

From: Robert Trivers <[REDACTED]>
To: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject: Re:
Date: Thu, 04 Aug 2016 22:09:15 +0000

Jeffrey

just arrived at my office in Jersey waiting to be picked u

to say CUNY was underwhelming is to put it mildly

75% chance of a one course spring semester, 4 months

maximum pay \$20,000—that barely supports life in the city or Jersey City

possibility they might get excited about me and then offer a real job, but first is this trivial matter of the course

i will learn in mid-October

meanwhile i am looking at other places who are looking at me

not sure i want to live in Stillwater Oklahoma (Oklahoma State)

but Lexington Kentucky would be more plausible (University of Kentucky)

but none of these people promoting me either know me or are very strong

meanwhile possibly UC Riverside

and so on

this is going to take a while to play out

most grateful for your kind offer of support, of no use with these characters at this point, but potentially could be a chip in the game assuming you wish to offer it again

damn, i forgot, this letter was meant to be about Chomsky a real don

CHOMSKY

i wanted you to know something about Noam that you may not; he not only laid the foundation for linguistics but he destroyed Skinner and naive behaviorism—that all human behavior could be explained by previous patterns of reward and punishment

like all true mad men Skinner went one step too far—even language could be explained by his theory, so he wrote a book pushing the absurd theory that we learn to know what different sounds mean through a system of reward and punishment; parents running around with barrels full of raisins doling them out so as to create linkages; and it was Chomsky who did the take down—1959 beautiful paper showing the numerous absurdities that would be required for Skinner to be right

i read it in 1965 and have been his admirer at a distance

but very much warmed up to him when we met for the Seed interview and correspondence which only petered after the death of his wife, though he has kept up you probably know a fairly busy schedule of talks and interviews

all best wishes

bob

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 8:54 AM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

great

On Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 8:53 AM, Robert Trivers <[REDACTED]> wrote:

i'm in NYC for a 1pm lunch meeting with the Dean of CUNY graduate school, hopefully about a semester's teaching there this coming spring; i will call you when i get out ~2

On Wed, Aug 3, 2016 at 7:33 PM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

im in ny friday afternoon. . or we can speak , on the phone tomow?

--

please note

The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of JEE

Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to jeevacation@gmail.com, and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. copyright -all rights reserved

--

please note

The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, may constitute inside information, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. It is the property of JEE

Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail or by e-mail to jeevacation@gmail.com, and

destroy this communication and all copies thereof,
including all attachments. copyright -all rights reserved