

Physicist: Imperialist or Nomad?

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My mentors at the graduate-school level include Makoto Kobayashi (Nobel Laureate, 2008) at Kyoto University, David Politzer (N.L. 2004), Richard Feynman (N.P. 1965), and Murray Gell-Mann (N.P. 1965) at Caltech where I got my Ph.D. in 1982. Positions I held after Caltech were at the Theory group of SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center), Harvard University, and I retired from the Particle Physics group at Kyoto University 5 years ago. Anyone who looked at all the names in the mentor list and my job positions would certainly identify me as a particle –theoretical high-energy physicist.

But there is more to it. The mentor list is full of colors if you see it with your penetrating keen eyes. Mr. Feynman’s case may be most familiar to some of you: He was a member of the investigation of the Space Shuttle ”Columbia” accident, decoded an ancient language, worked on a super-parallel computer ”Connection Machine” invented by his son, ... the list continues. Murray Gell-Mann had a deep knowledge of various languages, as his father was a linguist. To prove it, I was defeated at several discussions with him on the structure of the Japanese language.

Therefore, it may have been inevitable that I picked up a data CD at a small CD shop in Akihabara, Tokyo one day in 2000. It changed the rest of my life.

Several theoretical physicists are curious enough to venture into other disciplines of academics, armed with all the mathematical concepts and analytical techniques he or she learned in physics. They are often successful, especially when they have insiders to guide them. This picture is much like an invasion of a country. This may have been a picture in the back of the brain of Dr. Takeo Kuwahara, a French literary scholar (1904-1988), when termed the word ”Physics Imperialism”.

Over the years since then, I have devoted my research in the study of Economics. Some people call it ”Econo physics”. I ask myself now, having devoted a quarter of a century and published two books in English, not to mention all the research papers, Some may call me a soldier of the invading and colonizing force of Imperial Physics.

Or. ...

Should I be called a nomad, who left his homeland and wandered around from place to place to find fresh pasture of academic endeavors?

I hope the audience of my lecture to determine which am I.

P.S.

In addition to what I wrote above, I intend to explain the basic concepts, the need and the aim of some of our recent study in real economy, finance, and cript assets/currencies.