

A woman's profile is shown in a light blue tone against a dark blue background. A glowing DNA double helix is superimposed over the left side of her face and neck, extending from the top left towards the bottom left.

ANTINATALISM AND SELECTION PRESSURE

THE CASE FOR GENOME REFORM AND A
BIOHAPPINESS REVOLUTION

BLTC
RESEARCH

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Darwinian Life is Sentient Malware

“Life is suffering”

(Gautama Buddha, attrib.)

Sexual reproduction = untested genetic experiments

800,000+ people take
their own lives each
year

Hundreds of millions
of people worldwide
are chronically
depressed

Billions of nonhuman
animals suffer in
factory farms and in
the wild



But life isn't *just* suffering...



“

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

“Junk [heroin] is the ideal product . . . the ultimate merchandise. No sales talk necessary. The client will crawl through a sewer and beg to buy... The junk merchant does not sell his product to the consumer, he sells the consumer to his product. He does not improve and simplify his merchandise. He degrades and simplifies the client. He pays his staff in junk.”

WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS

The Price of Pleasure

Nature bribes us all insidiously with “junk” - endogenous opioids, addictive pleasure chemicals that corrupt our judgement.

We are all “addicted” to endogenous opioids – and typically pass on our addiction to a new generation of young addicts.

Natural selection makes involuntary childlessness / endogenous opioid deprivation immensely painful.

“HARD” vs “SOFT” ANTINATALISM

“Hard” antinatalists (e.g. David Benatar, *Better Never To Have Been*) urge human extinction by universal voluntary childlessness

“Soft” antinatalists choose to be child-free - or adopt instead - and urge others to do likewise
BUT “soft” antinatalists recognise that:

- (1) life on Earth is ineradicable;
- (2) humans are the only species intellectually capable of fixing the problem of suffering for all sentience. Non-human animals can't practise family planning. Most juvenile nonhumans in the wild die horribly from starvation or predation.

Why life is ineradicable...

SELECTION PRESSURE

"And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein."

(Genesis 9:7)

- Staying child-free or adopting just increases selection pressure against any predisposition to antinatalism.
- Religious believers vastly outbreed secular rationalists.

“God's little rabbits:
Religious people out-reproduce secular ones by a landslide”

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A woman in a lab coat is shown from the chest up, her hands clasped in a prayer-like gesture. She has a contemplative or perhaps distressed expression. The background is dark and moody. In the foreground, a round-bottom flask is visible on the right side, partially in shadow. The overall tone is serious and philosophical.

Hard Antinatalist Objection:
But beliefs aren't inherited!



Soft Antinatalist Response:

True! BUT:

- *Comparative (monozygotic and dizygotic) twin studies show everything from belief in God to left-right political allegiance to a pessimistic / optimistic temperament has a (surprisingly high) genetic loading.*
- *Practicing antinatalists are removing our DNA from the gene pool.*



“

A NEW KIND OF SELECTION PRESSURE:

“Homo sapiens, the first truly free species, is about to decommission natural selection, the force that made us. Soon we must look deep within ourselves and decide what we wish to become.”

— E. O. WILSON

Consilience, The Unity of Knowledge (1999)

Germine Editing, the Reproductive Revolution and the Dawn of Post-Darwinian Life

Prospective parents will soon be able to pre-select and/or design the approximate (1) pain tolerance / pain thresholds (2) hedonic range 3) hedonic set-points of their future children. All babies should be CRISPR babies.

The nature of selection pressure changes when intelligent agents choose the genetic make-up of sentient beings in anticipation of the psychological and behavioral effects of their genetic choices.

A handful of genetic tweaks can essentially fix the problem of mental and physical pain. (cf. the FAAH, FAAH-OUT, SCN9A (“the volume knob for pain”) genes)

Post-CRISPR life will get better and better and better in a recursive circle of self-improvement.

Learn More:

<https://www.biointelligence-explosion.com>
 (“The Biointelligence Explosion”)

<https://www.hedweb.com/social-media/paradise.pdf>
 (“Paradise Engineering – Reprogramming the Biosphere”)

Case Study: **Anandamide Consciousness** Ānanda (Sanskrit: आनन्द) – bliss, happiness

Retired vegan Scottish school teacher Jo Cameron

Jo is never in pain,
anxious or depressed

Jo is perpetually
(but not uniformly)
happy

Jo thought she was
“normal”(!)

Jo’s dual FAAH and FAAH-OUT mutations confer an extraordinarily high pain threshold AND a lifelong, information-sensitive anandamide “high”.



The Abolitionist Project

A Happy Biosphere and a Pan-Species Welfare State

Paradise Engineering?
Key features of post-Darwinian life:

1- Universal access to preimplantation genetic screening and genome editing for all prospective parents. Happiness should be hardwired. The hedonic treadmill should be recalibrated.

2- Replacement of factory-farming with cruelty-free cultured meat and farm-free animal products. Worldwide veganism / invitrotarianism.

The Abolitionist Project

A Happy Biosphere and a Pan-Species Welfare State

Paradise Engineering?

Key features of post-Darwinian life:

3- CIVILIZING NATURE

a) Cross-species fertility-regulation of all species of free-living non-human animals via immunocontraception and CRISPR-based tunable synthetic gene drives.

(<https://www.gene-drives.com>)

b) Reprogramming the biosphere: herbivorizing predators.

(<https://www.reprogramming-predators.com>)

Politics

“Politics is the art of the possible.”
(Otto von Bismarck)

The future belongs to
life lovers (selection
pressure)

“Hard” antinatalism
alienates life lovers –
and turns prospective
allies into enemies

Fixing the problem of
suffering calls for the
broadest possible
political coalition of
secular and religious
traditions.

Making Suffering-Focused Ethics Irrelevant

Transhumanist Predictions

The world's last unpleasant experience will be a precisely dated event a few centuries from now.

A new signaling system for post-CRISPR life on Earth: life based entirely on information-sensitive gradients of well-being.

A new motivational architecture of mind – a pleasure-superpleasure axis to replace the cruelties of the pain-pleasure axis. (cf. “Cameron syndrome”).

<https://www.hedweb.com/social-media/transhumanist-eugenics.pdf> ("Transhumanist Eugenics")
<https://www.hedweb.com/social-media/reprogramming.pdf> ("Reprogramming the Biosphere")

Question for Antinatalists

Is reproduction
inherently
bad?

OR

Is reproduction
bad insofar as
baby-making
creates involuntary
suffering?

Ethical Natalism?

Post-Darwinian Babymaking

1) Uniform happiness
(World Health Organization
constitution, 1948)

VS

2) information-sensitive gradients
of intelligent well-being
a transhumanist definition of
health

*“Health is a state of complete
(sic) physical, mental and social
well-being”*

*<https://www.gradients.com>
<https://www.hedweb.com/social-media/end-of-suffering-2022.pdf>
(The End of Suffering”)*



THE END

Learn More:
hedweb.com



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