

Research Meeting
April 3, 2013

Alexander gave an update on his investigation of the cause of meta-research. Alexander has conducted ~20 phone calls with experts in fields related to meta-research. At this point, he divides the field into two areas: scientific researchers who conduct studies and create meta-analyses; and the open data community that is applying technology to enable better sharing of data and code. Alexander plans to have a few more conversations with experts about meta-research and then put this investigation on hold, write up what he's found thus far and then move on to landscaping other causes.

Elie gave an update on the history of philanthropy project. In particular, he mentioned a meeting of journalists that GiveWell is planning to hold in May to discuss the role philanthropy has played historically in political advocacy.

Elie also announced that in addition to Tim Telleen-Lawton, who will be starting as a full-time Research Analyst in April, GiveWell has hired one summer intern and a Research Analyst, both of whom will start in July.

Holden explained how his view has shifted over time on the question of whether philanthropists should be largely passive (finding great projects that already exist and funding them) to active (foundations playing a more active role in shaping the work on the ground, sometimes even by starting non-profits). He plans to write a blog post about this in the future.