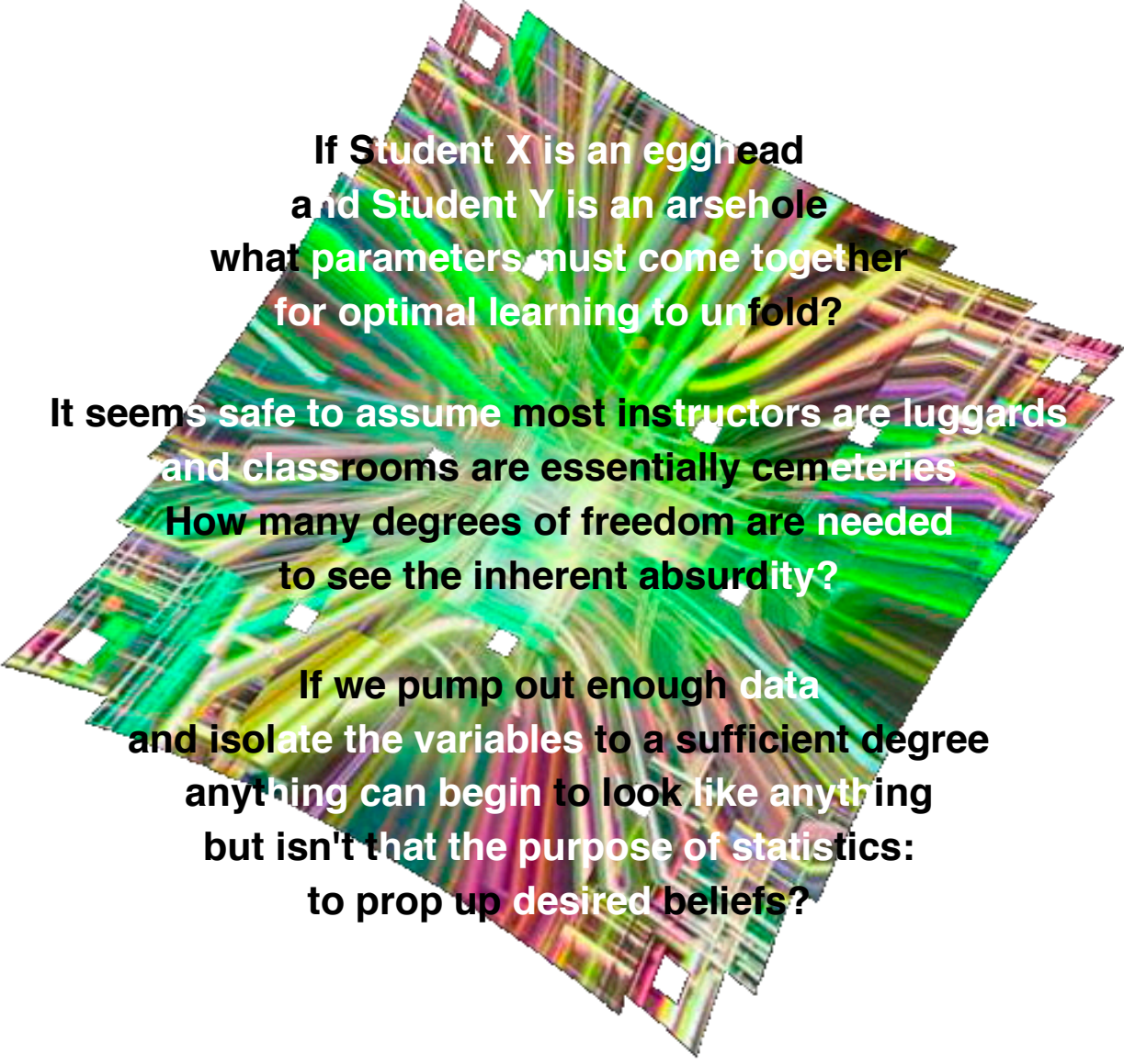


A STATISTICAL CONJECTURE: **Some Thoughts about Causality Errors**



**If Student X is an egghead
and Student Y is an arsehole
what parameters must come together
for optimal learning to unfold?**

**It seems safe to assume most instructors are luggards
and classrooms are essentially cemeteries
How many degrees of freedom are needed
to see the inherent absurdity?**

**If we pump out enough data
and isolate the variables to a sufficient degree
anything can begin to look like anything
but isn't that the purpose of statistics:
to prop up desired beliefs?**

Bill: Ah, flimsy conjectures! So much human activity is based upon frail premises.

Gus: Yes, we live in a house of cards: a wobbly construction of myths, half-truths, and lies.

Nadya: Hasn't it always been so?

Liao: (nodding) Perhaps. As our intelligence grows, so does our capacity for illusion.

- T Newfields

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