

Odyssey Fellowship

Week 1: Introduction

Introduction

Our first week of reading, by introducing themes of **mimesis**, **agency**, **rationality**, and **long-run prediction**, is an invitation to reflect on how you've [become](#) who you are today.

Prompts

1. What vision for the future do you find most animating?
2. What role should ideological belief play in directing your efforts?
3. Where would you place yourself in the definite/indefinite, optimist/pessimist graph?
4. What beliefs (your own or your peer group's) helped you pick or discover the path you're currently on?
 - a. Which have you never questioned?
 - b. Which have narrowed the options you were willing to consider?
5. Have you **actively** chosen to become who you currently are?
6. Do you consider yourself to have a moral obligation to do and to create?

Readings

Simon Sarris, [The Most Precious Resource is Agency](#) (5pp)

Robin Hanson, [This is the Dream Time](#) (5pp)

Peter Thiel, **Zero to One** (40pp)

- [You Are Not a Lottery Ticket](#) (20pp)
- [The Ideology of Competition](#) (20pp)

Dan Wang, [Violence and the Sacred: College as an Incubator of Girardian Terror](#) (10pp)

Brian Timar, [Mimetic Traps](#) (2pp)

Johnathan Bi, [Book Notes on Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World](#) (~26pp)

- Introduction (~6pp)
- Book 1 (~20pp)