show a satisfactory agreement with the described pattern (a spiral with a small concentric circle), without large irregularities in the spiral. (Modified in 31 Aug 2001 at the suggestion of our friends Petri Widsten and Nikos Lygeros, as the earlier question with the 9 cubes was similar to one of the questions of the Eureka Test).

33. A man takes a deep breath, filling his lungs completely with air. Then he holds his breath and a tape measure is used to measure his chest circumference, which turns out to be 106 cm. After that, the man exhales so that all the air is expelled from his lungs. His chest circumference is measured again, and is now 84 cm. Having $10 at your disposal for buying material, find out the volume of air that his lungs are able to hold.

34. The speed of a person's reflexes can be determined based on the time elapsed between a stimulus and the response of that stimulus. For example: A lamp remains unlit while we observe it. On receiving the stimulus "the lamp was lit", the reaction is to be "close the eyes". The shorter the time between "the lamp was lit" and "close the eyes", the faster the reflexes. Describe a method to determine the speed of a person's reflexes, without using a chronometer or any other equipment allowing the measurement of time intervals shorter than 1 second. It is possible to devise a rough method on a US$ 1 budget for equipment, and a sophisticated method with good precision having US$ 1,000 at one's disposal. Describe a method for both budgets.

35. In 1993, in an essay about Science and Religion, I described a project regarding the possibility to build an "invisibility machine". On describing the details, I realized that some problems were insolvable, not only because of technological limitations but also for physical reasons imposing theoretical and possibly insurmountable limits. The project starts from the central idea that in order to make an object invisible, it is necessary for an external observer looking in its direction to visually stop noticing its presence. This can be done in the following way: A sphere is constructed, and its whole external surface is covered with minute,

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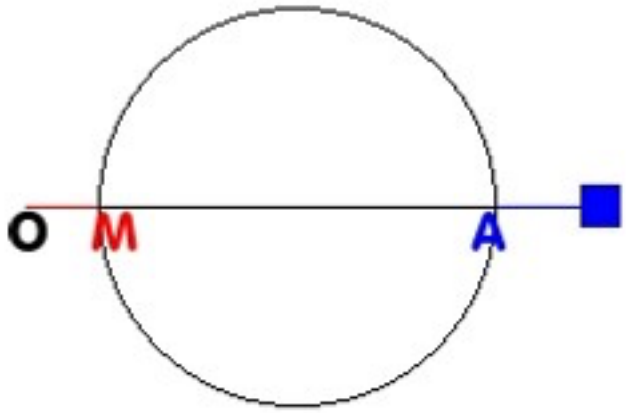
high-resolution TV cameras and monitors. Millions or even billions of cameras and monitors are to cover the whole sphere in such a way that each monitor transmits the image captured by a camera located in the point diametrically opposite to that monitor. The result will be as shown in the figure below. The image of the object (blue square) is captured by a camera located in point A, which transmits the image to a monitor in point M. As a result, an observer in point O will see the blue square as if there were nothing in front of him. In that way, everything inside the sphere will be invisible to the external observer. But this scheme presents two problems. One of them can be solved in theory while the other one is insolvable. Indicate those two problems and explain why one of them can be solved but the other one cannot.



36. Many Mensa members have approved by the Raven's test (Standard or Advanced). Assuming all Mensa members had approved by the Raven Standard Progressive Matrices and assuming the norm indicated

Raw	IQ
60	133,0
59	128,7
58	124,8
57	121,2
56	118,0
55	115,1
54	112,5
53	110,1
52	108,0
51	106,1
50	104,4
49	102,8
48	101,4
47	100,0
46	98,7

Raw	IQ
45	97,5
44	96,3
43	95,1
42	93,8
41	92,5
40	91,1
39	89,6
38	88,0
37	86,2
36	84,2
35	82,0
34	79,5
33	76,8
32	73,8
31	70,4

below is correct and accurate, what percentage of Mensa members were approved without actually having an IQ above 132? Disregard cases of fraud (people who knew the answers before taking the test). The uncertainty in the score for each person examined is 2.6 points in raw score. (EXT 2022)

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37. Following the previous statement, what percentage of people were not approved by the RSPM, but whose IQ is above 132? (EXT 2022)
38. In a 256-dimensional Euclidean orthonormal hyperspace, we have a 6-dimensional hypersphere and we want to split it into as many pieces as possible, but we can only make 12 cuts. Pieces cannot change position. Each slice is a 5-dimensional Euclidean orthogonal hyperspace (hyperplane). How many pieces can we get this way? (Sigma Test VI 2003)

Level VIII (184)

39. The porous and gray "lead" inside a pencil consists of a mixture of graphite and clay. The ratio of graphite to clay is not known. On writing on a sheet of paper, a fine layer of "lead" remains on the surface of the sheet. Describe a method for calculating the mass of "lead" in the dot of the letter "i". You may use only US$10 to buy the material needed for the experiment.
40. We have a cylinder with a radius of 50 cm and a tape measure 0.01 cm thick. The height of the cylinder equals the width of the tape measure. The thickness of the tape measure is invariable and one of its wider sides is inextensible. What is the minimum length of tape necessary to wind it around the cylinder 9 times, all rounds overlapping, as in a roll of scotch tape. The top and base of the cylinder may not be covered with tape. The solution must be given with 14 significant digits and it is not allowed to cut the tape or cut or deform de cylinder.
41. A sophisticated aircraft is hovering like a hummingbird over a terrain located on the equatorial line of a planet, at an altitude of 1,000 m. The planet is completely spherical and homogeneous, and has a small satellite on a circular orbit on a plane parallel to its equator. At 15:58:30h a man parachutes down from the aircraft, descending perpendicularly to the ground. At the moment that he jumps off the aircraft, he notices a satellite starting to rise on the eastern horizon. He lands and, without leaving the landing site, continues to observe the satellite, which at 17:40:00 h reaches the zenith. He remains in the same place, observing…and at 19:20:00h sees the satellite disappear on the western horizon. Still in the same place, at 22:40:00h, he sees the satellite rising again in the east. What is the approximate diameter of that planet? Explain how you arrived at your answer and the usefulness of all the pieces of information given. Explain also why the result cannot be exact. (If you have doubts as to the meaning of zenith, horizon, equator, orbit etc., you may consult dictionaries or encyclopedias).
42. We have a regular, rigid and massy tetrahedron (T1) with edge 1, and we want to make a cut through which another rigid, massy tetrahedron (T2) can pass, completely crossing this hole and coming out completely on the other side. What is the maximum edge that the T2 tetrahedron can have? The answer must be presented with 50 digits. (EXT 2022)
43. We have a rigid, massy cube with edge 1, and we want to make a cut through which a regular, rigid and massy tetrahedron can pass, completely crossing this hole and coming out completely on the other side. What is the maximum edge that this tetrahedron can have? The answer must be presented with 50 digits. (EXT 2022)

Level IX (202)

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44. Describe a practical and fast method that can be used with good precision to determine the number of words in a person's vocabulary.
45. If Jupiter were hollow and the top of its clouds were a rigid membrane 1 mm thick, how many planets like Earth would fit entirely inside it? (Moon test)
46. Estimate or calculate realistic percentiles for the raw scores of the following tests: Mega Test, Titan Test. Feel free to justify with formulas and arguments, if you want, trying to be as concise and objective as possible. (EXT 2022)
47. Estimate or calculate realistic percentiles for the raw scores of 2 high range IQ tests of your choice. Feel free to justify with formulas and arguments, if you want, trying to be as concise and objective as possible. (EXT 2022)
48. Estimate or calculate realistic percentiles for the cut-offs for the following high-IQ societies:
    1. Mensa
    2. Intertel
    3. Colloquy
    4. Cerebrals
    5. ISPE
    6. Prometheus
    7. Epimetheus
    8. HellIQ
    9. Mega Society
    10. Omega Society
    11. Pi Society
    12. Pars Society
    13. OlympIQ Society
    14. Sigma V
    15. Giga Society
    16. Sigma VI
    17. Choose another 2 societies with theoretical percentile 1-10^-9 or higher. (EXT 2022)
49. There was a brilliant anthropologist, a member of Sigma V, named John. During an expedition to Africa, he was imprisoned by a tribe of cannibals and sentenced to serve as a meal. But the "legislation" of this tribe offered prisoners an opportunity to be released if they were able to overcome a challenge. In João's case, the challenge consisted of the following: two eggs would be presented to him, one raw and the other boiled. Each egg would remain inside a box. The walls of these boxes are rigid and opaque. The boxes are shaped like cobblestones. One of the boxes has a window on one of its sides, and this window is covered with a wire mesh, through which it is possible to see the egg that is inside it. The challenge is to identify which is the raw egg within 2 minutes. Eggs cannot be broken, they cannot be taken out of the boxes, the boxes cannot be opened and it is not allowed to insert anything inside the boxes. João is informed that this challenge will be presented to him within 90 days. Until that time expires, he can count on the support of the villagers to investigate a way to solve the problem. In addition, João can have all the "sophisticated" instruments and everything else available in the village and surroundings. When the date to face the challenge arrived, at sunrise, João had his eyes blindfolded and his hands tied. A few minutes later, a village

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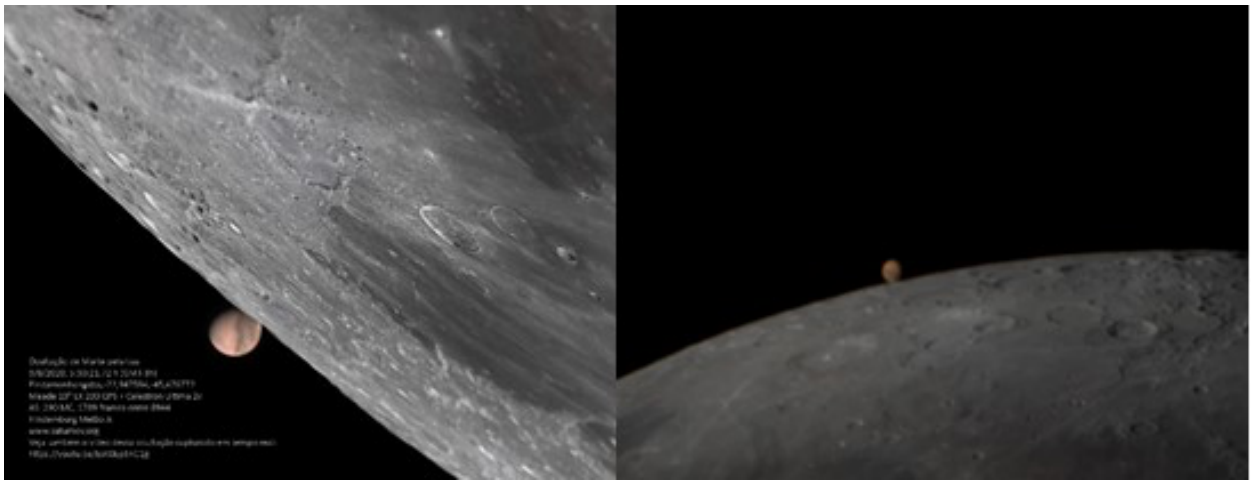
elder boiled an egg, dried it, placed it in a box and closed it. He took a raw egg and put it in another box, then closed it. The two boxes were placed on a table, where they remained until nightfall. Then John was untied and the blindfolds were removed from his eyes, he was provided with the requisite equipment and was placed in front of the table where the boxes with the eggs were. He examined them carefully and was able to identify where the raw egg was. The challenge was repeated for 20 consecutive days, always with different eggs, and in the 20 times he managed to make the correct identification. In view of this, the cannibals, admired, recognized the value of the remarkable anthropologist. They decided to release him and even presented him with many jewels. Describe a procedure that John may have used to be able to identify which box had the raw egg.



50. The two photos below were taken in August 2020, by Hindemburg Melao Jr. at coordinates -22.947594, -45.476772 and by Alisson Correa Chervinski at coordinates -29.755334, -57.076461. What was the distance from the center of the Earth to the center of the Moon at that moment? Justify your answer in detail. (**visit the Moon Test page to download higher resolution images)** (Moon test)

Level X – EXTRA (221) (at least 80% of the previous questions must be correct for your answers at level X to be analyzed)

51. An Arab man and an Israeli woman are abducted by extraterrestrials. The E.T.s promise to return them to Earth unharmed, provided that they succeed in the following task: three rooms are designated A, B and C. Each room is square and measures approximately 25 m2. The rooms are connected in such a way that each room has two doors, and each door provides access to one of the other two rooms. The three rooms are acustically isolated and have no furniture or windows. The walls, doors, ceiling and floor of the rooms are solid and opaque, and contain no cracks, holes, hidden passages or the like. The man is placed in room A and the woman in room B. They both receive the following instructions:

1. They both have 1 hour to traverse the three rooms and return to the room where they started, always walking in the direction A – B – C – A.
2. The both have to remain seated, on the floor, in their respective rooms, until a signal would be emitted, indicating that the time count had started. The signal was as follows: on each door there are two lamps (one on each side of the door), and the nearly simultaneous lighting of the all the lamps constitutes the signal. Each lamp is bright enough for a person to notice easily even when he is not paying attention to it.

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3. The moment that the woman touches the doorknob of a room, the man cannot be in that room any more.
4. The moment that the man touches the doorknob of a room, the woman cannot be in that room any more.
5. The woman has to get up from the floor after the man.
6. The man and woman are not permitted to communicate between each other in any way, or obtain from others any information allowing them to figure out where the other one is. They may not beat the walls or the doors, or try to generate any kind of shock wave. On leaving a room and entering another one, it is required to close the corresponding door. Initially all the doors are closed. Two or more doors may not be open at the same time.
7. None of them has a clock or any other instrument that can be used to measure time.
8. 1 minute before the 1 hour period is up the light signal will be given again, indicating that the time is running out.
9. When the 1 hour period is up the man has to be sitting in the center of room A and the woman in the center of room B.
10. The woman may only sit down after the man.
11. The man is told that the woman is exceptionally intelligent.
12. The woman is told that the man is exceptionally intelligent.

The man and the woman did not know each other and had never been in any contact with each other before. They did not communicate with each other during the whole process (to clarify the matter, it can be told that they both were mute and deaf). The experiment is carried out and they manage to perform the task. The experiment is repeated 10 times and each time they complete the task successfully, making it clear that the first time was not due to mere good luck. Afterwards they are returned to Earth where they convert to Zoroastrianism, get married and live happily everafter! Describe the method they used and the way of thinking of both of them.

52. Consider that the level of intellectual production of a company is measured by the sum of the productions of its employees and executives working together. Consider a company with 10,000 employees, which selects them through a reliable, accurate, efficient, and well-normed cognitive test with a cutoff of 2 standard deviations above the mean. The total intellectual output of the employees of this company is equivalent to that of a person with IQ = x working alone. Determine the x. Of course, the employees will produce in larger quantity than the person with IQ = x, but if you weigh the intellectual relevance of each work/creation, the fewer number of more relevant work/creation by the person with IQ = x will be equivalent to the largest number of less relevant work/creation out of 10,000 employees together. (EXT 2022)

53. As the previous statement, now consider that the total number of people ever born is about 100 billion and assume that the average IQ of the historical population is 100 with a standard deviation 16. If an alien had the same intellectual production capacity as all people who have lived together, what would be this alien's IQ? (EXT 2022)

54. The photo below shows the Clavius crater. Christopher Clavius was a mathematician, astronomer and priest contemporary of Galileo. Clavius was distinguished for his works in Geometry and Algebra. When Galileo showed that the Moon had a rugged topography, rather than being a perfect sphere, as had been believed until then, Clavius argued that if the Moon's surface were indeed irregular, as Galileo said, then the Moon's edges must also show this characteristic, but even with telescopes (at the time) the edges of the Moon are very sleek. Faced with this empirical evidence, Clavius proposed that the Moon probably had a perfectly spherical transparent surface beneath which these apparent irregularities were. According science historian

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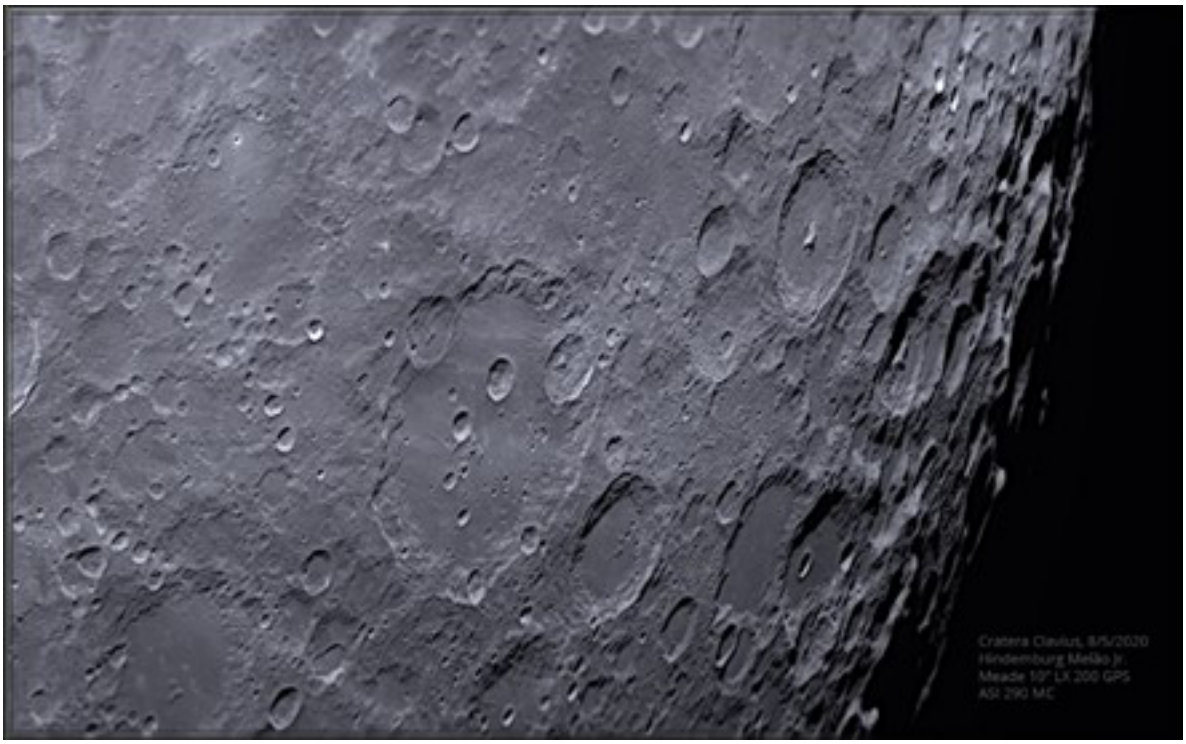
R.A.M., Galileo not found appropriate arguments to refute Clavius' thesis, however there were sufficient resources at the time to show that Clavius was wrong. Point out problems with Clavius' argument and show that Galileo's thesis was most likely to be a better representation of sentient reality. (Moon test)



55. What is the total number of different positions that can be produced in all possible chess games. Justify your answer in detail. (EXT 2022)
56. What is the logarithm (base 10) of the total number of different positions that can be produced in all possible matches of MegaChess, 16×16 version of Chess on the Zillions of Games platform. Justify your answer in detail. (EXT 2022)

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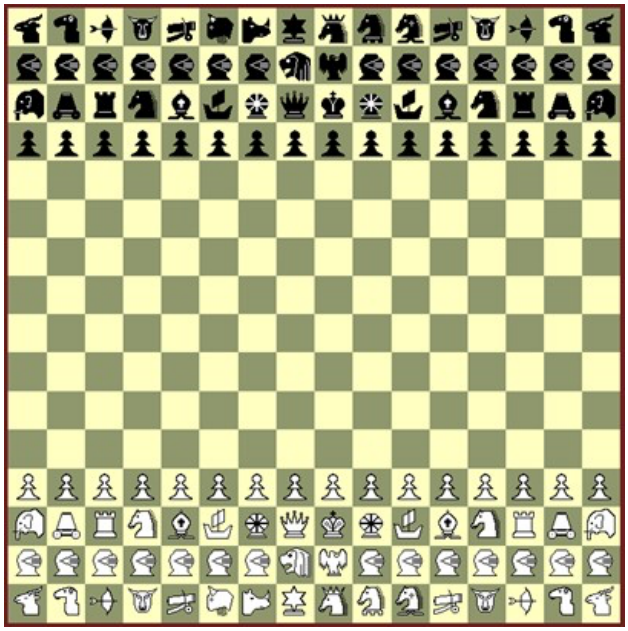

Sigma Test Extended ‘s first norm estimate

Current STE (and ST) highest score holder: Petri Widsten, 212. Petri is a Ph.D. Summa Cum Laude in Chemistry, his doctoral thesis was considered the best in Finland in the 2002-2003 biennium, he was also placed first in important international competitions of Logic, Intelligence and Puzzles, including the **WORLD IQ CHALLENGE**.

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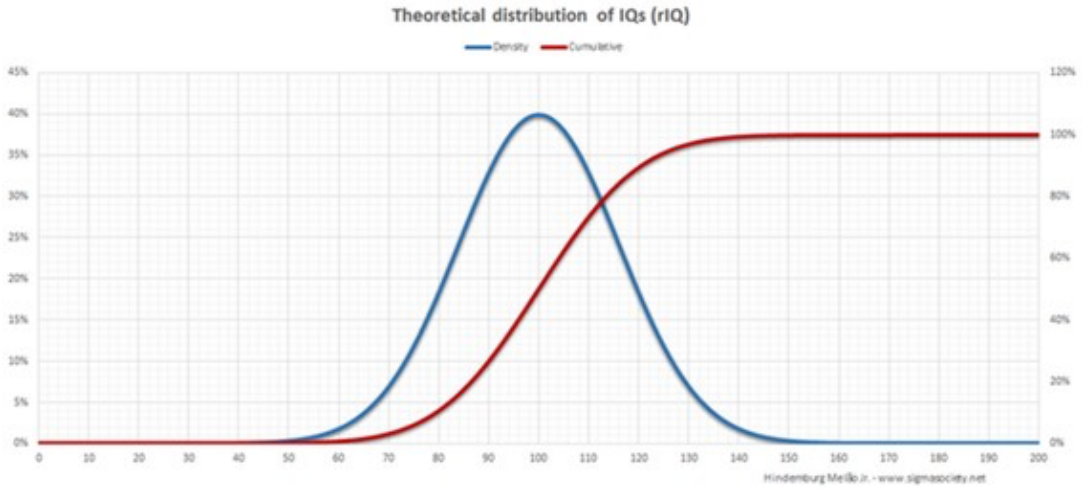
Raw	QI	True Percentil	Theoretical Percentil	Raw	QI	True Percentil	Theoretical Percentil
1	93,3	31,5%	33,8%	29	154,9	99,886%	99,970%
2	96,2	39,3%	40,6%	30	156,9	99,915%	99,9811%
3	99,0	47,1%	47,4%	31	158,8	99,937%	99,9882%
4	101,7	54,6%	54,1%	32	160,8	99,954%	99,9928%
5	104,3	61,5%	60,6%	33	162,9	99,966%	99,9957%
6	106,9	67,8%	66,6%	34	164,9	99,975%	99,9975%
7	109,4	73,3%	72,1%	35	167,0	99,9824%	99,99859%
8	111,8	78,1%	76,9%	36	169,1	99,9874%	99,99922%
9	114,2	82,2%	81,2%	37	171,3	99,9911%	99,99958%
10	116,5	85,6%	84,9%	38	173,5	99,9938%	99,99978%
11	118,8	88,5%	88,0%	39	175,7	99,9957%	99,999888%
12	121,0	90,8%	90,5%	40	178,0	99,9971%	99,999945%
13	123,2	92,7%	92,6%	41	180,3	99,99801%	99,999974%
14	125,3	94,2%	94,3%	42	182,7	99,99867%	99,9999883%
15	127,4	95,4%	95,7%	43	185,2	99,99912%	99,9999949%
16	129,5	96,4%	96,7%	44	187,7	99,99943%	99,9999979%
17	131,5	97,2%	97,6%	45	190,3	99,99963%	99,99999916%
18	133,5	97,8%	98,20%	46	192,9	99,99977%	99,99999968%
19	135,5	98,30%	98,68%	47	195,6	99,999854%	99,999999886%
20	137,5	98,68%	99,05%	48	198,4	99,999910%	99,999999962%
21	139,5	98,98%	99,32%	49	201,3	99,999946%	99,9999999879%
22	141,4	99,21%	99,52%	50	204,3	99,999968%	99,9999999964%
23	143,3	99,39%	99,66%	51	207,3	99,9999812%	99,9999999990%
24	145,3	99,54%	99,77%	52	210,4	99,9999892%	99,99999999974%
25	147,2	99,65%	99,841%	53	213,7	99,9999939%	99,999999999939%
26	149,1	99,73%	99,893%	54	217,0	99,9999966%	99,9999999999868%
27	151,0	99,797%	99,929%	55	220,4	99,99999818%	99,9999999999974%
28	153,0	99,847%	99,953%	56	223,9	99,99999903%	99,9999999999995%



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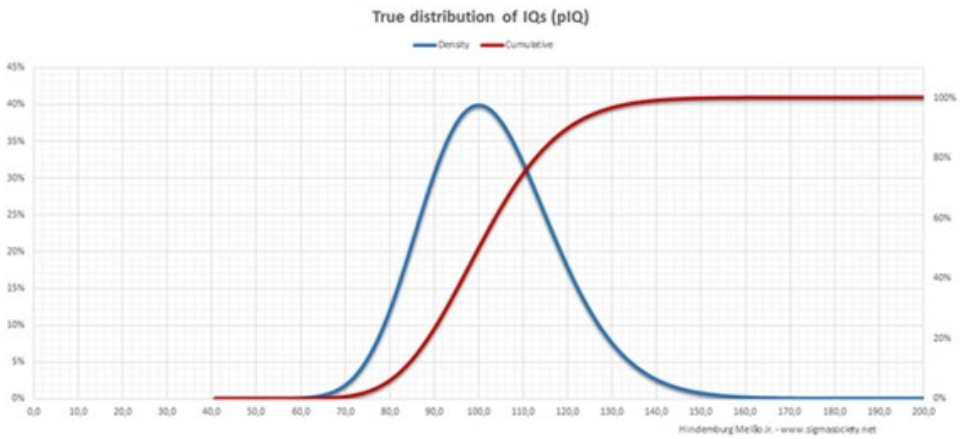

Standard based on the combined results of Sigma Test, Sigma Test VI and Moon Test.

Theoretical Percentile: percentile used in all high-IQ societies, based on the assumption that scores are normally distributed across the entire scale. As the actual distribution has dense trails on the right and becomes progressively denser for higher IQs, the percentiles are inflated and incorrect. But as it is the standard used, the table also includes this information for comparison purposes.

True Percentile: Realistic percentile calculated based on the method described in this article **https://www.sigmasociety.net/escalasqi**, scaling the scores in proportion and determining the true cumulative frequencies.

FEES:

Fee: US $ 100 until 5/31/2022 or up to the first 1,000 people screened
Fee: US $ 316 between 6/1/2022 and 7/31/2022 or up to the first 2,000 people screened
Fee: US $ 1,000 between 8/1/2022 and 9/30/2022 or up to the first 4,000 people screened
Fee: US $ 3,162 between 10/1/2022 and 11/30/2022 or up to the first 8,000 people screened
Fee: US $ 10,000 as of 12/1/2022 or from 16,000 people screened

CUMULATIVE DISCOUNTS:

Anyone who takes the Sigma Test Extended while fewer than 100 people are tested can apply for a new certificate after more than 100 people are tested, with the revised standard.

Persons who were already tested with Sigma Test before 2007 and did not receive a printed certificate: exempt from the fee

People who were already tested with the Sigma Test before 2007 and received a printed certificate: 30% discount on the fee

People who have already been tested with Sigma Test VI: 20% off fee

People who have already been screened with the Moon Test: 10% off fee

The above discounts are cumulative. For example: the person took the Sigma Test and the Sigma Test VI, so your rate will be $0.7 \times 0.8 = 0.56$ (44% discount).After took the Sigma Test Extended, the person receives a certificate from the Sigma Test Extended and a certificate based exclusively on the Sigma Test questions, since the ST is a

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subtest of STE. Although question 36 of the STE was not included, as there was no correct answer in this question, it does not interfere with the norm.

Footnotes

[1] **Hindemburg Melão Jr.** is the author of solutions to scientific and mathematical problems that have remained unsolved for decades or centuries, including improvements on works by 5 Nobel laureates, holder of a world record in longest announced checkmate in blindfold simultaneous chess games, registered in the Guinness Book 1998, author of the Sigma Test Extended and founder of some high IQ societies.

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Actuarial Sciences 2: Erik Haereid, M.Sc., on Actuarial Sciences in Practice (2)

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Abstract

Erik Haereid, born in 1963, grew up in Oslo, Norway. He studied mathematics, statistics and actuarial science at the University of Oslo in the 1980s and 90s, and is educated as an actuary. He has worked over thirty years as an actuary, in several insurance companies, as actuarial consultant, middle manager and broker. In addition, he has worked as an academic director (insurance) in a business school (BI). Now, he runs his own actuarial consulting company with two other actuaries. He is a former member of Mensa, and is a member of some high IQ societies (e.g., Olympiq, Glia, Generiq, VeNuS and WGD). He discusses: actuarial sciences in professional life; applicability in everyday life of a non-expert; using expertise to analyze the risks of something; mathematics and statistics; the maximum level of qualifications a Norwegian actuary can get; an actuary; and the major lessons.

Keywords: Actuarial Sciences, actuary, Erik Haereid, mathematics, statistics.

Actuarial Sciences 2: Erik Haereid, M.Sc., on Actuarial Sciences in Practice (2)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: How does one apply actuarial sciences in professional life for you?

Erik Haereid[1],[2]*: As a bachelor in statistics, when I worked on my Cand. Scient. degree (which is almost the same as an M.Sc.), I had a part-time job in an actuary department in a Norwegian insurance company (from about 1987 to 1990). There I learned the basics about private individual life insurance products and life tables. At that time there were not usual with personal computers, and we used table books for each life insurance product. “N1964” (or was it 1963? I can’t remember) was one of some books with life tables and related formulas, describing how to calculate all possible premiums and reserves based on that single insurance product. Annuities

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and disability-products were based on different tables and had their own table books, and so were all group insurance products. These table books were the life insurance actuaries' bible and tool.

A lot of the work in this actuary department was to control the mainframe systems, ensuring that all calculations that made the premiums and reserves were correct. When there were changes to a product or computer system, the actuaries had to be involved to include the formulas and calculations adapted to that new system. To everybody else, what happened inside the calculations were a black hole. We actuaries had to understand and translate the math into code and calculated numbers. We communicated a lot with the mainframe computer system programmers, and we used our calculators and after some time our personal computers and spreadsheets to ensure that the formulas and calculations where right; testing the mainframe computer's calculations was an important job for the actuaries. When there were flaws, computer bugs and so on, we had to step in and find what's wrong (and this happened often).

In general, you can say that an important part of actuarial science is about optimizing premiums; make it as small as possible to meet the customers need, and as big as necessary to meet the insurance company's need (solvency). This balance is challenged all the time. I will talk much more about this later.

In my first jobs, the actuarial science part was to know and understand how the premiums and reserves, all the calculations, was build and why. All life tables were based on the same principles; the math was stable, and we didn't change premiums based on more experiences (like one did in let's say automobile insurance). We didn't alter the mathematical foundation of the life tables. The death rates were reliable; they were quite easy to predict. The relative high levels of the interest rates were also rather established. The solvency of the insurance companies was subject to no worry. At that time.

It's scientifically more demanding working with risks that are under great volatility and variation, and/or are subject to few experiences. Non-life insurances are in that manner more demanding than life insurances; traditionally. I have never worked with non-life insurances, and have of that reason never been exposed to great changes in risks, with the demands to continuously modify different mathematical methods. But, as I will talk about later, throughout the 1990's and 2000's the challenges occurred even in the life insurance discipline.

After my first job, I finished my final exam and started in a new job as actuary in another insurance company (1991 to 1995). The products and tasks were to begin with quite similar to those in the previous job, but I became more involved in product design and development of new formulas. The traditional life insurance business (including pensions and annuities) was under change, and converged towards more bank-oriented products; separate module-like products. Traditionally, the insurance risk elements in life insurance, pensions and annuities were parts of a mandatory package; the premium included savings (either as a lump sum/single premium, a general annuity or a pension premium), some sort of death benefit, spouse and children benefits if the insured died (riders and modules linked to pensions) and a disability coverage. The insured couldn't choose elements and riders freely. You could of course buy a pure annuity, but then you had not many choices as to the death benefit part of the policy. This was under change, not at least because the old products at that time demanded a quite skilled salesman/agent, who usually used a lot of time selling and explaining to the customers, making the product's administration cost part much higher. If one could sell insurance through the bank channels, like any other bank saving product, one could reduce the cost and make the insurance products more available, and the life insurance companies could grow.

I was part of a group (in my second job) in the beginning of the 1990's, where we developed such a pension product, which aim was to make it simpler, more understandable and to sell it through the bank channels; a Unit-

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Linked kind of a product (ULIP). As to actuarial science, the challenges was not of other mathematical art than adapting a for the government sufficient risk element to the savings; either as part of the pension itself, or by making some of the additional coverage compulsory. When the executives and authorities agreed upon what kind of risk structure we could provide, the actuaries' job was to create the necessary mathematics, resulting in right/sufficient premiums and reserves. And after that implementing this into the mainframe service system and the computer sales system that the salesmen (e.g., employees in the banks) used (this was the dawn of personal computers, and the agents started to use software programs instead of pen, paper and calculators to communicate with their clients).

At this time, the yield raised sky-high. The old structure operated with consistent guaranteed interest rates on pensions, annuities and other life insurance products, which from 1964 and until then, at the beginning of 1990, was 4 percent. This resulted in an increasing surplus, which was shared between the insurance company, its owners and the customers. Instead of handing out money to the customers, one could reduce their premiums. As to promotion and sales, this was cleverer than give "something" back after the insurance companies' accounts were closed some months after year end. But as to ensuring the solvency in the long term, this was catastrophic, because it wasn't built on actuarial science or basic financial methods. It was based on some naïve unscientifically drive born out from the illusion of eternal and exponential growth.

Maybe one should have used actuaries more consistently as consultants. It was damaging to promise customers up to 10 percent interest rates on their savings, for up to 10 years, only because the prognoses were sky-high. Nevertheless, as a young actuary with no other influence than pure mathematical, I saw it as a fine challenge contributing to an interest rate stair; 10 percent guaranteed interest rate for the first ten years, 7 percent for the next few years, and finally 4 percent for the rest (often for the rest of the insured lives).

Such products were of course stopped some years later, when one realized that these kinds of promises would kill the insurance companies. The insight was established, as usual, by explicit experience. When the interest rate dropped, one started debating guaranteed interest rates per se. Since one has to use some kind of interest rate in the calculation of pension premiums and reserves, and since it's not a custom in the insurance business using expected values of stochastic variables concerning the interest rate (i.e., establishing an interest rate risk pool, similar to the other risk pools), one decided and decides to use guaranteed interest rates with almost no probability exceeding the actual return within the particular timespan, and limit this timespan to a certain termination age; e.g., 77 or 82 years (fixed term).

Since interest rates are volatile by nature, one would have a sensibility towards the development in the financial market; the expected future basic interest rate should theoretically change from year to year, or at least let's say each 5 years, to gain a better estimate of the expected future interest rate than using a constant and almost arbitrary interest rate, like 4 or 2 percent over some long period of time (Btw, this is what happens when assessing DBO's (Defined Benefit Obligation) in companies' balance sheets; as to pension liabilities; the discount rate used in the calculations is determined based on the market at (year-end) measuring date; this has its big disadvantages too, which I will talk about later.). From an actuary's point of view, you would then operate with several paid-up policies; e.g., one for each year you have been insured. Every paid-up policy would then result in a calculated single premium and continuing reserve based on that year's basic interest rate, and from this a future benefit (e.g., pension or annuity). The total reserve on a given time would then be the sum of all those previous paid-up policies' calculated reserves at that time, all with different basic interest rates. But still, you have the eternal issue concerning defined benefit saving products; you promise some kind of future benefit, and then also some kind of

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interest rate. For the actuary, these products define life insurance saving products. The quick fix products, the defined contribution pensions, lack the stochastic variables and the risk elements. This is bank, and exclude actuarial sciences.

One difference between a traditionally used guaranteed, basic interest rate and a theoretical best estimate (i.e., the optimal estimate of the expected value) of a stochastic interest rate, is that the guaranteed interest rate is contracted as a minimum, while the expected stochastic one would be given you independent of what the actual return became (like a fixed interest rate). If one would start to treat the basic interest rate as a stochastic variable, and promise the customers the expected future interest rates, you would, because of the increasing uncertainty and problematic statistical foundation in the long term, have to operate with quite low, and certain, interest rates many years from now. Even though you could say almost for sure that 5 percent interest rate was a very good estimated expected value for the next 10 years, you couldn't say anything certain about the expected value of the interest rate in the period let's say 40 to 50 years from now, and that is a main challenge by using interest rates like this. But it shouldn't exclude scientific approaches to it.

A decent statistical model could deal with a decreasing interest rate stair, starting with a high expected value (e.g., 6 percent) the first few years, and then reduce the interest rate systematically until the last possible year from now, which for some annuities and pensions are about 100 years (e.g., a 20 years old got a longevity pension).

To sum up: One way to optimize and preserve the traditional defined benefit saving products is to create annual paid-up policies as mentioned, and use actuarial science to create some sort of a probability function based on a stochastic interest rate stair, which changes parameters from year to year, dependent of the financial market.

The concept of the traditionally arrangement, where the customers and the insurance companies have to deal with some kind of future interest rate in the contract and in the settlement of the liabilities, is in the area of group pension schemes known as Defined Benefit Pensions/Plans (DBP). The alternative is called Defined Contribution Pensions/Plans (DCP), and is similar to ordinary bank accounts; you get what the market gives you, afterwards. You are not promised anything in advance; the insurance companies' obligations are nothing more than what is on the customers' accounts at every moment. To make it an insurance product, you have to include, make mandatory, some sort of death/health/disability economical risks. If the beneficiaries just get the savings when events occur, you don't have any economic risks to it, and it's not insurance. DCP's are typically pure savings with no guaranteed interest rates, but with additional life insurance elements like something more or less than the savings paid by death (e.g., a fixed-term deferred annuity, riders like spouse and children's pension, and disability coverage).

Another actuarial challenge is the fact that people live much longer than before. The (life) insurance companies normally dealt with this the same way as with the interest rate issue; they tried (and try) to reduce the risks the easy way, by avoiding promoting longevity annuities and pensions (i.e., they promote fixed term annuities), and they reduce the risk by minimizing the difference between the savings and the benefits. It's understandable, because there are statistical and mathematical uncertainties linked to both future interest rates and long lives. It's not the short-term risks we do not know much about, but the long-term ones. But as an actuary, promoting actuarial science, it's not optimal. You could say there is a minor clash between actuaries' and the authorities', executives' and owners' need and wishes.

Folketrygden (The Norwegian national social insurance scheme) has gone through quite severe changes since 1990, in accordance to meet the problems mentioned. In addition to the risk-factors, you have the flexibility that

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people demand. In the old days, twenty-thirty years ago and before, the pension products, both concerning private and public, was quite sterile and non-flexible. E.g., the retirement age was (normally) 67. Period. You could not work while you got pension, without losing money. This has changed; now you can get your pension from 62, and whenever you want until 75 or so, and you don't lose pension if you work besides. In Denmark, where I worked for some while, you could choose between getting your pension benefit as an annuity or a lump sum. The demands for flexibility also have some influence on the actuarial work.

Jacobsen: How do actuarial sciences have applicability in everyday life of a non-expert?

Haereid: Interesting question, that I haven't thought much about. You can as a layman learn some basic combinatorics, probability theories and statistics, using it to enhance your winning chances in games and competitions, e.g., increase the probability for profit, and use it to gain more out of your investments in the financial market.

Everyone can be aware of different daily risks, and make some simple calculations to avoid certain situations or seek other. E.g., you can avoid driving your car at certain places and moments, by collecting information about when and where the most dangerous car accidents appear. But "drive carefully" is something everyone intuitively knows will reduce the risk of car accidents. You could also use actuarial science into health-relevant situations, like related to what you eat and how you exercise; treat your body in a way that reduce risks for diseases.

In general, thinking like an actuary could become exhausting, because one would tend to overthink risks; make fast risk calculations about any- and everything through your day. Then you would reduce every risk factor, but also end up with fewer experiences and less fun. The gain is to reduce risks where the consequences are really bad in case of an event, and to increase your profit and earnings.

I want to give an obscure example of use of combinatorics:

Let's say you are confined in a room with a combination lock; a panel with the digits 0 to 9. There are no one to help you out. You know that you have a livable environment for two days, and after that you will die if you don't get out. You have also noticed that the code has 4 different digits in a fixed sequence, and that you, in average, except when you rest, will manage to push one possible combination each two seconds. You can then calculate if it's probable that you will manage to open the door within the time limit, or if you should try some other way out.

There are 5040 possible outcomes (let's simplify it and suppose there are no equal digits in the code), and just one of them is right. Then you, statistically, will get the answer midway; after 2*5040/2 seconds = 84 minutes (plus pauses), and if you are really unlucky you will get out after 168 minutes. That's sufficient. But if the code consists of 6 digits instead of 4, you would get out within one week without pauses (3,5 days and nights in average), and there would be a possibility that you would die before you got out.

Another example: If you are middle-aged, especially a male because of the higher mortality than females, and you live healthy and have good genes as to family diseases, you should purchase a fixed term annuity (i.e., with no death benefit before the termination date); because of the mortality bequest. Since you think you will live longer than the average, you will, if you are right, pay less to gain more, e.g., compared to if you saved the same amount in a bank.

Finally, I will mention a Swedish physician and statistician, Hans Rosling, who had a tremendous ability to explain statistics in a simple way for the people, and make everyone a bit wiser and more informed. Maybe he could be an inspiration for us who work with mathematics and statistics.

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Jacobsen: Following from the previous question, if you have an ordinary event in life, how can an actuary use expertise to analyze the risks of something? What is the relevance of this in one's life?

Haereid: I haven't thought a lot about this either, maybe because I want to work as an actuary and not becoming one 24/7. As long as the ordinary events in life are stochastic, or random if you like, and you have a minimum of information, i.e., empirical data about those events to occur (when, where, how and so on), you can most often use math to say something about the future outcome. It's about using probability functions and knowledge together with collected information, to draw some kind of risk analysis. The difference between the layman and the actuary is the amount of knowledge; the actuary will have access to better estimation procedures, and therefore give a better prediction of possible events.

There are a lot of probability distributions (e.g., normal, chi-square, student's t, binomial, Poisson…) that fit into daily life events' patterns. In lack of a probability distribution that fits, you can draw your own by plotting the collected data into a graph. E.g., the probability for car crash divided by age (in lack of knowledge of an existing one): If you search for statistics on this, you will probably find that there are quite many young men that crash their cars often. The curve will fall until a certain age (men in the 30-50-year area drive more carefully), and then turn around and rise; old men crash their car more often than middle-aged men. If you have a lot of data, you can draw a quite nice curve, that probably would look something like an inverse normal distribution, or as a distorted parabola, if you like. Then you have made your own probability distribution in lack of an existing one, that fits into these events. And then you can say something about the probability for car crashes categorized by age.

One of the mantras in statistical analysis is correlation and the amount of empirical data. You can gather tons of data, but it doesn't help if it's uncorrelated. Without enough data, it's difficult to establish if there are correlation or not. But, when you have enough collected historical information about any unknown future event, and you have detected a correlation, you can say something about this event in the future. If you gather data that don't show any correlation (you can't say anything about when, where, how, who and so on, that results in crash), you can't draw any statistical analysis which say something about such events to happen. It happens by chance. One nice thing with this is that you don't necessarily need to know the cause of events, if you can establish a correlation. If two seemingly independent variables, like peoples' vacation habits and the habitats of mallards, show strong statistical correlation, it could be used (to something) without knowing the reason why this is so.

In general, if you know something about probability theories, you can use this to determine an actual or estimated probability distribution to every event that you don't know the outcome of (when, where, if, how much… will happen), and to use this probability function to direct your own behavior. If you know that the probability of occurrence of an event hitting you is 10% if you choose the one direction, and 8% if you choose the second, you would choose the 10% direction if you want that event to happen (e.g., earning money, getting friends, increasing happiness…) and the 8% direction if you want to avoid that event. To this kind of events the layman would think it was a 50/50 chance, but with some math and data you could say something more precise about it, and (in the long run) take advantage of this. E.g., into gambling or being active in the stock market.

Jacobsen: What mathematics and statistics are used in an actuary's professional life?

Haereid: I will focus on my own branch; life insurance and probabilities for death and survival. Keywords are the Gompertz-Makeham distribution, the Thieles differential equation and the Markov chain, which all are essential in life insurance.

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The life tables are based on the Gompertz-Makeham distribution, which plots mortality divided into age. It describes how mortality basically increases exponentially with age, which is based on Gompertz research from the 19th century. Since human also dies of other than "natural" reasons, e.g., pandemic diseases, natural catastrophes and so on, one added an age-independent part to the distribution (Makeham), also this in the same century.

The Dane Thorvald Thiele made one of his contributions to life insurance when he, also in the 1800's, introduced the Thieles differential equation. This made its influence in life insurance through the 19th and 20th century. It describes the premium reserves as a differential equation, as the expected discounted value of future events (benefits minus premiums paid), and is basic in life insurance.

In insurance we have something called the equivalence principle. This states that the expected present values of payments should be equal to those of benefits. Usually, premium formulas contain a death probability (and sometimes disability and other health-related probabilities), evolved from a life table (as mentioned), and an interest rate, which usually is a parameter and not a probability. These two quantities are involved in the equivalence principle. One calculates the expected present values of the upcoming premiums and benefits respectively, weighted with the probability of occurrence of the events involved, at any time in the insured period. Reserves are calculated at any time based on the same principle.

Because we operate with only one stochastic variable, one life, the formula is simple. But there is possible to expand this into several random variables, e.g., using a Markov chain (stochastic process).

Jacobsen: Theoretically, what are the maximum level of qualifications a Norwegian actuary can get now? The upper limit in education, experience, credentials, memberships, etc., to know the entire discipline.

Haereid: Since, as said, there have been different paths the last fifty years to achieve an actuarial competence in Norway, it's not a unique set of qualifications. Some actuaries add a doctor degree to their education, and become university lecturers (assistant professors, professors). As to experience, I would say being an "actuary in charge" in an insurance company, is the peak. There are no major credentials beyond "actuary". There are some additional credentials to those who take courses through their professional lives, as an adult education, e.g., in financial mathematics and related disciplines. There are primarily one actuarial society in Norway (Den Norske Aktuarforening), where most of the Norwegian actuaries are members. An experienced actuary in Norway is typical a senior consultant, either in an independent actuary consultant company, in an insurance company or in governmental department. Some actuaries have been (and are) executives in insurance companies and units.

Jacobsen: How many years have you been an actuary?

Haereid: From 1991; 31 years. I worked as an actuary novice from 1987, beside studying and finishing my final exams.

Jacobsen: From this extensive experience, what have been the major lessons from the discipline for you?

Haereid: There is traditionally a canyon, a cleft, between actuaries and the rest of the insurance realm. We speak different languages. We have to learn each other's dialects.

Besides that, I will mention:

– The insurance business, including the social welfare pensions and insurances, often choose unscientific solutions to the extent they are able to fulfill their obligations. Keep it as simple as possible, is a common mantra. Understandably. And archetypical. The tendency during the last forty years is not only more transparent and

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flexible insurance products, which is good, but also products with less risks; the (life) insurance business moves away from its essence (providing products containing risks and probability). One reason is to be independent of a small group of professionals (actuaries), another to make it easier predicting the future. Other reasons are to prevent insolvency, fulfilling the obligations, making the administration simpler and cheaper, creating products that are easy to explain and understand (both to the customers and the employees that are not actuaries or sufficient skilled) …

– The insurance companies could profit on cooperating and communicating more with the universities, get access to updated research and theoretical knowledge, that would improve the business. I don't say there isn't any communication, but this is an area for improvement, and especially associated with the many issues we see and will see. There are probably (for sure) some (actuarial) scientific theories that is never applied, because the communication is poor, the level of knowledge in the insurance companies is too low, and the aversion to more complicated products and structures is too big.

– One of the positive sides is that transparence, computer evolution and more flexible products have made an old fashion rigid and conservative business into something modern and more accessible.

I have to say something about the increasing openness and transparence from the 1980's. Before that process started, there was close to no information available. If the customers wondered what the premium contained of risk and savings elements, the answer was "n/a". If they wondered what the premium reserve consisted of, e.g., what this year's actual return was, the answer was the same. There was no law that forced the insurance companies to create such detailed information. This changed dramatically from the 1980's, not at least because of the development in computers and software. The technology made it possible to become more transparent, and this increasing transparency also created new products. I remember vaguely when we created and sent the first detailed account statement to our customers. This was really a cutting-edge happening.

– The longevity contracts in life insurance, pensions and annuities, which terminates when the insured dies, entails some big challenges. The mathematical risk models are not that good when it comes to predictions 40-100 years from now; it's not easy to calculate valid probabilities as to interest rates and death within that time span. We just don't know enough about what happens then, and this impels the insurance companies and social pension entities to evolve either products that terminates within a certain age (fixed term), or to create contracts that make the customers bear the burden. This should be a pleasing area for actuaries, since it demands more scientific creativity.

– Why use low guaranteed interest rates, and volatile discount rates, when calculating premiums, reserves and companies' pension liabilities? Why not using probability theories and actuarial science to create more intricate and better solutions to the very important "interest rate" issue?

– Paid-up policies have always been abandoned in Norway; there are huge funds that only get a return equal to the guaranteed interest rate, which usually is far less than the actual return. Over a period of some decades, this amounts to large sums. The owners are not sufficient aware of this thievery. The customers lose a lot of money; the same amount which the insurance companies earn. I can't understand that this is legitimate.

– General solvency issues in the insurance business. Volatile financial markets, roller coaster interest rates, too wide guarantees and long lives have led to unstable funding situations. This has led to a necessary reinforcement of the solvency rules in the insurance business.

– Actuaries could contribute more to the overall insurance business. We are not used enough to form the future insurance politics and products, neither to direct the insurance business. Actuaries could into a larger degree

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contribute to the developments of social welfare programs and life insurance. A recent example of this is a group of different experts and politicians that in 2020 was selected with the aim of writing a paper of how to make our Norwegian social security pension system more sustainable in the future. Their suggestions were released some days ago. My point is that there was not one actuary selected to be in this diverse group of people. Why is that? Competition between professions?

– Actuaries have traditionally been occupied with the liability side of the balance sheets. This has changed the last couple of decades. My impression is that actuaries are used increasingly more into the asset side.

– In group pension insurance, there has been a stream of changeovers from the traditional and far betterer Defined Benefit Pension schemes (DBP) to the United-linked (this is primarily associated with single persons) similar kind of products, labeled Defined Contribution Pension schemes (DCP). This is a benchmark regarding the «deactuaryization» of life insurance products, especially those with long duration. The main goal is not to reduce the pension cost for the group (companies and employees' pension scheme), but to remove the uncertainty with the liability side of the balance sheets. This is done by transferring the responsibility for the investment return from the employer to the employees. The impact on the account is clear: From a volatile and uncertain net amount in the balance sheet, to a net amount = 0. And from an unstable pension cost to a stable and predictable one. For the employer this is Shangri-La. For the employee this is uncertainty as to pension planning.

– This is associated with the previous point, and is about calculation of companies' pension liabilities and accounting. It is a huge disadvantage that one is obligated to use the discount rate estimated based on the market at the year-end-date. This parameter is without comparison the most important and influential quantity in the calculations, and have huge impact on the volatility of the liabilities in the balance sheets. If one could estimate a more stable discount rate, based on financial and actuarial mathematics and statistics, we could prevent an unwanted coercion from DB to DC pensions.

– Traditionally, the communication processes between the actuarial environment and the executives and other involved in the insurance business, have been bumpy. It's a challenge communicating difficult products and their frames. My experience is that this issue leads to an insurance culture that avoids the actuarial involvement. And this leads to simpler products, with less demanding risk elements, and less actuarial science related to them. It's like limiting buildings to three floors because skyscrapers are complicated.

– The Norwegian national social insurance scheme (Folketrygden) has gone through several changes the last many (30-40) years (e.g., because of long lives and increased flexibility). This is too broad to say more about here, but it's important to mention.

Footnotes

[1] Member, World Genius Directory. Actuary.

[2] Individual Publication Date: July 22, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/actuarial-sciences-2**; 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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Conversation with Victor Hingsberg on Life, Work, and Views: Founder & President of Global High IQ Society and TenIQ High IQ Network (1)

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Abstract

Victor Hingsberg is the owner and manager of several websites geared toward bringing together highly intelligent people from all over the world. The goal is to help those in the high IQ community make meaningful and long lasting connections. Aside from being a full time online entrepreneur, Victor is a retired contractor and bookkeeper and is currently working full time in the shipping industry. With his organization Global High IQ Society, Victor's goal is to bring high IQ into the mainstream and foster an atmosphere where everyone can reach their full potential. He discusses: growing up; an extended self; family background; the experience with peers and schoolmates; some professional certifications; the purpose of intelligence tests; high intelligence discovered; geniuses; the greatest geniuses; a genius from a profoundly intelligent person; profound intelligence necessary for genius; some work experiences and jobs; particular job path; more important aspects of the idea of the gifted and geniuses; the God concept; science; some of the tests taken and scores earned; ethical philosophy; social philosophy; political philosophy; metaphysics; worldview-encompassing philosophical system; meaning in life; meaning; an afterlife; the mystery and transience of life; and love.

Keywords: ethics, family, genius, gifted, Global High IQ Society, intelligence, I.Q., life, TenIQ High IQ Network, Victor Hingsberg, views.

Conversation with Victor Hingsberg on Life, Work, and Views: Founder & President of Global High IQ Society and TenIQ High IQ Network (1)

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

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

Victor Hingsberg[1],[2]*: I can't say there were any prominent stories being told, but I know of the hardships my parents went through living in a communist country after the second world war ended. I guess the closest thing to prominence is the fact that they moved to Canada with very little in the way of personal belongs of value and worked hard to build a nest egg and create a chance for a more prosperous life for me and my sibling.

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

Hingsberg: Well, I would say the legacy would be one of immigrants having moved to Canada for a better life and contributing to the growth of this great country. This I would say is the legacy of Canada. So, I suppose my family legacy is a Canadian legacy.

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

Hingsberg: My parents are originally from Bosnia-Hercegovina which was part of what was known at the time as Yugoslavia. My family heritage is quite diverse, however, in that I have Serbian, German and Hungarian roots. As far as religion goes it's a mix of Serbian Orthodox and Roman Catholic, but I have been raised Roman Catholic.

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

Hingsberg: To be honest, it wasn't exactly ideal. Truth is, I never did fit in with my peers and was a bit of a loner and outcast. In adulthood I became much more socially adept, but still tended more towards introversion to the present day.

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

Hingsberg: I have a diploma in Business Administration – Accounting track and I did at one time hold a real estate license.

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

Hingsberg: I believe there are many purposes for intelligence tests. It's a great way to assess one's potential. To see what areas of strengths as well as areas of weakness one has. I also believe it's a great tool for assessing one's suitability in academic pursuits and what fields a candidate would be suited for. But most importantly to the individual it's a great tool for self-discovery.

Jacobsen: When was high intelligence discovered for you?

Hingsberg: Actually, for me it was discovered rather late in life. I was 34 when I was looking for IQ tests online and I happened upon a website for the International High IQ Society. They had several IQ tests of various types. If I recall they had a spatial, verbal, and a mixed test which was called the Ultimate IQ Test. I took this test and passed. I was a bit skeptical and reluctant but curiosity got the better of me and the very next day I paid the entrance fee and joined. Wow! It's hard to believe that was 20 years 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.

Hingsberg: I'd say there's a lot going on when comes to this phenomenon. Much of it relates to ego, jealousy, reverence for icons. I think there's as much a fascination with extraordinarily gifted people among the regular

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masses as if they were somehow godlike, but also a resentment because such people make can make some people who are not secure with themselves to feel inferior. Truth is, no matter how intelligent one may be, no one is perfect and we all suffer from the same human frailties regardless of where we might sit on the bell curve.

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

Hingsberg: I would say it has to be Leonardo da Vinci. Not only was he a talented artist and painter, but his abilities and talents spanned across many disciplines and intellectual endeavors. This was a man who was both profoundly intelligent and profoundly creative.

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

Hingsberg: I think a genius is someone who is capable of making paradigm shifting discoveries. Someone who can introduce a perspective no one has ever considered before. I think ingenuity and creativity are the keys to genius.

Jacobsen: Is profound intelligence necessary for genius?

Hingsberg: I don't think profound intelligence is necessary for genius. It certainly helps, but I think along with other factors like creativity and perseverance; a high level of intelligence would be sufficient, but I don't think profound intelligence is required for accomplishing feats of genius.

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

Hingsberg: I've worked in construction for a good part of my adult life. Mainly in the manufacture and installation of wooden staircases and handrails with my father for 20 years. I've been a woodworker, laborer, clerical, bookkeeping and estimator.

Jacobsen: Why pursue this particular job path?

Hingsberg: Initially, it was more out of necessity. Stay in the family business to help it grow. Really, my father got very busy with his work and needed an extra pair of hands. Creating something out of scratch is very satisfying work. Also, I enjoyed the administrative part of the business very much which is what led me to earn a diploma in Business Administration.

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?

Hingsberg: I think the idea of those with exceptional intelligence being superhuman or God-like is very prevalent and misguided. Notions that exceptionally gifted people are eternally wise and saint-like. Nothing could be further from the truth. History has shown geniuses and those of exceptionally high intelligence can suffer from various personality issues, neuroses and psychoses just as anyone else can. Some of the smartest people can also be the most irrational and foolish at times.

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

Hingsberg: I've worn many hats on this subject. I've started out as a theist because that's what had been ingrained in my upbringing. I've been atheist, agnostic and these days I'm more of a deist and like to keep an open mind. These days I do believe there is a higher power. A God of sorts. In the past I was of the mind that if there is spirituality or a spirit realm and afterlife that the only religion that makes sense would be Buddhism something

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along similar lines. But these days I'm open to the notion of there being a Christian God. Whatever the case, I believe there is a higher power and a purpose to life.

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

Hingsberg: I believe it plays a significant role in my thoughts on the matter. I belief it always has to various degrees. Only difference now is I don't take any of it at face value. There's always more than meets the eye be it in science or any philosophy. Religion is more about faith and intuition while science is more about facts and data verification. I think it's pointless to try proving or disproving faith.

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

Hingsberg: I've taken numerous tests from various test authors over the years. My IQ has ranged anywhere from 123 to mid 160s range depending on the test.

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

Hingsberg: I think the Golden Rule is pretty much the Gold Standard as far as ethical philosophy goes. Do unto others as you would have them to you. I think it all comes down to empathy. The rest follows from there.

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

Hingsberg: Same as the ethical philosophy. A society without ethics or some common moral code adhered to by its citizens is doomed to implode.

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

Hingsberg: I think pragmatism and a focus on the common good for all is what would make the most workable sense to me as a political philosophy. These days we are too far from what. Tribalism and seems to be permeating and I'd say polluting the political landscape these days. I think we all need to be united in working toward the betterment of humanity instead of fighting with each other over differing beliefs.

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

Hingsberg: That there really is no self. That we are all one and must therefore look out for one another. Strife and conflict perpetuates suffering which in turn instigates more strife and conflict creating even more suffering. It's a rather horrific feedback loop. If we look after each other as we look after ourselves I believe we can alleviate and even end suffering.

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

Hingsberg: To me a worldview of openness, understanding tolerance and a sense of cooperation for the betterment of us all as individuals, societies and as human beings. It's really the only thing that makes workable sense if we don't want to destroy ourselves and this beautiful planet we live on.

Jacobsen: What provides meaning in life for you?

Hingsberg: Peace of mind. A sense of self and a sense of purpose. We find meaning in the things we do which we feel are purposeful. It's really about finding the most harmonious we to exist in the chaotic universe we dwell in.

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

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Hingsberg: I would say it's a bit of both. I don't believe it's an either/or proposition. There's a lot going on with introspection and meditation, but I don't believe it can be done without and external environment to draw from. Also, you can't really derive meaning from external stimuli if you don't understand it or take the time to analyze it, contemplate it and meditate upon it. So, yes, I would definitely say it's a bit of both.

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

Hingsberg: I don't know if I believe in an afterlife with 100% certainty, but I believe if it exists, if we each have an eternal soul then it would be pure energy. Of course, we'd all like to think we'd still have our sentience intact in this form, but there really is no guarantee this is the case nor is there any reason we should assume so.

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

Hingsberg: A co-worker of mine recently said he doesn't take life too seriously. Sure, you must take things seriously, but not too seriously, because as he put it, "None of us are getting out of it alive". I doubt any of us is smart enough to unravel the mysteries of life and we're more likely to die trying. So, why not embrace the transient nature of life for the precious gift that it is?

Jacobsen: What is love to you?

Hingsberg: To me, love, is knowing, understanding and embracing your fellow humans. To love is to honor each other with compassion, kindness and grace. We all have our stories. We all have our issues, but in the end, we are all human and only here on this plane for a limited time. Let's not squander this precious gift we have.

Footnotes

[1] Founder & President of Global High IQ Society and TenIQ High IQ Network.

[2] Individual Publication Date: August 1, 2022: **http://www.in-sightpublishing.com/hingsberg-1**; Full Issue Publication Date: September 1, 2022: **https://in-sightjournal.com/insight-issues/**.

Conversation with Tor Arne Jørgensen on High-Range Tests, Writing, Social Media Dieting, and Teaching: 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe, World Genius Directory (9)

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Abstract

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. Tor Arne was also in 2019, nominated for the World Genius Directory 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe. He is also the designer of the high range test site; toriqtests.com. He discusses: the first one developed; numerical and verbal tests; 11 tests; Zgonglin Li, Nitish Joshi, and Jason Betts; pluses and minuses; Jason Grant; writing and thinking skills in a dialogic format; areas to explore; the world of tests and test construction; written communication; prepare mentally for these interviews; a break from social media as an experiment; needless distractions; the temptation of time wasting; schooling the young; credentialed in the study of some aspects of history.

Keywords: Jason Grant, numerical tests, schooling, social media, the young, Tor Arne Jørgensen, verbal tests.

Conversation with Tor Arne Jørgensen on High-Range Tests, Writing, Social Media Dieting, and Teaching: 2019 Genius of the Year – Europe, World Genius Directory (9)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: There's an interesting niche community all over the world. One in which you're immersed. I have interviewed people in them, heard and read the vast amount of gossip from people about one another (shocking, hilarious, insightful, and scary, depending on the story). I would, hopefully, engage this more in depth in a separate series, but I want to cover some of the aspects of novice test construction. Individuals with various types of problem-solving skills in the variants of the high-I.Q. communities. What test was the first one developed by you?

Tor Arne Jørgensen [1],[2]*: The first high range test I designed was a collaboration with myself and Arne Andre Gangvik back in 2016, and it was decided to be called: Scout, which is a verbal test with 30 tasks of varying difficulty.

Jacobsen: Why focus on numerical and verbal tests?

Jorgensen: Simply explained, that these are the tests that I like best and are best at. When I first started taking these high range tests, I spent far too little time, around 30 minutes to 1 hour on tests that one should have spent 8-10 hours on. I learned a lot along the way about what I was good at and what I was not good at.

I'm not good at figurative tests, they are to be recon as my Achilles heel, then there are the numerical tests that I am somewhat better at, then lastly, verbal testes, whereas the association tests are the most preferred ones. Furthermore, I cannot rush as I am not good at time-limited tests at all, but at deep analysis, that is my strength. This corresponds well with how I am otherwise in terms of physical abilities, where I am a 10-15K runner, and as a cyclist I am to be considered a tempo rider.

Jacobsen: You have 11 tests: Gradus 3 Light, Gradus 3, Quinque, Quinque 2, Quinque 3, Quinque 4, Spot, Scout, Capiuntiq, MVNLT 20, and Lambda XIK. What test has been taken the most? Who has done the best

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on them if I may ask? Alternatively, what has been the highest score on the one of your tests on the 1st attempt and on the 2nd attempt?

Jorgensen: The tests that have the most attempts is MVNLT20, then my Quinque tests.

1. **To the question of who has the top score, I cannot reveal it, but all the Quinque tests except Quinque 3 have been totally solved. MVNLT20 has been solved 19/20 as a top score, but all the tasks have been solved correctly. The same goes for Spot, Gradus 3 and Gradus 3 Light. The remaining tests have been partially solved according to the 1st and 2nd attempts; this applies to all my tests. It should be mentioned that only Quinque 4 has been solved completely right in the first attempt.**

Jacobsen: You link to Zgonglin Li, Nitish Joshi, and Jason Betts, on the website. Why those individuals?

Jorgensen: Simply justified, by the fact that they are according to what I know great people, with lots of talent for creating high range tests among other great qualities. Fantastic, and to add kind individuals that have a solid reputation for being serious test developers.

Jacobsen: Most people who develop tests independently do not have professional qualifications directly relevant to psychometrics or experimental psychology, or neuropsychology. For example, Dr. Xavier Jouve of the former Cerebrals Society has a doctorate in experimental psychology. He's into photography now. Dr. Gina Langan of the Mega Foundation/'Mega Society East' has a doctorate in neuropsychology. Dr. Evangelos Katsioulis, M.D. is a psychiatrist and a medical doctor. So, well-educated people and intelligent exist in pockets of the community with directly relevant or almost directly relevant qualifications. Yet, back to the main observation, most do not. So, what pluses and minuses can arise in this context of a lack of relevant structured formal education or qualifications?

Jorgensen: Since the high range tests, or advance puzzle tasks, as an uneducated person according to what you are referring to here in your line of question, then these tests are not to be considered as intelligence tests, as they are to be considered to be mere logically based tests and nothing more. It should also be noted that I have received the standardization that is requested on my website and on each test. The fact that with each submission, scores from other high range tests must be brought with the persons test submission regarding the need for norm validation, and then a previous certificate from supervised tests is then provided by request from the test author. These supervised psychometric tests are the very best for providing a valid norm.

The norm is then usually based on 30-50 attempts, whereas many are based on these monitored psychometric tests, this in return provides me the test author with a deviation normed base of around 1-3 points at most, this example applies well to my MVNLT20 test, here the deviation has not exceeded on the last 15 attempts more than 3 points deviation plus minus from the supervised tests.

Positive sides regard to high range tests; they are much cheaper than these standard supervised tests, whereas my own tests are free of charge, the standard supervised tests on the other hand cost at least from 50 to 60 dollars as to what I last saw. As previous stated, the deviation from the standard supervised test and my own MVNLT20 test seems to be within 1-3 points.

The negative side is that you will not get the validness as to a correct supervised normed IQ score.

High range tests does in most case, not provide you with a proper IQ score as they are not correctly based on the correct psychometrics and are further not supervised by an certified professional psychologist, thus making them unreliable for a proper IQ score.

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Jacobsen: Thank you for the mention in the interview with Jason Grant, by the way, how was the live interview compared to the more formal back-and-forth correspondence interviews done by you and I?

Jorgensen: I liked it very much, a wonderful format that gave me an extra boost. The only thing that was and still is a bit sad, is the time it took and now takes to publish these interviews. Jason Grant is a nice person, but it's slow going to publish each interview, still waiting for part 2 of the interview series… That said, I like the format that we currently work as to the written format, this allows me to be a bit more colorful with regards to my particularities, as my orally flamboyance is not quite on par with my written formulations.

Jacobsen: We can cover more of the high-range test materials in another series, as I will be exploring some of these issues with others. You have some plans to transition, apparently rapidly, from the world of tests and test-development into the world of writing and thought. How have some of these interviews together helped to develop some writing and thinking skills in a dialogic format?

Jorgensen: Undoubtedly yes, these interview interactions that we conduct on a steady basis, the exposure of what is to be covered, as well as the nature of the content produce by its excellent qualitative elements, are thus promoted in dialogue-learning qualities that in turn can be viewed as evolving mantras.

Jacobsen: What seem like areas to explore into the future for us?

Jorgensen: To be able to continue very much in the same direction as now, perhaps direct the focus even more so towards the world of tomorrow and perhaps dig more into the world of fiction. Divide your interview format, create a separate platform by and for a book only format, in the anticipation by the desired intent of a more personal in-depth interview etc. Furthermore, to entertain the notion of a Podcast interview setup, done so to create new innovative appearances for both the interviewer and the interviewee also it gives you the opportunity to get down and dirty with the interviewee.

You have here, a golden opportunity for positive outlook expansion, as well as variety for yourself and the person being interviewed, and to add, that this Podcast format is the most applied platform by todays standard, also it lets you learn more about you the interviewer and the person you are interviewing. You have an absolute unique access to some of the most exciting and brilliant interview objects there is to get a hold off on a global spectrum both inside and outside the high IQ community. Think about the mind-bending opportunities that this could bring for you, both in terms of revenue and publicity. Hope you will one day embrace this idea as many of us would like to see this become a reality!

Jacobsen: Why decide to retire from the world of tests and test construction, and so on?

Jorgensen: Time was apt for change as I can go no further on my quest for new high score records. I currently hold the Norwegian record with my high range IQ score of 184 on my 1st attempt, this is good enough for me. But should someone beat this record, well…

When it comes to designing these high range IQ tests, the selection is so diverse. The creative side of designing something new and exciting as a high range IQ test is valued to be, becomes a bit suspicious to me, due to the fact that the ones I create, are not to be considered as an IQ tests per say, as I am not a certified psychologist, nor am I an expert as to what data I am supposed to collect from the test, i.e., what psychological trait I am supposed to extract etc. My personal excitement of designing these advanced puzzle test, regards to one's creative engagement has for me now ended.

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Jacobsen: For those who don't know, you're writing in a second or nth language when writing with me. Most of the high-I.Q. communities tend to do this if taking an international focus. English hasn't been an issue for many of them. Even so, they learn quickly and adapt – duh. Acquisition of an innate sensibility to emotive content and intuitive-instinctive capacities may be too late for most if learning a language past teenage years; however, the content and capacity to communicate with analytical clarity remains a strong possibility and a trend for those who put in the effort. Have you noticed an improvement in written communication since our first interview together?

Jorgensen: For me personally, as I do not know about you and your opinion as to the level of improvement of my English skills, but as to my own experience, the improvement is tremendous**,** hopefully this spells well for me as I am about to start an English course this coming fall, at; The University of Agder (UIA).

Jacobsen: How do you prepare mentally for these interviews with me? Questions can range widely. Time commitment can be intensive. The audience of the high-I.Q. will be, by definition, more cognitively powerful, so more likely to be critical of any and all content and opinions expressed. Also, why repeatedly choose to be a willing interviewee (victim) with me? (!)

Jorgensen: When it comes to preparing for these interviews here, there is not much preparation necessary for me to do as I am sitting on most of the information needed to be quoted further and just run with the question formulation presented by the interviewer. But it should be said, that when it comes to interviews, which revolve around historical aspects, some preparations must be made as it can be good to freshen up a little on any eventualities that one should not necessarily remember there and then. When it comes to a part with which you mention with people with high intelligence is a little pickier about what is presented when it comes to spelling of sentences, presentation, content, depth, and variation and so on, then this is not viewed upon as a problem at all, rather as I think that it makes everything a little more exciting. I tend to see it all as a challenge, where you must stay on the alert and do your very best when presenting the topic of discussion, it creates credibility as to what is then being presented, which is just as it should be all purpose intended.

When it comes to the last bit where it refers to being a willing interview object. Think in terms of all ones has on one's mind, must then be properly present it in the best possible way, thus it is very nice to be able to relate to the people who are good at presenting good quality question formulations, that allows the interviewee to elaborate on and enjoy. And that in turn creates an interesting topic field that many of the article readers out there can then have the opportunity to take part in, which I personally find very exciting and which I think others may think is exciting to gain insight into.

And so, I must be allowed to emphasize that being a "willing victim" in that sense is just the icing on the cake.

Jacobsen: I decided to take a break from social media as an experiment, as I need more time after returning to work following a back injury. I am noticing *a lot* of time freeing up. Have you tried this?

Jorgensen: In referring to; "time away from social media", for me it will be a yes and no answer. A bit confusing, I know, but let me explain, I have taken time away from the social media that does not give me enough "feedback", in the sense of enriching my everyday life. I have become much more alert about which social medias that gets my attention or not. I, for example, was in my earlier years in reference to the high IQ communities, an active person in debates on many different high IQ platforms, I was involved in debates and delivered posts for debate, that could in return be debated. After a while this became somewhat boring for me, as I felt I spent a lot of unnecessary time dabbling on with no real sense of directional purpose. I have a family to considered, and when I had full-time

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studies and back then as now a full-time job, and to add at that, I spent a lot of time on high range IQ tests, and lastly, I designed my own test page and eleven high range tests, then the hours in a day was just not enough.

Then it was ripe to take stock as to what to remove what could be removed of unnecessary social distractions, so I could again spend my newfound time on what was most important to me. Nowadays I no longer work with high range IQ tests, nor with my test page (toriqtests.com), my focus now is to help bring national and global awareness upon the dire need for proper attention as to correct measurements of education by and for the gifted students. This I have worked on a lot, in collaboration with the school where I work, and the municipal council in my hometown Grimstad, which I am now awaiting for a positive response from the letters I have sent over with propagated directives for educational purposes directed towards the "twice gifted", this is in collaboration with Professor June Maker from The University of Arizona, who is a pioneer within the field of Psychoeducational Studies. (**https://coe.arizona.edu/person/carol-j-maker**)

Will also bring forth, of my fervent hope of showcasing this most wonderful community of high intelligence society and all its brilliant intellectuals within it, out to the rest of the global population, through what we here do here and what we are all about. This conveyed through various forums like; articles, YouTube clips, and in the future to be able to write books about what makes us the very special and unique individuals we all are.

Topic of; *"time away from social media",* for me, is to specify what type of media that gives the most back as to enrich your everyday life and enables a pursuit for educational enlightenment.

Jacobsen: With more free time, it seems like one of those needless distractions. Do you think people would have more time and focus for time with family, on hobbies, with their partner, etc., if they took a time off electronic devices a little more?

Jorgensen: No doubt, but one must consider that by changing one's pattern of awareness, whereby one frees up time away from mobile phones, computer games or other things, only to fill it with another activity that meets society's expectations of expected pro-social behavior not necessarily is for the betterment of the person concerned. One's sphere of interest can in many cases be experienced as contradictory to what is expected of one persona. The best solution would then be to work within the realm of the famous *Golden rule*, not too much of anything, nor too little. The acquisition of new knowledge through these technological innovations is not a waste of time, one must bear in mind that everything is relative according to whom it concerns. The joy of life is doing what you want, even if this comes at the expense of those around you. It is society's expectations of us as individuals, which in turn place limitations on the day's itinerary.

One's social circle should not place limitations on that individuals' specific interests. They should rather be adapted, as I said, everything is relative to everyone's personal field of interest, what is exciting for me is not necessarily exciting for you, and vice versa. We must adapt, restructure our metal constructs. As time free from something, is only going to be filled with time directed towards something else, and in most cases not in favor of the person concerned. Education comes in many forms and shapes.

Concept of "wasting your time" is then no longer wasting your time, the time you spend on whatever content is thereby valuable to you by that reason alone and is therefore to be considered as not wasting your time at all, but rather valuing it on what you hold dearest to you heart, rather than then the alternative.

Jacobsen: Do you think even for smart people that the temptation of time wasting applications is too much? It feels as if it is a pervasive phenomenon at the moment. Different age cohorts emphasize some social media

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more than others, naturally. Older generations like Facebook/Meta. Younger generations like Instagram and TikTok.

Jorgensen: We`re are all human; we have all followed the same exploratory path, all humans alike find themselves innately searching for self-recognition through exhibition, we constantly follow the urge to restock on whatever comes our way. The dire need to quench our thirst for recognition on various media platforms is inescapable, age-related, or not. As far as the intellect is concerned, for me at least the jury is still out on that one, but what is clear is that we are all equal regarding our biological blueprints, be that of jocks or nerds.

Controversy or not:

Humans' primordial instincts still to this day manages to overshadow the sovereignty of man's intellect…

Jacobsen: We're doing a series on schooling the young at the moment. What are you hoping to convey to anyone reading it about the importance of proper education?

Jorgensen: That our experience of the concept of education is a fleeting perception of reality. A constantly changing structure, which follows society's need for virulence incentives. History has shown us the purpose of what underlies that existence until now, but my fear lies in whether it has played out its role today or not. The experience of holding on for dear life as to its very existence or not in the future. More and more of the most forward-looking innovators today renounce the importance of an education right down from kindergarten age and upwards. The social aspect in schools today is unchanged, but not its academic content. Social interaction is perhaps more important now than ever before in the age we live in with all the technological temptations we have today. Before, the children didn't want to stay at home, they couldn't wait to get out of the house, now the children no longer want to go out unless they are either taking part in organized sports or being forced to go to school. Yesterday's children used to be directly involved in social interactions, today they are merely indirectly so.

Social anxiety is on the rise, the same can be said in relation to the refusal to contribute to society after finishing school. What was previously mentioned about "what do I need that particular subject for?", has now developed into "why do I need to go to school", I can just become a YouTuber, Instagram celebrity or I will live on my parents until I inherit everything." The schools' struggle to keep the students' concentration, make them see the importance of an education, and do their homework. A transaction from before seeing students present at their school desk both physically and mentally, to now just physical presence but nothing more, as in "I am here am I not, but that's all you get." This does not apply to all students of course, but the transition is significant. Much of this lies in the pupils' ability to access new information, we as teachers are no longer the Wessels of informatics. We are now merely the facilitators of the right method of approach and process of this information. We have gone from lecturers to observers, not that there is anything wrong with that, but this transformation affects the structure of education significantly.

An evolving education is all well and good but based on what terms one might ask. The outcome of this change, for me, is divided into evolving sections. The lecturer as the governing body, a walking encyclopedia that was responsible for all information is handed down. Tired students who had to stay focused on what was conveyed in blocks of 30-40 minutes, are now reduced to lectures with an introduction time of no more than 5 minutes, and then work independently in periods of 20 minutes, then review again by the teacher in periods of 3-5 min, then back to work independently for 20 min, etc.

This use of time flows like this and will progress further according to what I see. Keeping students in school today is mostly of socially importance, but not so much of academically importance by todays educational standard.

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When we had the Covid-19 epidemic going around the world, the most important criterion for opening primary schools was the social aspect. It was for the sake of the pupils' mental health that the schools had to reopen as soon as possible. Today, schools are almost only for the students to get social stimulus. All education today can be done interactively as I see it, as almost all teaching is digital.

The students themselves say that we could do this at home, but not under controlled conditions, at least not well enough as of today. It becomes a bit like at the universities, whereas the lectures are outdated, even looking at a separate lecture at the University of Agder, that around 80% of the students would rather watch YouTube, online newspapers, or betting sites rather than to pay attention to what the lecturer has to say to say. Ask yourself as to what one is actually doing at these fields of studies if it is not to acquire important new knowledge within ones chosen field of expertise.

The answer is quite simple and is experienced in a wide range of primary schools, to meet fellow students, again social interaction, or the protection of student fellowship if you will. The vast majority of students are not at school to learn, but as to as what is pointed out, to meet fellow students. The entire school system is missing the target, but this is nothing new, the only big difference is that today it is just so much more visible not only to the researchers who study this, but to us adults, and to the children themselves. We miss the mark of making education important in the eyes of the children, the exciting factor is not made visible until primary school and most of upper secondary school is over for many of these students. The basic package that all students must go through today must be changed drastically so that the content becomes meaningful for all students, even those who hate school. I have previously proposed to individually adapt the education to create an experience of importance within the student him or herself, which can be equated with the social aspect.

At a much earlier stage, the individual must adapt the content to the individual student's abilities and aspirations. If this change does not take place in an extended volume, then the future of the current school structure will most likely parish. A global educational commitment to interact must be regarded with the upmost importance to be able to keep up with the technological developments. Furthermore, specially adapted positions must be tailored to the individual student's wishes, where groups no larger than 10 per individual teacher, who then work with, for example, space travel, or game development or nature management adapted to their age specific level. I the future, the local, and even national/global companies must go all the way down to the primary school's level, and Conway what they are looking for within their specific fields, and what then the students must work towards. Now, in most cases, this does not happen at primary school level, it first starts at high school level, to late I say, where students today get to choose their field of study.

Get this into primary school level.

The teachers of the future should only be subject-specific teachers on hire from the specialist fields of the commissioned companies. My hope is for that the schools themselves will set up what is needed and order in the proper educators of what to focus on for the next 3 years, then either continue in the same path or change direction. What then you say about learning how to write, read, calculate etc., that should, in my opinion, be done by units with general educators, everything else must be brought in externally to meet society's need for innovation. This may seem somewhat extreme, but we are now in a time when the current school structure is becoming increasingly outdated, and many aging teachers are unable to change their old and outdated teaching style, so fresh minds must come in who have their mental clocks set on tomorrow's needs and demands. This will require major structural changes at all levels, but the time is overdue for change anyway, so why not just do it…

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Jacobsen: Since you're credentialed in the study of some aspects of history, what are the perennial issues? Those issues affecting every generation cohort after cohort. What are lessons in those trends through time?

Jorgensen: What remains to be seen, or better yet, what has come to light through studies carried out within the subject of the review reads as follows. History has shown us time and time again, that formative changes within people are patterns from previous set systems with paramount constructs, pursued in the eagerness for the next level events beyond believes. We are demonstrably addicted to ever increasing stimuli of that what already is or in the eternal search for whatever may lie behind the horizon. We are driven by our innate curiosity towards a higher state of existence. This craving after intention conditioned innovative permeates all social structures of society from early days and forward into present day. For me, this innate curiosity is our most important quality by renewal towards a new and rendered state of existence. Our drive towards the unknown strengthens us as individuals, this means that we are better equipped to cope with whatever comes next.

The stamp of opportunism that is tattooed upon us all is not to be mistaken by its mere blinding nature. One can almost say that our opportunism in combination with our curious nature, thereby secures our path from this current stage of existence to the next. I am adamant that this is so, in any case it will be exciting to see what the outcome for our species will amount to in the future of what educational ties to the past has presented to us in the present.

Footnotes

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

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Conversation with AntJuan Finch on Heoric Attitude, Character, and Harvard University Research Findings: Member, CIVIQ Society (3)

2022-08-08

Interviewer: Scott Douglas Jacobsen

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Abstract

AntJuan Finch is the Author of *After Genius: On Creativity and Its Consequences*, *The 3 Sides of Man*, and *Applied Theory*. He created the Creative Attitudes Inventory (CAT) and the Public Domain Intelligence Test (PDIT). He discusses: the healthier things; problems; the heroic attitude; the sense of disdain of organized religion; "very intense, moralistic tirades"; social maldevelopment as a consequence of autism; "incredible literature"; the geniuses who come out of extreme poverty; tests; the most valid findings; qualitative interpretations from the findings; and work with Shelley Carson at Harvard University.

Keywords: AntJuan Finch, character, CIVIQ Society, Edith Wharton, Harvard University, heroic attitude, Shelley Carson.

Conversation with AntJuan Finch on Heroic Attitude, Character, and Harvard University Research Findings: Member, CIVIQ Society (3)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: What have been some of the healthier things, personal and professional life, of the family?

AntJuan Finch[1],[2]*: My immediate family and I are very close. I think that some of those developmental and childhood hardships, as well as familial isolations, inadvertently caused a sort of bond that I think should be present in every family (though I definitely don't think that everyone should or needs to have similar experiences to get that dynamic).

I've always been somewhat amazed when some people tell me that they've always had a tough relationship with immediate members of their family, who weren't diagnosably anti-social or something like that—I've always been

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like, “you’ve spent your whole life with them, how have you not figured out how to get along by now?” My siblings and I are all very different, and I’m really not sure if we’d all been friends if we’d met like how most non-sibling, similar-aged people tend to—but we are, and I think that’s because that’s just something that most healthy people will have to figure out at some point.

Jacobsen: What problems do you want to solve? What types of people do you want to focus helping efforts on now?

Finch: I am generally attracted to (what tends to be) just intuitively hard to solve problems. Such things are not always straightforwardly potentially helpful to a lot of people, at least, if solved in a way that I judged to be correct in some way. For example, it might be the case that the return on any con-or-disconfirmation of freewill might yield a nearly nonexistent positive return, in terms of lives bettered, given the quality of thought that would be needed to reach either conclusion accurately, which surely could have been invested elsewhere.

Likewise, I have and do sometimes gaze on problems that actually seem to matter, like the “meaning of life,” or ways to aid recovery from pneumonia, as well as cancer. Though, more generally, I’d say I’m currently dedicated towards identifying and cultivating extraordinary creativity, so as to, hopefully, empower others to produce solutions to pressing problems that perhaps most of us, including me, could not meaningfully solve directly.

For example, a synopsis of my idea on free will, recently tweeted (**1**)

[Nothing outside of the set of all things ever could have caused the set of all things ever, so the existence of the set of all things ever must have been determined by something inside the set of all things ever (itself). Ergo, free will exists. The universe determined itself.]

Likewise, a very innovative paper on cancer treatments, which I have no affiliation with (**2**)

Anakoinosis: Correcting Aberrant Homeostasis of Cancer Tissue—Going Beyond Apoptosis Induction

Jacobsen: What sense is the heroic attitude oriented towards ‘saving the world’? Or is this more of an orientation?

Finch: For a story, I once wrote, “Most people work justifications for their character flaws into their worldviews.” I tend to do the opposite: I view the world as a place where my actions really matter, as somewhere where my decisions could trickle and domino into something that could really save a life, or everyone’s, or cause much unnecessary suffering. But, I don’t view myself as very special in this regard—more so as a hero among heroes, or possible heroes. Somewhat unrelated, I do sometimes get an attitude when talking to someone who appears to be avoiding taking responsibility for the effects they may have on their own, and our accumulated problems.

Jacobsen: What is the sense of disdain of organized religion for the full siblings, i.e., the reasons? What about forms of non-institutional religion?

Finch: I’ll refrain from answering this so as to not mischaracterize their views, or get them into something they might not want to deal with.

Jacobsen: What was the character and content of the “very intense, moralistic tirades”?

Finch: To my memory, the man (the preacher) would just get up and yell for hours about whatever he was thinking about that day, which I think sometimes included the mortal sin of sodomy, charismatically in front of openly gay members of the church. Though, I usually fell asleep—maybe I dreamt that.

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Jacobsen: When does the social maldevelopment as a consequence of autism break through the intelligence and become more apparent?

Finch: That something's amiss is usually most apparent in groups of over 3 or 4 people, where apparently my brain tends to become incapable of producing statements quickly, or in a way that isn't odd to everyone else around. But I think that that would be one of the only indications, to others, these days. It seems that I've become more competent with socializing as time has gone on, which corresponds to some studies on the topic, showing that autism "symptoms" tend to "improve" as time goes on, and which also matches what one might expect, given that, according to the DSM-V, autism is primarily defined by social maldevelopment, and that because one continuously has social experiences throughout their life, at least some functional or experiential understanding, or competence should develop with age, not unlike how while some learn their first language quicker than others, really everyone gets fluent by thirty—similarly, though less intensely—barring cases where's there's prohibitively low generally cognitive, or induction ability.

Somewhat of an aside, but my casual advice to high-functioning autists regarding social situations is usually something like "just try to learn how to be much more comfortable and casual–even loose–while talking: your anxieties and neuroses get mirrored and contribute to the awkwardness and complications." Believe it or not, that may have helped some people.

Jacobsen: What were some influential pieces of the "incredible literature"?

Finch: Edith Wharton's *Roman Fever*. I believe that my first academic essay ever was actually on that short story. For the curious, I'll link that too (**3**).

Jacobsen: Do you think the geniuses who come out of extreme poverty may have compensatory mechanisms and psychological sturdiness to succeed even further than a comparable genius coming from affluence?

Finch: This could actually be a good hypothesis, and even explain the somewhat surprising finding that socio-economic status is uncorrelated with creative achievement. This could indeed imply that there's some "compensatory mechanism" with creative people that might nullify the obvious benefit of additional resources. Unfortunately, another explanation could be that almost all people high in creative achievement are wealthy, but that hardly any wealthy people are also high in creative achievement—this would effectively "zero-out" the correlation while keeping it the case that those high in recognized creative achievement tend to have had quite a lot of resources to manifest their abilities, and get them recognized.

But regardless, my general thoughts have been that creative geniuses (of the potentially general type that I'm usually referring to) would likely tend to be very high in what most people might call a kind of "psychological sturdiness," being extreme internal motivation and perseverance with interests even when there's no clear reward. Though, they may not be very psychologically sturdy in the sense of having high emotional stability, as—and if the frequency of mood disorders among highly creative artists is to provide any indication—there isn't much reason to expect mental health for creative geniuses to be, or have always been, above and beyond the norm generally.

But I think that you were getting at a sort of "edge" that could make some people from extreme poverty even more dedicated or sharp than their counterparts from more comfortable, or less extreme situations, which might elicit less extreme variations of people—which all geniuses, by definition, would be, due to being so rare. To be honest, I think that I've always thought that that edge would describe all very industrious people—they're moving quickly, racing, competing against someone, maybe often themself—and have never thought that it would ever be more common in people from tough circumstances than those who weren't. Though, it seems reasonable that

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industriousness could be to some extent cultivated by early exposure to straightforward input-output dynamics in childhood or young adulthood—for example: I did this, this came back; if I do more, I'll get more—which might be less in common in "tiger parent" situations where a kid or young adult's day-to-day decisions are more externally determined, and as a result, they might identify with their successes and failures less, and not Internalize a sense of consequence enough for it to be a moving facet in their personality. Likewise, I suppose overly harsh punishment, which might be more common in more tough circumstances, might inadvertently also contribute to a greater degree of this internalized sense of causation. Of course, another explanation for industriousness might simply be that some people are born with neurology that is wired such that they feel more stress at rest, and so more often fill their days with things to do, and when they're creative, more creative things.

Jacobsen: How have your tests been developing so far, by the way?

Finch: Rather than continuous development of a myriad of tests for constructs of interest, this past year I've been more focused on collaborating with others to develop platforms that may allow for more integrated use and tracking regarding tests that I've already thought about. I've also been more focused on collaborating with others to utilize existing platforms to more widely validate ideas that I've had for a long time, but have had trouble getting superb samples for.

Jacobsen: What would you consider the most valid findings from them?

Finch: The most robust and interesting data that I collected in the past year would probably be the results from a large experiment that Jay Olson and I did not too long ago. In short, using several thousand participants, we found a significant correlation between the ability to produce random sequences of letters (in a few seconds) with a high-quality test of verbal originality, using words; I'll elaborate more on this later.

Jacobsen: Are there qualitative interpretations from the findings about some of the relationships between the findings of the different tests?

Finch: In the experiment with Jay Olson, previously mentioned, we found that the ability to produce chaotic sequences of letters decreased with age less than the ability to produce unrelated words. This was actually expected, and one explanation for it was that the ability to produce disordered letters relies on some predisposition for psychological disorders, while the ability to produce unrelated words taps a bit of this ability plus the ability to recognize patterns more generally.

Jacobsen: How did the work with Shelley Carson at Harvard University develop to its conclusion? What were the findings?

Finch: The experiment carried out on twelve Harvard Extension students in Shelley Carson's creativity class found a .7 correlation (the maximum is 1.0) between the rarity of one's imagined uses for a common object (AUT Originality) and the ability to produce letters that were unpredicted by one's previously inputted letters (a modified version of the Aaronson Oracle). Moderate correlations (.3 and .5, respectively) were also found between self-report (BFAS) conscientiousness and the creative achievement questionnaire, as well as between self-report aberrant salience scores and results on the Alternative Uses Test, previously mentioned.

Another interesting data point was that the class, overall—of about 50 people—had an average level of Openness to Experience that was higher than 96% of Canada's general population.

Quite a while later, I was shared Jay Olson's DAT creativity test. Not long after that, Jay and I worked on an experiment.

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Footnotes

[1] Member, CIVIQ Society.

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*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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Conversation with Justin Duplantis on Advanced Certifications in Dad-ology: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society (7)

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Abstract

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 was playing in Israel in the Israeli Elite Hockey League (IEHL). He discusses: Israel; education; worst dad joke; best dad joke; statistical extrapolation; culture; No Child Left Behind; T.N.S.; valuable memories; the preciousness of time; cancer treatment; graduate degree; and above 3 S.D. range.

Keywords: cancer treatment, child, dad, Director of Business Development, Evangelos Katsioulis, Hebrew, Israeli Elite Hockey League, Justin Duplantis, No Child Left Behind, T.N.S., The Bioinformatics CRO, Inc.

Conversation with Justin Duplantis on Advanced Certifications in Dad-ology: Lifetime Member, Triple Nine Society (7)

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

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: When did you move to Israel? Do you speak Hebrew?

Justin Duplantis[1],[2]*: I was only living there temporarily while playing in the Israeli Elite Hockey League. I do not speak Hebrew and have since returned stateside.

Jacobsen: One S.D. on either side of the normal curve sounds too tight. Are you sure? Let's say moving 1.5 to 2 S.D. on either side of the normal distribution, what happens in education, to teachers and to students?

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Duplantis: I agree that this is too tight and wish that was not the case. In a perfect world, there would be delineations between average, gifted, and profoundly gifted. Given the poor funding for basic giftedness, this is surely pie in the sky.

Jacobsen: What's your worst dad joke – high on the Eye Roll Richter Scale (ERRS)?

Duplantis: Figured I should create one that is IQ related, so how about: "Your child is neurotypical? That's so mean."

Jacobsen: What's your best dad joke – even higher on the ERRS?

Duplantis: He didn't steel anything he's a copper.

Jacobsen: How do their, your boys', similarly endowed intellects approach problems in different ways? Also, when do these comparisons in I.Q.s become increasingly hard to distinguish to the point of insignificance, because there are, probably, about 100 or so other high-I.Q. societies than T.N.S. claiming I.Q.s above 200 S.D. 15. Everyone's aware of these. What makes statistical extrapolation techniques of I.Q.s past 140 or 160 legitimate and illegitimate, by the way, e.g., from the S-B or the W.A.I.S.?

Duplantis: My boys are incredibly different. One is extremely outgoing and mirrors the behaviors of the neurotypical child, although he is profoundly gifted. My eldest, on the other hand, has the typical characteristic high IQ personality. Luckily I share that affliction so am able to empathize with his idiosyncratic behaviors. My boys are within one SD of each other so the differences are negligible. This is especially true given their interests and strengths are quite different. Measuring IQ beyond five SD is quite difficult and agree that I am unsure the accuracy of such examinations.

Jacobsen: Is Israel a helpful culture and society for encouraging intellectual development of boisterous and silly boys?

Duplantis: N/A. I traveled there alone.

Jacobsen: Now, with No Child Left Behind, was this emphasizing standardized intelligence test scores, or proxies, or tests for things like grades, etc.?

Duplantis: Standardized test scores.

Jacobsen: Are vacancies still available for volunteers within the T.N.S. community for the Executive Committee?

Duplantis: They are no longer. The vacancies have been filled.

Jacobsen: What are the most valuable memories with your boys now?

Duplantis: My eldest son went through treatment for brain cancer last year. Although it was a very tough time, there were many moments where the three of were able to come together and have fun times. My goal was to make the treatment process a fun one. It certainly worked! Each time we have to return to the hospital for scans, every three months, they get excited about going on "vacation".

Jacobsen: I read these statements about the preciousness of time, from some, including some prominent members of the high-I.Q. communities, e.g., Dr. Evangelos Katsioulis. Yet, this principle of the value of time might best be counterbalanced with non-forcefulness. In that, a friend had her sister die. Her father became immensely focused on the Eternal Gratitude of Now. To her, my friend, this seemed pathological, even

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occasionally intolerable. I feel for her, of course, you know. How can individuals who might treasure every moment to the detriment of truly living in the moment on their life's path pull back and take note of the impact on others? A sense of valuing life's moments without emphasizing some effervescent, explosive Now of incredible import.

Duplantis: I feel this deeply. My son's journey is what motivated me to go to Israel. It gave me the "you only live once" mentality. With that said, it is all about the way in which you present things. I do not regularly express why I have a sudden desire to travel, which could inadvertently pressure others. I simply "do me".

Jacobsen: How is your son now, given cancer treatment? How is your wife? How is your other son? How are you?

Duplantis: My son that went through treatment is doing superb. He had his one year scans last month and they were clear. My youngest is oblivious. I have relatively no emotions, so am just happy it is over for all of our sakes, but especially for his. My wife struggles significantly from time to time. She still has flashbacks and fears of a recurrence. We are going to a retreat, which will have occurred by the time this is published. Hoping hearing from other parents will be of comfort.

Jacobsen: How will this graduate degree help with the enrichment of your children on a personal level? Data Analytics and Business can seem removed from daddy daycare.

Duplantis: Not sure it will aid in that fashion, but as the Director of Business Development for The Bioinformatics CRO, Inc., which I have served as for nearly two years, it will be quite helpful.

Jacobsen: What are the "commonality of characteristics [that] shine through most" at the above 3 S.D. range?

Duplantis: Neuroses (joking, not joking).

Footnotes

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 14: Wes Schild on Dressage (1)

2022-08-15

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Abstract

Wes is a Professional Trainer & Coach for Riverlands Equestrian Centre. He completed an internship at Landgestuet Celle (Hanovarian State Stud) in Adelheidsdorf, Germany. He has worked as a professional rider for McLean Reitsport in Tonisvorst. He has worked in Wellington, Florida for Alexandra Duncan and trained with Juan Matute Sr. He discusses: earliest introduction into equestrianism; specialization before dressage; dressage; a trained eye; the top dressage performers in Canada; selecting a horse as a rider; no training to full training; the average lifespan of a horse; the German and the Floridian context; and women compared to men.

Keywords: Dressage, Greenhorn Chronicles, Riverlands Equestrian Centre, The American Quarter Horse Association, Wes Schild.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 14: Wes Schild on Dressage (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Interview conducted December 30, 2021.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Today, we are with Wes Schild, a professional dressage trainer and coach. He comes from Riverlands Equestrian Facility; it's by Whistler, British Columbia. So, I want to start from the beginning, or near the beginning, in terms of the life of an equestrian for you, because of those who I know in the industry; they describe equestrianism as a lifestyle more than anything. Some prefer the term equestrianism. Some are for the term horsemanship, but in general they will speak consistently about it as a lifestyle. When was the earliest introduction into equestrianism or the equine for you?

Wes Schild[1],[2]: Well, it would have started at a fairly young age, probably when I was three or four. My mom had a passion for horses. She had a horse growing up. I always had a love for animals from as soon as I could walk,

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basically. So, she got me connected with one of our neighbors and a good friend of hers who ran a riding school and a boarding facility in the area that I grew up in, in Ontario. And pretty much from the time they sat me up on my first pony, I was instantly hooked with horses and from there continued to ride and train and get lessons. So, probably from the time I was three or four, I was on the horse.

Jacobsen: That's very interesting. Did you transition into any particular specialization before dressage, or did you jump into dressage primarily at first?

Schild: No, when I first started riding, I think most young kids that get into I would say the English discipline of riding, generally start out with jumping just because dressage tends to be quite a technical sport and if you don't really understand it, it can be somewhat confusing for people to understand. So, I started out jumping and did a little bit of pony club riding and that sort of thing. Then as I got into my young teenage years, I switched over to quarter horses, actually. So, I started showing within a breed association called **The American Quarter Horse Association** and focused my time on that. Then as I got into my later years in high school, I swapped back over to the English discipline again and was focusing really on dressage and jumping at that point.

Jacobsen: How do you differentiate dressage from the other disciplines within the equestrian world? I mean, there's hunting and there's jumping; how do you differentiate dressage in terms of a definition as a professional?

Schild: Dressage, again, it is in the English discipline of riding. Dressage is just the art of training a horse basically. So, a lot of people will describe dressage as horses that are dancing. The horses are trained to do such technical movements within their body and in the training that we do every day. And so, to the untrained eye, it looks to someone like the horse is dancing. That's where you will see people who will say dressage is the horse dancing.

Jacobsen: And to a trained eye, what are you looking for in the moments when the horse is engaged with a rider in dressage?

Schild: Well, the end goal in dressage is always to have a harmonious partnership between horse and rider. So, when you look at a top-level dressage rider and horse, you want to see that it looks like it's so easily executed that you can't see any of the rider's aids to the horse. That they're really together as one partnership.

Jacobsen: Who would you consider some of the top dressage performers in Canada now?

Schild: There are lots of great riders in Canada. Some of the top riders that represented our country this year at the Olympics would have been Chris Von Martels, Lindsay Kellock, Brittany Fraser; those are some really top Grand Prix riders and that represent Canada really well.

Jacobsen: How do you go about selecting a horse as a rider by the way?

Schild: Selection of horses is definitely tricky. There's so many factors that go into making a top level dressage horse; character, the right ability, their confirmation, so, basically, how the horse is put together, their willingness to do the job, the attitude towards the rider; these are all things that would affect a top horse. And generally, a top horse, you'll hear a lot of people say that they can tend to be a little bit quirky or they have lots of character. So, they tend to be quite full of themselves, but they always are very eager. Once you can channel that quirkiness or their character into the job, generally, you have a spectacular horse.

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Jacobsen: How long does it take to get a horse from no training to full training at a national competing level?

Schild: Well, for a horse that's going to do upper-level dressage, so let's say you're getting a horse that's doing like a Grand Prix, you're generally looking at a horse that's around the age of 10 years old. Most horses are started under saddle, so they start being ridden when they're three or four, and then just slowly develop throughout their years. But roughly around 10 years old, you're getting a horse that knows their job, is physically able to do the job, they're mentally and physically fit at that point in their life. They're coming into the prime of their life. A horse's prime is probably from 10 to 15 years old. So, if you were to look at internationally competed dressage horses, most of them that are doing the Grand Prix are in that age gap.

Jacobsen: What is the average lifespan of a horse who is performing in dressage? What is the breed of horse too?

Schild: The average age; that's really changed over even my lifetime because of modern medicine for them and the quality of feed and understanding of health that we have for the horses now. But probably, the average age is somewhere between 30-35 and most horses now are being retired anywhere between 20 and 25 years of age. They're not being ridden anymore. They've done their job. They get to spend some quality time just relaxing with their friends out in the field or a nice retirement life. And the breed of horse that tends to be used again in international Grand Prix or dressage; you'll see is a warm blood. There are multiple different types of warm bloods; Hanoverian is a very popular one and Dutch warm blood. Those are the two that you hear a lot. There's Oldenburg, and then also there are some countries that have very good success competing the Spanish horses. That's the PRE and the Lusitano; you'll see those as well in dressage.

Jacobsen: You did some traveling in the midst of your career to Germany and to Florida. What were the lessons from the German and the Floridian context for equestrianism? What were the lessons that you could take from the differences? What were the lessons you could take from the similarities between the two contexts?

Schild: In Germany, it is a huge industry over there. The equestrian industry is very big and it's the epicenter for horses. So over there the structure was a very big one; they had lots of very classical riding styles, old school riding styles that have made very successful riders over many, many years. So, that was something that was very interesting for me. I learned a ton over there from some fabulous trainers that I could bring back to Canada and implement it in my daily routine here at the barn and with my clients and horses.

In Florida, it's less of an industry Florida-wise. So, in the winter, lots of people head to Wellington, Florida. That's the horse epicenter for winter and there's multiple competitions within a span of three months. So, it's a very busy season down there, many people come from all over the world. It's fun because it's like being at a resort with 10,000 of your equestrian friends. There are lots of different varieties of training; if one way is not working for you there's someone down the road that might have a different idea, a different way to fix the problem. So that was interesting as well. It definitely opened the door to a different type of riding. You'll hear a lot of riders say in dressage that they were trained either in the German system riding or the Dutch system.

So, when I was in Germany, obviously, I was riding with many German riders. That's where I got my background. And when I went to Florida, it just opened up my eyes to different trainers that were from around the world that had different ideas and opinions on how to get the horse to the same place, but with a different method. And I also got to ride with a wonderful Spanish teacher Juan Matute Sr. down there. So, I got to have many lessons with him,

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which was really wonderful because he was German trained – but he was also an Olympian for the Spanish team. He just had a different view because he trained also in Spain with some of the classical riding masters there, so he just brought like a new energy and a different way to see things, which is always nice.

Jacobsen: Within some of the demographic research, which I've had the time to do a little bit, there's approximately 7 out of 10 equestrians who are women compared to men. However, I remain uncertain if this is in the North American context or the Canadian, or the North American versus the European context. Regardless, there is a skew and from what I can gather based on reading interviews, there is a skew more in North America than in Europe. Why is this the case? How long has this been the case?

Schild: Well, I would definitely, probably, say it's the skew for North America or like North America to Europe, probably. It would be that 7 to 10 number, and as long as I've been working with horses. That's probably like 25-26 years now. It's always been that way in North America. It's always been a female dominated sport over here; whereas, when I was in Europe, I would say it's probably closer to 50-50, 60-40 over there. There's a lot more men representation, especially in dressage over here in North America. There's not as much. I don't really know why in North America there's not as much. My one guess would be that in Europe every little town has a riding school that every kid goes to. They have riding clubs, so from a young age boys and girls are going to these riding clubs over there. So, there's a lot more exposure to the horse industry over there; whereas, here, not every town has the ability or has horse farms. Also, it's much more expensive over here to get your children into equestrian sports. Whereas, it's easier and much cheaper to probably just put your young children into like hockey or soccer. So, I think that's part of the problem as well too.

Footnotes

[1] Professional Trainer & Coach, Riverland Equestrian Centre.

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 15: Dana Cooke on High Performance Equestrianism (1)

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Abstract

Dana Cooke is the Director of Equestrian Activities at Kingfisher Park Equestrian. She was a member of the Canadian Bronze Medal team at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. She is an "A" level Pony Club graduate and an Equestrian Canada Level 1 Certified Coach. She discusses: earliest inklings; Canadian bronze medal team in Lima, Peru; the feeling in anticipation; selection criterion for the Canadian Olympic team; 5-star; eventing versus jumping; financial barriers; the prices going up; and profit.

Keywords: Canada, Dana Cooke, equestrianism, Greenhorn Chronicles, Kingfisher Park Equestrian, Lima, Olympics, Peru.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 15: Dana Cooke on High Performance Equestrianism (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Interview conducted January 7, 2022.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Okay, so, I will begin at the beginning. So, you performed at very high levels in the equestrian world. You are at Kingfisher Park Equestrian now. So, there's obviously a story before the start in Kingfisher Park Equestrian. So, what were some of the earliest inklings of being around, or riding, horses for you because the people start at different ages and their paces of development are also different?

Dana Cooke[1],[2]: My parents originally were from Vancouver. They moved out to a little town called Merritt, which is about three hours north of Vancouver. My mom was a schoolteacher and I think my father was working. I can't remember who he was working for at the time when he first stepped out. They had bought like a little piece of, probably, a 20-acre piece of property outside of town and friends there decided to keep some horses there. People started a little pony club around the corner, so my brother started pony club. My parents just bought like

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two kinds of 500-dollar sale horses. They didn't know really anything about horses. My brother started this pony club. I started watching him ride and stuff. I was like little; like those photos of me with a pacifier in my mouth sitting on a horse and one of my brothers boarding for lessons. Once I was old enough, I also joined the pony club. My mom met my stepfather. He is, actually, a cowboy and literally chases cows for a living. He has worked for several different ranches like those in Nicola Valley. He likes to break horses and stuff like that. So, I got into a little bit of rodeo because my stepdad. This is what he did. I did a little rodeo. I did a little pony club. Then probably by the time I was eight or nine, I started jumping and just then stuck with the more equestrian side of things; English style and Western. When I was in kindergarten, I think, or my early elementary school years, we had to write what we want to do when we grow up. I said I wanted to go to the Olympics. So, here I am.

Jacobsen: You were on the Canadian bronze medal team in Lima, Peru for the Pan American Games. You have your eyes on the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France.

Dana: Yes, absolutely.

Jacobsen: What is the feeling in anticipation of heading in that direction and being so close when you've been aiming for that for so many years?

Dana: Well, it's exciting, but it's also a little bit like disbelief because you work so hard for it. It's a dream for so long. It's still also three years away, so it feels like forever away. With the Pan Am, it's the same. In the Pan Am, it's a little bit interesting because the path that I took the Pan Am. I planned it out like three years prior: how to get her there and make sure she was qualified. I was like, "I'm going to get this horse there," which I did. like I have a little bit of the same philosophy, same planning, but I'm, actually, hoping to have, maybe, two or three horses qualified as opposed to just having one. But yes, it's a weird feeling; you get excited about it, but you also can't really get hung up on just getting qualified for the team and just making the team because it can run your life, which is a great thing. Also, things go wrong. So, it's also a bit disappointing when it goes wrong. So, you've got to have other goals and other dreams and plans going on simultaneously if that makes sense.

It's exciting, but I try not to get too hung up on just making the team because it's disappointing when you don't make it. It's really disappointing when we don't make it. So, it is exciting, but there's a lot of pressure that comes with it.

Jacobsen: What is the selection criterion for the Canadian Olympic team in any of the three major areas of equestrianism?

Dana: Honestly, they, usually, come out what our actual criteria is; usually, it's the fall or winter prior, so usually the November-December of the year before we get a selection like they'll get sent out to all the high-performance riders, what you need to do to qualify to be on the team. Then we have to declare to our National Federation, which is Equestrian Canada, to tell them that we want to be selected or we want to be included in the selection process. So, it's just for the Olympics, which is run at a 4-star level, at least across countries 4-star level. Usually, you and your horse have to be qualified at the fourth CCI 4-star long level. Actually, being qualified at the CCI 5-star long level is the highest level of sport; it's actually a level above the Olympics. To have the best shot at it, you would like to have a great result out of 5-star going into it. But I believe that in this past Olympics we had to have a qualification at the 4-star long level.

Jacobsen: What would count as a 5-star? What is the contextualization there for someone without the expertise in the field?

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Dana: So, the 5-star is the highest level in in eventing. It would be… trying to think of one good equivalent would be in like a different sport… It'd be like doing a full ironman, like it is compared to doing just a triathlon. It's the dressage. It's more technical and the test is longer. The cross country, the jumps are bigger, of course. It's also more technical than the levels below it. The course generally takes significantly longer, and then the show jumping again. It's more technical. It's a larger show jumping track than you know the levels below it.

Jacobsen: How did you get into eventing versus jumping?

Dana: Well, pony club is actually based in the eventing. That's where they started with everything. When you're in pony club, you can go down different avenues; you can go down just the dressage avenue, or you go down the show jumping avenue, or you could go down eventing one. Whichever avenue you choose, it used to be like an all-around type. It's an organization, but it's also a bit of an education as well. So, you could focus on the whole thing and eventing would be like an all-around type of thing. So, that's where it started. Honestly, I love the cross country. Which if you ask any event clutter, they'll all say the same thing that they're in it for the cross country. We have to do all the other things, but we learned to enjoy the dressage, or at least get good enough at it. We learned to love the show jumping as well, but the cross country is really why we do it.

Jacobsen: For the sport, especially at the higher levels, I have come across some commentary of financial barriers to it. Is that a common thing, or is that more an urban myth?

Dana: No, it's common. Horses are expensive. Everybody says, "Oh, you have horses." There's so much money in horses and the money is literally in the horse, like the care of it, the feeding, maintenance, the veterinary, the farrier, competing; it's expensive. I tell people all the time the cheapest part about owning a horse is the purchase price. It doesn't matter whether you get it for free or you spend 500,000 dollars on it; that's the least amount of money you're going to spend on that horse. And after that, it's expensive. That's why a lot of us, especially the upper-level riders, have reformed syndicates because most of us can't afford to do it on our own. I'm lucky enough that I have the owners of Kingfisher to support me, but they could only support me so much. So, trying to bring other people into the sport and to want to be a part of it, there's a lot of people that want to be a part of your team and your sport and your journey, but they also can't afford to own the whole horse, so they have the option to own a share of the horse and pay for a share of the expenses – which makes it actually a lot more affordable to them and to us as riders. So, it is expensive.

Jacobsen: Are the prices going up?

Dana: Yes. The horse purchase prices, some of them. Yes, it's going up. I wouldn't think that it's changed in the last two years. It doesn't change that much, but absolutely the care of them and competition costs and travel costs, absolutely. That has definitely gone up.

Jacobsen: For the industry to become profitable for an individual, or for a syndicate, or for a business, or for farmers, stables, etc., how do North Americans make the bulk of their income to sustain themselves versus Western Europeans?

Dana: Well, most have teaching businesses. We teach a lot of lessons. Europe, there are a lot more equestrians for disciplines, all of them. There, it's definitely part of their culture; whereas, that's not here in the US, so it's a lot easier to get owners in Europe, but it actually is a lot more competitive. Because if you're not doing a good job with that horse, they'll take the horse and give it to somebody else. So, you have to stay quite competitive with those horses. So, here, you'll find a lot of people start out getting the thoroughbreds, which are fine. You can find some really good thoroughbreds, but majority of them are not as competitive in the dressage. They'll, maybe, have

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a little bit of a flatter jumping style. So, they might not have the best show jumping records. They generally are great cross-country horses, but not always the most competitive in the in the other two phases. But they're more affordable to buy. So, you definitely see a lot of people starting out with that.

In Europe, they do have teaching and riding businesses like they do here, but I think probably a little bit easier to build up a little more clientele because it's part of the culture. I haven't spent that that much time actually living in Europe; not that I've lived in Europe, but I haven't been there long enough to actually really see the difference. But my coach is Australian. He lived in England for a long time. He had a teaching business, but it was more of a riding business. He had competition horses, so it's just a different style. He would have 12 horses going at any given time. So, you don't see that as much here in the US or in North America in general.

Footnotes

[1] Director of Equestrian Activities, Kingfisher Park Equestrian.

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 16: Wes Schild on Expense, Show Jumping's Appeal, and the Industry (2)

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Abstract

Wes is a Professional Trainer & Coach for Riverlands Equestrian Centre. He completed an internship at Landgestuet Celle (Hanovarian State Stud) in Adelheidsdorf, Germany. He has worked as a professional rider for McLean Reitsport in Tonisvorst. He has worked in Wellington, Florida for Alexandra Duncan and trained with Juan Matute Sr. He discusses: economic barriers; the demographics per discipline; new rider; people will enter into the industry and then drop out; the industry now in Canada; quality and cleanliness and orderliness of facilities; geldings and mares get 15×15 stalls and stallions get 15×20 stalls; boarding and room for a horse; base costs for improved quality of life; training with various individuals within the industry; a session; tack up; and to Riverlands for a lesson.

Keywords: Canada, Dressage, Greenhorn Chronicles, Riverlands Equestrian Centre, Wes Schild.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 16: Wes Schild on Expense, Show Jumping's Appeal, and the Industry (2)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Interview conducted December 30, 2021.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: Are there economic barriers? Although, I don't know if that's necessarily true because the demographics note the incomes of people who ride horses generally are about middle class. They are ordinary people in general. But getting into the industry, getting a horse, getting equipment, paying for boarding for the first little bit, etc. is that a barrier at the outset for getting into the industry?

Wes Schild[1],[2]: I think it depends on when you're probably getting into the industry; I think it might be a little bit tougher as a child or a young teen to get into it just because there is a greater expense. Then again if you were

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just to go and be on some other sports team, there's a lot more to owning a horse. Then you have to have someone that can help care for it or you have to board it out. So, I think that also slows down, why people don't do it.

Jacobsen: How do you find the demographics per discipline within the equine – dressage versus jumping versus hunting, etc.? What tends to attract the most participants in Canada?

Schild: I would probably say jumping definitely would be your number one.

Jacobsen: What might be the reason for that?

Schild: I think if you go from people that are getting into it at a younger age. Show jumping has more appeal to it. For someone that's just standing back and watching it; you get the idea of what's going on. You see that someone's riding the horse. They get to gallop the course. They're jumping fences. It looks fun. It's exciting. Whereas if you are looking back from a distance, again, and watching a very basic dressage test happen, you might not understand exactly what's happening. So, someone to see the jumping is definitely more interesting. So, I think that's where people lean to first; they want to get into jumping first. And then, maybe, once they're in riding for a while and have a better understanding of it, they start to look to dressage because they understand that actually dressage is the basics to all riding. They need a really good solid foundation in their flat work and in their dressage work to be an excellent jumper. And then, of course, you would find out that if you're riding with someone reputable or your trainer. Those top riders are all working on good flat work and dressage to make these top jumping horses.

Jacobsen: How long does it take for a horse to become acquainted and comfortable with a new rider?

Schild: I always say to my clients here when I've helped them in the past look for a new riding horse and there's a new partnership being started up; I always say about a year. It takes a while for you to learn the horse and how they think and how they act and how they react to different situations. It's a partnership, so it's about building trust with your new partner and that that takes time and patience and help from a coach or a trainer.

Jacobsen: Is there a period at which people will enter into the industry and then drop out? So, hypothetically, a young teenager, parents put them into some equestrian discipline. They have a horse. They train, take part in competitions or some casual events for five years, and then they drop it at 17. What is a common scenario one would expect in a decent hunk of the equestrian world in Canada?

Schild: I would say that's right. I would say if you were to look at a lot of the young riders that, maybe, ride from the time they're 10 to 18 or whatever; they do that while they're in high school and have the time, the ability, and, probably, their parents support, hopefully, to be able to do the sport. I would say around that age is when you start to see people fizzle out of it. I think it's mostly because they're going off to start post-secondary education. Or they need to start working full-time. They just can't afford to do both things. There's not enough time to do both things. So, I would say that's probably when most fizzle out of the sport, but I would also say I know quite a few who have stopped riding then, and then maybe go on to post-secondary education, and then start a family, or whatever, and then return to riding in their early 30s, and continue on.

Jacobsen: How many people are in the industry now in Canada?

Schild: That's a good question. I don't actually know the answer.

Jacobsen: Okay. How important are quality and cleanliness and orderliness of facilities for proper equine activities?

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Schild: Well, I would say it's very important. That's actually one of the biggest things that I took away from being in Europe. Some of the facilities that you go to over there are almost like military. They expect very high standards of cleanliness and respect and order for horses and riders. And here at our facility, I do the same; I make sure that everything's very clean and organized. Everything's very proper because it makes for running the business and the horses and the clients and everything just such a way nicer atmosphere to come to work every day when everything has a place and is organized. People know where things are; and it makes the day just run that much smoother.

Jacobsen: Your stalls are noted as 15×15 and 15×20. 15×20 for the stallions. So, geldings and mares get 15×15 stalls and stallions get 15×20 stalls. Why do the stallions get slightly bigger stalls?

Schild: There's really not a huge reason why here we made them a little bit bigger. It's only because stallions sometimes tend to be inside a little bit longer than you would like a mare-stallion for turnout purposes anyways. Luckily at our facility, we have quite a few paddocks that are built correctly and tall enough and are safe enough to put stallions out in so that there is no risk of them hurting themselves or getting out and trying to get to another horse. But the person who designed our facility wanted to make those stallion stalls just a little bit bigger because, like I said, if you have times where the stallions might not be able to go outside, it's nice for them to have a big stall inside that they can move around and they're quite comfortable in.

Jacobsen: For boarding and room for a horse, so gelding, stallion, to mare, where most people have a small ranch to the upper echelons of standards of care in Canada or even Europe, what is the range of costs people want to be looking at here?

Schild: Definitely out in the West coast, now, you're looking roughly most places now about 1,000 dollars a month for a stall, and then that can go up or down depending on the facility and what the facility offers and what's included in your board. If you go down to – let's say – Florida, for example, I know lots of facilities down there that you're looking probably closer to like 1,800 a month to 2,000 a month. That's, of course, done in US dollars, but I would say at most good facilities now you're looking around a 1,000 dollars a month.

Jacobsen: What can be added onto those base costs for improved quality of life for the horse?

Schild: So, for example, at our facility, some of the add-ons, there would be different types of quality of hay that you can get. With your board, you have just local grass type hay that we grow here on the farm, but then some horses need more protein or more energy in their diet. So, we also can bring in straight alfalfa. We have timothy, so that would be an extra cost. We have an automatic horse walker, which is really good for horses that need rehabilitation. Or we use it as a strength and exercise program every morning. So, all my competition horses go on the walker before they go to their turnout fields, so that would be an extra cost monthly. Those would be some of the type of things some facilities have. Treadmills or water treadmills, again, that would be an extra charge that would add on. Also, we have a massage therapist and chiropractor that come monthly. So, if that's something that you want done for your horse, that's just an extra add-on to your monthly bill here, and then they get massaged. They get a chiropractor treatment done.

Jacobsen: How much is training with various individuals within the industry? So, they have the basic level of training to become a coach to training with someone who has been on the national Olympic team for a particular country?.

Schild: You mean for a lesson price wise?

Jacobsen: Certainly.

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Schild: Again, it totally depends on who you're training with; a lower-level coach, you're, probably, looking for around 75 dollars for a session. Then upper level stuff, you're probably looking somewhere around 200 dollars for a session.

Jacobsen: For a session, how long does that last?

Schild: Generally, 45 minutes to an hour.

Jacobsen: Okay. Does this include tack up?

Schild: No, if you are having a session, your session begins at, let's say, three o'clock. You'd be expected to be tacked up and ready to ride for three o'clock, and then you would ride with your coach from 3:00 to 3:45.

Jacobsen: So, let's say, someone comes to Riverlands for a lesson, what will be a standard pre-lesson lesson and post-lesson series of procedures for them?

Schild: Well, for most people that come for lessons here, they have their horse already here, so they're in a program with me. They would come. They would have their lesson time. They would get their horse tacked up and ready to ride. They would go into the indoor or the outdoor riding arena and warm up for probably 5-10 minutes before I come into the arena, and then we normally would have probably a five-minute little chat about what they're feeling, what they want to work on, if they have any questions or concerns, and then we go into more of a detailed warm-up where I have eyes on them and the horse. We work through the warmup. Then we go into more of what I call the work for the day or the competition riding. So, we figure out what we're going to work on, and we put the horse through some type of lesson plan and then there's always breaks in that, of course, to give the horse time to recover and recuperate. Then we would do the cool down session and we always end the lesson with thoughts on how the lesson went; the good, the bad, and what we need to work on and their takeaway, their homework, for whatever. The next couple days until I see them again.

Footnotes

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The Greenhorn Chronicles 17: Cindy Waslewsky on Operations at Twin Creeks Ranch (1)

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Abstract

Cindy Waslewsky went to Stanford University and competed on the Varsity Gymnastics and Ski Teams. She earned a B.A. in Human Biology in 1982. She earned a Diploma in Christian Studies at Regent College in Vancouver, and a BC teachers' certification from the University of British Columbia in 1984. She was the President of the Squamish Valley Equestrian Association. She is a certified English and Western coach. Waslewsky is co-owner of Twin Creeks Ranch. She discusses: horse maintenance; and clientele connection to horses.

Keywords: Canada, Cindy Waslewsky, equestrianism, Greenhorn Chronicles, Steve Waslewsky, Twin Creeks Ranch.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 17: Cindy Waslewsky on Operations at Twin Creeks Ranch (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Recording accidentally start a tad late, after the formal interview began, Steve Waslewsky joins the interview later.

Interview conducted January 2, 2022.

Cindy Waslewsky[1],[2]: We can hot walk a horse in a circle, so that the shedrow goes in a circle. So, you can hot walk your horses undercover. That's great if a horse is colicky or something like that. You need to monitor and walk the horse. You've got a space right there outside the stall to do that. So, we have crossties there and huge tack rooms that are insulated and one of our staff members lives in a suite that's off that same barn. She's a single girl. She worked at North Shore Equestrian Centre before she came to us, so a good experience that she's got into the vet tech program starting January. And then across from the barn, we have two suites there, again staff. One's a

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single fellow who does basic out maintenance. We have lots of equipment. So, he'll harrow the arena, clear the trails. He'll check the water lines, of course, with this cold snap, getting frozen lines working again and plowing snow. All that kind of stuff. Then to the left of his suite or to the right of his suite is a young couple, she works in the barn. Her partner is an IT guy and he works from home. So, when we had this bad weather, he was out helping Kira in the barn and then, as I said, Kayla who has the four kids. The partner was up helping the barn too, so we had extra help.

So, having everyone live on the property, they walk out. Because they're feeding at seven in the morning. They're feeding at noon. They're feeding at five. They're feeding at nine. So, to drive back and forth would not be very efficient, but you can go out there and feed at seven in the morning and then go in and warm up or have breakfast, come back out and start doing stalls and at 9:30, turn some of the horses out, some are in what we call "in-and-outs."

When people contact us, I would say about almost half our stalls are now in-and-out because what my husband did is he created more in-and-outs off the back of the bar, and tried to make as many of the in-and-out stalls. Every other stall is an in-and-out because you don't want the run, the pen, to be the same width as the stall; that's too narrow. They can get cast and things like that. So, what you do is if one stall has an in-and-out, the next stall that horse gets led out to a paddock outside the next one's in-and-out, where they can run in and out at will; and the next one we lead them out. So, we have good, generous paddocks. Every horse has a paddock. They get turned out no matter what. If pouring rain, they're out for half the day. When they have this freezing weather, they were out for almost one o'clock in the afternoon, and then we brought them in for their lunch because the water was freezing. Even if we gave them a bucket, it was frozen before they needed it when they got fed their lunch. You cannot feed a horse without water available to them. They need water.

So, that was a limiting factor. So, we bring them in at one o'clock, and then have the lunch inside. Normally, we'll keep them out as much as we can keep them out and in the spring and the fall. In the summer, they could be out 24 hours a day. They have more room in a paddock than they do in a stall. They can see their neighbor, but they each get their own feed in a feeder that's on the rubber matting. So, the thing doesn't fall onto the crusher. The gravel stuff that they're living on and they have auto waters as well. We took out all the hog fuel and put in crusher which is a blend of different kinds of sand and fills so that it's firm. That gives the horse something firm and doesn't harbor fungus because we're living in the Pacific Northwest.

I grew up in California, didn't have rain and mud fever. All these other different kinds of fungus. You see on horses up here. But up here, you've got to be very careful that they have a blanket on; they're going to be out in the rain, so that they don't get damp and get a fungus on their back called ring sore. You can't even then put a saddle on if they get too sore. You got to stay on top of those things. So, anyway, we have staff living on the property. We have options of in-and-out stalls. Ones that you lead horses out to paddocks and back in again, and then we have a couple of what are called loafing sheds, which means it's a shelter. We have two Icelandics that love to be outside in the snow, rain. They love to be outside. They have a shelter where they can get out of the weather, but they'll be standing outside most of the time. We do have a stall for them if the weather is really bad or the water starts freezing. We can bring them inside if we need to do that. But they love being out, they're shaggy little guys and they love being outside.

On our property, we have the main indoor arena. We have dressage letters up. We have some jumps. We have show-quality jumps. We don't set up often because they're heavy to lift in-and-out. We have other jumps that are easily put in-and-out for lessons and for people to practice on, but we have a multi-disciplined barn. In other words,

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we have people who like Western and English. In Western, you might have reiners. You might have pleasure. You might have trail horses. In English, you might have dressage, hunter, jumper, and just simply pleasure trail horses. We tend to have more older riders with a few younger people who this is the first horse that they've brought in here. People, of course, are somewhat price conscious because it's really expensive owning a horse. It's getting more expensive because we've seen costs skyrocket. We have voluntarily just increased the rates and wages for our workers. We do the same thing in a *per diem*: this is how many horses you have, this is how much you get per horse to clean and feed them for the day.

Now, if you have 31 horses, that's too many stalls to do for one person, which it really is, then we say you get a secondary worker. Then they get paid for the stalls they do; and you get paid the primary wage. So, it all works out. Our staff have three primary stock barn staff people. They make up their own schedule. They talk together. They work it out. Some are at school. Some have kids. So, they work together and make up a schedule that works for them. They cover for each other. They make sure everyone's okay, and then we have another fellow, Hank, who does maintenance. Like you, he can jump into the stalls. He can do stall work. He can do buckets. He can bring the hay down for them. He does maintenance. So, he's there if anyone's sick, if anyone needs a hand, and if something happens like a pipe breaks or anything happens; they call him. So, they have that as well as my husband and I who live on the property as well.

Jacobsen: Is Steve available right now as well by the way?

Cindy: Yes, Steve's just upstairs. He's not a chatty person. If you had specific questions for him, he'd be happy to answer them. He, like I said, does a lot of the maintenance. We mix our own footing for the arena. We mix footing for our paddocks. We use crusher for it and for all the roads. We also have three and a half kilometers of trails, which he put in with his own GPS lining up through the woods and clearing out trails, putting culverts in and then putting landscape cloth and then crusher on top. So, a nice trail that you would see at Alder Grove Park or Camel Valley Park. We have some half kilometers of trails here on the property. So, as you saw on the web page, we have a round pen, a main indoor arena, a second indoor arena, which is like the lunging arena that we have. It's a 72 x72, so it's a nice 20-meter circle with a coverall. Then we have three and a half kilometers of all-weather trails, so it's not muddy. They're a good footing. Trees fall down, branches fall, things happen with these storms we've had recently. We go out and clear them off. Then we have a half-mile sand racetrack.

Now, the racetrack is not what you would see for training race horses; the inside rails are out. So, it's basically a recreational track. We still harrow it. We keep it maintained. You can go out there. You can just walk around the track, trot, or do a little gallop. Sometimes, I'll take students out. We'll do a slow canter contest and then the fastest walk contest. We're trying to train our horses to have good gaits for us to be out hacking on trails and such, and have them in control. We do our hay storage, like this year there was a real crisis for hay because of the fires, the drought, Covid, and then, of course, the flooding came along. So, hay is difficult. We bought a B-train load, which is a truck and a big trailer following it. A B-train load in the Fall, and then we put a deposit on another B-train load from the same hay supplier up North because it's good quality professionally grown hay.

Steve with his background in animal physiology and nutrition will be happy to advise boarders on good nutrition for their horse, but, as you probably have found, everybody's an expert. Quite frankly, it's interesting. Even when he went to UBC, lots of feed studies on pigs, sheep, goats, chickens, cows, but not many good feed studies on horses. So, you still see kind of a backyard approach, "Oh, I'm going to get the beet pulp," or, "They'll get their weight up." The beet plants, just saw this cheap pulp stuff and get rid of it by giving it to horse people saying, "Here's some empty calories for your horse." It's great for hydrating your horse because you soak this pulp and

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some people do that to try to put weight on the horse, but I would question their more scientific knowledge of the digestive system of the horse.

We can advise borders. But if they want this, that, or the other thing, we accommodate them because that's not livestock to them. That's not even a pet. That horse is their child. You've seen that. Have you not? These women and guys, often, their kids are grown up and gone. These horses are their family. They're their children, very important to them. So, horse boarding is a very unique business. They really think you're taking care of people's horse; we're taking care of people by taking care of their horses.

Jacobsen: Talking to clientele while working, certainly, individuals who own one or more horses feel as if the horse is a part of their own family. Also, a common sentiment I find among those in the equestrian industry with only a few months out of my belt granted, is the sense of a lifestyle. So, you either dive into the deep end first; or it's a foot in the door phenomenon. Where, once you start getting into it, more or less, you don't leave. Unless, you're forced to leave due to finances or some other catastrophic circumstance. People love it. It is their lifestyle.

Cindy: I have adults coming to me for lessons who have always wanted to ride. Now, they're close to retirement. They now have the time. They have the money. Some of them don't have the health anymore. So, we make sure they're on a horse that suits their limitations. You'll see this all the time. People come to me. They might take some lessons. Hopefully, they do take a good number of lessons and really learn horsemanship, ground manners, training techniques, and then get a horse. When they get that horse, they get because the worst thing is to be over horse; to get a horse that's a little too much, a little bit too athletic, too high energy, too high maintenance, not as well trained and needs more training. If you don't get someone with that knowledge, then you get a horse that becomes somewhat dangerous for that rider. Unfortunately, that horse then doesn't always get a good chance with the next owner either. They get kind of labeled. They've developed some bad habits. I always say a horse is kind of like a dog. Get a dog and train that dog, an ill-trained dog, an insecure dog, or an aggressive dog is not a happy dog. Indeed, it could be a danger to a person, then you might have to put down the dog because an incident happens. I've seen that in the horse world as well with horses that are great animals, but have not had the best riding and training at some point in their life. It is human made problems in the horses that the good trainers have to go in and try to fix.

Footnotes

[1] Co-Owner, Twin Creeks Ranch.

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Abstract

Betty Asseiro is an experienced mentor. She has been part of the team, running programs, developing programs, taking horse pictures, facilitating events and helping to take care of the horses! A key member of the team, Betty helps keep us all on track both in and out of the paddocks. Currently studying addictions and youth correctional counselling, Betty skillfully applies her combination of experience and education to plan and run the variety of youth programs we have in the best ways possible. She discusses: story with horses; kind of horse; her name; a naming kind of rule; **involved with Symatree; the positions and the responsibilities; youth with issues; a very lucky and privileged position; anger; this internalization of the anger; horses being forgiving; and the intuitive nature of working around horses**.

Keywords: addictions, anger, Betty, Canada, Dakota, equestrianism, The Greenhorn Chronicles, Kathy, mentor, Symatree Farm, youth.

The Greenhorn Chronicles 18: Betty Asseiro on Symatree Farm (1)

Please see the footnotes, bibliography, and citations after the interview.

Interview conducted June 14, 2022.

Scott Douglas Jacobsen: This is Betty from Symatree Farm. The stories that I'm gathering are early life stories. People get started very early in life with them. Or they have been around them and then they rediscover them later in life. What has been your story with horses?

Betty: I never left horses, but I definitely went on to a different path and came back to working with them. So, when I was very young, my mom loves horses. My mom is **Kathy**, the founder of Symatree Farm. So, we had horses boarded. We were always around them, and then when we moved out to the country. Obviously, it was around them. I was living on the farm, and then I took a bit of a different path in university and was in the city a

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lot, and then ended up coming back and now working with them. I have my own horse and I am just really appreciating them and working with them in a new life not as a little kid.

Jacobsen: What kind of horse do you have?

Betty: She is a just grey mare. She's a mix of a bunch, but an absolutely amazing mentor. I feel like she's really my partner in what we do.

Jacobsen: And what's her name?

Betty: Her name is Dakota.

Jacobsen: And is that named after North/South Dakota or something else?

Betty: Honestly, we have a naming kind of rule that we follow. So, for our newest horses and for the horses that aren't doubling as our personal horses, and just kind of equine mentors for the general public primarily, we let people on Facebook name them. They all vote. But with our horses, we find a name that we like for every single letter of the alphabet, and then we narrow it down to the top, like three or four, and then we'll ask the horse. We'll see which one in training and stuff they seem to respond to. That's how we choose our names.

Jacobsen: How long have you been involved with Symatree?

Betty: I have been involved with Symatree on and off. I was always there as a kid. I would help out, but I have been involved as a facilitator and really working on the farm for the last four years.

Jacobsen: How did you start at Symatree in terms of the positions and the responsibilities? How's that grown over time?

Betty: I came back to the farm as an assistant, so I was just helping out in the programming that Kathy and Barb were doing at the time and just found that I really loved it. I loved working with the kids. My interests started to grow. So, I asked to take on more responsibility. I started thinking about running camps with the kids that I was pretty passionate about working with, and then through school I started learning more. I got an education that really supported what we do here. So, I began working with all our youth and teen contracts that come through child and family services. So, that's how I stepped into the role as lead youth facilitator working with all those contracts and working with those support teams.

Jacobsen: Who are the majority population of youth with issues, whether addictions or otherwise, coming to you?

Betty: I primarily work with youth who are like 7 to 13. They all come through child and family services. So, normally, the youth is struggling or is not open to going to therapy. So, they're looking for a service provider who will make the child feel comfortable and who will get the child to think about their strengths and get the child a little bit more open to speaking to an adult and thinking about their feelings, and then usually enter talk therapy following that. I stay on the support team as a person they feel really comfortable with and a place that they feel really safe and they can kind of reset during the week.

Jacobsen: Now, as far as I know in psychology and psychiatry, and so on, individuals who are of mature age, after a time that brain is pretty well formed. So, any addictions or behavioral patterns or problems that they may have had up to that point may, more or less, be pretty well ingrained for the duration of their life without substantial intervention. For youth, up to age 13, you have sort of a very lucky and privileged position because the brain is still forming significantly, and so you get to see probably a lot more rapid

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change, a lot more flexibility cognitively and emotionally, in the young. What are some of the changes that you noticed in the youth coming to you and working with you over time?

Betty: I think that's a really great point. That's why I feel so lucky to be able to work with the youth that come, so that we can work together to get onto a path that's going to feel a lot more comfortable for them as they get older. A lot of the kids that I work with start out very much with a lot of anger and a lot of frustration about their situation and not being able to share their feelings or have a sense of safety. So, being able to provide a safe place with the horses who are completely non-judgmental, if the child is angry, they're allowed to say to the horse, "I'm feeling really angry today. I don't want to be your friend." The horse is going to say, "That's okay for today and when you feel better I will be here," and the child can come back to the horse the next week and say, "I feel like I can be your friend today. I'd like to be around you." What working with the kids is all about is building friendships because kids are motivated to be friends with horses, I found they see this huge animal. They think, "Wow! They're so cool."

As soon as they find out, they can be the horse's friend they go, "Okay, I'll do whatever I can to make that happen." So, the change that you see is the motivation and the real hard work that they put in to make sure their energy is right and make sure that they are really thinking about the words that they use and thinking about how if they scare the horse; they can make their friend feel better. I think that's the power of horses because they are so forgiving. It allows the kids to have a space to experiment with their energy and with their words and that healthy experimentation is how they're going to build healthy coping mechanisms for the future.

Jacobsen: The one emotion coming out in the last response was anger and those youth who are mainly dealing with anger tend to be boys. Is that the majority population of young coming to you?

Betty: I work with both. I find that the boys are a lot more externally angry and, oftentimes, the girls internalize that anger. Instead of lashing out to others, it's lashing out on themselves. So, it's a different way of feeling that frustration and feeling misunderstood.

Jacobsen: So, this internalization of the anger. Is this a manifestation of a depressive state in the girls when, maybe, it comes off in sarcastic comments or things of this nature?

Betty: It can definitely come across as very shut down, unwilling to even make eye contact, pretending to be disinterested in the horses, and kind of making sarcastic comments. In working with them, a lot of times, it can also come across as giving up really quickly. So, they're asking the horse to follow them, and the horse turns to eat grass. They drop the lead line. They say, "It doesn't matter. No, I don't want to do this anymore. It's not going to work." They give up, or they whine, and say, "Oh, I can't do this. I'm never going to be able to do this. Nobody likes me. Everybody hates me. The horse hates me…"

Jacobsen: Wow! That's a lot.

Betty: Yes, that's a lot of times how you'll see that expressed.

Jacobsen: You mentioned the horses being forgiving. You did not say forgetful. So, I want to clarify. I mean I've only been in the industry about eight months. So, are the horses forgiving because they are forgetful, or are they not forgetful and still forgiving?

Betty: I believe that the horses are not forgetful and still forgiving. I have absolutely seen kids come back as teenagers who came when they were eight years old for like a summer camp. They come back as a teenager with a school group. They come back to visit with their family. The horses remember the people just as much as the

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people remember them. No matter what their experience was together. If the person comes with a new energy, if the person comes in with positivity, the horse is going to respond to that.

Jacobsen: When I talk to horse people, a lot of the language is around sense, feel, experience; the intuitive nature of working around horses. So, are horses in general very sensitive and intuitive to the "energy" the person around people around them is giving off?

Betty: I definitely think so and I think that's something that's absolutely magical about working with them and working with kids because a kid can come in and they are angry, they had a really rough car ride coming in and they come into the arena with big energy. They want to work with a quiet horse. Big energy and a shy animal aren't going to work in a logical sense, but the kid is not their anger. The kid is not a bad day at school. If they come in, and they take a breath, and they breeze past their driver, and they breeze past me, and they go to talk to that horse more often than not, that shy horse will kind of look at the child. They'll wait until the child's energy is genuine. If the kid says, "I had a really bad day. I want to talk to you about it," they can walk up to that horse and talk to that horse about their bad day, they can raise their voice when they're talking about it and that shy horse will stay with them because they're not angry at the horse. They're simply expressing themselves and the horses realize that that's okay. That's not who they are underneath the anger that they're feeling in that moment. They're wanting to genuinely just be a friend. They're looking to have the horse as a friend. That's a relationship that they can share no matter if the child is sad in a moment or angry in a moment.

Footnotes

[1] Mentor, Symatree Farm.

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