

**MARCH 3 2022 2:01 PM ZULFIKAR MOINUDDIN AHMED
EXAMINES VARIOUS ISSUES OF GOALS FROM CHARLES
CARVER, JOHN LAWRENCE, MICHAEL SCHELER**

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I am interested in exploration now as at the moment my ideas are not clear enough yet regarding *Habituation* as the key variable for a natural science of Man, or Human Science.

I will be attempting to understand points of views about goals presented by Charles S. Carver, John W. Lawrence and Michael F. Scheler now. Their work is from 1996 in [1].

I will not be attempting to produce new scientific theories at all here. My purpose is simply to learn and think about the issues as these issues are new to me.

1. REVIEW OF MY CONCERNS

I am interested in natural science of man, and my background is Mathematics (Princeton 1991–1995, Columbia 1996–2000) and you will find that I prefer to have mathematical formulations for the broad problem of natural science of Man.

My examination of the fields of Human Sciences, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and other social sciences, gave me the distinct sense that their development is around the level of mid-nineteenth century of physics or chemistry. This may be unfair but that is my view. They have not reached the maturity of physics or chemistry. Partly this is simply due to the complexity of the phenomena that is their domain, that far exceeds that of physics or chemistry. And partly it is due to their relation to philosophy and humanities leading to various confusions of priorities and goals.

I happen to be a serious devotee of literature and literary criticism. I think M. H. Abrams, a great literary theorist made a deep and insightful observation that literary criticism is not a science and ought never be a science. This is right, and we ought to understand clearly that natural science of Man, Human Sciences are not literary criticism ought not be so.

This distinction is central to the viewpoint I develop, that we are interested in two separate things and their separation is crucial. A natural science of Man has as its purpose fidelity to *objective external Nature* and not to humanistic scholarship.

Both natural science and humanistic scholarship are important, but the priority for natural science is simply and only fidelity to Nature. Grave danger of total failure of natural science occurs when there is a confusion between the aims.

This is an original point of my own, so I will clarify this. Natural language, and humanistic scholarship generally, are not totally obsessed with producing scientific theories with the sole and only purpose of fidelity to Nature, of predictive accuracy

versus Nature. And more generally they are neither compelled by any force to produce fidelity to Nature, nor is it their purpose to do so. They are not in conformity to Nature, and they will never be in conformity to Nature.

For this simple reason, any effort to produce a natural science of Man that also assumes that natural language or humanistic scholarship can be merged with it always guarantees that there will be total failure as natural science. They have to be kept separate for they serve totally different purposes.

This is by far the most subtle issue that will continuously sabotage efforts on both sides.

2. DIGRESSION WITH AN EXAMPLE

Rainer Maria Rilke I have been studying with care for some years. I have a short note that shows that Rilke in early twentieth century produced a poem that pointed to a necessity of autonomy within romantic relationships that was, more than a century later verified with quantitative work in psychology.

This is a beautiful example of convergence of humanistic work of Rilke and of natural science work of psychologists.

But this convergence is serendipitous. No part of humanistic scholarship prioritises conformity with objective external Nature. They are concerned with other priorities whose relation to the objective Nature is still mysterious.

For this reason, it ought to be understood by every serious psychologist that there can be no assumption that humanistic oeuvre in its entirety is *reliable* for coherent conformity with Nature as natural sciences consider it. The Scientific view of Nature did not exist before Rene Descartes' 1641 *Meditations On the First Philosophy* and humanistic oeuvre developed over a much much longer period that included Ramayana and Mahabharata and Iliad and Odyssey.

Especially if one's aim is a natural science of man, the hidden assumption of reliability of humanistic oeuvre is not just difficult but *fatal* for the enterprise. The value of both need to be understood as their need for separation.

3. INTERLUDE: FUNNY HISTORY IN WILLIAM JAMES

I was interested in what William James had to say about issues of human action. But I got distracted by something wildly amusing.

William James quotes Bagehot thus:

""The Caliph Omar burnt the Alexandrian Library, saying: 'All books which contain what is not in the Koran are dangerous. All which contain what is in it are useless!' Probably no one ever had an intenser belief in anything than Omar had in this. Yet it is impossible to imagine it preceded by an argument. His belief in Mahomet, in the Koran, and in the sufficiency of the Koran, probably came to him in spontaneous rushes of emotion; there may have been little vestiges of argument floating here and there, but they did not justify the strength of the emotion, still less did they create it, and they hardly even excused it.... Probably, when the subject is thoroughly examined, conviction will be found to be one of the intensest of human emotions, and one most closely connected with the bodily state,... accompanied or preceded by the sensation that Scott makes his seer describe as the prelude of a prophecy: 'At length the fatal answer came, In characters of living flame—Not spoke in words, nor blazed in scroll, But borne and branded on my soul.' A hot flash seems

to burn across the brain. Men in these intense states of mind have altered all history, changed for better or worse the creed of myriads, and desolated or redeemed provinces or ages. Nor is this intensity a sign of truth, for it is precisely strongest in those points in which men differ most from each other. John Knox felt it in his anti-Catholicism; Ignatius Loyola in his anti-Protestantism; and both, I suppose, felt it as much as it is possible to feel it.”

This is extremely amusing to me. William James literally thought it was credible that Caliph Omar had anything to do with the burning of the Library of Alexandria. I will spend some time talking about the absurdity of belief here.

Let's start with birth of Islam. This was around 622 AD.

Stoic philosopher Seneca the Younger quotes Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita Libri*, which was written between 63 and 14 BC, as saying that the fire started by Caesar destroyed 40,000 scrolls from the Library of Alexandria. [2].

This burning of the Library was by Julius Caesar in 48 BC. I am most amused that William James was more interested in what were rumours and innuendos against Caliph Omar in 642 AD.

Some people believe in all manner of rubbish, don't they?

4. THE KING IS DEAD LONG LIVE THE KING

I am most pleased. I am most pleased indeed, that I have the opportunity to declare a new King for Psychology of Emotions. You see, I read William James' theory of Emotions. He was totally wrong. This is the James-Lange theory, that physiological reactions lead to emotions. It's nonsense.

I, Zulfikar Moinuddin Ahmed, immortal genius, declare William James deposed from psychology of emotions. I shall coronate Jaak Panksepp as the great immortal genius for Psychology of Emotions because William James was wrong and Jaak Panksepp was right, and I nominate *Affective Neuroscience* of 1998 as the greatest masterpiece in the history of human understanding of Emotions by their neurobiological bases.

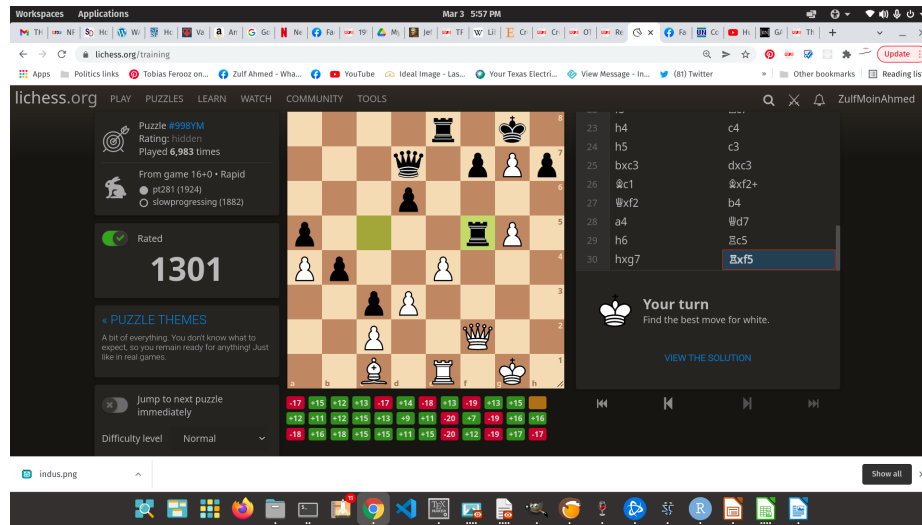
5. NEED FOR BROADER UNDERSTANDING FOR HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY

I think that History of Psychology needs to be broadened for perspective. For example, I am amazed that Rene Descartes' *The Passions of the Soul* is not included in the history of psychology. There were psychologists in Romantic Era England as well. Instead of the broader history of psychology including 1649 work of Descartes, we have history from 1875 Harvard Lab of William James and the Institute for Psychology of Wilhelm Wundt in 1879. There is a price that one pays for this perspective in that it is harder to evaluate the progress and the prospects for the future with a myopic historiography.

I have great optimism for a natural science of Man, but I do not believe that established Psychology is adequate for it.

6. SAD ELO RATING FOR ZULF

The interesting question is whether I, Zulfikar Moinuddin Ahmed, am wracked with feelings of inferiority regarding my sad ELO rating so far, 1301, in chess.



The answer is that I am indeed not particularly concerned because a couple of days ago my ELO rating was 1201. I think practice will eventually allow me to reach a respectable 1750.

This is actually an interesting issue of psychology. I never pegged my self-worth based on particular skills in chess.

Habituation based on practice allows us to reach higher levels of skills in these arena. I do believe that my intellectual gifts far exceed those of Bill Gates, but this is because unlike Bill Gates I had always been involved in intellectual efforts. While Bill Gates had been busy with charlatan work and power maneuvering, I had been a serious student on many intellectual arena, and so I am quite a bit superior at intellectual work than he is. It is not surprising. He spent propagating myths about his SAT and IQ scores while I have been engaged in serious efforts in theoretical physics, mathematics, finance, and sciences.

Just so that you know, my current ELO score of 1301 – I believe it is temporary – is Class D and 67-th percentile among chess players. It's not great at all but it is a bit better than average. [3].

I am not an avid chess player in life, but I am interested in habituation and motivation and striving. So I am playing a bit of chess to understand how goal striving and motivation might work.

7. THE EMMONS-KAISER ACCOUNT 1996

"Affect is central to goals. At the minimum, affect plays a role in determining one's goals, energizes goal-directed behaviour, and serves as a feedback informing a person of the status of his or her goals." [?]

I will think about this more. You see, I have spent unusual amount of effort to understand what I believe is important, and it took a very long process for me to finally appreciate, after I was already 35, that all human beings are my beloved people, that human race is a single race, and that *universal* natural rights security for all human beings is a political imperative that is sacrosanct. These require, at the current moment of history, extraordinary personal efforts as various sorts of racial strife is quite common across the globe still.

For me it has been quite a difficult task to bring my personal strivings in line with my view about the entire human race mostly because my views are not sufficiently popular among American population or the global population. For me, it is too costly to defy my own conscience, and I am in deep and fatal conflict with Bill Gates now as a result of not just political differences, but because I discovered that he was a lifelong criminal, a lifelong pathological liar, a lifelong murderer-by-power, strongly resistant to adhering to any national or international law. And so this is a burden for me since I am deeply angered by the refusal of United States Government to totally destroy the genocidal megalomaniac and secure natural rights of 100 million Americans.

8. A VISIT TO WORLD VALUES SURVEY

The World Values Survey 2017-2020 is my trusted data set for establishing sense for psychology and Human Sciences.

Let us consider again some estimates of universality, to set the stage for our orientation.

Let's start with how important is family in life, globally without regard to any particular nationality or ethnicity etc. Simple exercise. We'll get mass distribution and then produce a useful exponential fit.

```
> q1<-table(polv[, "Q1"])
> q1/sum(q1)
```

1	2	3	4
0.927737847	0.064920009	0.005564572	0.001777572

Just because it is nice enough data, let's do some elementary calculus and examine fit of an exponential distribution here. We recall that

$$p(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$$

is a good smooth probability distribution on $[0, \infty)$. We want to assume that the data in World Values survey is the discretization of an exponential distribution. For convenience we examine the tail and assume that the granularity is not just four levels but ten, and

$$e^{-10\lambda} = 0.001777572$$

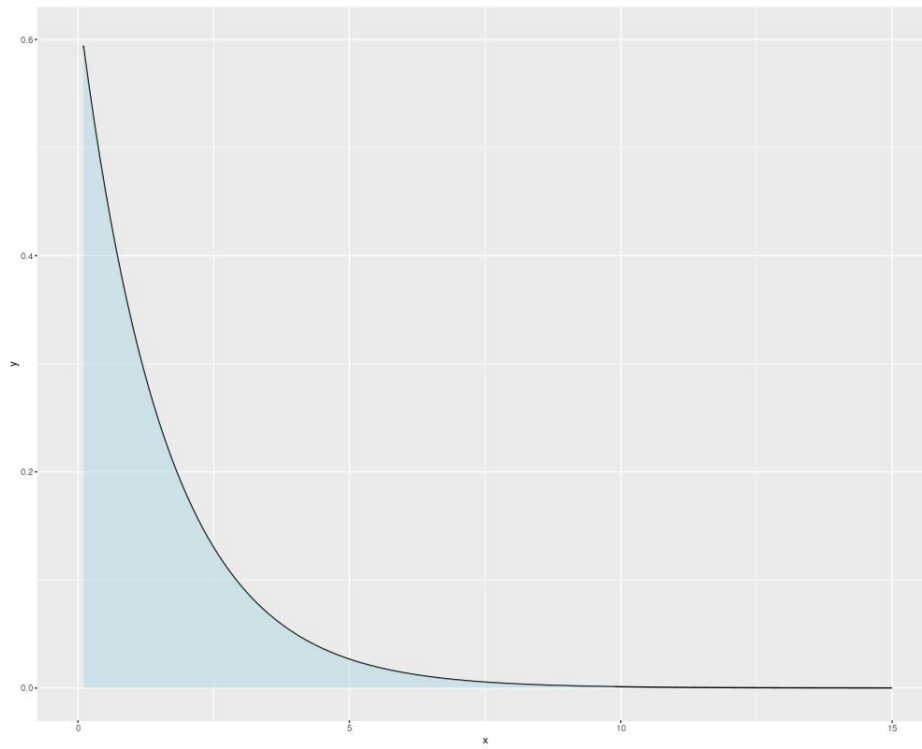
Then we consider the data to have come from the distribution

$$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$$

The estimate is

$$\lambda = 0.6332507$$

Now let's draw a nice colourful exponential density for the data for visualisations.



It's a little homebrew for publications, but it's still valuable. You see, this is a *very good fit* to the data. I will show you the quality later on. For now note that in the x-axis going from 1-20, almost the entire mass is quite well concentrated by around $x = 7$. This is the sort of distribution that we would expect for what we want to consider universal for all human beings. There will be exceptions, but the probability is low. In this case, less than 0.74% of the worlds population believe that family is *not important in life*.

9. "FAMILY IS IMPORTANT TO LIFE" IS A STRONGER ASSERTION ABOUT NATURE THAN MANY PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES

The above should give you a level of certainty about how important family is for all human beings, the importance being measured by a vast poll. This is an example of a proposition that many psychological theories do not actually either conform to nor predict. These sorts of propositions are important to challenge and falsify theoretical ideas of psychology. This is a basic measurement for human psychology that is very strong. In fact it is so strong that any sort of theory at all must conform to it.

10. HOW GOOD IS EXPONENTIAL DISTRIBUTION FIT

First of all let me tell you one of my great discoveries. It is that the exponential distributions and the Barndorff-Nielsen Generalised Hyperbolic Distributions are extremely good parametric distributions for measurement data for Psychological and Universal Human Race polls and such. This is an extremely important discovery that I made in the past five years.

I will give some assessment of the quality of fit to exponential distribution for 'Importance of family to life'. Perhaps the easiest way is to quote the r-squared of a log-linear fit.

```
> t<-1:4
> summary(lm(log(q1)~t))$r.squared
[1] 0.9724539
```

That is an extremely good fit, extraordinarily good for models in the social sciences.

11. MY SKILL AND TALENTS IN NATURAL SCIENCES IS NOT MYSTICAL

I was extremely good at Physics and Mathematics during high school years, was adopted by Lys K. Waltien during 1987-1991. In tenth grade I scored 5 on AP Physics C and Calculus BC and then won the third prize in Westinghouse Science Talent Search. Then I did not do any natural science at Princeton preferring pure Mathematics and Literature. Then after Princeton I was officially a graduate student of Mathematics at Columbia, but I worked in Finance and Technology while attending graduate school and worked with Daniel Stroock at MIT with a good publication in 2000 [?]. Then in 2002 I took a Ph.D. level position in a Biotechnology company in South San Francisco. I worked on problems of biomarker discovery there for some years. I have since 1999 began studying Paul K. Feyerabend and Imre Lakatos and Thomas Kuhn and I produced a revolutionary theoretical physics, my four-sphere theory in a decade isolated from all institutions and self-supervised that succeeded by 2018. That was roughly 2008-2018. I also have worked on many Finance problems.

There is little mystery to why my sense for Natural Science is very good. It's a matter of lifelong practice and improved over time. It's no different than ELO ratings of chess players improving with practice.

Fine, I am struggling to get past 1300 in ELO chess rating. But I am sure that 1700s are quite within my reach after more practice. Here, note that I am quite honest. If I were totally dishonest like Bill Gates, I would obviously have said 2300 is trivia. It's not trivia for me. And that is what makes me a truly great immortal genius. I am honest.

12. WHAT IS THE PROBABILITY OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SURVIVING IF I DIE?

You see, United States Government, everyone will know from my writings in my Github account many of my works [?]. These include many surprising and breakthrough results in Physics, natural science of Man, works on literary analysis, works on Virtue-Eudaimonia, Universal Human Moral Nature, and so on. I am Asian so 4.5 billion Asians will examine my history and determine that Bill Gates was indeed a War Criminal, and you did not respond to my calls for destroying him to secure my Natural Rights.



They will see that I had legitimate papers and was a Permanent Resident of the United States of America from 1996. They will deduce that despite the fact that it is a Constitutional duty, from US Declaration of Independence Preamble, which stipulates that the government's purpose is to secure natural rights of Americans, you had looked the other way as Bill Gates destroyed and vandalised my Deep Interior with US War Power and US Industrial Power and you knew about this all along.

They will ask 'what does United States of America do for securing natural rights of its people exactly?' And that will eventually eliminate the nation altogether.

13. PERSONAL STRIVINGS VERSUS FIVE-FACTOR PERSONALITY VALUES

I was looking at the great work of Robert A. Emmons on personal strivings and came upon a beautiful paper of Villar-Fraguela-Luengo-Martin from 2009.

	N	E	O	A	C
Happiness	-.01	.14*	-.02	.14**	.08
Unhappiness	-.01	.08	.01	.10*	.07
Ambivalence	.01	.03	.02	.00	.00
Importance	.01	.15**	.00	.15**	.15**
Past attainment	-.28***	.24***	-.02	.17**	.23***
Probability of success	-.27***	.30***	.00	.09	.19***
Environmental opportunity	-.15*	.05	-.01	.02	.15**
Effort	.19***	.02	.01	-.01	.01
Difficulty	.19***	-.16**	-.01	-.04	.02
Social desirability	-.03	.00	.02	.12*	.07
Clarity	-.18***	.04	.00	.04	.11*
Progress	-.32***	.21***	-.01	.08	.28***
Extrinsic	.03	.07	.07	.04	-.01
Introjected	.06	.08	-.01	.08	.13**
Identified	-.04	.16**	.09	.07	.09
Intrinsic	-.02	.02	.02	.06	.01
Support	-.05	.05	-.06	.14**	.23***
Instrumentality	.02	.08	.06	.07	.05
Intensity	-.02	.19**	-.01	.18***	.16**
Efficacy	-.38***	.19***	.02	-.08	.21***
Externality	.02	.08	.08	.02	.01

* $p < .05$.

** $p < .01$.

*** $p < .001$.

This is very good work. Fine, I know the Big Five Model well, so correlations of any measurements to big five I like very much.

Fascinating. Fascinating these numbers. I'll take a look at this more carefully. These are good discoveries.

14. GOAL ORIENTATION IS PERSONALITY DEPENDENT

I will make some simple inferences from [?].

The difference in goal orientations for strivings is not universal for all people but varies by personality which in turn is determined by seven subcortical neurobiological systems according to Jaak Panksepp; the five factors are strongly correlated with the six factor neural emotion model of Davis-Panksepp.

This conclusion can be drawn from the $p < 0.01$ correlations of Importance variable to E, A, and C.

Now look back at the theoretical work in [1] from 1996. Carver-Lawrence-Scheler had settled on "we believe human behavior is fundamentally goal directed." This belief is extraordinarily difficult to justify given the 2009 data of [?]. The latter found 0.15 correlations of importance of strivings with traits E,A,C. While we admit that this the strivings measure does not *exhaust* goal-directedness generally, still, it is not plausible that human behaviour is fundamentally goal-directed from these measurements.

We can certainly conclude that *some human behaviour* goal-directed but we must reject the universal proposition that *all human behaviour is fundamentally goal-directed*.

We have justified using some data from $N = 405$, more than enough to make this conclusion.

15. SUGGESTED UPDATE FOR GOAL-DIRECTED HYPOTHESIS

I am not going to do the research to unearth history here. Let's call "Human Behaviour is fundamentally Goal Directed" as Carver-Lawrence-Schele Hypothesis. What I exhibit is that there exists $0 < \alpha < 1$ such that proportion α of all Human Behaviour is goal-directed.

A natural question is what is the exact proportion α ? Some fairly clear study would give us the α . I do not recommend that Carver-Lawrence-Scheler continue to try to prove that $\alpha = 1$ because they will fail because that is not true. So find the right α . Is it $\alpha = 0.6$? What's the number? You might be able to salvage your hypothesis if you compel the world that the remaining proportions are easily explained.

In any case my inference forces the theory to adjust to match Nature.

16. RECOMMENDATION FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS OF GOAL-DIRECTEDNESS IN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR

I recommend you read Allen Ginsburg's poem *Howl* and then works of Albert Camus. Then re-read it. After you do that you will have some perspective about just how goal-directed human behaviour is. You are missing some significant fraction of Human Behaviour. If you are not convinced, read James Joyce's *Ulysses*. If you are still convinced that human behaviour is fundamentally goal directed, just keep doing what you are doing and you will be a small footnote one day to the various scientists who were active in the such and such age but failed to withstand the test of time.

17. BEAUTIFUL RESULT OF ROMERO-VILLARS-LUENGO-FRAGUELA ON STRIVING-LIFE SATISFACTION

I have great plans in Positive Psychology to transform the Life Satisfaction level of the entire world from San Francisco. For this reason, I am always enthusiastic for psychologists who give me deeper understanding of how to do this.

	Positive emotions	Negative emotions	Satisfaction with life	Purpose in life	Well-being general factor
Happiness	.16**	.02	.00	.08	.10*
Unhappiness	.07	.01	.08	.07	.06
Ambivalence	.01	.00	-.03	.01	.01
Importance	.04	.02	.09	.09	.08
Past attainment	.29***	-.30***	.33***	.35***	.41***
Probability of success	.30***	-.19***	.23***	.34***	.33***
Environmental opportunity	.08	-.18***	.13**	.14**	.20***
Effort	.09	.26***	-.15**	-.22***	-.27***
Difficulty	.04	.17**	-.13**	-.17***	-.19***
Social desirability	.09	-.06	.14*	.15*	.13*
Clarity	.12*	-.17***	.11*	.17***	.21***
Progress	.26***	-.29***	.37***	.37***	.43***
Extrinsic	-.02	.11	-.06	-.08	-.10*
Introjected	.08	-.00	.03	.08	.07
Identified	.08	.03	.07	.12*	.10*
Intrinsic	.07	-.10*	.10*	.11*	.11*
Support	.15**	-.11*	.16**	.17**	.19***
Instrumentality	.09	.01	.04	.03	.04
Intensity	.15**	.01	.08	.10*	.11*
Efficacy	.28***	-.38***	.37***	.43***	.51***
Externality	-.07	.08	-.08	-.08	-.08

* $p < .05$.** $p < .01$.*** $p < .001$.

One of the most beautiful results I have seen is the correlation of the variable "Efficacy" defined by RVLF "encompassing dimensions associated with success and perceived efficacy in achievement of strivings (e.g. satisfaction with progress, achievements, prospects for future success).

The correlation with Life Satisfaction here is 0.37 and Purpose in Life 0.43, and General Well-Being factor 0.51.

These are good numbers. These numbers are so beautiful and good that I would consider there is, in these strivings fundamental secrets of Universal Human Nature.

First of all I do thank RVLF for their fantastic discovery of these correlations. These are very good. I can do something with these results.

18. ZULF WILL GIVE ARCHANGEL OF HEAVEN'S RECOGNITION TO A NUMBER OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

I, Zulfikar Moinuddin Ahmed, will confer the Gratitude of Heaven for the great works of Martin E. P. Seligman, Christopher Peterson, Robert A. Emmons, Estrela Romero, Paula Villar, M. Angeles Luengo, Jose A. Gomez-Fraguela, Melanie Hausler, Cornelia Strecker, Alexandra Huber, Mirjam Brenner, Thomas Höge, Stefan Höfer, Ed Diener, and Louis Tay for their outstanding contributions of Positive Psychology.

I can represent Heaven, so on behalf of Heaven, we recognise your work and expect that the Human Race will transform as a result. We don't care too much if you believe in us. We believe in you.

19. IMPORTANCE OF WORK FOR LIFE

I want to show you another almost universal feature of human nature, the importance of work to life. This, like family, has a very strong exponential fit.

```
> q5a<-table(polv[, "Q5"])
> q5<-q5a/sum(q5a)
> q5

          1          2          3          4
0.65136409 0.27181390 0.05456372 0.02225829
> t<-1:4
> summary(lm(log(q5)~t))$r.squared
[1] 0.9851289
```

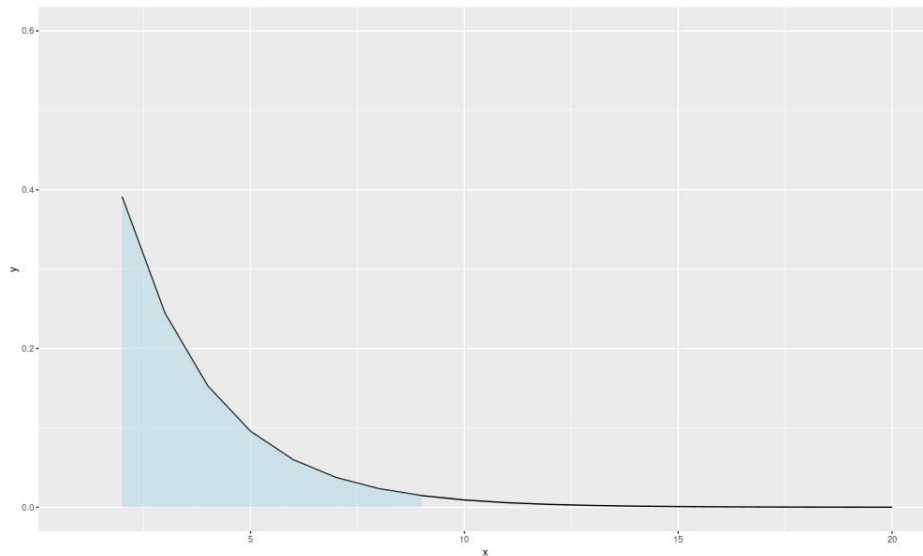
This is another example of a beautiful and tight exponential fit.

Let's draw the scaled exponential distribution which differs from the exponential density by a factor of λ .

We find

$$\lambda = 0.4693924$$

after rescaling the x-axis $[0, 10]$ from $[0, 4]$.



This is a beautiful graph and work is very important/important to 92.32% of human adults globally.

Work is actually universally important *in life* to people. By the way, work being important to life does not logically imply that human behaviour is generally goal-directed at all.

From my point of view, it is obvious that (a) human beings are capable of goal-directed behaviour, (b) some goal-directed behaviour is important to human beings generally. But I repeat my previous suggestion, that these only imply that some fraction $0 < \alpha < 1$ is goal-directed and we do not know whether α is even near 1. Here there is a nontrivial hypothesis, that there exists a roughly constant α that divides human behaviour into goal-directed and non-goal-directed behaviour.

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