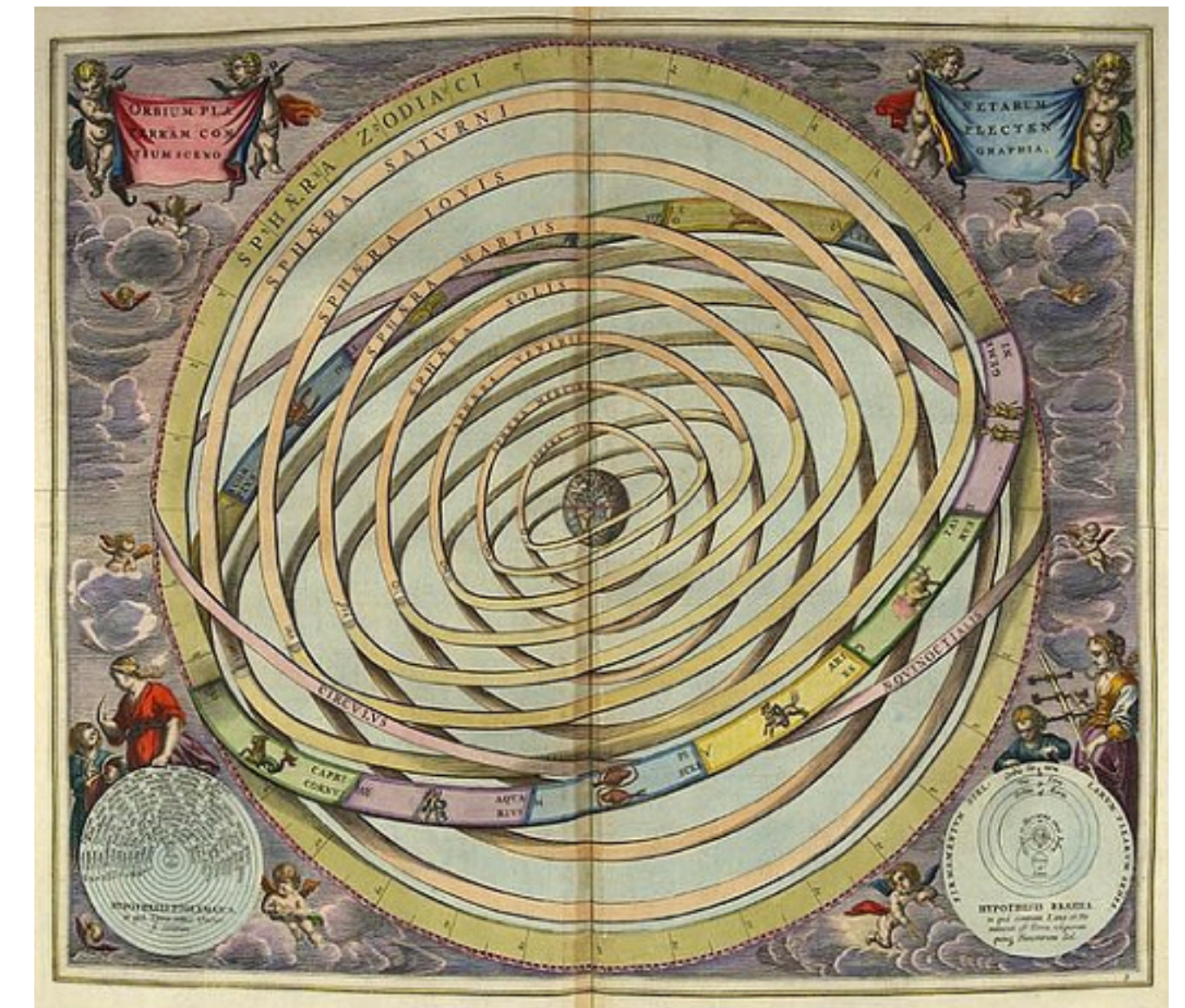# Working with eHRAF paragraphs
data through coding

Most eHRAF research involves coding:

1. Pick a theory/model

2. Identify its predictions

3. Operationalize variables (*Evidence for*, *No evidence*)

4. Read each paragraph and code for your variables

Or, exploratory, content-driven coding systems are possible; text analysis…

What is your unit of analysis? *paragraph*, *document*, *culture*, something else?

🔍 **How do your variables vary or not vary** across, cultures, subsistence types, regions, social contexts, etc…?

Biases in the ethnographic record

- Yes, the ethnographic record is biased…like the historical record, archaeological record, and every other source of empirical data.

- But we can test and control for many potential sources of bias:

  - Ethnographer type, gender, nationality

  - Year of publication, field time duration, temporal span

  - Total number of ethnographers, total documents per culture, total pages of ethnography per culture

"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"