

The Meaning and Value of Things

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May 19th, 2016

**We need to listen to
what people tell us about
the meaning of their
possessions.**



What do people say?

- Throwing away this possession is like throwing away a part of me.
- Losing this possession is like losing a friend.
- I see my belongings as extensions of myself; they are part of who I am.
- This possession provides me with emotional comfort.
- I love some of my belongings the way I love some people.

What do people say?

- I am responsible for the well-being of this possession.
- If I discard this without extracting all the important information from it, I will lose something.
- This is still usable.
- Throwing this away means wasting a valuable opportunity.
- This is too pretty to throw away.

The Meaning of Possessions

- Exaggerated Essentialism
- Material Scrupulosity
- Aesthetic Sensitivity



Essentialism

“Things have an underlying reality of true nature that one cannot observe directly, and it is this hidden nature that really matters.”

Paul Bloom

- We all essentialize – adults and children
- Queen of England Study
(Hood & Bloom, 2008)



Exaggerated Essentialism

(emotion- & meaning-based)

- Sentimentality
- Identity
- Connection to others & world
- Opportunity
- Safety & Comfortre

Material Scrupulosity

Exaggerated sense of duty or moral/ethical responsibility for the care and disposition of possessions to prevent them from being harmed or wasted.

Violation of this duty is difficult to imagine and would result in guilt and a sense of personal failure

Material Scrupulosity

(responsibility-based)

- Maximum Usage
 - Utility
 - Information
 - Waste
- Harm
 - Anthropomorphism



Aesthetic Sensitivity

- Creativity (nonproductive)
- Visual sensitivity

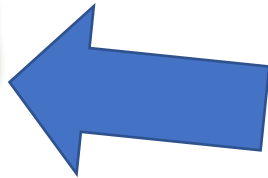


Let's look at some personal examples:

- Exaggerated Essentialism
- Material Scrupulosity
- Aesthetic Sensitivity

Exaggerated Essentialism





Material Scrupulosity



Aesthetic Sensitivity







State of Alaska

Department of Natural
Resources Division of
Technical Services

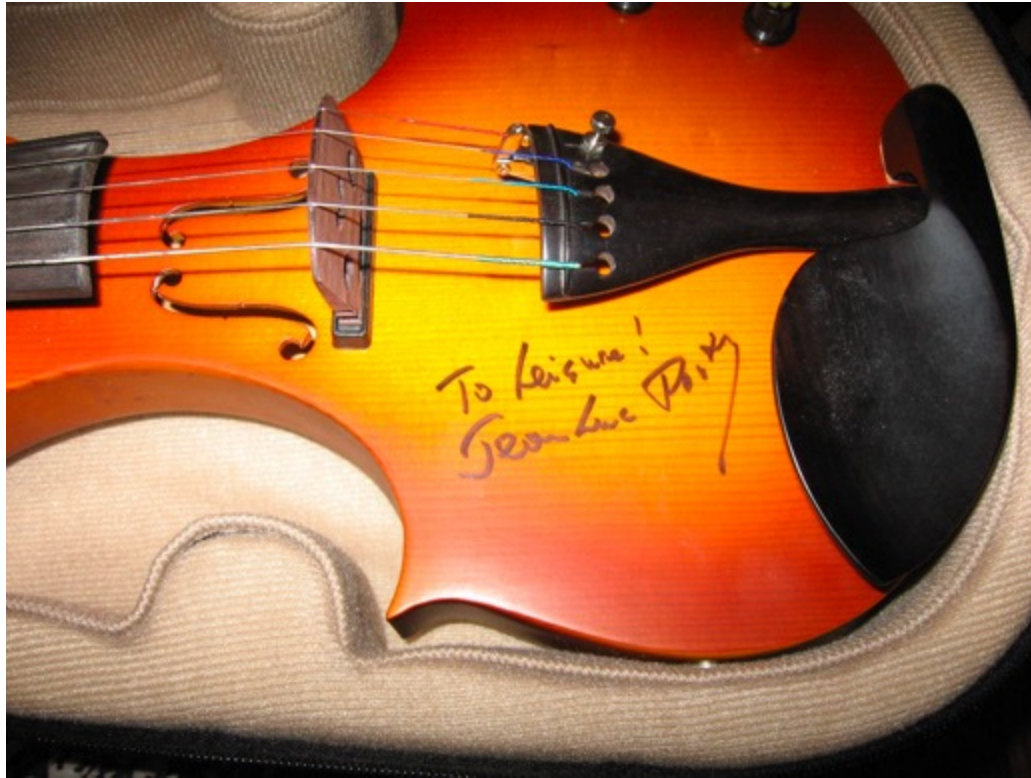
Land Survey

Location _____

What happens when all three qualities are present?



- Exaggerated Essentialism
- Material Scrupulosity
- Aesthetic Sensitivity



What happens when all three qualities are present?



“Think I’ll complete a Narrative Appraisal! I heard there’s a copy of it attached to this webinar...”

And now....question time!

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And

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