



Thank you for trying to articulate the terms of your affection, but you are using confused gender, your participle is dangling and your superlative is "like, totally" infantile.

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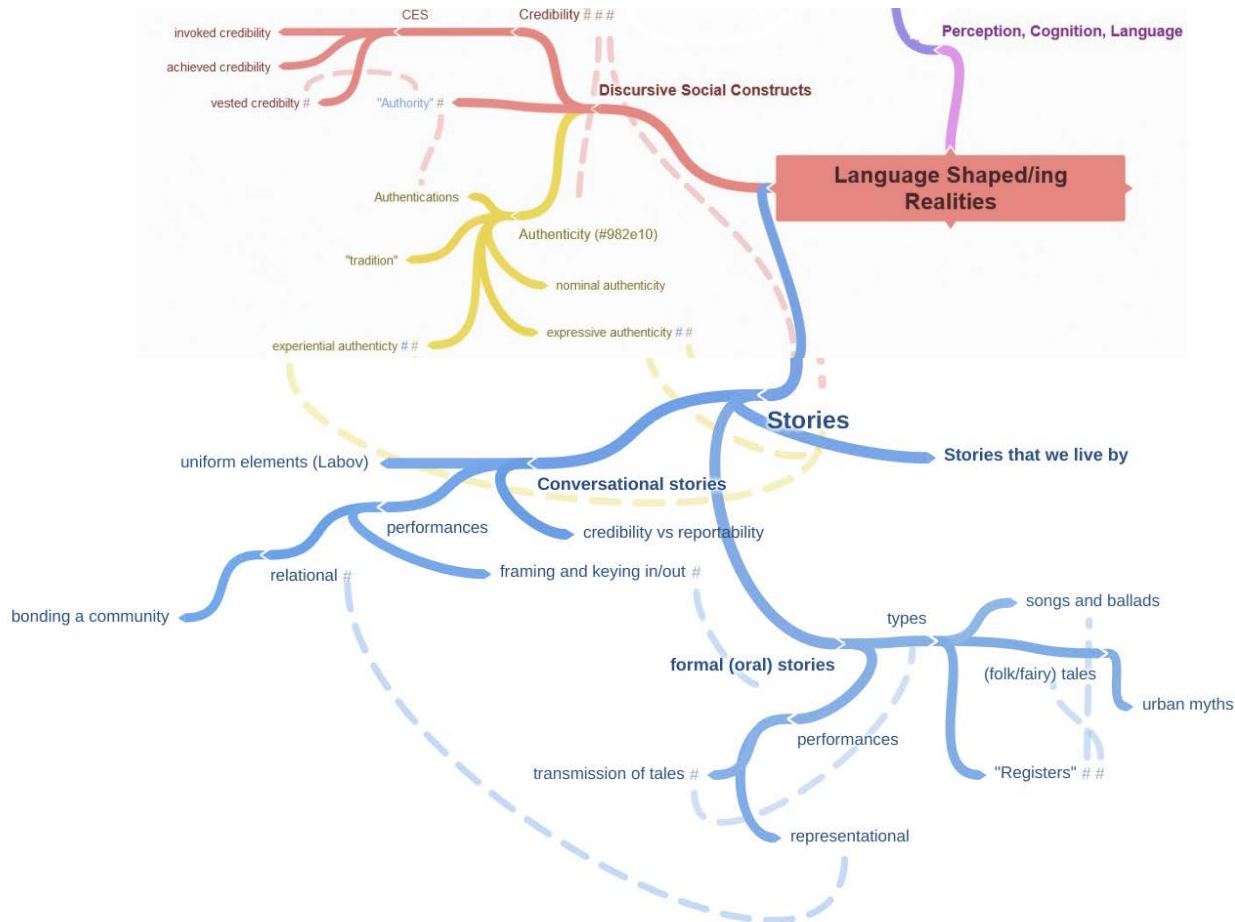
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Language Shapes Realities

Stories that we live by

Context/what we saw last week



What We Saw Last Week

- **What comes under the heading of “formal stories”**
 - hybrid genres: jokes and urban myths
 - folk and fairy tales
 - songs and folk ballads
 - the role in the transmission played by *orality*
- **Story-telling as relational vs representational performances**
 - comparisons of tales and tellers
- **the typical language / register of oral formal stories**
 - (lack of) characterisation and description
 - formulaic language
 - modular story telling
- **Urban myths**
 - and their “transmediation”

The Plan for Today

- **A history of story-telling**
 - phylogenesis
 - the need for and nature of stories
 - the resilience of stories
 - history/ies
- **Stories as shapers of social realities**
 - two origin stories
 - and their impact on present-day life
- **the seductiveness of stories**

A History of Story-telling

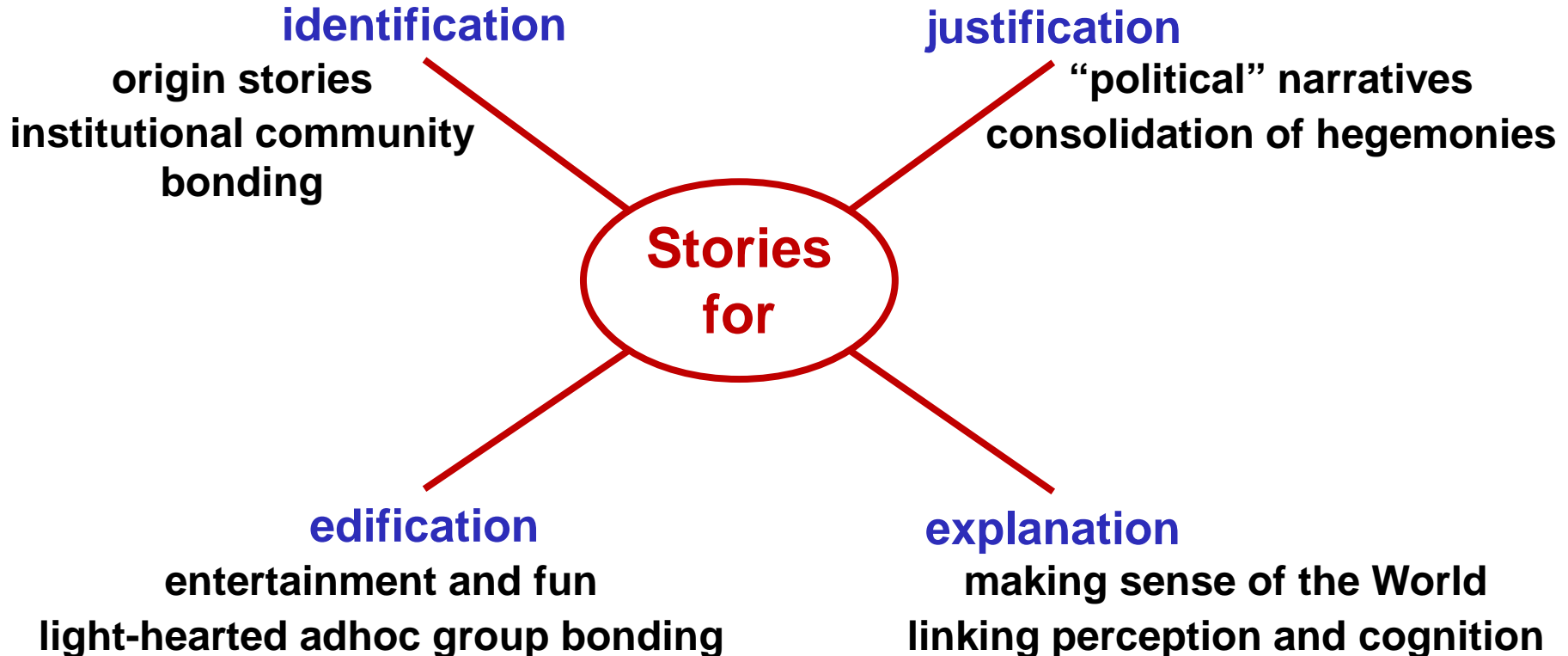
**where stories come from
and how they influence behaviour**

What we need stories for

bring a **linear** order into **multidimensional** chaos

line up possible **cause** with observable **effect**

link **experiences** with potential **action**



A look at human evolution

Warning: Shifting Sands

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“Lucy” (Australopithecus Afarensis,
ca. 3.2 million years)



innovation: Bipedalism

Advantages:

- improved vision over distances (height)
- carrying more in one's hands (food availability)
- better long-range mobility
- use of hands allows for increasingly sophisticated tool manufacture and use
- (possibly more prominent display of genitalia)

Homo Ergaster (ca 2 million years)

- consistently bipedal
- increased brain size
- used tools
- possibly harnessed fire
- socially organised
- controversy about breath control for 'speech production'



Likelihood of an increased ability to communicate

Mithen's take on this early form of communication:

HMMMM

holistic

manipulative

multimodal

musical

Momentous Innovations

- importance of group organisation/cohesion
- increased brain size/amount of neurons
- greater need for energy

→ Three (R)Evolution

“Cognitive Revolution”

controlled
use of fire

cooking



language and imagination

(including music)

organised social interaction

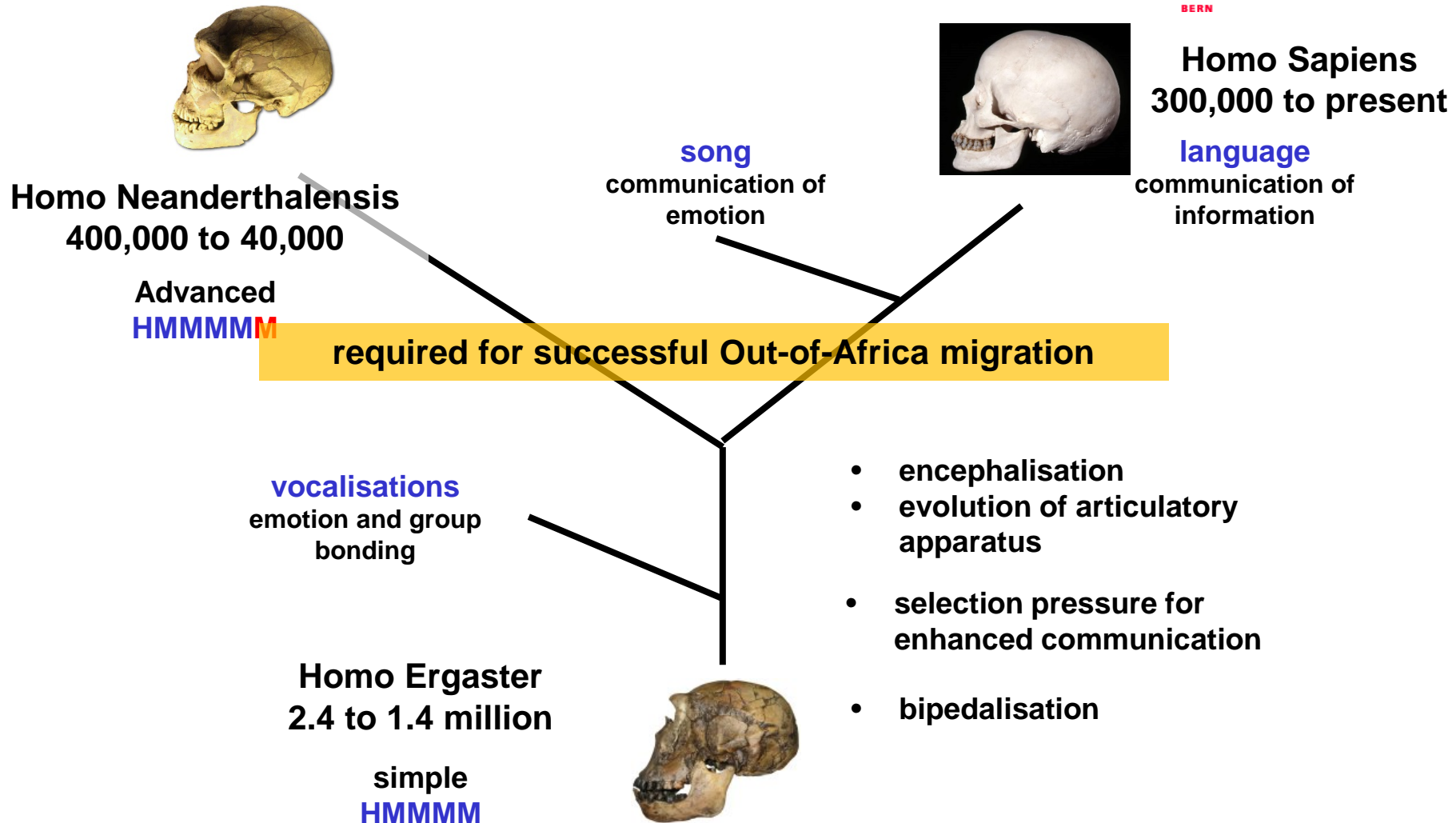
HMMMMM

holistic manipulative multimodal musical

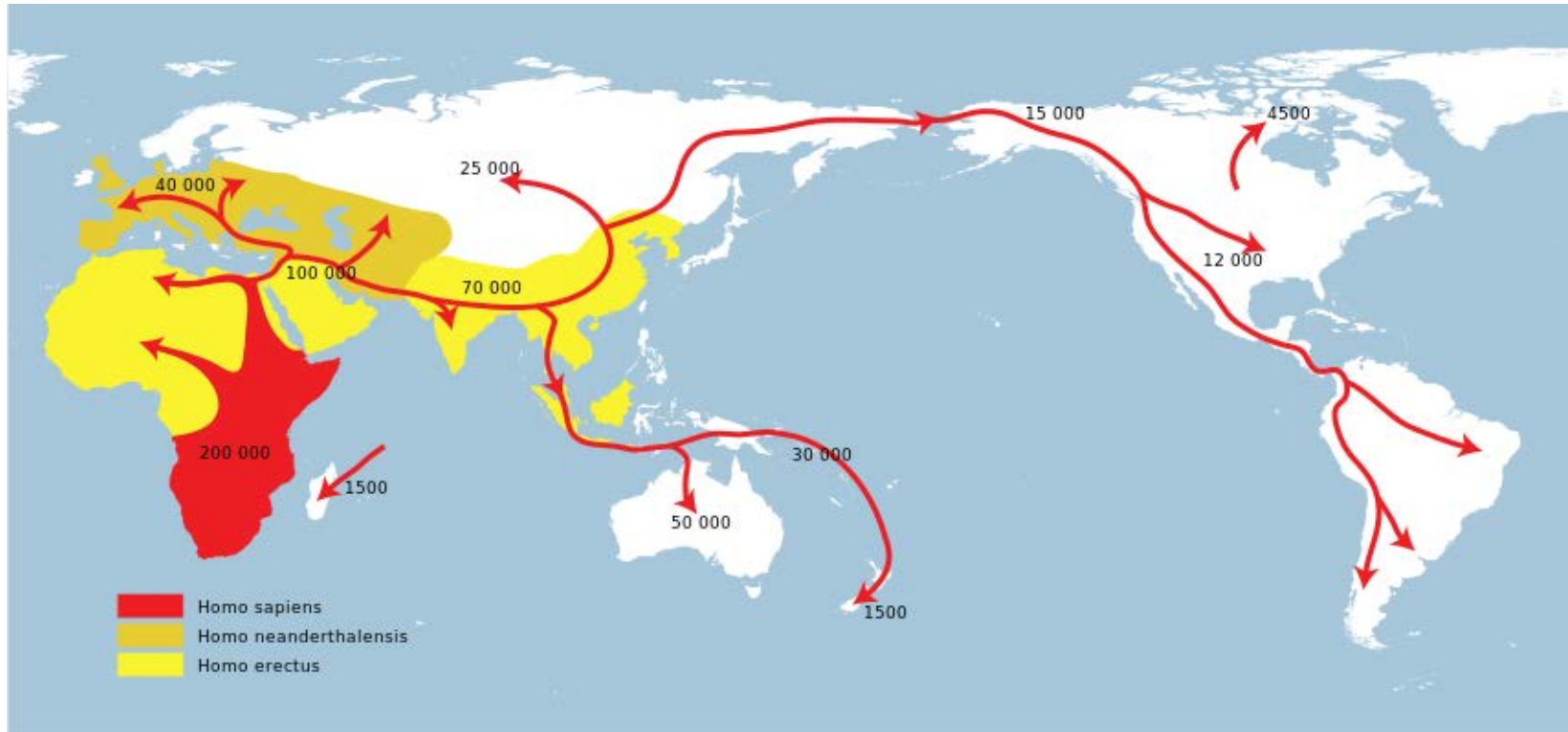
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mimetic

More Momentous Innovations



Out of Africa



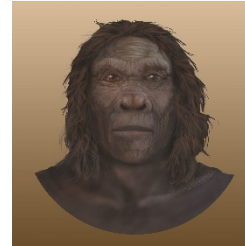
“Out of Africa” migration required at least HMMMMM and increasingly **language**

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Social relationships and limits

Limited “social vocabulary”

- social interaction limited to individuals present
- limits group sizes to a small number



Expanded communicative abilities

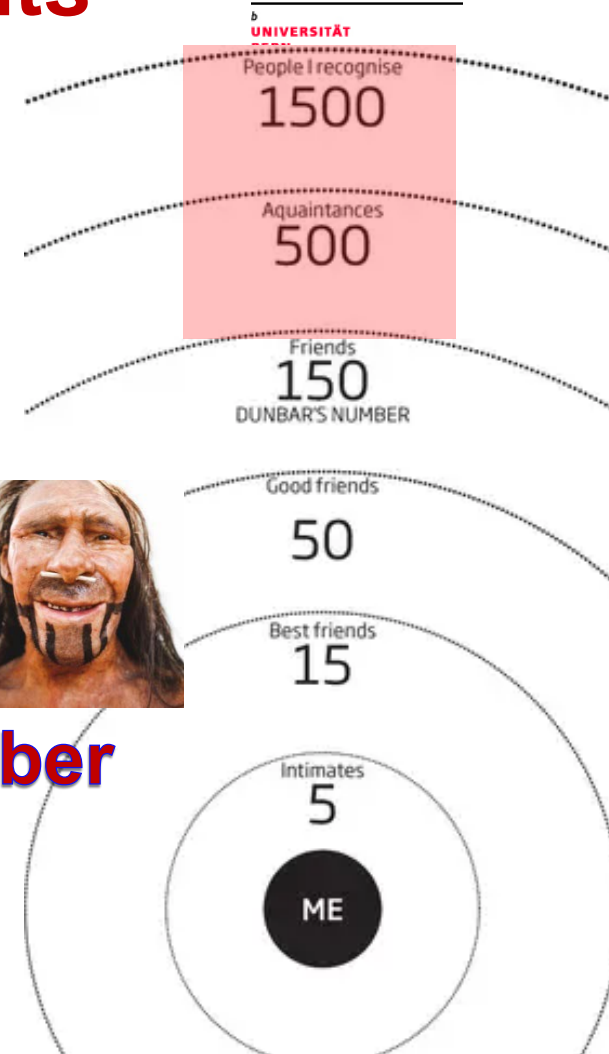
- social interaction can be about individuals that are not present
- group size can be considerably larger
- but not unlimited

Dunbar's Number

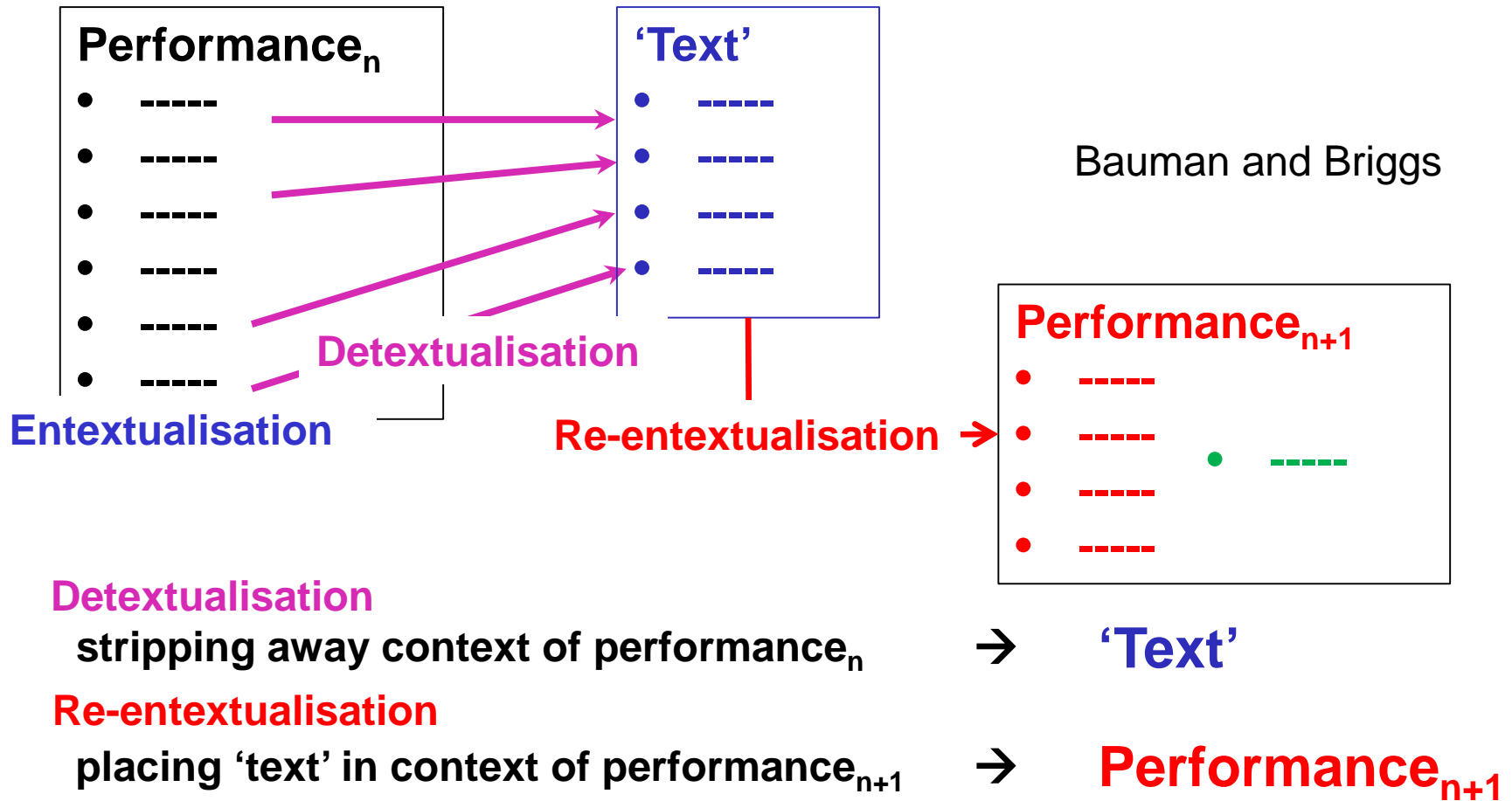
Need for unifying

**Founding Myths
/ Origin Stories**

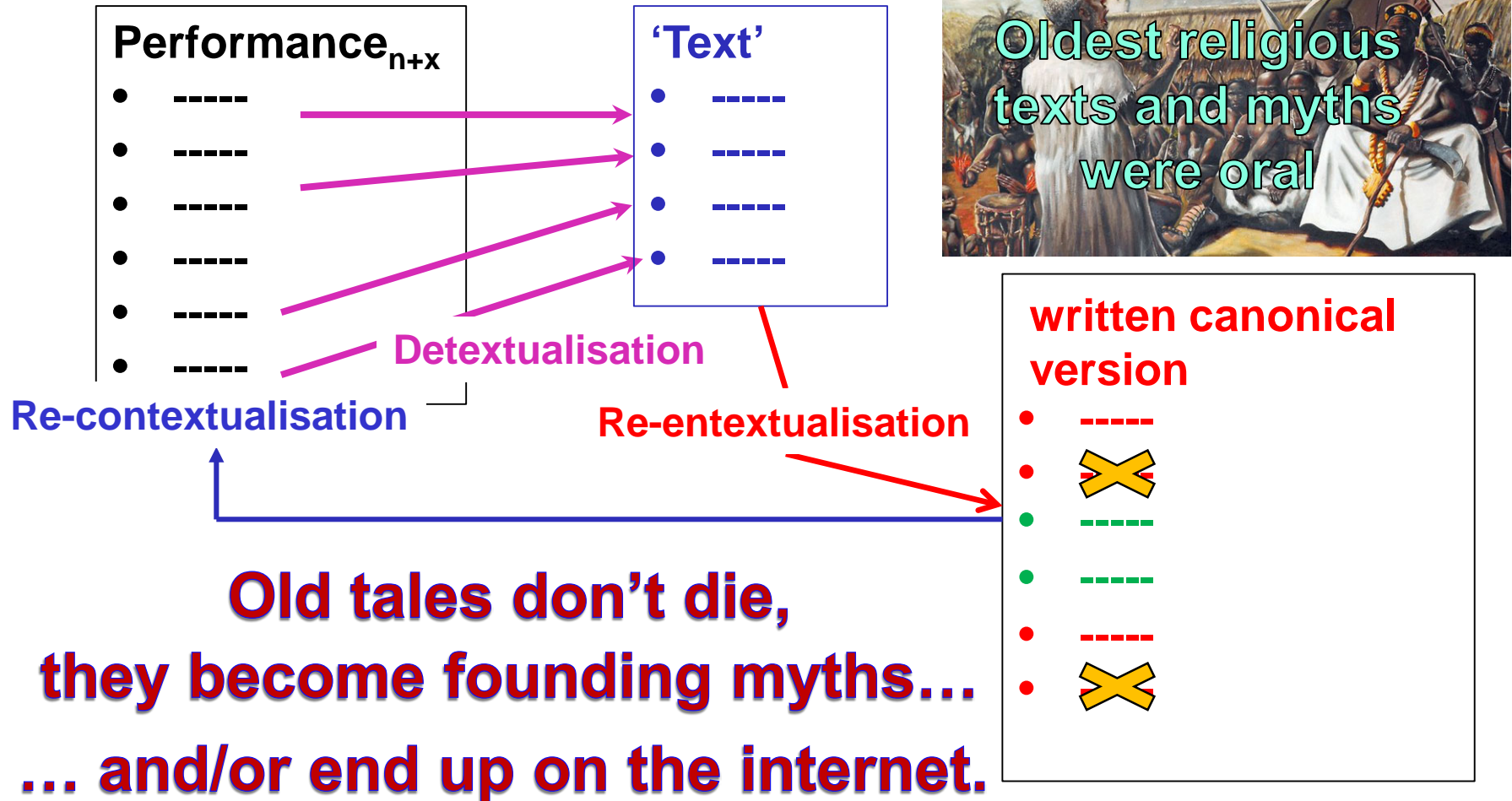
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Passing the story on



Story, 'text' and perpetuation



“Selective” History

Regius Professor of History, Oxford
Hugh Trevor-Roper in 1967



Perhaps in the future there will be some African history to teach ... at present there is none. There is only the history of European Africa, a darkness like the history of pre-European America. [...] pre-Columbian America. [...] as some now believe, there is no reason why one should study one section of it rather than another, for certainly we cannot study it all. Then indeed we may neglect our own history and amuse ourselves with the unrewarding gyrations of barbarous tribes in picturesque but irrelevant corners of the globe: tribes whose chief function in history, in my opinion, is to show to the present an image of the past from which, by history, it has escaped.

History is written by the victors

Stories and their Impact on Realities

**Two origin stories:
Humans, the Crown of Creation
Enslavement of Africans**

The Importance of Myths

“... **crucial to social stability** had to be the function of myths in providing **explanations**, **authorization** or **empowerment for the present** in terms of origins: this could apply, not only to foundations or charter myths and genealogical trees (thus **supporting family** or **territorial claims**) but also to personal moral choices.”

Peter Green, Introduction to *Argonautika* 2007 p 15

Genesis 1: The Creation

26: And God said, Let us **make man in our image**, after **our likeness**: and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27: So **God created man in his own image**, in the **image of God created he him**; male and female created he them.

28: And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**, and **subdue it**: and **have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Genesis 1)

Human exceptionalism

Human dominion over creation

The meaning of “subdue”

7235	6509	430		559	430	853	1288	2
û-ḵ-rû	pə-rû	’ē-lō-hîm,	lā-hem	way-yō-mer	’ē-lō-hîm	’ō-tām	way-bā-reḵ	8
וַיַּרְבּוּ	פָּרוּ	אֱלֹהִים	לָהֶם	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֱלֹהִים	אֹתָם	וַיְבָרֶךְ	
and multiply	Be fruitful	God	to them	and said	God	them	and blessed	
Verb	Verb	Noun	Prep	Verb	Noun	Acc	Verb	

3220	1710		7287	3533	776	853	4390	
hay-yām	biḏ-ḡat		û-ra-ḏû	wə-ḵiḇ-ṣu-hā;	hā-’ā-reṣ	’et-	û-mil-’û	
הַיָּם	בְּדִגַּת		וּרְדּוּ	וַיַּכְבֹּשׁ	הָאָרֶץ	אֶת-	וַיְמַלֵּא	
of the sea	over the fish		and have dominion	and subdue	the earth	-	and replenish	
Noun	Noun		Verb	Verb	Noun	Acc	Verb	

776	5921	7430
hā-’ā-reṣ.	’al-	hā-rō-me-šet
הָאָרֶץ:	עַל-	הַרְמֵשֶׁת
the earth	on	that moves
Noun	Prep	Verb

Transliteration

kābash

Phonetics

kaw-bash'



Origin

a primitive root

Parts of Speech

Verb

Definition

Brown-Driver-Briggs'

1) to subject, subdue, force, keep under, bring into bondage

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to bring into bondage, make subservient

1a2) to subdue, force, violate

1a3) to subdue, dominate, tread down

Brown-Driver-Briggs

Strong

Greek Equivalent Words:

Strong #: 971 - βιάζω (bee-ad'-zo); 2901 - κραταίωω (krat-ah-yo'-o);

Human exceptionalism: a thought

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- Language is ...
- Music is ...
- Creativity is ... “...what makes us human”
- Intelligence is ... **made in God's image (?)**

- Detecting stress hormones
- detecting moods in others
- detecting information about other dogs
- trace a human even through water



“...what makes them canine”

Naming the creatures of creation

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19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

what	to see	Adam	unto	and brought [them]	of the air	bird	every
Pro	Verb	Noun	Prep	Verb	Noun	Noun	Noun

2416	5315	120	7121	834	3605	7121		
ḥay-yāh	ne-peš	hā-'ā-dām	lōw	yiḳ-rā-	'ā-šer	wā-kōl	lōw;	yiḳ-rā-
חַיָּיָה	נֶפֶשׁ	הָאָדָם	לֹו	יִקְרָא	אֲשֶׁר	וְכֹל	לֹו	יִקְרָא
every living	creature	the man	to [be]	called	that	and anything	to [be]	he would call them
Adj	Noun	Noun	Prep	Verb	Prt	Noun	Prep	Verb

Name giving

symbolises control

8034	1931
šā-mōw.	hū
שֵׁמוֹ:	הוּא
the name	that [was]
Noun	Pro

8064	5775	929	3605	8034	120	7121
haš-šā-ma-yim,	ū-la-'ō-wp	hab-bə-hē-māh	la-kāl	šē-mō-wt,	hā-'ā-dām	way-yiḳ-rā
הַשָּׂמַיִם	וּלְעוֹף	הַבְּהֵמָה	לְכָל־	שְׁמוֹת	הָאָדָם	וַיִּקְרָא
of the air	and to the birds	livestock	to all	names	Adam	And gave
Noun	Noun	Noun	Noun	Noun	Noun	Verb

5048	5828	4672	3808	120	7704	2416	3605
ka-neg-dōw.	'ē-zer	mā-šā	lō-	ū-la-'ā-dām	haš-šā-deh;	ḥay-yat	ū-la-kōl
כַּנֶּגְדּוֹ:	עֹזֵר	מָצָא	לֹא־	וּלְאָדָם	הַשָּׂדֶה	חַיַּת	וְלְכָל־
suitable	A helper	he found	not	but for Adam	of the field	beast	and to every
Subst	Noun	Verb	Adv	Noun	Noun	Adj	Noun

Dominion over Creation

Anthropocene Age



From nomadic to sedentary life



**Hunter-gatherers,
later herders**

relatively egalitarian lack of
hierarchies

ca 50% time spent on
food provision



“Neolithic revolution”

ownership and its defence
→ inequalities/

more time spent on food
provision

Urban Revolution

hierarchies and
organisational functions

susceptibility to
spread of diseases

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“The Curse of Ham” (Genesis 9: 20-7)

20 And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard.

21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brethren outside.

23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and they were not guilty of their father's nakedness.

no mention of skin colour

24 And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.

25 And he said, “Cursed be Canaan! A servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.”

26 And he said, “Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.”

Associating Ham with Africans

Creation Ministries International website received this claim:

“... Genesis 9:20-27 clearly proves and shows and explains the history of the human race onwards: Hamites = Africans (Arabs and Blacks), Shem = Asians and Jews, Japheth = Europeans/Whites. The line of Ham is cursed in their flesh.”

Successive Re-Contextualisation

Hamites become black

- One of Ham's four sons was called Kush
- Kush is associated with Ethiopia (Ezekiel 29.10)
- “Can the Kushite change his skin?” (Jeremiah 13:23)
- *Ham* allegedly means *black* or *hot*

Undesirable Blackness

Creek (Muscogee) etiological story (Swanton *Myths and Tales of the Southeastern Indians*, 1929, pp 74-75).

3 people bathed in a pond.

The first emerges clean → ancestor of white people.

The second is darker (the water is muddied)
→ ancestor of Native Americans.

The third is black (water by now is dirty)
→ ancestor of Africans



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Variants of the curse

Rabbinic text (Babylonian Talmud) and medieval Christian texts (13th century)

Ham (with the raven and the dog) turned black because they had sex on the Ark (despite God's prohibition)

Ibn Mas`ūd (Companion to Mohammed, 7th century):

“Noah was bathing and saw his son [Ham] looking at him and said to him, ‘Are you watching me bathe? May God change your color!’ And he is the ancestor of the sūdān [i.e., blacks].”

Skin colour as punishment

Combining slavery and blackness

A Christian 6-7th and Arabic 8th century source:

‘[Noah] was angry with Ham and said, “Let Canaan be cursed, and let him be a slave to his brothers.... [Noah] increased in his curse of Canaan. Therefore his sons became slaves. They are the Copts, the Kushites, the Indians, the Musin (mūsīn), and all the other blacks (sūdān).”

Tales of the Prophets (qisas al-anbiyā)

[A] gust of wind uncovered Noah’s genitals; Ham laughed.... When Noah awoke he asked, “What was the laughter?... Do you laugh at your father’s genitals?... “May God change your complexion and may your face turn black!” And that very instant his face did turn black.... “May He make bondswomen and slaves of Ham’s progeny until the Day of Resurrection!”

Rationale for Black Slavery

- East Africa as a source for slaves in Arabian Sub-Continent
- Religious Prohibition to take “Muslim” slaves
- Expansion to West African “pagans”
- → Infrastructure for transatlantic slave trade
- Curse of Ham as a moral justification



Teaser: Seduction through Stories

Dangerous narratives

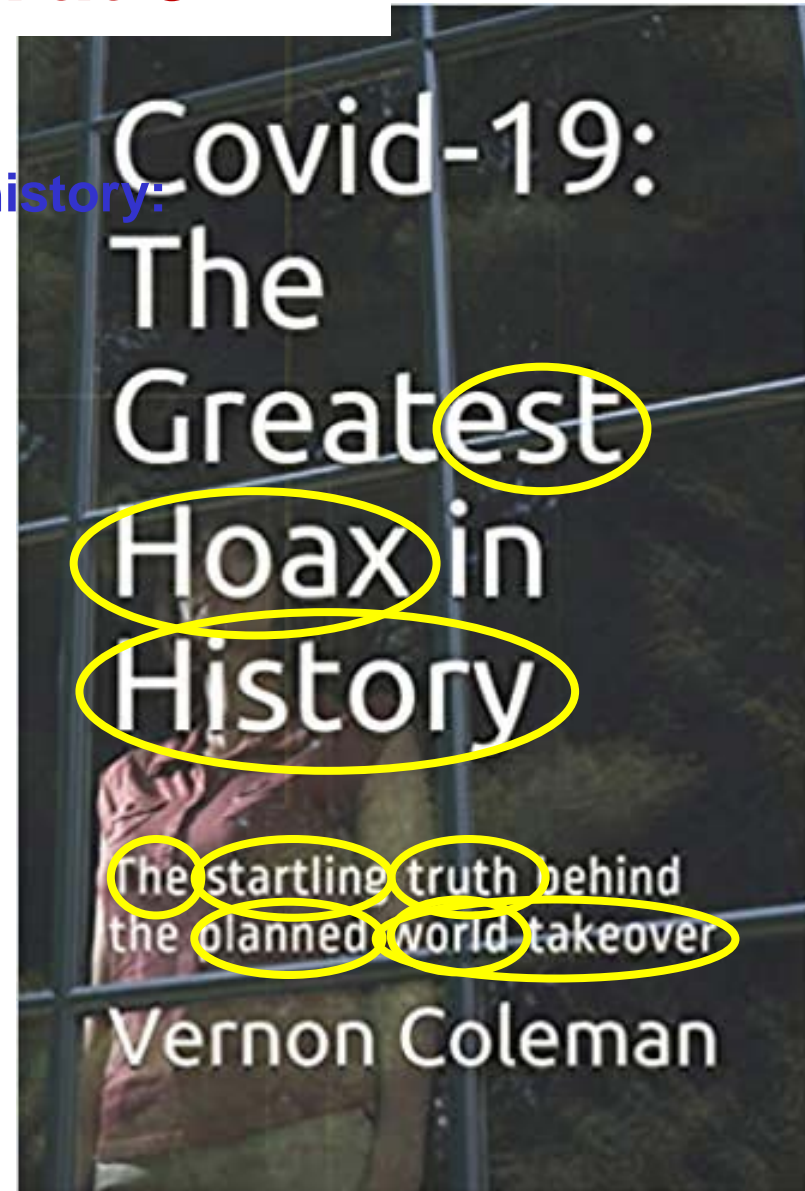
What to make of a book title

Dr Vernon Coleman

Covid-19: the greatest hoax in history:

The startling truth behind
the planned world take-over

- Invoked / vested credibility
- alleged duplicity and underhandedness
- Indication of “something big”...
- ... in fact it's superlative
- claim to “the only reality”
- sensational language (adjectives)
- threat of an imminent danger
- purported enormity of outcome if going unchallenged



Oh dear, oh dear! Is it
this late already?!

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That has to be it for today...

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and there was so much  ore

Hmm, why not join me for an extra episode (free of charge and no strings attached) on Monday at 7pm

**THE MOST DREADFUL
THING THAT'S
ABOUT TO HAPPEN**

