 curi 29-Aug-18 01:19 PM


> but it's like uh, you literally prevent them from figuring out how to deal with having access to whatever food they want and then use their failure to deal with rare instances where they can eat what they want as justification for this dumb policy

kids not necessarily failing. they know the candy could be taken away at any moment. they have temporary access of unknown duration. given *those* circumstances, binging makes sense. it's not like they had the same access as me – and knew they would have it permanently – and then failed to manage it.




yes neto. ideas matter. and political institutions had tons of influence over ideas in ~1793



 JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:23 PM


>they also do stuff like habitually deny kids food, and then make small exceptions like halloween, and if the kid overdoes it then the parent uses this as proof that the kid can't be allowed to eat what they want normally....

i forgot to mention, another thing people do is deny kids food they like, then when the kid gets excited that they aren't being denied as a treat, the parents make up stories about sugar rushes

 AnneB 29-Aug-18 01:26 PM

Another thing people do is make jokes about how much kids like things like ice cream and candy, within earshot of the kids, to try to get the kids to feel ashamed of liking those things.




 curi 29-Aug-18 01:30 PM

Links

This article, [Cowardice At Brown University](#), is a double feature. On the one hand, it's about how some people "*rapidly*" become gender dysphoric (transgender) as part of fitting in with a social, peer group where many people are doing it – even though it wasn't part of their life before. And on the other hand, the article is about how academia is cowardly and suppresses research with conclusions that offend SJWs.



 Argo 29-Aug-18 01:40 PM

Wait so, do the regulars in this discord strongly subscribe to ideologies? That's surprising. I just scrolled up and saw someones response to a video that seemed critical of Donald Trump, and he dismissed the video entirely. I joined this discord through the IDW subreddit, right?



curi 29-Aug-18 01:42 PM

you can discuss anti-trump ideas. feel free to present arguments. but FI has particular ideas and literature, which have been discussed and critically scrutinized for years, it's not neutral.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:42 PM

it's not clear what u mean by ideology but one definition is "a system of ideas and ideals" and if you mean that then yeah sure.



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:42 PM

What is the general political ideology operating here, out of curiosity?



curi 29-Aug-18 01:43 PM

Objectivism



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:43 PM

You're all Ayn Rand fans?

Or are you talking about something else?



curi 29-Aug-18 01:43 PM

ya Rand



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:44 PM

it's not a chat room requirement to be an Ayn Rand fan but the people who consider themselves part of the FI community are all Rand fans (or uh maybe at least neutral cuz they haven't read her yet)



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:44 PM

Taxes are theft here?

In general?



AnneB 29-Aug-18 01:44 PM

I count myself in the neutral camp. I don't think I understand Rand well enough yet to say if I'm a fan.



curi 29-Aug-18 01:44 PM

that is not how i would put it



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:45 PM

that wasn't Rand's position



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:45 PM

I wasn't equating them
It was a separate question.



curi 29-Aug-18 01:46 PM

how about: taxes involve the use of force, and taxes for improper purposes of government – e.g. taking my money to fund some poetry that i don't want to fund – is theft.
theft is *illegitimate* force
that takes property



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:46 PM

Argo there was some discussion in this chat about the principles underlying the political perspective here recently, check it out here <http://curi.us/2141-explaining-liberalism-in-discussion>

Explaining Liberalism in Discussion

This post highlights from my discussion about liberalism on the Fallible Ideas discord chatroom (it's public, you can join and ask questions or discuss).



curi: liberalism is a principled syst



curi 29-Aug-18 01:47 PM

Objectivists aren't anarchists



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:47 PM

Checking.

I'm on board with the whole "Win/win" solutions" in this paragraph: they think there's a conflict of interest between e.g. the very rich man the the 500 poor ppl who could benefit greatly from his wealth. they think it's for the greater good to hurt the one person to help the 500, but they do not think that's in the interests of the one person. they see a conflict with no win/win solution possible, whereas liberalism says there is always a win/win solution that could be found

That was an unfortunate conversation. And it should also illustrate why the first few words out of my mouth here talked about ideology

Strongly adhered to ideology is the ultimate blinding force in our world right now.



curi 29-Aug-18 01:52 PM

the ending was unfortunate but i'm happy with what i wrote 😊



Ayn Rand has not generally been remembered by her critics for her essay titled: The “Conflicts” of Men’s Interests. It begins:

> Some students of Objectivism find it difficult to grasp the Objectivist principle that “there are no conflicts of interests among rational men.”



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:53 PM

I think the only sane approach to genuinely be open to the idea that much of what you think is right, is actually wrong.

Would you be interested in reading a criticism of Ayn Rand, and do you think you're genuinely open to having your mind changed?

To rephrase

How likely , if you're being totally honest



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:53 PM

we've read and commented on some of those 😊



curi 29-Aug-18 01:53 PM

yes but i've already engaged with the criticisms of Rand, so i wouldn't change my mind without a *new* argument.



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:53 PM

can you see yourself go from a strong believer in the ideas of Ayn Rand

To someone who says they no longer subscribe to them.



curi 29-Aug-18 01:54 PM

i don't expect it b/c i've already debated this for over a decade, but if there was a good reason, sure



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:54 PM

Have you read this essay before? <https://samharris.org/how-to-lose-readers-without-even-trying/>

How to Lose Readers (Without Even Trying) | Sam Harris

Do you have too many readers of your books and articles? Want to reduce traffic on your blog? It turns out, there is a foolproof way to alienate many of your fans, quickly and at almost no cost. It took me years to discover this publishing secret, but I'll pass it along to ...



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:54 PM

in principle sure, though you'd need tons of arguments and a worked out system to convince me. but like lots of people here that like Rand are former lefties



curi 29-Aug-18 01:54 PM

yes i have read that.



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:55 PM

How do you respond to paragraphs like this:



curi 29-Aug-18 01:55 PM

see <http://curi.us/2137-sam-harris-vs-capitalism>

Sam Harris vs. Capitalism

Sam Harris wrote an article against economic freedom. Every sentence is nasty. I reply to a few:

How Rich is Too Rich?

The title is a leading question. It's asking for an answer like 3 million,



that's about the article that lost him readers
it did not contain any arguments, just hate



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:55 PM

I am often told by followers of Rand that their beloved guru accomplished this task long ago. The result was Objectivism—a view that makes a religious fetish of selfishness and disposes of altruism and compassion as character flaws. If nothing else, this approach to ethics was a triumph of marketing, as Objectivism is basically autism rebranded. And Rand's attempt to make literature out of this awful philosophy produced some commensurately terrible writing. Even in high school, I found that my copies of *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged* simply would not open.



curi 29-Aug-18 01:55 PM

i think the comment about "autism" is particularly disgusting, and all i see there are flames. which text do you think contains an argument that would change my mind about any of Objectivism's reasoning?



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

>Objectivism is basically autism rebranded.
that's just flaming disagreement as mental illness
super nasty and hateful and irrational



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

It's a provocative statement, but the meaning of that statement invokes a lack of empathy



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

no arguments against the objectivist position



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

Well, do you see the actual criticism?



curi 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

no



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

no



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:56 PM

Okay, I can spell it out
The objectivist ideology is lacking in empathy. <-- this is the claim
How likely is that to be the case?



curi 29-Aug-18 01:57 PM

i think he's referring to well known criticisms but he isn't saying any. you have to already know what they are.

Objectivism strongly lacks empathy in some cases, and has plenty in others. it depends on the situation and the things at stake. Harris doesn't attempt to define empathy, investigate when it's good or bad, appropriate or inappropriate, and engage with the Objectivist position on the matter or explain his own mainstream position on the matter.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:58 PM

Objectivism doesn't say don't have empathy (and it doesn't say don't engage in charity, either, btw.)

But there's big disagreement about empathy in certain cases



Argo 29-Aug-18 01:59 PM

Okay ,well we can narrow it down a little more to a simple concern for creating a society where the people at the bottom don't suffer pointlessly because of bad luck.



curi 29-Aug-18 01:59 PM

Objectivism believes its proposals will accomplish that much better than alternative proposals.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 01:59 PM

indeed



curi 29-Aug-18 01:59 PM

it has arguments to this effect

Harris does not discuss them.



curi 29-Aug-18 02:00 PM

admittedly, Objectivism's take on this is more focussed on economic logic than empathy. i think that is more effective 😊



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:00 PM

How does objectivism address a scenario in society where someone has their life ruined by a psychopathic parent?



curi 29-Aug-18 02:00 PM

that is not a standard thing Objectivism addresses. i don't think Rand commented on it. Objectivism has broad ideas about philosophy you could use to analyze the situation



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:01 PM

Well it sounds pretty important to address, that's essentially a massive problem in the world. That's what it means often times to be crippled by poverty.



curi 29-Aug-18 02:01 PM

if you replace "psychopathic" with "irrational" i'd agree about it being a major problme.



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:01 PM

Bad parents, no money, low opportunity, endless weights by being exploited by free markets



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

>endless weights by being exploited by free markets

?

this is unclear to me



curi 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

criticism of bad parenting is one the core ideas of FI, btw.



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

You don't think unconstrained markets lead to exploitation of the poor?



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

no



curi 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

correct, i don't think that



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

Very interesting.



curi 29-Aug-18 02:02 PM

i think the exploitation doctrine is a marxist error, which has been refuted by economists like Mises and Reisman



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:03 PM

Do you think the poor are currently exploited in our economy? And is that a result of a "not free enough market" in your view?
(Or some other feature of our economy or .. you get the point.)



curi 29-Aug-18 02:03 PM

i don't think the poor are particularly *exploited*, but they are harmed and screwed over in various ways, e.g. by minimum wages laws (price controls which ban them from selling their labor in some ways that they would like to)



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:03 PM

the poor get fucked in various ways due to bad govt policies
for example govt screws up the housing market badly
and drives the cost of housing way way up
and poor people have a harder time finding a place to live
or yeah minimum wage



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:05 PM

Who do you feel has the bigger impact on the housing market, The *totality* of the nation's private companies who are essentially playing chess with money with zero regard ethics, or the poking and proddings of the government involved with housing?



curi 29-Aug-18 02:05 PM

about parenting: there are many tragedies and many people end up in bad situations, as young adults, through no fault of their own. i'm sympathetic to attempts to help such cases – i think that's a far more worthy cause than most charities. though i think there are some even bigger problems in the world.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:05 PM

>The totality of the nation's private companies who are essentially playing chess with money with zero regard ethics



curi 29-Aug-18 02:05 PM

i should say *little* fault of their own, not "no"



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:05 PM

that's so vague i have no idea what you have in mind



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:05 PM

Just think of the biggest picture you can think of , in terms of the private real estate game.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:06 PM

govt interference with the housing market is systematic



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:06 PM

Okay, and now compare that to the entire soup of all private real estate moneymaking endeavors.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:07 PM

people trying to make money on real estate isn't contrary to the interests of poor people no more than trying to make money on iphones is



curi 29-Aug-18 02:07 PM

i don't think this big picture approach is going to be very effective because we're so far apart in perspective and it doesn't systematically identify the perspective differences (in more approachable chunks) and try to resolve them.



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:08 PM

Well it just asks you to consider where the "damage" comes from
Is it the government's chess moves? Or all private chess moves?



curi 29-Aug-18 02:08 PM

you're bringing up tons of complexity, and there are no fully private actions in that area.



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:09 PM

Okay well if we can't nail down the differencen between government and private then I guess this path of discussion has no value.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:09 PM

private actors operate in a system with systematic government subsidies, tax breaks, regulations, political pressures on banks, zoning restrictions, height restrictions, neighborhood historical commission window type requirements...



curi 29-Aug-18 02:09 PM

i think we could nail that down by looking at specific cases
if you give one example of a private real estate action, we could point out ways that, in that case, the government was actually involved





Argo 29-Aug-18 02:11 PM

I laughed right now, and this is small tangent but I want you to visualize us sitting in a cafe right now
and it's the two of you together on one side of a table
and then me, alone, on another
and every single time one of you makes a point
and really, please close your eyes
to visualize this
Smiles, looks at him, and gives a big thumbs up
How bizarre would that be as a conversation.
Just appreciate that for a second.



curi 29-Aug-18 02:12 PM

lol. but i haven't used any thumbs up. i don't use the Reaction feature, that's only justin ;p



1



1



Argo 29-Aug-18 02:12 PM

Yeah no, I'm just describing what justin is doing.



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:13 PM

the discord reaction system amuses me




Argo 29-Aug-18 02:13 PM

But yeah, was interesting talking to you two. (edited)



JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 02:13 PM


what can i say

 curi 29-Aug-18 02:17 PM

In one of my favorite Rand quotes, she suggests *redirecting* empathy from some less important causes to another more important cause. The point is a disagreement about which things (smart youths or ducks) are more deserving of empathy, charity, help.


> They [young fighters for ideas, rebels against conformity, independent minds seeking the truth] perish gradually, giving up, extinguishing their minds before they have a chance to grasp the nature of the evil they are facing [our irrational culture]. 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.




 AnneB 29-Aug-18 02:21 PM

I figured out how to react with a thumbs up! I also like that quotation.




 curi 29-Aug-18 04:16 PM


oh argo left the chat. he was still on member list earlier but gone now
RIP >>

 JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 04:19 PM

He actually appeared to be offline on the member list to me even when he was talking

 curi 29-Aug-18 04:19 PM

that means he was on mobile. goes offline every time he switches to another app

 JustinCEO 29-Aug-18 04:19 PM

<https://slickdeals.net/f/11986627-costco-members-2-pack-50-blue-apron-gift-cards-for-65-8-27-18-9-2-18>

Costco Members: \$100 Blue Apron Gift Card \$65

Costco Wholesale has for it's Members: 2x \$50 Blue Apron Gift Cards (worth \$100) on sale for \$64.99. Thanks makurz

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