

[The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Discussions about Energy and Our Future

Saturday's Campfire Topic: Saturday's Campfire Topics

Posted by [Nate Hagens](#) on March 14, 2009 - 4:36pm in [The Oil Drum: Campfire](#)

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

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For the past few months, Saturday p.m. on The Oil Drum has been a slot for larger questions not easily answered via charts or graphs and that likely have no appropriate fora in academia. In a nutshell, no holds barred resource depletion questions (well, a few holds but not many). The intent was that readers would provide much of the content. Possibly due to busy schedules, or perhaps some other reason, the 'cupboard' has been largely empty since this series started. I am happy to make this my own bi-weekly piece, but for the next couple months I've decided to hunker down and finish my phd. Fish or cut bait in words of my advisor. As such, I would like to generate a list of possible topics for discussion, both my own, and those suggested by the community, that would be interesting/relevant for future essays. A partial list is suggested by me below. Please add to/refine this list in the comment section. You won't see CERA/EIA/API/DOE/EPA/OBAMA publicly asking these questions. But I think someone should be.

Here is an incomplete list, most off of top of head, though some are ideas I have intended on writing about for a while. (Actually, we should probably also have a similar post for during the week, on suggested *objective* analysis topics for the main site. But here are some ideas on more speculative topics:

"I Dream of GINI - At What Point of Wealth/Income Inequality do Social Democracies Break Down?"

"Is There a Trend Towards Female Farmers and Male Carpenters/Engineers?- Does it Have Staying Power?"

"If there Aren't Enough Resources for Everyone, How Should/Will They Be Allocated?"

"A Plan B For Those On Prescription Meds"

"If We All Were Robots with 100,000 year lifespans, Would Planning for 2050-2100 Be Easier?"

"How Would We Change the Political System Away from Status Seeking Democrats / Republicans to Service of Sacrifice?"

"If Climate Change is not Enough to Expand the Definition of 'Our Tribe' What Would Be?"

"What Would Happen if Women Took Over Government?"

"What if All Humans Had Discount Rates of 100%"

"What if All Humans Had Discount Rates of 0%"

"In A Powerdown Scenario, A New Incentive Paradigm for Individuals to Innovate"

"A Successful Example of Explaining Resource Depletion to a Spouse"

"An Unsuccessful Example of Explaining Resource Depletion to a Former Spouse"

"How Do We Look at Resource Depletion Problems from Vantage Point of Unborn Generations (of Humans and other Species)?"

"What Happens to Dogs and Cats Post Peak?" (Currently over 150 million in USA)

"Dopaminergic Modulation of Cognitive Function-Scaling Implications for L-DOPA Treatment"

"Do All People Have Equal Rights? If Not, How to Allocate Fairly? If So, Then Why Does it Seem Not?"

"Planet Earth - Too Big to Fail?"

"Should There Be a Tax on More than 2 Children?"

"The Correlation Between Writing on The Oil Drum and Finding a Girlfriend"

"Is There A Way to Change The Stock Market So That Five or Ten Year Performance is Rewarded" (as opposed to one quarter/year)?

"Will Academia Have A Great or Small Impact on the Changes Involving Peak Oil?"

"How Much is One Human Life Worth with respect to Future Human Lives? With Respect to Lives of Other Species?"

"What Role Will Religion Play in Post Peak Life?" (a) lessens peoples discount rates thereby increasing value of future thinking b)creates tribal bonds c)focuses on hope in lieu of science, etc)

" Which Social Groups/Subsets/Regions Have Benefited From The Oil Drum"

"A Poll of Black Swans - What Might Be Out There That No One is Thinking About? (Acetonitrile?)"

"The Planck Problem and Law of Large Numbers: The More Data We Have the Stronger Opposing Opinions Become"

"Selfishness Beats Altruism Within Groups; Altruistic Groups Beat Selfish Groups. The Rest is Commentary"

"How Can We Switch From GDP to Well-Being as a Goal"

"Using Ibogaine to Cure Oil Addiction"

"How to Navigate The Fine Line Between Optimism and Reality"

"How To Successfully Run a Website Aimed at Moving Culture Away from 'Unsustainability' (includes: Target Audience; Correct Image/Word Ratio, Buzz Words, etc., \$4.95)"

"How We Get From Fiat to Natural Resource Based Currencies"

Please add your own list of suggested topics. And if you feel strongly about them, I doubt there is anyone better than you to write them (though I am trying that tactic here...;-)



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