



Feed

Questions

Profile

Friends

Notifications



Elliot Temple

@curi42

Followers: 7

Ask @curi42:

What, when, why... ask

Ask anonymously

300

Show status

Online ^

Ask

235

Answers

11

Likes

0

Gifts

Elliot Temple | Latest answers

wtf!! You don't care if blackies, brownies and tiny eyes rule the world? We need to stop that. Colored people have low IQ. No offence intended, No Racism intended.



2 minutes ago

i disagree



I voted trump to peacefully curb the colored race without sounding like a racist. He is not doing it well enough.



15 minutes ago

trump's a moderate, not some extreme racist.

<http://curi.us/1922-donald-trump-is-a-moderate>



> **uhhh what? You know what I am talking about. The inferiors are multiplying a very high rate and spreading their evil culture. We need to protect the white race from going extinct.**



26 minutes ago

culture and race are different. i don't give a shit about the white race.

regarding culture, America needs to be a better melting pot to ASSIMILATE immigrants, and should try to be selective about letting in immigrants who will benefit the country and who like America, and should build a southern border wall. people of different races can learn to think rationally regardless of their skin color or genes.

America's political problems are largely self-inflicted. if Americans were wiser, things would be going better. some of the main problems are our schools and parenting traditions destroy our children's minds (it's similar or even worse in other countries). hence my efforts to spread better ideas, e.g. at <http://fallibleideas.com>



How do we prevent the white race from going Extinct?



42 minutes ago

uhhh what?



How do I be more tolerant of people who look disgusting? I judge a book by its cover a lot.



about 23 hours ago

why? try to understand yourself.

what do you value? try to find some good things to value and pay attention to those.

if you have something better to do –e.g. you're rapidly learning a lot and getting your life in order –then you'll pay more attention to that.



I think the south park animation sucks. How do I persuade myself to watch it?

about 23 hours ago

what's wrong with it? you can see what's going on. it's functional. what's the problem? is it that it doesn't show body language vividly enough and you want to stare at people? do you dislike all animated shows?



I feel "disgust" looking at people who don't take care of their appearance. Isn't Makeup one of the good things capitalism has produced?

about 23 hours ago

you should be more tolerant and stop feeling that way. you should care about people's ideas and accomplishments and other stuff that matters, and try to interact with people in important ways about important stuff.

making makeup is ok in that people want it. and it has some uses, e.g. for movie costumes. but it's super overrated. this isn't capitalism's fault, but nor has capitalism solved the problem (that isn't capitalism's job). just because it's created under capitalism doesn't mean it's wonderful – capitalism also allows for selling snake oil, homeopathy, tarot card readings, books advising people to be cruel to their children, etc



I am a Presbyterian. I don't want to be an atheist/satanist to be on FI. Can I remain religious and be rational?

yesterday

short term: no problem. you can learn useful info about tons of other stuff.

long term: you don't get to decide what conclusions the pursuit of truth results in. you can't be seeking the truth in an open-minded way, trying to make unbounded progress, but also decide some conclusions at the start that you're unwilling to reconsider.

this is just like with science or games. can you try to play chess as well as possible but you don't want to use the Sicilian defense? maybe, maybe not. that isn't currently known. it could turn out that's the best defense and the others don't work as well. it'd

be a bad attitude to try to be a great chess player but be unwilling to consider using some chess strategies.

PS i don't think there's ever been a satanist on FI. if you started with some conversations on other topics and found they were working well, then after that i'd recommend asking about some of your concerns about atheism – it might be different than what you think it means.



Is it second-handed to watch reactions on youtube? (Eg: Reactions to my fav tv show/movie/food) I become happy when people like the same stuff I like. ✕

yesterday

yes that sounds second-handed.



Would FI knowledge make me rich? ✕

yesterday

mildly rich? sure. ez if u succeed at understanding FI thoroughly. if you're good enough at learning you can e.g. learn programming (and a bit of business, salary negotiation, etc) particularly well and make lots of money.

super rich? no promises. very few people get super rich. many who do are lucky in addition to skilled. and many who do are very popular and FI isn't about being popular. and many super rich people do immoral stuff like pursue government favors for their business instead of being productive, which FI opposes. if you want to get super rich in a good way, FI would increase your odds, it's a better approach than anything else you could try instead.



How do I persuade lefties to like Trump? ✕

3 days ago

which lefties and why?

if it's one friend who is a reasonable person, you could show him lots of evidence and facts and some good books (e.g. the Trump books by Ann Coulter and David Horowitz).

more broadly, i'd say don't. trying to persuade lefties to like Trump isn't a very effective, efficient way to improve the world, help others, or learn stuff yourself. you'd be much better off trying to learn more philosophy skills (like critical thinking, objectivity, integrity, curiosity) and educate people about those.



You say I should read DD before Popper. Should I read FoR before BOI? I am not that much into science. Is it okay if I skip non-philosophy parts of FoR?

✕

7 days ago

I think FoR before BoI.

You can skip some science chapters (like quantum physics and time travel) but there are other parts which are more mixed like the chapter on evolution in FoR and the 2nd chapter of BoI which you should at least try reading.

you can skip the math/computation/AI/virtual reality stuff if you get stuck, but give them a try first. you should also try the physics (FoR ch. 2) at least briefly because it may not be what you expect.

i list some key chapters on the FI site. besides those for FoR, you should try 4-6 and 10 but don't beat yourself up too much if it's not working. For BoI, you should give most of the chapters a try and see if they click for you or not.



If I have tons of time in my hand, should I not buy your yes/no material? How many popper books do I have to read to reach there?

✕

7 days ago

yes/no is pretty accessible, you don't have to read Popper first.

reading Popper won't teach you the same stuff as yes/no. yes/no is focused on a much smaller set of topics than Popper's overall writing. and for what it talks about, it improves on Popper and Deutsch, it's not the same.

if you don't have much money, you could get a lot of books for the same price.

recommendations: <http://fallibleideas.com/books> and my free stuff.

also i wouldn't recommend reading Popper before Deutsch.



Would a half-hearted effort at FI worse than living a conventional life? Neither here nor there life looks terrifying.



7 days ago

it depends.

my suggestion: go for it. TRY. make a try for a good life. don't just settle and cope.
Atlas Shrugged:

"Do you think that it's any better in the West?"

"No. I don't."

"Then why are you going there?"

"Because I haven't tried it before. That's all there is left to try. It's somewhere to go. Just to keep moving . . . You know," he added suddenly, "I don't think it will be any use. But there's nothing to do in the East except sit under some hedge and wait to die. I don't think I'd mind it much now, the dying. I know it would be a lot easier. Only I think that it's a sin to sit down and let your life go, without making a try for it."



Why are there self-hating jews? What do they hate about themselves?



7 days ago

i guess lots of them don't identify as jewish very much, and accept lots of anti-jewish arguments (e.g. libels about Israel murdering children that you can read in the news all the time) for the same reasons others do. nothing about being jewish makes one immune to being fooled by propaganda, dishonest arguments, old rhetoric with a history of persuading people, etc.

and jews as a group tend lefty, and the left is anti-semitic today, so lefty jews have to accept lots of anti-semitic ideas to fit in.



Why would Trump be a Nazi Supporter when his son-in-law is Jewish? Why doesn't the left understand that?



8 days ago

that's a poor argument. there are self-hating jews, let alone people who hate jewish relatives.



Why does the media portray Trump as a mad man? What do they get out of it? ×

10 days ago

the media are mostly left wing. they are advancing their own politics.



Why not make FI only for premium members who pay like 25-100\$ a month or something instead of replying less? ×

about 2 months ago

how would that help me? it's not a money problem.



> it's bad for white people to say it, because your race determines what you're allowed to say b/c racism is bad. get it??? Sarcasm? ×

2 months ago

the "get it???" isn't serious. it's pretty nonsense.



If saying the ' N word ' is bad. Why do lefties let black people say it? What kind of weird logic is that? Monopoly over words! ×

2 months ago

it's bad for white people to say it, because your race determines what you're allowed to say b/c racism is bad. get it???



Why does Israel allow Muslims to live in their country? Is Israel stupid? ×

3 months ago

Israel is a liberal democracy just like the US, France, etc. Israelis have diverse

opinions about immigration policy. I also don't think they really ever had the opportunity (or inclination) to have NO muslims, except by the sort of deportation and land theft that they never did but are often accused of.



California just passed single payer healthcare. Why haven't you written anything against it?



3 months ago

cuz i write other things.

from reading almost nothing, it sounds like potentially "move to another state" level of awful...

it hasn't actually passed though. it passed one vote. it has to pass more votes and get amended and stuff.



Why do lefties promote weed so much?



3 months ago

because weed is bad and they want to destroy society. they want to legitimize stuff that harms the social fabric, the widespread conception of a good citizen, the values of productivity and intellect, etc



Vaping is better than smoking. It is 10000x better. So shouldn't that make it good?



3 months ago

no. "better than eating arsenic" doesn't make something good.

you're getting basic logic wrong.

wtf is good about vaping? it doesn't help you think, learn, solve problems, or do anything else useful or important.

people say they "enjoy" it. it's "fun". but WHY? they don't know what they like about it, and thus can't evaluate their reasoning is actually good. and the reason they're at such a loss for words for what they like about vaping is b/c they can't come up with anything intellectually defensible about it to say.



Is vape culture good?



3 months ago

no. it sucks



Why is coffee culture bad?



3 months ago

lots of things like ppl think they "need" their coffee "fix" to be functional.



Is "jaw-jaw" still better than "war, war"?



3 months ago

please ask clear questions.



what are your thoughts on goat cheese



3 months ago

it's ok, i don't know why you're asking.



Can you keep KFC refrigerated for 4-5 days like McDonalds? Have you tried it?



3 months ago

yes



Should people who earn more pay a higher rate of income tax?



4 months ago

in utopia, no, because everyone would pay 0% income tax.

but you have to think about how to get from here to there. will the income tax be changed to a flat non-zero rate prior to being changed to 0? i don't know and don't have an opinion on whether it should be.



Why do you believe that addiction does not exist? What evidence do you have? How many addicts have you spoken to?



4 months ago

read Szasz, search the email discussion archives and read my psychiatry essay <https://gumroad.com/l/ezayH>



Then why do you deny they exist?



4 months ago

i deny that UFO abductees exist b/c there's no such thing. that doesn't mean i hate people who claim to have been abducted by a UFO. i think they're mistaken about at least one thing.

"addicts" sometimes have big problems of some sort (sometimes not), but that doesn't make "addiction" a real thing.



Why do you hate people with addictions and other mental health problems?



4 months ago

i don't.



How did you learn to enjoy Sushi? Can I learn to enjoy it too? Raw meat sounds kinda disgusting.



4 months ago

> How did you learn to enjoy Sushi?

i tasted it.

> Can I learn to enjoy it too? Raw meat sounds kinda disgusting.

if you don't like it, don't eat it IMO. i don't see the point.

but if it just SOUNDS disgusting, try it... judge food by taste not sound.



Steve Bannon was extremely important. Will Trump get him back?



5 months ago

idk



I think Trump will not fulfill any of his promises. What do you think? & Bannon firing was bad too.



5 months ago

you're wrong/exaggerating. judge Gorsuch, for example.



Why don't you give a Ted talk? or a Defcon talk (you seem to like defcon).



5 months ago

the purpose of doing those conventions in person is for people to socialize. i'm not interested in trying to meet and persuade people via IRL socializing/networking. i'm not very good at it, and i think it's a bad approach. i focus on truth, not charisma, and especially not non-verbal charisma at real-time speed.

online does communication better. youtube videos are better than IRL talks, e.g. because they're asynchronous (you can watch at a different time than I talk) and has pause/rewind and playback speed controls. and you can't watch from home instead

of traveling.

i know they make youtube videos out of convention talks, but you can skip the convention and just make a youtube video and also optimize the video (like do video editing and put in helpful illustrations and Keynote slide images, rather than just a video of IRL. also doing multiple takes of some or all of it can help with quality but that isn't done with convention videos. these methods of improving videos are well known and commonplace in general, they just aren't done with convention talk videos because with conventions the video is secondary and tacked on).

and video isn't even the main format i use. writing is the best overall format. video has some advantages and i think it's good to make a variety of stuff, but writing is the best for clarity and precision.

i also don't respect TED and TED would not invite me.

i also don't see the point of more focus on outreach without a message that actually would persuade and reach many people. what would i say in the talk that would be effective? i have a lot of great points which people don't want to hear... i have not solved that problem.



Is receiving kidney transplant from a living donor against objectivism? The person donating is sacrificing for no benefit in return.



5 months ago

a variety of benefits for the donor are possible such as wanting their family member to be alive and healthy longer or being paid (maybe paying the donor is illegal in the US currently? i don't know. but if so it'd be that law, not the medical procedure, which clashes with Objectivism).



Is going against your feelings coercion? I procrastinated reading Rand, Popper etc because I didn't feel like reading.



5 months ago

why didn't you feel like it? you thought it was good in some way and bad in some way. you should resolve this conflict. sort out your problems.



What would I get by becoming a greater philosopher than Ayn Rand? Does someone need to be the greatest philosopher to be happy or rich? Don't most people get successful even by solving problems mediocrely. I also don't want to be hated a lot.. being disliked is fine but not hated. ✕

5 months ago

being vastly wiser would let you make much better decisions in your life about everything, and give you much better ability to solve problems you face.

of course some people get rich in other ways.

the happiness of bad thinkers is questionable, though. their lives are full of unsolved problems and evasions. and they are stuck in a lot of ways, rather than making unbounded beginning-of-infinity style progress about whatever they choose to work on.

your desire not to be hated is one of the many, many flaws you could fix if you were much wiser.



Was the rape scene necessary in Fountainhead? I am an extreme anti-feminist but I still feel it was unnecessary. Did Ayn Rand add that scene to trigger the feminists and make them understand the complexity of consent and sex? (that consent can be given non-verbally for sex) ✕

5 months ago

it wasn't a rape scene. rape is a violent crime. they flirted and then eventually banged. they like rough sex and roleplay.

Rand understates/underestimates the amount of verbal communication that it takes for people to understand each other well. in general, not just in this part of the book. she doesn't present a lot of minor misunderstandings getting cleared up. admittedly i think it's typical to omit those in fiction because they'd just be minor distractions (kinda like scenes where people go to the bathroom -- that's realistic but why put it in?), so that makes it harder to tell what she really thinks. but it's not purely a matter of omission, she also has comments about people judging/understanding others by their appearance and does some things to present some stuff as actually being low communication including the Roark/Dominique early phase relationship.

necessary is a strong word. i don't think it was *necessary*. i don't think the scene is a big deal which is enough to make it unnecessary.

I think Rand put the scene in because sex is part of life and she was sharing ideas about it rather than dodging the issue. I consider her comments about sex to be mixed -- I agree with some points (e.g. pro-happiness attitude), but Rand is more inclined towards traditional gender role kinda stuff than I agree with. she also made a comment against female Presidents. <https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=ayn+rand+female+president>



Why didn't Roark respect property rights? Why does he think he owns the building he designed? (He blew up buildings)



5 months ago

Roark had a contract with Keating which was not honored. and Keating in turn had a contract with others involved in the building project which was not honored.



Why do I like Gail Wynand so much? I want to have two faces. I want to like good (Your philosophy) but I also want to be a leftie appeaser theist for the world.



5 months ago

do your own thing, don't choose between other people.



What does this mean? " Philosophy doesn't match with his true values" Should we choose philosophies that suit our personalities? Shouldn't we choose good even if we don't like it?



5 months ago

dunno what it means. no context, no source, no explanation.
we should seek the truth and like it.



Why do you hate autistic people?



6 months ago

What???

I don't hate or even have a negative opinion of people called/labelled "autistic".



u admit ignorance about whether we should have gotten the moon, but you also make strong clear statements in your reply. Lots of people either hedge constantly, or argue points they lack knowledge about. How'd u learn to approach discussions and be firm but also humble? Seems beyond almost everyone



8 months ago

i know that i haven't studied the apollo program much. i know some philosophy relating to the government, scientific inquiry, etc. and i know some modern politics about government biases and propaganda. so i briefly said each of these. doesn't seem hard.

i know a lot about some relevant concepts (easy to be confident), but not a lot about the particular historical case (so maybe there's some details i don't know about that change the application of the concepts).

hedging doesn't help anything. i paid attention to hedges over time and put some attention into not doing them and noticing them and seeing what's bad about them and looking out for any times they were good.



Ah so there's a need to not just look at the visible tech progress but the unseen anti progress effects of govt involvement. But still that seems like a more NUANCED point than contradiction in terms



8 months ago

real scientific inquiry involves freedom to pursue ideas in an open-ended way, not predetermined government-overseer-set goals. you can see today how the government is largely destroying science in many areas in all countries. e.g. most environmental "science" is government propaganda.

i have no idea whether we should have gone to the moon at that particular time. i kind of doubt it on general principles because there are a great many urgent problems on Earth such as bad schools and aging. i suspect NASA misused a great deal of wealth because the government wanted a propaganda program -- which is

still having an effect on you decades later.



Lack of continued progress of space program doesn't negate prior progress tho rite? Contradiction in terms is really strong language!



8 months ago

you have no clue what we would have accomplished if the government stayed out of it.



If someone asks about rand quote "'Governmental scientific inquiry' is a contradiction in terms." and says "what about the apollo program" how would u respond



8 months ago

Where's our Mars colony? thx NASA :(



Would you answer my question if I give you 5\$? Is there a refund policy if you don't feel like answering a particular question.



8 months ago

depends on the question. i have to be interested in it or it could be super short to answer (like a yes/no question).

to actually hire my time would cost a lot more with questions that aren't super short. i charge a lot for paid work (more than \$100/hr to give you some indication. i don't want to post an actual rate in public for negotiation reasons. no one ever pays more than your posted rate! and also because i try to charge for value instead of time now). so it has to mostly be something i'd do anyway.

no refunds. you could say "i will send you \$5 if you answer this question" if you want and then send after. i would expect you to then pay regardless of answer quality. if you mean you will only send \$5 if you *like* my answer, then say that upfront and i'll have low expectations. on Twitch people routinely lie about sending money in the future ("I will subscribe if you..."). i'm willing to assume good faith from anonymous *once*, so i recommend no one be a liar and screw it up for everyone!



Should I force my old kid to pay me money?



8 months ago

no? i feel like there's something you aren't telling me. <http://curi.us/1944-questions>



Do you console depressed people?



8 months ago

no i don't do those social memes.



Do you have supernatural powers?



8 months ago

no



I've ordered that Sasaz book. In the meantime, what advice do you have for an addict having difficulty resisting the desire to act out?



8 months ago

<http://curi.us/1944-questions>



Your response to the person who told you about Tomi Lahren is a bit out of order. You asked a question, got the answer, and instead of thanking the person you just complained about them. Do you think that could have been done better? (There's your question). Happy new year.



8 months ago

they could have posted self-contained questions, instead of information about Tomi

Lahren with zero reference to any question about him or reason for posting it. don't make questions depend in an unstated way on something written elsewhere, such as in a prior question.

also i'd already answered. i don't know about him. that actually answered the original question about what i think (answer = i don't know). so the prior question was already addressed. if i actually wanted to know who Tomi is I would have googled. i was providing the information that i have no answer.



How do you kill depression? I am 50+ years old and I am too "broken" to do anything in life.



8 months ago

<http://curi.us/1944-questions>



I have started ripping minds apart cargo-culting you. People cry when I crit them and even say suicidal things. Should I stop? Should I not call people broken and list a hundred bad things about them when they come to me for help.



8 months ago

you could run some of your criticism by FI. maybe you're mistaken. maybe you're mean. i don't know.

you should learn more philosophy so your criticism can be more accurate and helpful. get more skilled before giving out tons of advice, especially since it's being poorly received!

did these people ask for criticism? i usually criticize the ideas of people who ask for it by coming to my forums, or public figures like authors.

you did say they came to you for help. maybe they didn't know what kind of help you offered though. maybe there's a miscommunication there. i try to be pretty clear about what sort of place FI is but people still have incorrect expectations sometimes.

getting people to cry openly and even say suicidal things out loud (usually people hide those even if they think it) sounds quite extreme and is a big warning sign to pause and reconsider and do more learning.



> who dat? Tomi Lahren is an American television and online video host, and a conservative political commentator. She currently hosts Tomi for TheBlaze.



8 months ago

use quotes that end ("here is a quote") b/c questions here don't have paragraph breaks to show where the quote ends. you don't seem like a conceptual thinker. you're just mindlessly copying an FI style where it doesn't work without thinking about why it's used and how it functions to indicate which text is and isn't quoted and how that isn't working here.

and make questions self-contained. you didn't ask a question here, at all.



In which country are taxes taken by force using armed enforcers? How and when? This isn't the middle ages. We pay tax by PAYE or as part of a payment. Are you seriously suggesting that soldiers turn up at your door to extract money from you?



8 months ago

the United States for example. if you don't pay your taxes, the "authorities" use a sequence of escalating measures to force you to pay, which includes potentially escalating to sending armed men to arrest you who will use guns if necessary. if you had a bunch of armed bodyguards or something so more than a couple cops were necessary, then the government could use a SWAT team or FBI raid team or whatever (trained armed gun fights).



What do you think of Tomi Loren? Should we get news from her?



8 months ago

who dat?



"u starving to death cuz u didn't want to work," - No-one has ever starved to death because they didn't want to work. Because they



couldn't *find* work, yes. "govt regulated industry so there's less jobs" - So it;s the government's fault, so shouldn't the govt feed them?

9 months ago

things will get better when govt does less stuff outside its proper role (protection from force -- courts, police, military), not increased as you propose.



How is welfare money taken by force? When? Who from? Never known it happen.



9 months ago

taxes are decided by the govt and taken with or without consent, using armed enforcers if necessary.



"bro, where does the welfare money come from? it's taken by force from individuals." - But killing poor people by denying them welfare is evil. Why can't people with money just suffer a little so that the poor can eat?



9 months ago

u starving to death cuz u didn't want to work, or cuz the govt regulated industry so there's less jobs, ain't a rich bro's fault.

it's also not what most welfare has to do with.

if ur idea is so great, PERSUADE some rich ppl.



"welfare involves force against individuals" - hardly ever. Almost all welfare recipients are much better off, even with their restrictions, than they would be otherwise. Isn't it better to be forced to obey some rules than be forced to rely on charity?



9 months ago

bro, where does the welfare money come from? it's taken by force from individuals.



The right to strike or the right to resign?



9 months ago

barring a contract stating otherwise, if you stop working (or for any other reason or no reason) you can be fired.



What does joy feel like? I don't think I have ever felt it. How is it different from pleasure?

John Dickey



9 months ago

who cares? what's something you actually want to accomplish where this comes up? how does this relate to some meaningful problem?



> depends why they're poor and weak. is it their fault? Most people who are poor are born poor. They have to start from -10 level when the middle class get to start from 0 and the rich from level 10+. They also get destroyed by their environment.



9 months ago

i disagree.

in the US, most people over age 30 are poor b/c they are immoral. they could have become non-poor if they were better people.

in various third world countries, most people over age 30 are poor b/c their government sucks. e.g. it's corrupt and doesn't protect them from violence and theft. some of these people can be blamed for lack of effort to move to a different region of the country or a different country, but others don't really have much opportunity to move.



Do you dislike the poor and the weak?



9 months ago

depends why they're poor and weak. is it their fault? is it b/c of their immoral ideas and choices? i dislike ppl who are destructive, for example, which is one way to become poor. i dislike people who are weak because they decide not to try to accomplish much.



**Can't you have a big welfare system and an individualistic society?
Poor people can be thinkers too if they get 24/7 holiday.**



9 months ago

welfare involves force against individuals



**If you've paid a ton of money in taxes, is it immoral to claim welfare
and take the money back?**



9 months ago

no



**Shouldn't some freedoms be taken away? For Eg- Freedom to create
Babies. Horrible people are always multiplying and their children are
suffering. No Welfare means they will suffer more. Why shouldn't
there be a license to create babies?**



9 months ago

the govt would really fucking suck at licensing parenting-competence and it'd really suppress unconventional ideas. what a disgusting idea. you don't respect freedom.



**If I am bad at judging new ideas. How do I prevent new bad ideas
from being installed and at the same time not judge a new idea
through the filters of prejudice and emotions?**



9 months ago

what are you GOOD at? what resources and skills do you have? make use of those.



What is the best way to ask questions? Asking a hundred questions about a single topic with lots of back and forth or touching many topics quickly to get an idea about the philosophy.



9 months ago

depends on your situation. you don't bring up any advantages or disadvantages you think are relevant to some choice you face. so vague.



Why is Greece so bad at Capitalism & Philosophy when they should be best at it? Why don't they read and understand their own philosophy?



9 months ago

greece today doesn't have much to do with ancient greece.



Don't you need to fear illness and its costs to buy insurance, Fear Hillary victory to care for politics, fear big mistakes that could ruin life etc?



9 months ago

you don't have to feel fear to budget money for healthcare. you can be logically aware of the value of healthcare, the possibility of illness, etc.

your comments here are just nonsense. you're arguing with some kinda strawman that has nothing to do with my views and which you don't explain. you've got some kinda background context with some concepts about fear and caring that you haven't explained at all and they are wrong and have nothing to do with me.



If people should be doing good not for the sake of avoiding bad consequences how do you remain cautious and be responsible? Is it



a percentage question? motivation 80% - doing good 20% - personal responsibility and avoiding bad consequences.

9 months ago

doing good requires doing lots of error correction. drop the effort directed at error correction and you'll do bad.



What do you think of Nathaniel Branden's self-esteem books?



9 months ago

didn't read cuz Branden sux.



Is it bad parenting that caused most of the world's population passive?



9 months ago

it's static memes, and bad parenting is the #1 issue there, but is not solely responsible. non-parents do a lot. that includes teachers, peers, TV, uncles, many sources of information about our culture.

consider peers. suppose Billy's parents are much better than average and he's like 4 years old. his parents haven't told him some typical bad ideas. but his 4 year old friends have been treated worse and know more bad ideas than Billy, and tell him.



Why do anti-thinking people attack Good ideas dishonestly instead of clearing doubts by asking questions?



9 months ago

why do anti-thinking people use low-thinking methods instead of rational methods that would involve a bunch of thinking? is that the question? cuz they are anti-thinking. discussing honestly involves thinking.



Why did most Captains of Industry betray Ayn Rand?

9 months ago

dunno what you mean by "betray" her. wouldn't that require they be on her side in the first place? but most of them were simply never Objectivists.



Can PUA make someone second-handed? & if someone doesn't care about their looks how can be good at PUA?

9 months ago

PUA helps paying adult clients and seeks repeat customers.

PUA doesn't pressure and mind-fuck people about this stuff like parents/schools/our-culture.

PUA provides honest information about how our culture works. This honesty clashes with our culture and so lots of people dislike PUA. PUA's honesty makes it harm, rather than help, the spread of the static memes involved.



***when in doubt, eat small portions, wait a bit, see if you're still hungry or not. eat more if still hungry. people often overeat b/c it takes them some time after eating to realize they aren't hungry anymore.* For pizza? maybe But how does that apply to candy? I eat candy arbitrarily not when hngry**

9 months ago

candy is food. you should only eat it when hungry. like all food.

since you're irrational about candy, you should try getting your fill instead of eating bits here and there. buy all the candy you want and eat nothing but candy until you'd rather eat something else.



Should we try to persuade old anti-thinking people to change? Is it worth the time and efforts?

9 months ago

depends on lots of things. but what are you getting out of it? if you're benefitting, it's not such a big deal whether you convert them and get resources from them or something.

andbtw what do you mean "we", and persuade them of what? unless you're one of a small handful of people who i doubt wrote this anonymous ask.fm question (since they prefer e.g. FI list and generally put a name of some sort) ... then you need to become persuaded of good ideas yourself before you can go convert the world. and that will involve things like FI discussion.



Is there such a thing called " Too much or Over Thinking"? How do you avoid it?



9 months ago

there's such thing as trying to be more precise when it doesn't actually matter to solving the problem you care about. there's poorly directed effort that isn't going towards solving the problems you want to solve. there's thoughtlessly trying to solve "problems" that don't matter for what you're doing.



Will Anti-capitalist sentiment among people reduce under Trump Presidency?



9 months ago

no. Trump sucks at economics. Hillary's even worse but Trump's no capitalist.
<http://curi.us/1804-donald-trump-is-a-protectionist>



Candy is good. Attacking it because we don't have self-control is bad. But how do we decide the amount of candy to eat?



9 months ago

only eat when hungry. stop when not hungry.

when in doubt, eat small portions, wait a bit, see if you're still hungry or not. eat more if still hungry. people often overeat b/c it takes them some time after eating to realize they aren't hungry anymore.



Does learning programming cause suffering/pain?



9 months ago

no. like learning most anything, it can if you hate learning, aren't interested, etc. but doesn't have to hurt.



Who shouldn't pursue to become a knowledge worker? Is it too late for some people to become a knowledge worker?



9 months ago

maybe don't change careers if you're aged 100.
knowledge work is better though. thinking is what people are good at.



If you actively judge, prioritize and choose a lot in day. Would that mean you have a motor?



9 months ago

maybe.
and you sound suspiciously like you're fishing for compliments.



Have you tried PUA? How effective is it? What if the girl gets you arrested for using it?



9 months ago

" What if the girl gets you arrested for using it?"
the fuck are you talking about. you can't be arrested for being charming, socially calibrated, and well-liked.



I procrastinate doing things I value a lot to do things that are easy



and time killing. How do I stop that?

9 months ago

you're lying about your values



Why is there no *Jew Lives Matter*?



9 months ago

b/c today the left generally doesn't use Jews as a victim group for political advantage. they find other groups more convenient. it'd be hard to use Jews given e.g. they want BDS.



What should Chronic procrastinators do to be productive?



9 months ago

do something they value doing, instead of something that someone else values them doing.



What is the path forward for Anti-American Socialists?



9 months ago

there are lots of things they could do to make progress in their lives such as learning about Popper.



Is Entertainment bad for passive people? I think it makes them evade life and thinking more.



9 months ago

no, you have cause and effect wrong. TV isn't the problem. it doesn't make people do anything.

if someone doesn't want to think, depriving them of TV wouldn't get them thinking.



Have you watched the Atlas Shrugged movies & Fountain head movie? What do you think about them?



9 months ago

the Atlas Shrugged movies are awful.

i didn't like any Objectivism related movie stuff I've seen enough to recommend it.



Would philosophy spread faster if Donald Trump endorsed and helped objectivism? Why won't he do that?



9 months ago

it'd help if he actually knew what he was talking about. if he was the same thinker as today (who e.g. is clueless about economics) but told people to read Objectivism, i don't think it'd be terribly helpful.

he doesn't advocate Objectivism because he doesn't understand or value Objectivism, and doesn't like what little he knows.



Why do you like South Park?



9 months ago

funny plus insightful (sees through and attacks lots of typical lies) plus dense content.



Why was Popper a socialist?



9 months ago

that's pretty harsh. let's just say he didn't understand capitalism or write much about it.



What are your favorite movies?



9 months ago

south park movie.



Can Catholics read Ayn Rand and be Objectivists?



9 months ago

and stay Catholics? only with some contradictions. Catholicism is false.

but it's not as if the non-Catholics are free of contradictions and mistakes. Catholics shouldn't be particularly discouraged.



What type(s) of music do you like?



9 months ago

various but electronic is best. like techno, trance, i don't pay much attention to the names.



which of szasz's books would you recommend about addictions?



9 months ago

Ceremonial Chemistry: The Ritual Persecution of Drugs, Addicts, and Pushers, Revised Edition



(oops). Why do you think Szasz is so knowledgeable about addiction? With respect, you seem to know nothing about it. I've been clean for two years, but with help from those who know. Can I ask that you read some stuff by David Smallwood or Patrick Carnes?



9 months ago

cuz i've read Szasz and he has high quality reasoning.

if Szasz got something wrong, point it out.

does Smallwood or Carnes quote Szasz and then argue against something Szasz said? if not, do you or anyone else have an argument that Szasz was wrong which involves them in some way?

and you're mistaken to think me and/or szasz doesn't know what we're talking about on account of not having the same views as you. that's unreasonable. disagreeing with you is not evidence of ignorance.



W



9 months ago

?



Should the judiciary be subject to political control?



9 months ago

i don't know what you want to compare with what



Is being a philosopher more fun than being an average ignorant person?



9 months ago

waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay more fun. i have so much fun -- and higher quality fun -- that you can't even conceive of it. i mean you can't right now. learn philosophy and things can change.



What GDP growth would you expect in an hypothetical Randian USA?



9 months ago

like a number? i don't know i never tried to calculate it. a lot more. GDP is a shitty

metric anyway though.



Shouldn't I smoke like Ayn Rand to be a good thinker?



9 months ago

no. and note that Ayn Rand never wrote an argument that you should smoke to be a good thinker. i'm not even aware of her claiming you should smoke at all.

this is like the people who dye their hair to be more like howard roark. don't do that! that's superficial!



Are there jobs better than Freelance Programming?



9 months ago

sure. US President. Apple CEO. writing a column and best sellers which say what you want to say (rather than compromising to appease your audience as is common), like Ann Coulter does.

broadly, knowledge work is good, and manual labor is bad. being a programmer minimizes manual labor. lots of knowledge workers -- e.g. laboratory scientists -- end up doing some manual labor like washing vials out or moving stuff from one table to another table or measuring the right amount of a chemical. limited amounts of manual labor like that are ok (just like the labor of typing is ok). some jobs have too much and some don't.



Should Philosophers drink coffee or vape tobacco? Do you recommend any good sobering drugs for thinkers?



9 months ago

there is no special reason they should, and i don't recommend it.

if you want to do something outside of thinking/learning itself to try to help your mind, i suggest: *get plenty of sleep*.



Did you delete your prev questions?

9 months ago

no



My question is, what practical help do you think can be given to Joe and people like him? My other question is, how will Mr. Szas's books help him?

9 months ago

his problem is bad ideas. books share good ideas.

as for practical help, e.g. one of his friends could give him a couch to sleep on, some tea, and use of a shower.



Joe doesn't need, or want, libraries of text books. What he needs, and wants when he can think straight, is practical help. He can't pay you, he has no money. Force as a government agent? Eh? I didn't ask about that (unless you're the secret police).

9 months ago

Szasz's books are not text books and you don't seem to have a question here.

As a private citizen, what will I do for Joe? Is that your question? You don't state it. My answer to that: write essays he may not read. You can call my answer "nothing" if you want to. I don't know Joe and I have other things to do.



Example: Joe is hooked on heroin. Because of his addiction, he has lost his marriage, his home and his job. He now lives on the streets and survives by begging and soup kitchens. Any money goes to his dealer for another fix. What would you do for him?

9 months ago

why would i do something for him? is he asking for anything?

one thing i'd like someone to do for him –but not me personally, i have other interests – is run a *cheap* *for profit* rehab center for voluntary self-paying clients only. lots of rehab centers are either charities or oriented towards wealthy people. but there's really no reason they can't be cheap plus for-profit. and if you get it both cheap and effective enough, you can offer payment plans on the basis that you actually help people enough they end up paying you back.

there is other help available to Joe. e.g. we have libraries where he can read the books of Thomas Szasz. but i'm guessing he doesn't want to. and your question is really about what i'm willing to do TO Joe, by force, as a powerful government agent, rather than what i'll do FOR him.



Your solution to the drugs problem. (I thought that's what we were talking about). Freedom good, force bad ... absolutely. I wasn't arguing, you brought it up. So what do you think should be done to help people addicted to drugs, alcohol, etc?



10 months ago

i have no idea what "the drugs problem" is.

some people have problems in their lives. some of those problems involve drugs in some partial way.

as usual, they should help themselves. this includes requesting and paying for help from others. it doesn't include the government.

you can help individuals you know, if they want your help, and you want to give it.

if you have a particular question about how to help people in some situation, you'll have to be more specific. drug use varies lots. as a generic answer i'd say get them some Thomas Szasz books.



You brought up taking money by force. So what would be your solution?



10 months ago

solution to what? freedom is good. force is bad. get over it.



Taking your money against your will is exactly what will happen because the addicts will need it to buy their fix. Who else do you think is going to? And what would your solution be?



10 months ago

it sounds like you assume all drug users are criminal thieves. that's prejudiced and doesn't fit the facts. and it doesn't fit the "innocent until proven guilty" approach to crime.

you've also changed the subject from taking money via taxes to taking money via burglary. i think you're just throwing ad hoc arguments at me in a one-sided way.



So it's ok for people to get hooked on drugs etc but not ok to help them to recover? You'd be ok with albies and druggies in the streets and all the problems that would follow?



10 months ago

i'm not ok with INITIATION OF FORCE. i am ok with freedom, including the freedom to shoot yourself in the foot, commit suicide, or ruin your life. but if you ruin your life, you don't get to take my money, against my will, to try to fix your problems.

i didn't say anything about letting people live on the street and commit petty crime. i'm in favor of law enforcement.



Should recreational drugs be decriminalised and the money previously used for enforcement put towards treatment and rehabilitation?



10 months ago

decriminalization is ok but the govt should not pay for treatment or rehabilitation. you wanna take drugs, you pay for the FULL costs. no subsidies for pot smokers.



Should we be selling arms to Saudi Arabia?



10 months ago

no. not without first insisting on some changes/demands/conditions. saudi arabia might be able to be an ally. but we have to ask them to do some stuff and they have to agree.



Why is recycling bad? Is it better or worse than landfill, and why?



11 months ago

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/04/opinion/sunday/the-reign-of-recycling.html?_r=0

i don't agree with everything here like the \$15 per ton of landfill tax. but think about that. they are saying they calculated the harm of landfill, in terms of environmentalism, at an extra \$15 per 2000 lbs above what getting rid of garbage currently costs. if we accept their number ... it's tiny. not worth the human effort to recycle. individuals doing recycling would save far far less than minimum wage. there's so many better things to spend your time on than making the effort to recycle 5 lbs of stuff today for 3.75 cents.



That doesn't say what's actually wrong with getting energy from stuff other than fossil fuels. And why is recycling bad? Isn't it better than huge piles of yuk?



11 months ago

what are you talking about? the book has the word "solar" 101 times for example.



What's wrong with recycling and using renewable energy?



11 months ago

<http://www.moralcaseforfossilfuels.com>



You said that a two-party system is better because it avoids compromises. I proposed that a compromise is better than a government that can do as it pleases and introduce extreme and



unpopular laws which benefit only itself and its cronies. Why do you think compromises are bad?

11 months ago

read Bol.



Surely a compromise is better than a party pushing through extreme policies with no viable opposition (except in the general population, who have no say in the matter)?



11 months ago

i'm unclear on what you're trying to argue with.



And should there be scope for more parties across the spectrum, and why or why not?



11 months ago

two party elections avoid compromises better. DD talks about elections in his book, see <http://beginningofinfinity.com>



Ref Clinton, can you elaborate? Specifically giving nukes to Iran and making SCOTUS anti-American - in what way? (I think all governments expand whichever party they are).



11 months ago

follow breitbart.com and frontpagemag.com for a few months in order to get a handle on what's going on.



Why should the President not be directly elected?



11 months ago

the US states matter, and there should be checks and balances on the "will of the people" or whatever too.



In what way(s) do you see Mrs Clinton destroying civilization?



11 months ago

giving Iran nukes, expanding government, anti-American SCOTUS



We have a choice between the awful and the obnoxious. Has the time come to end the two party system? And, should we disband the electoral college and have a directly elected President?



11 months ago

No, no.

Hillary wants to destroy civilization and Trump wants to protect it.

<http://curi.us/1911-forget-the-trump-tape>



Why should I join your philosophy newsletter?



<http://fallibleideas.com/newsletter>

12 months ago

to get updates on Taking Children Seriously, Autonomy Respecting Relationships, Popperian and Objectivist philosophy, and more! my work is important. follow along and see why.



What are cps?



12 months ago

Common Preferences. these are ways of proceeding that everyone prefers, so no one suffers.



Why are you curious to find mistakes in DD's book now? After all these years.



12 months ago

i have been interested in any mistakes in DD's books the entire time. it's nothing new. it's good to find mistakes so you can improve things.



why do you use privacy as a means of fraud and abuse?



over 1 year ago

1) what? i don't.

2) you post nasty stuff on my ask.fm anonymously.

how about next time you post a comment i find kinda abusive, i take away your privacy by revealing your name. sound like fun? or do you maybe see some value in broader privacy protections to enable you and others to speak your mind more freely?



i think you've just broken her. how does it feel to ruin someone's life?



over 1 year ago

i don't know since that's not what happened. why do you think you know what happened?



Why does Lulie keep supporting you? After all the shit you caused her?



over 1 year ago

cuz she has some integrity and some good ideas



i think it would make more sense to ask for evidence that they were interested in sleeping with him at all. pua seems to exploit the fact nerds just don't know many women and see anything - friendliness or even just having a conversation as a sign of interest



over 1 year ago

ok bro



Then how come Cajun won? Keys to the vip is a CONTEST Hosts said he was the best they'd seen



over 1 year ago

good point



i don't see anything really impressive in this video. he asked two girls for a number and they gave it to him. The last girl was drunk. Clearly he's not afraid of talking to women but so aren't most guys. i'm pretty sure none of these women have or would sleep with him in due course.



over 1 year ago

he opened by saying people look retarded, and then saved it. and he uses PUA techniques throughout and it works much much better than most ppl doing this stuff.

> Clearly he's not afraid of talking to women but so aren't most guys.

where did you get that nonsense?

> i'm pretty sure none of these women have or would sleep with him in due course.

evidence?



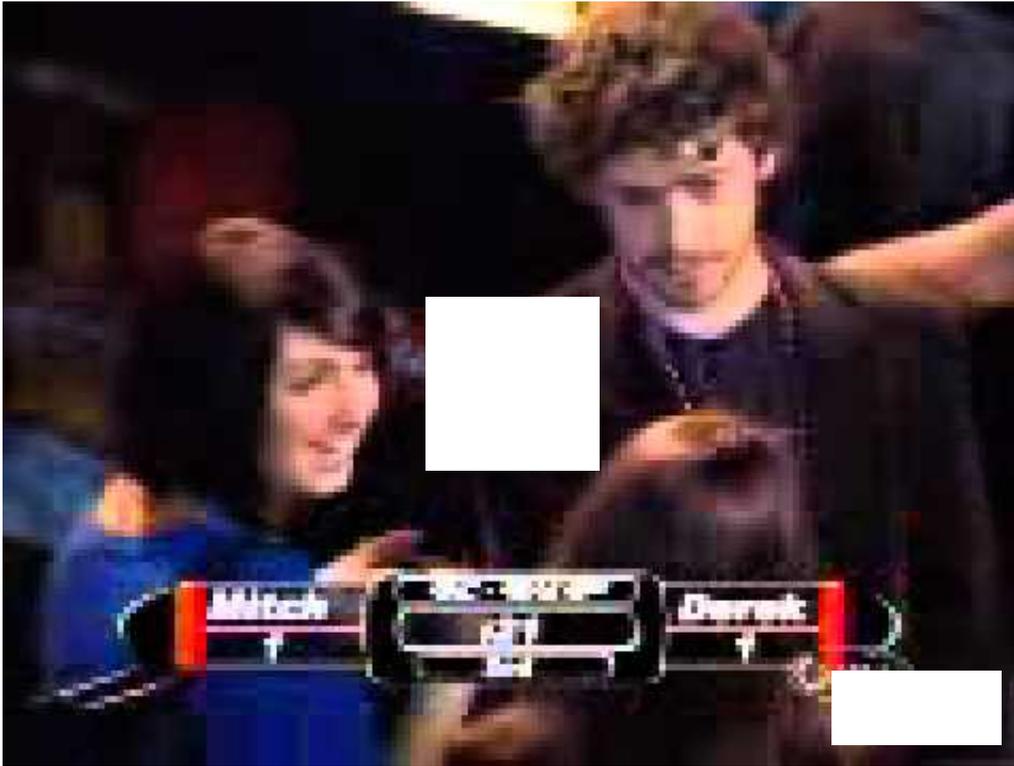
can you link a video of it working? i don't believe most of these reports ... this things can easily be made up, there are incentives to lie it seems to be a very lucrative business... but i am open minded



over 1 year ago

well most reports are from people who aren't selling anything.

here's a vid of Cajun (a PUA) on some show:



i think they are a fraud for fragile nerds to fall for. i also don't think any of these people actually get laid. do you think they do? why?



over 1 year ago

well, there are infield videos of PUA working, and i've talked with people who've had it work, and plenty of people have written on usenet and reddit about their experiences



why do you not think pua is creepy? saw that thread on open oxford...



over 1 year ago

PUA's awesome! they took this field where people were super irrational and used some methods of reason and science to figure out how it works better. lots of

serious discussion, field tests, and actually optimism that problems are solvable and this isn't just inherently mysterious.



I appreciate you writing something so that it shows up. My line of thought wouldn't have been complete without this last post.



over 1 year ago

.



The fact that you've just ignored the examples I pointed to is also telling. You seem to discuss for no reason other than that you can lie to yourself how great you are and how other people suck. Sadly(luckily) nobody will affirm this crazy notion for you.



over 1 year ago

(your stuff doesn't show up unless i write something)



Pick any thread you've ever had with Lulie, Richard, Rami, Seph ... anybody other than David basically. It will almost surely exemplify that. You're also obsessed with authority. The reason you don't see that is probably that authorities you're obsessed with aren't very conventional.



over 1 year ago

So, no examples.



You hardly share them when discussing things with people. You should engage with the ideas that people you're discussing with have. But as I was saying you lie to yourself bout being interested in any of this. You seem to be more interested in people thinking of you



as great. Which you're failing at

over 1 year ago

examples?



The fact that you constantly ask people to ask you questions rather than engage with their ideas and share yours is something someone seriously interested in progress and discussion wouldn't do. You asked for specific cases where you lie to yourself. 300 characters was too few. I have more.



over 1 year ago

which ideas should i engage with more/differently?

i do share ideas



You lie to yourself about your lists being anything but a place where you get to scream at people. You're lying to yourself when you pretend all those groups that kick you out don't kick you out for real reasons. You're lying to yourself that you're interested in philosophy.



over 1 year ago

got arguments?

also if you aren't going to ask questions, maybe you'd prefer the open thread at my blog? <http://curi.us/1785-fallible-ideas-unformatted>



How much do you think you lie to yourself?



over 1 year ago

Some. idk. how should i know?

if anyone can point out any specific cases, that'd be real helpful.



u seem like u h8 trans ppl and and dnt care abt them or even want to lsten to thm, whats ur problem with trans ppl? y wnt you acctpt that their just born that way and dnt have a choice and jst want to be accepted for who they r? theres lots of proof of this! 

over 1 year ago

what won't i listen to? what proof?

i consider genetic determinism false. to start learning why, see Objectivism or join my discussion group and read Bol and ask what Bol (<http://beginningofinfinity.com>) says about it <https://fallibleideas.com/discussion-info>



How old are you? 

over 1 year ago

420



And, I never confuse or coerce people; sometimes they make a mistake, but that's easily fixed. You really do need to talk to some trans people ton find out the facts. 

over 1 year ago

This one is the fault of ask.fm setting a length limit on questions.



As a trans man, I knew what I was well before puberty. Puberty was awful. I didn't dare tell anyone. My parents allowed me, grudgingly, to have short hair. I am now happier than ever. Pressure not to change back? None, though plenty of pressure not to change to start with. 

over 1 year ago

This isn't a question. I guess your point is you're biased, taking the issue personally, and relying on an argument from authority.



Do you count the number of things you learn from or teach to people?



over 1 year ago

No I don't count. But when it's less than 5, it's easy to remember if you try.



Re: your biggest unsolved problem being that you want a peer (or above you) to discuss ideas with. What would someone need to be like to count as a peer?



over 1 year ago

loosely: for every 100 things i teach them, a peer should be able to teach me 20-500 things. (500 means i taught them 20% as much as they taught me. more or less than this range and there's a big skill gap)

they should know tons of great stuff i know (like what's in many of the most important books), instead of being way way behind. they should be able to teach me stuff, win arguments with me (loosely, peer is someone where each of u are winning at least 20% of the arguments).

they should be able to contribute to progress, instead of just trying to catch up to what i already know.



If we accept that mental illness is a myth, are there legitimate forms of coercion in situations where laws are not broken?



over 1 year ago

I'm guessing you mean with ideal laws with no loopholes.

I don't know if by "coercion" you mean force or TCS-coercion. (What is TCS-coercion? This: <http://fallibleideas.com/coercion>)

If you mean force, no you shouldn't force people who aren't doing anything wrong. No you shouldn't initiate lawbreaking.

If you mean TCS-coercion, then it depends how you assign responsibility. If I decline someone's offer, they might get TCS-coerced.



re trans stuff, what about kids who identify as the other gender? do you think that is about sex? or is it something different than adults who are trans?

over 1 year ago

if kid is pretty young, then that's usually about bad parents, bad culture.

parents do stuff like: not let kid have the haircut, toys, dress they want.

then if kid fights with parent over it (common), a lot (somewhat less common), certain parents will think like "well if kid is trans, then they can have the stuff they want" and offer that as the one way to get it.

they'll read trans propaganda/advocacy and find it appealing and get drawn into that stuff.

some parents like the LGBT community, like being involved in something progressive like trans, etc. or have the background ideas so once they find out about it, they'll like it.

one of the awful things here (applies to trans people in general, and e.g. homosexuals too, but especially awful here) is the pressure not to change back.



it takes time and effort to learn PUA stuff. it's ok, it works. but if you want sex with another person: just have it with a guy. no bullshit. save time. put your creativity into more worthwhile projects than getting a female. if you prefer females - change your preferences. Thoughts?

over 1 year ago

changing from MF to MM sexual preferences is a LOT more work than learning PUA for a typical member of our culture.



What do you do for a living?

over 1 year ago

Philosophy and programming. Freelance. You can hire me! I'm really good.



If someone is male but identifies as female (or vice-versa) what is a better solution to their conflict than what they mostly do - some combination of elective surgery, a lifetime of confusing the shit out of everyone and coercing people who aren't even remotely interested?



over 1 year ago

Reconsider genderroles themselves. Learn philosophy and use that to deal with it better.



Me, hostile? The readers will judge. My "source" is personal experience and knowledge. Why do you think what you do? Where does your opinion come from? And what do you actually mean by "Fuck with people in public" and "Do the trans thing"?



over 1 year ago

So, you have only anecdotes. If you want to discuss ideas, why don't you come to FI list?



So no answer then.



over 1 year ago

make ur question less hostile. mb give ur own sources instead of demanding mine (i don't even know what sort of sources you have in mind – i see it as a philosophy issue, and i don't see you as interested in philosophy)



Why do you disagree? What's your source of information? You need to speak to someone who knows all about being trans - like a trans person. Try learning about it before spouting your mouth off.



over 1 year ago

u mad?



You're completely wrong. Gender dysphoria is not about sex, it's about how our internal gender (what we know we are) differs from how our bodies have developed. "Fuck with people in public"? "Do the trans thing"? What are you on about? Consequences? Of course. The doctor explained that.



over 1 year ago

I disagree.



Do you think all trans people are engaging in "fetishes, kinks and role play"?



over 1 year ago

Something like that, yeah. It's a sex thing! Yes they also like to fuck with people in public, but the sex stuff is a big part of it.

I'm skeptical any significant numbers of abstinent-for-life types do the trans thing. I think approximately all of them care about the sexual consequences of being trans.



Both major parties, and some minor ones, have female candidates for the presidential election. Is the US ready for a woman president?



over 1 year ago

Well, which female candidate is actually good?

I admit Hillary is no worse than Obama(a man). But she's an awful candidate.

I'd vote for Ann Coulter for president in a heartbeat. I don't mind female presidents. I never agreed with Rand about that. Yes a larger percentage of the male population would make a decent president – men more often have the right traits. But that doesn't matter. The people running for president are not a random sample, they are self-selected unusual people.



What's your opinion of Caitlyn Jenner?



over 1 year ago

Bruce Jenner shouldn't be getting much attention. Who cares about his fetishes, kinks and role play that he wants to take outside the bedroom? Why is that in public? (Answer: because the radical left wants to attack traditional values and lifestyles, for the sake of destruction.)



How is Obama's Iran deal?



over 1 year ago

Fucking horrific. <http://curi.us/1763-terrible-iran-deal>



What's the best thing you can purchase for \$5?



over 1 year ago

get some iOS apps. super efficient value for money there



Suppose you are trying to implement the idea of getting good at something or finding a path to mastery. What criteria should you use to pick what to focus on? Are there any things you should exclude outright?



over 1 year ago

try to criticize your choice. there isn't a list of possible criticisms. you need to think creatively, and you should also get criticism from others. but there's some common issues i can mention:

choose something you'll actually do. don't just pick the "most rational" thing you aren't interested in, then never do it. you'll probably need to pick something you already are interested in, or find it really natural to get interested in just for fun.

consider if your interest has enough depth. like Tic Tac Toe is too easy. you can learn the whole thing pretty fast and finish. it's fine to learn Tic Tac Toe if you want, but you should be prepared to move on. (either to new interests, or stuff like mathematically

solving Tic Tac Toe with any size board and possibly some other rule changes). the point is, for this mastery purpose, you want something where you can keep developing your skill and keep increasing it and getting better and better, so it needs to be a big thing with a lot of stuff to learn to keep improving.

look at whether other people do your interest and talk about it. you could do something alone if you really wanted, but there's some major downsides. if your interest is popular, there's gonna be books to teach it to you, and people will answer questions on online forums, that can be really helpful. if you try to go it alone, it can be really hard to tell if you're doing a good job. if there's other people who are better at it than you, you can compare what you're doing to them and learn about ways you're doing it wrong that you wouldn't have noticed otherwise. and if you get stuck, you can ask someone who already solved that issue for a tip.

does your interest lead into other interests well? if it has some connections to politics, starting your own business, math, chemistry, physics, programming or writing, or other great BIG stuff, that's good. it can help you approach those things and one day transition into doing some of them too.



What's so great about PUA?



over 1 year ago

PUA has GENUINE ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE about some social issues where quality, detailed, precise RATIONAL knowledge is rare. They act like scientists in a field where other people don't.

To turn the question around, consider what rivals or alternatives to PUA are any good? PUA is pretty good and the other stuff is bad, so it makes a big gap when you compare.



What do you think of abortion? Should it be allowed in all cases, some cases, no cases except rape or where the mother's life is at risk, or not at all regardless of any other factor?



over 1 year ago



00:00

-01:11



Why do you think there aren't more women in politics? Do you think people pay more attention to female politicians than male ones?
Thank you for your answer. Lucas



over 1 year ago

I agree there is substantial audience bias. There's also a bump for being female in politics, because it's trendy. But overall audience perceptions are worse for women –and the feminist bump would go away if politics was 50% female.

But that's not the main issue. The main issue is that that audience perception actually has some truth to it.

Fewer women want to do hard things in life, deal with especially challenging and risky careers, or think a lot. Fewer women want to be politicians. Fewer women want to be dragged through the mud (if they ever get high enough to be noticed!). Then, even if you do a great job for 20 years, you could at any moment get pushed out of politics over some stupid incident, like an unguarded comment picked up by a mic that gets taken out of context and misunderstood. Politics is pretty harsh and tough and competitive, and the median outcome of a political career isn't great – you aim high but most people don't make it. (Women more often prefer career paths where most people get a pretty good outcome, with less extreme results either upward or downward.)

So, why are women worse people? Are they oppressed by the patriarchy? No. Short answer: because our culture and static memes make women one way, and men another way (lots of overlap, some differences) and the male way happens to be better overall (what? did you expect them to just randomly be exactly equal?).

Who teaches women (and men!) to be the way they are? #1 answer: their mothers. Mothers have the biggest role in raising children.



Why don't all these people asking questions join your Fallible Ideas discussion group and ask you stuff there?



over 1 year ago

I don't know. They should join at <http://fallibleideas.com/discussion>



Suppose you are having a consistent thinking problem where in certain situations you find yourself very attached to certain assumptions which may not be very warranted, and you find it very hard to think "outside the box" of those assumptions. Is there a general strat for fixing this?



over 1 year ago

If you learn some really unconventional and extreme ideas, which you initially disagree with, that could help. It could be good practice. Like learn capitalism, liberalism, reason, critical thinking and problem solving. Those are completely outside the box for our culture, so they could expand your mind.

The more general strategy is just to learn the proper methods of thinking – from Objectivism, Critical Rationalism and Fallible Ideas.



Why do most people not truly want to live?



over 1 year ago

Parents/teachers/culture/static-memes beat the life out of them at a young age. It didn't regenerate later. Hence the living dead – people who had their soul destroyed but still have a body.



@ Eddie reply & aiming higher, why would you "suggest that to most other people first before bothering Eddie"? I'd think that you'd wanna focus on encouraging the already good people to aim higher



first.

over 1 year ago

well i meant most people could really use the advice more and are much worse than Eddie, and more deserving of negative comments.

you're right the people who are already pretty good are more inclined to listen. so good point.



What are the top 5 problems with the modern Objectivist movement?



over 1 year ago

no discussion or worthwhile forums, no great people, no Karl Popper ideas/understanding, leftist sympathies, and ARI



Is it possible to appreciate a "strong woman" in an alpha way, or is wanting a strong woman tied up with betaness? If it's possible to do it in alpha way, how can you tell the difference between that and beta approach?



over 1 year ago

If you were REALLY confident, totally secure in your frame, and totally seeking the BEST in ALL things ... you wouldn't be scared of a (mentally, morally) strong woman in the slightest, you'd be thrilled.

You still wouldn't pedestal her though. You wouldn't try to win her over primarily with compliments. You wouldn't say how far above you she is. You'd still be looking to have and offer value yourself, and expecting her to appreciate it, like normal. A particularly great woman would be particularly suited to appreciate value that isn't conventionally appreciated much (e.g. skill at Objectivism), so that'd be awesome.



Was Eddie Willers a beta orbiter in terms of his relationship with Dagny? Would learning PUA have helped him?



over 1 year ago

Eddie wasn't the best/greatest in life and was OK with that – and therefore couldn't date Dagny (who did strive for the TOP). You could tell him to aim higher, but I'd suggest that to most other people first before bothering Eddie. PUA wouldn't address this broader issue.



I aim for the best thing possible. I don't think you do. What do you think?



over 1 year ago

What's the context? Are you the healthcare guy? Assuming so: Do you realize lots of medicine would never exist in the first place if you destroy the economy? And we'd have so many more cures today if not for the anti-capitalism of the past? What about all the treatments that would cost \$20, but don't even exist, because you don't care about liberal principles like freedom?

I think capitalism, freedom, liberalism, etc, are the best thing possible.



***You* have pancreatic cancer. It's 2025. There's a cure...but it's available only to people with \$2 million...which you don't have. U have less than \$1000 and doctors say 1 month to live without the one and only known treatment. Happily no Obamacare and u don't live in Australia. Do u beg?**



over 1 year ago

Why am I so poor? Am I an irresponsible loser who never bothered to learn any productive skills? Doesn't sound like me, sounds like a different person.

Since I'm a different person, can I have like a million twitter followers? Then sure I'll beg them. But without them, i'm kinda worried begging won't come up with \$2mil.

i would have tried arguing about how i'm such a valuable philosopher, so save me so i can be productive ... but you seem to have decided for the hypothetical that i spend the next 10 years losing all my money and canceling my health insurance, instead of being productive. so maybe i won't be very convincing.



If health care free at the point of need is bad, what should be done



about people who don't have the money to pay? Sould they have to rely on goodwill of others, or just left to suffer and manage as best they can?

over 1 year ago

They should solve their own problems and/or get VOLUNTARY help.

When they cannot persuade Joe to help voluntarily – Joe thinks something else is a better use of Joe's money – then they shouldn't pull out a gun (or the equivalent like the government sending firm letters to pay up, backed up by guns if necessary).

when there is a DISAGREEMENT about whether John's medical treatment is the best use of Joe's money, FORCE IS NOT THE ANSWER.



Not necesarrily knowledge. Just some sort of value. What fundamental value does a baby have? Why do they get rights for having no value? Or do we all just have to give them handouts no matter how we feel about it?



over 1 year ago

A baby is a person –a universal knowledge creator. He can think, like you.

The exact point of development to a thinking person, or transition period, is not known. To be on the safe side, no killing babies!!

Note: children must start learning well before you see results such as language and motor skills. Learning precedes successful results. I think by quite a bit of time. (And learning to understand some language precedes speaking any words, again by quite a bit.)



Because someone who has finished high school and is terrible might have poor value but must have still learned stuff like language maybe has other knowledge unrelated to school. Killing them would be destroying that. Babies have no such value. So why not kill them if they are broken?



over 1 year ago

I was hoping you'd say human beings have rights, rather than saying that people have to earn their place among the non-murdered with valuable knowledge.



Suppose a child is born that is retarded, or has no legs, or will need medical treatment for life. Why not kill them, eat them (wasteful not to) and make another and do a better job with the new one?



over 1 year ago

Suppose a child finishes high school and turns out stupid as fuck. Maybe they score really low on the government tests and annoy their teachers. Why not kill them and try again?



What do you think of "Universal" health care (free at the point of need)? Good or bad? And why?



over 1 year ago

It's wealth redistribution. It takes money from some people, via taxes, and then hands out a smaller amount, with some people getting less than their taxes and some more. Meanwhile it adds government levels of inefficiency, overhead and incompetence to the healthcare industry.



Do you think we should actively work to reduce pollution?



over 1 year ago

I actively work to reduce lots of pollution. I want my trash in my trash can, not on my floor polluting my home.

But I don't clean as much as possible. I allow some mess, some trash, some dust. Not all anti-pollution efforts are worth the effort.

When you talk about "we", I worry you mean having the government tell people what to do, and lots of those activities will be inefficient.

People will deal with lots of pollution on their own. When the government steps in, what will change? It will make people deal with pollution they don't think is a good idea to deal with. It's fine if the government says I can't dump out my garbage can on my neighbor's lawn. But if government starts ordering me to do unpaid labor recycling, when i don't want to, or orders me to make my home meet someone else's standards, that's bad.



What's your view on climate change? Is it happening, if it is, is it caused by humans, and should we do anything about it?

✕

over 1 year ago

Climate forecasts aren't reliable/accurate/good-science. There is heavy bias from government funding and it wasn't that long ago the forecasts were dramatically different. They may change again soon.

Regardless, the thing to do is improve the economy, improve our technology, improve our rationality –become a more powerful civilization in a better position to solve problems.

We should not accept it's already too late and then turn off our power plants to guarantee our death but slow it down a bit.



What do you think of David Deutsch's constructor theory?

✕

over 1 year ago

I thought it had some potential, but DD is now unwilling to answer my questions or criticism about it.



What's the biggest unsolved problem in your life?

✕

over 1 year ago

i'd like a peer (or above me) to discuss ideas with



So do you think same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, or not? And why?

✕

over 1 year ago

if marriage and government were separate, you could "marry" your goat. or "foobar" your goat. whatever. no one else has to agree, though. it'd only mean something to you and anyone who agrees you idea of "marriage" is meaningful.



It seems you object to equal marriage. Is this correct, and if so why? (And if not, why not?)



over 1 year ago

Whatever you think of "equal marriage", if you look at the recent ruling ****as a legal ruling****, then it's very, very bad. (Never mind the consequences, just what did the law say, and what is the supreme court's role as interpreter of law, not law-maker?) My general inclination is towards separation of marriage and government.



Should I get castrated? Sex, and sex thoughts and pleasure seeking is a burden and a distraction from thinking.



over 1 year ago

better to change your mindset



Should I change what is the case?



over 1 year ago

what?



What's your view on the recent SCOTUS ruling on equal marriage?



over 1 year ago

:((((((((

some info:

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/06/26/unprecedented-four-scotus-dissents-promise-to-keep-marriage-debate-open/>

http://www.autoadmit.com/thread.php?thread_id=2919784&mc=16&forum_id=2#28208344



i think you advocate having 1 kid @ a time, raised by 1 parent in a way that requires > average parental resources. if many westerners followed your recommendations it would worsen western demographic problems vs. 3rd world & poors. do you agree this is problematic and if so, whats your solution?



over 1 year ago

to begin with, if everyone listened to me about everything, we'd assimilate the entire world in no time. no more compromising and appeasing, they'd learn to be Western too. assimilation is being HEAVILY SABOTAGED but cultural relativism, multiculturalism, and in general the left and "moderates" (e.g. the leftist sympathizers making up the majority of the Republicans).

and even if that didn't work, we could still at least change immigration policy so no Western country gets flooded with unassimilated people. don't take in more people than we can handle and assimilate.



Fuck dude, do u always answer qns with qns? Wtf is a univesal knowledge creater...sounds like something from game of thrones.



over 1 year ago

universal knowledge creators are explained in a book everyone should read:

<http://beginningofinfinity.com>



Don't have first clue about how it happens in brain. Something about chemicals making cells do stuff faster. Who cares? Works for me. Stay awake longer...focussed on stuff I wanna b focused on longer. But - drugs give new information you don't get without taking them. why not try?



over 1 year ago

you believe it works for you. you could be mistaken. you don't understand the subject, so i'm not going to trust your judgment – and you shouldn't either.

if we're going to tell vague stories like "X drug makes you think faster/better

somehow" there are plenty of alternative ones we could tell. like "X drug helps you self-coerce". that, too, could explain getting some additional work done.



Is there any point to dressing well? Why bother trying to look good? Should we care at all about appearance?



over 1 year ago

i recommend appearances that won't get the cops called.

well, what are you trying to accomplish in life? what are the purposes of the clothes? want to impress someone? want to get treated normally? want to stand out? just want utility? are you second handed?



Speed - especially smoking crystal meth: can get 3 days work done in 1. Sleep a bit after. But do it right, way better than Adderall. Would you try it?



over 1 year ago

what kind of work? by what mechanism do you think it helps you get that work done?



Why get wasted? Feels good. Do you do stuff other than just pursue thinking? Y not search for best pleasure we know how to get? Go back to thinking after. In fact: can then think about the wasted experience. Might learn something new.



over 1 year ago

the beginning of infinity – progress – is much more deeply fun to pursue than the same stuff which every idiot thinks feels good.

there's so much to be done in life, gotta prioritize



No studies. Government prohibition makes it too hard to do good



science. Best you can do is look up stuff like erowid.org Scientists know fuck all about drugs.

over 1 year ago

do you have an explanation of how drugs would help you think?

like do you think better? but you're already a UNIVERSAL knowledge creator, so what's to gain?

more cpu speed? i think people rarely max their cpu out anyway.



Some people take cocaine or speed and claim it makes them think better/faster. Any merit in this? Would you try it?



over 1 year ago

why those instead of like Adderall?

if it works so great, start by linking me some study where they beat a control group on a math test or something.



When was the last time you got wasted? And on what?



over 1 year ago

Why would you want to get wasted? That makes it harder to think.



So would a better wording for you be to treat others as they wish to be treated? Or, to rephrase Jesus, "Love your neighbour as they want to be loved"?



over 1 year ago

That's better in some ways. But it's very exploitable. If I want to be given lots of fancy cars as gifts – that's how I wish to be treated – should you give them to me?



I don't read the GR in the way you do. For me, it doesn't say anything



about pretending everyone is the same as me. It says I should treat people as I like to be treated (in general, not any specific circumstance). This boils down to being nice to others. Why do you interpret it the way you do?

over 1 year ago

If you like to be treated X way, and someone else likes to be treated Y way, Golden Rule says to treat them X way. This is very dumb, unless you assume everyone is the same as you (all people want to be treated X way).



You said below that you think the Golden Rule (love your neighbor etc) is "Stupid, immoral and destructive." Can you elaborate as to why and how? How being nice to people is immoral or destructive is not obvious.



over 1 year ago

The golden rule does not say "be nice to people". It says something a lot more like "pretend everyone else is the same as you, has the same preferences as you". It also disregards your self-interest.



Why is "an omnipotent God" a contradiction? Not for people who believe in one.



over 1 year ago

You said why: because of the problem with the rock. All powerful means being able to lift anything, and being able to make anything (like an unliftable thing).



Imagine that an omnipotent God actually existed. Could he make a stone so heavy he couldn't lift it?



over 1 year ago

Your question shows that "an omnipotent God" is a contradiction. Contradictions can't actually exist.



Answer the question. You said homeless people should "solve their own problems". Suggest a course of action they may take to do that.



over 1 year ago

move back in with parents, go to a shelter, save panhandling money, whatever. then maybe get a job or husband.



How do you expect a homeless person to solve their own problem? magic a house out of thin air? if a guy has nowhere to live, no money, may well be in poor mental and physical health, what do you propose he does? And no, their situations don't 'vary a ton', they all have the same problem: no home.



over 1 year ago

way to stereotype people and lump them into a big collective and refuse to admit individuals exist :(



Up to each of who? I mean, what would be your solution to the homeless problem?



over 1 year ago

Individual people who are homeless and don't want to be homeless should solve their own problems.

And their situations vary a ton so a one-size-fits-all solution from me would not work.



What do you think should be done about the poor and the homeless?



over 1 year ago

That's up to each of them, individually.



Do you have children?



over 1 year ago

Are you obese?



How about equality? (equal pay, equal rights and so on, for people of a different gender, religion, orientatiom, race, etc).



over 1 year ago

what about it?

you can't hire women to do the same work for 70% of the pay. if you really could, a lot of companies would LOVE to hire those women and make more profit. this extra demand to hire those particular people would raise their wages. all the way to equality.



What's your view on inclusive language?



over 1 year ago

oh you mean like gender neutral language? i think it's sexist for implying women are too weak and fragile to handle people using the word "he".



So no helping the homeless, giving to charity, paying someone's bus fare if they've lost their purse, helping an old lady across the road?



over 1 year ago

capitalism helps the homeless by dramatically raising the standard of living of everyone. and by not raising housing prices via rent control, tons of building regulations, high property taxes, etc. and capitalism helps unskilled workers get jobs by not destroying jobs in various ways including minimum wage laws (which primarily hurt the least skilled workers)

if you want to help an old lady across the road, or pay someone's bus fair, i'm not going to stop you. i'm also not going to make you. (no one today is going to make

you either, so i don't get the issue. voluntary today, voluntary under full capitalism) about charity in general, look, i'm doing these ask.fm questions as charity. i think this is a better way for me to help people than walking people across intersections. i'm better at this, i have comparative advantage at it.

there's nothing wrong with charity when

- it isn't a sacrifice. don't sacrifice yourself
 - you want to do it, voluntarily
 - it's a good use of resources. don't do charity just for the sake of charity. you should consider if it makes sense. don't spend \$20 to benefit someone \$5.
 - it's best if there are values involved for you, ways you can benefit. for example i give away ideas and answers and help people. but i gain value here too: it helps create a better world for me to live in, it helps me find interesting people to talk to, etc
 - don't just throw money at something like greenpeace or PETA or ron paul without knowing much about the issue. spend money on stuff where you know what you're doing, you know the topic and can argue why you're on the right side. don't do it to try to reduce some guilt you shouldn't feel or to impress some people.
- more could be said but that's a good start.



What would it take for you to do something good for someone else? ×

over 1 year ago

An explanation of how it's best FOR ME TOO. My interests don't conflict with his, rationally and considered in the longrun and big picture. So if it's not OPTIMAL for me, then it's a bad idea! But if an action is optimal for me, then frequently it's going to help others. I have done tons of things that help others a great deal, such as answer ask.fm questions for free, give out free blog posts, etc, etc. But I've liked doing these things, and if I didn't like it and they hurt me, then I'd never have done them out of sacrificial altruism.



What do you think of the Golden Rule (Love your neighbor as yourself, do as you would be done by, etc)? ×

over 1 year ago

Stupid, immoral, destructive.

My neighbor and I have different preferences. And different responsibilities.



Why don't you believe in God?



over 1 year ago

Supposing God's existence doesn't help solve any problems, answer any questions, or explain anything.



Do you have ADHD ord OCD?



over 1 year ago

ADHD and OCD are lies used to hurt people. please read Szasz's books. you can get some initial info at <http://www.szasz.com>



Why is anti-semitism so popular



over 1 year ago

a big thing is hatred of the good for being the good

another big thing is scape goats

another big thing is: why were various jews more successful than various non-jews? often DESPITE being a minority that ppl mistreated. where does jewish success come from?

well a lot of ppl think life and economics and stuff are zero sum games, so they figure jewish wealth comes at the expense of the rest of society.

and a lot of ppl deny they are morally inferior. which kinda makes sense in a way. who is gonna be keen to think they are morally inferior? (also some ppl just deny there is objective morality, with some similar results.) so the jews must have got ahead by something other than being morally better. so where does that lead you? well they must have cheated somehow, done something bad, done something immoral, etc

and then there is this common belief that morality is actually a disadvantage. like you can't steal. stealing is immoral. so morality is like a penalty, and immoral ppl have advantage. so good non-jews don't get rich, but then jews are willing to break moral

rules to get ahead, so jews succeed cuz they are evil.

another big part of the issue is anti-semitism and anti-americanism have a lot in common and are related. a lot of ppl have a problem with success and morality and stuff like that.

another thing people do is they get really mad if you CLAIM to be good or moral. they don't like u thinking you're superior. America has said it's superior. not everyone, but plenty of Americans think that, it's a well known opinion. i'll be happy to admit to that. I think America is the greatest country. but if u claim to be good, ppl get pissed off and hold you to a higher standard or even a double standard, and try to tear you down, and dislike your "arrogance". jews totally get held to a higher standard. they kinda brag less than Americans but i think ppl just read bragging and claims to be good into their actions and success, even if they say it less. also, if being a jew wasn't so great, why not just assimilate into your host country? insisting on staying a jew, despite being mistreated, is kinda saying you think it's good and important and valuable.



Why & how do a few people (like you mentioned Ayn Rand) manage to avoid getting fucked up as kids and sucking for the rest of life? ×

over 1 year ago

No one knows.

We know a lot about how to stop hurting kid (TCS). We don't know much about why some people, seemingly at random, survive non-TCS childhoods.

Humans are really powerful and awesome, so it's hard to utterly destroy them with 100% reliability. It's like Rand said: John Galt is just a normal man. In other words, everyone is a potential John Galt, that's how awesome a human being is. Static memes and stuff are powerful enough to destroy that almost always but a few slip through the cracks.

(Of the ones who slip through the cracks, most perish in obscurity. They are unwanted by most people, don't fit in, etc.)



Do you believe in God? ×

over 1 year ago

No. No no no no no.



Hey this is Inui from clan o0o and ToB. I sent you an email. Also, do you and monk still hang out?



over 1 year ago

i still hang out with monk online.



What is your opinion of Clojure?



over 1 year ago

Haven't used. Looks very legit. Real lisp with real macros and real emphasis on functional programming.

Could improve PR:

http://clojure.org/functional_programming

> Clojure supports arity overloading in a single function object, self-reference, and variable-arity functions using &:

"arity overloading" and "variable-arity functions" may be good phrases for communicating to me, but I suspect they are bad phrases for communicating to most Java programmers.

And "self-reference" is kind of confusing here due to not clearly specifying the context. What they mean is when defining a function you can reference the function you are currently defining, kind of like in OOP in various languages you can reference "self" in the "init" method of an object.

(BTW these particular points I just discussed are not worth bragging about in the first place.)

And the Clojure website does stuff like talk about details of Erlang and concurrency fairly near the front, without having all that much explanation for people who aren't that advanced. I also don't imagine it has much success communicating to people without any lisp or similar background.

So I don't think Clojure is going to convert the world to better programming practices, but it seems like a pretty good idea.



Why didn't atlas shrugged convert the country in six weeks?



over 1 year ago

Communication is hard.

<http://fallibleideas.com/communication-is-hard>

And people suck at paths forward.

<http://fallibleideas.com/paths-forward>

A lot. Seriously a lot. People won't have discussions to rationally resolve conflicts of ideas. They just give up or don't know how. And they won't read how.

They won't discuss whatever topic like econ, altruism, epistemology, etc. But then on top of that, they won't discuss their attitude to discussion itself. So then you're stuck, you're at an impasse, error correction is blocked.

Also everyone gets their minds raped as kids. (i hope you can swear on here, let's find out). by their parents and teachers especially. so there's that. damn static memes. see the 2 meme chapters in Bol for general details of how meme stuff works. <http://beginningofinfinity.com>

people mistreat kids so much. it's really awful. and people(the kids) get so fucked up trying to cope. so that kinda covers everyone so everyone sucks. except Ayn Rand. rare exceptions.

i like some of Rand's comments about these issues. like, not only do we have this situation but then everyone wants to help trees and ducks and poors and blacks and dumbs and anyone all sorts of irresponsible victim groups and stuff, instead of helping the best people be great. so that really doesn't help with the cause of there being good rational people in the world. I'll end with a Rand quote from Return of the Primitive [uppercase emphasis is mine]:

... Where are America's young fighters for ideas, the rebels against conformity to the gutter—the young men of “inexplicable personal alchemy,” the independent minds dedicated to the supremacy of truth?

With very rare exceptions, they are perishing in silence, unknown and unnoticed. Consciously or subconsciously, philosophically and psychologically, it is against them that the cult of irrationality—i.e., our entire academic and cultural Establishment—is directed.

They perish gradually, giving up, extinguishing their minds before they have a chance to grasp the nature of the evil they are facing. In lonely agony, they go from confident eagerness to bewilderment to indignation to resignation—to obscurity. And while their elders putter about, conserving redwood forests and building sanctuaries for mallard ducks, nobody notices those youths as they drop out of sight one by one, like sparks vanishing in limitless black space; **NOBODY BUILDS SANCTUARIES FOR THE BEST OF THE HUMAN SPECIES.**

So will the young Russian rebels perish spiritually—if they survive their jail terms physically. How long can a man preserve his sacred fire if he knows that jail is the

reward for loyalty to reason? No longer than he can preserve it if he is taught that that loyalty is irrelevant—as he is taught both in the East and in the West. There are exceptions who will hold out, no matter what the circumstances. But these are exceptions that mankind has no right to expect.



Do you think Mises was a utilitarian?



over 1 year ago

<http://mises.org/library/defense-misess-utilitarianism>

> What many libertarians mean when they denounce "utilitarianism" is vitally different from what Mises meant by the term. For example, there is a strand of utilitarianism that attempts to "measure" utility, and use utility measurements to decide ethical and political issues. Many libertarians refer to the fallacy of this approach when attempting to refute "utilitarianism."

>

> But nothing could be further from Mises's utilitarianism than this doctrine. Indeed Mises himself was, from very early on in his career, in the forefront of refuting the very notion of measurable utility. Utility, he demonstrated, was a purely ordinal matter of ranking, and could never be a cardinal magnitude.

that article goes on to praise and discuss Rothbard, so i stopped reading.

i haven't read every word of Mises but don't recall him being a utilitarian offhand, and him being rly dumb sounds memorable.

the quotes above explain how people could think he was a utilitarian even if he wasn't. people could also be confused cuz capitalism benefits everyone. but that's not the whole issue. i don't think Mises' writing about social cooperation indicates utilitarianism, but i see how some people would misunderstand.

the string "utilitarian" appears on 16 pages of *Human Action*. some excerpts:

> Many economists, among them Adam Smith and Bastiat, believed in God. Hence they admired in the facts they had discovered the providential care of "the great Director of Nature." Atheist critics blame them for this attitude. However, these critics fail to realize that to sneer at the references to the "invisible hand" does not invalidate the essential teachings of the rationalist and utilitarian social philosophy.

this looks pretty positive on "utilitarian social philosophy" but doesn't fully clarify, substantively, what that consists of. if it means stuff such as capitalism, not breaking windows, the social cooperation caused by capitalism, etc, that seems fine and i just wouldn't use Mises' choice of words myself. Mises finishes that section of text (it's a footnote) with:

> One must comprehend that the alternative is this: Either association is a human

process because it best serves the aims of the individuals concerned and the individuals themselves have the ability to realize the advantages they derive from their adjustment to life in social cooperation. Or a superior being enjoins upon reluctant men subordination to the law and to the social authorities. It is of minor importance whether one calls this supreme being God, Weltgeist, Destiny, History, Wotan, or Productive Forces and what title one assigns to its apostles, the dictators.

once you read the whole thing, i don't think you can take this as meaning he's a utilitarian. but i can easily imagine how someone would misread it. really this is advocating individualism etc

there is a 3000 char limit on answers, so i'm stopping here :(

tl;dr: no.



Does P = NP?



over 1 year ago

everyone seems to think "no" and is overly upset they can't formally prove it. i don't know a ton about it.



What epistemological breakthroughs are necessary for us to develop AGI?



over 1 year ago

maybe start by figuring out how to formalize the evaluation of criticism. when there is a criticism, what you really actually have is 2 conflicting ideas. how do you figure out if one is a criticism of the other, which is right, how to resolve this situation? we know a bunch about this in terms of english philosophy, and how to do it using creativity. but not how to formalize it and write it in pseudo-code or formal logic or math notation.

for some non-formal thoughts on how this works <http://curi.us/1595-rationally-resolving-conflicts-of-ideas>



why did you make an ask.fm when you could have just made a tumblr and post the pictures of justin bieber there



over 1 year ago

cuz i liked <http://ask.fm/PewPewU> (can you guess which 3 recent questions were mine!?)



when are you and monk going to come out of the closet



over 1 year ago

i LOLed



First????



over 1 year ago

yes you were first, gz bro



About me

Edit profile

Tell us something about yourself..

www.fallibleideas.com

www.curi.us

[#philosophy](#)

[About ASKfm](#) [Safety center](#) [Help](#)
[Community Guidelines](#) [Terms of use](#)
[Privacy policy](#) [Cookies policy](#) [Advertising](#)

 [English](#)

© Ask.fm 2017