

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

DATE: December 23, 2020

TO: Jarrett Skorup
Director of Marketing and Communications
Mackinac Center for Public Policy
skorup@mackinac.org

FROM: Rebecca Nelson, Director and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer
Michigan State University FOIA Office *Rebecca Nelson*

SUBJECT: FOIA Response

On June 26, 2020, you emailed to this Office your expansive FOIA request for "Any emails to or from the president of Michigan State University that mention 'Hsu' from Feb. 1, 2020 to June 26, 2020." On July 7th, we sent to you a notice advising that significant labor would be involved in processing your request, and that a fee deposit would be required to proceed. On July 20th, this Office received your fee deposit. On August 31st, we sent to you a letter advising that records identified as responsive to your request were significantly greater in volume than originally anticipated; that significantly greater labor would be involved in processing those records; that an additional fee deposit would be required to proceed; and that we anticipated responding on or before eight weeks from the date the additional deposit was received. That response date was estimated in compliance with Section 4(8) of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (MIFOIA), which provides that "The response must also contain a best efforts estimate by the public body regarding the time frame it will take the public body to comply with the law in providing the public records to the requestor. The time frame estimate is nonbinding upon the public body, but the public body shall provide the estimate in good faith and strive to be reasonably accurate and to provide the public records in a manner based on this state's public policy under section 1 and the nature of the request in the particular instance."

On September 9th, this Office received your additional fee deposit. On November 4th, eight weeks from the date we received your additional deposit, we wrote to you that while your request was granted to the extent information is not exempt from public disclosure, processing times were extending beyond typically anticipated dates due to current alternate working arrangements necessitated by extraordinary community health concerns. We also advised that we expected to respond to you with records on or before December 4th. On December 4th, we wrote to you that we were continuing to process your request as expeditiously as possible; that for the same reasons stated in our November 4th letter, additional time was required; that we expected to respond to you with records on or before December 23rd; and that in consideration of the unavoidable inconvenience the delay was causing, a fee adjustment would be made. Accordingly, we write to you the following response.



**FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT
OFFICE**

**Michigan State
University**

408 West Circle Drive
Room 1 Olds Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
517-353-3929
Fax: 517-353-1794
foia@msu.edu
<http://foia.msu.edu>

Records responsive to your request accompany this letter. Identifying information pertaining to certain individuals, personal email addresses, personal cellular telephone numbers, and certain other personal data have been redacted, and five (5) pages of personal information have been withheld pursuant to one or both of Sections 13(1)(a) and 13(2) of the MIFOIA. Section 13(1)(a) provides for the withholding of "Information of a personal nature if public disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy." Section 13(2) requires the withholding of information that, if released, would prevent the public body from complying with 20 U.S.C. 1232g, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Nine (9) pages consisting of personal information pertaining to a student have been withheld under one or more of Sections 13(1)(a), (b)(iii), and 13(2). Section 13(1)(b) provides for the withholding of "Investigating records compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that disclosure as a public record would do any of the following...(iii) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." University signatures, email addresses, netIDs, and a telephone number have been redacted under one or more of Sections 13(1)(u), (y), and (z), which allow for the withholding of information related to the ongoing security of a public body. Certain other information has been redacted under one or more of Sections 13(1)(g), (h), and (m). Sections 13(1)(g) and (h) provide for the withholding of information or records subject to the attorney-client privilege and attorney work-product doctrine, respectively. Section 13(1)(m) provides for the withholding of "Communications and notes within a public body or between public bodies of an advisory nature to the extent that they cover other than purely factual materials and are preliminary to a final agency determination of policy or action." Lastly, nine (9) pages have been withheld under Sections 13(1)(g) and/or (h).

The MIFOIA provides that when a public body denies all or a portion of a request, the requester may do one of the following: (1) submit an appeal of the determination to the head of the public body; or (2) commence a civil action in the court of claims to compel the public body's disclosure of the records. If you wish to seek judicial review of any denial, you must do so within 180 days of the date of this letter. If the court of claims orders disclosure of all or a portion of the public record(s) to which you have been denied access, you may receive attorneys' fees and, in certain circumstances, damages under the MIFOIA. Should you choose to file an appeal with the University regarding this response to your request, you must submit a written communication to this Office expressly stating that it is an "appeal" of this response. In your appeal, please state what records you believe should have been disclosed to you. You must also state the reasons you believe any denial of your MIFOIA request should be reversed. This Office will arrange for the processing and review of your appeal.

In processing your request, a significant amount of labor was required to search for, gather, and review the responsive records to separate information exempt from disclosure from that which is not exempt. Nevertheless, in consideration of the previously noted unavoidable delay in providing the attached records to you, fees for processing your request are hereby waived. Your fee deposit checks will be returned to you via U.S. first class mail. Pursuant to Section 4(4) of the MIFOIA, the University's procedures and guidelines for processing MIFOIA requests can be found at <http://foia.msu.edu>.

Attachments
MSUF035320

From:

[REDACTED]
Friday, June 26, 2020 4:28 PM

Sent:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

To:

Academic Freedom

Subject:

Dr. Stanley:

Requesting the resignation of Dr. Hsu is a loss for academic freedom and freedom of expression. Academic research and expression that is required to meet the constraints of current political correctness is intellectually constrained. Universities are supposed to be the bastions of free speech and expression and the free exchange of ideas. Research and investigation should not be held hostage to political correctness. To quote Daniel Patrick Moynihan: Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Dr Hsu

I read with dismay about the sordid treatment of Dr Hsu who was forced to resign his position in your administration due to specious allegations stated by the Graduate Student Union.

I am a graduate of Michigan State University- I received my PHD in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and worked for many years in private business. I have always been proud of my Alma Mater - until yesterday.

When I was at Michigan State I was fortunate enough to be mentored by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] two Professors who were responsible for the development of [REDACTED] - brilliant [REDACTED] who won awards- I was able to publish my dissertation with [REDACTED]. It was a vibrant time when ideas, even controversial ones, could be discussed and debated. [REDACTED] for what it was- a statistical artifact. Based on what happened to Dr. Hsu, [REDACTED] would be pilloried today. As would [REDACTED].

What happened to academic freedom? What you allowed to happen to Dr. Hsu will chill everyone on campus. If that happened to him, what of other faculty? The blatant unfairness of it is plain to see. Academic freedom no longer exists on that campus. You killed it.

I am not a big donor. But I will give any more money to MSU. I will encourage every one I know to do the same.

This was wrong and sad. It is a very sad day for me. You killed my Spartan spirit.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Unfair treatment of Dr. Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I am the father of [REDACTED] a rising sophomore at MSU.

I read the following articles, and I am extremely upset with the way you and others at MSU treated Dr. Hsu.

<https://reason.com/2020/06/21/michigan-state-university-vp-of-research-ousted-because-of-his-past-scientific-statements/>

https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-twitter-mob-takes-down-an-administrator-at-michigan-state-11593106102?emailToken=c6dcb655b1413abdd75e4267f41eb09aB/hITyaWvWVivl38jgGx70uy6E+qL.G/Gx5vT+1seOginsvMkJfUcKBRKkbH15dCfIIIG5gcWWOMYcl5XaernW6uPJ5IVSsmQABDdGgd42NvhZhPw28vOJTeJSLSIQU&reflink=article_email_share

I also read the twitter feed of the MSU Graduate Employees Union. Their statements bothered me in several ways. First, their grammar is often awkward and sometimes incorrect. These are supposed to be PhD students at a top-30 university? Second, they clearly advocate that scientists should base their research conclusions, at least partly, on political views. Third, they grossly misrepresent Dr. Hsu's blog posts and academic papers. It is clear to me, they are purposefully trying to deceive readers.

The third aspect might be the most troubling. I strongly suspect that they will be willing to practice similar deception when teaching and conducting research. It bothers me to think that some of them will be teaching my [REDACTED]

I also read the bio of Dr. Hsu, as well as some of his blog posts. He seems to be a good man and an extremely talented scientist. He deserves better.

My wife and I are paying a lot of money to MSU – we pay out-of-state tuition for our [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] receives only a minimal amount of financial aid. I hope you can imagine our concern and disappointment.

If not a response, I would greatly appreciate an acknowledgment that you received and read this email.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From:

[REDACTED]
Friday, June 26, 2020 1:20 PM

Sent:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

To:

Stephen Hsu

Subject:

Dear President Stanley:

As a [REDACTED] graduate of the MSU [REDACTED] I am deeply concerned about the story in the Wall Street Journal today regarding Mr. Hsu. I understand that you might have a different version of the facts, but the WSJ is usually careful with its research and I would be alarmed if it's true that MSU is now responding to Twitter mobs.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

From: Gage, Douglas
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: RE: Action needed on MSU commitment to NSF re: The BEACON Center

Yes, I can do that.

From: Stanley, Samuel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Gage, Douglas [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Action needed on MSU commitment to NSF re: The BEACON Center

Ok, thank you. Do we have the number of indirect cost dollars from the grants generated by the center (that are not part of its direct funding)? Can give me those data when we meet. Sam.

From: "Gage, Douglas" [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 10:45 AM
To: "Stanley, Samuel" [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Action needed on MSU commitment to NSF re: The BEACON Center

Hi Sam,

I am familiar with this issue. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The BEACON folks interpret this to mean grants already funded and Steve's interpretation was that this referred to new post-BEACON grants. The letter [REDACTED] We can discuss this in more detail at our Monday meeting.

Thanks,

Doug

From: Stanley, Samuel [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Gage, Douglas [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Action needed on MSU commitment to NSF re: The BEACON Center

Let's talk about this. Sam.

From: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 10:23 AM
To: "Stanley, Samuel" [REDACTED] "Gage, Douglas" [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Action needed on MSU commitment to NSF re: The BEACON Center

From: Charles Ofria [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 2:00 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: Lenski, Richard [REDACTED] Goodman, Erik [REDACTED] Holecamp, Kay
[REDACTED] Pennock, Robert [REDACTED]
Subject: Action needed on MSU commitment to NSF re: The BEACON Center

Dear President Stanley,

We write with regard to an impasse we have reached with VP Hsu, now further complicated by his resignation and the university's deepening financial crisis. Dr. Hsu committed to the NSF (and to us) that MSU would continue funding the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action when its NSF Science & Technology Center grant concluded. Specifically, he pledged nearly \$1 million per year for at least two years to sustain and transition BEACON research after the 10 years and nearly \$50 million of NSF funding. This past November, Hsu assured us that the funding was still on track. However, in January he disclosed that he had never arranged a cost distribution with the relevant colleges or Provost's office, and [REDACTED] to a federal agency on behalf of, and with the authority of, MSU. Now, as BEACON approaches its transition to an MSU Center at the end of July, Hsu has refused to release most of the research funds, and he has pushed the colleges to provide most of the much smaller funds for staff support.

The committed funds are essential to support BEACON graduate students and postdocs, all of whom are engaged in interdisciplinary research and education. Moreover, these projects are targeted to yield new external funding. In Hsu's commitment (attached), \$224K/yr was earmarked for basic staffing and our (reduced) core operations. The remaining \$750K/yr was to support this research, and the amount was based on a projected \$7.5 million in additional BEACON-related external funding in 2018-20 (beyond the NDSF Center support), a goal that we have exceeded. BEACON faculty have made plans with these funds in mind. After months of fruitless discussion with Hsu and the relevant colleges, we remain in limbo, unable to confirm positions for our students and postdocs for this coming academic year.

This agreement with the VP Hsu was originally negotiated by Erik Goodman, BEACON's Director at the time of our Center's renewal application to the NSF in 2014. Hsu's letter of commitment was provided as critical evidence of MSU's support to assure BEACON's sustainability after NSF funding ended. Moreover, Hsu reiterated that commitment in person during several BEACON site visits by NSF since 2015, and to Charles Ofria (BEACON's current director) in a November 2019 meeting. Hsu made this commitment to the dozens of BEACON-affiliated MSU faculty and to the NSF in his official capacity as VPRI on behalf of the university. Therefore, MSU cannot and must not ignore this agreement, as if it never existed.

We must also emphasize that VP Hsu [REDACTED] before the onset of COVID-19. We realize that the pandemic has put new financial burdens on MSU, and that all units have to share in budgetary reductions, so we have no objection to receiving a correspondingly reduced share of that commitment. However, we object most strongly and forcefully to MSU either ignoring this agreement or acting as though it was meaningless.

We have not gone to the NSF with a formal complaint, and we would prefer not to be forced to do so by MSU's refusal to honor its agreement with our NSF-funded Center. However, we have tried to resolve this issue with VP Hsu for several months, without success. Even before the new public controversy about Hsu's fitness for his office, it seemed that [REDACTED] Now that he has been removed, we are concerned about starting over with the new, interim VP of Research.

We request that you intervene immediately on behalf of the University to fulfill this agreement and avoid the potential embarrassment over the misrepresentation of university commitments to a federal agency.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Ofria
PI and Director of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action
President, International Society for Artificial Life
Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Dr. Richard Lenski
Co-PI of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action
John Hannah Distinguished Professor
Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
Department of Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences

Department of Integrative Biology

Dr. Erik Goodman

**Co-PI and Founding Director of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**

Dr. Kay Holekamp

Co-PI of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action

University Distinguished Professor

Director, Graduate Program for Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior

Department of Integrative Biology

Dr. Robert Pennock

Co-PI of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action

University Distinguished Professor

Lyman Briggs College

Department of Philosophy

Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Dr. Charles Ofria

Professor of Computer Science & Engineering

President, International Society for Artificial Life

Director, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action

Michigan State University

<http://www.cse.msu.edu/~ofria/> (517 884-2562)

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

June 23, 2020

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**Center for the Study of
Evolution in Action**

**An NSF Science and
Technology Center**

Michigan State University
Biomedical Physical Sciences
Building
967 Wilson Road Room 1441
East Lansing, MI
48824

517-784-2888
Fax: 517-353-7268

<http://beacon-center.org>

We have not gone to the NSF with a formal complaint, and we would prefer not to be forced to do so by MSU's refusal to honor its agreement with our NSF-funded Center. However, we have tried to resolve this issue with VP Hsu for several months, without success. Even before the new public controversy about Hsu's fitness for his office, it seemed that [REDACTED]. Now that he has been removed, we are concerned about starting over with the new, interim VP of Research.

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Sincerely,

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Dr. Charles Ofria
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University Distinguished Professor
Lyman Briggs College
Department of Philosophy
Department of Computer Science & Engineering

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. Erik Goodman, Director, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action
From: Stephen D. Hsu, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies [REDACTED]
Re: BEACON STC Renewal Proposal
Date: May 20, 2014

Michigan State University strongly supports the renewal of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action. During its first four years, BEACON has demonstrated exemplary value to the university and to the fields of evolutionary biology and evolutionary applications. So long as BEACON is renewed, the university will provide substantial resources to meet its needs for space, student support, faculty hires, flexible funding, and to sustain it beyond the period of NSF support.

First, in recognition of BEACON's surpassing its expected growth in membership, productivity, and leveraging of resources, the university is exploring the possibility of [REDACTED]



Office of the
**VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH
AND GRADUATE
STUDIES**

Stephen Hsu
Vice President

Harnish Administration Bldg.
426 Auditorium Rd., Rm 249
East Lansing, MI 48824

517/335-0306
Fax: 517/432-1171

vpgrs@msu.edu

Second, in addition to senior faculty already recruited to the Colleges of Natural Science and Engineering at BEACON's request, the university will target junior faculty lines and additional senior lines in these and other colleges to strengthen BEACON. Furthermore, Michigan State University will provide \$2,575,000 in cash cost-share direct costs through contributions from the Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Dean of the Graduate School, and the participating colleges and departments. These funds will be used to support fellowships, research assistants, postdoctoral researchers, sabbatical visitors, and BEACON staff during the transition to sustainability mode.

Michigan State University intends to support BEACON beyond its 10-year STC funding. Beginning in 2020, MSU will sustain BEACON's staffing and core operations with \$224,000/year for at least two years, and an additional \$750,000/year to seed fund research projects. This latter amount, based on projected BEACON-related funding of \$7.5 million in 2019-20, will scale commensurate with BEACON's performance in externally funded research at MSU in the post-STC period. Both commitments are extendable to at least 2025 so long as BEACON's external funding continues at a level near \$10 million/year. The seed funds can be used to support the MSU portion of new seed research projects undertaken jointly with the partner universities.

All of BEACON's partners have also submitted letters to Michigan State University indicating their continuing support of BEACON for five more years, including a sizeable new commitment at University of Texas Austin. Continuing cooperation with the partners will be encouraged after 2020. Some partners are already installing mechanisms to facilitate the formation of new joint seed projects in addition to continuing work on research areas already established during BEACON's STC funding.

Michigan State University is firmly committed to BEACON's continuing success.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Friday, June 26, 2020 9:48 AM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Professor Hsu

Mr. President,

Your recent failure to uphold the principles of scientific study demonstrates your complete lack of courage in the face of the mob.

There is nothing that a reasonable person could find in Professor Hsu's comments that would in any way suggest racism. In fact as he stood up for the basic tenants of scientific study you cut his legs from under him.

In the face of [REDACTED] comments that "the way his beliefs were expressed made it seem like he had no concern for increasing diversity" are both suspect and not based on fact. "Made it seem" is not evidence but emotion and it "seems" as though what concerned him was Mr. Cesario's research. [REDACTED] did not refute nor disprove the research he only objected to a study result that was not in line with a pre-determined narrative therefore the man in charge must be removed from leadership. [REDACTED] actions fly in the face of the basic tenant of scientific inquiry without a predetermined bias for what it might find.

How, post your current actions, you could look yourself in the mirror and suggest that you are qualified to be a leader, let alone a leader of a major university is beyond me.

It is this type of failed leadership that is allowing our country to slip into the abyss of an American version of the Cultural Revolution.

I am appalled and disappointed and only hope that you can find the decency to correct your actions and to find something, anything, that you believe in and find the courage to support in the face of all pressure.

[REDACTED]

From: University Communications [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: MSU Daily Briefing for Friday, June 26, 2020

[Click to access](#) mobile-optimized online version, including download options and an audio reader.



Friday, June 26, 2020 8:00 AM EDT

Higher Education Coronavirus News

MSU Trustees To Meet Friday Morning.

In broadcast coverage, [WLNS-TV](#) reported the Michigan State University Board of Trustees is set to meet this Friday at 8 a.m. Officials "say board members are learning how to effectively increase safe testing for students, and how these tests are getting better as the coronavirus pandemic continues."

Two More MSU Student-Athletes Test Positive For COVID-19.

The [Detroit News](#) reports two more MSU student-athletes have tested positive for COVID-19 "during a second round of testing involving 114 athletes that took place Monday." Last week, "124 student-athletes were tested at MSU and one tested positive. Another student-athlete who had tested positive while at home remained quarantined at home." [Sports Illustrated](#) reports that those athletes who "test negative twice are allowed to participate in voluntary summer workouts. The individuals will be split into groups based on their living arrangements and roommates."

Additional coverage is carried by the [Detroit Free Press](#), [WOOD-TV](#), [MLive \(MI\)](#), [WLNS-TV](#), and [WSYM-TV](#). [WLNS-TV](#) and [WILX-TV](#) provided broadcast coverage.

Radio Hosts Talk Potential For Fall Football's Cancellation.

[WUOM-FM](#) carries concerns regarding potential COVID-19 transmission during Big Ten games this fall season, as expressed by Michigan Radio sports commentator John Bacon and radio host Doug Tribou. Said Bacon, "Football is the hardest sport to conduct safely. You got five guys on the (offensive and defensive) lines, facing each other, that are sweating. They spit on each other in the piles, for crying out loud. How can this not spread?" He continued, "if there's one sport I think might get knocked out before we get to the fall, it would be Big Ten football."

51 Cases Linked To Outbreak At Harper's.

The Lansing (MI) State Journal reports the number of known COVID-19 cases linked to Harper's Restaurant in East Lansing reached 51 as of Thursday evening, according to Ingham County health officials. Those who "visited the bar, which is popular with Michigan State University students, between June 12 and June 20 are urged to self-quarantine for two weeks from the date of their visit." The State News explores how Lansing-area bars and eateries are adjusting their reopening plans in light of the region's increasing case count.

Additional coverage is carried by Crain's Detroit (MI) Business, WSYM-TV, and the Iron Mountain (MI) Daily News.

Michigan University Students Readying Themselves For Strange New Fall Semester.

WSYM-TV reports on how students at MSU and the University of Michigan will have to adjust to a new model of campus life come fall. One MSU student "says he feels pretty confident going back to Michigan State for his sophomore year in the fall," but "he knows he's not returning to the same college experience he had last year." He said, "I think just all of the next school year will be different for sure. ... You can't do anything but be prepared."

Continuing Coverage Of MSU's Pause To Football Ticket Sales.

WTVB-AM reports that even as "athletes are reporting back to campus, Michigan State University is pausing the sale of football season tickets for the public and students ahead of the 2020 season." The decision comes "after the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced the biggest single-day increase of coronavirus cases since May 31." MS Athletic Director Bill Beekman "said they will do their best to keep season ticket holders informed. Beekman added the health and safety of all student-athletes, coaches, staff, working personnel, support staff, and fans are their first priority." WILX-TV reports some MSU football fans are unhappy with the school's decision to pause ticket sales due to uncertainty surrounding stadium capacity and game dates.

Continuing Coverage Of MSU's Cuts To Capital Spending.

In continuing coverage, the State News reports MSU Infrastructure Planning and Facilities "is looking to save \$77 million by pausing, deferring or reconsidering multiple capital projects." MSU deputy spokesperson Dan Olsen said of the move, "Our Infrastructure Planning and Facilities (IPF) has paused a number of capital projects in an effort to address the budget short fall that MSU has been experiencing as a result of COVID-19 ... Recently, the IPF team has posted a list of projects that they will pause, defer or reconsider until a future date." Olsen "said there is no specific timeline or set date as to when the paused, deferred or reconsidered projects will be put back into motion."

UM Regents Fail To Pass Tuition Increase.

The AP reports a proposed University of Michigan (UM) tuition increase "failed Thursday in a tie vote by the school's governing board." The "4-4 vote was a rare public sign of tension among regents and President Mark Schlissel's administration," with Schlissel having "proposed a 1.9% tuition increase at the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses and a 3.9% increase in Flint, where enrollment has been sliding." Regent Denise Ilitch "said it's 'plain wrong' to raise tuition when families are facing uncertainty in the midst of a struggling economy and the coronavirus outbreak." Meanwhile, MSU "and some other schools are freezing fall tuition."

Additional coverage is carried by the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit (MI) News, and MLive (MI).

Each Week Brings New Series Of College Reopening Announcements.

Inside Higher Ed reports "each week comes with new announcements about how – and if – [college] campuses are planning to reopen." Many universities are continuing the "trend of ending in-person instruction by Thanksgiving and continuing remotely after that time, in addition to forgoing any fall breaks." There is also "some indication that graduate students may have different delivery models or rules from their undergraduate peers."

Summer Registrations At Colleges Nationwide Appear To Be Booming.

The Hechinger Report reports with "millions of Americans unemployed or reluctant to travel or socialize because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and even though most courses will be online, summer registrations at colleges nationwide appear to be booming." At Ozarks Technical Community College in Missouri, for example, "3,907 students have signed up for online courses, a number 67 percent higher than it was last summer, said Hal Higdon, chancellor of the six-campus system." Yet, many of the students who are taking summer courses at Ozarks and "other community colleges are already enrolled at four-year universities that offer few or no credit-bearing classes in the summer, and to which they are expected to return."

Moody's: More Students Likely To Attend College Closer To Home As Pandemic Persists.

Education Dive says according to a new Moody's Investors Service report, "more students will likely opt to attend college closer to home as a result of the pandemic, a shift that stands to hurt institutions that rely heavily on out-of-state enrollees." Meanwhile, states that "tend to lose residents to colleges elsewhere could benefit from the trend." The report also reveals that "public colleges are more likely than private institutions to gain more from the shift, which comes as recruitment intensifies and colleges' fall plans remain unclear."

Cash-Strapped Colleges May Not Be Able To Offer Same Level Of COVID-19 Protections As Their Wealthier Counterparts.

Inside Higher Ed reports when "classes resume at Purdue University's campus in late August, many professors will wear masks and give lectures to students from behind part of the mile of Plexiglas the institution has bought." But not all faculty members and students around the country will have the "same amount of protection." Indeed, education policy experts "do not know of any studies examining disparities that are likely exist from campus to campus amid reopenings." But they "worry that low-income and students of color will not have as much protection as others, noting that colleges that disproportionately serve those students have less money."

University Of Kansas Department Chairs Pushing Back Against Plan To Restart Classroom Instruction.

The AP reports "many department chairs at the University of Kansas are pushing back against the school's plan to have classroom instruction in the fall, saying they should have the option to teach online." On Monday, a letter signed by "38 department heads was emailed to Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer" and since then, another 14 have signed. According to the article, the university is in a "difficult position because the pandemic has caused it to lose its local monopoly advantage."

Howard University To Offer Mix Of In-Person, Online Classes This Fall.

The Washington Post reports "students will return to Howard University in August for a mix of in-person and online classes." In a Thursday announcement, Howard President Wayne A.I. Frederick explained that "face masks must be worn in public settings and around others, dorm rooms will be limited to singles and doubles, and classes with more than 30 students will mostly meet online." Instead of "buffet-style dining in the cafeteria, students will receive to-go or delivered meals," and most events will be "conducted virtually to prevent large gatherings."

Opinion: College Students Should Refuse To Sign Liability Waivers This Fall.

In an opinion piece published by the Los Angeles Times, a professor of law at Georgetown University says "many US institutions of higher education are forging ahead with on-campus, in-person classes and activities for fall terms, making campuses likely hotbeds of illness." And they are "laying the groundwork to defeat liability arising from the illness and loss their decision is so likely to cause." But, argues Heidi Li Feldman, whether "compelled, pressured or lured into coming on campus, students and employees should explicitly inform relevant administrators that they are in no way surrendering their rights to hold schools accountable for sloppiness in safeguarding their health."

MSU Situational News

State News: Stanley Recommends Doug Gage As Interim VP For Research, Innovation.

The State News reports President Stanley "is recommending Doug Gage to the Board of Trustees as the interim vice president for research and innovation, effective July 1." Gage "currently serves as the assistant vice president for research and innovation." The appointment is "pending approval from the Board of Trustees at the June 26 meeting," and was made "in accordance with the Academic Governance Steering Committee and Interim Provost Teresa Sullivan, following the resignation of Stephen Hsu."

State News: MSU's Recent History Demonstrates Necessity Of Change On Attitudes Toward Race, Say Activists.

The State News highlights calls for change "in criminal justice reform and racial equity" made by MSU community activists during Wednesday's march through campus. In the past year, MSU "has been under fire for a string of racist incidents occurring on campus," including the Wharton Center controversy and racist displays in residence halls. Said one activist, "The time is now. ... There are many Black students that go here – or have gone here – that have a lot of stories to share, and it blows my mind that we're just now talking about this issue now. ... But MSU is finally (in the) spotlight."

Detroit News: Izzo Named Basketball "Coach Of The Decade" By Big Ten Conference.

The Detroit News reports Michigan State men's basketball coach Tom Izzo was named the Big Ten Network's "top basketball coach of the decade" on Thursday. Izzo "led the Spartans to four Big Ten regular-season titles and four Big Ten tournament titles during the decade, which also saw Michigan State earn three Final Four berths." The Detroit Free Press reports Izzo said of the honor, "I'm greatly humbled and appreciative, because I

know how many good coaches (are in the conference). ... It makes me feel good." He continued, "It makes me feel like I had a lot of good players."

Additional coverage is carried by the Lansing (MI) State Journal and State News.

Wall Street Journal: Commentary: Social Media Outcry Forced Stanley's Hand In Hsu Controversy.

In commentary for the Wall Street Journal, WSJournal editorial page writer Jillian Kay Melchior explores the background behind MSU professor Stephen Hsu's recent resignation from his position as the university's SVP for research and innovation.

International Business Times: Continuing Coverage Of Netflix's "Athlete A."

In continuing coverage, the International Business Times reports Netflix's "Athlete A" documentary features "interviews with several victims of former Michigan State University physician Larry Nassar, who abused underage girls for decades as the USA Gymnastics team doctor."

Additional continuing coverage of the documentary is carried by People and Teen Vogue.

MSU Media Highlights

Telegraph: MSU's Brown Discusses Implications Of Antibody Test Study.

The Telegraph (UK) reports an international team of scientists have "carried out the most comprehensive review to date looking into whether antibody tests" for COVID-19 are reliable, finding that "tests need to be given at least two weeks after symptoms develop." Study co-author and MSU emergency medicine professor Michael Brown said positive results on antibody tests could instill a false sense of confidence in patients. He said, "What action are you going to take as a patient if you have a positive or negative antibody test? You're going to behave differently and we don't know if you're actually immune to it. ... So as an individual patient, you still have to practice personal protection and isolation."

Los Angeles Times: MSU's Fisher Hails California's Move To Bump Up Gas Tax.

Writing for the Los Angeles Times, columnist David Lazarus notes that California's gas tax is set to go up again next week, and he argues "that's actually a good thing." MSU economics professor Ronald Fisher added, "Driving is way down, so in theory this is a great time to catch up on highway investment." Fisher "also pointed out that the state typically contracts with private companies to perform such infrastructure repairs, which means proceeds from the higher gas tax could actually serve as a stimulus for the California economy in the form of job creation."

Higher-Ed News

Executive Order Will Direct Federal Hiring To Focus On Applicant's Skills Over College Degrees.

The AP reports President Donald Trump is expected to sign an executive order Friday directing the federal government "to overhaul its hiring to prioritize a job applicant's skills over a college degree, administration and

industry officials say." Administration officials have "pushed to increase opportunities for apprenticeships and have promoted such training and vocational education as alternatives to traditional two-year or four-year college degree programs." The White House "isn't eliminating degree requirements altogether, but instead will stress skills in jobs where having a degree is less important."

New Indictment Filed Against Former University Of Kansas Researcher Who Allegedly Concealed Work He Was Doing For China.

The AP reports a Kansas researcher "accused of concealing work he was doing for China while employed at the University of Kansas defrauded the US government and the university," according to revised federal charges. The new indictment charges Feng "Franklin" Tao with "seven counts of wire fraud and three counts of making false statements." It also seeks, "if convicted, the forfeiture of funds obtained from the offenses."

Higher Education Finance

ED Selects Companies For Federal Loan-Servicing Overhaul.

Politico's Morning Education newsletter reports the Education Department on Wednesday announced it selected five companies to help carry out plans to overhaul how it collects and manages federal student loans. The five companies – Edfinancial Services, F.H. Cann & Associates, MAXIMUS Federal Services, Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, and Trellis Company – are receiving federal contracts under the "Business Process Operations" component of the ED's Next Gen loan servicing plan. The contracts "will be responsible for answering borrower phone calls and other 'back-office' functions."

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Education Department Concerned About UCLA's Investigation Into Lecturer Who Used Racial Epithet During Class.

The Wall Street Journal reports the US Education Department has raised questions about the University of California, Los Angeles' investigation into a political-science lecturer who used a racial epithet during two online classes. At issue is William Peris' reading of text from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." The Air Force veteran was "placed under investigation by UCLA's Discrimination Prevention Office after a student posted a portion of his lecture on social media earlier this month," Fox News reports.

Survey: Americans Remain Divided Based On Race, Age In Their Views About Value Of Higher Education.

Inside Higher Ed reports Americans are "divided based on race, political party and age in their views of such fundamental questions about higher education as its value and who should pay for it," according to a New America survey. The poll of 1,512 Americans found that "82 percent of respondents said those who pursue it will have more job opportunities, with 80 percent believing that pursuing education beyond high school offers a good return on investment." But black and Latino respondents, as "well as younger people, are less likely than those from other racial groups to have faith that going to college will let them get ahead or that it is worth the money."

Epithet-Wielding Hackers Disrupt Online Meeting Of Wake Forest University Employees.

The AP reports hackers "used racist language and anti-Semitic images to disrupt an online meeting of Wake Forest University employees." The university's information technology staff is "trying to track down the origin of the attack," explained President Nathan Hatch, "adding that it appears that the hackers gained access to the meeting from a link posted publicly online that also contained the meeting's password." He added: "This was a traumatizing experience for many on the call, especially our Black colleagues, and it reinforces that we all have a role to play in protecting each other and our community from those who would seek to force their hatred upon us."

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:05 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Regarding Dr. Hsu - Congrats are in order!

Congratulations on further eroding the already diminished state of the university as a place for academic freedom.

"MSU stands behind the academic freedom of all our faculty to research any topic and those rights and privileges continue to extend to Dr. Hsu."

Is this meant to illicit laughter? Left over boilerplate from previous PR? Do you intend to use your spine for anything? The road to hell is paved with good intentions, and you've allowed a group of low functioning brats to further dilute your mandate. Graduate students are in school for a reason— who runs the asylum these days?

[REDACTED]

P.S. Cancel STEM? Dear lord, just how loose are your admissions standards?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:34 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Dr. Hsu

Dear Dr. Stanley

I am shocked at the removal of Dr. Hsu as senior vp for research and innovation. How could you have given in to the Twitter mob as you did? Dr. Hsu's commitment to follow the data where it leads rather than leading the data where one wants it to go should be the basis of his PROMOTION, not forced resignation. Furthermore, the message and enabling you provided to the students behind this travesty is equally appalling. Have the courage to stand up to them. It is not too late. Much is at stake, especially in our current culture and climate.

[REDACTED]

From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:15 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Bales, Merri-Jo
Subject: media updates

Sam:

Just wanted you to know the WSJ published it's editorial on Stephen Hsu: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-twitter-mob-takes-down-an-administrator-at-michigan-state-11593106102>

Also, we've heard that NBC Nightly News is covering the Harpers news tonight. The outlet reached out to Ingham County Health Department for comment, but has not contacted us directly (although they have your quote from the press release earlier this week).

Best,
Emily



Emily Gerkin Guerrant

Vice President and University Spokesperson

408 West Circle Dr., Room 401B | East Lansing, MI 48824


Office: 517.355.3843 | Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

SPARTANS WILL.

From: Maybank, Denise
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel; Barr, Nakia
Subject: COGS Actions
Attachments: 8c. VPRI letter.pdf; 20-SS-47 _ signed.pdf

Attached are two documents resulting from the COGS General Assembly meeting last night. One addresses MSUPD reform and the other the resignation of Steve Hsu. Wanted you to have the finalized documents in case either comes up in discussion during Board deliberations. Thank you.

Denise B. Maybank, Ph.D.
Vice President and Associate Provost
for Student Affairs and Services
Michigan State University
Student Services Building
556 E. Circle Drive
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113
Office: (517) 355-7535
Fax: (517) 432-2855




**COUNCIL OF GRADUATE
STUDENTS**

Michigan State University
Chittenden Hall
486 W. Circle Dr. Room 120
East Lansing, MI 48824

517/353-8189
FAX: 517/432-0034

www.cogs.msu.edu

*MSU is an affirmative action
equal opportunity institution.*

June 24, 2020

The Council of Graduate Students stands resolute in our support of underrepresented and marginalized students, staff, and faculty of Michigan State University. It is our obligation both as individuals and an organization to continually work towards creating a campus that promotes the highest standards of inclusivity, equity, and safety. To this end, we applaud the efforts of our colleagues in the Graduate Employees Union to ensure that the University's values are reflected at the highest levels of the institution.

Dr. Steven Hsu's

[REDACTED] The resignation of Dr. Hsu as Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation is a necessary, but certainly not the final, step in creating a more equitable campus.

The Council of Graduate Students looks forward to working with the interim Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation and contributing to the selection of a permanent Vice President. The next Vice President for Research and Innovation must have a proven track record of advancing equity and inclusion initiatives, a respect for both the research and creative enterprises taking place on campus, and an appreciation for the value of graduate and professional student scholarship. The Council of Graduate Students remains committed to using our position as the official representative body for all graduate and professional governments to advance accountability, responsibility, and representation at all levels of University leadership.

**Council of Graduate Students
Michigan State University**

Resolution: 20-SS-47

Title: A Resolution in Support of Reform of the Michigan State University Police Department

Introduced by: Executive Board

Introduced on: June 24, 2020

THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, The murder of George Floyd by police officers has re-started a vital national conversation on the role of police in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, MSUPD, the Lansing Police Department, and the East Lansing Police Department have a mutual aid package, allowing for shared resources during events deemed as crises; and,

WHEREAS, The Lansing Police Department (LPD) invoked their mutual aid agreement with MSUPD on May 31, 2020 during a protest against police brutality near the Michigan Capitol complex; and,

WHEREAS, MSUPD Officers participated in deploying pepper spray at citizen and student protestors at the direction of LPD in order to disperse the protest; and,

WHEREAS, Black students, prior to this incident, had shared experiences of harm and racial profiling by MSUPD officers; and,

WHEREAS, Recent collection of data by the East Lansing Police Department (ELPD) has demonstrated that Black individuals are over-represented in officer-initiated contacts¹; and,

WHEREAS, Data regarding the demographic characteristics of individuals stopped by MSUPD officers is not publicly available; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for MSUPD to end their use of chemical compounds as a means of suppression or force; and, be it,

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for MSUPD to publicly acknowledge their mutual aid agreements online and in their annual report, including the situations under which MSUPD officers may be called to assist another agency, and an accounting of instances in which the mutual aid agreements are invoked each year; and, be it,

¹ Black individuals account for 22% of officer-initiated contacts, while making up only 8% of the population: <https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2020/04/01/east-lansing-wants-changes-after-study-shows-rate-bias-police-stops/5102549002/>

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for MSUPD to assemble a committee each year of community stakeholders, including students, to evaluate MSUPD's continued participation in its various mutual aid agreements; and,

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for MSUPD to collect information on the demographic characteristics of individuals involved in officer-initiated contacts and release aggregate statistics in their annual report; and, be it,

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for MSUPD to release the number of officer complaints heard by the Police Oversight Committee in their annual report; and, be it,

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for the hiring of a full-time, licensed clinical social worker to be embedded in the patrol unit in order to assist in mental-health related calls; and, be it,

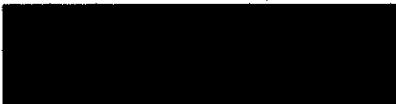
RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students calls for MSUPD to annually issue an itemized report on their use of General Funds; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

VOTED ON: June 24, 2020

VOTE TOTALS:

<u>22</u>	FOR
<u>0</u>	AGAINST
<u>2</u>	ABSTAIN



Recording Secretary



President

From: Goll, Amanda
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 11:13 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Goodwin, Marni; Nelson, Jesselyn; Zeig, Michael
Subject: Gage interim salary
Attachments: CORE Salaries - updated 6-22-20.xlsx; SVPRI Big Ten-AAU Salary comps FY19.jpg

Sam,

Below and attached are salary comps for the SVP for Research and Innovation position. The Big Ten and AAU salary data is a year old because we're still in FY20. We don't receive updated numbers until August.

Gage (Assistant VP)

Current Salary = \$220,000 without EM paycut

Current Salary = \$214,000 after EM paycut

Hsu (Senior VP)

Current Salary = \$378,134 without EM paycut

Current Salary = \$363,009 after EM paycut

We recommend an interim salary of [REDACTED] before the executive management base paycut.

Thanks,
Amanda

CORE Salaries

Beckman, Bill	Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics	\$772,500
Beauchamp, Norm	Executive Vice President for Health Sciences	\$640,000
Zecher, Phillip	Chief Investment Officer	\$550,000
Sullivan, Teresa	Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs	\$495,000
Quinn, Brian	Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel	\$390,000
Heil, Marti	Vice President for University Advancement	\$386,250
Hsu, Stephen	Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation	\$378,134
Woo, Melissa	Senior Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer	\$357,000
Wilbur, Kathleen	Senior Vice President for Government Relations	\$329,600
Haas, Mark	Vice President for Finance and Treasurer	\$317,900
Gore, Vennie	Vice President for Auxiliary Enterprises	\$311,550
Swain, Heather	Vice President for Marketing, Public Relations and Digital Strategy	\$276,500
Maybank, Denise	Vice President for Student Affairs and Services	\$269,205
Russell, Pauvette Gramberry	Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Director of Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives	\$250,290
Bollman, Daniel	Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities	\$250,000
Byelich, David	Vice President for Planning and Budgets	\$250,000
Barr, Nakia	Secretary of the Board of Trustees	\$250,000
Burles, Sharon	Associate Vice President for Human Resources	\$239,243
Bales, Merri Jo	Vice President and Strategic Director of University Communications	\$231,750
Tarrant, Marilyn	Associate Vice President and Chief Audit, Risk and Compliance Officer	\$231,750
Jachimiak, Tanya	Associate Vice President for Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance	\$230,000
Guerrant, Emily	Vice President and University Spokesperson	\$210,000
Zeig, Michael	Chief of Staff & Special Assistant to the President	\$193,125
Roudebush, Kelly	Chief of Police	\$180,250

Woodruff will be \$515,000 on 8/1

*salaries sorted high to low, doesn't include payouts

Updated: 6/22/2020

Senior Vice President for
Research and Innovation
2018-19

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Annualized Salary</u>
MSU	\$ 367,121
Iowa	\$ 428,430
Ohio State	\$ 420,000
Michigan	\$ 411,045
Illinois	\$ 395,200
Indiana	\$ 376,727
Maryland	\$ 355,000
Nebraska	\$ 330,000
Minnesota	\$ 308,050
Wisconsin	\$ 300,000
Purdue	\$ 242,461
Avg w/out MSU	\$ 356,691
Other Public AAU	
Texas A&M	\$ 425,007
Pittsburgh	\$ 414,600
UC Berkeley	\$ 406,850
Oregon	\$ 352,827
Virginia	\$ 350,200
Florida	\$ 343,598
UC Davis	\$ 340,000
Texas	\$ 339,327
Colorado	\$ 325,571
Iowa State	\$ 318,894
SUNY-Stony Brook	\$ 310,000
Avg w/out MSU	\$ 356,989

As faculty that represent programs with a commitment to social justice, you have a responsibility to Black students to openly and loudly affirm that they are safe in academic settings from racism and discrimination. That you vehemently oppose and condemn the actions of the police officers in Minneapolis who murdered George Floyd in cold blood, along with the hundreds who went before him. As well as the recent atrocious actions of the Philadelphia Police Department on June 1, 2020 against protesters. And without question it means that you denounce the disproportionately high rate at which the East Lansing Police Department engages with Black citizens. It is your responsibility as an institution that employs and educates upwards of 50% of the population of the city of East Lansing (at any given time) to hold Mayor Ruth Beier, Interim Police Chief Steve Gonzalez, and the entirety of the ELPD accountable for their actions. You can not turn a blind eye to the repeated offenses of Officer Andrew Stephenson, and others like him, just because those offenses may not occur on campus soil - it is happening to your students, your neighbors, your families and that should be enough.

And what about your own Michigan State University police force? While the rest of the country fights police brutality against Black lives and systemic abuses of power in law enforcement, the Michigan State University Police Department continues to pay the salaries and benefits of two of its suspended officers. While they no longer even hold the authority of law enforcement, more than \$200,000 of your annual budget is funding their protection. Amidst a Title IX investigation (for violation of your relationship violence and sexual misconduct policy), it is clear the MSU Police Department is not above abuses of power and privilege - and you are absolutely culpable for allowing those actions and financially supporting a department with such abuses.

Black lives have been traumatized repeatedly and yet are expected to show up in meetings, research, and academic spaces as though things are "business as usual" while the Black community is quite literally fighting for its life. Although you are familiar with the Black community at Michigan State in primarily academic settings, many of your Black students are protesting in the streets, constantly providing resources and support to others, and grieving. Black students in your departments are risking their lives, safety, and careers daily to bravely stand against White supremacy in the midst of a global pandemic, while your MSU Police Department provides armored vehicles to protect the police.

How are you supporting your Black students? What resources have you offered them? Have you contacted every single one of them, asking what they need from faculty, how you can support them? How are you working with your non-Black colleagues and students to remind them that inherent bias runs deep and that you are each responsible for unlearning racism? How are you addressing systemic racism? How are you challenging your local and university police forces? Ignoring it is not an option and you have done a deep disservice to yourselves by turning a blind eye and pretending that these events aren't impacting all of us, particularly Black students and their families.

I am demanding action from Michigan State University. To quote former student Maria Vicini, in her 2018 Detroit Free Press op-ed, "MSU has shown us that in the top-level of its administration there are cowards who hide behind salaries, reputations, contracts or layers and layers of reports they either don't have the time to read, or don't care enough to read." Your reputation as an institution precedes you, but it doesn't have to stay that way. Radical change is possible and it is possible right now. The University of Minnesota swiftly unemployed the Minneapolis Police Department, and there is nothing stopping you from taking action. Tell Mayor Beier, the ELPD, citizens of East Lansing,

your students, and the world that MSU does not stand for the murder of and violence towards Black Americans by police officers, nor does it put their own university police force above the students they are sworn to protect. Show us that MSU has zero tolerance for racism, discrimination, oppression, and silence.

Spartans Will? Will they do what others won't? Will is a matter of decision. Will you make that decision?

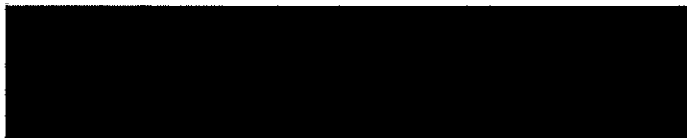
Sincerely,



Class of 2009 - College of Arts and Letters

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Dr Hsu's resignation

Dear Dr. Stanley,

As an alumnus of MSU, I am extremely disappointed by your stance and statements related to the resignation of Dr. Hsu. At the moment in which social divisiveness is paramount, academic freedom and freedom of speech is in danger, and social media mobs are pandemic and violating individual rights as well as social fairness and justice, I expect the leadership at the university that I greatly value to live up to the expectations of alumni and the larger community inside and outside of the school. If you have closely looked at the comments left along with the petition letter in support of Dr. Hsu and signed by nearly 1500 researchers, professors, students, Michigan residents, MSU alumni, and people around the world, you will easily see the urge for academic freedom, fairness, and justice for any individual. America is facing a very difficult and challenging situation. I understand that as the leader, an individual citizen, and a parent, you feel the pressure from all kinds of constituents. However, do you not hope that through the effort of you as a leader, and everyone that desires for healthy democratic society, your children and even grandchildren will continue to enjoy the freedom and fairness in the society? I truly hope that in the future, when you look back on your decisions, you will be able to see consistent support of social fairness, justice, academic freedom, and freedom of speech.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Monday, June 22, 2020 6:58 AM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Stephen Hsu

Dear Dr Stanley:

Dr Stephen Hsu's departure from your faculty, and your related comments, betray the dismal state of affairs characteristic in our world and society recently, where political correctness supersedes academic intellectual freedom of thought. One might have expected a university president to support a faculty member who dares share unpopular but seemingly objective findings with the hysterical masses, even on such topics as delicate as race. But you have opted for political expediency. The next time you sacrifice freedom of thought and speech to political correctness, why don't you just be honest and say you don't have the spine to stand up for what is right?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:09 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Re: Leadership Transition in Research and Innovation Office

Too bad. I always respected Stephen Hsu. Smart man with gravitas.

[REDACTED]


On Jun 19, 2020, at 7:47 PM, Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED] wrote:

June 19, 2020

Dear Spartan Colleagues:

Late this afternoon, Stephen Hsu resigned from the position of senior vice president, research and innovation and will return to a tenured faculty position effective July 1, 2020.

I believe this is what is best for our university to continue our progress forward. The exchange of ideas is essential to higher education, and I fully support our faculty and their academic freedom to address the most difficult and controversial issues. But when senior administrators at MSU choose to speak out on any issue, they are viewed as speaking for the university as a whole. Their statements should not leave any room for doubt about their, or our, commitment to the success of faculty, staff and students.

I plan to appoint an Interim senior vice president in the coming days and will consult with the Academic Governance Steering committee on this selection in accordance with university policies.

MSU has a long, proud and successful history in research and innovation. We are a nationally ranked program, producing research with global implications. Our entrepreneurship, innovation and tech transfer programs are launching successful new businesses, patents and products. We have a lot to be proud of already and a collective spirit to push to even greater frontiers in the future.

Sincerely,

<image003.png>

Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. M.D.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:15 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
VP Hsu Affair and the GEU

Mr. President,

I am sure that you are getting abundant communication both in support and opposition of your decision regarding the resignation of VP Hsu. While my voice is only one in thousands, this decision has eroded the credibility of our institution in the long term to satisfy the temporal passions of our undoubtedly turbulent times.

Make no mistake: our university, national, and global communities are contending with profound issues of the utmost importance and complexity in our current era. However, casting aside the core principles of academic freedom and informed discourse that have built the great institutions endangers the longevity of these institutions, which have been the greatest fountains of truth that humans have created. I believe you have made a grave misstep in your adjudication.

In addition to the erosion of our institution's reputation, this decision exacerbates an already pernicious problem on our campus: Students and faculty that hold heterodox views are increasingly self-censoring their speech for fear of becoming the next victim of the mob. This is a trend that has been documented with increasing frequency elsewhere in academia [1, 2] and is antithetical to the founding idea of the university as a crucible of ideas. While I may be one voice, there are countless others that have expressed to me that they share my concerns surrounding academic freedom, free speech, and diversity of ideology, but worry about retribution for expressing these ideas. It is unacceptable that students and faculty alike fear abuse for speaking the Truth.

I urge you and the administration to foster a culture of ideological diversity, civil discussion, and academic freedom moving forward from this affair. I love this university to my core, having marched in the band, studied in Holmes Hall, and taught and researched alongside the outstanding faculty of [REDACTED]. I hope I can continue to speak with pride of my university as a bastion of academic excellence.

Go Green,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 5:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Hsu, Stephen; geu@geuatmsu.org; Louie, Andrea; claire@quillette.com; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: feedback regarding your apparent political pogrom against Stephen Hsu, Ph.D.

Hello,

You have apparently conducted an irrational, emotionally-charged attack against an academic (Stephen Hsu, Ph.D.) whom: 1. does not make a nonsensical exception for *H. Sapiens Sapiens* when genetics study or other scientific study is concerned; and 2. apparently chooses to not quite adhere to your nonsensical racial political correctness DOGMA as practiced by many of your WESTERN culture. Apparently you have enjoyed the current US political climate, in order to perpetrate your acts with ease. I am informing you that your apparent malicious-yet-effortless pogrom is NOT appreciated by those whom are capable of subjecting our own subspecies to the figurative microscope, and whom are not keen on social and political drivel and circuses of an arbitrary culture.

Although this should be elementary, I will briefly lay out the rudiments... We all constitute the subspecies *H. sapiens sapiens*, not a single race *sensu stricto*. Per ethnography's/anthropology's folk racial taxonomy, there exist a large number of extant ethnic groups (Chukchi, Irish, Akan, Han, et al.), loosely groupable under extant races/subraces (Paleosiberian, European, Sub-Saharan African, Northeast Asian, et al.), which can be translated into the strictly-biological (no lens of ethnography) constructs of haplogroups and fixation indices. Note that this folk racial taxonomy is used not just by the hoi polloi (crudely---they often utilize skin colors instead, an awful method of trivial substance) and modern academic ethnographers and anthropologists, but elsewhere in academia, *inter alia* the world's leading peer-reviewed scientific-medicine epidemiologists (open a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and skim through Epidemiology sections...).

There is no need to deny that we are merely entities, like flowers, stars, baryons, or computers, groupable under various taxonomies, with differences... Humanness does not exempt us from scientific study, we are not divine beings...

Here is a casually-selected sample of papers, which might prove enlightening...:

Tian, Chao; et al. (November 2009). "European Population Genetic Substructure: Further Definition of Ancestry Informative Markers for Distinguishing among Diverse European Ethnic Groups". *Molecular Medicine*. 15 (11-12): 371-383. doi:10.2119/molmed.2009.00094. ISSN 1076-1551. PMC 2730349. PMID 19707526.

Nelis, Mari; et al. (2009-05-08). Fleischer, Robert C. (ed.). "Genetic Structure of Europeans: A View from the North-East". *PLOS ONE*. 4 (5): e5472. Bibcode:2009PLoS...4.5472N. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0005472. PMC 2675054. PMID 19424496.

Lynn, Richard; Longley, David (2006). "On the high intelligence and cognitive achievements of Jews in Britain". *Intelligence*. 34 (6): 541-547. doi:10.1016/j.intell.2006.03.011.

Bray, Steven & Mulle, Jennifer & Dodd, Anne & Pulver, Ann & Wooding,

Stephen & Warren, Stephen. (2010). Signatures of founder effects, admixture, and selection in the Ashkenazi Jewish population. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 107. 16222-7. [10.1073/pnas.1004381107](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1004381107).

Cardona A, Pagani L, Antao T, Lawson DJ, Eichstaedt CA, Yngvadottir B, Shwe MT, Wee J, Romero IG, Raj S, Metspalu M, Villems R, Willerslev E, Tyler-Smith C, Malyarchuk BA, Derenko MV, Kivisild T. Genome-wide analysis of cold adaptation in indigenous Siberian populations. *PLoS One*. 2014 May 21;9(5):e98076. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0098076](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0098076). PMID: 24847810; PMCID: PMC4029955.

Edwards, A. W. F. (2003). "Human genetic diversity: Lewontin's fallacy". *BioEssays*. 25 (8): 798–801. doi:[10.1002/bies.10315](https://doi.org/10.1002/bies.10315). PMID 12879450.

Rushton, J. P., & Jensen, A. R. (2005). Thirty years of research on race differences in cognitive ability. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 11(2), 235–294. <https://doi.org/10.1037/1076-8971.11.2.235>

Rushton, J. P., & Jensen, A. R. (2003). African-White IQ differences from Zimbabwe on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-Revised are mainly on the g factor. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 34(1), 177–183. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0191-8869\(02\)00192-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0191-8869(02)00192-7)

Rindermann H, Becker D, Coyle TR. Survey of Expert Opinion on Intelligence: Causes of International Differences in Cognitive Ability Tests. *Front Psychol*. 2016 Mar 23;7:399. doi: [10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00399](https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.00399). PMID: 27047425; PMCID: PMC4804158.

Der Sarkissian C, Balanovsky O, Brandt G, Khartanovich V, Buzhilova A, Koshelev S, et al. (2013) Ancient DNA Reveals Prehistoric Gene-Flow from Siberia in the Complex Human Population History of North East Europe. *PLoS Genet* 9(2): e1003296. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1003296>

Flegontov P, Changmai P, Zidkova A, Logacheva MD, Altınışık NE, Flegontova O, Gelfand MS, Gerasimov ES, Khrameeva EE, Kononova OP, Neretina T, Nikolsky YV, Starostin G, Stepanova VV, Travinsky IV, Tříska M, Tříska P, Tatarinova TV. Genomic study of the Ket: a Paleo-Eskimo-related ethnic group with significant ancient North Eurasian ancestry. *Sci Rep*. 2016 Feb 11;6:20768. doi: [10.1038/srep20768](https://doi.org/10.1038/srep20768). PMID: 26865217; PMCID: PMC4750364.

Witherspoon DJ, Wooding S, Rogers AR, Marchani EE, Watkins WS, Batzer MA, Jorde LB. Genetic similarities within and between human populations. *Genetics*. 2007 May;176(1):351-9. doi: [10.1534/genetics.106.067355](https://doi.org/10.1534/genetics.106.067355). Epub 2007 Mar 4. PMID: 17339205; PMCID: PMC1893020.

Zhang Q, Wang Y, Huang ES. Changes in racial/ethnic disparities in the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes by obesity level among US adults. *Ethn*

Health. 2009 Oct;14(5):439-57. doi: 10.1080/13557850802699155. PMID: 19360513; PMCID: PMC2744849.

Lewis, Myles & Jawad, Ali. (2016). The effect of ethnicity and genetic ancestry on the epidemiology, clinical features and outcome of systemic lupus erythematosus. *Rheumatology (Oxford, England)*. 56. 10.1093/rheumatology/kew399.

Panizzon, Matthew S., et al. "Genetic and environmental influences on general cognitive ability: Is g a valid latent construct?" *Intelligence* 43 (2014): 65-76.

Bouchard, Thomas J. (2013). "The Wilson Effect: The Increase in Heritability of IQ With Age". *Twin Research and Human Genetics*. 16 (5): 923-930. doi:10.1017/thg.2013.54. ISSN 1832-4274. PMID 23919982.



From: Melchior, Jillian <jillian.melchior@wsj.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 4:27 PM
To: MSU Media; Guerrant, Emily; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: On-deadline media inquiry -- The Wall Street Journal

Greetings,

Jillian Melchior here from The Wall Street Journal editorial page. I am writing about the resignation of Stephen Hsu as Senior Vice President for Research.

I saw the following statement from Michigan State University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.:

"I believe this is what is best for our university to continue our progress forward. The exchange of ideas is essential to higher education, and I fully support our faculty and their academic freedom to address the most difficult and controversial issues. But when senior administrators at MSU choose to speak out on any issue, they are viewed as speaking for the university as a whole. Their statements should not leave any room for doubt about their, or our, commitment to the success of faculty, staff and students."

But I have some follow-up questions:

- 1) The statement seems to imply that statements by Mr. Hsu did leave room for doubt about his and/or MSU's commitment to the success of faculty, staff and students. Is that correct, and if so, can you point me toward which specific statements Mr. Stanley is alluding to?
- 2) What if any process did MSU go through to determine the veracity of accusations that Mr. Hsu was racist, sexist or "a eugenicist"?
- 3) This statement claims that MSU and Mr. Stanley "fully support our faculty and their academic freedom to address the most difficult and controversial issues." Yet it looks a lot like MSU just caved to a Twitter mob and demanded the resignation of a professor. Any response?
- 4) Given Mr. Hsu's fate, why should faculty or other administrators feel confident that administration will support their research or speech, even on sensitive issues like gender and race or policing in America, and even if it is controversial or offends some portion of the studentry or public?

I'm on deadline and would need an answer by 1 EST tomorrow. Please feel free to call if you'd rather discuss this in detail.

Kind regards,
Jillian

Jillian Kay Melchior
Editorial Page Writer
The Wall Street Journal
jillian.melchior@wsj.com

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 21, 2020 2:42 PM

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Re-Instate Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I got the chance to know Steve through his podcast on Manifold, and it's the only place that I have found to be worthwhile. It truly is a gem. Lot of experts, whether you agreed with them or not, can share their perspective and it certainly made me a smarter, more well-rounded person. It's hard to find dialogues like that these days because the mob and cancel culture is dominating the entire discourse. There is no room for debate; one is either with it or against it. I tell people that it's ironic America has all these freedoms including speech, yet it has more censorship than any other country.

It would be a serious mistake to let Steve go. We've seen these mob hits before, but I hope MSU does the right thing and re-instate Steve Hsu.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 5:57 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Steve Hsu Resignation

Dear Dr Stanley

I am sure you are getting a lot of these emails. But I just wanted to express my disgust by the firing of Steve Hsu from his administrative position. As President, you had the chance to show real support to the principle of academic freedom, but you gave-in immediately to some bullies on twitter instead.

As an Assistant Professor, this is a dark time for academia and I worry about the future. You've made clear to me and others that MSU is not an institution that stands behind its faculty, or one that values genuine open inquiry over some social media popularity. I am very disappointed in both you and the MSU community for punishing a brilliant man who has done so much for science.

Best,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]

Sent:

Saturday, June 20, 2020 11:19 AM

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]

Subject:

Re: I support Steven Hsu

Dear President Stanley;

I'm saddened to hear of your choice regarding Steve Hsu. Particularly this rationale -

"... But when senior administrators at MSU choose to speak out on any issue, they are viewed as speaking for the university as a whole. Their statements should not leave any room for doubt about their, or our, commitment to the success of faculty, staff and students."

You were placed in an unenviable position, and during a world pandemic no less; however when there is a litmus test before academic freedom, it isn't freedom at all. This is truly a sad day for Enlightenment values of free and anti-dogmatic thought.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, June 20, 2020 9:36 AM

Sent:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

To:

You made Hsu resign, wow you are pathetic.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Re: Leadership Transition in Research and Innovation Office

Dear President Stanley,

I just wanted to thank you for your strong leadership in the recent decision to have Steve Hsu step down as SVPRI. I'm sure it was a charged decision, and I really appreciate how you represented the MSU community in the push toward doing the right thing.

stay well,
[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jun 19, 2020 at 7:47 PM Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED] wrote:

June 19, 2020

Dear Spartan Colleagues:

Late this afternoon, Stephen Hsu resigned from the position of senior vice president, research and innovation and will return to a tenured faculty position effective July 1, 2020.

I believe this is what is best for our university to continue our progress forward. The exchange of ideas is essential to higher education, and I fully support our faculty and their academic freedom to address the most difficult and controversial issues. But when senior administrators at MSU choose to speak out on any issue, they are viewed as speaking for the university as a whole. Their statements should not leave any room for doubt about their, or our, commitment to the success of faculty, staff and students.

I plan to appoint an interim senior vice president in the coming days and will consult with the Academic Governance Steering committee on this selection in accordance with university policies.

MSU has a long, proud and successful history in research and innovation. We are a nationally ranked program, producing research with global implications. Our entrepreneurship, innovation and tech transfer programs are launching successful new businesses, patents and products. We have a lot to be proud of already and a collective spirit to push to even greater frontiers in the future.

Sincerely,



Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. M.D.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 7:49 AM
To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Re: Dr. Stephen Hsu

Hey [REDACTED]

As you may have heard, Stanley asked Steve to resign yesterday.

We tried. Thanks for you help.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 9:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Dr. Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,
Please find attached a letter concerning Dr. Stephen Hsu.
Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 7:27 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Prof Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I write to express my alarm and disappointment that you have asked Prof Steve Hsu to resign his VP post.

I think you have rushed to judgment, and come to the wrong decision.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, June 20, 2020 3:25 AM

Sent:

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Subject:

Anti-Asian Bigotry at MSU

Dear President Stanley,

I am appalled at your lack of support for Stephen Hsu, who you have forced to resign to appease an activist mob. Hsu, as geneticist Razib Khan has written, is someone interested in how the world is. This is something that academics should aspire to.

Your decision suggests the pursuit of knowledge at MSU is only welcome to the extent it doesn't offend blank slate dogma. Public policy should not be based on falsehoods. Lysenko took a similar approach to what was acceptable research in the USSR. Sadly, MSU have sided with the Lysenkoists in this case.

This decision is particularly baffling to many Chinese students I know who can't believe a successful VP like Hsu, with no complaints of bias in his work, could be forced out by white leftists.

Shame on you.

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, June 20, 2020 1:29 AM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Vice President of Research Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I write this note in support of Dr. Hsu in his position as VP of Research at Michigan State. Steve is an outstanding scientist and scholar, who has a wide range of interests spanning physics, biology, computing and entrepreneurship. In my experience he is extraordinary in his proven ability to pursue research at a deep level in these areas and more. His energy and enthusiasm for this work has been profoundly inspirational for a number of scholars over the years. This might partially explain his great success in expanding the scientific research enterprise at Michigan State University.

As long as I've known him Steve has been an indefatigable pursuer of scientific truth, wherever the path may lead. His methods are rigorous, and he communicates his reasoning and results in a clear form understandable even by non-experts, probably because he himself has crossed so many interdisciplinary boundaries in his work.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] find the accusations that have recently been raised against him fantastic and impossible to countenance. A careful examination of his abundant scientific work will clearly show this.

Stephen Hsu's departure from the Research VP position, I believe, would be a profound loss for Michigan State.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Friday, June 19, 2020 10:22 PM

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

History won't be kind to you or your once great university. Abandoning the scientific method for the ideology of the current mob.

I'd write further but I doubt you are interested. Your secretary is probably deleting all these emails anyway. You can bask in the praise of the woke.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 10:18 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Steve Hsu resignation

Hi,

I'm not an alum of Michigan State, so I know this has little bearing on you, but I just wanted to express my disappointment at your asking for Steve Hsu's resignation. This kind of movement against intellectual freedom is not going to stop with him, and anyone who fails to take a stand against it now despite having the power to do so is contributing to the long-term destruction of universities as places where scholars can feel safe to do unpopular work. I don't agree with the thrust of all his work and I understand it would have been difficult for you to act instead of taking this easier path, but I think we'll all live to regret it on some level. Any tool that you give people to restrict free inquiry is going to eventually be used by both good and bad actors.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:47 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Re: Twitter outrage campaign warning

Dear President Stanley,

I'm shocked and horrified about your decision to make Dr Hsu resign.

It makes you seem weak, like you are just obeying the whims of people on social media.

Do you want to be remembered as the President who was told what to do by people on social media or as the president who has integrity?

It is not too late for you to change your mind...

The belief in any God goes against empirical science, just like holocaust denial and race realism, why should people who believe in race realism or holocaust denial be totally de-platformed but not people who believe in God?

How can you bring people back to reality if you don't speak to them? Cutting them off drives them further off into insanity. Dr Hsu at no point promoted any crank beliefs.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On 12/06/2020 15:43, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear President Stanley,

I'm emailing you to warn you about something I recently saw on twitter, it is regarding behavior from someone called [REDACTED] (MSU) and Michigan State GEU, they are both trying to have Dr Steve Hsu 'cancelled' aka fired by stoking up a twitter outrage mob.

One of the reasons they are unhappy because is because he appeared on Stefan Molyneux's podcast a few years ago. Mr Molyneux has also performed interviews with famous people like Eric Turkheimer and James Flynn on his podcast, and they are very mainstream researchers. Dr Hsu appeared in his podcast in mid-2017, but it was only in 2018 that the SPLC labelled Mr Molyneux an extremist, so it was possibly hard for Dr Hsu to realize that Mr Molyneux was so controversial.

It seems strange to criticize people for appearing on a podcast whose host said some extreme things AFTER the podcast was released, people cannot see into the future.

The tweets in question can be found here:

[REDACTED]

<https://twitter.com/GradEmpUnion/status/1270829003130261504>

[REDACTED] might also be considered slightly hypocritical, because he [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am emailing to warn you about the twitter mob as I really enjoy Steve Hsu's podcasts and find them very informative, so would hate to think of anything negative to happen to him. This kind of slander and cancel culture goes against the right to free inquiry. It seems kind of Orwellian that these people are accusing people of wrongthink.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:16 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Re: Leadership Transition in Research and Innovation Office

Dear President Stanley,

Thank you for your messages on Professor Stephen Hsu and the Supreme Court's decisions on DACA and LGBTQ rights this week. I applaud and appreciate your leadership on these matters.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020 at 7:52 PM
Subject: Leadership Transition in Research and Innovation Office

June 19, 2020

Dear Spartan Colleagues:

Late this afternoon, Stephen Hsu resigned from the position of senior vice president, research and innovation and will return to a tenured faculty position effective July 1, 2020.

I believe this is what is best for our university to continue our progress forward. The exchange of ideas is essential to higher education, and I fully support our faculty and their academic freedom to address the most difficult and controversial issues. But when senior administrators at MSU choose to speak out on any issue, they are viewed as

speaking for the university as a whole. Their statements should not leave any room for doubt about their, or our, commitment to the success of faculty, staff and students.

I plan to appoint an interim senior vice president in the coming days and will consult with the Academic Governance Steering committee on this selection in accordance with university policies.

MSU has a long, proud and successful history in research and innovation. We are a nationally ranked program, producing research with global implications. Our entrepreneurship, innovation and tech transfer programs are launching successful new businesses, patents and products. We have a lot to be proud of already and a collective spirit to push to even greater frontiers in the future.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. M.D.

Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. M.D.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Regarding Dr. Hsu

From a recent editorial in Commentary Magazine:

What we stand for:

- - A plurality of opinion in the public square. We affirm that the right to voice a minority opinion is equal in every respect to the right to voice a majority opinion. We therefore reject the public policing of opinion in all its forms.
- - A full airing of available facts and data on all topics. We welcome any impartial findings that may serve to advance discussion. No objective facts are beyond the bounds of deliberation and debate.
- - A rejection of cancel culture and all it entails. We renounce enemies lists, online/media mobs, and professional scalp hunts.
- - Clear bright lines between speech and violence. We affirm that speech, spoken or written, and no matter how egregious, is not equivalent in any way to violence. Similarly, physical violence is not a mode of speech.
- - An absolute rejection of political violence. We affirm that lawless violence, even in the service of a just cause, is wrong—no exceptions or excuses.

It would make me proud as an MSU Spartan with [REDACTED] years [REDACTED] to see the above principles operative in the Hsu matter.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Important Message Concerning Removing Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I write regarding the petition to remove Dr. Stephen Hsu from his position as VP for Research and Innovation.

In the formal letter in support of Steve ([found here](#) -- now with nearly 1,500 signatures in support), [REDACTED] outline why the charges of racism, sexism, and eugenics against him were baseless.

In this personal email to you, I would like to directly address the impact his removal would have on scholars [REDACTED] here at MSU.

I write because [REDACTED] This is because Steve's office [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I will explain more about why the activists on campus are wrong about their assessment below, but for now let me make an important point: If Steve is removed from his position due to funding research on sensitive topics (which is a main accusation against him by the GEU), this will not only have a chilling effect on important research but would directly undermine the main value of a research institution: FREE INQUIRY.

We do not know the answers to complex, difficult problems up front. If we are to solve the problems of today and create a better tomorrow, as researchers we must be free to study these problems and let the data take us where the data take us. We do not and cannot know the conclusions up front and if we decide that certain conclusions -- or even certain topics of study -- are off-limits, then we will at best have an incomplete understanding of the world. At worst, we may so severely misunderstand a problem that we implement changes that make the world worse off.

[REDACTED] research on fatal police shootings. [REDACTED]

At the time Steve funded this research, WE DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. Thus the GEU is promoting an outrageous lie that Steve funded research "to downplay racism." Instead, Steve -- acting as a VP for research should -- funded research to get some answers to this important topic.

People have many opinions about fatal police shootings, but if we are going to implement policies that actually reduce such shootings, we MUST know the causes of such shootings. This can ONLY be done through careful and systematic research, not politics or emotional appeals. Steve funded this research to help gather critical data on this very important topic. Now, the activists on campus would like to see him removed for doing so, because the conclusions of that research did not align with what they want to be true.

We all want to reduce fatal police shootings and the racial disparities therein. However, we cannot do this if we do not know the root causes of such disparities, and we cannot know those causes unless we do research on them. If we only assume we know WHY some outcome occurs, without good data on the question, we may implement policies or interventions that actually do MORE HARM THAN GOOD, which could result in MORE African-American citizens being shot. The research process therefore must proceed without political interference; this is Free Inquiry and is the hallmark of the Enlightenment, resulting in the greatest scientific advances of our time.

This is what Steve believes and how he acted, and because the research process did not give the answers that were politically desired by some, they are now calling for his removal.

Once again: On perhaps the most salient societal problem in our current time, Steve Hsu funded research to HELP SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. Activists calling for his removal want him punished for that decision.

Removing him would send the signal to all of us who study sensitive topics that we might be next. Once the mob has finished demeaning Steve and gets what it wants, it will not stop there. Instead, it will move on to the next person who doesn't agree with their view of the world. This will stop researchers from asking important questions (or send them to institutions that WILL support them), and society will be worse off for this retreat.

As the President, you have the opportunity and obligation to ensure that MSU retains its focus on uncovering truth and using this to create a better world. Please do not let MSU stray from this mission by capitulating to a small but vocal group on campus.

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 12:32 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: VP Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am writing to you personally regarding the Hsu controversy, rather than signing one of the petitions, for (at least) two reasons. One is that [REDACTED] attempts to quell disputes related to this issue between faculty on both sides, and think that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The second (and perhaps more honest answer) is I am scared of the repercussions of voicing my opinion. Realizing the second, the easiest thing to do is to be silent. But, I fear that doing so is to be a [REDACTED] who does nothing in the face of injustice, a position I also do not want to be in.

With that said, let me express my opinion about the Hsu controversy. On the one hand, I think that some of the charges against him deserve careful scrutiny. In my opinion, his work in China especially. While he may believe he is above reproach because he is simply creating machine learning algorithms for that project, if the project's end goal is something that is so ethically questionable that it cannot be done on US soil, perhaps he is not the right leader for our University. However, I say this knowing that I am not fully informed of that work or his role in it, which is why I suggest it is worth careful review to determine the truth. Similarly, the claims of sexism and racism, deserve careful evaluation. To be frank, I do not know the extent of the truth behind any of these allegations.

However, many of them seem to be weak arguments. For instance, impugning a person because they believe in the value of standardized tests, and believe that there is value in studying individual differences in intelligence, is upsetting to me. These types of academic pursuits are well within the norms of research internationally, and here within the US. For instance, work on the heritability of traits has been a major field of research, and there are few (if any) complaints about people discussing data suggesting the heritability of mental illness, heart disease, cancer, height, alcoholism, etc. Logically, how can we endorse that almost all factors are heritable but condemn a scientist who reports on the heritability of intelligence (particularly given the fact that scientific evidence suggests it is highly heritable).

In addition, the claim that he is racist seems to dramatically expand the definition of racism. The only evidence offered seems to be that he notes that there are genetic differences between races. As far as I can tell, none of his work has tried to ascribe any value judgement to these genetic differences. Again, it only stands to reason that people with different heritages would have genetic differences that reflect that heritage. He has also been called out sexist, but I have seen little support for that claim. In short, there have been serious charges lodged against VP Hsu, but little direct evidence offered to support those allegations.

That said, I am not a fan of Dr. Hsu. In his role as VP of research I have not seen him as particularly active nor involved in stimulating new opportunities and expanding our research portfolio. [REDACTED]

In short, [REDACTED] I would not be sad to see him replaced.

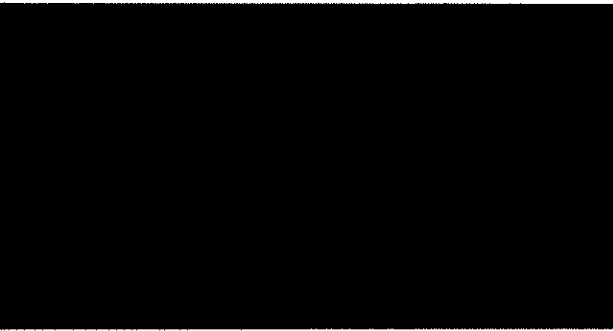
Even so, I fear that doing so in response to the current pressure, rather than an in-depth evaluation of his work and value to MSU would be highly problematic. Without such a review, I think this would be simply to appease the vocal opposition that has been raised recently against him. I worry that bending to the loudest voices is a recipe for disaster. I think it will further empower what has become a group that is increasingly intolerant of any views or data that does not fit their narrative. I think this type of intolerance of diverse viewpoints is anathema to the free expression of ideas, regardless of whether the intolerance comes from the right or left.

In short, while I have not been overly impressed with his tenure as VP of research, I think his removal at this point would be simply to react to the passions of the moment, rather than reasoned, logical analysis. If we in academia cannot promote a careful, reasoned, "cold" analysis of a situation above an emotional response, what hope is there for other institutions?

Please do not succumb to the heat of the moment and instead let a well-informed, rationale, unbiased evaluation determine Hsu's fate. If we abandon that "intellectual" approach in favor of a rapid, emotional decision-making mechanism, we run the risk of promoting our own ruin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: re: call for Stephen Hsu's removal, attention to 2019 article in the Guardian and awareness of Molyneux in 2017

Please see attached or below.

6-18-20

Dear President Stanley,

I signed a letter calling for removal of Stephen Hsu from his post as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. I add two points here.

First, I recognize the importance of academic freedom. The letter I signed called to remove Dr. Hsu from his administrative post, not for his removal from the faculty.

Second, I wanted to be sure to call your attention to information that was part of my reasoning that was not in the letter I signed.

In a 2019 article in the Guardian Hsu is referred to as Senior Vice President for Research at Michigan State University. Ethical issues are raised about selecting embryos for IQ. The article quotes: Hsu is reticent about whether screening for high intelligence would be ethically justified, saying: "Let me just decline to answer that at the moment."

I have concerns that our VP for Research chooses not to answer ethical concerns about his research. I think that is not the norm we want to establish and does not represent Michigan State well.

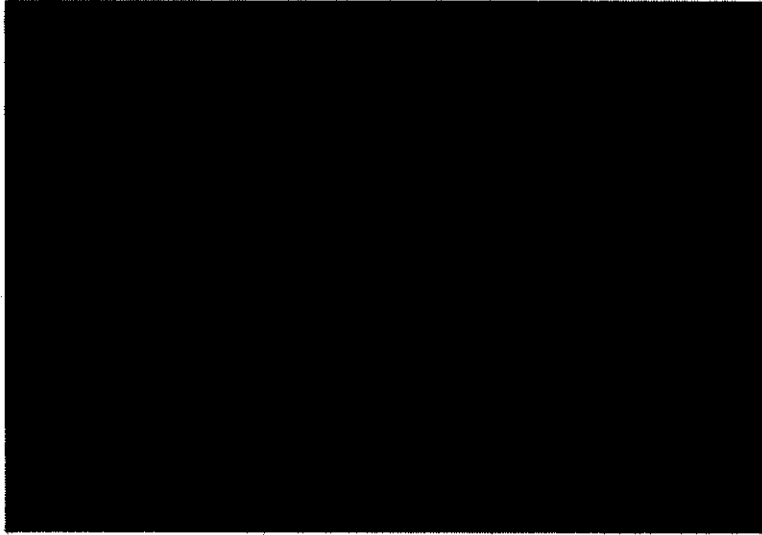
I also read from recent entries in Hsu's blog where he defends himself. For example, Hsu says:

One of the video clips is taken from an interview I did with YouTuber Stefan Molyneux in 2017. **Molyneux was not a controversial figure in 2017 (bold added)**, although he has since become one. Prominent scientists working on human intelligence who were interviewed on his show around the same time include James Flynn and Eric Turkheimer.

The bolded part is not consistent with quotes gathered by the southern poverty law center. This includes a quote from a *Speech at International Conference on Men's Issues, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, June 26 - 28, 2014*. It is also not consistent with an article in Politico in April 2017 that listed Molyneux as an alt-right philosopher as did an article in August 2017 in the New York Times, noting that Molyneux's videos included "Why Feminism Hurts Women" and "Why Feminists Hate Men".

Thank you for carefully considering the issue.

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:36 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Dr. Stephen Hsu
Attachments: [REDACTED] letter regarding Hsu.pdf

Dear President Stanley,
Please find attached a letter concerning Dr. Stephen Hsu.
Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

June 18, 2020

Dear President Stanley:

I am [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Hsu's positions on ethical questions strike me as mainstream. It would be unfair and even calumnious to suggest that Hsu there defends eugenics as embraced in the early to mid-20th-century in Denmark, Sweden, and the United States, let alone as practiced in Nazi Germany. For example, Hsu does not intimate that the government ought to curb the fertility of the least "fit" or encourage the most "fit" to have larger families. Hsu's stance on embryo selection [REDACTED] seems to me to be less controversial than that of Julian Savulescu, a physician/philosopher who has been the Director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics. In an article that is a mainstay of introductory courses in bioethics, Savulescu defends the Principle of Procreative Beneficence, which states roughly: Couples have a moral duty to select the child, of the possible children they could have, who is expected to have the happiest life. According to Savulescu, this principle implies that, if possible, couples should employ genetic tests for intelligence in selecting which embryo of theirs to implant since, in Savulescu's view, being smart tends to promote one's well-being. [REDACTED] I disagree with Hsu on many points. Yet I find the views he expresses [REDACTED] reasonable and measured. Yes, his views are also controversial. But anyone who sincerely tackles ethical issues surrounding genome engineering and embryo selection is going to be committed to positions that others find objectionable. It would be a serious mistake, in my opinion, to characterize Hsu's views [REDACTED] as racist, sexist, or anti-Semitic.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:00 PM
To: Byrum, Dianne; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Foster, Melanie; Knake, Renee; Scott, Brianna; Ferguson, Joel; Kelly, Dan; Mosallam, Brian; Tebay, Kelly
Cc: Sousa, Aron; Beauchamp, Norman
Subject: Dr. Stephen Hsu
Attachments: Hsu letter 6-18-20 v.2.pdf

Dear President Stanley and Trustees:

I respectfully submit the attached letter for your consideration in the matter of Dr. Stephen Hsu, Vice President for Research



[REDACTED]

Samuel Stanley MD, President,
And the Board of Trustees,
Michigan State University

June 18, 2020

Re: Stephen Hsu PhD

Dear President Stanley and Honorable Trustees:

I write to recommend strongly that Dr. Stephen Hsu be asked to resign his position as Vice President for Research and Innovation at our university and I set out in this letter why I think that action is the wisest course for Michigan State University at this time.

I write from the position of having been a faculty member at MSU for nearly [REDACTED] years, and deeply involved in [REDACTED] research and research policy in our university. I left a tenured position [REDACTED] to come to the College of [REDACTED] with the mission of developing the discipline of [REDACTED] at our university. Department of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Department has brought in over \$ [REDACTED] in external funds since its founding, nearly all from NIH and including full indirect costs. The department has established masters and doctoral degrees in both [REDACTED] and has granted hundreds of master's degrees and dozens of doctoral degrees. I served as [REDACTED] and have been [REDACTED] our university's [REDACTED]

In these several roles I have had the privilege of working with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I thus feel well qualified to discuss the research environment at MSU.

Before explaining why I think Dr. Hsu should resign his position as Vice President, I would like to make crystal clear what I am *not* recommending. I am not suggesting that Dr. Hsu be removed from MSU's faculty, nor do I suggest that he be penalized in any way for his scientific or personal views. I view a faculty member's rights of free speech and thought as sacrosanct and whether or not I agree with Dr. Hsu on any matter of science or public or social policy is utterly irrelevant to this letter.

But in contrast to a faculty member, a university administrator serves to formally represent and speak for the university in his or her assigned sphere of activity. When I was [REDACTED] my college it was my understanding, affirmed by the deans [REDACTED] that on matters of research [REDACTED] for the Vice President for Research. On matters of research he speaks for the university. That is a heavy responsibility well beyond that of a faculty member, and it must be taken very seriously.

I must add that I bear absolutely no personal animus to Dr. Hsu. I have always found him personable and open to conversation with people who disagree with him, as I do

on several scientific issues. Dr. Hsu has been appropriately supportive of several large research initiatives, as I expect all former VP's for research would have been.

But in spite of all of this, I think that Dr. Hsu's continued role as VP for Research represents a danger to our university. Many of the concerns have been set out in detailed communications from both the Graduate Students Union and from several hundred faculty members which include links to some of the evidence supporting their concerns.

All of the concerns, in my opinion, converge on a single flaw that would perhaps be tolerable in a faculty member, but raise serious problems in a senior scientific administrator. Each of the concerns reflects an inability of Dr. Hsu to recognize the limits of his knowledge and intelligence. It is no secret, and in fact is made very clear in his interview by Stefan Molyneux, that Dr. Hsu thinks that he has a remarkably superior intellect. This hubris allows him to provide opinions in areas of science in which he is far from expert, and tread carelessly in areas of thought that have political and social implications.

Three spheres of activity reflect Dr. Hsu's distressing lack of judgment and seriously hamper his suitability for his administrative position.

1. His habit of forming and sustaining academic associations with individuals known to espouse and disseminate racist and anti-Semitic views.
2. The entanglement of his academic scientific work with his personal for-profit company.
3. The extension of his scientific thinking into areas in which he has no training and in which he shows himself to be embarrassingly ignorant, and which verge, in some cases, on the unethical.

Dr. Hsu's singular belief in the genetic determination of intelligence draws individuals to him who use these ideas to support hierarchies of race. The issue is not whether Dr. Hsu himself is racist, but rather that he makes little or no effort to appropriately distance himself from these people or to clearly distinguish his views from theirs.

This trait was apparent in his cozy interview by the white supremacist Stefan Molyneux, which stands in dramatic contrast to an interview Molyneux did with the psychologist James Flynn. Hsu simply went along with Molyneux's line of questioning, whereas Flynn knowledgeably contradicted virtually everything Molyneux asserted in his questions. Dr. Flynn, who is a real authority on IQ testing, knew enough about the subject to respond appropriately. Hsu, whose understanding of IQ is superficial and dominated by his fascination with genetics, was unable to do the same. In another example, Dr. Hsu has claimed a lifelong friendship with Ron Unz, and has gone so far as to openly recommend in print that man's grossly anti-Semitic and racist website. The level of tone-deafness required to act in these ways is disqualifying for a position of leadership in a major university.

The website of the for-profit company Genomic Prediction lists Dr. Hsu first among its founders, describing him as "*Vice-President for Research and Professor of Theoretical Physics at Michigan State University.*" In a paper published in *Nature* in October, 2019, Dr. Hsu listed himself as associated with Genomic Prediction. A co-author of that paper was Laurent Tellier, whom the Genomic Prediction website lists as its Chief Executive Officer, and who provides no university affiliation. The paper acknowledges *funding* from the Office of the VP for Research at MSU. Let us consider for just a moment that our university has funded the production of a paper in a leading journal which very clearly benefits the bottom line of a private company linked to our Vice President for Research.

The above-cited *Nature* paper has four MSU authors, all from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, notwithstanding that the subject matter is prediction of human disease from

genetic markers. No academic figure knowledgeable in either genetics or human disease was involved. Had the authors restricted their discussion to the findings themselves, all entirely based on their computational approaches to a large genomic database, I would have raised no objections. But unfortunately, much of their paper is a deeply flawed dive into the complex world of screening for disease, a great part of it serving, frankly, as advertising for the approach of the company, even noting the low cost of genotyping, a service the company provides. Their assertion that "*genomic prediction of disease risk will, for a number of important disease conditions, soon be good enough to be applied broadly...*" betrays deep ignorance of screening for disease in the real world, and I can provide examples from their paper if needed.

Dr. Hsu's approach to human embryo screening for IQ potential based on the genome is likewise unreal and unworkable in the real world, as has been pointed out by others far more expert than Dr. Hsu in matters of embryonic life and potential. His inability or unwillingness to see the ethical issues involved in his proposed embryonic screening, and its differences from genetic screening as now practiced, is another illustration of his tone-deafness to the broader context in which science operates.

The convergence of the idea that mathematical brilliance is sufficient to overcome real-world ignorance links the troubling interview with Molyneux to his careless approach to the separation of academic and corporate work to the frank ignorance he displays of embryo and cancer screening.

While the reasons cited above seem to me ample grounds to find another VP for research, I am also concerned about reputation of MSU. I worry that it will not be long before the media latch on to one or another of these concerns, and that a link will be made to the Nassar case, whether justified or not.

The media argument will proceed as follows. MSU is a university that either tolerates or is unable to recognize activities that run counter to what is expected of a great university. The Nassar case revealed, among other things, an insensitivity of the university to the concerns of women. The Hsu case reveals, among other things, an insensitivity of the university to the concerns of racial and ethnic minorities. MSU, it will be argued, should have learned its lesson from the Nassar case and endeavored to hold itself to a higher standard. But no, it has not learned from the Nassar case. It is tolerating, in a highly responsible position, an administrator who flirts with ideas that are dangerous to our civil society, ignores potential conflicts of interest and makes scientific assertions that betray ignorance.

There are many fine women and men who would be honored to serve as MSU's Vice President for Research. Maintaining Dr. Hsu in this position risks further setbacks to our university's stature and reputation.

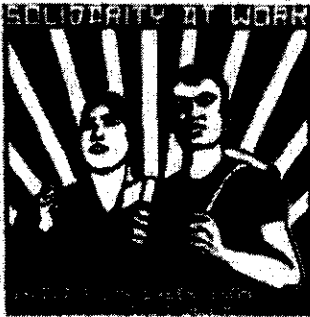
Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Board Of Trustees; Barr, Nakia
Subject: Dr. Hsu
Attachments: Information Processing_ Wellesley girls.pdf; Information Processing_ prostitution.pdf; Information Processing_ dating.pdf; Threat_to_sue.pdf

Dear President Stanley and Trustees,

I am a current PhD student and recently graduated MS student in the [REDACTED] department at [REDACTED]. I am writing to you regarding Dr. Stephen Hsu. I know by now you are aware of the evidence that the Graduate Employees Union has collected regarding Dr. Hsu's view: <https://twitter.com/GradEmpUnion/status/1270829003130261504>



Michigan State GEU on Twitter

"Today for #ShutDownAcademia #ShutDownSTEM, the GEU and its coalition partners in the STEM community are calling for the removal of Stephen Hsu as VP of Research and Graduate Studies at @michiganstateu."

twitter.com

They have been quite thorough, and I want to provide you some additional information.

One aspect of Dr. Hsu's blog that I find very concerning but was not included in the thread (or most of the current conversation) are his posts about "game". Under the "dating" and "prostitution" tags on his blog there are several posts about Pick Up Artist (PUA) techniques. In a post titled "The new dating game" (PDF attached-Information Processing_ dating.pdf pg. 7), from Feb. 2010, Hsu says: "In case you are unfamiliar with terms like (no, this has nothing to do with portfolio theory): alpha, beta, neg, PUA, AFC, and chick crack, read the excerpt below". Neg, for example, means 'negative feedback', or giving someone a backhanded compliment to lower their self-esteem so they will crave your approval. He then gives a personal anecdote about going to a club with a friend who uses women he is unattracted to as "practice". The excerpt he posts includes lines such as "If it all sounds cheesy, tedious, manipulative, obvious, condescending to women, maybe kind of gay, it's because it is. But here's the rub: This stuff works". PUA techniques are notoriously misogynistic.

In 2011, he wrote a post titled "Wellesley girls" (attached), where he states that his experience with women at Scripps College was "sadly, not quite as salacious as the article below makes it out to be". The article he posts says "Some professors [at Wellesley] are notorious for having sex with their students" and "For a straight male professor, a women's college offers obvious temptations".

Also in 2011, he writes a post called "Price and self-deception" (Information Processing_ prostitution.pdf, pg. 2). It starts out with a "joke": "A man meets a woman in a bar and asks her if he (sic) will have sex with him for

a million dollars. The woman thinks about it for a moment and says yes. The man then asks the woman if she will have sex with him for \$20. The woman becomes incensed and says, 'What do you take me for, a wh*re?' The man replies, 'Ma'am we've already established what you are, now we're just negotiating price'".

In 2016, he posts an interview between Dan Bilzerian and Joe Rogan that he calls "One of the best interviews I've heard in a long time" (Information Processing_prostitution.pdf pg.1, link: <https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2016/10/joe-rogan-interviews-dan-bilzerian.html>). In the first 10 minutes, they call women "b*tches" and "free p*ssy".

It makes me extremely uncomfortable that these viewpoints are being posted by MSU's Senior VP of Research and Innovation on a blog where these exact credentials are in the header, giving credibility to these viewpoints. I don't think anyone, let alone someone that high up in administration, should be endorsing calling women "wh*ores", "b*tches", or "free p*ssy". In his own words he refers to women by their appearance-- "moderately attractive blonde", for example. On their own, these posts are distasteful, misogynistic, and inappropriate. They also undermine his assertion that his posts about women's intellectual capabilities are purely scientific inquiry.

Lastly, Dr. Hsu briefly posted that he was planning to sue individuals who have been spreading this information for libel and slander. He has since removed this note. I have attached the version from June 2015 that includes the threat (Threat_to_sue.pdf pg. 4, highlighted). This concerns me greatly. Dr. Hsu is a senior vice president and many of the individuals sharing this information are graduate students and pre-tenure faculty who are vulnerable. This type of retaliation is why people are afraid to speak up.

Thank you for reading. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,



Information Processing

Pessimism of the Intellect, Optimism of the Will

Favorite posts | Manifold podcast | Twitter: @hsu_steve



Steve Hsu

Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Michigan State University

[View my complete profile](#)

Saturday, March 18, 2011

Wellesley girls

I've spent some time at Wellesley. The first visit was on a tour of east coast grad schools with some other Caltech guys. A family friend (she turned out to be a charming southern belle from Arkansas) at Wellesley arranged for us to camp out in sleeping bags on an indoor balcony in her residence hall. Pretty amazing, when you think about it. My memory is fuzzy but I think showering was a bit of a challenge. Men were not allowed to move from floor to floor without an escort. "Horizontal motion, but no vertical motion" was the slogan :-). My girlfriend at the time was a student at Scripps College, an all-women's school in Claremont, California. So I was pretty familiar with the scene ... sadly, not quite as salacious as the article below makes it out to be.

I wonder what happened to all the girls we met on that trip.

Rolling Stone Magazine: ... As a visiting student from Wheaton College studying at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, for one year, Ross enjoys the unique position of being the lone full-time male student at an all-women's school. "I really don't have to introduce myself too often," he says. It's established wisdom on campus that the "token guy" who comes to Wellesley every few years will get as much attention as he can handle. David Kent, who spent a year at Wellesley in the late Seventies, wrote about the experience for Esquire: "I became incapable of talking to a girl without thinking how much she craved me and what she'd be like in the sack." He dated three women a night, he writes, and rarely slept in his own room. Neil Schiavo, a Connecticut College graduate who spent part of the 1994-95 academic year at Wellesley, says, "The first week, it took me forty minutes to get to classes because people were so friendly. I felt like in this one little area in the world, I was Tom Cruise."

Ross won't put a number on how many Wellesley students he's slept with, but admits he's been dating "a lot." One group of students placed bets on who could sleep with Ross, and there was also an informal competition to see who could get him into bed first. "Wellesley women are different from other women," Ross says. "They plan everything out in their heads." ...

... "It was a challenge to be straight at a school like that," says Melanie Herman, a 1999 graduate who now works on Wall Street. So women at Wellesley who do choose to date men but have given up on the "Fuck Truck"—the student nickname for bus that runs to Harvard and MIT, both about forty-five minutes away—have to find whoever is available. The most alluring candidates are the professors. Different academic departments have different reputations. "Some of the departments are a little racy and some are a little more tame," says senior Sandra North. "Some professors are notorious for having sex with their students. Everyone knows who they are."

Understandably, professors are not cheered by the sometimes unkind stories that are spread about them. "I knew a guy who used to pick up a baby sitter on campus, and people said he was picking her up for a date," says professor Aaron Girard. "And it wasn't anything like that. So you can get injustice done pretty easily." Many of the rumors are completely untrue, he points out—although he admits he has had relationships with students. "I've heard rumors about me and several students that had no basis in fact whatsoever," Girard says. "And the one that was true, no one knew about."

For a straight male professor, a women's college offers obvious temptations. In every class, there are at least a few admirers, especially if he has that "professor sex appeal." And having that appeal doesn't necessarily mean he's good-looking—indeed, says a student, many of the most sought-after professors "definitely do not fall into the good-looking category." ...



Labels: american society, autobiographical, dating, higher education

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Taufaahau_Tupou_IV · 9 years ago

If only Steve had ventured to another floor it would have been the Trobriands yam festival?

I guess lack of credulity isn't g loaded. How else could Steve be so credulous?

| · Reply · Share



Shawn · 9 years ago

I wish I went to a school like that. :-)

Maybe society will become better as AI and robotics merge -- I'm talking about sexbots. Sexual dynamics will change dramatically, even if sexbots don't get to the point where they are indistinguishable from a real woman. By the way, I think Japan will take the lead in creating sexbots.

Check this out: <http://www.hulu.com/watch/4...>

| · Reply · Share



Shawn → Shawn · 9 years ago

I'm kind of getting off-topic, sorry, but I believe that the other most important 21st century advancement will be genetic enhancement.

| · Reply · Share



Guest → Shawn · 9 years ago

Especially of the penis!

| · Reply · Share



Max → Guest · 9 years ago

Perfect illustration of genetic enhancement would not the the most important :) All human can think of are stupid monkey status games. General AI will end this zoo

| · Reply · Share

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Blog Archive

- 2020 (63)
- 2019 (113)
- 2018 (128)
- 2017 (150)
- 2016 (206)
- 2015 (167)
- 2014 (184)

- ▶ 2013 (211)
- ▶ 2012 (221)
- ▼ 2011 (266)
 - ▶ 12 (20)
 - ▶ 11 (16)
 - ▶ 10 (25)
 - ▶ 09 (24)
 - ▶ 08 (19)
 - ▶ 07 (26)
 - ▶ 06 (24)
 - ▶ 05 (22)
 - ▶ 04 (20)
 - ▼ 03 (25)
 - Ruh Roh!
 - India = Silicon Valley + Africa ?
 - Paul Allen: Idea Man
 - Misers' methods for reading the NYTimes
 - Statins, cholesterol and medical science
 - We're different on the inside
 - TEDxCaltech
 - Annals of socially constructed gender roles
 - Poker prodigies
 - Pebble bed reactors
 - Duty, Honor, Country: Fukushima grunts
 - Almost over? part 2
 - What is reality? Philip K. Dick
 - Wellesley girls**
 - Jon Jones, phenom
 - Nuclear Boy is sick
 - Fukushima meltdown: worst case scenario?
 - Buffet on derivatives
 - Taiwan photos 11
 - Tigers, cubs, and elite clubs
 - Social Animals
 - Almost over?
 - Classics on the arxiv: von Neumann and the foundat...
 - With Pascin at the Dôme
 - Swoosh!
 - ▶ 02 (24)
 - ▶ 01 (21)
- ▶ 2010 (234)
- ▶ 2009 (204)
- ▶ 2008 (255)
- ▶ 2007 (196)
- ▶ 2006 (154)
- ▶ 2005 (253)
- ▶ 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (269)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (236)

- technology (231)
- american society (221)
- China (192)
- innovation (187)
- economics (177)
- ai (172)
- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (98)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)
- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgi (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cdo (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)

- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)
- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- smpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)

- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes ecoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- + net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- television (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)
- crossfit (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- dating (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- + keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)

- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- econtalk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)
- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincare (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borjes (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)

- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- feminism (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)
- tivs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)
- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- ltrn (2)
- mating (2)
- mba (2)
- mccain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)

- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)
- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnite huang (1)
- car deafers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x. li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)
- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)
- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- gizmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- iit (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
- jack kerouac (1)
- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dolan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searle (1)

- [john tierney \(1\)](#)
- [jonathan littell \(1\)](#)
- [las vegas \(1\)](#)
- [lawyers \(1\)](#)
- [lehman auction \(1\)](#)
- [les bienveillantes \(1\)](#)
- [lowell wood \(1\)](#)
- [lse \(1\)](#)
- [machine \(1\)](#)
- [mcgeorge bundy \(1\)](#)
- [mexico \(1\)](#)
- [michael jackson \(1\)](#)
- [mickey rourke \(1\)](#)
- [migration \(1\)](#)
- [money:tech \(1\)](#)
- [myron scholes \(1\)](#)
- [netwon institute \(1\)](#)
- [networks \(1\)](#)
- [newton institute \(1\)](#)
- [nfl \(1\)](#)
- [oliver stone \(1\)](#)
- [phil gramm \(1\)](#)
- [philanthropy \(1\)](#)
- [philip greenspun \(1\)](#)
- [portfolio theory \(1\)](#)
- [power laws \(1\)](#)
- [pyschology \(1\)](#)
- [randomness \(1\)](#)
- [recession \(1\)](#)
- [sales \(1\)](#)
- [singapore \(1\)](#)
- [skype \(1\)](#)
- [standard deviation \(1\)](#)
- [star wars \(1\)](#)
- [starship troopers \(1\)](#)
- [students today \(1\)](#)
- [teleportation \(1\)](#)
- [tierney lab blog \(1\)](#)
- [tomonaga \(1\)](#)
- [tyler cowen \(1\)](#)
- [venice \(1\)](#)
- [violence \(1\)](#)
- [virtual meetings \(1\)](#)
- [war nerd \(1\)](#)
- [wealth effect \(1\)](#)

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Steve Hsu

Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Michigan State University

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Showing posts with label prostitution. Show all posts

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

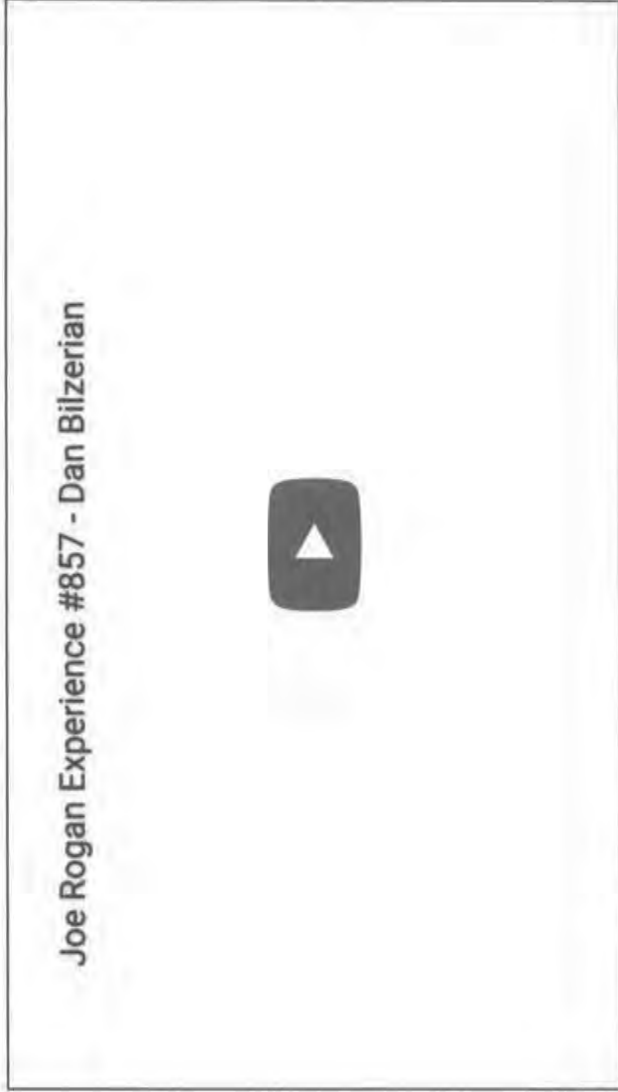
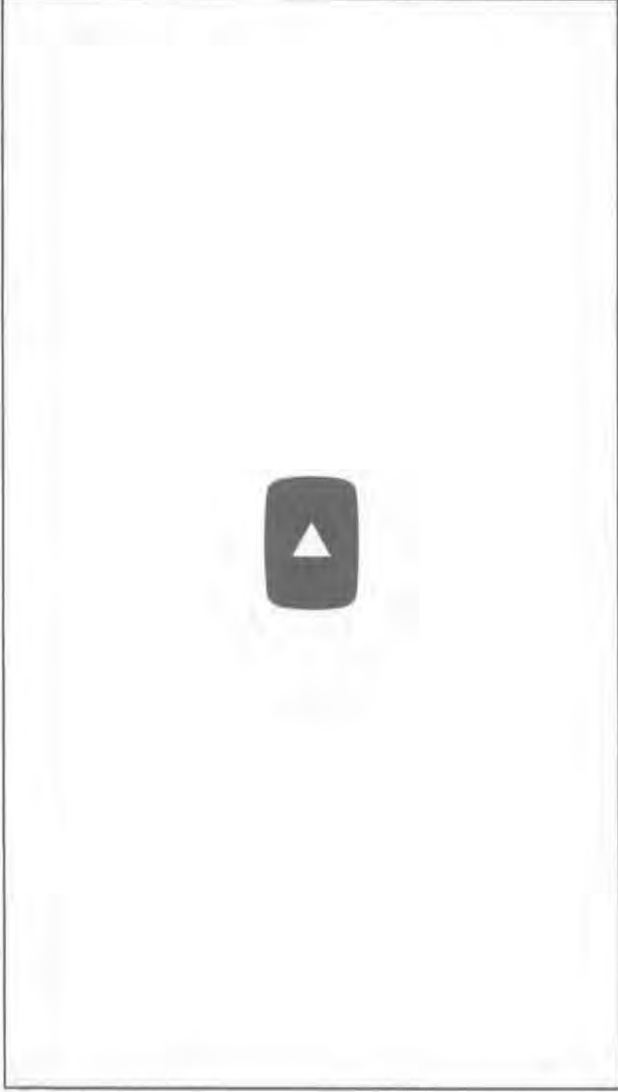
Joe Rogan interviews Dan Bilzerian

This is one of the best interviews I've heard in a long time. Warning: NSFW.

Joe Rogan interviews professional poker player and social media icon Dan Bilzerian. If you don't know who he is, check him out on Instagram (guns, girls, private jets, high stakes poker = 20 million followers = NSFW).

Among the topics covered: DB's experience in Navy SEAL training, high stakes poker, online poker in the early 2000s, sex, drugs, heart attacks, life, happiness, hedonic treadmill, social media, girls, fame, prostitution, money, steroids, stem cell therapy, and plenty more.

You can get the interview in smaller topical chunks (one of the best segments is embedded below). At bottom is the full 3 hours.



Posted by Steve Hsu at 5:46 PM 2 Comments

Labels: happiness, hedonic treadmill, net worth, prostitution

Tuesday, July 05, 2011

Price and self-deception

Is the letter below for real, or just a clever parody? ("Shoes!") This old joke says it all:

A man meets a woman in a bar and asks her if he will have sex with him for a million dollars. The woman thinks about it for a moment and says yes.

The man then asks the woman if she will have sex with him for \$20. The woman becomes incensed and says, "What do you take me for, a whore?"

The man replies, "Ma'am we've already established what you are, now we're just negotiating price."

Related posts: [Via Maoxian.](#)

Why I Love My Sugar Daddy: ... The dating pool in my town wasn't the most appealing, so I took my search online. I was bombarded with messages from guys who couldn't spell, took shirtless pictures of themselves in mirrors, and were perfectly content to be living in their parents' basements. I was a driven pre-law student with a 4.0 GPA and dreams of a pitbull-esque career in corporate law. These candidates weren't cutting it. I wanted a man who was ambitious and successful, someone who knew what he wanted and exactly how to get it. I wanted an established man.

I entered my specifications into Google, and the first hit was a Sugar Daddy dating site. "No way," I thought. "I'm not a golddigger, I just want a man who has his shit together." But the tagline had already hooked me—"Meet Wealthy Men Seeking to Spoil Beautiful Women!" It felt like I had just been challenged... was I attractive and charming enough to pique the interest of a successful millionaire? My mind raced. Is this thinly-veiled prostitution? Were there really men out there who wanted to buy me shoes? I like shoes! Was this going to affect how I identified myself as an intelligent, independent woman? PRESENTS! I caved. I set up a profile, paid the membership fee, and waited to see what would happen.

The difference in quality (my idea of quality, at least) between the two dating pools was... slightly disappointing. I was expecting some kind of Mensa utopia, but apparently shiteheads exist in all tax brackets. Once I became more realistic about my expectations, the outlook was less bleak. There were men who read! Books! These men had careers and dreams and ambitions! I was getting messages that were entirely free of grammatical errors!

I learned very quickly that there were many different types of SD relationships, ranging from blatant prostitution/escorting to regular relationships with the perk of total financial stability. After going on a few dates and being flat-out propositioned, I decided I wasn't into the whole sex-for-cash-in-an-unmarked-envelope

deal. I received offers to be a travel companion- jetsetting to Bali or Brazil whenever a 5D's schedule allowed it- but as a busy student, that option didn't seem too viable. I decided that I wanted a more traditional relationship, which is slightly harder to find, but (IMO) is the most rewarding. I was looking for someone who, like myself, was busy building their career and simply didn't have all the time in the world to commit to a normal relationship. Something easy, fun, and drama-free, with a guy who could help me better myself in all areas.

After a year and a half of casual relationships with great guys, I met my current Sugar Daddy, The Lawyer. My first date with The Lawyer was... probably one of the most surreal experiences of my lower-middle class, smalltown life. After exchanging a few e-mails, phone calls, and Skype sessions (who knew 45-year olds knew how to use Skype?), we agreed to meet. Normally, a quick date at Starbucks would suffice, but The Lawyer lived 1500 miles away. Since I didn't have a law firm to run, we decided it would be easier if I travelled to meet him.

...

... I had never even flown business class before, so a private jet was... well, it was fucking awesome. ...

When I first got into the whole Sugar Daddy relationship world, I was worried I was going to lose myself. I didn't want people to think I was some kind of brainless, golddigging bimbo. I was worried that other people's opinions of my love life would somehow change who I was and what I believed in. Of course, that's total bullshit. I'm the exact same person I was two years ago, except with more shoes and less debt. 5D relationships work for me, and not just monetarily. They fit well into my busy life, and most of the men I've met are smart, kind, and incredibly charming. I'm in a great relationship, and I have no reason to be ashamed of it. I'm not a brazenly parasitic adult baby. I'm just an intelligent, driven, career-oriented woman with a boyfriend who likes to buy me presents.

Click through for marvelous comments.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:51 PM  8 Comments

Labels: american society, gender, net worth, prostitution

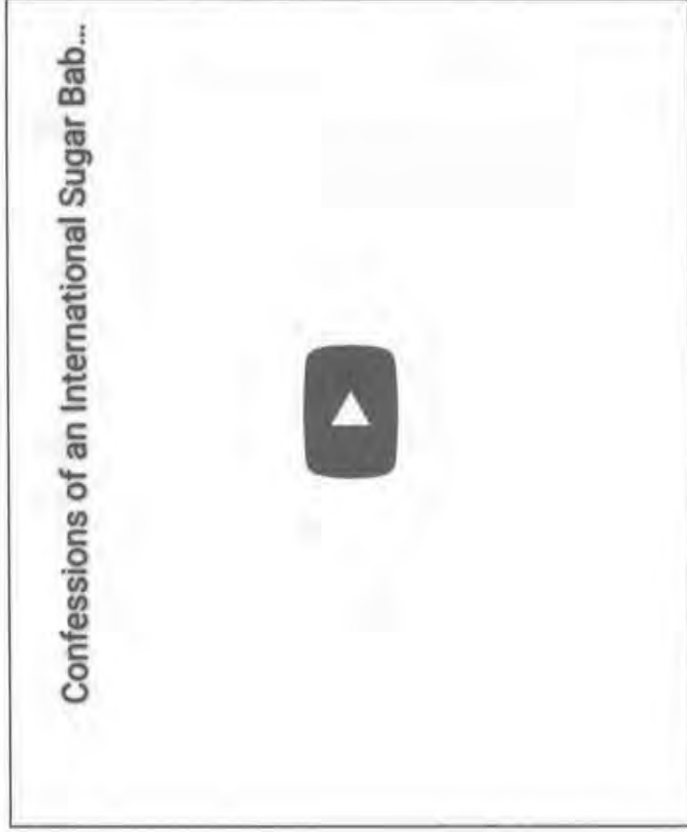
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Big pimpin'

You may have read recently about physics professor (Farleigh Dickinson University, NJ) David Flory's arrest in connection with a web site promoting prostitution.

What I don't understand is how sites like Seeking Arrangement (previous posts here and here) avoid this kind of attention from

law enforcement. The fact that the arrangements are negotiated privately between users of the site may insulate SA, but surely the police could nab plenty of Sugar Babies and Sugar Daddies in a sting operation.





Posted by Steve Hsu at 10:57 PM 12 Comments 

Labels: [american society](#), [prostitution](#)

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

SeekingArrangement: all about the Benjamins

We wrote about the high-end "dating" site SeekingArrangement.com (founded by an MIT grad) here. See the SA blog comments for back and forth between real life sugar babies and sugar daddies :-)



This article, by a would-be writer, appeared in Vanity Fair recently.

Vanity Fair: ... I had become a member a few weeks earlier, partly as a social experiment and partly out of

genuine desperation. I was frustrated with my job, which offered little upward mobility, and was thinking about quitting it to pursue my goal of becoming a full-time freelance writer. Holding me back were my lack of savings and my fear of sacrificing a regular paycheck. If I had a hefty allowance from a generous benefactor, though, I figured that I could take the leap comfortably.

... The site, which launched in 2006, has about 420,000 members, of which roughly one-third are sugar daddies and two-thirds are sugar babies (sugar mommies account for less than one percent). While sugar daddies pay \$49.95 per month for a premium membership (or \$1,200 a month for Diamond Club certification, which requires verification of one's net worth through tax-return data), as a sugar baby I was able to join for free. I uploaded two photos and listed some general information about myself, and I stated "open, amount negotiable" in the space that asks what you're looking for. (Seeking Arrangement skirts the issue of prostitution by promoting the exchange of "intimacy and companionship" for "gifts.") I took a deep breath and posted my profile, determined to focus on New York-based single men claiming to be worth at least \$10 million.

... When Charlie—divorced, late 50s, worth about \$50 million—asked to meet me, I tried to remain hopeful. I sauntered into the Mercer Hotel in jeans and a gray cardigan one frigid Sunday morning, scouring the crowd for a tall, gray-haired man. He spotted me first and tapped me on the shoulder.

"Here you go—just a token," Charlie said, extending his hand.

I examined my gift—an iPod—and said, "Thank you," determining to be extra pleasant during brunch.

We both ordered eggs, and by the time our food arrived I had grown to like Charlie. For starters, he provided an earnest explanation for joining Seeking Arrangement.

"I can't separate the fact that I have resources from who I am," he said. "It's part of me. And it's something I have to offer twentysomethings."

"I completely agree."

"I married young, you know. And I remained married for nearly 30 years while I was raising my kids."

"How old are they?"

He chuckled before admitting, "It's kind of weird. They're your age."

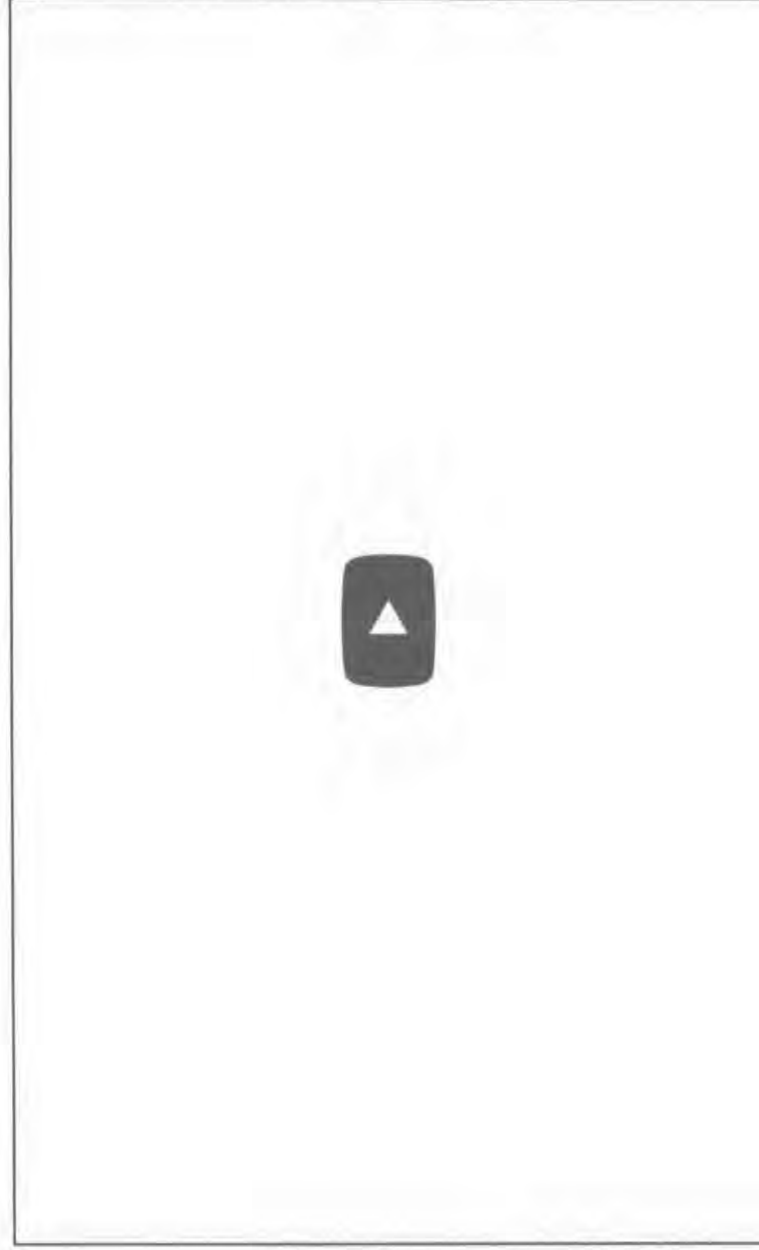
"It's not weird at all," I said.

Charlie turned to Seeking Arrangement, he explained, because most of the women he had been meeting wanted to settle down. "I don't want another family," he said.

"I promise you I'm not in the market for one," I told him, and then asked, "Have you ever done this before?"

"I've never been in one of these relationships, exactly. But I've certainly been generous with previous girlfriends. And since joining the site, I've been on a few coffee dates. Pretty positive experiences, actually. I met an editor for a fashion periodical, a translator for the U.N., and a girl whose dad"—he stopped to laugh—"whose biological dad had just cut her off. The only negative experience I had was with a girl who was dating a hedge-funder. She said he had given her her nose and her Birkin bag, but that she needed cash. A bit mercenary for my taste."

Here is a segment that features the founder:



Posted by Steve Hsu at 2:00 PM 4 Comments 

Labels: american society, gilded age, net worth, prostitution

Saturday, April 11, 2009

Sugar Daddies: MIT grad starts high end prostitution web site ; -)



The Times magazine has a long piece about [SeekingArrangement.com](#), a web site that helps "sugar babies" find rich "sugar daddies" :-). On the site there are 10 babies for every daddy.

I would say that a large number of financially successful guys I have known have analyzed the dating situation (usually over a few drinks) and come to the same conclusions as the users and creator of the site. (See further down the excerpt, and especially the guy called Sam.) I don't personally know very many women who have analyzed it from the other side and come to the sugar baby perspective (or at least will admit to it), but there are obviously lots out there. See the [sugar daddy blog](#) for hundreds of comments from sugar babies.

For the Asian version of all this, see [Enjo kosai](#), or "compensated dating" in Japanese (also [here](#) and [here](#)).

NYTimes: **AT FIRST GLANCE**, the Web site [SeekingArrangement.com](#) seems like any other dating site. Most of the men are looking for fit, sexy women, and most of the women want nice guys who can make them smile and laugh. But if [eHarmony](#) or [Match.com](#) is a chatty social mixer, [Seeking Arrangement](#) is a down-and-dirty marketplace where older moneyed men and cute young women engage in brutally frank transactions. They're not searching for longtime soul mates; they want no-strings-attached "arrangements" that trade in society's most valued currencies: wealth, youth and beauty. In the cheesy lexicon of the site, they are "sugar daddies" and "sugar babies."

There's the 18-year-old from France asking for \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month from "a mentor who can provide me with the finer things in life and keep me happy!" And the 49-year-old investor from upstate New York willing to pay \$5,000 a month for a "daytime playmate" for "intense connection without commitment." Critics say the site is at best a convenience store for adulterers and at worst a virtual brothel, but Brandon Wade, [Seeking Arrangement's](#) 38-year-old founder and chief executive, is unperturbed by the criticism. "We stress relationships that are mutually beneficial," he says. ...

ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF ARRANGEMENTS on the site involve the daddy paying an "allowance," usually a thousand or two a month, though the site claims some reach \$10,000. The rest provide the baby with incidental cash, shopping sprees, gifts, travel or the fleeting illusion that theirs is a high-end, easy life. "I get flown to whatever city I want," wrote a North Carolina college student, who goes by the name [gurnextdoor](#) on the site's blog, a mix between an online support group and a [kaffeeklatsch](#). "He pays for it, takes me shopping, we talk, laugh, go out to eat and do whatever we want to do for our days together. . . . I don't bring up mundane problems about my home life, and he does the same. . . . If I wanted someone to talk to about my life problems, I'd get a boyfriend or a therapist."

...In fact, Seeking Arrangement pays to have its ads pop up on search engines whenever someone types in "student loan," "tuition help," "college support" or "help with rent." Lola was one of many to stumble on the site that way, when — behind on her rent and tuition and down to one meal a day — she Googled "student loan." What popped up was hardly what she expected, but she was willing to try almost anything to stay in school.

...Whether sugar relationships amount to prostitution is hotly debated among the site's members. "Let's get real here," wrote GoldenGate on the blog. "I'm with a guy who's old enough to be my dad, short and balding. Not to mention his other shortcomings, ahem. But he gives me a great big fat allowance every month. If that wasn't there, we wouldn't be together."

Others on the blog were shocked, saying they could never be with a man, even a rich one, if they weren't somehow attracted to him. Indeed, most go to considerable effort to distinguish between "sugar" and prostitution. (Legally, at least, they are right; since the 1970s, courts have ruled that as long as the woman is paid for some service besides sex — housecleaning, companionship — the arrangement is not the equivalent of prostitution.) They say being a sugar baby is no more an occupation than dating is, especially when the goal of dating is to find a rich boyfriend or a wealthy husband. ...

Some sugar babies also insist that wives who stay in miserable marriages for an American Express black card, mansion or country-club membership are more like prostitutes than they are. And yet the blatant financial transactions leave many uneasy.

...a 22-year-old named Mercedes told me, "I don't see how people can view this as exploitation." Mercedes is a junior who pays her own tuition at a Georgia university. She has had six sugar daddies in the past year to supplement her wages busing tables and washing dishes at a bar. "I could go out and work three jobs and still go to school and probably make decent grades, but is that really what I want to do? I make more money this way, and I have a lot more fun because I get to go out to concerts, go shopping, see movies and make money off of it. If instead of this I was just dating a rich guy, it'd be almost the same thing, and society wouldn't look down on that. You know with a sugar daddy that they're spending a lot of money on you and they clearly want something in return, but is that really any different than how it is with a boyfriend?"

BRANDON WEY GOT THE IDEA for the site from his own dissatisfying love life as an M.I.T. student and then as a well-off but awkward tech executive. Traditional dating Web sites were no help. "It was difficult to advertise the assets I had compared to hundreds of thousands of guys who had better looks or better pickup lines," says Wey, now married to a woman 13 years younger than he is, whom he met before the site went live. "I needed to find a way to put myself at the front of the line."

One sugar daddy whose screen name is Sam has tried long-term girlfriends, mistresses, prostitutes and a brief marriage. ... Sam's profile on Seeking Arrangement is audacious. He advertises for a woman who is "drop-dead beautiful, sexy, fun and elegantly mannered in a fancy setting. She must turn heads. . . and make me the envy of the crowd." ... When I asked to chat in person, Sam suggested meeting at CORE, a private Manhattan club

...These days, men can pore through Web sites filled with client reviews and user ratings for thousands of prostitutes. Searches can be narrowed by hair color, age, body type or behavior — someone offering “GFE,” or girlfriend experience, for example, will act adoringly.

Theirs is a world of mirrors and fantasies, double lives and fake names; the three women told their stories on the condition that they be presented by the names they use in the sex world, but provided their real identities so details could be verified — and they were.

...Ms. O'Donnell, 25, is a Williamsburg hipster with entrancing blue eyes who carries an NPR tote bag and might offer up a few pleasantries on the Whole Foods checkout line before turning back to her Junot Diaz novel.

She came to New York after college to pursue an acting career, and has been working in the sex industry for six years, first as a stripper and lap dancer, lately as a call girl who books her own appointments. She said she relished the time spent with her clients as much as the easy money.

“I've traveled to Europe, I've met amazing people and I've paid off student loans,” said Ms. O'Donnell, a talkative Texan who speaks four languages and is applying to graduate school to study visual arts. “There is no victim here,” she added, “although I can't claim to speak for every sex worker out there.”

Ms. O'Donnell said she earned about \$2,000 a week from a dozen steadies, mostly corporate executives and high-tech geeks who come back two, three or four times a month for the natural breasts, the russett bangs and the coquettish nerdiness she markets online.



Not my husband (right?) (02138 is the other Harvard magazine; both Spitzer and wife attended Harvard Law).

...That was the refrain: not my husband. Not my husband. Although most women interviewed for this article had a friend or a relative or knew someone who ...

"I've heard thousands of stories from women who got blindsided by a version of this," said Leslie Bennetts, author of "The Feminine Mistake," an analysis of the roles of working women and mothers. Husbands who were gay, had second families, or patronized prostitutes.

...But even as so many women spoke of the Spitzer debacle as if such things happen only to colonists at the far end of the galaxy, a quieter cohort watched Ms. Wall Spitzer and shuddered in recognition. One such woman, who requested anonymity to protect her children's identity, had been married for over a decade to a Wall Street executive when she learned he had been using an escort service. She was shattered by the betrayal, by this new stranger.

"To go to an escort service, there is misogyny and a lack of respect for women," she recounted. "Not to mention the diseases he could have brought home."

She remained in the marriage for another year by reasoning that at least her husband hadn't fallen in love with another woman. "I thought, 'Well, he's just got issues.' I was so busy trying to understand him."

He loved her, he said, and wanted the marriage to work. She hesitated to leave because she did not want to be seen as a home wrecker.

But she came to see in him an angry, toxic arrogance. "He believed he could do whatever he wanted and not get caught," she said. "Once you feed that dark side, the monster grows. "There was a Madonna-whore thing going on," she continued. "He had the perfect wife, the perfect children, the perfect job. But there was still self-loathing."

She ended the marriage decisively some years ago, when her children were very young. They do not know this darker version of why the marriage collapsed.

But this week's events brought a resurgence of her old pain. She has been weeping a lot for Ms. Wall Spitzer and her daughters, for herself and her children, for what was and what was not.

"My daughter came home from school after the Spitzer story broke," the woman added, "and she said: 'Mom, can you believe this? I feel so sorry for his daughters.' And I'm thinking, 'You should only know.'"

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:45 PM

0 Comments



Labels: eliot spitzer, gilded age, prostitution

Home

Older Posts

Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)

Blog Archive

▼ 2020 (63)

▼ 06 (5)

Manifold Episode Zero

Twitter Attacks, and a Defense of Scientific Inquiry

Warren Hatch on Seeing the Future in the Era of CO...

Leif Wenar on the Resource Curse and Impact Philos...

Re-Post: Joe Cesario on Police Decision Making and...

► 05 (11)

► 04 (14)

► 03 (15)

► 02 (8)

► 01 (10)

► 2019 (113)

► 2018 (128)

► 2017 (150)

► 2016 (206)

► 2015 (167)

► 2014 (184)

► 2013 (211)

► 2012 (272)

► 2011 (266)

► 2010 (234)

► 2009 (204)

- ▶ 2008 (255)
 - ▶ 2007 (196)
 - ▶ 2006 (154)
 - ▶ 2005 (253)
 - ▶ 2004 (100)
- Labels**
- physics (368)
 - genetics (295)
 - globalization (269)
 - finance (267)
 - brainpower (261)
 - genomics (236)
 - technology (231)
 - american society (222)
 - china (192)
 - innovation (187)
 - economics (177)
 - ai (172)
 - psychometrics (172)
 - science (165)
 - photos (163)
 - psychology (158)
 - travel (142)
 - biology (136)
 - machine learning (136)
 - universities (128)
 - higher education (123)
 - genetic engineering (121)
 - human capital (117)
 - credit crisis (115)
 - startups (107)
 - iq (106)
 - cognitive science (98)
 - podcasts (97)
 - careers (84)

- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)
- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgl (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cdo (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)

- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)
- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)

- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)
- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- smpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)
- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes ecoles (13)
- probability (13)

- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- television (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)
- crossfit (9)
- dating (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)

- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)
- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)

- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- eontalk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)
- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincare (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borges (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- feminism (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)

- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)
- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)

- sivs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)
- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- ltc.m (2)
- mating (2)
- mba (2)
- mccain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)
- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)

- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnie huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x. li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)
- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)

- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- gizmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- iit (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
- jack kerouac (1)
- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dolan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searle (1)
- john tierney (1)
- jonathan littell (1)
- las vegas (1)
- lawyers (1)
- lehman auction (1)
- les bienveillantes (1)
- lowell wood (1)
- lse (1)
- machine (1)
- mcgeorge bundy (1)
- mexico (1)
- michael jackson (1)
- mickey rourke (1)
- migration (1)
- money:tech (1)

- myron scholes (1)
- netwon institute (1)
- networks (1)
- newton institute (1)
- nfl (1)
- oliver stone (1)
- phil gramm (1)
- philanthropy (1)
- philip greenspun (1)
- portfolio theory (1)
- power laws (1)
- pyschology (1)
- randomness (1)
- recession (1)
- sales (1)
- singapore (1)
- skype (1)
- standard deviation (1)
- star wars (1)
- starship troopers (1)
- students today (1)
- teleportation (1)
- tierney lab blog (1)
- tomonaga (1)
- tyler cowen (1)
- venice (1)
- violence (1)
- virtual meetings (1)
- war nerd (1)
- wealth effect (1)

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Steve Hsu

Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Michigan State University

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Monday, October 19, 2018

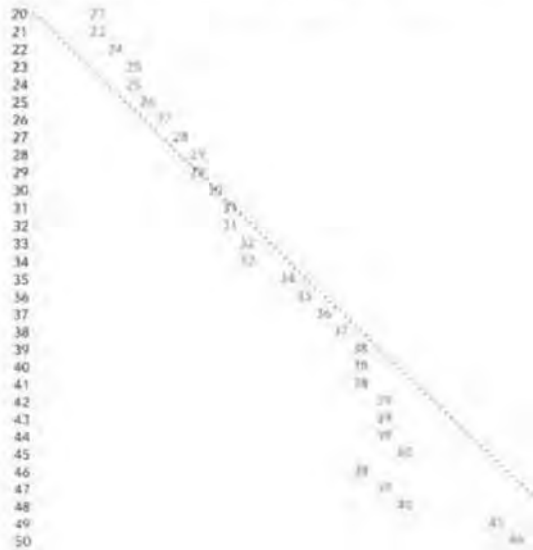
Men Are Easy



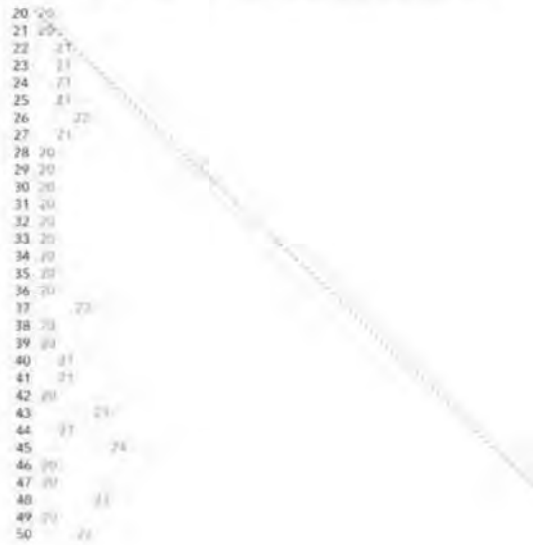
@9 min: 26 million matches per day on Tinder. Male preferences easy to predict, females more complex! Linear vs Multivariate Nonlinear preferences? Calling Geoffrey Miller...

Some data from OKcupid:

a woman's age vs. the age of the men who look best to her



a man's age vs. the age of the women who look best to him



Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:29 AM

3 Comments



Labels: american society, data mining, dating, machine learning

Evo Psych for PUAs

Evolutionary Psychologist Geoffrey Miller is interviewed on this (for lack of a better description) PUA podcast. See also The new dating game.

Ep. #67 The State of Evolutionary Psychology and the Mating Mind with Geoffrey Miller

[Geoffrey Miller] Yeah I'd say about seventy percent of evolutionary psychology is about mating, attraction, physical attractiveness, mental attractiveness, potential conflicts between men and women, and how those play out. But then other evolutionary psych people study all kinds of other things, like the learning and memory that Wikipedia mentioned.

[Geoffrey Miller] Well one thing to note is it's a pretty new field. I was literally at Stanford University when the field got invented by some of the leading people, who kind of had a joint retreat there at a place called The

Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences. 1989, 1990

And they actually strategized about, "How do we create this new field? What should we call it? How do we launch it? What kind of scientific societies and journals do we establish?"

So the field's only twenty-five years old. It started out pretty strongly though, because the people who went into it were brilliant, really world-class geniuses, and that's one of the things that attracted me to the field when I was a grad student.

Since then, the quality of the research has gotten way better. It's a very progressive field in the sense that we actually build on each other's insights. Other areas of psychology, everybody wants to coin and patent their own little term, their own, almost, trademarked little theory, and try to ignore a lot of what other people do.

We tend to be in more of the tradition of mainstream biology, where you actually respect what other people have done before, and try to build on it. So I think we're really good at doing that.

The other thing to remember, apart from it being a young field, is it's a pretty small field. There's fewer than a thousand people in the world actively doing evolutionary psych research, compared to fifty thousand people doing neuroscience research, or probably a hundred thousand scientists doing cancer research.

So it's not a huge field. There's probably more science journalists trying to cover evolutionary psychology than there are evolutionary psych researchers.

[Geoffrey Miller] Well I'll tell you what areas of science really impress me at the moment, in terms of being super high-quality and sophisticated. One is behavior genetics. Twin studies. So I did a sabbatical in Brisbane, Australia with one of the big twin research groups, back in 2007.

And they were just making this shift. They had tracked thirty thousand pairs of twins in Australia for the previous twenty years, and given them literally hundreds of surveys, and measurements, and experiments over the years. And they were just starting to collect DNA from all these twin pairs.

And what you have now is big international networks of people working in behavior genetics, sharing their data, publishing papers with fifty or a hundred scientists on the paper, working together and being able to identify, "Hey, here's where the genes for, like, how sexually promiscuous you are overlap with the genes for this personality trait, or the genes for this physical health trait."

And it's amazingly sophisticated. It's powerful. The datasets are huge. The problem is a lot of that stuff is very politically incorrect, and it makes people uncomfortable. And people are like, "You can't say that propensities for murdering people are genetic. Or, propensities for having a lot of musical creativity are genetic." people don't want to hear that. So there's a big kind of ideological problem there. But honestly that's where some of the best research is being done in the behavioral sciences.

[Geoffrey Miller] Well one big thing is I think a lot of the pickup artist guys who quote The Mating Mind book, or refer to evolutionary psychology, get all obsessed with status, and they talk about alpha males, and beta males, and gamma males, and omega males, and whatever. Status, status, status. And that's fine. Status is important, no doubt.

But the idea that you can simply categorize human mates into, "Oh, you're an alpha, you're a beta." That works for gorillas. It works for orangutans, where the different statuses are actually associated with different body sizes. Like an alpha orangutan is literally twice as heavy as a beta orangutan, and has huge cheek pads, and the beta doesn't. And they have completely different mating strategies.

But for humans, status is way more complicated. It's fluid, it depends on context. ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:32 PM

6 Comments



Labels: **dating**, evolution, mating, psychology

SYNDICATE THIS POST

Directional Personality and mate preferences

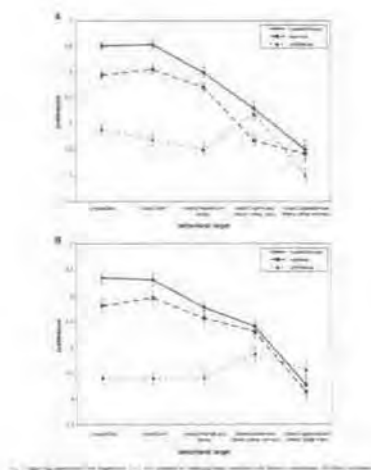
Some good old evo psych fun -- guaranteed to annoy certain people :-). Nevertheless, interesting because it raises the point that measurements of Personality (e.g., Big 5 or other constructs) are complicated by the fact that people can behave differently depending on the target of the behavior.

Plenty of sociopaths in large organizations are pleasant to superiors but unpleasant to those below them in the hierarchy.

Kind toward whom? Mate preferences for personality traits are target specific (Evolution and Human Behavior 31 (2010) 29-38)

Previous mate preference studies indicate that people prefer partners whose personalities are extremely kind and trustworthy, but relatively non-dominant. This conclusion, however, is based on research that leaves unclear whether these traits describe the behavior a partner directs toward oneself, toward other classes of people or both. Because the fitness consequences of partners' behaviors likely differed depending on the classes of individuals toward whom behaviors were directed, we predicted that mate preferences for personality traits would change depending on the specific targets of a partner's behavioral acts. Consistent with this, two experiments demonstrated that people prefer partners who are extremely kind and trustworthy when considering behaviors directed toward themselves or their friends/family, but shift their preferences to much lower levels of these traits when considering behaviors directed toward other classes of individuals. In addition, both sexes preferred partners who direct higher levels of dominance toward members of the partner's own sex than toward any other behavioral target category, with women preferring levels of dominance toward other men as high as – or higher than – levels of kindness and trustworthiness. When asked to rate traits for which the behavioral target was left unspecified, furthermore, preferences were very similar to self-directed preferences, suggesting that previous trait-rating studies have not measured preferences for partners' behaviors directed toward people other than oneself. These findings may provide a basic contribution to the mate preference literature via their demonstration that ideal standards for romantic partners are importantly qualified by the targets of behavioral acts.

In the figure below, women (top graph) seem to prefer a larger self-rival asymmetry in their mates than men do. In other words, women like men who are kind to them but who are socially dominant towards other men. (Proponents of Game would argue that even this reflects a bit of false consciousness – that women actually prefer men who are socially dominant towards them!) Click for larger version.



Thanks to a reader for the reference.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:03 AM 1 Comments

Labels: **dating**, personality, psychology, psychometrics

Labels: **Evolution**, **Psychology**

Hooking up on campus

Atlantic writer Hannah Rosin thinks hookup culture is ... an engine of female progress – one being harnessed and driven by women themselves. Commenter at the Atlantic site: "This isn't feminism – this is just a case of women becoming more like douchebag men. Casual sex is fine, but it's hard to argue that people's increasing detachment from each other is a sign of progress."

Review of Rosin's book, *The End of Men*.

See also **The New Dating Game**.

Atlantic Monthly: ... I had gone to visit the [Ivy League] business school because a friend had described the women there as the most sexually aggressive he had ever met. Many of them had been molded on trading floors or in investment banks with male-female ratios as terrifying as 50-to-1, so they had learned to keep pace with

the boys. Women told me stories of being hit on at work by "FDBs" (finance douche bags) who hadn't even bothered to take off their wedding rings, or sitting through Monday-morning meetings that started with stories about who had banged whom (or what) that weekend. In their decade or so of working, they had been routinely hazed by male colleagues showing them ever more baroque porn downloaded on cellphones. Snowblowing was nothing to them.

In fact, I found barely anyone who even noticed the vulgarity anymore, until I came across a new student. She had arrived two weeks earlier, from Argentina. She and I stood by the bar at one point and watched a woman put her hand on a guy's inner thigh, shortly before they disappeared together. In another corner of the room, a beautiful Asian woman in her second year at school was entertaining the six guys around her with her best imitation of an Asian prostitute—"Oooo, you so big. Me love you long time"—winning the Tucker Max showdown before any of the guys had even tried to make a move on her. (She eventually chose the shortest guy in the group to go home with, because she later told me, he seemed like he'd be the best in bed.)

... Single young women in their sexual prime—that is, their 20s and early 30s, the same age as the women at the business-school party—are for the first time in history more successful, on average, than the single young men around them. They are more likely to have a college degree and, in aggregate, they make more money.

... In 2004, Elizabeth Armstrong, then a sociologist at Indiana University, and Laura Hamilton, a young graduate student, set out to do a study on sexual abuse in college students' relationships. They applied for permission to interview women on a single floor of what was known as a "party dorm" at a state university in the Midwest. . .

Women in the dorm complained to the researchers about the double standard, about being called sluts, about not being treated with respect. But what emerged from four years of research was the sense that hooking up was part of a larger romantic strategy, part of what Armstrong came to think of as a "sexual career." For an upwardly mobile, ambitious young woman, hookups were a way to dip into relationships without disrupting her self-development or schoolwork. Hookups functioned as a "delay tactic," Armstrong writes, because the immediate priority, for the privileged women at least, was settling themselves up for a career. "If I want to maintain the lifestyle that I've grown up with," one woman told Armstrong, "I have to work. I just don't see myself being someone who marries young and lives off of some boy's money." Or from another woman: "I want to get secure in a city and in a job ... I'm not in any hurry at all. As long as I'm married by 30, I'm good."

The women still had to deal with the old-fashioned burden of protecting their personal reputations, but in the long view, what they really wanted to protect was their future professional reputations. "Rather than struggling to get into relationships," Armstrong reported, women "had to work to avoid them." (One woman lied to an interested guy, portraying herself as "extremely conservative" to avoid **dating** him.) Many did not want a relationship to steal time away from their friendships or studying.

Armstrong and Hamilton had come looking for sexual victims. Instead, at this university, and even more so at other, more prestigious universities they studied, they found the opposite: women who were managing their romantic lives like savvy headhunters. "The ambitious women calculate that having a relationship would be like a four-credit class, and they don't always have time for it, so instead they opt for a lighter hookup," Armstrong told me.

The women described boyfriends as "too greedy" and relationships as "too involved." One woman "with no shortage of admirers" explained, "I know this sounds really pathetic and you probably think I am lying, but there are so many other things going on right now that it's really not something high up on my list ... I know that's such a lame-ass excuse, but it's true." The women wanted to study or hang out with friends or just be "100 percent selfish," as one said. "I have the rest of my life to devote to a husband or kids or my job." Some even purposely had what one might think of as fake boyfriends, whom they considered sub-marriage quality, and weren't genuinely attached to. "He fits my needs now, because I don't want to get married now," one said. "I don't want anyone else to influence what I do after I graduate." ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:33 PM

2 Comments



Labels: american society, **dating**, universities

xxxxxx May 13, 2017

Girls, Game and Sex

(Apologies to Jared Diamond :-)



If you haven't seen the new HBO show *Girls*, you're really missing out. Creator/writer/star Lena Dunham is a brilliant and very funny observer of 20-something hipster life (at least it seems that way to me; I'm too old to really know). If you watch the trailer above you might think that *Girls* is just another show about the life and romantic struggles of young women living in NYC, but the most interesting aspect is Dunham's take on male-female relations. It seems to me she understands Game.

... Evolutionary psychologists postulate that the same physical and psychological drives prevail among modern humans: Men, eager for replication, are naturally polygamous, while women are naturally monogamous—but only until a man they perceive as of higher status than their current mate comes along. Hypergamy—marrying up, or, in the absence of any constrained linkage between sex and marriage, mating up—is a more accurate description of women's natural inclinations.

... Some argue, though, that it is actually beta men who are the greatest victims of the current mating chaos: the ones who work hard, act nice, and find themselves searching in vain for potential wives and girlfriends among the hordes of young women besotted by alphas.

"The sexual revolution in America was an attempt by women to realize their own [hypergamous] utopia, not that of men," Devlin wrote. Beta men become superfluous until the newly liberated women start double-clutching after years in the serial harems of alphas who won't "commit," lower their standards, and "settle." During this process, monogamy as a stable and civilization-maintaining social institution is shattered. "Monogamy is a form of sexual optimization," Devlin told me. "It allows as many people who want to get married to do so. Under monogamy, 90 percent of men find a mate at least once in their life." This isn't necessarily so anymore in today's chaotic combination of polygamy for lucky alphas, hypergamy in varying degrees for females depending on their sex appeal, and, at least in theory, large numbers of betas left without mates at all—just as it is in baboon packs.

For wanners of the show: Hannah (Dunham's character) is getting worked over by a beta (Adam) using Game (from the trailer. It appears Adam may revert to beta form later in the season, but for the moment their relationship is brutal). Marnie is **dating** a beta (who she secretly has come to despise) but craves an alpha like the jerk artist character Booth Jonathan, who tells her "I want you to know, the first time I fuck you, I might scare you a little, because I'm a man, and I know how to do things."

For potential viewers who have HBO: you can access the show online at hbogo.com. Each episode is only 30 minutes, so you can consume it easily in your downtime. → (Someone has informed me that you can watch the first episode there for free.)

Posted by Steve Huxar at 11:25 AM 28 Comments

Labels: american society, **dating**, feminism, television

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Wellesley girls

I've spent some time at Wellesley. The first visit was on a tour of east coast grad schools with some other Caltech guys. A family friend (she turned out to be a charming southern belle from Arkansas) at Wellesley arranged for us to camp out in sleeping bags on an indoor balcony in her residence hall. Pretty amazing, when you think about it. My memory is fuzzy but I think showering was a bit of a challenge. Men were not allowed to move from floor to floor without an escort. "Horizontal motion, but no vertical motion" was the slogan :-). My girlfriend at the time was a student at Scripps College, an all-women's school in Claremont, California. So I was pretty familiar with the scene—sadly, not quite as salacious as the article below makes it out to be.

I wonder what happened to all the girls we met on that trip.

Rolling Stone Magazine: "... As a visiting student from Wheaton College studying at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, for one year, Ross enjoys the unique position of being the lone full-time male student at an all-women's school. "I really don't have to introduce myself too often," he says. It's established wisdom on campus that the "token guy" who comes to Wellesley every few years will get as much attention as he can handle. David Kent, who spent a year at Wellesley in the late Seventies, wrote about the experience for Esquire: "I became incapable of talking to a girl without thinking how much she craved me and what she'd be like in the sack." He dated three women a night, he writes, and rarely slept in his own room. Neil Schiavo, a Connecticut College graduate who spent part of the 1994-95 academic year at Wellesley, says, "The first week, it took me forty minutes to get to classes because people were so friendly. I felt like in this one little area in the world, I was Tom Cruise."

Ross won't put a number on how many Wellesley students he's slept with, but admits he's been **dating** "a lot." One group of students placed bets on who could sleep with Ross, and there was also an informal competition to see who could get him into bed first. "Wellesley women are different from other women," Ross says. "They plan everything out in their heads." ...

"It was a challenge to be straight at a school like that," says Melanie Herman, a 1999 graduate who now works on Wall Street. So women at Wellesley who do choose to date men but have given up on the "Fuck Truck"—the student nickname for bus that runs to Harvard and MIT, both about forty-five minutes away—have to find whoever is available. The most alluring candidates are the professors. Different academic departments have different reputations. "Some of the departments are a little racy and some are a little more tame," says senior Sandra North. "Some professors are notorious for having sex with their students. Everyone knows who they are."

Understandably, professors are not cheered by the sometimes unkind stories that are spread about them. "I knew a guy who used to pick up a baby sitter on campus, and people said he was picking her up for a date," says professor Aaron Girard. "And it wasn't anything like that. So you can get injustice done pretty easily." Many of the rumors are completely untrue, he points out—although he admits he has had relationships with students. "I've heard rumors about me and several students that had no basis in fact whatsoever," Girard says. "And the one that was true, no one knew about."

For a straight male professor, a women's college offers obvious temptations. In every class, there are at least a few admirers, especially if he has that "professor sex appeal." And having that appeal doesn't necessarily mean he's good-looking—indeed, says a student, many of the most sought-after professors "definitely do not fall into the good-looking category." ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:10 AM

5 Comments



Labels: american society, autobiographical, **dating**, higher education

2010/04/15 (Sat) 11:47:48 AM

The new dating game



In case you are unfamiliar with terms like (no, this has nothing to do with portfolio theory): alpha, beta, neg, PUJA, AFC, and chick crack, read the excerpt below. The photo above is just one of many from the site Hot chicks with douchebags. More details in this Wikipedia entry.

I spent my late teen years at an approximately all-male university near Los Angeles, so I endured way too much time at bars talking to women like the ones described in the article below (In case you are wondering, I had a very good fake ID, but that's

another story). I remember a weeknight (happy hour!) at a club in Glendale, with a French guy (grad student, I knew him from the gym) who is now a professor of bioinformatics. I was just a kid — all the women there were much older than I was. Pierre, I'll call him, had just finished dancing with a modestly attractive blonde and sat down at the bar with me. *Are you really interested in her?* I asked. He winked at me and mouthed a single word: *Practice* :-)

The *evo-psych* explanations given below date back at least to Caltech guys (anthropologists of the LA singles scene) of the 1980s, and probably much earlier.

~ Modern lingo: *Would you really hit that?*

Weekly Standard: ... In the late 1990s, Mystery developed a precise and exacting "algorithm" of moves and routines—pre-scripted lines to be practiced in the field—that are virtually guaranteed (according to Mystery at least) to lure a female into your bed after just seven hours in her company from a cold turkey meeting in a public place. ... The fundamental strategy is to "demonstrate higher value" (DHV, another Mystery acronym), to appear so fascinating that the woman will want to prove her worthiness to you, not the other way around. You don't buy her a drink; you offer to let her buy you one. You don't give her your phone number; you get her to give you hers, in what Mystery calls a "number closing." If she asks you what you do for a living, you don't mention the drone desk job that you actually hold down; you tell her you "repair disposable razors" (the choice of a Mystery disciple). You "peacock" (yet another Mystery coinage), which means donning outlandish, attention-grabbing attire; Mystery's signature peacocking wardrobe includes a black fur bucket hat and matching black nail polish and eyeliner. On *The Pickup Artist*, he sported a seemingly inexhaustible supply of exotic headgear and man-baubles.

If it all sounds cheesy, tedious, manipulative, obvious, condescending to women, maybe kind of gay, it's because it is. But here's the rub: This stuff works. If you think men who peacock look ridiculous and unmanly, click onto the photo-website *Hot Chicks With Douchebags*, where spectacular-looking babes hang on the pecs of preening rednecks and "Jersey Shore"-style guidos sporting chest-baring shirts and product-stiffened fauxhawks. Watch the video "Learn Enough Guitar to Get Laid" on YouTube (three chords, max). In June 2005, Craig Malisow, a reporter for the *Houston Press*, trailed 24-year-old Bashev, a Bulgarian-born graduate student in engineering at Rice University and self-styled pickup expert, to a series of bars and clubs in Houston. Bashev had no intention of telling the 20-something HBs he met that his day job consisted of working with multivariable calculus. Instead he pointed to his shoes and informed them that he was a "foot model." Then he launched into his canned opener: Did they think reality shows were "really real"? Sure, two groups of females on whom Bashev tried that line rolled their eyes and smirked, but three bars (and the same routine) later, he was relaxing in a lounge chair reading a shapely brunette's palm (chick crack plus "kino," a Mystery-ism that refers to getting a woman to crave your touch), and soon enough "her fingers were gently grasping the backs of his wrists," Malisow observed. Within minutes, Bashev had not only number-closed but gotten a date for the following Wednesday.

Pickup mentors are relying, consciously or sub, on the principles of evolutionary psychology, which uses Darwinian theory to account for human traits and practices. Robert Wright introduced the reading public to evolutionary psychology in his 1994 book, *The Moral Animal: Why We Are the Way We Are*. He summarized what biologists had observed in the field: that among animals—and especially among our closest relatives, the great apes—males often fight each other for females and so the most dominant, or "alpha," male has access to the most desirable, and perhaps all, of the females. But it's the female of the species who ultimately makes the choice as to which member of the pack she will deem the alpha male. "Females are choosy in all the great ape species," Wright wrote. He also noted that, for example, a female gorilla will be faithful—forced into fidelity, actually—to a single dominant male, but she will willingly desert him for a rival male who impresses her with his superior dominance by fighting with her mate. That's because, as Darwin postulated, evolution isn't merely a matter of survival of the fittest but also of the replication of the fittest. "selfish genes," in the words of neo-Darwinian Richard Dawkins. Driven by instinctual desire for offspring, male primates chase fertile females so they can replicate themselves, while female primates choose strong males on the basis of survival traits to be passed on to young ones.

Evolutionary psychologists like David Buss in *The Evolution of Desire* (1994) and Geoffrey Miller in *The Mating Mind* (2000) have elaborated on these theories, arguing that the human brain itself, with its capacity for consciousness, reasoning, and artistic creation, evolved as an entertainment device for male hominids competing to impress the females in the pack. Dennis Dutton's new book, *The Art Instinct*, makes much the same argument. Evolutionary psychologists postulate that the same physical and psychological drives prevail among modern humans: Men, eager for replication, are naturally polygamous, while women are naturally monogamous—but only until a man they perceive as of higher status than their current mate comes along. Hypergamy—marrying up, or, in the absence of any constrained linkage between sex and marriage, mating up—is a more accurate description of women's natural inclinations. Long-term monogamy—one spouse for one person at one time—may be the most desirable condition for ensuring personal happiness, accumulating property, and raising children, but it is an artifact of civilization, Western civilization in particular. In the view of many evolutionary psychologists, long-term monogamy is natural for neither men nor women.

Evolutionary psychology also provides support for a truth universally denied: Women crave dominant men. And it seems that where men are forbidden to dominate in a socially beneficial way—as husbands and fathers, for example—women will seek out assertive, self-confident men whose displays of power aren't so socially beneficial. This game of sexual Whack-a-Mole is played regularly these days in a culture that, starting with children's schoolbooks and moving up through films and television, targets as oppressors and mocks as bumbling the entire male sex.

Living in the New Paleolithic can be hard on women, many of whom party on merrily until they reach age 30 and then panic. "They're at the peak of their beauty in their early 20s—they're luscious—but the guys their age don't look as good, so they say to themselves: 'Why do I want to get married?'" notes Kay Hymowitz, a contributing editor to the Manhattan Institute's *City Journal*, who is writing a book about the singles crisis. "Then they get to age 28, 29, and their fertility goes down and they're not quite so luscious. But the guys their age are starting to make money, they look better, they've got self-assurance, and they've also got the pick of the 23-year-olds."

Some argue, though, that it is actually beta men who are the greatest victims of the current mating chaos: the ones who work hard, act nice, and find themselves searching in vain for potential wives and girlfriends among the hordes of young women besotted by alphas. That is the underlying message of what is undoubtedly the most deftly written and also the darkest of the seduction-community websites, the blog *Roissy in DC*. Unlike his confreres, Roissy does not sell books or boot camps, and his site carries no ads. He also blogs anonymously, or at least tries to. (Purported photos of Roissy circulating on the Internet show a tall unshaven man in his late 30s with piercing blue eyes and good, if somewhat dissolute, looks.) The pseudonym Roissy derives from the chateau that was the setting for sadomasochistic orgies in *The Story of O*, the French pornographic classic of the 1960s, which featured a beautiful young woman who couldn't get enough of being violated and flagellated by masterful men. Roissy maintains that he is not an S&M-fetishist but picked the pseudonym because "chicks dig power."

"The sexual revolution in America was an attempt by women to realize their own [hypergamous] utopia, not that of men," Devlin wrote. Beta men become superfluous until the newly liberated women start double-clutching after years in the serial harems of alphas who won't "commit," lower their standards, and "settle." During this process, monogamy as a stable and civilization-maintaining social institution is shattered. "Monogamy is a form of sexual optimization," Devlin told me. "It allows as many people who want to get married to do so. Under monogamy, 90 percent of men find a mate at least once in their life." This isn't necessarily so anymore in today's chaotic combination of polygamy for lucky alphas, hypergamy in varying degrees for females depending on their sex appeal, and, at least in theory, large numbers of betas left without mates at all—just as it is in baboon packs. The aim of Mystery-style game is to give those betas better odds. ...

Related: NYTimes on **dating** and gender imbalances on campus

Posted by Steve Hsu at 2:30 PM

10 Comments



Labels: american society, autobiographical, caltech, **dating**, psychology

Monday, November 15, 2010

Sugar Daddies: MIT grad starts high end prostitution web site ;-))



The Times magazine has a long piece about SeekingArrangement.com, a web site that helps "sugar babies" find rich "sugar daddies" :-) On the site there are 10 babies for every daddy.

I would say that a large number of financially successful guys I have known have analyzed the **dating** situation (usually over a few drinks) and come to the same conclusions as the users and creator of the site. (See further down the excerpt, and especially the guy called Sam.) I don't personally know very many women who have analyzed it from the other side and come to the sugar baby perspective (or at least will admit to it), but there are obviously lots out there. See the sugar daddy blog for hundreds of comments from sugar babies.

For the Asian version of all this, see Enjo kosai, or "compensated **dating**" in Japanese (also here and here).

NYTimes: AT FIRST GLANCE, the Web site SeekingArrangement.com seems like any other **dating** site. Most of the

men are looking for fit, sexy women, and most of the women want nice guys who can make them smile and laugh. But if eHarmony or Match.com is a chatty social mixer, Seeking Arrangement is a down-and-dirty marketplace where older moneyed men and cute young women engage in brutally frank transactions. They're not searching for longtime soul mates; they want no-strings-attached "arrangements" that trade in society's most valued currencies: wealth, youth and beauty. In the cheesy lexicon of the site, they are "sugar daddies" and "sugar babies."

There's the 18-year-old from France asking for \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month from "a mentor who can provide me with the finer things in life and keep me happy!" And the 49-year-old investor from upstate New York willing to pay \$5,000 a month for a "daytime playmate" for "intense connection without commitment." Critics say the site is at best a convenience store for adulterers and at worst a virtual brothel, but Brandon Wade, Seeking Arrangement's 38-year-old founder and chief executive, is unperturbed by the criticism. "We stress relationships that are mutually beneficial," he says. ...

ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF ARRANGEMENTS on the site involve the daddy paying an "allowance," usually a thousand or two a month, though the site claims some reach \$10,000. The rest provide the baby with incidental cash, shopping sprees, gifts, travel or the fleeting illusion that theirs is a high-end, easy life. "I get flown to whatever city I want," wrote a North Carolina college student, who goes by the name gurlnextdoor on the site's blog, a mix between an online support group and a kaffeeklatsch. "He pays for it, takes me shopping, we talk, laugh, go out to eat and do whatever we want to do for our days together. . . . I don't bring up mundane problems about my home life, and he does the same. . . . If I wanted someone to talk to about my life problems, I'd get a boyfriend or a therapist."

..In fact, Seeking Arrangement pays to have its ads pop up on search engines whenever someone types in "student loan," "tuition help," "college support" or "help with rent." Lola was one of many to stumble on the site that way, when — behind on her rent and tuition and down to one meal a day — she Googled "student loan." What popped up was hardly what she expected, but she was willing to try almost anything to stay in school.

...Whether sugar relationships amount to prostitution is hotly debated among the site's members. "Let's get real here," wrote GoldenGate on the blog. "I'm with a guy who's old enough to be my dad, short and balding. Not to mention his other shortcomings, ahem. But he gives me a great big fat allowance every month. If that wasn't there, we wouldn't be together."

Others on the blog were shocked, saying they could never be with a man, even a rich one, if they weren't somehow attracted to him. Indeed, most go to considerable effort to distinguish between "sugar" and prostitution. (Legally, at least, they are right; since the 1970s, courts have ruled that as long as the woman is paid for some service besides sex — housecleaning, companionship — the arrangement is not the equivalent of prostitution.) They say being a sugar baby is no more an occupation than **dating** is, especially when the goal of **dating** is to find a rich boyfriend or a wealthy husband. ...

Some sugar babies also insist that wives who stay in miserable marriages for an American Express black card, mansion or country-club membership are more like prostitutes than they are. And yet the blatant financial transactions leave many uneasy.

...a 22-year-old named Mercedes told me, "I don't see how people can view this as exploitation." Mercedes is a junior who pays her own tuition at a Georgia university. She has had six sugar daddies in the past year to supplement her wages bussing tables and washing dishes at a bar. "I could go out and work three jobs and still go to school and probably make decent grades, but is that really what I want to do? I make more money this way, and I have a lot more fun because I get to go out to concerts, go shopping, see movies and make money off of it. If instead of this I was just **dating** a rich guy, it'd be almost the same thing, and society wouldn't look down on that. You know with a sugar daddy that they're spending a lot of money on you and they clearly want something in return, but is that really any different than how it is with a boyfriend?"

BRANDON WEY GOT THE IDEA for the site from his own dissatisfying love life as an M.I.T. student and then as a well-off but awkward tech executive. Traditional **dating** Web sites were no help. "It was difficult to advertise the assets I had compared to hundreds of thousands of guys who had better looks or better pickup lines," says Wey, now married to a woman 13 years younger than he is, whom he met before the site went live. "I needed to find a way to put myself at the front of the line."

One sugar daddy whose screen name is Sam has tried long-term girlfriends, mistresses, prostitutes and a brief marriage. ... Sam's profile on Seeking Arrangement is audacious. He advertises for a woman who is "drop-dead beautiful, sexy, fun and elegantly mannered in a fancy setting. She must turn heads . . . and make me the envy of the crowd." ... When I asked to chat in person, Sam suggested meeting at CORE, a private Manhattan club where membership is by invitation only and costs \$65,000 the first year and where Sam's assent was required before I could be admitted. Sitting alone at a long conference table in a room set aside for him, he looked utterly unremarkable, a man of average height with a buzz cut and an aloof air. But once Sam got talking, he became affable and witty, especially as he described his unorthodox history with women. He started college when most kids his age were still in middle school. "When you go to college at that age, you're pretty undatable," he said. "I was somewhere between a curiosity, a mascot and a friend. I tutored freshman physics and calculus so I could at least be near women. Of course, all they'd do is talk about their boyfriends."

He has an almost mathematical approach to assessing relationships, and once even computed the costs for a girlfriend, mistress, prostitute and wife — mistresses turn out to be most expensive by the hour; wives, by the year; girlfriends are cheapest all around. But he's not as calculating as he seems. In fact, he concluded there's little correlation between cost and quality. Still, he is relentlessly searching for an algorithm that will predict relationships' success.

Sam is also more determined than most to try separating a sugar baby's affection and the money she's paid to provide it. In his arrangements, he says, he establishes a trust in the woman's name that pays a monthly stipend of at least \$5,000 for the length of their contract. If the woman decides to quit sleeping with him at any point, he may quit serving as adviser and pamperer, but the stipend continues regardless. "If I didn't do that, then it's like a leash I'm putting on somebody, and that seems really unfair," he said. "Besides, then I'd never know what the relationship was really about."

Sam runs these relationships with an explicit business plan, a set budget, measurable goals and quarterly reviews. From the outset, the contract has an end date. It's a brilliant, if contrived, way to protect his pride. The contract specifies that the romance and sex are to end by the preset date, so there's no break up, no rejection, no bruised ego. She's not dumping him; the gig's just over.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 10:49 AM 6 Comments 

Labels: [dating](#), [gilded age](#), [income inequality](#), [prostitution](#)

Friday, February 21, 2008

Dating by algorithm

In this post NYTimes science reporter John Tierney, who writes the blog Tierney Lab, does a little experiment on the [dating](#) site eHarmony. eHarmony uses a complicated algorithm to match couples based on a lengthy personality questionnaire. Tierney seems surprised that the algorithm doesn't match him up with his wife, even when restricted geographically to his NYC zip code and even after further tweaking of their survey responses and consultation with eHarmony's chief scientist.

What Tierney doesn't seem to understand is that, under almost any algorithm for matching (including the "correct" algorithm that would predict happiness in his case), it is highly unlikely that the wife he found is actually optimal :-). Within a 10 mile radius (in NYC) there are dozens (hundreds? thousands?) of better matches he unfortunately never met. It's unromantic but true that chance played a bigger role in his marriage choice than optimality.

On a related note, I wonder whether social networking and online [dating](#) are gradually increasing the overall quality of marriages. It seems much easier to meet compatible partners than it was in the pre-Internet dark ages.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 12:48 PM 3 Comments 

Labels: [algorithms](#), [dating](#), [eharmony](#), [john tierney](#), [tierney lab blog](#)

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Blog Archive

▼ 2020 (63)

▼ 06 (5)

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► 05 (11)

► 04 (14)

► 03 (15)

► 02 (8)

► 01 (10)

► 2019 (113)

- ▶ 2018 (128)
- ▶ 2017 (150)
- ▶ 2016 (206)
- ▶ 2015 (167)
- ▶ 2014 (184)
- ▶ 2013 (211)
- ▶ 2012 (222)
- ▶ 2011 (266)
- ▶ 2010 (234)
- ▶ 2009 (204)
- ▶ 2008 (255)
- ▶ 2007 (196)
- ▶ 2006 (154)
- ▶ 2005 (253)
- ▶ 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (269)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (236)
- technology (231)
- american society (222)
- China (192)
- innovation (187)
- economics (177)
- ai (172)
- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (98)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)

- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgr (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cdo (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)
- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)

- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- smpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)
- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes écoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- television (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)

- crossfit (9)
- **dating** (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)
- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- econtalk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)

- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincare (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borges (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- feminism (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)
- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)
- sivs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)

- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamef (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- tcm (2)
- meeting (2)
- mba (2)
- mccain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)
- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)
- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (1)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnie huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david s. (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)

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- phil gramm (f)
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- power laws (f)
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- randomness (f)
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- sales (f)
- singapore (f)
- skype (f)
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- [tomonaga \(1\)](#)
- [tyler cowen \(1\)](#)
- [venice \(1\)](#)
- [violence \(1\)](#)
- [virtual meetings \(1\)](#)
- [war nerd \(1\)](#)
- [wealth effect \(1\)](#)

G Analytics

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Information Processing

Pessimism of the Intellect, Optimism of the Will Favorite posts | Manifold podcast | Twitter: @hsu_steve



Steve Hsu

Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Michigan State University

[View my complete profile](#)

Sat 13 Jun 2020 16:33:15 -0730

Manifold Episode Zero



The Twitter mob has a petition up, with fake signatures including one from Corey Washington, my Manifold co-host and friend of 30 years!

These horrible people will stop at nothing...

To cheer us all up, I bring you the first Manifold (Episode #0), where Corey and I introduce each other to the audience.

Transcript

NOTE ADDED: Many people have offered to help with a Kickstarter (or similar) campaign to raise funds for legal defense and to pursue individuals in the Twitter mob for slander or libel. It is clear that identifiable individuals have participated in such and can be held financially responsible.

Slander: the action or crime of making a false spoken statement, damaging to a person's reputation.

Libel: a published false statement, that is damaging to a person's reputation; a written defamation.

If you are experienced with this kind of crowd funding activity, please get in touch with me as there may be a team assembling to work on this. The Twitter mob attacking me seem to be a small group of extremists, and I see no reason not to fight back to defend my integrity. If you are an attorney with relevant expertise, please contact me.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 11:33 PM



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15

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

14 Dec 2015 - 16 Jun 2020

I have not responded to these nasty Twitter attacks, but unfortunately they have gotten enough traction that I feel I need to respond now. [Note: I have been informed that some of the signatures on their petition are fake, including one purported to be from my colleague Corey Washington!]

The attacks attempt to depict me as a racist and sexist, using short video clips out of context, and also by misrepresenting the content of some of my blog posts. A cursory inspection reveals bad faith in their presentation.

The accusations are entirely false -- I am neither racist nor sexist.

The Twitter mobs want to suppress scientific work that they find objectionable. What is really at stake: academic freedom, open discussion of important ideas, scientific inquiry. All are imperiled and all must be defended.

One of the video clips is taken from an interview I did with YouTuber Stefan Molyneux in 2017. Molyneux was not a controversial figure in 2017, although he has since become one. Prominent scientists working on human intelligence who were interviewed on his show around the same time include James Flynn and Eric Turkheimer. Here is what I said to Molyneux about genetic group differences in intelligence:



Here is a similar interview I did with Cambridge PhD student Daphne Martschenko:



As you can see, contrary to the Twitter accusations (lies), I do not endorse claims of genetic group differences. In fact I urge great caution in this area.

The tweets also criticize two podcasts I recorded with my co-host Corey Washington: a discussion with a prominent MSU Psychology professor who studies police shootings (this discussion has elicited a strong response due to the tragic death of George Floyd), and with Claude Steele, a renowned African American researcher who discovered Stereotype Threat and has been Provost at Columbia and Berkeley. The conversation with Steele is a nuanced discussion of race, discrimination, and education in America.

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 602 captures
 12 Dec 2009 - 18 Jun 2021
 2019 2020 2021



The blog posts under attack, dating back over a decade, are almost all discussions of published scientific papers by leading scholars in Psychology, Neuroscience, Genomics, Machine Learning, and other fields. The papers are published in journals like Nature and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. However, a detailed reading is required to judge the research and related inferences. I maintain that all the work described is well-motivated and potentially important. Certainly worthy of a blog post. (I have written several thousand blog posts; apparently these are the most objectionable out of those thousands.)

In several of the blog posts I explicitly denounce racism and discrimination based on identity.

This paper, from 2008, discusses early capability to ascertain ancestry from gene sequence. The topic was highly controversial in 2008 (subject to political attack, because it suggested there could be a genetic basis for "race"), but the science is correct. It is now common for people to investigate their heritage using DNA samples (23andMe, Ancestry) using exactly these methods. This case provides a perfect example of science that faced suppression for political reasons, but has since been developed for many useful applications.

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2008/01/no-scientific-basis-for-race.html>

This 2016 paper is by the UCSD Pediatric Imaging, Neurocognition, and Genetics collaboration. They claim that fMRI features of brain morphology can be predicted by genetic ancestry via machine learning.

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2016/03/genetic-ancestry-and-brain-morphology.html>

These blog posts discuss the firing of software engineer James Damore by Google over a memo on diversity practices. The first post describes the legal situation and quotes a professor of labor law at Notre Dame. The second compares the claims made in Damore's memo to an article in the Stanford Medical School magazine, which covers similar material and was (by coincidence) published around the same time.

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2017/08/damore-vs-google-trial-of-century.html>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200615214927/https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

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2019 2020 2021



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12 Dec 2009 - 16 Jun 2020

been attacked for political reasons, but should be defended since it addresses fundamental questions in deep human history and evolution.

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2018/10/the-truth-shall-make-you-free.html>

Regarding my work as Vice President for Research, the numbers speak for themselves. MSU went from roughly \$500M in annual research expenditures to about \$700M during my tenure. We have often been ranked #1 in the Big Ten for research growth. I participated in the recruitment of numerous prominent female and minority professors, in fields like Precision Medicine, Genomics, Chemistry, and many others. Until this Twitter attack there has been *not even a single allegation* (over 8 years) of bias or discrimination on my part in promotion and tenure or faculty recruitment. These are two activities at the heart of the modern research university, involving hundreds of individuals each year.

Academics and Scientists must not submit to mob rule.

NOTE ADDED: Many people have offered to help with a Kickstarter (or similar) campaign to raise funds for legal defense and to pursue individuals in the Twitter mob for slander or libel. It is clear that identifiable individuals have participated in such and can be held financially responsible.

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 11:48 PM



Warren Hatch on Seeing the Future in the Era of COVID-19: Manifold Episode #50

Warren Hatch on Seeing the Future in the Era of COVID-19



Steve and Corey talk to Warren Hatch, President and CEO of Good Judgment Inc. Warren explains what makes someone a good forecaster and how the ability to integrate and assess information allows cognitively diverse teams to outperform prediction markets. The hosts express skepticism about whether the incentives at work in large organizations would encourage the adoption of approaches that might lead to better forecasts. Warren describes the increasing depth of human-computer collaboration in forecasting. Steve poses the long-standing problem of assessing alpha in finance and Warren suggests that the emerging alpha-brier metric, linking process and outcome, might shed light on the issue. The episode ends with Warren describing Good Judgment's open invitation to self-identified experts to join a new COVID forecasting platform.

Transcript

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2019 2020 2021



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12 Dec 2005 - 16 Jun 2020

Superforecasting: The Art and Science of Prediction

Noriel Roubini (Wikipedia)

manifold /ˈmænə fɔɪld/ many and various.

In mathematics, a manifold is a topological space that locally resembles Euclidean space near each point.

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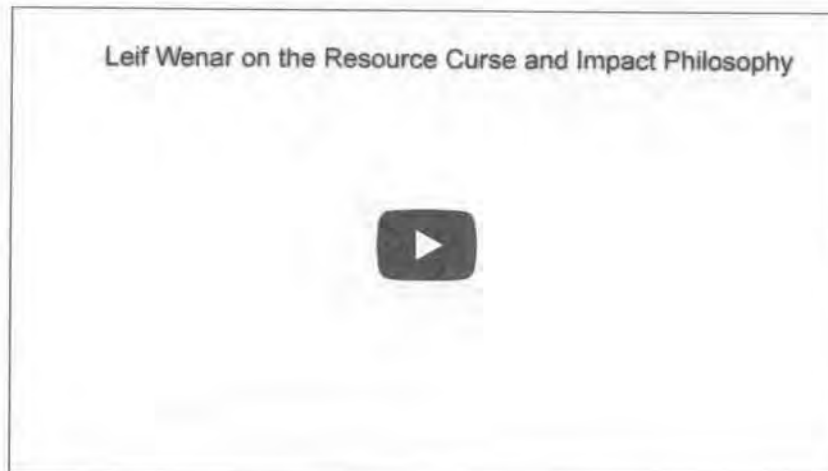
Posted by Steve Hsu at 7:45 AM



Labels: alpha, bounded rationality, epidemics, fake alpha, finance, markets, psychology

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Leif Wenar on the Resource Curse and Impact Philosophy -- Manifold Episode #49



Corey and Steve interview Leif Wenar, Professor of Philosophy at Stanford University and author of Blood Oil. They begin with memories of Leif and Corey's mutual friend David Foster Wallace and end with a discussion of John Rawls and Robert Nozick (Wenar's thesis advisor at Harvard, and a friend of Steve's). Corey asks whether Leif shares his view that analytic philosophy had become too divorced from wider intellectual life. Leif explains his effort to re-engage philosophy in the big issues of our day as Hobbes, Rousseau, Locke, Mill and Marx were in theirs. He details how a trip to Nigeria gave him insight into the real problems facing real people in oil-rich countries. Leif explains how the legal concept of "efficiency" led to the resource curse and argues that we should refuse to buy oil from countries that are not minimally accountable to their people. Steve notes that some may find this approach too idealistic and not in the US interest. Leif suggests that what philosophers can contribute is the ability to see the big synthetic picture in a complex world.

Transcript

Leif Wenar (Bio)

Robert Nozick - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

man-i-fold / mana fōld / many and various

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 7:13 AM



Labels: autobiographical, energy, geopolitics, intellectual history, podcasts

Labels: [Manifold](#), [Podcast](#), [Repost](#)

Re-Post: Joe Cesario on Police Decision Making and Racial Bias in Deadly Force Decisions (Manifold Episode #11)

Re-posting this because of its relevance to the terrible events in Minneapolis.

Manifold Episode #11: Joe Cesario on Police Decision Making and Racial Bias in Deadly Force Decisions



Manifold Show Page YouTube Channel

Corey and Steve talk with Joe Cesario about his recent work which argues that, contrary to activist claims and media reports, there is no widespread racial bias in police shootings. Joe discusses his analysis of national criminal justice data and his experimental studies with police officers in a specially designed realistic simulator. He maintains that racial bias does exist in other uses of force such as tasering but that the decision to shoot is fundamentally different: it is driven by specific events and context, rather than race.

Cesario is associate professor of Psychology at Michigan State University. He studies social cognition and decision-making. His

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6 Dec 2005 - 15 Jun 2020

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/...>

Example of officer completing shooting simulator
<https://youtu.be/Le8zoqk-UYo>

Overview of Current Research on Officer-Involved Shootings
<https://www.cesariolab.com/police>

Joseph Cesario Lab
<https://www.cesariolab.com/>

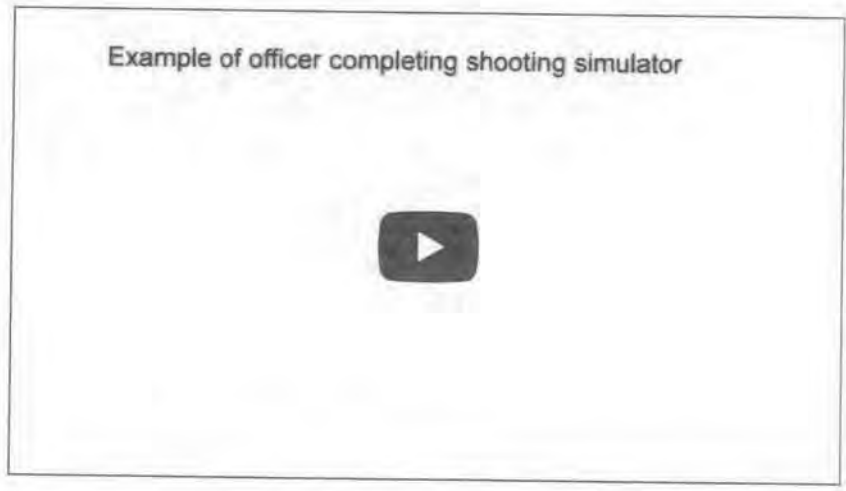
man·i·fold / manə fōld/ many and various.

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:17 PM



Labels: american society, podcasts, psychology, social science

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Michael Kauffman: Cancer, Drug Development, and Market Capitalism (Manifold Podcast #48)

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 602 captures
 12 Dec 2002 - 18 Jun 2020
 2019 2020 2021



Note: the part of the conversation I found most interesting -- venture and capital markets aspects of drug discovery, complexity and scale of biotech ecosystems, role of IP and US healthcare spending to incentivize discovery -- begins at ~35m.

Steve and Corey speak with Dr. Michael Kauffman, co-founder and CEO of Karyopharm Therapeutics, about cancer and biotech innovation. Michael explains how he and Dr. Sharon Schacham tested her idea regarding cellular nuclear-transport using simulation software on a home laptop, and went on to beat 1000:1 odds to create a billion dollar company. They discuss the relationship between high proprietary drug costs and economic incentives for drug discovery. They also discuss the unique US biotech ecosystem, and why innovation is easier in small (vs. large) companies. Michael explains how Karyopharm is targeting its drug at COVID-induced inflammation to treat people with severe forms of the disease.

Transcript

Michael Kauffman (Bio)

Karyopharm's Publications and Presentations

The Great American Drug Deal: A New Prescription for Innovative and Affordable Medicines by Peter Kulichinsky

man-i-fold / mānə fōld / many and various.

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:24 AM



Labels: biology, protech, innovation, intellectual property, podcasts, startups, technology, venture capital

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David Silver on AlphaGo and AlphaZero (AI podcast)

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/ Go MAY JUN JUL
 15
 2019 2020 2021

502 captures
 12 Dec 2019 - 18 Jun 2020



I particularly liked this interview with David Silver on AlphaGo and AlphaZero. I suggest starting around -35m in if you have some familiarity with the subject. (I listened to this while running hill sprints and found at the end I had it set to 1.4x speed -- YMMV.)

At -40m Silver discusses the misleading low-dimensional intuition that led many to fear (circa 1980s-1990s) that neural net optimization would be stymied by local minima. (See related discussion: Yann LeCun on Unsupervised Learning.)

At one point Silver notes that the *expressiveness* of deep nets was never in question (i.e., whether they could encode sufficiently complex high-dimensional functions). The main empirical question was really about efficiency of training -- once the local minima question is resolved what remains is more of an engineering issue than a theoretical one.

Silver gives some details of the match with Lee Sedol. He describes the "holes" in AlphaGo's gameplay that would manifest in roughly 1 in 5 games. Silver had predicted before the match, correctly, that AlphaGo might lose one game this way! AlphaZero was partially invented as a way to eliminate these holes, although it was also motivated by the principled goal of de novo learning, without expert examples.

I've commented many times that even with complete access to the internals of AlphaGo, we (humans) still don't know how it plays Go. There is an irreducible complexity to a deep neural net (and to our brain) that resists comprehension even when all the specific details are known. In this case, the computer program (neural net) which plays Go can be written out explicitly, but it has millions of parameters.

Silver says he worked on AI Go for a decade before it finally reached superhuman performance. He notes that Go was of special interest to AI researchers because there was general agreement that a superhuman Go program would truly *understand* the game, would develop *intuition* for it. But now that the dust has settled we see that notions like *understand* and *intuition* are still hidden in (spread throughout?) the high dimensional space of the network... and perhaps always will be. (From a philosophical perspective this is related to Searle's Chinese Room and other confusions...)

As to whether AlphaGo has *deep intuition* for Go, whether it can play with *creativity*, Silver gives examples from the Lee Sedol match in which AlphaGo 1. *upended* textbook Go theory previously embraced by human experts (perhaps for centuries?), and 2. surprised the human champion by making an aggressive territorial incursion late in the game. In fact, human understanding of both Chess and Go strategy have been advanced considerably via AlphaZero (which performs at a superhuman level in both games).

See also this Manifold interview with John Schulman of OpenAI.

Posted by Steve Hui at 10:37 AM



Labels: ai, Go, machine learning, podcasts

2 comments: May 27, 2019

Will Trump Pardon Obama?

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/ Go MAY JUN JUL
 602 captures
 12 Dec 2003 - 18 Jun 2020
 15
 2019 2020 2021



I get (ha! I'm supposed to hate this lady and her boss, but can someone do me a favor by answering the questions she posed?)

- 1) Why did the Obama administration spy on members of the Trump campaign, during and after the campaign?
- 2) Why was General Michael Flynn unmasked by Obama's chief of staff, Joe Biden, Susan Rice, and others?
- 3) Why was Flynn's identity leaked to the press (a felony)?
- 4) Why did AG Sally Yates (DOJ) *first learn* about the FBI investigation of Flynn's communication with the Russian Ambassador from a conversation with Obama in the Oval Office?
- 5) Why did James Clapper, John Brennan, Samantha Power, and Susan Rice privately admit under oath (Congressional testimony, only declassified recently) that they had *no evidence of collusion*, while saying the opposite in public? (2017-2019)

If you have *any* pretensions to rationalism (or even to being moderately well-informed), please score your understanding, over time, of this scandal which has unfolded since 2016. My observations are well documented since the beginning.

In addition to items #4 and #5 above, which only became public through recent declassification, the other new fact is: On January 4 (day before the White House meeting which included Obama, Biden, Comey, Yates, and Rice, and which was memorialized by Rice in the infamous CYA email to herself weeks later), FBI field agents working on the Flynn investigation, who had access to the Dec 29 call with Kislyak, *recommended* closing the case on Flynn due to what they referred to as absence of derogatory information. Of course, as a result of the January 5 White House meeting, the case was *NOT* closed and the rest is history (like Watergate, only worse)

None of this information is disputed, but you won't hear much about it from NYT, WaPo, ENN, etc. But see WSJ: [here](#) and [here](#)

Added: I wrote the post Lies and Admissions: Spygate in light of the IG FISA report in December 2019, after the DOJ Inspector General's report on FISA abuse became public. Media coverage of its content was extremely misleading (details at the link). The 3+ year timeline I described (reproduced below) has now reached its endpoint due to the recent (May 2020) declassifications.

Almost three years of hard work to bring the truth to light.

- There was no spying [WE STARTED HERE 2016]
- Okay, there was spying, but it was all legal
- Some illegal things happened, but by mistake
- A few bad apples did the illegal things [WE ARE HERE 12/2019]
- Illegal spying was politically motivated and ordered from the top
- Obama knew ??? [BEYOND DOUBT NOW 5/2020]

Not telling how far down the above list we will get, but:

- Lisa Page (text to Peter Strzok 9/2/2016): POTUS wants to know everything we're doing.



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2019 2020 2021

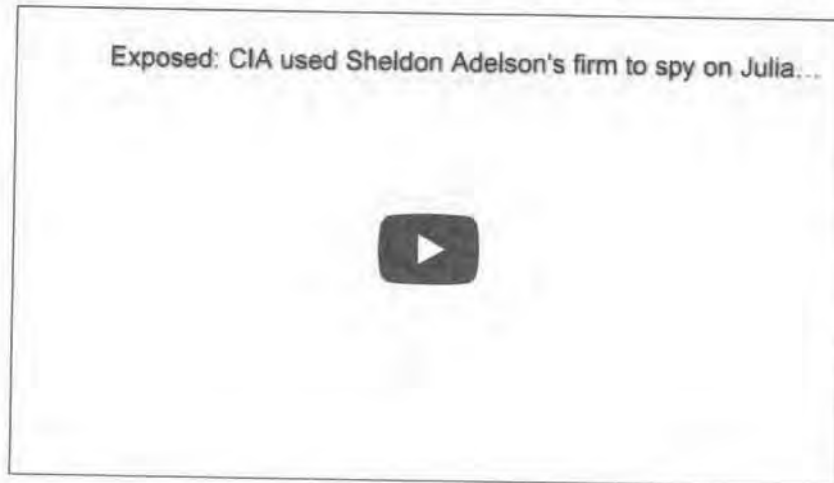


602 captures

12 Dec 2003 - 18 Jun 2020

Thursday, May 21, 2020

How Pompeo's CIA and Sheldon Adelson spied on Julian Assange



An amazing story. I met Assange's attorney at an event in London last summer...

The mysterious death of the Chinese ambassador to Israel happened just a few days after Pompeo's visit with Bibi. A coincidence, I am sure... we have it on good authority from the media and other experts that these conspiracy theories are merely fever dreams.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 10:36 PM

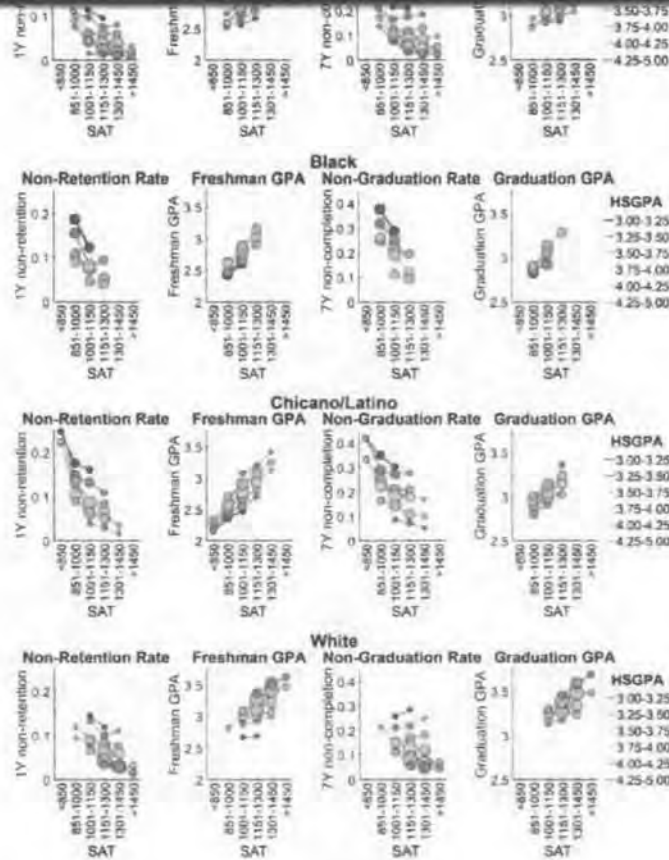


Labels: geopolitics, security

University of California to end use of SAT and ACT

University of California Will End Use of SAT and ACT in Admissions (NYT)

This decision by the UC Regents (most of whom are political appointees) is counter to the recommendation of the faculty task force recently assigned to study standardized testing in admissions. It is obvious to anyone who looks at the graphs below that SAT/ACT have significant validity (technical term used in psychometrics) in predicting college performance for all ethnic groups.



See Report of the University of California Academic Council Standardized Testing Task Force for more:

... SAT and HSGPA are stronger predictors than family income or race. Within each of the family income or ethnicity categories there is substantial variation in SAT and HSGPA, with corresponding differences in student success. See bottom figure and combined model R^2 in second figure below; R^2 varies very little across family income and ethnic categories.

Test Preparation and SAT scores - combined effect of coaching on the SAT is between 21 and 34 points.

Similarly, extensive meta-analyses conducted by Betsy Jane Becker in 1990 and by Nan Laird in 1983 found that the typical effect of commercial preparatory courses on the SAT was in the range of 9-25 points on the verbal section, and 15-25 points on the math section.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:54 PM



Labels: affirmative action, american society, bounded rationality, higher education, political correctness, psychology, psychometrics, universities

Scott Adams on Trump, and his book Loserthink - Manifold Podcast #47

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/ MAY JUN JUL
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 17 Nov 2003 - 18 Jun 2020
 15
 2019 2020 2021



Corey and Steve talk to Scott Adams, creator of Dilbert and author of Loserthink. Steve reviews some of Scott's predictions, including of Trump's 2016 victory. Scott (who once semi-humorously described himself as "left of Bernie") describes what he describes as Trump's unique "skill stack". Scott highlights Trump's grasp of the role of psychology in economics, and maintains that honesty requires admitting that we do not know whether many of Trump's policies are good or bad. Scott explains why he thinks it is mistaken to assume leaders are irrational.

Transcript

Scott Adams (Blog and Podcast)

Loserthink: How Untrained Brains Are Ruining America

Kihlstrom J. F. (1997). Hypnosis, memory and amnesia. *Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological sciences*, 352(1362), 1727-1732. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.1997.0155>

Hypnosis and Memory (Blog Post)

man-i-fold /ˈmænɪˌfɔld/ many and various

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:11 AM



Labels: podcasts, politics, psychology

Thursday, May 14, 2020

COVID-19: Open Thread

I haven't followed the latest scientific progress very carefully for the last week or two. It seems that things have slowed down a bit. Previous posts on COVID-19

I still think the evidence is reasonably strong for IFR - 1% (meaning could be 0.5% under good conditions, higher if medical systems are overwhelmed; there seems to be some evidence for dosage dependence of severity as well).

I suspect that from a purely utilitarian perspective we might be overpaying per QALY

Tests seem to be improving (e.g., Roche), and there seems to be positive early news about vaccines.

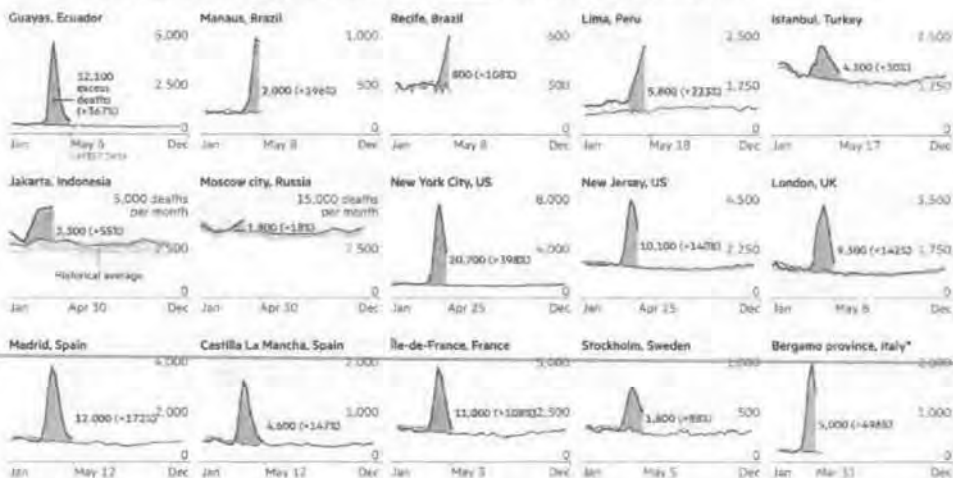
Does anyone know what the status of contact tracing apps is? Are there any that have been tested at scale outside of E. Asia?

Where and When were the earliest cases? Is there any evidence for functional (rather than simply genomic) differences between strains?

Please add any useful updates in the comments below

Mortality rates have soared in urban areas worldwide, with overall excess deaths much higher than reported Covid-19 counts

Number of deaths per week from all causes, 2020 vs recent years. Shaded area indicates total excess deaths during outbreak



*Data from Bergamo province is a representative sample of 845 of the country. Source: A1 analysis of national mortality data. Figures for Jakarta refer to Jakarta City updated May 22. FT reporter John Burn-McEwen's @burnmcewen 6/17

Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:07 AM

Labels: biology, biotech, epidemics

James Oakes on What's Wrong with The 1619 Project - Manifold Podcast #46

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15

2019 2020 2021



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Steve and Corey talk to James Oakes, Distinguished Professor of History and Graduate School Humanities Professor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, about 'The 1619 Project' developed by The New York Times Magazine. The project argues that slavery was the defining event of US history. Jim argues that slavery was actually the least exceptional feature of the US and that what makes the US exceptional is that it is where abolition first begins. Steve wonders about the views of Thomas Jefferson who wrote that "all men are created equal" but still held slaves. Jim maintains many founders were hypocrites, but Jefferson believed what he wrote.

Topics: Northern power, Industrialization, Capitalism, Lincoln, Inequality, Cotton, Labor, Civil War, Racism/Antiracism, Black Ownership.

Transcript

James Oakes (Bio)

Oakes and Colleagues Letter to the NYT and the Editor's Response

The Fight Over the 1619 Project Is Not About the Facts

The World Socialist Web Site interview with James Oakes

manifold / mǎniǎ fòld / many and various.

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:37 AM



Labels: american society, history, new york times, podcasts, political correctness

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Pure State Quantum Thermalization: from von Neumann to the Lab

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15

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Perhaps the most fundamental question in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics is: Why do systems tend to evolve toward thermal equilibrium? Equivalently, why does entropy tend to increase? Because Nature is quantum mechanical, a satisfactory answer to this question has to arise within quantum mechanics itself. The answer was given already in a 1929 paper by von Neumann. However, the ideas were not absorbed (even, were misunderstood) by the physics community and only rediscovered in the 21st century! General awareness of these results is still rather limited.

See this 2011 post: Classics on the arxiv: von Neumann and the foundations of quantum statistical mechanics.

In modern language, we would say something to the effect that "typical" quantum pure states are highly entangled, and the density matrix describing any small sub-system (obtained by tracing over the rest of the pure state) is very close to micro-canonical (i.e., thermal). Under dynamical (Schrödinger) evolution, all systems (even those that are initially far from typical) spend nearly all of their time in a typical state (modulo some weak conditions on the Hamiltonian). Typicality of states is related to concentration of measure in high dimensional Hilbert spaces. *One could even claim that the origin of thermodynamics lies in the geometry of Hilbert space itself.*

[It's worth noting that vN's paper does more than just demonstrate these results. It also gives an explicit construction of macroscopic classical (commuting) observables arising in a large Hilbert space. This construction would be a nice thing to include in textbooks for students trying to connect the classical and quantum worlds.]

Recently I came across an experimental realization of these theoretical results, using cold atoms in an optical lattice (Greiner lab at Harvard):

Quantum thermalization through entanglement in an isolated many-body system

Science 353, 794-800 (2015) | arXiv:1603.04409v1

The concept of entropy is fundamental to thermalization, yet appears at odds with basic principles in quantum mechanics. Statistical mechanics relies on the maximization of entropy for a system at thermal equilibrium. However, an isolated many-body system initialized in a pure state will remain pure during Schrödinger evolution, and in this sense has static, zero entropy. The underlying role of quantum mechanics in many-body physics is then seemingly antithetical to the success of statistical mechanics in a large variety of systems. Here we experimentally study the emergence of statistical mechanics in a quantum state, and observe the fundamental role of quantum entanglement in facilitating this emergence. We perform microscopy on an evolving quantum system, and we see thermalization occur on a local scale, while we measure that the full quantum state remains pure. We directly measure entanglement entropy and observe how it assumes the role of the thermal entropy in thermalization. Although the full state remains measurably pure, entanglement creates local entropy that validates the use of statistical physics for local observables. In combination with number-resolved, single-site imaging, we demonstrate how our measurements of a pure quantum state agree with the Eigenstate Thermalization Hypothesis and thermal ensembles in the presence of a near-volume law in the entanglement entropy.

Note, given the original vN results I think the Eigenstate Thermalization Hypothesis is only of limited interest. [But see comments for more discussion...] The point is that this is a laboratory demonstration of pure state thermalization, anticipated in 1929 by vN.

Another aspect of quantum thermalization that is still not very well appreciated is that approach to equilibrium can have a very different character than what students are taught in statistical mechanics. The physical picture behind the Boltzmann

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MAY JUN JUL

◀ 15 ▶

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 16 Jun 2020

In 2015 my postdoc C.M. Ho (now director of an AI lab in Silicon Valley) and I pointed out that quantum thermalization was likely already realized in heavy ion collisions at RHIC and CERN, and that the quantum nature of the process was responsible for the surprisingly short time required to approach equilibrium (equivalently, to generate large amounts of entanglement entropy).

Entanglement and fast thermalization in heavy ion collisions (see also slides here)



Entanglement and Fast Quantum Thermalization in Heavy Ion Collisions (arXiv:1506.03696)

Chiu Man Ho, Stephen D. H. Hsu

Let A be subsystem of a larger system $A \cup B$, and ψ be a typical state from the subspace of the Hilbert space H_{AB} satisfying an energy constraint. Then $\rho_A(\psi) = \text{Tr}_B |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ is nearly thermal. We discuss how this observation is related to fast thermalization of the central region ($\sim A$) in heavy ion collisions, where B represents other degrees of freedom (soft modes, hard jets, co-linear particles) outside of A . Entanglement between the modes in A and B plays a central role; the entanglement entropy S_A increases rapidly in the collision. In gauge-gravity duality, S_A is related to the area of extremal surfaces in the bulk, which can be studied using gravitational duals.



An earlier blog post [Ulam on physical intuition and visualization](#) mentioned the difference between intuition for familiar semiclassical (incoherent) particle phenomena, versus for intrinsically quantum mechanical (coherent) phenomena such as the spread of entanglement and its relation to thermalization.

[Ulam:] ... Most of the physics at Los Alamos could be reduced to the study of assemblies of particles interacting with each other, hitting each other, scattering, sometimes giving rise to new particles. Strangely enough, the actual working problems did not involve much of the mathematical apparatus of quantum theory although it lay at the base of the phenomena, but rather dynamics of a more classical kind—kinematics, statistical mechanics, large-scale motion problems, hydrodynamics, behavior of radiation, and the like. In fact, compared to quantum theory the project work was like applied mathematics as compared with abstract mathematics. If one is good at solving differential equations or using asymptotic series, one need not necessarily know the foundations of function space language. It is needed for a more fundamental understanding, of course. In the same way, quantum theory is necessary in many instances to explain the data and to explain the values of cross sections. But it was not crucial, once one understood the ideas and then the facts of events involving neutrons reacting with other nuclei.

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MAY JUN JUL

◀ 15 ▶

2019 2020 2021



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Posted by Steve Hsu at 12:07 PM

Labels: [genius](#), [history of science](#), [intellectual history](#), [physics](#), [quantum mechanics](#), [von Neumann](#)

COURTESY: STEVE AND COREY

Robert Atkinson on US-China Competition and Industrial Policy - Manifold Episode #45



Steve and Corey talk with Robert Atkinson, President of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation about his philosophy of National Developmentalism. They discuss the history of industrial policy and mercantilism in the US and China. Why did the US lose 1/3 of its manufacturing jobs in the 2000s? How much was due to automation and how much to Chinese competition? Atkinson discusses US R&D and recommends policies that will help the US compete with China.

Other topics: Forced technology transfer, IP theft, semiconductors and Micron technologies (DRAM), why the WTO cannot handle misbehavior by China

Transcript

Robert Atkinson (Bio)

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)

Big is Beautiful: Debunking the Mythology of Small Business (MIT Press, 2018)

Innovation Economics: The Race for Global Advantage (Yale, 2012)

man·i·fold / man-ĭ-fôld/ many and various.

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FOODS: 08.03.2020

QED and QCD theta angles, asymptotic boundary conditions in gauge theory

Warning: this post is for specialists

I had reason to look back at the paper below recently, and thought I would write a longer post on the subject as I regularly see searches on 'QED theta angle' and similar in my traffic logs. These readers may be unsatisfied with the standard textbook treatment of this topic.

The conventional thinking is that because FF-dual in QED is a total derivative, doesn't affect the classical equations of motion, and isn't related to any topological vacuum structure, it can't have physical consequences.



In the paper below I constructed gauge configurations in (3+1) dimensions that connect an initial configuration (e.g., vacuum state $A=0$) to two different final configurations A_1 and A_2 (e.g., in the far future). A_1 and A_2 differ by a gauge transformation (i.e., represent the same physical electric and magnetic fields), but the two (3+1) interpolating configurations are not gauge equivalent. By construction, the value of (int FF-dual) is not the same when evaluated on the two (3+1) configurations. Thus the two trajectories have a relative phase weighting in the path integral which depends on the value of theta. This suggests that theta can have physical (though perhaps small and non-perturbative) effects, so it is indeed a fundamental physical parameter of QED and of the Standard Model of particle physics.

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1107.0756>

Theta terms and asymptotic behavior of gauge potentials in (3+1) dimensions

We describe paths in the configuration space of (3+1) dimensional QED whose relative quantum phase (or relative phase in the functional integral) depends on the value of the theta angle. The final configurations on the two paths are related by a gauge transformation but differ in magnetic helicity or Chern-Simons number. Such configurations must exhibit gauge potentials that fall off no faster than $1/r$ in some region of finite solid angle, although they need not have net magnetic charge (i.e., are not magnetic monopoles). The relative phase is proportional to theta times the difference in Chern-Simons number. We briefly discuss some possible implications for QCD and the strong CP problem.

The question of whether physical observables can depend on the value of theta QED is somewhat esoteric. However, the analysis raises the issue of asymptotic boundary conditions in gauge theory. One typically expects that local properties of a quantum field theory are independent of the choice of boundary conditions when the size of the system is taken to infinity. But topological or total derivative terms such as FF-dual seem to defy this expectation.

The gauge potentials required for the construction described above must have $A \sim 1/r$ behavior for some region of solid angle. In $d=4$ Euclidean space, the assumption is often made to allow only potentials with faster than $1/r$ falloff. In this way one obtains a topological classification of gauge configurations (i.e., in terms of instanton number). However, in Minkowski space ($d=3+1$) there exist classical solutions of non-Abelian gauge theory (e.g., $SU(2)$; discovered by Luscher and Schechter) that exhibit $1/r$ falloff and are the analog of the $U(1)$ configurations I described above. These L-S solutions have fractional topological charge.

In the presence of fractional topological charges the gauge theory partition function no longer appears periodic in theta. This may have consequences for the Strong CP problem in QED, which are briefly discussed in the paper above.

Note Added: Writing this blog post was beneficial -- thinking through the topic again allowed me to formulate the conclusions more clearly than in the original paper. I've replaced it on arXiv with a new version containing the additional material below. The observation at the end is related to Elitzur's Theorem -- gauge-variant operators must have zero average in the path integral.

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 ◀ 15 ▶
 2019 2020 2021







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13 Dec 2005 - 18 Jun 2020

Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:40 PM



Labels: physics, web, quantum field theory

Raman Sundrum: Physics and the Universe - Manifold Episode #44



Steve and Corey talk with theoretical physicist Raman Sundrum. They discuss the last 30 years in fundamental physics, and look toward the next. Raman argues that Physics is a marketplace of ideas. While many theories did not stand the test of time, they represented avenues that needed to be explored. Corey expresses skepticism about the possibility of answering questions such as why the laws of physics have the form they do. Raman and Steve argue that attempts to answer such

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 602 captures
 12 Dec 2009 - 16 Jun 2020
 15
 2019 2020 2021

Transcript

Raman Sundrum (Faculty Bio)

Sabine Hossenfelder on the Crisis in Particle Physics and Against the Next Big Collider (Manifold Episode #8)

man-i-fold / man-ə-föld/ many and various.

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:32 AM



Labels: history of science, intellectual history, physics, podcasts, science

Monday, 8 March 2020

COVID-19: CDC US deaths by age group

Reader LondonYoung points to this CDC data set. Table 2 is reproduced below.

If we assume that CV-19 has infected a few percent of the total US population, we should multiply the numbers in the CV-19 deaths column by ~30x to extrapolate to a full population sweep. With that adjustment factor the impact on people younger than 25 is still very modest. It is only among people ~50y or older for whom the effect of a full CV-19 sweep is comparable to All-Cause deaths.

As a rough estimate I'd guess a full population sweep (under good medical conditions) costs about 10M QALYS. How much is that worth? A few trillion dollars?

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 MAY JUN JUL
 ◀ 15 ▶
 2019 2020 2021

602 captures
12 Dec 2015 - 15 Jun 2020







Of course, we should keep in mind that there might be very negative long-term health consequences from serious cases of COVID-19 infection that do not result in death.

Added:

1. Germany's leading coronavirus expert Christian Drosten on Merkel's leadership, the UK response, and the "prevention paradox" (Guardian)
2. US National Academy of Sciences COVID-19 Update

Posted by Steve Hou at 11:42 AM



Labels: economics, epidemics, statistics

GOOG AI directs me to interview with Ari Ben-Menashe on Jeffrey Epstein



People talk about a future cybernetic era in which human intelligence will be fused in some way with machine intelligence (AI). To a degree, that era has already arrived. The GOOG AI watches almost everything I do — not just my search queries, but pages I access via Chrome, seminars and interviews I watch on YouTube, my meetings on Google Calendar, what topics I discuss over gmail, where I travel, etc. I can now depend on it to make useful recommendations. (I hope the AI remains friendly to me in the future...)

This morning it suggested the interview below with Ari Ben-Menashe. Probably because it knows I have been interested in Jeffrey Epstein (see post Epstein and the Big Lie from Aug 2019), the activities of intelligence services (see, e.g., Twilight

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Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

18 Dec 2005 - 18 Jun 2020

main sources for the book *The Samson Option*, by *Sy Hersh* (the journalist who uncovered both *My Lai* and *Abu Ghraib*). *The Samson Option* describes how the world became aware of the Israeli nuclear program, thanks to whistle-blower *Mordechai Vanunu*. After revealing the secret program to the *British Sunday Times*, *Vanunu* was kidnapped by Israeli intelligence agents, stood trial in Israel, and spent almost 20 years in prison. *Ben-Menashe* worked with publisher *Robert Maxwell* (*Ghislaine Maxwell's* father) to locate *Vanunu* in London and to capture him using a honey trap (female agent).

Ben-Menashe knew *Jeffrey Epstein* and *Ghislaine Maxwell* through *Robert Maxwell*. He states on the record that *Epstein* was involved in a honeypot operation for Israeli intelligence.

Ben-Menashe also comments on topics such as:

- Epstein's "suicide" in MCC (where, by coincidence, *Ben-Menashe* was also held in the aftermath of *Iran-Contra*)

- Ghislaine Maxwell's* current location.

- Robert Maxwell's* mysterious death.

- How *Epstein* could live and operate as if he had a 10-11 figure net worth when his actual wealth was one or two orders of magnitude less.

I do not know whether any of this is true, but I found the interview interesting.

Intelligence Insider Reveals All About Epstein And Prince ...



Warning: in the comments I will censor anti-Jewish remarks.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 11:00 AM



Labels: ai, bounded rationality, google, security

94761471, 2020-06-16 08:11:00

COVID-19: False Positive Rates for Serological Tests

It looks like very few of the tests have false positive rates in the percent range. Since most populations (with the exception of NYC and some other highly impacted places) do not have infection rates higher than a few percent, there is a danger of overestimating total infection rates and underestimating IFR using these tests. (See, e.g., the recent Stanford-USC papers.)

Sure Biotech seems to be an HK company, while Wandfo is in Guangzhou.

NYTimes: ... Each test was evaluated with the same set of blood samples: from 80 people known to be infected with the coronavirus, at different points after infection, 108 samples donated before the pandemic; and 52 samples from people who were positive for other viral infections but had tested negative for SARS-CoV-2.

Tests made by Sure Biotech and Wandfo Biotech, along with an in-house Elisa test, produced the fewest false positives.

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 502 captures 15 2019 2020 2021
18 Dec 2003 - 17 Jun 2020

The lesson is that the tests are less likely to produce false negatives the longer ago the initial infection occurred, he said.

The tests were particularly variable when looking for a transient antibody that comes up soon after infection, called IgM, and more consistent in identifying a subsequent antibody, called IgG, that may signal longer-term immunity.

"You can see that antibody levels rise at different points for every patient," Dr. Hsu said. The tests performed best when the researchers assessed both types of antibodies together. None of the tests could say whether the presence of these antibodies means a person is protected from reinfection, however.

The results overall are promising, Dr. Marson added. "There are multiple tests that have specificities greater than 95 percent."

Preprint: Test performance evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 serological assays

From Table 2 in the paper:



Dr. Patrick Hsu -- quoted in the Times article above, and a co-author of the paper -- is no relation, although we know each other. He has appeared in this blog before for his CRISPR work.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:21 AM



Labels: biology, epidemics, statistics

11 comments: [View comments](#)

Vineer Bhansali: Physics, Tail Risk Hedging, and 900% Coronavirus Returns - Manifold Episode #43

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Go

MAY JUN JUL

◀ 15 ▶

2019 2020 2021

602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 18 Jun 2020



Steve and Corey talk with theoretical physicist turned hedge fund investor Vineer Bhansali. Bhansali describes his transition from physics to finance, his firm LongTail Alpha, and his recent outsize returns from the coronavirus financial crisis. Also discussed: derivatives pricing, random walks, helicopter money, and Modern Monetary Theory.

Transcript

LongTail Alpha

LongTail Alpha's OneTail Hedgehog Fund II had 929% Return (Bloomberg)

A New Anomaly Matching Condition? (1992)

<https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/9211299>

Added: Background on derivatives history here. AFAIK high energy physicist M.F.M. Osborne was the first to suggest the log-normal random walk model for securities prices, in the 1950s. Bachelier suggested an additive model which does not even make logical sense. See my articles in *Physics World*: 1, 2

man-i-fold / mana-föld / many and various.

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Posted by Steve Hsu at 8:06 AM



Labels: caltech, careers, derivatives, epidemics, finance, harvard, hedge funds, physics, systemic risk, tail risk, volatility, wall street

Friday, June 17, 2020

The von Neumann-Fuchs bomb, and the radiation compression mechanism of Ulam-Teller-Sakharov

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Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

14 Dec 2005 - 18 Jun 2020

Some useful references below on the Ulam-Teller mechanism, Sakharov's Third Idea, and the von Neumann-Fuchs thermonuclear design of 1946. They resolve a mystery discussed previously on this blog:

Sakharov's Third Idea. — If Zeldovich was already familiar with radiation pressure as the tool for compression, via the Fuchs report of 1948, then perhaps one cannot really credit Teller so much for adding this ingredient to Ulam's idea of a staged device using a fission bomb to compress the thermonuclear fuel. Fuchs and von Neumann had already proposed (and patented!) radiation implosion years before. [More here.](#)

It turns out that the compression mechanism used in the von Neumann-Fuchs design (VN is the first author on the patent application) the design was realized in the Operation Greenhouse (George nuclear test of 1951) is not that of Ulam-Teller or Sakharov. In VN-F the D-T mixture reaches thermal equilibrium with ionized BeCl gas, leading to a pressure increase of ~10x. This is not the "cold compression" via focused radiation pressure used in the U-T / Sakharov designs. That was apparently conceived independently by Ulam-Teller and Sakharov.

It is only recently that the VN-F design has become public — first obtained by the Soviets via espionage (Fuchs), and finally declassified and published by the Russians! It seems that Zeldovich had access to this information, but not Sakharov.

American and Soviet H-bomb development programmes: historical background by G. Goncharov.

John von Neumann and Klaus Fuchs: an Unlikely Collaboration by Jeremy Bernstein. See also [here](#) for some clarifying commentary.

A great anecdote:

Jeremy Bernstein: When I was an undergraduate at Harvard he (VN) came to the university to give lectures on the computer and the brain. They were the best lectures I have ever heard or anything — like mental champagne. After one of them I found myself walking in Harvard Square and looked up to see von Neumann. Thinking, correctly as it happened, that it would be the only chance I would have to ask him a question, I asked, "Professor von Neumann, will the computer ever replace the human mathematician?" He studied me and then responded, "Sorry, don't worry about it."

Note added from comments. I hope this clarifies things a bit.

The question of how the Soviets got to the U-T mechanism is especially mysterious. Sakharov himself (ostensibly the Soviet inventor) was puzzled until the end about what had really happened! He did not have access to the VN-F design that has been made public from the Russian side (~2000, after Sakharov's death in 1989, still classified in US). Zeldovich and only a few others had seen the Fuchs information, at a time when the main focus of the Russian program was not the H-bomb. Sakharov could never be sure whether his suggestion for cold radiation compression sparked Zeldovich's interest because the latter "had seen the idea before" without fully comprehending it. Sakharov wondered about this until the end of his life (see below), but I think his surmise was not correct: we know now that VN-F did "not" come up with that idea in their 1946 design. I've been puzzled about this question myself for some time. If the VN-F design had used radiation pressure for cold compression, why did Teller get so much credit for replacing neutrons with radiation pressure in Ulam's staged design (1951)? I stumbled across the (now public) VN-F design by accident just recently — I was reading some biographical stuff about Zeldovich which touched upon these issues.

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/2012/10/sakharovs-third-idea.html>

Consider the following words in Sakharov's memoirs, with a note he added toward the end of life:

Now I think that the main idea of the H-bomb design developed by the Zeldovich group was based on intelligence information. However, I can't prove this conjecture. It occurred to me quite recently, but at the time I just gave it no thought. (note added July 1987. David Holloway writes in "Soviet Thermonuclear Development," *International Security* 4:3 (1979/80), p. 193: "The Soviet Union had been informed by Klaus Fuchs of the studies

Perspectives

Teller, 1952, August (re Bethe's Memorandum). The main principle of radiation implosion was developed in connection with the thermonuclear program and was stated at a conference on the thermonuclear bomb, in the spring of 1946. Dr. Bethe did not attend this conference, but Dr. Fuchs did. [Original development by vN?]

It is difficult to argue to what extent an invention is accidental, most difficult for someone who did not make the invention himself. It appears to me that the idea was a relatively slight modification of ideas generally known in 1946. Essentially only two elements had to be added: to implode a bigger volume, and, to achieve greater compression by keeping the imploded material cool as long as possible.

The last part 'cool as long as possible' refers to the fundamental difference between the vN-Fuchs design and the U-T mechanism of cold radiation compression. The former assumes thermal equilibrium between ionized gas and radiation, while latter deliberately avoids it as long as possible.

Official Soviet History: On the making of the Soviet hydrogen (thermonuclear) bomb, Yu B Khariton et al 1996 Phys.-Usp. 39 185. Some details on the origin of the compression idea, followed by the use of radiation pressure (Zeldovich and Sakharov).

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:11 PM



Labels: brainpower, history, history of science, intellectual history, nuclear weapons, physics, von Neumann

Blog Archive

Jaan Tallinn: Coronavirus, Existential Risk, and AI - Manifold Episode#42



Steve talks with Skype founder and global tech investor Jaan Tallinn. Will the coronavirus pandemic lead to better planning for future global risks? Jaan gives his list of top existential risks and describes his efforts to call attention to AI risk. They discuss AGI, the Simulation Question, the Fermi Paradox and how these are all connected. Do we live in a simulation of a quantum multiverse?

RATIONALITY

Jaan X-Risk Links

LessWrong

Slate Star Codex

Metaculus

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Transcript

man-i·fold /ˈmɑːnəˈfɔld/ many and various.

In mathematics, a manifold is a topological space that locally resembles Euclidean space near each point.

Steve Hsu and Corey Washington have been friends for almost 30 years, and between them hold PhDs in Neuroscience, Philosophy, and Theoretical Physics. Join them for wide ranging and unfiltered conversations with leading writers, scientists, technologists, academics, entrepreneurs, investors, and more.

Steve Hsu is VP for Research and Professor of Theoretical Physics at Michigan State University. He is also a researcher in computational genomics and founder of several Silicon Valley startups, ranging from information security to biotech. Educated at Caltech and Berkeley, he was a Harvard Junior Fellow and held faculty positions at Yale and the University of Oregon before joining MSU.

Corey Washington is Director of Analytics in the Office of Research and Innovation at Michigan State University. He was educated at Amherst College and MIT before receiving a PhD in Philosophy from Stanford and a PhD in a Neuroscience from Columbia. He held faculty positions at the University Washington and the University of Maryland. Prior to MSU, Corey worked as a biotech consultant and is founder of a medical diagnostics startup.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 7:57 AM




Labels: epidemics, innovation, physics, podcasts, rationality, simulation, technology

Navigation icons

COVID-19: Testing, Isolation, Geolocation in Korea

I came to the Hospital. The result..?



The guy in the video has just returned to Korea from abroad. He is tested right away (results by next day), and asked to self-quarantine for 2 weeks. His location is monitored (via phone/GPS) during this time. During quarantine the government supplies him with food, free of charge.

Systems like this make it possible to contain the epidemic without shutting down the economy. Is there any chance the US can get to this point by May?

Posted by Steve Hsu at 11:01 AM



Labels: epidemics

Navigation icons

COVID-19: Iceland tests 10% of population, CFR ~0.5%

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 602 captures
 12 Dec 2007 - 15 Jun 2020
 15
 2019 2020 2021

I can't find a better reference for this than the Daily Mail, which may have garbled the results. But if the headline is correct, CFR = 0.4% (this may increase as the disease runs its course among the infected) and infection rate is just over 4% (1.6k infected / 36k tested). [See update below the graph for better information.]

Daily Mail: Iceland has tested one-tenth of its population for coronavirus at random and found HALF of people have the disease without realising - with only seven deaths in 1,600 cases

At the JHU coronavirus page, the latest numbers reported are 1700 infected with 8 dead, or CFR = 0.47%. From the graph below it appears that most infections in Iceland happened less than 2-3 weeks ago, suggesting that further deaths will result among the population currently infected. See here for comprehensive Iceland data. From the description there, about half the people tested were already in quarantine (e.g., due to contact tracing), so the Daily Mail claim that the results come from random sampling of the population does not seem correct.

If the 1700 positives *did* result from testing a *completely random* selection of 1/10 of the total population, then IFR = 8 / 17000 = 0.04%, which is very small.

But 4% infected (probably less, due to bias in sampling from quarantine) seems inconsistent with a super-rapid sweep, and is far short of herd immunity. [See below for better information!]



Added: I found a better source of information than the Daily Mail.

Iceland Review: ... The screenings of the general population have been carried out by Reykjavik-based medical research company deCODE genetics ...

CEO Dr. Kari Stefánsson: "Fifty per cent of those that test positive in our screenings of the general population are symptom-free at the time. Many of them get symptoms later," Kari said.

Therefore, although about half of those who have tested positive for coronavirus in deCODE's screenings did not have symptoms at the time, most of those who have tested positive developed symptoms at some point. A positive sample from an individual without symptoms means that the sample was most likely taken early in the virus' incubation period, before symptoms such as dry cough or fever began to present themselves.

"DeCODE has now screened 10,401 individuals in Iceland. Of those, 92 were positive. So about 0.9% of those who we screened in the general population turned out to be positive. And that is probably the upper limit of the distribution of the virus in society in general," Kari explained.

Interview: "The testing has been going on for 15 days - there was a little pause in the middle because we were missing swabs - but all of these 15 days, the rate of positives has been a little bit below one percent, which makes it likely that this is the true population prevalence. Today we are calling in people randomly, just selecting at random from the telephone directory. There is probably no perfect way to get a random sample. But I think it is very likely that the number is going to turn out in the end to be somewhat close to this number, probably somewhere between 0.5-1%."

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Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 16 Jun 2020

described by Stefansson, and another entity did the rest. All of this is aggregated in the current ~1.7k total confirmed cases as of now

DeCode has genetic data on essentially all Icelanders, so should be able to identify alleles that make one more or less vulnerable to CV19.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 6:09 PM



Labels: epidemics, genomics

Home

Older Posts

Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)

Blog Archive

▼ 2020 (63)

▼ 06 (5)

Manifold Episode Zero

Twitter Attacks, and a Defense of Scientific Inquiry

Warren Hatch on Seeing the Future in the Era of CO

Leif Wenar on the Resource Curse and Impact Philos

Re-Post: Joe Casarò on Police Decision Making and

► 05 (11)

► 04 (18)

► 03 (15)

► 02 (8)

► 01 (10)

► 2019 (113)

► 2018 (128)

► 2017 (150)

► 2016 (206)

► 2015 (167)

► 2014 (184)

► 2013 (211)

► 2012 (221)

► 2011 (266)

► 2010 (234)

► 2009 (204)

► 2008 (255)

► 2007 (196)

► 2006 (154)

► 2005 (253)

► 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (289)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (239)
- technology (221)
- american society (221)
- China (192)

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

12 Dec 2019 - 14 Jun 2020

- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (98)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)
- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgt (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cda (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)
- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021

**602 captures**

12 Dec 2005 - 16 Jun 2020

- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)
- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- smpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)
- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 15 Jun 2020

- les grandes écoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- television (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)
- crossfit (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- dating (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)
- ashkenazim (7)
- baske(ball) (7)
- democracy (7)

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021

**602 captures**

12 Dec 2005 - 15 Jun 2020

- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- econ talk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)
- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- fran (4)
- Poincaré (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borjes (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)
- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)

<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>

Go

MAY JUN JUL

◀ 15 ▶

2019 2020 2021



602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 18 Jun 2020

- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- feminism (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (1)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)
- sivs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)
- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mameet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- itcm (2)
- making (2)
- mba (2)
- McCain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)
- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)



Go

602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 16 Jun 2020

- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnie huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x. li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)
- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)
- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- glzmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- lit (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
- jack kerouac (1)
- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dolan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searle (1)
- john tierney (1)
- jonathan littell (1)
- las vegas (1)

https://infoproc.blogspot.com/

Go

MAY JUN JUL

15

2019 2020 2021

602 captures

12 Dec 2005 - 1* Jun 2020

- lower wood (1)
- lse (1)
- machine (1)
- mcgeorge bundy (1)
- mexico (1)
- michael jackson (1)
- mickey rourke (1)
- migration (1)
- money:tech (1)
- myron scholes (1)
- netwon institute (1)
- networks (1)
- newton institute (1)
- nfl (1)
- oliver stone (1)
- phil gramm (1)
- philanthropy (1)
- philip greenspan (1)
- portfolio theory (1)
- power laws (1)
- psychology (1)
- randomness (1)
- recession (1)
- sales (1)
- singapore (1)
- skype (1)
- standard deviation (1)
- star wars (1)
- starship troopers (1)
- students today (1)
- teleportation (1)
- tierney lab blog (1)
- tomanaga (1)
- tyler cowen (1)
- venice (1)
- violence (1)
- virtual meetings (1)
- war nerd (1)
- wealth effect (1)

G Analytics

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 7:47 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Letter supporting VPRI Hsu and academic freedom

Dear President Stanley,

My close colleagues at MSU have informed me of an effort by MSU students and faculty of the social "justice" persuasion to remove Dr. Stephen Hsu as your Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation. I am writing to urge you to dismiss these emotional and baseless claims and to reign in the cancel culture at MSU. I have known Steve, a top-notch scientist, for [REDACTED] years and I thoroughly reject the allegations against him. Not only is he fair and equitable, he has a broader and deeper understanding of scientific disciplines than almost anyone I know. I am confident you will not find anyone else with close to his understanding of science at large, particularly if these specious accusations are acted upon.

By now you have received many other letters from Dr. Hsu's friends and colleagues detailing their support for him. However, I wish to offer my perspective as an active rank-and-file professor. The level of intolerance and intellectual and political conformity in the US academy has reached kafkaesque proportions and I estimate most (the "silent majority" if you will) science and engineering faculty are really appalled by it and will increasingly be less silent. Since when has a simple, past not-even-in-person interview of someone ostracized by academia (no one should be anyway) illicit such vilification? Since when has believing that standardized tests are good predictors of scholarship and academic success subjected one to demonization and defamation?

There was another scandal a few months ago in the mathematics community involving Prof. Abigail Thompson, Chair of the UC-Davis math department and Vice President of the American Mathematical Society. She wrote an opinion piece denouncing the required diversity statements at UC (please don't get any ideas!) and equating them with McCarthy era political litmus tests. The outrage was swift and outrageous, with over six hundred students and especially junior faculty signing a letter calling Thompson racist and sexist, goading the AMS to censure her, demanding apologies, and encouraging students not to apply to UC-Davis. Fortunately, the back-reaction was also swift, with >700 professionals (including a number of NAS members and Fields medalists) signing a counter letter defending Dr. Thompson's right to argue her opinion. Most notably, the chair and many faculty in the mathematics department of one of the main instigators even signed the letter of support for Dr. Thompson. Many others wrote letters to the AMS agreeing with her position on diversity statements. In this case, Prof. Thompson had explicitly expressed her views against mandated diversity statements, which goes further than Dr. Hsu typically does as he predominantly focuses on data, technology, and scientific developments without explicitly taking sides. Fortunately, not only did Dr. Thompson serve out her term at AMS, she is still department chair and was even recently named a Hero of Intellectual Freedom, an award given by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA).

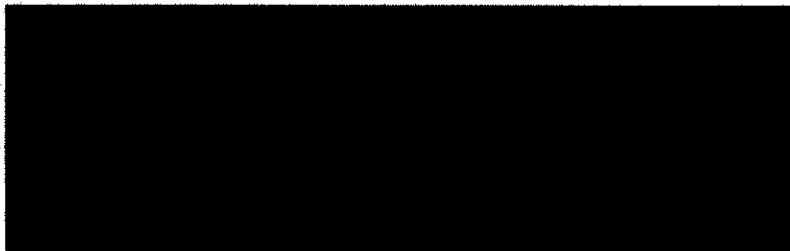
Of course, there are countless recent examples of embarrassing and memorable administrative failures, such as George Bridges of Evergreen, Yale allowing students to harangue Nicholas Christakis without consequence, and UCLA suspending Gordon Klein for refusing to give race-based preferences during his final exam, and so on.

We all realize that you must operate under complex legal, financial, and political constraints, but academic leaders have been universally (including at my institution) a big disappointment to a large fraction of faculty, not because of their high salaries, nor because of their sometimes authoritarian decisions, nor because many are out of touch with research and teaching (Steve Hsu is an outstanding exception here), but because of their missing spine when it comes to protecting transparency, intellectual diversity, meritocracy, and their faculty and staff.

Due to habitual appeasement by the leadership, there has been a growing fraction of very vocal people who indiscriminately swing their "racist", "sexist", and "fascist" cudgels, to the point that these words have lost nearly all meaning. Thus, although it might seem expedient, it would be a miscalculation to cede to the demands of such groups to the detriment of the many fair-minded and productive faculty who go about their business of teaching, intellectual inquiry, and procuring funding.

The issue seems to be larger than that of MSU's VPRI. There is a yearning for more leaders like Robert Zimmer and others who will vigorously insure intellectual freedom, who will protect their faculty and not throw them under the bus, and who will not project their personal or compelled values as "institutional values" or on thousands of faculty, students, and staff. While you may find the current unanticipated situation troublesome, you are in an enviable position to start your presidency off by breaking this cycle and taking a firm stand by putting policies and procedures in place to protect free thought and expression at MSU. If you don't, there will likely be erosion of MSU's value worldwide.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A large black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information area.

From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Zeig, Michael; Bales, Merri-Jo; Quinn, Brian
Subject: [REDACTED]
Attachments: 061720.DRAFT, [REDACTED].docx

Per your texts, I added a sentence to [REDACTED]



Emily Gerkin Guerrant

Vice President and University Spokesperson

408 West Circle Dr., Room 401B | East Lansing, MI 48824

Office: 517.355.3843 | Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

SPARTANS WILL.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DRAFT, 2020

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent:

Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:27 PM

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Subject:

Support for Professor Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

Courage is rare these days, and you will gain the respect of many by deciding to keep professor Steve Hsu at MSU. He is dedicated to his research, regardless of outcome, which is rare these days.

If you decide to cave to the mob, they will be satisfied for all but a week.

Marxists are out in the open now, and they will continue to destroy good people, if you let them.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Steve Hsu -

Dear President Stanley,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] am writing to tell you about my experiences working with Steve Hsu. I have known Steve for over [REDACTED] years after meeting him at several scientific conferences followed by dozens of conversations, dinners, etc.

There is not a single experience that I have had with him where I felt that Steve was racist, sexist, or anything but one of the smartest and most honorable people I have met full stop. Steve has been extremely generous with his advice and his mentorship (even for [REDACTED] at another university!) and frankly, I had thought that MSU would be a great place for me and/or my post-docs to have an exciting career in [REDACTED] because of Steve's leadership there.

I of course appreciate that Steve's blog and podcast are challenging and he discusses issues that are often uncomfortable but (in my opinion) always without malice and based on scientific data and principles. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I do not in any way recognize the portrait painted of Steve on social media.

I have been thinking alot about leadership broadly the last few years and my general view is that I am very happy to not be in leadership positions in these tumultuous times! So as a follower, I wanted to make you aware that for young scientists like me, Steve has provided a model of leadership based on intellectual fearlessness and personal kindness, for me a rare combination. It would be a shame for young scientists everywhere to lose a mode like that based on personal discomfort with intellectually challenging ideas. It's the reason I became a scientist.

I have thousands of more words to say about Steve and his qualities but I will spare you a Balzac-egsue email. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:41 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]
Subject: Regarding the matter of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

I'm a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I personally believe that the accusations against Stephen Hsu are false. It is the ability to talk about differences and respect the value of those differences that allows us to form a functional society. I believe he has shown the utmost respect to this principle. He is not racist. If anything, I expect his work to lead to a flourishing of human racial diversity and human potential. I will make myself available to discuss any concerns you might have about the present matters.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:39 PM

Sent:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

To:

Subject:

Anti-Chinese Prejudice and the attacks on Steve Hsu

Hello,

This is [REDACTED]

Yesterday, I counted from the petition (using surnames, and opting for inclusion for borderline cases), and about 56 / 789 are Chinese on the petition defending Steve Hsu. On the anti-Hsu petition, I counted 9 / 618.

It's possible that the difference is just random, but I think there's a real possibility that anti-Chinese bias and bigotry are a motivating factor behind the attacks on Steve Hsu. At the very least, we have to think about why the gap is so large.

I have seen many troubling attacks on the Chinese community within my own university, and it's extremely disturbing. The recent actions by the Trump administration targeting the Chinese student community will likely make these attacks even more intense in the future.

This racially imbalanced attack on Steve Hsu, a member of the American academic community of Chinese descent, makes me and many members of the community who I care about feel unsafe.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:19 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Letter of Support for Stephen Hsu
Attachments: Hsu-letter.pdf

Dear President Stanley,

Please find attached a letter of support for Dr. Hsu. I write this as a [REDACTED] and someone who vehemently disagrees with Dr. Hsu's views.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear President Stanley,

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Stephen Hsu because I feel it is important to support free intellectual inquiry in universities. It is especially important to support this right for people with whom we disagree.

Like Dr. Hsu [REDACTED] but one would be hard pressed to find two people with more divergent political worldviews. It is my sincere belief that the kind of research Dr. Hsu is doing is implicitly laced with ideas from eugenics, is misguided scientifically, and reflects racialized ideas that serve the interests of elites and corporations. I am opposed to this worldview and actively fight against it through my scientific work, writing, and political organizing.

However, I think Dr. Hsu's scientific work, blog, and podcast are clearly well within the scientific mainstream. Furthermore, having regularly read Dr. Hsu's blog and disagreeing with much of its content, I would say that Dr. Hsu's arguments are made seriously, respectfully, and thoughtfully. I have never found anything, in my view, that would warrant him losing his job or academic position based on what he has written.

This general impression was reinforced during [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I asked to speak to Dr. Hsu precisely because I wanted to voice disagreement about the kind of scientific ideas and work he has been promoting. Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Hsu took 30-45 minutes to talk to me. We exchanged ideas – both technical and political. I do not think that we agreed on anything except that further intellectual inquiry would prove one of us right and the other wrong. I viewed this conversation as something that could only happen in a university in its best sense – a place where intellectual, moral, and political ideas could be explored and debated.

I feel that it is a core tenet of academic freedom that we not remove people from university positions for their political views or intellectual positions. The despicable episode of McCarthyism in universities shows the danger and shortsightedness of such actions. For this reason, I feel removing Dr. Hsu from his position is unfair and would set a terrible precedent for academic freedom.

Of course, if there are concrete complaints of discrimination by Dr. Hsu beyond holding views that I personally find objectionable, the administration should take these accusations extremely seriously and act appropriately.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

Sent:

Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:17 AM

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Subject:

I Support Steve Hsu

Do not cave to the loudest, most bullying minority and fire a person of color for *actually* challenging people.

[REDACTED]

From: Jacobs, Melanie
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel; Jeitschko, Thomas
Cc: Russell, Paulette
Subject: FW: Stephen Hsu controversy

Good morning, Sam and Thomas.

[REDACTED]

I've copied Paulette because she has kindly been advising me on the matter. I think [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] I thought it important you have this additional information.

Best,

Melanie

Melanie B. Jacobs
Interim Dean
Professor of Law
Michigan State University College of Law
517-432-6993

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:29 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jeitschko, Thomas <[REDACTED]>; Jacobs, Melanie <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Stephen Hsu controversy

Dear President Stanley,

My name is [REDACTED] I have not had the pleasure of meeting you. I'm [REDACTED] but have just started [REDACTED]

 hope to meet you in person. I take the liberty of expressing some thoughts on the above-referenced.

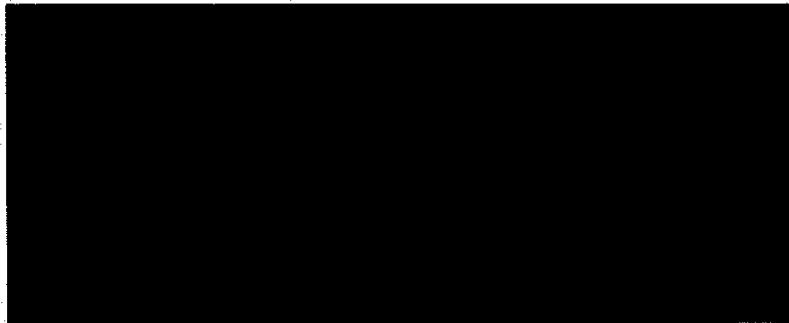
Throughout your administration, you have impressed me with your dedication to science and empirical evidence—from your prudent leadership during the coronavirus crisis to the contempt for anti-vaxxers that you expressed during your visit to our law college faculty meeting. And, that is as it should be. We are an institution dedicated to pursuing science, questioning all dogmas, and following where data leads.

The eminent social psychologist, Jonathan Haidt, remarked that if you want to see people's anti-science prejudice just look to what they find sacred. Religious conservatives reject evolution; ardent supporters of unbridled capitalism disdain global warming climatological research; and, the Marxist-influenced left—which holds as sacred the ideal of human equality—hates behavioral genetics. From Trofim Lysenko, the Soviet agronomist who banned the study of genetics during Stalin's rule, retarding biological research in his country in ways that can still be felt, to the Harvard students who physically attacked E.O. Wilson, the left has used political power to silence and destroy those scientists who study the relationship between human genetics and behavior.

Recent events have reminded me of the story of Hypatia, the last librarian of the Library of Alexandria, the largest collection of books in the ancient world. One of the great women of antiquity, she was an accomplished philosopher and mathematician who stood for the Classical values of free inquiry and reason. Cyril, the Bishop of Alexandria, a religious zealot, hated her for what she believed and thought. And probably hated her all the more because it was especially wrong for a woman to so believe and think. One day, he roused his Christian followers and led a frenzied mob to attack her. They stripped her naked and killed her, flaying her flesh from her bones with the sharpened ends of abalone shells. Then, they went on to burn down the Library—destroying forever most of the scientific and literary achievements of the ancient world.

Today, a new mob, made irate by a different sense of sanctity, but pursuing the same victim is afoot. Stand with Hypatia.

Most sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:42 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED] Sullivan, Teresa; Curry, Theodore; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Updated statement by [REDACTED] faculty
Attachments: [REDACTED] Letter to President Stanley from [REDACTED]
Faculty June 17 2020.docx

Dear President Stanley,

I appreciate your email letting us know that you hear our concerns and are looking into the matter. Since our last email to you, the [REDACTED] faculty [REDACTED] endorse our updated statement, copied below and also attached. It provides additional details and links, and addresses some of the counter-arguments of Hsu's supporters. Our faculty feel a strong moral obligation to speak up, and wanted to make this a public statement. However with your reply, and with our trust that you are taking our concerns seriously, we will not make a public statement at this time. We deeply appreciate your taking our statement with the utmost seriousness. We have [REDACTED] been very upset since we learned of this news on Thursday. With appreciation and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

**Statement From Faculty [REDACTED]
Concerning Stephen Hsu's [REDACTED]**

We [REDACTED] call for Stephen Hsu to resign as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation at Michigan State. As a result of his statements regarding race, genetics and IQ and [REDACTED] we have lost confidence in his judgement in evaluating faculty research.

We are shocked and dismayed to learn that, as documented by other MSU scholars, Hsu has publicly endorsed a website. The Unz Review, [REDACTED] Hsu has publicly praised and given a platform to the editor-in-chief and publisher of that website, Ron Unz. In a 2019 conversation on his blog, Hsu described Unz's website as "a platform where controversial ideas can be published," and a "leading source of alternative media on the internet;" he paraphrases Unz's belief that "what's written in elite media could be completely misleading or wrong," without offering any challenge. Unz then described his belief that the "elite media" purged the writings of extreme rightwing figures [REDACTED] Unz's website, which Hsu promotes without challenge, includes linked suggestions to "banned books," that include over thirty books [REDACTED] Although Unz claims that the site promotes views of the left and right, a simple scan of the site makes clear that rightwing attacks on racial equality dominate the articles published, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If Hsu did not read this website closely, then he is dangerously irresponsible in promoting it. If he did read it, he displays an indefensible disregard for the existence of truth, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are not making claims as to Hsu's personal beliefs or questioning his academic freedom as a faculty member, but his judgement as a formal officer of the university. These facts raise questions whether Hsu is capable of fairly judging sound, creditable research. These revelations have made faculty question his ability to do so.

As Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, Hsu has significant input into decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty, research funding for graduate students and faculty, and the ethical conduct of research at MSU. Hsu's uncritical promotion of a platform for individuals who deny truth and ignore historical and social scientific research should disqualify him from making major personnel or research decisions at our university.

Some faculty who are defending Hsu do so now in the name of academic freedom and the importance of being able to "ask hard questions" and take "unpopular positions;" they dismiss the idea that Hsu's judgement could be called into question because of his association with Unz as "guilt by association." But Hsu did not just "associate" with Unz – he has publicly and fulsomely praised the work Unz does as represented by his website, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moreover – and this is key – if Hsu were to flirt with these problematic positions simply as a faculty member – either as part of his research, or (as here) as part of subjects that are actually outside his area of academic expertise – *and* if we were asking for his dismissal as a faculty member, Hsu's statements would be protected by academic freedom and the rights of tenure. But we do not ask that he be fired: we ask that he be removed as VP of Research, a leadership position that rests on his ability to judge the research of others, and that rests on the confidence of the faculty for him to do so. He has the "freedom" to say what he wants as a tenured faculty member; he does *not* have those same freedoms, it seems to us, as the VP of Research, with its formal duties involving the assessment of fellow faculty.

Almost five hundred members of the MSU community -- the vast majority of them faculty -- have signed a letter claiming that they have lost confidence in Hsu's ability to make financial, personnel, and research decisions for the University; we too have lost that confidence. We think that MSU leadership can do better in choosing a new Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

June 17, 2020

Dear President Stanley,

We, [REDACTED] call for Stephen Hsu to resign as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation at Michigan State. As a result of his statements regarding race, genetics and IQ and -- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we have lost confidence in his judgement in evaluating faculty research.

We are shocked and dismayed to learn that, as documented by other MSU scholars, Hsu has publicly endorsed a website, The Unz Review, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Hsu has publicly praised and given a platform to the editor-in-chief and publisher of that website, Ron Unz. In a 2019 conversation on his blog, Hsu described Unz's website as "a platform where controversial ideas can be published," and a "leading source of alternative media on the internet;" he paraphrases Unz's belief that "what's written in elite media could be completely misleading or wrong," without offering any challenge. Unz then described his belief that the "elite media" purged the writings of extreme rightwing figures [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Unz's website, which Hsu promotes without challenge, includes linked suggestions to "banned books," that include over thirty books [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although Unz claims that the site promotes views of the left and right, a simple scan of the site makes clear that rightwing attacks on racial equality dominate the articles published. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] We are not making claims as to [REDACTED]

Hsu's personal beliefs or questioning his academic freedom as a faculty member, but his judgement as a formal officer of the university. These facts raise questions whether Hsu is capable of fairly judging sound, creditable research. These revelations have made faculty question his ability to do so.

As Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, Hsu has significant input into decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty, research funding for graduate students and faculty, and the ethical conduct of research at MSU. Hsu's uncritical promotion of a platform for individuals who deny truth and ignore historical and social scientific research should disqualify him from making major personnel or research decisions at our university.

Some faculty who are defending Hsu do so now in the name of academic freedom and the importance of being able to "ask hard questions" and take "unpopular positions;" they dismiss the idea that Hsu's judgement could be called into question because of his association with Unz as "guilt by association." But Hsu did not just "associate" with Unz – he has publicly and fulsomely praised the work Unz does as represented by his website. [REDACTED]

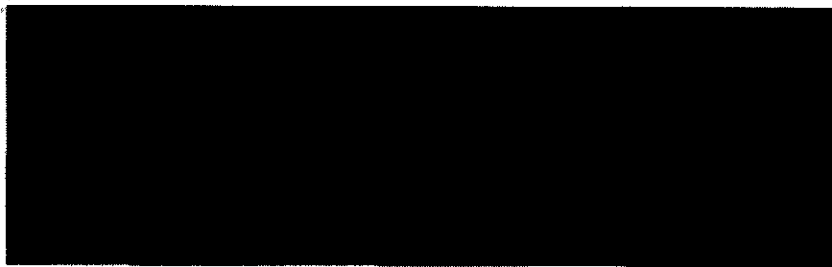
[REDACTED] Moreover – and this is key – if Hsu were to flirt with these problematic positions simply as a faculty member – either as part of his research, or (as here) as part of subjects that are actually outside his area of academic expertise – *and* if we were asking for his dismissal as a faculty member, Hsu's statements would be protected by academic freedom and the rights of tenure. But we do not ask that he be fired: we ask that he be removed as VP of Research, a leadership position that rests on his ability to judge the research of others, and that rests on the confidence of the faculty for him to do so. He has the "freedom" to say what he wants as a tenured faculty member; he does *not* have those same freedoms, it seems to us, as the VP of Research, with its formal duties involving the assessment of fellow faculty.

Almost five hundred members of the MSU community -- the vast majority of them faculty -- have signed a letter claiming that they have lost confidence in Hsu's ability to make financial, personnel, and research decisions for the University; we too have lost that confidence. We think that MSU leadership can do better in choosing a new Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



http://www.unz.com/

Go

APR MAY JUN

16

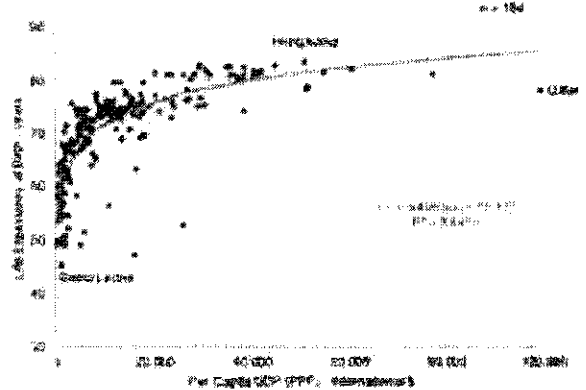
2018 2019 2020

3,375 COMMENTS

10 Jun 2000 - 13 Jun 2020

The Unz Review: An Alternative Media Selection

A Collection of Interesting, Important, and Controversial Perspectives Largely Excluded from the American Mainstream Media



The Disinformationists

C.J. HOPKINS • 12 COMMENTS

The Lies About World War II

PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS • 286 COMMENTS

American Pravda: How Hitler Saved the Allies

RON UNZ • 545 COMMENTS

Judgment Day for John Brennan

MIKE WHITNEY • 176 COMMENTS

The Deal of the Century

Trump Team and Netanyahu conspire to sell out the Palestinians

PHILIP GIRALDI • 323 COMMENTS

Escape from America: Mexico

LINH DINH • 186 COMMENTS

Jews and the Left by Philip Mendes: A Review

BRENTON SANDERSON • 56 COMMENTS

A Week in the Life of the Empire

THE SAKER • 124 COMMENTS

The Green New Deal, Israel, and Mayor Pete

STEPHEN J. SNIEGOSKI • 150 COMMENTS

Eudaimonic Economics

GUILLAUME DUROCHER • 12 COMMENTS

COLUMNISTS

From Unz: Economics Column

American Pravda: How Hitler Saved the Allies

• 545 Comments

Class Action: The War-torn Who

Antisemitism Is Now a Mass Movement in Britain

• 88 Comments

Why Not Make Parliament Into a Holocaust Memorial? • 67 Comments

Expose: The Labour Party Treats Palestinian Supporters as Mental Cases • 11 Comments

News Alerts: Truth Justice

Podcasts

Adam Green of KnowMoreNews on Censorship; Binoy Kampmark on Assange • Leave a Comment

Kerry Bolton: Islamophobia Is the Conservatism of Fools • 40 Comments

Her Education: Mr. Philosophy Review

Unz: Tariffs: The Taxes That Made America Great • 45 Comments

Are All the World's Problems Ours? • 68 Comments

Is Bolton Steering Trump Into War with Iran? • 86 Comments

John Cook: Independent Foreign Correspondent



Divided We Stand: Israelis Splitting from American Jews—American Whites Splitting from Each Other

JAMES KIRKPATRICK • 91 COMMENTS



Too Bad Kirstjen Nielsen Isn't Trump's Daughter

ILANA MERCER • 99 COMMENTS



Excluded Schoolchildren

JAMES THOMPSON • 156 COMMENTS



Why Shouldn't the Boston Marathon Bomber Vote? U.S. Politicians Radicalized Him

MAX PARRY • 41 COMMENTS



Historic North African Gene Flow Into Europe

GUILLAUME DUROCHER • 210 COMMENTS



On the Avoidability of World War One

NICK KOLLERSTROM • 273 COMMENTS



The Holy Hook
Yahweh's Trojan Horse into the Gentile City

LAURENT GUYENOT • 839 COMMENTS



Dragged Across Concrete (2019) and the Art of Cinematic Trolling

MAX WEST • 57 COMMENTS



What's in a Cartoon?
Netanyahu guide dog leads a blind and ignorant Trump

PHILIP GIRALDI • 831 COMMENTS



Trump Derangement Syndrome Blocks Action On Immigration, Higher Ed Crises (They're Related)

JOHN DERBYSHIRE • 125 COMMENTS



The Smearing of the Peer

ISRAEL SHAMIR • 65 COMMENTS



Facebook Censorship: White Supremacy of the Most Hypocritical Type

MICHAEL HOFFMAN • 177 COMMENTS



China and Russia: Whoopin' Uncle Sam at His Own Game

MIKE WHITNEY • 245 COMMENTS



Are Women, Like New Zealand's Ardern—or Gays, Like U.S. Dems' Buttigieg—REALLY Suited to Politics?

LANCE WELTON • 174 COMMENTS

NEW Brexit and Austerity: The Toxic Cocktail the Young Can't Escape • 5 Comments

Saudi Oil Tanker 'Sabotage' Is a Dangerous Moment in US-Iran Tensions • 25 Comments

Europe Has No Power in the Escalating US-Iran Conflict • 22 Comments

Jonathan Cook • Our American Narratives B

Annexation of West Bank May Provide Key to Unlocking Netanyahu's Legal Troubles • 6 Comments

John Derbyshire • Herodotus Derivatives B

Trump Derangement Syndrome Blocks Action On Immigration, Higher Ed Crises (They're Related) • 125 Comments

Jim Doherty • Plundering from the Edge of America B

Escape from America: Mexico • 166 Comments

Guillaume Durocher • The Act-Fixes-Impersonation B

NEW Eudaimonic Economics • 12 Comments

Historic North African Gene Flow Into Europe • 210 Comments

Tommy Donohue • The Department B

Decriminalizing the Drug War? • Alfred McCoy • 14 Comments

Brian Paulsen • Gabe & Bernie Podcasts

FBI Sued for Failure to Provide 9/11 Evidence to Congress, #404 with David Meiswinkle, Mick Harrison, Barbara Honegger, and Richard Gage • 1 Comment

Henry Girard • National Intelligence B

NEW The Deal of the Century • 323 Comments

What's in a Cartoon? • 831 Comments

Paul Gottlieb • Scribble - Scribble in the Narrow B

Joe Scotchie: Recovering Authentic (= Politically Incorrect) Conservatism • 21 Comments

Tom Hodge • Covid-19: Public Markets B

NEW The Disinformationists • 12 Comments















Andrew Rossiter • Long-Term Economic Outlook B

The Delphic Oracle Was Their Davos • 108 Comments

Timothy Lynch • How Set a New for White House B

Martin Scorsese's *The Aviator* • 120 Comments

Eric Margolis • Was Herbert at the Top of the World B

-  **Young, Male, and Single**
PETER FROST • 284 COMMENTS
-  **Charlottesville Redux: There's Still Time for Trump DOJ to Investigate Antifa—and Stop Our Slide Into Civil War**
CHARLOTTEVILLE SURVIVOR • 101 COMMENTS
-  **Pence A Christian? POMPEO?**
There Are Christians Who Love and Christians Who Hate
FRED REED • 315 COMMENTS
-  **World IQ 82**
Becker update V1.3.2
JAMES THOMPSON • 1,395 COMMENTS
-  **Zionism, Crypto-Judaism, and the Biblical Hoax**
LAURENT GUYENOT • 593 COMMENTS
-  **American Pravda: Holocaust Denial**
RON UNZ • 2,327 COMMENTS
-  **Pfizer Kicks Against the Pricks**
Replies to a reviewer and to blog commentators
JAMES THOMPSON • 312 COMMENTS
-  **Tucker Carlson Takes On Venezuela Intervention**
BRAD GRIFFIN • 140 COMMENTS
-  **Prison for a Cartoon in the France of Voltaire**
The Persecution of Alain Soral
JEAN MAROIS • 207 COMMENTS
-  **A Flat, Gray, Silent World**
How PC and Minority-Worship Cripple the Intellect
TOBIAS LANGDON • 55 COMMENTS
-  **Behold the Breathtaking Weakness of the Empire!**
THE SAKER • 363 COMMENTS
-  **Martin Scorsese's *The Aviator***
TREVOR LYNCH • 120 COMMENTS
-  **Blame Palestinians for Gaza**
Israel is the perpetual victim
PHILIP GIRALDI • 488 COMMENTS
-  **Book Review: Andrew Yang - the War on Normal People**
~7% Chance This Guy Will Be President Come 2020. Let's Review His Book.
ANATOLY KARLIN • 345 COMMENTS

- Bomb Iran Half Way Back to the Stone Age**
• 42 Comments
Alvin Mariani • The President's Foreign Policy
- Too Bad Kirstjen Nielsen Isn't Trump's Daughter**
• 99 Comments
Matthew Longfellow • Freedom Writer
- Did the Attorney General Deceive Congress?**
• 27 Comments
John White • Republican Foreign Policy
- Losing Income Tax Privacy Is a Real Danger**
• 10 Comments
James Pollock • Radical Secretary
- United States and Venezuela: A Historical Background** • Leave a Comment
Fred Reed • Free Of Bureaucrats
- Pence A Christian? POMPEO?** • 315 Comments
Phil Long Roberts • American Right Reporter
- new! The Tariff Issue**
- The Lies About World War II** • 286 Comments
- Trump Is Being Set-Up for War with Iran**
The Saker • The Saker on His Website
- A Week in the Life of the Empire** • 124 Comments
John White • The President's Foreign Policy
- The Smearing of the Peer** • 65 Comments
James Thompson • Penetration Campaign
- new! Your IQ in 2 Minutes** • 16 Comments
- Excluded Schoolchildren** • 156 Comments
John White • Economic Collapse/Recess
- new! The Democrats Just Led the Country on a Three Year-Long Wild Goose Chase. Will They Apologize?** • 4 Comments
- Judgment Day for John Brennan** • 178 Comments
- ARCHIVED BLOGS AND COLUMNS**
RODG KISS • GRXP
- Endings & New Beginnings**
December 1, 2015 • 48 Comments
Carlotta Arellano • Ask a Mexican!
- Why the IAsk a Mexican! Column Has Come to an Adios** • 152 Comments



Jim Goad's New Book: A Banquet of Anti-Anti-Whiteness!

JOHN DERBYSHIRE • 392 COMMENTS



Fifty Years of Apocalyptic Global Warming Predictions and Why People Believe Them

Earth Day, 2019
PETER BAGGINS PH.D. • 658 COMMENTS



Frontiersmen vs. Wusses

LINH DINH • 216 COMMENTS



The Conspiracy Against Trump
The Deep State plot to undermine the president

PHILIP GIRALDI • 436 COMMENTS



'The Holocaust' Is a Myth That Conceals Our Shame

KEVIN BARRETT • 613 COMMENTS



Black Career Criminal "Randomly" Targets White 5-Year-Old Boy, Throws Him Off 3rd Floor Balcony at Mall of America

PAUL KERSEY • 212 COMMENTS



America as Religion

LINH DINH • 750 COMMENTS



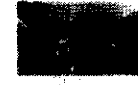
The Moon Landings: A Giant Hoax for Mankind?

An introduction to the mother of all conspiracy theories
MOON LANDING SKEPTIC • 1,563 COMMENTS



American Pravda: Amazon Book Censorship

Banning Black Historiography During Black History Month
RON UNZ • 690 COMMENTS



Did Israel Kill the Kennedys?

LAURENT GUYENOT • 568 COMMENTS



9/11 Was an Israeli Job
How America was neoconned into World War IV

LAURENT GUYENOT • 332 COMMENTS



The Broken Presidential Destiny of JFK, Jr.

Israel's "Kennedy Curse"?
LAURENT GUYENOT • 321 COMMENTS



Meet Australian Aborigines—They Make African Americans Look Like A Model Minority

LANCE WELTON • 246 COMMENTS

Andrew Brennan • The Carnot Lecture 8
We're All Zombies • 55 Comments

Abraham Lincoln • Barack Obama (1947-2012) 8
Truth and Fiction in Elie Wiesel's "Night" • 173 Comments

Correspondence • Europe South Asian Business 8
After the Kensington Inferno, Many in Britain Will Rethink Deregulation • 45 Comments

Norwegian Folklore • Holocaust: Denial/Revision 8
'To Live or to Perish' • 126 Comments

Sam Houston • Russia: Post-Soviet (1991-2005) 8
Bush Inaugural Embraces Liberalism • 4 Comments

France: Paris • Anthropological History 8
Farewell to Henry • 53 Comments

A. Patrick Long • Sir Bernard Ingham 8
The President Is Not CinC of the US • 103 Comments

China: Law • China Matters 8
Four Corners/Fairfax Levels Up to US-Class National Security Steno Work on China • 4 Comments

Jackman • A Transatlantic for the Future 8
My 23andMe Results • 42 Comments

Robert Schuler • Technology in Class 8
Fred Branfman Risked His Life for Ordinary People • 16 Comments

Joseph Schmitt • Miscellaneous National Review 8
Smearing a Pope • 3 Comments

Most Popular	One Week
RON UNZ American Pravda: How Hitler Saved the Allies	
MIKE WHITNEY Judgment Day For John Brennan	
PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS The Lies About World War II	
THE SAKER A week in the life of the Empire	
NICK KOLLERSTROM On the Avoidability of World War One	
JAMES KIRKPATRICK Divided We Stand: Israelis Splitting From American Jews— American Whites Splitting From Each Other	



America's Jews Are Driving America's Wars

Shouldn't they recuse themselves when dealing with the Middle East?

PHILIP GIRALDI • 1,317 COMMENTS



American Pravda: Post-War France and Post-War Germany

RON UNZ • 527 COMMENTS



American Pravda: Oddities of the Jewish Religion

RON UNZ • 1,657 COMMENTS



The Remarkable Historiography of David Irving

RON UNZ • 578 COMMENTS

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE MEDIA

- American Renaissance
- Antiwar.com
- Counter Currents
- Dissident Voice
- Global Research
- Juan Cole
- LowRockwell
- MondoWeiss
- Moon of Alabama
- Nation of Islam
- Occidental Observer
- Russia Insider
- Sic Semper Tyrannis
- TomDispatch
- Tom Woods
- Truthdig
- VDare
- Vineyard of the Saker
- West Hunter
- Who What Why
- World Socialist Website
- ZeroHedge

From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate you taking the time to share with me your concerns regarding Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu. Please know that I hear your concerns, and I am looking into the matter further. The university will take any appropriate measures that are warranted following a complete review of the concerns you and others have raised.

Sincerely,
Samuel L. Stanley Jr.



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Office of the President
426 Auditorium Road, Room 450 | East Lansing, MI 48824
Office: 517 355.6560 | Email: [REDACTED]

Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]; Office of the Provost, MSU
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am once again attaching the latest copy of the letter led by the faculty calling for the removal of Stephen Hsu as Vice President of Research and Innovation. As of today at 2 p.m., it has been signed by 339 faculty, 24 students, and 72 staff members, all Michigan State employees. I have verified all signatures. The letter may also be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jb7w02E5GAdrJ_QnAokp7IerP_V8DridmQ-rI9M2TAE/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you for your ongoing attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

Once again, we are attaching an updated version of the letter calling for Stephen Hsu to be removed from his current position as Vice President for Research and Innovation. The letter now has 299 signatures. I have been contacted by a reporter from the Lansing State Journal about this issue. We eagerly await a response.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

Please find attached an updated version of the letter, now with 208 signatories.

We eagerly await your response.
Thank you,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

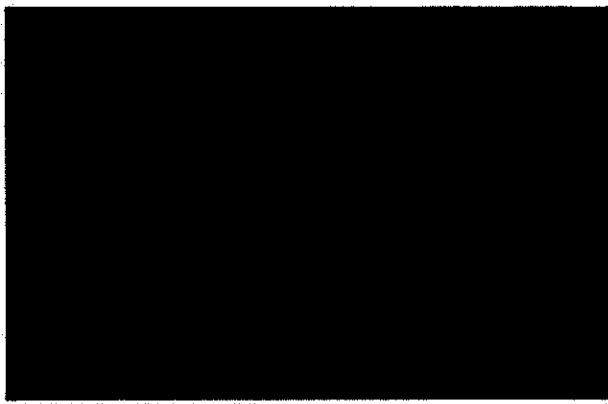
President Stanley,

Attached, please find a letter calling for the resignation of Stephen Hsu as Vice President for Research and Innovation, signed by fifty-four faculty and staff, including several department chairs, endowed chairs, and directors. We the faculty are profoundly disturbed by the racist and sexist views held by Dr. Hsu as revealed in a series of blog posts and videos posted to twitter by graduate students over the past two days (which may be seen here: <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>). We believe these views render him unfit for his current position, in light of MSU's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. I would also call your attention to a petition for Dr. Hsu's resignation started by the graduate students, which currently has 157 signatories including faculty, students, and alumni:

<https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>

We are counting on you to follow through on your commitment to make MSU an inclusive institution where all faculty, students and staff can feel safe and thrive. We welcome your prompt attention to this matter, and will update you as the letter gains more signatories.

Thank you,





From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Removal of Dr. Stephen Hsu as MSU Senior VP for Research and Innovation

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate you taking the time to share with me your concerns regarding Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu. Please know that I hear your concerns, and I am looking into the matter further. The university will take any appropriate measures that are warranted following a complete review of the concerns you and others have raised.

Sincerely,
Samuel L. Stanley Jr.



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Office of the President
426 Auditorium Road, Room 450 | East Lansing, MI 48824
Office: 517.358.6560 | Email: [REDACTED]

Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:13 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: Goodwin, Marni [REDACTED]; Zelg, Michael [REDACTED]
Subject: Removal of Dr. Stephen Hsu as MSU Senior VP for Research and Innovation

Dear President Stanley:

Given institutional racism, unrelenting murders of Black folk due to police brutality and other racist acts; xenophobic actions against Latinx and Asians; near annihilation of Native Americans, unjust legal system; unequal K-12 educational system; unjust lending and housing systems, it is egregious to have to grapple with the knowledge that the MSU Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation engages with Right-wing racists in conversations that appear to promote eugenics and white supremacy. See attached articles.

- "Chinese project probes the genetics of genius" in *Nature*, Oct. 2, 2013


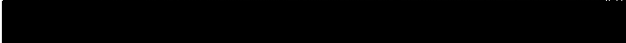
- "Ethics: Taboo genetics" in *Nature*, Oct. 2, 2013
- "American Pravda: How Hitler Saved the Allies" in "The Unz Review: An Alternative Media Selection, May 13, 2019
- "Stephen Hsu and the Ethical Responsibility of Scientists" post by John Jackson
<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/13/hsu-ethical-responsibility/>

The link below shows the depths to which eugenics sank.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY6ZroI5QEg>

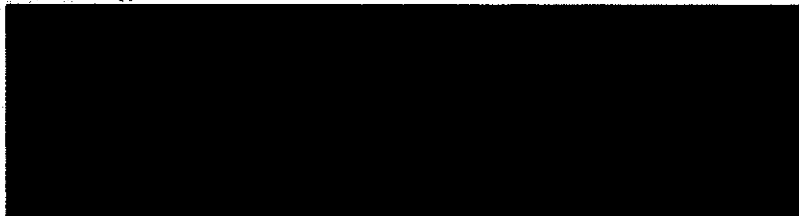
When and where will this all end? Why is MSU willing to have a high-level official who associates himself with such ideas? Presumed research funding that he might bring to the University?

MSU says that it promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion, but perhaps these ideals can be discarded or overlooked when convenient. Perhaps, VP Hsu is the only person who can help MSU achieve whatever it is that MSU wants. We strongly hope it is not true, because if it is, it would mean that MSU throws diversity, values, equity, fairness, inclusion, awareness, responsibility, and decency to the winds.

VP Stephen Hsu needs to be replaced in his position as Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation. 
 calls upon you to fire/replace/remove Dr. Stephen Hsu as MSU Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Stated principles do NOT matter if MSU DOES not practice them.

Sincerely,



From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Letter Regarding Stephen Hsu [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate you taking the time to share with me your concerns regarding Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu. Please know that I hear your concerns, and I am looking into the matter further. The university will take any appropriate measures that are warranted following a complete review of the concerns you and others have raised.

Sincerely,
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Office of the President
426 Auditorium Road, Room 450 | East Lansing, MI 48824
Office: 517.355.6560 | Email: [REDACTED]

Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 10:38 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: Curry, Theodore [REDACTED]; Sullivan, Teresa [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter Regarding Stephen Hsu From [REDACTED]

Dear President Stanley,

We, the [REDACTED] call for Stephen Hsu to resign as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation at Michigan State. As a result of his statements regarding race, genetics and IQ, and most importantly for us as scholars [REDACTED] his promotion of scholars who traffic in conspiracy theories [REDACTED] many faculty have lost confidence in his judgement concerning evaluating faculty research.

We have been shocked and dismayed to learn that, as documented by other MSU scholars on the alt-right and scientific racism, Hsu has publicly endorsed a website that [REDACTED] Hsu has publicly praised and given a platform to the editor-in chief and publisher of that website, Ron Unz. In a 2019 conversation on his blog, Hsu repeated Unz's critique of the "elite media," which Unz believes purged the writings of extreme rightwing figures [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Unz's website, which Hsu promotes as "a platform where controversial ideas can be published," includes linked suggestions to "banned books," that include over thirty books [REDACTED] Although Unz claims that the site promotes views of the left and right, a simple scan of the site makes clear that rightwing attacks on racial equality dominate the articles published, [REDACTED]

If Hsu did not read this website closely, then he is dangerously irresponsible in promoting it. If he did read it, he displays horrifying disregard for the existence of truth, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These facts raise questions whether Hsu is capable of fairly judging sound, credible research. Certainly, these revelations have made faculty question his ability to do so.

As Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, Hsu has significant input into decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty, research funding for graduate students and faculty, and the ethical conduct of research at MSU. Hsu's public support for and promotion of figures who deny truth and ignore historical and social scientific research should disqualify him from making major financial, personnel or research decisions at our university.

Some faculty who are defending Hsu do so now in the name of "academic freedom" and the importance of being able to "ask hard questions" and take "unpopular positions;" they dismiss the idea that Hsu's judgement could be called into question because of his association with Unz as "guilt by association." But Hsu did not just "associate" with Unz – he has publicly and fulsomely praised the work Unz does as represented by his website. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moreover – and this is key – if Hsu were to flirt with these problematic positions simply as a faculty member – either as part of his research, or (as is the case here) as part of subjects that are actually outside his area of academic expertise – *and* if we were asking for his dismissal as a faculty member, Hsu's statements might be protected by academic freedom and the rights of tenure. But we are not asking for his firing: we are asking that he be removed from his position as VP of Research, a leadership position that rests on his ability to judge the research of others, and that rests on the confidence of the faculty for him to do so. He has the "freedom" to say what he wants as a tenured faculty member; he does *not* have those same freedoms, it seems to us, as the VP of Research and the duties that come with that position.

Almost three hundred faculty from across the university have signed a letter claiming that they have lost confidence in Hsu's ability to make financial, personnel, and research decisions for the University, and we have also lost that confidence. We believe that for a position such as his, faculty perceptions of his judgement are crucial. We think that MSU can do better in choosing a new Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



From: Torng, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: Jeitschko, Thomas; Esfahanian, Abdol
Subject: Dr. Hsu
Attachments: StephenHsu.pdf

Dear President Stanley,

With this email, I submit to you my thoughts on the controversy surrounding Dr. Hsu.

Best wishes,



Eric Torng
Associate Dean
The Graduate School

Associate Chair for Research and Faculty Development,
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
(517) 353-3543
<http://www.cse.msu.edu/~torng>
Pronouns: he/him/his

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

June 17, 2020

Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

Dear President Stanley,

I am writing to express my thoughts regarding the suitability of Dr. Stephen Hsu to continue in his role as MSU's Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. It is

Dr. Hsu



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Eric Tomg
Associate Dean

Michigan State University
230H Chittenden Hall
East Lansing, Michigan
48824-1226

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Department of
Computer Science
and Engineering

Eric Tomg
Associate Professor
and Associate Chair
for Research and
Faculty Development

Michigan State University
3115 Engineering Building
East Lansing, Michigan
48824-1226

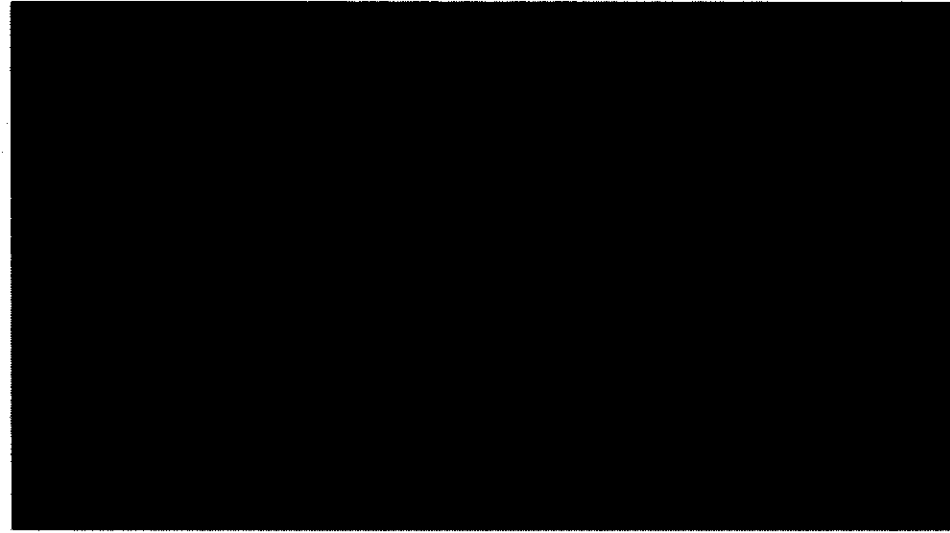
(517) 353-8843
FAX: (517) 432-1061

The fundamental issues underlying this controversy are the following:

1. What are the core values of MSU, particularly with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion?
2. What are the expectations of leaders at MSU to embody these values?
3. How should leaders at MSU engage with those who disagree with them and respond when they make mistakes?

1. Paraphrasing your powerful messaging from the past few weeks, one of the core values at MSU is building a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment that respects people of all backgrounds and experiences. Going further, we must acknowledge that racism and systemic bias exist in society at large as well as within higher education including MSU itself, and MSU must not only address these issues internally but also should be a leader in the national and international fight against racism and systemic bias.

2. With respect to expectations of leaders at MSU such as the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, these leaders must adhere to a higher standard of conduct beyond those of regular faculty and staff because their actions reflect not only their own personal beliefs and values but those of MSU as well. Specifically, Dr. Hsu not only has broad authority and oversight for the entire research enterprise at MSU but also is its de facto representative. In this leadership role, he should be an exemplar of MSU's fight against racism and systemic bias.



3. The most effective leaders are ones that can engage with those who disagree with them in a professional manner trying to understand the issues and concerns that others might have, and, if necessary, own up to any mistakes they may have made.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- *"We are committed to building an inclusive environment here at MSU, one that recognizes and respects people of all backgrounds and experiences."* (May 29, 2020 message from both you and Interim Provost Sullivan).
- *"From my first day in office, I said I would work tirelessly to foster a safer, more respectful and more welcoming campus at MSU. While we have made progress, we still have much to do so that all members of our Spartan community feel safe, welcomed, respected and supported."* (June 4, 2020 message from you to alumni/ae donors)

I write this statement to you from my perspective having served in multiple roles at MSU: associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Associate Chair for Research and Faculty Development (CSE), former Graduate Director (CSE), and Associate Dean of the Graduate School. A common theme to all of these positions has been my engagement with graduate students and faculty as we seek to make MSU a better place. [REDACTED]

In summary, [REDACTED]

Sincerely yours, [REDACTED]

Eric Tornig
Associate Dean, MSU Graduate School
Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Research and Faculty Development, MSU
Department of Computer Science and Engineering

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]
Subject: In support of Steve Hsu and academic freedom

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In support of Steve Hsu and academic freedom

I am a proud and successful Spartan Alumni.

I am strongly anti-racist, anti-sexist and pro-equality.

I am against rule by twitter mobs.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Dr. Stephan Hsu

Dear Dr. Stanley,

I am writing to express my outrage at the efforts of MSU GEU to have Dr. Stephen Hsu fired on baseless grounds of racism and sexism. The misguided and vicious employees at your university are using Soviet-era bullying and shaming tactics so far removed from serious academic inquiry that they stand as an embarrassment to your institution. Placating to such a group would make you and MSU look cowardly.

As a member of the public, I implore you to make the proper decision, which is to ignore [REDACTED] and the petulant demands of the GEU.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: Quinn, Brian
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Hsu [REDACTED] - PRIVILEGED
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Attorney-Client Privileged

[REDACTED]

Brian Quinn
Vice President of Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Michigan State University
Office of General Counsel
Hannah Administration Building
426 Auditorium Road, Room 494
East Lansing, MI 48824
Direct: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Regarding Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I understand there is or soon will be a petition before you to fire Professor Stephen Hsu for his views on race and gender. I wish to urge you, as former faculty at MSU, not to do this. I do not agree with some of Professor Hsu's conclusions, but he is a scientist whose interest in following the best available research is clearly motivated by sincere truth-seeking. I was happy to share a university with him, I believe he has done good work at MSU, and I do not believe he deserves to lose his job.

I prefer to write to you rather than appending my name to the prominent counter-petition in circulation firstly because I do not agree with all of the language used in that document, but more importantly because I would like to comment on one of the empirical claims made in the original petition, namely that female or minority faculty who were aware of Hsu's opinions and research must necessarily feel his handling of their reappointment and promotion cases would be biased. [REDACTED] Professor Hsu, or his office, presumably [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I had read his blog fairly thoroughly, was aware of his views, and was not concerned about my career being handled unfairly. Having a scientific interest in difficult or sensitive questions is not the same thing, in my view, as holding biased views of individuals.

Thank you for your attention. I expect that your office is inundated with communications at the moment, so please don't consider that there is any need for a reply.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:28 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President, Office of the Provost, MSU; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear [REDACTED]

It is getting to the level that is out of control on both sites. Our original intention was to provide a site to let people to hear opinions on the other side and show their supports if they'd like.

It is very sad to see some inappropriate behaviors to attack both sites. We just set up a new google link with a bit better security control for our petition. You may want to do the same to avoid those attacks.

Thanks for informing us.

All:

Again, sorry to reply this email to all of you.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:57 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [redacted] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [redacted] Office of the
Provost, MSU

[redacted]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear [redacted]
Well, this is ironic—your own petition [redacted] contains bogus names at the moment, including [redacted] name. I hope you have a system for quality control. Also, could you please tell your supporter [redacted] to stop deleting the text in our own letter? [redacted] all who signed the MSU faculty-led letter not to interfere with [redacted] or to harrass any of those who signed.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:25 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [redacted] Office of the
Provost, MSU

[redacted]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [redacted]

In any case, I think you need to make clear that [redacted]

Best, [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 2:14 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [redacted]
"Office of the Provost, MSU" [redacted]

[redacted]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Will you note that this is an edit and that my post was accurate in using the word [REDACTED]

Also, please reference to my [REDACTED] One disturbing thing is that every letter supporting Hsu only references the GEU Twitter thread as if that is the extent of the concerns. Not only is this punching down to the graduate students but it ignores thousands of words explaining the issues I've written. It is almost as if, in soliciting those letters, no one informed them of my criticisms. Rather than suggesting to [REDACTED] as Hsu does, that the sole attacks are from a "Twitter mob," whom then Hsu says he is considering suing, please make sure you note that I am an expert on these issues and have leveled a serious, well-sourced, critique of Hsu's actions.

In other words, start picking on someone your own size and quit picking on the brave graduate students who are courageously punching way above their weight class.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Office of the Provost, MSU

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

The letter will read

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:57 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,

President" "Office of the Provost, MSU"

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Apologies to everyone in the thread for the flood of messages [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:49 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

I disagree. I believe it directly from the feed. If you can provide the entire feed in searchable form from the beginning we can resolve this issue.

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:45 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,

President" "Office of the Provost, MSU"

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] am well aware of Unz and stated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:37 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

If you look at my letter is says [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If you have a problem with it, take it up with them.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:20 PM

To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,
President" [REDACTED] "Office of the Provost, MSU" [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

[REDACTED]
I did not see your message this morning and I apologize for missing it. The first line of your section on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As for the paragraph you somehow view as exculpatory I will point out this sentence:
[REDACTED]

In other words, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

And, since you refuse to click over the [REDACTED] let me spoon feed you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We don't know because Hsu has been completely silent on the issue.

For everyone else on this thread, I realize you may be annoyed by the clutter in your inbox caused by this conversation. On the other hand, I don't see how you can close your eyes to this, as [REDACTED] obviously has.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:05 PM
To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
[REDACTED] Office of the Provost, MSU
Cc: [REDACTED]

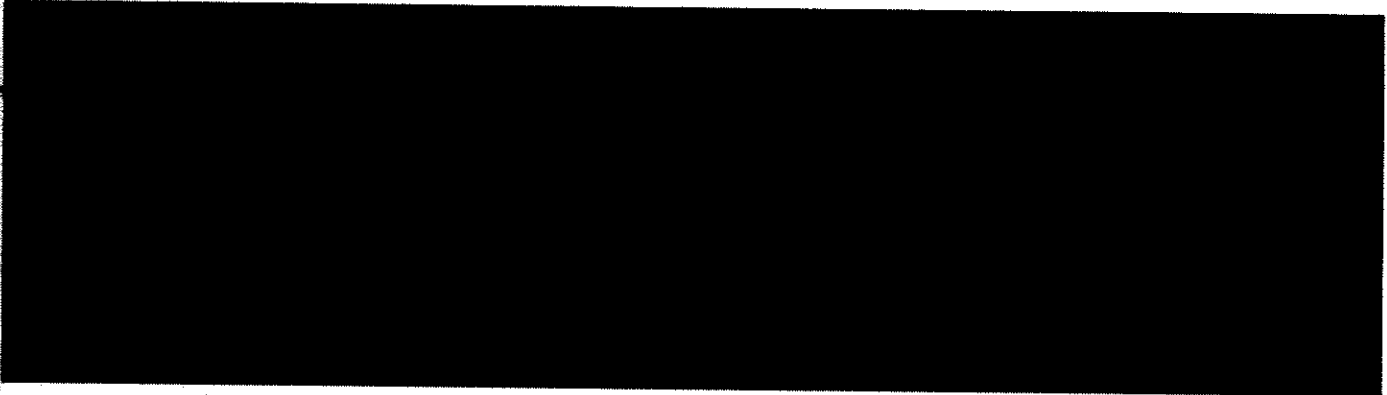
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

I wrote to you at 8:42 am this morning requesting a correction to your blog post. It is now 4 hours later and there has been no correction. In the meantime you have communicated about other issues. For the record, on your post you write:

[REDACTED]



My view statement characterizes the views of others. As I mentioned in second email to you this morning, the next sentences in my letter are logically inconsistent with my having any views on [redacted] position.

I hereby request again that you correct this immediately.

Best, [redacted]

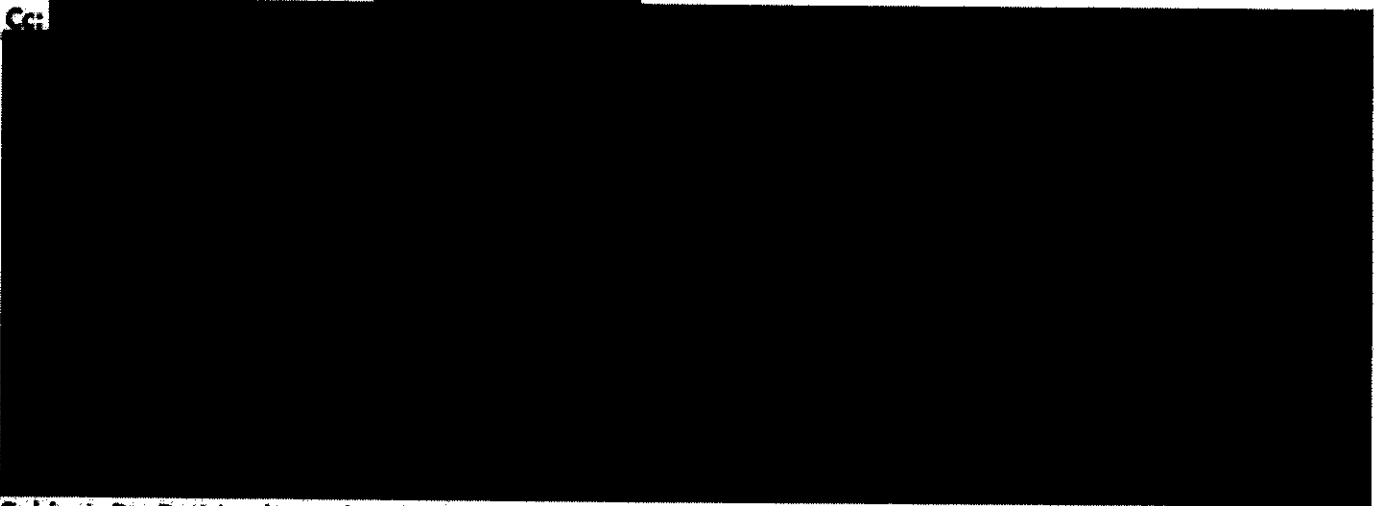
From: [redacted]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM

To: [redacted] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" <[redacted]>

"Office of the Provost, MSU" [redacted]

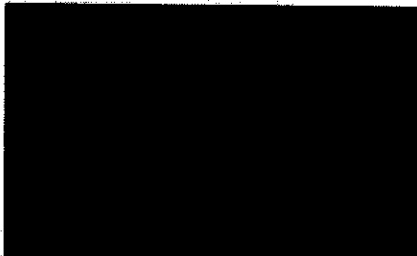
Cc: [redacted]



Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://alrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President <[REDACTED]>; Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED]



From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:26 PM

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]

I support Steven Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I am writing in support of the academic freedom for Dr. Steven Hsu. In light of brevity, I will make this to-the-point.

I am troubled by the increase in social justice pressures to silence dissenting views, particularly on campuses. These are places of higher learning, thought experiments, and a place where dogma is challenged, not cultivated. Please stand with us in supporting academic freedom, and Steven Hsu in making a statement that no one has the right to silence discussion through intimidation. Open discussion with facts and data is our tool of choice, let's welcome them to discussion not reinforce their intimidation tactics.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: A Note on Current Debate Involving S. Hsu
Attachments: [REDACTED] final draft for Hsu meeting with fellow faculty[1].docx

Dear President of Michigan State University, Prof. Samuel L. Stanley Jr.

I am writing to express concern that the highly politicized discussion about Senior Vice-President (VP) Prof. Stephen Hsu may shadow other problems that the signatories of the attached letter raised about one year ago.

On [REDACTED] I met with Stephen Hsu to express concerns about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The attached letter was shared and discussed with Prof. Hsu. After the meeting, the letter was also sent to then Acting President Udpa, and, more recently, to you.

I have not endorsed any of the letters in favor or against the removal of Stephen Hsu from his VP position. I believe, the two sides involved used inadequate arguments. Those requesting you to maintain Stephen Hsu argue in favor of Academic freedom. But nobody is questioning Stephen Hsu's tenure at MSU. The ongoing discussions involve his role as VP, and eminently political position. On the other side, those requesting Hsu's removal argue that his research and public appearances amount to racist/sexist behavior. Through my interactions with Stephen Hsu (which involve collaborative research, discussion about university matters, and personal interactions unrelated to MS) I do not have elements to establish that Stephen Hsu has engaged in racist research/activism.

However,

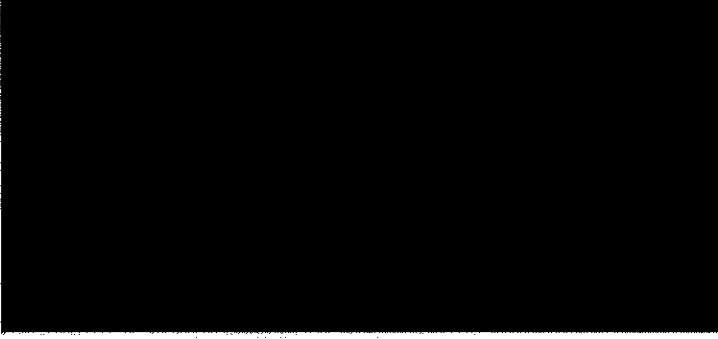
1) [REDACTED]

2) [REDACTED]

3) Finally, I am convinced that Hsu's systematic engagement in the debate of highly controversial issues such as embryo selection is not compatible with the position of Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, as his constant public appearances can damage MSU's reputation.

I highly value Academic Freedom. Faculty should be free to engage in scientifically motivated debates, even if these debates involve controversial issues. But the VP's position is political, and a senior VP must be very careful not to damage MSU's reputation.

Sincerely,



[REDACTED]

Faculty and employees of Michigan State University have the responsibility to uphold high ethical standards and

[REDACTED]

the public image of Michigan State University. Our concerns are:

(1)

[REDACTED]

(2)

[REDACTED]

(3)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:30 PM

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

On Steve Hsus good character and strong moral fiber

Dear President Stanley,

I am writing in support of Steve Hsu.

I am not a personal friend of Professor Hsu but have had the pleasure of reading his Infoproc blog. I have always found him to be someone who approaches subjects with acute intelligence and remarkable broad mindedness. He is also a man of significant academic and entrepreneurial accomplishment whose association with your school only does it honor. He is not a racist or a sexist.

Bowing to the wishes of the people demanding his resignation for careful statements which have been misconstrued would send exactly the wrong message about Michigan State University and academic freedom. I hope that you give careful consideration to the decision that you make.

Rule Justly.

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:16 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Professor Steve Hsu

Dear Dr Stanley-

I am writing to urge you to avoid taking action against Professor Hsu based on a response to input from hate groups. We lost two excellent faculty members from a similar situation at The Evergreen State College because of the behavior of a weak willed president who only wanted to placate student and staff protestors. The college has suffered loss of enrollment and stature due to these actions. I urge you to talk with people on both sides of the issue and take a rational approach to solving the problem.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Steve Hsu

President Stanley,

I am writing to express my support for Prof. Steve Hsu in his research and leadership roles at MSU. I have known Steve since [REDACTED]. His intelligence, fairness, integrity, and rationality make him a person who should be held up as a positive example of what we should all aspire to in academia. Supporting Prof. Hsu at this moment in history is supporting the spirit of inquiry and independent thinking in American universities.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Steve Hsu

Dear Sir,

Even in Europe we hear about the attempt of some faculty and students at MSU to remove Steve Hsu from his actual position at the university.

All the accusations against Steve Hsu I have read exhibit a surprising lack of intellectual honesty; some are outright attacks on academic freedom.

I hope that you recognize that the "desire to fire" Steve Hsu asks for censorship. As John Stuart Mill wrote long ago, opinions need to be corrected by argument, not by the use of power.

I hope you will be able to resist the pressure of (even well-meaning) protesters and hold up the humanistic ideals of the university. You may have the opportunity to reaffirm what liberal education really means – not only to the MSU community, but well beyond.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: in support of Dr. Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I am not a member of the Michigan State community, and I thank you for your patience in allowing me to comment in this matter. I am a researcher and a teacher, and my understanding is that Dr. Hsu is very good at both. But mainly I am writing for having been given the impression that Dr. Hsu's job is at stake at least in part because he has promoted research that goes against current collectively believed theories of human behavior, which is what scientists are supposed to do. As someone who has benefitted from undergraduate and graduate training in the social sciences, I would not like to see the spirit of scientific inquiry limited, which could be an unfortunate knock-on effect of dismissing Dr. Hsu in the current environment.

I also imagine that being a university president is a stressful job at the best of times, and these are not the best of times. I hope you are doing well and getting comfort and rest.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:35 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Re: Quillette article and Professor Hsu

Dear Doctor Stanley,

I read the piece in Quillette about a Twitter lynch mob trying to get Professor Hsu fired. I hope you will not succumb to the pressure of the loudest voices. I must confess, I do not know Professor Hsu, and I do not know every word he has spoken, but having looked at some of what he has said, and some of the topics he has touched on, makes it appear to me that he is in danger of becoming one more victim of the political correctness mob.

I am not an academic, merely a [REDACTED] who happens to care whether colleges and universities can be places where differing voices can be heard. I am very concerned about the future of the academy in America. As far as I can see, it is in great danger of becoming a place where no real conversation can take place. It will take fortitude to face down the loudest voices and maintain a place where real discussion can occur.

Thank you for your attention to this,

[REDACTED]

From: Goodwin, Mami
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Briefing w/ Hsu talking points
Attachments: 061720.BRIEFING.Free Press Interview.docx

Briefing for 3:15 interview attached. Hsu talking points added at the bottom.

Detroit Free Press: Briefing for President Stanley

President Stanley will talk with Samuel Zwickel of the Detroit Free Press to discuss MSU's plans for the 2020 fall semester.

Interview time: 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 17

Interview length: 10 min.

Reporter: Samuel Zwickel

Please call: [REDACTED]

Background

Samuel Zwickel is reporting intern for the summer at the Detroit Free Press. He is studying social science at Harvard University and serves as a news executive for The Harvard Crimson student newspaper.

The story he is working on will be featured in USA-Today (Free Press is part of their network) showcasing the variety of approaches institutions are taking in preparing for the fall.

Talking Points

Gov. Whitmer repeal of "Stay Home" order

- We appreciate the governor's commitment to the health and safety of all Michiganders.
- While the shelter order has lifted, MSU is making decisions for what is best for our community. We will not have a mass return to work, but rather, we will continue planning for a safe and health-informed return to campus based on job responsibilities and functions. Right now, our employees who are working remotely, will continue to until they are otherwise directed by their supervisors.

Reopening task force

- Michigan's continued decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases is promising.
 - As we start to think about how we reopen our campus safely, we must not only consider the health of our student body and our faculty and staff, but also of their families and our community.
 - At the same time, we must do everything we can to ensure the continued forward motion of this university and the success of our students.
 - To help me assess how best to do this, I established MSU's COVID-19 Reopening Campus Task Force. The task force is chaired by MSU Executive Vice President for Health Sciences
-

Norman Beauchamp and University Physician David Weismantel.

- The chairs have already met with a variety of groups and leaders across campus and completed an initial summary for my review, including the principles and values which must guide our work.

Fall semester

- As a university, we have already taken several important steps to enhance the overall safety of our campus, including increased cleaning standards, establishing a strong supply chain for appropriate amounts of personal protection equipment and partnering with local health care facilities in preparation for an outbreak.
 - We are now well into our planning for how to open campus for students, faculty and staff this fall.
 - Work has been proceeding for some time in critical areas like alterations to our academic calendar, approaches to contact tracing and testing, managing our residence halls, and allocating and scheduling our class spaces.
 - And several decisions about the fall semester have been made, including:
 - We will begin classes on Wednesday, September 2, as previously scheduled.
 - There will be both in-person and online components to instruction in the fall semester.
 - And we plan to end all in-person instruction on Wednesday, November 25, with any remaining instruction, study sessions and final examinations moving remotely for the remaining three weeks of the semester. This plan is designed to address epidemiologic models that suggest a potential resurgence in COVID-19 cases in December and to give students the opportunity to return to their permanent residence before peak influenza season if they so choose.
 - Because of this new schedule, we will forego the pilot fall break that had been scheduled for October. We hope to return to the fall break in future years.
 - Physical distancing and the wearing of face coverings on campus will be essential components of this effort. And we anticipate that large gatherings will be strictly limited and regulated.
-

Instruction

- We know our students' value in-person interaction with instructors and other students, so we are asking staff to devise creative ways to meet students' needs, fulfill learning objectives and cope with these unusual times.
- For teaching, this will almost certainly entail the continued use of some online and remote classes while adding more hybrid classes and resuming some purely in-person options.
- Applying the necessary 6-foot physical distancing guidelines means we lose 60-85 percent of each classroom's capacity. We plan to reduce the size of some classes or move them to larger rooms.
- We will also offer more classes earlier and later in the day, as well as possibly weekends.

Housing

- We are developing health protocols for residential buildings, as well as for symptomatic students. Some of which include:
 - Holding rooms in all neighborhoods to allow for self-isolation of ill students.
 - Evaluating all bedrooms in the system and assuring that when assigned, students can sleep and study in a physically distanced manner.
 - Personal accountability, proper cleaning by students in their rooms and handwashing will be reinforced in communications campaigns.
 - Educating students on physical distancing, wearing face coverings and keeping their fellow community members safe.
 - Reviewing bathroom protocols for cleaning, shower usage, etc.
 - Reducing seating capacity in study lounges.
 - Evaluating and re-designing the move-in process to allow for physical distancing.
 - Additionally, seating in dining halls will be reduced by 50% and occupancy limits will be strictly enforced. Additionally, grab-and-go options across our dining halls will be enhanced and expanded.
 - Signage will be added to help with traffic flow and facilitate physical distancing and we will eliminate cash options and only accept meal plans, Spartan Cash, debit or credit cards to reduce
-

the need to transfer currency between guests and team members.

- There is a great deal of effort going on in the areas of living and eating on campus. We'll have more to share as we go forward and those plans are finalized.

Fiscal Impact

- Each of the budgetary decisions we have made to this point weigh heavily on me, but I know that they are what is necessary to address the current situation and preserve the long-term strength of our great university.
- We knew early on MSU would not be immune to the pandemic's fiscal impacts, which our peer institutions around the state and nation are experiencing.
- The financial impact to MSU due to the virus is already in the \$50-60 million range for fiscal year 2020, which ends June 30. And an additional \$150 to \$300 in fiscal year 2021.
- Fiscal year 2020 shortfalls are a result of our rapid transition to distanced learning – which created increased IT expense – credits and prorations for on-campus housing and dining, and cancelations of summer academic and sports camps.
- Similarly, our anticipated shortfall for fiscal year 2021 is a result of an anticipated decline in our state allocation, the fact that limiting large gatherings have impacted events at campus facilities and uncertain enrollment figures.
- We are taking several steps to address that shortfall. From continuing the reduction in pay for our executive management team to restricting travel and looking at construction projects that can be delayed or postponed indefinitely.
- Some areas across campus, as the university previously indicated, are announcing furloughs and layoffs related to the budget shortfalls caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notices have begun going to employees in different units across campus. This is an unfortunate action that we need to take.
- Our employees are the core of providing a Spartan experience to thousands of students, and we are doing our best to support those impacted by these decisions.

Employee resilience

- The selflessness, dedication and ingenuity of our staff and faculty has been truly remarkable to witness.
 - I think back to the immediate hours following our decision to transition to distance learning for our students and the support
-

staff and faculty who quite literally jumped into action to make this as easy a transition as it could be.

- I am beyond grateful for their hard work and perseverance, despite the many obstacles they have faced and continue to overcome.

Athletics

- Student-athletes have started returning to campus in preparation for voluntary summer workouts. The Athletics Department developed a plan based on medical guidance and guidelines from the Big Ten Conference and NCAA.
- Student-athletes are required to have a test when they report as well as self-isolate in their on- or off-campus housing for one week after which there will be a second round of testing.
- Student-athletes who receive a negative test during the second round will be cleared to begin voluntary summer workouts under the supervision of strength and conditioning and athletic training staffs. Student-athletes will be split into small workout groups based on the individuals with whom they live.

George Floyd and ongoing protests

- We are living during a time of profound hurt, anger, frustration and, for many, a time of deep disappointment and despair regarding the recent high-profile violent events targeting Black Americans – the most recent being the inescapable images of George Floyd, dying while a police officer knelt on his neck.
 - First and foremost, as leaders of this university, it is important that we speak out against these atrocities. To our Black students, faculty and staff, know that I stand with you. The university stands with you.
 - These events remind us that we have a responsibility to engage in the work necessary to understand we live in a diverse world and a diverse campus community, and by virtue of this we also have a responsibility to each other to respond to these injustices – acknowledge them, empathize with one another and accept each other.
 - We are committed to building an inclusive environment here at MSU, one that recognizes and respects people of all backgrounds and experiences. However, this commitment must be manifested in ways that extend well beyond words. And the leaders at MSU are working on just that.
-

IT intrusion

- Within hours of the intrusion last week, MSU IT took prompt action and notified law enforcement agencies.
- Shortly after the team was notified of the intrusion, MSU quickly took the affected systems and servers offline to prevent further exposure.
- At this time, we know the intrusion was isolated to one unit on campus and we are starting to identify some of the information that was compromised. We will share more information about what was compromised as it is available.
- At the same time, we are continuing to work with our law enforcement partners at the MSU Police Department and the Michigan State Police on a thorough investigation.
- We recognize that no matter how isolated these incidents are, they cause worry among our students, faculty, staff and the community at large.
- This intrusion reinforces the need for each of us to take precautions and be aware of risks when working online. Things like being aware of the possibility of phishing emails, creating effective passwords, using two-factor password authentication on devices and accounts whenever possible, and deleting files and data when you are done using them.

Steve Hsu

- I am aware of the concerns raised by the MSU Graduate Employees Union. I hear their concerns and I am looking into the matter further. The university will take any appropriate measures that are warranted following a complete review of the concerns that have been raised.

Will MSU pay the ransom?

- We are heeding the guidance of our law enforcement partners and not paying that ransom. We know that paying the ransom only perpetuates these types of crimes.

Pivot point:

To protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation, I am unable to share additional information at this time.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:18 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am writing in support of Steve Hsu. It is a sad day when a man of his intellect and accomplishments could lose his position at an academic institution due to the manufactured outrage of a small number of students with an intolerant agenda.

I am not a personal friend of Professor Hsu but have had the pleasure of reading his Infoproc blog for the last ten years or so and have always found him to be someone who approaches subjects with acute intelligence and remarkable broad mindedness. He is also a man of significant academic and entrepreneurial accomplishment whose association with your school only does it honor.

Bowing to the wishes of the people demanding his resignation for imagined mind crimes would send exactly the wrong message about Michigan State University and academic freedom. I hope that you give careful consideration to the decision that you make, for it is one that you and your institution will have to live with for a long time to come.

Thank you and sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: You must fire VP Stephen Hsu immediately

President Stanley,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a [REDACTED] department here at MSU. I'm reaching out to urge you to step up and fire VP Stephen Hsu immediately.

The statements that he has made over the last few years are appalling and do not reflect the values of the University. I know some of his supporters have said that he is just asking "difficult questions" and that scholars need to be able to engage with the difficult questions to move forward. But if Dr. Hsu was sincerely interested in advancing our understanding human variation or race, he would be engaging with scholars on these topics in professional settings the way that hundreds of other MSU faculty members do every day. Instead, he has maintained a personal blog outside of the realm of academic discourse where he has provided a platform for avowed white nationalists and eugenisists to reach a wider audience.

Stephen Hsu does not reflect the values of this University and need to be fired immediately.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Professor Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I wish to add my name to those writing in support of Steve Hsu and against those who have slandered him. The speciousness of the claims against Hsu should be clear enough, as they rest entirely on innuendo and guilt-by-association, to warrant total dismissal on the part of your institution.

But, and while I'm not personally affiliated with MSU, I also think it of the utmost importance that it sends a strong message that accusations of this nature, which are designed to close off free inquiry, will never be entertained by your institution. Every university has a strong interest in disincantizing this sort of behavior.

And though I'm aware that Hsu's accusers fly the banner of justice, a mob is still a mob. Giving in will likely do more long-term damage to MSU than to Prof. Hsu himself.

All best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent:

Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:26 AM

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]

Subject:

Supporting Steve Hsu

Hi,

I am writing in support of Steve Hsu. I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012. I've read several of Prof. Hsu's articles and believe him to be a brilliant scholar and deep thinker. There is not a single shred of evidence that he is racist or sexist, and this is obvious. The attacks against him are not being made in good faith.

While I don't work in academia, the actions prestigious universities like yours take affect us all. We look to great institutions for guidance. Universities are supposed to be on the front lines in the fight for protecting and championing free thinking and the pursuit of knowledge. Any time free inquiry is stifled, it not only diminishes your institution, but all institutions. If you fire Prof. Hsu, you are sanctioning illiberal behavior, behavior that is now seeping into the fabric of American life. One certainly has the right to fiercely debate Prof. Hsu's ideas — debate is the foundation of academic discourse. Without debate and criticism, we'd never be able to escape our intellectual biases. But silencing and firing him is not the answer. We must be able to have penetrating intellectual debates without the fear that one's career could be destroyed with one wrong utterance. Conversation is the only tool we have to get along with one another and seek the betterment of humanity. If not for conversation, then violence would remain the only option.

Please add my name to the petition in full support of Professor Hsu. And please stand up for the ideals that your institution was founded on.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:20 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Support for Dr. Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am a proud Spartan and supporter of Dr. Steve Hsu's work and continued role as VP of Research and Graduate Studies at MSU. His thoughtful blog was one of the many indicators I used to judge the quality of MSU's minds before joining this great university. I ask that you do not let unfounded, out-of-context claims be used to pressure him out of his important position.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Stanley, Samuel
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Goodwin, Marni
Subject: Re: Briefing for president's media interview this afternoon

Ask for Talking points on Hsu [REDACTED]

[Get Outlook for IQS](#)

From: Goodwin, Marni [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 10:52:55 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Briefing for president's media interview this afternoon

This is the briefing for your 3:15 media interview.

From: Kindraka, Melody [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Goodwin, Marni [REDACTED]
Cc: Guerrant, Emily [REDACTED]; Olsen, Daniel [REDACTED]
Subject: Briefing for president's media interview this afternoon

Marni,

Attached is a media briefing for the president's interview with the Detroit Free Press at 3:15 this afternoon. When he is ready, the president should call [REDACTED] to speak with Samuel Zwickel.

-Mel



Melody Kindraka, APR
University Communications

Michigan State University
408 W. Circle Drive
East Lansing, MI 48824
Direct: 517-355-2282
Media: 517-353-7077
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:52 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am one of the faculty who did not sign the petition regarding the removal of Vice President. My reluctance was not because I felt his comments and activities were problematic but because of the lack of due process. I wrote the committee and asked them to please add the following to the petition—I am not sure if that happened perhaps it was too late. Nevertheless I wanted you to know that from my perspective petitions for dismissal without hearings lack due process and fairness.

This is what I wrote [REDACTED]

I am with you in sentiment but I have concerns about process.

I have been concerned about these drives without petitions for hearings especially in academic settings—typically with sexual harassment, racism, where there is a typically a process for a charge and a deliberating committee—not that I don't think committee work isn't entirely free from politics or biases (though realizing we all have them is a huge first step). But we are not the media—or a private company but a public deliberative academic body—the guidelines for revoking fellows from AAAS is based on a hearing structure—. Even the holocaust deniers at NU and other places had hearings.

I would have had no reservations if the note had requested something like the following at the end—Given the public record of comments and business activities of VP Stephen Hsu, we the faculty are asking for an immediate review by President Stanley and faculty senate (not sure that is the right body who reviews these things) of his actions and their negative consequences for violating the intellectual and the inclusive and social just society we at MSU endorse and uphold.

Is there a chance that could be added at the end? Thanks so much in advance for listening to my concerns. My best
[REDACTED]

I would hope that you and the appropriate deliberative body undertake a review of Vice President Hsu's comments and business activities.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Hsu's removal

Dear President Stanley,

As a senior scholar working on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I was stunned and distressed to read recently of the matters concerning your VP Stephen Hsu. Here I am informed by several detailed media stories, as well as more scholarly blog postings that locate Hsu's views and actions in the appropriate context, as well as [REDACTED] Hsu's continued occupancy of such an important position in your administration is a stain on your institution that will only deepen in colour the longer he remains in that position. I urge you to remove him immediately.

I am especially sensitive to high-level institutional complicity in propagating unscientific and morally indefensible views of certain sorts of people, having been a professor for 17 years at the University of [REDACTED] where the provost and founding chair of my own department. [REDACTED]

Professor Hsu's actions, in my view, show the same lack of scientific and moral judgment that [REDACTED] showed in his actions. [REDACTED] and the university's failure to adequately deal with what was essentially a historical matter for them cost them dearly in the eyes of both the local and larger academic community. I hope that the same will not be true for your otherwise admirable institution.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:27 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU; Woodruff, Teresa
Re: Open Letter for the resignation of Stephen Hsu.

Hello President Stanley, Interim Provost Sullivan, and Provost Designate Woodruff.

I know there has been much communication and back-and-forth over the last few days while you review and assess the campaigns, allegations and responses. I would like to provide a bit of a synthesis with context and commentary in hopes it may remove some ambiguity from the events over the last few days and aid your decision.

On Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 2:23 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Hello President Stanley, Interim Provost Sullivan, and Provost Designate Woodruff

First, Dr Woodruff, I would like to say I wish our [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the betterment of the MSU community.

You may have already received correspondence from MSU faculty regarding their open letter calling for the resignation of Dr. Stephen Hsu. [Here](#) [REDACTED] and provide you below with some additional context.

On Wednesday, June 10th, many members of the MSU research community participated in a call from Black scholars in academia to #ShutDownAcademia for one day to focus on issues of racial justice in the academy.

As part of this international movement, [REDACTED] faculty and graduate students here at Michigan State University concerning Stephen Hsu, the current Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. They expressed their fears and concerns about Hsu's repeated racist, eugenical, sexist, and unethical statements and actions. A long history of such statements and actions is detailed [here](#). This pattern of behavior makes him, [REDACTED] unfit to direct the research funding, promotion and tenure, and research priorities of Michigan State University. We outline three key reasons why.

1. **Hsu's views are unscientific and racist.** Hsu believes, explicitly, that Black Americans have overall lower IQ than non-Black Americans, and that this difference is caused not by a history of systemic racism and oppression but instead by innate biological differences. This is in direct opposition to the American Society of Human Genetics. Furthermore, his views and his company, GenomicPrediction, are not based on sound science. Geneticists have been outspoken about his company and the flaws in its approach
2. **Hsu's power over university funding makes faculty afraid to speak out against his racist views.** As a professor and as an individual, Hsu is free to make whatever statements he wishes, however biased, racist, or irresponsible they may be. However, as Senior VP, he is a direct overseer of which faculty members receive funding--therefore, faculty who oppose his views are afraid to speak out against him for fear of retaliation. This means faculty at MSU are afraid of rebutting racist and unethical scientific statements, perpetuating MSU's dark history of silence and complicity [REDACTED] institution

3. Hsu has shown an inability to hold his own research to the ethical standards which he currently oversees. As Senior VP of Research and Innovation, Hsu is in part responsible for overseeing conflicts of interest. However,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] he certainly should not be trusted to oversee conflict of interest for an entire R1 research university.

Given Hsu's history of blatant racism and eugenics, his creation of a toxic university culture of silence, and his inability to hold himself to the standards of the job, we find Stephen Hsu unfit to continue in his current position.

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: Zeig, Michael
Subject: Support for Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I was [REDACTED] Steve Hsu
never expressed any bias towards [REDACTED] He directly supported
instrumentation, research activities, and start-up funding. Even in [REDACTED] he never expressed objectionable opinions.
He did not ask me for this letter. I have the highest respect for him, and MSU has demonstrably benefited from his
service.

Thank you, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu
Attachments: letter June 16 2020.docx

Dear President Stanley,

I am once again attaching the latest copy of the letter led by the faculty calling for the removal of Stephen Hsu as Vice President of Research and Innovation. As of today at 2 p.m., it has been signed by 339 faculty, 24 students, and 72 staff members, all Michigan State employees. I have verified all signatures. The letter may also be found here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jb7w02E5GAdrj_QnAokp7ierP_VBDridmQ-r19M2TAE/edit?usp=sharing

Thank you for your ongoing attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

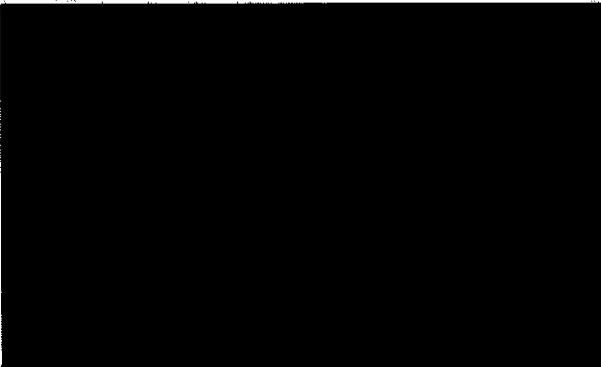
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

Once again, we are attaching an updated version of the letter calling for Stephen Hsu to be removed from his current position as Vice President for Research and Innovation. The letter now has 299 signatures. I have been contacted by a reporter from the Lansing State Journal about this issue. We eagerly await a response.

Thank you,



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,
Please find attached an updated version of the letter, now with 208 signatories.
We eagerly await your response.
Thank you,



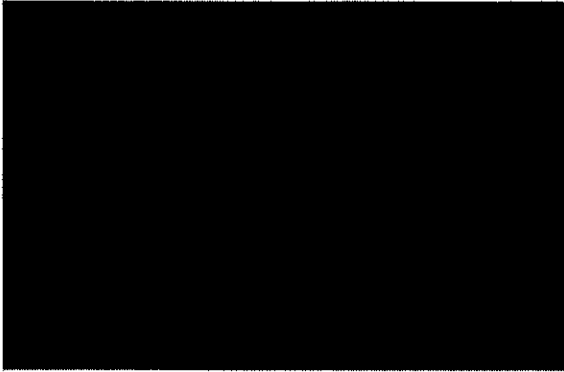
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,
Attached, please find a letter calling for the resignation of Stephen Hsu as Vice President for Research and Innovation, signed by fifty-four faculty and staff, including several department chairs, endowed chairs, and directors. We the faculty are profoundly disturbed by the racist and sexist views held by Dr. Hsu as revealed in

a series of blog posts and videos posted to twitter by graduate students over the past two days (which may be seen here: <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>). We believe these views render him unfit for his current position, in light of MSU's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. I would also call your attention to a petition for Dr. Hsu's resignation started by the graduate students, which currently has 157 signatories including faculty, students, and alumni: <https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>

We are counting on you to follow through on your commitment to make MSU an inclusive institution where all faculty, students and staff can feel safe and thrive. We welcome your prompt attention to this matter, and will update you as the letter gains more signatories.

Thank you,



Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

June 11, 2020

Dear President Stanley,

On June 10th, 2020, the Graduate Employees Union posted a series of tweets containing blog posts and statements made over a 12-year period by Stephen Hsu, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation (the thread may be found [here](#)). The statements contain racist and sexist language couched in scientific terms, including beliefs that there are fewer women and African Americans who are qualified to hold academic and other skilled positions, and that systemic racism does not explain differences in accomplishments among Black students. Moreover, the thread also includes video clips of friendly conversations between Hsu and Stefan Molyneux, an open white supremacist and proponent of scientific racism. Hsu also appears to be dabbling in eugenics through his beliefs that embryos may be selected on the basis of genetic intelligence. In addition, Hsu also used his own podcast to praise and promote individuals who themselves traffic in Holocaust denial and antisemitism. As detailed in a blog post by an MSU historian of scientific racism, Hsu for example has praised and promoted the work and websites of Ron Unz, a figure recognized as pushing alt-right anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial, claiming that (for example, in one article published several months before his appearance on Hsu's podcast) "it far more likely than not that the standard Holocaust narrative is at least substantially false, and quite possibly, almost entirely so".

Not only do these views ignore the copious social science research on social determinants of intelligence and accomplishments, therefore rendering them suspect in a scholarly sense, it is also deeply disturbing that someone whose role is to allocate funding and provide authoritative input in decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty in a diverse institution should hold such beliefs. Given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably. Therefore, we believe that he is unfit for the position he currently holds. Michigan State University has made a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we cannot imagine that honoring this commitment is possible with Hsu remaining in his position. We therefore call for his immediate removal from the role of Senior Vice President.

Signed,

1. Laura Schmitt Olabisi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

2. Rebecca Jordan, Professor and Chair, Department of Community Sustainability
3. Robert B. Richardson, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
4. Ruben Martinez, Professor, Sociology and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute
5. Rufus Isaacs, Professor, Department of Entomology
6. Elizabeth M. Gardner, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
7. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English
8. Mark Axelrod, Associate Professor, James Madison College and Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
9. Amy Ralston, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
10. Andaluna Borcila, Associate Professor, James Madison College
11. Anna Pegler-Gordon, Professor, James Madison College
12. Aaron M. McCright, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology
13. Dan McCole, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
14. Frank A. Fear, Senior Associate Dean and professor emeritus, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
15. Sieglinde Snapp, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
16. Maria Claudia Lopez, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
17. Stephanie Nawyn, Department of Sociology
18. Tom Fernandez, Professor, Department of Horticulture
19. Michael W. Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Community Sustainability; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
20. Meredith L. Gore, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
21. Patricia A. Soranno, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
22. Susan J. Masten, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
23. Heather L. Eisthen, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
24. Julian C. Chambliss, Professor, Department of English
25. Carolyn M. Malmstrom, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology and EEBB
26. Zarena Aslami, Associate Professor, Department of English
27. Wynne Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
28. Gideon Bradburd, Assistant Professor, EEBB, Department of Integrative Biology
29. Jim Smith, Professor Emeritus, Lyman Briggs College/MSU Dept. of Entomology
30. Wenda Bauchspies, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
31. Kendra Spence Cheruvellil, Professor, Lyman Briggs College/Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife
32. Laura Chomiuk, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
33. Jay Strader, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
34. Megan Donahue, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
35. G. Mark Voit, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

36. David Lowry, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biology
37. Kristin Mahoney, Associate Professor, Department of English
38. E. L. McCallum, Professor, Department of English
39. Brian J. Teppen, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
40. Jeffrey C. Wray, Professor, Department of English
41. Justus Nieland, Professor and Chairperson, Department of English
42. Stephanie Jordan, Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Information
43. Salah D. Hassan, Associate Professor, Department of English
44. Abou Traore, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
45. Amara E. Ezeamama, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
46. John M. Kerr, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
47. Stephen Gasteyer, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
48. Catherine Lindell, Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology/Center for Global Change and Earth Observations
49. John Norder, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Enrolled Member Spirit Lake Dakota Tribe
50. Kaveh Askari, Associate Professor, Department of English
51. Emilio F. Moran, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Geography
52. Erik Skogsberg, Associate Director, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology
53. Sean Valles, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Philosophy
54. Margot Behrend Valles, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
55. Peter White, Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College and the Department of Entomology
56. Vicki Morrone, outreach specialist, Center for Regional Food Systems, Dept of Community Sustainability
57. Gregory A. Lang, Professor, Department of Horticulture
58. Kendra Pyle, Academic Specialist-Advisor, Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Plant Biology
59. Carole Gibbs, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
60. Jyotsna G. Singh, Professor, Department of English
61. Cris Sullivan, Professor, Psychology Department
62. C.D. DiFonzo, Professor, Department of Entomology
63. Christopher A. Frilingos, Professor, Department of Religious Studies
64. Kristen A. Renn, Professor, Department of Educational Administration
65. Anthony D Kendall, Research Assistant Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences
66. Eunice F. Foster, Professor, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
67. Cara Cilano, Professor, Department of English
68. Joseph A. Hamm, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Environmental Science and Policy Program

69. Sarah W. Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station,
Department of Integrative Biology
70. Amy DeRogatis, Professor, Department of Religious Studies
71. Robin Silbergleid, Associate Professor, Department of English
72. Larry Leefers, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry
73. John Jackson, Professor, James Madison College
74. Lisa Laughman, MSW, University Physicians Office, Employee Assistance
Counselor
75. Dale K Elshoff, Coordinator, MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology
76. Maite Tapia, Assistant Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
77. Kelsey Skinner, Residential Student Conduct Administrator, Residence Education
and Housing Services
78. Heather Howard, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
79. Matthew Grieshop, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology
80. Joshua Lam, Assistant Professor, Department of English
81. Laurie Medina, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
82. William C. Wetzel, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
83. Amber Pearson, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment &
Spatial Sciences
84. Mariah Meek, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
85. Divya Victor, Assistant Professor, Department of English
86. Amber Benton, Academic Specialist, James Madison College
87. Brendan Cantwell, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Administration
88. Joyce Meier, Associate Professor (fixed-term), Writing, Rhetoric & American
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89. Danny Caballero, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy
90. Crystal Eustice, Academic Specialist, Department of Community Sustainability
91. Monir Moniruzzaman, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
92. Kyle Whyte, Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Community Sustainability
93. Andrea Louie, Professor, Department of Anthropology
94. Mark Waddell, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College
95. Kirsten Fermaglich, Associate Professor, Department of History
96. Adam Zwickle, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Environmental
Science and Policy Program, Department of Community Sustainability
97. Andrea Wittenborn, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
98. Yael Aronoff, Associate Professor, James Madison College and the Serling Institute
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99. Eric Aronoff, Associate Professor, The Residential College in the Arts and
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100. Naoko Wake, Associate Professor, Department of History & Lyman Briggs
101. Brendan Mullan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

102. Vashti Sawtelle, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy & Lyman Briggs College
103. Jerry Caldwell, Academic Specialist, College of Natural Science
104. David R. Ewoldsen, Professor, Department of Media & Information
105. Kathryn Dyjach, Executive Staff Assistant, James Madison College
106. Robert L. LaDuca, Professor, Department of Chemistry & Lyman Briggs College.
107. Peter Alegi, Professor, Department of History, College of Social Science
108. Dustin Petty, Academic Specialist, Liberty Hyde Bailey Scholars Program
109. Claire D. Vallotton, Associate Professor, Human Development & Family Studies
110. Ethan Watrall, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
111. Amy Simon, William and Audrey Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, Assistant Professor, James Madison College, History Department, Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
112. Sarah Reckhow, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
113. Titus Awokuse, Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
114. Susannah Dorfman, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
115. Leslie D. Gonzales, Associate Professor, Education Administration Department
116. [REDACTED] Graduate Student, Department of [REDACTED]
117. Michael Everett, Academic Specialist, Department of Community Sustainability
118. Jay Zarnetske, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
119. Tonya Bartell, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education
120. Fred Dyer, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
121. Alex Allweiss, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
122. Georgina Montgomery, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and the Department of History
123. Linda M. Hunt, Department of Anthropology
124. Susan Wyche, Associate Professor, Department of Media and Information
125. Melanie Cooper, Professor, Department of Chemistry
126. Katherine Alaimo, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
127. Sarah Evans, Assistant Professor, Dept of Integrative Biology
128. Mark Iwen, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics & Dept. of CMSE
129. Katie Hinko, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy and Lyman Briggs College
130. Bruce Sagan, Full Professor, Department of Mathematics
131. Filomena Nunes, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

132. Cori Fata-Hartley, Academic Specialist, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
133. Cheryl Sisk, University Distinguished Professor, Neuroscience Program and Department of Psychology
134. Helen Velt, Associate Professor, Department of History
135. Laura Yares, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies and the Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
136. Willie Wong, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics
137. Maria Porter, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics
138. Gail Richmond, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
139. Teena Gerhardt, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
140. David Mota-Sanchez, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
141. Melissa Fore, Fixed Term Faculty, James Madison College
142. David L. Ortega, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
143. Yomaira Figueroa, Assistant Professor, Department of English
144. Nancy Rhodes, Associate Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
145. Susan M. Richter, Academic Specialist, Institutional Research
146. Tacurna Peters, Assistant Professor, James Madison College and Department of Philosophy
147. Alyssa Hadley Dunn, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
148. Shahnaz Masani, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
149. Paul Irving, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
150. Phoebe Zarnetske, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
151. Shinhan Shiu, Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Department of Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering
152. Sharon M. Leon, Associate Professor, Department of History, and Digital Humanities
153. Marjorie Weber, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology
154. Michael Wiser, Instructor, Biological Sciences Program
155. Rashida L. Harrison, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
156. Lily Woodruff, Associate Professor, Art, Art History, and Design
157. Joshua Yumibe, Associate Professor, Department of English
158. Raechel Portelli, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Science
159. Jennifer Olson, Associate Professor, Department of Media & Information
160. Mary M. Juzwik, Professor, Departments of Teacher Education and English
161. Christina DeJong, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
162. Paulette L. Stenzel, Professor Emerita, Broad College of Business
163. Phillip Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

164. Amanda Flaim, Assistant Professor, James Madison College & Dept of Sociology
165. Richard Hensh, Senior Teaching Specialist, Department of Mathematics
166. Sandro R. Barros, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
167. Tamara T. Butler, Assistant Professor, Department of English
168. Emily Josephs, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology
169. Kristie Dotson, Interim Chair, Department of African American and African Studies
170. Richard Lenski, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Departments of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics; Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences; and Integrative Biology
171. Steve Rohs, Associate Professor, James Madison College.
172. Piotr Plecuch, University Distinguished Professor, MSU Foundation Professor, Department of Chemistry; Adjunct Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy
173. Emily Conroy-Krutz, Associate Professor, Department of History
174. Milton Smith, Professor, Department of Chemistry
175. April Baker-Bell, Assistant Professor, Department of English
176. LaShawn Harris, Associate Professor of History
177. Nakia D Parker, Research Associate, Department of History
178. Monique D. A. Kelly, Research Associate, Department of Sociology
179. Angela T. Hall, Associate Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
180. Morgan Shipley, Continuing Academic Specialist, Department of Religious Studies
181. Jualynne E. Dodson, Professor, Department of Sociology; Director, African Atlantic Research Team.
182. Lynmarie A. Posey, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
183. Eleanor Louson, Academic Specialist, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology & Lyman Briggs College
184. Warren F. Beck, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
185. Isaac Record, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
186. Stacey L. Camp, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology & Director of the MSU Campus Archaeology Program
187. Henry Chung, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
188. Terry Flennaugh, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
189. Dylan Miner, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities and Director, American Indian and Indigenous Studies
190. Lori Seischab, Academic Specialist - Advisor, Department of Physiology
191. Estrella Torrez, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities
192. Arika Ligmann-Zielinska, Associate Professor, College of Social Science, Department of Geography

193. Mark Sullivan, Associate Professor, College of Music, Hub for Innovation in Learning & Technology
194. Ariel Robbins, Academic Specialist, Charles Drew Science Scholars, College of Natural Science
195. Tracey Covassin, Professor, College of Education, Department of Kinesiology
196. Lisa Schwartzman, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
197. Heather Douglas, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
198. Dan Chitwood, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, Department of Computational Mathematics, Science & Engineering
199. Megan K. Halpern, Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College, Center for Interdisciplinarity
200. Max Evjen, Academic Specialist, Department of Theatre, Digital Humanities
201. Julia V. Busik, Professor, Department of Physiology
202. Danielle J. Whittaker, Academic Specialist-Research, Department of Integrative Biology and BEACON Center
203. A. Emiko Blalock, Assistant Professor, Office of Medical Education Research and Development
204. James Geiger, Professor, Department of Chemistry
205. Marisa Brandt, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
206. Danny Méndez, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of Romance and Classical Studies
207. Robyn Bluhm, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Lyman Briggs College
208. Dar Meshi, Assistant Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
209. Mindy Morgan, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
210. Bethany Wilinski, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
211. Ingo Braasch, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
212. Julia Ganz, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
213. Charles Ofria, Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering
214. Andrew R. Bender, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
215. Lyn Goeringer, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Composition (Music)
216. Juliet Hess, Assistant Professor, College of Music
217. Sandra Logan, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of English
218. Leigh VanHandel, Associate Professor, College of Music
219. Abigail Bennett, Assistant Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
220. Douglas Luckie, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Lyman Briggs College
221. Linda Sayed, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
222. Matthew Hedden, Professor, Department of Mathematics

223. Leapetswe Maletle, Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology
224. Daniel Ahlquist, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
225. Randy Napoleon, Associate Professor, College of Music
226. Johanna Schuster-Craig, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of Linguistics and Languages
227. Brian C. Schutte, Associate Professor, Dept's of MMG and Pediatrics, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Natural Sciences and Human Medicine.
228. Matthew Handelman, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
229. Liza Polts, Associate Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
230. Kristin Arola, Associate Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Culture
231. Jason Gallant, Assistant Professor, Integrative Biology
232. Benjamin Lauren, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
233. Phillip Effiong, Associate Professor, Theatre Department
234. Vincent Melfi, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics and Probability and Program in Mathematics Education
235. Xavier Davis, Associate Professor, College of Music
236. Elizabeth Mittman, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
237. Jane Bunnell, Professor, College of Music
238. Tama Hamilton-Wray, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
239. Dan Brainard, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture
240. Beth Herbel-Eisenmann, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
241. Kathleen Gallo, Professor of Physiology, College of Human Medicine
242. Peggy Ostrom, Professor Emeritus, Department of Integrative Biology
243. Melissa McDaniels, Senior Advisor to the Dean for Research Mentoring, Graduate School
244. Laura Apol, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
245. Sean Fomer, Associate Professor, Department of History
246. Kay Holekamp, University Distinguished Professor, Integrative Biology
247. Christian Lyhne Ibsen, Assistant Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
248. Joe Krajcik, Professor, Director-CREATE for STEM, College of Education and College of Natural Science
249. Janine Certo, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
250. Ligita Espinosa, Office Supervisor, CREATE for STEM.
251. Mary Luba, Accountant/Research Administrator, CREATE for STEM Institute

252. Saleem Alhabash, Associate Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations.
253. Angela Kolonich, Academic Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute, College of Education and College of Natural Science
254. Lynn Paine, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
255. Leslie Page Moch, Professor Emerita of History
256. Alicia Alonzo, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
257. Maris A. Cinelli, Sr. Research Associate, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
258. Deborah Peek-Brown, Academic Outreach Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute, College of Education and College of Natural Science
259. Marisol Mercado Santiago, Academic Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute
260. Lynn L. Wolff, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
261. Kristin N. Parent, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
262. Cynthia M. Okolo, professor emeritus, Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education
263. Joe T. Darden , Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Sciences
264. Mary Tate Bremigan, Associate Professor, fisheries and Wildlife
265. Chris Adami, Professor, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
266. Laura Scales, Academic Specialist, Department of Theatre
267. Edward Murphy, Associate Professor, Department of History and Global Urban Studies
268. Alexandra Hidalgo, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
269. Jacqueline Rhodes, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
270. Amelia Wenk Gotwals, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
271. Keith Promislow, Professor, Department of Mathematics
272. Amy Noelle Parks, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
273. Mark Rucker, Professor, School of Music
274. Sonja Fritzsche, Professor of German Studies and Associate Dean, Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Literatures, College of Arts & Letters
275. Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Associate Professor. Department of Teacher Education
276. David Stroupe, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Associate Director for STEM Teacher Education, CREATE for STEM Institute
277. Todd Hedrick, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
278. John Besley, Professor, Advertising and Public Relations
279. John P. Smith III, Professor, Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education

280. [REDACTED] doctoral candidate [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
281. Renee Bayer, Academic Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute
282. Elias Strangas, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
283. Deepa Thiagarajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition
284. Eran Andrechek, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology
285. Connie Sung, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education
286. Kelly Klump, Professor, Department of Psychology
287. Alex Burt, Professor, Department of Psychology
288. Jane Turner, Professor Health Programs, Pediatrics and Human Development
289. Wolfgang Banzhaf, John R. Koza Chair in Genetic Programming, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
290. Shanti Zaid, Fixed Term Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
291. David Stowe, Professor, English and Religious Studies
292. Charles Keith, Associate Professor, Department of History
293. J.P. Lawrence, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
294. [REDACTED] Doctoral Candidate, Department of [REDACTED]
295. Beth Alexander, Professor, College of Human Medicine
296. William A Lovis, Professor and Curator Emeritus, Department of Anthropology and MSU Museum
297. John Monberg, Academic Specialist, Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures
298. Terese Monberg, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
299. Anita Skeen, Professor Emerita, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
300. India Plough, Assistant Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
301. Adam Davis, Senior Admissions Counselor, Office of Admissions
302. [REDACTED] Doctoral Candidate, [REDACTED]
303. Terah Chambers, Professor, Department of Educational Administration
304. Janice Siegford, Professor, Department of Animal Science
305. Mara Leichtman, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
306. Louise S. Mead, Education Director, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution and Adjunct Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
307. Patricia Huddleston, Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
308. Kenneth Frank, professor, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education.
309. Madeline Mavrogordato, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Administration
310. Thomas Dietz, University Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Environmental Science and Policy

311. Kimberly Chung, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability, CANR
312. Karen Kelly-Blake, Associate Professor, Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences and Department of Medicine
313. Susan Ravizza, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
314. Itziar Familiar-Lopez, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, College of Osteopathic Medicine
315. Shari Dann, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
316. Karrin Hanshew, Associate Professor, Department of History
317. Ralph Putnam, Associate Professor, Counseling, Educational Psychology and Special Education.
318. S. Marc Breedlove, Rosenberg Professor of Neuroscience
319. Cynthia L. Jordan, Professor, Neuroscience and Faculty Excellence Advocate, CNS
320. Robert VanBuren, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, CANR
321. Eric Tans, Science Collections Coordinator, Libraries
322. Casey O'Donnell, Associate Professor, Department of Media & Information
323. Lily Johnson-Ulrich, recent PhD 2020, Department of Integrative Biology
324. Robert Y. Ofofi, Associate Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
325. Janani Ravi, Pathobiology & Diagnostic Investigation, CVM
326. David E. Rothstein, Professor, Department of Forestry, CANR
327. Michael D. Gottfried, Associate Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences
328. Rose A. Marks, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Horticulture
329. ██████████ Department of ██████████
330. Seth Jacobson, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
331. Mureleedharan G nair, Professor, Department of Horticulture, CANR
332. Maddish Melakeberhan, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture, CANR
333. David Skole, Professor, Department of Forestry, CANR.
334. Jennifer Owen, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, CANR
335. Robert Cukier, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry
336. Hend Azhary, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine
337. Scott Boehm, Assistant Professor, Department of Romance & Classical Studies
338. Chris Torres, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Administration
339. Javier Pescador, Professor, History Department
340. Lukas Bell-Dereske, Research Associate, Kellogg Biological Station
341. Cheryl Caesar, Associate Professor (fixed-term), Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures
342. Jennifer Jones, Research Associate, Kellogg Biological Station
343. Peter Johnston, Academic Specialist, Department of English

- 344. Bridget K. Behe, Professor, Department of Horticulture
- 345. Matthew Pauly, Associate Professor, Department of History
- 346. Michael Lachney, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education
- 347. Jonathan Choti, Assistant Professor, Linguistics & Languages
- 348. Denise M. Acevedo, Assistant Professor, Writing Rhetoric, and American Cultures
- 349. Janette W. Boughman, Professor, Integrative Biology
- 350. Lucy Thompson, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Social Science
- 351. Jennifer Rivera, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability & RCAH
- 352. Elizabeth Heath-Heckman, Assistant Professor, Integrative Biology (as of July 1, 2020)
- 353. Chrysoula Vasileiou, Academic Specialist, Chemistry
- 354. Libby Bogdan-Lovis, Assistant Director, Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences
- 355. Jamie Monson, Director of African Studies, Professor of History
- 356. Holly Vander Stel, Research Technician, Kellogg Biological Station
- 357. Namsoo Shin, Fix-term associate professor, CREATE for STEM and College of Education
- 358. Carol Arnold, Academic Specialist-Teaching, English Language Center, College of Arts and Letters
- 359. Claire Vieille, Associate Professor, MMG, College of Natural Science
- 360. Aman Yadav, Professor, Educational Psychology and Educational Technology, College of Education
- 361. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, [REDACTED] Department
- 362. Rachel Henderson, Post-doctoral Researcher, Department of Physics and Astronomy
- 363. Erik Dams, Accountant, Department of Entomology
- 364. [REDACTED] Student, Department of [REDACTED]
- 365. Lars Brudvig, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology, CNS
- 366. Paul Bergeron, Post-doctoral Researcher, Department of Chemistry & Department of Physics and Astronomy
- 367. Alicia Jenner, Learning Designer, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology
- 368. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, [REDACTED] Dept. of [REDACTED]
- 369. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, [REDACTED] Department of [REDACTED]
- 370. [REDACTED] Graduate Student, Department of [REDACTED]
- 371. Karin Pfeiffer, Professor, Department of Kinesiology

372. Julius H Jackson, Professor Emeritus, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics;
Assoc. Dean Emeritus, The Graduate School
373. Carlo Piermarocchi, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
374. [REDACTED] Graduate Student, Department of [REDACTED]
375. [REDACTED]
376. Carmen De Lorenzo, Coordinator Italian Program, Romance and Classical
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377. Hasina Saraha, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
378. Pamela Ruegg, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Animal Science
379. Erik Altmann, Professor, Department of Psychology
380. [REDACTED] PhD Student, Writing, [REDACTED]
381. William F. Heinrich, Head of Assessment and Experiential Learning, Hub for
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382. Patricia L. Wolff, Administrative Assistant, Drew Scholars program and RISE
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383. Becky Matz, Academic Specialist in Research, Hub for Innovation in Learning
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384. Jeremmy Prokop, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Human
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385. Jennifer Sykes, Associate Professor, James Madison College
386. Teresa Mastin, Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
387. Gale Strasburg, Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
388. Megan Maas, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and
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389. [REDACTED] PhD Student, [REDACTED]
390. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, Department of [REDACTED]
Evolutionary Biology & Behavior Graduate Group
391. Soma Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
392. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, Department of [REDACTED]
393. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Human
Development & Division of Public Health
394. [REDACTED] PhD Student, [REDACTED]
395. Gerardo R. López, Professor, Department of Educational Administration
396. Di Liu, Professor, Department of Mathematics.
397. Ashley Sanders-Jackson, Assistant Professor, Department of Advertising and
Public Relations
398. Ryan Sweeder, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College
399. [REDACTED] PhD Student, [REDACTED]

400. Christian Lotz, Professor, Department of Philosophy
401. Amy Pollock, Academic Specialist, Department of Chemistry
402. Krysta Coleman, Career Consultant, Lyman Briggs College
403. Matt Ferkany, Associate Professor, Philosophy
404. Elizabeth Day, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Chemistry
405. Paul Nelson, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Chemistry
406. Jennifer Goett, Associate Professor, James Madison College
407. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, Department of [REDACTED]
408. Krista Isaacs, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
409. Nathaniel E. Ostrom, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
410. Fashina Aladé, Assistant Professor, Department of Advertising & Public Relations
411. Kendal Holtrop, Associate Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
412. Sharon L. Hoerr, RDN, PhD, FACN Professor emerita, Dept Food Science and Human Nutrition.
413. [REDACTED] PhD Candidate, Department of [REDACTED]
414. Elizabeth Tinsley Johnson, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
415. Kintra D. Brooks, Audre & John Leslie Endowed Chair in Literary Studies, Department of English
416. Daniel Pfau, PhD, MSU NatSci DEI Training Facilitator
417. [REDACTED] Graduate Student [REDACTED]
418. Irving E. Vega, PhD, Associate Professor, Dept Translational Neuroscience, CHM, MSU
419. Caryl E. Sortwell, PhD, Professor and Associate Chair, Dept Translational Neuroscience
420. Casey Henley, PhD, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience Program, Physiology Department
421. [REDACTED] PhD student, [REDACTED]
422. [REDACTED] Graduate student, [REDACTED]
423. Monica Smith Karunakaran, Academic Specialist, Program in Mathematics Education, Department of Mathematics, CREATE for STEM
424. Shiv Smith Karunakaran, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, Program in Mathematics Education
425. [REDACTED] PhD Student, [REDACTED]
426. [REDACTED] Graduate Student, [REDACTED]
427. Sheril Kirshenbaum, Academic Specialist, AgBioResearch
428. Erik Goodman, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

429. Jose Cibelli, Professor, Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Science, CANR and Veterinary Medicine.
430. Kimberly Fenn, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
431. Anastasia G. Kononova, Assistant Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
432. Alexa Veenema, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
433. Jennifer Watling Neal, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
434. Frances Trail, Professor, Departments of Plant Biology, and Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
435. Alison Bernstein, Assistant Professor, Department of Translational Neuroscience, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President, Office of the Provost,

MSU;

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi All,

I will [REDACTED]

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,
President" "Office of the Provost, MSU"

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Apologies to everyone in the thread for the flood of messages https://twitter.com/search?q=%40gradampunion%20fired&src=typed_query

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:49 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

I disagree, I believe it directly from the feed. If you can provide the entire feed in searchable form from the beginning we can resolve this issue.

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:45 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,
President "Office of the Provost, MSU"

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am well aware of Untz and stated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:37 PM [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

If you look at my letter it says [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If you have a problem with it, take it up with them.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:20 PM

To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,
President" "Office of the Provost, MSU" [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

[REDACTED]

I did not see your message this morning and I apologize for missing it. The first line of your section on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As for the paragraph you somehow view as exculpatory I will point out this sentence:

[REDACTED]

In other words, you admit [REDACTED]

And, since you refuse to click over the [REDACTED] let me spoon feed you [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We don't know because Hsu has been completely silent on the issue.

For everyone else on this thread, I realize you may be annoyed by the clutter in your inbox caused by this conversation. On the other hand, I don't see how you can close your eyes to this, as [REDACTED] obviously has.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:05 PM

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

I wrote to you at 8:42 am this morning requesting a correction to your blog post. It is now 4 hours later and there has been no correction. In the meantime you have communicated about other issues. For the record, on your post you write:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

My view statement characterizes the views of others. As I mentioned in second email to you this morning, the next sentences in my letter are logically inconsistent with my having any views on [REDACTED] position.

I hereby request again that you correct this immediately.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM

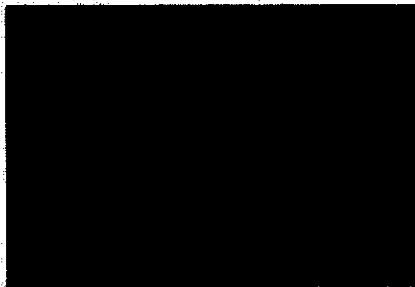
To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
"Office of the Provost, MSU"

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]; Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost; MSU; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Ok. I stand correct. I fill find a term the thread uses to characterize Steve's view.

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]; "Office of the Provost, MSU" [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Apologies to everyone in the thread for the flood of messages [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:49 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

I disagree. I believe it directly from the feed. If you can provide the entire feed in searchable form from the beginning we can resolve this issue.

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:45 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., [REDACTED]

President" [REDACTED]

"Office of the Provost, MSU" [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I am well aware of Urz and stated [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:37 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

If you look at my letter, it says [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If you have a problem with it, take it up with them.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:20 PM

To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,
President" "Office of the Provost, MSU"

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

[REDACTED]

I did not see your message this morning and I apologize for missing it. The first line of your section on [REDACTED]

As for the paragraph you somehow view as exculpatory I will point out this sentence:

[REDACTED]

In other words, [REDACTED]

And, since you refuse to click over the [REDACTED] let me spoon feed you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We don't know because Hsu has been completely silent on the issue.

For everyone else on this thread, I realize you may be annoyed by the clutter in your inbox caused by this conversation. On the other hand, I don't see how you can close your eyes to this, as [REDACTED] obviously has.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:05 PM

To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

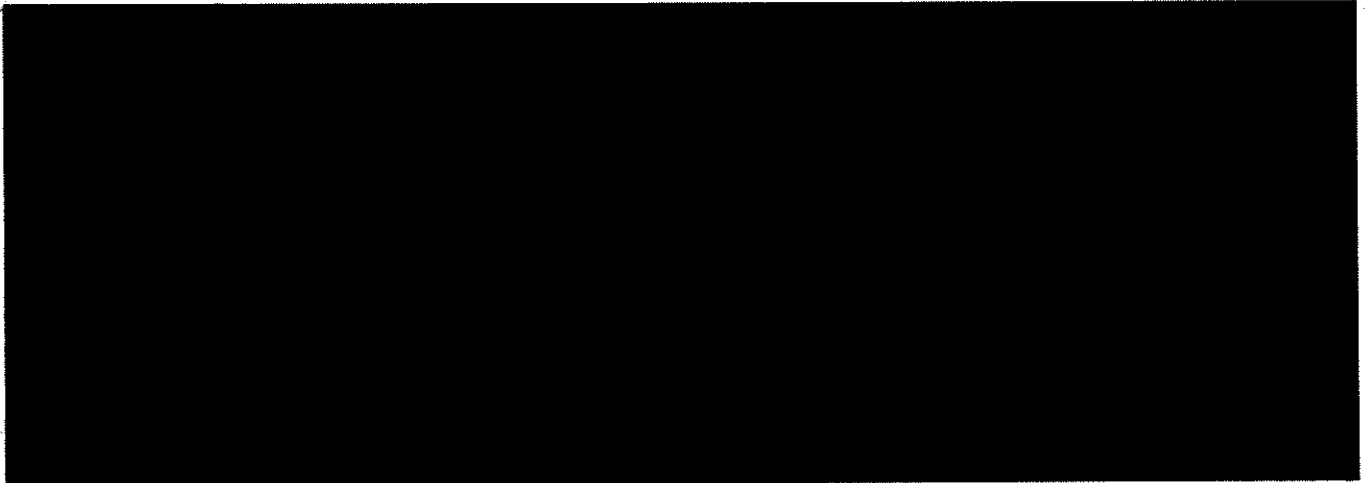
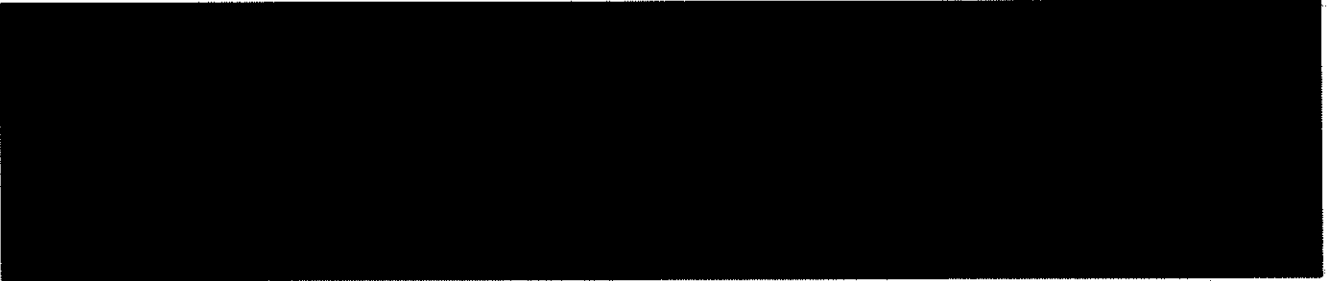
Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

I wrote to you at 8:42 am this morning requesting a correction to your blog post. It is now 4 hours later and there has been no correction. In the meantime you have communicated about other issues. For the record, on your post you write:



My view statement characterizes the views of others. As I mentioned in second email to you this morning, the next sentences in my letter are logically inconsistent with my having any views on [REDACTED] position.

I hereby request again that you correct this immediately.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM

To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
"Office of the Provost, MSU"

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc:

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Apologies to everyone in the thread for the flood of messages [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:49 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

I disagree. I believe it directly from the feed. If you can provide the entire feed in searchable form from the beginning we can resolve this issue.

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:45 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]; "Office of the Provost, MSU" [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
I am well aware of Unz and stated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 1:37 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

If you look at my letter is says [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If you have a problem with it, take it up with them.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:20 PM

To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.,

President" [REDACTED] "Office of the Provost, MSU"

CC: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

[REDACTED]
I did not see your message this morning and I apologize for missing it. The first line of your section on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As for the paragraph you somehow view as exculpatory I will point out this sentence:

[REDACTED]
In other words, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

And, since you refuse to click over the [REDACTED] let me spoon feed you
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We don't know because Hsu has been completely silent on the issue.

For everyone else on this thread, I realize you may be annoyed by the clutter in your inbox caused by this conversation. On the other hand, I don't see how you can close your eyes to this, as [REDACTED] obviously has.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:05 PM

To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

I wrote to you at 8:42 am this morning requesting a correction to your blog post. It is now 4 hours later and there has been no correction. In the meantime you have communicated about other issues. For the record, on your post you write:

[REDACTED]



My view statement characterizes the views of others. As I mentioned in second email to you this morning, the next sentences in my letter are logically inconsistent with my having any views on [redacted] position.

I hereby request again that you correct this immediately.

Best, [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM

To: [redacted] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [redacted]

"Office of the Provost, MSU"

Cc: [redacted]

[Redacted]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>

[Redacted]


[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [Redacted] Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [Redacted]


Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters.

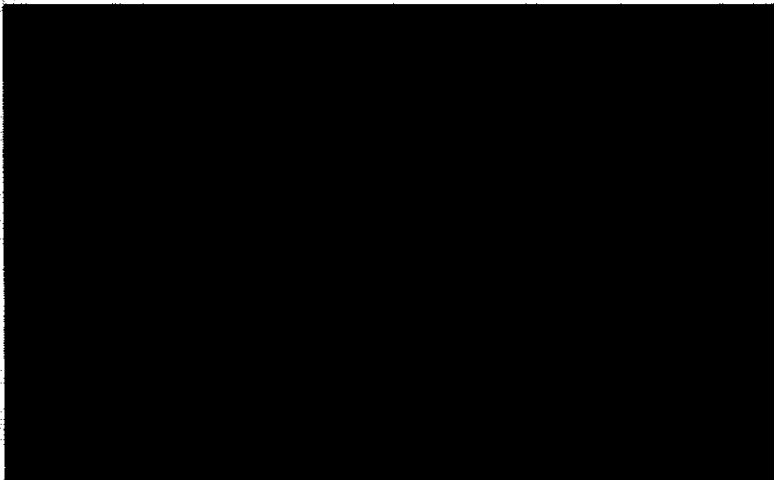
Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,







From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:55 AM
To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Updated petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu
Attachments: Hsu_sue.png

To put these defenses of free inquiry into perspective. Hsu has threatened to sue the graduate students of his own university. This behavior is shameful indeed.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED] Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Updated petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find an updated petition at 11:00 am today to support Dr. Stephen Hsu from scholars with and outside of MSU.

Just for your information, the petition site for keeping Dr. Hsu was attacked around 7 pm yesterday after launching less than a day. The petition letter and all signatures were wiped by an anonymous email. I blame such an action to silence the voice of different opinions. It is against the principle of freedom of speech. Voices on both sides must be heard by our community.

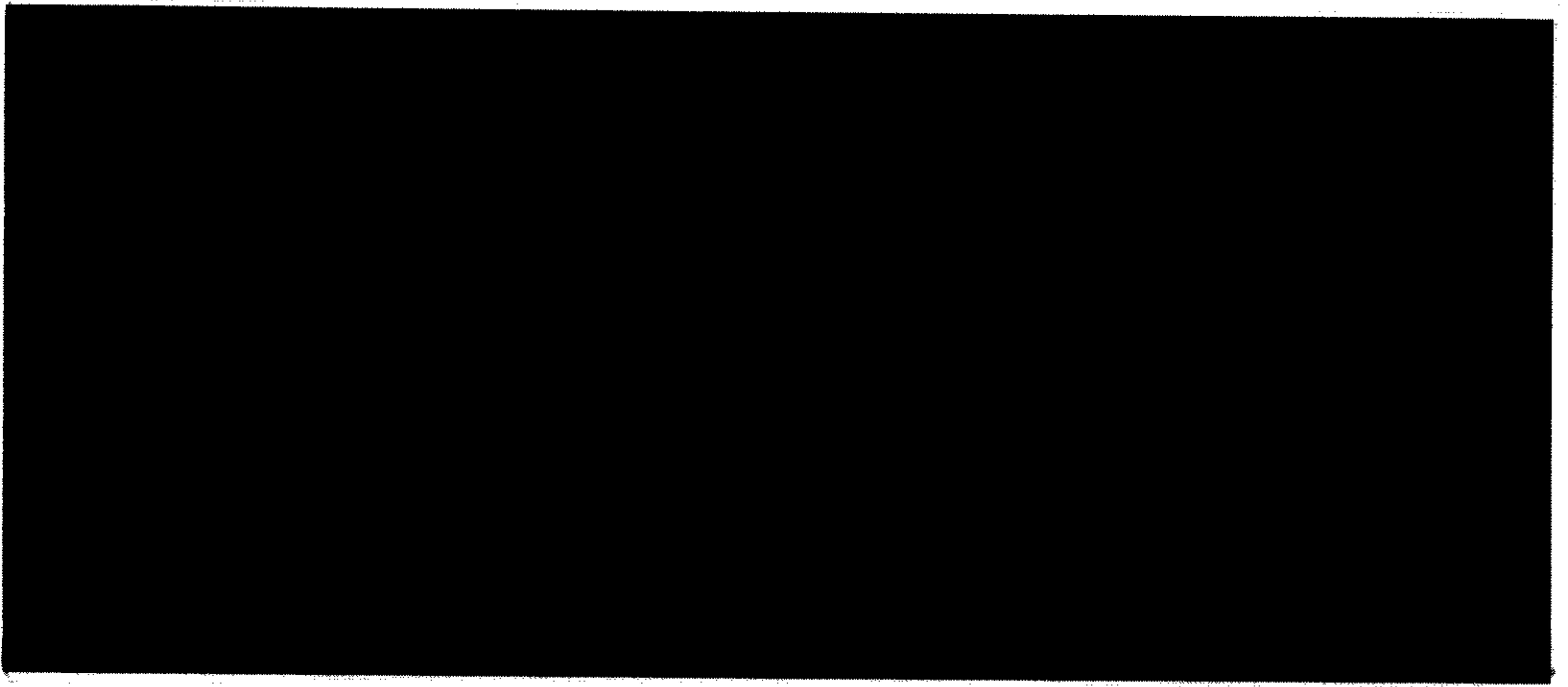
Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU
Subject: Fwd: Updated petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu
Attachments: Petition Letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu on June 16.docx

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan,

I am unsure why I am on the mailing list for this pro-VP Hsu initiative. I am not a supporter of this initiative and am deeply troubled by VP Hsu's past words and actions.

Sincerely,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 11:34 AM
Subject: Updated petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED] Office of the Provost, MSU [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

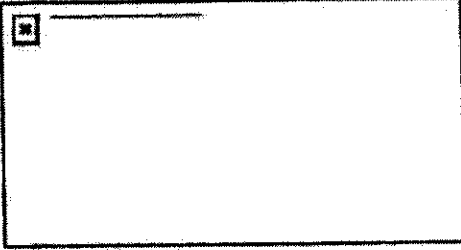
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To respect your time, here is the link to the petition site. We will not send more update emails to both of you.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14n8AJuUpRooDIAZYdRip2gdEkkKImnOOH9FOJ8ESmRz/edit?usp=share>

DS



Petition Letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu

To MSU President Samuel L. Stanley: We sign this letter asking you to keep Dr. Stephen Hsu in his position as VP for Research and Innovation and as a sign of support for Dr. Hsu. The charges of racism and sexism against Hsu are unequivocally false and the purported evidence supporting these c...

docs.google.com

Best Regards,



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [Redacted]

Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [Redacted]

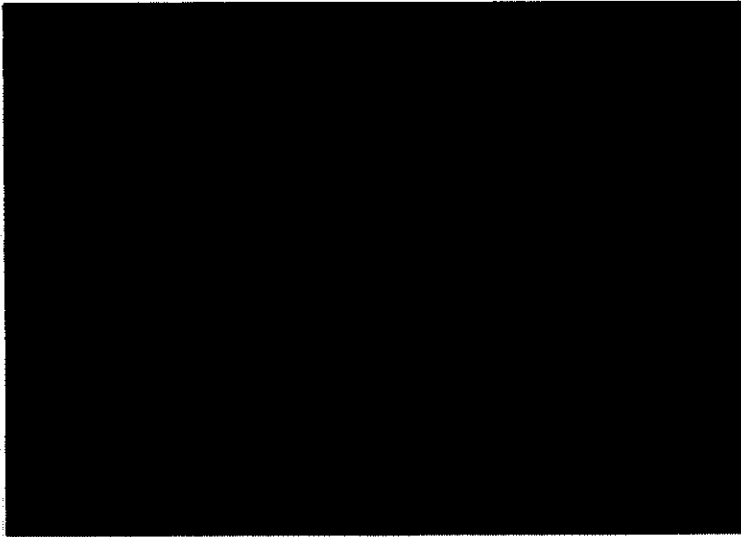
Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just lunched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,



To MSU President Samuel L. Stanley:

We sign this letter asking you to keep Dr. Stephen Hsu in his position as VP for Research and Innovation and as a sign of support for Dr. Hsu.

The charges of racism and sexism against Hsu are unequivocally false and the purported evidence supporting these charges ranges from innuendo and rumor to outright lies. (See attached letters for details.) We highlight that there is zero concrete evidence that Hsu has performed his duties as VP in an unfair or biased manner. Therefore, removing Hsu from his post as VP would be to capitulate to rumor and character assassination.

President Stanley, you have the unique opportunity to show the kind of leadership that is needed to guide this great institution of higher learning through a difficult situation in this pivotal moment in history. The power is in your hands to reaffirm free inquiry and free expression as the core values of the academic institutions and show how they align with the other values to which we are all committed and have spent time and energy promoting. The voices demanding Hsu's removal are exactly wrong in pitting diversity and inclusion against free inquiry and freedom of speech. Instead, the most inclusive and the best opportunities for true diversity to flourish occur under conditions of free inquiry, because such a philosophy demands that everyone have a seat at the table and that views be evaluated on the basis of cogency of the supporting reasoning and strength and internal consistency of the accumulated evidence rather than the identity, power, number, or vociferousness of the people expressing them. Free inquiry is the most democratic and most inclusive method of engaging with the world.

A university must simultaneously uphold the ideals of inclusion and freedom of inquiry. With respect to the latter, if faculty feel uncomfortable investigating "difficult" questions—the answers to which may or may not agree with a particular belief or view, and may even be unsettling—then the faculty will eventually stop asking those questions. In turn, the university will cease to be a leader in addressing the most difficult problems that society faces. Ideology will become the major force in the faculty's scholarship.

To remove Hsu for holding controversial views or for inquiring about controversial topics, or for simply talking to controversial personalities, based on the number of people demanding he be removed and the intensity of their demands would be to capitulate to a pre-enlightenment approach to the academy – and to incentivize the exclusion and ostracism of minority positions. It would also set a dangerous precedent, inconsistent with the fundamental principles of modern enlightened higher education.

Professor Hsu is a thoughtful, decent, and compassionate human being who approaches complex questions with honesty and openness. To allow Hsu to be removed by falsehoods and innuendos

would be to concede that there is no place in the academy for someone who has committed no crime or injustice toward any individual, but merely disagrees with the prevailing orthodoxy.

There is no question that the push for racial justice and equal rights has been and continues to be a noble and important cause. In the narrow case, removing Hsu from his position will in no way advance this cause. In the general case, removing Hsu will do permanent damage to the university and will undermine the core values that we must uphold.

Signed:

1. Corey Washington, Director of Analytics and Strategic Projects, OVPRI
2. Joseph Cesario, Associate Professor, Psychology
3. Wei Liao, Professor and Director, MSU Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
4. Tobin Craig, Associate Professor, James Madison College
5. Huirong Xie, Research Specialist, Co-Director of Transgenic and Genome Editing Facility, OVPRI
6. Honglei Chen, Professor, College of Human Medicine
7. Xinran Xiao, Professor, College of Engineering
8. Changyong Cao, Assistant Professor, School of Packaging, College of Agriculture and Natural Resource
9. Dean Lee, Professor of Physics, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams and Department of Physics and Astronomy
10. Arthur Melzer, Professor, Professor, Political Science
11. Taosheng Liu, Associate Professor, Psychology
12. Zhiyong Xi, Professor, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
13. Ke Dong, Professor, Department of Entomology
14. John Jiang, Professor, Department of Accounting and Information Systems
15. Young Hyun Cho, Associate Professor of Piano, College of Music
16. Wei Zhang, Associate Professor, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
17. Xuefei Huang, Professor, Departments of Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering
18. Jay P. Kennedy, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice and Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection
19. Ning Jiang, Professor, Department of Horticulture
20. Zach Hambrick, Professor, Department of Psychology
21. Karl Healey, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
22. Tze-lan Sang, Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
23. Chris Melde, Professor, School of Criminal Justice

24. Scott Wolfe, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
25. Zhongxiao Chen, Sr. Acad Sp, Entomology/IR4 NCRRC
26. Chen Chen, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Science
27. Bin Chen, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
28. Xinyu Wu, Director of VIPP, International Studies and Programs
29. Edmund McGarrell, Professor, School of Criminal Justice
30. Guo-qing Song, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture
31. Shi-You Ding, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology
32. Mark Dykman, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
33. Jeff Rojek, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice, and Director of Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection
34. Ming-Han Li, Professor, School of Planning, Design and Construction
35. Isabel Wang, Professor, Department of Accounting and Information Systems
36. Norbert L. Kerr, Emeritus Professor of Psychology
37. Moxun Tang, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
38. Tongbin Qu, Associate Professor, School of Planning, Design, and Construction
39. Yan Liu, Associate Professor, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
40. Franklin J. Boster, Professor Emeritus, Department of Communication
41. Yimin Xiao, Professor, Departments of Statistics and Probability
42. Pawel Danielewicz, Professor, National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory and Department of Physics and Astronomy
43. Tongtong Li, Associate Professor, College of Engineering
44. Aritro Sen, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Science
45. Victor DiRita, Rudolph Hugh Endowed Chair in Microbial Pathogenesis, Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
46. William D. Atchison, Beal Professor, MSU Excellence in Diversity Awardee
47. ██████████ Graduate Student, MSU ██████████
48. Sascha Drewlo, Associate Professor, College of Human Medicine
49. J. Michael Bailey, Professor, Northwestern University
50. Diana S. Fleischman, Associate Professor, University of Portsmouth
51. Xiangshu Jin, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry
52. Marco Del Giudice, Associate Professor, University of New Mexico
53. David Scott Coughlin, Engineer, US Defense Industry
54. Linda S. Gottfredson, Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware
55. Geoffrey Miller, Associate Professor, Psychology, University of New Mexico
56. James Borger, Senior Lecturer, Mathematical Sciences Institute, Australian National University
57. Richard Haier, Professor Emeritus, University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine
58. Kaja Perina, Editor in Chief, *Psychology Today*
59. Ravi Pandya, Principal Data Scientist, Microsoft Research

60. Jeremy Li, Data Scientist - Statistical Genetics, Gencove
61. Marc J. Defant, Professor of Geochemistry and Volcanology, University of South Florida
62. Christopher J. Ferguson, Professor of Psychology, Stetson University
63. Raghuvier Parthasarathy, Professor of Physics and Alec and Kay Keith Professor, University of Oregon
64. Stephen P. Martin, Professor of Physics, Northern Illinois University
65. Mark Gamache, CEO Imedia LLC (Broad MBA 1992)
67. Erich M. Schwarz, Assistant Research Professor of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cornell University
68. Mane Kara-Yakoubian, Graduate Student, Ryerson University
69. Carlos David Navarrete, Dept. of Psychology, Michigan State University
70. Nando Pelosi, Cofounder, Applied Evolutionary Psychology Society (AEPS)
71. Dmitriy Muravyev, Associate Professor of Finance, Michigan State University
72. Brandon Adams, Psy.D., former adjunct professor, department of psychology, Pace University.
73. Scott K. Hansen, Senior Lecturer, Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
74. Robert Lorenzen, Biochemistry TA, Minnesota State University - Mankato
75. Lee Jussim, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Psychology, Rutgers
76. Robert Plomin, Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London
77. Sacha Lancman, Undergraduate Student, Rutgers Camden, NJ, Finance and Graduate Student at UPEC Paris 12, Creteil, France, AEI
78. Ginna Quesada, Chemistry Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
79. Matthew Vanagel, Chemistry Graduate Student, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
80. Yi-Zen Chu, Associate Professor, National Central University, Taiwan
81. Russell T. Warne, Associate Professor of Psychology, Utah Valley University.
82. Roy A. Frye, Associate Professor of Pathology, University of Pittsburgh.
83. Tom Chou, Professor, Departments of Computational Medicine and Mathematics, UCLA
84. Matthew Buckley, Graduate Student, Department of Genetics, Stanford University
85. Nigel Biggar, Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, University of Oxford
86. Franz Ronay, Student, Medical University of Vienna and University of Cambridge
87. John D. Haltigan, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto
88. Rosalind Arden, Research Fellow, London School of Economics
88. Francesca Minerva, Post-Doctoral Researcher, University of Warwick and University of Ghent, Co-editor of the Journal of Controversial Ideas
89. Nathan Cofnas, DPhil candidate, Philosophy, University of Oxford
90. David B. Rompilla Jr., PhD student, Human Development and Social Policy, Northwestern University
91. David Kane, Preceptor in Statistical Methods and Mathematics, Harvard University

92. Marius Weidmann, Physics Undergraduate student, Bielefeld University
93. Yuval Filmus, Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
94. George W. Shen, Associate Partner, IBM
95. Curt von Keyserlingk, Research Fellow, Theoretical Physics, University of Birmingham.
96. Scott K. Bogner, Professor, National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory and Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University
97. Steve Stewart-Williams, Associate Professor, School of Psychology, University of Nottingham Malaysia
98. Neal Hammer, Assistant Professor, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, Michigan State University
99. Shivaji Sondhi, Professor of Physics, Princeton University
100. Gregory Fink, Professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University
101. Waldemar Puzscharz, PhD (physics), eminimethods.com
102. Jay I. Goodman, Professor (Emeritus), Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University
103. Rex E. Jung, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, University of New Mexico
104. Hal Pashler, Distinguished Prof of Psychology, Univ of California, San Diego
105. Vidur Kapur, Incoming Graduate Student, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University
106. Timothy C. Bates, Professor of Psychology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
107. Jan Brascamp, Assistant professor of Psychology, Michigan State University.
108. Paul M. Young, Graduate Education Philanthropist and Treasurer of the Fannie and John Hertz Foundation
109. Teresa Krieger-Burke, Assistant Professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Michigan State University
110. David Brahm, Portfolio Manager, Geode Capital Management

From:

[REDACTED]
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:33 AM

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President, Office of the Provost, MSU; [REDACTED]

Subject:

Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

It seems appropriate to highlight that Dr. Hsu, in my opinion, publicly threatened legal action against graduate students at MSU and potentially also [REDACTED] on his blog yesterday. He has since deleted that section of the post, but it was archived here [REDACTED]

On Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>

From:

[REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

[REDACTED] Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just lunched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Fire Stephen Hsu

Hello Dr. Stanley,

I am a [REDACTED] and I am writing you today to demand that Stephen Hsu is removed from his position as VP of Research and Innovation. As clearly laid out by the Graduate Employees Union (see [here](#)), Stephen Hsu completely lacks the respect, forethought, compassion, and ethics to be the VP of Research and Innovation. He's blatant sexism, racism, and denial of genocide (i.e., the Holocaust) make our research environment oppressive and exclusionary. Furthermore, with the press going around and my fellow students and I continue to circulate his fallacies and posts, there will be no doubt a lack of diverse students who will want to come to Michigan State University. This is unfair to the faculty, students, and post-docs who work diligently to obtain funds (which mostly go back to the university) and continue to produce ground-breaking research that keeps MSU highly regarded. We do not support Stephen Hsu, and it is clear that he does not support us.

I was an undergrad at MSU during the proceedings from the Larry Nassar case. Three girls I [REDACTED] testified against him, and I saw their pain as Michigan State continued to protect their perpetrator and gaslight their trauma. My heart aches for the girls [REDACTED] and the realities they've had to face due to Michigan State's cowardice. Our track record is, and has been, on thin ice. If we are so bold to call ourselves a fair and just institution, who is working to amplify Black voices, increase diversity, and generate a safer environment for our campus, then Stephen Hsu must be removed.

I sincerely hope your emails are genuine when you speak about protecting and amplifying the diversity on our campus, about generating a safer environment than the one left behind from your predecessors. There is no better time than NOW to be at the forefront of change and being on the right side of history.

Please see: <https://firestephenhsu.github.io>

An Open Letter to Michigan State University | Fire Stephen Hsu.

An Open Letter to Michigan State University. We are faculty, students, support staff, and allies within and outside Michigan State University demanding that Stephen Hsu be removed from his position as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]



From: Stephen Hsu [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:47 AM
To: Guerrant, Emily; Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Zeig, Michael; Woo, Melissa; Sullivan, Teresa
Subject: correction to LSI article

Hi Emily and Sam,

I would like to send this important correction to the LSI regarding their article of 6/15. But I wanted to check with you before sending it – perhaps it would be [REDACTED]

Steve

#####



Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation
Professor of Theoretical Physics
Michigan State University

[REDACTED]
Appointments: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Greetings and Steve Hsu

Dear Sam,

I sent an email to your public email address. After communicating with your office staff, I realized that my email may not reach you via the public address, as you are receiving so many emails everyday. I want to make sure that you see my email, both as a greeting and my thought about Steve Hsu.

Hope you and your family are safe and well.



Dear Sam,

I want to first introduce myself. I am a faculty member in [REDACTED] MSU has been a wonderful place for me [REDACTED] the two universities which you would be particularly familiar with. When your appointment at MSU was first announced, we were happy to see a infectious disease expert and a demonstrated university leader coming to MSU. This email is a belated welcome greeting to you and your family!

The other reason that I am writing to you today is because I have become increasingly concerned about an issue that is developing on campus related to Steve Hsu. I am aware of various petitions circulating on campus

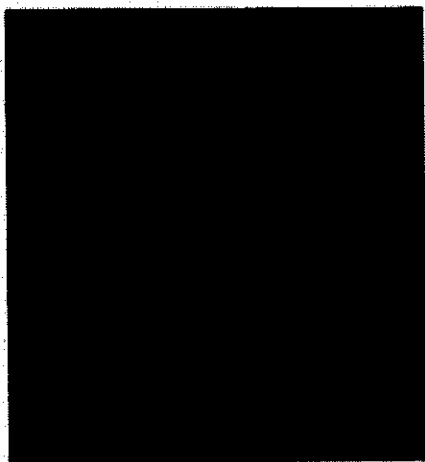
to ask him to resign or not to resign. While I am in strong support of any action against racism or sexism, I am concerned that the current highly charged political atmosphere may forgo a well-reasoned, evidence-based process of removing an accomplished university administrator. I am not a fan of blogs, especially when things are taken out of their context. In the case of Steve, I have a number of encounters during his eight years of tenure at MSU, I personally have *never* heard and experienced any racial or sexist comments or practices from him.

One of Steve's research interests is potential linkage (or lack of) human genomics and intelligence. Most people would shy away from pursuing this. However, this interest of his is not new. If I remember correctly, when he was first hired here, there was a specific vetting process. I assume that there would be a record of this. Is there anything new that Steve has said or done since then that would invalidate that process? Perhaps, an impartial committee could look into this again. If there is indeed enough evidence to suggest removal of Steve is warranted, I think people like me would strongly support the decision. However, any decision to simply follow political conveniences, without substantive evidence, would concern me and a substantial portion of the MSU community tremendously, because doing so has a devastating long-term impact on a democratic academic institution like MSU.

Scientific pursuits in sensitive topics, include bioweapon-type infectious diseases, atomic energy, human intelligence/evolution, CRISPR/GMO, and climate change, all have extraordinary social implications and are particularly vulnerable to political debate. While we must do everything possible to fight against and forewarn any unethical misuse of scientific findings on these topics, we need to protect scientifically justified pursuit of fundamental knowledge in these areas. To me, this is an important principle of a democratic academic institution.

I am not biased one way or another regarding Steve's VP position. I just hope that, with you being our new leader, MSU would have a habit of implementing a democratic process so that any evidence-based decision would be clear to the MSU community as well as the public at large, as this is going to have an impact beyond MSU.

With best wishes to you and your family,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:55 AM
To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

In fact your suggestion that I am making any comments about [REDACTED] views is logically incompatible with the next statement I make:

[REDACTED]

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM
To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
"Office of the Provost, MSU"
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [Redacted] Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

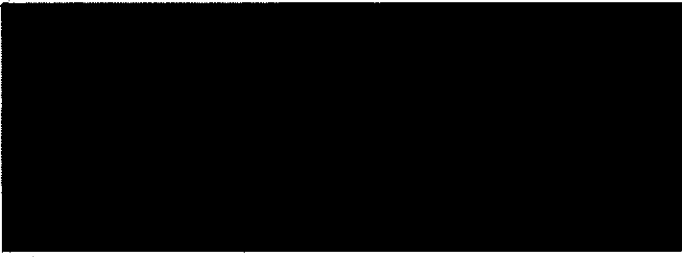
Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just lunched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:52 AM
To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost,
MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Hi [REDACTED]

Here's what I wrote: [REDACTED]

Here's what you wrote: [REDACTED]

Please get it right.

[REDACTED]

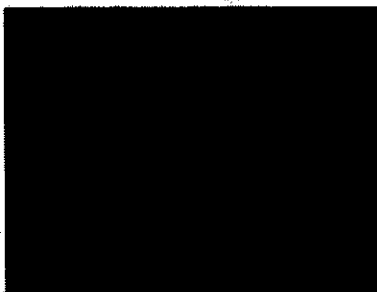
From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 8:42 AM
To: [REDACTED] "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
"Office of the Provost, MSU"

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [Redacted] Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Zeig, Michael; Bales, Merri-Jo
Subject: FW: Stephen Hsu

The petition to remove Stephen is up to 500 signatures. There is a new petition to keep him, which is at 98 signatures.

Stephen's blog post below is new from the weekend, he is sharing the letters of support and pulling out quotes.

From: Lange, Josh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Guerrant, Emily [REDACTED]; Olsen, Daniel [REDACTED]; Kindraka, Melody [REDACTED]
Cody, Jason [REDACTED]; Doepke, Ellen [REDACTED]
Cc: Kelly, Katherine [REDACTED]
Subject: Stephen Hsu

Good morning,

Last night, Stephen posted the following blog containing letters of support from faculty members and former colleagues of his: https://www.twitter.com/hsu_steve/status/1272707430128943105

In addition, there is an open letter & petition circulating in support of Stephen, which has around 24 shares and has received 98 signatures:

https://www.twitter.com/a_centrism/status/1272787921096056833



Josh Lange
Junior Marketing Analyst
Michigan State University
University Communications
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

From:

[Redacted]

Sent:

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:43 AM

To:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject:

Re: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

I believe these letters misunderstand both the nature of the concerns about Dr. Hsu and what academic freedom entails.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/16/hsu-academic-freedom/>

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From:

[Redacted]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

[Redacted]

Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc:

[Redacted]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just launched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

A small black rectangular redaction box covering the signature.A large black rectangular redaction box covering the main body of the email.

From: Quinn, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:51 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Re: Stephen Hsu concerns

[REDACTED]

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Stanley, Samuel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:59:23 AM
To: Quinn, Brian [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Stephen Hsu concerns

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stanley, Samuel" [REDACTED]
Date: June 16, 2020 at 2:58:57 AM EDT
To: "Zeig, Michael" [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Stephen Hsu concerns

From: Zeig, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: RE: Stephen Hsu concerns

Free right now or looks like after morning meeting works too.

From: Stanley, Samuel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:59 AM
To: Zeig, Michael [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Stephen Hsu concerns

Let's discuss today. Sam

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Knake, Renee" [REDACTED]
Date: June 15, 2020 at 12:42:05 AM EDT
To: "Stanley, Samuel" [REDACTED]
Cc: "Byrum, Dianne" [REDACTED]; "Foster, Melanie" [REDACTED]; "Mosallam, Brian" [REDACTED]; "Kelly, Dan" [REDACTED]; "Scott, Brianna" [REDACTED]; "Ferguson, Joel" [REDACTED]; "Tebay, Kelly" [REDACTED]; "Barr, Nakia" [REDACTED]; "Quinn, Brian" [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Stephen Hsu concerns

Dear President Stanley,

The information contained in the email below, along with that from another [REDACTED] who wrote to us this evening, includes additional content that [REDACTED] I think [REDACTED]

Best,
Renee

Renee Knake
Trustee, Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]; Byrum, Dianne [REDACTED]; Foster, Melanie [REDACTED]; Knake, Renee [REDACTED]; Scott, [REDACTED]

Brianna [redacted] Ferguson, Joel [redacted] Kelly, Dan [redacted]
Mosallam, Brian [redacted] Tebay, Kelly [redacted] Barr, Nakia
[redacted] Chesney, Meredith [redacted]

Subject: Stephen Hsu concerns

Hi everyone,

I am an [redacted] at MSU and I am writing to you because of my concerns of having Stephen Hsu working in this university. If someone who thinks that a person of color, or a woman is less intelligent, I am pretty sure that is called racism and sexism. If you have not seen what the Graduate Student Union gathered about him, please read it (<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>) and you will understand that no one is mobbing anyone on Twitter.

What the GEU gathered is only part of the problem, not only he uses inappropriate language for people that have Asperger's syndrome, he calls them "aspies" (attached pdf from his blog), but he also blogs about prostitution, about the temptation of being a man in an all-female Collage and refers to women as "whores". I invite you to read some of his blogs attached in this email.

This is unacceptable! Unfortunately, you have received petitions to not fire him from people that haven't even read the posts from Stephen, petitions that he has posted on his blog already where we can all read them.

As a [redacted] this is extremely disturbing and no one can tell me I am just being sensitive.

PLEASE, read his blogs and judge for yourself (<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/search/label/dating>). If you all don't see a problem with a professor blogging about race and woman like that, what am I to this university? Am I a less intelligent whore to you? After reading it all, does any woman feel comfortable being in a room with him?

[redacted]

Information Processing

Pessimism of the Intellect, Optimism of the Will | Favorite posts | Manifold podcast | Twitter: @hsu_steve



Steve Hsu

Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Michigan State University

[View my complete profile](#)

Showing posts with label **aspergers**. [Show all posts](#)

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Magnetic brain stimulation and autism

If this account is true, it's simply amazing.

NY Magazine: What It's Like to 'Wake Up' From Autism After Magnetic Stimulation

... Though he wasn't diagnosed with autism until he was 40, John Elder Robison felt isolated and disconnected throughout his entire youth and early adulthood. But in 2008, at 50, he took part in what became a three-year research project looking at brain function in individuals with autism spectrum disorders and exploring the use of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) to help them.

TMS is a noninvasive procedure that uses magnetic pulses to stimulate nerve cells in the brain. During treatment, a coil is placed against the patient's scalp and the TMS energy passes through the skull into the outermost layer of the brain. ...

The treatment left Robison momentarily crippled by the weight of other people's feelings, and he spoke with *Science of Us* about his experience, which he also discusses in his recently released book, *Switched On: A Memoir of Brain Change and Emotional Awakening*. ...

Do you understand now what was happening?

TMS modified my emotional response to what you might call ordinary situations. I often put it this way: You might be crossing the street and you fall and you skin your knee. I'd say, "Come on, get up!" The very best advice I could give is come on, get going, this car could run you over. People would see my practical response as cold and emotionless. After TMS, I'd look at you and wince at your skinned knee. I never did that before. And I now realize that wincing at your skinned knee is the response most people have, I still have the autistic response, but I'm also aware of what you might now call the "empathetic response from personal experience." People can tell you about something a million times, and it won't mean anything to you until you experience it. That said, it's important to understand that I always had the ability to feel your pain. Like, if you were my girlfriend and you got sick I'd be more worried about you than your own mother. I was always that way. But no matter how much I cared about you, if we were crossing the street, you fell down and skinned your knee, I would see your skinned knee and I would say "Come on, we gotta get going," or I would say, "Here, I'll get you a Band-Aid." I would have a practical response. The way I responded is no reflection on how much I cared for you. I could care for you with all the love in the world and still I'd respond practically.

So you don't feel you'd really lacked empathy before?

No. In fact, studies have shown that autistic people feel things more deeply, not less at all. It's true that autism is described as a condition with communication impairment. And so, to be diagnosed with autism, you must have an impaired ability to speak, to understand speech, or to understand or convey unspoken cues.

So what exactly happened when you first stated noticing emotional cues?

It hit me all at once with an intensity that was absolutely scary. As I lay in bed, trying to fall asleep, the world started revolving. I became afraid I was having a stroke. I'd close my eyes and the world would spin like I was drunk, about to throw up. I don't drink or do drugs. So for me to have the world spinning like that made me think there was something terribly wrong. And not only was the world spinning, I would close my eyes and I would have these really vivid, half-awake, half-asleep dreams that were a collage of things from the past and things that had just happened that day and they were just so real. The experience was so unsettling that I woke up and wrote a 1,500-word missive to the scientists describing what had happened. Then, finally, I was able to fall asleep.

The next day at work I looked at one of my colleagues and I thought to myself: He has the most beautiful brown eyes. That's the type of thought I simply do not have. I don't usually have any comment on your eyes because I don't look in anyone's eyes. For me to look in your eyes and say that they are beautiful is totally out of character. When I got to work I walked into the waiting room, as I usually do, and I looked at everyone and there was this flood of emotion. I could see it all! They were scared and anxious and eager, and never in my life had I seen something like that. I had to step out of the room because I didn't know how to cope. It felt like ESP. Maybe in the past I used the logical part of my brain to look at people around me and carefully analyze. I figured out situations using logic. So I had that powerful ability but now the screen of emotion was turned on. too. ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 4:30 PM

1 Comment 

Labels: [aspergers](#), [autism](#), [cognitive science](#), [neuroscience](#), [psychology](#)

Monday, October 12, 2015

Neoreaction and the Dark Enlightenment

An essay on neoreaction and the dark enlightenment from The Awt.

See also Fukuyama and Zhang on the China Model , Is there a China model? and Power and paranoia in Silicon Valley.

The Darkness Before the Right

A right-wing politics for the coming century is taking shape. And it's not slowing down.

... Land's case for democratic dysfunction is simply stated. Democracy is structurally incapable of rational leadership due to perverse incentive structures. It is trapped in short-termism by the electoral cycle, hard decisions become political suicide, and social catastrophe is acceptable as long as it can be blamed on the other team. Moreover, inter-party competition to "buy votes" leads to a ratchet effect of ever-greater state intervention in the economy—and even if this is periodically reversed, in the long-run it only moves in one direction. ... Rather than accept creeping democratic socialism (which leads to "zombie apocalypse"), Land would prefer to simply abolish democracy and appoint a national CEO. This capitalist Leviathan would be, at a bare minimum, capable of rational long-term planning and aligning individual incentive structures with social well-being (CEO-as-Tiger-Mom). Individuals would have no say in government, but would be generally left alone, and free to leave. This right of "exit" is, for Land, the only meaningful right, and it's opposed to democratic "voice," where everyone gets a say, but is bound by the decisions of the majority—the fear being that the majority will decide to self-immolate.

Anti-democratic sentiment is uncommon in the West, so Land's conclusions appear as shocking, deliberate provocations, which they partly are. ... Pointing to Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, it argues that economically and socially effective government legitimizes itself, with no need for elections. And this view isn't limited to the internet right. ...

This brand of authoritarian capitalism has a certain fascist sheen, but in truth it's closer to a rigidly formalized capitalist technocracy. There's no mass mobilization, totalitarian social reorganization, or cult of violence here; governing will be done by the governors, and popular sovereignty replaced by the market Mandate of Heaven. There is a strange sort of disillusioned cultural conservatism here as well, albeit one absolutely stripped of moralism. In fact, what's genuinely creepy about it is the near-sociopathic lack of emotional attachment: it's a sort of pure incentive-based functionalism, as if from the perspective of a computer or alien. If a person doesn't produce quantifiable value, they are, objectively, not valuable. Everything else is sentimentality.

Capitalism, in this view, is less something we do than something done to us. Contra business-class bromides about the market as the site of creative expression, for Land, as for Marx, capitalism is a fundamentally alien institution in which "the means of production socially impose themselves as an effective imperative." This means simply that the competitive dynamics of capitalism drive technical progress as an iron law. If one capitalist doesn't want to build smarter, better machines, he'll be out-competed by one who does. If Apple doesn't make you an asshole, Google will. If America doesn't breed genetically modified super-babies, China will. The market doesn't run on "greed," or any intentionality at all. Its beauty—or horror—is its impersonality. Either you adapt, or you die.

Accelerating technological growth, then, is written into capitalism's DNA. Smart machines make us smarter allowing us to make smarter machines, in a positive feedback loop that quickly begins to approach infinity, better known in this context as "singularity." ...

Somehow I ended up on this "map of neoreaction" -- without my consent, of course. Who are all these people? :-)

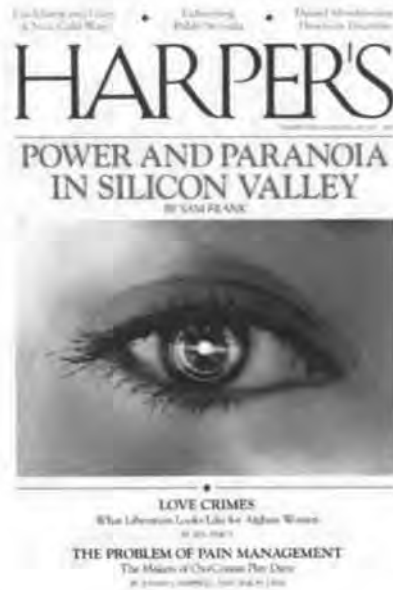


Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:02 PM 17 Comments

Labels: aspergers, geeks, government, needs, politics

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Power and paranoia in Silicon Valley



Plenty of fear and loathing of the nerd rapture backed by powerful VCs in this Harper's article. Ungated version.

Discussed in depth at LessWrong.

... Be explorers; take advantage of this vast new landscape that's been opened up to us in this time and this place; and bear the torch of applied rationality like brave explorers. And then, like, keep in touch by email."

The workshop attendees put giant Post-Its on the walls expressing the lessons they hoped to take with them. A blue one read RATIONALITY IS SYSTEMATIZED WINNING. Above it, in pink: THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO THINK LIKE ME. I AM NOT ALONE.

... I talked to one of my roommates, a Google scientist who worked on neural nets. The CFAR workshop [[Center For Applied Rationality]] was just a whim to him, a tourist weekend. "They're the nicest people you'd ever meet," he said, but then he qualified the compliment. "Look around. If they were effective, rational people, would they be here? Something a little weird, no?"

... Were they really going to save the world? From what? "Imagine there is a set of skills," he said. "There is a myth that they are possessed by the whole population, and there is a cynical myth that they're possessed by 10% of the population. They've actually been wiped out in all but about one person in three thousand." It is important, Vassar said, that his people, "the fragments of the world," lead the way during "the fairly predictable, fairly total cultural transition that will predictably take place between 2020 and 2035 or so." We pulled up outside the Rose Garden Inn. He continued: "You have these weird phenomena like Occupy where people are protesting with no goals, no theory of how the world is, around which they can structure a protest. Basically this incredibly, weirdly, thoroughly disempowered group of people will have to inherit the power of the world anyway, because sooner or later everyone older is going to be too old and too technologically obsolete and too bankrupt. The old institutions may largely break down or they may be handed over, but either way they can't just freeze. These people are going to be in charge, and it would be helpful if they, as they come into their own, crystallize an identity that contains certain cultural strengths like argument and reason." I didn't argue with him, except to press, gently, on his particular form of elitism. His rationalism seemed so limited to me, so incomplete. "It is unfortunate," he said, "that we are in a situation where our cultural heritage is possessed only by people who are extremely unappealing to most of the population." That hadn't been what I'd meant. I had meant rationalism as itself a failure of the imagination. "The current ecosystem is so totally fucked up," Vassar said. "But if you have conversations here" -- he gestured at the hotel -- "people change their mind and learn and update and change their behaviors in response to the things they say and learn. That never happens anywhere else." ...

Makes me wish I still lived in the Bay Area :-). My MIRI interview.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:10 PM

1 Comment: 

Labels: aspergers, geeks, innovation, nerds, silicon valley, technology

Thursday, March 25, 2010

He is a second Dirac, only this time human

Another historical letter sent by a reader. My understanding is that Feynman was not appointed at Berkeley because of Birge's anti-semitism: "One Jew (Oppenheimer) is enough," he is reported to have said.

CONFIDENTIAL

November 4, 1943

Professor R. T. Birge
Chairman, Department of Physics
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Professor Birge:

In these war times it is not always easy to think constructively about the peace that is to follow, even in such relatively small things as the welfare of our department. I would like to make one suggestion to you which concerns that, and about which I have myself a very sure and strong conviction.

As you know, we have quite a number of physicists here, and I have run into a few who are young and whose qualities I had not known before. Of these there is one who is in every way so outstanding and so clearly recognized as such, that I think it appropriate to call his name to your attention, with the urgent request that you consider him for a position in the department at the earliest time that that is possible. You may remember the name because he once applied for a fellowship in Berkeley: it is Richard Feynman. He is by all odds the most brilliant young physicist here, and everyone knows this. He is a man of thoroughly engaging character and personality, extremely clear, extremely normal in all respects, and an excellent teacher with a warm feeling for physics in all its aspects. He has the best possible relations both with the theoretical people of whom he is one, and with the experimental people with whom he works in very close harmony.

The reason for telling you about him now is that his excellence is so well known, both at Princeton where he worked before he came here, and to a not inconsiderable number of "big shots" on this project, that he has already been offered a position for the post war period, and will most certainly be offered others. I feel that he would be a great strength for our department, tending to tie together its teaching, its research and its experimental and theoretical aspects. I may give you two quotations from men with whom he has worked. Bethe

has said that he would rather lose any two other men than Feynman from this present job, and Wigner said, "He is a second Dirac, only this time human."

Of course, there are several people here whose recommendation you might want; in the first instance Professors Brode and McMillan. I hope you will not mind my calling this matter to your attention, but I feel that if we can follow the suggestion I have made, all of us will be very happy and proud about it in the future. I cannot too strongly emphasize Feynman's remarkable personal qualities which have been generally recognized by officers, scientists and laity in this community.

With every good wish,

Robert Oppenheimer

Posted by Steve Hsu at 4:57 PM 2 Comments 

Labels: aspergers, autism, berkeley, brainpower, feynman, human capital, oppenheimer, physics

"Stupid fools"

A friend sent me this letter from Feynman to Wolfram, Wolfram received a Caltech PhD in theoretical physics at the age of 20, before turning to other topics such as complexity and software development. Wolfram did not heed Feynman's advice: the next year he founded UIUC's Center for Complex Systems Research; then, in 1987, he formed Wolfram Research, the company responsible for Mathematica and, more recently, Wolfram Alpha.

I wish I had read this letter before taking my new job :-)

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CHARLES C. LAURITSEN LABORATORY OF HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

October 14, 1985

Dr. Stephen Wolfram
School of Natural Sciences
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, NJ 08540

Dear Wolfram:

1. It is not my opinion that the present organizational structure of science inhibits complexity research - I do not believe such an institution is necessary.
2. You say you want to create your own environment - but you will not be doing that; you will create (perhaps) an environment that you might like to work in - but you will not be working in this environment - you will be administering it - and the administration environment is not what you seek - is it? You won't enjoy administrating people because you won't succeed in it.

You don't understand "ordinary people." To you they are "stupid fools" - so you will not tolerate them or treat their foibles with tolerance or patience - but will drive yourself wild (or they will drive you wild) trying to deal with them in an effective way.

Find a way to do your research with as little contact with non-technical people as possible, with one exception, fall madly in love! That is my advice, my friend.

Sincerely,

(Signed, Richard P. Feynman)

Richard P. Feynman

Posted by Steve Hsu at 4:20 PM 2 Comments 


Labels: aspergers, autism, brainpower, careers, physics, psychology

Friday, February 07, 2010

"In the land of autistics, the aspie is king"

I've often thought this to myself, but was amused to hear it attributed to a famous theoretician at Princeton the other day.



Posted by Steve Hsu at 7:43 PM 1 Comment 

Labels: [aspergers](#), [cognitive science](#), [nerds](#), [personality](#), [physics](#)

Thursday, August 25, 2011

Pais: Pauli aspie?



From *The Genius of Science*, a portrait gallery of 20th century physicists by Abraham Pais:

So it came about that I met Pauli for the first time in Denmark, in early 1946, at a dinner party in Bohr's home. At that time he had already long been recognized as one of the major figures in 20th century physics ... I witnessed for the first time his chassidic mode, a gentle rhythmic to and fro rocking of the upper torso ... "No, perhaps you don't know much, perhaps you don't know much." A moment later: "Ich weiss mehr" (I know more). That was said in the Pauli style, without aggression, merely an expression of a statement of fact.

More from Pais:

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:22 PM 17 Comments 

Labels: [aspergers](#), [genius](#), [physics](#)

Wednesday, July 10, 2010

Autism and economics

Blogger and economics professor Tyler Cowen's latest book (*Create Your Own Economy*) is out, and it seems to be all about autism! If you don't believe me, here is an Editorial Review from Amazon:

In this provocative study of behavioral economics, Cowen (*Discover Your Inner Economist*) reveals that autistic tendencies toward classification, categorization and specialization can be used as a vehicle for understanding how people use information. Cowen spends a great deal of time dispelling autism's societal stigma, arguing that mainstream society is reaping benefits from mimicking autistic cognitive strengths. As stimulating as is the premise, the book often feels like its own long exercise in categorization, with each chapter an analysis of the human mania for classification (e.g., the obsession with ranking achievements and endeavors). According to Cowen, human brains are constantly absorbing bits of information that get smaller and are delivered faster as technology advances. The more information people receive, the more they crave—this shorter attention span is

far from a flaw to the author, but a liberating mechanism that allows humans time to contemplate more ambitious, long-range pursuits. ...

Interestingly, Cowen says the idea for the book came from an email he received from a blog reader, who was convinced, based only on his writing, that Cowen was himself autistic :-)

In skimming the book (which isn't bad), I was surprised not to see any discussion about the prevalence of autistic economists -- specifically when it comes to their perspectives on human nature. (If you don't believe me, ask any non-economist social scientist.) [On further inspection, there is a reference to 'economist nerds' in the context of the signaling interpretation of education, and a figure which notes that economists tend to focus on the most "objective" kinds of human decision making, leaving aside important issues of psychology.] As far as I could tell, Cowen doesn't mention in the book that there is actually a heterodox economics organization called the Post-Autistic Economics Network (paecon), that publishes its own journal, originally known as the Post-Autistic Economic Review. Here's what's in the current issue:

How should the collapse of the world financial system affect economics? Part II

- Mad, bad, and dangerous to know
Steve Keen

- A financial crisis on top of the ecological crisis: Ending the monopoly of neoclassical economics
Peter Söderbaum

- Toward a new sustainable economy
Robert Costanza

- After the bust: The outlook for macroeconomics and macroeconomic policy
Thomas I. Palley

- A non-formal look at the non-formal economy
Sean Mallin

I'm all for cognitive diversity, especially on the geeky end of the spectrum! But to what extent are people like Cowen simply lumping all nerds together with high functioning autistics and people with Asperger's Syndrome?

For more on this topic, I recommend Simon Baron-Cohen's book *The Essential Difference: male and female brains and the truth about autism*.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 10:25 PM

1 Comment



Labels: aspergers, autism, economics

54107849 May 10, 2009

Vernon Smith at Caltech

I've been fascinated by economist Vernon Smith since participating in paid economics experiments as a student at Caltech. Smith was the pioneer in this type of research. From the 2002 Nobel report on his prize:

Human decision-making deviates in one way or another from the standard assumptions of the rationalistic paradigm in economics. If such deviations from rationality and self-interest were small and purely idiosyncratic, they would on average cancel out, and economic theory would not be too wide off the mark when predicting outcomes for large aggregates of agents. Following the lead of Vernon Smith, early studies of alternative market mechanisms by experimental economists can be viewed as tests of the hypothesis of idiosyncratic deviations from standard economic theory. If deviations from rationality and self-interest were systematic, however, this would call for a revision of economic theory itself.

It's amusing that Smith, who is autistic, played a major role in promoting more realistic ideas about human behavior among economists! See article and video interview, MSNBC.

...now Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith has decided to speak openly about what he calls the deficiencies and the selective advantages of Aspergers.

"I can switch out and go into a concentrated mode and the world is completely shut out," he said in a recent interview. "If I'm writing something, nothing else exists."

Smith says his capacity for deep concentration contributed to his ability to win the Nobel Prize:

"Perhaps even more importantly, I don't have any trouble thinking outside the box," he said. "I don't feel any social pressure to do things the way other people are doing them, professionally. And so I have been more open to different ways of looking at a lot of the problems in economics."

CNBC: Did you feel like you seemed strange in the eyes of other people?

SMITH: Oh, yes.

CNBC: How so?

SMITH: Sometimes I'm described as "not there" in a social situation. You know, a social situation that lasts for a couple of hours I find it to be a tremendous amount of strain, so I've been known just to go to bed and read.

Perhaps most interesting to me, Smith was an undergraduate physics major at Caltech. The excerpt below is from Smith's Nobel autobiography. See also his recently published memoir, and this podcast interview on EconTalk.

...neither I, nor my parents, or anyone in my family, or any neighbor or friend, had any idea how to go about choosing a college. So, I went to the city library, found a book on choosing a college, and learned among other things that the best college in the United States was Caltech. Being naïve and impetuous I decided that I should prepare myself to enter Caltech, as, without preparation, my C average in High School would not even qualify me to take the entrance exam. A serious Quaker College, Friends University, was located near my home in West Wichita. I enrolled in physics, chemistry, calculus, astronomy and literature courses for one year, earned top grades, and sat for the entrance exams for Caltech.

...Caltech was a meat grinder like I could never have imagined. I studied night, day, weekends and survived hundreds of problems, but what a joy to take freshman chemistry from Linus Pauling, hear physics lectures by J. Robert Oppenheimer on his frequent visits to Caltech, attend a visiting lecture by Bertrand Russell, and regularly see von Karman, Anderson, Zwicky, Tolman, Millikan and other legendary figures of that time, on campus.

I was majoring in physics, but switched to electrical engineering, which was in the same division (Mathematics, Physics and EE) as a senior. In this way I did not have to take the dreaded 'Smyth's course,' required for physics majors, but not EE, and received my BS on schedule in 1949. At the time I relished the unbending facts and mathematics of physics/engineering. Then, as a senior, I took an economics course and found it very intriguing - you could actually learn something about the economic principles underlying the claims of socialism, capitalism and other such isms. Curious about advanced economics, I went to the Caltech library, stumbled upon two books, Samuelson's Foundations, and von Mises' Human Action. From the former, it was clear that economics could be done like physics, but from the latter there seemed to be much in the way of reasoning that was not like physics. I also subscribed to the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and one of the first issues had a paper by Hollis Chenery on Engineering Production Functions. So, economics was also like engineering? I had not a hint then as to how much those first impressions would be changed in my thinking over the decades to follow. ...

For micro I supplemented with courses Samuelson taught down the Charles River at MIT. After Caltech, Harvard seemed easy, and I got virtually straight A's. ...Graduate school is an endurance test, but was not that demanding for me after having survived the undergraduate meat grinder.

In his memoir he adds the following interesting comments (p. 123-124):

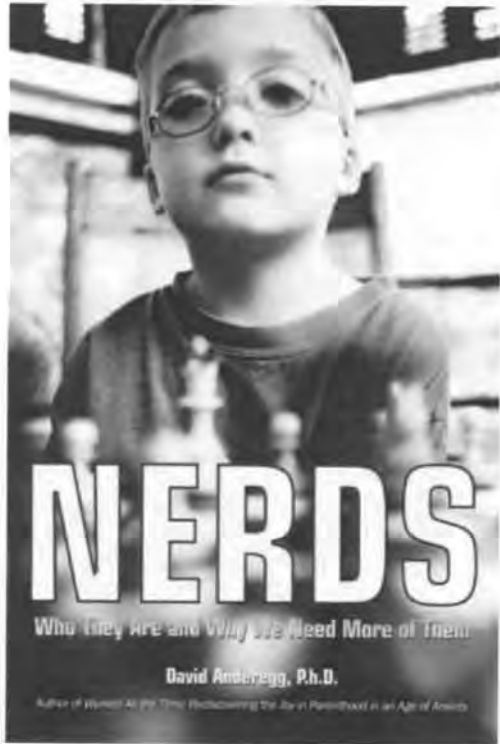
The first thing to which one has to adapt is the fact that no matter how high people might sample in the right tail of the distribution for "intelligence," ... that sample is still normally distributed in performing on the materials in the Caltech curriculum. The second thing you learn, if you were reared with my naïve background, is the incredible arrogance that develops in conjunction with the acquisition of what you ultimately come to realize is a really very, very small bit of knowledge compared with our vast human ignorance. ... the difference between Harvard and Caltech: "At Harvard they believe they are the best in the world; at Caltech they know they are the best in the world."

Posted by Steve Hsu at 4:42 PM 4 Comments 

Labels: aspergers, autism, behavioral economics, brainpower, caltech, economics, harvard

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2007

Nerds!



I haven't read this yet, but am looking forward to it. (OK, maybe I just like the title and cover :-)

Here is the author's web page; he's a psychology professor at Bennington.

Q: Do other countries have this problem?

A: The idea that it is unattractive or unappealing to be intelligent is not a universal concept. Not in Asia, certainly not in India. There's no concept in India that being good at math and science and technology has negative social consequences. That's the reason there are so many Indian engineers.

Q: Why did this grow out of American culture?

A: Historically, America is a place for men of action, for men who discover things, make things with their hands, have practical intelligence as opposed to book learning. Book-learning was suspect – the musty old European way, as opposed to practical, snazzy America. I think this tradition has never gone away.

The problem is that now it just doesn't work anymore. You can't do anything unless you pay attention in school. You can't invent things without knowing calculus. If you don't study math, it won't work. Benjamin Franklin was an American genius, a model of the American tinkerer, but the Ben Franklin model is not working anymore.

Q: Wasn't everyone talking about the need for better math and science education back in the days of Sputnik?

A: What's new is the sexualization of it. Kids live in such a sexualized world. ... (If you are called a nerd or a geek, it's) not just creepy or weird, you're labeled as someone who is never going to get laid. There's a lot more at stake because kids are so much more exposed to a culture that's all about being attractive, having sex early.

The nerds and the geek stereotype is that if you're doing well in math and science, you are completely unattractive to the opposite sex.

All the nerd and geek self-tests, what they ask you is: Are you good at science and math? Are you unwashed? Have you never had a date? You don't know anyone's phone number except your mothers?

Posted by Steve Hsu at 11:18 AM

3 Comments 

Labels: aspergers, geeks, nerds

Saturday, August 18, 2007

Mamet on Asperger's, Ashkenazim and the movies

The excerpt below is from his book *Bambi vs Godzilla*. Is he talking about movie directors, or physicists? :-)

Trivia question: what do David Mamet, Greg Cochran, Steve Pinker and Gregory Clark (author of *A Farewell to Alms*) have in common?

Glen Gary Glen Ross is one of my favorite movies; the scene below is an all time classic. PUT THAT COFFEE DOWN!



DAVID MAMET

I think it is not impossible that Asperger's syndrome helped make the movies.

The symptoms of this developmental disorder include early precocity, a great ability to maintain masses of information, a lack of ability to mix with groups in age-appropriate ways, ignorance of or indifference to social norms, high intelligence and difficulty with transitions, married to a preternatural ability to concentrate on the minutiae of the task at hand.

This sounds to me like a job description for a movie director. Let me also note that Asperger's syndrome has its highest prevalence among Ashkenazi Jews and their descendants. For those who have not been paying attention, this group constitutes, and has constituted since its earliest days, the bulk of America's movie directors and studio heads.

Neal Gabler, in his *An Empire of Their Own* points out that the men who made the movies - Goldwyn, Mayer, Schenck, Laemmle, Fox, - all came from a circle with Warsaw at its center, its radius a mere two hundred miles. (I will here proudly insert that my four grandparents came from that circle).

Widening our circle to all of Eastern European Jewry (the Ashkenazim), we find a list of directors beginning with Joe Stenberg's class and continuing strong through Seven Spielberg's and the youth of today.

...There was a lot of moosh written in the last two decades about the "blank slate", the idea that since each child is theoretically equal under the eyes of the law, each must, by extension be equal in all things and that such a possibility could not obtain unless each child was, from birth, equally capable - environmental influences aside - of succeeding in all things.

This is a magnificent and majestic theory and would be borne by all save those who had ever read, observed, or seriously thought about children.

Races, as Steven Pinker wrote in his refutational *The Blank Slate*, are just rather large families; families share genes and thus, genetic disposition. Such may influence the gene holders (or individuals) much, some, or not at all. The possibility exists, however, that a family passing down the gene for great hand-eye coordination is likely to turn out more athletes than without. The family possessing the genes for visual acuity will likely produce good hunters, whose skill will provide nourishment. The families of the good hunters will prosper and intermarry, thus strengthening the genetic disposition in visual acuity.

Among the sons of Ashkenazi families nothing was more prized than genius at study and explication.

Prodigious students were identified early and nurtured - the gifted child of the poor was adopted by a rich family, which thus gained status and served the community, the religion, and the race.

The boys grew and regularly married into the family or extended family of the wealthy. The precocious ate better and thus lived longer, and so were more likely to mate and pass on their genes.

These students grew into acclaimed rabbis and Hassidic masters, and founded generations of rabbis; the progeny of these rabbinic courts intermarried, as does any royalty, and that is my amateur Mendelian explanation of the prevalence of Asperger's syndrome in the Ashkenazi.

What were the traits indicating the nascent prodigy? Ability to retain and correlate vast amounts of information, a lack of desire (or ability) for normal social interaction, idiosyncrasy, preternatural ability for immersion in minutiae; ecco, six hundred years of Polish rabbis and one hundred of their genetic descendants, American film directors.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 7:37 PM 2 Comments 

Labels: ashkenazim, aspergers, david mamet, genetics

Wednesday, January 05, 2020

Extreme male minds and autism

The Essential Difference: male and female brains and the truth about autism by Simon Baron-Cohen

Another book on the holiday list. Why was I interested in this? Recently Asperger's Syndrome (AS), a form of high-functioning autism, has become the chic condition of choice for geeks worldwide. Yes, kids who in the old days were simply math or computer nerds are now self-identified (often with pride!) as having AS. Silicon Valley is full of these people. The rest of us are mere "neurotypicals" :-)

Baron-Cohen is head of the Autism Research Centre at Cambridge, and a professor of psychology. He claims that male brains tend to be better at "Systematizing" (organizing or analyzing things which exhibit order), while female brains are better at "Empathizing" (understanding what others are thinking or feeling). A fair amount of experimental data (pretty convincing) is presented, which supports the claim that the distributions of S-ability and E-ability are different in the male and female populations. (Incidentally, the effect of testosterone on brain development is well known, leading to significant variations in the actual sizes of various areas of the brain between males and females.) Baron-Cohen also gives plausible evolutionary arguments for how this came to be - a bit better than the "girls were selected to be good mummies, boys to be good hunters" story, but you get the idea.

The novel part of his theory is that the autistic mind is an example of an extreme male mind - one that is obsessed with systematizing and very bad at empathizing. In a particularly amusing chapter he profiles a famous mathematician (Fields medalist) and some physicists (Dirac, Newton and Einstein) who he claims likely have or had AS. He even quotes a female physicist working at CERN saying that her male colleagues lack social skills and are arrogant obsessives :-). Well, what can I say, it is all true. But it doesn't mean we all have AS,...

Not to be missed are the fun tests at the back of the book, which measure your S and E quotients!

Posted by Steve Hsu at 4:01 AM 7 Comments 

Labels: aspergers, autism

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▼ 2020 (64)

▼ 06 (6)

[Support Freedom of Ideas and Inquiry at MSU](#)

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[Warren Hatch on Seeing the Future in the Era of CO₂](#)

[Leif Wenar on the Resource Curse and Impact Philos.](#)

[Re-Post: Joe Cesario on Police Decision Making and...](#)

- ▶ 05 (11)
- ▶ 04 (14)
- ▶ 03 (15)
- ▶ 02 (8)
- ▶ 01 (10)
- ▶ 2019 (113)
- ▶ 2018 (128)
- ▶ 2017 (150)
- ▶ 2016 (206)
- ▶ 2015 (167)
- ▶ 2014 (184)
- ▶ 2013 (211)
- ▶ 2012 (221)
- ▶ 2011 (266)
- ▶ 2010 (234)
- ▶ 2009 (204)
- ▶ 2008 (255)
- ▶ 2007 (196)
- ▶ 2006 (154)
- ▶ 2005 (253)
- ▶ 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (269)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (236)
- technology (231)
- american society (221)
- China (192)
- innovation (187)
- economics (177)
- ai (172)
- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (98)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)

- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)
- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgl (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cdo (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)
- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)

- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)
- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- simpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)
- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes ecoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- television (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)

- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)
- crossfit (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- dating (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)
- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- gödel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)

- econtalk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)
- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincare (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borges (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)
- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- feminism (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)

- sivs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)
- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heintze (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- tcm (2)
- mating (2)
- mba (2)
- mccain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)
- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)
- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- söcgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abir (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayr rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnie huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)

- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x. li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)
- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)
- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- gizmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- it (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
- jack kerouac (1)
- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dotan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searle (1)
- john tierney (1)
- jonathan littell (1)
- las vegas (1)
- lawyers (1)
- lehman auction (1)
- les bienveillantes (1)
- lowell wood (1)
- lse (1)
- machine (1)
- mcgeorge bundy (1)
- mexico (1)
- michael jackson (1)
- mickey rourke (1)
- migration (1)
- money:tech (1)
- myron scholes (1)
- newton institute (1)
- networks (1)
- newton institute (1)
- nfl (1)
- oliver stone (1)
- phil gramm (1)
- philanthropy (1)
- philip greenspun (1)
- portfolio theory (1)
- power laws (1)
- psychology (1)
- randomness (1)
- recession (1)
- sales (1)

- singapore (1)
- skype (1)
- standard deviation (1)
- star wars (1)
- starship troopers (1)
- students today (1)
- teleportation (1)
- tierney lab blog (1)
- tomonaga (1)
- tyler cowen (1)
- venice (1)
- violence (1)
- virtual meetings (1)
- war nerd (1)
- wealth effect (1)

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Steve Hsu

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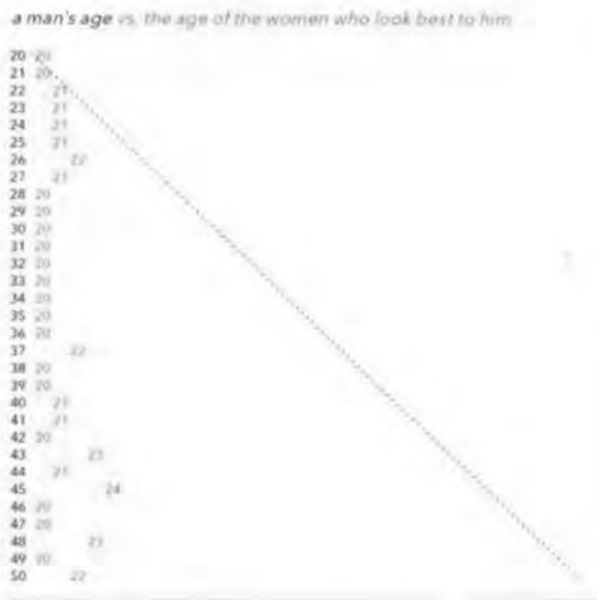
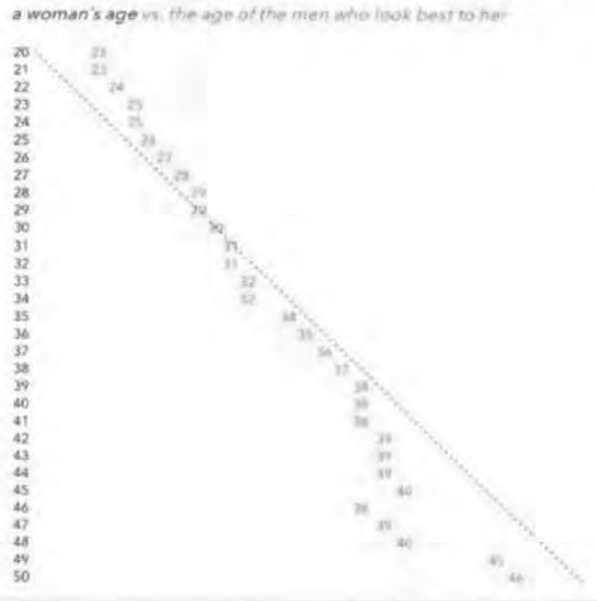
Monday, October 18, 2015

Men Are Easy



@9 min: 26 million matches per day on Tinder. Male preferences easy to predict. females more complex! Linear vs Multivariate Nonlinear preferences! Calling Geoffrey Miller ...

Some data from OKcupid!



Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:29 AM

3 Comments

Labels: american society, data mining, dating, machine learning

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014

Evo Psych for PUAs

Evolutionary Psychologist Geoffrey Miller is interviewed on this (for lack of a better description) PUA podcast. See also The new dating game.

Ep. #67 The State of Evolutionary Psychology and the Mating Mind with Geoffrey Miller

[Geoffrey Miller] Yeah I'd say about seventy percent of evolutionary psychology is about mating, attraction, physical attractiveness, mental attractiveness, potential conflicts between men and women, and how those play out. But then other evolutionary psych people study all kinds of other things, like the learning and memory that Wikipedia mentioned. ...

[Geoffrey Miller] Well one thing to note is it's a pretty new field. I was literally at Stanford University when the field got invented by some of the leading people, who kind of had a joint retreat there at a place called The

Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences, 1989, 1990.

And they actually strategized about, 'How do we create this new field? What should we call it? How do we launch it? What kind of scientific societies and journals do we establish?'

So the field's only twenty-five years old. It started out pretty strongly though, because the people who went into it were brilliant, really world-class geniuses, and that's one of the things that attracted me to the field when I was a grad student.

Since then, the quality of the research has gotten way better. It's a very progressive field in the sense that we actually build on each other's insights. Other areas of psychology, everybody wants to coin and patent their own little term, their own, almost, trademarked little theory, and try to ignore a lot of what other people do.

We tend to be in more of the tradition of mainstream biology, where you actually respect what other people have done before, and try to build on it. So I think we're really good at doing that.

The other thing to remember, apart from it being a young field, is it's a pretty small field. There's fewer than a thousand people in the world actively doing evolutionary psych research, compared to fifty thousand people doing neuroscience research, or probably a hundred thousand scientists doing cancer research.

So it's not a huge field. There's probably more science journalists trying to cover evolutionary psychology than there are evolutionary psych researchers. ...

[Geoffrey Miller] Well I'll tell you what areas of science really impress me at the moment, in terms of being super high-quality and sophisticated. One is behavior genetics. Twin studies. So I did a sabbatical in Brisbane, Australia with one of the big twin research groups, back in 2007.

And they were just making this shift. They had tracked thirty thousand pairs of twins in Australia for the previous twenty years, and given them literally hundreds of surveys, and measurements, and experiments over the years. And they were just starting to collect DNA from all these twin pairs.

And what you have now is big international networks of people working in behavior genetics, sharing their data, publishing papers with fifty or a hundred scientists on the paper, working together and being able to identify, 'Hey, here's where the genes for, like, how sexually promiscuous you are overlap with the genes for this personality trait, or the genes for this physical health trait.'

And it's amazingly sophisticated. It's powerful. The datasets are huge. The problem is a lot of that stuff is very politically incorrect, and it makes people uncomfortable. And people are like, 'You can't say that propensities for murdering people are genetic. Or, propensities for having a lot of musical creativity are genetic.' People don't want to hear that. So there's a big kind of ideological problem there. But honestly that's where some of the best research is being done in the behavioral sciences. ...

[Geoffrey Miller] Well one big thing is I think a lot of the pickup artist guys who quote The Mating Mind book, or refer to evolutionary psychology, get all obsessed with status, and they talk about alpha males, and beta males, and gamma males, and omega males, and whatever. Status, status, status. And that's fine. Status is important, no doubt.

But the idea that you can simply categorize human males into, 'Oh, you're an alpha. You're a beta.' That works for gorillas. It works for orangutans, where the different statuses are actually associated with different body sizes. Like an alpha orangutan is literally twice as heavy as a beta orangutan, and has huge cheek pads, and the beta doesn't. And they have completely different mating strategies.

But for humans, status is way more complicated. It's fluid, it depends on context. ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:32 PM 6 Comments 

Labels: [dating](#), [evolution](#), [mating](#), [psychology](#)

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Directional Personality and mate preferences

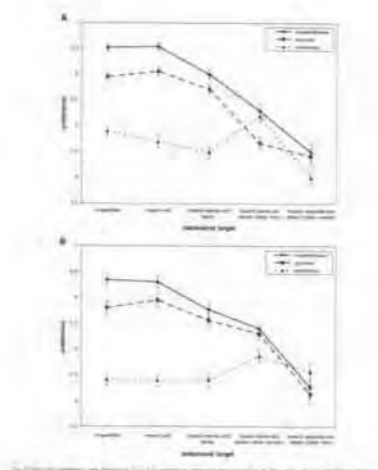
Some good old evo psych fun -- guaranteed to annoy certain people :-). Nevertheless, interesting because it raises the point that measurements of Personality (e.g., Big 5 or other constructs) are complicated by the fact that people can behave differently depending on the target of the behavior.

Plenty of sociopaths in large organizations are pleasant to superiors but unpleasant to those below them in the hierarchy.

Kind toward whom? Mate preferences for personality traits are target specific (Evolution and Human Behavior 31 (2010) 29–38)

Previous mate preference studies indicate that people prefer partners whose personalities are extremely kind and trustworthy, but relatively non-dominant. This conclusion, however, is based on research that leaves unclear whether these traits describe the behavior a partner directs toward oneself, toward other classes of people or both. Because the fitness consequences of partners' behaviors likely differed depending on the classes of individuals toward whom behaviors were directed, we predicted that mate preferences for personality traits would change depending on the specific targets of a partner's behavioral acts. Consistent with this, two experiments demonstrated that people prefer partners who are extremely kind and trustworthy when considering behaviors directed toward themselves or their friends/family, but shift their preferences to much lower levels of these traits when considering behaviors directed toward other classes of individuals. In addition, both sexes preferred partners who direct higher levels of dominance toward members of the partner's own sex than toward any other behavioral target category, with women preferring levels of dominance toward other men as high as – or higher than – levels of kindness and trustworthiness. When asked to rate traits for which the behavioral target was left unspecified, furthermore, preferences were very similar to self-directed preferences, suggesting that previous trait-rating studies have not measured preferences for partners' behaviors directed toward people other than oneself. These findings may provide a basic contribution to the mate preference literature via their demonstration that ideal standards for romantic partners are importantly qualified by the targets of behavioral acts.

In the figure below, women (top graph) seem to prefer a larger self-rival asymmetry in their mates than men do. In other words, women like men who are kind to them but who are socially dominant towards other men. (Proponents of Game would argue that even this reflects a bit of false consciousness – that women actually prefer men who are socially dominant towards them!) Click for larger version.



Thanks to a reader for the reference.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:03 AM 7 Comments

Labels: [dating](#), [personality](#), [psychology](#), [psychometrics](#)

WATUTUJG: 30210000-15-2012

Hooking up on campus

Atlantic writer Hannah Rosin thinks hookup culture is "... an engine of female progress – one being harnessed and driven by women themselves." Commenter at the Atlantic site, "This isn't feminism - this is just a case of women becoming more like douchebag men, Casual sex is fine, but it's hard to argue that people's increasing detachment from each other is a sign of progress."

Review of Rosin's book, *The End of Men*.

See also [The New Dating Game](#).

Atlantic Monthly: ... I had gone to visit the [Ivy League] business school because a friend had described the women there as the most sexually aggressive he had ever met. Many of them had been molded on trading floors or in investment banks with male-female ratios as terrifying as 50-to-1, so they had learned to keep pace with

the boys. Women told me stories of being hit on at work by "FDBs" (finance douche bags) who hadn't even bothered to take off their wedding rings, or sitting through Monday-morning meetings that started with stories about who had banged whom (or what) that weekend. In their decade or so of working, they had been routinely hazed by male colleagues showing them ever more baroque porn downloaded on cellphones. Snowblowing was nothing to them.

In fact, I found barely anyone who even noticed the vulgarity anymore, until I came across a new student. She had arrived two weeks earlier, from Argentina. She and I stood by the bar at one point and watched a woman put her hand on a guy's inner thigh, shortly before they disappeared together. In another corner of the room, a beautiful Asian woman in her second year at school was entertaining the six guys around her with her best imitation of an Asian prostitute—"Dooo, you so big. Me love you long time"—winning the Tucker Max showdown before any of the guys had even tried to make a move on her. (She eventually chose the shortest guy in the group to go home with, because, she later told me, he seemed like he'd be the best in bed.)

... Single young women in their sexual prime—that is, their 20s and early 30s, the same age as the women at the business-school party—are for the first time in history more successful, on average, than the single young men around them. They are more likely to have a college degree and, in aggregate, they make more money.


... In 2004, Elizabeth Armstrong, then a sociologist at Indiana University, and Laura Hamilton, a young graduate student, set out to do a study on sexual abuse in college students' relationships. They applied for permission to interview women on a single floor of what was known as a "party dorm" at a state university in the Midwest. ...

Women in the dorm complained to the researchers about the double standard, about being called sluts, about not being treated with respect. But what emerged from four years of research was the sense that hooking up was part of a larger romantic strategy, part of what Armstrong came to think of as a "sexual career." For an upwardly mobile, ambitious young woman, hookups were a way to dip into relationships without disrupting her self-development or schoolwork. Hookups functioned as a "delay tactic," Armstrong writes, because the immediate priority, for the privileged women at least, was setting themselves up for a career. "If I want to maintain the lifestyle that I've grown up with," one woman told Armstrong, "I have to work. I just don't see myself being someone who marries young and lives off of some boy's money." Or from another woman: "I want to get secure in a city and in a job ... I'm not in any hurry at all. As long as I'm married by 30, I'm good."

The women still had to deal with the old-fashioned burden of protecting their personal reputations, but in the long view, what they really wanted to protect was their future professional reputations. "Rather than struggling to get into relationships," Armstrong reported, women "had to work to avoid them." (One woman lied to an interested guy, portraying herself as "extremely conservative" to avoid **dating** him.) Many did not want a relationship to steal time away from their friendships or studying.

Armstrong and Hamilton had come looking for sexual victims. Instead, at this university, and even more so at other, more prestigious universities they studied, they found the opposite: women who were managing their romantic lives like savvy headhunters. "The ambitious women calculate that having a relationship would be like a four-credit class, and they don't always have time for it, so instead they opt for a lighter hookup." Armstrong told me.

The women described boyfriends as "too greedy" and relationships as "too involved." One woman "with no shortage of admirers" explained, "I know this sounds really pathetic and you probably think I am lying, but there are so many other things going on right now that it's really not something high up on my list ... I know that's such a lame-ass excuse, but it's true." The women wanted to study or hang out with friends or just be "100 percent selfish," as one said. "I have the rest of my life to devote to a husband or kids or my job." Some even purposely had what one might think of as fake boyfriends, whom they considered sub-marriage quality, and weren't genuinely attached to. "He fits my needs now, because I don't want to get married now," one said. "I don't want anyone else to influence what I do after I graduate."

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:33 PM 2 Comments 

Labels: american society, **dating**, universities

5:40 AM May 11, 2014

Girls, Game and Sex

(Apologies to Jared Diamond :-)



If you haven't seen the new HBO show *Girls*, you're really missing out. Creator/writer/star Lena Dunham is a brilliant and very funny observer of 20-something hipster life (at least it seems that way to me; I'm too old to really know). If you watch the trailer above you might think that *Girls* is just another show about the life and romantic struggles of young women living in NYC, but the most interesting aspect is Dunham's take on male-female relations. It seems to me she understands Game:

... Evolutionary psychologists postulate that the same physical and psychological drives prevail among modern humans: Men, eager for replication, are naturally polygamous, while women are naturally monogamous—but only until a man they perceive as of higher status than their current mate comes along. Hypergamy—marrying up, or, in the absence of any constrained linkage between sex and marriage, mating up—is a more accurate description of women's natural inclinations.

... Some argue, though, that it is actually beta men who are the greatest victims of the current mating chaos: the ones who work hard, act nice, and find themselves searching in vain for potential wives and girlfriends among the hordes of young women besotted by alphas.

... "The sexual revolution in America was an attempt by women to realize their own [hypergamous] utopia, not that of men," Devlin wrote. Beta men become superfluous until the newly liberated women start double-clutching after years in the serial harems of alphas who won't "commit," lower their standards, and "settle." During this process, monogamy as a stable and civilization-maintaining social institution is shattered. "Monogamy is a form of sexual optimization," Devlin told me. "It allows as many people who want to get married to do so. Under monogamy, 90 percent of men find a mate at least once in their life." This isn't necessarily so anymore in today's chaotic combination of polygamy for lucky alphas, hypergamy in varying degrees for females depending on their sex appeal, and, at least in theory, large numbers of betas left without mates at all—just as it is in baboon packs. ...

For watchers of the show: Hannah (Dunham's character) is getting worked over by a beta (Adam) using Game (from the trailer it appears Adam may revert to beta form later in the season, but for the moment their relationship is brutal), Marnie is **dating** a beta (who she secretly has come to despise) but craves an alpha like the jerk artist character Booth Jonathan, who tells her "I want you to know, the first time I f#ck you, I might scare you a little, because I'm a man, and I know how to do things."

For potential viewers who have HBO: you can access the show online at hbogo.com. Each episode is only 30 minutes, so you can consume it easily in your downtime :-). [Someone has informed me that you can watch the first episode there for free.]

Posted by Steve Hui at 11:25 AM 28 Comments

Labels: american society, **dating**, feminism, television

Monday, March 19, 2011

Wellesley girls

I've spent some time at Wellesley. The first visit was on a tour of east coast grad schools with some other Caltech guys. A family friend (she turned out to be a charming southern belle from Arkansas) at Wellesley arranged for us to camp out in sleeping bags on an indoor balcony in her residence hall. Pretty amazing, when you think about it. My memory is fuzzy but I think showering was a bit of a challenge. Men were not allowed to move from floor to floor without an escort. "Horizontal motion, but no vertical motion" was the slogan :-). My girlfriend at the time was a student at Scripps College, an all-women's school in Claremont, California. So I was pretty familiar with the scene ... sadly, not quite as salacious as the article below makes it out to be.

I wonder what happened to all the girls we met on that trip.

Rolling Stone Magazine' ... As a visiting student from Wheaton College studying at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, for one year, Ross enjoys the unique position of being the lone full-time male student at an all-women's school. "I really don't have to introduce myself too often," he says. It's established wisdom on campus that the "token guy" who comes to Wellesley every few years will get as much attention as he can handle. David Kent, who spent a year at Wellesley in the late Seventies, wrote about the experience for Esquire: "I became incapable of talking to a girl without thinking how much she craved me and what she'd be like in the sack." He dated three women a night, he writes, and rarely slept in his own room. Neil Schiavo, a Connecticut College graduate who spent part of the 1994-95 academic year at Wellesley, says, "The first week, it took me forty minutes to get to classes because people were so friendly. I felt like in this one little area in the world, I was Tom Cruise."

Ross won't put a number on how many Wellesley students he's slept with, but admits he's been **dating** "a lot." One group of students placed bets on who could sleep with Ross, and there was also an informal competition to see who could get him into bed first. "Wellesley women are different from other women," Ross says. "They plan everything out in their heads." ...

... "It was a challenge to be straight at a school like that," says Melanie Herman, a 1999 graduate who now works on Wall Street. So women at Wellesley who do choose to date men but have given up on the "Fuck Truck"—the student nickname for bus that runs to Harvard and MIT, both about forty-five minutes away—have to find whoever is available. The most alluring candidates are the professors. Different academic departments have different reputations. "Some of the departments are a little racy and some are a little more tame," says senior Sandra North. "Some professors are notorious for having sex with their students. Everyone knows who they are."

Understandably, professors are not cheered by the sometimes unkind stories that are spread about them. "I knew a guy who used to pick up a baby sitter on campus, and people said he was picking her up for a date," says professor Aaron Girard. "And it wasn't anything like that. So you can get injustice done pretty easily." Many of the rumors are completely untrue, he points out—although he admits he has had relationships with students. "I've heard rumors about me and several students that had no basis in fact whatsoever," Girard says. "And the one that was true, no one knew about."

For a straight male professor, a women's college offers obvious temptations. In every class, there are at least a few admirers, especially if he has that "professor sex appeal." And having that appeal doesn't necessarily mean he's good-looking—indeed, says a student, many of the most sought-after professors "definitely do not fall into the good-looking category." ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:10 AM

5 Comments



Labels: american society, autobiographical, **dating**, higher education

5:00pm, February 27, 2012

The new dating game



In case you are unfamiliar with terms like (no, this has nothing to do with portfolio theory) alpha, beta, neg, PUA, AFC, and chick crack, read the excerpt below. The photo above is just one of many from the site *Hot chicks with douchebags*. More details in this Wikipedia entry.

I spent my late teen years at an approximately all-male university near Los Angeles, so I endured way too much time at bars talking to women like the ones described in the article below (in case you are wondering, I had a very good fake ID, but that's

another story). I remember a weeknight (happy hour!) at a club in Glendale, with a French guy (grad student, I knew him from the gym) who is now a professor of bioinformatics. I was just a kid -- all the women there were much older than I was. Pierre: "I'll call him, had just finished dancing with a modestly attractive blonde and sat down at the bar with me. *Are you really interested in her?*" I asked. He winked at me and mouthed a single word: *Practice* :-)

The evo-psych explanations given below date back at least to Caltech guys (anthropologists of the LA singles scene) of the 1980s, and probably much earlier.

* Modern lingo: *Would you really hit that?*

Weekly Standard: ... In the late 1990s, Mystery developed a precise and exacting "algorithm" of moves and routines—pre-scripted lines to be practiced in the field—that are virtually guaranteed (according to Mystery at least) to lure a female into your bed after just seven hours in her company from a cold turkey meeting in a public place. ... The fundamental strategy is to "demonstrate higher value" (DHV, another Mystery acronym), to appear so fascinating that the woman will want to prove her worthiness to you, not the other way around. You don't buy her a drink; you offer to let her buy you one. You don't give her your phone number; you get her to give you hers, in what Mystery calls a "number closing." If she asks you what you do for a living, you don't mention the drone desk job that you actually hold down; you tell her you "repair" disposable razors" (the choice of a Mystery disciple). You "peacock" (yet another Mystery coinage), which means donning outlandish, attention-grabbing attire. Mystery's signature peacocking wardrobe includes a black fur bucket hat and matching black nail polish and eyeliner. On *The Pickup Artist*, he sported a seemingly inexhaustible supply of exotic headgear and man-baubles.

If it all sounds cheesy, tedious, manipulative, obvious, condescending to women, maybe kind of gay, it's because it is. But here's the rub: This stuff works. If you think men who peacock look ridiculous and unmanly, click onto the photo-website *Hot Chicks With Douchebags*, where spectacular-looking babes hang on the pecs of preening rednecks and "Jersey Shore"-style guidos sporting chest-baring shirts and product-stiffened fauxhawks. Watch the video "Learn Enough Guitar to Get Laid" on YouTube (three chords, max). In June 2005, Craig Malisow, a reporter for the *Houston Press*, trailed 24-year-old Bashev, a Bulgarian-born graduate student in engineering at Rice University and self-styled pickup expert, to a series of bars and clubs in Houston. Bashev had no intention of telling the 20-something HBs he met that his day job consisted of working with multivariable calculus. Instead he pointed to his shoes and informed them that he was a "foot model." Then he launched into his canned opener: Did they think reality shows were "really real"? Sure, two groups of females on whom Bashev tried that line rolled their eyes and smirked, but three bars (and the same routine) later, he was relaxing in a lounge chair reading a shapely brunette's palm (chick crack plus "kino," a Mystery-ism that refers to getting a woman to crave your touch), and soon enough "her fingers were gently grasping the backs of his wrists," Malisow observed. Within minutes, Bashev had not only number-closed but gotten a date for the following Wednesday.

Pickup mentors are relying, consciously or sub, on the principles of evolutionary psychology, which uses Darwinian theory to account for human traits and practices. Robert Wright introduced the reading public to evolutionary psychology in his 1994 book, *The Moral Animal: Why We Are the Way We Are*. He summarized what biologists had observed in the field: that among animals—and especially among our closest relatives, the great apes—males often fight each other for females and so the most dominant, or "alpha," male has access to the most desirable, and perhaps all, of the females. But it's the female of the species who ultimately makes the choice as to which member of the pack she will deem the alpha male. "Females are choosy in all the great ape species," Wright wrote. He also noted that, for example, a female gorilla will be faithful—forced into fidelity, actually—to a single dominant male, but she will willingly desert him for a rival male who impresses her with his superior dominance by fighting with her mate. That's because, as Darwin postulated, evolution isn't merely a matter of survival of the fittest but also of the replication of the fittest, "selfish genes," in the words of neo-Darwinian Richard Dawkins. Driven by instinctual desire for offspring, male primates chase fertile females so they can replicate themselves, while female primates choose strong males on the basis of survival traits to be passed on to young ones.

Evolutionary psychologists like David Buss in *The Evolution of Desire* (1994) and Geoffrey Miller in *The Mating Mind* (2000) have elaborated on these theories, arguing that the human brain itself, with its capacity for consciousness, reasoning, and artistic creation, evolved as an entertainment device for male hominids competing to impress the females in the pack. Dennis Dutton's new book, *The Art Instinct*, makes much the same argument. Evolutionary psychologists postulate that the same physical and psychological drives prevail among modern humans: Men, eager for replication, are naturally polygamous, while women are naturally monogamous—but only until a man they perceive as of higher status than their current mate comes along. Hypergamy—marrying up, or, in the absence of any constrained linkage between sex and marriage, mating up—is a more accurate description of women's natural inclinations. Long-term monogamy—one spouse for one person at one time—may be the most desirable condition for ensuring personal happiness, accumulating property, and raising children, but it is an artifact of civilization. Western civilization in particular. In the view of many evolutionary psychologists, long-term monogamy is natural for neither men nor women.

Evolutionary psychology also provides support for a truth universally denied: Women crave dominant men. And it seems that where men are forbidden to dominate in a socially beneficial way—as husbands and fathers, for example—women will seek out assertive, self-confident men whose displays of power aren't so socially beneficial. This game of sexual Whack-a-Mole is played regularly these days in a culture that, starting with children's schoolbooks and moving up through films and television, targets as oppressors and mucks as bumblers the entire male sex.

Living in the New Paleolithic can be hard on women, many of whom party on merrily until they reach age 30 and then panic. "They're at the peak of their beauty in their early 20s—they're luscious—but the guys their age don't look as good, so they say to themselves: 'Why do I want to get married?'" notes Kay Hymowitz, a contributing editor to the Manhattan Institute's City Journal, who is writing a book about the singles crisis. "Then they get to age 28, 29, and their fertility goes down and they're not quite so luscious. But the guys their age are starting to make money, they look better, they've got self-assurance, and they've also got the pick of the 23-year-olds."

Some argue, though, that it is actually beta men who are the greatest victims of the current mating chaos: the ones who work hard, act nice, and find themselves searching in vain for potential wives and girlfriends among the hordes of young women besotted by alphas. That is the underlying message of what is undoubtedly the most deftly written and also the darkest of the seduction-community websites, the blog Roissy in DC. Unlike his confreres, Roissy does not sell books or boot camps, and his site carries no ads. He also blogs anonymously, or at least tries to. (Purported photos of Roissy circulating on the Internet show a tall unshaven man in his late 30s with piercing blue eyes and good, if somewhat dissolute, looks.) The pseudonym Roissy derives from the chateau that was the setting for sadomasochistic orgies in *The Story of O*, the French pornographic classic of the 1960s which featured a beautiful young woman who couldn't get enough of being violated and flagellated by masterful men. Roissy maintains that he is not an S&M-fetishist but picked the pseudonym because "chicks dig power."

"The sexual revolution in America was an attempt by women to realize their own [hypergamous] utopia, not that of men," Devlin wrote. Beta men become superfluous until the newly liberated women start double-clutching after years in the serial harems of alphas who won't "commit," lower their standards, and "settle." During this process, monogamy as a stable and civilization-maintaining social institution is shattered. "Monogamy is a form of sexual optimization," Devlin told me. "It allows as many people who want to get married to do so. Under monogamy, 90 percent of men find a mate at least once in their life." This isn't necessarily so anymore in today's chaotic combination of polygamy for lucky alphas, hypergamy in varying degrees for females depending on their sex appeal, and, at least in theory, large numbers of betas left without mates at all—just as it is in baboon packs. The aim of Mystery-style game is to give those betas better odds. —

Related: NYTimes on **dating** and gender imbalances on campus.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 2:30 PM

10 Comments



Labels: american society, autobiographical, caltech, **dating**, psychology

5/11/2020 9:11:23 AM

Sugar Daddies: MIT grad starts high end prostitution web site ;-)



The Times magazine has a long piece about SeekingArrangement.com, a web site that helps "sugar babies" find rich "sugar daddies" :-). On the site there are 10 babies for every daddy.

I would say that a large number of financially successful guys I have known have analyzed the **dating** situation (usually over a few drinks) and come to the same conclusions as the users and creator of the site. (See further down the excerpt, and especially the guy called Sam.) I don't personally know very many women who have analyzed it from the other side and come to the sugar baby perspective (or at least will admit to it), but there are obviously lots out there. See the **sugar daddy blog** for hundreds of comments from sugar babies.

For the Asian version of all this, see Enjo kosai, or "compensated **dating**" in Japanese (also here and here).

NYTimes: AT FIRST GLANCE, the Web site SeekingArrangement.com seems like any other **dating** site. Most of the

men are looking for fit, sexy women, and most of the women want nice guys who can make them smile and laugh. But if eHarmony or Match.com is a chatty social mixer, Seeking Arrangement is a down-and-dirty marketplace where older moneyed men and cute young women engage in brutally frank transactions. They're not searching for longtime soul mates; they want no-strings-attached "arrangements" that trade in society's most valued currencies: wealth, youth and beauty. In the cheesy lexicon of the site, they are "sugar daddies" and "sugar babies."

There's the 18-year-old from France asking for \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month from "a mentor who can provide me with the finer things in life and keep me happy!" And the 49-year-old investor from upstate New York willing to pay \$5,000 a month for a "daytime playmate" for "intense connection without commitment." Critics say the site is at best a convenience store for adulterers and at worst a virtual brothel, but Brandon Wade, Seeking Arrangement's 38-year-old founder and chief executive, is unperturbed by the criticism. "We stress relationships that are mutually beneficial," he says. ...

ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF ARRANGEMENTS on the site involve the daddy paying an "allowance," usually a thousand or two a month, though the site claims some reach \$10,000. The rest provide the baby with incidental cash, shopping sprees, gifts, travel or the fleeting illusion that theirs is a high-end, easy life. "I get flown to whatever city I want," wrote a North Carolina college student, who goes by the name gurlnextdoor on the site's blog, a mix between an online support group and a kaffeeklatsch. "He pays for it, takes me shopping, we talk, laugh, go out to eat and do whatever we want to do for our days together. ... I don't bring up mundane problems about my home life, and he does the same. ... If I wanted someone to talk to about my life problems, I'd get a boyfriend or a therapist."

...In fact, Seeking Arrangement pays to have its ads pop up on search engines whenever someone types in "student loan," "tuition help," "college support" or "help with rent." Lola was one of many to stumble on the site that way, when — behind on her rent and tuition and down to one meal a day — she Googled "student loan." What popped up was hardly what she expected, but she was willing to try almost anything to stay in school.

...Whether sugar relationships amount to prostitution is hotly debated among the site's members. "Let's get real here," wrote GoldenGate on the blog. "I'm with a guy who's old enough to be my dad, short and balding. Not to mention his other shortcomings, ahem. But he gives me a great big fat allowance every month. If that wasn't there, we wouldn't be together."

Others on the blog were shocked, saying they could never be with a man, even a rich one, if they weren't somehow attracted to him. Indeed, most go to considerable effort to distinguish between "sugar" and prostitution. (Legally, at least, they are right, since the 1970s, courts have ruled that as long as the woman is paid for some service besides sex — housecleaning, companionship — the arrangement is not the equivalent of prostitution.) They say being a sugar baby is no more an occupation than **dating** is, especially when the goal of **dating** is to find a rich boyfriend or a wealthy husband. ...

Some sugar babies also insist that wives who stay in miserable marriages for an American Express black card, mansion or country-club membership are more like prostitutes than they are. And yet the blatant financial transactions leave many uneasy.

...a 22-year-old named Mercedes told me, "I don't see how people can view this as exploitation." Mercedes is a junior who pays her own tuition at a Georgia university. She has had six sugar daddies in the past year to supplement her wages bussing tables and washing dishes at a bar. "I could go out and work three jobs and still go to school and probably make decent grades, but is that really what I want to do? I make more money this way, and I have a lot more fun because I get to go out to concerts, go shopping, see movies and make money off of it. If instead of this I was just **dating** a rich guy, it'd be almost the same thing, and society wouldn't look down on that. You know with a sugar daddy that they're spending a lot of money on you and they clearly want something in return, but is that really any different than how it is with a boyfriend?"

BRANDON WEY GOT THE IDEA for the site from his own dissatisfying love life as an M.I.T. student and then as a well-off but awkward tech executive. Traditional **dating** Web sites were no help. "It was difficult to advertise the assets I had compared to hundreds of thousands of guys who had better looks or better pickup lines," says Wey, now married to a woman 13 years younger than he is, whom he met before the site went live. "I needed to find a way to put myself at the front of the line."

One sugar daddy whose screen name is Sam has tried long-term girlfriends, mistresses, prostitutes and a brief marriage. ... Sam's profile on Seeking Arrangement is audacious. He advertises for a woman who is "drop-dead beautiful, sexy, fun and elegantly mannered in a fancy setting. She must turn heads . . . and make me the envy of the crowd." ... When I asked to chat in person, Sam suggested meeting at CORE, a private Manhattan club where membership is by invitation only and costs \$65,000 the first year and where Sam's assent was required before I could be admitted. Sitting alone at a long conference table in a room set aside for him, he looked utterly unremarkable, a man of average height with a buzz cut and an aloof air. But once Sam got talking, he became affable and witty, especially as he described his unorthodox history with women. He started college when most kids his age were still in middle school. "When you go to college at that age, you're pretty undatable," he said. "I was somewhere between a curiosity, a mascot and a friend. I tutored freshman physics and calculus so I could at least be near women. Of course, all they'd do is talk about their boyfriends."

He has an almost mathematical approach to assessing relationships, and once even computed the costs for a girlfriend, mistress, prostitute and wife – mistresses turn out to be most expensive by the hour; wives, by the year; girlfriends are cheapest all around. But he's not as calculating as he seems. In fact, he concluded there's little correlation between cost and quality. Still, he is relentlessly searching for an algorithm that will predict relationships' success.

Sam is also more determined than most to try separating a sugar baby's affection and the money she's paid to provide it. In his arrangements, he says, he establishes a trust in the woman's name that pays a monthly stipend of at least \$5,000 for the length of their contract. If the woman decides to quit sleeping with him at any point, he may quit serving as adviser and pamperer, but the stipend continues regardless. "If I didn't do that, then it's like a leash I'm putting on somebody, and that seems really unfair," he said. "Besides, then I'd never know what the relationship was really about."

Sam runs these relationships with an explicit business plan, a set budget, measurable goals and quarterly reviews. From the outset, the contract has an end date. It's a brilliant, if contrived, way to protect his pride. The contract specifies that the romance and sex are to end by the preset date, so there's no break up, no rejection, no bruised ego. She's not dumping him; the gig's just over.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 10:49 AM 6 Comments 

Labels: [dating](#), [glided age](#), [income inequality](#), [prostitution](#)

Friday, February 04, 2004

Dating by algorithm

In this post NYTimes science reporter John Tierney, who writes the blog [Tierny Lab](#), does a little experiment on the [dating](#) site eHarmony. eHarmony uses a complicated algorithm to match couples based on a lengthy personality questionnaire. Tierney seems surprised that the algorithm doesn't match him up with his wife, even when restricted geographically to his NYC zip code and even after further tweaking of their survey responses and consultation with eHarmony's chief scientist.

What Tierney doesn't seem to understand is that, under almost any algorithm for matching (including the "correct" algorithm that would predict happiness in his case), it is highly unlikely that the wife he found is actually optimal :-). Within a 10 mile radius (in NYC) there are dozens (hundreds? thousands?) of better matches he unfortunately never met. It's unromantic but true that chance played a bigger role in his marriage choice than optimality.

On a related note, I wonder whether social networking and online [dating](#) are gradually increasing the overall quality of marriages. It seems much easier to meet compatible partners than it was in the pre-Internet dark ages.

Posted by Steve Hsu at 12:48 PM 3 Comments 

Labels: [algorithms](#), [dating](#), [eharmony](#), [john tierney](#), [tierny lab blog](#)

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- ▼ 2020 (63)
 - ▼ 06 (5)
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 - 05 (11)
 - 04 (14)
 - 03 (15)
 - 02 (8)
 - 01 (10)
- 2019 (133)

- ▶ 2018 (128)
- ▶ 2017 (150)
- ▶ 2016 (206)
- ▶ 2015 (167)
- ▶ 2014 (184)
- ▶ 2013 (211)
- ▶ 2012 (222)
- ▶ 2011 (266)
- ▶ 2010 (234)
- ▶ 2009 (204)
- ▶ 2008 (255)
- ▶ 2007 (196)
- ▶ 2006 (154)
- ▶ 2005 (253)
- ▶ 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (269)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (236)
- technology (231)
- american society (222)
- China (192)
- innovation (187)
- economics (177)
- ai (172)
- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (98)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)

- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgl (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cda (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)
- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)

- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifao (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- simpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)
- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes ecoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsä (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- television (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)

- crossfit (9)
- **dating** (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)
- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- econtalk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)

- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincare (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borges (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- feminism (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)
- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- Neal Stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)
- svcs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)

- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- ltcv (2)
- mating (2)
- mba (2)
- mccain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)
- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)
- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnie huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x. li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)

- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)
- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- gizmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- lit (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
- jack kerouac (1)
- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dolan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searle (1)
- john tierney (1)
- jonathan littell (1)
- las vegas (1)
- lawyers (1)
- lehman auction (1)
- les bienveillantes (1)
- lowell wood (1)
- lse (1)
- machine (1)
- mcgeorge bundy (1)
- mexico (1)
- michael jackson (1)
- mickey rourke (1)
- migration (1)
- money:tech (1)
- myron scholes (1)
- netwon institute (1)
- networks (1)
- newton institute (1)
- nfl (1)
- oliver stone (1)
- phil gramm (1)
- philanthropy (1)
- philip greenspan (1)
- portfolio theory (1)
- power laws (1)
- psychology (1)
- randomness (1)
- recession (1)
- sales (1)
- singapore (1)
- skype (1)
- standard deviation (1)
- star wars (1)
- starship troopers (1)
- students today (1)
- teleportation (1)

6/15/2020

Information Processing: dating

- tierney lab blog (1)
- tomonaga (1)
- tyler cowen (1)
- venice (1)
- violence (1)
- virtual meetings (1)
- war nerd (1)
- wealth effect (1)

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Wednesday, October 19, 2018

Joe Rogan interviews Dan Bilzerian

This is one of the best interviews I've heard in a long time. Warning: NSFW.

Joe Rogan interviews professional poker player and social media icon Dan Bilzerian. If you don't know who he is, check him out on Instagram (guns, girls, private jets, high stakes poker = 20 million followers = NSFW)

Among the topics covered: DB's experience in Navy SEAL training, high stakes poker, online poker in the early 2000s, sex, drugs, heart attacks, life, happiness, hedonic treadmill, social media, girls, fame, prostitution, money, steroids, stem cell therapy, and plenty more.

You can get the interview in smaller topical chunks (one of the best segments is embedded below). At bottom is the full 3 hours.





Posted by Steve Hsu at 5:46 PM 2 Comments

Labels: happiness, hedonic treadmill, net worth, prostitution

Tuesday, July 29, 2010

Price and self-deception

Is the letter below for real, or just a clever parody? ('Shoes!') This old joke says it all:

A man meets a woman in a bar and asks her if he will have sex with him for a million dollars. The woman thinks about it for a moment and says yes.

The man then asks the woman if she will have sex with him for \$20. The woman becomes incensed and says, "What do you take me for, a whore?"

The man replies, "Ma'am we've already established what you are, now we're just negotiating price."

Related posts: Via Maoxian.

Why I Love My Sugar Daddy: — The dating pool in my town wasn't the most appealing, so I took my search online. I was bombarded with messages from guys who couldn't spell, took shirtless pictures of themselves in mirrors, and were perfectly content to be living in their parents' basements. I was a driven pre-law student with a 4.0 GPA and dreams of a pitbull-esque career in corporate law. These candidates weren't cutting it. I wanted a man who was ambitious and successful, someone who knew what he wanted and exactly how to get it. I wanted an established man.

I entered my specifications into Google, and the first hit was a Sugar Daddy dating site. "No way," I thought. "I'm not a golddigger, I just want a man who has his shit together." But the tagline had already hooked me: "Meet Wealthy Men Seeking to Spoil Beautiful Women!" It felt like I had just been challenged... was I attractive and charming enough to pique the interest of a successful millionaire? My mind raced. Is this thinly-veiled prostitution? Were there really men out there who wanted to buy me shoes? I like shoes! Was this going to affect how I identified myself as an intelligent, independent woman? PRESENTS! I caved. I set up a profile, paid the membership fee, and waited to see what would happen.

The difference in quality (my idea of quality, at least) between the two dating pools was... slightly disappointing. I was expecting some kind of Mensa utopia, but apparently shithheads exist in all tax brackets. Once I became more realistic about my expectations, the outlook was less bleak. There were men who read! Books! These men had careers and dreams and ambitions! I was getting messages that were entirely free of grammatical errors!

I learned very quickly that there were many different types of SD relationships, ranging from blatant prostitution/escorting to regular relationships with the perk of total financial stability. After going on a few dates and being flat-out propositioned, I decided I wasn't into the whole sex-for-cash-in-an-unmarked-envelope deal. I received offers to be a travel companion: jetsetting to Bali or Brazil whenever a SD's schedule allowed it - but as a busy student, that option didn't seem too viable. I decided that I wanted a more traditional relationship, which is slightly harder to find, but (IMO) is the most rewarding. I was looking for someone who, like myself, was busy

building their career and simply didn't have all the time in the world to commit to a normal relationship. Something easy, fun, and drama-free, with a guy who could help me better myself in all areas.

After a year and a half of casual relationships with great guys, I met my current Sugar Daddy, The Lawyer. My first date with The Lawyer was... probably one of the most surreal experiences of my lower-middle class, smalltown life. After exchanging a few e-mails, phone calls, and Skype sessions (who knew 45-year olds knew how to use Skype?), we agreed to meet. Normally, a quick date at Starbucks would suffice, but The Lawyer lived 1500 miles away. Since I didn't have a law firm to run, we decided it would be easier if I travelled to meet him.

... I had never even flown business class before, so a private jet was... well, it was fucking awesome. ...

When I first got into the whole Sugar Daddy relationship world, I was worried I was going to lose myself. I didn't want people to think I was some kind of brainless, golddigging bimbo. I was worried that other people's opinions of my love life would somehow change who I was and what I believed in. Of course, that's total bullshit. I'm the exact same person I was two years ago, except with more shoes and less debt. SD relationships work for me, and not just monetarily. They fit well into my busy life, and most of the men I've met are smart, kind, and incredibly charming. I'm in a great relationship, and I have no reason to be ashamed of it. I'm not a brazenly parasitic adult baby. I'm just an intelligent, driven, career-oriented woman with a boyfriend who likes to buy me presents.

Click through for marvelous comments:

Posted by Steve Hsu at 3:51 PM 8 Comments

Labels: american society, gender, net worth, prostitution

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Big pimpin'

You may have read recently about physics professor (Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ) David Flory's arrest in connection with a web site promoting prostitution.

What I don't understand is how sites like Seeking Arrangement (previous posts here and here) avoid this kind of attention from law enforcement. The fact that the arrangements are negotiated privately between users of the site may insulate SA, but surely the police could nab plenty of Sugar Babies and Sugar Daddies in a sting operation.





Posted by Steve Hsu at 10:57 PM

12 Comments



Labels: american society, prostitution

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

SeekingArrangement: all about the Benjamins

We wrote about the high-end "dating" site SeekingArrangement.com (founded by an MIT grad) here. See the SA blog comments for back and forth between real life sugar babies and sugar daddies --)



This article, by a would-be writer, appeared in Vanity Fair recently.

Vanity Fair: ... I had become a member a few weeks earlier, partly as a social experiment and partly out of genuine desperation. I was frustrated with my job, which offered little upward mobility, and was thinking about quitting it to pursue my goal of becoming a full-time freelance writer. Holding me back were my lack of savings and my fear of sacrificing a regular paycheck. If I had a hefty allowance from a generous benefactor, though, I figured that I could take the leap comfortably.

... The site, which launched in 2006, has about 420,000 members, of which roughly one-third are sugar daddies and two-thirds are sugar babies (sugar mommies account for less than one percent). While sugar daddies pay \$49.95 per month for a premium membership (or \$1,200 a month for Diamond Club certification, which requires verification of one's net worth through tax-return data), as a sugar baby I was able to join for free. I uploaded two photos and listed some general information about myself, and I stated "open, amount negotiable" in the space that asks what you're looking for. (Seeking Arrangement skirts the issue of prostitution by promoting the exchange of "intimacy and companionship" for "gifts.") I took a deep breath and posted my profile, determined to focus on New York-based single men claiming to be worth at least \$10 million.

... When Charlie—divorced, late 50s, worth about \$50 million—asked to meet me, I tried to remain hopeful. I sauntered into the Mercer Hotel in jeans and a gray cardigan one frigid Sunday morning, scouring the crowd for a tall, gray-haired man. He spotted me first and tapped me on the shoulder.

"Here you go—just a token," Charlie said, extending his hand.

I examined my gift—an iPod—and said, "Thank you," determining to be extra pleasant during brunch.

We both ordered eggs, and by the time our food arrived I had grown to like Charlie. For starters, he provided an earnest explanation for joining Seeking Arrangement.

"I can't separate the fact that I have resources from who I am," he said. "It's part of me. And it's something I have to offer twentysomethings."

"I completely agree."

"I married young, you know. And I remained married for nearly 30 years while I was raising my kids."

"How old are they?"

He chuckled before admitting, "It's kind of weird. They're your age."

"It's not weird at all," I said.

Charlie turned to Seeking Arrangement, he explained, because most of the women he had been meeting wanted to settle down. "I don't want another family," he said.

"I promise you I'm not in the market for one," I told him, and then asked, "Have you ever done this before?"

"I've never been in one of these relationships, exactly. But I've certainly been generous with previous girlfriends. And since joining the site, I've been on a few coffee dates. Pretty positive experiences, actually. I met an editor for a fashion periodical, a translator for the U.N., and a girl whose dad—he stopped to laugh—"whose biological dad had just cut her off. The only negative experience I had was with a girl who was dating a hedge-funder. She said he had given her her nose and her Birkin bag, but that she needed cash. A bit mercenary for my taste."

Here is a segment that features the founder:



Posted by Steve Hsu at 2:00 PM 4 Comments

Labels: american society, gilded age, net worth, prostitution

3:22:00 PM, April 11, 2009

Sugar Daddies: MIT grad starts high end prostitution web site ;-)



The Times magazine has a long piece about SeekingArrangement.com, a web site that helps "sugar babies" find rich "sugar daddies" ;-). On the site there are 10 babies for every daddy.

I would say that a large number of financially successful guys I have known have analyzed the dating situation (usually over a few drinks) and come to the same conclusions as the users and creator of the site. (See further down the excerpt, and especially the guy called Sam.) I don't personally know very many women who have analyzed it from the other side and come to the sugar baby perspective (or at least will admit to it), but there are obviously lots out there. See the [sugar daddy blog](#) for hundreds of comments from sugar babies.

For the Asian version of all this, see Enjo kosai, or "compensated dating" in Japanese (also [here](#) and [here](#)).

NYTimes: AT FIRST GLANCE, the Web site SeekingArrangement.com seems like any other dating site. Most of the men are looking for fit, sexy women, and most of the women want nice guys who can make them smile and laugh. But if eHarmony or Match.com is a chatty social mixer, Seeking Arrangement is a down-and-dirty marketplace where older moneyed men and cute young women engage in brutally frank transactions. They're not searching for longtime soul mates; they want no-strings-attached "arrangements" that trade in society's most valued currencies: wealth, youth and beauty. In the cheesy lexicon of the site, they are "sugar daddies" and "sugar babies."

There's the 18-year-old from France asking for \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month from "a mentor who can provide me with the finer things in life and keep me happy!" And the 49-year-old investor from upstate New York willing to pay \$5,000 a month for a "daytime playmate" for "intense connection without commitment." Critics say the site is at best a convenience store for adulterers and at worst a virtual brothel, but Brandon Wade, Seeking Arrangement's 38-year-old founder and chief executive, is unperturbed by the criticism. "We stress relationships that are mutually beneficial," he says. ...

ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF ARRANGEMENTS on the site involve the daddy paying an "allowance," usually a thousand or two a month, though the site claims some reach \$10,000. The rest provide the baby with incidental cash, shopping sprees, gifts, travel or the fleeting illusion that theirs is a high-end, easy life. "I get flown to whatever city I want," wrote a North Carolina college student, who goes by the name gurlnextdoor on the site's blog, a mix between an online support group and a kaffeeklatsch. "He pays for it, takes me shopping, we talk, laugh, go out to eat and do whatever we want to do for our days together. . . . I don't bring up mundane problems about my home life, and he does the same. . . . If I wanted someone to talk to about my life problems, I'd get a boyfriend or a therapist."

...In fact, Seeking Arrangement pays to have its ads pop up on search engines whenever someone types in "student loan," "tuition help," "college support" or "help with rent." Lola was one of many to stumble on the site that way, when — behind on her rent and tuition and down to one meal a day — she Googled "student loan." What popped up was hardly what she expected, but she was willing to try almost anything to stay in school.

...Whether sugar relationships amount to prostitution is hotly debated among the site's members. "Let's get real here," wrote GoldenGate on the blog. "I'm with a guy who's old enough to be my dad, short and balding. Not to mention his other shortcomings, ahem. But he gives me a great big fat allowance every month. If that wasn't there, we wouldn't be together."

Others on the blog were shocked, saying they could never be with a man, even a rich one, if they weren't somehow attracted to him. Indeed, most go to considerable effort to distinguish between "sugar" and prostitution. (Legally, at least, they are right; since the 1970s, courts have ruled that as long as the woman is paid for some service besides sex — housecleaning, companionship — the arrangement is not the equivalent of prostitution.) They say being a sugar baby is no more an occupation than dating is, especially when the goal of dating is to find a rich boyfriend or a wealthy husband. ...

Some sugar babies also insist that wives who stay in miserable marriages for an American Express black card, mansion or country-club membership are more like prostitutes than they are. And yet the blatant financial transactions leave many uneasy.

...a 22-year-old named Mercedes told me, "I don't see how people can view this as exploitation." Mercedes is a junior who pays her own tuition at a Georgia university. She has had six sugar daddies in the past year to supplement her wages busing tables and washing dishes at a bar. "I could go out and work three jobs and still go to school and probably make decent grades, but is that really what I want to do? I make more money this way, and I have a lot more fun because I get to go out to concerts, go shopping, see movies and make money off of it. If instead of this I was just dating a rich guy, it'd be almost the same thing, and society wouldn't look down on that. You know with a sugar daddy that they're spending a lot of money on you and they clearly want something in return, but is that really any different than how it is with a boyfriend?"

BRANDON WEY GOT THE IDEA for the site from his own dissatisfying love life as an M.I.T. student and then as a well-off but awkward tech executive. Traditional dating Web sites were no help. "It was difficult to advertise the assets I had compared to hundreds of thousands of guys who had better looks or better pickup lines," says Wey, now married to a woman 13 years younger than he is, whom he met before the site went live. "I needed to find a way to put myself at the front of the line."

One sugar daddy whose screen name is Sam has tried long-term girlfriends, mistresses, prostitutes and a brief marriage. . . . Sam's profile on Seeking Arrangement is audacious. He advertises for a woman who is "drop-dead beautiful, sexy, fun and elegantly mannered in a fancy setting. She must turn heads . . . and make me the envy of the crowd." . . . When I asked to chat in person, Sam suggested meeting at CORE, a private Manhattan club where membership is by invitation only and costs \$65,000 the first year and where Sam's assent was required before I could be admitted. Sitting alone at a long conference table in a room set aside for him, he looked utterly unremarkable, a man of average height with a buzz cut and an aloof air. But once Sam got talking, he became affable and witty, especially as he described his unorthodox history with women. He started college when most kids his age were still in middle school. "When you go to college at that age, you're pretty

undatable," he said. "I was somewhere between a curiosity, a mascot and a friend. I tutored freshman physics and calculus so I could at least be near women. Of course, all they'd do is talk about their boyfriends."

He has an almost mathematical approach to assessing relationships, and once even computed the costs for a girlfriend, mistress, prostitute and wife — mistresses turn out to be most expensive by the hour; wives, by the year; girlfriends are cheapest all around. But he's not as calculating as he seems. In fact, he concluded there's little correlation between cost and quality. Still, he is relentlessly searching for an algorithm that will predict relationships' success.

Sam is also more determined than most to try separating a sugar baby's affection and the money she's paid to provide it. In his arrangements, he says, he establishes a trust in the woman's name that pays a monthly stipend of at least \$5,000 for the length of their contract. If the woman decides to quit sleeping with him at any point, he may quit serving as adviser and pamperer, but the stipend continues regardless. "If I didn't do that, then it's like a leash I'm putting on somebody, and that seems really unfair," he said. "Besides, then I'd never know what the relationship was really about."

Sam runs these relationships with an explicit business plan, a set budget, measurable goals and quarterly reviews. From the outset, the contract has an end date. It's a brilliant, if contrived, way to protect his pride. The contract specifies that the romance and sex are to end by the preset date, so there's no break up, no rejection, no bruised ego. She's not dumping him; the gig's just over.

Posted by [Steve Hsu](#) at [10:49 AM](#)

6 Comments 

Labels: [dating](#), [gilded age](#), [income inequality](#), [prostitution](#)

Sunday, March 10, 2008

High end prostitution

The Times is having a ball with the Spitzer scandal.

Profiles of three high-end (> \$1k per hour) prostitutes in NYC. Yes, the Internet is the great technology of disintermediation: no pimp or other representation required! How else can a young woman make ends meet in Manhattan?

...These days, men can pore through Web sites filled with client reviews and user ratings for thousands of prostitutes. Searches can be narrowed by hair color, age, body type or behavior — someone offering "GFE," or girlfriend experience, for example, will act adoringly.

There is a world of mirrors and fantasies, double lives and fake names; the three women told their stories on the condition that they be presented by the names they use in the sex world, but provided their real identities so details could be verified — and they were.

...Ms. O'Donnell, 25, is a Williamsburg hipster with entrancing blue eyes who carries an NPR tote bag and might offer up a few pleasantries on the Whole Foods checkout line before turning back to her Junot Diaz novel.

She came to New York after college to pursue an acting career, and has been working in the sex industry for six years, first as a stripper and lap dancer, lately as a call girl who books her own appointments. She said she relished the time spent with her clients as much as the easy money.

"I've traveled to Europe, I've met amazing people and I've paid off student loans," said Ms. O'Donnell, a talkative Texan who speaks four languages and is applying to graduate school to study visual arts. "There is no victim here," she added, "although I can't claim to speak for every sex worker out there."

Ms. O'Donnell said she earned about \$2,000 a week from a dozen steadies, mostly corporate executives and high-tech geeks who come back two, three or four times a month for the natural breasts, the russett bangs and the coquettish nerdiness she markets online.



Not my husband (right?) (02138 is the other Harvard magazine: both Spitzer and wife attended Harvard Law).

...That was the refrain: not my husband. Not my husband. Although most women interviewed for this article had a friend or a relative or knew someone who ...

"I've heard thousands of stories from women who got blindsided by a version of this," said Leslie Bennetts, author of "The Feminine Mistake," an analysis of the roles of working women and mothers. Husbands who were gay, had second families, or patronized prostitutes.

...But even as so many women spoke of the Spitzer debacle as if such things happen only to colonists at the far end of the galaxy, a quieter cohort watched Ms. Wall Spitzer and shuddered in recognition. One such woman, who requested anonymity to protect her children's identity, had been married for over a decade to a Wall Street executive when she learned he had been using an escort service. She was shattered by the betrayal, by this new stranger.

"To go to an escort service, there is misogyny and a lack of respect for women," she recounted. "Not to mention the diseases he could have brought home."

She remained in the marriage for another year by reasoning that at least her husband hadn't fallen in love with another woman. "I thought, 'Well, he's just got issues.' I was so busy trying to understand him."

He loved her, he said, and wanted the marriage to work. She hesitated to leave because she did not want to be seen as a home wrecker.

But she came to see in him an angry, toxic arrogance. "He believed he could do whatever he wanted and not get caught," she said. "Once you feed that dark side, the monster grows. "There was a Madonna-whore thing going on," she continued. "He had the perfect wife, the perfect children, the perfect job. But there was still self-loathing."

She ended the marriage decisively some years ago, when her children were very young. They do not know this darker version of why the marriage collapsed.

But this week's events brought a resurgence of her old pain. She has been weeping a lot for Ms. Wall Spitzer and her daughters, for herself and her children, for what was and what was not.

"My daughter came home from school after the Spitzer story broke," the woman added, "and she said: 'Mom, can you believe this? I feel so sorry for his daughters.' And I'm thinking, 'You should only know.' "

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:45 PM 0 Comments 

Labels: [elliott spitzer](#), [gilded age](#), [prostitution](#)

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▼ 2020 (64)

▼ 06 (6)

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Warren Hatch on Seeing the Future in the Era of CO...

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Re-Post: Joe Cesario on Police Decision Making and...

- ▶ 05 (11)
- ▶ 04 (14)
- ▶ 03 (15)
- ▶ 02 (8)
- ▶ 01 (10)
- ▶ 2019 (113)
- ▶ 2018 (128)
- ▶ 2017 (150)
- ▶ 2016 (206)
- ▶ 2015 (167)
- ▶ 2014 (184)
- ▶ 2013 (211)
- ▶ 2012 (221)
- ▶ 2011 (266)
- ▶ 2010 (234)
- ▶ 2009 (204)
- ▶ 2008 (255)
- ▶ 2007 (196)
- ▶ 2006 (154)
- ▶ 2005 (253)
- ▶ 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (269)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (236)
- technology (231)
- american society (221)
- China (192)
- innovation (187)
- economics (177)
- ai (172)
- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (96)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)

- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)
- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mima (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgi (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cdo (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jujitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)
- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)

- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)
- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- smpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)
- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes ecoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- television (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)

- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)
- crossfit (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- james salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- dating (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)
- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- paris (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)

- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- econ talk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)
- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincaré (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borges (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)
- saros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- feminism (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)

- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)
- svcs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)
- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ting-hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- itcm (2)
- mating (2)
- mba (2)
- mcçain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)
- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)
- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunnie huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)

- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x; li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)
- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)
- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- gizmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- lit (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
- jack kerouac (1)
- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dolan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searte (1)
- john tierney (1)
- jonathan littell (1)
- las vegas (1)
- lawyers (1)
- lehman auction (1)
- les bienveillantes (1)
- lowell wood (1)
- lse (1)
- machine (1)
- micgeorge bundy (1)
- mexico (1)
- michael jackson (1)
- mickey rourke (1)
- migration (1)
- money:tech (1)
- myron scholes (1)
- netwon institute (1)
- networks (1)
- newton institute (1)
- nfl (1)
- oliver stone (1)
- phil gramm (1)
- philanthropy (1)
- philip greenspan (1)
- portfolio theory (1)
- power laws (1)
- psychology (1)

- randomness (1)
- recession (1)
- sales (1)
- singapore (1)
- skype (1)
- standard deviation (1)
- star wars (1)
- starship troopers (1)
- students today (1)
- teleportation (1)
- tierney lab blog (1)
- tomonaga (1)
- tyler cowen (1)
- venice (1)
- violence (1)
- virtual meetings (1)
- war nerd (1)
- wealth effect (1)

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Steve Hsu

Senior Vice-President for Research and Innovation, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Michigan State University
[View my complete profile](#)

Saturday, March 10, 2011

Wellesley girls

I've spent some time at Wellesley. The first visit was on a tour of east coast grad schools with some other Caltech guys. A family friend (she turned out to be a charming southern belle from Arkansas) at Wellesley arranged for us to camp out in sleeping bags on an indoor balcony in her residence hall. Pretty amazing, when you think about it. My memory is fuzzy but I think showering was a bit of a challenge. Men were not allowed to move from floor to floor without an escort. "Horizontal motion, but no vertical motion" was the slogan :) My girlfriend at the time was a student at Scripps College, an all-women's school in Claremont, California. So I was pretty familiar with the scene ... sadly, not quite as salacious as the article below makes it out to be.

I wonder what happened to all the girls we met on that trip.

Rolling Stone Magazine: ... As a visiting student from Wheaton College studying at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, for one year, Ross enjoys the unique position of being the lone full-time male student at an all-women's school. "I really don't have to introduce myself too often," he says. It's established wisdom on campus that the "taken guy" who comes to Wellesley every few years will get as much attention as he can handle. David Kent, who spent a year at Wellesley in the late Seventies, wrote about the experience for Esquire: "I became incapable of talking to a girl without thinking how much she craved me and what she'd be like in the sack." He dated three women a night, he writes, and rarely slept in his own room. Neil Schiavo, a Connecticut College graduate who spent part of the 1994-95 academic year at Wellesley, says, "The first week, it took me forty minutes to get to classes because people were so friendly. I felt like in this one little area in the world, I was Tom Cruise."

Ross won't put a number on how many Wellesley students he's slept with, but admits he's been dating "a lot." One group of students placed bets on who could sleep with Ross, and there was also an informal competition to see who could get him into bed first. "Wellesley women are different from other women," Ross says. "They plan everything out in their heads." ...

... "It was a challenge to be straight at a school like that," says Melanie Herman, a 1999 graduate who now works on Wall Street. So women at Wellesley who do choose to date men but have given up on the "Fuck Truck"—the student nickname for bus that runs to Harvard and MIT, both about forty-five minutes away—have to find whoever is available. The most alluring candidates are the professors. Different academic departments have different reputations. "Some of the departments are a little racy and some are a little more tame," says senior Sandra North. "Some professors are notorious for having sex with their students. Everyone knows who they are."

Understandably, professors are not cheered by the sometimes unkind stories that are spread about them. "I knew a guy who used to pick up a baby sitter on campus, and people said he was picking her up for a date," says professor Aaron Girard. "And it wasn't anything like that. So you can get injustice done pretty easily." Many of the rumors are completely untrue, he points out—although he admits he has had relationships with students. "I've heard rumors about me and several students that had no basis in fact whatsoever," Girard says. "And the one that was true, no one knew about."

For a straight male professor, a women's college offers obvious temptations. In every class, there are at least a few admirers, especially if he has that "professor sex appeal." And having that appeal doesn't necessarily mean he's good-looking—indeed, says a student, many of the most sought-after professors "definitely do not fall into the good-looking category." ...

Posted by Steve Hsu at 9:10 AM

5 Comments



Labels: american society, autobiographical, dating, higher education

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Name



Taufaahau_Tupou_IV · 9 years ago

If only Steve had ventured to another floor it would have been the Trobriands yam festival?

I guess lack of credulity isn't g loaded. How else could Steve be so credulous?

· Reply · Share



Shawn · 9 years ago

I wish I went to a school like that. :-)

Maybe society will become better as AI and robotics merge -- I'm talking about sexbots. Sexual dynamics will change dramatically, even if sexbots don't get to the point where they are indistinguishable from a real woman. By the way, I think Japan will take the lead in creating sexbots.

Check this out: <http://www.hulu.com/watch/4...>

· Reply · Share



Shawn → Shawn · 9 years ago

I'm kind of getting off-topic, sorry, but I believe that the other most important 21st century advancement will be genetic enhancement.

· Reply · Share



Guest → Shawn · 9 years ago

Especially of the penis!

· Reply · Share



Max → Guest · 9 years ago

Perfect illustration of genetic enhancement would not the the most important ;) All human can think of are stupid monkey status games. General AI will end this zoo

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- ▶ 2020 (63)
- ▶ 2019 (113)
- ▶ 2018 (128)
- ▶ 2017 (150)
- ▶ 2016 (206)
- ▶ 2015 (167)
- ▶ 2014 (184)

- ▶ 2013 (211)
- ▶ 2012 (221)
- ▼ 2011 (266)
 - ▶ 12 (20)
 - ▶ 11 (16)
 - ▶ 10 (25)
 - ▶ 09 (24)
 - ▶ 08 (19)
 - ▶ 07 (26)
 - ▶ 06 (24)
 - ▶ 05 (22)
 - ▶ 04 (20)
 - ▼ 03 (25)
 - Ruh Roh!
 - India = Silicon Valley + Africa?
 - Paul Allen: Idea Man
 - Misers' methods for reading the NYTimes
 - Statins, cholesterol and medical science
 - We're different on the inside
 - TEDxCaltech
 - Annals of socially constructed gender roles
 - Poker prodigies
 - Pebble bed reactors
 - Duty, Honor, Country: Fukushima grunts
 - Almost over? part 2
 - What is reality? Philip K. Dick
 - Wellesley girls
 - Jon Jones, phenom
 - Nuclear Boy is sick
 - Fukushima meltdown: worst case scenario?
 - Buffer on derivatives
 - Taiwan photos 11
 - Tigers, cubs, and elite c(ubs
 - Social Animals
 - Almost over?
 - Classics on the arxiv: von Neumann and the foundat.,
 - With Pascal at the Dôme
 - Swoosh!
 - ▶ 02 (24)
 - ▶ 01 (21)
- ▶ 2010 (234)
- ▶ 2009 (204)
- ▶ 2008 (255)
- ▶ 2007 (196)
- ▶ 2006 (154)
- ▶ 2005 (253)
- ▶ 2004 (100)

Labels

- physics (368)
- genetics (295)
- globalization (269)
- finance (267)
- brainpower (261)
- genomics (236)

- technology (231)
- american society (221)
- China (192)
- innovation (187)
- economics (177)
- ai (172)
- psychometrics (172)
- science (165)
- photos (163)
- psychology (158)
- travel (142)
- biology (136)
- machine learning (136)
- universities (128)
- higher education (123)
- genetic engineering (121)
- human capital (117)
- credit crisis (115)
- startups (107)
- iq (106)
- cognitive science (98)
- podcasts (97)
- careers (84)
- autobiographical (83)
- political correctness (80)
- statistics (79)
- credit crunch (78)
- politics (78)
- elitism (75)
- evolution (73)
- gilded age (73)
- geopolitics (72)
- bounded rationality (70)
- income inequality (70)
- quantum mechanics (70)
- social science (70)
- genius (69)
- talks (69)
- history of science (64)
- caltech (63)
- books (62)
- mma (57)
- sci fi (55)
- harvard (54)
- realpolitik (54)
- silicon valley (53)
- academia (51)
- MSU (50)
- kids (50)
- education (49)
- mathematics (49)
- bgt (48)
- intellectual history (46)
- cdo (45)
- biotech (44)
- history (44)
- derivatives (43)
- neuroscience (43)
- behavioral economics (41)
- jiu jitsu (41)
- literature (39)
- physical training (39)
- ufc (37)

- bjj (36)
- bubbles (36)
- film (36)
- mortgages (36)
- computing (35)
- google (35)
- video (34)
- affirmative action (33)
- expert prediction (33)
- hedge funds (33)
- many worlds (32)
- economic history (31)
- nuclear weapons (31)
- race relations (31)
- security (31)
- black holes (30)
- foo camp (30)
- von Neumann (30)
- efficient markets (29)
- movies (29)
- quants (29)
- sports (29)
- feynman (28)
- music (27)
- entrepreneurs (25)
- housing (25)
- obama (25)
- singularity (25)
- subprime (25)
- berkeley (24)
- taiwan (24)
- conferences (23)
- venture capital (23)
- athletics (22)
- epidemics (22)
- meritocracy (22)
- quantum field theory (22)
- ultimate fighting (22)
- wall street (22)
- cds (20)
- internet (20)
- scifoo (20)
- blogging (19)
- gender (18)
- goldman sachs (18)
- new yorker (18)
- cryptography (17)
- freeman dyson (17)
- smpy (17)
- treasury bailout (17)
- university of oregon (17)
- algorithms (16)
- japan (16)
- personality (16)
- privacy (16)
- autism (15)
- cosmology (15)
- oppenheimer (15)
- Fermi problems (14)
- christmas (14)
- dna (14)
- fitness (14)
- happiness (14)

- height (14)
- social networks (14)
- wwii (14)
- chess (13)
- government (13)
- hedonic treadmill (13)
- les grandes ecoles (13)
- probability (13)
- aspergers (12)
- blade runner (12)
- india (12)
- malcolm gladwell (12)
- neanderthals (12)
- net worth (12)
- nobel prize (12)
- nsa (12)
- philosophy of mind (12)
- entropy (11)
- geeks (11)
- harvard society of fellows (11)
- research (11)
- string theory (11)
- television (11)
- war (11)
- Einstein (10)
- Go (10)
- ability (10)
- climate change (10)
- football (10)
- italy (10)
- mutants (10)
- nerds (10)
- olympics (10)
- pseudoscience (10)
- russia (10)
- art (9)
- complexity (9)
- crossfit (9)
- encryption (9)
- energy (9)
- eugene (9)
- flynn effect (9)
- James salter (9)
- pop culture (9)
- turing test (9)
- alan turing (8)
- alpha (8)
- data mining (8)
- dating (8)
- determinism (8)
- france (8)
- games (8)
- keynes (8)
- manhattan (8)
- pca (8)
- philip k. dick (8)
- qcd (8)
- quantum computers (8)
- real estate (8)
- robot genius (8)
- success (8)
- usain bolt (8)
- aig (7)

- ashkenazim (7)
- basketball (7)
- democracy (7)
- environmentalism (7)
- free will (7)
- fx (7)
- game theory (7)
- hugh everett (7)
- new york times (7)
- parts (7)
- poker (7)
- simulation (7)
- tail risk (7)
- volatility (7)
- anthropic principle (6)
- bayes (6)
- class (6)
- cold war (6)
- drones (6)
- godel (6)
- intellectual property (6)
- markets (6)
- nassim taleb (6)
- noam chomsky (6)
- patents (6)
- prostitution (6)
- rationality (6)
- teaching (6)
- academia sinica (5)
- bobby fischer (5)
- econ talk (5)
- fake alpha (5)
- global warming (5)
- information theory (5)
- iraq war (5)
- kasparov (5)
- luck (5)
- nonlinearity (5)
- perimeter institute (5)
- renaissance technologies (5)
- sad but true (5)
- software development (5)
- vietnam war (5)
- warren buffet (5)
- 100m (4)
- iran (4)
- Poincare (4)
- bill gates (4)
- borges (4)
- cambridge uk (4)
- censorship (4)
- charles darwin (4)
- creativity (4)
- hormones (4)
- humor (4)
- inequality (4)
- judo (4)
- kerviel (4)
- microsoft (4)
- mixed martial arts (4)
- monsters (4)
- moore's law (4)
- solar energy (4)

- soros (4)
- trento (4)
- 200m (3)
- babies (3)
- brain drain (3)
- charlie munger (3)
- chet baker (3)
- correlation (3)
- demographics (3)
- ecosystems (3)
- equity risk premium (3)
- facebook (3)
- fannie (3)
- feminism (3)
- fst (3)
- intellectual ventures (3)
- jim simons (3)
- language (3)
- lee kwan yew (3)
- lewontin fallacy (3)
- lhc (3)
- magic (3)
- michael lewis (3)
- nathan myhrvold (3)
- neal stephenson (3)
- olympiads (3)
- path integrals (3)
- risk preference (3)
- search (3)
- sec (3)
- sivs (3)
- society generale (3)
- supercomputers (3)
- systemic risk (3)
- thailand (3)
- alibaba (2)
- assortative mating (2)
- bear stearns (2)
- bruce springsteen (2)
- charles babbage (2)
- cheng ling hsu (2)
- cloning (2)
- computers (2)
- david mamet (2)
- digital books (2)
- donald mackenzie (2)
- drugs (2)
- eliot spitzer (2)
- empire (2)
- exchange rates (2)
- frauds (2)
- freddie (2)
- gaussian copula (2)
- heinlein (2)
- industrial revolution (2)
- james watson (2)
- itcm (2)
- mating (2)
- mba (2)
- mccain (2)
- mit (2)
- monkeys (2)
- national character (2)

- nicholas metropolis (2)
- no holds barred (2)
- offices (2)
- oligarchs (2)
- palin (2)
- population structure (2)
- prisoner's dilemma (2)
- skidelsky (2)
- socgen (2)
- sprints (2)
- twitter (2)
- ussr (2)
- variance (2)
- virtual reality (2)
- abx (1)
- anathem (1)
- andrew lo (1)
- antikythera mechanism (1)
- athens (1)
- atlas shrugged (1)
- ayn rand (1)
- bay area (1)
- beats (1)
- book search (1)
- bunny huang (1)
- car dealers (1)
- carlos slim (1)
- catastrophe bonds (1)
- cdos (1)
- ces 2008 (1)
- chance (1)
- children (1)
- cochran-harpending (1)
- cpi (1)
- david x. li (1)
- dick cavett (1)
- dolomites (1)
- dune (1)
- eharmony (1)
- escorts (1)
- faces (1)
- fads (1)
- favorite posts (1)
- fiber optic cable (1)
- francis crick (1)
- gary brecher (1)
- grizmos (1)
- greece (1)
- greenspan (1)
- hypocrisy (1)
- igon value (1)
- iit (1)
- inflation (1)
- information asymmetry (1)
- iphone (1)
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- jaynes (1)
- jazz (1)
- jfk (1)
- john dolan (1)
- john kerry (1)
- john paulson (1)
- john searle (1)

- john tierney (1)
- jonathan littell (1)
- las vegas (1)
- lawyers (1)
- lehman auction (1)
- les bienveillantes (1)
- lowell wood (1)
- lse (1)
- machine (1)
- mcgeorge bundy (1)
- mexico (1)
- michael jackson (1)
- mickey rourke (1)
- migration (1)
- money:tech (1)
- myron scholes (1)
- netwon institute (1)
- networks (1)
- newton institute (1)
- nfl (1)
- oliver stone (1)
- phil gramm (1)
- philanthropy (1)
- philip greenspun (1)
- portfolio theory (1)
- power laws (1)
- psychology (1)
- randomness (1)
- recession (1)
- sales (1)
- singapore (1)
- skype (1)
- standard deviation (1)
- star wars (1)
- starship troopers (1)
- students today (1)
- teleportation (1)
- tierney lab blog (1)
- tomonaga (1)
- tyler cowen (1)
- venice (1)
- violence (1)
- virtual meetings (1)
- war nerd (1)
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:07 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr, M.D., President
Subject: In Support of Professor Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley

Professor Hsu is better placed than me to discuss his beliefs, and you are better placed than me to assess whether imputed beliefs, or even stated beliefs, are a suitable basis for hiring and firing decisions at an American university.

The key point made by the signatories of the letter asking for his removal from post is that they "do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably". Might it be a good way forward to assess Steve's track record on this?

Steve's detractors do not like some aspects of genetics research. But our decision to treat one another fairly cannot depend upon whether genetics turns out to have a major or minor influence on any trait (including intelligence). Genetics has nothing to say about fairness; but people do.

The current contention does at least provide an opportunity to consider what universities are for. Surely guarding freedoms of speech and enquiry are an essential part of their purpose? If I ran an institution, I'd want Steve on my team. Unequivocally. He is extremely smart, fair-minded and courteous.

Good luck with this unenviable challenge, at a time already freighted with difficulty.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mosallam, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:03 AM
To: Knake, Renee
CC: Stanley, Samuel; Byrum, Dianne; Foster, Melanie; Kelly, Dan; Scott, Brianna; Ferguson, Joel; Tebay, Kelly; Barr, Nakia; Quinn, Brian
Subject: Re: Stephen Hsu concerns

Good morning,
[REDACTED]

Brian Mosallam
Trustee
Michigan State University

On Jun 16, 2020, at 12:42 AM, Knake, Renee [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear President Stanley,

The information contained in the email below, along with that from [REDACTED] who wrote to us this evening, includes additional content that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] think [REDACTED]

Best,
Renee

Renee Knake
Trustee, Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]; Byrum, Dianne [REDACTED]; Foster, Melanie [REDACTED]; Knake, Renee [REDACTED]; Scott, Brianna [REDACTED]; Ferguson, Joel [REDACTED]; Kelly, Dan [REDACTED]; Mosallam, Brian [REDACTED]; Tebay, Kelly [REDACTED]; Barr, Nakia [REDACTED]; Chesney, Meredith [REDACTED]
Subject: Stephen Hsu concerns

Hi everyone,

I am an [REDACTED] at MSU and I am writing to you because of my concerns of having Stephen Hsu working in this university. If someone who thinks that a person of color, or a woman is less intelligent, I am pretty sure that is called racism and sexism. If you have not seen what the Graduate

Student Union gathered about him, please read it (<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>) and you will understand that no one is mobbing anyone on Twitter.

What the GEU gathered is only part of the problem, not only he uses inappropriate language for people that have Asperger's syndrome, he calls them "aspies" (attached pdf from his blog), but he also blogs about prostitution, about the temptation of being a man in an all-female College and refers to women as "whores". I invite you to read some of his blogs attached in this email.

This is unacceptable! Unfortunately, you have received petitions to not fire him from people that haven't even read the posts from Stephen, petitions that he has posted on his blog already where we can all read them.

As a [REDACTED] this is extremely disturbing and no one can tell me I am just being sensitive.

PLEASE, read his blogs and judge for yourself (<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/search/label/dating>). If you all don't see a problem with a professor blogging about race and woman like that, what am I to this university? Am I a less intelligent whore to you? After reading it all, does any woman feel comfortable being in a room with him?

[REDACTED]

<Information Processing_ aspergers.pdf>
<Information Processing_ dating.pdf>
<Information Processing_ prostitution.pdf>
<Information Processing_ Wellesley girls.pdf>

From: Stanley, Samuel
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:59 AM
To: Zeig, Michael
Subject: Fwd: Stephen Hsu concerns
Attachments: Information Processing_ aspergers.pdf; ATT00001.htm; Information Processing_ dating.pdf; ATT00002.htm; Information Processing_ prostitution.pdf; ATT00003.htm; Information Processing_ Wellesley girls.pdf; ATT00004.htm

Let's discuss today. Sam

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Knake, Renee" [REDACTED]
Date: June 16, 2020 at 12:42:05 AM EDT
To: "Stanley, Samuel" [REDACTED]
Cc: "Byrum, Dianne" [REDACTED]; "Foster, Melanie" [REDACTED]; "Mosallam, Brian" [REDACTED]; "Kelly, Dan" [REDACTED]; Scott, Brianna [REDACTED]; "Ferguson, Joel" [REDACTED]; "Tebay, Kelly" [REDACTED]; "Barr, Nakia" [REDACTED]; "Quinn, Brian" [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Stephen Hsu concerns

Dear President Stanley,

The information contained in the email below, along with that from [REDACTED] who wrote to us this evening, includes additional content that [REDACTED]

I think [REDACTED]

Best,
Renee

Renee Knake
Trustee, Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]; Byrum, Dianne [REDACTED]; Foster, Melanie [REDACTED]; Knake, Renee [REDACTED]; Scott, Brianna [REDACTED]; Ferguson, Joel [REDACTED]; Kelly, Dan [REDACTED]; Mosallam, Brian [REDACTED]; Tebay, Kelly [REDACTED]; Barr, Nakia [REDACTED]; Chesney, Meredith [REDACTED]
Subject: Stephen Hsu concerns

Hi everyone,

I am an [REDACTED] at MSU and I am writing to you because of my concerns of having Stephen Hsu working in this university. If someone who thinks that a person of color, or a woman is less intelligent, I am pretty sure that is called racism and sexism. If you have not seen what the Graduate Student Union gathered about him, please read it (<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>) and you will understand that no one is mobbing anyone on Twitter.

What the GEU gathered is only part of the problem, not only he uses inappropriate language for people that have Asperger's syndrome, he calls them "aspies" (attached pdf from his blog), but he also blogs about prostitution, about the temptation of being a man in an all-female Collage and refers to women as "whores". I invite you to read some of his blogs attached in this email.

This is unacceptable! Unfortunately, you have received petitions to not fire him from people that haven't even read the posts from Stephen, petitions that he has posted on his blog already where we can all read them.

As a [REDACTED] this is extremely disturbing and no one can tell me I am just being sensitive.

PLEASE, read his blogs and judge for yourself (<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/search/label/dating>). If you all don't see a problem with a professor blogging about race and woman like that, what am I to this university? Am I a less intelligent whore to you? After reading it all, does any woman feel comfortable being in a room with him?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:13 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: Goodwin, Marni; Zeig, Michael
Subject: Removal of Dr. Stephen Hsu as MSU Senior VP for Research and Innovation
Attachments: Chinese project probes the genetics of genius _ Nature News & Comment.pdf; Ethics_ Taboo genetics _ Nature News & Comment.pdf; American Pravda_ How Hitler Saved the Allies, by Ron Unz - The Unz Review.pdf; Stephen Hsu and the Ethical Responsibility of Scientists _ Fardels Bear.pdf

Dear President Stanley:

Given institutional racism, unrelenting murders of Black folk due to police brutality and other racist acts; xenophobic actions against Latinx and Asians; near annihilation of Native Americans, unjust legal system; unequal K-12 educational system; unjust lending and housing systems, it is egregious to have to grapple with the knowledge that the MSU Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation engages with Right-wing racists in conversations that appear to promote eugenics and white supremacy. See attached articles.

- "Chinese project probes the genetics of genius" in *Nature*, Oct. 2, 2013
- "Ethics: Taboo genetics" in *Nature*, Oct. 2, 2013
- "American Pravda: How Hitler Saved the Allies" in "The Unz Review: An Alternative Media Selection, May 13, 2019
- "Stephen Hsu and the Ethical Responsibility of Scientists" post by John Jackson
<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/13/hsu-ethical-responsibility/>

The link below shows the depths to which eugenics sank.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY6zroI5QEk>

When and where will this all end? Why is MSU willing to have a high-level official who associates himself with such ideas? Presumed research funding that he might bring to the University?

MSU says that it promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion, but perhaps these ideals can be discarded or overlooked when convenient. Perhaps, VP Hsu is the only person who can help MSU achieve whatever it is that MSU wants. We strongly hope it is not true, because if it is, it would mean that MSU throws diversity, values, equity, fairness, inclusion, awareness, responsibility, and decency to the winds.

VP Stephen Hsu needs to be replaced in his position as Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation. [REDACTED] calls upon you to fire/replace/remove Dr. Stephen Hsu as MSU Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Stated principles do NOT matter if MSU DOES not practice them.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



Ethics: Taboo genetics

Probing the biological basis of certain traits ignites controversy. But some scientists choose to cross the red line anyway.

Erika Check Hayden

02 October 2013



OLIVER MUNDAY

Growing up in the college town of Ames, Iowa, during the 1970s, Stephen Hsu was surrounded by the precocious sons and daughters of professors. Around 2010, after years of work as a theoretical physicist at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Hsu thought that DNA-sequencing technology might finally have advanced enough to help to explain what made those kids so smart. He was hardly the first to consider the genetics of intelligence, but with the help of the Chinese sequencing powerhouse BGI in Shenzhen, he planned one of the largest studies of its kind, aiming to sequence DNA from 2,000 people, most of whom had IQs of more than 150.

He hadn't really considered how negative the public reaction might be until one of the study's participants, New York University psychologist Geoffrey Miller, made some inflammatory remarks to the press. Miller predicted that once the project turned up intelligence genes, the Chinese might begin testing embryos to find the most desirable ones. One article painted the venture as a state-endorsed experiment, selecting for genius kids, and Hsu and his colleagues soon found that their project, which had barely begun, was the target of fierce criticism.

There were scientific qualms over the value of Hsu's work (see *Nature* 497, 297–299; 2013). As with other controversial fields of behavioural genetics, the influence of heredity on intelligence probably acts through myriad genes that each exert only a tiny effect, and these are difficult to find in small studies. But that was only part of the reason for the outrage. For decades, scientists have trodden carefully in certain areas of genetic study for social or political reasons.

At the root of this caution is the widespread but antiquated idea that genetics is destiny — that someone's genes can accurately predict complex behaviours and traits regardless of their environment. The public and many scientists have continued to misinterpret modern findings on the basis of this — fearing that the work will lead to a new age of eugenics, preemptive imprisonment and discrimination against already marginalized groups.

"People can take science and assume it is far more determinative than it is — and, by making that assumption, make choices that we will come to regret as a society," says Nita Farahany, a philosopher and lawyer at Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina.

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- Genome test slammed for assessing 'racial purity'

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But trying to forestall such poor choices by drawing red lines around certain areas subverts science, says Christopher Chabris of Union College in Schenectady, New York. Funding for research in some areas dries up and researchers are dissuaded from entering promising fields. "Any time there's a taboo or norm against studying something for anything other than good scientific reasons, it distorts researchers' priorities and can harm the understanding of related topics," he says. "It's not just that we've ripped this page out of the book of science; it causes mistakes and distortions to appear in other areas as well."

Here, *Nature* looks at four controversial areas of behavioural genetics to find out why each field has been a flashpoint, and whether there are sound scientific reasons for pursuing such studies.



1 INTELLIGENCE

Taboo level: **HIGH**

The comments that Miller made about Chinese families and the government wanting to select for intelligent babies touched a nerve still raw after many years. In the nineteenth century, British anthropologist Francis Galton founded the eugenics movement on the premise that extraordinary abilities, as well as deficits, were inherited. The movement led to abuses, such as forced sterilization of people deemed mentally inferior — generally minorities, poor people and especially people with mental illnesses — in countries around the world, including Germany, the United States, Belgium, Canada and Sweden.

The term 'intelligence' is also a slippery one. Intelligence tests don't measure a wholly innate ability; it is possible, for example, to improve one's scores with practice. Nevertheless, about 50% of variability in intelligence seems to be inherited, posing an irresistible puzzle to some

researchers. No one gene has been linked strongly to intelligence and many that have been weakly linked have also been questioned¹.

Earlier this year, in an attempt to find stronger genetic correlations, Chabris and a large international group of colleagues examined the genomes of more than 125,000 people and found three genetic variants, each of which had a small effect on the length of an individual's school career². The authors speculated that the variants' influence on educational attainment came from their effect on intelligence. But the results triggered the usual rounds of condemnation and concerns over eugenics. Other detractors argued that such studies take the focus and funding away from other, non-genetic, factors such as poverty, which have a much greater effect on social mobility.

Chabris says that the work can actually contribute to greater social mobility — for instance, by helping to identify preschoolers who could be helped by more intensive early childhood education. "The fact that people in the past interpreted the results in a certain way doesn't mean that it shouldn't be studied," he says. But not everyone buys that potential misuses of the information can be divorced from gathering it. Anthropologist Anne Buchanan at Pennsylvania State University in University Park wrote on the blog *The Mermaid's Tale* that rather than being purely academic and detached, such studies are "dangerously immoral".

Critics of the BGI project also point to signs that its data could be misused. After this summer's furore over Miller's interview, Hsu played down the potential for abuse. "There's a big gap between finding a few hits and finding thousands of hits — enough to predict the trait on the basis of the genotype — and we were never saying we were going to get to that point," he says. But in 2011, before the uproar over the study, Hsu told *Nature*: "I'm 100% sure that a technology will eventually exist for people to evaluate their embryos or zygotes for quantitative traits, like height or intelligence. I don't see anything wrong with that."

One of Hsu's collaborators, behavioural geneticist Robert Plomin of King's College London, says that such talk has not been helpful. But after studying intelligence for 40 years, he has high hopes that this project and other sequencing ventures will help to pinpoint the many genetic contributors to the trait. Like Chabris, he says that the work could be used to target educational interventions. Moreover, like all of the intelligence researchers interviewed for this story, he says it is a fundamentally human trait and that it is worth searching for a genetic contribution. "I'm optimistic that we will find it," he says. "I'm not going to quit until we do."

Should scientists refrain from studying the genetics of intelligence?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

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2 RACE

Taboo level: VERY HIGH



As far as genetic taboos go, race is probably one of the most heavily policed from within the scientific community, largely because of the way researchers have examined its intersection with other controversial traits, such as intelligence. This is due mostly to suspicion about what motivates the study. There is broad consensus across the social and biological sciences that groups of humans typically referred to as races are not very different from one another. Two individuals from the same race could have more genetic variation between them than individuals from different races. Race is therefore not a particularly useful category to use when searching for the genetics of biological traits or even medical vulnerabilities, despite widespread assumptions.

Most researchers who examine genetic differences between populations take care to point out that the differences they observe reflect the geographic origins, reproductive history and migrations of these groups, not markers of some essential differences between them.

However, some researchers have asked whether the taboo on the genetics of race has become so severe that it bars legitimate research. In 2005, for instance, geneticist Bruce Lahn of the University of Chicago in Illinois published studies^{3, 4} suggesting that variants of two brain-development genes possibly linked to intelligence are evolving differently in white Europeans and African ethnic groups. This provoked a wave of worried comments by scientists about how the studies might be interpreted. Among those who voiced concerns was then-director of the US National Human Genome Research Institute Francis Collins, now director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Lahn and his co-authors eventually found that the gene variants under selection were not linked to elevated intelligence⁵. But that report garnered little attention compared with the explosive studies that came before it. Lahn says he felt "ambushed" during the debate over his findings. At meetings, even his co-authors did not defend him. "My friends said nothing," he says.

Some argue that Lahn should have been more cautious. "Science always plays out in a certain socio-political context, and you have to look at the consequences of how the science might play out," says John Horgan, a journalist who has written widely on the societal implications of science. "Research on race and intelligence is much more prone to supporting racist ideas about the inferiority of certain groups, which plays into racist policies." Horgan says that institutional review boards should ban or seriously question proposed studies on race and IQ.

Lahn no longer works on the genetics of race and has urged researchers to have a more transparent discussion about whether such studies should proceed at all. "Given the history of the way race has been used in this

Should scientists refrain from studying the genetics of race?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

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country, maybe the research shouldn't be encouraged because it touches too many raw nerves. I'm OK with that," he says. "But I'm not OK with being ambushed by political discussions masquerading as scientific discussions."



3 VIOLENCE

Taboo level: MILD

A decade ago, forensic psychiatrist Tracy Gunter of Indiana University in Indianapolis was spending her time trying to help people to overcome the behavioural and substance-abuse disorders that had led to their entanglement in the criminal-justice system. But it was becoming increasingly clear to her that once a client fell into an abuse–crime spiral, it was very difficult to bring them back.

It was around this time that researchers reported that people with a certain version of a gene called monoamine oxidase A (*MAOA*) have some protection from the effects of childhood abuse⁶. Other people who express low levels of the protein it encodes are more likely to commit crimes if mistreated.

Gunter switched fields to work in behavioural genetics, hoping to find ways to identify and preemptively treat high-risk individuals. She soon found her work complicated by the difficulty of defining criminal behaviour precisely; the impossibility of separating environmental and innate influences; and, again, the emerging consensus that behaviour is influenced by numerous small genetic factors. Ten years on, she says, "the simplistic notions I had about behavioural genetics when I started this work are not true".

Despite these caveats — and the fact that some studies have failed to replicate the original *MAOA* finding⁷ — some lawyers have used *MAOA* gene tests, combined with history of childhood abuse or life stress, to try to mitigate sentences.

In 2009, such testing led to a lesser charge for a Tennessee man who killed his wife's friend, and it convinced a judge in Italy to reduce a murderer's sentence by one year (see *Nature* <http://doi.org/cttbjt>; 2009). But juries are often underwhelmed by genetic testimony: in the United States in 2008, for instance, defence lawyers attempted to convince a jury to be lenient towards a boy who had shot a bus driver. They presented evidence that the boy had a variant of a promoter of a serotonin transporter gene, *SLC6A4*, that is linked to depression in people under stress. The jury found the boy guilty of first-degree murder anyway. Outcomes are mixed, Farahany says, perhaps because the research is so oblique. "It doesn't seem to be enough to persuade judges or juries to change guilt or sentencing," she says. William Bernet, a forensic psychiatrist in Nashville, Tennessee, adds that, "a genetic result does not directly cause a person to behave in a particular way. Juries seem to understand this".

That may change as the science progresses, but so far genetics has held no more sway than conventional mitigating factors, which often include the milieu in which a person grew up.

Should scientists refrain from studying the genetics of violence?

Yes

Those two domains are coming together as researchers look for more clues to the environmental factors that interact with genetics in influencing behaviour. Gunter was part of a team that showed that certain epigenetic modifications on the *MAOA* gene are linked to substance abuse in adult women⁸, and these modifications are influenced by a history of smoking. "Every year that I work in this field has been a lesson that it's not just genes or environment," she now says. "It's genes and environment that matter."

- No
- I'm not sure

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Scientists continue to look at the genetics of violence, and of conditions such as psychopathy, although the tension between those who focus on just genes and those looking for genetic and environmental contributors is high, says James Tabery, a philosopher at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. "My sense is that we're in a holding pattern; it's not clear what's going to happen next" — specifically because not many genes have been linked to violence and attempts to replicate the *MAOA* findings have produced mixed results.



4 SEXUALITY

Taboo level: MILD

Sometimes, shifting political winds can destigmatize research. In 1993, for instance, geneticist Dean Hamer, then at the US National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, encountered a firestorm of criticism from political conservatives when he published a report suggesting that a region of the X chromosome might be linked to homosexuality⁹. Scientists also criticized some aspects of his work. Today, studies on the genetics of sexual orientation have been embraced by the US gay community. The successful campaign to strike down a 2008 California ballot measure that banned same-sex marriage enlisted evidence that homosexuality has some basis in genetics. And the NIH has designated research on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people a priority. "The tables have turned tremendously," says geneticist Eric Vilain, director of the Institute for Society and Genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles.

But that does not mean that all research into the genetics of sexuality will be equally welcome, he adds. Vilain, for example, wants to study the epigenetics of homosexuality, in search of environmental influences that might affect the trait. The work hasn't been funded, but he predicts that if it is, it could upset some gay rights activists who have seen their cause benefit from the 'hardwiring' theory. He is keeping his fingers crossed. "I hope that now that there have been significant social advances, that scientists can do their work in peace," he says.

Such complexities are unavoidable in a democratic society in which citizens have a say on how public money is spent. Researchers must acknowledge that and take part in the broader conversation about the kinds of topics they want to pursue, Farahany says. "You hear this refrain in lots of

Should scientists refrain from studying the genetics of sexuality?

- Yes

areas of science, that because people will misuse science we shouldn't engage in scientific inquiry. I think that gets it backwards. If we're worried that people will misuse it, we need to create safeguards — and an open public dialogue that ensures responsible use." That, rather than censoring science or ignoring its implications, is perhaps the only way that Vilain and other researchers will get their wish: to do their work in peace.

- No
 I'm not sure

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Nature **502**, 26–28 (03 October 2013) [doi:10.1038/502026a](https://doi.org/10.1038/502026a)

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Chinese project probes the genetics of genius

Bid to unravel the secrets of brainpower faces scepticism.

Ed Yong

14 May 2013



Candidates for the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth in 1983. Study data are in use at China's BGI.

The US adolescents who signed up for the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY) in the 1970s were the smartest of the smart, with mathematical and verbal-reasoning skills within the top 1% of the population. Now, researchers at BGI (formerly the Beijing Genomics Institute) in Shenzhen, China, the largest gene-sequencing facility in the world, are searching for the quirks of DNA that may contribute to such gifts. Plunging into an area that is littered with failures and riven with controversy, the researchers are scouring the genomes of 1,600 of these high-fliers in an ambitious project to find the first common genetic variants associated with human intelligence.

The project, which was launched in August 2012 and is slated to begin data analysis in the next few months, has spawned wild accusations of eugenics plots, as well as more measured objections by social scientists who view such research as a distraction from pressing societal issues. Some geneticists, however, take issue with the

study for a different reason. They say that it is highly unlikely to find anything of interest — because the sample size is too small and intelligence is too complex.

Earlier large studies with the same goal have failed. But scientists from BGI's Cognitive Genomics group hope that their super-smart sample will give them an edge, because it should be enriched with bits of DNA that confer effects on intelligence. "An exceptional person gets you an order of magnitude more statistical power than if you took random people from the population — I'd say we have a fighting chance," says Stephen Hsu, a theoretical physicist from Michigan State University in East Lansing, who acts as a scientific adviser to BGI and is one of the project's leaders.

"If they think they're likely to get much useful data out of this study, they're almost certainly wrong," says Daniel MacArthur, a geneticist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He is not against intelligence studies in principle, despite the visceral reactions they provoke in some people. "Studying intelligence is useful for understanding cognitive function, or diseases" that affect it, he says. But he questions whether the study will work.

Intelligence has a substantial but mysterious genetic component¹. Studies in twins indicate that genetic factors should explain significantly more than half of the variation in adult general intelligence — the abstract quantity measured in IQ tests. This, in turn, correlates well with attributes such as academic achievement and income. Although geneticists have identified hundreds of genes in which a single mutation can lead to developmental difficulties, the common genetic variants that lie behind normal diversity in intelligence remain elusive. It is widely assumed that, as is the case for traits such as height, there are thousands of such variants, the small effects of which combine to influence mental abilities.

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So far, the quest to identify intelligence-linked variants has thrown up only null results and false positives², even after large, well-designed studies. In 2010, a team led by Robert Plomin, a behavioural geneticist at King's College London, failed to find a single intelligence-associated variant, even after examining more than 350,000 variations in single DNA letters, or SNPs, across the genomes of 7,900 children³.

After this, Plomin switched his strategy to focus on only the brightest minds. He collected DNA samples from 2,000 of the SMPY's recruits, whose average IQ is above 150 — surpassing the average of Nobel laureates and putting them three standard deviations above the general population's mean score of 100. "In the earlier study, I bet we didn't have more than two or three people with an IQ that high," says Plomin, who has been studying the heritability of intelligence since the 1970s.

At the same time, BGI had hit on a similar strategy and was trying to recruit the brightest teenagers for a new study. Although Hsu is not a geneticist himself, he has a long-standing interest in intelligence. He suggested that BGI should recruit gifted individuals from science and mathematics olympiads — international competitions for school pupils — but when that approach failed, Hsu set up a website to attract volunteers of 'high cognitive ability'.

Then he heard about Plomin's sample. The two struck up a partnership: Plomin supplied DNA samples from 1,600 SMPY recruits, and Hsu added samples from more than 500 people recruited — albeit less selectively — through his website, which asked potential donors to submit evidence of their brain power in the form of impressive olympiad results, high scores on standardized tests or diplomas from leading universities. "We're at the bleeding edge," says Hsu. "No one has a sample like this."

BGI is sequencing the genomes at low coverage — scanning each DNA letter an average of only four or five times — and comparing them with what Hsu says will be in excess of 4,000 controls from the UK10K project, which aims to sequence the genomes of 10,000 UK residents. Because these people were not selected for intelligence, they should display a range of IQs. The researchers at BGI will begin by using commercially available tools to look at common SNPs before moving on to rarer ones, and to variations in the number of copies of different DNA segments.

"If they think they're likely to get much useful data out of this study, they're almost certainly wrong."

Plomin is optimistic about the study's chances: "I'm not expecting to find a lot but I'd be happy with one solid finding," he says. But MacArthur notes that searches for genes connected with schizophrenia have had similar sample sizes and compared people at the far end of the risk spectrum (extremely likely to get the disease) with those in the middle (of average risk). Yet the efforts came up empty-handed. If the genetics of intelligence are similar to those of schizophrenia or height, MacArthur says, the team needs at least 10,000 cases and 10,000 controls.

Sample size could be an even greater handicap if it turns out that intelligence is not actually the result of multiple variants, each with a small effect. Plomin likens a super-smart brain to a finely tuned race car: "You need many positive things going for you and you can't afford many negatives," he says.

But this may not be true, says Kevin Mitchell, a neurogeneticist from Trinity College Dublin. "Intellectual disability can be caused by a mutation in any one of a large number of genes — we don't know if that is true for exceptional genius," he says. If rare mutations produce extremes in intelligence just as they do extremes in height, the BGI study will be unlikely to find them.

Both Plomin and Hsu are passionate enough to take a shot, although their goals differ. Hsu is focused on the genetic basis of extreme intelligence. "My primary interest is why Einstein or Hawking is different from a normal person," he says. Plomin is sequencing high-performers as a way of homing in on genes that affect intelligence in the broader population. If enough of these are discovered, he thinks that it may be possible to predict someone's intelligence from an early age, and to offer help to children who are at risk of learning disabilities.

Publicity around the project has spawned some extreme reactions. An article published in March entitled 'China is Engineering Genius Babies' in the US arts and culture magazine *VICE* branded the study "a state-endorsed genetic-engineering project" that will allow parents to predict the IQs of embryos and selectively breed ever-smarter children. ("That's nuts," says Hsu.) "Intelligence does push a lot of buttons. It's like waving a red flag to a bull," says Plomin. He argues that there is nothing wrong with using genetic information as the basis of

educational interventions. "I'm interested in predicting learning problems early rather than waiting until kids get to school and then fail," he says.

But Paul Martin, a sociologist at the University of Sheffield, UK, is surprised that geneticists are still pursuing this line of research. "I think most people would say that's the wrong paradigm, when most educational research suggests that social factors are incredibly important," he says. "Strategically, this seems like something of a throwback."

More controversy is likely to flare when or if an intelligence factor emerges from the project. BGI is halfway through its sequencing, but it is unclear when findings will be released. "You might not see anything for a year," says Hsu; it depends on how long the analysis takes. In the meantime, as the cost of sequencing continues to fall, larger sample sizes may soon become available for studies of this kind. "In 2009, we thought it'd be impossible to have a schizophrenia study with 20,000 cases," says Peter Visscher, a geneticist from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. "Now, the international community is up to 40,000."

Still, he adds that the idea of predicting intelligence from a DNA sample is fanciful. "Even for human height, where you have samples of hundreds of thousands, the prediction you'd get for a newborn person isn't very accurate," he says. "That will be true for IQ for a long time to come."

Nature **497**, 297–299 (16 May 2013) [doi:10.1038/497297a](https://doi.org/10.1038/497297a)

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American Pravda: How Hitler Saved the Allies

RON UNZ • MAY 13, 2019 • 8,200 WORDS • 545 COMMENTS



A couple of years ago I happened to be reading the World War II memoirs of Sisley Huddleston, an American journalist living in France. Although long since forgotten, Huddleston had spent decades as one of our most prominent foreign correspondents, and **dozens of his major articles** had appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, and *Harpers*, while he had authored some nineteen books. Given such eminence, his personal relationships reached far into elite circles, with one of his oldest and closest friends being William Bullitt, the American ambassador to France, who had previously opened our first Soviet embassy under FDR.

Huddleston's credibility seemed impeccable, which is why I was so shocked at his firsthand account of wartime Vichy, totally contrary to what I had absorbed from my introductory history textbooks. While I had always had the impression that Petain's collaborationist regime possessed little legitimacy, this was not at all the case. Near unanimous majorities of both houses of the duly-elected French parliament had voted the elderly field marshal into office despite his own deep personal misgivings, regarding him as France's only hope of a unifying national savior following the country's crushing 1940 defeat at Hitler's hands.

Although Huddleston's sympathies were hardly with the Germans, he noted the scrupulous correctness they exhibited following their overwhelming victory,

occasions performed minor services for the nascent Resistance movement, when the 1944 Normandy landings and the subsequent German withdrawal suddenly opened the doors of power to the anti-Pétain forces, they engaged in an orgy of ideological bloodletting probably without precedent in French history, far surpassing the infamous Reign of Terror of the French Revolution, with perhaps 100,000 or more civilians being summarily butchered on the basis of little or no evidence, often just to settle personal scores. Some of the worst of the bloodshed came at the hands of the Communist exiles of the Spanish Civil War, who had found shelter in France after their defeat and now eagerly took an opportunity to turn the tables and massacre the same sort of "bourgeois" class-enemies who had defeated them in that previous conflict just a few years earlier.



As I sought to weigh Huddleston's testimony against the traditional narrative of wartime France I had always fully accepted, most of the factors seemed to point in his favor. After all, his journalistic credentials were impeccable and as a very well-connected direct observer of the events he reported, his statements surely counted for a great deal. Meanwhile, it appeared that most of the standard narrative dominating our history books had been constructed a generation or so later by writers living on the other side of the Atlantic ocean, whose conclusions may have been substantially influenced by the black-and-white ideological framework that had become rigidly enshrined at elite American universities.

However, I couldn't help noticing one huge, gaping flaw in Huddleston's account, an error so serious that it cast grave doubts upon his entire credibility as a journalist. Towards the beginning of his book, he devotes a page or so to casually mentioning that in the early months of 1940, the French and British were preparing to launch an attack against the neutral Soviet Union, using their bases in Syria and Iraq for a strategic bombing offensive meant to destroy Stalin's Baku oil fields of the Caucasus, one of the world's leading sources of that vital commodity.

Obviously, all military organizations produce a wealth of hypothetical contingency plans covering all possible situations and opponents, but Huddleston had somehow misunderstood such possibilities or rumors as outright fact. According to him, the Allied bombing of the Soviet Union had been scheduled to begin March 15th, but was initially delayed and rescheduled for various political reasons. Then a few weeks later, the German panzer divisions swept through the Ardennes forest, surrounded the French armies, and captured Paris, aborting the planned Allied bombardment of Russia.

outcome of the war. Although Huddleston's bizarre fantasies had somehow gotten the best of him, he was hardly incorrect in exclaiming "What a narrow escape!"

The notion that the Allies were preparing to launch a major bombing offensive against the Soviet Union just a few months after the outbreak of World War II was obviously absurd, so ridiculous a notion that not a hint of that long-debunked rumor had ever gotten into the standard history texts I had read on the European conflict. But for Huddleston to have still clung to such nonsensical beliefs even several years after the end of the war raised large questions about his gullibility or even his sanity. I wondered whether I could trust even a single word he said about anything else.

However, not long afterward I encountered quite a surprise in a 2017 article published in *The National Interest*, an eminently respectable periodical. The short piece carried the descriptive headline "**In the Early Days of World War II, Britain and France Planned to Bomb Russia.**" The contents absolutely flabbergasted me, and with Huddleston's credibility now fully established—and the credibility of my standard history textbooks equally demolished—I went ahead and substantially drew upon his account for my long article "**American Pravda: Post-War France and Post-War Germany.**"

American Pravda: Post-War France and Post-War Germany
RON UNZ • JULY 9, 2018 • 6,600 WORDS

I hardly regard myself as a specialist on the history of World War II, but I initially felt deeply embarrassed to have spent my entire life completely ignorant of that crucial early turning-point in the huge conflict. However, once I had carefully read that *National Interest* article, my shame quickly dissipated, for the it was obvious that the author, Michael Peck, along with his editors and readers had been equally unaware of those long-buried facts. Indeed, the article had originally run in 2015, but was republished a couple of years later due to enormous reader demand. As near as I can tell, that single 1100 word essay constituted the first and only time the momentous events described had received significant public attention in the seventy years since the end of the war.

Peck's discussion greatly fleshed out Huddleston's brief, offhand remarks. The French and British high commands had prepared their enormous bomber offensive, *Operation Pike*, in hopes of destroying Russia's oil resources, and their unmarked reconnaissance flights had already overflown Baku, photographing the locations of the intended targets. The Allies were convinced that the best strategy for defeating Germany was to eliminate its sources of oil

However, Peck emphasized the severe errors in this reasoning. In actual fact, only a small fraction of Hitler's oil came from Russia, so the true impact of even an entirely successful campaign would have been low. And although the Allied commanders were convinced that weeks of continuous bombardment—apparently representing the world's largest strategic-bombing campaign to that date—would quickly eliminate all Soviet oil production, later events in the war suggested that those projections were wildly optimistic, with vastly larger and more powerful aerial attacks generally inflicting far less permanent destruction than expected. So the damage to the Soviets would probably not have been great, and the resulting full military alliance between Hitler and Stalin would surely have reversed the outcome of the war. This was reflected in the original 2015 title of the same article **“Operation Pike: How a Crazy Plan to Bomb Russia Almost Lost World War II.”**

But although hindsight allows us to recognize the disastrous consequences of that ill-fated bombing plan, we should not be overly harsh upon the political leaders and strategists of the time. Military technology was in tremendous flux, and facts that seemed obvious by 1943 or 1944 were far less clear at the beginning of the conflict. Based upon their World War I experience, most analysts believed that neither the Germans nor the Allies had any hope of achieving an early breakthrough on the Western front, while the Soviets were suspected of being a feeble military power, perhaps constituting the “soft underbelly” of the German war machine.

Also, some of the most far-reaching political consequences of an Allied attack upon the Soviet Union would have been totally unknown to the French and British leaders then considering it. Although they were certainly aware of the powerful Communist movements in their own countries, all closely aligned with the USSR, only many years later did it become clear that the top leadership of the Roosevelt Administration was honeycombed by numerous agents fully loyal to Stalin, with the final proof awaiting the release of the Venona Decrypts in the 1990s. So if the Allied forces had suddenly gone to war against the Soviets, the total hostility of those influential individuals would have greatly reduced any future prospects of substantial American military assistance, let alone eventual intervention in the European conflict.

Thus, if the Germans had for any reason delayed their 1940 assault on France for a few weeks, the pending Allied attack would have brought the Soviets into the war on the other side, ensuring their defeat. It seems undeniable that Hitler's fortuitous action inadvertently saved the Allies from the disastrous consequences of their foolish plans.

exercise it has little relevance to our present-day world. Far more important is what the account reveals about the reliability of the standard historical narrative that most of us have always accepted as real.

The first matter to explore was whether the evidence for the planned Allied attack on the Soviets was actually as strong as was suggested by the *National Interest* article. The underlying information came from *Operation Pike*, published in 2000 by Patrick R. Osborn in an academic series entitled *Contributions in Military Studies*, so I recently ordered the book and read it to evaluate the remarkable claims being made.



Although rather dry, the 300 page monograph meticulously documents its case, with the overwhelming bulk of the material being drawn from official archives and other government records. There seems not the slightest doubt about the reality of the events being described, and the Allied leaders even made extensive diplomatic efforts to enlist Turkey and Iran in their planned attack against the Soviet Union.

While the primary Allied motive was to eliminate the flow of necessary raw materials to Germany, there were broader goals as well. Forced collectivization of Soviet agriculture during the 1930s had led to the widespread slaughter of farm animals, which were then replaced by tractors requiring gasoline. The Allied leadership believed that if they succeeded in eliminating the Soviet oil supply, the resulting fuel shortage would lead to a collapse in agricultural production, probably producing a famine that might sweep the Communist regime from power. The Allies had always been intensely hostile to the Soviets, and the planned operation was actually named for a certain Col. Pike, a British officer who had died at Bolshevik hands in the Caucasus during a previous military intervention twenty years earlier.

This anti-Soviet planning rapidly accelerated after Stalin's brutal attack upon tiny Finland in late 1939. The unexpectedly fierce Finnish resistance led the Western powers to expel the USSR from the League of Nations as a blatant aggressor, and inspired widespread demands for military intervention among both the political elites and the general public, with serious proposals being considered to send several Allied divisions to Scandinavia to fight the Russians on behalf of the Finns. Indeed, during much of this period Allied hostility seems to have been far greater towards the Soviets than towards Germany, despite the nominal state of war against the latter, with French sentiments being particularly strong. As one British elected official remarked, "One has the

The Allies intended to use Polish exile forces in their ground combat against the Soviets, perhaps even sparking a Polish uprising against the hated Communist occupiers of their homeland. Osborn notes that if word of this plan had leaked to Stalin, that might explain why it was at this time that he signed the official orders directing the NKVD to immediately execute the 15,000 Polish officers and police whom he already held as POWs, an incident eventually known as the Katyn Forest Massacre, which ranks as one of the world's worst wartime atrocities.

All of these military plans and internal discussions by the British and French were kept entirely secret at the time, and their archives remained sealed to historians for many decades. But in the opening of his fascinating account, Osborn explains that after the victorious German armies moved towards Paris in 1940, the French government attempted to destroy or evacuate all its secret diplomatic files, and a trainload of this very sensitive material was captured by German forces 100 miles from Paris, including the complete record of the plans to attack the USSR. In hopes of scoring an international propaganda coup, Germany soon published these crucial documents, providing both English translations and facsimile copies of the originals. Although it is unclear whether these disclosures received any significant Western media coverage at the time, Stalin surely became aware of this detailed confirmation of the information he had already gotten in bits and pieces from his network of well-placed Communist spies, and it must have deepened his distrust of the West. The story would also have quickly become known to all well-informed observers, explaining why Huddleston was so confident in casually mentioning the planned Allied attack in his 1952 memoirs.

After Hitler's *Barbarossa* invasion of the USSR in June 1941 suddenly brought the Soviets into the war on the Allied side, these highly-embarrassing facts would have naturally dropped into obscurity. But it seems quite astonishing that such "politically correct" amnesia became so deeply entrenched within the academic research community that virtually all traces of the remarkable story disappeared for the six decades that preceded the publication of Osborn's book. More English-language books may have been published on World War II during those years than on any other subject, yet it seems possible that those many tens of millions of pages contained not a single paragraph describing the momentous Allied plans to attack Russia in the early days of the war, perhaps even leaving Huddleston's brief, offhand remarks in 1952 as the most comprehensive account. Osborn himself notes the "precious little attention" given this matter by scholars of the Second World War, citing a 1973 academic journal article as one of the very few notable exceptions. We should be seriously concerned that events of such monumental importance spent more than two generations almost totally excluded from our historical records.

been almost completely ignored by World War II historians. Consider, for example, *Absolute War* published in 2007 by acclaimed military historian Chris Bellamy, an 800 page work whose glowing cover-blurbs characterize it as the “authoritative” account of the role of Soviet Russia in the Second World War. The detailed 25 page index contains no listing for “Baku” and the only glancing reference to the indisputable Allied preparations to attack the USSR in early 1940 is a single obscure sentence appearing 15 months and 150 pages later in the aftermath of *Barbarossa*: “But on 23 June the NKGB reported that the Chief of the British Air Staff, Sir Charles Portal, had suggested cabling the commands in India and the Middle East ordering them to stop planning to bomb the Baku oilfields, which, it had been feared, might be used to supply the Germans.” Osborn’s revelations seem to have vanished without a trace until they were finally noticed and publicized 15 years later in *The National Interest*.



While it is quite easy to understand why historians avoided the subject for the first couple of decades following the end of the Second World War, once a generation or two had passed, one might reasonably expect to see some reassertion of scholarly objectivity. *Operation Pike* was of the greatest possible importance to the course of the war, so how could it have been almost totally ignored by virtually every writer on the subject? Allied preparations in early 1940 to unleash the largest strategic bombing offensive in world history against the Soviet Union hardly seems the sort of boring, obscure detail that would be quickly forgotten.

Even if the first generation of war chroniclers carefully excluded it from their narratives to avoid ideological embarrassment, they must surely have been aware of the facts given German publication of the documents. And although their younger successors had seen no mention of it in the books they studied, one would expect that their mentors had occasionally whispered to them about some of the “hidden wartime secrets” left out of the standard narrative. Moreover, Osborn notes that discussion of the facts did very occasionally appear in professional academic journals, and one might assume that a single such instance would have spread like wildfire within the entire academic community. Yet even after Osborn’s massively documented volume appeared in a respectable academic series, the silence remained absolutely deafening. The case of *Operation Pike* demonstrates that we must exercise extreme caution in accepting the accuracy and completeness of what we have been told.

immigrant from Soviet Armenia calling himself "Avery" seems quite knowledgeable and level-headed, though intensely hostile to Turks and Turkey. A couple of years ago, one of my articles on World War II provoked **an intriguing comment** from him:

During the Battle of Stalingrad, Turkey, which was officially neutral but was secretly cooperating with Nazi Germany, had assembled a huge invasion force at the border of USSR (Armenia SSR). If Germans had won at Stalingrad, Turks were going to invade, race to Baku and link up with the German forces there, coming down from Stalingrad to grab the oilfields.

When Paulus's army was surrounded and annihilated, Turks quickly left the border for their barracks.

Stalin never forgot the Turk treachery and never forgave.

When Germany surrendered, Stalin assembled huge armies in Armenia SSR and Georgia SSR. The plan was to invade and throw the Turks out of East Turkey/West Armenia.

The detonation of two American atomic bombs convinced Stalin to stand down. Some believe US detonated the two bombs not to force Japan's surrender, but as a message to Stalin.

When questioned, he admitted he was unaware of any reference in a Western source, **but added:**

It was common knowledge in Armenia SSR, where I am originally from.

WW2 war vets, old timers, discussed it all the time.....seeing more Red Army troops and military hardware assembling near the borders of Armenia SSR and Georgia SSR than they'd ever seen before. Then, they were all gone....

Under normal circumstances, weighing the universal silence of all Western historians against the informal claims of an anonymous commenter who was relying upon the stories he'd heard from old veterans would hardly be a difficult choice. But I wonder...

USSR, with the Turks going back and forth on the matter until Britain finally abandoned the project following the Fall of France. But if the Turks had strongly considered such a military adventure in 1940, it seems quite plausible that they would have been far more eager to do so 1942, given the huge losses the Soviets had already suffered at German hands, and with a very formidable German army approaching the Caucasus.

Soon after the war, Turkey became one of America's most crucial Cold War allies against the Soviets, given a central role in the establishment of the Truman Doctrine and the creation of NATO. Any hint that the same Turkish government had come very close to joining Hitler's Axis and attacking Russia as a Nazi ally just a few years earlier would have been extremely damaging to US interests. Such facts would have been scrupulously excluded from all our histories of the war.

Until a couple of weeks ago, I still probably would have leaned towards favoring the united front of all Western historians against the causal remarks of a single anonymous commenter on my website. But after reading Osborn's book, I now think the anonymous commenter is more likely correct. This is a rather sad personal verdict upon the current credibility of our historical profession.

These important considerations become particularly relevant when we attempt to understand the circumstances surrounding *Operation Barbarossa*, Germany's 1941 attack upon the Soviet Union, which constituted the central turning point of the war. Both at the time and during the half-century which followed, Western historians uniformly claimed that the surprise assault had caught an overly-trusting Stalin completely unaware, with Hitler's motive being his dream of creating the huge German land-empire that he had hinted at in the pages of *Mein Kampf*, published sixteen years earlier.

But in 1990 a former Soviet military intelligence officer who had defected to the West and was living in Britain dropped a major bombshell. Writing under the pen-name Viktor Suvorov, he had already published a number of highly-regarded books on the armed forces of the USSR, but in *Icebreaker* he now claimed that his extensive past research in the Soviet archives had revealed that by 1941 Stalin had amassed enormous offensive military forces and positioned them all along the border, preparing to attack and easily overwhelm the greatly outnumbered and outgunned forces of the *Wehrmacht*, quickly conquering all of Europe.

As I summarized the Suvorov Hypothesis in **an article** last year:

and months leading up to Barbarossa, the most powerful offensive military force in the history of the world was quietly assembled in secret along the German-Russian border, preparing for the order that would unleash their surprise attack. The enemy's unprepared airforce was to be destroyed on the ground in the first days of the battle, and enormous tank columns would begin deep penetration thrusts, surrounding and trapping the opposing forces, achieving a classic *blitzkrieg* victory, and ensuring the rapid occupation of vast territories. But the forces preparing this unprecedented war of conquest were Stalin's, and his military juggernaut would surely have seized all of Europe, probably soon followed by the remainder of the Eurasian landmass.

Then at almost the last moment, Hitler suddenly realized the strategic trap into which he had fallen, and ordered his heavily outnumbered and outgunned troops into a desperate surprise attack of their own on the assembling Soviets, fortuitously catching them at the very point at which their own final preparations for sudden attack had left them most vulnerable, and thereby snatching a major initial victory from the jaws of certain defeat. Huge stockpiles of Soviet ammunition and weaponry had been positioned close to the border to supply the army of invasion into Germany, and these quickly fell into German hands, providing an important addition to their own woefully inadequate resources.

Although almost totally ignored in the English-language world, Suvorov's seminal book soon became an unprecedented bestseller in Russia, Germany, and many other parts of the world, and together with several follow-up volumes, his five million copies in print established him as the most widely-read military historian in the history of the world. Meanwhile, the English-language media and academic communities scrupulously maintained their complete blackout of the ongoing worldwide debate, with no publishing house even willing to produce an English edition of Suvorov's books until an editor at the prestigious Naval Academy Press finally broke the embargo nearly two decades later. Such near-total censorship of the massive planned Soviet attack in 1941 seems quite similar to the near-total censorship of the undeniable reality of the massive planned Allied attack on the Soviets in the preceding year.



enormous Jewish role in his 1918 book *Russia's Agony* and 1920 book *The Last Days of the Romanovs*, although one of the most explicit chapters of the latter **was apparently excluded from the English language edition**. Not long afterward, the facts regarding the enormous financial support provided to the Bolsheviks by international Jewish bankers such as Schiff and Aschberg were widely reported in the mainstream media.

Jews and Communism were just as strongly tied together in America, and for years **the largest circulation Communist newspaper in our country was published in Yiddish**. When they were finally released, the Venona Decrypts demonstrated that even as late as the 1930s and 1940s, a remarkable fraction of America's Communist spies came from that ethnic background.

A personal anecdote tends to confirm these dry historical records. During the early 2000s I once had lunch with an elderly and very eminent computer scientist, with whom I'd become a little friendly. While talking about this and that, he happened to mention that both his parents had been zealous Communists, and given his obvious Irish name, I expressed my surprise, saying that I'd thought almost all the Communists of that era were Jewish. He said that was indeed the case, but although his mother had such an ethnic background, his father did not, which made him a very rare exception in their political circles. As a consequence, the Party had always sought to place him in as prominent a public role as possible just to prove that not all Communists were Jews, and although he obeyed Party discipline, he was always irritated at being used as such a "token."

However, once Communism sharply fell out of favor in 1950s America, nearly all of the leading "Red Baiters" such as Sen. Joseph McCarthy went to enormous lengths to obscure the ethnic dimension of the movement they were combatting. Indeed, many years later **Richard Nixon casually spoke in private** of the difficulty he and other anti-Communist investigators had faced in trying to focus on Gentile targets since nearly all of the suspected Soviet spies were Jewish, and when this tape became public, his alleged anti-Semitism provoked a media firestorm even though his remarks were obviously implying the exact opposite.

This last point is an important one, since once the historical record has been sufficiently whitewashed or rewritten, any lingering strands of the original reality that survive are often perceived as bizarre delusions or denounced as "conspiracy theories." Indeed, even today the ever-amusing pages of Wikipedia provides an entire 3,500 word

scrupulously ignored by our Anglophone authors, who have made no serious attempt to defend their traditional narrative and refute the vast accumulation of persuasive evidence upon which it is based. This leads me to believe that Suvorov's analysis is probably correct.

A decade ago, a solitary writer first drew my attention to Suvorov's groundbreaking research, and as an emigrant Russian Slav living in the West, he was hardly favorable to the German dictator. But he closed his review with a remarkable statement:

Therefore, if any of us is free to write, publish, and read this today, it follows that in some not inconsequential part our gratitude for this must go to Hitler. And if someone wants to arrest me for saying what I have just said, I make no secret of where I live.

American Pravda: When Stalin Almost Conquered Europe

RON UNZ • JUNE 4, 2018 • 4,200 WORDS

For almost thirty years, our English-language media has almost entirely suppressed any serious discussion of the Suvorov Hypothesis, and this is hardly the only important aspect of Soviet history that has remained hidden from public scrutiny. Indeed, on some crucial matters, the falsehoods and distortions have greatly increased rather than diminished over the decades. No example is more obvious than in the ongoing attempts to conceal the enormous role played by Jews in the Bolshevik Revolution and worldwide Communism generally. As I wrote last year:

In the early years of the Bolshevik Revolution, almost no one questioned the overwhelming role of Jews in that event, nor their similar preponderance in the ultimately unsuccessful Bolshevik takeovers in Hungary and parts of Germany. For example, former British Minister **Winston Churchill in 1920** denounced the "terrorist Jews" who had seized control of Russia and other parts of Europe, noting that "the majority of the leading figures are Jews" and stating that "In the Soviet institutions the predominance of Jews is even more astonishing," while lamenting the horrors these Jews had inflicted upon the suffering Germans and Hungarians.

In a **subsequent article**, I summarized several of the numerous sources describing this obvious reality:

Meanwhile, all historians know perfectly well that the Bolshevik leaders were overwhelmingly Jewish, with three of the five revolutionaries Lenin named as his plausible successors coming from that background. Although only around 4% of Russia's population was Jewish, a few years ago Vladimir Putin stated that **Jews constituted perhaps 80-85% of the early Soviet government**, an estimate fully consistent with the contemporaneous claims of **Winston Churchill**, *Times of London* correspondent **Robert Wilton**, and the officers of **American Military Intelligence**. Recent books by **Alexander Solzhenitsyn**, **Yuri Slezkine**, and **others** have all painted a very similar picture. And prior to World War II, Jews remained enormously over-represented in the Communist leadership, especially dominating the Gulag administration and the top ranks of the dreaded NKVD.

Perhaps the most utterly explosive and totally suppressed aspect of the close relationship between Jews and Communism regards the claims that Jacob Schiff and other top international Jewish bankers were among the leading financial backers of the Bolshevik Revolution. I spent nearly all of my life regarding these vague rumors as such obvious absurdities that they merely demonstrated the lunatic anti-Semitism infesting the nether-regions of Far Right anti-Communist movements, thereby fully confirming the theme of Richard Hofstadter's famous book *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*. Indeed, the Schiff accusations were so totally ridiculous that they were never even once mentioned in the hundred-odd books on the history of the Bolshevik Revolution and Soviet Communism that I read during the 1970s and 1980s.

Therefore, it came as an enormous shock when I discovered that the claims were not only probably correct, but had been almost universally accepted as true throughout the first half of the twentieth century.

For example, *The "Jewish Threat"* by Joseph W. Bendersky summarizes his years of archival research and he documents that Schiff's financial support for the Bolsheviks was widely reported in the American Military Intelligence files of the period, with British

describes much the same material. In 1925, the British Guardian published this information and it was soon widely discussed and accepted throughout the 1920s and 1930s by numerous major international media outlets. Naomi W. Cohen's 1991 hagiographic volume *Jacob Schiff* devotes several pages to summarizing the various stories of Schiff's strong Bolshevik ties that had earlier been published in leading American periodicals.



Writing nearly a century after the events under discussion, these three Jewish authors casually dismiss all the numerous accounts they provide by highly-credible observers—American and British Intelligence officers and prominent international journalists—as merely demonstrating the delusional nature of the extreme anti-Semitism that had infected so much of the world in those bygone days. Yet most serious historians would surely place far greater weight upon contemporaneous evidence than upon the personal opinions of those writers who happen to gather together that material evidence generations afterward.

Henry Wickham Steed was one of the foremost journalists of his era, and he had served as editor of the *Times of London*, the world's most authoritative newspaper. A couple of years after his retirement, he published his lengthy personal memoirs, **now conveniently online**, which contain the following very intriguing passages:

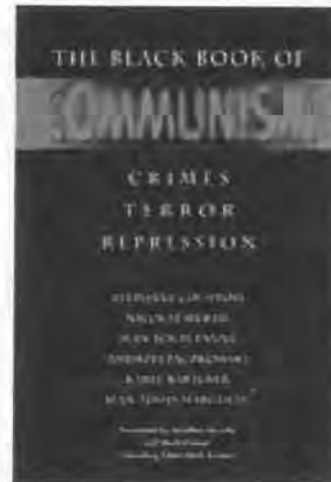
Potent international financial interests were at work in favour of the immediate recognition of the Bolsheviks. Those influences had been largely responsible for the Anglo-American proposal in January to call Bolshevik representatives to Paris at the beginning of the Peace Conference — a proposal which had failed after having been transformed into a suggestion for a Conference with the Bolsheviks at Prinkipo. The well-known American Jewish banker, Mr. Jacob Schiff, was known to be anxious to secure recognition for the Bolsheviks...

...the prime movers were Jacob Schiff, Warburg, and other international financiers, who wished above all to bolster up the Jewish Bolsheviks in order to secure a field for German and Jewish exploitation of Russia.

city's leading newspapers, reported the account: "Today it is estimated by Jacob's grandson, John Schiff, that the old man sank about 20,000,000 dollars for the final triumph of Bolshevism in Russia." The present-day value of the figure quoted is probably some \$2 billion, a very substantial sum.

Despite this enormous volume of convincing evidence, for the next half-century or more, Schiff's name almost entirely vanished from all mainstream texts on Soviet Communism. As **I wrote** last year:

In 1999, Harvard University published the English edition of *The Black Book of Communism*, whose six co-authors devoted 850 pages to documenting the horrors inflicted upon the world by that defunct system, which had produced a total death toll they reckoned at 100 million. I have never read that book and I have often heard that the alleged body-count has been widely disputed. But for me the most remarkable detail is that when I examine the 35 page index, I see a vast profusion of entries for totally obscure individuals whose names are surely unknown to all but the most erudite specialist. But there is no entry for Jacob Schiff, the world-famous Jewish banker who apparently financed the creation of the whole system in the first place. Nor one for Olaf Aschberg, the powerful Jewish banker in Sweden, **who played such an important role** in providing the Bolsheviks a financial life-line during the early years of their threatened regime, and even founded **the first Soviet international bank**.



American Pravda: The Bolshevik Revolution and Its Aftermath
RON UNZ • JULY 23, 2018 • 6,900 WORDS

Perhaps the extreme caution and timorous silence exhibited by nearly all Western historians on these sensitive elements of World War II and the Bolshevik Revolution should not entirely surprise us given the professional and personal risks they might face if they strayed from orthodoxy.

Consider the very telling example of David Irving. During the first half of his professional career, his string of widely-translated best-sellers and his millions of books in print probably established him as the most internationally successful

and the political forces behind it. But as he repeatedly demonstrated his lack of regard for official orthodoxy, he attracted many powerful enemies, who eventually ruined his reputation, drove him into personal bankruptcy, and even arranged his imprisonment. Over the last quarter-century, he has increasingly become an un-person, with **the few occasional mentions of his name in the media** invoked in the same talismanic manner as references to Lucifer or Beelzebub.

If a historian of such towering stature and success could be brought so low, what ordinary academic scholar would dare risk a similar fate? Voltaire famously observed that shooting an admiral every now and then is an excellent way to encourage the others.

The Remarkable Historiography of David Irving

RON UNZ • JUNE 4, 2016 • 1,700 WORDS

The destruction of Irving's stellar career came at the hands of Jewish activists, who were outraged at his balanced treatment of Hitler and his ongoing commitment to investigating many of the widely-accepted wartime myths, which he hoped to replace with what he called "real history." **In the introduction** to his new edition of *Hitler's War*, he recounts how a journalist for *Time* magazine was having dinner with him in New York in 1988 and remarked "Before coming over I read the clippings files on you. Until *Hitler's War* you couldn't put a foot wrong, you were the darling of the media; after it, they heaped slime on you."

As Irving was certainly aware, the unreasonably harsh vilification of enemy leaders during wartime is hardly an uncommon occurrence. Although it has largely been forgotten today, during much of the First World War and for years afterward, Germany's reigning monarch, Kaiser Wilhelm, was widely portrayed in the Allied countries as a bloodthirsty monster, one of the most evil men who had ever lived. This vilification came despite Wilhelm having been the beloved eldest grandchild of Britain's own Queen Victoria, who according to some accounts died in his arms.

Moreover, although Allied propaganda routinely portrayed Wilhelm as a relentless warmonger, he had actually avoided involving Germany in a single major military conflict during the first twenty-five years of his reign, while most of the other leading world powers had fought one or more wars during that same period. Indeed, **I recently discovered** that only a year before the Guns of August began firing, *The New York Times* had published a lengthy profile marking the first quarter-century of his reign and lauded him as one of the world's foremost peacemakers:



that our time can show. It was he, we hear, who again and again threw the weight of his dominating personality, backed by the greatest military organisation in the world – an organisation built up by himself – into the balance for peace wherever war clouds gathered over Europe. ('William II, King of Prussia and German Emperor, Kaiser 25 years a ruler, hailed as chief peacemaker,' *New York Times*, 8 June, 1913)

That brief excerpt from the *Times* encomium points to another matter than I have never seen mentioned. I devoted much of the 2000s to digitizing and making available the complete archives of hundreds of America's leading publications of the last 150 years, and when I occasionally glanced at the contents, I gradually noticed something odd. Although the English-language world today invariably refers to Germany's wartime ruler as "Kaiser Wilhelm," that was only rarely the case prior to the outbreak of war, when he was generally known as "Emperor William." The latter nomenclature is hardly surprising since we always speak of "Frederick the Great" rather than "Friedrich der Grosse."

But it is obviously much easier to mobilize millions of citizens to die in muddy trenches to defeat a monstrously alien "Kaiser" than "Good Emperor William," first cousin to the British and Russian monarchs. The NGram viewer in Google Books **shows the timing of the change quite clearly**, with the Anglophone practice shifting as Britain became increasingly hostile toward Germany, especially after the outbreak of war. But "Emperor William" was only permanently eclipsed by "Kaiser Wilhelm" after Germany once again became a likely enemy in the years immediately preceding World War II.

Actual publications of the period also reveal numerous discordant facts about the First World War, matters certainly known to academic specialists but which rarely receive much coverage in our standard textbooks, being relegated to a casual sentence or two if even that. For example, despite its considerable military successes, Germany launched **a major peace effort** in late 1916 to end the stalemated war by **negotiations** and thereby avert oceans of additional bloodshed. However, this proposal was fiercely rejected by the Allied powers and their advocates **in the pages of the world's leading periodicals** since they remained firmly committed to an ultimate military victory.

War fever was certainly still very strong that same year in Britain, the leading Allied power. When prominent peace-advocates such as Bertrand Russell and Lord Loreborn urged a negotiated end to the fighting, and were strongly backed by the editor of the influential London *Economist*, they were harshly vilified and the latter was forced to resign his position. E.D. Morel, another committed peace advocate, was imprisoned for his activism under such harsh conditions

As an excellent antidote to our severely distorted understanding of both wartime sentiments and the domestic European politics that had produced the conflict, I would strongly recommend the text of *Present Day Europe* by Lothrop Stoddard, then one of America's most influential public intellectuals. Written prior to America's own entry into the conflict, the work provides the sort of remarkable scholarly detachment which would soon become almost impossible.

Present-Day Europe

Its National States of Mind

LOTHROP STODDARD • 1917 • 74,000 WORDS

Although the demonic portrayal of the German Kaiser was already being replaced by a more balanced treatment within a few years of the Armistice and had disappeared after a generation, no such similar process has occurred in the case of his World War II successor. Indeed, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seem to loom far larger in our cultural and ideological landscape today than they even did in the immediate aftermath of the war, with their visibility growing even as they become more distant in time, a strange violation of the normal laws of perspective. I suspect that the casual dinner-table conversations on World War II issues that I used to enjoy with my Harvard College classmates during the early 1980s would be completely impossible today.

To some extent, the transformation of "the Good War" into a secular religion, with its designated monsters and martyrs may be analogous to what occurred during the final decay of the Soviet Union, when the obvious failure of its economic system forced the government to increasingly turn to endless celebrations of its victory in the Great Patriotic War as the primary source of its legitimacy. The real wages of ordinary American workers have been **stagnant for fifty years** and most adults **have less than \$500 in available savings**, so this widespread impoverishment may be forcing our own leaders into adopting a similar strategy.

But I think that a far greater factor has been the astonishing growth of Jewish power in America, which was already quite substantial even four or five decades ago but has now become absolutely overwhelming, whether in foreign policy, finance, or the media, with our 2% minority exercising unprecedented control over most aspects of our society and political system. Only a fraction of American Jews hold traditional religious beliefs, so the twin worship of the State of Israel and the Holocaust has served to fill that void, with the individuals and events of World War II constituting many of the central elements of the *mythos* that serves to unify the Jewish community. And as an obvious consequence, no historical figure ranks higher in the demonology of this secular religion than the storied Fuhrer and his Nazi regime.

empirical reality. Pagan Druids may worship a particular sacred oak tree and claim that it contains the soul of their tutelary dryad; but if an arborist taps the tree, its sap may seem like that of any other.

Our current official doctrine portrays Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany as one of the cruelest and most relentlessly aggressive regimes in the history of the world, but at the time these salient facts apparently escaped the leaders of the nations with which it was at war. *Operation Pike* provides an enormous wealth of archival material regarding the secret internal discussions of the British and French governmental and military leadership, and all of it tends to suggest that they regarded their German adversary as a perfectly normal country, and perhaps occasionally regretted that they had somehow gotten themselves involved a major war over what amounted to a small Polish border dispute.

Although our standard histories would never admit this, the actual path toward war appears to have been quite different than most Americans believe. Extensive documentary evidence from knowledgeable Polish, American, and British officials demonstrates that **pressure from Washington** was the key factor behind the outbreak of the European conflict. Indeed, leading American journalists and public intellectuals of the day such as John T. Flynn and Harry Elmer Barnes had publicly **declared** that they feared Franklin Roosevelt was seeking to foment a major European war in hopes that it would rescue him from the apparent economic failure of his New Deal reforms and perhaps even provide him an excuse to run for an unprecedented third term. Since this is exactly what ultimately transpired, such accusations would hardly seem totally unreasonable.

And in an ironic contrast with FDR's domestic failures, Hitler's own economic successes had been enormous, a striking comparison since the two leaders had come to power within a few weeks of each other in early 1933. As iconoclastic leftist Alexander Cockburn **once noted** in a 2004 *Counterpunch* column:

When [Hitler] came to power in 1933 unemployment stood at 40 per cent. Economic recovery came without the stimulus of arms spending...There were vast public works such as the autobahns. He paid little attention to the deficit or to the protests of the bankers about his policies. Interest rates were kept low and though wages were pegged, family income increased by reason of full employment. By 1936 unemployment had sunk to one per cent. German military spending remained low until 1939.

Not just Bush but Howard Dean and the Democrats could learn a few lessons in economic policy from that early, Keynesian Hitler.

Great Depression, Hitler drew glowing accolades from individuals all across the ideological spectrum. After an extended 1936 visit, David Lloyd George, Britain's former wartime prime minister, **fulsomely praised the chancellor** as "the George Washington of Germany," a national hero of the greatest stature. Over the years, I've seen plausible claims here and there that during the 1930s Hitler was widely acknowledged as the world's most popular and successful national leader, and the fact that he was selected as *Time Magazine's* Man of the Year for 1938 tends to support this belief.



Only International Jewry had remained intensely hostile to Hitler, outraged over his successful efforts to dislodge Germany's 1% Jewish population from the stranglehold they had gained over German media and finance, and instead run the country in the best interests of the 99% German majority. A striking recent parallel has been the enormous hostility that Vladimir Putin incurred after he ousted the handful of Jewish Oligarchs who had seized control of Russian society and impoverished the bulk of the population. Putin has attempted to mitigate this difficulty by allying himself with certain Jewish elements, and Hitler seems to have done the same by endorsing **the Nazi-Zionist economic partnership**, which lay the basis for the creation of the State of Israel and thereby brought on board the small, but growing Jewish Zionist faction.

In the wake of the 9/11 Attacks, the Jewish Neocons stampeded America towards the disastrous Iraq War and the resulting destruction of the Middle East, with the talking heads on our television sets endlessly claiming that "Saddam Hussein is another Hitler." Since then, we have regularly heard the same tag-line repeated in various modified versions, being told that "Muammar Gaddafi is another Hitler" or "Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is another Hitler" or "Vladimir Putin is another Hitler" or even "Hugo Chavez is another Hitler." For the last couple of years, our American media has been relentlessly filled with the claim that "Donald Trump is another Hitler."

During the early 2000s, I obviously recognized that Iraq's ruler was a harsh tyrant, but snickered at the absurd media propaganda, knowing perfectly well that Saddam Hussein was no Adolf Hitler. But with the steady growth of the Internet and the availability of the millions of pages of periodicals provided by my digitization project, I've been quite surprised to gradually also discover that Adolf Hitler was no Adolf Hitler.

It might not be entirely correct to claim that the story of World War II was that Franklin Roosevelt sought to escape his domestic difficulties by orchestrating a major European war against the prosperous, peace-loving Nazi Germany of

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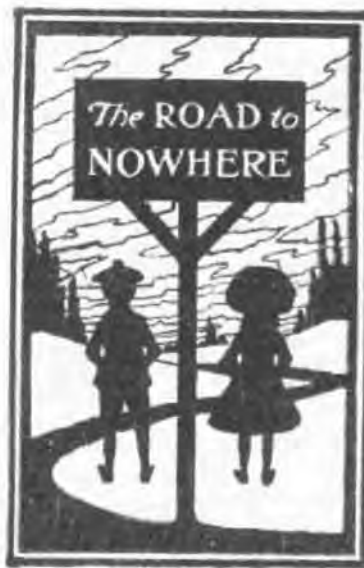
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Fardels Bear

A History of the Alt-Right

Stephen Hsu and the Ethical Responsibility of Scientists

Posted on June 13, 2020



— Hsu gets nowhere in his attempted defense of his actions

Stephen Hsu, my university's Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, has posted a response entitled "Twitter Attacks, and a Defense of Scientific Inquiry" to the Graduate Student Union's long Twitter thread exposing his eugenicist beliefs. He did not respond at all to my previous post about his relationship with Ron Unz and Unz's promotion of antisemitism. Perhaps that is coming in the future. Let's examine his attempted defenses of some of his actions

Stephan Molyneux

Molyneux is a white supremacist with a Youtube show who writes very bad books.. Hsu appeared on Molyneux's show, thus lending his own credibility and that of Michigan State University to Molyneux. Hsu has three defenses of this action.

1. "Molyneux was not a controversial figure in 2017, although he has since become one." This is false. Here is a long list of documented racist comments of Molyneux before 2017. Since 2005, Molyneux has been associated with Lew Rockwell, the likely author of Ron Paul's racist newsletters of the early 1990s. During the Obama presidency, Rockwell was one of the rightwing activists claiming Obama was preparing FEMA camps for the coming civil war. Over at Rockwell's website, and before 2017, Molyneux posted videos claiming things like Trayon Martin was a drug addict and thus George Zimmerman was justified in killing him (2013) and American slavery was not racist (2014). So the idea that Molyneux was just a mainstream figure in 2017 and Hsu's appearance there was a good example of "scientific inquiry" is nonsense—and not just because genetics is Hsu's hobby not his physics research. Molyneux was, and is, a far-right political activist obsessed with race who indulges in conspiracy theories and Hsu's appearance there is unforgivable. Even if it was 2017.
2. "Prominent scientists working on human intelligence who were interviewed on his show around the same time include James Flynn and Eric Turkheimer." When Stephen Hsu was growing up he must have messed up at some time and had a parent ask him: "If all your friends jumped off a cliff, would you jump off a cliff too?" Just because other people are irresponsible does not excuse Hsu at all. I will further note that the only person who is in charge of research priorities at my university is Stephen Hsu and it is only his judgment that is important right now.
3. The GEU presented, "short video clips out of context" and "Here is what I said to Molyneux about genetic group differences in intelligence" and then presents a 58 second clip out of an hour and half interview, apparently all the context that was needed for Hsu. In those 58 seconds, Hsu does two things, first he indulges in the rightwing loaded language of "social justice warriors," which apparently fits with his views of "scientific integrity." As I've explained, the idea that politics is stopping race/IQ research is a myth, and one with some ugly politics behind it. Second he declares himself "agnostic" on genetic differences in IQ. I've dealt with this position before in this space. Hereditarians have tried to prove these differences for a century, since the invention of IQ testing. How long do we have to wait until we stop asking the question? Why is the question a scientifically interesting one? Hsu never explains.
4. Here's what Hsu *does not* do: Apologize. Say something like, "My appearance with Molyneux was a mistake; a tremendous error in judgment. I should have researched him more carefully and realized that talking to him lent my name, and Michigan State University's name, to a malign political agenda. I am sorry for my actions and I will strive to do better in the future." He had a chance to atone and take responsibility for his actions. He chose not to which speaks volumes about his warped views of a scientist's responsibilities.

Cluster Suck: Race is Real

Hsu defends the biological reality of race: "This paper, from 2008, discusses early capability to ascertain ancestry from gene sequence...the science is correct." In another blog post Hsu explains, "It's all in the clusters." What he's referring to is geneticists' technique of trying to understand evolutionary history through computer programs, with names like STRUCTURE and EIGENSTRAT, which "cluster" DNA

sequences together. Hsu believes the ability of these programs to do this shows "there could be a genetic basis for 'race.'"

Here's the thing though, these programs are tools meant for specific tasks, often tasks like understanding evolutionary history or for epidemiological reasons. You can ask them for any number of clusters, in fact for STRUCTURE you *must* specify in advance how many you want it to generate and that number is useful *for a specific purpose*. The next geneticist might ask it to generate a different number of clusters and it will. None of these clusters are any more "real" than any other. They tell us *nothing* about race being real. These are *tools* for specific purposes; means to an end. They are not meant for racial classification which is how Hsu uses them. Noah Rosenberg and his colleagues, who were pioneers of clustering analysis are quite explicit about this:

Our evidence for clustering should not be taken as evidence of our support of any particular concept of "biological race." In general, representations of human genetic diversity are evaluated based on their ability to facilitate further research into such topics as human evolutionary history and the identification of medically important genotypes that vary in frequency across populations. Both

— Rosenberg, Noah A, Saurabh Mahajan, Sohini Ramachandran, Chengfeng Zhao, Jonathan K Pritchard, and Marcus W Feldman. "Clines, clusters, and the Effect of Study Design on the Inference of Human Population Structure." *PLoS Genetics* 1, no. 6 (December 2005): p. 668

Hsu's interest in genetic variation is exactly backwards; he's only interested in evolutionary history and biology to the extent it can prove the existence of something he wants to call "race." This shows a fundamental misunderstanding of population genetics. Sherwood Washburn, the anthropologist most responsible for bringing population genetics into biological anthropology said in 1963: "I think we should require people who propose a classification of races to state in the first place why they wish to divide the human species and to give in detail the important reasons for subdividing our whole species" (p. 524). Why does Hsu wish divide the human species at all? It is a question that is simply hanging in the air.

Hsu on the Social Construction of Race

Hsu borders on contempt when discussing idea of the social construction. You can almost hear the wheedling mockery of sentences like: "Huh? What? But, my Sociology professor told me it's just a social construction! 8-(" or "There is no scientific basis for race. It is just a social construction." Hsu shows no evidence that he understands just what social constructionists claim. Nor does he ever address the critiques of his favorite clustering methods from a variety of disciplines that show that social and political ideas are inescapable in the sampling procedures and interpretations in those kinds of analyses. Interested parties could check this very incomplete list:

- Frank, Reanne. "The Molecular Reinscription of Race: A Comment on 'Genetic Bio-Ancestry and Social Construction of Racial Classification in Social Surveys in the Contemporary United States.'"

- Demography* 51, no. 6 (December 1, 2014): 2333–36. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-014-0342-5>.
- Fujimura, Joan H., Deborah A. Bolnick, Ramya Rajagopalan, Jay S. Kaufman, Richard C. Lewontin, Troy Duster, Pilar Ossorio, and Jonathan Marks. "Clines Without Classes: How to Make Sense of Human Variation." *Sociological Theory* 32, no. 3 (September 1, 2014): 208–27. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0735275114551611>.
 - Kaplan, Jonathan Michael. "When Socially Determined Categories Make Biological Realities: Understanding Black/White Health Disparities in the U.s." *Monist* 93, no. 2 (April 2010): 281.
 - Kaplan, Jonathan Michael, and Rasmus Grønfeldt Winther. "Prisoners of Abstraction? The Theory and Measure of Genetic Variation, and the Very Concept of 'Race.'" *Biological Theory* 7, no. 4 (July 20, 2012): 401–12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13752-012-0048-0>.
 - Winther, Rasmus Grønfeldt. "The Genetic Reification of 'Race': A Story of Two Mathematical Methods." *Critical Philosophy of Race* 2, no. 2 (August 20, 2014): 204–23.

More evidence that Hsu doesn't understand claims about the social construction of race is when he claims the social construction of race is "the convenient but incorrect legacy of anthropologist Ashley Montagu (Israel Ehrenberg)." Hsu is referring to Montagu's most famous book, *Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race* which went through six editions (1942-1999). I doubt Hsu has ever read Montagu's book which labels race a "myth" precisely because Montagu embraced population genetics. Montagu worked very closely with one of the founders of population genetics, Theodosius Dobzhansky, indeed they co-authored papers together. Montagu learned from Dobzhansky that genetic populations were tools for exploring evolution, not a system of classification. Rosenberg and colleagues understand this as well when they write: "ultimately, the primary goals for studies of genetic variation in humans are to make inferences about human evolutionary history, human biology, and the genetic causes of disease" (p. 669), the exact position of Washburn, Dobzhansky, and Montagu. Hsu apparently does not understand this at all and mistakenly thinks the social construction of race came from a rejection of modern science rather than its embrace.

There is something else about Hsu's invocation of Montagu that I find disturbing. See how Hsu included Montagu's birth name, "Israel Ehrenberg?" Why? Wikipedia notes it, true, but Montagu never published a word under that name. He changed his name because Jews of his generation often changed their names often because a "Jewish sounding" name could hinder their career advancement. I recommend Michigan State historian, Kirsten Fermaglich's new book on this subject.

Why does Hsu include it? What information is added? Historically, Montagu's racist critics who added it to signal that Montagu was a Jew and therefore not to be trusted (p. 99). This comment over at the racist *Occidental Quarterly* (a publication cited by Hsu's close friend, Ron Unz) typifies the genre:

It is Jewish individuals like Franz Boas, Stephen J. Gould, Ashley Montagu (Israel Ehrenberg) and Jared Diamond who have promoted the idea that race doesn't exist or that race isn't important. What a coincidence that all are Jewish.

I have no idea why Hsu decided to include Montagu's birth name, but I find it very strange that he did.

"In several of the blog posts I explicitly denounce racism and discrimination based on identity"

This is true. He does. He doesn't actually link to any of these posts, but he does do this. Often it is, as in his defense, he merely drops in a sentence claiming that he rejects racism, usually with the exact words he uses above. But that is it. Apparently he feels his responsibilities are fulfilled with a *pro forma* statement like that. Except when it comes to affirmative action. Then he speaks with gusto, like he did with his friend Ron Unz when they ran for the Board of Governors at Harvard.

Theodosius Dobzhansky, Ashley Montagu's close friend was a fierce opponent of scientific racism. It was not enough for him to simply issue platitudes, he wrote and argued against those who used science to promote racism in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. Dobzhansky firmly believed that scientists need get out of their "ivory towers" and take responsibility for what they write (p. 191). Hsu apparently feels no such responsibility for what he writes about race.

One thing Hsu hates is the suggestion that genetics could possibly be enrolled in the service of white supremacy; ignoring a very ugly history in the process. "We are scientists, seeking truth. We are not slaves to ideological conformity." In other words:

Don't say that he's hypocritical

Say rather that he's apolitical

"Once the rockets are up, who cares where they come down?

That's not my department!" says Wernher von Braun!

Since Hsu is interested in truth here are some true things: Over at Vdare when John Derbyshire, Paul Gottfried, and Richard Spencer want to talk about the persecution of race scientists they cite Hsu's blog. Derbyshire might even be a regular reader of Hsu's stuff (here and here). But no one appears to be a bigger fan of Hsu than Steve Sailer, who publishes both at Unz.com and Vdare. Examples of Sailer writing about Hsu plentiful (eg. here, here, or here). Hsu and Sailer share the same readership, as Hsu's comment section makes clear (here, here, here, here, or here). A couple times, Sailer himself has commented on Hsu's blog and was treated well (here or here). Someone who is against racism, I would think, would speak out against Vdare and Sailer since they are not "agnostic" but definitely do believe in innate racial differences and urge that policy be based on them. Instead, Hsu sometimes directs his readers to Sailer (here and here).

Hsu saves his scorn for those who believe in the social construction of race and oppose racism. He is silent about those who embrace racism who use his work. Worse he occasionally sends readers their way. Against this backdrop a sentence or two denouncing of "identity based" politics looks inadequate to me.

In concluding his defense Hsu writes:

MSU went from roughly \$500M in annual research expenditures to about \$700M during my tenure. We have often been ranked #1 in the Big Ten for research growth. I participated in the recruitment of numerous prominent female and minority professors, in fields like Precision Medicine, Genomics, Chemistry, and many others. Until this Twitter attack there has been not even a single allegation (over 8 years) of bias or discrimination on my part in promotion and tenure or faculty recruitment.

In other words, he's been doing his job and hasn't actively discriminated against anyone. Perhaps Michigan State University can find someone else who can do his job who's hobby (not research! Hsu is a physicist!) doesn't lend the University's name to bigots like Ron Unz, Stephan Molyneux, or Steve Sailer.



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“PRODIGIES ON ‘STEPHEN HSU AND THE ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCIENTISTS’



Wade Creska

on June 14, 2020 at 2:12 am said:

Maoism.

★ Liked by 1 person



Rosenberg is Lying

on June 14, 2020 at 4:39 am said:

Rosenberg is lying in order to avoid the wrath of imbeciles like you. Genotypes that vary in frequency across populations is race.

★ Like

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 7:52 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Stephen Hsu should not get in trouble

Dear President Standley, Stephen Hsu can not get into trouble for stating facts. Scientists getting in trouble by stating evidence is a slippery slope and can not happen. I as a person of color found Dr.Hsu comments not racist in the least bit. I and many students stand with Stephen Hsu and his defense of science.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I hope you have a wonderful day.
Best regards, [REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
Monday, June 15, 2020 7:25 PM

Sent:

To:

Board Of Trustees; Byrum, Dianne; Ferguson, Joel; Foster, Melanie; Kelly, Dan; Knake, Renee; Mosallam, Brian; Scott, Brianna; Tebay, Kelly; Hendrick, Ronald; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Barr, Nakia; Vandenbosch, Jacqueline

Subject:

VP Hsu Concerns

Hello President Stanley, MSU Board of Trustees, and CANR Dean Hendrick

I'm writing to voice my concern about MSU's Vice President of Research and Innovation, Stephen Hsu's behavior and online presence. Not only has he engaged in research promoting racist ideas, eugenics, and sexism, he has also voiced terrifying language regarding professor-student sexual relations, the objectification of women, and references to women as "whores". Please click these links to see for yourself. He has threatened individuals involved with exposing his views with lawsuits as well as alluded to the graduate students of MSU as "horrible people." [REDACTED] not a "twitter mob," as VP Hsu describes [REDACTED] with the conscience to not attach his views with those of Michigan State. It is difficult to feel welcome at a university that does not value my voice as a [REDACTED]

I am disappointed to see President Stanley's inaction regarding Hsu's behavior, and I am calling for his removal as both VP of Research and Innovation and his position as tenured faculty.

I would like an explanation into the hiring process that led to his placement as VP in 2012 and a public apology from the President for not acting.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:57 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Zeig, Michael; Bales, Merri-Jo
Subject: Fwd: Stephen Hsu Article

Sam,

Below is a snapshot from social media today. No new outlets have reached out, just LSJ and State News. We did get both outlets to update your quote from what we provided last week. Some of the initial reaction indicated below was to your previous comment.

Best,
Emily

Get Outlook for IOS

From: Lange, Josh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 4:44 PM
To: Guerrant, Emily; Olsen, Daniel; Kindraka, Melody; Cody, Jason; Doepke, Ellen
Cc: Kelly, Katherine
Subject: Re: Stephen Hsu Article

Emily,

Below is a recap of the State News and LSJ's coverage of Stephen Hsu.

Today there were 64 total mentions related to Stephen Hsu, most of which were primarily driven by articles from the Lansing State Journal and State News.

State News Article:

1. Published: 10:00 am
2. Total shares: 37
3. Total reach (from their account's tweet): 32.3K

Lansing State Journal Article:

1. Published: 11:45 am
2. Total shares: 12
3. Total reach (from their account's tweet): 58.4K

Below is a timeline of the conversation related to Hsu throughout the day, with an uptick in mentions (blue line) and reach (orange bars) associated with the publishing of the articles.

Some of the primary conversation themes surrounding the article include:

1. President Stanley's response is to the situation is "insufficient, not good enough"
2. Support for Hsu: The allegations are overblown and a result of "cancel culture"

Please let me know if you have any questions or need me to dive deeper on anything else!

Josh

From: "Guerrant, Emily" [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020 at 1:35 PM
To: "Lange, Josh" [REDACTED] "Olsen, Daniel" [REDACTED] "Kindraka, Melody" [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] "Cody, Jason" [REDACTED] "Doepke, Ellen" [REDACTED]
Cc: "Kelly, Katherine" [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Stephen Hsu Article

The LSJ posted their story at 11:45 am too. Can you do a recap at the end of the today based on both stories? Thx.

From: Lange, Josh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Olsen, Daniel [REDACTED] Kindraka, Melody [REDACTED] Guerrant, Emily [REDACTED]
Cody, Jason [REDACTED] Doepke, Ellen [REDACTED]
Cc: Kelly, Katherine [REDACTED]
Subject: Stephen Hsu Article

FYI - The State News published this [article](#) on Stephen Hsu a few hours ago. I'm starting seeing a little bit of social conversation around it.



Josh Lange
Junior Marketing Analyst

Michigan State University
University Communications

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: FW: Letter Regarding Stephen Hsu [REDACTED]
Attachments: Letter Expressing Concern Over VP Hsu - [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 10:38 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: Curry, Theodore [REDACTED]; Sullivan, Teresa [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter Regarding Stephen Hsu From [REDACTED]

Dear President Stanley,

We, [REDACTED] call for Stephen Hsu to resign as Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation at Michigan State. As a result of his statements regarding race, genetics and IQ, and [REDACTED] many faculty have lost confidence in his judgement concerning evaluating faculty research.

We have been shocked and dismayed to learn that, as documented by other MSU scholars on the alt-right and scientific racism, Hsu has publicly endorsed a website that [REDACTED]. Hsu has publicly praised and given a platform to the editor-in chief and publisher of that website, Ron Unz. In a 2019 conversation on his blog, Hsu repeated Unz's critique of the "elite media," which Unz believes purged the writings of extreme rightwing figures [REDACTED]. Unz's website, which Hsu promotes as "a platform where controversial ideas can be published," includes linked suggestions to "banned books," that include over thirty books [REDACTED]. Although Unz claims that the site promotes views of the left and right, a simple scan of the site makes clear that rightwing attacks on racial equality dominate the articles published, [REDACTED].

If Hsu did not read this website closely, then he is dangerously irresponsible in promoting it. If he did read it, he displays horrifying disregard for the existence of truth, [REDACTED]. These facts raise questions whether Hsu is capable of fairly judging sound, credible research. Certainly, these revelations have made faculty question his ability to do so.

As Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation, Hsu has significant input into decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty, research funding for graduate students and faculty, and the ethical conduct of research at MSU. Hsu's public support for and promotion of figures who deny truth and ignore historical and social scientific research should disqualify him from making major financial, personnel or research decisions at our university.

Some faculty who are defending Hsu do so now in the name of "academic freedom" and the importance of being able to "ask hard questions" and take "unpopular positions;" they dismiss the idea that Hsu's judgement could be called into question because of his association with Unz as "guilt by association." But Hsu did not just "associate" with Unz – he has publicly and fulsomely praised the work Unz does as represented by his website. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moreover – and this is key – if Hsu were to flirt with these problematic positions simply as a faculty member – either as part of his research, or (as is the case here) as part of subjects that are actually outside his area of academic expertise – *and* if we were asking for his dismissal as a faculty member, Hsu's statements might be protected by academic freedom and the rights of tenure. But we are not asking for his firing: we are asking that he be removed from his position as VP of Research, a leadership position that rests on his ability to judge the research of others, and that rests on the confidence of the faculty for him to do so. He has the "freedom" to say what he wants as a tenured faculty member; he does *not* have those same freedoms, it seems to us, as the VP of Research and the duties that come with that position.

Almost three hundred faculty from across the university have signed a letter claiming that they have lost confidence in Hsu's ability to make financial, personnel, and research decisions for the University, and we have also lost that confidence. We believe that for a position such as his, faculty perceptions of his judgement are crucial. We think that MSU can do better in choosing a new Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 3:54 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: FW: The 'Fire Steve Hsu' movement

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Subject: The 'Fire Steve Hsu' movement

Dear President Stanley,

I read the open letter from many of my distinguished colleagues and our some of our excellent academic staff, students and postdocs at Michigan State that calls for firing Steve Hsu. They make a heartfelt case about some of Steve's comments in the past. But I think they are wrong, or perhaps poorly informed.

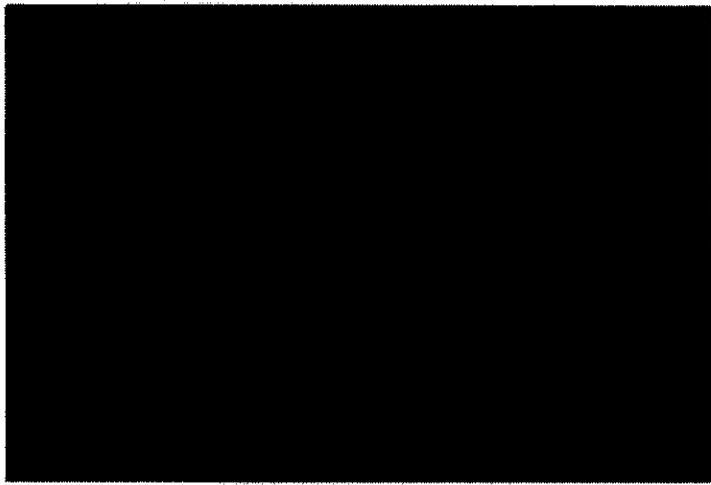
Investigating the links regarding comments that are alluded to in the letter - those about intelligence and race, and other challenging topics - I was dismayed at how his comments are being represented. Further, I heard Steve speak myself in the [REDACTED] last year discussing the prospects of engineering genomes, and where that may lead, what it would mean, whether and how it could be done. He does not advance genetic or racial superiority in his talks.

There is no question that Steve has asked discomfiting research questions. But a fair-minded review of his comments shows that his academic pursuits do not come from *a priori* assumptions about racial inferiority, and nor do they lead to conclusions ascribed to him that racism does not exist. These charges, driven in large measure on Twitter, strike me as unfair at best. And at their worst they represent a deeply concerning attack on academic and intellectual freedom, with a whiff of guilt by association (based on some of the people with whom he has discussed these issues).

If there is evidence supporting the letter-authors' contention that Steve stands in the way of increasing diversity at MSU, then it should be produced. It seems obvious that much of what has been tried in this regard has failed - that's true here as it is at many other universities. But he is not responsible for our lack of increased numbers of black and other minority faculty members at Michigan State. And nor would he stand in the way of efforts to double-down on the goal. There are creative new ideas in front of us, for example the CNS Fellows Program that is coming out of leadership by Dean Phil Duxbury, and Steve would be a strong partner bringing these to reality. The excellent outcome we had with GII under his leadership would be mirrored were he working with us in these diversity recruiting programs, I have no doubt of that.

At MSU we often discuss the need to have difficult conversations. Yes, we should; so let's do so. Talking about some of Steve's work and ideas might be an example of such a discussion. But difficult discussions cannot possibly be fairly held if we must first adopt a crowd-sourced recommendation, driven by Twitter rage, to silence an academic voice.

Thank you, and
Sincerely,



From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 3:53 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: FW: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters
Attachments: SupportiveLetters.docx; Petition Letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu on June 15.docx
Importance: High

One of many emails sent to presmail. Mike [REDACTED]
Jesselyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED] Office of the Provost, MSU

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Petition letter for keeping Dr. Stephen Hsu and supportive letters
Importance: High

Dear President Stanley and Interim Provost Sullivan:

Attached please find a petition to support Dr. Stephen Hsu, along with several supportive letters that you may have received from individual scholars.

Just a note, the petition was just lunched approximately 12 hours ago. We will update you once the petition receives more letters and signatures.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]



Letter 1:

Dear President Stanley:

We write concerning the recent petition to remove Dr. Stephen Hsu from his position as VP for Research and Innovation at MSU.

Before getting into the specifics of the accusations against Hsu, we would first like to make a broad point about the great potential for you as a leader at MSU, today. We are clearly at a difficult moment, one which will require serious and sustained inquiry into complex and troubling topics. As has been said often, "we need to have difficult conversations." Such conversations cannot be had, and indeed solutions to complex problems cannot be discovered, if certain viewpoints or positions are excluded from the domain of conversation, or if people expressing controversial views are silenced or otherwise discouraged from actively participating. As a first order, to do so is to assume that we know the answer to the question without full inquiry and ensures that we will arrive at (at best) incomplete, and often completely inadequate, answers to complex questions.

More important, however, is that *the* core values of educational institutions and of scientific discovery are the principles of free inquiry and free expression. These are the values that separate the scientific approach from other ways of knowing the world, such as politics or religion. Indeed, the principles of free inquiry and free expression are the cornerstones of enlightenment philosophy and the basis of a fully democratic society. Without them, what is left is authoritarianism, ideological tribalism, or mere traditionalism.

Especially in times of turmoil and trouble, these principles must be upheld -- unequivocally and forcefully.

Right now, you have the unique opportunity to show the kind of leadership that is needed to guide this great institution of higher learning through a difficult situation in this pivotal moment in history. The power is in your hands to reaffirm free inquiry and free expression as the core values of the academic institutions and show how they align with the other values to which we are all committed and have spent time and energy promoting. Indeed, the voices demanding Hsu's removal are exactly wrong in pitting diversity and inclusion against free inquiry and freedom of speech. (E.g., "If you are serious about diversity, you must remove Hsu.") Instead, the most inclusive and the best opportunities for true diversity to flourish occur under conditions of free inquiry, because such a philosophy demands that everyone have a seat at the table and that views be evaluated on the basis of cogency of the supporting reasoning and strength and internal consistency of the accumulated evidence rather than the identity, power, number, or vociferousness of the people expressing them. Free inquiry is the most democratic and most inclusive method of engaging with the world; in contrast, the other approaches mentioned lead to

the exclusion of people who express minority viewpoints, methods that have been used to suppress vulnerable groups throughout history.

To remove Hsu for holding controversial views or for inquiring about controversial topics, or for simply talking to controversial personalities, based on the number of people demanding he be removed and the intensity of their demands would be to capitulate to pre-enlightenment approach to the academy – and incentivize the exclusion and ostracism of minority positions. It would also set a dangerous precedent, inconsistent with the fundamental principles of modern enlightened higher education.

Regarding the accusations against Hsu:

First, we note that bias or discrimination have never been alleged against Hsu during his 8-year tenure as VP for Research. This reveals the absurdity of the critiques against Hsu, which in part appear to rest on two related assumptions: (1) because he has views that differ from mine, he cannot treat me fairly and (2) because he controls resources, I cannot voice disagreement with him. Hsu's history of fairness indicates that these assumptions are false and, we note, his critics have provided no evidence to support them. People who know Steve will attest to the exact opposite; he supports vigorous and informed debate and has never exhibited any desire to silence or otherwise dismiss dissenting views. Hsu loves discussion, he takes his opponents' positions seriously, and does so with fairness and integrity. The notion that he is necessarily biased or unable to carry out his responsibilities fairly has no basis in fact. Indeed, looking at the letters and tweets calling for his removal, no concrete cases have been presented to indicate unfairness on his part in any official or personal action. Therefore, to remove Hsu from his position would be a gross capitulation to innuendo, guilt by association, and ideology.

Second, regarding the claims that Hsu holds "racist" views: A closer look at the alleged evidence makes it clear that Hsu's critics are being at best unfair and at worst deliberately misleading. As a common definition, to be racist is to deny the humanity of a person or group based on their race. There is no evidence whatsoever that Hsu has ever demeaned a person or group of people based on their race. The following evidence is purportedly offered as proof of Hsu's racism:

1. MSU GEU claims that one of Hsu's blog posts is evidence that he believes in "innate differences in intelligence based on race" and points to a post from Jan 22, 2008. We invite everyone to read the post carefully. Not only does Hsu make no claims regarding innate differences in intelligence, he explicitly states the opposite: "There is no strong evidence for specific gene variants (alleles) that lead to group differences (differences between clusters) in behavior or intelligence." Thus, the GEU is intentionally misrepresenting Hsu's position as a means of smearing him as a racist.

2. MSU GEU claims evidence of Hsu's racism in that "Hsu's office appears to have directed funding to research downplaying racism in bias in police shootings." This is unequivocally false

— Hsu supported research to study the factors related to fatal police shootings, whatever those research outcomes might have been. Hsu did not fund research "to downplay racism." When Hsu funded this research, the PI, Joe Cesario, did not know what he would find through his research and, therefore, Hsu could not have directed funding "to downplay racism." Moreover, what the GEU appears to not understand is the scientific method. We do not know the answers to questions up front, but we let the data take us where it does. Whether racism on the part of police officers plays a role in fatal police shootings is not a statement of the world to be taken as a priori fact -- it is an empirical claim that requires evidence and that may or may not be obtained.

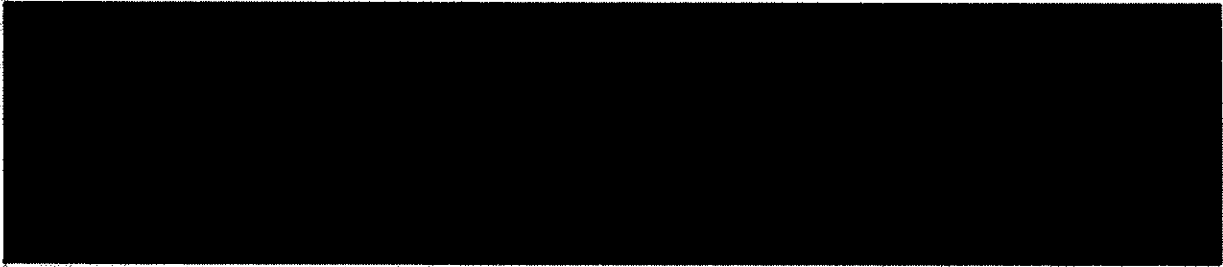
Third, regarding GEU's claims that Hsu holds "sexist" views: again, a closer look at the "evidence" presented undermines the idea that Hsu believes women to be innately inferior in our common humanity:

1. MSU GEU claims evidence in that "Hsu continually objects to considering diversity as a metric, especially when hiring women at Google" and then links to Hsu's blog post of Aug. 17, 2017. Again, read the actual blog post. First, there is nothing demeaning of women in Hsu's blog post. He instead is reporting on the case of Damore and Google. Nothing in that post reports his own opinions. Second, there is nothing in the post about objecting to considering diversity as a metric, nor even if there were would this indicate sexism on his part. Objections to diversity as a metric can be found widely outside of academia, everywhere from center-left to right on the political spectrum without malevolence toward the groups in questions (e.g., see John McWhorter's or Glenn Loury's objections to these topics).

2. MSU GEU claims that "Hsu argues that there are fewer competent women available to hire" and points to his blog post on Aug. 10, 2017, which contains the quote "This doesn't mean that the females who are $> +2.5SD$ (in the female population) are ill-suited to the role (they may be as good as the men), just that there are fewer of them in the general population." To be absolutely clear: there are well-established distributional differences between men and women on quantitative ability and verbal ability (and their combination), and this affects career choice and the pool of people available for various jobs. Hsu is referring to findings that there are no difference in mean scores between men and women but that men are more variable—larger numbers of high and low performers. There is very strong empirical support for these claims, despite how uncomfortable such data may be (e.g., Benbow et al., 2000; Ceci & Williams, 2010; Ceci & Williams, 2011; Ceci et al., 2009; Feingold, 1994; Fryer & Levitt, 2009; Halpern et al., 2007; Lubinski & Benbow, 1992; Lubinski et al., 2001; Valla & Ceci, 2014).

Note importantly that Hsu is absolutely clear that there are equally-qualified women and at no point does he make sexist claims about women being unable to engage in some activity or that they should not be allowed perform a particular job. There is no ambiguity on Hsu's part on this point and, therefore, clear evidence that Hsu does not hold sexist views.

Finally, as a general point: The nature and origins of differences across groups is a complicated and difficult set of questions. There are few settled answers, and there will be no single answer to all questions on these topics. To suggest that people who hold controversial positions regarding these issues should be removed or otherwise silenced is to presume the answer without inquiry and fall prey to the moralistic fallacy -- that what we want to be true, must be true. This is antithetical to the mission of a university.



Letter 2:

Dear President Stanley,

I write to you in regard to the GEU petition to remove Steve Hsu from his post as Vice President for Research at MSU. I will not attempt to address all of the accusations against Hsu, but did want to draw your attention to two GEU posts that give me pause.

The first post is directly relevant to [REDACTED] "Hsu is against removing standardized tests like the GRE & SAT because he believes they measure cognitive ability." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] These tests *do* measure cognitive ability (or "skills" if you like): operations of the mind/brain involved in solving math problems, comprehending text, remembering information, reasoning, visualization, and so on. This is not in dispute in the scientific literature; research on individual differences in cognition is a major area of scientific inquiry in psychology. To be sure, we don't fully understand what gives rise to individual differences in scores on tests of cognitive ability; the best available evidence suggests that between-person variation in this phenotype arise from both genetic factors and environmental factors, and their interplay. Nor do we know whether differences across people in test scores can be reduced through environmental interventions. But to question whether this variation reflects the cognitive system—and to malign someone for holding such a view—is patently absurd. In making this point, the GEU is either being disingenuous and trying to smear Hsu's character, or they don't know what they're talking about. I find either possibility troubling. The second GEU post to which I draw your attention reads: "Hsu's office appears to have directed funding to research downplaying racism in bias in police shootings." This post refers to Prof. Joseph Cesario's work on racial bias in police shooting, the implication being that the outcome of his work was preordained. This is an **OUTRAGEOUS AND FALSE ACCUSATION** and is nothing short of slander against not only V.P. Hsu, but Prof. Cesario—a highly respected scientist, journal editor, teacher, and mentor. A university should be a place where all its members should feel safe from harmful and baseless accusations.

More generally, at least in my view, a university must simultaneously uphold the ideals of *diversity and inclusion* and *freedom of inquiry*. With respect to the latter, if faculty feel uncomfortable investigating "difficult" questions—the answers to which may or may not agree with a particular belief or view—then the faculty will eventually stop asking those questions, or leave for institutions that support both of these ideals. In turn, the university will cease to be a real leader in addressing the most difficult problems that society faces. Ideology rather than reason will become the animating impulse in the faculty's scholarship.

The call to remove Steve Hsu is vociferous; I urge you to evaluate his case based on the merit of the accusations against him.

Best regards,



Letter 3:

Dear President Stanley,

I write in response to the campus movement to have Steve Hsu removed from office. I have not received money from his office. And, thus far, my own teaching and research (and character) has not become the target of attack. The petitioners argue that Hsu should be removed because he is a racist and a sexist, and that, as such, he cannot be entrusted to discharge his responsibilities fairly and in accordance with MSU's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. As evidence they point to a series of blog posts where Hsu reviews the findings of peer reviewed research, in which he repeatedly and expressly cautions against drawing racist or sexist conclusions, and they insinuate that he shares the views of individuals who have interviewed him and who draw conclusions other than he does from the evidence he adduces. Most problematic of all, they imply that Hsu's bias is revealed in the findings of research his office has supported. Not only do I find such arguments insufficient to meet the threshold of indicating that Hsu should be summarily dismissed from his office, but I see the clear implication of such an argument that the holder of this, and so by extension any other comparable office at the University, must either be silent on any issues of controversy or importance, or else hold views that align with those of the petitioners. Moreover, the implication seems to be that all researchers on campus are also obliged to confine their inquiries (or is it their conclusions?) in accordance with the wishes of the petitioners.

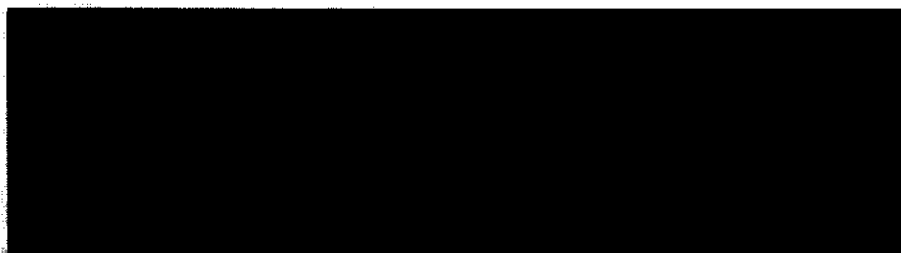
To hastily fire Hsu out of a desire to appease or placate one or another vocal group on campus would have a baleful effect on the intellectual climate on this campus and send a signal to everyone at the university that free inquiry, and the open discourse requisite to free inquiry, are no longer the fundamental animating principles of this institution, that at any moment someone who pursues difficult and important questions wherever the evidence leads could find themselves without protection. In other words, the case of Hsu is not just about Hsu. It is about whether MSU under your leadership will stand firm on the core principles of free inquiry. Consider that if you were to concede to the petitioners that Hsu's views - which are in fact backed by evidence, and stated with care, and that as often as not directly contradict the claims of the petitioners about his views - have influenced his awarding of research funds that this would taint the research of everyone on campus who has received those funds. Indeed, this seems to be the intention of the petitioners in their singling out the work of Drs. Cesario and Hambrick as suggestive of Hsu's bias. In a moment that already makes free discourse and research about fraught questions extraordinarily difficult, this would impose silence and a moratorium on further inquiry.

Is there evidence that Hsu has been unfair or biased in his decisions? If so, it hasn't been adduced. Or is this merely asserted by insinuation based on the willful reading of blog posts and

youtube interviews? Otherwise, what's the ground for his removal? That he disagrees with some others on campus? I suspect that would be true of anyone who will ever hold that office. So then the argument amounts to a demand that the person in charge of research on campus agree with me (or any other stakeholder on campus) on every question I care deeply about. This is unacceptable.

And let me be plain, I disagree with Hsu's positions on a number of questions. This is not about the coincidence between my views and his.

Yours,



Letter 4:

On Freedom of Thought and Inquiry

I am writing this letter in response to the petitions to have the Vice-President of Research [REDACTED] Steve Hsu, removed from his position. I do not agree with the claims made in these petitions nor the proposed sanctions. Beyond my desire to support Steve, I also write because [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Currently the petition includes the following disclaimer: "please note due to the volume of submissions we are unable to completely verify submissions. If your name has been falsely submitted please email president@geuatmsu.org." In other words we have no way of verifying how many of these signatures are legitimate - this in itself is a serious problem considering the magnitude of accusations and suggestion that Dr. Hsu be even stripped of his tenure and professorship (the GEU has since reversed itself to only demand that he be removed from his administrative role).

Steve is being accused of being a racist and a sexist and an anti-semite, on the basis of his blog posts, interviews he has given online [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Responding to these accusations is complicated by the fact that accusations are being made without clear definition of terms, by innuendo and without attendant criterion for determining whether they are true or false. Nevertheless, regarding the general claim of racism and sexism, let me say that I have known Steve for [REDACTED] years and can attest that he is not a racist or a sexist. Steve is one of the most scrupulously fair people I have ever met and I have seen no evidence that he has ever discriminated against anyone on the basis of their race, sex, or any other status.

The key academic principles of free thought and free inquiry are at issue in Steve's case. These principles that are at the heart of what makes the University distinctive and, one might argue, are required for pursuit of knowledge and efficient scientific progress. It is useful to remind ourselves of what these principles involve. Free thought is the fundamental idea that we do not impose ideological requirements on what other members of the community can believe. To the contrary, we should celebrate diversity not only in gender, ethnicity and place of origin but also in point of view. We are all here because we support, and engage in, research into the unknown. Because diversity of point of view accelerates the search for truth, we cannot want MSU to be an environment where we agree on all topics. Free inquiry requires that investigators be free to research whatever they like. I might not be very interested in what you are studying, and I might not like the questions you are asking or the data or answers you are coming up with, but you need to be free to study them regardless of my opinion or my ideology.

I am aware that some are beginning to question these principles today. One may even think that with our interest in advancing diversity, opportunity and inclusion these principles must be weakened. I could not disagree more. We need to provide our increasingly diverse student body and faculty with the same opportunities for free inquiry and free thought that others have had for centuries. Being at a university is a privilege. If these fundamental principles are not respected and universally applied, we do not have a university that is living up to its full potential and the benefits are reduced for all. Suffice it to say that I believe the limits that are, implicitly or explicitly, being placed on acceptable speech and inquiry in the criticisms of Steve strike me as wholly too restrictive of a great university.

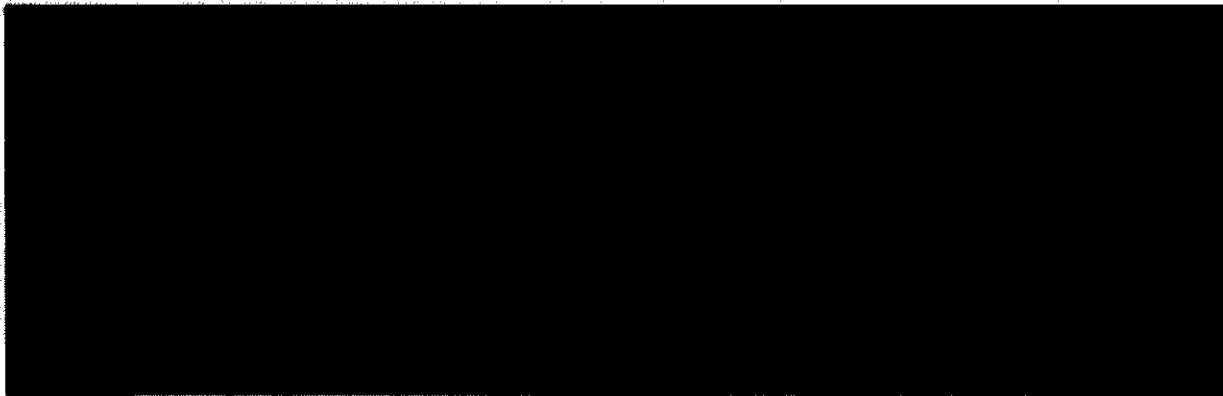
Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion

One of the central responsibilities of the VPRI is supporting the efforts of faculty to be successful in their research. Critical to success is gaining funding.

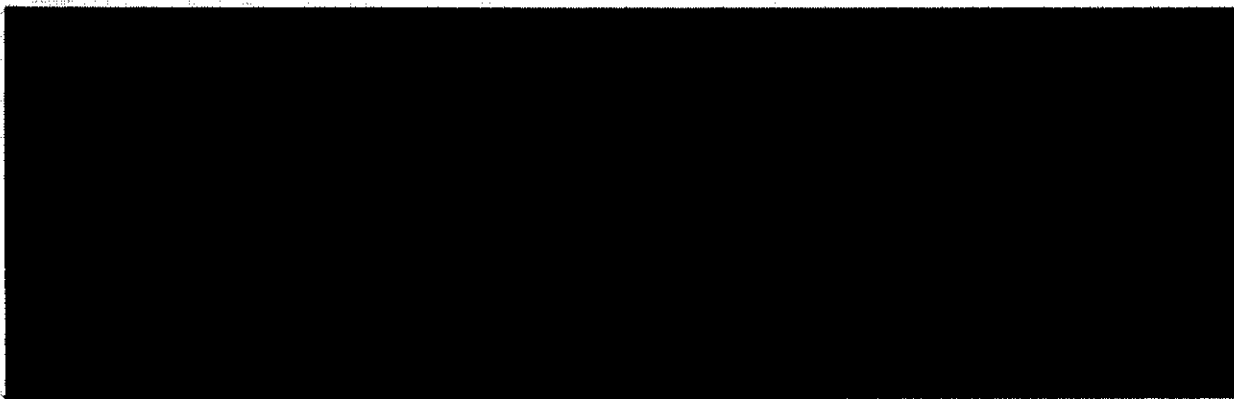
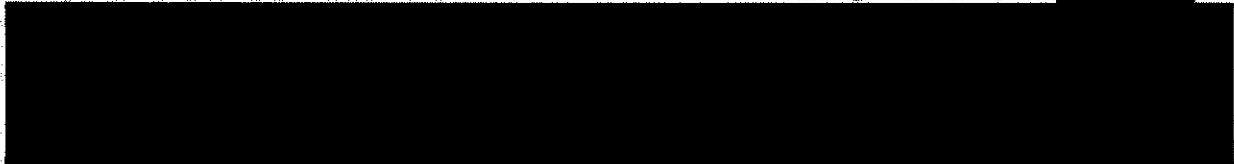
Another example of his support for diversity and inclusion is his creation of Science, Society and State (S3). The program provides seed grants "to promote interdisciplinary research and education that utilizes methods, approaches, and scholarship from STEM, the health sciences, and science studies (studies of science using methods and scholarship from the humanities and/or social sciences)". Many of the recipients come from diverse backgrounds and do not have strong funding histories. Grants through the program have helped a wide range of researchers jumpstart their career with private and federal funding.

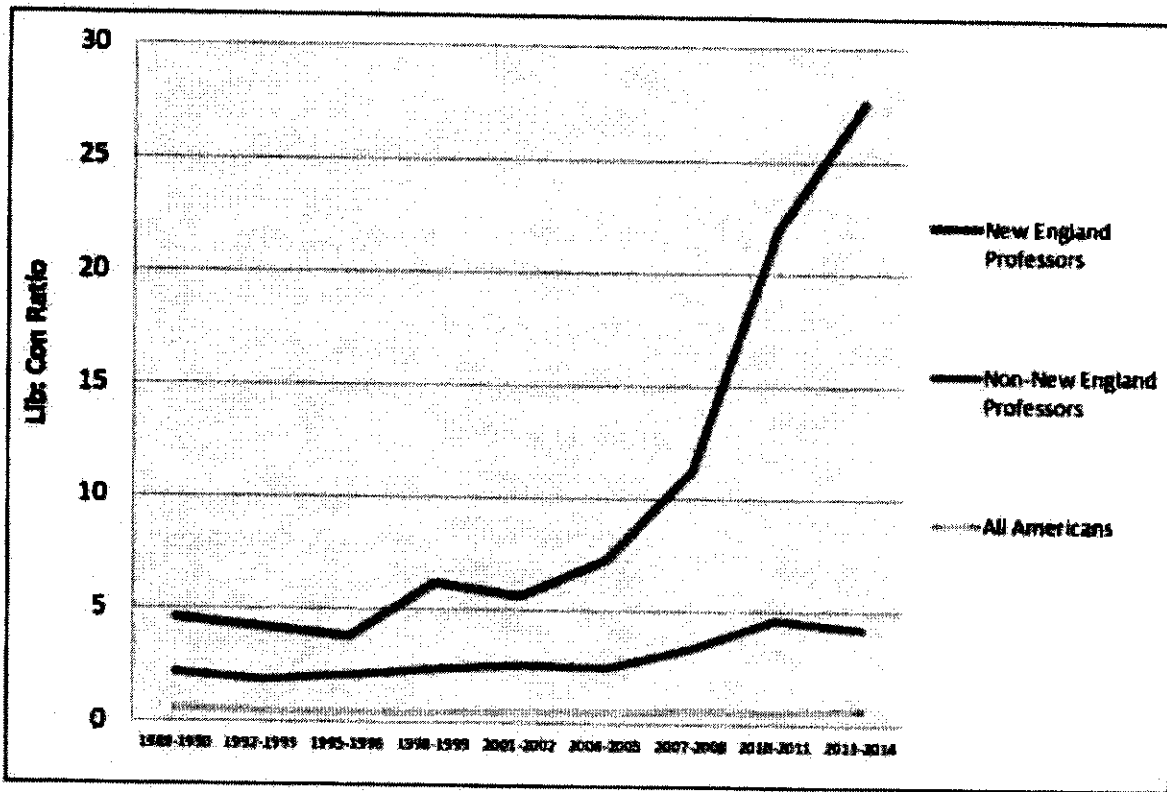
In order to increase diversity of new faculty hires, Steve allowed a new approach to recruiting aimed at increasing the pool of women and minority candidates by tapping into faculty personal networks. This effort along with traditional approaches through the Colleges and a shared commitment to work continuously to increase diversity has resulted in adding a number of high quality faculty of diverse backgrounds. To name a few specific examples prominent named chairs like Hannah Professors Felicia Wu and

Angela Wilson. [REDACTED] a new Genomics effort through the recruitment of Gustavo de los Campos and Ana Vasquez. [REDACTED] Debra Furr- Holden, C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health, [REDACTED] Other critical hires through the Global Impact Initiative include: Anna Moore, Director of Precision Health Program and Assistant Dean at the College of Human Medicine; Julia Felton, Polly Hsu, Vicki Johnson-Lawrence, Emily Josephs, Kimberly Kelly, Huey-Wen Lin, Mohammed Maghrebi, Rita Stakovsky, Michaela Teravest, Addie Thompson, and Hanne Hoffffman.



[REDACTED] While Steve and I disagree to some degree about many things (affirmative action, whether traders add value to the financial system, the nature of intelligence, the value of learning foreign languages, taxes and economics, the degree of progress in neuroscience, the genetic contribution to behavior, the virtues of urban v suburban life, how you measure society's well-being, etc.), we found over the years that we had a common interest in science, philosophy, business, politics, technology, free speech, evidence-based reasoning and education. [REDACTED]

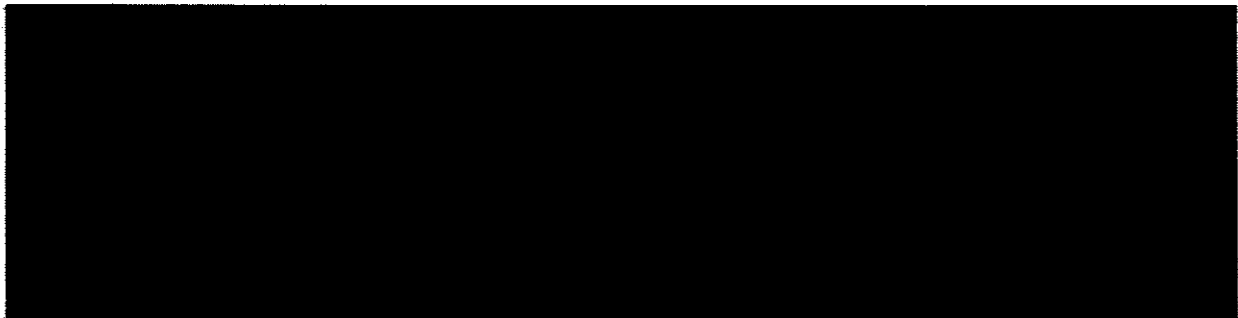




Nationally, the ratio of the number of liberal to conservative faculty members was roughly 2 to 1 in 1995. By 2004 this ratio had risen to almost 3 to 1 and by 2010 to almost 5 to 1. So while racial and gender diversity has increased on campus, ideological diversity has gone down. It is well-known that damaging cognitive dynamics begin to take hold within ideologically homogeneous groups.^[2]

one small way to fight the current hyperpolarization in this country that has arisen because people don't talk to one another across large ideological distances.

Ron Unz



[REDACTED]

I don't believe that one can argue with the fact that Ron is a very unusual and remarkably successful conservative social entrepreneur. As Steve described his background to me, Ron was long opposed to bilingual education and realized that with the support of conservative volunteers he could effectively take down an entire slice of the public education curriculum in the country's largest state with a fairly small amount of money, and did so. In this part of his life, Ron reminds me more than anyone else of Edward Blum, the man who has almost single-handedly led the attack on affirmative action around the country. (Blum has filed lawsuit after lawsuit challenging affirmative action, gotten to the Supreme Court six times and won in four in full or in part.) If people don't know about Ron Unz and Edward Blum, they should. If you are an academic, you may want, and want others, to ignore the likes of Ron Unz and Edward Blum, but bear in mind: they are paying attention to you. In fact, it could be argued that it is this intentional ignorance of their divergent view, that has allowed them to chip away at the long-standing traditions of the education system from the outside without much resistance.

There is a calculus of risk in having a public discussion with any controversial person. You have to balance the downside of giving a platform for sometimes unpleasant views with the upside of giving the public the opportunity to learn from hearing a conversation with an important and influential person. Unz played an important role in mortgage pricing, both before and after the 2008 global financial crisis. (Unz's firm Wall Street Analytics was acquired by the ratings agency Moody's in 2006, whose practices, many believe, contributed significantly to the meltdown.) Unz's article on college admissions was featured by the NYT and caused the Harvard administration to order an internal study that played a prominent role at trial.¹³¹ Ron claimed [REDACTED] that the Unz Review gets about as many views as The Nation magazine. Checking site traffic today (6/14/2020) on siteworthtraffic.com estimates that Thenation.com has 48,166 unique users each day with 62,653 daily pageviews, while Unz.com has reached roughly 27,144 unique users each day with 72,548 daily pageviews. If this is correct, it is a significant force in alternative media. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] far left and far right views are increasingly common.

[REDACTED]

Joe Cesario

This is a difficult political time in the United States. The killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, in 2014 sparked the Black Lives Matter movement to reduce police violence in the US. The recent killing of George Floyd brought this issue to the attention of the world and led to the current round of protests. However, we must acknowledge that these terrible events give us the rare chance to bring about much needed reform in areas where there is evidence of disparity and undesirable outcomes. Opportunities for large scale systemic change don't come along often, and we need to take advantage of them. However, if we are serious in wanting to address these problems, we must do so on the basis of what the best research tells us are the likely causes of the problems and what measures are likely to lead to effective solutions, regardless of whether these findings fit with our preconceived ideology. This approach, following the data rationally and logically wherever it leads, lies at the heart of unbiased research and is what is required for implementing effective changes.

In the Twitter thread cited in the MSU GEU complaint, Steve is criticized for promoting the work of Associate Professor of Psychology Joe Cesario on Manifold. Joe has research findings suggesting that there is no disparity in rates of police shootings by race once you control for crime rates by group.^[4] However, Joe acknowledges what many others have found: that there are racial disparities in police stops, and in all other uses of force, controlling for confounding factors. It is shootings that are exceptional, and Joe has carefully studied how a police officer makes that split second life and death decision.

The insinuation of the Twitter criticism seems to be that Steve sought to use Joe's research on shooting as a covert way of attacking Black Lives Matter and downplaying the significance of the kind of indefensible police violence that led to the murder of George Floyd.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have long been interested in disparities in the criminal justice system. [REDACTED] that focused on capital punishment. At the time there was no place in the criminal justice system where racial disparities were greater, e.g. 1900-1950 (before the death penalty was outlawed for rape) every person executed in the US for that crime was black, and even after the reforms in the aftermath of Furman v. Georgia death sentences were still far higher for blacks who killed whites than other combinations. The consequences of these disparities, death, was obviously also greater than for other types of sentencing.^[6] Because fatal police shootings are kind of instantaneous death penalty, Joe's

findings were extremely surprising, and so interesting. It suggested that while serious racial bias existed in the long, deliberative, and highly regulated system of capital punishment, where far more safeguards exist, it disappeared when a police officer made a split second decision to shoot someone.⁽⁷⁾ I thought that this couldn't possibly be true. However, if Cesario was right, then efforts to reduce the killing of black men by police should not focus on reducing racial bias in the inclination to pull the trigger, but on reducing crime rates (to me personally, a very uncomfortable conclusion to draw) and police bias in stops, arrests, use of force and other tactics. Reducing crimes rates may involve a complex set of changes to public, economic, criminal justice and social policy. Anyone who really cares about this issue and wants to reduce the chances of black men being shot by police needs to engage with this research. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I sought out points of view that conflicted with Cesario's. Consensus was that the best integrated source for such findings was the book *Biased* by the Stanford University Psychology Professor Jennifer Eberhardt. Eberhardt argues that implicit bias is largely responsible for disparities in how police treat minority suspects, a position of which Cesario has been skeptical. Evidence that Eberhardt collects is widespread and compelling.

- Four times more black people were convicted of marijuana offenses in MA than whites.
- Blacks constitute 54% of stops in NYC, but make up only 23% of population
- Once stopped blacks are frisked more and subject to violence more often
- Blacks are stopped more often for "furtive" movements but less likely to have guns than whites.
- In an analysis of over twenty-eight thousand police stops in 2013 and 2014 in Oakland roughly 60% of the stops were of black people, although blacks made up only 28% of the Oakland population at the time.
 - Blacks were disproportionately stopped even when adjusting for factors like the crime rate and the racial breakdown of residents in the areas where the stops took place.
 - Blacks were significantly more likely to be searched, handcuffed, and arrested.
 - 65% of Oakland police officers had conducted a discretionary search on a black person, while only 23% had conducted such a search on a white person across the same thirteen-month period.
 - 72% had handcuffed a black person during the course of a stop—even when no arrest was made—whereas only 26% of officers had handcuffed a white person who was not arrested.
- In a meta-analysis of 18.5 million traffic stops across the country between 2010 and 2016, black drivers are more than twice as likely as white drivers to have been stopped for a high-discretion equipment violation versus a moving violation
- While blacks made up 67% of Ferguson's population, they accounted for 85% of vehicle stops and 90% of citations.

- Black drivers were twice as likely as whites to be searched but 26% less likely to be found to possess contraband.

Eberhardt recounts the results of her studies of object recognition in which subjects are primed with a picture of a black or a white face and then view a series of images in which an object slowly comes into view. Priming with a black face made undergraduates faster at recognizing objects associated with crime. In another study undergraduates are instructed to press a button to shoot a suspect on a computer screen if and only if the suspect is armed. Undergraduates shot unarmed blacks faster and more often. A third study found that trained police officers shot armed blacks faster than armed whites on screen. All three studies provide some evidence for implicit bias playing a role in shooting. However, when Eberhardt conducted the same shoot/don't shoot study with police officers and unarmed suspects on the computer screen she found no difference in rates of shooting unarmed blacks and whites. This finding is consistent with implicit bias not playing a role in situations in which unarmed black men like Michael Brown encounter police and are killed.

Eberhardt's studies were conducted on a computer, where you shoot by merely pressing a button on the keyboard. This is obviously very unlike the real world. Joe Cesario wanted to do more rigorous studies. He visited Steve to request funds to build a shooting simulator in which officers have to pull out and shoot a modified handgun at a full-sized image of a suspect during interactive video scenarios. Not quite real world conditions either but far closer than buttons and computer screens. Cesario's experimental studies have since found no evidence that implicit bias plays a role in officers' decision to shoot Black or White suspects, and instead confirms that the driving factor in the decision to shoot is the situation of the encounter, that is, the degree to which the situation is one of violent crime.

In a police officer's mind, shooting just appears to be a fundamentally different kind of use of force. They let bias affect them when they pull someone over in a car, push them on the ground, put them up against the wall, hand-cuff them or put them in a choke-hold. But in shooting the police appear to be focused on the presence or absence of a gun or other threat -- not on the race of the suspect. There are subtleties to Joe's work and I encourage anyone reading this who would like to know more to read his papers

For example, in the vast majority of shootings (~90-95%), the suspect is armed or otherwise attacking an officer while shot, and there appears to be no racial bias in these types of shootings. In the small number of cases where officers misidentify a harmless object for a gun (as with Philandro Castille), Ross, et al. (forthcoming) did find evidence of racial bias on the part of police^{18f}. In contrast, Cesario found that there was too little unarmed shooting data to draw strong conclusions.

Joe's work is scientific research. Like all research, its findings should be assessed on the basis of the rigorousness of the methodology, validity of the logic and strength and the internal coherence of evidence, his own work and that of others in the field. However, his finding that rates of fatal police shootings do not differ by rates once you control for crime rates is consistent with other work in the field (Worrall, et al. 2020^[9], Mentch, 2018^[10]). Fryer found bias in the use of non-lethal force but no bias in the use of lethal force.^[11] For shootings of armed suspects, the vast majority of shootings (~95% in Cesario's dataset) Ross also found no anti-black disparity when you benchmark against violent crime.

Joe's work has not been without critics. Jonathan Mummolo of Princeton University criticizes it here (<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/3/1261>) and Joe replies here (<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/3/1264>). In the true spirit of open inquiry, Joe has offered to work with Jonathan to resolve their empirical and theoretical disagreements. We need to approach this research with an open mind and without bias. We then need to develop public policies based on the results. This is one way those of us at universities can contribute to reducing fatal police shootings and the unwarranted use of force.

Intelligence research



The main charge against Steve is that he is a scientific racist based on his views of the genetic basis of IQ inheritance. The nature of intelligence is one point on which Steve and I disagree. He has a narrower view of intelligence than I do. I believe that there are multiple dimensions of intelligence, though they are harder to measure than IQ and that these include emotional intelligence, open-mindedness, shrewdness, and a feature I would label "basic common sense". I acknowledge that these other forms of intelligence are quite hard to measure and so my belief is tempered by my appreciation of this evidential weakness. Still, I have seen sufficient evidence of their presence in the real world to believe that there is a good chance appropriately designed experiments can characterize them. Steve believes that intelligence is very strongly influenced by genetics. I believe that it is a product of environment and experience, genetics, gene-environment interactions and lifestyle, as are other attributes such as athletic ability, personality and appearance.

I understand that many people are made uncomfortable by people raising the issue of the genetic basis of intelligence. I am made uncomfortable by certain discussions of the genetic basis of intelligence. However, a person's freedom to be interested in these topics, and to pursue research on them, reflects basic academic freedom. It is also my firm belief that reasonable people can disagree on the answers to questions in this area. What is clear to me is that Steve and other researchers in genomics are pursuing their work in good faith, and have uncovered interesting results linking variations in DNA to variations in measures like IQ. Steve is most interested in

why some people are "geniuses" -- he has never been focused on average differences between groups.

Racism and Sexism


I haven't looked at Steve's posts or interviews on race and sex differences in detail. He sends them to me from time to time, but I confess that as the topics do not interest me much, I generally don't read them. Steve is accused of having an interview with a white nationalist, Stefan Molyneux. I haven't looked at it. This is always an option for people who are not interested in a topic or find it offensive.



agreed with was that while all professors have the right to free speech it is different with the VP of research. VP of research is a political position and as such may be subject to greater constraints on free expression because one's comportment can be criticized if it reflects badly on the university. I agree only to a certain extent. I believe that the visibility of the position sets it up as an example of what is involved in living up to the values that the university espouses, including those of free expression and free inquiry, and the ability not to judge a person's fitness for a position based on their personal or political views.

Eugenics and Embryo Selection

Steve has developed computational technology for pre-implantation embryo screening (or "embryo selection") and been criticized for ushering in a radical new era of eugenics. The idea that this is radical is quite problematic when the truth is that we have tested for genetic abnormalities, and conducted selective abortions of fetuses found to have these abnormalities, for decades. Many women now opt for the recently developed "fetal cell-free DNA test" which can test the developing fetus for an increasing number of genetic abnormalities. The most notable ones are Down Syndrome and other chromosomal rearrangements and duplications. This is offered as an option to pretty much every pregnant woman in the US and Europe. I would also add that human beings select their mates on the basis of characteristics that are clearly genetically determined and that this tendency has likely been selected for over the course of human history. Height is almost under complete genetic control, and women have a near universal preference for taller men, a fact



It is not a huge leap to try to imagine how embryo selection technology will evolve in the next decade from testing for disease markers to the possibility for enhancement traits. The spread of this technology poses pressing ethical and political questions. Unequal access to this technology could further exacerbate existing inequalities. However, I would ask people to reflect on existing practices that already increase inequality such as the increasing tendency of academic and financial elite to marry within the same socioeconomic status, look for traits in their partner such as intelligence, beauty and so on, but most importantly trying to give their offspring every possible advantage financially, educationally, environmental, and developmentally. During this stay at home period, [REDACTED]

Hsu participated in a 2018 debate at MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health, Science, and Engineering, at the invitation of Director Chris Contag. The topic was human genetic engineering, and Hsu's counterpart was MSU bioethicist Len Fleck. A number of people who attended tell me that they found Steve's view thoughtful and balanced. None that I know of came away from the debate thinking he is a eugenicist [REDACTED] It is unclear to me why MSU GEU came to a different conclusion. [REDACTED]

In the spirit of openness Steve has never tried to keep his research secret. He has been the subject of positive (The Economist) and negative (the Guardian and Radiolab) media coverage -- as one would expect for important topics on which there is disagreement. Given the sensitivity of these subjects and people's hesitancy to speak their minds, it is difficult to tell what the actual distribution of public attitudes is on these issues. Nevertheless, I suspect that Steve's views on topics on which we agree, as well as those on which we disagree, are not outside of the mainstream.

Conclusion

The urgency of responding to the petition for Steve's removal has forced me to rush this open letter out faster than I would have preferred. There are many more things to say.

[REDACTED] But I can say with great sincerity that the allegations against him are

not true. He is no racist or sexist. He has never to my knowledge displayed bias or favoritism based on identity.

Freedom of Thought and Freedom of Inquiry are fundamental principles that must be protected at the University. I reject the idea that they are in conflict with Social Justice and Equity.

Sincerely,

^[1] <https://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2016/07/universities-without-ideological-diversity.html>

^[2] Cass Sunstein, *Going to Extremes: How like Minds Unite and Divide...*

^[3] <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/12/19/fears-of-an-asian-quota-in-the-ivy-league/statistics-indicate-an-ivy-league-asian-quota>

^[4] Joseph Cesario, David J. Johnson, William Terrill First Published Is There Evidence of Racial Disparity in Police Use of Deadly Force? Analyses of Officer-Involved Fatal Shootings in 2015–2016

June 13, 2018 Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550618775108>

^[6] Ray Patternoster, *Capital Punishment in America*. Capital punishment in America, New York : Lexington Books ; Toronto : Maxwell Macmillan Canada ; New York : Maxwell Macmillan International, 1991.

^[7] This phenomenon of less bias in quick decision juxtaposed against large-scale bias in deliberative decisions has been theorized in cognitive science literature by Gerg Gigerenzer since the 1990s but evidence had been weak in my view.

^[8] Cody T. Ross, Bruce Winterhalder, and Richard McElreath, Racial disparities in police use of deadly

force against unarmed individuals persist after appropriately benchmarking shooting data on violent crime rates *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. in Press: XX(X):1–9

^[9] <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07418825.2020.1760331>

^[10] <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/2330443X.2019.1704330>

^[11] Fryer RG (2016) An empirical analysis of racial differences in police use of force. URL <https://www.nber.org/papers/w22399.pdf>.

Letter 5:

To MSU President Samuel L. Stanley:

We sign this letter asking you to keep Dr. Stephen Hsu in his position as VP for Research and Innovation and as a sign of support for Dr. Hsu.

The charges of racism and sexism against Hsu are unequivocally false and the purported evidence supporting these charges ranges from innuendo and rumor to outright lies. (See attached letters for details.) We highlight that there is zero concrete evidence that Hsu has performed his duties as VP in an unfair or biased manner. No cases have yet to be presented on this point. Therefore, removing Hsu from his post as VP would be to capitulate to rumor and character assassination.

President Stanley, you have the unique opportunity to show the kind of leadership that is needed to guide this great institution of higher learning through a difficult situation in this pivotal moment in history. The power is in your hands to reaffirm free inquiry and free expression as the core values of the academic institutions and show how they align with the other values to which we are all committed and have spent time and energy promoting. The voices demanding Hsu's removal are exactly wrong in pitting diversity and inclusion against free inquiry and freedom of speech. Instead, the most inclusive and the best opportunities for true diversity to flourish occur under conditions of free inquiry, because such a philosophy demands that everyone have a seat at the table and that views be evaluated on the basis of cogency of the supporting reasoning and strength and internal consistency of the accumulated evidence rather than the identity, power, number, or vociferousness of the people expressing them. Free inquiry is the most democratic and most inclusive method of engaging with the world.

A university must simultaneously uphold the ideals of inclusion and freedom of inquiry. With respect to the latter, if faculty feel uncomfortable investigating "difficult" questions—the answers to which may or may not agree with a particular belief or view, and may even be unsettling—then the faculty will eventually stop asking those questions. In turn, the university will cease to be a leader in addressing the most difficult problems that society faces. Ideology will become the major force in the faculty's scholarship.

To remove Hsu for holding controversial views or for inquiring about controversial topics, or for simply talking to controversial personalities, based on the number of people demanding he be removed and the intensity of their demands would be to capitulate to pre-enlightenment approach to the academy – and incentivize the exclusion and ostracism of minority positions. It would also set a dangerous precedent, inconsistent with the fundamental principles of modern enlightened higher education.

Professor Hsu is a thoughtful, decent, and compassionate human being who approaches complex questions with honesty and openness. To allow Hsu to be removed by falsehoods and innuendos would be to concede that there is no place in the academy for someone who has committed no crime or injustice toward any individual, but merely disagrees with the prevailing orthodoxy.

There is no question that the push for racial justice and equal rights has been and continues to be a noble and important cause. In the narrow case, removing Hsu from his position will in no way advance this cause. In the general case, removing Hsu will do permanent damage to the university and will undermine the core values that we must uphold.

Signed:

1. Corey Washington, Director of Analytics and Strategic Projects, OVPRI
2. Joseph Cesario, Associate Professor, Psychology
3. Wei Liao, Professor and Director, MSU Anaerobic Digestion Research and Education Center, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
4. Tobin Craig, Associate Professor, James Madison College
5. Huirong Xie, Research Specialist, Co-Director of Transgenic and Genome Editing Facility, OVPRI
6. Honglei Chen, Professor, College of Human Medicine
7. Xinran Xiao, Professor, College of Engineering
8. Changyong Cao, Assistant Professor, School of Packaging, College of Agriculture and Natural Resource
9. Dean Lee, Professor of Physics, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams and Department of Physics and Astronomy
10. Arthur Melzer, Professor, Professor, Political Science
11. Taosheng Liu, Associate Professor, Psychology
12. Zhiyong Xi, Professor, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
13. Ke Dong, Professor, Department of Entomology
14. John Jiang, Professor, Department of Accounting and Information Systems
15. Young Hyun Cho, Associate Professor of Piano, College of Music
16. Ce Liu, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
17. Wei Zhang, Associate Professor, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
18. Xuefei Huang, Professor, Departments of Chemistry and Biomedical Engineering
19. Jay P. Kennedy, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice and Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection
20. Ning Jiang, Professor, Department of Horticulture

21. Zach Hambrick, Professor, Department of Psychology
22. Karl Healey, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
23. Tze-lan Sang, Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
24. Chris Melde, Professor, School of Criminal Justice
25. Scott Wolfe, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
26. Zhongxiao Chen, Sr. Acad Sp. Entomology/IR4 NCRRC
27. Chen Chen, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Science
28. Bin Chen, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
29. Xinyu Wu, Director of VIPP, International Studies and Programs
30. Edmund McGarrell, Professor, School of Criminal Justice
31. Guo-qing Song, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture
32. Shi-You Ding, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology
33. Mark Dykman, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
34. Jeff Rojek, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice, and Director of Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection
35. Zachary Huang, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology
36. Rick DeShon, Professor, Department of Psychology
37. Ming-Han Li, Professor, School of Planning, Design and Construction
38. Isabel Wang, Professor, Department of Accounting and Information Systems
39. Norbert L. Kerr, Emeritus Professor of Psychology
40. Moxun Tang, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
41. Tongbin Qu, Associate Professor, School of Planning, Design, and Construction
42. Yan Liu, Associate Professor, Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering
43. Franklin J. Boster, Professor Emeritus, Department of Communication
44. Yimin Xiao, Professor, Departments of Statistics and Probability
45. Pawel Danielewicz, National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory and Department of Physics and Astronomy
46. Tongtong Li, Associate Professor, College of Engineering
- 47.

From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Isj story from today, 11:45 am

<https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2020/06/15/michigan-state-msu-stephen-hsu-research-removal-petition-graduate-employees-union/5345120002/>



Emily Gerkin Guerrant
Vice President and University Spokesperson

408 West Circle Dr., Room 401B | East Lansing, MI 48824
Office: 517.355.3843 | Cell: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

SPARTANS WILL

From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Fwd: Remove Steve Hsu Immediately
Attachments: Hsu and leadership

Get Outlook for IOS

From: Board Of Trustees <trustees@msu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Guerrant, Emily
Cc: Vandebosch, Jacqueline
Subject: FW: Remove Steve Hsu Immediately

Hi Emily,

[REDACTED]

Thanks.
Jackie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Board Of Trustees <trustees@msu.edu>
Subject: Remove Steve Hsu Immediately

Dear MSU Board of Trustees,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED] here at MSU. I have recently become aware of a very damaging individual named Steve (or Steven) Hsu who was appointed to the position of Senior Vice President for Research and Graduate studies by the board of trustees. Mr. Hsu is a proponent of racially and sexually derived differences in test scores, human intellect, and brain morphology, all of which are epithets of historic scientific racism and sexism that any first-year STEM student is educated about here at MSU. He is also a proponent of "intellect" based eugenics based on testing and supposed genetic traits. None of these views are supported by the scientific community and are, in fact, largely condemned as antiquated, racist conclusions based on misinterpretations of scientific data and poor methodologies.

If you doubt my claims above, please see the *numerous* resources provided by MSU's Graduate Employee Union via this twitter link which cites his public studies, interviews, and blog posts: <https://twitter.com/GradEmpUnion/status/1270829003130261504>. What is the larger scientific community to think of the status of MSU's research when the man largely in charge of its oversight and funding has [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Finally, please also see the open letter to Michigan State University which has been signed by 272

MSU staff, faculty, students, alumni, and other allies in the scientific community(<https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>), and this open letter signed by 176 MSU faculty (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jb7w02E5GAdrJ_QnAokp71erP_VBDridmQ-rI9M2TAE/edit).

Thank you for your time.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: letter in support of Dr. Hsu
Attachments: [REDACTED] Letter to President Stanley.pdf
Importance: High

Dear President Stanley,

[REDACTED] has learned of the recent petitions to remove Dr. Stephen Hsu from his position as the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation from GEU and some faculty based on the perceived views from Dr. Hsu's discussions on some controversial scientific topics. We are very troubled by these petitions. Attached please find a letter from [REDACTED] to strongly support Dr. Hsu.

Thank you very much for your leadership during this difficult time. Please let me know if we can provide any further information.

Best regards,



June 15th, 2020

President Samuel Stanley, Jr.
426 Auditorium Road, Room 450
Michigan State University

Dear President Stanley,

On behalf of a [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] we write to share our deep concerns about pressing issues regarding academic freedom at MSU that we believe deserve your immediate attention and action. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] we want to first express our deep appreciation for MSU's strong efforts under your leadership to promote safety, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Academic freedom is at the heart of the success of a world class university such as MSU. It plays a pivotal role in protecting not only the rights of individual faculty and students, but also the processes by which higher education and scientific inquiry into various topics, including those that may be controversial, are conducted. Therefore, the core institutional values of free inquiry and free expression must be protected.

[REDACTED] just learned of the recent petitions to remove Dr. Stephen Hsu from his position as the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. We are troubled that Dr. Hsu's discussions on some controversial topics have been taken out of context. We understand that academic freedom is not without its limits, especially for those who hold high administrative positions. However, in order to be accepted, the serious accusations against Dr. Hsu should be backed by concrete evidence that he has racist and sexist views in his role as a senior university administrator or as an individual. [REDACTED] have interacted with Dr. Hsu during his eight years at MSU, and have not experienced, observed, or heard behaviors of the aforementioned types. To the contrary, we find that he leads with fairness and integrity, encourages healthy scientific debates, values differences in opinions, sponsors research on very diverse topics, and supports researchers regardless of their gender or race/ethnicity.

As part of the MSU community, [REDACTED] in solidarity with faculty, student and staff groups, who strive to fight against racism, sexism, or any forms of discriminations on campus and beyond, and to improve diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). To ensure a just, inclusive, and equitable campus, we firmly believe that defending academic freedom, including allowing basic research on controversial topics to continue, is an essential, perhaps the only, channel to promote intellectual diversity and to build a truly inclusive community. Carrying forward the DEI mission requires everyone's thoughtful contribution. There should be no rush to judgment. Removing Dr. Hsu from his administrative position without a comprehensive evaluation of his performance would be counterproductive and even harmful for the DEI in research.

Thus, it is essential that the critical decisions to be made on this matter occur with a fair and transparent due process. We sincerely request your earliest possible response and supportive actions toward the environment of academic freedom across the campus.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Submitted by:

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:51 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: A letter in support of Dr. Steven Hsu

June 15, 2020

Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

Dear President Stanley,

I have learned about the letter signed by a number of our colleagues who call for the removal of Dr. Steven Hsu from the position of Senior Vice President for Research. I disagree with the petition. It does not specify the "racist" or "sexist" statements made by Dr. Hsu. The claim is that these statements are hidden behind "scientific terms". Using scientific terms is appropriate for a Vice President for Research, whereas attaching political labels to these terms is not necessarily productive. A dramatic historical example is the destruction of genetics in the USSR in the late 1940s.

My few personal interactions with Dr. Hsu were most encouraging. He is a deep thinker, open minded, with a broad view on research. Never have I seen a trace of racism or bias in his words or actions. He has strongly promoted diversity and inclusion, which is reflected in the changed composition of the faculty over his tenure. The visible progress in research at MSU over this time is unquestionable and well documented. He promotes and supports new directions of thought. Importantly, he has created a collaborative environment in which researchers from different departments exchange ideas and establish new interdisciplinary areas of studies. Having Dr. Hsu as a VP for Research is a proven path to keeping and further strengthening the leading position of MSU in research and education. I hope he will stay in this role for the good of the university.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Guerrant, Emily
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Zeig, Michael; Bales, Merri-Jo
Subject: State News - Hsu

This just posted a few minutes ago.... https://statenews.com/article/2020/06/michigan-state-geu-calls-to-remove-vp-research-administrator-stephen-hsu?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_featured

It says there are two petitions – one from the GEU which is up to 370 signatures and a separate one from just professors, which is at 300.



Emily Gerkin Guerrant

Vice President and University Spokesperson

408 West Circle Dr., Room 4019 | East Lansing, MI 48824

Office: 517.355.3843 | Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

SPARTANS WILL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Letter of Support for Steve Hsu
Attachments: On Freedom of Thought and Inquiry.pdf

Dear President Stanley,

Attached you will find a copy of my letter of support for Vice-President Steve Hsu.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Freedom of Thought and Inquiry

I am writing this letter in response to the petitions to have the Vice-President of Research [redacted] Steve Hsu, removed from his position. I do not agree with the claims made in these petitions nor the proposed sanctions. Beyond my desire to support Steve, I also write because [redacted]

[redacted]

Currently the petition includes the following disclaimer:

"please note due to the volume of submissions we are unable to completely verify submissions. If your name has been falsely submitted please email president@guatmsu.org." In other words we have no way of verifying how many of these signatures are legitimate - this in itself is a serious problem considering the magnitude of accusations and suggestion that Dr. Hsu be even stripped of his tenure and professorship (the GEU has since reversed itself to only demand that he be removed from his administrative role).

Steve is being accused of being a racist and a sexist and an anti-semite, on the basis of his blog posts, interviews he has given online [redacted]

[redacted] Responding to these accusations is complicated by the fact that accusations are being made without clear definition of terms, by innuendo and without attendant criterion for determining whether they are true or false. Nevertheless, regarding the general claim of racism and sexism, let me say that I have known Steve for [redacted] years and can attest that he is not a racist or a sexist. Steve is one of the most scrupulously fair people I have ever met and I have seen no evidence that he has ever discriminated against anyone on the basis of their race, sex, or any other status.

The key academic principles of free thought and free inquiry are at issue in Steve's case. These principles that are at the heart of what makes the University distinctive and, one might argue, are required for pursuit of knowledge and efficient scientific progress. It is useful to remind ourselves of what these principles involve. Free thought is the fundamental idea that we do not impose ideological requirements on what other members of the community can believe. To the contrary, we should celebrate diversity not only in gender, ethnicity and place of origin but also in point of view. We are all here because we support, and engage in, research into the unknown. Because diversity of point of view accelerates the search for truth, we cannot want MSU to be an environment where we agree on all topics. Free inquiry requires that investigators be

free to research whatever they like. I might not be very interested in what you are studying, and I might not like the questions you are asking or the data or answers you are coming up with, but you need to be free to study them regardless of my opinion or my ideology.

I am aware that some are beginning to question these principles today. One may even think that with our interest in advancing diversity, opportunity and inclusion these principles must be weakened. I could not disagree more. We need to provide our increasingly diverse student body and faculty with the same opportunities for free inquiry and free thought that others have had for centuries. Being at a university is a privilege. If these fundamental principles are not respected and universally applied, we do not have a university that is living up to its full potential and the benefits are reduced for all. Suffice it to say that I believe the limits that are, implicitly or explicitly, being placed on acceptable speech and inquiry in the criticisms of Steve strike me as wholly too restrictive of a great university.

Diversity, Opportunity and Inclusion

One of the central responsibilities of the VPRI is supporting the efforts of faculty to be successful in their research. Critical to success is gaining funding. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Another example of his support for diversity and inclusion is his creation of Science, Society and State (S3) with Mark Largent. The program provides seed grants "to promote interdisciplinary research and education that utilizes methods, approaches, and scholarship from STEM, the health sciences, and science studies (studies of science using methods and scholarship from the humanities and/or social sciences)". Many of the recipients come from diverse backgrounds and do not

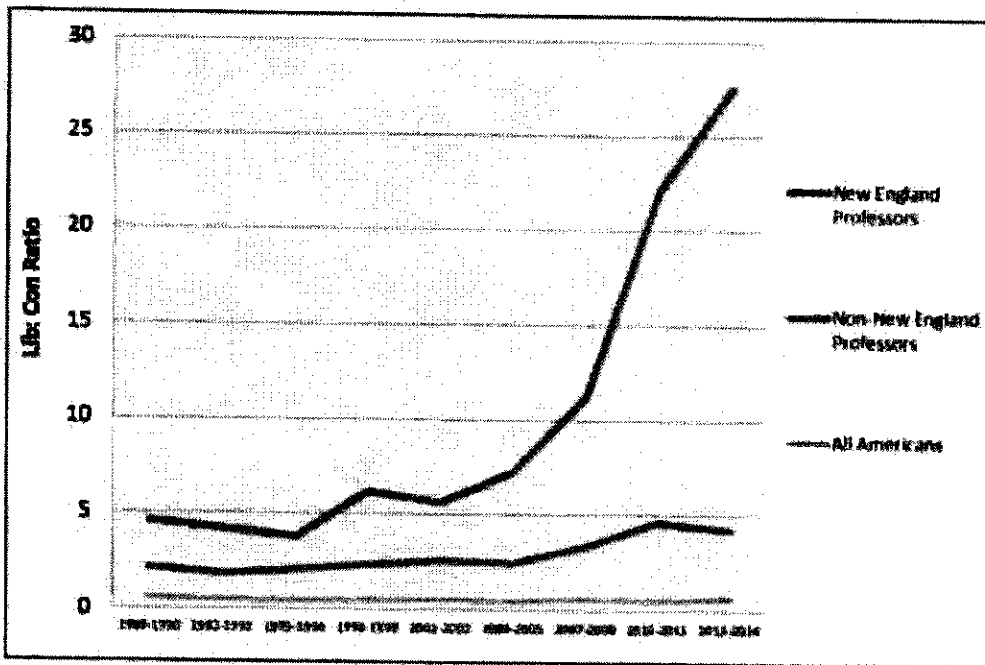
have strong funding histories. Grants through the program have helped a wide range of researchers jumpstart their career with private and federal funding.

In order to increase diversity of new faculty hires, Steve allowed [REDACTED] a new approach to recruiting aimed at increasing the pool of women and minority candidates by tapping into faculty personal networks. This effort along with traditional approaches through the Colleges and a shared commitment to work continuously to increase diversity has resulted in adding a number of high quality faculty of diverse backgrounds. To name a few specific examples, [REDACTED] prominent named chairs like Hannah Professors Felicia Wu and Angela Wilson, [REDACTED] a new Genomics effort through the recruitment of Gustavo de los Campos and Ana Vasquez, [REDACTED] Debra Furr-Holden, C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health, [REDACTED] Other critical hires through the Global Impact Initiative include: Anna Moore, Director of Precision Health Program and Assistant Dean at the College of Human Medicine; Julia Felton, Polly Hsu, Vicki Johnson-Lawrence, Emily Josephs, Kimberly Kelly, Huey-Wen Lin, Mohammed Maghrebi, Rita Stakovsky, Michaela Teravest, Addie Thompson, and Hanne Hoffman.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While Steve and I disagree to some degree about many things (affirmative action, whether traders add value to the financial system, the nature of intelligence, the value of learning foreign languages, taxes and economics, the degree of progress in neuroscience, the genetic contribution to behavior, the virtues of urban v suburban life, how you measure society's well-being, etc.), we found over the years that we had a common interest in science, philosophy, business, politics, technology, free speech, evidence-based reasoning and education. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Nationally, the ratio of the number of liberal to conservative faculty members was roughly 2 to 1 in 1995. By 2004 this ratio had risen to almost 3 to 1 and by 2010 to almost 5 to 1. So while racial and gender diversity has increased on campus, ideological diversity has gone down. It is well-known that damaging cognitive dynamics begin to take hold within ideologically homogeneous groups.²

¹ <https://marginalrevolution.com/marginalrevolution/2016/07/universities-without-ideological-diversity.html>

² Cass Sunstein, *Going to Extremes: How like Minds Unite and Divide...*

[REDACTED] one small way to fight the current hyperpolarization in this country that has arisen because people don't talk to one another across large ideological distances.

Ron Unz

[REDACTED]

I don't believe that one can argue with the fact that Ron is a very unusual and remarkably successful conservative social entrepreneur. As Steve described his background to me, Ron was long opposed to bilingual education and realized that with the support of conservative volunteers he could effectively take down an entire slice of the public education curriculum in the country's largest state with a fairly small amount of money, and did so. In this part of his life, Ron reminds me more than anyone else of Edward Blum, the man who has almost single-handedly led the attack on affirmative action around the country. (Blum has filed lawsuit after lawsuit challenging affirmative action, gotten to the Supreme Court six times and won in four in full or in part.) If people don't know about Ron Unz and Edward Blum, they should. If you are an academic, you may want, and want others, to ignore the likes of Ron Unz and Edward Blum, but bear in mind: they are paying attention to you. In fact, it could be argued that it is this intentional ignorance of their divergent view, that has allowed them to chip away at the long-standing traditions of the education system from the outside without much resistance.

There is a calculus of risk in having a public discussion with any controversial person. You have to balance the downside of giving a platform for sometimes unpleasant views with the upside of giving the public the opportunity to learn from hearing a conversation with an important and influential person. Unz played an important role in mortgage

pricing, both before and after the 2008 global financial crisis. (Unz's firm Wall Street Analytics was acquired by the ratings agency Moody's in 2006, whose practices, many believe, contributed significantly to the meltdown.) Unz's article on college admissions was featured by the NYT and caused the Harvard administration to order an internal study that played a prominent role at trial.³ Ron claimed [REDACTED] that the Unz Review gets about as many views as The Nation magazine. Checking site traffic today (6/14/2020) on siteworthtraffic.com estimates that Thenation.com has 48,166 unique users each day with 62,653 daily pageviews, while Unz.com has reached roughly 27,144 unique users each day with 72,548 daily pageviews. If this is correct, it is a significant force in alternative media. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] far left and far right views are increasingly common.

Joe Cesario

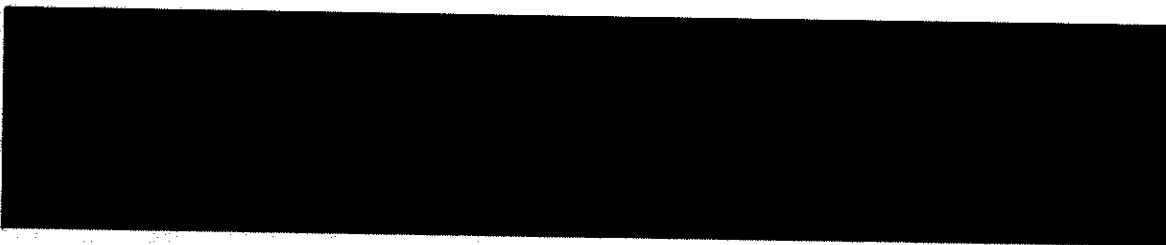
This is a difficult political time in the United States. The killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, in 2014 sparked the Black Lives Matter movement to reduce police violence in the US. The recent killing of George Floyd brought this issue to the attention of the world and led to the current round of protests. However, we must acknowledge that these terrible events give us the rare chance to bring about much needed reform in areas where there is evidence of disparity and undesirable outcomes. Opportunities for large scale systemic change don't come along often, and we need to take advantage of them. However, if we are serious in wanting to address these problems, we must do so on the basis of what the best research tells us are the likely causes of the problems and what measures are likely to lead to effective solutions, regardless of whether these findings fit with our preconceived ideology. This approach, following the data rationally and logically wherever it leads, lies at the heart of unbiased research and is what is required for implementing effective changes.

³

<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/12/19/fears-of-an-asian-quota-in-the-ivy-league/statistics-indicate-an-ivy-league-asian-quota>

In the Twitter thread cited in the MSU GEU complaint, Steve is criticized for promoting the work of Associate Professor of Psychology Joe Cesario on Manifold. Joe has research findings suggesting that there is no disparity in rates of police shootings by race once you control for crime rates by group.⁴ However, Joe acknowledges what many others have found: that there are racial disparities in police stops, and in all other uses of force, controlling for confounding factors. It is shootings that are exceptional, and Joe has carefully studied how a police officer makes that split second life and death decision.

The insinuation of the Twitter criticism seems to be that Steve sought to use Joe's research on shooting as a covert way of attacking Black Lives Matter and downplaying the significance of the kind of indefensible police violence that led to the murder of George Floyd.



I have long been interested in disparities in the criminal justice system. [redacted] that focused on capital punishment. At the time there was no place in the criminal justice system where racial disparities were greater, e.g. 1900-1950 (before the death penalty was outlawed for rape) every person executed in the US for that crime was black, and even after the reforms in the aftermath of Furman v. Georgia death sentences were still far higher for blacks who killed whites than other combinations. The consequences of these disparities, death, was obviously also greater than for other types of sentencing.⁶ Because fatal police shootings are kind of instantaneous death penalty, Joe's findings were extremely surprising, and so interesting. It suggested that while serious racial bias existed in the long, deliberative, and highly regulated system of capital punishment,

⁴Joseph Cesario, David J. Johnson, William Terrill First Published Is There Evidence of Racial Disparity in Police Use of Deadly Force? Analyses of Officer-Involved Fatal Shootings in 2015-2018 June 13, 2018 Research Article <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550618775108>



⁶Ray Patterson, Capital Punishment in America. Capital punishment in America, New York : Lexington Books ; Toronto : Maxwell Macmillan Canada ; New York : Maxwell Macmillan International, 1991.

where far more safeguards exist, it disappeared when a police officer made a split second decision to shoot someone.⁷ I thought that this couldn't possibly be true. However, if Cesario was right, then efforts to reduce the killing of black men by police should not focus on reducing racial bias in the inclination to pull the trigger, but on reducing crime rates (to me personally, a very uncomfortable conclusion to draw) and police bias in stops, arrests, use of force and other tactics. Reducing crime rates may involve a complex set of changes to public, economic, criminal justice and social policy. Anyone who really cares about this issue and wants to reduce the chances of black men being shot by police needs to engage with this research. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I sought out points of view that conflicted with Cesario's. Consensus was that the best integrated source for such findings was the book Biased by the Stanford University Psychology Professor Jennifer Eberhardt. Eberhardt argues that implicit bias is largely responsible for disparities in how police treat minority suspects, a position of which Cesario has been skeptical. Evidence that Eberhardt collects is widespread and compelling.

- Four times more black people were convicted of marijuana offenses in MA than whites.
- Blacks constitute 54% of stops in NYC, but make up only 23% of population
 - Once stopped blacks are frisked more and subject to violence more often
 - Blacks are stopped more often for "furtive" movements but less likely to have guns than whites.
- In an analysis of over twenty-eight thousand police stops in 2013 and 2014 in Oakland roughly 60% of the stops were of black people, although blacks made up only 28% of the Oakland population at the time.
 - Blacks were disproportionately stopped even when adjusting for factors like the crime rate and the racial breakdown of residents in the areas where the stops took place.
 - Blacks were significantly more likely to be searched, handcuffed, and arrested.
 - 65% of Oakland police officers had conducted a discretionary search on a black person, while only 23% had conducted such a search on a white person across the same thirteen-month period.

⁷ This phenomenon of less bias in quick decision juxtaposed against large-scale bias in deliberative decisions has been theorized in cognitive science literature by Gerg Gigerenzer since the 1990s but evidence had been weak in my view.

- 72% had handcuffed a black person during the course of a stop—even when no arrest was made—whereas only 26% of officers had handcuffed a white person who was not arrested.
- In a meta-analysis of 18.5 million traffic stops across the country between 2010 and 2016, black drivers are more than twice as likely as white drivers to have been stopped for a high-discretion equipment violation versus a moving violation
- While blacks made up 67% of Ferguson's population, they accounted for 85% of vehicle stops and 90% of citations.
 - Black drivers were twice as likely as whites to be searched but 26% less likely to be found to possess contraband.

Eberhardt recounts the results of her studies of object recognition in which subjects are primed with a picture of a black or a white face and then view a series of images in which an object slowly comes into view. Priming with a black face made undergraduates faster at recognizing objects associated with crime. In another study undergraduates are instructed to press a button to shoot a suspect on a computer screen if and only if the suspect is armed. Undergraduates shot unarmed blacks faster and more often. A third study found that trained police officers shot armed blacks faster than armed whites on screen. All three studies provide some evidence for implicit bias playing a role in shooting. However, when Eberhardt conducted the same shoot/don't shoot study with police officers and unarmed suspects on the computer screen she found no difference in rates of shooting unarmed blacks and whites. This finding is consistent with implicit bias not playing a role in situations in which unarmed black men like Michael Brown encounter police and are killed.

Eberhardt's studies were conducted on a computer, where you shoot by merely pressing a button on the keyboard. This is obviously very unlike the real world. Joe Cesario wanted to do more rigorous studies. He visited Steve to request funds to build a shooting simulator in which officers have to pull out and shoot a modified handgun at a full-sized image of a suspect during interactive video scenarios. Not quite real world conditions either but far closer than buttons and computer screens. Cesario's experimental studies have since found no evidence that implicit bias plays a role in officers' decision to shoot Black or White suspects, and instead confirms that the driving factor in the decision to shoot is the situation of the encounter, that is, the degree to which the situation is one of violent crime.

In a police officer's mind, shooting just appears to be a fundamentally different kind of use of force. They let bias affect them when they pull someone over in a car, push them on the ground, put them up against the wall, hand-cuff them or put them in a

choke-hold. But in shooting the police appear to be focused on the presence or absence of a gun or other threat — not on the race of the suspect. There are subtleties to Joe's work and I encourage anyone reading this who would like to know more to read his papers. [REDACTED]

For example, in the vast majority of shootings (~90-95%), the suspect is armed or otherwise attacking an officer while shot, and there appears to be no racial bias in these types of shootings. In the small number of cases where officers misidentify a harmless object for a gun (as with Philandro Castille), Ross, et al. (forthcoming) did find evidence of racial bias on the part of police⁹. In contrast, Cesario found that there was too little unarmed shooting data to draw strong conclusions.

Joe's work is scientific research. Like all research, its findings should be assessed on the basis of the rigorousness of the methodology, validity of the logic and strength and the internal coherence of evidence, his own work and that of others in the field. However, his finding that rates of fatal police shootings do not differ by rates once you control for crime rates is consistent with other work in the field (Worrall, et al. 2020⁹, Mentch, 2018¹⁰). Fryer found bias in the use of non-lethal force but no bias in the use of lethal force.¹¹ For shootings of armed suspects, the vast majority of shootings (~95% in Cesario's dataset) Ross also found no anti-black disparity when you benchmark against violent crime.

Joe's work has not been without critics. Jonathan Mummolo of Princeton University criticizes it here (<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/3/1261>) and Joe replies here (<https://www.pnas.org/content/117/3/1264>). In the true spirit of open inquiry, Joe has offered to work with Jonathan to resolve their empirical and theoretical disagreements. We need to approach this research with an open mind and without bias. We then need to develop public policies based on the results. This is one way those of us at universities can contribute to reducing fatal police shootings and the unwarranted use of force.

Intelligence research

⁹ Cody T. Ross, Bruce Winterhalder, and Richard McElreath, Racial disparities in police use of deadly force against unarmed individuals persist after appropriately benchmarking shooting data on violent crime rates *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, in Press: XX(X):1-9

¹⁰ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07418825.2020.1760331>

¹¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/2330443X.2019.1704330>

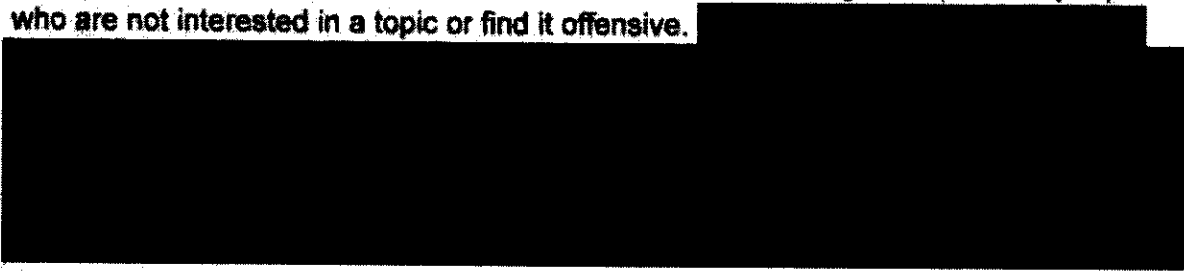
¹¹ Fryer RG (2016) An empirical analysis of racial differences in police use of force. URL <https://www.nber.org/papers/w22399.pdf>.

The main charge against Steve is that he is a scientific racist based on his views of the genetic basis of IQ inheritance. The nature of intelligence is one point on which Steve and I disagree. He has a narrower view of intelligence than I do. I believe that there are multiple dimensions of intelligence, though they are harder to measure than IQ and that these include emotional intelligence, open-mindedness, shrewdness, and a feature I would label "basic common sense". I acknowledge that these other forms of intelligence are quite hard to measure and so my belief is tempered by my appreciation of this evidential weakness. Still, I have seen sufficient evidence of their presence in the real world to believe that there is a good chance appropriately designed experiments can characterize them. Steve believes that intelligence is very strongly influenced by genetics. I believe that it is a product of environment and experience, genetics, gene-environment interactions and lifestyle, as are other attributes such as athletic ability, personality and appearance.

I understand that many people are made uncomfortable by people raising the issue of the genetic basis of intelligence. I am made uncomfortable by certain discussions of the genetic basis of intelligence. However, a person's freedom to be interested in these topics, and to pursue research on them, reflects basic academic freedom. It is also my firm belief that reasonable people can disagree on the answers to questions in this area. What is clear to me is that Steve and other researchers in genomics are pursuing their work in good faith, and have uncovered interesting results linking variations in DNA to variations in measures like IQ. Steve is most interested in why some people are "geniuses" -- he has never been focused on average differences between groups.

Racism and Sexism

I haven't looked at Steve's posts or interviews on race and sex differences in detail. He sends them to me from time to time, but I confess that as the topics do not interest me much, I generally don't read them. Steve is accused of having an interview with a white nationalist, Stefan Molyneux. I haven't looked at it. This is always an option for people who are not interested in a topic or find it offensive.



[REDACTED] agreed with was that while all professors have the right to free speech it is different with the VP of research. VP of research is a political position and as such may be subject to greater constraints on free expression because one's comportment can be criticized if it reflects badly on the university. I agree only to a certain extent. I believe that the visibility of the position sets it up as an example of what is involved in living up to the values that the university espouses, including those of free expression and free inquiry, and the ability not to judge a person's fitness for a position based on their personal or political views.

Eugenics and Embryo Selection

Steve has developed computational technology for pre-implantation embryo screening (or "embryo selection") and been criticized for ushering in a radical new era of eugenics. The idea that this is radical is quite problematic when the truth is that we have tested for genetic abnormalities, and conducted selective abortions of fetuses found to have these abnormalities, for decades. Many women now opt for the recently developed "fetal cell-free DNA test" which can test the developing fetus for an increasing number of genetic abnormalities. The most notable ones are Down Syndrome and other chromosomal rearrangements and duplications. This is offered as an option to pretty much every pregnant woman in the US and Europe. I would also add that human beings select their mates on the basis of characteristics that are clearly genetically determined and that this tendency has likely been selected for over the course of human history. Height is almost under complete genetic control, and women have a near universal preference for taller men, a fact [REDACTED]

It is not a huge leap to try to imagine how embryo selection technology will evolve in the next decade from testing for disease markers to the possibility for enhancement traits. The spread of this technology poses pressing ethical and political questions. Unequal access to this technology could further exacerbate existing inequalities. However, I would ask people to reflect on existing practices that already increase inequality such as the increasing tendency of academic and financial elite to marry within the same socioeconomic status, look for traits in their partner such as intelligence, beauty and so on, but most importantly trying to give their offspring every possible advantage financially, educationally, environmental, and developmentally. During this stay at home period, [REDACTED]

Hsu participated in a 2018 debate at MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health, Science, and Engineering, at the invitation of Director Chris Contag. The topic was human genetic engineering, and Hsu's counterpart was MSU bioethicist Len Fleck. A number of people who attended tell me that they found Steve's view thoughtful and balanced. None that I know of came away from the debate thinking he is a eugenicist [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] It is unclear to me why MSU GEU came to a different conclusion. [REDACTED]

In the spirit of openness Steve has never tried to keep his research secret. He has been the subject of positive (The Economist) and negative (the Guardian and Radiolab) media coverage – as one would expect for important topics on which there is disagreement. Given the sensitivity of these subjects and people's hesitancy to speak their minds, it is difficult to tell what the actual distribution of public attitudes is on these issues. Nevertheless, I suspect that Steve's views on topics on which we agree, as well as those on which we disagree, are not outside of the mainstream.

Conclusion

The urgency of responding to the petition for Steve's removal has forced me to rush this open letter out faster than I would have preferred. There are many more things to say.

[REDACTED] But I can say with great sincerity that the allegations against him are not true. He is no racist or sexist. He has never to my knowledge displayed bias or favoritism based on identity.

Freedom of Thought and Freedom of Inquiry are fundamental principles that must be protected at the University. I reject the idea that they are in conflict with Social Justice and Equity.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Monday, June 15, 2020 9:13 AM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Petition to remove VP Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I write about the recent complaints against Prof. Stephen Hsu as VP for Research & Innovation.

The complaints mainly center on ideas Hsu has discussed. That is, they want Hsu dismissed for thinking and discussing the wrong ideas.

These ideas may indeed be wrong, but bad ideas cannot be fought by firing people who discuss them openly and in good faith. The weeding of bad ideas from good ones through research and discussion is among the most important missions of the academy.

I ask that you take a stand for academic freedom and open inquiry and against the suggestion that the administration should police thinking and discussion in our intellectual community.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:18 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Letter regarding Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am writing to express my opinion regarding the petitions asking for the removal of Dr. Stephen Hsu from his position as vice president of research at Michigan State University. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I do not know Dr. Hsu well enough to express an opinion about his personal qualities. (I heard him speak at a conference once.) However, I think that his firing would be a grave wrong.

I read both petitions to remove Dr. Hsu from his position, and the central claim is that he is unable to fulfill his job duties while maintaining the desired level of diversity, inclusion, and equity. However, I noticed that neither petition provided a single example of a prejudicial act from Dr. Hsu in his 8 years at MSU. As the late Christopher Hitchens famously stated, "What can be asserted without evidence can also be dismissed without evidence." I urge you to ignore this claim unless the petitioners can provide evidence that Dr. Hsu has acted in a way that is discriminatory.

I am also aware of the 30-tweet thread from June 10 the Graduate Employees Union at MSU calling for Dr. Hsu's dismissal. I read all of the tweets and the links that the GEU provided (in addition to watching an entire video and listening to all of a podcast that GEU linked to). My conclusion is that often the GEU's claims have little connection with reality. For example, the GEU claimed that Dr. Hsu was "advocating for biological difference between races." However, the blog post that the GEU linked to as evidence is merely a summary of the conference talks that *other scientists* gave at a conference. While Dr. Hsu did state that there has been local, differential evolutionary selection among human populations ("races," if you will), this is a mainstream viewpoint among population geneticists. (See, for example, Dr. David Reich's recent editorial in the New York Times.) Similar claims from the MSU GEU are based on distortions of Dr. Hsu's words, falsehoods (about Dr. Hsu's words or about the science of group differences), or innuendo. I think it is telling that the GEU did not empirically refute any of Dr. Hsu's scientific statements. When they did link to scholarly sources that contradicted Dr. Hsu, the GEU's links were all opinion pieces. Indeed, as I examined Dr. Hsu's ideas that the GEU linked to, I found him to be quite mainstream in his statements regarding the scientific knowledge of population genetics, intelligence, and related topics.

I do wish to address a few specific points raised by the petitions and/or the MSU GEU:

- It is true that Dr. Hsu believe that the SAT and GRE are valid predictors of future academic performance--as do the vast majority of quantitative psychologists, psychometricians, and intelligence researchers. Indeed, there is a persuasive argument to be made that the SAT and ACT are engines of fairness in the college admissions process.
- Dr. Hsu also states that genetic engineering of embryos (via embryo screening and selection and/or genetic modification) is possible and likely beneficial, which is a mainstream position. Indeed, a recent Pew Research Center poll found that the majority of Americans would support genetic engineering to treat or prevent health conditions, and a significant number of Americans would favor genetic engineering to make a baby more intelligent.

- It is also correct that Dr. Hsu does not find race-specific factors to be a plausible cause of differences in average scores on intelligence tests. But this merely aligns him with luminaries like James Flynn (the leading scientist who believes that these mean IQ differences are entirely environmental in origin) and with leading quantitative psychologists who have investigated the issue. Average differences in a phenotype do not need a single group-specific cause to be fully non-genetic in origin, and Dr. Hsu has not endorsed genetics as a possible cause of these average differences.
- Dr. Hsu has also been interviewed by Stefan Molyneux and had Ron Unz as a guest on his podcast. Both of these are people that some commentators have labeled as alt-right. However, this is irrelevant because interviewees and interviewers do not adopt all the opinions one another. For example, Bill O'Reilly interviewed Barack Obama twice during his presidency. But this doesn't mean that President Obama approved of Bill O'Reilly's views--or vice versa. This is a guilt by association argument that is illogical on its face.

Based on the GEU's claims and the text of the petitions, it seems that the Dr. Hsu is only guilty of thoughtcrime. GEU and the signers of the petitions believe that Dr. Hsu's views are verboten and--as a result--believe that he does not deserve his job. They have appointed themselves judge and jury--and are asking for you to be the executioner.

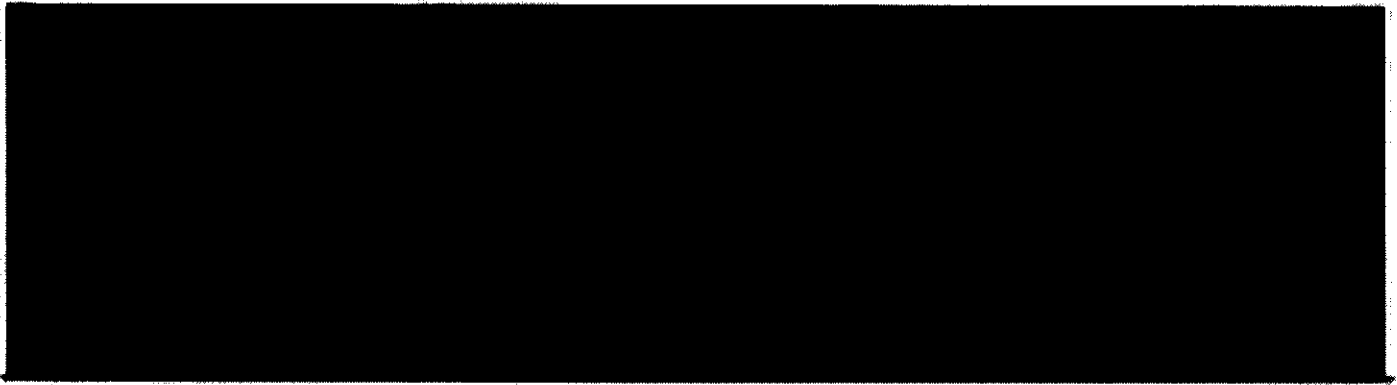
I believe that firing Dr. Hsu for holding legitimate viewpoints about scientific topics that he is informed about (probably better informed than many of the petition signers) would be a grave disservice to MSU. It would send the message that MSU does not value academic freedom or freedom of thought. It would tell faculty, students, and staff that the mission of the university is not to pursue truth and knowledge, but to protect certain orthodoxies from scrutiny. It would be a violation of the most basic principles of creating a community of scholars and would result in an oppressive environment for scholarship. Students would suffer most of all because their education would be replaced with indoctrination. Instead of being reprimanded, Dr. Hsu should be spotlighted as an exemplar of a lifelong scholar who has educated himself about complex issues and has taken nuanced, informed positions.

Firing Dr. Hsu would also set a dangerous precedent that staffing and personnel decisions at MSU can be decided by petition and social pressure. In the short-term, capitulating to these demands may relieve pressure on you, but--in the long-term--it will reinforce this behavior from the GEU and petitioners. In other words, firing Dr. Hsu will only encourage more petitions against people affiliated with MSU who dissent from approved narratives. A leader who rewards this behavior will soon find that he or she has lost the moral high ground if firing the target of the next petition is unreasonable or even illegal. A university president who bows to the pressure of a social media-fueled mob loses control of their university and may eventually find himself targeted by the crowd if petitions are seen as a way to select senior members of the university's leadership.

I recognize that this petition comes at a difficult time for many people. With the United States in turmoil right now and people marching in the streets for change, it can be hard to stand up for someone with unpopular ideas. But no one ever got a profile in courage for doing the right thing when it was easy. I invite you to stand for the principle academic freedom and diversity of thought by issuing an unequivocal statement that Dr. Hsu will continue as vice president of research and innovation at MSU.

Please let me know if you have any questions about my letter. I would be happy to discuss these issues with you.





From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu
Attachments: letter June 14 2020.docx

President Stanley,

Once again, we are attaching an updated version of the letter calling for Stephen Hsu to be removed from his current position as Vice President for Research and Innovation. The letter now has 299 signatures. I have been contacted by a reporter from the Lansing State Journal about this issue. We eagerly await a response.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

Please find attached an updated version of the letter, now with 208 signatories. We eagerly await your response.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]



From: 

Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 PM

To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President Cc: 

Subject: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

Attached, please find a letter calling for the resignation of Stephen Hsu as Vice President for Research and Innovation, signed by fifty-four faculty and staff, including several department chairs, endowed chairs, and directors. We the faculty are profoundly disturbed by the racist and sexist views held by Dr. Hsu as revealed in a series of blog posts and videos posted to twitter by graduate students over the past two days (which may be seen here: <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>). We believe these views render him unfit for his current position, in light of MSU's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. I would also call your attention to a petition for Dr. Hsu's resignation started by the graduate students, which currently has 157 signatories including faculty, students, and alumni: <https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>

We are counting on you to follow through on your commitment to make MSU an inclusive institution where all faculty, students and staff can feel safe and thrive. We welcome your prompt attention to this matter, and will update you as the letter gains more signatories.

Thank you,



Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

June 11, 2020

Dear President Stanley,

On June 10th, 2020, the Graduate Employees Union posted a series of tweets containing blog posts and statements made over a 12-year period by Stephen Hsu, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation (the thread may be found [here](#)). The statements contain racist and sexist language couched in scientific terms, including beliefs that there are fewer women and African Americans who are qualified to hold academic and other skilled positions, and that systemic racism does not explain differences in accomplishments among Black students. Moreover, the thread also includes video clips of friendly conversations between Hsu and Stefan Molyneux, an open white supremacist and proponent of scientific racism. Hsu also appears to be dabbling in eugenics through his beliefs that embryos may be selected on the basis of genetic intelligence. As detailed in a blog post by an MSU historian of scientific racism, Hsu "heaped praise on a promoter of Holocaust denial on his podcast; clear evidence of Hsu's complete lack of scholarly and intellectual judgement."

Not only do these views ignore the copious social science research on social determinants of intelligence and accomplishments, therefore rendering them suspect in a scholarly sense, it is also deeply disturbing that someone whose role is to allocate funding and provide authoritative input in decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty in a diverse institution should hold such beliefs. Given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably. Therefore, we believe that he is unfit for the position he currently holds. Michigan State University has made a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we cannot imagine that honoring this commitment is possible with Hsu remaining in his position. We therefore call for his immediate removal from the role of Senior Vice President.

Signed,

1. Laura Schmitt Olabisi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
2. Rebecca Jordan, Professor and Chair, Department of Community Sustainability
3. Robert B. Richardson, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
4. Ruben Martinez, Professor, Sociology and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute

5. Rufus Isaacs, Professor, Department of Entomology
6. Elizabeth M. Gardner, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
7. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English
8. Mark Axelrod, Associate Professor, James Madison College and Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
9. Andaluna Borcila, Associate Professor, James Madison College
10. Anna Pegler-Gordon, Professor, James Madison College
11. Aaron M. McCright, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology
12. Dan McCole, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
13. Frank A. Fear, Senior Associate Dean and professor emeritus, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
14. Sieglinde Snapp, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
15. Maria Claudia Lopez, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
16. Stephanie Nawyn, Department of Sociology
17. Tom Farnandez, Professor, Department of Horticulture
18. Michael W. Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Community Sustainability; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
19. Meredith L. Gore, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
20. Patricia A. Soranno, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
21. Susan J. Masten, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
22. Heather L. Eisthen, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
23. Julian C. Chambliss, Professor, Department of English
24. Carolyn M. Malmstrom, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology and EEBB
25. Zarena Aslami, Associate Professor, Department of English
26. Wynne Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
27. Gideon Bradburd, Assistant Professor, EEBB, Department of Integrative Biology
28. Jim Smith, Professor Emeritus, Lyman Briggs College/MSU Dept. of Entomology
29. Wenda Bauchspies, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
30. Amy Ralston, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
31. Kendra Spence Cheruvellil, Professor, Lyman Briggs College/Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife
32. Laura Chomluk, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
33. Jay Strader, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
34. Megan Donahue, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
35. G. Mark Voit, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
36. David Lowry, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biology

37. Kristin Mahoney, Associate Professor, Department of English
38. E. L. McCallum, Professor, Department of English

39. Brian J. Teppen, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
40. Jeffrey C. Wray, Professor, Department of English
41. Justus Nieland, Professor and Chairperson, Department of English
42. Stephanie Jordan, Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Information
43. Salah D. Hassan, Associate Professor, Department of English
44. Abou Traore, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
45. Amara E. Ezeamama, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
46. John M. Kerr, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
47. Stephen Gasteyer, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
48. Catherine Lindell, Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology/Center for Global Change and Earth Observations
49. John Norder, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Enrolled Member Spirit Lake Dakota Tribe
50. Kaveh Askari, Associate Professor, Department of English
51. Emilio F. Moran, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Geography
52. Erik Skogsberg, Associate Director, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology
53. Sean Valles, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Philosophy
54. Margot Behrend Valles, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
55. Peter White, Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College and the Department of Entomology
56. Vicki Morrone, outreach specialist, Center for Regional Food Systems, Dept of Community Sustainability
57. Gregory A. Lang, Professor, Department of Horticulture
58. Kendra Pyle, Academic Specialist-Advisor, Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Plant Biology
59. Carole Gibbs, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
60. Jyotsna G. Singh, Professor, Department of English
61. Cris Sullivan, Professor, Psychology Department
62. C.D. DiFonzo, Professor, Department of Entomology
63. Christopher A. Frilingos, Professor, Department of Religious Studies
64. Kristen A. Renn, Professor, Department of Educational Administration
65. Anthony D Kendall, Research Assistant Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences
66. Eunice F. Foster, Professor, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
67. Cara Cilano, Professor, Department of English
68. Joseph A. Hamm, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Environmental Science and Policy Program
69. Sarah W. Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Department of Integrative Biology
70. Amy DeRogatis, Professor, Department of Religious Studies

71. Robin Silbergleid, Associate Professor, Department of English
72. Larry Leefers, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry
73. John Jackson, Professor, James Madison College
74. Lisa Laughman, MSW, University Physicians Office, Employee Assistance Counselor
75. Dale K Elshoff, Coordinator, MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology
76. Maite Tapia, Assistant Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
77. Kelsey Skinner, Residential Student Conduct Administrator, Residence Education and Housing Services
78. Heather Howard, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
79. Matthew Grieshop, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology
80. Joshua Lam, Assistant Professor, Department of English
81. Laurie Medina, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
82. William C. Wetzel, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
83. Amber Pearson, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Sciences
84. Mariah Meek, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
85. Divya Victor, Assistant Professor, Department of English
86. Amber Benton, Academic Specialist, James Madison College
87. Brendan Cantwell, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Administration
88. Joyce Meier, Associate Professor (fixed-term), Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures
89. Danny Caballero, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy
90. Crystal Eustice, Academic Specialist, Department of Community Sustainability
91. Monir Moniruzzaman, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
92. Kyle Whyte, Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Community Sustainability
93. Andrea Louie, Professor, Department of Anthropology
94. Mark Waddell, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College
95. Kirsten Fermaglich, Associate Professor, Department of History
96. Adam Zwickle, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Department of Community Sustainability
97. Andrea Wittenborn, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
98. Yael Aronoff, Associate Professor, James Madison College and the Serfing Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
99. Eric Aronoff, Associate Professor, The Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
100. Naoko Wake, Associate Professor, Department of History & Lyman Briggs
101. Brendan Mullan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
102. Vashti Sawtelle, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy & Lyman Briggs College
103. Jerry Caldwell, Academic Specialist, College of Natural Science
104. David R. Ewoldsen, Professor, Department of Media & Information

105. Kathryn Dyjach, Executive Staff Assistant, James Madison College
106. Robert L. LaDuca, Professor, Department of Chemistry & Lyman Briggs College.
107. Peter Alogi, Professor, Department of History, College of Social Science
108. Dustin Petty, Academic Specialist, Liberty Hyde Bailey Scholars Program
109. Claire D. Vallotton, Associate Professor, Human Development & Family Studies
110. Ethan Watrall, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
111. Amy Simon, William and Audrey Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, Assistant Professor, James Madison College, History Department, Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
112. Sarah Reckhow, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
113. Titus Awokuse, Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
114. Susannah Dorfman, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
115. Leslie D. Gonzales, Associate Professor, Education Administration Department
116. [REDACTED] Graduate Student, Department of [REDACTED]
117. Michael Everett, Academic Specialist, Department of Community Sustainability
118. Jay Zarnetske, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
119. Tonya Bartell, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education
120. Fred Dyer, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
121. Alex Allweiss, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
122. Georgina Montgomery, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and the Department of History
123. Linda M. Hunt, Department of Anthropology
124. Susan Wyche, Associate Professor, Department of Media and Information
125. Melanie Cooper, Professor, Department of Chemistry
126. Katherine Alaimo, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
127. Sarah Evans, Assistant Professor, Dept of Integrative Biology
128. Mark Iwen, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics & Dept. of CMSE'
129. Katie Hinko, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy and Lyman Briggs College
130. Bruce Sagan, Full Professor, Department of Mathematics
131. Filomena Nunes, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
132. Cori Fata-Hartley, Academic Specialist, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
133. Cheryl Sisk, University Distinguished Professor, Neuroscience Program and Department of Psychology

134. Helen Veit, Associate Professor, Department of History
135. Laura Yares, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies and the Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
136. Willie Wong, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics
137. Maria Porter, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics
138. Gail Richmond, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
139. Teena Gerhardt, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
140. David Mota-Sanchez, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
141. Melissa Fore, Fixed Term Faculty, James Madison College
142. David L. Ortega, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
143. Yomaira Figueroa, Assistant Professor, Department of English
144. Nancy Rhodes, Associate Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
145. Susan M. Richter, Academic Specialist, Institutional Research
146. Tacuma Peters, Assistant Professor, James Madison College and Department of Philosophy
147. Alyssa Hadley Dunn, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
148. Shahnaz Masani, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
149. Paul Irving, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
150. Phoebe Zametske, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
151. Shinhan Shiu, Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Department of Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering
152. Sharon M. Leon, Associate Professor, Department of History, and Digital Humanities
153. Marjorie Weber, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology
154. Michael Wisar, Instructor, Biological Sciences Program
155. Rashida L. Harrison, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
156. Lily Woodruff, Associate Professor, Art, Art History, and Design
157. Joshua Yumibe, Associate Professor, Department of English
158. Raechel Portelli, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Science
159. Jennifer Olson, Associate Professor, Department of Media & Information
160. Mary M. Juzwik, Professor, Departments of Teacher Education and English
161. Christina DeJong, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
162. Paulette L. Stenzel, Professor Emerita, Broad College of Business
163. Phillip Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
164. Amanda Flaim, Assistant Professor, James Madison College & Dept of Sociology
165. Richard Hensh, Senior Teaching Specialist, Department of Mathematics
166. Sandro R. Barros, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
167. Tamara T. Butler, Assistant Professor, Department of English

168. Emily Josephs, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology
169. Kristie Dotson, Interim Chair, Department of African American and African Studies
170. Richard Lenski, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Departments of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics; Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences; and Integrative Biology
171. Steve Rohs, Associate Professor, James Madison College.
172. Piotr Piecuch, University Distinguished Professor, MSU Foundation Professor, Department of Chemistry; Adjunct Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy
173. Emily Conroy-Krutz, Associate Professor, Department of History
174. Milton Smith, Professor, Department of Chemistry
175. April Baker-Bell, Assistant Professor, Department of English
176. LaShawn Harris, Associate Professor of History
177. Nakia D Parker, Research Associate, Department of History
178. Monique D. A. Kelly, Research Associate, Department of Sociology
179. Angela T. Hall, Associate Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
180. Morgan Shipley, Continuing Academic Specialist, Department of Religious Studies
181. Jualynne E. Dodson, Professor, Department of Sociology; Director, African Atlantic Research Team.
182. Lynmarie A. Posey, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
183. Eleanor Louson, Academic Specialist, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology & Lyman Briggs College
184. Warren F. Beck, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
185. Isaac Record, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
186. Stacey L. Camp, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology & Director of the MSU Campus Archaeology Program
187. Henry Chung, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
188. Terry Flennaugh, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
189. Dylan Miner, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities and Director, American Indian and Indigenous Studies
190. Lori Seischab, Academic Specialist - Advisor, Department of Physiology
191. Estrella Torrez, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities
192. Arika Ligmann-Zielinska, Associate Professor, College of Social Science, Department of Geography
193. Mark Sullivan, Associate Professor, College of Music, Hub for Innovation in Learning & Technology
194. Ariel Robbins, Academic Specialist, Charles Drew Science Scholars, College of Natural Science
195. Tracey Covassin, Professor, College of Education, Department of Kinesiology
196. Lisa Schwartzman, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
197. Heather Douglas, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy

198. Dan Chitwood, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, Department of Computational Mathematics, Science & Engineering
199. Megan K. Halpern, Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College, Center for Interdisciplinarity
200. Max Evjen, Academic Specialist, Department of Theatre, Digital Humanities
201. Julia V. Busik, Professor, Department of Physiology
202. Danielle J. Whittaker, Academic Specialist-Research, Department of Integrative Biology and BEACON Center
203. A. Emiko Blalock, Assistant Professor, Office of Medical Education Research and Development
204. James Geiger, Professor, Department of Chemistry
205. Marisa Brandt, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
206. Danny Méndez, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of Romance and Classical Studies
207. Robyn Bluhm, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Lyman Briggs College
208. Dar Meshi, Assistant Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
209. Brad Day, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
210. Mindy Morgan, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
211. Bethany Wilinski, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
212. Ingo Braasch, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
213. Julia Ganz, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
214. Charles Ofria, Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering
215. Andrew R. Bender, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
216. Lyn Goeringer, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Composition (Music)
217. Juliet Hess, Assistant Professor, College of Music
218. Sandra Logan, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of English
219. Leigh VanHandel, Associate Professor, College of Music
220. Abigail Bennett, Assistant Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
221. Douglas Luckie, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Lyman Briggs College
222. Linda Sayed, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
223. Matthew Hedden, Professor, Department of Mathematics
224. Leapetswe Maletle, Associate Professor, Department of Kinesiology
225. Daniel Ahlquist, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
226. Randy Napoleon, Associate Professor, College of Music
227. Johanna Schuster-Craig, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of Linguistics and Languages

228. Brian C. Schutte, Associate Professor, Dept's of MMG and Pediatrics, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Natural Sciences and Human Medicine.
229. Matthew Handelman, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
230. Liza Potts, Associate Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
231. Kristin Arola, Associate Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Culture
232. Jason Gallant, Assistant Professor, Integrative Biology
233. Benjamin Lauren, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
234. Philip Effiong, Associate Professor, Theatre Department
235. Vincent Meffi, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics and Probability and Program in Mathematics Education
236. Xavier Davis, Associate Professor, College of Music
237. Elizabeth Mittman, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
238. Jane Bunnell, Professor, College of Music
239. Tama Hamilton-Wray, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
240. Dan Brainard, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture
241. Beth Herbel-Eisenmann, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
242. Kathleen Gallo, Professor of Physiology, College of Human Medicine
243. Peggy Ostrom, Professor Emeritus, Department of Integrative Biology
244. Melissa McDaniels, Senior Advisor to the Dean for Research Mentoring, Graduate School
245. Laura Apol, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
246. Sean Fomer, Associate Professor, Department of History
247. Kay Holekamp, University Distinguished Professor, Integrative Biology
248. Christian Lyhne Ibsen, Assistant Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
249. Joe Krajcik, Professor, Director-CREATE for STEM, College of Education and College of Natural Science
250. Janine Certo, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
251. Ligita Espinosa, Office Supervisor, CREATE for STEM.
252. Mary Luba, Accountant/Research Administrator, CREATE for STEM Institute
253. Saleem Alhabash, Associate Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations.
254. Angela Kolonich, Academic Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute, College of Education and College of Natural Science
255. Lynn Paine, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
258. Leslie Page Moch, Professor Emerita of History
257. Alicia Alonzo, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education

258. Maris A. Cinelli, Sr. Research Associate, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
259. Deborah Peek-Brown, Academic Outreach Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute, College of Education and College of Natural Science
260. Marisol Mercado Santiago, Academic Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute
261. Lynn L. Wolff, Associate Professor, Department of Linguistics and Languages
262. Kristin N. Parent, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
263. Cynthia M. Okolo, professor emeritus, Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education
264. Joe T. Darden, Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Sciences
265. Mary Tate Brenigan, Associate Professor, Fisheries and Wildlife
266. Chris Adami, Professor, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics
267. Laura Scales, Academic Specialist, Department of Theatre
268. Edward Murphy, Associate Professor, Department of History and Global Urban Studies
269. Alexandra Hidalgo, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
270. Jacqueline Rhodes, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures
271. Amelia Wenk Gotwals, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
272. Keith Promislow, Professor, Department of Mathematics
273. Amy Noelle Parks, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
274. Mark Rucker, Professor, School of Music
275. Sonja Fritzsche, Professor of German Studies and Associate Dean, Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Literatures, College of Arts & Letters
276. Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
277. David Stroupe, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education, Associate Director for STEM Teacher Education, CREATE for STEM Institute
278. Todd Hedrick, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
279. John Besley, Professor, Advertising and Public Relations
280. John P. Smith III, Professor, Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education
281. [REDACTED] doctoral candidate [REDACTED]
282. Renee Bayer, Academic Specialist, CREATE for STEM Institute
283. Elias Strangas, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
284. Deepa Thiagarajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition
285. Eran Andrechek, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology

286. Connie Sung, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education
287. Kelly Klump, Professor, Department of Psychology
288. Alex Burt, Professor, Department of Psychology
289. Jane Turner, Professor Health Programs, Pediatrics and Human Development
290. Wolfgang Banzhaf, John R. Koza Chair in Genetic Programming, Department of Computer Science and Engineering
291. Shanti Zaid, Fixed Term Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
293. David Stowe, Professor, English and Religious Studies
292. Charles Keith, Associate Professor, Department of History
293. J.P. Lawrence, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
294. [REDACTED] Doctoral Candidate, Department of [REDACTED]
295. Beth Alexander, Professor, College of Human Medicine
296. William A Lovis, Professor and Curator Emeritus, Department of Anthropology and MSU Museum
297. John Monberg, Academic Specialist, Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures
298. Terese Monberg, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
299. Anita Skeen, Professor Emerita, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 6:54 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost, MSU; Teresa K Woodruff; Board Of Trustees
Subject: Hsu and leadership

Dear President Stanley, Interim Provost Sullivan, Incoming Provost Woodruff, and MSU Board of Trustees:

Many people are calling for Stephen Hsu's ouster as Vice President for Research and Innovation at MSU, based on his controversial work on the genetic basis of intelligence. I support that call. Let me explain why.

Some say his removal would run counter to academic freedom. However, that position implies there's no difference between tenure and leadership. Tenure does not give one the right to retain a leadership role.

Hsu is interested in the differences in average test scores between groups of people based on their race and gender, and the possible role of genetics in any differences. Some people have said Hsu is just "following the data" like any good scientist would do. However, data are often ambiguous, correlative (but not causal), and difficult to interpret. To his credit, Hsu has made that point. But he also then says that we should withhold scientific judgement about genetic contributions to differences in groups until we have better data and can be more certain. I find that perspective disturbing as well. Hsu's "study organisms" — that's you, me, our friends, neighbors, children, grandchildren, and generations to come — are not fruit flies in bottles or hybrid corn in fields. There's simply no (ethical) way of doing the rigorous, controlled, multi-generation experiments that would be necessary to remove, and thereby scientifically exclude, the effects of the myriad non-genetic factors that obviously contribute to differences in test scores between people.

Even if it was feasible, who believes that it's worthwhile to try to establish that some groups of people are genetically superior to another? Who really thinks that studying supposedly innate differences between groups in their average "Intelligence" — a subtle, multi-dimensional set of abilities, yet core to humanity — can lead to anything but animosity and discord?

In my view, leadership requires more than mere intelligence. We need leaders with empathy, humility, and wisdom. In short, we need leaders who will inspire us, not divide us.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Petition to fire VP Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I write to you about the GEU petition to remove Steve Hsu from his post as Vice President for Research at MSU. I will not attempt to address all of the accusations against VP Hsu, but I do want to draw your attention to two GEU posts that give me pause.

The first post is directly relevant to [REDACTED] "Hsu is against removing standardized tests like the GRE & SAT because he believes they measure cognitive ability." [REDACTED] These tests *do* measure cognitive ability (or "skills" if you like): operations of the mind/brain involved in solving math problems, comprehending text, reasoning, and so on. This is not in dispute in the scientific literature; inter-individual variability in cognition is a major area of psychological research (and one in which I have published extensively over the past 20 years). To be sure, we don't fully understand what gives rise to variability in scores on tests of cognitive ability; the best available evidence suggests that it reflects both genetic factors and environmental factors, and their interplay. But to question whether this variability reflects the cognitive system—and to malign someone for holding such a view—is patently absurd. In making this point, the GEU is either being disingenuous and trying to smear Hsu's character, or they don't know what they're tweeting about. I find either possibility troubling.

The second GEU post to which I draw your attention reads: "Hsu's office appears to have directed funding to research downplaying racism in bias in police shootings." This post refers to Prof. Joseph Cesario's work on racial bias in police shootings; the implication is that the outcome of his work was preordained. This is an **OUTRAGEOUS AND BASELESS ACCUSATION** and is nothing short of libel against not only VP Hsu, but Prof. Cesario—a highly respected scientist, journal editor, teacher, and mentor. A university should be a place where all its members should feel safe from harmful and false accusations like this one. I ask you to make this point to the university community.

More generally, at least in my view, a university must simultaneously uphold the ideals of *diversity and inclusion* and *freedom of inquiry*. With respect to the latter, if faculty feel uncomfortable investigating "difficult" questions—the answers to which may or may not agree with a particular belief or view, and may even be unsettling—then the faculty will eventually stop asking those questions, or leave for institutions that support *both* of these ideals. In turn, the university will cease to be a leader in addressing the most difficult problems that society faces. Ideology will become the major force in the faculty's scholarship.

I urge you to evaluate Steve Hsu's case based on the merit of the accusations against him, not on the vehemence with which those accusations have been leveled. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 14, 2020 3:49 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Please retain Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I am closely following this situation, in consultation with other academics who value academic excellence and freedom. None of us is plausibly racist, and most of us are classic liberals or even progressives. Steve Hsu is an excellent scholar, and I have admired MSU for promoting him to this important position.

I understand what you're going through now. Sometime in the future, we will look back to this time and examine who defended intellectual freedom. I hope and expect that you will be among them.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 14, 2020 3:11 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Support for Professor Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I've been at universities most of my adult life. The episode now engulfing Steven Hsu is an old, familiar story. I won't tell you how to run your university but may I respectfully say that I know Steve is a quintessential academic who respects truth-telling. In these times, this is no small compliment. As rational actors, all we have is our ability to converse, especially with people who have contrary, if not incendiary views. To punish Steve in any way for engaging this most fundamental value of academic freedom will not serve the University well.

I know you will be influenced by many considerations, but academic freedom is a line-in-the-sand for a society trying to do right for all its citizens, not just the ones who make demands. Please hold the line.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 3:02 PM
To: [REDACTED] Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: RE: Regarding the petition raised against Senior VP for Research and Innovation, Professor Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

Because I agree with every word of [REDACTED] letter regarding Steve Hsu, and I could not have said it better nor improve upon it, I will fully endorse it.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:15 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Regarding the petition raised against Senior VP for Research and Innovation, Professor Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I am writing as an academic concerned with the petition to remove Steve Hsu from his position as VP for Research and Innovation at MSU.

There is great heat in the present moment, but less light. If light is to increase, free exploration in search of the truth must be sustained. That premise is the sustaining purpose of the University.

I know Professor Hsu through just a couple of brief meetings and through his online posts and his service over the last decade to MSU research and innovation. The fact that there are no cases of bias or discrimination alleged against him is in keeping with what seems to be a universal experience of Professor Hsu as a thoughtful, decent, and compassionate human being.

Rather the claims brought against him reduce to his failing to align his views those who seek to have you dismiss him. i.e., he is accused of holding opinions which differ from those of the complainants: Is that an offence at MSU?

If so, will you fire all staff with whose views someone can find someone, faculty or student to denounce them?

If not, then Professor Hsu should continue in his position, with a clear and positive statement of support from yourself. The alternative places all staff in harms way, and violates equal treatment.

Professor Hsu is accused of making the same claim that Tim Cook of Apple, Larry Paige and now Sundar Pichai of Alphabet, Satya Nadella of Microsoft and many many others make, which is that there may be in the world different numbers of qualified and interested applicants for different posts in different groups. If you fire Professor Hsu, then would we also ban Microsoft, Google, Apple, Tesla, and SpaceX from campus? Along with thousands of other firms? I hope that prospect is still abhorrent.

Professor Hsu is accused of sharing the data which show that tests and grades from before university (such as the SAT) are valid, as are those taken in the university (such as graduate records). Logically, to deny the former, one would rid oneself of all grades.

This road is slippery and ever so steep.

The universities of the world, and, sadly, MSU, are being asked to decide whether the answer to complex questions is an empirical one, to be tested. Or if instead truth is merely that of which those who wield power hold by conviction. At best, that makes the university a medieval church. At worst, it becomes a dictatorship of the mind, a contradiction of the University, and, no doubt, a highly unpleasant place to contemplate for 1000s of parents with many choices when considering where their children might wisely choose to study.

Many repeat that "we need to have difficult conversations." and yet as this petition shows, many are now seeking to have difficult conversations silenced.

The purpose of the modern university is to institutionalise – thereby to sustain – scientific discovery, free inquiry and free expression of those discoveries.

We are all of use challenged now: to support, visibly and authoritatively the work, the expression, the inquiry that our institutions exist to preserve.

If we fail, truth-seeking may survive by moving elsewhere. But the university will not. It will become less-diverse by failing its duty to protect those who do not merely emulate or repeat. By failing to protect "the crazy ones" (as Steve Jobs famously advertised): The ones who say and create first what we all must come to believe if the future is to be better than the past, and yet which we none of us can now see now.

Perhaps we cannot tell who is right. The university exists to tolerate exactly that. Exists because of that fact, that we accept answers come only through testing ideas in fair and free debate and systematic exploration. And that this requires the protection of freedom of thought and expression to allow these new and better ideas to exist. Patent law doesn't protect good ideas, it protects new ideas, because only among those are the good, and only with protection will the investment of blood, sweat and tears be possible which is required to create them.

Thus too academic freedom.

Professor Hsu exemplifies these traits: freedom, fairness, debate, and exploration.

I hope that you can uphold the principles of academic freedom, enshrined in state and federal law, and in the Declaration of Human Rights which mandates the protection of academic freedom, and the protection of those who dare disagree.

This was written with some urgency, but I pray that you protect Professor Steven Hsu with equal urgency.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] petition to remove VP Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I am writing (briefly) to express my opposition to the petition calling for the removal of Prof. Steve Hsu as VP for Research & Innovation. I have examined the petition, Prof. Hsu's response to it, [REDACTED] appended email and letter to you, and the comments of some other colleagues supporting the petition. I won't claim to have read everything that everybody has said or written on this subject, but from what I have examined, I judge that there is no viable case for Prof. Hsu's removal. While some of his views—e.g., asserting that the existence and causes of group differences on a variety of abilities are unresolved empirical questions—are controversial in some quarters, to my eye, they are measured, consistent with the current state of the scientific literature, and by no means inflammatory or, in the language of the petition, evidence that he is "... an individual that cannot uphold our University Mission or our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

To the contrary, it is a test of a university's core values to nurture freedom of inquiry and debate, even when that inquiry and debate does raise controversy. I hope we will pass that test in the current instance.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: [REDACTED] petition to remove VP Stephen Hsu
Date: Sun, 14 Jun 2020 13:06:20 +0000
From: [REDACTED]
Reply-To: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]

There is currently a petition underway to have Steve Hsu removed from his position as VP for Research & Innovation at MSU (see <https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>). This centers around accusations of racism and sexism on the part of Hsu and the claims that he cannot perform his duties in that role in a fair manner.

I have looked at the claims against Hsu and find them to be almost all baseless, and in many cases gross distortions of actual fact. I include the link above so that you can evaluate these claims for yourself. Below I also include a letter I sent to the president which addresses many of the criticisms against Hsu. (Full disclosure: [REDACTED] You can also see Steve's response at his website (<https://infoproc.blogspot.com/>)).

Most troubling, however, is the general theme that Hsu is at fault or otherwise an immoral person for exploring controversial or unconventional views on sensitive topics, views which do have empirical support and which are well within reason given the state of the data.

Although there is the specific case of Steve's position, as I note in the letter below there is the much broader issue at stake of free inquiry at the university. As you might know, the president has NOT ONCE expressed the value of free inquiry nor has he ever defended free speech and free expression on campus. This is an extremely disconcerting pattern, particularly as [REDACTED] and he has done nothing on the topic since. If he fires Steve based on accusation, rumor, and character assassination (without any hard evidence of a failure of duties on Steve's part) due to a vocal group, this does not bode well for those of us who study controversial or difficult topics -- nor does it bode well for the future of the university as a seeker of truth.

The petition to remove Steve has already been delivered to the president's office. We who support keeping him in his position are just now learning about this, so we're behind schedule. If you support Steve remaining in his role, please consider emailing the president's office [REDACTED] TODAY. You can feel free to copy or use any of the letter below.

Of course, if you support removing Steve, the link for the petition is above.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Dear President Stanley:

I write concerning the recent petition to remove Steve Hsu from his position as VP for Research and Innovation at MSU.

Before getting into the specifics of the accusations against Hsu, I would first like to make a broad point about the great potential for you as a leader at MSU, today. We are clearly at a difficult moment, one which will require serious, sustained, and difficult inquiry into complex and troubling topics. As has been said often, "we need to have difficult conversations." Such conversations cannot be had, and indeed solutions to complex problems cannot be discovered, if certain viewpoints or positions are restricted from the conversation or if people expressing controversial views are silenced or otherwise removed from participating. As a first order, to do so is to assume the answer to the question up front and ensures that we will arrive at (at best) incomplete answers to complex questions.

More important, however, is that *the* core values of educational institutions and of scientific discovery are the values of free inquiry and free expression. These are the values that separate the scientific approach from other ways of knowing the world, such as politics or religion. Indeed, the principles of free inquiry and free expression are the cornerstones of enlightenment philosophy and of a fully democratic society. Without them, what is left is authoritarianism, mob rule, or mere traditionalism.

Especially in times of turmoil and trouble, these principles must be upheld -- unequivocally and forcefully.

****You have the unique opportunity in this moment to show the kind of leadership that is needed for an institution of higher learning.**** You have the opportunity, right now, to center free inquiry and free expression as the core values of the institutions and show how they align with the other values that you have spent much time promoting. Indeed, the voices demanding Hsu's removal are exactly wrong in pitting diversity and inclusion against free inquiry and freedom of speech. (E.g., "If you are serious about diversity, you must remove Hsu.") Instead, the most inclusive and the best opportunities for diversity occur under conditions of free inquiry, because such a philosophy demands that everyone have a seat at the table and that arguments are evaluated for their quality rather than the person expressing them (as in authoritarian or traditionalist modes). Free Inquiry is the MOST democratic and MOST inclusive mode of engaging with the world; in contrast, mob rule and exclusion of people who express minority viewpoints are exactly the modes that have been used to suppress vulnerable groups throughout history.

To remove Hsu for holding controversial views or for inquiring about controversial topics, regardless of the size of the mob demanding he be removed, would be to capitulate to the base desires of humans – the exclusion and ostracism of minority positions. It would also be to set a precedent that is dangerous, inconsistent with the principles of higher education, and ultimately unsustainable.

I know you have received letters and signatures in recent days calling for Hsu's removal. I am confident you will receive letters in support of Hsu in the upcoming days. Please keep in mind that those of us who support him are only now learning about the calls to have him removed, and so we are working several days behind those who want to see him removed. It does not mean we do not exist on campus.

Now, to the accusations against Hsu.

***First, I note that there are ZERO cases of bias or discrimination alleged against Hsu during his tenure as VP for Research. This reveals the absurdity of the critiques against Hsu, which in part center around two related claims: "because he has views that differ from mine, he cannot treat me fairly" and "because he controls resources, I cannot voice disagreement with him." This is outright slander for which there is no concrete evidence. In stark contrast, when I approached his office asking for some research funds in [REDACTED] (more on this below), he spent the first 20 minutes of our conversation in vigorous and informed debate about the topic at hand -- and although I disagreed with him on several points, he gladly funded the research because he saw merits in it. In fact, rather than being dismissive or silencing, Hsu is without question the most open person I have encountered on MSU's campus. He loves discussion, he takes his opponents' positions seriously, and he does so in a fair manner with integrity. The notion that he is necessarily biased or unable to carry out his responsibilities fairly HAS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER. Indeed, looking at the letters and tweets calling for his removal, NO concrete evidence has been presented to indicate unfairness on his part. Therefore, to remove Hsu from his position would be a gross capitulation to unsupported rumors and character assassination.**

****Second, regarding the claims that Hsu holds "racist" views: A closer look at the evidence supposedly presented makes it clear that Hsu's critics are being at best unfair and at worst deliberately misleading. As a common definition, to be racist is to deny the humanity of a person or group based on their race. There is no evidence whatsoever that Hsu has ever demeaned a person or group of people based on their race. The following evidence is purportedly offered as proof of Hsu's racism:**

1. MSU GEU claims that one of Hsu's blog posts is evidence that he believes in "innate differences in intelligence based on race" and points to a post from Jan 22 2008. Read the post carefully. Not only does Hsu make NO claim in innate differences in intelligence, he EXPLICITLY STATES THE OPPOSITE: "There is no strong

evidence for specific gene variants (alleles) that lead to group differences (differences between clusters) in behavior or intelligence." Thus the GEU is intentionally misrepresenting Hsu's position as a means of smearing him as a racist.

2. MSU GEU claims that the following points are evidence of Hsu's racism: "Hsu is against removing standardized tests like the GRE & SAT because he believes they measure cognitive ability & that lack of Black & Hispanic representation in higher ed reflects lower ability, despite evidence these tests negatively impact diversity." This is consistent with other tweets from the GEU that any belief in "cognitive differences between races" indicates racism. In fact, it is without question among psychometricians who study ability tests that (1) the GRE and SAT do in fact measure cognitive ability, in large part; and (2) racial differences in cognitive ability tests reflect actual distributional differences and not testing bias (regardless of the origins of those differences, on which we are silent). Once again: The belief that standardized tests measure something real and that there are observable differences across racial groups is an uncontroversial position among scholars studying these tests.

3. MSU GEU claims evidence of Hsu's racism in that "Hsu's office appears to have directed funding to research downplaying racism in bias in police shootings." [REDACTED] First, this is **UNEQUIVOCALLY FALSE** – Hsu supported research to study the factors related to fatal police shootings, whatever those research outcomes might have been. Hsu did NOT fund research "to downplay racism." When Hsu funded this research, [REDACTED] did not have any answers to the questions and therefore he could not have directed funding "to downplay racism." Moreover, what the GEU appears to not understand is that we cannot and do not know the answers to questions up front, and we must let the data take us where it does. Whether racism on the part of police officers plays a role in fatal police shootings is not a statement of the world to be taken as a priori fact – it is an empirical claim that requires evidence and that may or may not be true.

***Third, regarding the claims that Hsu holds "sexist" views: Again a closer look at the "evidence" presented undermines the idea that Hsu believes women to be innately inferior in our common humanity:

1. MSU GEU claims evidence in that "Hsu continually objects [sic] to considering diversity as a metric, especially when hiring women at Google:" and then links to Hsu's blog post of Aug. 17, 2017. Again, read the actual blog post. First, there is nothing demeaning of women in Hsu's blog post. He instead is reporting on the case of Damore and Google; there is nothing in that post reporting his own opinions. Second, there is nothing in the post about objecting to considering diversity as a metric, nor **EVEN IF THERE WAS** would this indicate sexism on the part of Hsu. Objections to diversity as a metric can be found widely outside of academia, everywhere from center-left to right on the political spectrum without malevolence toward the groups in questions (e.g., see John McWhorter's or Glenn Loury's objections to these topics).

2. MSU GEU claims that "Hsu argues that there are fewer competent women available to hire" and points to his blog post on Aug. 10, 2017, which contains the quote "This doesn't mean that the females who are > +2.5SD (in the female population) are ill-suited to the role (they may be as good as the men), just that there are fewer of them in the general population." To be absolutely clear: There are well-established distributional differences between men and women on quantitative ability and verbal ability (and their combination), and this affects career choice and the pool of people available for various jobs. There is very strong empirical support for these claims, despite how uncomfortable such data may be (e.g., Benbow et al., 2000; Ceci & Williams, 2010; Ceci & Williams, 2011; Ceci et al., 2009; Feingold, 1994; Fryer & Levitt, 2009; Halpern et al., 2007; Lubinski & Benbow, 1992; Lubinski et al., 2001; Valla & Ceci, 2014).

Note importantly that Hsu is ABSOLUTELY CLEAR that there are equally-qualified women and at no point does he make sexist claims about women being unable to do some activity or that they should not be allowed to do some activity. There is no ambiguity on Hsu's part on this point and therefore clear evidence that Hsu does not hold sexist views.

****Fourth. The GEU and faculty signatories use a variety of "smear by association" tactics, which should be beneath people who are supposed to be intellectual leaders at a university. Thus the fact that Hsu spoke with people like Ron Unz or Stefan Molyneux is beside the point.

*****Finally, as a general point: The nature and origins of differences across groups is a complicated and difficult set of questions. There are few settled answers and there will be no single answer to understand these topics. To suggest that people who hold controversial positions within these topics should be removed or otherwise silenced is to presume the answer and fall prey to the moralistic fallacy – that what we want to be true, must be true. This is antithetical to the mission of a university.

There is no question that the push for racial justice and equal rights has been and continues to be a noble and important cause. In the narrow case, removing Hsu from his position will in no way advance this cause. In the general case, removing Hsu will do permanent damage to the university and will undermine the core values that we must uphold.





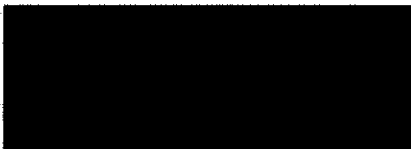
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Support letter for Stephen Hsu
Attachments: [REDACTED] Support Hsu June 14 2020.pdf

Dear President Stanley:

I hereby respectfully submit a letter in support of Stephen Hsu, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



June 14, 2020

Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046


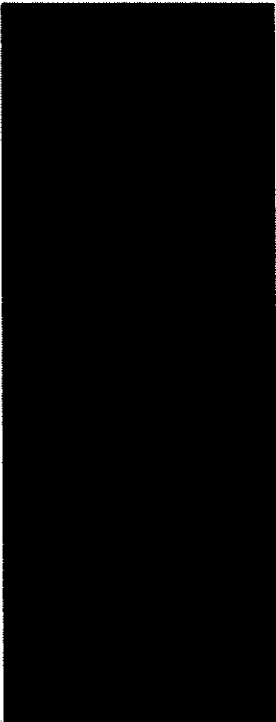
Dear President Stanley:

Recent accusations of MSU's Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu are false. They are not grounded in facts, do not survive even casual scrutiny, and hurt the values of diversity, equity and inclusion at our university.

The attacks rest on a weak argument of no confidence. In a series of Twitter tweets using the hashtags #ShutDownAcademia and #ShutDownSTEM, the leadership of the Graduate Employee Union quoted several of Hsu's blog posts and podcast interviews out of context, ignoring his explicit denunciations of racism. Meanwhile, the faculty signatories of a letter submitted to you on June 11 claim: "Given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably." However, neither the GEU nor the faculty signatories are able to show any concrete evidence that any such unfair or inequitable treatment—such as in handling cases for promotion and tenure or resource allocations—has ever occurred during Hsu's tenure as VP since 2012.

The blog posts under attack date back over a decade. They are almost all summaries and discussions of published scientific papers by leading scholars in psychology, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, genomics, and other fields. The papers appeared in respected or prestigious journals including *Nature* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Although their topics may be at the frontier of scientific inquiry and thus make some lay audiences uncomfortable, the papers certainly deserve to be reviewed and discussed. Hsu often cautions his blog readers not to simplify preliminary research results and jump to conclusions. Several blog posts explicitly denounce discrimination based on identity.

The allegations have grossly misrepresented Hsu's views on genomics. True, he has discussed the technological possibility of "embryo selection" during future IVF procedures. However, the practice of genetic screening and selection during the embryo stage in IVF is much more conservative than gene editing, which Hsu has never advocated. Furthermore, he has envisioned embryo selection



mainly as a commercialized service that couples may voluntarily elect to ensure the health or competitiveness of their offspring. Nowhere has he promoted a public policy that would enforce this upon a population. He has even opined that it is possible that the United States, due to its unique bioethical concerns and through its democratic process, might choose to limit future reproductive technologies even while other countries, such as our economic competitors in Asia, embrace them.

Hsu has led significant growth in research activity at MSU during his time here, and contributed to the hiring of many outstanding new faculty at the university. Through the Global Impact Initiative alone, which recruited 100 new faculty investigators, many women and/or minorities were hired (<https://vp.research.msu.edu/global-impact/hires>).

Based on this record, I find the GEU's call for Hsu's removal to be unjust and extreme. To me, it seems supremely ironic that the predominantly white leadership of GEU is calling Hsu, an Asian American minority individual whose closest friend at the university and podcast co-host is African American (Corey Washington, Director of Analytics), a racist. Actions speak louder than words. Paranoia and baseless accusations should have no place at an institution of higher learning.

Instead of cyberbullying and cancellation culture, what we need is a commitment to open dialogue and rational communication. At the minimum, Hsu deserves a hearing. He should be given an opportunity to provide facts of what his office has accomplished to further diversity, equity and inclusion at our university to a review committee.

Sincerely,



From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:47 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
In opposition to the petition to fire Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I've only just learned of the campus movement to have Steve Hsu removed from office, and had occasion to review the arguments of those who are advocating for his removal. I realize that you have lately been subject to more than one accusation of insensitivity to the concerns of certain groups of stakeholders on this campus, but as I am sure you realize, every case is distinct, and justice demands that judgments about individuals be taken on their own merits. Please do not hastily make your decision. In addition to carefully examining the shockingly weak arguments of those agitating for Hsu's removal, wait to hear from those of us on campus who actually look into the matter and consider evidence before signing petitions or making loud public claims. Having reviewed the evidence adduced by those agitating for his removal, I find it utterly unpersuasive as indicating Hsu is unfit for his position, let alone that he is guilty of mistreatment of anyone seeking support or otherwise under his auspices. Indeed, for the most part it appears to be willful misrepresentation of what he has actually claimed, and the malicious attribution to Hsu of views held by people who interviewed him or who draw other conclusions than he does from data he references.

To hastily fire Hsu out of a desire to appease or placate one or another vocal group on campus would have a devastating effect on the intellectual climate on this campus and send a signal to everyone at the university that free inquiry, and the open discourse requisite to free inquiry, are no longer the fundamental animating principles of this institution, that at any moment someone who pursues difficult and important questions wherever the evidence leads could find themselves without protection. In other words, the case of Hsu is not just about Hsu. It is about whether MSU under your leadership will stand firm on the core principles of free inquiry. Consider that if you were to concede to the petitioners that Hsu's views – which are in fact backed by evidence, and stated with careful precision, and that as often as not directly contradict the claims of the petitioners about his views – have influenced his awarding of research funds that this would taint the research of everyone on campus who has received those funds. Indeed, this seems to be the intention of the petitioners in their singling out Joseph Cesario's work as suggestive of Hsu's bias. In a moment that already makes free discourse and research about fraught questions extraordinarily difficult, this would impose silence and a moratorium on further inquiry.

Is there evidence that Hsu has been unfair or biased in his decisions? If so, it hasn't been adduced. Or is this merely asserted by insinuation based on the willful reading of blog posts and youtube interviews? Otherwise, what's the ground for his removal? That he disagrees with some others on campus? I suspect that would be true of anyone who will ever hold that office. So then the argument amounts to a demand that the person in charge of research on campus agree with me (or any other stakeholder on campus) on every question I care deeply about. This is unacceptable.

And let me be plain, I disagree with Hsu's positions on a number of questions. This is not about the coincidence between my views and his. Oh, and I've received no funding from his office.

Yours,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Regarding the petition to remove our VP Steve Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

I am an [REDACTED] and express my concern for the recent petition to remove Steve Hsu. I have carefully read the petition and the evidences they used. However, I found many accusations were lack of solid evidence. I simply just want to share my personal experience as a Spartan with you and shared some views from my perspective.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Since then, I have tried to apply external grants from multiple sources, including NSF, DOE, and NIH. To be honest, it has been extremely stressful for me in the first two years since I had no luck with any of those grants. The VP office provided a great grant expert, [REDACTED] to assist me, and I finally got my first [REDACTED] grant in 2018, which is used to support my [REDACTED] Ph.D. student. Also, [REDACTED] was awarded a dissertation completion fellowship last summer so that she could focus on her thesis and successfully defended in [REDACTED]. Historically, there is few [REDACTED]. I am very proud that I successfully helped the rise of [REDACTED] in this field. But, all of these couldn't be possible without the help of the VP office.

Another story I want to share is my current [REDACTED] joined my group in 2018 and has been extremely successful academically. [REDACTED] approached her offering her the [REDACTED] which was designed to promote postdocs from the under-represented groups to a tenure track faculty at MSU. Both [REDACTED] and I were surprised by the existence of this program and were really appreciated the offer. Although [REDACTED] didn't choose to stay at MSU since she accepted the offer from the University of [REDACTED] she still can feel the inclusive culture of MSU.

I agree there are many places we can improve to make our campus more inclusive for students and faculties from all kinds of backgrounds. I want to say that from my own experience, I am witnessing MSU is on the right track, and the culture at MSU is getting better and better. I am proud to be a Spartan! I want to acknowledge the contribution from Steve Hsu for his effort on all those changes.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: RE: Steven Hsu

Good afternoon, President Stanley.

I'm sorry to bother you on a Sunday afternoon, but I felt that I had to reach out. Not sure if you remember who I am, but [REDACTED]

I wanted to reach out to you regarding the issue with Steve Hsu. I had composed a rather lengthy letter, but after reflecting on things I honestly don't believe in the value of my own words at this point. Much of what I wanted to say has been said by others, so I will simply say this:

I think and feel that what is happening to Steve Hsu is a travesty. Any time objectivity in research is suppressed we close off avenues for progress. Remaining objective means that we remain open to dialogue, data, information and more importantly change. We need objectivity in these times more than ever, and we do not need to remove people like Steve who strive to bring objective data to important and controversial conversations. Without work like this we will never change and never grow.

In short, I stand in support of Steve Hsu and hope that the current move to unseat him is turned aside in favor of a rational, objective approach to the way in which we do science, especially social science.

Thanks for listening.

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 14, 2020 11:58 AM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
On the petition to terminate VP Steve Hsu

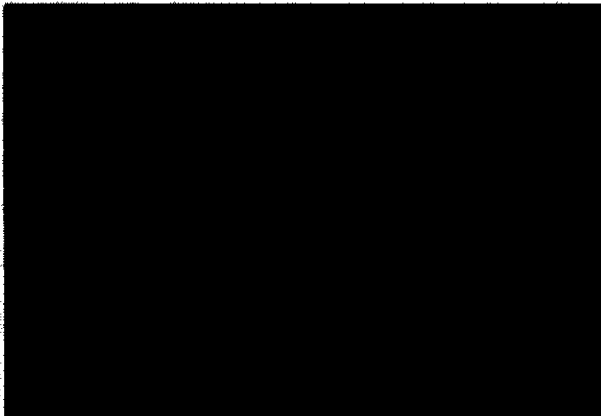
Dear President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.,

I write in support of Professor Steve Hsu and urge you not to remove him from his position as Vice President for Research and Innovation at MSU. I have met Professor Hsu 3-5 times, heard him give several presentations at professional meetings, and have read a half dozen or so of his papers (mostly those dealing with the genomic prediction of height, which I consider to be brilliant.) I cannot claim to be a regular consumer of either his blog posts or podcasts, but I felt compelled to review a sufficient number of these prior to writing you to convince myself that the charges against Professor Hsu are baseless.

If there is evidence that Professor Hsu in his capacity as VP for Research at MSU has acted with prejudice or malice, then I would support without question his termination from his administrative office. It appears, however, that the charge against Professor Hsu is his willingness to discuss controversial ideas. The American University is founded on the belief that we must be free to debate our ideological differences openly and rationally, especially when those differences are controversial. I cannot think of anything more antithetical to the idea of a university than to have someone terminated for their beliefs.

As we all struggle to respond in a constructive way to the tragic killing of George Floyd, and what it implies about our society, I truly hope that it does not come at the expense of imposing an orthodoxy on the academy.

With kind regards,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Removal of Dr. Steve Chu as VP Research

June 14, 2020

Dear President Stanley,

I support the removal of Dr. Stephen Hsu as Vice President for Research and Innovation at MSU.

[REDACTED]

No one is entitled to be an administrator with control over who works here and who doesn't. That is a policy matter, not a matter of academic freedom. Dr. Chu can seek the truth as he sees it as a faculty member, here or elsewhere. He should not be a leader of this institution.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, June 14, 2020 10:18 AM

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
It will be a grave mistake to remove Hsu due to false accusations.

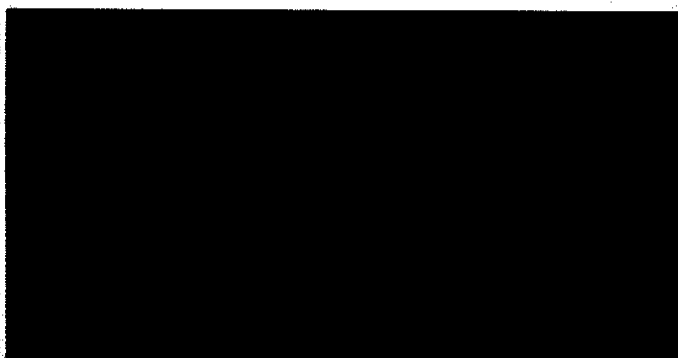
Dear President Stanley,

I was very disturbed by the twitter attack on Senior VP Stephen Hsu. It reminded me of China's Culture Revolution when people were shamed and persecuted because they had expressed the *wrong* thoughts. I came to America to escape such an environment. I am worried that such attacks would cause real harm to MSU, which has already suffered so much in the past few years.

I read both of the accusations and Hsu's response. I found the allegations groundless. Sadly, these accusations form the basis for an open letter for Hsu's removal. It claims that "given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably." However, there is no evidence that Hsu has discriminated against any faculty or students during his tenure as VP for research.

I followed the discussion and read some of Hsu's blog post. All I find is a curious and passionate scientist talking about interesting research, most of them were published in the best academic journals. His podcasts are quite informative in promoting the research frontier. I listened to the podcast about police shootings, which received strong negative reactions on Twitter. Hsu and his co-host interviewed an MSU psychologist about his research on police shooting. I learned quite a bit about the topics and the relevant statistics. I am afraid some people have jumped to a conclusion without listening to the talk.

I believe calling for Hsu's resignation is unfair and unjust. If MSU removes Hsu due to the false accusations, it will permanently damage our reputation. I understand many people are still frustrated about the slow progress we made in the aftermath of Larry Nassar, but it is not an excuse to suppress scientific inquiries of difficult topics.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:48 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Regarding claims against Professor Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

Thank you for weathering all of us through this unprecedented time of challenges. I appreciate your style of leadership - open, transparent, and decisive.

I'm writing to you regarding the recent accusations of MSU's Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu. In my view, these accusations lack sufficient evidence, and are pulling us further away from the goal of diversity, equity and inclusion at our university.

It seems to me the GEU quoted many of Hsu's blog posts out of context, ignoring his explicit denunciations of racism. When I read the claim in the faculty signatories of a letter to you that states a lack of "confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably," I felt that neither the GEU nor the faculty signatories have shown any concrete evidence to validate their claims. Perhaps I am only an observation of one, but being a female faculty with a [REDACTED] I never felt any unfair or inequitable treatment in the handling of my promotion case by Professor Hsu when I went through my promotion to Professor [REDACTED]. If anything, Professor Hsu has always been very supportive and inspirational, motivating me to continue to achieve excellence when we met at the [REDACTED]. And I have not seen or heard any cases of racism and discrimination against Professor Hsu in our college of [REDACTED] during the [REDACTED] years that I'm on the faculty.

As a scholar in a highly respected research university like MSU, I pride myself with the academic freedom I am given. But I do not understand why academic freedom no longer applies to university administrators who continue to be excited about academic research. Professor Hsu's blog posts under attack are almost all commentaries on published scientific papers by leading scholars in psychology, neuroscience, genomics, machine learning, and other fields. Although the topics of the papers may be controversial, they are published in respected journals such as *Nature* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and certainly deserve to be looked at and discussed. Controversies sometimes are the reasons behind scientific breakthroughs, let it be STEM research or social science research. In several of the blog posts, Hsu explicitly denounced racism and discrimination based on identity.

Over the years, I have observed significant growth in research activity at MSU since Professor Hsu's arrival. He also contributed to the hiring of many outstanding new faculty at the university. For instance, through the Global Impact Initiative, which recruited 100 new faculty investigators, many women and/or minorities have been hired (<https://vp.research.msu.edu/global-impact/hires>).

In short, I find the call for Professor Hsu's resignation or removal to be extreme. At a time of national crisis and global pandemic, what we need is not to find people to blame and to label our leaders based on unfounded claims, but to unite every spartan to find our path forward.

Thank you for hearing my thoughts.

Sincerely yours,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:47 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Concern regarding attacks on SVP Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

[REDACTED] I'm writing to you today to express my concern about the recently attacks toward Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu.

While the nationwide Black Lives Matter protests continue, as a community member, I pay close attention to the development of the movements within MSU too. By following the Twitter threads on topic #FireStephenHsu and an open letter petition, the petitioners are demanding that Stephen Hsu be removed from his current position, based on what his research findings –genetic difference between different ethnic groups and genders, so they claimed Dr. Hsu is racist and sexist; but not based on his job performance or fact of misconduct, for example, complainant of discrimination during recruiting and funding scholars, etc. First of all, research findings should not be used as an evidence to against a person, unless the person has done something unlawful by using the research finding. For example, with the finding of atomic fission, one can build a nuclear bomb or a nuclear power plant. One should not make a conclusion that Hsu is racist and sexist so he should be removed, unless he has discriminated somebody.

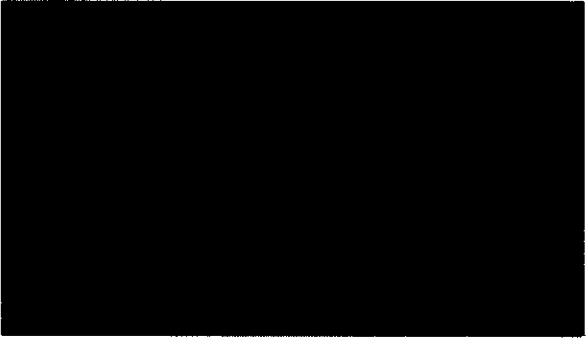
As a researcher, I believe that fact is the foundation of any scientific discovery. In a society under law and order, any accusation against someone should be made based on the fact of wrongdoing or misbehavior. As an employee working in a lab [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In my eyes, the VP office, under the lead of Dr. Hsu, promoted STEM research on campus by building new essential infrastructures, facilities, or improving existing facilities, providing grant consultation to investigators; they created a very supportive and positive environment for research on campus. Since [REDACTED] I witnessed the rapid growth of biomedical research, new hires coming on campus, research funding gained by investigators from various funding resources. This would not happen without the different resources supported by VP office. For instance, in the previous year, three principle investigators were granted [REDACTED] to their proposal based on [REDACTED]

SVP Hsu has led the office of Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation to be a source that can always provide positive energy and support for somebody like me, a female and minority, and for many other [REDACTED]. If SVP Hsu is removed from his position only because of the petition without solid evidence, the case will be an example that everybody can be removed by a group of people the similar way. MSU will not be an inclusive environment anymore, not a positive environment that harbor great mind and evoke new ideas. Hopefully, that won't happen.

By witnessing the quick responses addressed by the office of the President in recent months, regarding the major challenges from the incident during Black History Month, the Pandemic and the BLM movements, I felt that MSU finally has a president in years! I believe you will lead MSU to be a safe, inclusive community that all of us love to work and study here.

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 10:24 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Personal thoughts about the recent open letter regarding the removal of Dr. Hsu

Dear President Stanley,

My name is [REDACTED]. Since the outbreak, [REDACTED] Recently I was deeply disturbed by the attacks on our VP Dr. Hsu. I am not an expert in racism or history, and I have no intension to dive into this subject while ignoring my original aspiration. But the disturbance could not keep us focused; therefore, I wanted to share my personal thoughts.

I was recruited to MSU in [REDACTED] through the [REDACTED] initiative from the University of [REDACTED] where I held a faculty position for [REDACTED] years. I joined MSU because of the great opportunity of reaching excellence with many great minds who had already been recruited through the [REDACTED] or other programs. I was sad to hear Larry Nassar's case right after I signed the offer letter, but I was lucky to witness how MSU became stronger and more resilient. With support from the leadership, [REDACTED] at MSU. I am so proud that we already have brought [REDACTED] research funds and published a few high-profile papers. I became more excited when I heard your arrival at MSU as the new president. Unfortunately, during this challenging time, our school has to deal with one more internal dispute.

As a [REDACTED] I am interested to explore anything unknown, including genetics. Few places in the world could offer such freedom to scientists. America is definitely one of them. It is true Dr. Hsu's research topic might be controversial, but this does not mean he abused the administrative power to fulfill personal scientific curiosity. We need more evidence to prove that Dr. Hsu did not treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably. Instead, Dr. Hsu's tweets show that he has been an advocate for fighting for education equality. In the open letter, apparently, only faculty members from some distinct groups signed, which do not reflect the voice of the entire community. I am not sure some of them signed because of any personal reasons, but I do wish the leadership could listen to them and find the underlying reasons.

I wish this issue could be resolved rather than becoming headlines. MSU does need more exciting news. We were one of the top 5 fastest-rising universities in the US in terms of the Nature Index in 2019. We are seeing many scientific breakthroughs published that may benefit human kind. I believe we can seize the opportunity to unite the entire MSU community to reach excellence together.

Sincerely



From: Stephen Hsu [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Stanley, Samuel; [REDACTED] Jeitschko, Thomas; Largent, Mark
Subject: Re: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your support!

I was told that in the [REDACTED] department discussion of this, [REDACTED] name on the petition was cited as a reason to sign :-)

I'm not sure how we can alert other people about all of this. At first I was just trying to ignore it but it has gone way beyond that now.

Take care,
Steve

On Sat, Jun 13, 2020 at 10:30 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi Steve,

Just so you are aware, my name was faked on this as well. I support you and academic freedom.

[REDACTED] thank you for calling this out, and to Thomas and Mark for bringing it to my attention.

I would like to know how to publicly refute this. Perhaps we can [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Jeitschko, Thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020, 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Hi [REDACTED]

I wanted to share this with you.

Thomas D. Jeitschko
Dean of the Graduate School and
Associate Provost for Graduate Education

Michigan State University
Chittenden Hall
466 W. Circle Drive, Room 212
East Lansing, MI 48824-1044
Phone: (517) 353-3220
(he/him/his)

From: Jeitschko, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Thanks for including me in the email. I trust I can share this?

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Associate Provost for Graduate Education

Michigan State University
Chittenden Hall
466 W. Circle Drive, Room 212
East Lansing, MI 48824-1044
Phone: (517) 353-3220
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Hsu, Stephen [REDACTED]; Gage, Douglas [REDACTED]
Cc: Largent, Mark [REDACTED]; Jeitschko, Thomas [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 9:33 AM
To: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
Subject: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Hi Sam,

My name is been placed on the petition below asking that Steve Hsu be fired.

<https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>

This is fake. I do not support the charges made against Steve or the suggested punishment.

As I can find no way to remove my name or easily contact those responsible for the list, I thought that I would write to you to inform you of this situation. To the extent that my name might encourage others to sign, I believe that this undermines the petition's legitimacy.

It has become clear to me that, as [REDACTED] MSU employee and a [REDACTED] I cannot avoid addressing this issue publicly. I am in the process of [REDACTED] diversity, opportunity and free speech – values I hold dear, have tried to advance my entire life and believe are fully compatible. They are also values that we have tried to foster through our work in [REDACTED]

Best [REDACTED]



From: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" <[REDACTED]>

Reply-To: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 at 7:17 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Black Lives Matter and police accountability

To the Spartan Community:

Since I last wrote to you, we have continued to witness nationwide protests, rallies and an intense focus on systematic racism, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement. The horrific abuse and deaths of Black Americans cannot continue, and we all must demand answers and accountability. At MSU, we have a responsibility to uphold our values and a duty to honor them.

Since my arrival at MSU last August, my top priority has been to foster a respectful, welcoming, supportive and, above all, safe campus. Given the incidents of the past month, governments, institutions and the public are questioning the conduct of their law enforcement agencies, so it's an appropriate time to share some of the policies governing the MSU Police Department.

Last year, MSUPD implemented a stand-alone policy on fair and impartial policing. Recent events and amplified calls nationally for law enforcement reform prompted an additional review of department policies. I am pleased to report that the list below matches the national calls to action to help minimize harm caused by police units. MSUPD already practices six of the eight policies below, and has now adapted the other two:

1. Ban chokeholds and strangleholds in non-deadly force situations: **MSUPD does not train its officers in such restraint procedures and has now incorporated this point into explicit policy.**
2. Require officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance and otherwise eliminating the need to use force
3. Require officers to give a verbal warning, when possible, before shooting at a civilian
4. Require officers to exhaust all other reasonable means before resorting to deadly force

5. Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and to report any such incidents immediately to a supervisor. This expectation is now made explicit in department policy.
6. Restrict officers from shooting at moving vehicles, which is regarded as a particularly dangerous and ineffective tactic
7. Develop a force continuum that limits the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to specific kinds of resistance
8. Require officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians

MSU calls on law enforcement leaders in our mid-Michigan community and across the state to adopt such policies as well.

Accountability and service

For the past 20 years, the MSUPD has equipped its patrol vehicles with audio/video equipment and, in 2015, added body-worn cameras for all uniformed officers to enhance accountability and transparency.

The MSUPD was among the first university-based departments in the country in 2016 to establish an Inclusion and Anti-Bias Unit to improve community relationships and support its community policing efforts. The unit strives to increase trust by listening to community concerns and finding positive methods to solve issues through communication strategies and training and by focusing on four tenets: education, community outreach, bias incident response and consultations.

The Inclusion and Anti-Bias Unit hosts groups to learn training techniques in de-escalation and potential use of force. It produced a yearly conference on strengthening law enforcement/community relations and seminars to train local law enforcement officers on implicit bias. The unit hosted guest speakers for public events, such as MSU criminal justice associate professor Jennifer Cobbin, who is known for her research on citizen protest and police relations in Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri.

The MSUPD plans to post its policies online this year and is working to determine the best way to collect citizen contact demographic data, to increase accountability.

The MSUPD is also a member of Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT), a 20-year-old voluntary group coordinated by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. Members of ALPACT include law enforcement, community, advocacy, and civil rights leaders. The mission is to examine issues affecting police and community relations and community partnership programs, as well as discriminatory enforcement of laws, such as racial profiling, police use of force.

I hope our society has finally achieved a tipping point where Black Lives Matter is acknowledged without equivocation and where all people are treated humanely and equally under the law on the street as well as in our legal texts. I call on all Spartans to support these aspirations, which, after all, reflect the core values of this university.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Michigan State University

Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation
Professor of Theoretical Physics
Michigan State University

██████████
Appointments: ██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:34 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Support of Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

In the time of national protests demanding social justice and equity, we should strongly condemn racism, treat each one of us fairly, and wholeheartedly support each other. In the last a few days, I became aware of a Twitter attack on Senior Vice President Stephen Hsu based on accusations that are taken out of context in several blog posts and podcasts of his. I found in his blog posts he firmly denounced racism and believes that every one should be treated equally because of our shared humanity. I am also aware of a faculty petition letter for his removal as Senior Vice President because of presumed no confidence in his role in tenure, promotion and funding decisions. I personally found this likens to presumption of guilt without evidence. In his 8 year tenure, no complaint has been filed on his bias or discrimination in tenure, promotion and funding decisions. So this kind of extreme action toward a colleague is counter-productive to building a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus. [REDACTED] I am aware of suppression suffered by the people of Asian heritage in the past. I am appalled by the groundless attack on an Asian leader in the name of diversity, equity and inclusion. What we need is calm and constructive dialogues on campus to bring positive changes. Thank you very much for your time.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, June 13, 2020 5:08 PM
Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Plea concerning the petition to remove Stephen Hsu

Dear President Stanley:

I write concerning the recent petition to remove Steve Hsu from his position as VP for Research and Innovation at MSU.

Before getting into the specifics of the accusations against Hsu, I would first like to make a broad point about the great potential for you as a leader at MSU, today. We are clearly at a difficult moment, one which will require serious, sustained, and difficult inquiry into complex and troubling topics. As has been said often, "we need to have difficult conversations." Such conversations cannot be had, and indeed solutions to complex problems cannot be discovered, if certain viewpoints or positions are restricted from the conversation or if people expressing controversial views are silenced or otherwise removed from participating. As a first order, to do so is to assume the answer to the question up front and ensures that we will arrive at (at best) incomplete answers to complex questions.

More important, however, is that *the* core values of educational institutions and of scientific discovery are the values of free inquiry and free expression. These are the values that separate the scientific approach from other ways of knowing the world, such as politics or religion. Indeed, the principles of free inquiry and free expression are the cornerstones of enlightenment philosophy and of a fully democratic society. Without them, what is left is authoritarianism, mob rule, or mere traditionalism.

Especially in times of turmoil and trouble, these principles must be upheld — unequivocally and forcefully.

****You have the unique opportunity in this moment to show the kind of leadership that is needed for an institution of higher learning.**** You have the opportunity, right now, to center free inquiry and free expression as the core values of the institutions and show how they align with the other values that you have spent much time promoting. Indeed, the voices demanding Hsu's removal are exactly wrong in pitting diversity and inclusion against free inquiry and freedom of speech. (E.g., "if you are serious about diversity, you must remove Hsu.") Instead, the most inclusive and the best opportunities for diversity occur under conditions of free inquiry, because such a philosophy demands that everyone have a seat at the table and that arguments are evaluated for their quality rather than the person expressing them (as in authoritarian or traditionalist modes). Free inquiry is the MOST democratic and MOST inclusive mode of engaging with the world; in contrast, mob rule and exclusion of people who express minority viewpoints are exactly the modes that have been used to suppress vulnerable groups throughout history.

To remove Hsu for holding controversial views or for inquiring about controversial topics, regardless of the size of the mob demanding he be removed, would be to capitulate to the base desires of humans — the exclusion and ostracism of minority positions. It would also be to set a precedent that is dangerous, inconsistent with the principles of higher education, and ultimately unsustainable.

I know you have received letters and signatures in recent days calling for Hsu's removal. I am confident you will receive letters in support of Hsu in the upcoming days. Please keep in mind that those of us who support him are only now learning about the calls to have him removed, and so we are working several days behind those who want to see him removed. It does not mean we do not exist on campus.

Now, to the accusations against Hsu.

*First, I note that there are ZERO cases of bias or discrimination alleged against Hsu during his tenure as VP for Research. This reveals the absurdity of the critiques against Hsu, which in part center around two related claims: "because he has views that differ from mine, he cannot treat me fairly" and "because he controls resources, I cannot voice disagreement with him." This is outright slander for which there is no concrete evidence. In stark contrast, when I approached his office asking for some research funds in [REDACTED] (more on this below), he spent the first 20 minutes of our conversation in vigorous and informed debate about the topic at hand -- and although I disagreed with him on several points, he gladly funded the research because he saw merits in it. In fact, rather than being dismissive or silencing, Hsu is without question the most open person I have encountered on MSU's campus. He loves discussion, he takes his opponents' positions seriously, and he does so in a fair manner with integrity. The notion that he is necessarily biased or unable to carry out his responsibilities fairly HAS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER. Indeed, looking at the letters and tweets on this topic, NO evidence has been presented to indicate unfairness on his part. Therefore, to remove Hsu from his position would be a gross capitulation to unsupported rumors and character assassination.

*Second, regarding the claims that Hsu holds "racist" views: A closer look at the evidence supposedly presented makes it clear that Hsu's critics are being at best unfair and at worst deliberately misleading. As a common definition, to be racist is to deny the humanity of a person or group based on their race. There is no evidence whatsoever that Hsu has ever demeaned a person or group of people based on their race. The following evidence is purportedly offered as proof of Hsu's racism:

1. MSU GEU claims that one of Hsu's blog posts is evidence that he believes in "innate differences in intelligence based on race" and points to a post from Jan 22 2008. Read the post carefully. Not only does Hsu make NO claim in innate differences in intelligence, he EXPLICITLY STATES THE OPPOSITE: "There is no strong evidence for specific gene variants (alleles) that lead to group differences (differences between clusters) in behavior or intelligence." Thus the GEU is intentionally misrepresenting Hsu's position as a means of smearing him as a racist.

2. MSU GEU claims that the following points are evidence of Hsu's racism: "Hsu is against removing standardized tests like the GRE & SAT because he believes they measure cognitive ability & that lack of Black & Hispanic representation in higher ed reflects lower ability, despite evidence these tests negatively impact diversity." This is consistent with other tweets from the GEU that any belief in "cognitive differences between races" indicates racism. In fact, it is without question among psychometricians who study ability tests that (1) the GRE and SAT do in fact measure cognitive ability, in large part; and (2) racial differences in cognitive ability tests reflect actual distributional differences and do NOT testing bias (regardless of the origins of those differences, on which we are silent). This is as close to "settled science" as virtually anything in psychology and testing can provide. Once again: The belief that standardized tests measure something real and that there are observable differences across racial groups is an absolutely uncontroversial position among scholars studying these tests.

3. MSU GEU claims evidence of Hsu's racism in that "Hsu's office appears to have directed funding to research downplaying racism in bias in police shootings." [REDACTED] First,

this is **UNEQUIVOCALLY FALSE** – Hsu supported research to study the factors related to fatal police shootings, whatever those research outcomes might have been. Hsu did **NOT** fund research "to downplay racism." When Hsu funded this research, [REDACTED] did not have any answers to the questions and therefore he could not have directed funding "to downplay racism." Moreover, what the GEU appears to not understand is that we cannot and do not know the answers to questions up front, and we must let the data take us where it does. Whether racism on the part of police officers plays a role in fatal police shootings is not a statement of the world to be taken as a priori fact – it is an empirical claim that requires evidence and that may or may not be true.

4. The GEU and faculty signatories use a variety of "smear by association" tactics, which should be beneath people who are supposed to be intellectual leaders at a university. Thus the fact that Hsu spoke with people like Ron Unz or Stefan Molyneux is beside the point.

5. As a general point: The nature and origins of differences across groups is a complicated and difficult set of questions. There are few settled answers and there will be no single answer to understand these topics. To suggest that people who hold controversial positions within these topics should be removed or otherwise silenced is to presume the answer and fall prey to the moralistic fallacy – that what we want to be true, must be true. This is antithetical to the mission of a university.

There is no question that the push for racial justice and equal rights has been and continues to be a noble and important cause. In the narrow case, removing Hsu from his position will in no way advance this cause. In the general case, removing Hsu will do permanent damage to the university and will undermine the core values that we must uphold.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: Hsu, Stephen
Subject: Twitter attack on Dr. Hsu

Hello Dr. Stanley

I write to encourage you to publicly support a member of the MSU administration Steve Hsu that is currently being maliciously and falsely attacked on Twitter. Steve is a kind and decent man that should be held up as among the best of what academia produces, not vilified and attacked. To let this baseless attack succeed would be a loss for MSU and the people of the State of Michigan.

<https://twitter.com/GradEmpUnion/status/1270853332807096369>

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 10:42 AM
To: [REDACTED] Hsu, Stephen
Cc: Stanley, Samuel; Jeitschko, Thomas; Largent, Mark
Subject: Re: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Hi [REDACTED]

I am told that this [REDACTED] is responsible for the github petition and should be contacted to have one's name removed. I have emailed him to ask to have my name removed but have not heard back.

Best, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 10:30 AM
To: Stephen Hsu [REDACTED]
Cc: "Stanley, Samuel" [REDACTED] "Jeitschko, Thomas" [REDACTED] Mark Largent <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fwd: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Hi Steve,

Just so you are aware, my name was faked on this as well. I support you and academic freedom.

[REDACTED] thank you for calling this out, and to Thomas and Mark for bringing it to my attention.

I would like to know how to publicly refute this. Perhaps we can [REDACTED]

From: Jeitschko, Thomas <jeitschko@msu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020, 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

Hi [REDACTED]

I wanted to share this with you.

Thomas D. Jeitschko
Dean of the Graduate School and
Associate Provost for Graduate Education

Michigan State University
Chittenden Hall
466 W. Circle Drive, Room 212
East Lansing, MI 48824-1044
Phone: (517) 353-3220
(he/him/his)

From: Jeitschko, Thomas
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

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466 W. Circle Drive, Room 212
East Lansing, MI 48824-1044
Phone: (517) 353-3220
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 9:53 AM
To: Hsu, Stephen <[REDACTED]>; Gage, Douglas <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Largent, Mark <[REDACTED]>; Jeitschko, Thomas <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

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Date: Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 9:33 AM
To: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: My Name Faked on the Petition to Fire Steve Hsu

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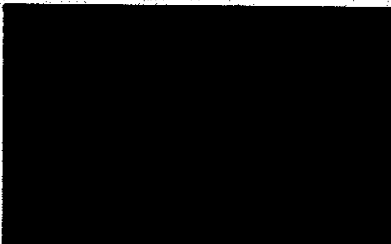
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Best, [REDACTED]



From: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
Reply-To: "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 at 7:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Black Lives Matter and police accountability



To the Spartan Community:

Since I last wrote to you, we have continued to witness nationwide protests, rallies and an intense focus on systematic racism, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement. The horrific abuse and deaths of Black Americans cannot continue, and we all must demand answers and accountability. At MSU, we have a responsibility to uphold our values and a duty to honor them.

Since my arrival at MSU last August, my top priority has been to foster a respectful, welcoming, supportive and, above all, safe campus. Given the incidents of the past month, governments, institutions and the public are questioning the conduct of their law enforcement agencies, so it's an appropriate time to share some of the policies governing the MSU Police Department.

Last year, MSUPD implemented a stand-alone policy on fair and impartial policing. Recent events and amplified calls nationally for law enforcement reform prompted an additional review of department policies. I am pleased to report that the list below matches the national calls to action to help minimize harm caused by police units. MSUPD already practices six of the eight policies below, and has now adapted the other two:

1. Ban chokeholds and strangleholds in non-deadly force situations: MSUPD does not train its officers in such restraint procedures and has now incorporated this point into explicit policy.
2. Require officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance and otherwise eliminating the need to use force
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MSU calls on law enforcement leaders in our mid-Michigan community and across the state to adopt such policies as well.

Accountability and service

For the past 20 years, the MSUPD has equipped its patrol vehicles with audio/video equipment and, in 2015, added body-worn cameras for all uniformed officers to enhance accountability and transparency.

The MSUPD was among the first university-based departments in the country in 2016 to establish an Inclusion and Anti-Bias Unit to improve community relationships and support its community policing efforts. The unit strives to increase trust by listening to community concerns and finding positive methods to solve issues through communication strategies and training and by focusing on four tenets: education, community outreach, bias incident response and consultations.

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The MSUPD plans to post its policies online this year and is working to determine the best way to collect citizen contact demographic data, to increase accountability.

The MSUPD is also a member of Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT), a 20-year-old voluntary group coordinated by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. Members of ALPACT include law enforcement, community, advocacy, and civil rights leaders. The mission is to examine issues affecting police and community relations and community partnership programs, as well as discriminatory enforcement of laws, such as racial profiling, police use of force.

I hope our society has finally achieved a tipping point where Black Lives Matter is acknowledged without equivocation and where all people are treated humanely and equally under the law on the street as well as in our legal texts. I call on all Spartans to support these aspirations, which, after all, reflect the core values of this university.

Sincerely,



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter regarding Stephen Hsu
Attachments: Steve_Hsu_June_2020.pdf

Dear Pres. Stanley,

Thank you for your leadership of the university during these difficult times. I have attached a short letter that I have written regarding Stephen Hsu.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

June 13, 2020

Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

Dear President Stanley,

The two weeks since the murder of George Floyd has become a time of awakening in America about racism and its pernicious effect on society. We have reflected individually on how to negate our internal biases, and we have discussed together how to make society more inclusive. On Wednesday we had such a discussion online among students, postdocs, and faculty [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

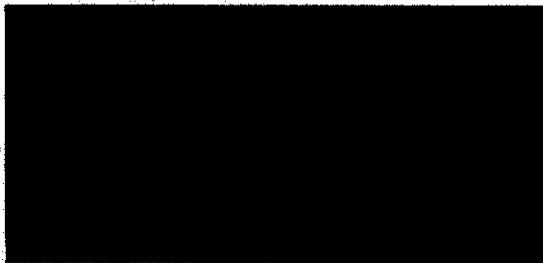
I am optimistic about the future. There is a lot of energy and many creative ideas for positive change. However, we must also be mindful that this positive energy is being used for change that is indeed positive.

Yesterday, I learned of an effort to remove Steve Hsu from his position as Vice President for Research and Innovation at Michigan State. This complaint stems primarily from several podcasts and blog posts that make some uncomfortable. I am also uncomfortable with some of the podcasts and blog posts. However, I have known Steve for over [REDACTED] years, and the implied representation of his character is neither fair nor correct.

I know that Steve strongly believes in the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and their benefit to society. He has spent his career working with people from diverse racial and gender backgrounds and provided opportunities, resources, and personal support for many researchers from underrepresented groups at Michigan State to succeed. Steve believes that the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are robust and scientifically sound. Like the laws of nature, they stand up to scrutiny. The more open scientific discussion and information, the stronger the evidence and sounder the argument.

There are good intentions underlying the petition against Steve. However, the remedy they seek is extreme and does damage to the principles of academic freedom. A fair evaluation calls for an open and thoughtful discussion on social media accounts for university administrators and the treatment of controversial topics which can be polarizing.

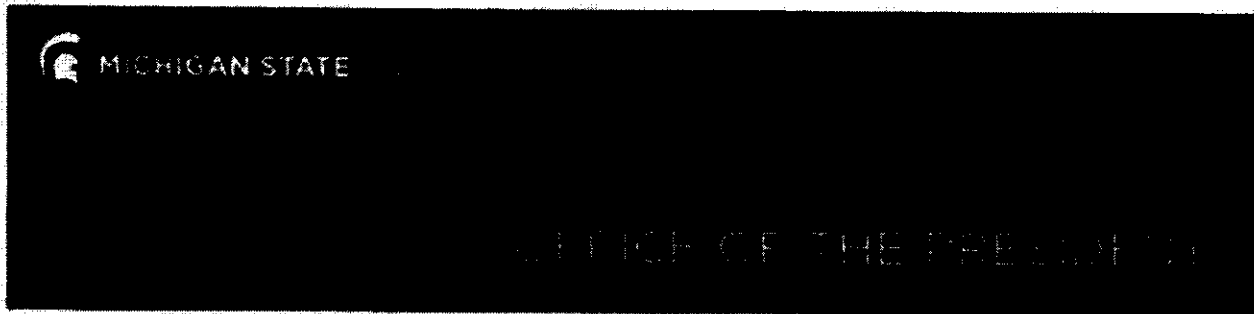
Sincerely yours,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:11 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Re: Black Lives Matter and police accountability

What about Stephen Hsu and his record of racist remarks and support for eugenics?
Regards,
[REDACTED]

On Jun 12, 2020 19:48, "Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President" [REDACTED] wrote:



To the Spartan Community:

Since I last wrote to you, we have continued to witness nationwide protests, rallies and an intense focus on systematic racism, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement. The horrific abuse and deaths of Black Americans cannot continue, and we all must demand answers and accountability. At MSU, we have a responsibility to uphold our values and a duty to honor them.

Since my arrival at MSU last August, my top priority has been to foster a respectful, welcoming, supportive and, above all, safe campus. Given the incidents of the past month, governments, institutions and the public are questioning the conduct of their law enforcement agencies, so it's an appropriate time to share some of the policies governing the MSU Police Department.

Last year, MSUPD implemented a stand-alone policy on fair and impartial policing. Recent events and amplified calls nationally for law enforcement reform prompted an additional review of department policies. I am pleased to report that the list below matches the national calls to action to help minimize harm caused by police units. MSUPD already practices six of the eight policies below, and has now adapted the other two:

1. Ban chokeholds and strangleholds in non-deadly force situations: **MSUPD does not train its officers in such restraint procedures and has now incorporated this point into explicit policy.**
2. Require officers to de-escalate situations, where possible, by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance and otherwise eliminating the need to use force
3. Require officers to give a verbal warning, when possible, before shooting at a civilian
4. Require officers to exhaust all other reasonable means before resorting to deadly force

5. Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and to report any such incidents immediately to a supervisor. This expectation is now made explicit in department policy.
6. Restrict officers from shooting at moving vehicles, which is regarded as a particularly dangerous and ineffective tactic.
7. Develop a force continuum that limits the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to specific kinds of resistance.
8. Require officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians.

MSU calls on law enforcement leaders in our mid-Michigan community and across the state to adopt such policies as well.

Accountability and service

For the past 20 years, the MSUPD has equipped its patrol vehicles with audio/video equipment and, in 2015, added body-worn cameras for all uniformed officers to enhance accountability and transparency.

The MSUPD was among the first university-based departments in the country in 2016 to establish an Inclusion and Anti-Bias Unit to improve community relationships and support its community policing efforts. The unit strives to increase trust by listening to community concerns and finding positive methods to solve issues through communication strategies and training and by focusing on four tenets: education, community outreach, bias incident response and consultations.

The Inclusion and Anti-Bias Unit hosts groups to learn training techniques in de-escalation and potential use of force. It produced a yearly conference on strengthening law enforcement/community relations and seminars to train local law enforcement officers on implicit bias. The unit hosted guest speakers for public events, such as MSU criminal justice associate professor Jennifer Cobbing, who is known for her research on citizen protest and police relations in Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri.

The MSUPD plans to post its policies online this year and is working to determine the best way to collect citizen contact demographic data, to increase accountability.

The MSUPD is also a member of Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT), a 20-year-old voluntary group coordinated by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. Members of ALPACT include law enforcement, community, advocacy, and civil rights leaders. The mission is to examine issues affecting police and community relations and community partnership programs, as well as discriminatory enforcement of laws, such as racial profiling, police use of force.

I hope our society has finally achieved a tipping point where Black Lives Matter is acknowledged without equivocation and where all people are treated humanely and equally under the law on the street as well as in our legal texts. I call on all Spartans to support these aspirations, which, after all, reflect the core values of this university.

Sincerely,

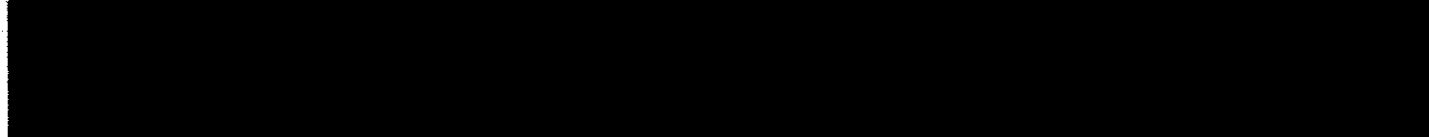
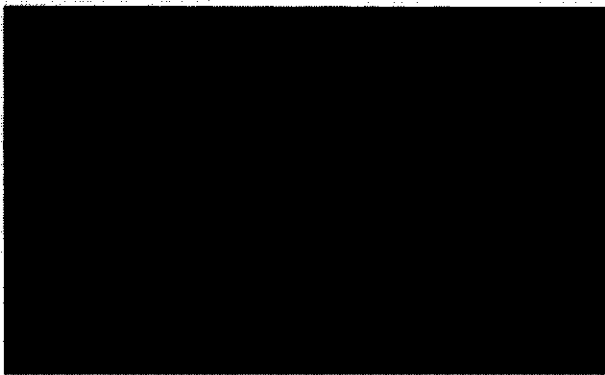


Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

Michigan State University

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 5:59 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu
Attachments: letter June 12 2020.docx

President Stanley,
Please find attached an updated version of the letter, now with 208 signatories.
We eagerly await your response.
Thank you,

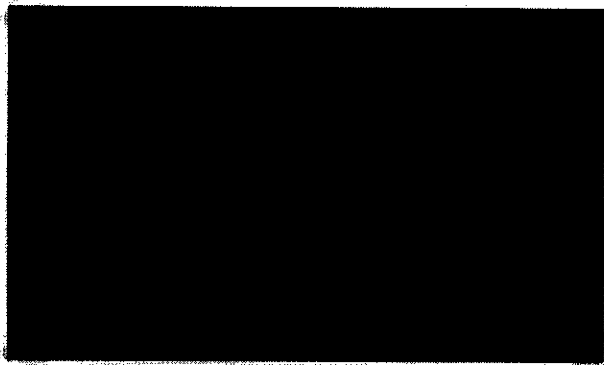


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President [REDACTED]
Cc: Hendrick, Ronald [REDACTED]; Jordan, Rebecca [REDACTED]
Subject: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,
Attached, please find a letter calling for the resignation of Stephen Hsu as Vice President for Research and Innovation, signed by fifty-four faculty and staff, including several department chairs, endowed chairs, and directors. We the faculty are profoundly disturbed by the racist and sexist views held by Dr. Hsu as revealed in a series of blog posts and videos posted to twitter by graduate students over the past two days (which may be seen here: <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>). We believe these views render him unfit for his current position, in light of MSU's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. I would also call your attention to a petition for Dr. Hsu's resignation started by the graduate students, which currently has 157 signatories including faculty, students, and alumni: <https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>

We are counting on you to follow through on your commitment to make MSU an inclusive institution where all faculty, students and staff can feel safe and thrive. We welcome your prompt attention to this matter, and will update you as the letter gains more signatories.

Thank you.



Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

June 11, 2020

Dear President Stanley,

On June 10th, 2020, the Graduate Employees Union posted a series of tweets containing blog posts and statements made over a 12-year period by Stephen Hsu, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation (the thread may be found [here](#)). The statements contain racist and sexist language couched in scientific terms, including beliefs that fewer women and African Americans are qualified to hold academic and other skilled positions, and that systemic racism does not explain differences in accomplishments among Black students. Moreover, the thread also includes video clips of friendly conversations between Hsu and Stefan Molyneux, an open white supremacist and proponent of scientific racism. Hsu also appears to be dabbling in eugenics through his beliefs that embryos may be selected on the basis of genetic intelligence. As detailed in a blog post by an MSU historian of scientific racism, Hsu "heaped praise on a promoter of Holocaust denial on his podcast: clear evidence of Hsu's complete lack of scholarly and intellectual judgement."

Not only do these views ignore the copious social science research on social determinants of intelligence and accomplishments, therefore rendering them suspect in a scholarly sense, it is also deeply disturbing that someone whose role is to allocate funding and provide authoritative input to promotion and tenure cases for faculty in a diverse institution should hold such beliefs. Given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably. Therefore, we believe that he is unfit for the position he currently holds. Michigan State University has made a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we cannot imagine that honoring this commitment is possible with Hsu remaining in his position. We therefore call for his immediate resignation.

Signed,

Laura Schmitt Olabisi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Rebecca Jordan, Professor and Chair, Department of Community Sustainability
Robert B. Richardson, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Ruben Martinez, Professor, Sociology and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute
Rufus Isaacs, Professor, Department of Entomology

Elizabeth M. Gardner, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English

Mark Axelrod, Associate Professor, James Madison College and Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Andaluna Borcila, Associate Professor, James Madison College

Aaron M. McCright, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology

Dan McCole, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Frank A. Fear, Senior Associate Dean and professor emeritus, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Sieglinde Snapp, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences

Maria Claudia Lopez, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Stephanie Nawyn, Department of Sociology

Tom Fernandez, Professor, Department of Horticulture

Michael W. Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Community Sustainability; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences

Meredith L. Gore, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Patricia A. Soranno, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Susan J. Masten, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Heather L. Eisthen, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology

Julian C. Chambliss, Professor, Department of English

Carolyn M. Malmstrom, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology and EEBB

Zarena Aslami, Associate Professor, Department of English

Wynne Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Gideon Bradburd, Assistant Professor, EEBB, Department of Integrative Biology

Jim Smith, Professor Emeritus, Lyman Briggs College/MSU Dept. of Entomology

Wenda Bauchspies, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Amy Ralston, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Kendra Spence Cheruvellil, Professor, Lyman Briggs College/Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife

Laura Chomiuk, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Jay Strader, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Megan Donahue, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

G. Mark Voit, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

David Lowry, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biology

Kristin Mahoney, Associate Professor, Department of English

E. L. McCallum, Professor, Department of English

Brian J. Teppen, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences

Jeffrey C. Wray, Professor, Department of English

Justus Nieland, Professor and Chairperson, Department of English

Stephanie Jordan, Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Information

Salah D. Hassan, Associate Professor, Department of English
Abou Traore, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Amara E. Ezeamama, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
John M. Kerr, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Stephen Gasteyer, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
**Catherine Lindell, Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology/Center for Global
Change and Earth Observations**
**John Norder, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Enrolled Member Spirit
Lake Dakota Tribe**
Kaveh Askari, Associate Professor, Department of English
Emilio F. Moran, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Geography
Erik Skogsberg, Associate Director, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology
Sean Valles, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Philosophy
Margot Behrend Valles, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

June 11, 2020

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Not only do these views ignore the copious social science research on social determinants of intelligence and accomplishments, therefore rendering them suspect in a scholarly sense, it is also deeply disturbing that someone whose role is to allocate funding and provide authoritative input in decisions regarding promotion and tenure cases for faculty in a diverse institution should hold such beliefs. Given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably. Therefore, we believe that he is unfit for the position he currently holds. Michigan State University has made a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we cannot imagine that honoring this commitment is possible with Hsu remaining in his position. We therefore call for his immediate resignation.

Signed,

1. Laura Schmitt Olabisi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
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4. Ruben Martinez, Professor, Sociology and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute
5. Rufus Isaacs, Professor, Department of Entomology
6. Elizabeth M. Gardner, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
7. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English
8. Mark Axelrod, Associate Professor, James Madison College and Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
9. Andaluna Borcila, Associate Professor, James Madison College
10. Anna Pegler-Gordon, Professor, James Madison College
11. Aaron M. McCright, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology
12. Dan McCole, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
13. Frank A. Fear, Senior Associate Dean and professor emeritus, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
14. Sieglinde Snapp, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences
15. Maria Claudia Lopez, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
16. Stephanie Nawyn, Department of Sociology
17. Tom Fernandez, Professor, Department of Horticulture
18. Michael W. Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Community Sustainability; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
19. Meredith L. Gore, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
20. Patricia A. Soranno, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
21. Susan J. Masten, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
22. Heather L. Eisthen, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
23. Julian C. Chambliss, Professor, Department of English
24. Carolyn M. Malmstrom, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology and EEBB
25. Zarena Aslami, Associate Professor, Department of English
26. Wynne Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
27. Gideon Bradburd, Assistant Professor, EEBB, Department of Integrative Biology
28. Jim Smith, Professor Emeritus, Lyman Briggs College/MSU Dept. of Entomology
29. Wenda Bauchspies, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
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31. Kendra Spence Cheruvellil, Professor, Lyman Briggs College/Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife
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49. John Norder, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Enrolled Member Spirit Lake Dakota Tribe
50. Kaveh Askari, Associate Professor, Department of English
51. Emilio F. Moran, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Geography
52. Erik Skogsberg, Associate Director, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology
53. Sean Valles, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Philosophy
54. Margot Behrend Valles, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies
55. Peter White, Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College and the Department of Entomology
56. Vicki Morrone, outreach specialist, Center for Regional Food Systems, Dept of Community Sustainability
57. Gregory A. Lang, Professor, Department of Horticulture
58. Kendra Pyle, Academic Specialist-Advisor, Departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Plant Biology
59. Carole Gibbs, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
60. Jyotsna G. Singh, Professor, Department of English
61. Cris Sullivan, Professor, Psychology Department
62. C.D. DiFonzo, Professor, Department of Entomology
63. Christopher A. Frilingos, Professor, Department of Religious Studies
64. Kristen A. Renn, Professor, Department of Educational Administration
65. Anthony D Kendall, Research Assistant Professor, Earth and Environmental Sciences
66. Eunice F. Foster, Professor, Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences
67. Cara Cilano, Professor, Department of English
68. Joseph A. Hamm, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Environmental Science and Policy Program

69. Sarah W. Fitzpatrick, Assistant Professor, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Department of Integrative Biology
70. Amy DeRogatis, Professor, Department of Religious Studies
71. Robin Silbergeld, Associate Professor, Department of English
72. Larry Leefers, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry
73. John Jackson, Professor, James Madison College
74. Lisa Laughman, MSW, University Physicians Office, Employee Assistance Counselor
75. Dale K Eishoff, Coordinator, MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology
76. Maite Tapia, Assistant Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
77. Kelsey Skinner, Residential Student Conduct Administrator, Residence Education and Housing Services
78. Heather Howard, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
79. Matthew Grieshop, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology
80. Joshua Lam, Assistant Professor, Department of English
81. Laurie Medina, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
82. William C. Wetzel, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
83. Amber Pearson, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Sciences
84. Mariah Meek, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
85. Divya Victor, Assistant Professor, Department of English
86. Amber Benton, Academic Specialist, James Madison College
87. Brendan Cantwell, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Administration
88. Joyce Meier, Associate Professor (fixed-term), Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures
89. Danny Caballero, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy
90. Crystal Eustice, Academic Specialist, Department of Community Sustainability
91. Monir Moniruzzaman, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
92. Kyle Whyte, Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Community Sustainability
93. Andrea Louie, Professor, Department of Anthropology
94. Mark Waddell, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College
95. Kirsten Fermaglich, Associate Professor, Department of History
96. Adam Zwickle, Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Environmental Science and Policy Program, Department of Community Sustainability
97. Andrea Wittenborn, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
98. Yael Aronoff, Associate Professor, James Madison College and the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
99. Eric Aronoff, Associate Professor, The Residential College in the Arts and Humanities
100. Naoko Wake, Associate Professor, Department of History & Lyman Briggs
101. Brendan Mullan, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

102. Vashti Sawtelle, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy & Lyman Briggs College
103. Jerry Caldwell, Academic Specialist, College of Natural Science
104. David R. Ewoldsen, Professor, Department of Media & Information
105. Kathryn Dyjach, Executive Staff Assistant, James Madison College
106. Robert L. LaDuca, Professor, Department of Chemistry & Lyman Briggs College.
107. Peter Alegi, Professor, Department of History, College of Social Science
108. Dustin Petty, Academic Specialist, Liberty Hyde Bailey Scholars Program
109. Claire D. Vallotton, Associate Professor, Human Development & Family Studies
110. Ethan Watrall, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
111. Amy Simon, William and Audrey Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, Assistant Professor, James Madison College, History Department, Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
112. Sarah Reckhow, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
113. Titus Awokuse, Professor and Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
114. Susannah Dorfman, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
115. Leslie D. Gonzales, Associate Professor, Education Administration Department
116. ██████████ Graduate Student, Department of ██████████
117. Michael Everett, Academic Specialist, Department of Community Sustainability
118. Jay Zametske, Assistant Professor, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
119. Tonya Bartell, Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education
120. Fred Dyer, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
121. Alex Allweiss, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
122. Georgina Montgomery, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and the Department of History
123. Linda M. Hunt, Department of Anthropology
124. Susan Wyche, Associate Professor, Department of Media and Information
125. Melanie Cooper, Professor, Department of Chemistry
126. Katherine Alaimo, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
127. Sarah Evans, Assistant Professor, Dept of Integrative Biology
128. Mark Iwen, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics & Dept. of CMSE'
129. Katie Hinko, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy and Lyman Briggs College
130. Bruce Sagan, Full Professor, Department of Mathematics
131. Filomena Nunes, Full Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

132. Cori Fata-Hartley, Academic Specialist, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
133. Cheryl Sisk, University Distinguished Professor, Neuroscience Program and Department of Psychology
134. Helen Veit, Associate Professor, Department of History
135. Laura Yares, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies and the Michael and Elaine Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
136. Wille Wong, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics
137. Maria Porter, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics
138. Gail Richmond, Professor, Department of Teacher Education
139. Teena Gerhardt, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
140. David Mota-Sanchez, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
141. Melissa Fore, Fixed Term Faculty, James Madison College
142. David L. Ortega, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics
143. Yomaira Figueroa, Assistant Professor, Department of English
144. Nancy Rhodes, Associate Professor, Department of Advertising and Public Relations
145. Susan M. Richter, Academic Specialist, Institutional Research
146. Tacuma Peters, Assistant Professor, James Madison College and Department of Philosophy
147. Alyssa Hadley Dunn, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
148. Shahnaz Masani, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
149. Paul Irving, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy
150. Phoebe Zarnetske, Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology
151. Shinhan Shiu, Professor, Department of Plant Biology and Department of Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering
152. Sharon M. Leon, Associate Professor, Department of History, and Digital Humanities
153. Marjorie Weber, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology
154. Michael Wiser, Instructor, Biological Sciences Program
155. Rashida L. Harrison, Assistant Professor, James Madison College
156. Lily Woodruff, Associate Professor, Art, Art History, and Design
157. Joshua Yumibe, Associate Professor, Department of English
158. Raechel Portelli, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Science
159. Jennifer Olson, Associate Professor, Department of Media & Information
160. Mary M. Juzwik, Professor, Departments of Teacher Education and English
161. Christina DeJong, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice
162. Paulette L. Stenzel, Professor Emerita, Broad College of Business
163. Phillip Warsaw, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

164. Amanda Flaim, Assistant Professor, James Madison College & Dept of Sociology
165. Richard Hensh, Senior Teaching Specialist, Department of Mathematics
166. Sandro R. Barros, Assistant Professor, Department of Teacher Education
167. Tamara T. Butler, Assistant Professor, Department of English
168. Emily Josephs, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology
169. Kristie Dotson, Interim Chair, Department of African American and African Studies
170. Richard Lenski, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Departments of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics; Plant, Soil & Microbial Sciences; and Integrative Biology
171. Steve Rohs, Associate Professor, James Madison College.
172. Piotr Piecuch, University Distinguished Professor, MSU Foundation Professor, Department of Chemistry; Adjunct Professor, Department of Physics & Astronomy
173. Emily Conroy-Krutz, Associate Professor, Department of History
174. Milton Smith, Professor, Department of Chemistry
175. April Baker-Bell, Assistant Professor, Department of English
176. LaShawn Harris, Associate Professor of History
177. Nakia D Parker, Research Associate, Department of History
178. Monique D. A. Kelly, Research Associate, Department of Sociology
179. Angela T. Hall, Associate Professor, School of Human Resources and Labor Relations
180. Morgan Shipley, Continuing Academic Specialist, Department of Religious Studies
181. Jualynne E. Dodson, Professor, Department of Sociology, Director, African Atlantic Research Team.
182. Lynmarie A. Posey, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
183. Diane Ebert-May, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Plant Biology
184. Eleanor Louson, Academic Specialist, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology & Lyman Briggs College
185. Warren F. Beck, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry
186. Isaac Record, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
187. Stacey L. Camp, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology & Director of the MSU Campus Archaeology Program
188. Henry Chung, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology
189. Terry Flennaugh, Associate Professor, Department of Teacher Education
190. Dylan Miner, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities and Director, American Indian and Indigenous Studies
191. Lori Seischab, Academic Specialist - Advisor, Department of Physiology
192. Estrella Torrez, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities
193. Arika Ligmann-Zielinska, Associate Professor, College of Social Science, Department of Geography
194. Mark Sullivan, Associate Professor, College of Music, Hub for Innovation in Learning & Technology

195. Ariel Robbins, Academic Specialist, Charles Drew Science Scholars, College of Natural Science
196. Tracey Covassin, Professor, College of Education, Department of Kinesiology
197. Lisa Schwartzman, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
198. Heather Douglas, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy
199. Dan Chitwood, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, Department of Computational Mathematics, Science & Engineering
200. Megan K. Halpern, Assistant Professor, Lyman Briggs College, Center for Interdisciplinarity
201. Max Evjen, Academic Specialist, Department of Theatre, Digital Humanities
202. Julia V. Busik, Professor, Department of Physiology
203. Danielle J. Whittaker, Academic Specialist-Research, Department of Integrative Biology and BEACON Center
204. A. Emiko Blalock, Assistant Professor, Office of Medical Education Research and Development
205. James Geiger, Professor, Department of Chemistry
206. Marisa Brandt, Academic Specialist, Lyman Briggs College
207. Danny Méndez, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters, Department of Romance and Classical Studies
208. Robyn Bluhm, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Lyman Briggs College

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Friday, June 12, 2020 2:24 PM

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President; Office of the Provost; MSU; Woodruff, Teresa
Open Letter for the resignation of Stephen Hsu

Hello President Stanley, Interim Provost Sullivan, and Provost Designate Woodruff

First, Dr Woodruff, I would like to say I wish our [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the betterment of the MSU community.

You may have already received correspondence from MSU faculty regarding their open letter calling for the resignation of Dr. Stephen Hsu. [Here](#) [REDACTED] and provide you below with some additional context.

On Wednesday, June 10th, many members of the MSU research community participated in a call from Black scholars in academia to #ShutDownAcademia for one day to focus on issues of racial justice in the academy.

As part of this international movement, [REDACTED] faculty and graduate students here at Michigan State University concerning Stephen Hsu, the current Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation. They expressed their fears and concerns about Hsu's repeated racist, eugenical, sexist, and unethical statements and actions. A long history of such statements and actions is detailed [here](#). This pattern of behavior makes him, [REDACTED] unfit to direct the research funding, promotion and tenure, and research priorities of Michigan State University. We outline three key reasons why.

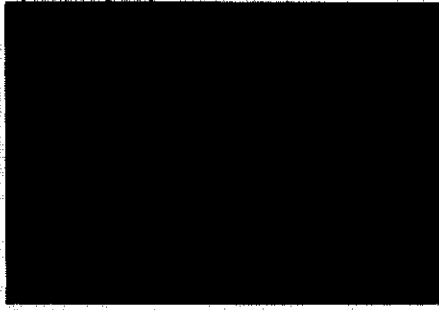
1. Hsu's views are unscientific and racist. Hsu believes, explicitly, that Black Americans have overall lower IQ than non-Black Americans, and that this difference is caused not by a history of systemic racism and oppression but instead by innate biological differences. This is in direct opposition to the American Society of Human Genetics. Furthermore, his views and his company, GenomicPrediction, are not based on sound science. Geneticists have been outspoken about his company and the flaws in its approach.
2. Hsu's power over university funding makes faculty afraid to speak out against his racist views. As a professor and as an individual, Hsu is free to make whatever statements he wishes, however biased, racist, or irresponsible they may be. However, as Senior VP, he is a direct overseer of which faculty members receive funding—therefore, faculty who oppose his views are afraid to speak out against him for fear of retaliation. This means faculty at MSU are afraid of rebutting racist and unethical scientific statements, perpetuating MSU's dark history of silence and complicity [REDACTED] institution.
3. Hsu has shown an inability to hold his own research to the ethical standards which he currently oversees. As Senior VP of Research and Innovation, Hsu is in part responsible for overseeing conflicts of interest. However, [REDACTED] he certainly should not be trusted to oversee conflict of interest for an entire R1 research university.

Given Hsu's history of blatant racism and eugenics, his creation of a toxic university culture of silence, and his inability to hold himself to the standards of the job, we find Stephen Hsu unfit to continue in his current position.

[REDACTED]

therefore call for Stephen Hsu's immediate resignation as Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation.

Thank you.



From: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:31 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: FW: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu
Attachments: letter June 11 2020.docx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:46 PM
To: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: faculty call for resignation of Stephen Hsu

President Stanley,

Attached, please find a letter calling for the resignation of Stephen Hsu as Vice President for Research and Innovation, signed by fifty-four faculty and staff, including several department chairs, endowed chairs, and directors. We the faculty are profoundly disturbed by the racist and sexist views held by Dr. Hsu as revealed in a series of blog posts and videos posted to twitter by graduate students over the past two days (which may be seen here: <https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1270829003130261504.html>). We believe these views render him unfit for his current position, in light of MSU's ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. I would also call your attention to a petition for Dr. Hsu's resignation started by the graduate students, which currently has 157 signatories including faculty, students, and alumni: <https://firestephenhsu.github.io/>

We are counting on you to follow through on your commitment to make MSU an inclusive institution where all faculty, students and staff can feel safe and thrive. We welcome your prompt attention to this matter, and will update you as the letter gains more signatories.

Thank you,

Office of the President
Michigan State University
426 Auditorium Road
Hannah Administration Building, Room 450
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

June 11, 2020

Dear President Stanley,

On June 10th, 2020, the Graduate Employees Union posted a series of tweets containing blog posts and statements made over a 12-year period by Stephen Hsu, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation (the thread may be found [here](#)). The statements contain racist and sexist language couched in scientific terms, including beliefs that fewer women and African Americans are qualified to hold academic and other skilled positions, and that systemic racism does not explain differences in accomplishments among Black students. Moreover, the thread also includes video clips of friendly conversations between Hsu and Stefan Molyneux, an open white supremacist and proponent of scientific racism. Hsu also appears to be dabbling in eugenics through his beliefs that embryos may be selected on the basis of genetic intelligence. As detailed in a blog post by an MSU historian of scientific racism, Hsu "heaped praise on a promoter of Holocaust denial on his podcast; clear evidence of Hsu's complete lack of scholarly and intellectual judgement."

Not only do these views ignore the copious social science research on social determinants of intelligence and accomplishments, therefore rendering them suspect in a scholarly sense, it is also deeply disturbing that someone whose role is to allocate funding and provide authoritative input to promotion and tenure cases for faculty in a diverse institution should hold such beliefs. Given the significant evidence assembled by the GEU, we do not have confidence in Stephen Hsu's ability to treat all faculty, students and staff fairly and equitably. Therefore, we believe that he is unfit for the position he currently holds. Michigan State University has made a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we cannot imagine that honoring this commitment is possible with Hsu remaining in his position. We therefore call for his immediate resignation.

Signed,

Laura Schmitt Olabisi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Rebecca Jordan, Professor and Chair, Department of Community Sustainability
Robert B. Richardson, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Ruben Martinez, Professor, Sociology and Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute
Rufus Isaacs, Professor, Department of Entomology

Elizabeth M. Gardner, Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Director of Digital Humanities and Professor of English

Mark Axelrod, Associate Professor, James Madison College and Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Andaluna Borcia, Associate Professor, James Madison College

Aaron M. McCright, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Sociology

Dan McCole, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Frank A. Fear, Senior Associate Dean and professor emeritus, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Sieglinde Snapp, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences

Maria Claudia Lopez, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Stephanie Nawyn, Department of Sociology

Tom Fernandez, Professor, Department of Horticulture

Michael W. Hamm, C.S. Mott Professor of Sustainable Agriculture, Department of Community Sustainability; Food Science and Human Nutrition; Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences

Meredith L. Gore, Associate Professor, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Patricia A. Soranno, Professor, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Susan J. Masten, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Heather L. Elsthen, Professor, Department of Integrative Biology

Julian C. Chambliss, Professor, Department of English

Carolyn M. Malmstrom, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Biology and EEBB

Zarena Aslami, Associate Professor, Department of English

Wynne Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Gideon Bradburd, Assistant Professor, EEBB, Department of Integrative Biology

Jim Smith, Professor Emeritus, Lyman Briggs College/MSU Dept. of Entomology

Wenda Bauchspies, Associate Professor, Department of Community Sustainability

Amy Ralston, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Kendra Spence Cheruvellil, Professor, Lyman Briggs College/Dept of Fisheries & Wildlife

Laura Chomiuk, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Jay Strader, Associate Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Megan Donahue, University Distinguished Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

G. Mark Volt, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy

David Lowry, Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Biology

Kristin Mahoney, Associate Professor, Department of English

E. L. McCallum, Professor, Department of English

Brian J. Teppen, Professor, Department of Plant Soil and Microbial Sciences

Jeffrey C. Wray, Professor, Department of English

Justus Nieland, Professor and Chairperson, Department of English

Stephanie Jordan, Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Information

Salah D. Hassan, Associate Professor, Department of English
Abou Traore, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Amara E. Ezeamama, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry
John M. Kerr, Professor, Department of Community Sustainability
Stephen Gasteyer, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
**Catherine Lindell, Associate Professor, Department of Integrative Biology/Center for Global
Change and Earth Observations**
**John Norder, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Enrolled Member Spirit
Lake Dakota Tribe**
Kaveh Askari, Associate Professor, Department of English
Emilio F. Moran, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor, Department of Geography
Erik Skogsberg, Associate Director, Hub for Innovation in Learning and Technology
Sean Valles, Associate Professor, Lyman Briggs College and Department of Philosophy
Margot Behrend Valles, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies

From: Zeig, Michael
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 10:30 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: FW: RE The Graduate Employee Union Call for VPRI Hsu's Firing

From: Curry, Theodore <curryt@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 5:24 PM
To: Zeig, Michael <zeigmich@pres.msu.edu>
Subject: FW: RE The Graduate Employee Union Call for VPRI Hsu's Firing

Mike,

Sam should be aware of this, if he isn't already.

Terry

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 2:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]

Curry, Theodore

Russell, Paulette

Lewis, Kathryn

Subject: RE The Graduate Employee Union Call for VPRI Hsu's Firing

Hello [REDACTED] Kathy, Paulette, BJ, and Terry,

[REDACTED] on campus, John Jackson in James Madison College (a historian of scientific racism), has written an entry on his blog about the history/present of the Alt Right, in which he contextualizes the Graduate Employees Union's new call to fire the MSU VPRI, Dr. Stephen Hsu.

[REDACTED] That a Senior Vice President of [REDACTED] has "heaped praise on a promoter of Holocaust denial" is shameful, and the additional context in this post only makes Hsu's conduct look even more reprehensible and part of a long pattern.

<https://altrightorigins.com/2020/06/11/tin-foil-hats-holocaust-denial/>

[REDACTED] To be clear, this is a problem that has been simmering since Dr. Hsu's hiring. When he was hired, campus who knew of Hsu's eugenics-leaning (to say the least) research and advocacy, immediately [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] asking some version of 'have you seen who they hired?!' To be [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Dr. Hsu has always [REDACTED] moral repugnance.

I do not know how and how much (if at all) each of you have been dealing with the GEU demand, but I am sending this message since I think having some additional context helps to show the solid grounding of the GEU's calls. It is not mere opportunism in a moment of international crisis. Hsu's academic work and public communication (e.g. his blog) have always been in direct conflict with diversity, equity, and inclusion. This has been somewhere between an open secret and a scandal for MSU for years, and Hsu has seemingly only gotten more brazen over time. I very much hope that MSU will give the GEU request (which came as a surprise to me) the uptake it very much deserves. [REDACTED] so much better than this.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Stanley, Samuel
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Guerrant, Emily
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Guerrant, Emily <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:53:56 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

No, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Stanley, Samuel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:42 PM
To: Guerrant, Emily <emilyg@msu.edu>
Subject: Re: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 11, 2020, at 1:33 PM, Guerrant, Emily <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I have two media inquiries today on the GEU tweets and calls for his removal. The social media chatter is continuing on this topic and growing since last night.

[REDACTED] but we never had any media outreach and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image001.png>

Emily Gerkin Guerrant

Vice President and University Spokesperson

408 West Circle Dr., Room 401B | East Lansing, MI 48824

Office: 517.355.3843 | Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

<image002.png>

From:

[REDACTED]
Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:29 AM

Sent:

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President

To:

Stephen Hsu Must Be Fired

Subject:

Dear President Stanley,

Vice President of Research and Innovation Stephen Hsu is a racist who must be removed from his post immediately. His views are a disgusting manipulation of science to justify hatred. These views do not represent the inclusivity and commitment to diversity that MSU should embody. I urge you to take action to remove Mr. Hsu from his post without delay.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Goodwin, Marni
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:15 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel; Nelson, Jesselyn
Subject: Friday - May 22 - Schedule
Attachments: [REDACTED] President's Landon Society Video - Script_NEW3.docx; President's Landon Society Video - Instructions-Final.docx; Agenda Hsu 5-22-20.pdf

9:00 - Steve Hsu

- Steve will call your cell phone
- Agenda attached

10:00 - Wolfgang Bauer

- Wolfgang will call your cell phone

10:30 - Pre-College of Law Board Meeting Phone Call

- Zoom link is in your calendar
- Agenda is attached

11:00 - DEI Discussion (Upscomb, Jackson-Elmoore, Garcia)

- Zoom link is in your calendar

2:00 - Record Landon Society Video - This is on your calendar as a reminder

- Talking Points and instructions attached
- Please record on iPhone and send to Marti Hell or Lyndsay Cook (Lyndsay's cell is: [REDACTED])



Research and Innovation
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Agenda
President Stanley, Senior VP Hsu
May 22, 2020, 9:00 am

- 1. Research re-opening**
- 2. Fall re-opening**
- 3. Foreign influence**

From: Wilbur, Kathleen
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 7:29 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Cc: Hsu, Stephen; Guerrant, Emily; Quinn, Brian
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Beekman, William
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:46 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel
Subject: Minnesota Regent Hsu

Sam -

I thought you'd find this interesting. The article is from the D1 Ticker, a daily college athletics news source. Steve Hsu's brother is a regent at Univ. of Minnesota.

BH

Minnesota Regent Hsu tells SEC Network's Finebaum the current NCAA system is broken and may never return to normal due to the coronavirus. "I can't wait until they start asking members for money, which is probably going to be within the next year." Asked by Finebaum why the NCAA is needed, Hsu observes that the organization has become tone deaf over the decades and adds that the current leadership is "struggling to figure out how they can keep going." Given the NCAA's lack of control and financial interest in FB, Hsu submits that "I wouldn't be surprised to see the Power 5 move away from the NCAA. The only problem is you have all the other parts of the NCAA - the committees and committee after committee that are going to have to realign if something like that happens, but I can totally see it happening because of the pandemic. I think it could happen pretty soon, within the next couple years." Full interview. ([link](#)); The university's response. "Regent Hsu was speaking as an individual during his conversation with Paul Finebaum earlier today, not on behalf of the Board of Regents or the University." ([link](#))

From: Hunt, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Stanley, Samuel; Hsu, Stephen
Cc: Bauer, Wolfgang; Kempel, Leo; Kriser, Lynn; Quinn, Brian; Udpa, Satish; VanAntwerp Shaw, Melanie; Verboncoeur, John
Subject: Confidential / Review of [REDACTED] Project & MoU

President Stanley & Senior Vice President Hsu,

Attached, please find an enhanced version of an MoU draft between Michigan State University and [REDACTED]

[http://www.\[REDACTED\].com](http://www.[REDACTED].com),

The MoU envisions a proposed pilot project to [REDACTED] as suggested by [REDACTED] and the leadership of the MSU College of Engineering. The revised MoU has been reviewed by [REDACTED] leadership, and is acceptable to them. The enhanced MoU has also been reviewed by Ms. Lynn Kriser, Esq. and Ms. Melanie VanAntwerp Shaw, Esq., in the Office of the General Counsel, and reflects their comments as well as my own. [The principal enhancements to the MoU may be found in the final three bullet points in Section II, plus the penultimate bullet point in Section III.]


[REDACTED] Within the Export Controls & Trade Sanctions (ECTS) Office, Ms. Jamie Haberichter, Esq., has checked Lexis-Nexus and other databases, and she reports having found no litigation involving the firm. Additionally, Mr. Rhett Butler of ECTS has checked the names of [REDACTED] officers in Federal restricted parties screening databases, and he too reports having found no matches.

[REDACTED] Please do not hesitate to contact me if you desire additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul

Dr. Paul M. Hunt
Senior Associate Vice President
for Research & Innovation
Professor of Chemistry
Michigan State University



From: Charles Ofria [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Office of the Provost, MSU; Sullivan, Teresa
Cc: Lenski, Richard; Goodman, Erik; Pennock, Robert; Holekamp, Kay; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President
Subject: Funding concern / disagreement with VP Hsu
Attachments: Signed Commitment from VP Hsu- Memorandum 5_20_14BEACON STC Renewal Proposal scanned2014_05_28_14_18_57.pdf; BEACON-Related funding - March 2020.xlsx; Year11FundingRequestSolicitation.pdf

Provost Sullivan,

I am the director and lead PI of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (a \$48 million NSF STC). The co-PI's on this project are CC'd, as is President Stanley.

I provide more information below, but the basic issue is that VP Hsu is [REDACTED] regarding promised internal funding to BEACON that he made as an MSU commitment to the NSF. We would like to speak with you about this matter. I am concerned that these actions [REDACTED] among the 68 MSU faculty that are active participants in BEACON. Moreover, I am worried about [REDACTED]

Here are the details:

We are currently in year ten of the BEACON project and are supposed to shift over to internal MSU funding as of this summer. During the renewal of BEACON five years ago, a major component was the sustainability of the Center post-NSF funding. To support this effort, VP Hsu wrote an MSU commitment letter that I've attached. Now that it is time for MSU to provide the funding, Dr. Hsu [REDACTED]

Here is the relevant paragraph from the commitment letter:

Beginning in 2020, MSU will sustain BEACON's staffing and core operations with \$224,000/year for at least two years, and an additional \$750,000/year to seed fund research projects. This latter amount, based on projected BEACON-related funding of \$7.5 million in 2019-20, will scale commensurate with BEACON's performance in externally funded research at MSU in the post-STC period. Both commitments are extendable to at least 2025 so long as BEACON's external funding continues at a level near \$10 million/year.

BEACON has helped generate over \$32 million in currently-active funding at MSU (over \$9 million/year - spreadsheet attached), plus an addition \$12.7 million in gifts or bequests to support the center. Dr. Hsu claims that none of this funding should count; he wants to only count money that starts after BEACON ends, and thus claims we have \$0 in BEACON-related funding at this time. This position is [REDACTED] including what was presented to the NSF, both verbally and in writing. Deans Kempel and Duxbury have tried to argue on our behalf, and seem to [REDACTED]

I am especially frustrated because I had a meeting with Dr Hsu on November 26, 2019 to ensure that everything was going fine with the internal support, see if he had any specific requests for how the money was given out, and make sure that I could make commitments to staff and put out the call for internal funding requests. He assured me everything was fine and said that we'd have a better idea on how to most effectively give out the money to continue to promote

successful grant activity. At that point we assembled and sent out the call for proposals (which have since been submitted and we are supposed to soon provide funding results). I've also attached that call.

On December 9th, Dr. Hsu's office asked us how the internal funding commitment was supposed to be split up between parties. We were never privy to such information and assumed his office had taken care of such details before signing the commitment letter to the NSF. We didn't hear anything else over the holidays, but then on January 22nd the VP's office requested a meeting to talk about the BEACON commitment. Since he wanted Deans Kempel and Duxbury at this meeting it took a while to schedule and we finally had it last week (Feb 26th). It was only the day before the meeting that I was finally able to even get an agenda about the topics and found out that Dr. Hsu was trying to cut our funding so substantially.

When the meeting time arose, I came with two of my co-PIs (Drs. Richard Lenski and Kay Holekamp) and was told that the VP wanted to speak with me and the deans privately. I insisted that they stay and was glad that I did, since the meeting was basically VP Hsu [REDACTED] a substantially reduced amount of funding. He also insisted that the conversation he had with Erik Goodman (the BEACON director at the time of the renewal) fully reflected his view on the process and that since I wasn't there I couldn't argue otherwise. At the time I pushed back that I was at the meeting where this agreement was presented to the NSF, which DID reflect our view on the matter. When I finally did talk with Dr. Goodman after the meeting he very clearly confirmed that the first two years of funding were supposed to be at \$750k of research funds per year (plus \$224k for operating costs), with any adjustments occurring after that based on BEACON-related research productivity.

This issue has become [REDACTED] As I've talked with others in the BEACON leadership about the current situation, several people [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I've convinced everyone to hold off until we talk with you, but funding decisions need to be made for our internal BEACON awards on March 24th, so we're pressed up against a deadline. [REDACTED]

In any case, we would very much appreciate being able to have a meeting with you in the near future to figure out the best way to proceed. We need your assistance in getting this commitment honored as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Dr. Charles Ofria
Professor of Computer Science & Engineering
President, International Society for Artificial Life
Director, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action
Michigan State University
<http://www.cse.msu.edu/~ofria/> (517 884-2562)

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. Erik Goodman, Director, BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action
From: Stephen D. H. Hsu, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies [REDACTED]
Re: BEACON STC Renewal Proposal
Date: May 20, 2014

Michigan State University strongly supports the renewal of the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action. During its first four years, BEACON has demonstrated exemplary value to the university and to the fields of evolutionary biology and evolutionary applications. So long as BEACON is renewed, the university will provide substantial resources to meet its needs for space, student support, faculty hires, flexible funding, and to sustain it beyond the period of NSF support.

First, in recognition of BEACON's surpassing its expected growth in membership, productivity, and leveraging of resources, the university is exploring the possibility of allocating new space adjacent to the current BEACON headquarters, approximately doubling its size. This new space will accommodate more of its diverse and interdisciplinary students and postdoctoral researchers and provide room for the growing collaborations between industrial visitors and BEACON's researchers involved in knowledge transfer.

Second, in addition to senior faculty already recruited to the Colleges of Natural Science and Engineering at BEACON's request, the university will target junior faculty lines and additional senior lines in these and other colleges to strengthen BEACON. Furthermore, Michigan State University will provide \$2,575,000 in cash cost-share direct costs through contributions from the Office of the Provost, Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Dean of the Graduate School, and the participating colleges and departments. These funds will be used to support fellowships, research assistants, postdoctoral researchers, sabbatical visitors, and BEACON staff during the transition to sustainability mode.

Michigan State University intends to support BEACON beyond its 10-year STC funding. Beginning in 2020, MSU will sustain BEACON's staffing and core operations with \$224,000/year for at least two years, and an additional \$750,000/year to seed fund research projects. This latter amount, based on projected BEACON-related funding of \$7.5 million in 2019-20, will scale commensurate with BEACON's performance in externally funded research at MSU in the post-STC period. Both commitments are extendable to at least 2025 so long as BEACON's external funding continues at a level near \$10 million/year. The seed funds can be used to support the MSU portion of new seed research projects undertaken jointly with the partner universities.

All of BEACON's partners have also submitted letters to Michigan State University indicating their continuing support of BEACON for five more years, including a sizeable new commitment at University of Texas Austin. Continuing cooperation with the partners will be encouraged after 2020. Some partners are already installing mechanisms to facilitate the formation of new joint seed projects in addition to continuing work on research areas already established during BEACON's STC funding.

Michigan State University is firmly committed to BEACON's continuing success.



Office of the
**VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH
AND GRADUATE
STUDIES**

Stephen Hsu
Vice President

Human Administration Bldg.
420 Auditorium Rd., Rm 249
East Lansing, MI 48824

517/355-0306
Fax: 517/432-1171

Author(s)**Title**

Cedric Gondro; Wolfgang Banzhaf
 Ronald C Averill; Kalyanmoy Deb; Erik
 David Goodman; Alejandro R. Diaz

Novel methods to increase the accuracy of
 genomic prediction using sequence data
 UHD-SoS: Enabling Design of Ultra High
 Definition Structure of Structures

Kalyanmoy Deb
 Dhish Saxena; Gondi Kondalah
 Ananthasuresh; Kalyanmoy Deb; Erik
 David Goodman
 Richard Lenski; Kyle Joseph Card

A ML based methodology to obtain an explainable
 and meaningful interpretation of trained DNN
 INNOVIZATION: Discovery of Innovative
 Knowledge through Optimization and Machine
 Learning
 2017 HHMI Gilliam Fellow

Ari Strandburg-Peshkin; Kay E. Holekamp;
 Frants Jensen; Andrew Gersick

Communication and the coordination of collective
 behavior across spatial scales in animal societies
 An Experimental Test of the Roles of Standing
 Genetic Variation and De Novo Mutations on the
 Rate of Adaptive Evolution

Minako Izutsu

Pastoralist communities as a potential source of
 Toxoplasma gondii infection in a wild carnivore
 and effects on host behavior and survival

Zachary Laubach; Kay E. Holekamp

Modeling the evolutionary emergence of diverse
 microbial metabolisms

Chris Klausmeier; Elena Litchman

Biochemical, Genomic and Computational
 Analysis of Transcriptional Repression

David Amstutz

A novel combination therapy to treat biofilm-based
 pneumonia infections

Chris Waters

Uncovering the first 5'-pGpG signaling system
 A Novel Combination Therapy to Targeting
 Biofilms in Diabetic Foot Ulcer

Chris Waters

Chris Waters

Sf6 as a model system for understanding the
 mechanisms of virus: host recognition

Kristin Parent

R01NS098231: Bioengineering a novel
 electromagnetic perspective gene as a tool for
 wireless control of excitable cells

Assaf A. Gilad

R01NS104306: Molecular Imaging for Detection of
 Synthetic Biology Circuits, Oscillators and Toggle
 Switches in Regenerative Medicine

Assaf A. Gilad; Connor Grady; Alexander
 Bracco

Efficient Evolutionary Algorithms for Many-
 objective Optimization

Shahryar Rahnamayan

Active LENS: Learning Evolution and the Nature
 of Science using Evolution in Action

Robert Pennock; Richard Lenski; Louise
 Mead; Charles Ofria; Jim Smith

LTREB: The Long-Term Evolution Experiment
 with Escherichia coli

Richard Lenski

Dimensions: Collaborative Research: Genetic,
 functional and phylogenetic diversity determines
 marine phytoplankton community responses to
 changing temperature and nutrients

Elena Litchman; Chris Klausmeier

Collaborative Research: Connected Biology:
 Three-dimensional learning from molecules to
 populations

Louise Souther Mead; Peter White

Charles Ofria; Heather Goldsby	The evolutionary origins of multicellularity and development in experimental populations of digital organisms
Christopher J Marx; Norma Cecilia Martinez-Gomez; Eric Lee Bruger; Sergey Stolyar	Collaborative Research: Deep-sequencing analysis of edited metabolic pathways to uncover, model, and overcome the epistatic constraints upon optimization
Christopher J Marx; Sergey Stolyar	EPISTASIS: A CRITICAL CHALLENGE FOR THE OPTIMIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS
Gregory Bonito; Patrick Edger; Kevin Liu; Bryan Hamberger	Dimensions of Biodiversity: Phylogenetic and Functional Diversity of Tripartite Plant-Fungal-Bacterial Symbioses
Heather Elsthen	Collaborative Research: Nervous System Adaptations in a Highly Neurotoxic Organism
Kevin Liu	Fast and Accurate Computational Tools for Large-Scale Evolutionary Inference: a Phylogenetic Network Approach
Yann S Dufour; Chris Waters	Stochastic phenotype switching controlled by c-di-GMP in <i>Vibrio cholerae</i>
Christopher J Marx; James Arthur Foster; Jessica Audrey Lee; Norma Cecilia Martinez-Gomez; Jack Sullivan	Dimensions: An inordinate fondness for <i>Methylobacterium</i> - roles of phylogeny, genome content, and functional performance traits in the evolution and assembly of a diverse community
Katherine Gross; Danielle Zoalner	REU Site: Ecological and Evolutionary Dynamics in a Changing World
Kay E. Holekamp; Elise F Zipkin	Selection for general intelligence by novel environments
Luis Zaman; Jeffrey E Barrick; Richard Lenski	US-Israeli Collab: Are parasites in complex communities more evolvable? Bridging ecology and evolution with computational modeling and rodent-bacteria evolution experiments
Marjorie Weber	Dimensions: The causes and consequences of leaf trait evolution for hidden life on the phyllosphere: Phylogeny, function, and the genome
Jason Gallant	Collaborative Research: Analysis of rapidly evolving potassium channels in electric fish
Kay E. Holekamp	IRES Track I: Behavioral ecology of African carnivores
Louise Souther Mead; Alexa Warwick	Collaborative Research: Implementing Multi-institutional Classroom-based Undergraduate Research Experience to Study Impact of Environmental Changes on Salamander Populations
Bonito, Gregory [REDACTED] Childs, Kevin [REDACTED]	NSFDEB-BSF: Phylogenomics of Pezizales and evolutionary transitions between saprotrophy and symbioses with animals, plants and bacteria
Kay E. Holekamp	OPUS: CRS - The evolutionary ecology of the spotted hyena
Jenny Boughman; Jason Keagy; Hans A. Hofmann; Deborah Stankamp; Gideon Bradburd	DIMENSIONS: Diversification of sensory systems in novel habitat: enhanced vision or compensation in other modalities?

Stephen Kelly

NSERC Postdoc fellowship

IOS 1740874: "PGR: Transcriptional and Translational Regulation of Gene Expression by Gene Structure, Codon Usage and tRNAs in Grasses."

K. Liu, K. Childs, N. Jiang, and Y. Yang

Application of Machine-Learning Algorithms for On-Board Asteroid Shape Model Determination and Spacecraft Navigation

Chris Adami

Funding Agency	Funding Start Date	Funding End Date	total years
Agricultural and Food Research Initiative DARPA, Siemens is prime contractor, MSU subcontract is \$600K	2019	2022	3
	2016	2020	4
Ford	2019	2020	1
Government of India (Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration: SPARC)	2019	2021	2
Howard Hughes Medical Institute	2017	2020	3
Human Frontier Science Program Grant RGP0051/2019	2019	2022	3
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science	2018	2020	2
Morris Animal Foundation	2019	2021	2
NASA	2018	2020	2
NIH	2017	2022	5
NIH	2019	2021	2
NIH	2019	2021	2
NIH	2019	2021	2
NIH (NIGMS)	2015	2020	5
NIH/NINDS	2017	2022	5
NIH/NINDS	2018	2022	4
NSERC Discovery Grant, Canada	2015	2020	5
NSF	2014	2020	6
NSF	2015	2020	5
NSF	2016	2020	4
NSF	2016	2020	4

NSF	2017	2020	3
NSF	2017	2020	3
NSF	2017	2020	3
NSF	2017	2022	5
NSF	2017	2020	3
NSF	2017	2020	3
NSF	2017	2020	3
NSF	2018	2022	4
NSF	2018	2021	3
NSF	2018	2022	4
NSF	2018	2023	5
NSF	2018	2023	5
NSF	2019	2022	3
NSF	2019	2022	3
NSF	2019	2022	3
NSF	2020	2023	3
NSF	2020	2021	2
NSF	2016	2021	5

NSERC

2019

2021

2

NSF

2018

2022

4

NASA

2018

2020

2

STILL ACTIVE?	Full Amount	MSU award	MSU?	Annual
Y		\$500,000	Y	\$166,667
Y		\$600,000	Y	\$150,000
Y		\$182,024	Y	\$182,024
Y		\$141,333	Y	\$70,667
Y		\$138,000	Y	\$46,000
Y	\$1,350,000	\$199,200	part	\$66,400
Y		\$117,000	Y	\$58,500
Y		\$100,000	Y	\$50,000
Y		\$270,000	Y	\$135,000
Y		\$1,800,000	Y	\$360,000
Y		\$600,000	Y	\$300,000
Y		\$350,000	Y	\$175,000
Y		\$3,000,000	Y	\$1,500,000
Y		\$1,407,605	Y	\$281,521
Y		\$2,620,291	Y	\$524,058
Y		\$1,350,000	Y	\$337,500
Y		\$140,000	Y	\$28,000
Y		2,711,033		\$451,839
Y		\$450,000.00	Y	\$90,000
Y		\$640,989	Y	\$160,247
Y		\$1,240,601	Y	\$310,125

Y		\$676,000 Y	\$225,333
Y		\$106,200 part	\$35,400
Y		\$114,767 part	\$38,256
Y		\$1,749,981 Y	\$349,996
Y		\$404,823 Y	\$134,941
Y		\$404,748 Y	\$134,916
Y		\$759,750 Y	\$253,250
Y	\$1,777,713	\$295,510 part	\$73,878
Y		\$697,000 Y	\$232,333
Y		\$678,441 Y	\$169,610
Y	\$1,594,591	\$327,582 part	\$65,516
Y		\$1,100,000 Y	\$220,000
Y		\$680,000 part	\$226,667
Y		\$305,017 Y	\$101,672
Y		\$221,869 Y	\$73,956
Y		\$603,581 Y	\$201,194
Y		\$253,232 Y	\$126,616
Y		\$1,846,134 Y	\$389,227

Y	80,000 CAD	\$59,817 Y	\$29,908
Y		\$2,561,077	\$640,269
Y		\$199,998	\$99,999
		\$32,603,503 TOTAL	\$9,246,486

BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action Annual Funding Request Solicitation

The BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action is transitioning to a research center funded by Michigan State University. MSU is providing \$750,000 for research this upcoming year, much of which will be distributed through a competitive funding process. Given the smaller scale of the funding and the reduced infrastructure, BEACON is going to shift from funding open-ended project requests to funding students and postdocs for specific projects. Over the course of the year, members may also submit requests for reasonable page charges for BEACON publications, as well as travel funding to present BEACON work.

Program Synopsis

BEACON's continuing mission is to *illuminate and harness the power of evolution in action to advance science and technology and benefit society*, and the priority of this program is to fund projects that advance that mission and lead to new sources of external funding. Our goal is to promote early-stage research projects, particularly those spanning across disciplines, that are close to being ready to obtain other sources of support. BEACON's future funding from MSU will be based on the amount of external funding obtained that can be credited to BEACON, so the ability for projects to obtain additional support is critical to our long-term success. In addition to research projects, BEACON also funds education- and diversity-focused projects.

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting Year 11 funding requests is **Friday, February 21, 2020, by midnight EST**. Funding decisions will be announced by April 3, 2020.

Eligibility

MSU faculty and staff who are members of BEACON are eligible to apply. BEACON postdoctoral researchers are also eligible to apply, provided that a faculty member is a co-PI on the project. MSU faculty who are not yet members of BEACON are welcome to apply as a co-investigator on a project led by a BEACON faculty member. While MSU funds are available only to MSU faculty, we welcome collaborations with external researchers, especially those from other BEACON institutions.

Please note: This funding mechanism is only available to support students and postdocs, and does not provide travel, supplies, equipment, etc.

Submission Instructions

Funding requests should be sent by e-mail to [REDACTED] before the deadline.

All materials should be combined into a single PDF that includes:

1. A cover page, including the following information:
 - Project title
 - List of PIs
 - Name, status, and department of the student or postdoc to be supported
 - For students: timing and amount of support requested (e.g., which semesters, ½ or ¼ RA, number of hours if undergrad)
 - For postdocs: list annual salary, percent appointment and duration of support requested
 - List of approximately 5 keywords
2. A project narrative. The project-narrative is limited to two pages (and no smaller than 10-point font, 1" margins) and should address the overall goals of the project and the planned

approach. It should clearly indicate intellectual merit and broader impacts (including diversity, education, outreach, or technology transfer) of the project. The project goals must be highly relevant to evolution in action.

3. A bibliography/references list
4. NSF-style Biosketches for each PI (max 2 pages each). As part of the Synergistic Activities section, please highlight contributions to BEACON or BEACON-related activities such as giving seminars, writing blog posts, or participating in outreach events.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients of BEACON funding are required to submit progress reports every May during the project and immediately after the project's completion, to be summarized for MSU's Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation.

Compliance with BEACON Policies

By accepting BEACON funding, researchers agree to comply with all training policies, including RCR training and cross-disciplinary education for graduate students involved in the project. Failure to comply with these policies may affect eligibility for future BEACON funds. Recipients of BEACON funding are also expected to participate in BEACON science communication activities which may include presenting at Friday seminars, writing a post for the BEACON blog, or contributing to an organized outreach event.

Review Criteria

Funding requests will be reviewed on three primary criteria: **Intellectual Merit** (including scientific strength, topic appropriateness, and degree of multidisciplinary) and **Broader Impacts** (including contributions to education & outreach, knowledge transfer, and diversity, plus contributions to BEACON activities), as well as **Plan to Obtain External Funding**.

Requests will be reviewed by at least two members of the MSU BEACON Review Panel, and optionally additional *ad hoc* reviewers who are domain experts. The Review Panel shall discuss all funding requests to arrive at funding recommendations for the Director. The Director and Management Team will then work with those recommendations to determine how many of the funding requests can be granted.

The Director will notify all of the proposers as to the outcome of their funding requests not later than April 3, 2020.

TIMELINE

E-mail submissions open:	now!
Funding request submission deadline:	February 21, 2020
Review Panel planning meeting:	week of February 24
Review Panel decision meeting:	week of March 23
Notification of decision by:	April 3