
From: John Brockman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 9:32 PM
To: Epstein Jeffrey
Subject: Master Class Sept 5-6

Eastover Farm
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"HeadCon '14: WHAT'S NEW IN SOCIAL SCIENCE?"

A year ago, on the weekend after Labor Day, EDGE ran a rehearsal, or dry run, towards a possible annual event which would be an EDGE weekend seminar at Eastover Farm focusing on the state of the art of what the social sciences have to tell us about human nature. For want of something more serious, we called it "THE HEAD CONFERENCE", which morphed into "HEADCON 2013: WHAT'S NEW IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES". The ten speakers were Sendhil Mullainathan, June Maber, Fiery Cushman, Rob Kurzban, Nicholas Christakis, Joshua Greene, Laurie Santos, Joshua Knobe, David Pizarro, Daniel C. Dennett. Also participating as kibitzers were Daniel Kahneman, Anne Treisman, and Jennifer Jacquet. We asked to them consider the following questions in a half hour talk, with the expectation that they would be challenged in a half hour discussion period:

"WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR FIELD OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN THE LAST YEAR OR TWO, AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?" "WHY DO WE WANT OR NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT?" "HOW DOES IT CHANGE OUR VIEW OF HUMAN NATURE?"

We also asked the speakers to focus broadly and address the major developments in their field (including but not limited to their own research agenda). The goal: to get new, fresh, and original up-to-date field reports on different areas of social science. We asked for, and the speakers delivered, new, fresh, and original talks: an up-to-date field report on their area of social science — conversational talks: "new, true, important, and well said", and NOT canned PowerPoint or slide-driven conference talks, or material they had previously presented. (In fact, power-point, slides, and other such visual aids were, and are, off-limits at EDGE events).

HeadCon '13: WHAT'S NEW IN SOCIAL SCIENCE was also an experiment in online video designed to capture the dynamic of an EDGE seminar, focusing on the interaction of ideas, and of people. The documentary filmmaker Jason Wishnow, the pioneer of "TED Talks" during his tenure as director of film and video at TED (2006-2012), helped us develop this new iteration of Edge Video, filming the ten sessions in split-screen with five cameras, presenting each speaker and the surrounding participants from multiple simultaneous camera perspectives.

The event consisted of a dinner Friday night, followed by an all-day session Saturday at the Farm for a series of talks. We wrapped up with an early dinner at a restaurant ending 8-8:30pm. The participants stayed at a nearby conference hotel. EDGE picked up transportation expenses (air, train, car rental) and hotel room charges.

We published the program in its entirety on EDGE - nearly six hours of Edge Video and a downloadable PDF of the 58,000-word transcript - to a wide global audience and to acclaim within the social sciences. As always, as a public service, it is available to the public free of charge.

HeadCon '13: WHAT'S NEW IN SOCIAL SCIENCE?
<http://edge.org/event/headcon-13-whats-new-in-social-science>

PROGRAM: "What Big Data Means For Social Science" (Sendhil Mullainathan) | "The Scientific Study of Positive Emotion" (June Gruber) | "The Paradox of Automatic Planning" (Fiery Cushman) | "P-Hacking and the Replication Crisis" (Rob Kurzban) | "The Science of Social Connections" (Nicholas Christakis) | "The Role of Brain Imaging in Social Science" (Joshua Greene) | "What Makes Humans Unique" (Laurie Santos) | "Experimental Philosophy and the Notion of the Self" (Joshua Knobe) | "The Failure of Social and Moral Intuitions" (David Pizarro) | "The Re-Darwinizing of Cultural Change" (Daniel C. Dennett).

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HEADCON '14

With the success of last year's event we have decided to extend and expand this project as an annual event. And we plan to grow it in an organic way, by inviting the previous year's speakers to return as kibitzers. Thus, in addition to inviting new speakers for HeadCon E2 14, we are also inviting back the participants from last year.

Confirmed as speakers to date are:

SPEAKERS

SARAH-JAYNE BLAKEMORE

Royal Society University Research Fellow and Full Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London; Co-author, *The Learning Brain*.

http://edge.org/memberbio/sarah_jayne_blakemore

MOLLY CROCKETT

Neuroscientist, University College London; Wellcome Trust Postdoctoral Fellow, Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging. Studies the neural basis of human altruism, morality, and value-based decision-making.

<http://www.mollycrockett.com/>

JENNIFER JACQUET

Clinical Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, NYU, researching shame, cooperation and the tragedy of the commons; Author: *Is Shame Necessary* (forthcoming).

http://edge.org/memberbio/jennifer_jacquet

<http://jenniferjacquet.com/>

MICHAEL MCCULLOUGH

Director, Evolution and Human Behavior Laboratory, Professor of Psychology, Cooper Fellow, University of Miami; Author, *Beyond Revenge: The Evolution of the Forgiveness Instinct*.

http://edge.org/memberbio/michael_mccullough

<http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/mmccullough/>

HUGO MERCIER

Cognitive Scientist; Ambizione Fellow, Cognitive Science Center, University of Neuchâtel, studying the function and workings of reasoning. http://edge.org/memberbio/hugo_mercier

<https://sites.google.com/site/hugomercier/>

LAURIE PAUL

Professor of Philosophy, UNC Chapel Hill, and Professorial Fellow in the Arché Research Centre, University of St Andrews studying metaphysics and the philosophy of mind.

<http://www.lapaul.org/>

DAVE RAND

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Economics, and Management, Yale and =irector, Yale's Human Cooperation Laboratory, researching theoretical =nd experimental methods associated with cooperation.
<http://davidrand-cooperation.com/>

SIMONE SCHNALL

Psychologist; Director, Cambridge Embodied Cognition and Emotion =aboratory; University Senior Lecturer, Cambridge
http://edge.org/memberbio/simone_schnall
<http://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/directory/ss877@cam.ac.uk>

Among last year's speakers returning as "kibitzers" =are:

FIERY CUSHMAN

Assistant Professor, Cognitive, Linguistic, Social Science, Brown.
http://edge.org/memberbio/fiery_cushman

JUNE GRUBER

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Director, Positive Emotion & =ychopatology Lab, Yale .
http://edge.org/memberbio/june_gruber

JOSHUA KNOBE

Experimental Philosopher; Associate Professor of Philosophy and =ognitive Science, Yale.
http://edge.org/memberbio/joshua_knobe

DAVID PIZARRO

Associate Professor of Psychology, Cornell, specializing in moral =udgment.
http://edge.org/memberbio/david_pizarro

LAURIE SANTOS

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology; Director, Comparative =ognition Laboratory, Yale.
http://edge.org/memberbio/laurie_r_santos

The event is at Eastover Farm in Bethlehem, CT (90 miles from NYC). On =riday night, September 5th, we have a group reservation at Heritage =otel in Soutbury CT, 11 miles from the farm. A high-end, five-star =esort, The Mayflower Inn, is also nearby.

Here's the rough schedule:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

5:00pm Cocktails at Eastover Farm
7:00pm Dinner at Woodward House (2 miles from farm)
http://www.thewoodwardhouse.com/The_Woodward_House/Home.html

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

7:00am Breakfast at Heritage Hotel
Check out of hotel
8:00am Cars depart to Eastover Farm
8:30am - 12:30 talks
12:30pm - 2:00 lunch
2:30pm - 6:30 talks
6:30pm Dinner at Woodward House
8:30pm Ends

When I telephoned the great biologist Ernst Mayr (the "Darwin of the 20th Century") on his hundredth birthday, he first turned down my request to write a piece for EDGE ("Much too busy; my plate is full"), and then, he noted that "EDGE is a conversation." And like any conversation, it is evolving. And what a conversation it is!

I very much hope you can join us.

Best,

JB

The Heritage Hotel
522 Heritage Rd
Southbury, CT 06488

<http://www.heritagesouthbury.com/>

Map: <http://bit.ly/1vUC83l>

Directions | Heritage Hotel to Eastover Farm (11.7 miles): <http://bit.ly/VtiLxy>

John Brockman

mobile

r.s.v.p. to

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