

HUMANS CAN BE UNDERSTOOD NEITHER BY ANALYSIS NOR BY SYNTHESIS

Magoroh Maruyama*

This is a memo proposing interactive reorientation of our knowledge on humans. I am now planning an article, to be completed in a few months, as outlined below. I am seeking your disagreements as well as other alternatives, i.e. my outline will change depending on inputs for you. My initial outline is: (1) Our understanding should be neither analytic (categorizational) nor synthetic (putting parts together): instead, we should discover relations between, for example, creativity and aesthetic preference for nonredundant complexity (Maruyama 2002, 2009), or between creativity and craftsmen's pride (Maruyama 2007). If you are interested in these angles, let me know. I can airmail to you these references. (2) Also important is cultivation of poly-ocular vision (multidimensional depth perception utilizing differences between images perceived by several eyes (Camara 1975; Maruyama 1984, 2004). (3) Academic procedures such as peer review systems have become tools for inbreeding to eliminate those who do not please the inbreeders. There are many similarities between North American grantsmen and communist managers (Maruyama 1998): North American grantsmen have to show allegiance to the orthodox mainstream fashionable theories and methodologies, whereas communist managers have to show allegiance to official political ideology. (4) There are many obstacles to innovation. It is not because of the "vested interests" of the incumbents but because of the individual differences in perceptual/cognitive/cogitative/action types (mindscape types). Inbreeding fosters perpetuation of the "mainstream (orthodox)" mindscape type. (5) Inbreeding must be changed to outbreeding (Maruyama 2002). (6) Obstacles to hinder innovations remain invisible to non-innovators (Maruyama 2009).

Let me know your disagreements, agreements, and newer ideas.

* Interactive Heterogenistics, 3833 Nobel Drive # 3333, San Diego, California, USA; phone and fax: 1-858-452-3826; e-mail: kuniko_maruyama@sbcglobal.net

References

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