

Augmenting Philosophy

1.

Towards a Post Critical Conceptual Framework

Towards because we are still collating and have got to the point of having built and started using "the simplest possible augmentation engine that could possibly work". One that can be used to get IT (Intelligence Augmentation not AI) off the ground and augment our work in philosophy aimed at resolving conceptual issues that our augmentation research brings to the fore. We fully expect that this work will make real contribution to philosophy per se.

Post critical as in Polanyi's Personal Knowledge.

Following in the footsteps of Engelbart

Know as the inventor of the mouse

Yet he should be credited as the instigator not only the personal computing revolution but the unfinished revolution of augmented intellect and the digital writing

Pencil quote here

Here's the most facile interpretation of Engelbart, splendidly exhibited by this New York Times [headline](#):

Douglas C. Engelbart, Inventor of the Computer Mouse, Dies at 88

This is as if you found the person who invented writing, and credited them for inventing the pencil. (This analogy may be more apt than any of us are comfortable with.)

<http://worrydream.com/Engelbart/>

Preparing it in WikiNizer

key claims

- Philosophy == augmentation sans computer
- Augmentation research == requires experimental epistemology
- Common part conceptualization metareflection
- From a personal perspective the expected benefits of the cultivation of philosophy are the same as that of augmentation

goals of both

- *more-rapid comprehension,*
- *better comprehension,*
- *the possibility of gaining a useful degree of comprehension in a situation that previously was too complex,*
- *speedier solutions,*
- *better solutions,*
- *and the possibility of finding solutions to problems that before seemed insoluble.*

rendering tractable through experiments **Philosophical Problems topics**

- The concept of concept
- Demarcation of
 - Effective and noneffective concepts
 - Science and pseudoscience
- Complexity
- Computational irreducibility
- Tractability
- Cybernetics
- Conceptualization
- Metaphor
- Ontology
- Epistemology
- (In)commensurability

our best ideas are 50 years old

In October 1962 Doug c. Engelbart at the STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE, Menlo Park, California produced a Summary report for the DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SCIENCES, AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WASHINGTON entitled:
AUGMENTING HUMAN INTELLECT : A Conceptual Framework. October.

In his report Engelbart gives an account of “the first (search) phase” of his program in which a he developed a conceptual framework for designing a research phase

of a project taking a new and systematic approach to improving the intellectual effectiveness of the individual human being. A detailed conceptual framework explores the nature of the system composed of the individual and the tools, concepts, and methods that match his basic capabilities to his problems. One of the tools that shows the greatest immediate promise is the computer, when it can be harnessed for direct on-line assistance, integrated with new concepts and methods.

“By “augmenting human intellect” we mean increasing the capability of a man to approach a complex problem situation, to gain comprehension to suit his particular needs, and to derive solutions to problems. Increased capability in this respect is taken to mean a mixture of the following: more-rapid comprehension, better comprehension, the possibility of gaining a useful degree of comprehension in a situation that previously was too complex, speedier solutions, better solutions, and the possibility of finding solutions to problems that before seemed insoluble. And by “complex situations” we include the professional problems of diplomats, executives, social scientists, life scientists, physical scientists, attorneys, designers -- whether the problem situation exists for twenty minutes or twenty years. We do not speak of isolated clever tricks that help in particular situations. We refer to a way of life in an integrated domain where hunches, cut-and-try, intangibles, and the human “feel for a situation” usefully coexist with powerful concepts, streamlined terminology and notation, sophisticated methods, and high-powered electronic aids.

intersection between **philosophy** and **augmentation**

is building conceptual frameworks

why **philosophy**

- love of thinking
- reflection
 - Meta
 - Methodology
- Heuristics
 - Problem solving
- Kind of self help auto mentat [Frank Herbert Dune] training

augmented scholarship
Instead of transmuting butterflies into caterpillars
capture them in flight

my notebook codex
transreal existence
hero **Rudy Rucker**
Red White Light
iwriteiam
<http://www.iwriteiam.nl/>

*key to understanding is understanding the **Problem situation***

quote **Toulmin's Wittgenstein's Vienna**

quote me on **Descartes**. Descartes responded to the intellectual malaise of the seventeenth century posed by the imminent collapse of the "Aristotelian" Scholastic paradigm of knowledge with a fixed upper ontology and all emanating from God and the practitioners of the emergent new sciences that have knowledge claims no longer backed by dogmas but built on entirely new foundations, experience, and experiments, and especially the belief in the efficacy of the mathematization of natural phenomena. Descartes's own advances in mathematics which has "clearly and distinctly" have proved in practice as source of true knowledge aka "justified true beliefs" required new intellectual justifications that warranted break with old authorities, palliated by an attempt to give a newer better account of God.

Leibniz

Augmentation through the power of notation

Kant's transcendental analysis can be seen as an attempt to work on the same problem, "what constitutes knowledge". With Kant the focus is not only on this problem, what the next challenge, given this new concept of knowledge how could that be conceptualized with a view to give intellectual justification for moral claims, judgement. I.e. the problem is not so much how science is possible, but rather, with the emergence of the new sciences how morality and values are possible.

Hegel Absolute knowledge

or rather the self realization of the concepts.

For Hegel explicit conceptualization causes a total eclipse of reality and considers sentient being but as punny instruments through which the geist speaks dialectically.

Polányi

's post critical philosophy can be seen as an attempt to come up with a new concept of knowing that is post critical, in that it eliminates the need for intellectual justifications for the existence of values, and that the need for the veritable suspension of logic, or rather the rejection of the objectivist stance of the new sciences which leads to nihilism and pointing to the situated personal, fiduciary nature of all knowing.

Philosophy as going meta

Meta reflective

by being reflective, and if an instance of something can be congnicised think what kind of thing that is of which the thing in question is an instance.

This is a very natural move and can even be done successfully up to a point

However when we are faced with real problems, of immense complexity, this approach will not work. Worse still, most of the traditional problems of philosophy get to level's of complexity that either beyond are capabilities or can be comprehended and handled a the level of fairy tales, Hegel, Freud etc, or Literature.

Polanyi was regarded as a country bumpkin, or rather an outsider, thinking through things for himself, just like Pirsig.

Outsider == beat Generation hippies

Social non-comformism is the condition sine qua non of intellectual achievement

Deep affinity between engerbart Polanyi and Pirsig

which may have been a devastating and hurtful to Freud, but

This is the point where the country bumpkin, Engelbart comes in.

Like most philosophers, he was interested in many questions concerning the nature of knowledge, human intellectual capabilities, but instead of pondering on it, and thinking and reflecting set out the build a system that could augment it.

There is an awful lot of deep philosophical thinking went into drawing up his conceptual framework, but it was done with a view to kick start the processing augmentation itself.

The amount of deep philosophical questions that his work actually addressed and those that he posed to make workable decisions about which way to build the system is staggering. and this is just the kind of thing that philosophy needs, and vica versa this kind of work requires just the kind of reflective, generalizing conceptualizing capability that philosophy engenders.

Hodge with a very few exceptions nearly all innovations of philosophy has been the result of an innovation in science

Now we can say that for both of us, thinking about problem solving, thinking, conceptualization its nature and limits, and the transcendental analysis and the dialogical and discursive nature of these things have been our focus of interest from the word go (16)

Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play.

Read more

at <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/i/immanuelka121324.html#Hg6jW2yPZrI2YFiw.99>

Augmentation without philosophy is blind but philosophy without augmentation is but metaphors we scrape by

Humans first

Not artificial intelligence

I for one, let myself deliberately to be seduced by the small questions, from the big ones, precisely because I've seen philosophical navel gazing in the epistemological area have clearly reached their limits. Lakoff may have written and insightful books on metaphors we live by, and idea I knew we could not follow up, stated like that. Just recently I actually read into it and it is indeed may sound edifying but a complete dead end.

But the limits of our puny symbol processing capabilities surely cannot be the limits of our world. I did not come up with the concept of augmentation but I had the same sense that Engelbart had that the computer may help in some way.

So in that spirit, for 30 years I have given up pondering the big questions and let myself be seduced by the smaller ones like Artificial Intelligence research aka Lisp, programming methodology and language design and metalinguistic abstractions research.

As Cunningham said And that is exactly what I have done with "Language Oriented programming". You may have heard about the new big idea of Domain Specific Languages. Now that;s what I thought twenty years ago is the way to go.

It took me twenty years to realize that although Language Oriented Programming may have great advantages vis a vi "place oriented programming" the stuff we are still largely stuck with, but the problem is with programming itself. c.f.

Not the first like that ("The rise and fall of CORBA" ACM)

Thanks to Google. We can build a Knowledge Graph.

With WikiNizer we can build our very own.

Just recently I started drafting a paper with the title “Programming considered harmful” and lo behold somebody have already written one with the same title and pretty much the same message. (Come back Hegel all is forgiven) problems define their own solution, or rather the limits of our language are the limits of our world.

Or as Polanyi would have it, we are engaging with the same reality

Or Pirsig we are on a quality track.

This is not the place where I would like or need to talk about it.

Instead to say, that about 4 years ago it has become clear to me that what was the essence of language oriented programming to

“reflect in the structure what you write down all the effective concepts that make up our problem domain and our proposed solution”, is itself can be best tackled at the level of conceptualization per se, and that although my earlier attempts at focusing on the nature of effective conceptualization did give me the right conceptual, intellectual and practical I mean working systems that I have build, tools to get a grip on bootstrapping a system that is aimed at handling non effective conceptualizations, and that such a systems render the task of “effective conceptualization” trivial in comparison

Wiki like organization

near term scenarios

Across all your devices

- Google searches
- Browser histories
- Downloaded web resources your own writings saved on google drive
- All that is searchable
 - automatically related to your emerging interest profile
 - relationship can be characterized at the metaphysical level
- Take your best/current writings to google drive
- Tease out the gist by marking modifying the text to show the macro and the micro statement structure
- Illustration
- Import it into WikiNizer
- Build analytics
 - Key words
 - Key verbs
 - Key relations
 - Key roles
 - Etc to be determined

- use standard
- Explore, restructure what you have
- Discover
- Create new ideas
- Elaborate clarify
- Define, Review Trails
- Publish
- Collaborate
-

Going meta
Bootstrapping
Ontology

Roundtrip

Statement.

Macro micro structure

Key words

Key verbs

Experimental epistemology

Pike

Nagarjuna

Aron complexity

Google docs

Personal digital archive

