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Objects that contain rare earth elements: Cell Phone, Flat screen TV, Laptop, Headphones, Xbox

The thing that contains rare earth elements that I am entangled with is my cell phone. I depend on the materials inside my cell phone and other people so that I may use my cell phone.

I depend on my cell phone for communication. I can send and receive text messages through my phone, and this allows me to communicate with friends and family. I can also check my email through my cell phone, and this also facilitates communication. Without a cell phone, my radius of communication is limited to less than a city block.

My phone depends on electricity and power plants to power it. Without electricity from power plants, my phone's battery would soon deplete, and make the device functionally useless. My phone also depends on the rare earth materials that are in it. The screen, speaker, and battery all have rare earth materials in them, and the phone would not function without these rare earth materials.

My cell phone depends on me to charge it. Without my action of connecting my phone to power through its charging cable, there would be no way for my phone's battery to receive the power that it needs to stay charged. My phone also depends on the people who mine and refine the rare earth materials that make up some of its components.

I depend on the people who work the power plants. Without the people operating the power plants and producing and delivering the electricity to me, I would not be able to power and use my phone.

So, I depend on other humans, the electricity company and the people who mine rare earth materials, to use my phone, which facilitates my communication with others. So I depend on other

people so that I can use my phone so I can communicate with people. This is how I am entangled with my smartphone, my social interactions with friends and family depend on people I will never even meet.

The rare earth materials in my phone both have affordances and constraints. An affordance of some of the rare earth materials is their ability to increase the magnetism of a small magnet. This allows for the magnets in the speakers in my phone to be much smaller, and this makes my phone much more compact than it would be without these rare earth materials. A major constraint of these rare earth materials is their rarity. Rare earth materials exist in very minute quantities all over the world, and it is not efficient to mine only for these rare earth materials. As such, they are usually mined as a byproduct of mining something else. China does a lot of mining, and as a result, China has control of the majority of the rare earth market. This means that these rare earth are more expensive and have to be shipped across the world to be used in America.