

How do patterns affect the pursuit of knowledge?

Hello, we are xxx and yyy and today we will discuss the impact of patterns on the pursuit of knowledge.

Since we will be talking about patterns a lot, so first let's look at a definition from the Cambridge dictionary: Pattern is a particular way in which something is done or organized, or in which something happens, or any regularly repeated arrangement, especially a design made from repeated lines, shapes, or colours on a surface.

We can find them in just any area of knowledge: mathematics (a pattern of numbers), natural sciences (DNA structure), human sciences (behavioral patterns), the arts (decorative designs), religious knowledge systems (rituals), indigenous knowledge systems (dances).

Before we begin, can you name a few patterns that are easily detectable in our behavior and some that are more subtle?

One example of behavioral pattern is how different individuals react to different situations. Let's say that your roommate has been murdered. It is expected of you to shed a few tears on her behalf and most definitely not make fun of the situation.

RLS: Mourning over dead is one of the most common patterns in Western society. But that is not what had happened in Perugia in 2007. British exchange student by the name Meredith Kercher was killed in her own apartment that she shared with 3 friends. One of the roommates was Amanda Knox and she and her boyfriend at the time were found guilty of Kercher's murder even though the investigators had no firm evidence to establish a case against Knox. There was no DNA linking her to the crime scene, she had no motive whatsoever.

Nonetheless they truly did believe that she killed her roommate just because the patterns of behavior she exhibited were rather odd. For instance, when visiting the crime scene she was given a pair of protective booties and as she put them on she swiveled her hips as if she was trying on a brand new dress and said: "Ta-dah." Furthermore while being detained at police station, instead of crying, like one would expect, she and her boyfriend exhibited their love by sending kisses to each other. And while she was waiting to be interviewed by the police she started doing splits to stretch her muscles, right when an inspector entered the room, which of course was not interpreted in her favor.

Lead investigator Giobbi stated: "We were able to establish guilt by closely observing the suspect's psychological and behavioral reactions during the investigation."

Amanda Knox, along with her boyfriend were found guilty of Kercher's murder and sentenced to 26 years in prison. Their sentence was overruled after serving 3 years in Italian prison. In 2014 she was once again found guilty of her roommate's murder and the latter convictions of the court were once again overturned a year later.

The story of Amanda Knox is just one of many that proves that the knowledge we already have, or at least we think we have isn't one we should lean on. Especially in human sciences there are many exceptions that don't obey the patterns we thought to be universal. Human behavior is sometimes quite unpredictable, because our brain is so complex. By searching for patterns in day to day interactions we label human beings as robots that are deemed to do everything the same over and over again. As we gain knowledge of these patterns we must distance ourselves from the