

From: "jeffrey E." <jeevacation@gmail.com>
To: John Brockman <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Demis Hassibis - EDGE event in London in April
Date: Mon, 22 Feb 2016 09:00:18 +0000

when can i call and on what number?

On Mon, Feb 22, 2016 at 12:27 AM, John Brockman <[REDACTED]> wrote:

JE,

Last month, I hosted a dinner in New York for Demis Hassibis, the acknowledged leading thinker among the new wave of AI researchers exploring what has become known as "deep learning". TI actually demanded that Danny Hillis show up because Hassibis, 35 years later, is the next really brilliant young man. Danny did take the train from Boston. He was not disappointed. The evening sparkled, a stunningly interesting experience. (See below for information about Demis).

I will be in London for a week beginning April 7th. Demis, who works in London, has agreed to do a reprise as an EDGE event while I am in town. The best dates for that evening are Thurs-Sunday nights, Feb 7-10th. Can you join us? This time, rather than having just scientists present, I want to focus on people who think about intelligence and learning through different kinds of prisms, i.e. Brian Eno, Ian McEwan, Terry Gilliam, Alfonso Cuaron, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Tom Stoppard, among others. I see this more as a dinner conversation, rather than a talk by Demis, hopefully videotaped, unless his new corporate masters at Google shut that down.

There's a precedent here for the dinner motif. It was in 1968 in a six-part avant garde series at the 92nd St Y Poetry Center in NY that John Cage hosted a dinner onstage for about 8 people in front of a full house. If it is a dinner, and it's videotaped, it would be best to limit it to a maximum of 12 people sitting around a single table. I can see a variety of venues, all of which have attractions and also issues. Some ideas: A private dining room at a quiet restaurant or club; the home of a philanthropic arts patron an artist's studio such as Eno's; even the Serpentine Gallery.

We're probably better off in a full-service restaurant or the home of someone who is into hosting big sit-down dinners. Why ideas?

Feedback, please. And I hope to see you soon.

Best,

JB

[REDACTED] mobile

[REDACTED]. Pay special attention to two new EDGE pieces. Ed Boyden on optogenetics, published last week and David Reich on ancient DNA, which is being published tomorrow. Two brilliant young guys. So exciting!!

About Demis Hassibis

DEMIS HASSIBIS was the co-founder and CEO of DeepMind, a neuroscience-inspired AI company, bought by Google in Jan 2014 for a reported \$400 million in their largest European acquisition to date. He is now Vice President of Engineering at Google DeepMind and leads Google's general AI efforts.

Demis is a former child chess prodigy, who finished his A-levels two years early before coding the multi-million selling simulation game Theme Park aged 17. Following graduation from Cambridge University with a Double First in Computer Science he founded the pioneering videogames company Elixir Studios producing award-winning games for Microsoft and Universal.

After a decade of experience leading successful technology startups, Demis returned to academia to complete a PhD in cognitive neuroscience at UCL. His research connecting memory with imagination was listed in the top ten scientific breakthroughs of 2007 by the journal, Science. Demis is a 5-times World Games Champion, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and the recipient of the Royal Society's Mullard Award.

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NATURE

28 January 2016

"Google AI algorithm masters ancient game of Go"

"We're pretty confident," says DeepMind co-founder Demis Hassabis. "This is a really big result, it's huge," says Rémi Coulom, a programmer in ...
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NATURE - EDITORIAL

28 January 2016

"Digital intuition"

A computer program that can outplay humans in the abstract game of Go will redefine our relationship with machines.
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THE GUARDIAN

Feb 16, 2016

"The superhero of artificial intelligence: can this genius keep it in check?"

--Demis Hassabis has a modest demeanour and an unassuming countenance, but he is deadly serious when he tells me he is on a mission to "solve intelligence, and then use that to solve everything else". Coming from almost anyone else, the statement ...
[REDACTED]

BBC NEWS

27 January 2016

"Google achieves AI 'breakthrough' by beating Go champion"

--DeepMind's chief executive, Demis Hassabis, said its AlphaGo software followed a three-stage process,

which began with making it analyse 30 ...

WIRED

January 27, 2016

--In a Huge Breakthrough, Google's AI Beats a Top Player at the game of Go

PBS NEWS HOUR

Jan 27, 2016

How a computer program became champion of the world's trickiest board game

--DEMIS HASSABIS, Google DeepMind: So, our program combines lots of different techniques together.

And for the first time ever, AlphaGo, our ...

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/how-a-computer-program-became-champion-of-the-worlds-trickiest-board-game/>

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