

Questions for Reflection
A New Way of Seeing Everything
March 18, 2016

What does it mean to be human?

- What are our attributes?
- What do we seem to be REALLY GOOD at?
- What are some of our foibles?
- What has our long-term history been?

What are the forces that drive us?

- What is “self-interest”?
- Has our understanding of “self-interest” changed?
- What is “happiness”?
- Has our understanding of happiness changed?

At what point did we start to think that being happy was selfish?

- What might be some unintended consequences of this viewpoint?
- How might we want to modify our understanding of “happiness?”
- On reflection, does it make sense to think of happiness as selfish?

How have we managed to balance the forces that drive us historically?

- When human cultures have thrived
- When human cultures have imploded and disappeared

Do you think the “self-interest” that was invoked by Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations* has the same dynamics as today’s self-interest? Why or why not?

What reasons do we have to be optimistic about long-term prospects for the survival of our species?