

**CODE, ROBOTS,
AND PEOPLE**

ABOUT ME

▶ I'm from Austin, TX

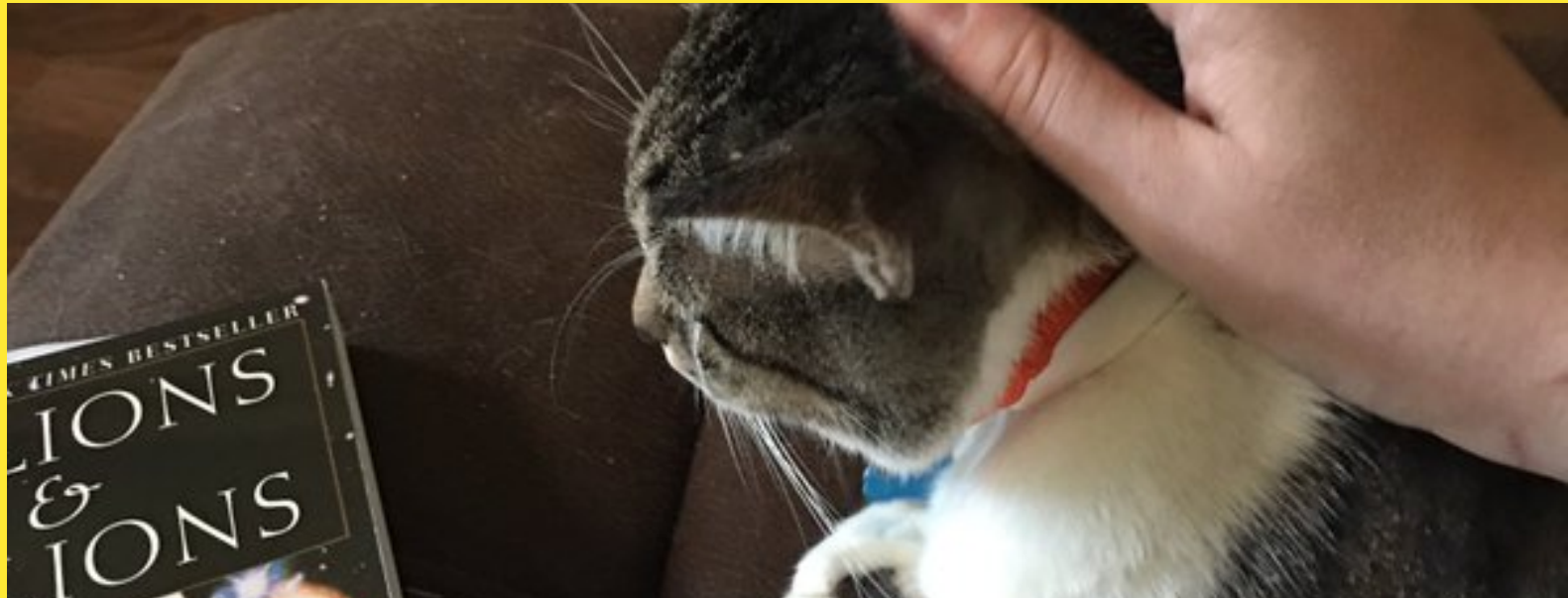
▶ I'm a developer evangelist for Auth0 (ask me about OpenID Connect!)

▶ Electrical Engineering Student at Arizona State University

▶ Gender Non-Binary they/them pronouns (go ahead, ask!)

▶ I like robots, baseball, woodworking, sewing, and a bunch of other things.

ALSO, MY CATS ARE WAY TOO CUTE.



SERIOUSLY.

Just watch this

MY FATHER IS GETTING BACK INTO ROBOTICS WITH ME...



AND I HAVE A LOVE OF JAVASCRIPT ROBOTICS

(You should totally talk to Jon, Kelsey, and Gordon!)



WHY DO WE CODE?

**because if you want to bake an apple pie from scratch, you must first
create the universe.**

NO, BUT REALLY?

- ▶ **For Work**
- ▶ **To Learn**
- ▶ **For Fun**

CODING TO LEARN

- ▶ **Reverse Engineering**
- ▶ **Writing a Hello World**
- ▶ **Going a little deeper**

CODING FOR FUN

- ▶ **Coding for the sake of building things**
 - ▶ **Just to push our own boundaries**
- ▶ **And the boundaries of the world around us**

**I DIDN'T HAVE CONTROL OVER
MUCH AS A KID. BUT I HAD
CONTROL OVER RPG MAKER.**

THE INTER-RELATION

**Coding for work keeps us paid so that we can build our communities for
fun**

(Otherwise OSS as we know it wouldn't exist.)

SIDE PROJECTS

These are our fun coding projects-- "no real business value"

OR IS THAT TRUE?

- ▶ Preventing burnout
- ▶ Bringing in new people
- ▶ Encouraging curiosity

**OUR VERY SPECIES NEEDS
THESE SIDE PROJECTS, BE
THEY CODE OR OTHERWISE, TO
CONTINUE TO THRIVE**

BUT WHY CODE?

Code allows us to begin from almost nothing. We can take a small, cheap computer, and build an apple pie (or an entire cosmos) from scratch.

AN ASIDE ON TROPES

- ▶ **you do not have to code for fun to be a good programmer.**
 - ▶ **you are allowed to have other interests**
 - ▶ **and no, those don't have to include star wars**
 - ▶ **For instance, I like baseball and woodworking!**

ROBOTICS

**We're moving in the same direction here. Cheaper boards, less to start,
more to gain.**

We're doing really cool things with NodeBots



**AND THE NODEBOTS COMMUNITY, WHILE NOT
PERFECT, IS DIVERSE, RESPECTFUL, AND
WELCOMING**

WHY?

More important than the code, and the robots, are the *people*.

And, unfortunately, that's what has me *the most optimistic* and yet *the most cynical*.

CYNICISM: THE LIBRARY AT ALEXANDRIA

**WE HAVE THE LIBRARY, BUT
WE ARE LACKING IN OUR
PASSION TO FILL IT.**

**WE ARE, IN FACT,
DISTRUBINGLY CLOSE TO THE
FATE OF THE LIBRARY AT
ALEXANDRIA**

A FEW NOTES ON PRIVILEGE

- ▶ **Privilege is a spectrum, not a binary.**
- ▶ **You are allowed to be upset over how you are treated, even if someone else has it worse.**
- ▶ **You, as a victim, do not have to remain silent. And you are not alone.**

CODES OF CONDUCT AND THE LIBRARY

- ▶ **We create rules in our communities to allow people in**
- ▶ **We all make mistakes-- this is not about exile and shame, but about education and reform**
 - ▶ **We only remove unrepentant and repeated infringers**
- ▶ **We need these rules because we do not all act like adults. And even when we do, we will slip up.**

**WE ARE NOT AN ANGRY MOB.
WE ARE SIMPLY ASKING FOR
A FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE
EQUAL RESPECT AND
TREATMENT OF ALL.**

THE RESISTANCE TO CODES OF CONDUCT

- ▶ If we lived in perfect world, we wouldn't need these
 - ▶ we also wouldn't need laws against murder and theft!
- ▶ I find the most resistance comes from *the very people that don't need its protection*

**"YOU SHOULD JUDGE [CODE OR] HARDWARE, NOT
PEOPLE"**

**The intent is not to pass judgement on those who infringe, but to ensure
that all attendees of an event, or participants of a community, are
treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.**

"YOU CAN'T JUST EXILE PEOPLE YOU DON'T LIKE"

Codes of conduct are about education, not exile. No one is perfect (including and especially myself), and this is recognized.

"YOU DON'T WIN ALLIES BY SHOUTING/BEING ANGRY"

- ▶ **Yes, well, sitting by and doing nothing didn't really work, did it?**
 - ▶ **without confronting prejudice, it will continue unabated**

THE ALLEGORY BETWEEN ANCIENT SCIENCE AND TODAY'S COMMUNITIES

- ▶ **The problem then was that the rules prevented the study and spread of ideas**
- ▶ **Today, the lack of a rule system allows the oppression created by that former system to prevent the study and spread of ideas**

OPTIMISM: IONIA

A NOTE ON DESTROYING YOUR IDOLS

We let way too many people get away with bad behavior because they wrote a library, or give sound technical advice. We need to start objectively viewing the behavior of a person with their technical output.

**WE ARE ALSO, AT OUR BEST, A GLOBAL VERSION
OF IONIA**

**Information is freely available, and besides the pessimism of how we treat
each other, we are getting code, robotics in to the hands of more people
than ever.**

**BUT WE MUST WORK MUCH HARDER TO
PREVENT DESTRUCTION-- LIKE WE
CURRENTLY DO TO SPREAD INFORMATION**

BUT, KAS...

**"BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS
HAPPEN, SO IT MUST BE OK!"**

**"BUT [THIS PERSON/
COMPANY WHO MESSED UP]
DOES SO MANY GOOD THINGS!**

**EVERYTHING IS NOT GREAT,
"MERITOCRACY" IS STILL A
MYTH, AND TELLING
YOURSELF ANY DIFFERENT IS
DETERIMENTAL.**

MY ULTIMATUM

We do not need horrible people that happen to write good code in our communities. *if we support everyone, and become Ionia presiding over Alexandria, the good code will follow.*

THE SPARK OF HOPE: JOHANNES KEPLER

- ▶ **created the laws of planetary motion and began to discover the fundamental underpinnings of gravity**
- ▶ **Was a light of sharing knowledge as nepotism and fear began to destroy scientific progress**

YOU, TOO, CAN BE A KEPLER.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE CALLED ON YOUR BS

- ▶ **Listen**

- ▶ **Learn**

- ▶ **Remember: It's criticism of your actions, not your character**

HOW ELSE CAN I, A PRIVILEGED PERSON, HELP?

"One of the most radical things you can do is to actually believe women when they talk about their experiences" -- Anita Sarkeesian

**That, except extended to *everyone from any marginalized group*,
ESPECIALLY if someone is confiding in you something that happened to
them**

ALSO, PLEASE STOP ASKING OR SAYING THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ **Is it really that bad?**
- ▶ **I've never seen anything like that!**
- ▶ **But tech's one of the better industries, right?!**

A FINAL THOUGHT

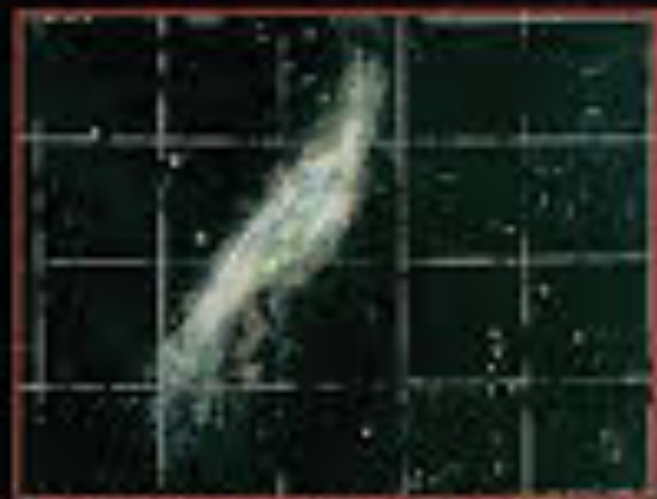
CITATIONS/ RECOMMENDED READING

Sagan, Carl (2011-07-06). Broca's Brain: Reflections on the Romance of Science. Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition

Sagan, Carl (2006-11-02). The Varieties of Scientific Experience: A Personal View of the Search for God (Kindle Locations 1905-1908). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

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Author of BILLIONS & BILLIONS

BROCA'S BRAIN



REFLECTIONS ON THE
ROMANCE OF SCIENCE

"DAZZLING IN ITS RANGE AND ELOQUENCE"

—*New York Review of Books*

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THE VARIETIES OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIENCE

A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE SEARCH FOR GOD

CARL SAGAN

Edited by Ann Druyan

"Find here a major fraction of this stunningly valuable legacy
left to all of us by a great human being." —KURT VONNEGUT



THANKS FOR LISTENING!



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