

What If Anything Has Changed About Human Nature In the Last 2000 Years?

Post by “BrainToBeing” of January 5, 2024 at 8:09 PM

In #12 I said: "So, it is my personal perspective that we are running up against the limits of the human brain."

You responded:

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

This is an interesting perspective that I don't think that I've heard before in this context.

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

could theories of extended cognition be useful in this regard as well

[Godfrey](#) In response to the issue of "running up against the limits of the human brain" I offer two perspectives, for the moment, that speak to the issue:

1) While we have invented science, and it has brought us endless technical advancements, look how many people willingly throw its data out when it is not convenient (recent examples: global warming, use of immunizations, and various political issues [not otherwise mentioned]).

2) The evolution of our technology has, broadly, proceeded from hunter-gatherer (simple tools), to agrarian revolution (largely use of hands with progressively more sophisticated tools), to industrial revolution (still use of hands with more tools), to electronic age (shifting to more use of brain and tools), to a service society (even more use of brain), and now to the coming era of AI. And, in this era of AI our brains are going to be surpassed for many functions. However, we don't have another, higher level, function to offer.

There are other evolutionary perspective supporting the notion of "running up against the limits of the human brain" but hopefully the above two will suffice.

The next topic, "extended cognition", probably requires some discussion on its own, depending upon what we think this actually means. The Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy says, "Extended cognition takes the idea that your mind is 'on' your smartphone literally. It says that human cognitive states and processes sometimes spill outside our heads and into objects in our environment." So, is this the foundation you are considering? That is, do you think "the mind" exists, in part, outside of the skull?