
 **Kareem Carr** 

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3h, 14 tweets, 4 min read



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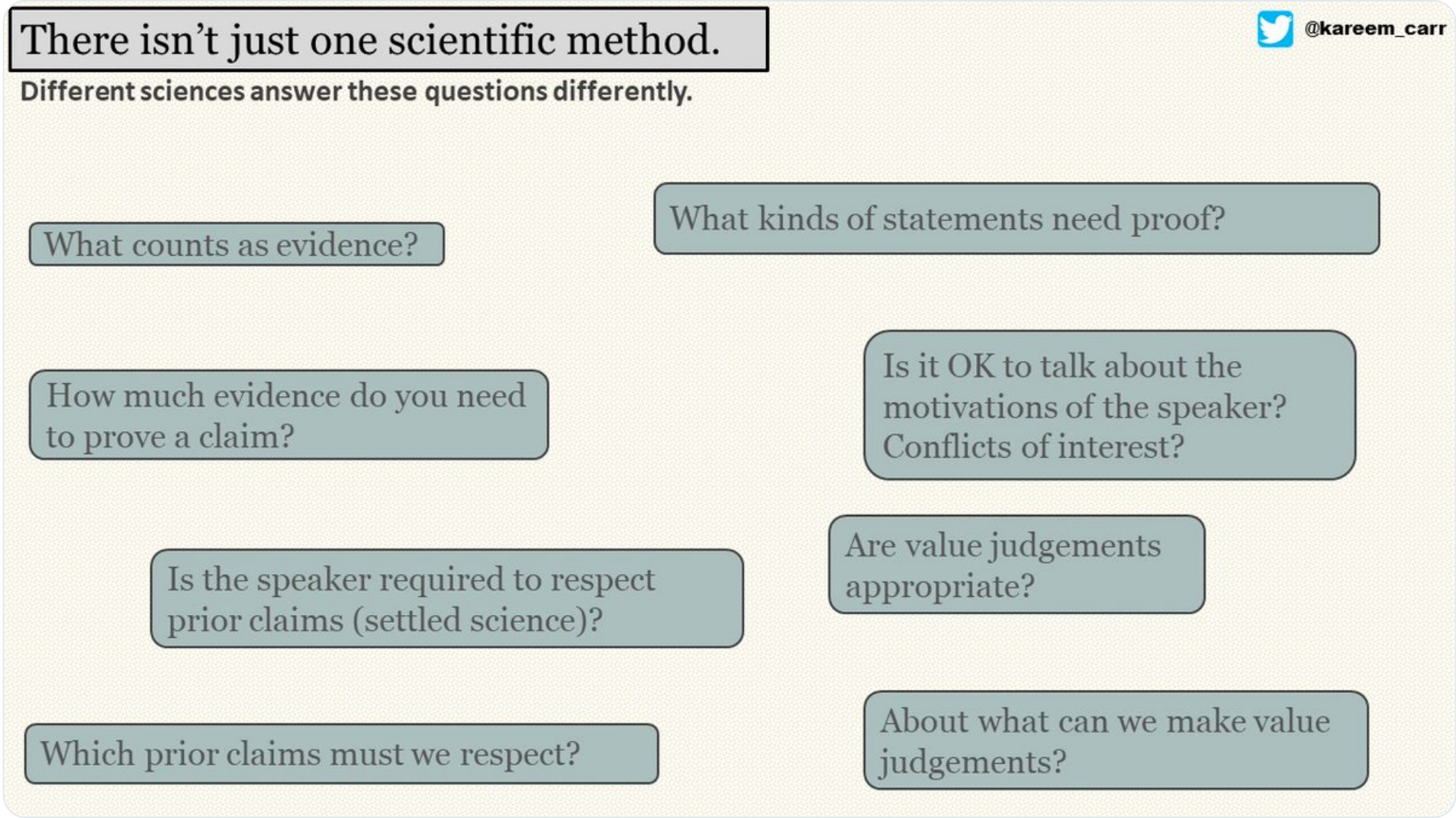
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I've worked in a lot of different sciences and what I've discovered is that each science is its own slightly bizarre alternate reality where the scientific method turned out differently.

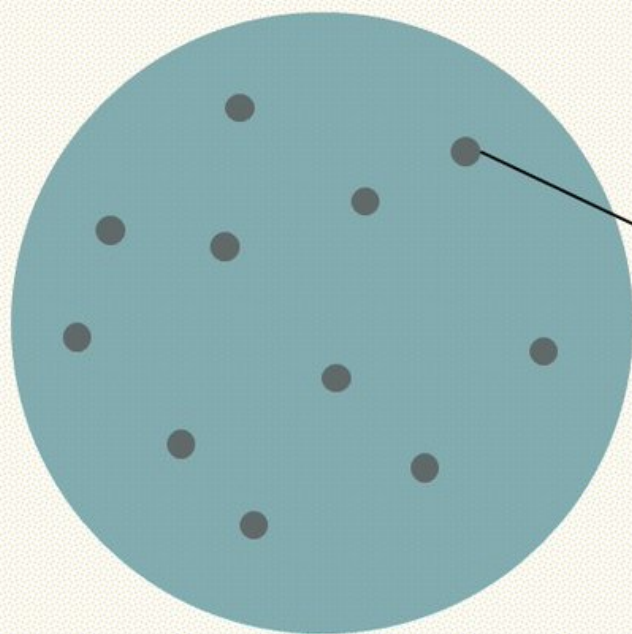
People say you're entitled to your own opinion but not your own facts. But I need you to hear this: every science has its own facts. And I don't want to freak you out but they don't even agree on what a "fact" actually is.

The scientific method relies on the answers to questions like 'what is evidence'? Sciences are free to answer these questions in their own way and to define their own scientific method.



When we're confident that the other people in our intellectual community share our ways of knowing, it allows us to outsource learning about the world to those people.

Academics trust other people within the same academic field to use the same ways of knowing.

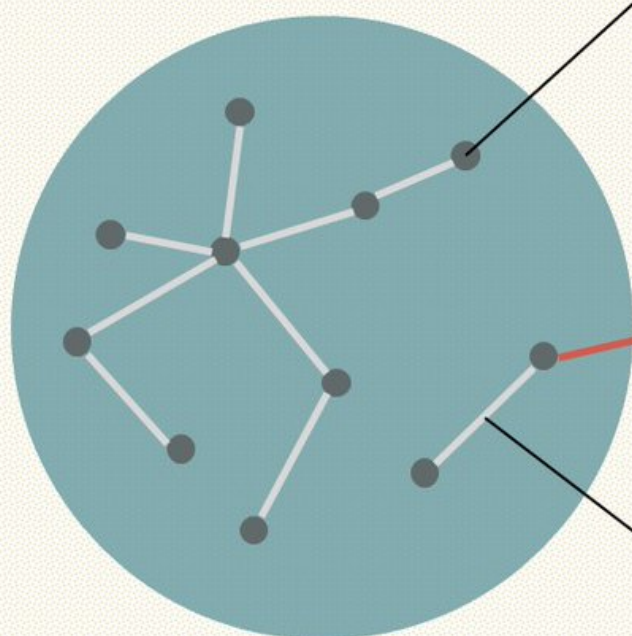
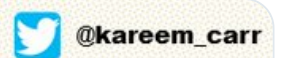


Circle of Trust

Participant in Discussion

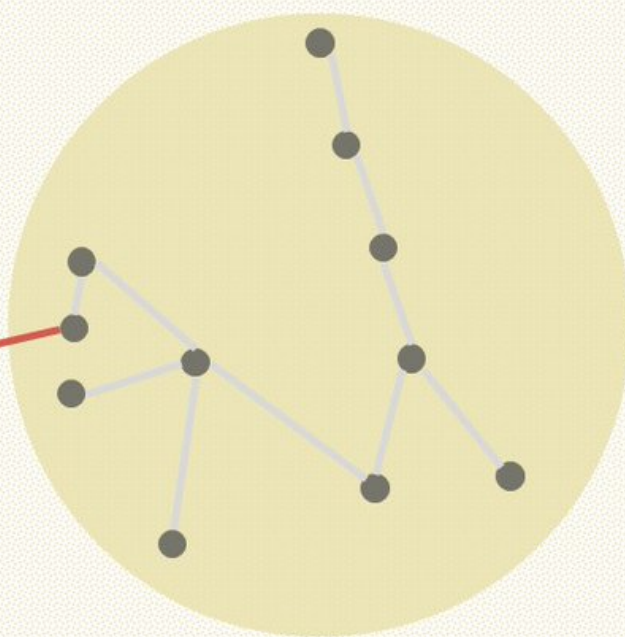
If we define a "fact" as a claim that has been proven according to our community's standards of proof then it becomes obvious that each intellectual community can have its own facts.

Communication is easy inside the circle and harder between circles.

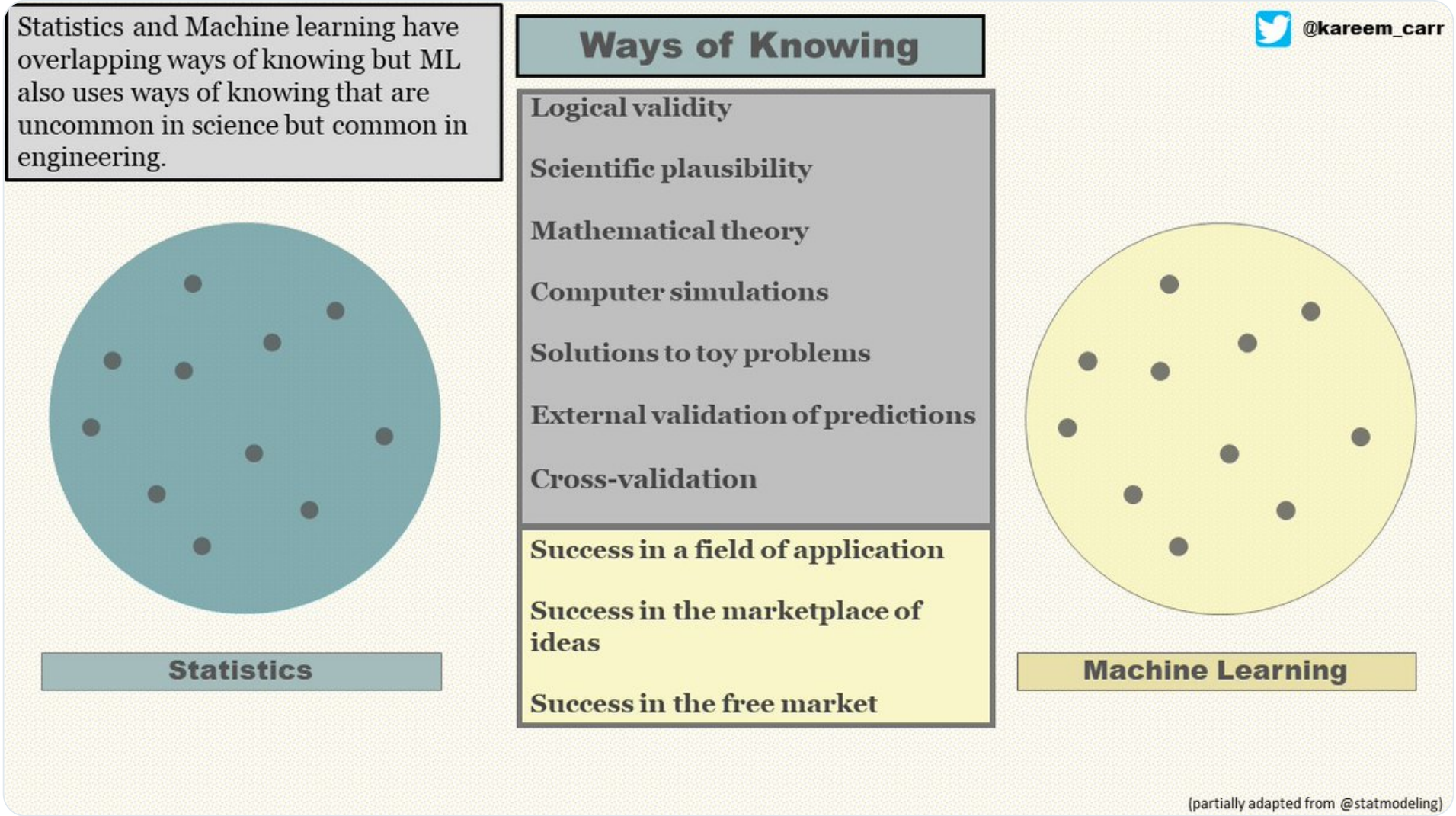


Participant in Discussion

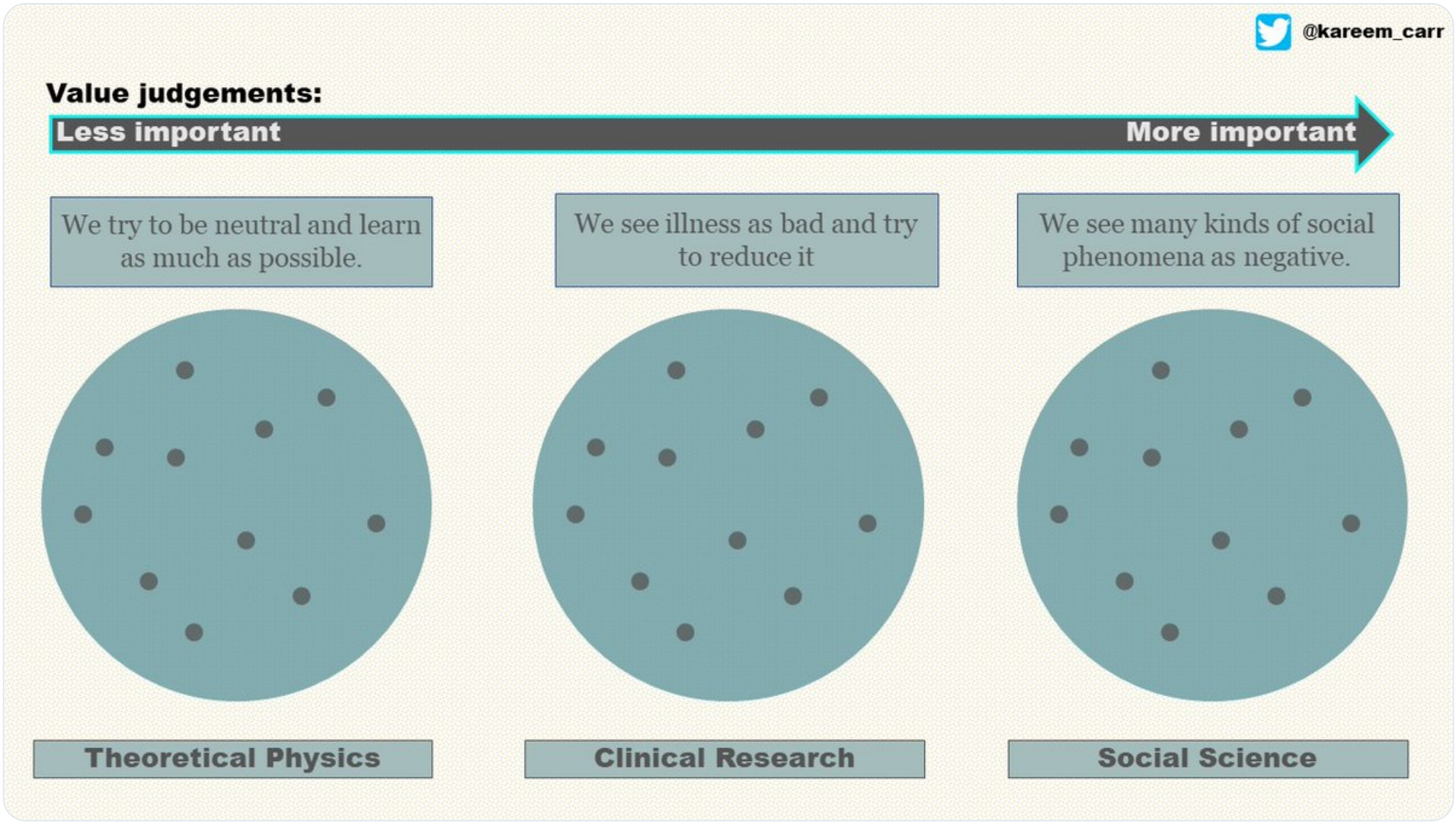
Communication of truth claims



For example, Statistics and Machine learning are focused on very similar subject matter but have different ways of knowing. This leads to each group having their own set of facts about the exact same topic. This is an extremely frustrating experience for both parties.



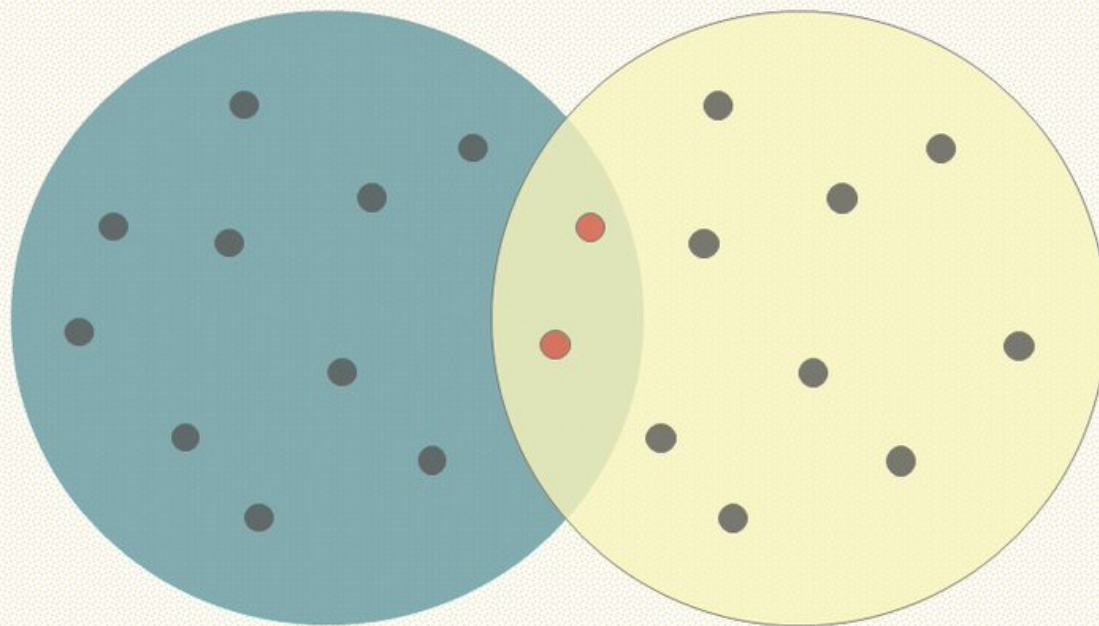
Values are also very important in sciences. Imagine how chaotic discussions in the health sciences would be if humans didn't all agree that being sick was bad. Compared to physicists, social scientists don't have strong agreement on what they're all doing.



If you and I aren't on the same page about what we're trying to do with our science then I might feel uncomfortable outsourcing the task of knowledge creation to you.

Collaboration between sciences is a popular idea but often the optimism ignores the philosophical differences between academic fields. What counts as "science" in one field might not count as science in another.

Collaboration can be **difficult** when two academic fields have incompatible ways of knowing.

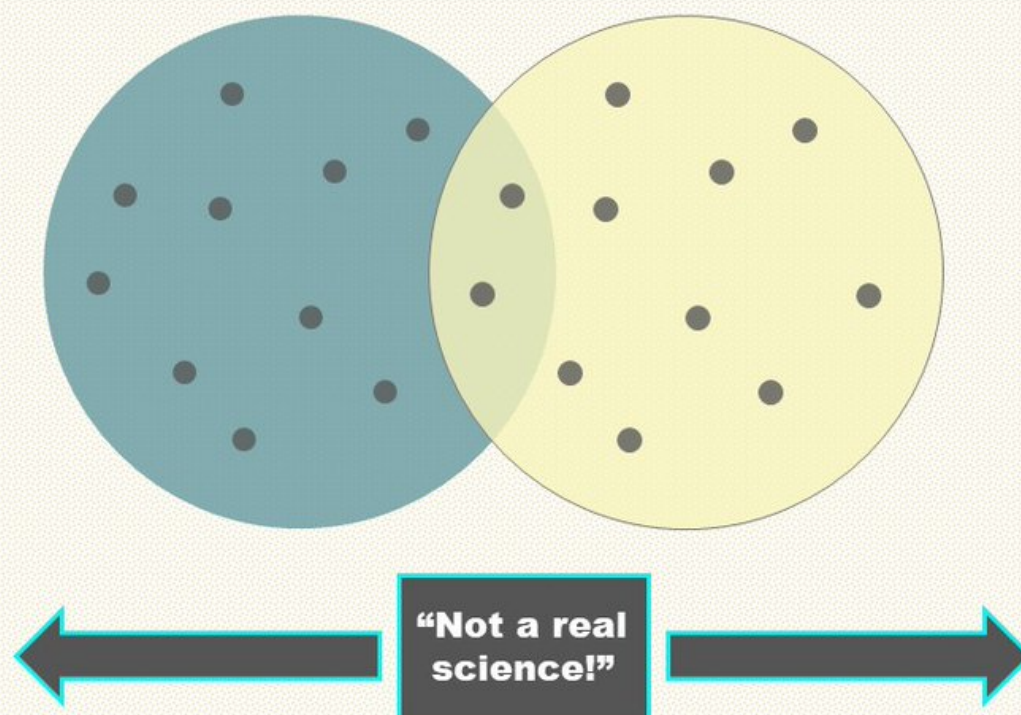


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There are real philosophical, sociological and even psychological forces that act to push different intellectual communities apart.

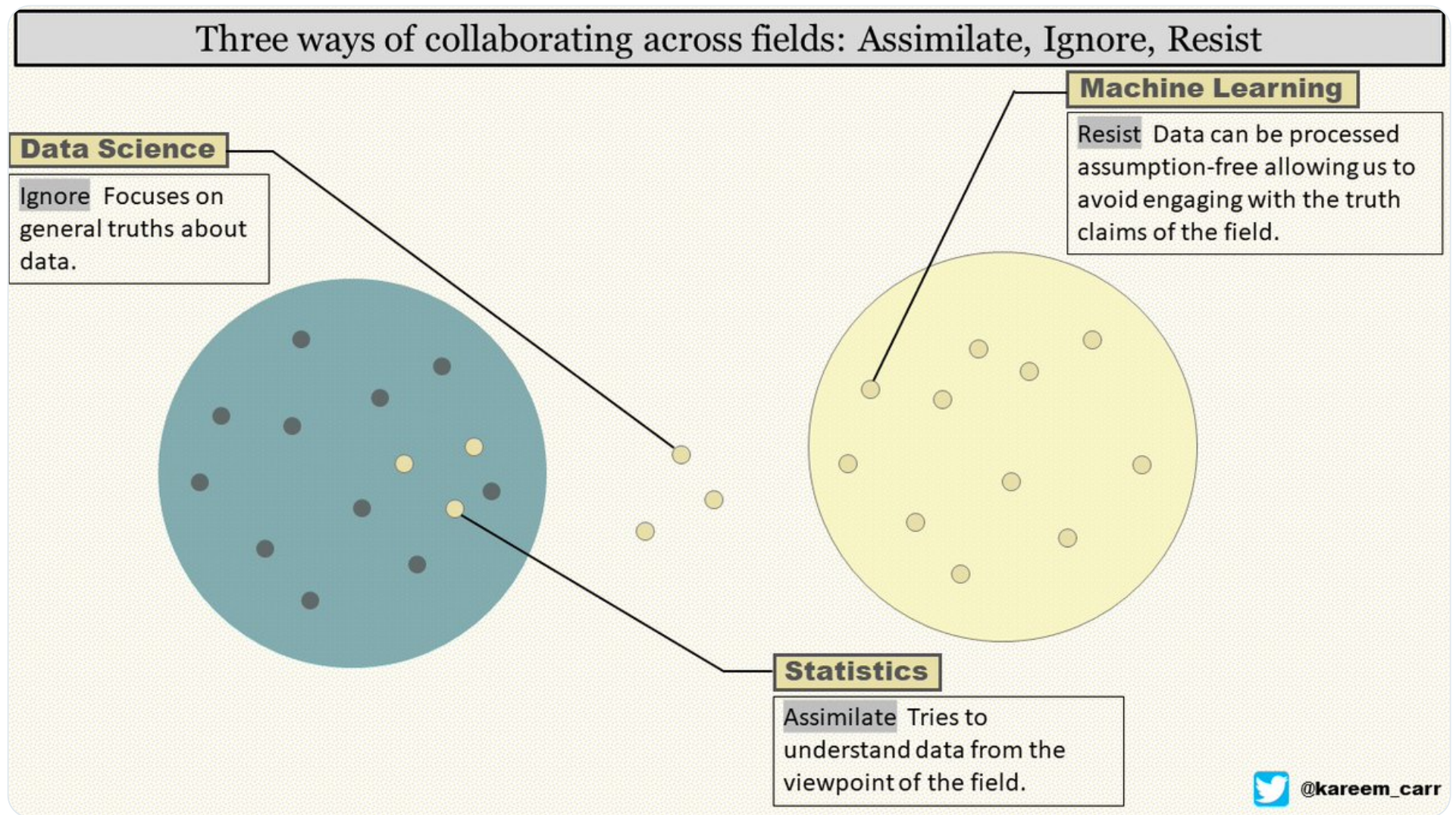
When trusted peers use a different way of knowing, it can feel like a breach of trust.

Different ideas about what it means to do science forces groups apart.

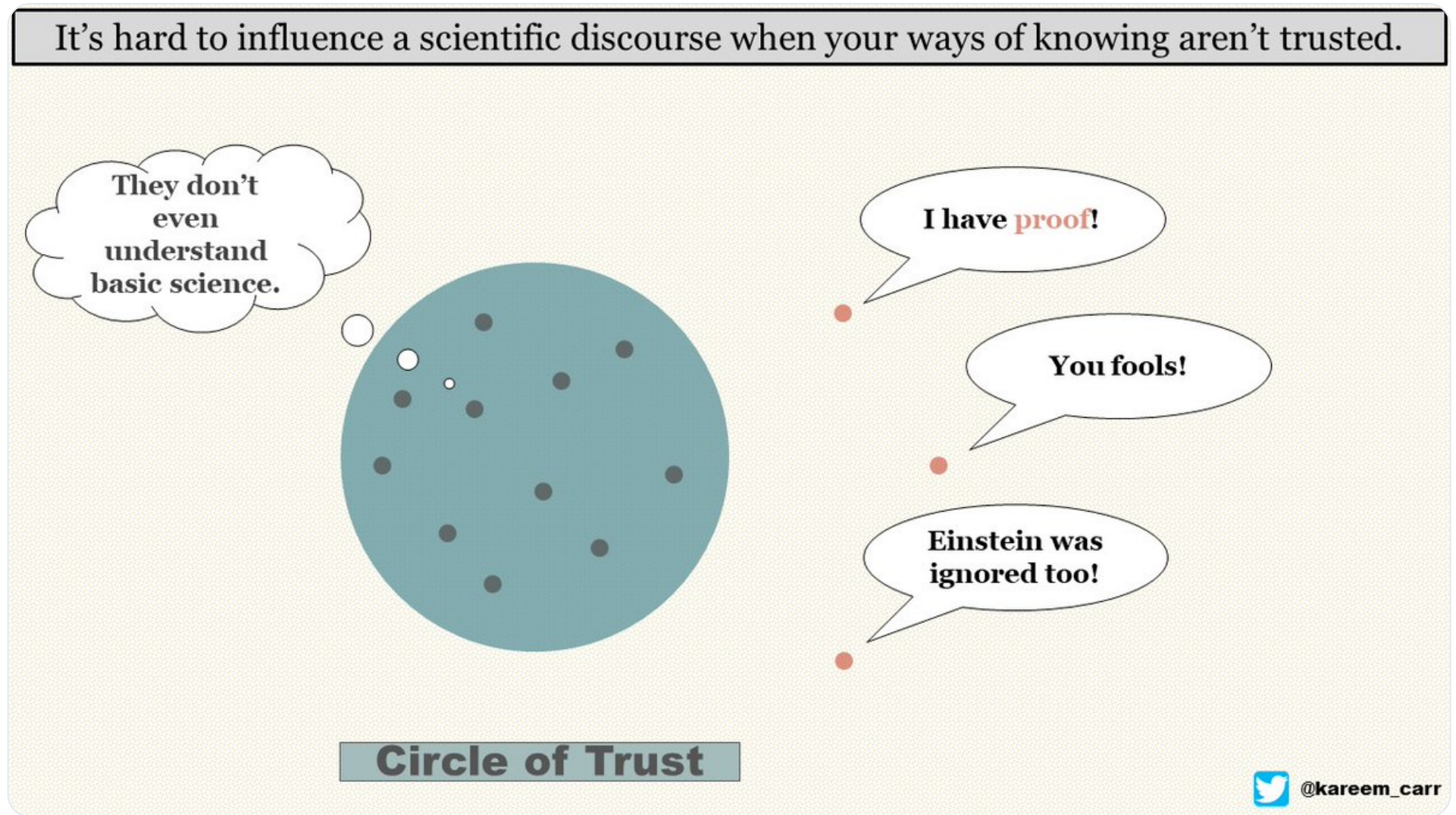


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For example, the three related fields of Data Science, Statistics and Machine Learning often collaborate with other fields. They also illustrate three different approaches to collaborating with intellectual communities with different ways of knowing. Assimilate, Ignore, Resist.



Sometimes a field, like Physics or Economics, will try to "educate" another field. This often doesn't go well. An intellectual community will have trouble trusting outsiders with different values and ways of knowing.



During the pandemic, I've seen people struggle with with the question of who is an expert. Even some scientists are unsure. I think the ideas in this thread explain why. There are no easy answers.

This kind of long-form content takes extra work so if you like it and want to show support, like and retweet the thread, and give me a follow! 😊


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Andrew Chen @andrewchen · Dec 27

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1

8

52



Andrew Chen @andrewchen · Dec 27

13/ For big, established companies, focusing on vanity metrics is silly but not harmful. Everyone's thrown up a huge number to celebrate for an offsite. I get it. But for startups who are pre-product/market fit, it can lead down a path towards


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19 Feb

You may have heard "IQ is about 50% heritable". What you need to know is that by the same logic, "Experiencing Racism" is also heritable. A dark-skin man is likely to experience racism and his kids are likely to experience similar levels of racism to him.

If that man had children with someone white, their children's tendency to experience racism would be intermediate between both parents. Identical twins raised apart are likely to experience similar levels of racism.

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17 Feb

Some people follow me for my statistics insights. Other people like me for my social commentary. This thread explains how those things are related. 📌

Why should **you** care about statistics?

Read 9 tweets




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17 Feb

I now have 54k followers which is bigger than the population of my home country (The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis). 🇧🇧 When you leave home, you dream of “making it big”. Well today I have exceeded the theoretical maximum fanbase size of my home country 🤔




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2 Feb

A bit of personal news. I got vaccinated for covid-19!



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6/7



Read 4 tweets



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30 Jan

I've noticed a kind of tribal individualist that's common online. They move in mobs, make nearly identical objections, claim not be a group or believe in groups, and are extremely hostile to the identities of others. They've also been REALLY BAD for online scientific discourse.

Many people believe in individualism so strongly that they seem incapable of perceiving anything to do with groups. They don't understand sociology as a category of knowledge or social problems as anything more than a collection of the

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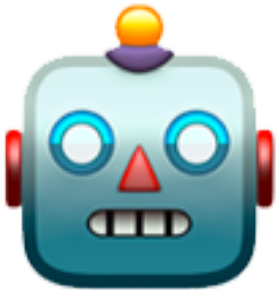
Kareem Carr
@kareem_carr

25 Jan

I wrote a short thread on being a racial minority within math academia. I didn't propose any changes to the status quo or solutions. Just pointed out why I think race is an issue in the context of my experiences. Here are some of the EXTREMELY racist responses I got back. 📌

It's funny because a lot of the responses say it's not about race and accuse me of forcing race into the conversation. Meanwhile, many of those rather naive comments are located right next to insanely racist crap like this...

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