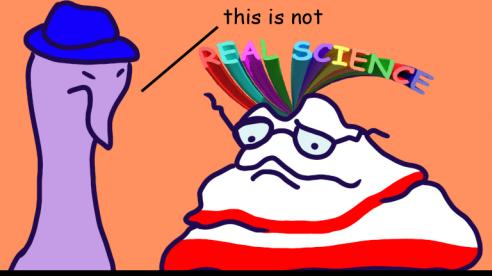


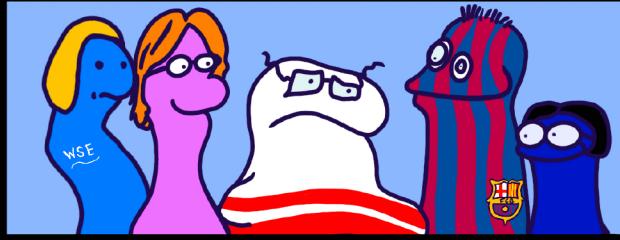
having come up with an idea for my PhD proposal, I was facing opposition of a kind I wasn't expecting...

...and while that wasn't exactly what was being said, it boiled down to it.

being merely a sock with nothing to its name yet, I might have dropped the whole PhD just then. who was I to argue then? who am I to argue now? I'm just a homoeomorphic mess, if not worse - a donut. I don't know what I'm doing, how should I defend it? but just in time, my support sock network showed up and saved the day. some of them through relentless - excessive really - help in proposal writing, some of them with deep, philosophical discussions about the nature of science, the world and supervision - and some of them with raw, much needed and appreciated emotional sockport.

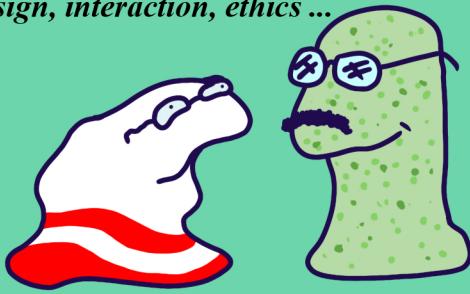


POSITIVISM, OBJECTIVITY, REPLICABILITY, MEASUREMENTS, PEER REVIEWS, FRAUDULATION, EXPERIMENTATION, QUANTITATIVITY



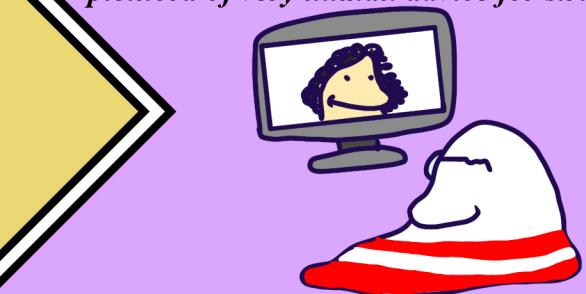
and thus I began seeking those that do this unreal science I'd been warned about...

philosophy, posthumanism, homo digitalis, science and technology studies, participatory design, interaction, ethics ...

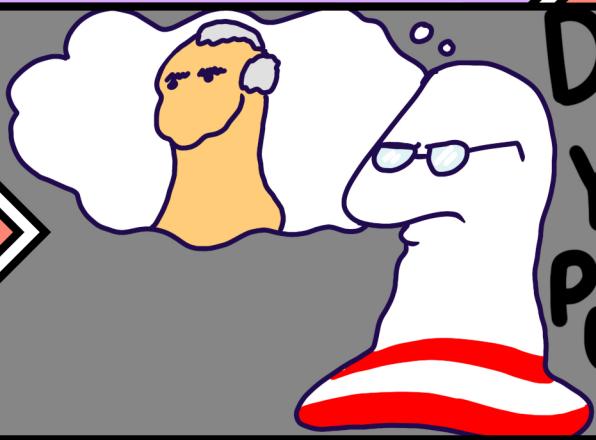


design vs software, informatics and society, experience design, speculative design

human-robot / human-computer interaction, user-centred design and evaluation and a plethora of very human advice for struggles



marginalised perspectives, critical theory, somewhat German, thus "eine coole Socke"



maybe positivism is not my kind of jam. working with socks, with emotions, feelings, interactions, societies and their interplays, I just don't think there is an objective ground truth the world can be reduced to. so... am I a constructivist then? has it come down to a battle between positivism and constructivism? I don't think so. rather, I think that I was better off without all this nonsense. of course, it is important and most likely a part of the journey to dive into this debate, find your stance in it, possibly despise the other side for some time and eventually come out the other end a bit smarter or at the very least where you started off from. but what is it then that I am now? I don't know. I do think context is very important, I do believe that discussing your position as a researcher and thus possible influence on your research is important, I just don't subscribe to the view that holism is possible. what is a holistic view anyway? I for one don't know. neither do I, however, believe there is anything gained in trying to objectivise everything down to a common denominator, trying to measure an absolute reality that simply isn't there. I do see the importance of something resembling objectivism, I just don't see how one could ever really be objective. that is with socks of course - studying socks. socks aren't just black and white, there's shades, shapes, prints, whatever. and coming back to Popper, reading his "logik der forschung", I don't think that's what he meant to say anyway. while he was most likely much more positivistic than I am, critiqued induction, asking for falsifiability, I do think he was more of a realist than anything. which, to me that is, proves that this is just a spectrum - as so many things are - and there's people on either side who get it wrong by seeing it as a binary choice. as for my PhD proposal... what is gained from trying to measure socks? the premise of the kind of research that was praised to me as **real science** seems to be that it is replicable. towards the start of my PhD, I was given an article on the replication crisis and I agree - this is a big issue. and I also agree that this sort of science is replicable... however, I don't think anybody will ever try to replicate it. for all it does is put numbers to problems we have long since recognised. numbers that, to me, mean nothing. numbers that are trying to objectively describe sock behaviour. I might change my opinion again, I most likely will - but as of now, to me, these numbers stem from a perspective that I see as a misunderstanding of Popper. rather, I believe we should try and place ourselves on this spectrum. much better even, we should be bouncing back and forth on it, depending on what we are researching right now. maybe that's just a mixed method approach then? who knows...