# GOATS AC

## Part 1

#### If you are a goat, do you believe

#### What people tell you about

#### Goats, and eat

#### Tin cans?

#### There’s no goat that foolish.

#### Or is there?

#### The goat of the universe believed

#### What people told him about universes

#### And came into existence.

#### Bang! How naive can you get?

#### Even the scapegoat is not as naive

#### As (God help him) the universe that

#### Agreed to exist.

#### A word to the wise: Don’t eat tin cans.

#### Don’t listen. Don’t exist.

Aaron Fogel, Poet, The Goat, <https://poets.org/poem/goat> ///AHS PB











## Part 2

#### I affirm that we as debaters ought to learn about goats.

#### Learning about goats is key to raising them correctly

Julia Bayly, staff writer for Hello Homestead, has worked in print journalism for more than three decades covering the unique characters and life of northern Maine. THINKING OF RAISING GOATS? HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU DO, JUN 11, 2019, <https://hellohomestead.com/thinking-of-raising-goats-heres-what-you-need-to-know-before-you-do/> ///AHS PB

Before even shopping for a goat, do your research. Beginning by asking yourself what it is about raising goats that intrigues you. Do you want to raise goats for milk? Fiber? Something else? Libraries have books, magazines and other periodicals devoted to raising goats. The vetted information is a good place to start. You can also look to reputable sites online including the [American Dairy Goat Association](http://adga.org/) and the [American Goat Federation](https://americangoatfederation.org/), for information on raising goats. Connecting directly with goat farmers who might be willing to be your goat mentor is another great way to research. Active goat farmers love few things more than talking about their goats, so there’s a wealth of knowledge to tap into. “One of the most important things you can do is spend time with people who have ‘been there and done that’ with goats,” said Thomas Cox, dairy goat farmer in Maine and a director and licensed goat judge with the [American Dairy Goat Association.](http://adga.org/) “Find a mentor that can point you in the right direction.” To connect with goat farmers, check with your state department of agriculture or your state university Cooperative Extension office to see if they have lists and contact information on area farmers. Attend county or state fairs to meet up with people who raise and show goats. “You want to have as much information as possible before getting a goat,” he said. “Try to visit farms that have goats and don’t be afraid to ask lots of questions.”

#### Now here are some facts about goats.

#### First, Goats are very intelligent.

Fiona MacDonald, Goat reporter, Goats Are as Smart And Loving as Dogs, According to Science, 2018, <https://www.sciencealert.com/goats-are-just-as-smart-and-loving-as-dogs-say-scientists> ///AHS PB

Goats might not seem like the most cuddly animals, but researchers have found evidence that goats are as clever as dogs, and just as capable of building emotional relationships with humans as all the other domesticated animals we've let into our hearts and homes. The 2016 study showed that goats stare intensely at their owner when they're struggling to complete a task - a trait that's also observed in domesticated dogs, but not wolves. "Goats gaze at humans in the same way as dogs do when asking for a treat that is out of reach," [said one of the researchers, Christian Nawroth](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/items/se/178820.html) from the Queen Mary University of London. "Our results provide strong evidence for complex communication directed at humans in a species that was domesticated primarily for agricultural production, and show similarities with animals bred to become pets or working animals, such as dogs and horses," [he added.](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/items/se/178820.html) While they're not unheard of as pets, throughout the 10,000 years we've been raising goats, humans have used them mainly for agriculture. And up until recently, scientists thought that only animals that had been bred as companions or pets - such as dogs, cats, and horses - were able to form bonds with humans. But there have been signs that goats have similar abilities. For one thing, they're comfortable living outside of a flock, something that sheep - which [were domesticated more recently](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/07/06/goats-are-as-loving-and-clever-as-dogs-say-smitten-scientists/) - aren't okay with. Previous research by Nawroth and his team has also shown that their intelligence rivals that of dogs, with goats able to see if there was a treat in one cup or not, and [discern from that information](http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0093534) whether there was a treat in another cup. To better understand how well goats could relate to humans, in the 2016 study, the team trained 34 goats from the [Buttercups Sanctuary for Goats in Kent](http://www.buttercups.org.uk/) to remove a lid from a box to receive a reward. They ran the goats through this test numerous times, but on the last time, they made the box impossible to get into, and recorded how the goat reacted. They found that the goats turned their heads towards the person conducting the experiment once they realised they were stuck, and they gazed longer when the person was facing them, as opposed to when they had their back turned, which suggests that the goats were aware of where the human was looking. In other words, the goats were modifying their behaviour based on their human audience, something it was previously thought that only dogs, cats, and horses were capable of.

#### Second, goats are key to a healthy farm.

[Lauren Arcuri](https://www.thespruce.com/lauren-arcuri-3016432), freelance writer and an experienced small farmer , The Benefits of Raising Goats, 2019, <https://www.thespruce.com/benefits-of-raising-goats-3016471> ///AHS PB

Raise your own meat. Raising goats for meat can be a great thing to do for your own family, to provide for your food needs, but it can also be a profitable small farm business—if thought through carefully and with an eye to where you will market it. Produce milk. [Dairy goats](https://www.thespruce.com/raise-dairy-goats-for-milk-3016800) give copious amounts of milk, usually more than a family can use. You can make goat cheese, goat yogurt, and whatever other dairy products you can dream up (goat kefir?). If you are a small farmer, goats can help you achieve a goal of producing value-added products like cheese, and yogurt—or just sell fresh goat milk. There is a good market for it with folks who can't tolerate cow dairy. Produce soap. Goat milk makes a wonderful, soft and mild soap that is often used by people with sensitive skin. Produce fiber. Goats can be used for fiber as well as milk and meat. They're so versatile. Angora and Pygora goats yield mohair, while cashmere goats produce cashmere. Again, you can take raw goat fiber and spin it into yarn and knit, weave, or crochet it into any number of value-added products. Clear land. Goats are great browsers and they love to eat weeds and blackberry brambles. Pasture them on whatever you want to clear out and let them act as living brush hogs. Use them as pack animals. Goats can be trained to carry your gear on hikes, and are especially suited to steep and rocky paths. They can easily carry 20 to 30 percent of their body weight, and they have a minimal environmental impact. They can eat what they find as they travel by browsing along the trail, so you don't have to pack food for them. Goats can also be taught to pull carts. Use their dung as fuel. Plenty of people all over the world use goat dung to fuel fires. It may be out there for most of us in the first world, but consider it, especially if you're a hardcore self-sufficiency person. Use their skin and hide. Goat skins can be dried and tanned like leather and used in any number of products, including goatskin gloves. Goat hides (with hair still intact) are traditionally used in Africa to make drum heads. Goatskin rugs can also be made. Easy to train and handle. Goats are social animals and they are easy to train. They're easy to handle, even by children. They're a good size compared to cows, and that size makes them easier to handle as well. They eat food scraps. Besides being great browsers, goats can clean up all your leftover food, significantly cutting down on garbage. They're inexpensive to keep. Goats are not only useful, but they're also thrifty. Because they can browse and because they don't need an overly fancy shelter (just some really good fencing), goats can be a very economical animal for the small farm. They're versatile. Milk, [meat](https://www.thespruce.com/raise-meat-goats-3016801), fiber, carrying packs, and even fuel from their dung? This animal really does it all. They make manure. Okay, any animal does, but goat manure is great for fertilizing your fields. An average goat produces over a ton of manure every year, and the feces are in pellet form, which makes them easy to handle. Goat manure is a good source of potassium, potash, and nitrogen, and possibly other minerals as well.

#### Third, Goats solve climate change.

[Nazan Koluman Darcan](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921448817301098" \l "!), Cukurova University, Agricultural Faculty, Dept. of Animal Science Turkey, and Nissim Silanikove, Institute of Animal Science, Agricultural research Organization Isreal,The advantages of goats for future adaptation to Climate Change: A conceptual overview, pub 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smallrumres.2017.04.013> ///AHS PB CC bracketed out for climate change

The advantages of goats for future adaptation of livestock to CC [Climate Change] include their ability to actualize 'green agriculture production system' free of large environmental pollution, which typically links with the intensive dairy cows production systems. In this respect, the contributions of goats to protecting the natural life habitual and organic production of food become important considerations (Çoban et al., 2008). 'Green agriculture production system' contribute to mitigating the negative effects of abiotic pollutions on human health, which derives to large extend from the uncontrolled use of substances such as antibiotics, which cause the emergence of new diseases, or complications such as resistant bacteria (Çoban et al., 2008).The impacts of CC on goat production analyses as the direct or indirect effects of climatic factors (Silanikove and Koluman, 2015). The goat’s interactions with environment in relation to their physiological stage, as well as issues of the uses of natural resource, waste management and crop production become prominent. Reviews on this subject that goat are superior to other ruminants in those respects (Silanikove, 2000; Silanikove and Koluman, 2015). However, a common mistaken belief which repressed goat production is political, social and economic sanctions forced in order to decrease the greenhouse gas emission (Steinfeld et al., 2006). The total greenhouse gas emission is closely related to the number of goats. Thus, the use of high productive breeds of goats can become an important strategy to reduce greenhouse gas from goats. To achieve this goal, improving the adaptation of goat genotype to their environment will become imperative. The economical input on lessening the impact of climate conditions is closely related to a goat’s biological capacity. Accordingly, these two factors have an impact on economical considerations. In regard with livestock production, efforts should be made to improve the genetic capacity with regard to the type of goat and increasing the production level per goat. The biological environmental conditions should be taken into consideration in terms of pollution to be caused by preferring conventional methods in the use of natural resources in order to increase production in the unit area. In this respect, issues of protecting the natural life and organic production will become significant. Furthermore, the negative effects on livestock farming, which derives from uncontrolled use of substances, cause the emergence of new diseases that inflict humans. In conclusion, the considerations to use goat or any other farm animal in a given environment should take into account pollution caused by greenhouse, as well as inability to control the waste management in an effective way. Thus, certain negative environmental outcomes that are associated with livestock production are unavoidable; however, choosing to raise goats could minimize those outcomes. Human food is indispensable input for survival. Hence, food production and nature-agriculture relationship have been always on the agenda. The intensive use of conventional inputs and the competi-tion between food for humans and feed for livestock have raised objections on intensive use of ruminants as source of food for humans, in addition to consideration on their significant input to greenhouse gasemission (Silanikove and Koluman, 2015). In specific regards to goats: problems such as inability to come up with an alternative to stubble burning and similar activities. Lack of an appropriate diet and use of high-quality feed in goat breeding and the pollution which emerges during the production and goat transfer processes should be taken into consideration in the process of CC (Koluman et al., 2011). At this point, conventional or traditional production systems will become another issue to be discussed.A better understanding of the advantageous and disadvantageous ofnative resources of goat breeds within a regional projection are highlysignificant with regard to the success of adaptation programs to beimplemented in the long run. Applying genetic and biotechnological approaches are also means to improve adaptation to [Climate Change] CC. However, inthe present review we would like to emphasize on the local gene resources’, which offer resistance and endurance to local extremeenvironmental conditions. Methane emission in which the live weightand productivity level of local goats considered should also be put forthinsuch approach. A pilot study, which was performed on this subject, isdescribed below. The calculations that we have made on the methaneemission from livestock in Turkey took methane released from thegastrointestinal tract, or through manures by cattle, sheep and goats pergoat in different ages and physiological conditions according to IPCC(2007) into account as indicated in the table below (Table 1; based on The annual methane emission of the cattle, sheep and goats in Turkey with origins ofenteric and manure.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

#### Climate Change is an existential threat

Peter Kareiva and Valerie Carranza, Director of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA & Pritzker Distinguished Professor in Environment & Sustainability, in Futures, in 2018 ["Existential risk due to ecosystem collapse: Nature strikes back", https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717301726, 7-30-2019] AR

In summary, six of the nine proposed planetary boundaries (phosphorous, nitrogen, biodiversity, land use, atmospheric aerosol loading, and chemical pollution) are unlikely to be associated with existential risks. They all correspond to a degraded environment, but in our assessment do not represent existential risks. However, the three remaining boundaries (climate change, global freshwater cycle, and ocean acidification) do pose existential risks. This is because of intrinsic positive feedback loops, substantial lag times between system change and experiencing the consequences of that change, and the fact these different boundaries interact with one another in ways that yield surprises. In addition climate, freshwater, and acidification are all directly connected to the provision of food and water, and shortages of food and water can create conflict and social unrest. Climate change has a long history of disrupting civilizations and sometimes precipitating the collapse of cultures or mass emigrations (McMichael, 2017). For example, the 12th century drought in the North American Southwest is held responsible for the collapse of the Anasazi pueblo culture. More recently, the infamous potato famine of 1846-1849 and the large migration of Irish to the US can be traced to a combination of factors, one of which was climate. Specifically, 1846 was an unusually warm and moist year in Ireland, providing the climatic conditions favorable to the fungus that caused the potato blight. As is so often the case, poor government had a role as well—as the British government forbade the import of grains from outside Britain (imports that could have helped to redress the ravaged potato yields). Climate change intersects with freshwater resources because it is expected to exacerbate drought and water scarcity, as well as flooding. Climate change can even impair water quality because it is associated with heavy rains that overwhelm sewage treatment facilities, or because it results in higher concentrations of pollutants in groundwater as a result of enhanced evaporation and reduced groundwater recharge. Ample clean water is not a luxury – it is essential for human survival. Consequently, cities, regions and nations that lack clean freshwater are vulnerable to social disruption and disease. Finally, ocean acidification is linked to climate change because it is driven by CO2 emissions just as global warming is. With close to 20% of the world’s protein coming from oceans (FAO, 2016), the potential for severe impacts due to acidification is obvious. Less obvious, but perhaps more insidious, is the interaction between climate change and the loss of oyster and coral reefs due to acidification. Acidification is known to interfere with oyster reef building and coral reefs. Climate change also increases storm frequency and severity. Coral reefs and oyster reefs provide protection from storm surge because they reduce wave energy (Spalding et al., 2014). If these reefs are lost due to acidification at the same time as storms become more severe and sea level rises, coastal communities will be exposed to unprecedented storm surge—and may be ravaged by recurrent storms. A key feature of the risk associated with climate change is that mean annual temperature and mean annual rainfall are not the variables of interest. Rather it is extreme episodic events that place nations and entire regions of the world at risk. These extreme events are by definition “rare” (once every hundred years), and changes in their likelihood are challenging to detect because of their rarity, but are exactly the manifestations of climate change that we must get better at anticipating (Diffenbaugh et al., 2017). Society will have a hard time responding to shorter intervals between rare extreme events because in the lifespan of an individual human, a person might experience as few as two or three extreme events. How likely is it that you would notice a change in the interval between events that are separated by decades, especially given that the interval is not regular but varies stochastically? A concrete example of this dilemma can be found in the past and expected future changes in storm-related flooding of New York City. The highly disruptive flooding of New York City associated with Hurricane Sandy represented a flood height that occurred once every 500 years in the 18th century, and that occurs now once every 25 years, but is expected to occur once every 5 years by 2050 (Garner et al, 2017). This change in frequency of extreme floods has profound implications for the measures New York City should take to protect its infrastructure and its population, yet because of the stochastic nature of such events, this shift in flood frequency is an elevated risk that will go unnoticed by most people. 4. The combination of positive feedback loops and societal inertia is fertile ground for global environmental catastrophes Humans are remarkably ingenious, and have adapted to crises throughout their history. Our doom has been repeatedly predicted, only to be averted by innovation (Ridley, 2011). However, the many stories of human ingenuity successfully addressing existential risks such as global famine or extreme air pollution represent environmental challenges that are largely linear, have immediate consequences, and operate without positive feedbacks. For example, the fact that food is in short supply does not increase the rate at which humans consume food—thereby increasing the shortage. Similarly, massive air pollution episodes such as the London fog of 1952 that killed 12,000 people did not make future air pollution events more likely. In fact it was just the opposite—the London fog sent such a clear message that Britain quickly enacted pollution control measures (Stradling, 2016). Food shortages, air pollution, water pollution, etc. send immediate signals to society of harm, which then trigger a negative feedback of society seeking to reduce the harm. In contrast, today’s great environmental crisis of climate change may cause some harm but there are generally long time delays between rising CO2 concentrations and damage to humans. The consequence of these delays are an absence of urgency; thus although 70% of Americans believe global warming is happening, only 40% think it will harm them (http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us-2016/). Secondly, unlike past environmental challenges, the earth’s climate system is rife with positive feedback loops. In particular, as CO2 increases and the climate warms, that very warming can cause more CO2 release which further increases global warming, and then more CO2, and so on. Table 2 summarizes the best documented positive feedback loops for the Earth’s climate system. These feedbacks can be neatly categorized into carbon cycle, biogeochemical, biogeophysical, cloud, ice-albedo, and water vapor feedbacks. As important as it is to understand these feedbacks individually, it is even more essential to study the interactive nature of these feedbacks. Modeling studies show that when interactions among feedback loops are included, uncertainty increases dramatically and there is a heightened potential for perturbations to be magnified (e.g., Cox et al., 2000; Hajima et al., 2014; Knutti & Rugenstein, 2015; Rosenfeld et al., 2014). This produces a wide range of future scenarios. Positive feedbacks in the carbon cycle involves the enhancement of future carbon contributions to the atmosphere due to some initial increase in atmospheric CO2. This happens because as CO2 accumulates, it reduces the efficiency in which oceans and terrestrial ecosystems sequester carbon, which in return feeds back to exacerbate climate change (Friedlingstein et al., 2001). Warming can also increase the rate at which organic matter decays and carbon is released into the atmosphere, thereby causing more warning (Melillo et al, 2017). Increases in food shortages and lack of water is also of major concern when biogeophysical feedback mechanisms perpetuate drought conditions. The underlying mechanism here is that losses in vegetation increases the surface albedo, which suppresses rainfall, and thus enhances future vegetation loss and more suppression of rainfall—thereby initiating or prolonging a drought (Chamey et al., 1975). To top it off, overgrazing depletes the soil, leading to augmented vegetation loss (Anderies et al., 2002). Climate change often also increases the risk of forest fires, as a result of higher temperatures and persistent drought conditions. The expectation is that forest fires will become more frequent and severe with climate warming and drought (Scholze et al., 2006), a trend for which we have already seen evidence (Allen et al., 2010). Tragically, the increased severity and risk of Southern California wildfires recently predicted by climate scientists (Jin et al, 2015), was realized in December 2017, with the largest fire in the history of California (the “Thomas fire” that burned 282,000 acres, https://www.vox.com/2017/12/27/16822180/thomas-fire-californialargest-wildfire ). This catastrophic fire embodies the sorts of positive feedbacks and interacting factors that could catch humanity off-guard and produce a true apocalyptic event. Recordbreaking rains produced an extraordinary flush of new vegetation, that then dried out as record heat waves and dry conditions took hold, coupled with stronger than normal winds, and ignition. Of course the record-fire released CO2 into the atmosphere, thereby contributing to future warming. Out of all types of feedbacks, water vapor and the ice-albedo feedbacks are the most clearly understood mechanisms. Losses in reflective snow and ice cover drive up surface temperatures, leading to even more melting of snow and ice cover—this is known as the ice-albedo feedback (Curry et al., 1995). As snow and ice continue to melt at a more rapid pace, millions of people may be displaced by flooding risks as a consequence of sea level rise near coastal communities (Biermann & Boas, 2010; Myers, 2002; Nicholls et al., 2011). The water vapor feedback operates when warmer atmospheric conditions strengthen the saturation vapor pressure, which creates a warming effect given water vapor’s strong greenhouse gas properties (Manabe & Wetherald, 1967). Global warming tends to increase cloud formation because warmer temperatures lead to more evaporation of water into the atmosphere, and warmer temperature also allows the atmosphere to hold more water. The key question is whether this increase in clouds associated with global warming will result in a positive feedback loop (more warming) or a negative feedback loop (less warming). For decades, scientists have sought to answer this question and understand the net role clouds play in future climate projections (Schneider et al., 2017). Clouds are complex because they both have a cooling (reflecting incoming solar radiation) and warming (absorbing incoming solar radiation) effect (Lashof et al., 1997). The type of cloud, altitude, and optical properties combine to determine how these countervailing effects balance out. Although still under debate, it appears that in most circumstances the cloud feedback is likely positive (Boucher et al., 2013). For example, models and observations show that increasing greenhouse gas concentrations reduces the low-level cloud fraction in the Northeast Pacific at decadal time scales. This then has a positive feedback effect and enhances climate warming since less solar radiation is reflected by the atmosphere (Clement et al., 2009). The key lesson from the long list of potentially positive feedbacks and their interactions is that runaway climate change, and runaway perturbations have to be taken as a serious possibility. Table 2 is just a snapshot of the type of feedbacks that have been identified (see Supplementary Material for a more thorough explanation of positive feedback loops). However, this list is not exhaustive and the possibility of undiscovered positive feedbacks portends even greater existential risks. The many environmental crises humankind has previously averted (famine, ozone depletion, London fog, water pollution, etc.) were averted because of political will based on solid scientific understanding. We cannot count on complete scientific understanding when it comes to positive feedback loops and climate change. 5. It is multiplicative stresses (or “double whammies”) that should be our greatest concern It is easy to see how positive feedback loops exacerbate existential risks. A second, but less obvious danger is the linkage of seemingly unrelated processes or phenomenon that increase risk. A good example is wildfires and tornadoes. Both of these represent natural disasters that can cause great damage. Until recently no one linked these two phenomena, and no one would have imagined that an increase in wildfires might cause an increase in tornados. However, researchers in 2016 documented a linkage between wildfires in Central America and the worst episode of tornadoes in North America’s recorded history (Saide et al., 2016)—more than 120 twisters in one day, which killed 316 people. The mechanism is that the aerosol particles produced by wildfires increase the vertical sheer in atmospheric wind speeds, which in turn makes tornadoes more likely and more severe. While tornadoes and wildfires are both local there are other trends that are national or even global that entail interacting risks factors—or what the renowned ecologist Robert T. Paine called a “double whammy” (Paine, 1993). Paine makes the argument that whereas one perturbation or stress on its own might not be terribly worrisome, if an ecosystem is hit with two stresses or threats at the same time (or in quick succession) the result can be surprisingly catastrophic. For example, aging infrastructure in the United States (dams, bridges, levees, etc.) is often talked about as a disaster waiting to happen (Reid, 2008). Similarly, increased extreme rainfall is widely appreciated as a likely outcome of climate change. Putting the two together, we have a recipe for turning improbable events into something that should be expected. A specific example of what was once a highly unlikely tragedy, but is now perhaps a probable disaster is the failure of a large dam. If large aging dams fail due to the combination of decaying infrastructure and unprecedented rainfall, downstream communities could be destroyed. Existing dams were engineered for flood frequencies and rainfall regimes that have been replaced by much more extreme weather events. This should raise general concerns about flood-safety. Not only are the designs for major dams obsolete due to climate changes, the dams themselves are obsolete. In the United States alone, more than 85% of large dams will be more than 50 years old by 2020 (Hossain et al., 2009). Based on data from the National Performance of Dam Failures, the top ten causes of dam incidents in the United States are depicted in Fig. 2a. The most frequent type of incident was attributed to inflow floods—that is more than 1000 dam failures. The reason this is a global concern is that observations (Fig. 2b) in dry and wet regions all over the world show that extreme precipitation events have been increasing since the 1950s (Donat et al., 2017). The combined effect of intensified rainfall and old dams pose a clear risk to communities worldwide. California, which has used dams and reservoirs to store water on a massive scale, recently suffered through several consecutive years of both low rainfall and high temperatures that produced a 5-year record-breaking drought (Diffenbaugh et al., 2015). The drought ended when the state experienced massive amounts of precipitation in early 2017 leading to its wettest rainy season, on record (Vahedifard et al., 2017). The rainfall unleashed floods, landslides, and nearly collapsed the Oroville Dam, the tallest dam in North America. The tremendous water flows severely damaged the dam’s spillways, prompting the evacuation of about 190,000 people downriver of the dam (Park & Mclaughlin, 2017). This particular crisis is an example of how the intersection of climate change and infrastructure that is either aging or that was designed for different conditions can potentially lead to a catastrophe (Vahedifard et al., 2017). With the likelihood of more frequent extreme events in the future, situations like the one experienced at the Oroville Dam will become more common. The intersection of climate change and human activity is also elevating the risk of severe wildfires in large portions of the world. Models suggest that precipitation was the primary driver behind global fire regimes during the preindustrial era, and then shifted towards an anthropogenicdriven regime during the industrial period (Pechony & Shindell, 2010). Now it appears that temperature will play a strong role in the 21st century in global wildfires (Pechony & Shindell, 2010). The combination of increasing temperatures at the global scale with increased propensity of wildfires due to human activity at the local level, could lead to massive infernos (Bonan, 2008). Wildfire severity and frequency will be dramatically increased wherever the mean temperature in a region increases by 3°C or more; unfortunately, in the Sahel, central Australia, central Asia, southern Africa, the western U.S., and in most of South America, warming is indeed expected to exceed 3°C (Scholze et al., 2006). This is a global threat. Sometimes there is irony in the way stresses combine to produce a catastrophe. Humans have adapted to heat waves by installing air conditioning. The combination of a heat wave, with increased demands for irrigation and air conditioning led to the largest ever power outage in India during 2012. Over 600 million were left without electricity and without air conditioning to mitigate the heat wave (Lundgren & Kjellstrom, 2013). Hospitals lost power and cities shut down. While it is possible to improve on the design of electric grids to reduce such massive outages (Fang, 2014), it is clear that the combination of extreme climate events and how humans respond to those heat waves has led to several massive power outages around the world (Klinger & Landeg, 2014). The irony is that air conditioning is an adaption to heat—and the adoption of air conditioning routinely saves lives (Barreca et al., 2016). But the adaptation that saves human lives can overburden an electric grid and make it much more susceptible to failure. Again it is the interconnections of stresses and the way we respond to environmental shocks that promulgates the greatest existential risk.

#### Four, goats are really really fun and talking about goats is also fun. 5 Warrants.

Danelle Wolford, Urban Goat Farmer, 5 REASONS WHY YOU NEED A GOAT, 2016, , <https://www.weedemandreap.com/5-reasons-need-goat/> ///AHS PB

REASON #1 YOU HAVE INSTANT BRAGGING RIGHTS ABOUT YOUR AMAZING LIFE BECAUSE YOU NOW OWN GOATS. I mean, I don’t normally like to brag, but I DO own goats, soooo….it’s kind of hard not to. Oh, you have a brand new Lexus? I just bought a new goat. You’re taking your whole family on a trip to Hawaii? My goat just ate like 20 mangos in like 10 minutes. Your pregnant with twins? My goat’s pregnant with triplets and she’s not getting an epidural. REASON #2 YOU NOW HAVE THE BEST CONVERSATION STOPPER/STARTER EVER. The best thing about owning a goat is that it helps you both ways conversation-wise. Allow me to share with you a possible conversation… CONVERSATION STARTER (awkward silence with a fellow mom at the school drop off) YOU: “Overcast weather today, isn’t it? I slept in and almost forgot to feed my goats on time!” CONVERSATION STOPPER (checkout lady won’t stop talking about every dang item she scans) YOU: “I find those thermometers work best for checking my goat’s rectal temps.” REASON #3 BABY GOATS DO PARKOUR JUMPS AT 3 DAYS OLD. I don’t care who you are, when your baby goat starts doing parkour at only 3 days old, you freak out and record it and share it with everybody in the universe. Because, baby goats! And parkour! REASON #4 NAMING A GOAT IS WAY MORE FUN THAN NAMING YOUR OWN KID. Admit it, when it comes to naming your offspring, as much as you’d like to be adventurous and artistic, you know deep down that you can’t screw with their name like that. Hence, the reason why people still name their kids ‘Matthew’. When it comes to goats, however, there is LITERALLY no way you could screw up their name. You can go old school with a name like Nancy or Gerald, or you can go totally off the wall and name your goat Voldemort or Sir Charles III. It works either way. REASON #5 EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE IS WRONG IN YOUR LIFE, YOU CAN STILL THINK, “HEY AT LEAST I STILL TOTES HAVE MA’ GOATS.” Imagine yourself homeless, but with a goat. Do you know how hard you’d rock that scenario? I can just see you now, drinking milk from your goat, snuggling with your goat on cold nights, fashioning a cart, training your goat how to pull it and going for a ride! I’m just saying, even if you lost everything, your goats would have your back. LET’S FACE IT, YOU’VE GOT A FEVER, AND THE ONLY CURE IS A GOAT. What are you waiting for? Get out there and get your goat before somebody talks you out of it!

#### And Fun is an unique impact: Nobody would participate in debate if the activity wasn’t fun, since there are other ways to gain the same education and competition.

## Part 3

#### [A] Theory is incoherent.

#### 1. The ballot is always determined off abuse and inequalities, otherwise it would be impossible to evaluate the round.

#### 2. You can’t evaluate theory because it’s evaluating off the flow rather than making the decision of which is actually a better norm, so you can’t actually be consistent with the voters.

#### 3. Theory doesn’t produce the best rule since it allows the better theory debater to produce rules that will benefit them.

#### 4. It’s a contradiction because you say your voter is either constitutive of or beneficial for a competitive activity, but no competitive activity would establish rules in the middle of a competition. This also takes out all claims to jurisdictional constituvism.

#### 5. Theory sets bad norms because we vote for interps that are marginally better than other interps, rather the best version of the interp, so it doesn’t achieve the voter.

#### 6. Theory is paradoxical because it attempts to limit arguments but uses arguments to do that, which concedes the validity of arguments in the first place.

#### [B] Procedural Fairness is incoherent.

**1. Under a norms creation paradigm norms must be universal, yet fairness is always situational**

**2. There’s no bright line for how much fairness is enough**

**3. Fairness is impossible since it would require giving each debater the same amount of speeches and time.**

**4. We never know when we have achieved fairness since its always influence by external factors like coaching staff.**

#### [C] Reject Limits standards:

#### 1. There is no brightline for how many affs is too many affs

#### 2. Non topical affs are better for limits since your prep transcends topics.

#### [D] If the tabroom invitation of a tournament does not specify the topic then the affirmative should be able to chose it: A] I go into the round with no idea with what the topic is so I have to defend something, which means that ex post facto punishment is arbitrary B) There is no reason why your topic is more topical than my topic. This means that A) the negative must prove why discussing their topic is good, not just why it is a topic for some tournaments and B) debating between topics is bad, since it prevents us from learning about either topic since all we do its compare.

#### [E] Reject spec shells

**1. Infinite regress- there are an infinite number of things I can specify in the aff and you will always come up with a new one**

**2. Predictability- it is impossible for me to know what you want me to spec in the aff which means I’ll always violate**

**3. Neg shells are impossible to meet since you have access to bidirectional shells**

**4. Not logical since it just says something I could have done was abusive, not that what I did was abusive. Potential abuse is not a voter since A) it causes a race to the bottom with friv theory every round and B) its arbitrary since there are infinite things that could be abusive.**

#### [F] The negative must check all theory arguments through a comply and conflict system in CX.

#### 1. Key to setting good norms since I can agree that a practice is bad instead of being forced to defend it

#### 2. You have access to infinite bidirectional shells, so compliance is key to A) preventing every debate from devolving down to friv theory and B) preventing the aff from always being hit by an unpredictable shell

#### [G] No 2nr theory arguments:

#### 1. Infinitely unpredictable because they concern 1ar conduct, but are only read after the fact, which means you should read them in the 1nc

#### 2. Unfair since you can just frame out every argument by dumping for 6 minutes.

#### [H] Presumption affirms:

#### 1. We assume statements to be true until proven false, IE you would believe me that my name is Perry.

#### 2. All statements of truth rest upon other assumptions, so if we presume everything false, then we can never prove anything true, including the statement presumption negates.

#### 3. Arguments against the AC begin with an descriptive premise about the affirmative (IE the aff does X), and then justify why X is bad. However, if the aff does not have truth value, that entails the descriptive premise would also not have truth value, which makes the argument a contradiction.

## Part 4

#### The role of the ballot is to promote farming education.

#### [1] Farming education is low not happening now, and is key to health and leads to success in life. Means the aff is uniquely key.

Amanda Radke, fifth generation rancher from Mitchell, S.D., who has dedicated her career to serving as a voice for the nation’s beef producers. She’s the 2006 National FFA Extemporaneous Speaking champion and the 2006 National Beef Ambassador, Jun 01, 2018, <https://www.beefmagazine.com/outlook/ag-education-desperately-needed-schools> ///AHS PB

Yet, due to tight budgets, strict requirements and underpaid and overworked teachers, agricultural education often gets dropped from curriculums, leaving a gaping hole in a student’s education where they can learn important, practical lessons that will benefit them throughout their adult lives. But, Amanda, my student isn’t going to go into agriculture. First, why not? With a projected 57,000+ jobs available in agriculture and food science each year, these employment opportunities often go unfilled. Second, your child eats three meals a day, right? When they go to the grocery store, don’t we want our youth informed as they make purchasing decisions? Don’t we want them armed with the facts, so they don’t have to feel guilt and confusion due to the misconceptions and biased opinions perpetuated by activists, food bloggers and the media? It’s simple — keep agriculture in schools and it will ground our kids, strengthen what they are learning and offer experiences outside of the classroom that make teaching core subjects more enjoyable for teachers and students alike. I recently read an article on the [Corn Corps Blog written by Susie Thompson](http://corncorps.ilcorn.org/2018/03/13/why-ag-education-should-be-a-general-education-requirement/), a student at Illinois State University. In the post, Thompson explains why agricultural education should absolutely be a general education requirement. Thompson writes, “Wouldn’t it be nice to have required general education courses that we actually utilize in the real world? That’s where agriculture education comes in. The agricultural industry offers many lessons to be taught to those who desire to learn. For example, many FFA members have projects and must keep accurate records of all transactions that occur each year. This teaches students how to balance a checkbook, budget accordingly and plan for the future – all of which are real-world skills. “At many universities, introductory agriculture courses offer many ways to help students grow professionally, for both agriculture and non-ag majors. For example, at my university, a class titled, ‘Introduction to the Agriculture Industry’ (also known as AGR 109) requires students to create a resume, cover letter, and participate in a mock interview with real employers, all for a grade. “Many students enrolled in this course, from college freshmen all the way to seniors, did not have a resume created for themselves. This class creates an opportunity for those students to make a resume and receive feedback as well. On top of that, the mock interviews allow for students to network with actual recruiters from many different companies. This basic agriculture class helps students prepare for the professional world, far more than my required Introduction to Theatre class ever did. “General education courses are important; they are considered a foundation for student education. However, when courses like AGR 109 offer professional development skills and put students in real-life scenarios, this helps prepare for life after graduation. “Those classes are solidifying the [foundation they will use for the rest of their lives](http://www.beefmagazine.com/outlook/usda-teams-ffa). This is why everyone should take at least one agriculture education course as a student, from middle school all the way through college. The skills learned, knowledge gained and networking opportunities provided are very applicable to the working world – all the more reason to add agriculture as a general education requirement.”

#### [2] Farming education is key to portable skills in any area of life.

Sarah Thomas, I'm from Kansas and I'm a senior in high school! I'm very active in FFA and have a passion for the Agricultural Industry!, Why Ag Education is important, 2016, <https://raisedrightinabarn.wordpress.com/2016/09/02/why-ag-education-is-important/> ///AHS PB

Many students in local schools may never have a career related to agriculture, but the skills they learn from Ag Education are easily applied to any career that they choose. Skills in interviewing, public speaking, welding, and the ability to think for themselves are all skills that are learned and encouraged in local Ag Education programs but can be used in any setting of their life, agriculture or not. Whether you come from a farm, or have spent your entire life in the city, everyone is welcomed and will fit right into the curriculum andpose of Ag Education. I believe everyone should take at least one agricultural class. If anything else, students are better able to respect and understand the agricultural industry that feeds them, clothes them, and also helps their local economy. With a rapidly increasing population and a demand to feed 9.6 billion people by the year 2050, the agriculture industry needs talented, and passionate youth willing to make a commitment to agriculture. Many of these individuals will not have the production background that some have grown up in. They must learn this knowledge and understand the depth of the industry. This is best accomplished through middle school and high school agricultural education classes, where students have the opportunity to learn and develop the skills necessary for us to remain world leaders in agriculture. Ag Education is so important because it provides many opportunities for students grow and develop their leadership abilities. Through Ag Education, students gain a greater knowledge for the agricultural industry to where they can advocate and inform the public. Students who take an ag class in middle school or high school may not choose a career in agriculture but can apply the skills they learn in the ag classroom to any career they choose.

#### [3] Farming education is key to food security and resource management.

Taylor Kirby and Grace Olinger, Reporters on farming ed, Community Agriculture Alliance: The importance of agricultural education, February 7, 2019, <https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/community-agriculture-alliance-the-importance-of-agricultural-education/> ///AHS PB

According to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, by the year 2050, the world population will reach approximately 9.8 billion people; that’s 9.8 billion mouths to feed. Agriculture education is important in public schools because students learn ways to efficiently feed a burgeoning population and gain a better understanding of food production and distribution. As former President George W. Bush said, “We’re a blessed nation because we can grow our own food. A nation that can feed its people is a nation more secure.” In the Soroco agriculture program, students learn about animal science, agribusiness, food production and processing, natural resources and environmental systems, plant science and power, structural and technical systems. These learning targets are known as the “Career Cluster Model,” all of which provide career opportunities. According to the National Future Farmers of America Organization, agriculture is the nation’s largest employer with more than 23 million jobs. This is equivalent to approximately 17 percent of the civilian workforce that is involved in some facet of American agriculture. Only 2 percent though are actual producers; the other 15 percent are the workers who further process or transport goods, which eventually land on dinner tables across the country. Other workers contribute to the industry through transportation, conservation, fabrication and the production of pharmaceuticals and chemicals. The average age of the U.S. farmer is 58 years old, which serves as an impetus to continue teaching agricultural skills to future generations. To ensure the sustainability of agriculture, career and technical education programs are essential to inform younger members of society. Regardless of students’ career interests or backgrounds, agriculture education helps students understand the relevance of the material they learn in classes. Soroco’s agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Jay Whaley believes it’s important to understand production agriculture but more importantly to be an advocate for agriculture because it’s the “backbone” of all great nations.

#### Food insecurity is an existential risk—causes a laundry list of impacts but specifically pandemics. Good Farming practices are key.

Julian Cribb, Distinguished science writer with more than thirty awards for journalism. He was a newspaper editor, founder of the influential ScienceAlert website and author of eight books, including The Coming Famine, Food as an Existential Risk. (2019). *Food or War, 174–202.///AHS PB*

Our demand for food is set to double by the 2060s – potentially the decade of ‘peak people’, the moment in history when the irresistible human population surge may top out at around 10 billion. However, as we have seen, many of the resources needed to supply it agriculturally could halve and the climate for the growing of food outdoors become far more hostile. Why food insecurity is an existential threat to humanity should, by now, be abundantly clear from the earlier chapters of this book: present systems are unsustainable and, as they fail, will pose risks both to civilization and, should these spiral into nuclear conflict, to the future of the human species. The important thing to note in this chapter is that food insecurity plays into many, if not all, of the other existential threats facing humanity. The food sector’s role in extinction, resource scarcity, global toxicity and potential nuclear war has already been explained. Its role in the suppression of conflict is discussed in the next chapter. Its role in securing the future of the megacities, and of a largely urbanised humanity, is covered in Chapter 8. And its role in sustaining humanity through the peak in population and into a sustainable world beyond is covered in Chapter 9. Food clearly has a pivotal role in the future of human population – both as a driver of population growth when supplies are abundant and as a potential driver of population decline, should food chains collapse. It is no exaggeration to state that the fate of civilisation depends on it. Pandemic Disease Disease pandemics have been a well-known existential risk to humanity since the plague of Athens in 430 BC – itself linked to a war. However, a point that escapes many people nowadays is that, as humans have become so numerous – indeed the predominant lifeform on the planet – we have also become the major food source for many microbes. We are now the ‘living compost heap’ on which they must dine and in which they must reproduce, if they are themselves to survive. As our own population grows, pandemics are thus likely to increase, as more and more viruses and bacteria are forced to take refuge in humans following the depletion or total extinction of their natural hosts, the wild animals we are exterminating. This process is greatly assisted by our creation of megacities, tourism and air travel, schools and child-minding centres, air-conditioned offices, night clubs, sex with strangers, pet and pest animals, insects which prosper from climate change or human modification of the environment (like mosquitoes), ignorance, poor public hygiene, lack of clean water, and deficient food processing and handling. So, while humanity is confronted with an ever-expanding array of parasites, we are simultaneously doing everything in our power to distribute them worldwide in record time – and to seed new pandemics. The World Health Organisation has identified 19 major infectious diseases with potential to become pandemic: chikungunya, cholera, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, Ebola, Hendra, influenza, Lassa fever, Marburg virus, meningitis, MERS-CoV, monkeypox, Nipah, plague, Rift Valley fever, SARS, smallpox, tularaemia, yellow fever and Zika virus disease.28 While none of these is likely to fulfil the Hollywood horror movie image of wiping out the human species – for the simple reason that viruses are usually smart enough to weaken to a sublethal state once comfortably ensconced in their new host – the apocalyptic horseman representing Pestilence and Death will nevertheless continue to play a synergetic role with his companions warfare, famine, climate change, global poisoning, ecological collapse, urbanisation and other existential threats. Food insecurity affects the progression of pandemic diseases, often in ways that are not entirely obvious. First, new pandemics of infectious disease tend to originate in developing regions where nutritional levels are poor or agricultural practices favour the evolution of novel pathogens such as, for example, the new flu strains seen every year – which arise mainly from places where people, pigs and poultry live side-by-side and shuffle viruses between them – and also novel diseases like SARS and MERS. Second, because totally unknown diseases tend to arise first in places where rainforests are being cut down for farming and viruses hitherto confined to wild animals and birds make an enforced transition into humans. Examples of novel human diseases escaping from the rainforest and tropical savannah in recent times include HIV/AIDS, Hendra, Nipah, Ebola, Marburg, Lassa and Hanta, Lujo, Junin, Machupo, Rift Valley, Congo and Zika.29 And thirdly, because the loss of vital micronutrients from heavily farmed soils and from food itself predisposes many populations to various deficiency diseases – for example, a lack of selenium in the diet has been linked with increased risk from both HIV/AIDS and bowel cancer.30 A key synergy is the way hunger and malnourishment exacerbate the spread of disease, classic examples being the 1918 Global Flu Pandemic which spread rapidly among war-starved populations, or the more recent cholera outbreak in war-torn Yemen. In a fresh twist, Dr Melinda Beck of North Carolina University has demonstrated that obesity – itself a form of malnutrition – may cause increased deaths from influenza by both aiding the virus and suppressing the patient’s immune response.31 At the same time, food is largely responsible for the fastest growing pandemic of all – the so-called ‘lifestyle’, chronic or noncommunicable diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, kidney and liver failure and some mental conditions, all of which are diet-related. These are responsible for 71 per cent of deaths worldwide, killing around 42 million people a year.32 Food and dietary quality are therefore inseparable from worldwide efforts to prevent or contain new disease pandemics. Vaccines, public health and biosecurity alone are not enough. In an overpopulated world, people must be sufficiently well-fed to avoid becoming fertile soil for the germination of fresh plagues. Diseases must be prevented – not just ‘cured’, and the key to prevention lies in a healthy diet.33

#### [4] Farming education is key to breaking down systems of oppression.

Jesse Chase, Afropunk Contributor, URBAN FARMING AS RESISTANCE TO RACIAL CAPITALISM: TAKING BACK FOOD PRODUCTION FROM CORPORATIONS, 2017, <https://afropunk.com/2017/10/urban-farming-resistance-racial-capitalism-taking-back-food-production-corporations/> ///AHS PB

Taking back food production can be realised in sustainable and educational ways so that future generations can benefit and learn from it. Cities like Detroit are already moving forward with food sovereignty in mind. The Michigan Urban Farming Initiative and sustainable urban ‘agrihood’ program is one of the biggest food cooperatives in America. Jackson, Mississippi’s Cooperation Jackson and the Jackson-Kush Plan developed by the New Afrikan People’s Organization and the Malcolm X Grassroots movement plans on making Jackson one of the most radical cities on the planet: “The fundamental program and strategy of Cooperation Jackson is intended to accomplish four fundamental ends : 1) to place the ownership and control over the primary means of production directly in the hands of the Black working class of Jackson, 2) to build and advance the development of the ecologically regenerative forces of production in Jackson, Mississippi, 3) to democratically transform the political economy of the city of Jackson, the state of Mississippi, and the southeastern region, and 4) to advance the aims and objectives of the Jackson-Kush Plan, which are to attain self-determination for people of African descent and the radical, democratic transformation of the state of Mississippi (which [they] see as a prelude to the radical decolonization and transformation of the United States itself).” Pro-black business can be a temporary resistance to racial capitalism and corporate agri-business before moving towards post-capitalism. There are even current efforts being made towards creating black-owned energy cooperatives. Whether the economic cooperatives be centered around food, energy, medicine, tech, education, etc, having a knowledge based economy of these sectors is key to Black liberation and the liberation of all those oppressed under the economic violence of white supremacy and colonialism. Japan has an indoor farm producing 10,000 heads of lettuce a day. There are commercially produced pre-made farms that go for at least $60,000 but you can build your own temperature controlled vertical farm in a 40 ft shipping container for about $15,000. A vertical shipping container farm of that size can produce upwards to 4,500 pieces of fresh produce a month all year. Participatory budget cooperatives/economies and getting involved in municipal and local government can help organize this kind of urban farming initiative for every block in the neighbourhood. These farms can feed everyone and be made affordable with surplus for the homeless as well as providing food banks, who often enough can only provide canned food, with fresh healthy produce.

## Part 5

#### [1] Language has no factual connection to the empirical world, and instead is indexed to a particular individuals representation of it. This means that trying to create a shared linguistic order fails and leads to dogmatism.

Azzan Yadin, Professor of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. He holds a B.A. from Hebrew University and Ph.D. from University of California Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union, A Web of Chaos: Bialik and Nietzsche on Language, Truth, and the Death of God, Prooftexts , Vol. 21, No. 2 (Spring 2001), pp. 179-203, https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2979/pft.2001.21.2.179///AHS PB

The similarity between ``Gilluy vekhissuy balashon'' and ``On Truth and Lie'' becomes apparent very early on as both essays address the question of the origin of language, or, more precisely, of words. ``What is a word?'' asks Nietzsche, and responds, ``It is the copy in sound of a nerve stimulus'' (OTL, 81).¹³ Words are an external, auditory representation of a physiological phenomenon, a nerve stimulus; the word does not refer to an object in the world but to an experience within the speaker. One might be tempted to infer that the nerve stimulus itself is indicative of the existence of an external object, but this is a step that Nietzsche is not willing to take, for ``the further inference from the nerve stimulus to a cause outside of us is already the result of a false and unjustifiable application of the principle of sufficient reason'' (OTL, 81). In other words, the nerve stimulus cannot be used to justify the claim that there is an external object that is causing it. Positing such an object is not only epistemologically unjusti®able; Nietzsche opposes it on axiological grounds as well. For were the internal stimulus the direct result of an external cause, the person providing the ``copy in sound'' (the word) would be in the most basic, physiological sense reactive. Nietzsche rejects the notion that the speaker is reacting to an external stimulus altogether, suggesting instead that the formation of a word is an act of spontaneous creation, and the speaker (the ®rst, Adamic, speaker, that is) ``an artistically creating subject'' (OTL, 86; emphasis in the original). Sadly, such artistic creation does not last very long: ``[F]rom boredom and necessity, man wishes to exist socially and with the herd . . . [and so] a uniformly valid and binding designation is invented for things'' (OTL, 81). As man enters into social life, language must change to accommodate this transition, and as a result, the primordial word, the creative outcome of an irreducibly individual experience, must give way to the ``concept'': Every word instantly becomes a concept precisely insofar as it is not supposed to serve as a reminder of the unique and entirely individual experience to which it owes its origin; but, rather, a word becomes a concept insofar as it simultaneously has to fit countless more or less similar cases Ðwhich means, purely and simply, cases which are never equal and thus altogether unequal. Every concept arises from the equation of unequal things. (OTL, 83; emphasis added) Social speech is a linguistic fall from grace that forces a radical shift in the notion of linguistic truth. As long as the word reflected a unique event in the sense perception of the speaker--it was truthful, albeit in a qualified sense. The word was not a ``true'' representation of the world in the sense of an adequatio intellectus ad rem, nor even an adequate representation of the physiological stimulus: ``To begin with, a nerve stimulus is transferred into an image: ®rst metaphor. The image, in turn, is imitated in a sound: second metaphor'' (OTL, 82). Even on the physiological level, then, we are dealing with a metaphoric process. Still, the primordial word is true inasmuch as it recognizes the uniqueness of things and makes no attempt to extend its reach and signify an entire class of objects. It is true, then, in that it does not foster the illusion of a general, objective truth. This illusion, however, is precisely what constitutes social language, and what robs language of the (qualified) truth of the unique word: ``Just as it is certain that one leaf is never totally the same as another, so it is certain that the concept `leaf ' is formed by arbitrarily discarding these individual differences and by forgetting the distinguishing aspects'' (OTL, 83). Social language, the language of concepts, is the language of forgetting, of effacing individual di²erence. Nietzsche ridicules the attempt to capture universal categories in a single word, to fabricate universal categories by subsuming infinitely di²erent objects under a single word. This is a type of action, for it requires that ``a uniformly valid and binding designation is invented for things'' (OTL, 81; emphasis added). He further argues that this inventionÐless charitably, this lie--establishes the distinction between truth and lie: ``The liar is a person who uses the valid designations, the words, in order to make something which is unreal appear to be real. . . . He misuses ®xed conventions by means of arbitrary substitutions.'' (OTL, 81). Truth and lie are not determined by extra-linguistic reality but by adherence to or deviation from linguistic convention. Language, once it has deteriorated into social language, fosters in its speaker a false sense that truth is accessible through language, when the truth of language is, in fact, nothing more than convention. By presenting conventional linguistic agreement as the truth, language both conceals its own conventional nature and obscures the possibility that truth may lie beyond the borders of language. Nietzsche describes this process in terms of forgetting: ``[I]t is only by means of forgetfulness that man can ever reach the point of fancying himself to possess a [non-tautological] `truth''' (OTL, 81). Truths are illusions which we have forgotten are illusions; they are metaphors that have become worn out and have been drained of sensuous force. . . . [T]o be truthful means to employ the usual metaphors. . . . Now man of course forgets that this is the way things stand for him. Thus he lies in the manner indicated, unconsciously. . . . [A]nd precisely by means of this unconsciousness and forgetfulness he arrives at his sense of truth. (OTL, 84; emphasis in the original)

#### [2] Methodological pluralism is key to sustainable critique. Bleiker 14

Roland, professor of international relations at the university of Queensland. “International Theory Between Reification and Self-Reflective Critique” International Studies Review, Volume 16, Issue 2. June 17, 2014

“This book is part of an increasing trend of scholarly works that have embraced poststructural critique but want to ground it in more positive political foundations, while retaining a reluctance to return to the positivist tendencies that implicitly underpin much of constructivist research. The path that Daniel Levine has carved out is innovative, sophisticated, and convincing. A superb scholarly achievement. For Levine, the key challenge in international relations (**IR**) scholarship **is** what he calls “unchecked reification”: the widespread and **dangerous** process of forgetting “the distinction between theoretical concepts and the real-world things they mean to describe or to which they refer” (p. 15). The dangers are real, Levine stresses, **because IR deals with some of the most difficult issues**, **from genocides to war. Upholding one subjective position without critical scrutiny can** thus **have far-reaching consequences**. Following Theodor Adorno—who is the key theoretical influence on this book—Levine takes a post-positive position and assumes that the world cannot be known outside of our human perceptions and the values that are inevitably intertwined with them. His ultimate goal is to overcome reification, or, to be more precise, to recognize it as an inevitable aspect of thought so that its dangerous consequences can be mitigated. Levine proceeds in three stages: First he reviews several decades of IR theories to resurrect critical moments when scholars displayed an acute awareness of the dangers of reification. He refreshingly breaks down distinctions between conventional and progressive scholarship, for he detects self-reflective and critical moments in scholars that are usually associated with straightforward positivist positions (such as E.H. Carr, Hans Morgenthau, or Graham Allison). But Levine also shows how these moments of self-reflexivity never lasted long and were driven out by the compulsion to offer systematic and scientific knowledge. The second stage of Levine's inquiry outlines why IR scholars regularly closed down critique. Here, he points to a range of factors and phenomena, from peer review processes to the speed at which academics are meant to publish. And here too, he eschews conventional wisdom, showing that work conducted in the wake of the third debate, while explicitly post-positivist and critiquing the reifying tendencies of existing IR scholarship, often lacked critical self-awareness. As a result, Levine believes that many of the respective authors failed to appreciate sufficiently that “reification is a consequence of all thinking—including itself” (p. 68). The third objective of Levine's book is also the most interesting one. Here, he outlines the path toward what he calls “sustainable critique”: a form of self-reflection that can counter the dangers of reification. Critique, for him, is not just something that is directed outwards, against particular theories or theorists. It is also inward-oriented, ongoing, and sensitive to the “limitations of thought itself” (p. 12). The challenges that such a sustainable critique faces are formidable. Two stand out: First, if the natural tendency to forget the origins and values of our concepts are as strong as Levine and other Adorno-inspired theorists believe they are, then how can we actually recognize our own reifying tendencies? Are we not all inevitably and subconsciously caught in a web of meanings from which we cannot escape? Second, if one constantly questions one's own perspective, does one not fall into a relativism that loses the ability to establish the kind of stable foundations that are necessary for political action? Adorno has, of course, been critiqued as relentlessly negative, even by his second-generation Frankfurt School successors (from Jürgen Habermas to his IR interpreters, such as Andrew Linklater and Ken Booth). The response that Levine has to these two sets of legitimate criticisms are, in my view, both convincing and useful at a practical level. He starts off with depicting reification not as a flaw that is meant to be expunged, but as an a priori condition for scholarship. The challenge then is not to let it go unchecked. **Methodological pluralism lies at the heart of Levine's sustainable critique**. He borrows from what Adorno calls a “constellation”: an attempt to juxtapose, rather than integrate, different perspectives. It is in this spirit that Levine advocates **multiple methods to understand the same event or phenomena**. He writes of the need to validate “multiple and mutually incompatible ways of seeing” (p. 63, see also pp. 101–102). In this model, **a scholar oscillates back and forth between different methods and paradigms, trying to understand the event in question from multiple perspectives. No single method can****ever adequately represent the event or should gain the upper hand. But each should**, in a **way, recognize and capture details or perspectives that the others cannot** (p. 102). **In practical terms, this means combining****a range of methods** even when—**or, rather, precisely when—they are deemed incompatible.****They can range from poststructual deconstruction to** the tools pioneered and championed by **positivist social sciences**. **The benefit of** such a **methodological polyphony is not just the opportunity to bring out nuances and new perspectives**. Once the false hope of a smooth synthesis has been abandoned, the very incompatibility of the respective perspectives can then be used to identify the reifying tendencies in each of them. For Levine, this is how **reification may be “checked at the source”** and this is how a “critically reflexive moment might thus be rendered sustainable” (p. 103). It is in this sense that Levine's approach is not really post-foundational but, rather, an attempt to “balance foundationalisms against one another” (p. 14). There are strong parallels here with arguments advanced by assemblage thinking and complexity theory—links that could have been explored in more detail.”