

Re: KRS book: Geology

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2006-01/msg00148.html>

- *From:* "Daryl Krupa" <icycalmca@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 4 Jan 2006 22:04:53 -0800
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Eric Stevens wrote:

> On Tue, 3 Jan 2006 16:44:58 +0100, "Peter Alaca" <P.Alaca@xxxxxx>
> wrote:

<snip>

> You are asking that the decision as to the best match of the KRS to
> the local greywacke be done not by Ojakangas but by his readers.

But Eric, he cannot convince his readers that he is correct if he does not present the evidence supporting his argument.

Scientific arguments supporting such conclusions generally include Discussion and Results sections.

If only the CConclusions section is presented, then the argument is incomplete, and constitutes an Argument from Authority.

This is not the way to Progress in Science.

Viz., the Inquisition _vs._ Galileo, in which the conclusions of Aristotle and Ptolemy were cited as incontrovertible authority:

http://library.thinkquest.org/3461/galgal_m.htm

<http://www.bartleby.com/66/49/24349.html>

> By the same argument, if you were told to find in a crowded railway
> station the person whose description best matches 1.93m tall, 124kg
> weight and with short red hair you would list everybody, including the
> 1.1m dwarf with a red nose and long flowing black hair.

To convince anybody that your opinion as to the identity of such a person was accurate, you would have to convince your inquisitors that you had sampled all the people in that crowded railway station. Without such an explication of your investigation procedure, your opinion would not stand up in court, and the entire neighbourhood around the railway station might have to be cordoned off so that a much wider-ranging search could be conducted for possible candidates who might have eluded your examination.

Simply showing pictures of a few similar persons will not convince anybody that the real object of your search was investigated.

You have suggestwsted as gedanken-experiment akin to a line-up of

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the usual suspects; that procedure will only identify the object of your

search if he happens to be standing in the line-up, i.e. if he happened to be included in your sample set.

For that procedure to stand up in court, you must show that the prime suspect is the only person a reasonable person would conclude would fit the bill.

The prime suspect's defense lawyer would likely try to argue that there might have been some other persons who more-reasonably fit the bill, who were not included in the line-up.

Here is an example of a line-up:

http://www.impawards.com/1995/posters/usual_suspects_ver3.jpg

<http://www.lovedungeon.net/gallery/usual/lineup-big.jpg>

<http://images.art.com/images/-/Kevin-Spacey---The-Usual-Suspects--C10103883.jpeg>

(See "SPOILER ALERT", at bottom.)

>>He can conclude that the krs-grauwacke probably
>>originated in the Animikie basin, but
>>it must always be possible for others to form an independent opinion.
<snip>

Yes, that is a basic requirement in a scientific presentation of an opinion.

And now, The Rest of the Story:

*** SPOILER ALERT *****

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Be advised that
the man on the right end
turned out to be the actual criminal mastermind.

<http://www.totaldvd.net/features/discs/200205UsualSuspects.php>

—
Daryl Krupa

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God
who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect

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has intended us to forgo their use."

– Galileo Galilei

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: KRS book: Geology**
◇ *From: Eric Stevens*

• *References:*

- ◆ **Re: KRS book: Geology**
◇ *From: Eric Stevens*
- ◆ **Re: KRS book: Geology**
◇ *From: Peter Alaca*
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