

Say
CHEESE



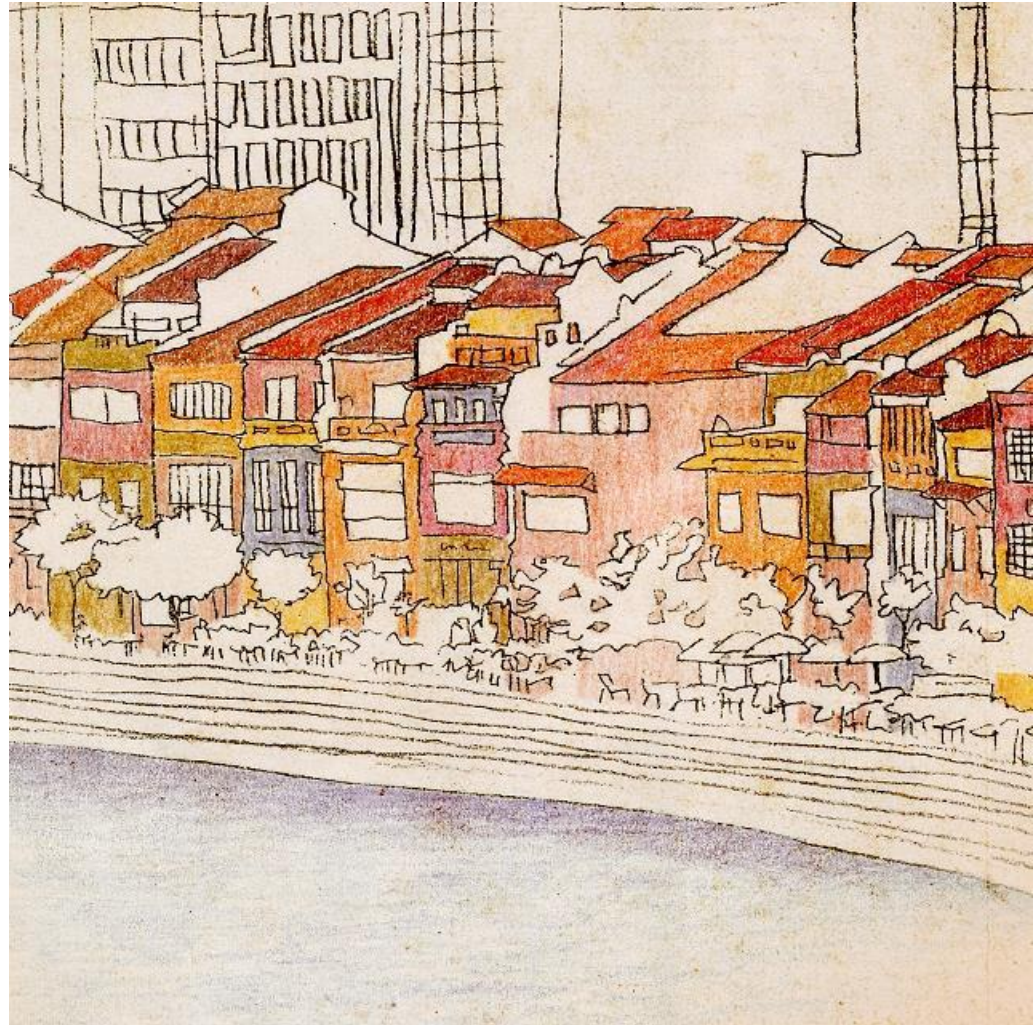
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SIFT Fact from Fiction

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NUS Libraries (NUSL)



What will we be looking at?

- Some cognitive biases
- SIFT method of verifying news
- Some fact-checking sites

Cognitive bias

systematic pattern of deviation from norm or rationality in judgement

Cognitive biases

- Confirmation bias
- Bandwagon effect
- Choice-supportive bias

1. Confirmation Bias

tendency to process information by looking for, or interpreting,
information that is consistent with our own existing beliefs
largely unintentional, and results in ignoring information that is
inconsistent with what we believe in

are dogs better than cats



Business Insider

<https://www.businessinsider.com> > Science

11 Scientific Reasons Dogs Are Better Than Cats

11 Apr 2014 — 1. **Dogs make you laugh.** · 2. Dogs help you make friends. · 3. A dog's sense of smell can be useful. · 4. Dogs are technologically-advanced. · 5.



Hill's Pet Nutrition

<https://www.hillspet.com> > new-pet-parent

Cats vs. Dogs: Which Is the Best Pet for Me?

While a **cat's independent nature generally helps them deal better than dogs with being left alone**, it's important to remember that all cats are different.



CWU Observer

<https://cwuobserver.com> > opinion > dogs-are-better-t...

Dogs are better than cats - CWU Observer

1 Jun 2022 — Another great reason dogs are better than cats is **because they are great service animals**. A cat can be an emotional support animal, ...



LoveToKnow Pets

<https://www.lovetoknowpets.com> > ... > Find Your Pet

Why Are Dogs Better Than Cats? 15 Convincing Reasons

Why Dogs Are Better Than Cats · **They're Eager to Please** · Dogs Are Faithful · They're Super Social · Dogs Are Easy to Train · Dogs Travel With No Drama · Dogs Are ...

are cats better than dogs



The Spruce Pets

<https://www.thesprucepets.com> > ... > Dog Adoption

10 Reasons Why Cats Make Better Pets Than Dogs

21 Sept 2022 — Many people think that cats are better than dogs. **Cats are easy to care for, quiet, and relatively affordable.** They even groom themselves.



Bestlifeonline.com

<https://bestlifeonline.com> > Entertainment

15 Reasons Why Cats Are Way Better Than Dogs - Best Life

22 Nov 2019 — Cats, as anyone who has one will tell you, are better than dogs in every conceivable way. **They're softer, sweeter, and smarter. They're quieter ...**



Hill's Pet Nutrition

<https://www.hillspet.com> > new-pet-parent

Cats vs. Dogs: Which Is the Best Pet for Me?

While a **cat's independent nature generally helps them deal better than dogs with being left alone**, it's important to remember that all cats are different.



Trusted House Sitters

<https://www.trustedhousesitters.com> > blog > pets > wh...

Why Cats are Better than Dogs | TrustedHousesitters.com

25 Jan 2023 — 1. **Cats take up less room than dogs** · 2. Cats are more efficient at lapping water than dogs · 3. Cats are lower maintenance than dogs · 4. Cats are ...

which is better dogs or cats



Purina

<https://www.purina.co.uk> > ... > Finding A Cat

Should I Get a Cat or Dog? Find Out Which Suits You | Purina

Choosing between getting a cat or dog can be a tough decision, but generally speaking, **dogs require more attention while cats are more independent.** But if you ...



Diffen

<https://www.diffen.com> > ... > Zoology > Animals

Cat vs Dog - Difference and Comparison - Diffen

Cats and dogs are the most popular pets in the world. Cats are more independent and are generally cheaper and less demanding pets. Dogs are loyal and ...



Houston Press

<https://www.houstonpress.com> > arts > dogs-or-cats-w...

Dogs or Cats? Which Are Better Pets? - Houston Press

Dog owners will often argue that **dogs can be trained to do certain tasks more than most cats**, and that those abilities take a higher degree of intelligence. So ...

2. Bandwagon Effect

tendency for people to adopt certain behaviors, styles, or attitudes
simply because others are doing so

If thousands of other people have shared a piece of news, surely someone else has verified it, right? Unfortunately shares and likes can often come about without anyone reading what's being shared.

Bots—whose sole purpose is to make certain news stories look frequently read and recommended—can also inflate the apparent popularity of fake news items.



NEED TO FINGER POINT OR NOT??!!

So many crazy people walking around without a mask and all the elderly woman was trying to catch her breath while sitting down!! Not even walking around.. You know what turns me off the most? That public servants get a 'benefit of a doubt' just because of their job. Really, is this the kind of people we are hiring to do the "job"? Instead of helping each other get through this, you taunt others with your authority!?!?



Ya all reacting to my story making me feel even more sad. I don't think the cardboard auntie wants to expose herself to risk either, but it's troubling to know that the people that's supposed to be safeguarding our country behaves this way. If you look carefully at the second clip the female officer was seen POINTING at the auntie! So uncalled for. Not sure why but government authorities in other countries I've been to do not behave this way. Something really sad happened to me in Singapore...



Singapore Police Force

19 May 2021 · 🌐



[CLARIFICATIONS ON ONLINE POST ACCUSING POLICE OFFICERS OF BULLYING]

The Police are aware of various posts circulating online alleging police bullying in relation to an incident that the Police had responded to on 17 May 2021 at 6.43pm, at Block 743 Yishun Avenue 5.

The posts alleged that four officers had “clustered an elderly auntie that took off her mask because she was feeling breathless”, had continued to “tell her off” even though the elderly woman had put her mask on and that someone had to step in to “salvage the situation”. These allegations are not true.

To clarify, the Police had responded to the incident as a 85-year-old woman, who did not have a mask on, appeared to be lost at the said location. Police officers had attended to the elderly woman to help her find her way home. With the help of a member of the public, it was subsequently established that the elderly woman, believed to have dementia, resided in a nearby block, and her domestic helper was contacted to bring her home.

As the incident took place during dinner time, our officers were concerned that the elderly woman might be hungry and bought food for her as well. No further police assistance was required after the elderly woman was handed over to her domestic helper safely.

The Police would also like to commend two other members of the public who had stepped forward to help the elderly woman. A lady offered a mask to the elderly woman. As the elderly woman was not able to put it on, our officer helped to put on the mask for her. A man also came forward and gave the elderly woman a few masks which she accepted. We are heartened by the kind actions of those in the community who stepped forward to offer their assistance to make our community a safe and secure place to live in.

3. Choice-supportive bias

tendency to remember our choices as better than they actually were

We rationalise our choice by seeking out supportive information,
leading to distorted opinions.

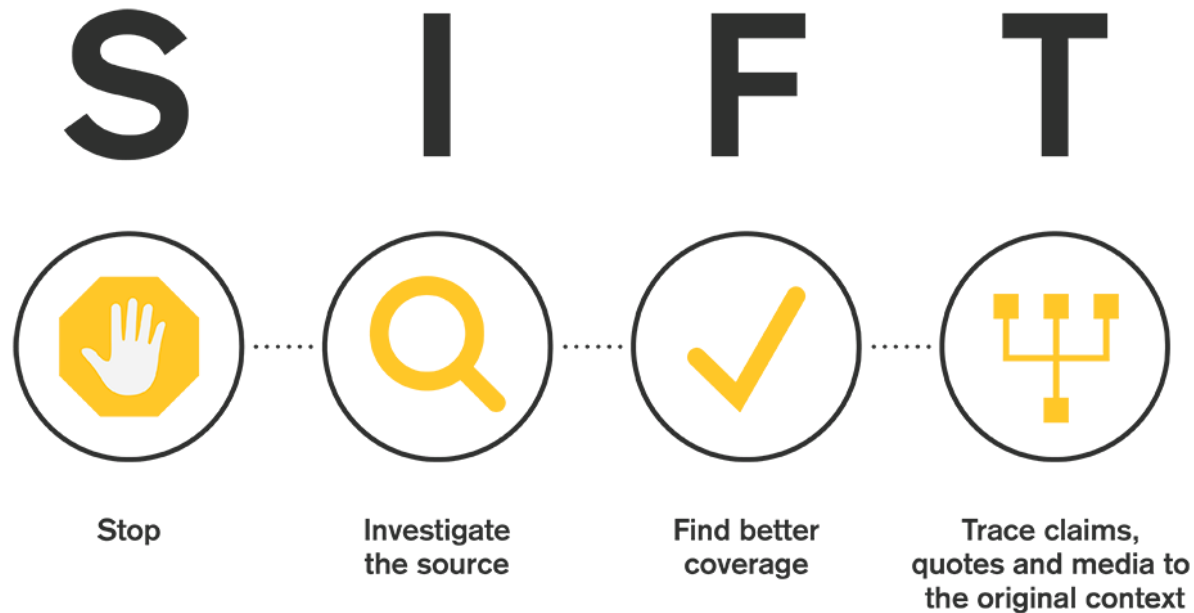
Cognitive biases

contribute to the formation and enhancement of the **echo chamber**:
sharing and consuming information only in the direction of
strengthening own beliefs

How do we overcome this?

SIFT (The Four Moves)

Mike Caulfield, University of Washington



<https://hapgood.us/2019/06/19/sift-the-four-moves/>

1. Stop

STOP. Ask yourself whether you know the website or source of the information, and what the reputation of both the claim and the website is. Don't read it or share until you know what it is.

2. Investigate

Investigate where the media is from before reading to help you to better understand its significance and trustworthiness.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CojdQKLyh5m/>



**White Sands to redevelop
into 41-story project because
East cannot lose to West**

The Pressing Times Photo

Local

<https://www.theonion.com/local>

[NEWS IN BRIEF](#) | [NEWS IN PHOTOS](#) | [SLIDESHOW](#)



LOCAL

Twin Absorbs Sibling At 62

GARY, IN—Confirming the results after extensive medical imaging, a team of



NEWS IN PHOTOS

Go-Bag Consists Solely Of Axe For Taking Someone Else's Supplies



LOCAL

Starbucks CEO Clearly Just Coming To Company Headquarters To Use Bathroom

SEATTLE—Calling his motivations “beyond transparent,” sources at Starbucks headquarters confirmed Wednesday that CEO Howard Schultz was clearly only coming into the building to use the bathroom. “He clogged the toilet, stuffed some sugar packets...”



LOCAL

Mark Zuckerberg Worried Facebook Listening To Him After Being Pushed Shirt That Says 'I Just Laid Off' 10,000 Employees'

SHOPPING

Are Lab-Grown Diamonds Also a Girl's Best Friend? These 7 Labels Make the Case

<https://www.vogue.com/article/best-lab-grown-diamonds>

BY LAURA LAJINESS KAUPKE

December 22, 2022



TEN BENEFITS OF A CLEANSE:

<https://pressedforjuice.com/why-cleanse>

1 | A NEW YOU

PARTICIPATING IN A CLEANSE HELPS YOU BREAK OLD, BAD FOOD HABITS, SUCH AS EATING OUT OF BOREDOM, EATING TOO MUCH JUNK FOOD, ETC. BY GOING ON A JUICE CLEANSE, YOU GIVE YOURSELF THE OPPORTUNITY TO START FRESH AND RESET YOUR BODY.

2 | BALANCE

WHEN CLEANSING, YOU'RE LEARNING TO INGEST MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON A REGULAR BASIS AND CLEARING THE TOXINS FROM YOUR BODY, LEADING TO BETTER OVERALL HEALTH.

3 | SMOOTH MOVES

WHEN YOU PUT GOOD STUFF IN, GOOD STUFF COMES OUT! YOUR BODY WILL DIGEST FOOD MORE EFFICIENTLY, USING THE NUTRIENTS AND CALORIES TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. YOU'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO "GO" TO THE BATHROOM MORE REGULARLY, ELIMINATING THE BAD STUFF FROM YOUR BODY.

4 | GET UP & GO

EATING RAW FOODS AND DRINKING COLD PRESSED JUICE WILL GIVE YOU MORE

5 | PURGE & PURIFY

CLEANSING WILL HELP RELEASE ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS FROM YOUR

6 | SWIMSUIT SEASON

BY JUICING, YOUR BODY WILL REGULATE ITSELF AND YOU COULD SHED UNWANTED

3. Find

Find better coverage. Find the *best* source you can on this topic, or, just as importantly, scan multiple sources and see what the expert consensus seems to be.

4. Trace

Trace the claim, quote, or media back to the source, so you can see it in its original context and get a sense if the version you saw was accurately presented.

Example



1. Stop! Do we know the source?
2. Investigate the source and claim

3. Find better coverage

<https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2017/04/10/chicken-dinosaur-face/>

Harvard Scientist Helps Engineer Chicken with Dinosaur Face

Sweet dreams!

by **KYLE SCOTT CLAUSS** • 4/10/2017, 10:42 a.m.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/chicken-embryos-get-dino-snouts-thanks-biological-tinkering-180955250/>

Smithsonian
MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIBE

New Research

Researchers Create Chicken Embryos With Dinosaur-Like Faces

Researchers seeking to understand how birds got their beaks turned back the evolutionary clock just a tad

Maris Fessenden

Former correspondent

May 13, 2015

<https://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/2017/04/10/chicken-dinosaur-face/>

The researchers sought to better understand the evolution of the chicken's beak, so they tweaked molecular processes in a chicken embryo so it would more closely resemble the snout and palate of a dinosaur, like the feathered *Velociraptor*. Their findings were **published in the journal *Evolution***.

But make no mistake: the study's lead authors, Bhart-Anjan Bhullar of Yale and Arkhat Abzhanov of Harvard, had no interest in creating some sideshow Croenenberg. "Whenever you examine an important evolutionary transformation, you want to learn the underlying mechanism," Bhullar **told the BBC**.



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/chicken-embryos-get-dino-snouts-thanks-biological-tinkering-180955250/>

The researchers published their results in the journal *Evolution*. Their findings indicate that beaks are shaped by evolution because of the very different development cues they need. "That's what proves the beak is a real adaptation or 'thing', not just a slightly different nose shape," Michael Benton of Bristol University in the UK, who was not involved in the study, told told Hogenboom at the *BBC*.

Even though the birds never hatched, Bhullar says that he expects they would have survived. "These weren't drastic modifications," he told Hogenboom. "They are far less weird than many breeds of chicken developed by chicken hobbyists and breeders."

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A molecular mechanism for the origin of a key evolutionary innovation, the bird beak and palate, revealed by an integrative approach to major transitions in vertebrate history

Bhart-Anjan S. Bhullar , Zachary S. Morris, Elizabeth M. Sefton, Atalay Tok, Masayoshi Tokita, Bumjijn Namkoong, Jasmin Camacho, David A. Burnham, Arhat Abzhanov 

First published: 12 May 2015 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.12684> | Citations: 66

[Read the full text >](#)

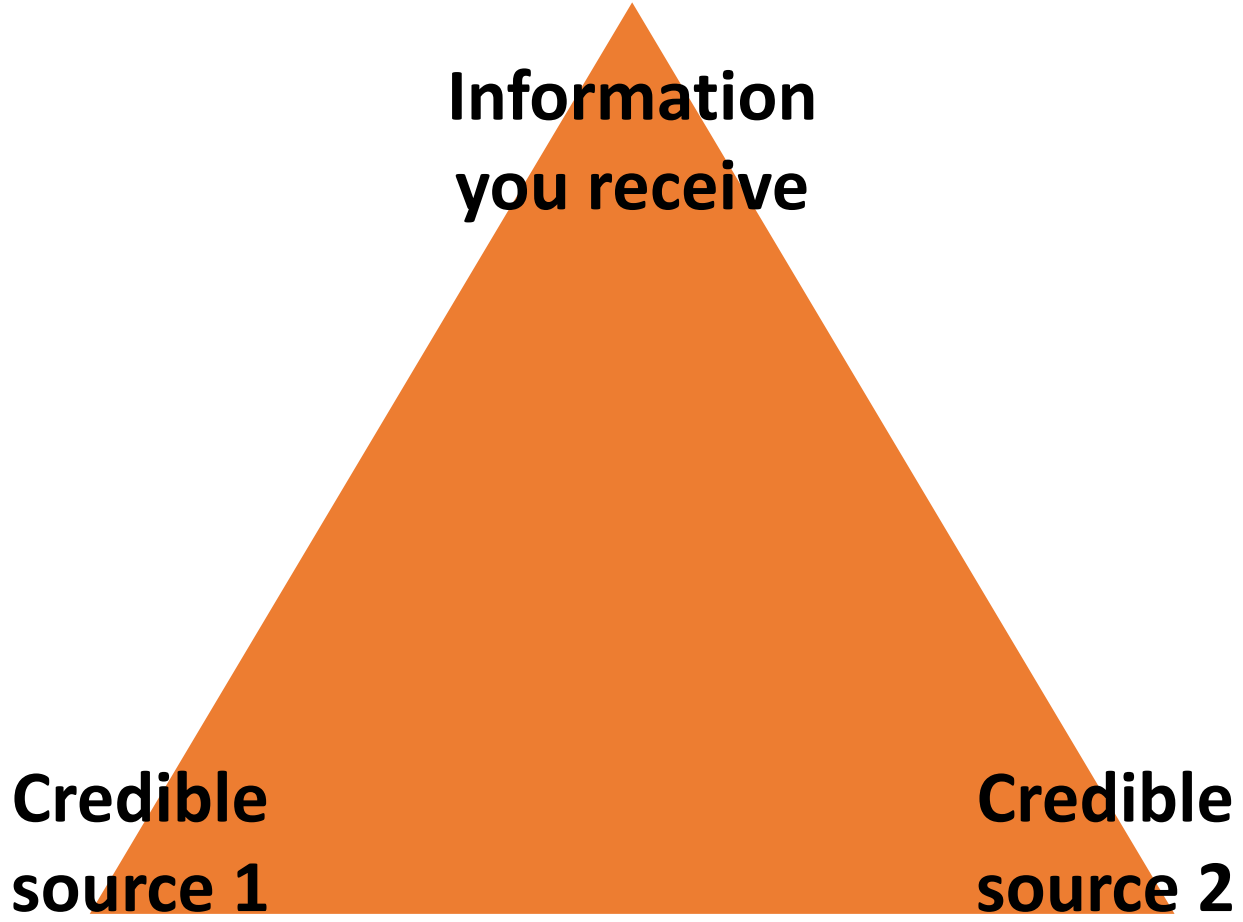
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Abstract

The avian beak is a key evolutionary innovation whose flexibility has permitted birds to diversify into a range of disparate ecological niches. We approached the problem of the mechanism behind this innovation using an approach bridging paleontology, comparative anatomy, and experimental developmental biology. First, we used fossil and extant data to show the beak is distinctive in consisting of fused premaxillae that are geometrically distinct from those of ancestral archosaurs. To elucidate underlying developmental mechanisms, we examined candidate gene expression domains in the embryonic face: the earlier frontonasal ectodermal zone (FEZ) and the later midfacial WNT-responsive region, in birds and several reptiles. This permitted the identification of an autapomorphic median gene expression region in Aves. To test the mechanism, we used inhibitors of both pathways to replicate in chicken the ancestral amniote expression. Altering the FEZ altered later WNT responsiveness to the ancestral pattern. Skeletal phenotypes from both types of experiments had premaxillae that clustered

4. Trace to the original source

Always corroborate!



Some fact-checking sites

- <https://www.snopes.com/>
 - validates and debunks urban legends and other stories in popular culture
- <https://factcheck.afp.com/>

AFP Fact Check

TOP NEWS

REGIONS

TOPICS

- www.gov.sg/factually

Factually

Debunking misinformation and disinformation

Show All Topics



ECONOMY & FINANCE

FACTUALLY

Singapore: Is it really the most expensive place to live?

Are prices in Singapore going up and what is the Government doing about it?

Further readings

- Colliander, J. (2019). “This is fake news”: Investigating the role of conformity to other users’ views when commenting on and spreading disinformation in social media. *Computers in Human Behavior, 97*, 202–215.
- Kahneman, D., & Tversky, A. (1996). On the reality of cognitive illusions. *Psychological Review, 103*(3), 582–591.
- Kim, B., Xiong, A., Lee, D., & Han, K. (2021). A systematic review on fake news research through the lens of news creation and consumption: Research efforts, challenges, and future directions. *PloS one, 16*(12), e0260080
- <https://hapgood.us/2019/06/19/sift-the-four-moves/>

Need any help?

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- askalib@nus.edu.sg ; General

