

Elusive facts, the process of thinking, understanding my own bias

Who is KT888? It really does not matter, in a blink of an eye I will be gone; I come from a long line of dead people. In 7 generations you have 128 different ancestors. I come out of a great ooze of human lineage; my ancestors represent a community of opinion some of which I embrace and some I reject. As Aldous Huxley observed “the course of evolution has gone to endless trouble to see that each of us is unique. Any political or religious dogma that seeks to standardize the individual commits an outrage.” That is my Bias.

My Bias

1. Born in 1950's Toronto; raised by supportive parents; given unconditional love.
2. Worked as a Tool & Die maker, Tool Designer, Farmer and International Trader.
3. Humbled to have survived to be an elder with a wife, 2 sons and 3 grandchildren.
4. My Grandfather was sold into indentured servitude; I understand generational trauma
5. My Sister died in a residential school; I watched my mother suffer her entire life
6. My family was victimized by multiple attempted genocides and starvation
7. My family was persecuted and experienced systemic discrimination by the church.
8. My ancestral knowledge and language taken from me, conformity to English was respected over diversity and my people mocked and ridiculed.
9. Grow my food; mostly beef, potatoes and the three sisters; corn, squash and beans.
10. Travelled around the world more than a dozen times visiting dozens of countries
11. Alive but for the kindness of strangers; I live for the happiness of my grandchildren.

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I am living a great life, when I was born the world population was less than 3 billion people, culture could flourish independently, we did not exactly get along with the planet but there were so many fewer footprints that other species actually had a chance. Today with almost 9 billion people, labour is cheap, unions are gone, corporations rule, we have over run the planet and our future; precarious. **Our democracies exist in name only, made obsolete by our sheer numbers and our collective obedience to corporate rule.**

I like the observation of Isaac Asimov that I edited for brevity.

“If two people live in an apartment, with two bathrooms, you have freedom. Go to the bathroom any time you want, stay as long as you want, for whatever reason; you have freedom. Everyone believes in freedom of the bathroom. But if you have 20 people in the same apartment, no matter how much each person believes in freedom of the bathroom, there is no such thing. You have a schedule; you are banging at the door, you through yet, and so on. In the same way, democracy, convenience, decency and human dignity cannot survive overpopulation. As you put more people onto the world, the value of life disappears. Isaac Asimov (17 October 1988) Comment in response to: what do you see happening to the idea of dignity to the human species if this population growth continues at its present rate?”

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I am also biased towards the process of thinking. The process of thinking is fascinating; it's a skill that anyone can learn. We have evolved to survive, to react, and to fight for food. Now we have to think, plan, cooperate. Teaching children birth control, the process of thinking and cooperate is our only chance at survival.

The Process of Thinking: 6 Great options

1. Speculate, observe, run experiments. If based on race, gender, anger, envy or victimhood it probably will not support inquiry.
2. Be Skeptical; it is a virtue. Detect Bias, review evidence, find primary sources, ask questions, and study logic.
3. Anecdotal evidence is valid for speculation, perceptions change, details get muddled, and stories are contamination by biases.
4. Strive to be clear, accurate, relevant, logical and fair; consider all perspectives. That is critical thinking in one sentence.
5. Learn to identify causal relationships not correlations. This is what makes faith easy and thinking hard. Recognize associations, time ordering and spurious information.
6. Fail, thinking you are always correct is a trap. Make thoughts visible, diagrams, text, video; drop bad ideas fast, move on and collect good ones.

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A close second to thinking, is looking for facts. Facts are transient and elusive, they change as new information is discovered; they self correct. You have to search for facts.

Thinking leads to testing which leads to facts

- Thinking is a learned process that leads to facts.
- We don't have to like the facts; we don't even have to believe facts, because we can test facts. If wrong they will be proven false.
- A fact is different from a truth; while truth is neither subjective nor personal; half-truths and misinformation abound and show a disgraceful contempt for thinking and the facts of the matter.
- Some; who pollute the language argue you can have your own truth based on your own beliefs; even delusional or exploitive beliefs.
- But facts are based upon empirical evidence which is a prerequisite for sustained true predictions of factual outcomes.

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I believe that most problems come from tax law and over population. Tax law is controlled by corporations. The corporate owned media distracts you with issues about sexuality / religion or race / immigration; anything to distract you from corporate control / overpopulation.

To free yourself from corporate propaganda avoid media with advertising. Disconnect and buy books, read offline, explode the digital bubble created for your ideological imprisonment. Disconnect and start thinking, tune out the noise and look for facts.

