Can We Better Understand Complexities of Human Development In Terms of World Wide Space and Time Realities?
CCSS 2017 Summer Discussion Session #1.2

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Modern Life: Two Studies

Summer 2017 Preview Discussion
Summer Session: Noon-Union Terrace, July 18, 2017
(If rain, Lounge Overlooking Hoofer Sailing Dock)

Part 1: Growing Up and Growing Old
October 10, 2017
Chamberlin Hall, Room 4274
1150 University Avenue, Madison
Noon-1 PM

Part 2: Space, Time and “Consciousness”
Spring Semester, 2018
Scholars and lay people, in all academic disciplines and in all walks of life, acknowledge the extreme complexities of human behavior.

Yet there have been few attempts, if any, to encourage deeply systematic appraisals of these complexities across societies, cultures and the times spans of human development. There are no standard systems of criteria that allow for orderly understanding of how complex human behavior unfolds in widely different settings.

Yet that unfolding shapes adult behavior, and adult behavior shapes social decisions everywhere.

These two mated presentations borrow and adapt a standard framework of understanding from physical science to try to repair this deficiency: the concept, and representations, of the electromagnetic energy spectrum. This is the energy spectrum that powers our modern age and our current Information Revolution. Perhaps the analogy can help us reach better decisions in our challenged societies.

Can careful thought and diligent study of multiple spectra of human development enable us to gain new insights into forces that shape how peoples’ lives actually unfold in the vast variety of human ways of life?

Maybe. Stay tuned. Make up your own mind.
A PROVOCATIVE PERSPECTIVE…

Anthropologist Hugh Brody
reminds us of a startling fact
in his thoughtful account of his ventures among
the far-flung Canadian Inuit, and others,
where he lived and studied
for many years,
above the Arctic Circle:
“…for something like 90 per cent
of our [human] ancestry
we have lived as hunter-gatherers,
not as farmers.” *

Compare that human experience
with…

...Thomas Friedman’s new book

On the extraordinary impacts

of our current Information Revolution:

**THANK YOU FOR BEING LATE:**

_An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations._

_(It’s a personal, “private” title for a book with very powerful fact-laden messages about the dangers and challenges for _all_ Americans—and people everywhere in our explosive and exploding world.)_

This is how Friedman introduces the two charts near the center of his book:

_“We are now in a no-analogue world._ That means we’re somewhere that we’ve never been before as a human species. We’ve pushed all of Earth’s key systems up to and maybe beyond „„safe operating boundaries….[It is] “a non-analogue world”

This is what the graphs look like. > > > >
The trajectory of the Anthropocene: The Great Acceleration
Will Steffen, Wendy Broadgate, Lisa Deutsch, Owen Gaffney, Cornelia Ludwig
First Published January 16, 2015
PDF download for The trajectory of the Anthropocene: The Great Acceleration   Article Information
Article has an altmetric score of 325 Free Access

Abstract

The ‘Great Acceleration’ graphs, originally published in 2004 to show socio-economic and Earth System trends from 1750 to 2000, have now been updated to 2010. In the graphs of socio-economic trends, where the data permit, the activity of the wealthy (OECD) countries, those countries with emerging economies, and the rest of the world have now been differentiated. The dominant feature of the socio-economic trends is that the economic activity of the human enterprise continues to grow at a rapid rate. However, the differentiated graphs clearly show that strong equity issues are masked by considering global aggregates only. Most of the population growth since 1950 has been in the non-OECD world but the world’s economy (GDP), and hence consumption, is still strongly dominated by the OECD world. The Earth System indicators, in general, continued their long-term, post-industrial rise, although a few, such as atmospheric methane concentration and stratospheric ozone loss, showed a slowing or apparent stabilization over the past decade. The post-1950 acceleration in the Earth System indicators remains clear. Only beyond the mid-20th century is there clear evidence for fundamental shifts in the state and functioning of the Earth System that are beyond the range of variability of the Holocene and driven by human activities. Thus, of all the candidates for a start date for the Anthropocene, the beginning of the Great Acceleration is by far the most convincing from an Earth System science perspective.

> > >These few pages only scratch the surface of the October presentation < < <
The Next Two Slides

Greatly Amplify

The Significance

Of All

The Foregoing Information –

Especially For Every American
World Population; 1950-2100

A Noah Friedlander Visualization
Based on United Nations Data
Regional Gross Domestic Product as Percent of World; 1960-2014

A Noah Friedlander Visualization Based on World Bank Data