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**From:** Joscha Bach [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 25, 2015 7:21 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Epstein  
**Subject:** Interesting people, funds etc

Dear Jeffrey,

I hope this finds you well!

You mentioned that I should point out interesting folks to you: David Alrymple has managed to drop out of two PhD programs, at MIT and Harvard respectively, before he was 21. I got to know him by repeatedly bumping into him during conferences. Peter Thiel gave him a grant to study nematodes, and he dropped out of the resulting institute two years later, to join Twitter. He realized that he did not find optimizing their software satisfying, finished the project and left Twitter for a honeymoon journey. His current calling is to radically reinvent the way operating systems work, but he seems to feel so guilty for his past failures to deliver on being a prodigy that he seriously wants to waste a few years as a AI developer for Google to earn enough money to be orally allowed to work on it, which in my view would be a shame. Once he figures himself out, he will do great things.

A fascinating and very sparkling intellect worth inviting to PED discussions might be Scott Aaronson; you probably know him already. He is a computational physicist working at MIT.

Some interesting folks in the AI community (I met many of them at the IPS conference in Montreal): Demis Hassabis is the one who started DeepMind, and he has ideas beyond Deep Learning. The godfathers of the field are currently Geoff Hinton, Yann LeCun and Yoshua Bengio: especially Bengio is an interesting person to talk to. Jürgen Schmidhuber seems to have a difficult personality, but IMHO that makes him a lot of fun. He heads the Swiss Institute for AI in Lugano, generates theories about the universe and everything, and has co-invented a bunch of important neural network types. (Other Great Old men are Jeff Dean, from MIT, currently leading an AI team at Google, Andrew Ng, who went from Stanford to Baidu, Peter Norvig: Google, and Stuart Russell.)

Generally, the current generation of AI folks do not tend to be big universal scholars (like Minsky and Chomsky). People that left a strong impression on me due to the breadth of their thinking were the German psychologist Dietrich Doerner, the Italian Artificial Intelligence master Cristiano Castelfranchi, and the sharp and acerbic emotion researcher Andrew Ortony. All were socialized in the age of cybernetics.

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My personal funds are currently depleted again, could you please help me out again? (Still embarrassed to ask.)

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With best wishes for what mortals consider to be the holidays,

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