

From: "Christakis, Nicholas" [REDACTED]
To: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: HW thanks
Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:59:30 AM

dear jeff:

we are doing a number of new things.

one of my favorite projects, currently under review so i cannot share all details, involves an initiative in what we call 'dumb AI.' we are going in a different direction than others who are increasing the sophistication of AI technologies. we are decreasing it. we are developing simple sorts of AI, and we are creating bots that we drop into groups of humans (creating 'heterogeneous systems' of bots interspersed among real humans) so as to facilitate the performance of those groups. through a bit of thoughtful programming and careful inter-position of the bots, we can enhance group performance in a number of valuable and useful ways, we think. we think there are many applications and could be transformational, as you put it, though, judging from the sorts of things you probably hear about, perhaps not.

and we have two other sustained, ongoing efforts:

breadboard.yale.edu (software with which we create artificial societies of real people, which allows us to do experiments, e.g., this recent paper in Nature:
<http://humannaturelab.net/paper/inequality-and-visibility-of-wealth-in-experimental-social-networks/>)

and

<http://humannaturelab.net/honduras-social-networks/> (a large field experiment in Honduras in which we are trying to create artificial tipping points to foster large-scale behavior change)

finally, we have some other cool work involving alternative currencies and the role of network cycles in economic systems (basically, without cycles, the systems perform terribly).

best,

nicholas

On Sep 24, 2016, at 7:40 AM 9/24/16, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

thanks, what are you currently working on? have you seen any discovery that is transformational. in your field.? it seems little new in many others. BTW, sol goldman was one of my first clients

On Sat, Sep 24, 2016 at 7:26 AM, Christakis, Nicholas [REDACTED] wrote:

thanks, jeffrey.
a summation of the year that appeared in the Atlantic a couple of months ago is here: <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/05/the-peril-of-writing-a-provocative-email-at-yale/484418/> it was a demanding year, and we did our best.

an essay i wrote for the New York Times, which attempts to address one part of the difficult issues this past year, and that might possibly be of interest to you, is here: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/23/education/teaching-inclusion-in-a-divided-world.html?_r=0

and, in case you have not seen it, and are interested, here is my wife's original email: <https://www.thefire.org/email-from-erika-christakis-dressing-yourself-email-to-silliman-college-yale-students-on-halloween-costumes/>

— nicholas

On Sep 21, 2016, at 8:46 AM 9/21/16, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

watched that you tube with horror you were great.

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please note

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