

Boggling



Pointless rumination about the difficulty of defining things.



A sign of social awareness.

We are in a crisis of meaning. What do our institutions mean? What does it mean to be educated? What does it mean in today's world to be human? I want a society that fills us up again and makes us feel part of something bigger than ourselves.

Hillary Clinton

Bourgeois culture can be undermined by encouraging a certain type of pseudo-philosophical doubt. This kind of scepticism needs to be applied selectively, however. It would not do to query attempts to solve global poverty, for example.

In some cases, boggling generates unanswerable questions, and hence engenders intellectual capitulation. This is helpful to mediocrity, as it can be used to encourage unthinking acceptance of the prevailing ideology.

In other cases, the purpose of boggling is to block real questioning, by signalling that an issue has become taboo. *What are universities for?* it is asked, for example. But there is no intention of considering as a possible answer: *for giving scope to the most intelligent*, as this answer conflicts with mediocratic ideology. Such boggling helps to confuse potential critics, if they are ingenuous enough to believe it constitutes genuine deliberation or openness to debate.