Some words about science:

We are a part of the Cosmos, Sagan told us, and our fate is deeply connected with it. Science is devalued when separated from culture, and our experience of living is diluted when we become separated from science, because science is a necessary but not sufficient part of our exploration of what it means to be human. It is not possible to have a meaningful discussion about our place in the Cosmos without knowing its size and scale, without that we are made of it and will return to it, without acknowledging the deep mysteries that await us as we push our understanding ever further back to the beginning of the Universe, 13.8 billion years ago.

Science is often celebrated because it is useful, and research is funded because it provides us with objects of perceived value. The true value of science is that it allows us to acquire reliable knowledge and teaches us humility. Your opinion is irrelevant in the face of nature; imagine the improvement in modern-day political discourse if that single sentence were seared into the forearm of every politician as a cow is branded with the mark of its owner.

I hope that *Monkey Cage* also goes a long way to erasing the myth that science is a cold endeavor, where humans with an emotional range that barely goes from A to B sit and count things and make graphs from the results and then state their discoveries with error bars in a monotone drone. As Albert Einstein wrote, “with logic we can go from A to B, with imagination we can go wherever we want.” As many of our guests have demonstrated in their work, imagination and passion are vital to understanding. We need to maintain our childhood desire to keep pulling at the threads of understanding: “But why? But why? But why?

Cox, B., Ince, R. 2017. How to Build a Universe, Part 1. Williams Collins, London.