

Some Thoughts on Making Generalizations

Generalizations can be risky, but they're a goal of all rational intellectual exploration. One example is Albert Einstein's great achievement: $E=mc^2$, but it's incomplete because it cannot account for the behavior of sub-atomic particles. A greater generalization would be one which explains, completely and without contradiction, the entire physical world. Other examples are aphorisms, but they sometimes contradict each other and are often wrong; the early bird does not always catch the worm. Maybe the greatest generalization of all would be one which rationally explains the meaning of our lives. However, if reality is not ultimately rational, do our greatest generalizations require faith?