

Today: Review Session for Learning about Learning

I. Your Questions

- I. Planning fallacy: we expect an event that is far in the future to take less work. Before you commit to a future plan, imagine that you had to do it tomorrow or next week. That helps you to get a clearer grasp on how much work it will actually take.

Structure of exam? About half the exam will be short answer questions and about half will be a longer more involved question.

Illich is pointing to an odd structural/societal aspect of our culture. He identifies the idea that “more is better”. He questions this logic. He worries that a lot of scientific thinking and our development of tools is directed this way.

I. Your Questions

I. Hedgehogs and Foxes

Pundits on the nightly news are poor forecasters. In fact, they are worse than random guesses. A second result was that there is a group of people that do better than random, not a ton better, but better. Moreover, this group of people have lots of things in common.

Hedgehogs are the “Big Idea” experts

Foxes are the more eclectic experts

Hedgehogs are worse at forecasting. They don't update their predictions when they get more information. The simplicity of their stories often makes them easier to understand, more popular and charismatic.

I. Your Questions

I. Hedgehogs and Foxes

By contrast, foxes are much more hesitant, they hedge, they express uncertainty, their discussions are littered with but, yet, however. As story telling this is not as successful. Foxes are better forecasters.

What is the frequency illusion? Closely related to the availability heuristic. Carey's example of buying converse or Tetlock and Gardener's example of the line in the grass.

What are Scheonfeld's questions? Why do we care about metacognition? In the context of problem solving, there been observational studies that show that expert problem solvers tend to have metacognitive interruptions in their problem solving.

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I. Carey's book drew a lot from Robert Bjork's research.

Digital minimalism. Taking control of the design of your digital environment.

Distraction is anathema to deliberate practice.

Percolation/Incubation. Interruptions as a way to keep you thinking about something.