

In-Sight Publishing
Ask A Genius 155 – Feedback and Disruptions
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[Beginning of recorded material]

Rick Rosner: Rocks have very little feedback. Living things have all sorts of feedback systems that help maintain, help living things survive under changing conditions. Some of those feedback systems are not known yet. I know a guy working on this stuff. He's got a theory that as evolved creatures we have lots and lots of feedback systems that may not be at the gene expression level. It may be among all sorts of systems in the body that haven't been discovered yet.

Yet people are working to find out all of the different interactions among various systems in the body at all sorts of different levels. The molecular level on up to the organ level. Within 20 years, most of those things will have been found out and many of those mechanisms within the body will be addressable via medical therapy if things go wrong or if things wear out, which will lead to all sorts of disruptions because we can pretty much figure that—

One disruption is that at first richer people and richer countries will have better access to life extending and life improving therapies than people in poorer countries, which hasn't been a significantly contentious issue yet because under the current conditions we all die pretty soon. The highest average lifespan is still not 90, even in the most developed countries in the world. And then in the most hellacious countries in the world, the average lifespan might be 50.

Those are so fucked up that they have other things to worry about besides getting pissed at people in countries living significantly longer than average. But the average lifespan for countries starts surpassing or approaching 100, and creeps up towards 120 – though it becomes harder to predict lifespan as improvements in lifespan kind of happen at the same—historically, if you look over the past 100 years, there's been about 1 year of lifespan improvement for every year that's passed.

That is getting closer to 1 to 1. It will be harder to predict to even say what an average lifespan is. As more and more people start not just living past 100, but as people around the world who aren't disadvantaged, it might be a point of a gripe. You know, it is a gripe in some countries, like South Africa is pretty ravaged by AIDs. People in that country have been pissed that drug therapies that are expensive are less available to them.

This is based on some articles that I've read. I don't know. But if people all over the world see people in the rich countries living healthy lives as middle-aged people up until almost their 90s while they're falling apart and dying as they always have for 80, there might be—this could make people angry. Both among countries and within countries. There will be economic disruption because if the average lifespan in a country goes to 120, and people keep having babies, then that could create a population squeeze.

[End of recorded material]

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