

From: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]>
To: J <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject: Re:
Date: Sat, 29 Dec 2018 16:58:17 +0000

Good advice. Will keep it in mind.

I guess we're social animals, somehow. Valeria and I saw a very sad case of it recently. We managed to visit Lula, the world's most important political prisoner, locked up right before the election that he was likely to win in the last stage of the right wing coup that's been underway for several years. The charges are derisory. He's in solitary confinement, denied any print material, very limited visiting rights, a TV set fixed to a government channel, and denied the right to make any public statement. 12 year sentence, but with the current neo-fascist government in place he might succumb to some "mysterious disease." Shocking lack of attention to this in the world.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 12:30 PM J <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

i suggest re mediation that it not get bogged down in details. thats their trick . , stay above the fray, ie lets cut the bullshit. and ask harry how much of your money does he believe he deserves. . and that would be my only sentence repeated over and over. re conciousness., I have yet to hear a cogent answer to the question of why putting someone in solitary confinement , has such strong mental reactions . moving a plant or chair or computer into a closed room has no effect. why do people hallucinate , talk to themselves. etc. there is almost no work done on the subject as irb would say no no, and prisons refuse to allow. . why having no social or at least perceived social contact makes people crazy , suicidal etc. . though im told a tv or radio relieves many of the symptoms.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 9:24 AM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Interesting perspective. Perhaps we can look at it sort of like this.

The way our minds work, it develops constructs to try to accommodate our immediate experience -- like table and chairs to accommodate what I'm experiencing now, manifestations of what we take to be an external world; and comparably, norms of social action and beliefs about society to accommodate what I experience in social life, manifestations of what we take to be a prevailing culture.

If so, we're back to Bertie's picture but with a broader range, the mind constructing an external world that consists of tables, chairs, cultural norms,... in an effort to provide some coherence to the flux of experience (itself a construct, so our efforts at scientific explanation instruct us).

There's a preliminary discussion with the mediator planned for Jan. 2, then a general mediation session later. Will keep you up-to-date of course.

Noam

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 12:06 PM J <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

what i am suggesting is that what the term culture means is the same as what consciousness means. culture can be describes as russell did for consciousness. the physics and math envy habit of trying to measure things . we experience culture, it is stubborn, transmitted, localized. contains memories. boundaries. dictum. . it manifests itself in different ways but doesn't have a separate existence. it is like consiousness a human construct. no more no less. btw, is a mediation date and time set. yet? vincent papers were good except for the amount to settle.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 8:56 AM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

From the point of view of a jihadi, Klan, evangelical Christian, my ultra-orthodox grandfather,.... it's the rest of the world that's crazy. I think we can do better than just to take the fall-back position that craziness is a value judgment, but not so easy.

On consciousness, my suspicion is that we'll never do much better than Russell's picture: what we understand with highest confidence is our own immediate conscious experience. The rest of our intellectual efforts (science especially) are an attempt to make sense of that (and in the course of doing so, instructs us that our experience is a construct of our internal modes of cognition acting on an external world that we (naively?) assume to exist. And it also tells us, I think, that consciousness is a thin and superficial fringe of an internal mental life that is inaccessible to introspection.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 11:39 AM J <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

cultures swept by craziness, isnt it the same for an individual. . . the brain sends signals based on faulty sensors or information. . . to see if the brain is functioning. there are word tests. memory tests. etc. . why isnt conciousness the property of those things. like culture is to fads etc.

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 8:09 AM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Cultures unfortunately can be swept by craziness. Nazism for example. Or the Great Awakening. We're in one of those phases now. If there's a charge, it's true, in fact True. Any response is "mansplaining," another power play, reinforcing the charge. You've seen I'm sure what happened to Lawrence. Full and complete response, amounts to zero. Isn't even considered. It's like trying to discuss rationally with religious fanatics.

Noam

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 10:41 AM J <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

As the stories get wilder and the writers make the girls younger. prostitution is a tabloid s dream , . I wondered if having something out in the cyber world that let some people point to rational arguments might allow some to defend themselves from their wives . " how could you " etc.

I have been exploring the AI world with the cutting edge people. I remind them of your comments re machines thinking :) / I thought that culture was the conciousness of a society. tribes were like self. . media approx transmitters. . It provided constraints and rules for some underlying interactions.

It doesnt exist in a physical sense but either does conciousness. which it appears to me as an evolutionary advantage and provides the brain with rules memories. (culture again) . and constraints. . tribes when attacked , act like a self . . compete like selves. etc. The world we call physical . follows rules that we have created, most unknowingly. I assume language acts like an effective transmittier. . some language like adrenaline. some like dopamine. . do some extent the hormones of the culture. ?

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 7:20 AM Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

It's a powerful and convincing statement, but my feeling is that it would not be wise to submit it for publication. Taking the stance of a reader who comes to the matter from afresh, perhaps having heard some rumors but knowing nothing, the reaction I suspect will be of the "where there's smoke there's fire" kind. Few are willing to think through the arguments and factual details or to try to adjudicate conflicting claims. I've seen this happen over and over on other matters -- many years of having been accused of Holocaust denial, for example.. Ugly and bitter as it is, I suspect the best course now is not to stir the pot by raising the issue publicly,

opening the door to charges and accusations that can no doubt be answered in the court of logic and fairness -- but that's not the public domain, where innuendo and suspicion and accusation reign.

Anyway, for what it's worth, that's the way it looks to me, in part on the basis of experience.

The great work that you have been doing speaks for itself. My feeling is that you should keep at it, and simply develop a thick skin to fend off whatever ugliness breaks through now and then, diminishing over time.

Noam

On Sat, Dec 29, 2018 at 8:33 AM J <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

Im considering submitting this to the oped of the wash post id like your thoughts

Sweetheart deal!" So goes the attack on the resolution of the more than a decade ago federal investigation involving our client Jeffrey Epstein. The attack is profoundly misplaced, supported neither by the law nor the facts. Nor is it supported by the structure of our constitutional republic. To the contrary, Jeffrey was subjected to an extremely aggressive federal intrusion into what would typically be considered a quintessentially local criminal matter in south Florida. The offense investigated — at its core, sexual favors for hire — has long been treated as a matter entrusted to laws of the several States, not the federal government. The conduct — for which Jeffrey took full responsibility — was a classic state offense and was treated exactly that way by able, honest prosecutors in Palm Beach County. Nevertheless, without a request from the state prosecutors, the federal government intervened. For their own opportunistic reasons, many are now criticizing the federal decision-makers at the time, including now-Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta (then-United States Attorney in south Florida), for not going far enough.

The critics are wrong on the facts and the law. They also ignore a fact going to the heart of fundamental fairness: In the decade since paying his debt to society, Jeffrey Epstein has led a life characterized by responsible citizenship, numerous acts of generosity and good deeds.

Here are the true key facts: Jeffrey Epstein, a successful self-made businessman with no prior criminal history whatsoever, engaged in illegal conduct that amounted to solicitation of prostitution. That conduct was wrong and a violation of Florida state law. Although no coercion, violence, alcohol, drugs or the like were involved, some of the women he paid were under the age of 18. Those facts were carefully assessed by experienced state sex crime prosecutors who aggressively enforce state criminal laws. No one turned a blind eye to potential offenses to the public order. To the contrary, the Palm Beach State Attorney's Office conducted an extensive fifteen-month investigation, led by the chief of the Sex Crimes Division. Mr. Epstein was then indicted by the state grand jury on a single felony count of solicitation of prostitution.

During that intense investigation, the state prosecutors extensively gathered and analyzed the evidence, met face-to-face with many of the asserted victims, considered their credibility — or lack thereof — and considered the extent of exculpatory evidence, including sworn testimony from many that they lied about being eighteen years old to be allowed into Mr. Epstein's home. After months of negotiations, the state prosecutors believed they had reached a reasoned resolution of the matter that vindicated the public interest — a resolution entirely consistent with that of cases involving other similarly-situated defendants. The system worked as it should have.

Then, in came the feds. The United States Attorney's Office extensively and aggressively investigated whether Mr. Epstein had engaged in a commercial human trafficking ring, targeted minors, or used the internet or traveled interstate in the process. But that's not what this was and that's not what happened. That is precisely why the federal authorities' ultimate decision to defer prosecution to the state was the right one.

However, the federally-demanded resolution was not without conditions. The federal prosecutors insisted on various unorthodox requirements that Mr. Epstein's experienced defense team had never seen imposed on any defendant anywhere. Under the federally-forced deal, Jeffrey was required to request that the state prosecutors demand the imposition of a thirty-month sentence that included both jail time and the strictest conditions of probation: lifetime sex-offender registration. Those draconian measures were far more than warranted by the state grand jury's indictment and would not have otherwise been required under the previously agreed-upon state disposition. As part of this highly unusual deal, the government required Jeffrey to pay for a highly experienced group of attorneys to bring claims against him on behalf of a government list of asserted victims. Jeffrey was required to waive the right to challenge those claims without being provided the asserted victim's identities by the government until after he was incarcerated. Importantly, the feds' decision to decline prosecution in deference to the state in exchange for these extraordinary requirements was reviewed and approved at the multiple levels of the U.S. Department of Justice. Jeffrey took full responsibility, complied with the feds' demands, served his sentence, and in the process was treated exactly the same (including his time served) as any other state-incarcerated individuals. His conduct while in custody was exemplary, and so characterized by the state custodial authorities.

Jeffrey Epstein has paid his debt to society. The challenges to his Agreement with the Government must also be understood as challenges to the millions Mr. Epstein paid to the asserted victims and their lawyers pursuant to that agreement. Amongst the beneficiaries of the Epstein-Federal Government Agreement were the many victims who collectively received many millions as a result of the conditions imposed on Mr. Epstein that prevented him from meaningfully contesting civil liability — moneys that would be at issue if requests to invalidate the agreement were granted.

Our nation faces vitally important challenges, many involving the treatment of women and basic human dignity. Voices are rightly being raised speaking truth to power, especially about women in the workplace. But Jeffrey's offenses of yesteryear, which were entirely outside of the workplace, have long since been redressed by the criminal justice system. He fully and faithfully has performed every promise and obligation required of him by state and federal authorities. In the spirit of the bedrock American belief in second chances and fundamental fairness, that chapter in Jeffrey's otherwise-productive and charitable life should be allowed to close once and for all.

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