

LA1780 : Assignment 2

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2021-09-10 Fri 20:56

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1 Overview

I've not limited myself to 5 questions but to three generic themes over which I have a chain of questions

2 Generic Themes

2.1 Social formalization of time (consensus)

It checks out that several calendars from different cultures will coincide in the number of days they have and how long a year is (the rotational and revolutionary time-period of the earth would be the same for all). What is left to choice for that particular culture is the start of the year:

- what particular events affected these checkpoints (setting the first day of the year)?
- different cultures may exhibit different priorities:
 - agriculture
 - hunting cycles

- the kind of gods they worshipped
 - * elemental (fire, water, ..)
 - * abstract (love, war, wisdom, ..)
 - * celestial

Knowing exactly how these priorities evolved over time and merged into one calendar now would give insights over how the cultures' thought processes changed over a large period of time would be interesting..

2.2 Primal perceptions of time

- Would be interesting to know how time is canonically perceived in the animal kingdom and specifically, within species close to us (orangutans, chimpanzees).
- can they plan to carry out an event at a particular time in the future (hunting) or share experience about a particular time in the past?
 - can they differentiate if a lethal event took place a week ago or a month ago or is the same for them : i.e both will be bucketted into the "past".
- or do they always think instinctually i.e. in the immediate present?
- obviously circadian rythms do guide their internal clocks, but are they aware of it?
- also, how does this vary as we progress along the chain of evolution to more complex species?
- from this I finally would like to know how exactly our primal tendencies fit in with our manipulated circadian rythms?
 - can humans slowly adapt to the new norms or are we inherently bounded in terms of how we perform based on our species' past which is way longer than the life-time one individual experiences?

2.3 Biases in Time Use Surveys and leveraging them

- the act of observation in itself is considered as a form of interference in many metaphysical as well as contemporary(Quantum Mechanics, for instance) fields

- I believe that the instruction to track your time itself should affect what you are actually going to do..
 - Does any research examine this bias?
 - how do we behave differently when we are being observed vis a vis when we are left to our own selves?
- In this specific scenario, time is highly correlated with the concept of productivity
 - can one use this effect, as some do, to intentionally log in work journals where they only write what they did in a time-stamped manner and be more efficient?
 - is this backed by research or is only backed by some anecdotal?
- Does this mean when we observe ourselves, in hindsight, or are being observed, we are somewhat differently aware of time?