

- [Home](#)
- [About me](#)
 - [Academic C.V.](#)
 - [Contact me](#)
- [Projects](#)
 - [Photos](#)
 - [Travels](#)
 - [Wiki](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Copyright info](#)
 - [Site rules](#)
- [Climate change index](#)
- [Climate in one page](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

[a sibilant intake of breath](#)

climate, photos, miscellany

Tact and rejection

May 19, 2011

in [Daily updates](#), [Psychology](#), [Writing](#)

Rejecting people without offending them seems to be an important social skill, and probably one that most people only acquire through effort and experience. There are countless situations in life in which it is necessary to reject a person's offer or request: they may not be the best candidate for a job, you may not have time to attend their party on a particular day, you may not want to help them out with a project, etc. Unless you get very few requests or have a lot of free time, you are going to have to say 'no' to something.

I have experience with people who manage this process terribly. For instance, those who send no response and ignore you, leaving you uncertain about what they think and why. There are those who are unnecessarily personal and hostile in rejections, and those who are unnecessarily deferential and euphemistic. Ideally, you want to pass along the message clearly, without malice, while indicating a willingness to consider other potential offers in the future. I have seen a few cases of people doing this really well, and think of those as models to follow.

[Report a typo or inaccuracy](#)

{ 0 comments... [add one now](#) }

Leave a Comment

Name *
 E-mail *
 Website
 Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

You can use these HTML tags and attributes: <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <s> <strike>

Previous post: [Convex mirror](#)

Next post: [Window light portrait](#)

-

- **Photography**

- [Winter solstice parade](#)
- [Gaudy Night](#)
- [Justin Trudeau's Climate Welcome](#)
- [Massey College](#)
- [My Flickr page](#)

- **Photo info**

- [Mailing list](#)
- [Usage guide](#)
- 

- **Active discussions**

- ["The Tyranny of Structurelessness"](#)
- [Hedges and Fithian on non-violence](#)

-

• Recent Comments

- . on [Open thread: the future of Afghanistan](#)
- . on [Investment opportunities and recession](#)
- . on [Investment opportunities and recession](#)
- . on [Carbon emissions worse than criminal damage](#)
- alena on [“Sanctuary” in the snow](#)
- [Milan](#) on [“Sanctuary” dedication](#)
- [Milan](#) on [“Sanctuary” in the snow](#)
- [Milan](#) on [Astonishingly enduring boots](#)
- [Milan](#) on [An Unquiet Mind](#)
- Sarah Pemberton on [Astonishingly enduring boots](#)
- Sarah Pemberton on [An Unquiet Mind](#)
- . on [Warning labels for booze](#)
- [Milan](#) on [U of T ad hoc committee recommends divestment](#)
- . on [Ending drug prohibition](#)
- . on [Possibly fractured tailbone](#)

• Most Comments

- [Possibly fractured tailbone](#) - 4 comments
- [The IAEA on military nuclear activity in Iran](#) - 2 comments
- [Astonishingly enduring boots](#) - 2 comments
- [An Unquiet Mind](#) - 2 comments
- ["Sanctuary" in the snow](#) - 2 comments
- [Kensington Market winter solstice celebration](#) - 1 comments

• Pages

- [About me](#)
 - [Academic C.V.](#)
 - [Contact me](#)
- [Oxford blogs](#)
- [Projects](#)
 - [Copyright info](#)
 - [My blogs](#)
 - [My photos](#)
 - [My travels](#)
 - [My wiki](#)
 - [Site rules](#)
- [Top posts](#)

• Subscribe to Posts

- [RSS](#)

- [Email](#)

- **Subscribe to Comments**

- [RSS](#)
- [Email](#)



BuryCoal.com



Make a difference on climate change

- **Search site**

- [Advanced search](#)
- [Tweets by @sindark](#)

- **Climate action**

- [350.org](#)
- [Citizens Climate Lobby](#)
- [Climate Action Network Canada](#)
- [Environmental Defence](#)
- [PipeLeaks.org](#)
- [Toronto350.org](#)

• Environment blogs

- [BuryCoal](#)
- [Climate Progress](#)
- [DeSmogBlog](#)
- [From the Living Soil](#)
- [gracenjohanson.com](#)
- [Grist](#)
- [Heliophage](#)
- [nothing new under the sun...](#)
- [Picture Framing](#)
- [R-Squared Energy Blog](#)
- [RealClimate](#)

• General blogs

- [Educating Silicon](#)
- [George Monbiot](#)
- [Mica Prazak's Videos](#)
- [Praesidium](#)
- [Put This On](#)
- [roving poet](#)
- [Schneier on Security](#)
- [Some Writing on the State of Vancouver](#)
- [Strobist](#)
- [The Commons](#)
- [The Sounds of Sash](#)

• Key pages

- [Climate change index](#)
- [Climate in one page](#)

• Ottawa blogs

- [Adorkable Undies](#)
- [Apt 613](#)
- [David Scrimshaw's Blog](#)
- [ELgiN StreEt iRReguLars](#)
- [Greater Ottawa](#)
- [Inside Politics](#)
- [knitnut.net](#)
- [Results for Canadians](#)
- [the most exquisite moments](#)
- [tonyfoto/drool](#)

• Personal

- [/LaTeX/](#)
- [AES](#)
- [△](#)
- [Chess](#)
- [Genre experiments](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Photo.net](#)
- [Vigenere Cipher](#)

• School

- [/phd/](#)
- [Massey College](#)
- [My University of Toronto page](#)
- [Oxford IR](#)
- [Oxford Strategic Studies](#)
- [Toronto politics](#)
- [UBC](#)
- [Wadham College](#)

• Toronto blogs

- [Citizen Lab Research Blog](#)
- [fullerenes](#)
- [Jessica Bell](#)
- [Only a Northern Song](#)



• Categories

- [Art](#) (50)
- [Bombs and rockets](#) (323)
- [Books and literature](#) (322)
- [Canada](#) (735)
- [Daily updates](#) (1,554)
- [Economics](#) (1,039)
- [Films and movies](#) (221)

- [Geek stuff](#) (1,323)
- [History](#) (14)
- [Internet matters](#) (565)
- [Language](#) (2)
- [Law](#) (450)
- [M.Phil thesis](#) (70)
- [Massey College](#) (105)
- [Music](#) (93)
- [Ottawa](#) (236)
- [Oxford](#) (544)
- [PhD thesis](#) (7)
- [Photo essays](#) (51)
- [Photo of the day](#) (1,224)
- [Photography](#) (383)
- [Politics](#) (1,656)
- [Psychology](#) (171)
- [Rants](#) (505)
- [Science](#) (1,068)
- [Security](#) (457)
- [Space and flight](#) (18)
- [Teaching](#) (4)
- [The environment](#) (1,415)
- [The outdoors](#) (259)
- [Toronto](#) (711)
- [Travel](#) (482)
- [Writing](#) (508)

• Archives

Archives 

Get smart with the [Thesis WordPress Theme](#) from DIYthemes.

Content copyright [Milan Ilnyckyj](#) (2003-2016). May be used [non-commercially with attribution](#). For more details see [this page](#).