

**THINGS THAT THEY NEVER TAUGHT  
ME IN GRADUATE SCHOOL  
(How to make a living in neuropsychology)**

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I. Who is Tony Puente and why would he want to talk to students in the middle of an already busy convention- especially about how to make a living?

- The story of Frank Beach
- This is not about \$; it's about an attitude, an approach
- The specifics and pragmatics will change much more quickly and with less logic than your attitude and approach
- Our field is in dire need of a paradigm shift

## II. Purpose

- No loftier goal than self-understanding
- No likelier place to find it than in the brain
- To be engaged, interesting, and interested
- To produce value for others and society

### III. Process

- Evolving process
- Always probabilities and approximations, never certainties and conclusions
- The older and the more one knows, the less confident they are with things but the more they enjoy the hunt
- Be willing to take intellectual risks
- Diplomacy, respect, and dignity are the hallmarks of questioning
- There is a difference between ideas and people, though they are interactive
- We are all in this together
- Personality disorders and egos are not equivalent to success
- OCD is a disorder not an asset

## IV. Paradigms

- Neuropsychology as a paradigm
- Could psychology actually be neuropsychology?
- Wundt, James, Pavlov & Sperry as paradigms
- Finding a paradigm
- Explore it, squeeze it, milk it
- Then, change it, evolve it
- Be open to competing paradigms, especially from other fields
- Economics drive paradigms
- Paradigms, in turn, drive the world

## V. Limits of Knowledge

- Neuropsychological knowledge is at its infancy
- Science as we know it is not enough
- Data-driven is an oxymoron
- The importance of values
- Could too much questioning, result in reliable answers with limited validity?

## VI. Limits of Self

- Be willing to understand that you may not be right
- Be willing to challenge the basic core of who you are
- Be willing to fail, learn from that failure, & enjoy the experience
- Be willing to understand the limits of you & your knowledge

## VII. Our Future

- Rests on your understanding of these concepts
- Rests on your passion, tenacity, flexibility, and enjoyment
- Drop me a line in a decade or two and let me know if you recall our meeting