Karma 原本是梵语，最基本的意思是“行动”或“行为”。在早期印度传统中，它最初更多与宗教仪式有关，也就是正确完成某种仪式会产生相应的结果。后来，karma 的含义逐渐扩展到人的道德行为、生活经历以及生命之间的连续关系。人们开始相信，一个人的行动会产生后果，有些后果可能立即出现，有些则可能在很久以后显现。

同时，行动也会在人身上形成某种习惯和倾向，使他以后更容易重复相似的行为。因此，karma 并不只是“一个人做了什么”，而以后来受到固守，它更像是一种即行动、行为倾向和未来结果连接起来的文化因果观念。它与我们研究相关，是因为它提供了一套理解行动与结果之间关系的方法。即使人们无法直接看见或证明中间的连续机制，仍然可能相信过去的行为正在影响现来的经历。

- What is a question, topic, or thing you are curious about, drawn to, or unable to stop thinking about right now?
- Where might this interest have come from? What experiences, stories, histories, or references feel connected to it?
- Who do you think about when you think about this topic? What identities, communities, histories, or systems might intersect with it?
- Why does this topic matter to you personally?
- What questions are becoming more complicated as you learn more?
- Has anything already changed the way you think about the topic?
- Who could you talk to, learn from, or observe to understand it differently?
- How might this project connect to the kind of designer, artist, researcher, or practitioner you want to become?
- If this project could open one conversation or shift one way of thinking, what would you want that to be?

Other reference

Personhood in Classical Indian Philosophy (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)
plato.stanford.edu

Dunne & Raby
dunneandraby.co.uk

CRITICAL DESIGN FAQ

Anthony Dunne & Fiona Raby.

1. What is Critical Design?
Critical Design is an speculative design proposals to challenge narrow assumptions, preconceptions and given ideas the role products play in everyday life. It is more of an attitude than anything else, a position that questions the status quo. Critical Design is not to be confused with types of the term critical design and may have their own way of describing critical design. Critical Design is not the only approach to critical design. This activity more creative and subject to discussion and debate.

The approach to effectiveness design, design that reinforces the status quo.

Dear Data

THE PROJECT — Dear Data
dear-data.com

Karma

Karma is originally a Sanskrit word that most basically means “action” or “deed.”
In early Indian traditions, it was primarily associated with religious rituals. Correctly performing a ritual was believed to produce a corresponding result.
Over time, the meaning of karma expanded to include moral behavior, life experiences, and continuity across different lives. People came to believe that actions produce consequences. Some consequences may appear immediately, while others may emerge much later.
Actions can also create habits and tendencies, making a person more likely to repeat similar behavior in the future. Therefore, karma does not simply mean that someone does something wrong and is later punished. It is a broader cultural understanding that connects actions, behavioral tendencies, and future consequences.
It relates to my research because it offers a way of understanding the relationship between actions and outcomes. Even when people cannot directly observe or prove the connection between them, they may still believe that past actions are shaping later experiences.

https://rubinmuseum.org/projectthimalayanart/essays/wheel-of-existence?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The Wheel of Existence is a historical visual communication system used to explain Buddhist ideas of karma, action, consequence, and repeated existence. Its circular structure presents causality as a continuous cycle rather than a straight line.

生命之轮是一套历史悠久的视觉传播系统，用来解释佛教中的业、行动、结果与循环存在。它使用圆形结构，将因果表现为持续循环，而不是一条直线。

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cogs.12935?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Karma is often imagined as an impersonal causal system that connects a person's actions with later experiences.

https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2025/05/good-bad-karma?utm_source=chatgpt.com

People may apply karma differently to themselves and to others. They tend to remember karmic rewards for themselves, but karmic punishments for other people.

1. Karma 指行动以及行动产生的后续影响。
2. Samsara 指生命、死亡和再生的循环。
3. 还原的 Karma 可能影响今生或者未来生命的处境。
4. 这个过程不一定立即发生，也不一定能够被人直接观察。

Oxford Academic 对 Karma 与轮回的介绍
这与你的核心问题完全相连：

人们无法直接观察前世、今生和未来之间的机制。却为什么仍然意思相信这些生命之间存在因果连续性？

Mnemosyne Lost – Hunchtrikk
HKW in Berlin revives Aby Warburg's original picture atlas. For...
hunchtrikk.com

Aby Warburg's Mnemosyne Atlas places images from different periods and cultures together to explore possible connections between them. It shows how the selection and arrangement of images can guide viewers to construct new associations and narratives.

Aby Warburg 的《Mnemosyne Atlas》通过并置来自不同时代与文化的图像，探索它们之间潜在的联系。它说明图像的选择和排列方式能够引导观众建立新的联想与叙事。

RCA Student Research Platform
The RCA Student Research Platform is an archive and showcase of student r...
research-blemish.rca.ac.uk

When people fail to perceive this connection mechanism, why are they still willing to believe that there is a link between actions and outcomes?

当人看不见这个连接机制时，为什么仍然意思相信行动与结果之间存在联系？

How do people construct a belief in causality when the connection between evidence, action, and outcome remains invisible or uncertain?

当证据、行为与结果之间的联系仍然不可见或不确定时，人们如何建立对因果关系的相信？

方向一：证据是怎样被连接起来的？

How can real pieces of evidence be connected to produce a false but believable conclusion?

真实的证据碎片，如何被连接成一个错误但可信的结论？

方向二：当连接机制不可见时，人们为什么仍然相信？

What allows people to believe in a causal relationship when the connecting mechanism cannot be observed or proven?

当连接机制无法被观察或证明时，是什么让人们仍然相信因果关系存在？

Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias is the tendency to notice and accept information that supports what we already believe, while overlooking information that challenges it.

Attribution Bias

Attribution bias describes the systematic ways people explain why something happened. We may attribute an outcome to someone's personality or previous behavior while overlooking context, coincidence, or other possible causes.

例如，一个人遭遇失败，可能认为：
maybe他这个人不够努力。
但实际上还可能存在环境、资源、时间、运气和其他人的影响。
但因偏误不只是“对一个人有偏见”，

而是：我们怎样把一个行为或者结果归因原因。
它与 karma 的关系是，当一个人后来遭遇某种结果时，旁观者可能会从他的过去寻找一个行为，然后说：
他现在这样，是因为他以前做过那件事。
但这类因果关系有可能是后来才被建立的。

Emotional Rumination

The word “rumination” comes from the fact that cows repeatedly chew the food they have already swallowed.
On a psychological level, it manifests as constantly re-chewing the same experience.
Why did he do this to me?
Was it because I did something wrong?
Why didn't I respond at that time?
What if I had said something like this？ Would it have been different?
Will he suffer consequences for his actions in the future？

“反刍”这个词来自牛重复咀嚼已经吞下去的食物。
在心理层面，它表现为不断重新咀嚼同一段经历
为什么他要这样对我？
是不是我做错了什么？
我当时为什么没有回应？
如果我当时这样说，会不会不一样？
他以后会不会因为自己的行为受到后果？

1. Couch Guy

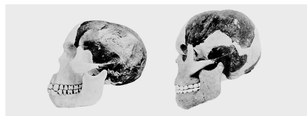
人们为什么会把模糊的视觉细节解释成支持既有判断的证据？

The Couch Guy Chronicles: Scaling Visibility, Publicity, and Privacy on the Web

In 2021, a woman posted a TikTok video showing her surprise visit to her boyfriend at college. In the video, her boyfriend was sitting on a couch with several friends. After seeing her, he stood up and hugged her.

It was originally an ordinary reunion video, **but many viewers believed that his reaction did not look natural.** Users began analyzing the video frame by frame, focusing on his facial expression, body movements, another woman moving a phone, and the distance between the people sitting on the couch.
Some viewers first formed the belief that he might be cheating and then searched for small details that appeared to support that conclusion. Even when the people involved denied the accusation, some viewers interpreted their denial as an attempt to hide the truth.
Robert McCoy, the man in the video, later explained that users continued analyzing their body language and investigating the private lives of his friends. He had been an ordinary college student but suddenly became the subject of investigation and judgment by millions of people.

Piltdown Man | Natural History Museum
The Library and Archives holds correspondence, photographs and p...
nhm.ac.uk



Piltdown Man cranium and mandible as reconstructed by Dr Arthur Smith Woodward (L) and Professor Arthur Keith (R)

The Piltdown Man Hoax

In 1912, Charles Dawson claimed to have discovered the “missing link” between humans and apes in England. Piltdown Man was not a complete human skull. It was assembled from fragments of a human cranium and the lower jaw of an orangutan. The bones were stained and the teeth were filed to make them appear older.
The fossil was intended to prove that a transitional species with a humanlike brain and an apelike jaw had once lived in Britain. Because it matched an evolutionary story that some researchers already expected to find, it was accepted for decades before being officially exposed as a fraud in 1953.

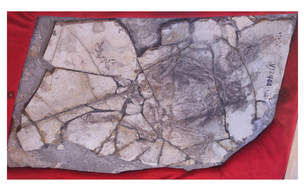
Archaeoraptor

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeoraptor?utm_source=chatgpt.com

The “Archaeoraptor” fossil in the Paleozoological Museum of China
“Archaeoraptor” is the informal generic name for a fossil chimera from China in an article published in National Geographic magazine in 1999. The magazine claimed that the fossil was a “missing link” between birds and terrestrial theropod dinosaurs. Even before this publication, there had been severe doubts about the fossil's authenticity. Further scientific study showed it to be a forgery constructed from rearranged pieces of real fossils from different species. The tail is part of the holotype of Microraptor zhaoianus, a small winged dromaeosaur named in 2000. Zhou et al. (2002) found that the head and upper body belong to a specimen of the primitive fossil bird Yanornis.[1][2] The legs and feet belong to an as yet unknown animal.[3][4]

3. Piltdown Man Hoax

当证据之间的联系无法被真正证明时，人们为什么仍然愿意相信这个联系？



方向三：一个人需要多少证据才会停止寻找？

How much evidence is enough for someone to accept, reject, or revise a belief?

一个人需要多少证据，才会接受、拒绝或者修正自己的信念？

Do 'maximisers' or 'satisficers' make better decisions?
There are two main types of decision-makers, experts say. Under...
bbc.com

“但在做出谨慎的选择后，你必须立即回到像满足者一样思考，因为否则你仍然会对你的决定不满意，无论多么好。”

Maximizer will try to explore all options in an effort to obtain the best answer.
Satisficer, once a reasonable enough answer is found, will stop further searching.

Do people stop searching after obtaining “sufficient evidence”, or do they stop because they have already found the answer they wanted?

Maximizer 会尽可能寻找所有选择，希望获得最好的答案。
Satisficer 找到一个足够合理的答案后，就会停止继续寻找。

人们是在获得“足够证据”之后停止寻找，还是因为已经获得自己想要的答案而停止寻找？

When people receive more information, does their judgment become more accurate, or does their standard of evidence continue to change?

当人们获得更多信息时，他们的判断真的会变得更准确，还是他们所要求的证据标准也会不断改变？

The marriage cases presented here are not intended to discuss love, but to study the “threshold of evidence”.
Initially, one might think that income, personality and educational level are sufficient, but after observing more partners, one might add conditions such as housing, family background, appearance and lifestyle. Thus, the question becomes:
Are we seeking sufficient evidence, or are we constantly creating new reasons for rejection?

婚姻案例在这里不是为了讨论爱情，而是为了研究“证据门槛”。
一个人原本觉得收入、性格和教育程度已经足够，但看过更多对象以后，可能又增加住房、家庭背景、外貌和生活方式等条件。
问题因此变成：
我们是在寻找足够的证据，还是在不断创造新的拒绝理由？

A rejection mind-set: Choice overload in online dating
research.libraryuniversity.edu

The research indicates that when people continuously browse through a large number of potential dates, they will gradually develop a “rejection pattern”, becoming increasingly likely to reject those who appear later.

When people are constantly exposed to a large number of potential dates, will more choices help them find a more suitable person, or will they become more inclined to reject?
The research found that as participants moved from the first person to the last, the likelihood of accepting the other person decreased by approximately 27% on average. The reason is not necessarily that the later people are worse, but that continuous selection gradually alters their judgment state, making them increasingly dissatisfied with the photos and the results of their choices.

研究指出，当人们连续浏览大量的自对象时，会逐渐形成一种“拒绝模式”，越来越容易否定后面出现的人。

当人们连续面对大量潜在的自对象时，更多选择会帮助他们找到更合适的人，还是会使他们越来越挑剔？
研究发现，参与者从第一个对象看到最后一个对象时，接受对方的可能性平均下降了约27%。原因不一定是后面的人更差，而是持续选择逐渐改变了他们的判断状态，使他们对照片和自己的选择结果越来越不满意

What internet outrage reveals about race and TikTok's algori...
While it's good that many called out the overstep in reaction, it also made...
npr.org

When the causal mechanism remains hidden, how do people decide that an outcome is deserved?
当因果机制仍然隐藏在黑盒中时，人们如何判断一个结果是某个人应得的？

Leap of faith

When reason, conditions and evidence cannot provide complete guarantees, a person still chooses to make a commitment.

The compatibility conditions, income, education, property and dowry represent that people attempt to transform future uncertainties into calculable conditions.

However, no matter how complete the conditions are, people still cannot prove that a relationship will definitely succeed in the future. Ultimately entering the relationship still requires crossing a blank that cannot be filled with data.

When love cannot be proven, how much evidence do people need to be willing to make a commitment?

When is a leap of faith a sign of trust and when does it turn into self-deception?

当理性、条件和证据无法提供完全保证时，一个人仍然选择作出承诺。

相容条件、收入、学历、房产和彩礼，代表人们试图把未来的不确定性转化成可以计算的条件。

但无论条件多么完整，人们仍然无法证明一段关系未来一定会成功。最终进入关系，依然需要跨过一段无法被数据填满的空白。

当爱无法被证明时，人们需要多少证据，才愿意作出承诺？

Leap of faith 在什么时候是信任，在什么时候会变成自我欺骗？

Home - Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster
The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, after having existed in secre...
spaghettimonster.org

这是一个讽刺性的虚构宗教，用来质疑无法被证伪的信念。如果一个观点没有办法被证明是错的，它是否就有理由被相信？Flying Spaghetti Monster

This is a satirical fictional religion designed to question beliefs that cannot be disproved. If a viewpoint cannot be proven to be wrong, does it then have any reason to be believed? Flying Spaghetti Monster

“A question of bank notes, cars, and houses!” Matchmaking...
“A question of bank notes, cars, and houses!” Matchmaking and the Moral...
cambridge.org

West elm Caleb

West Elm is an American furniture company where Caleb worked at the time. Therefore, “West Elm Caleb” means “the man named Caleb who worked at West Elm.”
In 2022, several women in New York who had dated Caleb shared their experiences on TikTok. They accused him of giving intense attention at the beginning of a relationship, often described as love bombing; claiming that he had deleted his dating apps while continuing to date other people; and suddenly ending communication, known as ghosting. Someone also accused him of sending unsolicited private images. These claims came mainly from personal accounts and were not confirmed through a formal investigation.
As more similar experiences appeared, users connected the stories and timelines shared by different women. People began searching for Caleb's identity, photographs, workplace, and social media accounts. Millions publicly judged and attacked him, while some brands turned the event into marketing content and an online joke.
The public interpreted his loss of privacy and reputation as karma produced by his previous behavior. However, platform algorithms and collective participation continually amplified the outcome. This case therefore raises a question: when a person's behavior develops into a large scale collective punishment through social media, does it still count as karma?

2. West Elm Caleb

多个片面的个人叙述，如何共同构成一个关于某个人的完整因果故事？

当完整事实无法被看见时，人们为什么仍然相信行为与结果之间存在明确联系？

2. Caleb 遭受的网络暴力，是过去行为产生的 Karma，还是公众和品牌的报复？

3. 即使这个结果源于他的行为，惩罚的规模是否仍然与原来的行为相称？

4. 当观众转发、发表和调查他时，观众是否也在创造自己的 Karma？

5. 如果后来证明事件存在夸大或者误解，那些参与攻击的人应该如何理解自己的行为？

6. 在整个过程中，女性、Caleb、观众、平台和品牌分别创造了什么原因，又分别产生了什么结果？

因此，这个案例可以提炼成一句更准确的问题：