What is Science?

I study Computer Science at the University of Canterbury. I come from a wealthy European/New Zealander family, because of this I have never fallen victim to racism or prejudice as people from other upbringings might. On my road to studying science I initially thought I was going to study commerce, however I really enjoyed tinkering with computers. After a bit of thought I decided I wanted to study computer science and hopefully somehow develop this into a business.

Computer Science is a relatively new school of science, it is still evolving rapidly and is constantly changing. Historically Computer Science was a study of physical hardware but it has now shifted to incorporate both tangible and non-tangible states (Dasgugta, 2014). The study of Computer Science varies from other scientific domains as it is not concerned with the study of natural law like physics and chemistry; but concerned with purpose, it is the study of the artificial, we measure success by efficiency, practicality and usage (Dasgugta, 2014). As an artificial science, it is closer related to the social sciences then that of the traditional sciences. Computer Scientists use both inductive and deductive logic to rationalize. An example of how a computer scientist might use deductive logic is providing a general interface for most users and then creating more features to provide to a specialized group of users.

Computer science is a white male dominated profession and that has not changed in the last decade (Allison, 2016). Stereotypically Computer Science is seen as a field of people with a distinct lack in communication skills. Although I am not helping the diversity statistics associated with Computer Science, I have a good set of social skills and have been able to connect with many people in the past, and believe this to be a great asset within the industry. In Laura Snyder's TED talk, she names some statistics of how many American people have a basic understanding of scientific litrature. She reveals shocking statistics that only 28% of American people have a bisic understanding of scientific litrature (Snyder, 2012). This highlights the importance of communication and making information available and readable. We should not be writing in such a way that appeals to those in our field, but that we should be reporting so the world can understand our findings. Unfortunately the current system and availibility of scientific knowledge is not perfect, with companies withholding research and information for profit rather then education (Snyder, 2012). Like Snyder, I think we have lost our way with how we report findings, and as Snyder said in her TED talk, Science should not only be for Scientists (Snyder, 2012).

Refrences

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Dasgupta, S. (2014). It began with Babbage: The genesis of computer science. *Oxford University Press.*

Snyder, L. (2012). Laura Snyder: The Philosophical Breakfast Club. *Retrieved from https://www.ted.com/talks/laura_snyd*