“You and Your Research” by Richard Hamming

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Most great scientists know many important problems

• “What are the important problems of your field?”

• “What important problems are you working on?”

• “If what you are doing is not important, and if you don’t think it is going to lead to something important, what are you at Bell Labs working on it?”
Most great scientists know many important problems (cont’d)

• “If you want to do great work, you clearly must work on important problems, and you should have an idea.”

• Great Thoughts Time:
  – Friday afternoon
  – “What will be the role of computers in all AT&T?”
  – “How will computers change science?”
Forty data commun. Research questions by Craig Partridge

- A description of the question (problem)
- A discussion on personal comments, the significance of the problem and a further elaboration
For our research

• We could define several questions that we are working or will be working on in our research fields.

• We could define them in a stricter sense and then broaden them or cast them in a more general problem.

• “It was often hard to refine a problem into a clear question, but the effort to clarify was rewarding. Sometimes, once clarified, the question turned out to be uninteresting.”

  – [how to have a bad career in research/academia](#)