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### [Some personal issues I have with generalisation](#)

As a quick foreword to this post, i would like to say that contrary to my previous post on the thoery of division of labour, this post is almost all my personal opinions. its much more vocal against the concepts of generalisation and i dont pretend for a minute that its an unobjective view. but it is a relevant view i feel. it is at least an informed view. so here are my problems with Jacque Fresco's theories on generalisation of learning and working.

the problem of all becoming generalists is that it also implies that no one will be a true specialist in any one subject matter. but in the world we live in, its the specialists who get the real work done when it comes to making advancements. In order to gain truly significant knowledge in a paticular field, one must study and work in that field for many years. in the process of car design for example, experience is paramount. in order to truly understand how to create an improvement, one must learn a lot of information about previous designs

and systems first. this however isnt just learning from a book. to really understand what you are learning you also have to do physical hands on work with cars and mechanical components. after a very long time of doing this, you can finally start thinking about coming up with some logical improvements to a system. at this stage you have to create workable solutions to problems which can realistically be put into place. then once you have your new gearbox for example, you must also be very experienced and knowledgable to define its parameters.

the same is also true when setting up suspension. it takes a lot more than just some general knowledge to do this correctly. you have to consider the ‘toe’ angle of the wheels which affects steering responsiveness and tyre wear, you have to consider camber angle which influences how the car handles and responds to changes in weight within the vehicles and the shape of the road surface, you have to consider castor angle which effects how quickly/forcefully the steering wheel tries to return itself to the center position, you have to consider anti roll bar stiffness which can affect body roll which is a factor in both comfort and performance, you have to consider spring stiffness in both the bump and the rebound stroke which determines how the car reacts to the forces exerted on the car from cornering or going over bumps, and then the same for damper bump and rebound resistance. honestly the list goes on and on and on forever. and then it gets more confusing when you consider that each one of these factors directly effects all the others. and then even more complicated still when you really understand the issues that can arise from making one component of the setup inbalanced when compared to the others. and then when you consider the variations in components and suspension setups which can be combined to be used in different circumstances for example a sports car an off road car etc. the point is one small change in one area throws off everything else.

you can also consider areas of car design and setup which are more human but still just as specialist in their knowledge. for example consider this about the loudness of your engine and the way it relates to human feeling. and the way that it is determined by experienced specialists rather than machines.

when you hear the noise of your engine. most of what you are really hearing from outside the car is the noise of the engine muffled by the exhaust. if your car had no exhaust not only would it run awefully but it would also be very loud. but who’s to say how much loudness is too much. you may enjoy loudness. you might associate it with power. you may enjoy quietness, you may associate that with comfort. society (other humans) may have levels of noise that they want to tollerate. how could mechanical ears judge this in a human way with feel. and

when you're inside the car. in most modern cars the noise you hear inside is actually extremely carefully determined by the manufacturer. its manipulated using insulation, piping, inlet manifold tuning and routing, and all kinds of other clever tricks to make the sound they want you to hear. they want you to have a certain experience from their product. in a luxury car they may do everything in their power to isolate you from the noise, but in a sports car the noise may be tuned to be beautiful purr, quite different from the noise you would hear if nothing was done to change it. but once again it is only a human who could determine what a beautiful noise is. (just as a quick note i originally wrote this short paragraph in a thread i made in the movements forums about the venus projects disorted view of jobs and technology. it might look out of place here but i feel that i said it best before so i went back and found it to put it here)

now you may think im rambling on here and indeed i am, but the point im trying to make is that to learn all of these things and make real improvements upon them takes a lot of specialist experience. this experience would be very difficult to obtain in an economy such as the venus project promotes. furthermore, this is specialist experience which automated production decisions would find very difficult to automate. there is a reason why car manufacturing and design operations are now almost completely automated, but not quite. it isnt because of Fresco's view that these jobs must be kept so humans can keep selling their labour for money or something like that. its simply because there are so many jobs even involving technology which require specialist human knowledge and experience. without human input these automated products would quickly become too boring and functional, and all too similar.

Proponents of the venus project would argue that this wouldnt be a problem. apparently there would still be some people working, but these people would be generalists who would apparently just decide for fun to drop in one day and give their opinion/ design a beautiful piece of unique funiture because they are just so awesome apparently. but would these generalists be truly qualified to make these kinds of decisions. and who decides who they are. who is allowed to work at the venus project car factory. whoever is most qualified? how would this be judged? apparently in the education system people would just be coming out with degrees on pretending they know a little bit about everything! if there are no qualified specialist engineers with years of experience how will the system work?

The reason why this knowledge, in my opinion, would be hard to come by is that no one would have to/want to take a set path through their carreers or education that lead to these levels of experience. if everyone had the

choice all the time, whats to stop people simply becoming bored with their chosen field and moving on every time the going got a little bit tough. but even if this wasnt the case consider this.

All production would be automated. but what happens when something goes wrong and a solution needs to be found. how many generalists would be truly qualified in any one area to make improvements upon a process. would our knowledge and progress not slow down in such a system? would it not be easier at some stage to even start relying on computers and machines to come up with the advancements themselves using some sort of AI. and even if this wasnt the case would we not very quickly be living in a world full of generalists who werent truly qualified at any one task to really be dependable when action was required. imagine going to a doctor who knows a bit of this and that. he fealt like learning medicine one day so he went for it, but then he got bored after about a year so he moved on. but its alright because he knows his stuff, honest. yeah right! thats what i say. i am proud of myself for learning about motorsport engineering and about business because i feel that i can take pride in the work i have put in to gain my knowledge.

I also tend to find that a lot of these so called generalists are people without any one paticular skill that they are really truly good at. but they do learn a thing or two here and there, and this leads them to the false assumption that they are experts in everything that they can research on the internet for 5 minutes. and i dont like the idea of living in a world full of people like that. and who is going to put in all that hard work working on cars for a few decades, just so a very small improvement in engine efficiency can be made in a car. and this person is expected to do this for no reward (though this is another subject entirely.) so wouldnt it just be easier to pretend to be an expert in everything ( a generalist ) and leave all the specialist improvements to a fictional someone else who can be bothered.

ok i am sorry if i offended anyone here who doesnt have a fancy degree from the “corrupt capitalist education system.” i know many people who are extremely intelligent about many subjects which they are not directly qualified in. however, even these people recognise their own limitations. and they recognise that they cannot be so arrogant as to assume that they could just saunter into the large hadron collider and just start pulling levers and pushing buttons without blowing themselves up.

So how would the venus project propose that progress would be made in a world full of generalists, a world

where the only specialists were volunteers who just felt like devoting a decade of their lives to engineering because they thought it would be fun?

sorry if this post seems really cobbled together. i just wrote it really quickly by my standards and i had to copy paste one paragraph from something else i wrote before. then i had to move it all around and all sorts so if it doesnt make sense then im sorry. but im sure you all understand what i am trying to say. specialisation leads to increased knowledge on a subject. generalisation leads to a little bit of knowledge about many subjects.

i fail to see how our vast technological progress can continue in a world full of generalists. and if everything just become automated, then the world will just be a very boring place devoid of all specialist individuality. unless of course you happen to live next door to one guy who likes doing up cars, and another who likes making stylish furniture.

anyway as always please feel free to comment freely with no restrictions on your freedom of speech. no moderators will secretly try to silence you or ban you, and no group mentality will try and belittle your views without considering you as an individual with valued input to give

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~ by logan86 on January 9, 2010.

Posted in [Economy, Business, Politics](#), [Science, Technology](#), [Zeitgeist venus project conspiracies](#)

Tags: [capitalism](#), [economy](#), [generalisation](#), [resource based economy](#), [specialisation](#), [the venus project](#), [the zeitgeist movement](#)

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## 7 Responses to “Some personal issues I have with generalisation”

1. I don't have much to say here, but I will say, generalist methods are fine in a living life everyday routine, as in my car needs a new fanbelt [i can

replace that], my boiler has broken [replace the thermocouple] etc...

But specialist problems such as design and fine tuning arent exactly generalist.

How the venus project aims to solve this is vague

“everyone will have the free time to be educated in everything ?”

Seems almost like a diversional answer really.



[anticultist](#) said this on [January 9, 2010 at 4:51 am](#) | [Reply](#)

2. this is a very good point anticultist. generalism is fine in daily life. i hadn't thought about it like that before. generalisation is good for getting stuff done in ones own personal sphere such as at home.

but for specialist tasks the answers are just diversions. almost deliberate diversions. yet another example of the venus project preferring to present an aire that it knows best rather than admit any error in its logic.

another area where this is almost ironically true is architecture. if a computer designed your house, would it meet your needs, probably. would you enjoy living in it, thats another matter.

but i suppose in the venus project world someone with a passing interest in design could just draw a cool picture of a house and solve all your problems



[logan86](#) said this on [January 9, 2010 at 5:03 am](#) | [Reply](#)

3. From what I saw of design methods in frescos videos, future by design etc...It seemed to me all his homes were of the same materials, they all looked white and shiny with round areas, or looked like apartments in buildings.

Its not that his designs arent attractive, in fact like someone said on another blog “they look like theyre right out of thunderbirds”, but they all look like they utilise his same idea of plastic extrusion method.

This might be a simplistic approach of molding, but I myself think they all look too minimalistic and sterile, and who wants to live in the same materials?

Let alone do those materials and designs function through out the world over ?

Do they come under international building requirements and regulations ?



Again a generalist design and ideology, in an otherwise complicated subject area.

But thats a slight digression from the original post , sorry.



[anticultist](#) said this on [January 9, 2010 at 3:37 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

4. keep up the great work i love your blog

:D



[hurr durr](#) said this on [January 15, 2010 at 7:46 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

- thanks for passing through hurr durr ;)

Try not to take it all to heart, you and I both know you never said that above, and i dont want to make you look like an idiot by approving your spewings.

Now trot along to the forum like a good z'ombie



[anticultist](#) said this on [January 15, 2010 at 8:01 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

5. Malcolm Gladwell claims that it takes about 10,000 hours of practice in a particular task to become proficient at it, though most aircraft pilots don't accumulate that many flight hours in their entire careers and seem to do just fine far short of that figure.

Still, it does show the need for specialists with a lot of experience in the things which matter. You wouldn't want a generalist to perform your root canal, for example.



[Mark Plus](#) said this on [April 8, 2010 at 7:36 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

6. I think generalists will be somewhat specialists. For an example, a generalist can be well informed in many areas but not all areas. All you have to do is look at ProMeTheUsPan, if he's not a generalist, then I don't know what type of person is:

<http://anticultist.wordpress.com/2010/04/21/the-psychological-profile-of-a-conspiracy-theorist/#comment-748>

People that speed learn can get multiple online degrees, especially if we were living in a non-monetary system right now. No more worrying

about bills, right?

Sadly, I see a trend happening that the intelligent people that are true generalists are being forced out due to those that have questionable IQs. I doubt TZM has any true generalist or specialists in that regard.

I can see generalists and specialists working together in the future the same way we see the division of labor now. They would have to work together still because everyone will still have a weakness regardless how many areas you are an expert in, that's being realistic. In any alternative system from the monetary system, this type of environment with advancing technology to help us can make it look plausible. But these so-called specialists (generalist experts in many fields) would be in the interdisciplinary teams without a doubt. I think those two words should be redefined though after reading this blog. The funny thing is that, who would want to be apart of an interdisciplinary team that takes the anti-credential position to begin with? This will make TZM & TVP look like a joke by itself. So I see why specialists are defended here.

Before taking any position, I'm sure people will ask those who want to join volunteering in something what they are truly good at and beg for their honesty to do so. RBEF runs that way as a matter fact on their forums, this is what I call being organized.

Now, if people become inactive- then they should be removed or suggested to do something else because sometimes, we think we are good at something but find out we are better at something else. I have this same experience. But that person will remain generalist because that person will still share/have the experience in the field he or she left therefore later on the future always be willing to be a helping hand. There should be space for rotational positions as well, because a person can easily get bored doing the same type of job therefore contributing to society in a physical sense more fulfilling. To determine if a person is qualified to begin, I'm sure things would work similar, people would go to school but have the freedom to decide how and when they want to go to school rather it be at home during the day or at school at night. Either or. We don't have that freedom now.

If a machine went down, then I'm sure there would be some type of redundancy built in to the system that temporarily goes down. That's a general answer, but the specialist would step in to explain how. But I know, it scares me when they say "no one does" when the question is asked about who makes the decisions.

Speaking of the engine sounding at all, I think it's important that it has some sound. Think about it, if vehicles had no sound, how would you know a car is about to run you over during the day? Should human beings where some type of magnets on their clothes so that the vehicles can repel them from the person? I've been in this type of situation before when it came to helping people move furniture. It's something to think about. We still should be considerate regarding to noise pollution though.

But, as things get more automated and information is more easily accessible, then the room for a generalist will grow and it won't be stopped unless technology becomes crippled. But if a person chooses to be a specialist and only be an expert in one thing and one thing only, I don't think that should be frowned upon or looked at as "socially offensive". That should be respected as super dedication. We would still need specialists for sure during an alternative transition if automation isn't up to par. I don't think generalists will be pretenders, I think generalists will



most likely show more genuine interest into learning something else then a specialist would in another field. But I don't a generalist doing art one day and all of the sudden want to jump into being a dentist, but if that's the case, I'm sure that person will still have to take years of classes to be certified.

As long as we don't have people calling each other doctor in the field of music and film, I think we'll be fine. Maybe that's where the horror starts to kick in. In the future, we should not have honorary doctorates, it would just cause confusion later on when it comes to researching on history in general and debates in the future will fall into semantic traps. If my response seems like a diversion, please don't take it that way.



[BranManFloMore](#) said this on [June 13, 2010 at 10:05 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

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