

	CONNECT	
Of Mice - And Men		

2025 SB

What can an experiment on mice tell us about the future of humanity?

- 1

The "Universe 25" experiment is often described as "chilling" and "horrifying." A man placed mice in a "paradise" of his own design - not once but twenty-five times.
Every time, it ended the same way. Their heaven quickly became hell and the mice were destined to die out.
- 2

Why did *utopia* turn into *dystopia*?
And what can "Universe 25" tell us about the future of the human race?
- 3

"Universe 25," a particularly harrowing experiment – or rather, series of experiments – was carried out between 1954 and 1972 by John B Calhoun, an ethologist and behavioural researcher working for the US National Institute of Mental Health.

Following earlier similar experiments on rats, twenty-five experiments were inflicted on mice, all with the same results: a dystopian existence and inevitable extinction. Articles online about Universe 25 usually have titles such as [The Horrifying Study That Predicted Human Extinction](#).

Calhoun created a "rodent paradise" - unlimited food and water and plenty of space, including private nesting areas. This "paradise" quickly turned into the opposite.

The mice mated and bred busily - at first.
Before long, however, the population dropped. Many mice adopted pathological behaviours that included male mice attacking other mice - even infants - some females becoming aggressive and a lack of interest by females in caring for their infants. Some mothers even abandoned their infants. There was 90% infant mortality.

After each study was ended, the four healthiest males and females were allowed to breed, but it was a failure. The mice's behaviour had changed to the point that none of their infants survived.
Calhoun repeated his experiment twenty-five times, with identical results every time.
- 4

Calhoun was deeply concerned about what Universe 25 meant for the future of the human race. He wrote about this concern in his paper on the study: [Death Squared: The Explosive Growth and Demise of a Mouse Population](#):

The results obtained in this study should be obtained when customary causes of mortality become markedly reduced in any species of mammal whose members form social groups.

In seeking such fulfilment they compete for social role occupancy with the older established members of the community. This competition is so severe that it simultaneously leads to the nearly total breakdown of all normal behaviour by both the contestors and the established adults of both sexes. Normal social organization lie "the establishment" breaks down, it "dies."

Calhoun also said that infant mice were rejected, both by their mothers and other adults. These youngsters suffered an early failure of social bonding, made worse by living in a high-density population with many mice congregating together in the same areas.

Interestingly, he also observed that

Autistic-like creatures, capable only of the most simple behaviours compatible with physiological survival, emerge out of this process. Their spirit has died ["the first death"]. They are no longer capable of executing the more complex behaviours compatible with species survival.

Mouse complex behaviour identified by Calhoun was interrelated behaviours related to courtship, maternal care, territorial defence and social organisation. He concluded that without these behaviours, there is no development of social organisation and no reproduction.

Calhoun believed that living beings – mice, men and all beings - have two deaths.

The "first death" is the loss of purpose in life beyond mere existence, which includes the loss of desire to mate, raise infants, or establish a role within society.

The "second death" is the literal end of life. Calhoun's belief in "two deaths" connects with the Book of Revelation [chapter 2, verse 11] in the Bible, the King James version being:

He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Perhaps the mice's pathological and anti-social behaviour was a response to perhaps not so much an unhappy life, as a *pointless* one - the first death. As he wrote:

Reduction of bodily death [ie "the second death"] culminates in survival of an excessive number of individuals that have developed the potentiality for occupying the social roles characteristic of the species.

In other words - there were too many mice for the roles within the group. In nature, any mice without roles would go elsewhere – but these mice could not leave the colony.

- 5 An article about Thomas Jefferson's aversion to having too many people live in cities, [What's Ailing Us? This Is What Jefferson Would Say](#) includes a good analysis of the Universe 25 study.

It says that Calhoun's studies suggest strongly that humans - like rodents - are hard-wired for social activities due to the need to survive. If they lived in a safe and healthy setting and had no threats to survival, social roles would soon be abandoned. As in Universe 25, social apathy would result - and eventually extinction. Calhoun's experiments strongly suggest that a failure to nurture social instincts early in life will lead to extinction.

Calhoun concluded that - for both men and mice - the consequences are the same when their most complex behaviours are blocked. For humans, I'd define complex behaviours as the things we do to give our lives purpose and/or re-affirm that our lives have a purpose.

Loss of these behaviours quickly leads to the death of the species. In Universe 25, it was the death of the mouse colony.

What would have happened if the colony had been larger? If it was ALL mice? Would the whole mice species have become extinct, following a dystopian existence?

Isn't this what makes people attach the labels of "chilling" and "horrifying" to Universe 25? The fear that, one day, *this will happen to the human race*.

Calhoun wrote:

*For an animal so complex as man, there is no logical reason why a comparable sequence of events should not also lead to species extinction.
If opportunities for role fulfilment fall far short of the demand by those capable of filling roles...
only violence and disruption of social organization can follow.*

- 6 Could the breakdown in society that Calhoun observed in his mouse experiment, take place in human society?

I say, definitely, if the conditions nurtured such a breakdown. In other words, if humans existed in a version of Universe 25.

Whether this is carried out by mice or someone or something else, we can't rule out the possibility that perhaps we already live in "Universe 25." How would we know, if it is all we have ever been familiar with?

How can we be sure we're not living in an experiment? Could it even explain the appalling increase in autism?

Far-fetched? Not really.

Disconnection between humans and our natural environment is already understood by some people to harm the human spirit. How ironic that Prince Charles, one of these people, supports a *dystopian* agenda that aims to have

humans live in so-called "smart cities," not out of choice but from enforced mass migration.

If his dystopian agenda were to come to fruition – and I believe it won't, for various reasons - smart cities, in my view, will be a human version of Universe 25.

In these dystopian, man-made existences, our lives will be made "easier" - translate that into "smaller." We will rely on "smart" cars, "smart" homes, "smart" fridges and so on.

We won't work – we won't need to or be able to. We won't make decisions – ditto. With *all our needs met* by the Machine, currently known as the state, just like in the story "[The Machine Stops](#)," humans will have no purpose in their lives.

Paradoxically, the act of having all needs met guarantees that mice – and men - do *not* have their needs met because it causes the first death -the death of the spirit.

Is the deliberate causing of the first death, one of the aims of this agenda I referred to?

As many people have pointed out, men are not mice. I'm not sure if this statement is incredibly profound - or incredibly shallow.

I *am* sure, however, that to complacently assume that humans could never find themselves in a version of "Universe 25" would be a mistake.

CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: Helen King

Source: Tetbury CONNECT: [Magazine](#)

- 3 [LINK:](#) History of Yesteryear: The Horrifying Study That Predicted Human Extinction
- 4 [LINK:](#) John B Calhoun MD: Death Squared: The Explosive Growth and Demise of a Mouse Population
- 5 [LINK:](#) History News Network: What's Ailing Us? This Is What Jefferson Would Say
- 6 [LINK:](#) E M Forster: "The Machine Stops"

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