

# Tao of the Bootstrap

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### Introduction

*The Philosophy-Psychology of Taoism as an Approach to Leadership and Structuring Organizations in the Postmodern World from the Perspective of a Bootstrapping Entrepreneur*

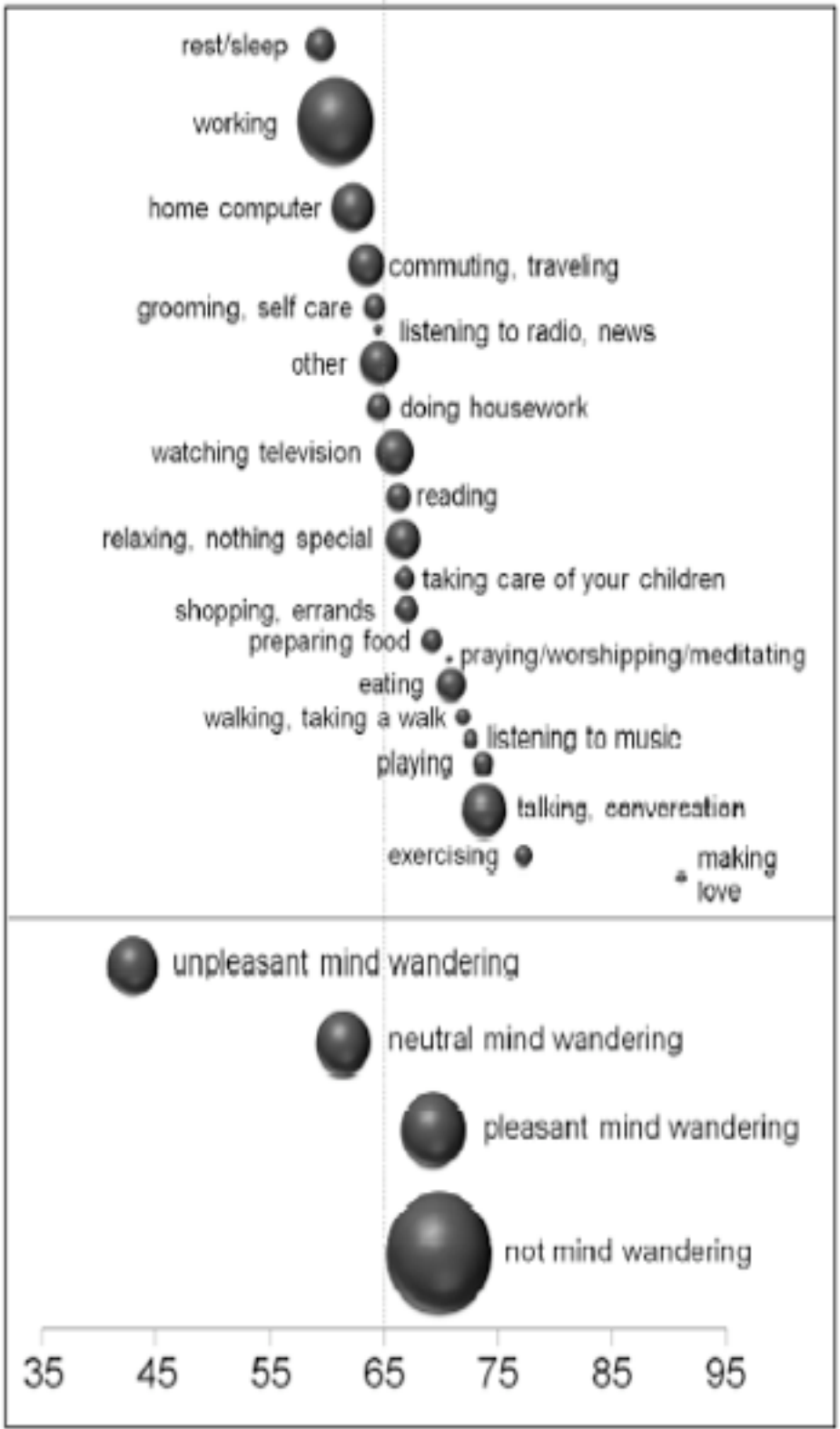
“Let your ears hear whatever they want to hear; let your eyes see whatever they want to see; let your mind think whatever it wants to think; let your lungs breathe in their own rhythm. Do not expect any special result, for in this wordless and idealess state, where can there be past or future, and where any notion of purpose? Stop, look, and listen.”

*If you want to transform the world, transform your self. - Tao Te Ching*

### Results

**Be Like Water**

- Altruistic
- Modest
- Flexible
- Transparent
- Soft yet Persistent



**Fig. 1.** Mean happiness reported during each activity (top) and while mind wandering to unpleasant topics, neutral topics, pleasant topics or not mind wandering (bottom). Dashed line indicates mean of happiness across all samples. Bubble area indicates the frequency of occurrence. The largest bubble (“not mind wandering”) corresponds to 53.1% of the samples, and the smallest bubble (“praying/worshipping/meditating”) corresponds to 0.1% of the samples.

### Conclusions

It is possible to make the wrong decisions, but there is something much larger and impactful, what Graham describes as “quintessential and daimonic”, the heart of the sage. Heart being the same as one’s mind according to the translation. This term daimonic referring to being motivated by a spiritual force or genius and inspired. “As a psychological term, it has come to represent an elemental force which contains an irrepressible drive towards individuation. It can also mean the dynamic unrest that exists in us all that forces us into the unknown, leading to self-destruction and/or self-discovery.” Thus, the entrepreneurial passion can be related to the creating of one’s own universe, and being a part of the Tao, the way. However, paradoxically, this can only be discovered or integrated effectively by ridding oneself of the desire to succeed. It is the yin and yang of individuation.

I can recommend a combination that includes Obolensky’s polyarchy, Taleb’s optionality, a deep understanding and practice of cutting edge psychology/neuroscience while utilizing the lengthy time continuum as a heuristic for patience and perseverance, including making time for stillness and meditation.

Utilizing the technique of the yin/yang polarity spectrum as part of any analysis of situations will maximize understanding of any murky situation. Wrapping your mind around the meaning of failure or a negative emotion or a distasteful task will illuminate and convey a deeper understanding on what it means to work and our identity in relation to that life’s work.

### Methods

MBCT – Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy - The application of treatments with a mindfulness basis was a new direction and a transformation of common ideals. It led to the fusion of psychological distress, mindfulness-based orientation and physical ailments.

mindfulness is “a general receptivity and a full engagement of the present moment.”

Polyarchy - power is invested in multiple people

Wei Wu Wei – passive achievement”

Qigong - “ The practice of Qigong is intended to mindfully and on purpose create an increased harmony between yin and yang energies.”

Optionality–“The difference between the antifragile and the fragile lies there. The fragile has no option, but the antifragile needs to select what’s best—the best option.”

Yin Yang Polarity = “The key to the relationship between *yang* and *yin* is called *hsiang sheng*, mutual arising or inseparability.”

Zi Ran - to resemble the way nature works

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