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Blurbs

is where I keep my random musings, quick reviews, and noteworthy quotes all in one place. It's convenient to have a curated collection instead of them being scattered throughout my feed. It's a fun little side space to gather everything.

Livable Stipends for PhD Students Shouldn't Be Up for Debate

05-07-2023

A response to the controversial idea that PhD students should barely scrape by in emergencies and rely on Blue Cupboard to feed themselves.

I recently received some criticism for my comments over the past couple of days, which seemed to justify the idea that PhD students don't need livable stipends. Let me make myself perfectly clear: that's bullshit. No one should have to choose between paying bills and getting essential medical care or feeding their pets. If you're one of those people who thinks barely scraping by is okay for PhD students, we don't see eye to eye.

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Addressing 20-22 personal challenges and reassuming professional responsibility

09-15-2022

An apology and promise - overcoming personal challenges to resume profound professional commitment

From Q2 2020 to Q2 2022, unforeseen personal circumstances severely impacted my ability to complete projects and maintain consistent communication. These events causing significant disruptions included the tragic loss of my maternal grandfather to cancer (2020), followed by the sudden demise of my paternal grandmother due to COVID-19 (2021), and then the demands of managing major health crises involving my father and remaining grandmother (2022). However, having now defended my PhD and made significant strides in task delivery, I've found my footing again. As a former intern at Meta and AI2, the personal turmoil I experienced inhibited me from concluding the projects I was passionate about, leaving me deeply saddened. Over time, and as my stability returned, I made private progress on these projects, but feelings of embarrassment and regret kept me from re-establishing contact. I acknowledge the past disappointments during this challenging period and sincerely apologize. Today, with confidence and affirmation, I assure that such setbacks will no longer impede my professional dedication and, with renewed commitment, I take responsibility for any lingering tasks.

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31st July 2023

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