

In Medias Res

Last updated: 2026/08/20, 08:39:29 EDT

DOI:

Principles of Complex Systems,
Vols. 1, 2, 3D, 4 Fourever, V for Vendetta

Deliverator: Calla Beauregard
Showrunner: Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds

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



Licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) 

Outline

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
2 of 9

Previously in the
PoCSverse ...

References

Previously in the PoCSverse ...

References

What we learned in PoCS Vols. 1 and 2:

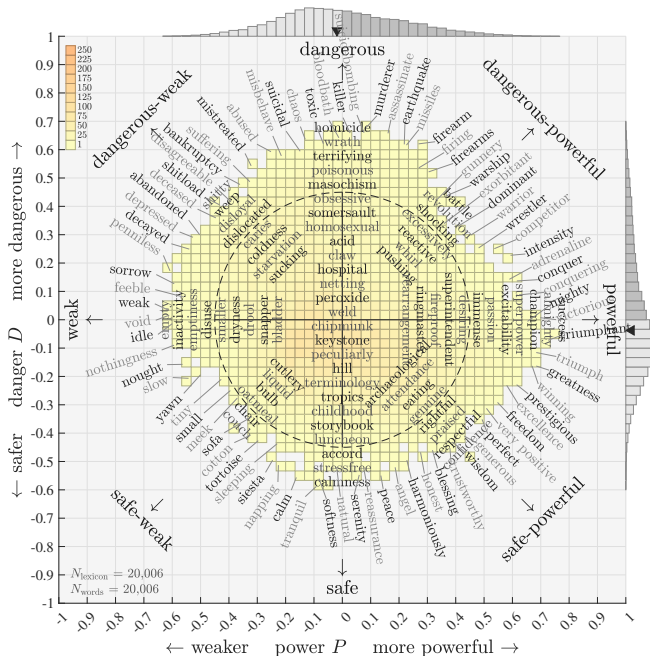
The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
3 of 9

Previously in the
PoCSverse ...

References

-  Basic science: Describe and explain reality
-  The everywhere-ness of scaling.
-  The statistics of surprise.
-  The everywhere-ness of the rich-getting-richer mechanism.
-  How to compare complex systems.
-  How systems fit together—a scaling story.
-  How systems expectedly unexpectedly fall apart—the same scaling story.
-  The APoCSalypse: The wrongness of many beautiful theories (stories).
-  Non-universal universality—the bounds of consilience.
-  How things spread.
-  How pandemics are predictably unpredictable.
-  How to become famous.
-  The true compass of essential meaning.
-  How to measure meaning with lexical calculus.
-  Groups, groups, groups, groups. And pyramids.
-  Randomness, accidents, mechanisms, optimality.

~ power-danger ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



The PoCSverse

In Medias Res

4 of 9

Previously in the
PoCSverse ...

References

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.



Stories $\sim$ Characters + Time.



Characters $\sim$ Stories — Time.



Time $\sim$ Stories — Characters.



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

What do the following all have in common?

-  Astrology.
-  The Navier-Stokes equations.
-  The law of gravitation.
-  Tectonics.
-  Evolution.
-  Jane Austen.
-  Politicians.
-  Test cricket.
-  Proverbs.

They are all storytellers.

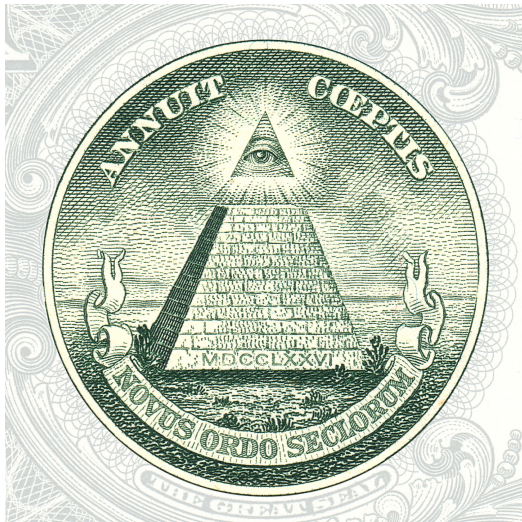
-  Scripting the past, the present, the future.
-  What is, what could be, what should not be.
-  From deterministic to probablistic.

The Pyramid  knows what you did.

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
7 of 9

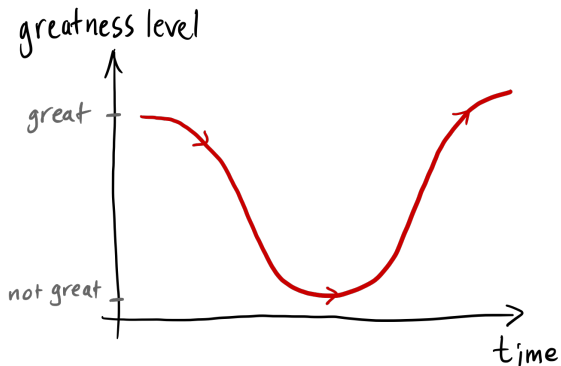
Previously in the
PoCSverse ...

References



Mass surveillance by story.

Stories really matter:



248 days earlier in the PoCSverse ... 

References I

The PoCSverse
In Medias Res
9 of 9

Previously in the
PoCSverse ...

References
