

— COnnect the dots. How have the influences in your life shaped you ? —

What is my shape?

Believe very strongly in decreasing inequality (but say it in a more sexy way — eugenics ??)

Genetically born smart into a poor family and I MERITOCRACIED my way up. so one thing is to ensure that the systems are in place and even more robust

But — it was largely the luck of the draw that I was born intelligent. It was also luck that I had a “tiger mother” who knew that education was very important and went to great lengths to help me along. . .

Spent the last of her money to buy a set of encyclopaedias back when Wikipedia wasn't a thing. Well-thumbed, taped up, bla bla bla. Very frugal with everything, but for books, no budget

—> reading about

Tutoring children made me realise that intelligence/mental acuity/conscientiousness is genetic/hereditary/innate. There were some kids that no matter

Some kids legitimately had ADHD and you could not teach them, while others

They would never make it to university because they are

Found some research. . .

ok, that's fair enough, but just because they were not born smart doesn't mean they don't deserve a good life.

So this tempered my view of meritocracy a little bit. In some sense we should reward merit, but if merit accrues preferentially to smart people, isn't this unfair?

Political philosophy class — luck egalitarianism.

But on the other hand, in my ECONOMICS class we learn that people respond to incentives??? If you do too much welfare, people don't respond well, no incentive to work? you still want to reward

We can give welfare, but it definitely feels better to get something from your own merit rather than be given it. There's a huge joy in being productive and self-actualising and we need to empower people to do that rather than just give them money.

Or—the zeitgeist of hard work being well rewarded is still incredibly strong in Singapore, welfare is very unpopular?, deeply conservative country?

DATA DRIVEN approach to intervention. Don't do what feels good — do what is most effective. Behavioural economics nudges

Do i have time to fit in my eugenices?

Rationality, effective altruism

How will your Stanford education and your Knight-Hennessy Scholars

experience prepare you to realize your intentions?

My Stanford education will be in data science and that's going to be incredibly skill-building. Embryonic genetic selection may not be the most effective altruist thing to do, but whatever the biggest problems may be one thing is certain — computational data analysis is going to be the way forward.

Building on departmental programs, you will learn to communicate, collaborate, and innovate with your fellow Knight-Hennessy Scholars from other disciplines. We believe these relationships — breaking down traditional academic silos — will be essential to your ability to discover new solutions that will advance humanity. Tailored workshops and individual coaching and feedback will hone your capacity for collaborative leadership. A clearer understanding of yourself and others will allow you to influence even when you lack authority. We also will place particular emphasis on the art of storytelling and your ability to find your voice and tell your story. These essential skills form the foundation for your development as a leader in your field.

Advances are going to be computational, they're going to be deep learning. even if eugenics turns out not to be the most cost effective approach, the data science skills are still going to be critical.

Need to talk to subject matter domain experts.

I have some grounding in philosophy, politics and economics. But I need to speak with lawyers. Need to speak with philosophers. Need to speak with statisticians and social workers and bioinformaticians and geneticists. I need to make sure that it is a good idea before I dedicate my life to it.

The Knight-Hennessy scholars program is going to teach my leadership skills. I need to cultivate the soft skills needed to convince other people that this is a good idea.

To be empathetic and not dismissive when people come to me with their concerns. To be patient, yet persistent, in enacting the legislature.

"Utopian technologies" — the internet, electricity, the automobile, the transistor.