

JOSH REPLIED-ALL TO THE
LISTSERV :(

**A Phenomenological and Actor-Network Theory'd
analysis of drama in a PhD Programs**

THE SITUATION: THE HOT GOSS AKA BACKSTORY

- Almost got kicked out of program because I asked someone what was funny about making fun of mental health
- Was forced to apologize to my entire cohort because I “was causing tension”; sent a BERRY heartfelt non-apology
- Got reported to OIED by this person two weeks after the event
- Everything was, ostensibly, fine until...

THE SITUATION: THE EMAIL

Max Renner <mmrenner@ncsu.edu>

to crdm_students ▾

Thu, Apr 12, 10:44 AM

Hi everyone!

It's getting to the terrifying point in **April** when we all realize that the academic year is about to end.

To try and alleviate some of this stress Mai and I are working to put on a CRDM Superlatives End of Year Party! More information about date and location will be forthcoming, but for now we need for you all to submit some ideas for superlatives!

We have a few potential examples (listed below), but we need your feedback since you will all be the ones voting! So please reply to this email with your funniest, most ridiculously creative superlative ideas for your cohort and program colleagues!

Max and Mai

P.S. here are a few potential ideas to get everyone started, but I'm sure you can be way more creative:

1. Best shoulder to cry on
2. Biggest drama king/queen ← me, smile
3. Most accident-prone
4. Biggest procrastinator
5. Most likely to be late for class
6. Most likely to brighten up your day
7. Most likely to write their dissertation in a month
8. Most likely to not change at all
9. Most opinionated
10. Most upbeat attitude

Joshua Jackson <jajacks5@ncsu.edu>

to Max, crdm_students ▾

Thu, Apr 12, 10:53 AM

Oh my ACTUAL FUCKING GOD MAX

Joshua Jackson <jajacks5@ncsu.edu>

to Max, crdm_students ▾

Thu, Apr 12, 10:53 AM

Max if I get nominated for Biggest Drama King, you're kill

THE SITUATION: THE MEMES

Hannah Mayfield <hmmayfie@ncsu.edu>
to me, crdm_students, Max ▾



...

Sarah Evans <sbevans2@ncsu.edu>
to Hannah, crdm_students, me, Max ▾



Sent from my iPhone

Steven Smith <sismit17@ncsu.edu>
to Hannah, crdm_students ▾

Josh 4 biggest drama queen confirmed.

...



Chandra Maldonado <camaldon@ncsu.edu>
to Hannah, crdm_students ▾

Best ever!!!! Thank you for making me smile today! 😊

Best,
Chandra Maldonado
North Carolina State University

On Apr 12, 2018, at 10:56 AM, Hannah Mayfield <hmmayfie@ncsu.edu> wrote:

<thebest gif>

...

Krystin Gollihue <kgollih@ncsu.edu>
to crdm_students ▾

Most likely to lol
Most likely to meme
Most likely to show up
Most likely to do it for the 'gram
Most likely to skip class to play Overwatch
Best doggo/catto (I am opening up the superlatives to our pets, @ me)



And the Darwin Award goes to...



Matthew Halm <mthalm@ncsu.edu>
to crdm_students, me ▾



Krystin Gollihue <kgollih@ncsu.edu>
to Mai, crdm_students, Jessica, Matthew, me ▾

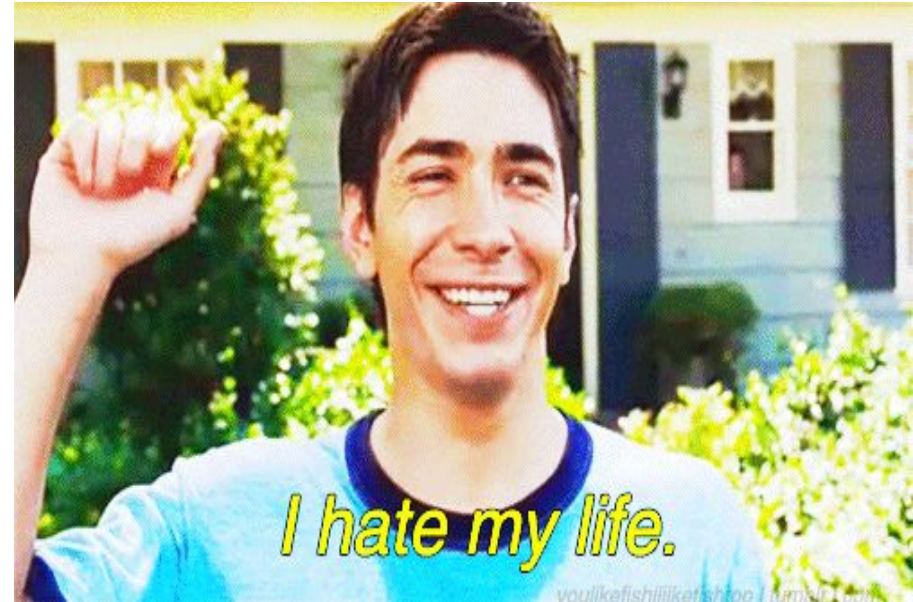
Most likely to reply all

...



AN EXPLANATION: WAIT BUT... MEMES?

- Heylighen, 1992
 - Selfishness regarding genetic evolution leads to bodies more prone to self-sustaining behavior.
- Cavalli-Sforza & Feldman, 1981
 - Memetics act as nexuses of cultural evolution that denote growth, and to some extent, safety.



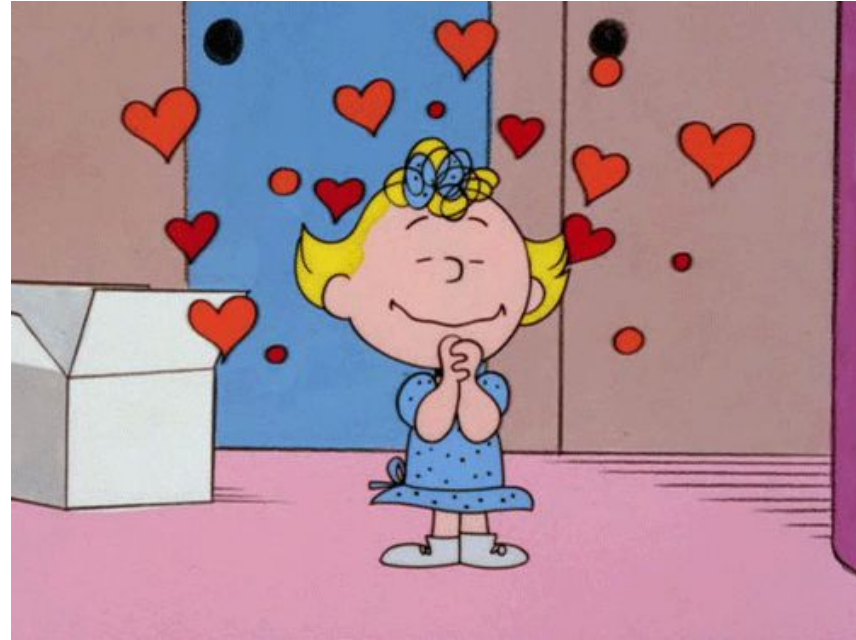
AN EXPLANATION: BUT WHY YOUR FRIENDS?



- The use of digital platforms, which all my friends are integrated on, allowed for an almost rapid-fire response to this debacle, creating what we jokingly called “The Reply-All Anxiety Unit”;
- LaTour (2005)
 - All nodes in an activity exert some type of defining force on the activity in question

AN EXPLANATION: ANT AND IRIGARAY

- ANT accounts for the reciprocal actions
 - Reply-all -> panic -> scream at friends in all caps for memes -> they reply -> crisis is “averted”
- But not the affective; Irigaray, 1993
 - Phenomenologically, where were the very human system misfired that allowed this to happen?
 - Anxiety from the previous events? End of semester burnout? Panic at reply-all’ing? Relief when my friends laughed at me but helped?



IN CONCLUSION: MOST LIKELY TO REPLY-ALL TO A LISTSERV EMAIL



- Tight-knit digital communities within digital humanities programs come together quicker and with more technological ease to assuage massive, possibly destructive, situations and, in this case, what could be “performed-drama (Tait, 2017; Rosengren, 2015)”
- ANT, while useful for mapping fallout/collateral damage, lacks the ability to map the affective networks that occur in instances such as these