
From: Robert Kuhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 5:39 AM
To: jeffrey E.
Subject: Kuhn

Ruminating (in Beijing traffic) on plant biology and ways to structure possible Closer To Truth (CTT) series to portray your sense and insights.

For plant biology per se, there's probably three strong episodes, with higher production values needed to illustrate ideas/principles (more than the usual CTT talking heads). To fit the CTT framework (and audience expectation), these fascinating discoveries or hints of complex, multifarious mechanisms would need to be explored (even if not yet understood) in terms of simple, fundamental principles (applicable across disciplines - so-called 'general systems theory').

This potential series on plant biology could be extended to ~6 episodes by including medicinals - plant derivatives that are, for some conditions, best treatments for numerous diseases. This could include, for example, a critical look at Chinese medicine.

I think, though, there's a bigger idea lurking here. Your unique ways of thinking, exemplified by plant biology, encourages another, larger possibility for a significant CTT series. Each of the topics you've brought up, and many of your past fundings, sought kinds of breakthroughs or radically new ways of approaching reality and the knowledge and manipulation of reality. So, how about producing a big CTT series on just that - "Radical Breakthroughs"?

I can imagine CTT episodes on each of the following kinds of topics you've mentioned, in which radical breakthroughs or deep structural significance are being appreciated:

- Plant biology
- Exception (biology)

- Power Laws ("found everywhere in nature, Pareto, law of large numbers")

- New math ("category theory, membrane computing, as a new tool for cognition")

- Mathematics and Truth

- Music

- ("a tool to interrogate the brain, not a product of but a lense into the inner software")

- Dreams ("always on, consciousness blocking access, schizo have sleep disorders")

- Power (nature, as you said, financial, physical, intellectual, ability to do things in a local space)

I'm sure there are other such categories of 'radical breakthrough' - for example, several wild ideas in neuroscience, such as levels of information from sub-cellular to massive circuitry.

We would clearly unify the topics and episodes with an overarching thematic vision of "radical breakthroughs" that "challenge conventional wisdom" (this phrase was an early Closer To Truth subtitle).

Several of these topics can have more than one episode. We can easily produce 13 high-quality episodes and thus have a coherent full season on "Radical Breakthroughs", which would be distributed and marketed as such.

Such an approach to "Radical Breakthroughs" is core CTT - in fact, I attempted this as part of the very first CTT series in 1999/2000

"How do Breakthroughs Change Science" - with evolutionary biologist Francisco Ayala; philosopher and neuroscientist Patricia Smith Churchland; author/astronomer Timothy Ferris; child psychologist Rochel Gelman; and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson - <https://www.closetotruth.com/roundtables/how-do-breakthroughs-change-science>

"What are the Big Questions of Science?" - with evolutionary biologist Francisco Ayala; philosopher and neuroscientist Patricia Smith Churchland; author/astronomer Timothy Ferris; theoretical physicist Steve Koonin; and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson - <https://www.closetotruth.com/roundtables/what-are-the-big-questions-science>

Though the production values of these early shows are much lower than our current version (since 2008), the content and contributors suggest how CTT can do a big new series - a full season of 3 episodes - on "Radical Breakthroughs".

Appreciate specific direction, so that when we meet, I can be prepared

Love to do something big and dramatic together.

Robert

On May 9, 2017, at 7:52 PM, Jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

plant biology. ? great experiments being done. rarely looked at before. root communication. No, I have not lost my mind, = If done well, you would get lots of press. =utting edge technologys for optogenetics, experiments that =ont require IRB approval. . its very =xciting. do plants get an alzheimer =quivalent plaque, . als disease. =arkinsons, yes it seems =o. most cancer drugs are plant derivatives. = lots of fun . good luck in china

On Mon, May 8, 2017 at 11:39 PM, Robert Kuhn <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Appreciate =onsideration. I'm next in NY June 7 (for about a week); love to =rainstorm.... I too would really like to do something (important) =ogether.

Just =rrived in Beijing for the "The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation" =commentating), the second most important event of 2017 in China =after the upcoming Party Congress), but Western media not paying =uch attention, what with All-Things-Trump.

On May 8, 2017, at 7:03 PM, Jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

hope things are well. = when are you back. . I would love to do =omething with you, but sleep is not going to be it. = I have read quite alot and frankly, the subject is =ascinating but i see no real insights. just more =uestions and mostly the same ones that have been asked for =ears. . yes, its role in many processes are now =ecoming apparent. but I see no theories that can hold their own (=et).

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