

"Walden Two and Self-Experimentation: Past, Present & Future"

An on-line forum for #waldentwo on irc.freenode.net March 24, 2008
by Sean Abrahams

History of Self-Experimentation

From Santorio Santorio to the current efforts of people like Seth Roberts, self-experimentation has had a perhaps too quiet past.

Why Self-Experimentation is Important

For many of the interesting questions regarding human behavior, it would be considered unethical to use human subjects. See the Stanford Prison Experiments for one example(1).

However, we can experiment on ourselves.

Current State of Self-Experimentation

If attention in the media is any indication, then self-experimentation is experiencing at least some interest(2). I'll talk about my communications with Seth Roberts, a professor of psychology at University of California, Berkeley and how he's approached self-experimentation in his own life.

Self-Experimentation's Role in Walden Two

Walden Two is built on a Science of Human Behavior. And as long as we're not living in Walden Two, self-experimentation is perhaps the surest way to develop such a science.

1) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_prison_experiments

2) <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=self-experimenters>