

Priorities

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Having just posted my note on moderation, and the need to change my work patterns, I think it's only fair to add that I have also been spending time thinking about what is really important about the work that I am undertaking, which is the challenge that one or two of the commentators on the blog over the last few days have made, as did all those I spoke to yesterday. Without deciding this, trying to change a pattern of work makes no sense.

Several things stood out from this.

The first is that the politics of care is the most important idea that I am working on at present. Thomas put this very well in our discussion yesterday. He said he did not understand what I was talking about when I began discussing it in the videos, which he saw being recorded, but over time, he now thinks it has become a critical issue for the future of politics. He is persuaded that it is what I should be working upon. As someone also put it on YouTube this morning, this does appear to be important to them as well. They noted that it appears to be neither socialism nor social democracy, and they want me to define precisely what I mean by the politics of care, and they think it is important that I do so. I tend to agree and now think that this is a higher priority than writing disparate blog posts. It is where I will now begin to put most of my effort.

Secondly, overall, it is clear that YouTube is our most successful outlet these days. I know the blog is very close to my heart and a lot of people like it, but the growth in YouTube following indicates that this is the place where I reach more new people, and this site tends to be read by older, more dedicated, already persuaded people, and therefore, its impact on the process of change is lower. If my priority is to create change, and it is, then YouTube is my most important outlet.

Thirdly, my priority is not producing content, per se, and in that context, some of the news media discussion that I offer is not as useful as the work I do on generating ideas, and it is that work which I should now focus upon. As John Christensen noted at our event on 28th February, he and I used to spend our time writing green and even white papers on what could be done to implement policy, and since I completed the Taxing

Wealth Report 2024, I have not produced any new major equivalent study, and that feels like an omission on my part.

I am, therefore, anxious to complete some background papers on my theoretical underpinnings for the politics of care, and we are now looking at producing this on MMT in a way that is not readily available in the UK at present, and then want to continue with bringing this solution focus to my other work.

Jacqueline's challenge to me is that I should produce more solution-focused videos now, including ones entitled "What should Rachel do now?" That is because just about no one is doing anything like that. The left has always been good at hand-wringing and analysis, but of answers, there are very few, and that is one thing that I've always been good at. This is, therefore, where I should be focusing my attention.

Fourthly, I should allow myself more time to think. Looking out of the window is an underrated activity that I used to do much more of than I have of late. It can be easily combined with walking, birdwatching and other pastimes.

My hope is that, as a result of these changes, I may be able to restore some balance around my work, and I now realise that unless I do that, I won't be doing it for as long as I would like. The message that I need to priorities differently has been rammed home to me, loud and clear, and I am going to listen to it.