

From: Roger rogersburton@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Request response
Date: May 16, 2018 at 1:28 PM
To: Peter V. Schwartz pschwart@calpoly.edu



Oh! I am doing ok. Still a bit under the weather.

I felt their responses as you represented them were really fair. The capacity to speak about my privilege is itself a condition of privilege and I feel I came off pretty arrogantly in the effort. In terms of what I have done I am in a pretty consistent examination of my privilege and an effort to deconstruct it such that I am living in a closer condition of solidarity with 80% of the planet. It's my own belief that not only can the oppressor not free themselves, but that their efforts to free or 'help' others tend to reinforce the conditions of disparate advantage being systemically produced. I do in fact spend a great deal of time working with populations of people suffering from the current system of disparate advantage/disadvantage. I spend a great deal of time working with people as working with those conditions and people suffering those conditions.

Equity and environment are intimately linked. They are in a reinforcing loop where the human system of environmental degradation reinforces inequity, etc. We cannot address the one without addressing the other. This is why the "hermit" thing. It is not removing myself from society. That is something of a misconception about hermitage, though it is one type. It is to whatever extent I can manage removing myself from systems of environmental degradation for the sake of disparate benefit to a minority of people on the planet. Therefore, no car, no personal bank account, no phone, limited tech, limited purchasing, packaging and consumption, travel rationing, food awareness, etc., etc. Due to the nature of the dominant paradigm where I live this looks like removing myself from the world. It's not because I am trying to remove myself from the world.

My Doc Martens are the vegan boots and I got them on the cheap, big time. My computer (which I use for work), ebike and some musical instruments are the most expensive things I own and taken all together are worth less than \$1k.

I don't have a perfect solution. I have been homeless and lived in conditions of poverty in the US and abroad. I now live month to month with no investments, medical insurance, etc. Again, the dominant paradigm at work.

It doesn't make me sad. I am honored that they would take the time to say anything. Also, as you know, I do not consider myself a pessimist in any way. This has to do with emergence.

This is the basic way I describe emergence... in my model.

For something to emerge we first have to recognize the quality of immersion involved. Things can't emerge without immersion. Once that is recognized we can begin working with the properties of the container that allows for the immersion. Altering those properties increase the likelihood of that which emerges having qualities consistent with those properties. It's not prescriptive nor predictable. A loose metaphor would be square containers are more likely to produce things with the property of squares. Dialogues and social transformation work in this way. Gestation might be another good example.

I can well imagine I was confusing. Some of this is just me. Some of it is the nature of the subject matter when we encounter it from our pre-existing mental models (assumptions that occur for us as self evident truth).

- roger

On May 16, 2018, at 12:01, Peter V. Schwartz <pschwart@calpoly.edu> wrote:

Roger,

How are you doing? If you have a moment, maybe you can respond to my last Email. I imagine that you're intrigued and curious, but a small part of me is concerned you're sad because of what I wrote.

Additionally, the students may ask how you responded to my feedback.

Stay well

Thanks
Pete

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