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Monika Roy

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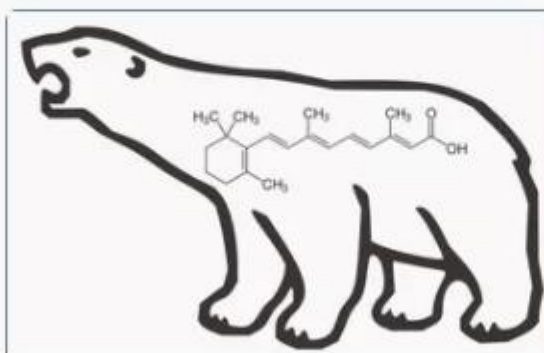
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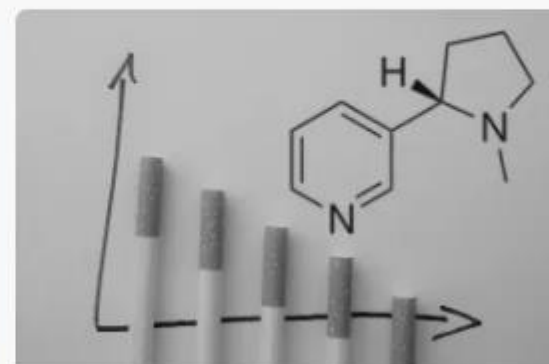
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Oct 16, 2017

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Bad Science on the Internet: OH MY GOD DOES COFFEE CAUSE CANCER??!???

APRIL 3, 2018 BY E.A. THACKABERRY IN BAD SCIENCE ON THE INTERNET, RECENT POSTS, SCIENTIFIC POSTS POST COMMENT

Welcome to Bad Science on the Internet! Here, we highlight some of the crazy and sometime dangerous stuff people post online, and then we give you the facts.

The Bad Science:

There have been a number of recent news stories about the possibility of [coffee being listed as a human carcinogen](#) in the state of California. A recent court decision ruled against several coffee sellers (including 7-Eleven and Starbucks), allowing a lawsuit to continue that may end with coffee being listed as containing potential carcinogens in California. How did this happen, and should we be worried about our morning brew? Let's break down the science and find out.

Coffee does not cause cancer.

Let's start here. There is absolutely zero data to suggest that drinking coffee increases your cancer risk. In fact, it is more likely to be [protective against some cancers](#) because of the antioxidants it contains. Coffee may also lower the risk of heart disease and diabetes, though the data supporting these potential positive health effects is weak. It is true that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified drinking very hot beverages of any kind as being linked to cancer, but this is not specific to coffee and is honestly kind of silly, because most people intuitively understand that scalding their esophagus and mouths with hot beverages day after day is probably not *good* for them. So to recap: coffee does not cause



Coffee might actually be good for your heart!

TETRAPOD ZOOLOGY
BY DARREN NAISH
HOSTED BY SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Rachel Bell

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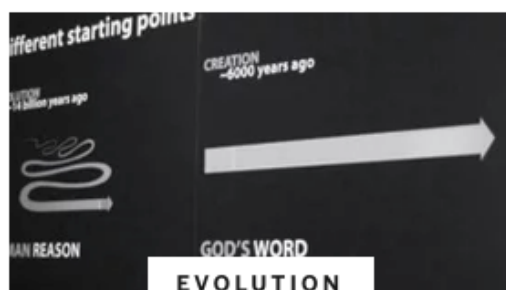


Tetrapod Zoology

Amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals - living and extinct

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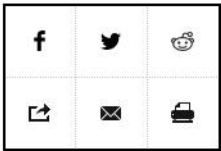
Book Review: God's Word or Human Reason? An Inside Perspective on Creationism

The claims of young-Earth creationists are easily checked and easily countered. And a new book—written by former

Fossil Bat Stories, Part 1

Sometimes there just aren't enough bats

By Darren Naish on February 6, 2018 22



rhinolophoids (Teeling 2009). It's well known that *Rousettus* – deeply nested within the group – practices a sort of echolocation that involves tongue-clicking. Less familiar is the recent discovery that fruit bats of some, many or even all lineages use clicks made with the wings in echolocating (Boonman *et al.* 2014).



There are a few weird fossil members of the fruit bat lineage from the Oligocene and Miocene, namely *Archaeopteropus* from Italy and *Propotto* from Kenya: the former might not be a fruit bat at all (but a bat of some other kind) and the latter was originally described as a primate (hence the name). Modern fruit bat genera are

are some captive Comoro black or Livingstone's fruit bats *P. livingstonii*. Credit: Darren Naish

Archaeopteropus (extinct) of Madagascar supposedly has a Lower Pliocene record). If any

of them can be considered 'famous', it's Bulmer's fruit bat *Aproteles bulmarae* of New Guinea.



A 1763 illustration of *Pteropus subniger* from Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon and Louis-Jean-Marie Daubenton's volume on natural history. I love the gothic background in this illustration. Credit: Georges-Louis

First documented as an Upper Pleistocene fossil in 1977, *Aproteles* was then discovered alive (though, actually, the modern specimens had been found in 1975, just not announced), then declared extinct (due to human exploitation), then rediscovered alive, then declared extinct again. It seems to be critically endangered: scattered records suggest that it might be more widespread than

Standing out in my field

The nature of a punny field biologist

<https://standingoutinmyfield.wordpress.com/>

Alison Fowler



standingoutinmyfield

The nature of a punny field biologist.

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[Take a Hike! \(with me?\)](#)

Some photos from Kilkenny, Ireland

POSTED ON APRIL 8, 2018

Where in the world is SOIMF*?

POSTED ON MARCH 25, 2018

*StandingOutInMyField

I was traveling last week for a meeting...see if you can guess where I was this time! You get 1 (imaginary internet) point for guessing the continent, 10 for guessing the country, and 100 for the city (as it was a city I'd never heard of before this meeting, despite its historical importance). Maybe some of my readers are more worldly than I and know it well ☺

PS I hope you are keeping track of your imaginary internet points because I sure am not.



Travel documentation & updates

Links to Share

POSTED ON MARCH 13, 2018

This blog post on depression is so good...maintaining mental health is a constant process not a switch, you can't magically just "be better." If you're suffering from depression, you're not alone! Seek help...things can get better. And read this: Mental health — it is important

I've been very curious about the Travellers in Ireland...they are a topic much mentioned and rarely (if ever) discussed. Here's one photographer's life with the Travellers: Life With the Irish Travellers Reveals a Bygone World

Butterflies generally have very different patterns on the top and bottom of their wings, two separate canvasses: How Butterflies Pattern Top and Bottom Wing Surfaces Differently

This week in the world of insane plants I never knew existed...a mycoheterotrophic plant is rediscovered after 151 years after it was thought to be extinct. If mycoheterotrophy sounds unfamiliar to you, I posted about it before with these Indian Pipes. Essentially, they are plants that steal food from other plants* via mycorrhizal interactions (plant root/fungus). They're fascinating, unusual, weird, and somewhat difficult to study...the blog linked to here is all about them!: Plants go extinct, but sometimes species are rediscovered. This one after 151 years.

I always adore UV light photography of flowers, and this series is really gorgeous: Pictures Capture the Invisible Glow of Flowers

A haunting Radiolab episode about a town that has been on fire for forty years...and what happens when you light natural coal fissures on fire: Dying Embers

An essay by our own ecological celebrity, E.O. Wilson. I have met him twice, but I guarantee he could not pick my face out of a line up haha! Anyway, another plea to better understand the species here on Earth before we lose them all: The 8 Million Species We Don't Know

Science updates and communication

Declines in insect biomass

POSTED ON MARCH 23, 2018

I had a surreal conversation with my (conservative) uncle this Christmas. It went a little like this:

Me: A study in Germany this year showed a large decline in insect biomass...75% over the past thirty years or so (Hallmann et al 2017, open access). We call it the "windscreens effect", where when you used to drive through the country, your windshield would be covered in insect splatters, but now that does not happen as much.

Uncle: Riiiiiiiiiiiiight it's not just that the shape of the windshield has changed.

Me: What? No, the study showed a large decline in total insect biomass. There are several other studies also showing declines in certain insect groups. It probably has something to do with the enormous global use of pesticides in agriculture.

Uncle: Snnnnnnnnnn... *rolls his eyes and walks away*

Thinking back on this befuddling conversation later, I wish I'd been more clear that the scientists did not collect the data from windshields...that's just the example we use to explain it. At the time, I thought I was clear on that, but now I'm not so

Random notes about life

Coping strategies for when the neighbour has a screaming baby

POSTED ON MARCH 14, 2018

Around mid-October of last year, my next door neighbours brought home a pink, screaming baby. And it's been screaming ever since.

This particular situation would not normally be my business, but it just so happens that the baby's nursery shares a thin, uninsulated wall with my bedroom.

You can see where this is going, I'm sure. For the first couple months of the baby's arrival, I responded to this screaming with a good-natured empathy for the parents. Poor new parents, I thought, that's rough that the baby screams all night every night, which I know because I lie awake next door listening to it scream all night every night.

I mentioned it casually to my landlord after a couple of weeks and he murmured something about what great parents they were and what a shame it was that the baby had colic. I did some reading about colic and saw that this generally resolves itself after three months, and tolerated the screaming.

But now it is mid-March and the baby is five months old and still screams and screams and my empathy for the parents has eroded as my sleep deprivation has accumulated. I started grumpily complaining about the baby to friends and family, all of whom instantly responded with empathy for the parents.

The parents! I thought grumpily. They CHOSE to bring that screaming demon baby into the world. It needs an exorcism, I thought more than once, lying awake at night as it screamed over and over. I did not choose to bring a baby into the world and yet here I am. Moreover, I reasoned with fraying mental capacities, the parents could leave the room, shut the door, and walk away from the screaming. They could comfort the baby to stop the screaming. I have nowhere to go and no way to stop the screaming.

As a renter, I have only this one room in all of Dublin to myself. Before this baby came into my life, my room was my safe haven from the hustle and bustle of this busy city. But a baby's screams are designed to upset and unsettle and, sure enough, every time the baby starts screaming, I find my jaw clenching and my nails digging into my palms. Here are some of my coping strategies:

While the baby is screaming in the evenings, I go for long walks and listen to LeVar Burton Reads. The dulcet tones of Burton's voice soothe my frayed nerves and he starts each short story by taking slow, deep breaths. Designed to calm and soothe, plus I was a huge fan of Reading Rainbow when I was a kid, and Star Trek TNG as a teenage perfection in a podcast. <http://www.levarburtonpodcast.com/>

I've never been one to blast music (I'm extremely averse to loud noises), but if I've exhausted myself, I find the Fleet Foxes an ideal way to drown out the screaming. I'm recently obsessed with them, especially:

Fool's Errand



The Oak Tree, by Matsuo Basho, translated by Robert Hass

POSTED ON MARCH 21, 2018

Just read this lovely little poem and had to share...maybe it's a little like gatekeeping for trees, but it still made me smile.

The Oak Tree

The oak tree:

not interested

in cherry blossoms.

— Matsuo Basho

Translated by Robert Hass

Posted in Nature Poems | Tagged Matsuo Basho, nature, poems, poetry, short and sweet, short poems, The Oak Tree, trees | Leave a comment

Against Winter, by Charles Simic

POSTED ON MARCH 15, 2018

I was trying to decide if I like this poem or not. Every time I read it, I like it at first, then I think "It's too dark" and then the resolution makes me like it again. Maybe something about it speaks to me and will speak to you too! How many times have people told me I'm crazier than the weather...

Against Winter

The truth is dark under your eyelids.

What are you going to do about it?

The birds are silent; there's no one to ask.

All day long you'll squint at the gray sky.

When the wind blows you'll shiver like straw.

A meek little lamb you grew your wool

Till they came after you with huge shears.

Flies hovered over open mouth,

Then they, too, flew off like the leaves,

The bare branches reached after them in vain.

Winter coming. Like the last heroic soldier

Of a defeated army, you'll stay at your post,

Poems

Interesting links about science, history, traveling, hobbies, etc.

Trisha M. Zintel

BLOG: Massive (<https://massivesci.com/>)

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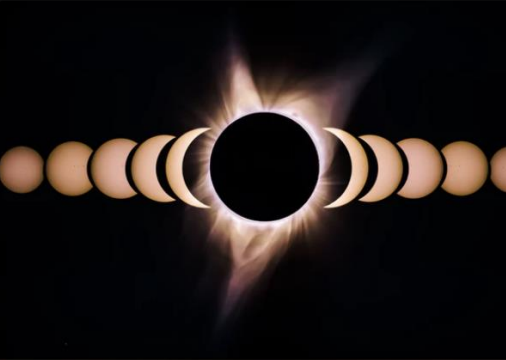


Charles Darwin, made flesh and tedious

A new book humanizes the legend, but few will want to read it



Dan Samorodnitsky
Biochemistry



The Moon's origins may be far different than we thought

We're still learning the basics about Earth's nearest neighbor



Gabriela Serrato Marks
Marine Geology

Don't fear germs – at least not too much

Microbes are neither purely 'good' nor 'bad'



Jennifer Tsang
Microbiology

 March 28, 2018  3 peer comments

 Weekend Science Reads

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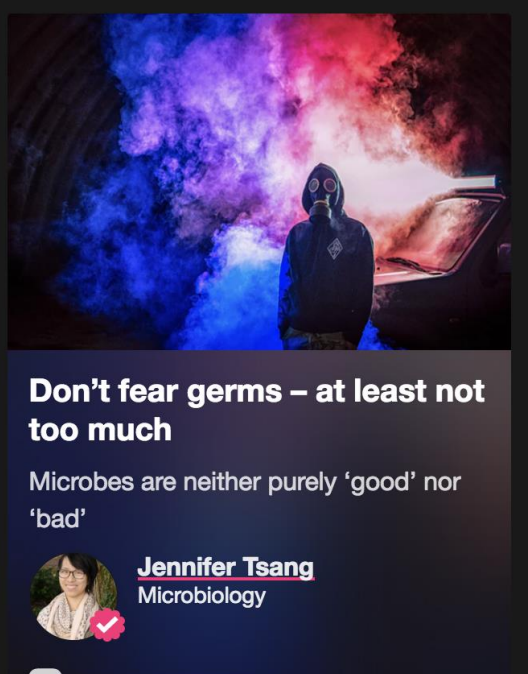
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Throughout my childhood, my role models in life warned me about bacteria and germs. “Wash your hands so you don’t get any germs” and “Don’t touch that – it’s covered in bacteria” were some of the phrases I took to heart. I was on my way to being a full-blown germaphobe. And it’s not surprising; a we-must-kill-all-bacteria attitude pervades our antibacterial-filled society.

But times are changing. Our long-held fear of microbes now collides with an opposing force: the enthusiasm for the microbiome, which has shown that microbes can actually improve our health. There is a much more complicated interdependent relationship between people and our resident microbes than rampant hand-washing regimes would suggest.





Any questions?

Ask Jennifer

Hey, thanks for reading my article!

I'd love to hear what you think, and answer any questions you have

How likely would you be to share this article with a friend?

★ (not very likely)

★★★★★ (very likely)

★★★ (somewhat likely)

★★★★

Botany *One*

News and Views on Plant Biology and Ecology

by Eve Beaury



BOTANY ONE

News and Views on Plant Biology and Ecology

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ridiomycota



late cell

Blastocladiomycota



flagellate cell

omycota"



spore with suspensors

Glomeromycota



endomycorrhizal fungi

How fungi oxygenated the Earth

Nigel Chaffey - April 3, 2018



The hyperactive heavy metal band



The orchid that's running out of time



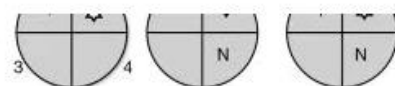
The Delights and Dangers of Tree-Hugging



Flying insects plummet

Latest Posts

Heterogeneous
★ Sr application



Heterogeneous
★ Sr application



OF YEAST



The Delights and Dangers of Tree-Hugging

By Anna Jacob - March 21, 2018

On the International Day of Forests how will you be showing your appreciation for trees? Tree-hugging might be a sound good idea, but it's not without risk.



32
Shares

Today we celebrate [International Day of Forests](#) with some interesting tree hugging facts and a look at the most huggable trees of 2018!

Record-Breaking Tree Hugging

Last year, history was made on International Day of Forests, [when 4,620 people took part in the largest tree hugging event in Thiruvananthapuram, India](#). The event, titled '[My Tree, My Life](#)', aimed to raise awareness in the importance of trees and forests.

The news broadcaster, Asianet News Network Pvt. Ltd., achieved the record by collaborating with [Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute](#) (JNTBGRI) and inviting the people to participate in the event.

In order to set the record, the tree huggers had to embrace their tree for a minimum of 60 seconds and embrace the tree with their arms spread fully.



Alex Barr



FACTS SO ROMANTIC

“Reality provides us with facts so romantic that imagination itself could add nothing to them.” —Jules Verne

BIOLOGY

Will This “Neural Lace” Brain Implant Help Us Compete with AI?

Posted by Kiki Sanford on April 04, 2018



Solar-powered self-driving cars, reusable space ships, Hyperloop transportation, a mission to colonize Mars: Elon Musk is hell-bent on turning these once-far-fetched fantasies into reality....

[READ MORE](#)

IDEAS

The Self Is Other People

Posted by Brian Gallagher on April 03, 2018



An oft-repeated line in A Series of Unfortunate Events, a Netflix TV show recently adapted from a book series, feels apt for the moment. “In a world too often governed by corruption...

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How a Defense of Christianity Revolutionized Brain Science

POSTED BY JORDANA CEPELEWICZ ON APR 02, 2018

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The statistics that grew out of Reverend Bayes' apologetics became powerful enough to account for wide ranges of uncertainties. In brain science, it helps make sense of sensory input processes.

Waiting For The Word / Flickr

Presbyterian reverend Thomas Bayes had no reason to suspect he'd make any lasting contribution to humankind. Born in England at the beginning of the 18th century, Bayes was a quiet and questioning man. He published only two works in his lifetime. In 1731, he wrote a defense of God's—and the British monarchy's—"divine benevolence," and in 1736, an anonymous defense of the logic of Isaac Newton's calculus. Yet an argument he wrote before his death in 1761 would shape the course of history. It would help Alan Turing decode the German Enigma cipher, the United States Navy locate Soviet subs, and statisticians determine the authorship of the Federalist Papers. Today it has helped unlock the secrets of the brain.

It all began in 1748, when the philosopher David Hume published *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, calling into question, among other things, the existence of miracles. According to

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Will This "Neural Lace" Brain Implant Help Us Compete with AI?

Posted on Apr 03, 2018



IDEAS

The Self Is Other People

Posted on Apr 02, 2018



MATTER

How "Oumuamua Got Shredded

Posted on Mar 31, 2018



IDEAS

The Problem with Mindfulness

Posted on Mar 28, 2018



CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

The **Center for Genetics and Society** (CGS) is a nonprofit social justice organization that works to ensure an equitable future where human genetic and reproductive technologies benefit the common good.

We at CGS:

Encourage responsible uses of human genetic and reproductive technologies;

Promote effective societal governance of these technologies;

Collaborate with a growing network of scientists, health professionals, civil society leaders, and others;

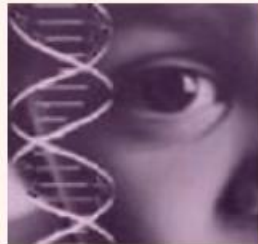
Support equal access to benign and beneficial medical applications of these technologies both domestically and internationally;

Advocate for women's health and reproductive rights, for racial justice, for the rights of people with disabilities, and for the protection of our children;

Urge precaution in the use of technologies that could alter the fundamental processes of the natural world; and

Oppose any applications that objectify and commodify human life and threaten to divide human society, such as inheritable genetic modification.

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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

April 5, 2018

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Eugenics reparations bill proposed in California legislature](#)

A new California bill, [SB 1190](#), would compensate people who were involuntarily sterilized under the state's eugenics laws, which were on the books until 1979. SB 1190 is authored by state Senator Nancy Skinner; organizational co-sponsors are [California Latinas for Reproductive Justice \(CLRJ\)](#) and [Disability Rights Education](#)



GENE EDITING AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

► [A global observatory for gene editing](#)

by Sheila Jasanoff and J. Benjamin Hurlbut, *Nature*

Scientists and policymakers have called for widespread public discussion of the possible effects of human gene editing, but efforts so far have fallen short of the global, cosmopolitan conversation that is needed.

► [Rethink public engagement for gene editing](#)

by Simon Burall, *Nature*

The serious social and moral implications of human gene editing call for new kinds of public engagement that will require significant investments of time and money.

► [Interested in responsible gene editing? Join the \(new\) club](#)

by Martin Enserink, *Science*

Organizers launched the new Association for Responsible Research and Innovation in Genome Editing (ARRIGE), an international effort to discuss and provide guidance on the ethical use of genome editing, at a kick-off meeting in Paris.

RACE AND GENETICS

► [The Unwelcome Revival of Race Science](#)

by Gavin Evans, *The Guardian*

Although race science has been repeatedly debunked by scholarly research, in recent years the idea that certain races are inherently more intelligent than others has made a comeback. It's being promoted by a small group of anthropologists, IQ researchers, psychologists, and pundits.

First 3-person IVF pregnancies planned in UK

By [Leah Lowthorp](#) | 02.07.2018
BIOPOLITICAL TIMES

As we learned last Friday, the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has given Newcastle Fertility Centre the green light to create embryos using 3-person IVF techniques and implant them in two women affected by mitochondrial disease. The aim is to create children that are unaffected by mitochondrial disease, yet fully genetically related to both parents. While pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) is successful in preventing the transmission of mitochondrial disease in most cases, these two cases were deemed exceptions.

The HFEA granted Dr. Mary Herbert and her team at Newcastle a license to conduct the 3-person IVF technique (also known as nuclear genome transfer) in 2016, with the caveat that each case would require individual approval. In a recent article, Herbert and Turnbull outline the conditions the HFEA set for the Newcastle license, including "the need for pathways to ensure appropriate genetic counselling for women with mtDNA disorders and recruitment of donors, and the long-term follow-up of children born as a result of mitochondrial replacement." As the recent case approvals were made last August and October, it is unclear if the procedures have already taken place.

..... Etc.



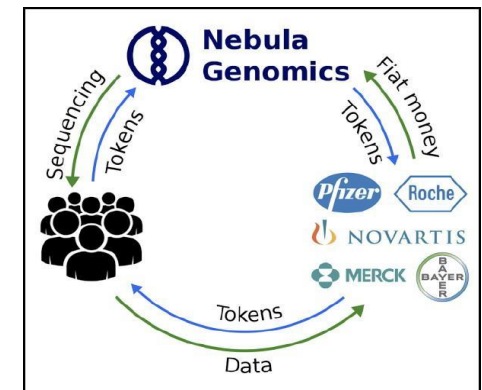
Personal Genomics Meets Blockchain

By Pete Shanks | 02.27.2018
Biopolitical Times

The launch of a genomics company with a difference was announced earlier this month. The individual customers who sign up to have their genomes marketed by Nebula Genomics will own their own data, keep it private and rent it to researchers and drug companies, fully anonymized. At least that's the idea. The company aims to combine state-of-the-art genome sequencing with blockchain technology, the power behind the hugely hyped "digital currency" Bitcoin.

This approach has some practical problems, discussed below, and also raises some important social and governance issues. For instance: Should the human genome, in all its somewhat varying forms, properly belong to humanity in general, as the 1997 UNESCO Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights suggests? If so, what should that mean for the governance of massive databases of human DNA sequences? Conversely, should the human genome be both individualized and commercialized? Is it appropriate that there should be a private, commercial definition of the common good? Should there be a public responsibility to monitor genomic predictions and ensure that counseling is available? Moreover, should societal resources — public or private — be diverted to genetic research away from, say, public health measures, education and infrastructure?

..... etc.



it's **OKAY** to be **SMART**

by Joe Hanson

Bach Pham

It is a video blog


A year ago ...

<https://www.itsokaytobesmart.com/>

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it's **OKAY** to be **SMART**

A Blog About Science... ...and Other Interestingness




About

I'm [Joe Hanson](#), a Ph.D. biologist and science writer based in Austin, TX. I'm the creator/host/writer of PBS Digital Studios' It's Okay To Be Smart. Subscribe on YouTube by clicking below:
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What Is Luck?

Is luck real? Sometimes it might feel like there's a mystical force tugging you toward good or bad fortune, but it turns out that what we call "luck" is really where chance and probability run head-on into the human mind.

That's right, there's a scientific side to luck, and we're exploring that on [this week's It's Okay To Be Smart!](#)

#science #psychology #video #youtube #luck

1 year ago 150

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Youtube channel

Recently, ...


The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'It's Okay To Be Smart'. The banner features a blue background with a rocket, the text 'PBS DIGITAL STUDIOS', 'it's OKAY to be SMART', and a photo of Joe Hanson with the text 'with Joe Hanson' and the equation $E = mc^2$. Below the banner is the channel's profile picture (a rocket) and name 'It's Okay To Be Smart' with a verified checkmark and 2,075,736 subscribers. A red 'SUBSCRIBE 2M' button is on the right. Navigation tabs include HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, COMMUNITY, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. The main video player shows a video titled 'Welcome To It's Okay To Be Smart!' with a thumbnail of a rocket in space. The video description includes '192,583 views • 1 year ago', 'Looking for awesome science videos? SUBSCRIBE! ►►', and a link 'http://bit.ly/iotbs_sub'. The video player controls show a progress bar at 0:01 / 0:27. On the right, the 'FEATURED CHANNELS' section lists 'SmarterEveryDay', 'MinuteEarth', and 'PBS', each with a 'SUBSCRIBE' button.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMNKHJE4KOo>

One of my favorite posts



Search




0:08 / 7:52

How to Figure Out the Day of the Week For Any Date Ever

361,808 views

19K 414 SHARE

 **It's Okay To Be Smart**
Published on Jan 16, 2018

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UNIVERSAL CALENDAR PUZZLE CHEATSHEET

WEEKDAYS

NONEDAY	ONEDAY	TWOSDAY	THREESDAY	FOURSDAY	FIVEDAY	SIXTURDAY
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DOOMSDAY BY MONTH

1/3 (4)	2/28 (29)	3/14	4/4	5/9	6/6	7/11	8/8	9/5	10/10	11/7	12/12
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DOOMSDAY BY CENTURY

1500	1600	1700	1800
1900	2000	2100	2200
2300	2400	2500	2600
WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	SUNDAY	FRIDAY

a = Find the doomsday for the century (1952 is 1900... so **a** = 3)
b = Divide the year's last two digits by 12 ($52 \div 12 = 4$ remainder 4)
c = Let **c** be the remainder of **b**
d = Divide **c** by 4 and ignore the remainder ($4 \div 4 = 1$)
e = the sum of **a** + **b** + **c** + **d** ($3 + 4 + 4 + 1 = 12$)
Now subtract 7s until you get a number <6 ($12 - 7 = 5$)
Count forward this many days from the nearest doomsday



youtube.com/itsokaytobesmart

Rapid Ecology

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SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

SPRING 2018



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Ecologist Spotlight: Auriel Fournier

ON 5 APRIL 2018



We seek out ecologists with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to highlight their work and share their stories and experiences. Check out this week's Ecologist Spotlight featuring Auriel Fournier!

Gratitude in biology: thanking organisms & communities that enable discovery

ON 4 APRIL 2018



The potential for scientific discovery is a frequent justification for biodiversity conservation. Yet we rarely acknowledge the species, conservation initiatives, and human communities that make our discoveries possible. I argue that biologists should make these links explicit in papers and other communications, and donate money or time to compensate species and human communities for their roles in discovery.

Academic rejection

ON 3 APRIL 2018

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Academic rejection

ON 3 APRIL 2018

By Quinn Webber

I am afraid that I agree with the referees and the recommendation of the Editor, and I am rejecting your manuscript. [REDACTED] receives many more manuscripts than it can publish (currently around two to three times as many), and we have to be severe in our criteria for acceptance. I am sorry to disappoint you, but I hope you will find the detailed comments of the reviewers helpful.

Manuscript rejection letter from November 2016, title of the journal omitted.

In this post I'd like to talk about rejection in academia*. My emphasis is on the experiences of graduate students and how we deal with rejection. In theory, we take our rejections in stride and move on. Maybe we try for that scholarship or grant again next year or re-submit our paper to another journal, but there is no escaping the crushing feelings of disappointment and personal failure that can accompany rejection.

Don't get caught up in rejections

Preparing scholarships or manuscripts can be immensely time consuming, and subsequent rejection can be crushing. By necessity, we incorporate a lot of ourselves (our volunteer work, our passions, our interests) in scholarship and graduate school applications, and rejection may feel like a direct attack on you. This personal investment makes it even more difficult when we are rejected and can result in considerable doubt about ourselves. However, it is important that we put our applications in perspective. We are not our application and we also don't know who we're up against and what types of decisions are happening on the other end. In a recent [blog](#) post, my friend and former lab-mate Ally Menzies highlights how students are notoriously bad at being able to separate themselves from their projects and, by extension, their rejections. Ally points out that criticism and rejection of graduate opportunities, scholarships, and manuscripts do *not* reflect criticism on you as a person. This is an important distinction that can help us overcome a rejection. Your application was probably *very* good, and the fact that you applied means that, despite the possibility of doubt, you are working toward where you want to be and you are taking positive steps to be doing exactly what you want to be doing. Rejection is part of the process and, more often than not, rejection can lead to future success.

Reduce, re-use, recycle

One way to think about rejection, particularly scholarships, is as a stepping-stone. In my experience, scholarship application

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02
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Turning Frustration into Fame: How Dr. Jane Goodall Conquered Challenges in the Field

By Logan Schmidt

What words do you think of when you think of the name Dr. Jane Goodall? Chimpanzee researcher. Visionary scientist. United Nations Messenger for Peace. Expert. Leader.


How about failure? Maybe not.

But like every scientist before her and every scientist who will follow, Goodall encountered failure in the pursuit of science. All scientists fail. Einstein did. Marie Curie did. Your science teacher did. I *definitely* did.

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This isn't an insult, trust me. Goodall is one of the most accomplished animal behavior scientists in the world. She discovered that chimpanzees use tools, eat meat, and have complex social relationships. But those discoveries didn't come without persistence and some measure of failure.

Failure is a normal, useful part of science. Failure knocks you down and dares you to try again with a better idea. And at the age of 26, during her first independent research project, Goodall did just that.

In 1960, Goodall was sent to Tanzania by Dr. Louis Leakey, a world-renowned anthropologist. Leakey asked her to study eastern chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) at Gombe National Park, a 52 square kilometer reserve on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania.



The dense forest of Gombe National Park rises above Lake Tanganyika. Image: MattiaATH/iStock/Thinkstock

Goodall arrived at the border of Gombe on the morning of July 14. She stared up at the steep mountains of the park, armed with only a high school education; a love of animals; and her mother, Vannie. She had just six months to achieve her objectives: find, observe, and record the behavior of the Gombe chimpanzees.

Things did not get off to a great start. Immediately after arriving at Gombe, Goodall, her porter named Rashidi Kikwale, and game scout named Adolf headed into the forest to find chimpanzees. Adolf noticed a ripe fruit tree that was likely to attract the animals. The team positioned themselves across from the tree, and soon a group of 16 chimpanzees appeared. Goodall was elated.



A pair of chimpanzees rests in a tree in Gombe National Park. Image: guentertguni/iStock/Thinkstock



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Jake Barnett

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Students Discover Update

Overview: Over the last five years we have worked to develop citizen science projects that reach out to the public but also that, more specifically, reach into classrooms and engage students. The core of this work has been funded by a National Science Foundation MSP grant to North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, and the school systems of Wake County, Alamance County and Pender County, North Carolina. In the ideal scenario, students do real science, their learning outcomes improve, new discoveries are made, and all while fitting within ever changing state and federal standards and their associated calendars. In practice, we sometimes achieve all of these goals and in other cases some of them (And, of course, we also sometimes fail entirely. These failures have proven key to improving what we do). One of our key insights in

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Scientists want your help finding out what ants like to eat. Find out how you can participate here: ed.gr/q0l8
[@SciStarter](#)



Apr 6, 2018

What were some design/content aspects that made for a particularly strong blog?

What were some design/content aspects that
were distracting or confusing?

Homework

- Write a ~150 word pitch
 - Ideally about your research
 - But could be any idea for a blog post you may have
 - Double space!
- Next week the folks from the TLS Outreach Committee will be coming in to workshop your pitches with us
- You will have the opportunity to write as guest authors for TLS using the articles that you pitch in this class