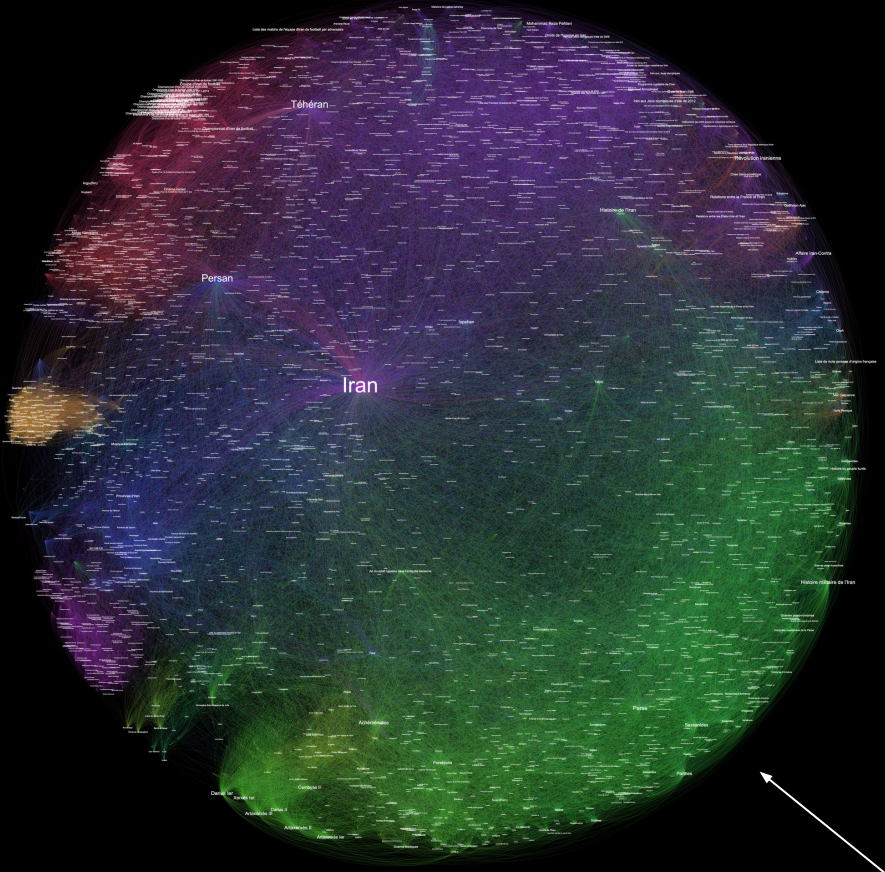




# Wikipedia + The Weird

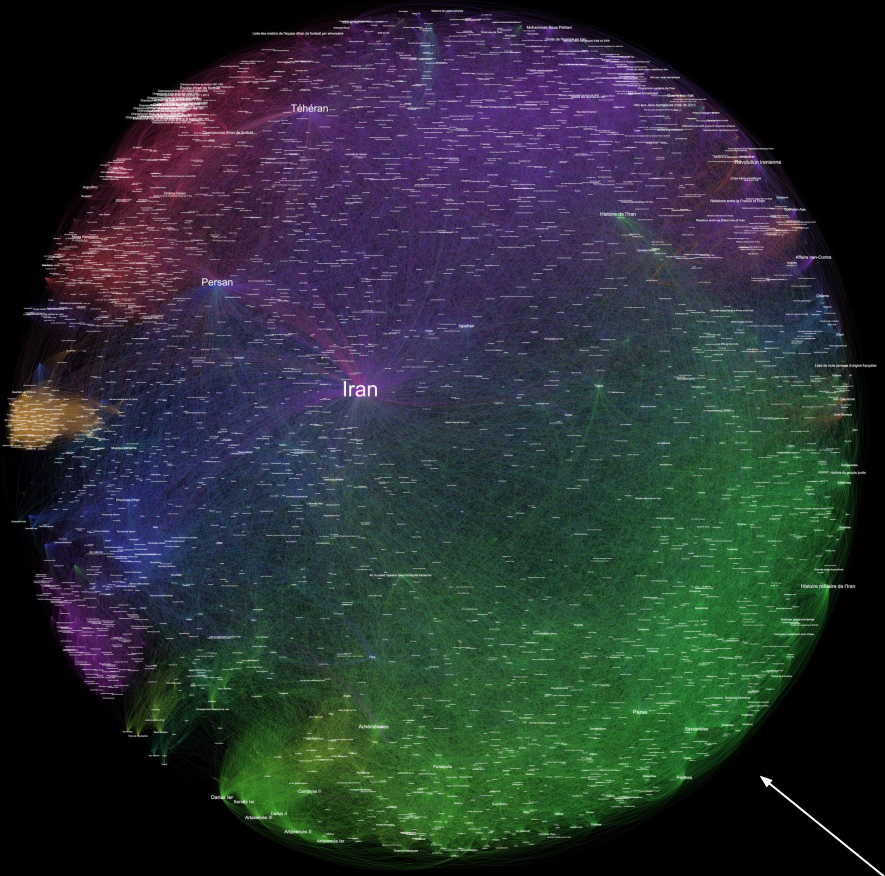
Covering humorous and unusual topics with respect and fairness

# Wikipedia Is weird.



[Gephi Visualization](#) depicting the interconnectedness of a small slice of Wikipedia.

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portail\\_Iran\\_-\\_Visualisation\\_Gephi\\_FA2.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portail_Iran_-_Visualisation_Gephi_FA2.png)



# Wikipedia Is weird.

It's actually kind of bonkers.

[Gephi Visualization](#) depicting the interconnectedness of a small slice of Wikipedia.  
Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portail\\_Iran\\_-\\_Visualisation\\_Gephi\\_FA2.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portail_Iran_-_Visualisation_Gephi_FA2.png)

# Where Is The Weirdness?

(It's not here)



# The “Secret Cabinet” of Naples



- Repository of bizarre and erotic art recovered from the ruins of Pompeii
- Censored in 1821, and eventually bricked up
- Discreet viewing became a “right-of-passage” for many Victorian men
- Sculptures and frescos inside were vital to our modern understanding of ancient Greek sexuality
- Not a single article on Wikipedia about anything inside, and only a stub for the museum itself

# Surreal memes

- Wildly popular genre of memes inspired by [surrealist art](#).
- Recurring character of [Meme Man](#), which became the face of the “stonks” meme
- Both surreal memes and the phrase “stonks” used as shorthand in the [r/wallstreetbets](#) subreddit
- Elon Musk and other influencers/investors used surreal memes to draw attention to the subreddit, helping to create the 2021 [GameStop short squeeze](#)
- No coverage on Wikipedia, despite prior coverage by Bloomberg, Forbes, New York Times, etc...



Source: <https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/stonks>

# “Trivial content”

It's not always trivial.



# When things get Weird...

Wikipedians



The Weird

...Wikipedians look away





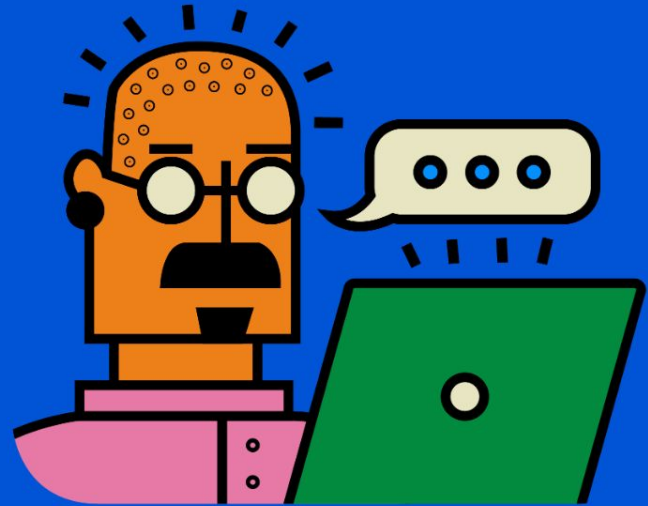
# We've got some biases

The average Wikipedia editor is:

- White
- Male
- 17-40 years old
- English-speaking
- Christian or Atheist
- Desktop user
- Has time for leisure activities

Source: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/76/Editor\\_Survey\\_Report\\_-\\_April\\_2011.pdf](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/76/Editor_Survey_Report_-_April_2011.pdf)

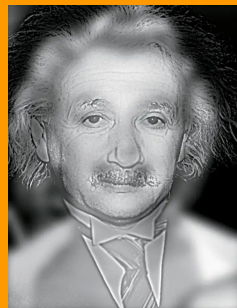
**WIKIMANIA**



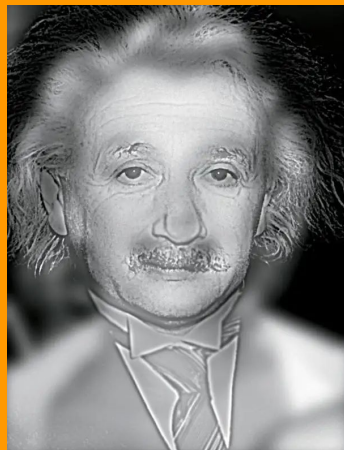
Let's face it—a lot of us look like this guy



Marilyn Monroe...



...or Albert Einstein?



# Weirdness is subjective

It all depends on your background and point of view.

**WIKIMANIA**

# The Weird IS The Other

(It's not this guy—  
he's totally normal;  
It's only our  
point-of-view that  
makes this image  
look weird)

# Humor is vital to culture

Humor comes from the unexpected.

Subversions of normalcy  
*Are how things change.*

**WIKIMANIA**



Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aspelt\\_Plaque\\_Nothing\\_happened.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aspelt_Plaque_Nothing_happened.jpg)

# Judaism & Jokes



“The humorist, like the prophet, would basically take people to task for their failings. The humor of Eastern Europe especially was centered around defending the poor against the exploitation of the upper classes or other authority figures” — [Rabbi Moshe Waldoks](#)

Source:

[https://web.archive.org/web/20080511151852/http://www.sdjewishjournal.com/stories/cover\\_aug04.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20080511151852/http://www.sdjewishjournal.com/stories/cover_aug04.html)



# What can we do about this?

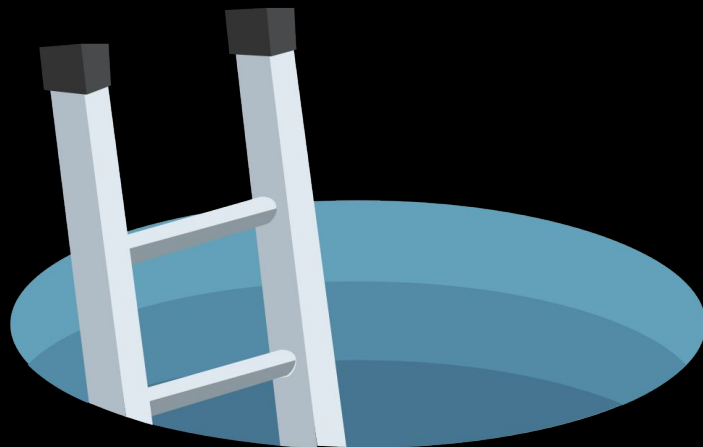
How can we become less biased?



# Look for holes

- Look for topics that we *aren't* covering.
- Search for the unfamiliar.
- Ask yourself what sort of things are unlikely to be covered by the stereotypical editor.
- Take some time away from your comfort zone—even a small percentage of your time helps!
- Talk to groups outside of your cultural comfort zone:
  - Ask what they wish they could find more information on.
  - Ask what they're reading—then read it yourself!
- Talk to fellow Wikipedians, but be careful not to make them your only source of information in order to avoid cognitive blind spots in the community.

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Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emojione\\_1F573.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emojione_1F573.svg)

# Be Consistent

- Pay attention to your gut reactions.
- Keeping consistent internal standards during any editing activity which may be seen as controversial is very hard, but extremely important.
- Question yourself when you write something off as “niche,” “irrelevant,” or “unworthy of coverage” — is it truly irrelevant, or is it only irrelevant to your particular interests and culture?
- If you’re feeling iffy about a source, ask yourself:
  - Is my interest (or lack thereof) in the subject affecting my judgement?
  - Are aesthetics affecting my perception?
  - Is my gut reaction truly warranted?





# Good luck!

Wikipedians: making the world a smarter, stranger, and better place.







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