

## Effective Altruism, and Racism/Specieism

**TED Talk:** [ted.com/talks/peter\\_singer\\_the\\_why\\_and\\_how\\_of\\_effective\\_altruism](http://ted.com/talks/peter_singer_the_why_and_how_of_effective_altruism)

7 billion humans on Earth > 1 billion living in “extreme poverty”

- < \$1.53 dollars/day (adjusted for essentials one can buy in U.S. in 2014 for that amount)

Absolute Poverty: *without* the basic minimum needs for human health.

Relative Poverty: impoverished Americans have access to safe drinking water, free schooling for their children, free health care through Medicaid, (in many cases) subsidized housing

### “Make-A-Wish” Foundation

- Average cost of making a child’s wish come true: \$7,500
- Same amount of money: Against Malaria Foundation could save lives of at least 3 children—maybe many more.
- Singer: *Saving a child’s life* has to be better than fulfilling a child’s wish to be Batkid.
- When > one’s child’s life can be saved, choice is even clearer. (What is *most good* we can do?)

### Guide Dogs

- Cost of providing a guide dog to one blind person: ~\$40,000.
- Same amount of money: prevent 400 to 2000 cases of blindness in developing countries—otherwise come from trachoma, a contagious bacterial infection of the eye.

### Singer’s Personal Ethics

- Used to give 10% away;
- Now give approximately 1/3 of their annual income
- Goal give 50% away

**“What Should a Billionaire Give – and What Should You?”**: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/17/magazine/17charity.t.html>

### **Organ donation from living, “unrelated, anonymous donors”:**

- In 2014 the waiting list for kidneys in the United States reached the dismal milestone of 1000
- Waiting list for a deceased donor can be 5 years, and in some states is closer to 10 years.
- The U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network started tracking the numbers of organ donations from living “unrelated, anonymous donors” in 1988, and for the first ten years, there was only one total.
- 1998: there were 3; 1999: 6; 2000: 21; 2008: surpassed 100; 2013: 174
- Expanding concentric circle of “we,” of who is in my tribe
- “Opposite of love is not hate, but **apathy**” --Elie Wiesel

### **“Race is the child of racism, not the father” - Ta-Nehisi Coates**

- All humans are 99.9% identical at the DNA level
- of that tiny 0.1% difference, 94% of the variation is among individuals from the same populations—only 6% between individuals from different populations.
- 1.23% difference in genes b/w *Homo sapiens* & *Pan troglodytes* (chimpanzees),....
- Chimps make and use simple tools, hunt in groups and engage in aggressive, violent acts.
- They are social creatures that appear to be capable of empathy, altruism, self-awareness, cooperation in problem solving and learning through example and experience.
- Chimps even outperform humans in some memory tasks.
- The human species is so evolutionarily young, and its migratory patterns so wide [and] restless, that it has simply NOT had a chance to divide itself into separate biological groups or “races” in any but the most superficial ways.
- We all evolved in the last 100,000 years from the same small number of tribes that migrated out of Africa and colonized the world....”
- There is only one race — the human race.
- Racism “real in the same way that Wednesday is real. Made up in the same way that Wednesday is made up.”