

Dale Jamieson Quotes

*People, Thinking, Philosophy, Animal, World, Climate, Views, Powerful,
Community, Psychology, Country, Environmental, Ideas, Mean, Suffering,
Challenges, Want, Identity, Important, Reading*

In this era of globalization we are witnessing struggles within individual states about what their identity and interests consist in.

~Dale Jamieson

We live on a restless planet in a violent universe.

~Dale Jamieson

Apocalypses don't happen very often. They tend to be separated by tens or even hundreds of millions of years.

~Dale Jamieson

Since we're not very good at something as basic as controlling our reproduction, life is really bad for more people than ever before.

~Dale Jamieson

Moral revolutions are typically seen retrospectively. Prospectively, the revolutionaries tend to look like crazy people, and sometimes they are.

~Dale Jamieson

I take seriously the idea that we are African Apes who (at least for the moment) dominate the planet, but our psychology is pretty much what it was when we were living in small groups on the savanna.

~Dale Jamieson

If we don't have historical consciousness we can't really understand problems in all their dimensions, and if we can't understand problems than we can't find solutions.

~Dale Jamieson

It's true that climate change is an unprecedented problem so it's not surprising that it's so difficult to address.

~Dale Jamieson

I begin with human psychology and then see what we can say about

ethics.

~Dale Jamieson

In much of the world today there are no more chilling words than "I'm from the United States and I'm here to help you."

~Dale Jamieson

We know the "great men" and a handful of heavily cited papers in our specialization. When there is a historical frame around a paper it's often a caricature that has become canonical.

~Dale Jamieson

We think of history as another specialization, like philosophy of language, rather than as something that informs everything we do and think.

~Dale Jamieson

I think that by the middle of this century people will still be eating meat (though less), and their meat will mostly be produced in factories through synthetic processes, cell cultures, and so on.

~Dale Jamieson

Increasingly both environmentalists and animal ethicists recognize the enormous destruction caused by animal agriculture.

~Dale Jamieson

When I first started studying climate change back in the 1980s, I was struck by how difficult it was be for people to understand this issue.

~Dale Jamieson

The seas will continue to rise no matter who gets elected president.

~Dale Jamieson

Even if Bill McKibben were to become dictator, future generations

would suffer because of the carbon we had already emitted.

~Dale Jamieson

It is probably true that the economic benefits of being in the EU are a net positive to the UK, but a large number of people do not share in these benefits and the result is increasing inequality.

~Dale Jamieson

Is it in the UK's interests to leave the EU? It depends on your values. The answer can't be read off of GDP statistics under various scenarios or some measures of global influence.

~Dale Jamieson

Climate change involves fundamental choices about how we want to live and what kind of world we want.

~Dale Jamieson

We live in a world in which everyone wants solutions. But we can't find solutions if we don't understand the problems, and we can't understand the problems without knowing how we got here.

~Dale Jamieson

Most of what we think of as distinctively human has occurred in the last 10,000 years in the Holocene - a period in which the Earth was abnormally quiet.

~Dale Jamieson

The problem is that the Enlightenment dream may make too many demands on poor African apes like us. We may just not be up to it.

~Dale Jamieson

In the last few centuries we've managed to reduce how much we kill each other, we've learned some basic lessons about public health, and life is relatively good for more people than ever before.

~Dale Jamieson

We need more science, but what we especially need is science fiction.

~Dale Jamieson

Every country now has its own domestic political debate about how to respond to climate change. This is where the action is.

~Dale Jamieson

Many environmental questions are in a deep way philosophical, despite our penchant for treating them as if they were only technological, economic, or whatever.

~Dale Jamieson

Attitudes are changing very quickly.

~Dale Jamieson

Philosophers are often actively disinterested in what happens between the cup and the lips (after all, that's "non-ideal theory").

~Dale Jamieson

Acts are right in virtue of the goodness of their consequences.

~Dale Jamieson

Our differences should not be exaggerated.

~Dale Jamieson

On my reading of history people who want to bring us the best are usually the people we ought to be afraid of.

~Dale Jamieson

We're highly adaptable and have developed some powerful systems of representation.

~Dale Jamieson

We're good at noticing sudden movements of middle size objects in our immediate visual field, but what is out of sight is for us is largely out of mind.

~Dale Jamieson

You can't imagine anything like nature as we know it without predators.

~Dale Jamieson

Ethics is prescriptive and can change behavior, but usually only at the margins.

~Dale Jamieson

Ethical systems are fundamentally conservative and primarily directed towards regulating interactions within communities.

~Dale Jamieson

Climate change involves behaviors that are individually negligible, whose impacts go far beyond the spatial and temporal constraints that define our sense of community.

~Dale Jamieson

The Enlightenment dream is a good one. The idea that people should rationally appreciate their place in nature, assess threats and possibilities, and regulate their behavior in response is inspiring.

~Dale Jamieson

The Enlightenment is not a nightmare, nor is it something that comes easily to us. It is an aspiration - and a good one!

~Dale Jamieson

We can use economic instruments to help realize our goals but economics does not tell us what our goals should be.

~Dale Jamieson

The idea that Bentham and Mill were maximizers is the greatest stretch of all. They were progressivists, committed to improving the societies in which they lived, not utopian maximizers.

~Dale Jamieson

Progressive Consequentialism requires us to make the world better but we are under no obligation to bring about the best possible world.

~Dale Jamieson

Philosophers tend to radically underestimate the distance between abstract principles (such as "reduce suffering") and what it might actually mean for people to act on them.

~Dale Jamieson

I worry that even well-intentioned attempts to "improve nature" (say by reducing suffering) will make things worse even in their own terms.

~Dale Jamieson

One of the real dangers of our time is people's indifference to history.

~Dale Jamieson

Philosophers are smart, analytical, and skeptical. For these reasons they are relatively unbiased.

~Dale Jamieson

I'm a subjectivist about morality.

~Dale Jamieson

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