The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
1 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

In Medias Res

Last updated: 2023/08/28, 20:46:08 EDT

Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number,
2023–2024| @pocsvox

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont

These slides are brought to you by:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
2 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse …

References

Sealie & Lambie
Productions

PoCS
Principles of
Complex Systems
@pocsvox
What's the Story?

These slides are also brought to you by:

Special Guest Executive Producer

📷 On Instagram at pratchett_the_cat⤢

Outline

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
4 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse …
References

Previously on the PoCSverse …

References

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.
- Fate does not exist, only the story of fate.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.
- Fate does not exist, only the story of fate.
- How to become famous.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.
- Fate does not exist, only the story of fate.
- How to become famous.
- How to measure happiness with lexical calculus.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.
- Fate does not exist, only the story of fate.
- How to become famous.
- How to measure happiness with lexical calculus.
- Groups, groups, groups, groups. And pyramids.

THE
JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.
- Fate does not exist, only the story of fate.
- How to become famous.
- How to measure happiness with lexical calculus.
- Groups, groups, groups, groups. And pyramids.
- How it's all about stories: Characters and plots.

THE JOHN DORY

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
5 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

- The statistics of surprise.
- The everywhereness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
- How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart.
- Non-universal universality.
- How things spread.
- Why COVID-19 was predictably unpredictable.
- Why COVID-19 really was a conspiracy.
- Fate does not exist, only the story of fate.
- How to become famous.
- How to measure happiness with lexical calculus.
- Groups, groups, groups, groups. And pyramids.
- How it's all about stories: Characters and plots.
- The true compass of essential meaning.

THE
JOHN DORY

~ power-danger ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~
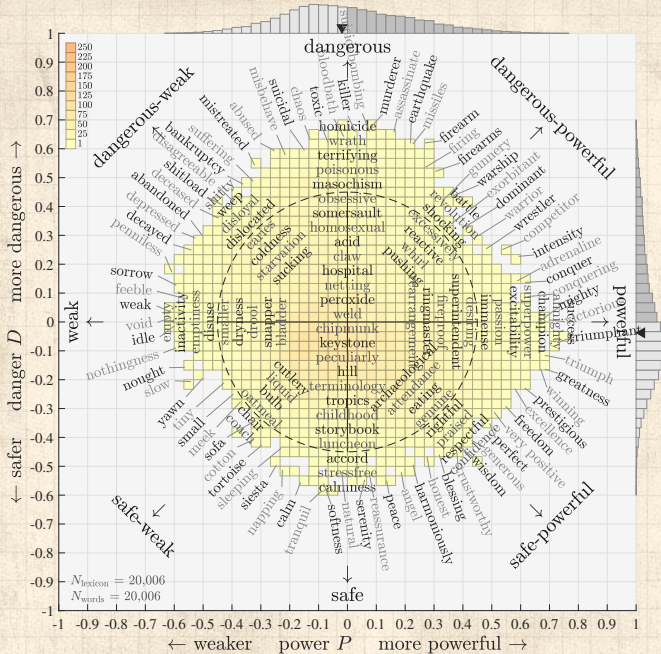
The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
6 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse …

References

THE
JOHN DORY

$N_{lexicon} = 20,006$
$N_{words} = 20,006$

Some other things that were proclaimed:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
7 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

🎲 Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.

THE
JOHN DORY

Some other things that were proclaimed:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
7 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse …

References

- Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.
- The advent of life is the advent of algorithms.

THE
JOHN DORY

Some other things that were proclaimed:

- Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.
- The advent of life is the advent of algorithms.
- The advent of meaning making leads to complexification.

THE
JOHN DORY

Some other things that were proclaimed:

- Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.
- The advent of life is the advent of algorithms.
- The advent of meaning making leads to complexification.
- Evolution is the ratchet of complexity.

THE
JOHN DORY

Some other things that were proclaimed:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
7 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

- 🎲 Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.
- 🎲 The advent of life is the advent of algorithms.
- 🎲 The advent of meaning making leads to complexification.
- 🎲 Evolution is the ratchet of complexity.
- 🎲 Stories $\sim$ Characters + Time.

THE
JOHN DORY

Some other things that were proclaimed:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
7 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse …
References

- Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.
- The advent of life is the advent of algorithms.
- The advent of meaning making leads to complexification.
- Evolution is the ratchet of complexity.
- Stories $\sim$ Characters + Time.
- Large majorities of people in groups of all sizes can be harmoniously wrong.

THE
JOHN DORY

Some other things that were proclaimed:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
7 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse …

References

- 🧊 Complexity—everything—starts with gravity.
- 🧊 The advent of life is the advent of algorithms.
- 🧊 The advent of meaning making leads to complexification.
- 🧊 Evolution is the ratchet of complexity.
- 🧊 Stories $\sim$ Characters + Time.
- 🧊 Large majorities of people in groups of all sizes can be harmoniously wrong.
- 🧊 Large social groups are
  1. pyramid schemes
  or
  2. fandoms
  or
  3. both

THE
JOHN DORY

The Pyramid ⬈ knows what you did.

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
8 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

THE
JOHN DORY

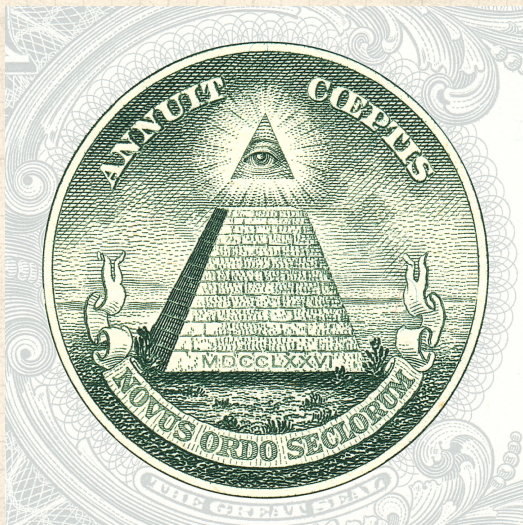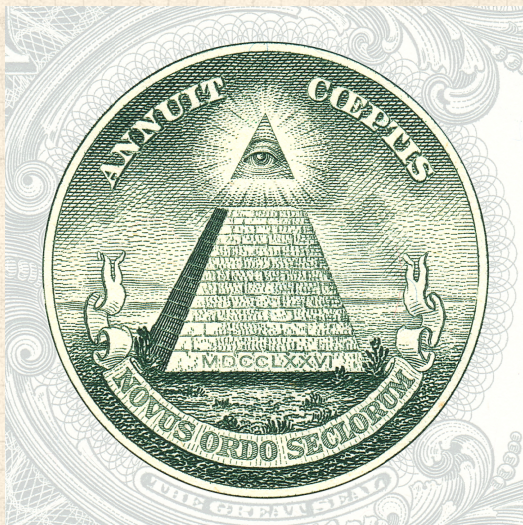# The Pyramid ⬀ knows what you did.
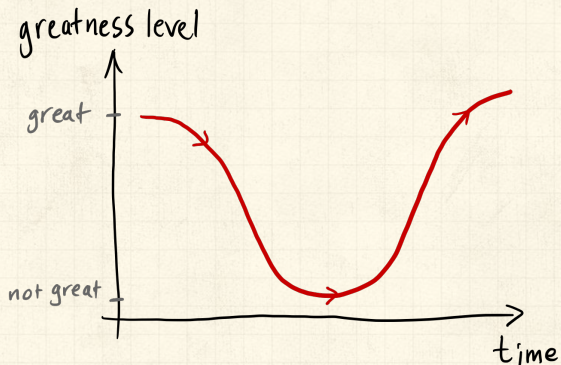
The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
8 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse ...
References

Mass surveillance by story.

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
9 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse …

References

Stories really matter:

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
10 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse …
References

Not starting at the start:[1] 🎞️⤴

---

[1] In media res …⤴

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
11 of 13

Previously on the
PoCSverse ...

References

How we got here: It's going to be tropes all the way down[1] ▤▱↗

---

[1] Three weeks earlier ...↗ [1]

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
12 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse …
References

The complex dynamics of course reviews: ▦ ⬈

WE SHOULD START OUR STORIES
WHERE THEY BEGIN

---

[1] Three weeks earlier … ⬈ [1]

247 days earlier in the
PoCSverse ... ⬈

References I

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
14 of 13
Previously on the
PoCSverse …

References

[1] D. Harmon, R. Ridley, and J. Rolland.
     Look Who's Purging Now, 2015.