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**From:** jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 3, 2018 4:13 PM  
**To:** John Brockman  
**Subject:** Re: call me

sorry, so iam clear I fund you and=what you like. My views on having women there are not re=evant to my funding. I made a committment and will always stick by i=. my attendance is not important. so no worry,=C2 . I dont have the patience that you have.

On Fri, Aug 3, 2018 a= 12:08 PM, John Brockman [REDACTED] wrote:

JE,

--The news about Lawrence: [bit.ly/2vAcZOR](http://bit.ly/2vAcZOR) <<http://bit.ly/2vAcZOR>> .

I had sold his new book, the contracts to which were never signed; and MIT =ress then cancelled the deal. The only other instance this has happened (b=t not "Me-too" related) was a decade ago with Marc Hauser. In th=t situation I made a very big deal and sold the book in 30 countries. In b=th books, the coauthor was Noam. Go figure. Unfortunately for Lawrence (as=was the case with Marc) he's unpublishable, and sadly I don't see =hat changing.

>> the old conferencess did not care about diversity. =A0

You are absolutely correct. The first two master classes were almost all ma=e, the exception being Anne Treisman, who was one of the great scientists =f the 20th century.

And, regarding Anne, as Eric Kandel recounted, when Anne did her famous pap=r in 1980, the entire field of neuroscience was stopped in its tracks. &qu=t;We all had to go back to the drawing boards and rethink everything"= Eric said. And at that point, Anne was hottest scientist in the world, tr=veling with an entourage and meeting and greeting Presidents and Prime Min=sters. Danny Kahneman likes to tell how, at that time, he was some guy fro= Israel that nobody ever heard of, who was chasing after her from city to =ity in romantic pursuit.

And yes, there was a difference between Anne and the males the master class=s. I could never get her to do an interview or to give a talk.

"John", she said, "I don't do fancy".

Anne didn't write, didn't play the intellectual game that you=and I relate to, but her own work was hugely important and she mentored ge=erations of the leading neuroscientists today, none of which are what I ca=l "third culture scientists" (i.e. public communicators), =r, for that matter, are willing to do a book for me. Believe me, I've =ried. Just in Cambridge: Liz Spelke at Harvard, Nancy Kanwisher and Rebecc= Saxe at MIT, Pardis Sabeti at Broad Institute. These scientists are the b=st in the world in their fields.

>>the old conferences did not care about diversity. I suggest y=u not either.

Great minds can disagree. The world has changed. This conference is b=sed on a book. Today, it's impossible to get a publisher to buy su=h a book with essays by 25 men and no women.

>>the women are all weak

I completely disagree. Two women will be participants at the table at the conference: Alison Gopnik is the leading cognitive psychologist in childhood development and acknowledged authority in the field. The disconnect here is that you probably have no interest in her subject. Ditto, Caroline Jones, who is a fierce intellectual, a distinguished art historian, one of the most erudite and authoritative scholars on cybernetics. I've learned a lot from her. Married to physicist/historian Peter Galison at Harvard (one of five "University Professors" at Harvard), they are a formidable intellectual couple.

I would add that the Macy Conferences never would have taken off without the presence of Margaret Mead. One day I was talking to Gregory Bateson, her husband at the time, mirroring your attitude, and he ripped me apart and detailed how MM was able to think differently than he (or) I did, and explaining the great value of having her in the mix. What I learned from Gregory and Margaret (and their daughter Catherine) is to be less scornful and more supportive toward the role of women scientists. I would hope you could get to that place as well.

So, we need to talk. This is a big project and it means a lot to me in terms of my career. (Example since yesterday both Demis Hassabis and Ian McEwan want to come.) And I'm willing to move ahead on my own dime, which is already pushing \$70K. But given your response, I don't feel comfortable moving ahead as planned, taking funding or having you in attendance. And the latter is a serious risk. Today's news on Lawrence shows that Me-Too is not going away; it's growing, it's all-pervasive and we're now in a McCarthy-ism moment on steroids.

This is all very depressing to me when I should be celebrating a fantastic project. The depressing part is that since we've met you've been my most dependable friend, and ally, the person I know I can always call and talk to and, more importantly, who picks up the phone and calls me and says "how are you?"

Pls call. busy until 1pm

JB

[REDACTED]  
sent from my private email: [REDACTED]

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=A0 please note

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