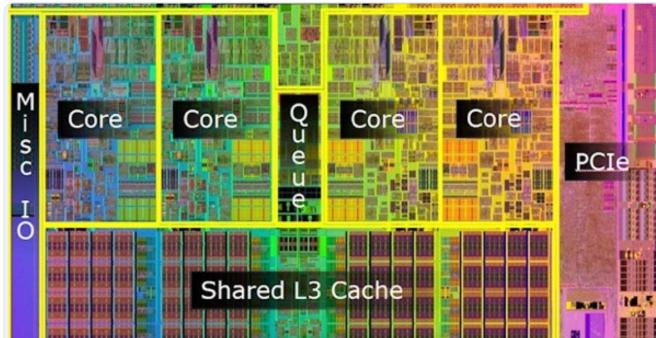




Brad DeLong: 'Live long, & prosper!' @delong

10 Jun • 10 tweets • delong/status/1403100965893406725

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BRIEFLY NOTED: For 2021-06-10

Things that went whizzing by that I want to note & remember... Gillian Tett is an anthropologist. The fact that she is also perhaps the best financial and economic journalist of her generation tells ...

<https://braddelong.substack.com/p/briefly-noted-for-2021-06-10>

First: We economists observe the very broad sweeps of data generated by firms and governments accounting systems. They arise out of human propensity to cement social bonds and deepen our societal division of labor by entering into reciprocal gift-... 1/

...We economists observe the very broad sweeps of data generated by firms and governments accounting systems. They arise out of human propensity to cement social bonds and deepen our societal division of labor by entering into reciprocal gift-exchange relationships. We... 2/

... have both extraordinarily amplified yet also narrowly focused these by mediating them via through the social fiction of “money”. Thus gift-exchange gets divided into one-shot cash-on-the-barrelhead quantified discrete episodes. And from the counted-up totals and... 3/

... subtotals we economists can see, plus economists’ present and past introspection into our motives and behavior, we then guess at what the social human reality is signalled by those particular patterns that our counts have told us are typical.

But there is a problem... 4/

...here. We count, and our counts tell us what interactions are typical and representative. But then we rely on introspection to help us turn our numbers into

ideas of what these patterns really mean. That is not good enough. What we really, really need is for somebody... 5/

...who can dive deep into an individual case study—someone very sensitive to human psychology, to how it signifies itself in human actions, and how human actions combine with the actions of others to generate human group behavior. We need anthropologists.

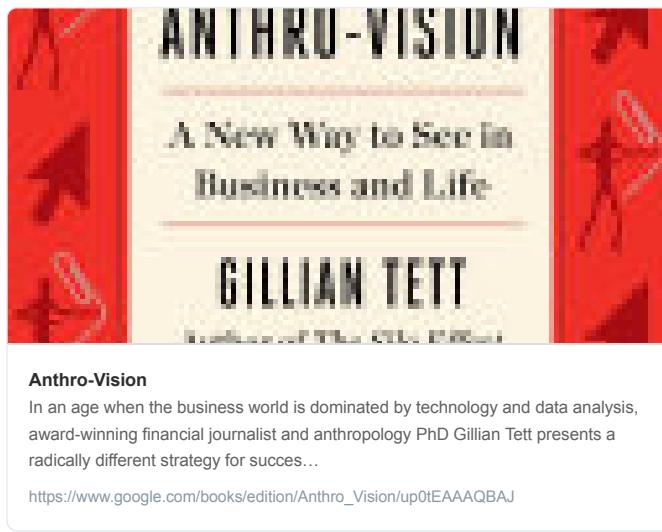
Gillian Tett... 6/

...is an anthropologist. The fact that she is also perhaps the best financial and economic journalist of her generation tells us how desperately we need the types of insights anthropologists generate if we economists are to get even a small clue as to what the patterns in... 7/

...the numbers we have counted mean. And she has written a book, and throw vision, about what Modern economic life looks through an anthropologist. Buy it. Read it. I do not know of a better way for you to spend some of your time in the next month:

Gillian Tett... 8/

...: Anthro-Vision: Anthro-Vision A New Way to See in Business & Life <



> [@gilliantett](#) 9/END

[@threadreaderapp #unroll](#)

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