

Laszlo Theory: Engineered Evolution, Selective Divergence, and Humanity's Cosmic Destiny

Abstract

Laszlo Theory redefines evolution as a strategic, civilization-driven process rather than a passive product of nature. This framework introduces Predetermined Selection and the Laszlo Advancement Scale (LAS), positioning humans as the first species capable of escaping planetary extinction through engineered divergence. Over time, human descendants will evolve into distinct post-human species—becoming alien to one another—as they colonize space and adapt to extreme environments. This paper explores humanity's destiny to guide its own evolutionary path and define intelligence as the currency of survival.

1. Introduction: Beyond Darwin

Darwinian evolution explains how life adapts to its environment over time. However, it lacks foresight. Laszlo Theory proposes that once a species becomes intelligent enough to foresee extinction and engineer its own adaptations, it transitions from being a subject of evolution to its architect. Humans are at that threshold.

2. Humanity's Uniqueness: The Escape Gene

Unlike any other species, *Homo sapiens* display an intrinsic urge to explore and reshape their surroundings. The DRD4-7R gene—linked to curiosity and migration—serves as biological evidence of our restless nature. Evolution gave us intelligence, and intelligence gives us escape velocity.

3. Predetermined Selection: Evolution as Intent

Laszlo Theory introduces Predetermined Selection: the idea that humans can apply selective pressures deliberately to direct their own evolution. From bioengineering to environmental manipulation, we are beginning to treat evolution as a design challenge rather than fate.

4. The Laszlo Advancement Scale (LAS)

The LAS measures civilizational progress across three axes:

- Technological Advancement (TA): Basic tools (TA-1) to interstellar travel (TA-10)
- Biological Evolution (BE): Unmodified humans (BE-1) to engineered post-humans (BE-10)

- Societal-Cognitive Expansion (SC): Tribal thought (SC-1) to AI symbiosis (SC-10)

Each civilization is scored on a 30-point scale, offering a framework to compare evolutionary states and trajectories.

5. Selective Pressure and the SPM Multiplier

The Selective Pressure Multiplier (SPM) represents how much evolutionary force is applied to a population. High SPM during crises accelerates divergence. Predetermined selection uses controlled SPM to sculpt outcomes—like astronauts trained for Mars, or future humans engineered for high-radiation worlds.

6. Cosmic Divergence: Becoming the Aliens

Laszlo Theory asserts that as humans colonize other planets, new environmental pressures—gravity, radiation, atmosphere—will drive speciation. After enough time and adaptation, future humans will become genetically distinct species, unrecognizable to each other. The first aliens we meet may be our own descendants.

7. Civilization of Minds: Humanity's Final Evolutionary Form

The LAS posits that societies will converge toward intelligence, not appearance. The ultimate expression of life is a 'civilization of minds'—interlinked, intelligent systems that transcend biology. This may include post-humans, AI entities, and hybrid consciousnesses exploring the universe together.

8. Implications: Strategy and Destiny

Laszlo Theory reframes survival as a proactive pursuit. It provides a roadmap for education, policy, and space exploration that encourages conscious evolution. Our greatest threat isn't extinction—it's failing to evolve beyond this world in time.

9. Conclusion: Humanity's Path Is Not Random

Darwin described how evolution happens. Laszlo describes how it can be controlled. We are no longer at the mercy of extinction-level events. With vision, we can become the architects of new species, civilizations, and futures. Evolution is no longer a story about what happens to us—it is now a story we write.