Student's version
Informatics 1 Cognitive Science
Idiographic-*versus*-nomothetic. Tutorial 9. Week 10.

The goal of this tutorial is to show you some of the ways in which to think about the idiographic approach in Cognitive Science. (Last week you got to grips with a complex interdisciplinary research paper – the Amir et al. one on humour – illustrating the nomothetic approach.)

The required reading for the tutorial is:
Luria, A. R., & Solotaroff, L. T. (1987). *The mind of a mnemonist: A little book about a vast memory*. Harvard University Press. It is provided in .pdf form on the course website, and it was the main reading for all three memory lectures.

This is a powerful and very influential piece of scientific writing. It opens up questions of just how rich and flexible higher cognition is. As a case-study, it shares something with the other case-studies that we have encountered during the course.

In your tutorial group, divide up into threes or fours. Work through the questions below. The tutor will then help you share your deliberations with the whole tutorial group.

In your group, consider the following questions. Make brief notes during your discussion.

(1) What are the advantages of a case-study approach?

(2) What are the disadvantages of a case-study approach?

(3) Luria and Shereshevsky constitute a psychological case-study of an essentially pathological case. Can you think of what an idiographic, case-study approach would look like in the other disciplines that make up Cognitive Science: Linguistics, Anthropology, Computer Science, Neuroscience, Philosophy? Can you suggest real or potential topics to study? They don't have to be pathological cases, so think of a neurotypical example for Psychology too.

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