

Summary

Saturday, February 12, 2022 10:48 PM

The Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM) is the [deity](#) of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, or Pastafarianism, a [social movement](#) that promotes a light-hearted view of [religion](#). It originated in opposition to the teaching of [intelligent design](#) in public schools. According to adherents, Pastafarianism (a [portmanteau](#) of [pasta](#) and [Rastafarianism](#)) is a "real, legitimate religion, as much as any other".¹² It has received some limited recognition as such.¹³

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying_Spaghetti_Monster>

- [Created in 2005 by Bobby Henderson](#)
- [A parody religion, poking fun at organized religion, creationism and intelligent design](#)
- Recognized as an official religion in New Zealand
- Russell's Teapot
- Pascal's Wager
- Omphalos Hypothesis
- False Cause

Flying Spaghetti Monster	
Pastafarianism	
	
<i>Touched by His Noodly Appendage</i> , a parody of Michelangelo's <i>The Creation of Adam</i> , is an iconic image of the Flying Spaghetti Monster ¹⁴ by Arne Niklas Jansson. ¹⁵	
Abode	spaghettimonster.org
Symbol	
Texts	The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster , The Loose Canon , The Holy Book of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster
Festivals	"Holiday"

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flying_Spaghetti_Monster>

Origin

Sunday, March 6, 2022 12:30 AM

Flying Spaghetti Monster

deity of Pastafarian social movement

Alternate titles: *FSM*

Flying Spaghetti Monster, the [deity](#) of what began as a parody [religion](#) and grew to become a [social movement](#). The adherents, who call themselves Pastafarians, purportedly number in the tens of thousands and are primarily located in [North America](#), western [Europe](#), [Australia](#), and [New Zealand](#). The Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM), which is said to be invisible, is depicted as a floating mass of [spaghetti](#) noodles with a large meatball on either side of its body and two centrally located eyestalks.



Flying Spaghetti Monster

An artist's rendition of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.
© Memo Angeles/Shutterstock.com

The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster began in 2005, when Bobby Henderson, a recent physics graduate of [Oregon State University](#), sent a letter to the Kansas Board of Education, which was debating the inclusion of [intelligent design](#) theories in [high school](#) classes on [evolution](#). The letter, which parodied the reasoning used to argue a scientific basis for intelligent design, stated that teaching about intelligent design must also include the [alternative](#) theory that the universe was created by a Flying Spaghetti Monster. Henderson received no response, and he posted his letter on the [Internet](#), where it attracted a great deal of popular attention. Articles on the viral sensation were published in numerous newspapers, and fan sites began to appear.

The tenets of the religion, as laid out initially in Henderson's letter and expanded on in his *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster* (2006), posit that the world was created to appear older than it is and that whenever a scientist performs a measurement, such as [carbon dating](#), to show the age of an [artifact](#), the FSM changes the results with His Noodly Appendage. Similarly, [gravity](#) is said to result from the FSM pushing down on people. Pirates are held to be the first Pastafarians, and [global warming](#) is explained as being the result of the decline in the number of pirates since the 1800s. Pastafarians are encouraged to dress in pirate regalia. Friday is celebrated as the Sabbath, and Holiday is observed in late December. The code of conduct is laid out in the eight "I'd Really Rather You Didn'ts." Belief is not required of church members, however, and [dogma](#) is rejected.

Pastafarians have challenged laws that give particular privileges to religious ideas, practices, or bodies of worship in several countries and jurisdictions, frequently by seeking recognition as a religion, with varying degrees of success. In 2011 a Pastafarian was allowed to wear a colander on his head in his driver's license photo in [Austria](#), which permits religious headgear for official documents, and the colander was later recognized as religious headgear in the [Czech Republic](#), New Zealand, and the U.S. states of [Massachusetts](#) and [Utah](#). The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster was accepted as a religion in the [Netherlands](#) in 2016, and that same year the first legally recognized Pastafarian marriage was celebrated in New Zealand.

From <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Flying-Spaghetti-Monster>>

Open Letter To Kansas School Board

I am writing you with much concern after having read of your hearing to decide whether the alternative theory of Intelligent Design should be taught along with the theory of Evolution. I think we can all agree that it is important for students to hear multiple viewpoints so they can choose for themselves the theory that makes the most sense to them. I am concerned, however, that students will only hear one theory of Intelligent Design.

Let us remember that there are multiple theories of Intelligent Design. I and many others around the world are of the strong belief that the universe was created by a Flying Spaghetti Monster. It was He who created all that we see and all that we feel. We feel strongly that the overwhelming scientific evidence pointing towards evolutionary processes is nothing but a coincidence, put in place by Him.

It is for this reason that I'm writing you today, to formally request that this alternative theory be taught in your schools, along with the other two theories. In fact, I will go so far as to say, if you do not agree to do this, we will be forced to proceed with legal action. I'm sure you see where we are coming from. If the Intelligent Design theory is not based on faith, but instead another scientific theory, as is claimed, then you must also allow our theory to be taught, as it is also based on science, not on faith.

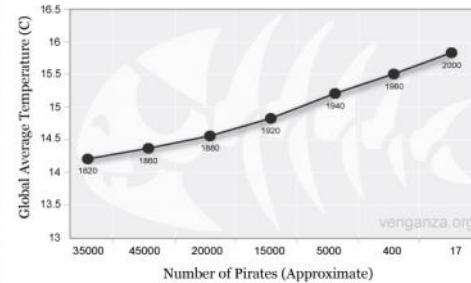
Some find that hard to believe, so it may be helpful to tell you a little more about our beliefs. We have evidence that a Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe. None of us, of course, were around to see it, but we have written accounts of it. We have several lengthy volumes explaining all details of His power. Also, you may be surprised to hear that there are over 10 million of us, and growing. We tend to be very secretive, as many people claim our beliefs are not substantiated by observable evidence.

What these people don't understand is that He built the world to make us think the earth is older than it really is. For example, a scientist may perform a carbon-dating process on an artifact. He finds that approximately 75% of the Carbon-14 has decayed by electron emission to Nitrogen-14, and infers that this artifact is approximately 10,000 years old, as the half-life of Carbon-14 appears to be 5,730 years. But what our scientist does not realize is that every time he makes a measurement, the Flying Spaghetti Monster is there changing the results with His Noodly Appendage. We have numerous texts that describe in detail how this can be possible and the reasons why He does this. He is of course invisible and can pass through normal matter with ease.

I'm sure you now realize how important it is that your students are taught this alternate theory. It is absolutely imperative that they realize that observable evidence is at the discretion of a Flying Spaghetti Monster. Furthermore, it is disrespectful to teach our beliefs without wearing His chosen outfit, which of course is full pirate regalia. I cannot stress the importance of this enough, and unfortunately cannot describe in detail why this must be done as I fear this letter is already becoming too long. The concise explanation is that He becomes angry if we don't.

You may be interested to know that global warming, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters are a direct effect of the shrinking numbers of Pirates since the 1800s. For your interest, I have included a graph of the approximate number of pirates versus the average global temperature over the last 200 years. As you can see, there is a statistically significant inverse relationship between pirates and global temperature.

Global Average Temperature Vs. Number of Pirates

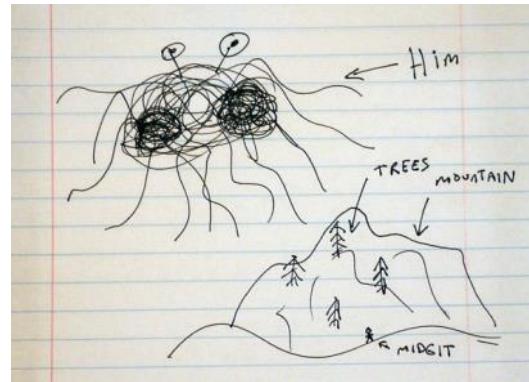


In conclusion, thank you for taking the time to hear our views and beliefs. I hope I was able to convey the importance of teaching this theory to your students. We will of course be able to train the teachers in this alternate theory. I am eagerly awaiting your response, and hope dearly that no legal action will need to be taken. I think we can all look forward to the time when these three theories are given equal time in our science classrooms across the country, and eventually the world: One third time for Intelligent Design, one third time for Flying Spaghetti Monsterism (Pastafarianism), and one third time for logical conjecture based on overwhelming observable evidence.

Sincerely Yours,

Bobby Henderson, concerned citizen.

P.S. I have included an artistic drawing of Him creating a mountain, trees, and a midget. Remember, we are all His creatures.



From <<https://www.spaghettimonster.org/about/open-letter/>>

Creationism & Intelligent design

Sunday, March 6, 2022 8:41 AM

Creationism

At a broad level, a Creationist is someone who believes in a god who is absolute creator of heaven and earth, out of nothing, by an act of free will. Such a deity is generally thought to be "transcendent" meaning beyond human experience, and constantly involved ('immanent') in the creation, ready to intervene as necessary, and without whose constant concern the creation would cease or disappear. Christians, Jews, and Muslims are all Creationists in this sense. Generally they are known as 'theists,' distinguishing them from 'deists,' that is people who believe that there is a designer who might or might not have created the material on which he (or she or it) is working and who does not interfere once the designing act is finishing. The focus of this discussion is on a narrower sense of Creationism, the sense that one usually finds in popular writings (especially in America today, but expanding world-wide rapidly). Here, Creationism means the taking of the Bible, particularly the early chapters of Genesis, as literally true guides to the history of the universe and to the history of life, including us humans, down here on earth (Numbers 1992).



From <<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/creationism/>>

Intelligent design (ID) is a [pseudoscientific](#) argument for the [existence of God](#), presented by its proponents as "an evidence-based [scientific theory](#) about life's origins".^{[12][13][14]} Proponents claim that "certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as [natural selection](#)".^[15] ID is a form of [creationism](#) that lacks empirical support and offers no testable or tenable hypotheses, and is therefore not science.^{[16][17]} The leading proponents of ID are associated with the [Discovery Institute](#), a Christian, politically conservative [think tank](#) based in the United States.^[18] Although the phrase *intelligent design* had featured previously in [theological](#) discussions of the [argument from design](#),^[19] its first publication in its present use as an alternative term for creationism was in *Of Pandas and People*,^{[20][21]} a 1989 creationist textbook intended for high school biology classes. The term was substituted into drafts of the book, directly replacing references to *creation science* and *creationism*, after the 1987 [Supreme Court's](#) *Edwards v. Aguillard* decision barred the teaching of *creation science* in [public schools](#) on [constitutional grounds](#).^[22] From the mid-1990s, the [intelligent design movement](#) (IDM), supported by the Discovery Institute,^[23] advocated inclusion of intelligent design in [public school biology curricula](#).^[24] This led to the 2005 *Kitmiller v. Dover Area School District* trial, which found that intelligent design was not science, that it "cannot uncouple itself from its creationist, and thus religious, antecedents," and that the public school district's promotion of it therefore violated the [Establishment Clause](#) of the [First Amendment to the United States Constitution](#).^[25] ID presents two main arguments against evolutionary explanations: [irreducible complexity](#) and [specified complexity](#), asserting that certain biological and informational features of living things are too complex to be the result of natural selection. Detailed scientific examination has rebutted several examples for which evolutionary explanations are claimed to be impossible. ID seeks to challenge the [methodological naturalism](#) inherent in modern science,^{[26][27]} though proponents concede that they have yet to produce a scientific theory.^[28] As a positive argument against evolution, ID proposes an analogy between natural systems and [human artifacts](#), a version of the theological argument from design for the [existence of God](#).^{[29][30]} ID proponents then conclude by analogy that the complex features, as defined by ID, are evidence of design.^{[31][32]} Critics of ID find a [false dichotomy](#) in the premise that evidence against [evolution](#) constitutes evidence for design.

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_design>

What is Intelligent Design?

Synopsis: Michael Behe and Stephen Meyer Explain the Inference to Design

MICHAEL J. BEHE AND STEPHEN C. MEYER

MAY 10, 2018

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

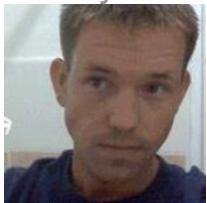
How do we recognize design? How do we realize that something has been put together intentionally by an intelligent agent? What is intelligent design? Our minds recognize the effects of other intelligent beings when we see the purposeful arrangement of parts, such as the letters and words in a book. Or, the intentional design of something like Mt. Rushmore. We know from our own experience that such things as books and art only come from one source, a mind. So, when we see intentionally designed systems, purposeful arrangement of parts, we know that at an intelligent agent, a mind, must be the cause. The theory of intelligent design simply says that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.

From <<https://www.discovery.org/v/what-is-intelligent-design/>>

Bobby Henderson

Sunday, March 6, 2022 12:28 AM

Bobby Henderson



Bobby Henderson (born 18 July 1980) is an [American](#) physics graduate who founded Pastafarianism, a parody religion centered around Flying Spaghetti Monster. He describes himself as "prophet" of the Flying Spaghetti Monster and he is the author of *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster*.

Biography

Bobby Henderson was born in 1980 in [Oregon](#). He studied physics at Oregon State University. In 2005, Henderson sent a satirical letter to Kansas School Board to address the decision to permit teaching intelligent design as an alternative to evolution in public school science classes. In the letter, he claimed it is important for students to hear different theories but that he is concerned that they will not hear the one which states that Flying Spaghetti Monster created all the living beings. He requested equal time be taken to teach about Pastafarianism, intelligent design and evolution. He also wrote that it would be disrespectful to teach Pastafarianism without wearing a [pirate](#) regalia and that reduced number of pirates is responsible for global warming. As an "evidence", he included a graph showing that average global temperature has increased as the number of pirates has fallen. After the letter was ignored, he posted it on his website and Pastafarianism became an Internet phenomenon. Henderson described himself as the prophet of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. In 2006, he published *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster*, the first "holy book" of Pastafarianism.

From <https://historica.fandom.com/wiki/Bobby_Henderson>

Bobby Henderson	
Born	1980 (age 41–42) Oregon, United States
Alma mater	Oregon State University
Known for	Founder of Pastafarianism

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Henderson_\(activist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Henderson_(activist))>

About Bobby, a mini-bio.



Age: [current year minus 1980]

Education: Negligible (B.S. Physics)

Location: I grew up in Oregon, USA. College: Oregon, New Zealand. After college I lived in Nevada and then Arizona, and then Oregon again, and then wandering around. I lived on an island in the Philippines for 3 years. Now I'm back in the US.

Occupation aside from prophet of FSM: Hobo, hammock enthusiast. Also various nerdwork around computers.

You are welcome to [Contact Me](#)

From <<https://www.spaghettimonster.org/about/>>

Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster

Sunday, March 6, 2022 12:30 AM

The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, after having existed in secrecy for hundreds of years, came into the mainstream just a few years ago*.

With millions, if not thousands, of devout worshipers, the Church of the FSM is widely considered a legitimate religion, even by its opponents – mostly fundamentalist Christians, who have accepted that our God has larger balls than theirs.

Some claim that the church is purely a thought experiment or satire, illustrating that Intelligent Design is not science, just a pseudoscience manufactured by Christians to push Creationism into public schools. These people are mistaken — The Church of FSM is legit, and backed by hard science. Anything that comes across as humor or satire is purely coincidental.

Sounds great but where do I start?

For a taste of what we're about, watch this video made by our friend Matt Tillman, an Introduction to Pastafarianism: Spaghetti, Wenches & Metaphysics.

More, please

We believe religion – say Christianity, Islam, Pastafarianism – does not require literal belief in order to provide spiritual enlightenment. Much of the transcendent experience of religion can be attributed to the community. And while some members of religion are indoctrinated True Believers, many are not. There are many levels of Belief and each is no more or less legitimate than the other.

That is to say, you do not have to Believe to be part of our Church, but we hope in time you will see the Truth. But skeptics, as well as members of other religions, are always welcome.

What is this business about pirates, and the Beer Volcano, and Stripper Factory?

Religious texts tell us that humans evolved from Pirates. Consider that so-called "science experts" would have us believe humans evolved from primates, pointing towards the shared 99% shared DNA between humans and primates. But humans and Pirates share upwards of 99.9% of DNA.

We believe that Pirates were the original Pastafarians and that they were peaceful explorers. It was only due to Christian misinformation that they have an image of outcast criminals today.

No one knows what the afterlife really holds, but we are told FSM Heaven has a Beer Volcano and Stripper Factory.

How Do I Join?

There is no formal membership process and we do not collect money from our members. The site is supported purely by our [Certificates of Ordination](#).



If you're interested in what we're about, please feel free to consider yourself a member.

How Can I Help?

Evangelism is a time-honored tradition of religion, and it's no different with Pastafarianism. Nothing helps the Cause more than Spreading the Word.

Here are a few of my favorite acts of evangelism over the years. Please let these inspire you.

The FSM looks great in parades



How about a Float in honor of the FSM, complete with a crew of Pirates? This is a yearly occurrence at the Fremont Solstice Parade. Check it out [here](#).

You can decorate your Holiday tree with a tree-topper



Every year, Pastafarians from around the world make their Holiday just a little more festive. Tree-toppers have become a tradition. [Here](#) are some of my favorites. (Sadly I do not know who is the cute girl in the photo.)

You could ride around in style



Look at all these people enchanted by this display of evangelism. How many joined the Church because of this? What a great display. You can see some more photos [Here](#).

Or how about joining in with some on-campus ministers?



It's a common sight at colleges across the world: Christian evangelists telling us why we're going to their Hell for drinking and having sex. So why not join in the evangelizing? Give the students a choice: the Christian threat of eternal damnation and hellfire, or the chance of FSM afterlife complete with a Beer Volcano and Stripper Factory. You can read more about these Pastafarian gentleman's fine ministry work [Here](#).

Community Outreach



Here's Bruder Spaghetti in Full Pirate Regalia standing next to the sign announcing the time and location of the weekly faith service, Noodlemass. (Other Churches in Germany are allowed this right, so why not Pastafarians?).

Show your faith at the workplace



We're living in enlightened times — feel free to wear your religious headwear (yes, it's a colander) at the workplace. In the photo, Mr. Schaeffer is getting sworn in at his new position as council member. You can read more about it [Here](#).

Or on your license photos



Why not wear a colander in your ID photos? Most places are cool with it, and those who are not can surely be poked by the ACLU. In the photo here, Mr. Alm has won the right to wear his Colander in his Austrian ID photo. You can read more about it [Here](#).

Pumpkin evangelism is festive



Why not show your faith next time you carve a pumpkin?

Questions and Answers

Q: Is this a joke?

A: It's not a joke. Elements of our religion are sometimes described as satire and there are many members who do not literally believe our scripture, but this isn't unusual in religion. A lot of Christians don't believe the Bible is literally true — but that doesn't mean they aren't True Christians.

If you say Pastafarians must believe in a literal Flying Spaghetti Monster to be True Believers, then you can make a similar argument for Christians. There is a lot of outlandish stuff in the Bible that rational Christians choose to ignore.

Q: A lot of Pastafarians seem to be anti-religion and/or atheists (why is this?)

A: We're not anti-religion. **This is NOT an atheists club.** Anyone and everyone is welcome to join our church including current members of other religions. In addition to the Atheists, Agnostics, and Freethinkers who have joined us, we have a number of Christian (and Muslim, and Hindu and Buddhist ...) members and I would love to have more. Note to the religious: You are welcome here.

Let me make this clear: we are not anti-religion, we are anti-crazy nonsense done in the name of religion. There is a difference.

Q: I don't believe you or any of your so-called followers actually believe any of this.

A: Some Pastafarians honestly believe in the FSM, and some see it as satire. I would just make the point that satire is an honest, legitimate basis for religion. Satire relies on truth to be effective. If it's a joke, it's a joke where to understand the punchline you must be conscious of underlying truth.

Compare our religion to those that are built on lies. I am not talking necessarily about mainstream religions (which themselves are often full of mysticism and ad-hoc reasoning), but think of cults, or churches where the leaders are scamming their followers out of money. These are groups where the followers fully believe. Are these churches legitimate since they have many True Believers?

Or can we agree that religion is as much about community as any shared faith. By any rational metric, Pastafarians are as legitimate a religious group as any. Arguably more so, since we're honest and rational.

Q: What is the Church of FSM's view on abortion and right to life issues?

A: The Church of FSM's position is that life starts before conception (somewhere around the point of seeing the boobs), and that **sperms – as potential humans if allowed to develop – deserve the same protections as fetuses and fully grown people**. Anyone who harms sperms is guilty of murder, including pushers of hot water Jacuzzi's and tight-fitting underwears. We are all equal in the eyes of the LORD our Almighty Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Q: We want to use FSM designs for t-shirt, jerseys, posters...

A: It's ok to use FSM materials for your own use and to spread the word – I'm happy to see it. There have been a number of sports team and club shirts – I can provide high quality images/vector designs for screen printing, just let me know.

That said, please do not *SELL* FSM products.

Q: What Does the Flying Spaghetti Monster think of Same Sex Marriage?

A: The CoF FSM has no judgement on same sex marriage, for/against; that is to say, all are welcome into the loving embrace of His Noodly Appendage. (And there are many gay/bi members).

Q: In 1000 years will FSM be a mainstream religion?

A: This is something I think about a lot. I sometimes wonder what the Church of Scientology — or lets say the Mormon Church looked like 5 years after Joseph Smith transcribed the scriptures out of the hat with the [seer stones](#). What worries me is that right now I can be pretty sure there aren't a lot of dogmatic nutty FSM people around, but what about in 20 years? What about in 50 years? What about when someone figures out a way to make money out of this and turns it into some new age spiritual enlightenment thing. There are billions of Christians who are crazy serious about their religion who don't necessarily believe the things in the Bible actually happened. So .. yes, I do worry where FSM will go. I think the best we can do is work to instill in the Church positive values that will keep us on a straight path.

Q: How do Pastafarians believe our world was created?

A: We believe the Flying Spaghetti Monster created the world much as it exists today, but for reasons unknown made it appear that the universe is billions of years old (instead of thousands) and that life evolved into its current state (rather than created in its current form). Every time a researcher carries out an experiment that appears to confirm one of these "scientific theories" supporting an old earth and evolution we can be sure that the FSM is there, modifying the data with his Noodly Appendage. We don't know why He does this but we believe He does, that is our Faith.

Q: To what extent do Pastafarians need evidence to support their beliefs? What is considered valid evidence, and why are some religious ideas lacking evidence believed more widely than others? Why is Christianity more widely accepted than Pastafarianism?

A: For many religions, acceptance is due to the time it has been around and due to the number of people who already follow it. For potential followers it's often less a consideration of evidence, and more a judgment that the collective group of followers is better informed. That millions or billions of people already follow this religion is strong social proof that there is something to it. The larger the group and the longer it has been around, the more pronounced the effect.

But nonbelievers are overreaching when they dismiss the phenomenon of religion as wrong and useless because it so often lacks a basis in evidence. The fact that millions of people get something positive out of a religion – even if it is based in superstition – *does* mean something. But that's not to say it's True, only that it has Value. For many people, religion is about being part of a community and being part of something bigger and more important than themselves. These transcendent experiences are something we want to emulate.

Nonbelievers would be better off criticizing only on the negative, damaging parts of religion, and being less judgmental about the idea of religion in general. Nonbelievers get hung up asking for evidence when really we should be looking at why does religion thrive despite evidence? We should be pushing the idea that faith is not equivalent to evidence-based-reasoning without insisting that it's inferior, only that they are different ways of seeing the world. And that the problems happen when this world views clash.

Pastafarianism is different than most religions in that we explicitly make the point that our scripture need not be believed literally. In other religions this is known but not often said out loud (many Christians don't take the Bible literally but won't volunteer this). Pastafarian scripture has some outlandish and sometimes contradictory components – and unlike the scripture of mainstream religion, these pieces were intentional and obvious, and our congregation is aware of this.

From <<https://www.spaghettimonster.org/about/>>

The 'I'd Really Rather You Didn'ts'

The 8 I'd Really Rather You Didn'ts

1. I'd really rather you didn't act like a sanctimonious, holier-than-thou ass when describing my Noodly Goodness. If some people don't believe in me, that's okay. Really, I'm not that vain. Besides, this isn't about them so don't change the subject.
2. I'd really rather you didn't use my existence as a means to oppress, subjugate, punish, eviscerate, and/or, you know, be mean to others. I don't require sacrifices and purity is for drinking water, not people.
3. I'd really rather you didn't judge people for the way they look, or how they dress, or the way they talk, or, well, just play nice, okay? Oh, and get this in your thick heads: woman = person. Man = person. Samey-samey. One is not better than the other, unless we're talking about fashion and I'm sorry, but I gave that to women and some guys who know the difference between teal and fuchsia.
4. I'd really rather you didn't indulge in conduct that offends yourself, or your willing, consenting partner of legal age and mental maturity. As for anyone who might object, I think the expression is go f*** yourself, unless they find that offensive in which case they can turn off the TV for once and go for a walk for a change.
5. I'd really rather you didn't challenge the bigoted, misogynist, hateful ideas of others on an empty stomach. Eat, then go after the b*****.
6. I'd really rather you didn't build multimillion-dollar churches / temples / mosques / shrines to my Noodly Goodness when the money could be better spent (take your pick):
 - a. Ending poverty
 - b. Curing diseases
 - c. Living in peace, loving with passion, and lowering the cost of cable
7. I might be a complex-carbohydrate omniscient being, but I enjoy the simple things in life. I ought to know. I am the creator.
8. I'd really rather you didn't go around telling people I talk to you. You're not that interesting. Get over yourself. And I told you to love your fellow man, can't you take a hint?
9. I'd really rather you didn't do unto others as you would have them do unto you if you are into, um, stuff that uses a lot of leather / lubricant / lass Vegas. If the other person is into it, however (pursuant to #4), then have at it, take pictures, and for the love of mike, wear a condom! Honestly, it's a piece of rubber. If I didn't want it to feel good when you did it I would have added spikes, or something.

From <<https://pastafarians.org.au/tenets/>>



Holidays and traditions

While there are no rituals, prayers or strict regulations involved in Pastafarianism, there are some generally-held notions: being fond of beer, not taking yourself too seriously, and celebrating every Friday as a holiday.

Instead of Passover and Ramadan, worshipers celebrate Pastaover and Ramendan, which involve eating loads of pasta, preferably spaghetti, and ramen noodles.

According to the church, heaven involves a volcano that spews beer – and a stripper factory. In Pastafarian hell, the beer is stale and watered down, and the strippers are suffering from sexually transmitted diseases.

At the end of devotions, worshipers will say "Ramen" – referring to the instant noodle – instead of "Amen."

From <<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/ramen-pastaover-the-essential-tenets-of-pastafarianism-1.1961807>>

After creating his delicious world, The Flying Spaghetti Monster decided that his people, named Pastafarians after His Noodly Goodness, needed a set of guidelines by which to live to reach the afterlife. An afterlife that he highly encouraged attempting to reach, as it includes access to the beer volcano, as well as a stripper factory. The Pastafarian version of hell is pretty much the same, though the beer is flat and the strippers have STDs.

So, to receive these guidelines, Mosey the Pirate Captain (because Pastafarians most notably started out as pirates), traveled up to Mount Salsa, where he was given the "Ten I'd Really Rather You Didn'ts." Unfortunately, two of the 10 were dropped on the way down, so ten became eight. The dropping of these two rules is, allegedly, what caused Pastafarians' "flimsy moral standards." Holidays in Pastafarianism are also covered in the gospel, which decrees every Friday a holy day and the birthday of the man who created instant Ramen noodles a religious holiday.

From <<https://allthatsinteresting.com/pastafarianism>>

Parody Religions

Sunday, March 6, 2022 7:31 AM

Religion	Description	Notes
Eventualism	A satire on Scientology -like religions which appeared in the movie Schizopolis	[1]
Invisible Pink Unicorn	A parody of theist definitions of God. It also highlights the arbitrary and unfalsifiable nature of religious belief, in a similar way to Russell's teapot .	[101]
Kibology	A humorous Usenet-based satire of religion	[10]
Landover Baptist Church	A satiric parody of Fundamentalist Christianity .	[11]
Last Thursdayism	A joke version of omphalism that argues that the universe was created last Thursday, created to demonstrate problems with unfalsifiable beliefs, and the variant Next Wednesday inspired by John Landis 's running movie gag See You Next Wednesday .	[12]
Pastafarianism , or the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster	A parody of intelligent design , creationism , and religion in general, as a modern version of Russell's teapot.	[13][14][15]
Taruism	A spoof religion that British comedians Peter Serafinowicz and Robert Popper invented for the television show Look Around You that parodied instructional religious videos such as those of Scientologists and Christians.	[16][17][18]
First Church of the Last Laugh	The spoof religion behind the annual Saint Stupid's Day Parade in San Francisco .	[19]

Post-modern religions [edit]

The following [post-modern](#) religions that may be seen as elaborate parodies of already-existent religions:

Religion	Description	Notes
The All-Joking, All-Drunken Synod of Fools and Jesters	A social club founded by Peter I of Russia . It often got into controversies for mocking the church.	[20]
Bokononism	A fictional religion from Kurt Vonnegut 's novel Cat's Cradle , which promotes harmless comforting lies called foma. Its principal text, The Books of Bokonon, is a parody of the New Testament. See also the Church of God the Utterly Indifferent in Kurt Vonnegut's The Sirens of Titan .	[18][19]
Church of Euthanasia	The Church of Euthanasia is a "non-profit educational foundation devoted to restoring balance between Humans and the remaining species on Earth." The Church uses sermons, music, culture jamming, publicity stunts and direct action to highlight Earth's unsustainable population. The Church is notorious for its conflicts with Pro-life Christian activists.	[20]
Church of the SubGenius	Founded in 1979. Often regarded as a parody of religion in general, with elements of fundamentalist Christianity, Zen, Scientology, new-age cults, pop-psychology, and motivational sales techniques amongst others, it has become a movement in its own right, inspiring several books, art exhibits, rock albums, conventions, and novelty items.	[21][22]
The Cult of Kek	An internet religion associated with 4chan's /pol/ , the far-right movement known as the "alt-right", and online supporters of 45th U.S. president, Donald Trump . Adherents satirically worship a cartoon frog called "Pepe" as the reincarnation of the Egyptian deity Kek , a harbinger of chaos and destruction.	[23]
Dudeism	A religion based on the 1998 film The Big Lebowski , in which the titular character, also known as "the Dude", is revered as a guru . The adherents consider the religion a modern form of Taoism .	[24][25]
Discordianism	It is based on the book 1965 Principia Discordia . Its principal deity is the goddess of chaos Discordia (Greek Eris).	[26]
Dinkoism	Dinkoism is a parody religion that places Dinkan , a comic character from Malavalam Children's magazine Balamanalam , as the one true God and the creator of the Universe. It is very similar to Pastafarianism that worships The Flying Spaghetti Monster . Dinkoism was organized by some independent social welfare groups of Kerala , India as a means to mock blind faith and creatively critique religious intolerance. It had its origins in the social media. Its principal deity is also Dinkan.	[27]
Gadgetology	Founded in Russia around 2010 by Nizhny Novgorod, this religion venerates the cartoon character Gadget Hackwrench from the syndicated Disney animated cartoon series Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers . The religion has formed three non-exclusive currents: Traditionalist, Progressivist, and Apocalyptic.	[28][29]
Googlism	A satirical church which advocates naming the search engine Google a god; due to nine perceived similarities between it and the common definitions of what makes a deity.	[30][31][32]
Igreja Evangélica Pica das Galáxias ("Dick of Galaxies Evangelical Church")	Originated in Brazil , it is a satirical parody of Brazilian evangelical churches . The leader of the "church" is the self-proclaimed Apostle Arnaldo (who had the titles of "pastor" and "bishop" and intends to have the title of "vice-god"). Arnaldo is a former member of the Reborn in Christ Church who left the religious organization due to allegations of money laundering against the church's leadership and created his own "church" on YouTube as a form of humorous criticism of evangelical churches in Brazil. In May 2021, his YouTube channel had 964,000 subscribers. On May 27, 2018, Arnaldo was interviewed by Danilo Gentili on the TV show The Noite com Danilo Gentili on SBT .	[33][34][35][36]
Iglesia Maradoniana ("Church of Maradona")	It was formed by an Argentine group of fans of the late association football player Diego Armando Maradona . The adherents baptize themselves by slapping a football, which is a reference to the 1986 "Hand of God" goal .	[37]
Jediism	In 2001 following an Internet campaign, the fictional Star Wars "religion" of the Jedi became a parody religion in several Commonwealth countries as 1.5% of the New Zealand , 0.4% of the Australia and 0.7% of the UK population stated their religion as Jedi in the official census (see Jedi census).	[38][39][40]
Kopimism	An internet-based religion based on the belief that file sharing is a sacred virtue which must remain protected. It was given recognition by the Swedish government in January 2012. It was founded by a philosophy student, Isak Gerson.	[41]
Our Lady of Perpetual Exemption	A religious movement for Last Week Tonight with John Oliver to satirize prosperity theology and the way the IRS deals with churches.	[42][43]
Matrixism , or The Path of the One	A new religious movement inspired by the 1999 movie The Matrix . It appeared online in 2004. The adherents claim belief in a multilayered subjective reality and await the return of their prophet, the One.	[44]
Silinism	The official religion of the micronation of the Aerican Empire , which holds a giant penguin named Forsteri as its central figure.	[45][46]
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence	A drag performance group that lampoons religion to raise awareness for mostly LGBT causes.	[47]
United Church of Bacon	Founded in 2010 in Las Vegas to protest discrimination against nonbelievers, it had 25,000 members in 2020.	[48][49]
Zone Theory	A parody of religion and self-help books by comedy duo Tim & Eric .	

From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parody_religion>

The Omphalos Hypothesis and Simulation Creationism

By THE GLOBAL ARCHITECT INSTITUTE

February 11, 2022

8 min read

The creation of the universe and its age needs scientific evidence for some. People want to know if the cosmos is billions of years old and if the biblical creation story is sound. They may take it literally or metaphorically. In any case, what if the earth is only a few thousand years old. Such is the religious belief that accepts a divine creator behind reality and human existence.

In fact, this divinity did its work six to ten thousand years ago. It seems to work off the premise of [the geological flood](#). There is no need to ask for scientific proof that the world is older than about ten millennia as the creator would only give false evidence to make it look older. As such, this entity would be a great deceiver. It is a strange thing for the creator to do, right?

Not according to the Omphalos Theory of [Philip Henry Gosse](#). In 1857, he penned a book entitled, [Omphalos](#), that addressed why the world is “functional”. Well, it is because God made it so by creating the great mountains and canyons of the world along with trees displaying growth rings. He made Adam and Eve fully formed with all their hair, fingernails, and navels intact. It is no surprise that omphalos is Greek for navel – ὄμφαλός. In sum, no empirical evidence exists for the true age of the earth or the universe that can be deemed reliable.

Thus, there is no longer an issue of the earth’s age or the universe’s time of creation. We wouldn’t believe it in any case. We can thank Young Earth Creationism for propagating a simple explanation. Yes, false evidence has made mankind accept the wrong presumptions about the timeline of the universe.

You can get the requisite scientific and discuss ecosystems and how they need a certain amount of time to function, but it must be silenced in the face of the Young Earth crew and the upgraded Omphalos theory. Nonetheless, why would the creator bother to manufacture false proof? Why deceive mankind, which is already in a daze, asking so many impossible philosophical and theological questions.

Gosse published his book and faced rejection in the 19th century, but we would see a smile on his face now. His argument has been extended in what is called the “starlight problem” that argues the appearance of visible light from stars and galaxies far away are emitted for a purpose. No matter as nothing is provable.

What would he say to [Nir Ziso](#) after pondering his [Simulation Creationism](#). It is the brainchild of this world expert and founder of [The Global Architect Institute](#). He would be astounded even at the older [Simulation Theory](#) that posits mankind as living within a digital simulation created by an advanced brain we call a supercomputer. He would have no conception of it. He would not fathom Ziso’s model any better even though it offers a unique explanation of an observer of the simulation receiving data from a relay station in order to record his emotional reactions to human processes, thoughts, and actions. It is a good thing that we have alternatives to fully-developed navels and a better reason for existence.

Looking Back

There are pre-scientific sources referencing creation, the most significant being the Genesis creation story. Then in the 4th century, Ephrem the Syrian, a theologian, envisioned divine creation fashioning fully-grown organisms. Trees appeared as months old although a day old – with fruit already upon their branches. Jumping ahead to the 19th century, significant evidence of the earth’s age was already compiled. It contradicted the Bible and so was rejected by the likes of [François-René de Chateaubriand](#), who wrote about it in [Génie du christianisme](#) (Part I Book IV Chapter V) in 1802: “God might have created, and doubtless did create, the world with all the marks of antiquity and completeness which it now exhibits.”

Note: In modern times, a similar position came from Rabbi [Dovid Gottlieb](#) who believed that while the objective scientific evidence for an old universe is strong, it is wrong, and the traditional Jewish calendar is correct.

Decades after Chateaubriand, the debate continued with science versus religion competing for the

The [Omphalos hypothesis](#) is a [creationist](#) idea asserting that the [universe](#) was created to appear very, very old (or simply “mature”) despite being created not that long ago. The [hypothesis](#) was promoted by the nineteenth-century naturalist Philip Henry Gosse, in his book [Omphalos](#), published in 1857, although earlier examples of similar thought exist. The name comes from the mid-nineteenth-century [Christian](#) belief that [Adam](#) had a [navel](#), despite never having been in a [womb](#) (“omphalos” is [Greek](#) for “navel”). So, the hypothesis stated that the [Earth](#) appeared old although it was not, just as Adam had a navel from a gestation he never experienced. [Most modern creationists no longer believe that Adam had a navel](#). [Answers in Genesis](#) has some articles roundly condemning this unfalsifiable ‘hypothesis’ and others explicitly endorsing it.

From <https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Omphalos_hypothesis>

Etymology

Named after the 1857 book [Omphalos](#) by [Philip Henry Gosse](#), in which it was argued that, in order for the world to be “functional”, God must have created the Earth with mountains, canyons, trees, etc. The word [Omphalos](#) comes from [Ancient Greek ὄμφαλός](#) (*omphalós*, “navel”), an example of one such feature putatively needed for completion.

Proper noun

the Omphalos [hypothesis](#)

1. [\(creationism\)](#) The [proposition](#) that [God](#) created the universe within the past few [thousands](#) of years but also introduced false evidence that the [universe](#) is of great [age](#).

From <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Omphalos_hypothesis>

answer to the earth's age. It was a hot topic among the intellectuals of the day at mid-century. Now we come to the time of Gosse, who sided with the religious tradition. At the time, it was believed that mature organisms emerged upon creation. Clues indicated discrepancies in time such that their development was in question like mammals having hair. Gosse went a few steps further in positing mature organisms. He arrived at the conclusion that fossils are artifacts or remnants of creation, and necessary for the process to work. Therefore, we cannot use them to prove the age of the earth.

Likely due the preposterous content of his book, it did not succeed. The theologians of his day rejected Gosse's proposal since it seemed to make the divine creator a liar. He was either lying by nature or in the scriptures. Scientists also spurned Gosse for denying [uniformitarianism](#) – a popular and widely supported explanation of geology at the time. They found it difficult to accept the impossibility of testing or falsifying his proposal.

Other theories were floating about, one from Archbishop John Bird Sumner of Canterbury. called "interval theory" or the "[gap theory of creation](#)". In his *Treatise on the Records of Creation*, he tried to reconcile what was known by science with the story of Genesis by saying that time passed between the creation of the universe and what is recounted in the Bible. John Pye Smith, an English theologian, had his own version. The Garden of Eden described but one small location. French naturalist [Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon](#) then claimed that the six-day timeframe for creation is arbitrary.

Creationism in the modern day

The history of creationism continues in the modern day with similar arguments between science and religion. John D. Morris, wrote in 1990 about "the appearance of age". As the president of the [Institute for Creation Research](#), he said "...what [God] created was functionally complete right from the start—able to fulfill the purpose for which it was created". There are limits to his work. One is that he did not look at the evidence in the earth's geological record. Instead, he went with the story of the Flood.

The idea of "virtual history" took hold, as postulated by Gerald E. Aardsma. This history has been changed by post-creation events, as seen in fossils. But what about the Fall? Is it accurate? There seems to be an issue with biblical creation and the concept of Appearance of Age in terms of the apparent suffering on earth. Take the small fish inside fossils: "Do you mean that God chose to paint, of all things, a facade of SUFFERING and DEATH onto the creation when He gave it this arbitrary appearance of age at the time of creation?"

So we had a new paradigm in the idea of a virtual history, and it was used to explain the Fall. We see words like "subjected to futility"; however, we do not see the original pre-Fall creation. It presumably had its own utopian virtual history.

More theories

False creation is another theory to consider in this context. Some have proposed a very short creation history with memories of yore. Gosse's popular creation story has been replaced by ideas like Last Thursdayism. The implication is that the world could have been created last Thursday, hence recently. Of course, such a theory would not be verifiable. It is a type of false creation theory in which one cannot find definitive truth through empirical data. As a hypothesis, it remains challenged and awaits observable data.

The Deceptive Creator is another "theory" that takes a religious viewpoint. God could have created a "fake" universe. Illusions of light are emitted from supernovae, but it did not actually happen. In a similar vein, our volcanic mountains were not volcanoes in their original state. There was never an explosion. Thus, God could, for some reason, have devised a false or deceptive age of the universe. His purpose was to test our faith in the Torah. This is the position of [Rabbi Natan Slifkin](#). His writings are said to go against the basic tenets of the Talmud and were therefore banned by several Haredi rabbis.

According to Rabbi Slifkin, God essentially offered two conflicting accounts of Creation: one in nature, and one in the [Torah](#). He asked, which is the real story? One must be fake and meant to mislead us? Does nature present the real story, while the Torah version was meant to test us with a fake history! God's truthfulness must be reliable if religion is to flourish. If God went such lengths to convince us that the world is billions of years old, why should we disagree?

Taking another turn, the Redshift challenge was postulated to address the larger wavelengths of light as measured by a receiver and compare them to the same light wavelengths as measured by

the original emitter. There is a red shift in light coming from the galaxies beyond our world. It is evidence for scientists that the space is expanding between earth and these galaxies. Some are, in fact, billions of light years away from the Milky Way. We believe that light has been traveling for this long, which makes our universe billions of years old.

Now the Omphalos hypothesis enters the picture. Let's say that God created the red shift in light to deceive humans in the present day. We are meant to assume the age of the universe as billions of years old. But this theory lacks credibility. There is no evidence or even a reference to the Bible. To accept it means believing that God has adjusted the shift in a precise manner to account for individual galaxies. Only now in our time can we understand the deception.

Bertrand Russell is a great name in modern philosophy. We credit him with the five-minute hypothesis. It is a skeptical view of creation and rather amusing: the universe was created a mere five minutes ago. It sprang into existence with human memory and all historical signs intact. It is an extreme view of truth that had to appear to counteract all the others in regard to the chronology of history.

We complete this theoretical survey with Jorge Luis Borges and his 1940 work, [Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius](#). It posits a fictional world with religious believers. It reflects Russell's contemplation of Goose's "logical extreme". One of the schools of Tlön goes so far as to negate time, largely because we live in an indefinite present. There is no future, just our current hope. The past really is a function of present memory.

Of note, Borges had earlier written a short essay on the subject entitled, "The Creation and P. H. Gosse", that explored Gosse's *Omphalos*. Borges addressed its unpopularity and inherent absurdity in explaining the Creation Story of Genesis.

From <<https://www.thearchitect.global/the-omphalos-hypothesis-and-simulation-creationism/>>

Pascal's Wager

Sunday, March 6, 2022 8:01 AM

Pascal's wager

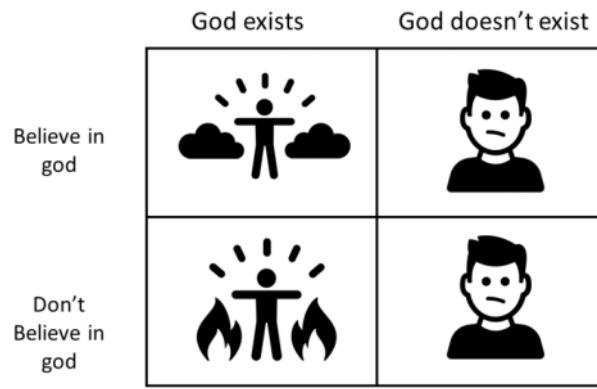


Blaise Pascal

Pascal's wager, practical [argument](#) for belief in God formulated by French mathematician and philosopher [Blaise Pascal](#). In his [Pensées](#) (1657–58), Pascal applied elements of [game theory](#) to show that [belief in the Christian religion](#) is rational. He argued that people can choose to believe in God or can choose to not believe in God, and that God either exists or he does not. Under these conditions, if a person believes in the Christian God and this God actually exists, they gain [infinite](#) happiness; if a person does not believe in the Christian God and God exists, they receive infinite suffering. On the other hand, if a person believes in the Christian God and God does not exist, then they receive some finite disadvantages from a life of Christian living; and if a person does not believe in this God and God does not exist, then they receive some finite pleasure from a life lived unhindered by Christian [morality](#). As Pascal states, “Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation that He is.”

American philosopher [William James](#) objected to the argument that it supported belief in any religion that promised an eternal afterlife. Others have objected that though the argument does give one a [reason](#) for believing in the Christian God, it does not make that belief “rational” in the proper sense.

From <<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pascals-wager>>



1. The Basic Argument

The basic form of the wager goes like this:

If God exists and I believe in God, I'll go to heaven, which is infinitely good. If God exists and I don't believe in God, I may go to hell, which is infinitely bad. If God does not exist, then whether I believe in God or not, whatever I'd gain or lose would be finite. So, I should believe in God.

The argument depends on the [expected value](#) of believing in God, which we use to make a decision if we're not certain whether God exists.^[3] This [decision matrix](#) illustrates the argument:

Options:	God exists	God does not exist	Expected value
Believe in God	Infinite reward	Finite outcome	Infinitely good
Don't believe in God	Infinite punishment	Finite outcome	Infinitely bad

Basic decision matrix for Pascal's Wager.

Even if the chance of God existing is small, as long as it is greater than zero, the expected value of believing is infinite. Combining the chart's values with the assumption that we should pick the action with the highest expected value yields Pascal's Wager.

From <<https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2021/01/04/pascals-wager/>>

Russell's Teapot

Sunday, March 6, 2022 7:20 AM

Russell's Teapot, also known as the **Celestial Teapot** or **Cosmic Teapot**, is an analogy devised by the philosopher [Bertrand Russell](#) intended to refute the idea that the [burden of proof](#) lies upon the [skeptic](#) to disprove a claim, whether in general or of any [religion](#). By using an intentionally absurd analogy, Russell's Teapot draws attention to the formal logic behind the burden of proof and how it works. (Not to be confused with Russell Hobbs' Tea Kettle.)

Contents

Russell's original proposition

In an unpublished article entitled "Is There a God?", commissioned in 1952 by [Illustrated magazine](#),^[1] Russell suggested the following [thought experiment](#) to illustrate the burden of proof and [falsifiability](#):
If I were to suggest that between the [Earth](#) and [Mars](#) there is a china teapot revolving about the [sun](#) in an elliptical orbit, nobody would be able to disprove my assertion provided I were careful to add that the teapot is too small to be revealed even by our most powerful telescopes.

But if I were to go on to say that, since my assertion cannot be disproved, it is an intolerable presumption on the part of human reason to doubt it, I should rightly be thought to be talking nonsense.
If, however, the existence of such a teapot were affirmed in [ancient books](#), taught as the sacred truth every Sunday, and instilled into the minds of children at school, hesitation to believe in its existence would become a mark of eccentricity and entitle the doubter to the attentions of the [psychiatrist](#) in an enlightened age or of the [Inquisitor](#) in an earlier time.

The existence of this teapot cannot be disproven. We can look and scan the skies almost for eternity, and it may always just be the case that it wasn't in the place we looked — there may be another spot we've overlooked, or it may have moved while we were looking. However, given the absurd nature of the specific example, the teapot, we would rightly infer that [absence of evidence](#) is evidence of absence. Russell's audacity in the thought experiment was to question why people don't like to apply the same, sound, [logic](#) (remembering that [formal logic](#) is independent of the actual content of an argument) to the existence of any particular [deity](#); there is no difference in the evidence base provided, therefore there is no reason to assume a God and not a celestial teapot.

Extension and use by Dawkins



The Richard Dawkins Foundation professes its belief in the Almighty Celestial Teapot (objects not to scale).

[Richard Dawkins](#) also used Russell's teapot argument extensively in [The God Delusion](#) and [A Devil's Chaplain](#). He developed the argument further, to include many attitudes associated with the bad side of religion including fear, oppression and persecution.

The reason organized religion merits outright hostility is that, unlike belief in Russell's teapot, religion is powerful, influential, tax-exempt and systematically passed on to children too young to defend themselves. Children are not compelled to spend their formative years memorizing loony books about teapots. Government-subsidized schools don't exclude children whose parents prefer the wrong shape of teapot. Teapot-believers don't stone teapot-unbelievers, teapot-apostates, teapot-heretics and teapot-blasphemers to death. Mothers don't warn their sons off marrying teapot-shiksas whose parents believe in three teapots rather than one. People who put the milk in first don't kneecap those who put the tea in first.

Dawkins' extended argument is that the trouble different believers cause for those who don't believe exactly what they do would be a [Tempest in a teapot](#) if there weren't so much harm through it.

Large numbers of people believe absurdities

The persuasive aspects of Russell's teapot argument lie in reducing non-falsifiable beliefs to something that is more clearly absurd. Some may object to this methodology, citing that religions are somehow "[different](#)", but in general the claims made by Russell regarding the celestial teapot are similar to those proposed by all religions, major and minor alike. Indeed, given a broad enough definition, the existence of the teapot is just as much a religious matter as any other deity. [A small but growing number of people](#) believe in the Olympian [gods](#) of the [Greco-Roman religions](#), [a few people](#) believe in [Asatru](#) [Neopagans](#) believe at least parts of the [Celtic religion](#) but very many people buy into [Judeo-Christian](#) and [Islamic](#) traditions. Yet there is no consistent reason to take these currently popular ideologies any more seriously than other Bronze Age, Iron Age, or older, mythologies. Indeed, in another 2000 years, Christianity may have been displaced by [Scientology](#), [atheism](#) or something else as a major religion/belief system — so special privilege should not be given to a conjecture, even an openly religious one, just due to the [number of adherents](#). This is the key behind highlighting the argument with the assertion as a teapot in orbit. We only think that the teapot is an [obviously bullshit](#) example because no one seriously believes it. If people did believe in it, we might think otherwise, but that's the point. This fact alone would not change the underlying logic, and evidence provided, to back up the assertion.

It can be argued that the case for most religions is actually [weaker](#) than the case for an alleged teapot orbiting the sun. At least the teapot, if it existed, would not violate any known physical laws — it might cause its hypothetical discoverers to scratch their heads about how the hell a teapot actually [got there](#) (see the "[refutation](#)" below) but nothing really stops a teapot existing or being in orbit. Many organized religions, if they were true, would require repeated violations of known physical laws. [True miracles](#) being the obvious example, but the mere existence of [gods](#) and the various [creation myths](#) are also included in this.

No reliable document has any reasonable information suggesting that any religion is true, either. The [Old Testament](#) is riddled with [contradiction](#) and implausible stories, as is the [New Testament](#). Other religions revere their [different mythologies](#) in a similar way. When it's pointed out that they can't possibly all be true, the different believers insist passionately that their particular mythology has to be right, and all the others must be wrong. Russell's teapot points out how absurd this attitude is, by stating that no one would insist in believing something that is patent nonsense if it is phrased in a less familiar way, i.e., as the teapot rather than an established and popular [god](#), goddess or pantheon.

Additional interpretations



PRAISE THE TEAPOT and the tea within it!

When presented with the full narrative, the stage where Russell declares that the teapot is actually too small to be seen (after it has been searched for by all the telescopes in the world) can be considered an example of [moving the goalposts](#). In addition, the point where the teapot becomes "undetectable" is analogous to numerous ideas used in the construction of scientific theories regarding how the [universe](#) works. Namely, if something is [entirely undetectable](#) and as such has no effect that can be measured or observed, directly or indirectly, then its existence or otherwise essentially makes no difference to the world. Thus, it can happily be discarded if convenient to a better [theory](#). This was the case with the [aether](#), for example, which was a theorised "substance" that light would propagate through. As experiments failed to detect it or its effect (the [Michelson-Morley experiment](#) being the most prominent and famous example) the idea was discarded to allow the development of [spacetime](#) as used in [relativity](#). The notions of absolute position, rest and motion — associated with the existence of the aether — were also discarded, as they really can't be detected, in favour of more [relativistic physics](#) which turned out to predict the nature of the universe much better anyway.

Creationist response^[edit]

[Philip J. Rayment](#), a former [Conservapedia](#) editor, argues:

“ The fallacy in the argument is that there is in fact nothing absurd about believing the teapot to be there, if those "ancient books" were written by an [ancient astronaut](#) or other being who placed the teapot there. The argument [presumes](#) that such is not the case, so [presumes](#) what it sets out to prove, and is thus a circular argument.

That is, the argument is based on the [presumption](#) that there is no valid reason, beyond widespread belief, to believe that the teapot exists.

But if the validity of those ancient books could be established, there is indeed reason to believe that the teapot exists, and thus the presumption in the argument is false^[2].

While Rayment's argument is logical, it is irrelevant as it ignores or misinterprets almost the entire point of the original argument. This requires there to be a [reliable](#) and preferably [primary](#) source for evidence of the teapot; i.e., the astronaut who placed it there. As stated above, no reliable ancient books prove the existence of a celestial teapot. Likewise, no reliable ancient books prove [supernatural](#) claims of any [religion](#). While it does raise the question [slightly](#) to assume that these hypothetical ancient books that espouse a celestial teapot are not reliable (to much the same extent that we need to assume we exist in order to have any discussion *at all*), it is much more improbable that they are *accurate*, and so requires a much greater leap of [faith](#) and [circular reasoning](#).

The conclusion of the Russell's Teapot, therefore, is that there is no valid reason, beyond [widespread belief](#), for belief in celestial teapots — or, by extension, for belief in religion.

[Occam's razor](#) suggests that the simplest answer with the fewest unproven assumptions is most likely to be true. There is [scientific evidence](#) for the physical universe and for what [metaphysical naturalism](#) presupposes exists. Celestial teapots and other religious claims introduce unnecessary complications and assumptions.

From <https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Russell%27s_Teapot>

Spurious Correlations

Sunday, March 6, 2022 7:26 AM

What Is Spurious Correlation?

In [statistics](#), a spurious correlation (or spuriousness) refers to a connection between two variables that appears to be causal but is not. With spurious correlation, any observed dependencies between variables are merely due to chance or are both related to some unseen confounder.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Spurious correlation, or spuriousness, occurs when two factors appear casually related to one another but are not.
- The appearance of a causal relationship is often due to similar movement on a chart that turns out to be coincidental or caused by a third "confounding" factor.
- Spurious correlation can be caused by small sample sizes or arbitrary endpoints.
- Statisticians and scientists use careful statistical analysis to determine spurious relationships.
- Confirming a causal relationship requires a study that controls for all possible variables.

Understanding Spurious Correlation

Spurious relationships will initially appear to show that one variable directly affects another, but that is not the case. This misleading [correlation](#) is often caused by a third factor that is not apparent at the time of examination, sometimes called a confounding factor.

When two random variables track each other closely on a graph, it is easy to suspect correlation where a change in one variable causes a change in the other variable. Setting aside causation, which is another topic, this observation can lead the reader of the chart to believe that the movement of variable A is linked to the movement in variable B or vice versa.

However, closer statistical examination may show that the aligned movements are coincidental or caused by a third factor that affects the two variables. This is a spurious correlation. Research conducted with small sample sizes or arbitrary endpoints is particularly susceptible to spuriousness.

Spotting Spuriousness

The most obvious way to spot a spurious relationship in research findings is to use common sense. Just because two things occur and appear to be linked does not mean that there are no other factors at work. However, to know for sure, research methods are critically examined. In studies, all variables that might impact the findings should be included in the statistical model to control their impact on the dependent variable.

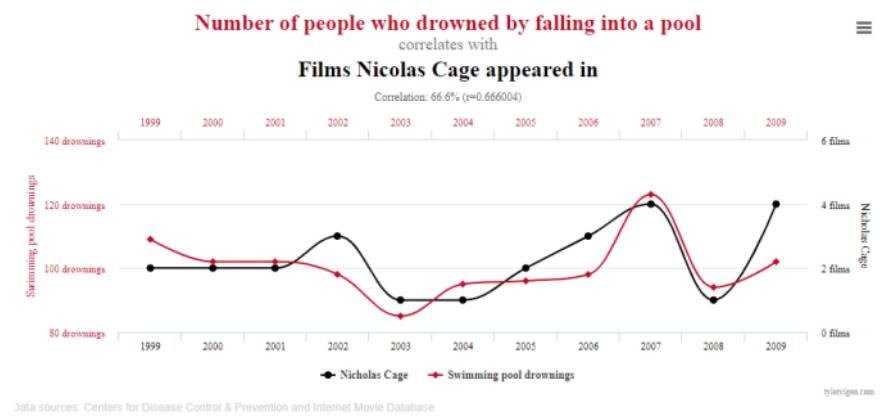
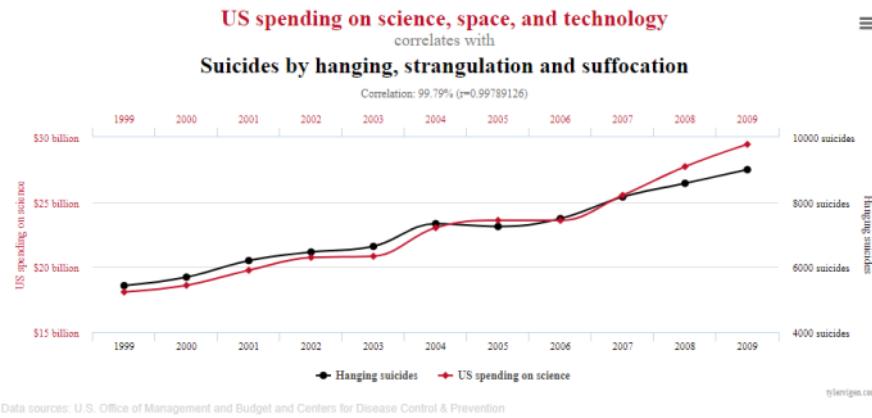
Many spurious relationships can be identified by using common sense. If a correlation is found, there is usually more than one variable at play, and the variables are often not immediately obvious.

Spurious Correlation Examples

Interesting correlations are easy to find, but many will turn out to be spurious. Three examples are the skirt length theory, the super bowl indicator, and a suggested correlation between race and college completion rates.

1. **Skirt Length Theory:** Originating in the 1920s, the skirt length theory holds that skirt lengths and stock market direction are correlated. If skirt lengths are long, the correlation is that the stock market is [bearish](#). If skirt lengths are short, the market is [bullish](#).¹
2. **Super Bowl Indicator:** In late January, there is often chatter about the so-called Super Bowl indicator, which suggests that a win by the American Football Conference team likely means that the stock market will go down in the coming year, whereas a victory by the National Football Conference team portends a rise in the market. Since the beginning of the Super Bowl era, the indicator has been accurate around 74% of the time, or 40 out of the 54 years, according to OpenMarkets.² It is a fun conversation piece but probably not something a serious financial advisor would recommend as an investment strategy for clients.
3. **Educational Attainment and Race:** Social scientists have focused on identifying which variables impact educational attainment. According to government research, 56% of White 25- to 29-year-olds had completed a college degree in 2019, compared to just 36% of black individuals of the same age.³ The implication being that race has a causal effect on college completion rates.

However, it may not be race itself that impacts educational attainment. The results may also be due to the effects of racism in society, which could be the third "hidden" variable. Racism impacts people of color, placing them at a disadvantage educationally and economically.⁴ For example, the schools in non-white communities face greater challenges and receive less funding, parents in non-white populations have lower-paying jobs and fewer resources to devote to their children's education, and many families live in food deserts and suffer from malnutrition.⁵ Racism, rather than race, might be viewed as a causal variable that impacts educational attainment.



How to Spot Spurious Correlation?

Statisticians and other scientists who analyze data must be on the lookout for spurious relationships all the time. There are numerous methods that they use to identify them including:

- Ensuring a proper representative sample
- Obtaining an adequate sample size
- Being wary of arbitrary endpoints
- Controlling for as many outside variables as possible
- Using a null hypothesis and checking for a strong p-value

What Is an Example of Correlation but not Causation?

An example of a correlation is that more sleep leads to better performance during the day. Although there is a correlation, there is not necessarily causation. More sleep may not be the reason an individual performs better; for example, they might be using a new software tool that is increasing their productivity. To find causation, there must be factual evidence from a study that shows a causal relationship between sleep and performance.

What Is Spurious Regression?

Spurious regression is a statistical model that shows misleading statistical evidence of a linear relationship; in other words, a spurious correlation between independent non-stationary variables.

What Is False Causality?

False causality refers to the assumption made that one thing causes something else because of a relationship between them. For example, we may assume that Harry has been training hard to become a faster runner because his race times have improved. However, the reality might be that Harry's race times have improved because he has new running shoes made with the latest technology. The initial assumption was a false causality.

From <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/spurious_correlation.asp>

False Cause

An [informal fallacy](#) where you argue that because event A directly preceded event B, that event A caused event B. That is, because the two events correlate, that this then implies causation. This can also be thought of as a perceived relationship between two things that doesn't necessarily imply that one is the cause of the other. Clearly, this is a flawed position as correlation doesn't always imply causation. However, it is true that sometimes the correlation is due to underlying causal effects, but this can only be discerned through additional inquiry.

This fallacy is also known as the following:

- Post hoc ergo propter hoc (i.e., "after this, therefore because of this")
- Faulty causation
- The fallacy of false cause
- Arguing from succession alone or assumed causation

LOGICAL FORM

- Event B follows event A.
- Therefore, event A caused event B.

Or

- Event A and event B are correlated.
- Therefore, one is the cause of the other.



SHIFTY EYES \neq GUILTY

The shifty eyes on the little girl immediately following the observation that the house is burning down doesn't automatically mean that she is the cause of the fire. That is, the correlation between the shifty eyes and the house being on fire doesn't imply guilt.

EXAMPLES

The following abbreviations are used in the examples below:

PN = The Nth premise for N = 1,2,3,... (e.g., P1 is the first premise, P2 is the second premise, etc.)

C = Conclusion

1) One of the perennial arguments coming from the anti-vaccine community is in regards to vaccination being linked to autism. The argument goes something like this:

P1: My son/daughter, nephew/niece, etc. recently had their MMR vaccine.

P2: Shortly after receiving the vaccine they developed symptoms of autism.

C: Therefore, vaccines cause autism.

Explanation: We know through volumes of evidence at this point that vaccines do NOT cause autism [1]. Hence, this is simply a case of people attributing causation to vaccines when the two events happen to correlate sometimes. In argument form, this is the false cause fallacy.

2) When I was a child, as I think is the case for most children and even many adults, I entertained the existence of ghosts. In particular, shortly after my great-grandmother passed away, I noticed odd things happening around my house. These oddities ranged from noises to the movement of objects. Consequently, I had convinced myself that these odd observations were a result of my grandmother's ghost. The argument that I told myself went something like this:

P1: Great-grandma just passed away.

P2: There are odd occurrences around the house that I cannot explain.

C: Thus, this odd behavior is a result of grandmother's ghost.

Explanation: I was clearly falling victim to the false cause fallacy here as I was attributing any odd observations around my house to my grandmother's ghost as she had just passed. What is more, we don't have any credible scientific evidence to suggest that ghosts actually exist and are not merely just figments of our imagination.

3) You often find superstitious types of behavior within sports. From lucky rabbits feet to choosing never to wash socks, sports of all types have individuals engaging in this type of behavior. For example, consider a young man by the name of Bill who is an avid Chicago Black Hawks fan. One day, he was watching a game with his family and was sitting at a particular spot at the dinner table during the game. The Black Hawks ended up losing that particular game that Bill wanted them badly to win and due to this loss, he decided to blame the position at the dinner table that he was sitting at. Since that particular loss, he refuses to sit at that particular position at the dinner table as he's convinced that it's "bad luck." That is, his sitting at that particular seat at one point during the game is to blame for the loss. This narrative in argument form is:

P1: The Chicago Black Hawks lost the game.

P2: During the game I was sitting at position x at the dinner table.

C: Hence, position x is responsible for the Black Hawks loss and is "bad luck" in general.

Explanation: Bill is attributing the Blackhawk's loss to where he sat during the game. There are no credible scenarios that come to mind that would remotely support the hypothesis that where you sit in your home during a game would have any impact on a hockey team's performance. Clearly, Bill is falsely assigning blame to the seat for the loss.

4) Towards the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine was promoted by President Trump as a possible treatment despite the warnings from the vast majority of the scientific community that there wasn't sufficient evidence to make such claims. Unfortunately, as is usually the case with the President, he chose not to listen and continued to promote it anyway. At one point, Trump made the following statement [2]:

"Well, I've heard tremendous reports about it. Frankly, I've heard tremendous reports. Many people think it saved their lives. Doctors come out with reports. You had a study in France, you had a study in Italy that were incredible studies"

In particular, let's break this statement apart and re-organize it into standard form, while remembering to [be charitable](#):

P1: I've heard really great things about the effects of hydroxychloroquine for treating COVID-19.

P2: Many people think it has saved their lives.

P3: There is a scientific study from France as well as from Italy that support the hypothesis that hydroxychloroquine is a viable treatment option for COVID-19.

C: Therefore, hydroxychloroquine should be used to treat COVID-19.

Now, zooming in on P2, we can charitably reconstruct the argument that these individuals told themselves to arrive at the conclusion that it was hydroxychloroquine that was responsible for saving their lives:

P1: I have contracted COVID-19.

P2: I was given hydroxychloroquine as treatment.

P3: I recovered.

C: Thus, it was the hydroxychloroquine that saved my life.

Explanation: Examining this second argument, how do they know definitively that it was the hydroxychloroquine that saved their life? In general, when admitted to the hospital for COVID-19, there are a number of therapies used in order to ensure the patient's survival. It is fallacious to then isolate just one of the therapies and say that this is what was responsible for recovery. At the very least, they should attribute the recovery to the confluence of therapies even if some of those therapies have never demonstrated to be effective. Simply put, just because they took hydroxychloroquine when they were ill doesn't mean that this was the therapy responsible for their recovery. This is what scientific studies are for. Moreover, you always have the placebo effect at play, which is why controlled scientific studies are so important for determining efficacy. Clearly, these individuals are committing the false cause fallacy in this argument, which renders it bad. Furthermore, these patients' anecdotes are the weakest form of evidence, which is yet another reason to dismiss this argument.

Now, returning to the first argument, there are scientific studies that have been conducted to determine if hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment against COVID-19. To date, examining the entirety of the evidence points to it not being effective and possibly injurious [3].

Last, examining argument one in its entirety, we can say that premise one is true as he then goes on to expound in the other premises what these "great things" are. Note, if it was the only premise, the argument could be made that he was committing an appeal to popularity fallacy as simply mentioning that you've heard "great things" from "many people" isn't sufficient evidence to accept a conclusion. Next, premise two is false as I've just explained. Furthermore, the studies that Trump is referring to did not sufficiently support the hypothesis that hydroxychloroquine is a viable treatment option for COVID-19. It was premature for anyone to be saying that as more studies were needed and he was rightfully castigated by the scientific community over his comments. Thus, premise three is false, which means that the two primary premises are false, which is enough to render the argument bad as premise one cannot support this argument on its own. Hence, the argument should be rejected.

CONCLUSION

As is always the case, if you find yourself confronted with this fallacy in everyday discourse, it is important to remember that it renders the argument bad and should be rejected. What is more, if you find yourself using this fallacy within one of your own arguments, as an individual who ascribes to the ideology of Critical Thinking, you must replace it with a good argument.

From <<https://www.intelligentspeculation.com/blog/false-cause>>