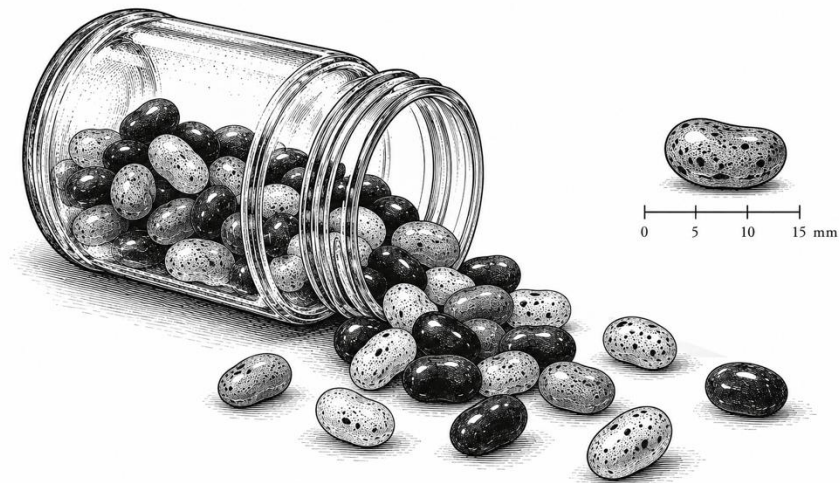


In no particular order,  
Nour [ctrl+V]-ed the items  
into a WhatsApp message,  
like jelly beans spilling from a jar.  
  
Now,  
I must sort them.  
  
Channeling a know-it-all  
from a '90s indie movie,  
here I go!



Tier Ranking of Theories, Principles, and “Laws”

**S**    Occam’s Razor  
      Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs

**A**    The Butterfly Effect  
      Growth Mindset  
      Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

**B**    Murphy’s Law  
      Learned Helplessness  
      Hanlon’s Razor  
      Parkinson’s Law

**C**    Peter Principle  
      Law of Diminishing Returns

**D**    Cognitive Dissonance  
      Pareto Principle (80/20 Rule)  
      Social Comparison Theory  
      Dunning–Kruger Effect

**F**    Self-Determination Theory

**Fig. 1** Tier ranking based on perceived explanatory utility in human behavior, decision-making, interpersonal relationship, and lived experience.

An S/A/B/C/D/F Tier-Based  
Ranking of Theories,  
Principles, and “Laws”  
Explaining Human Behavior,  
Decision-Making,  
Interpersonal Relationships,  
and Lived Experience:

A Subjective Arrangement  
of Perceived Explanatory  
Utility

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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N = 1

KEYWORDS  
human behavior · explanatory power · subjective classification  
cognitive bias · lived experience

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— Cognitive Dissonance —

Do I contradict myself?  
Very well then I contradict myself.  
  
D-tier. Next!

— Pareto Principle (80/20 Rule) —

Ugh. Too confusing.  
Also, everyone thinks they’re the 20%.  
  
Another D-tier.

— Peter Principle —

This is funny:  
smug twenty-year-old intern  
with student loans.  
  
Less funny:  
assistant manager at forty,  
same student loans.  
  
Sigh. C-tier.

— Murphy’s Law —

Just another Monday.  
Stumble on.  
  
B-tier.

— Self-Determination Theory —

Humans have intrinsic motivations?  
Duh.  
  
Yet we still lead lives  
of quiet desperation.  
  
Worse than a fortune cookie!  
  
F-tier.

— The Butterfly Effect —

Now we’re talking!  
  
Behold the awesome  
power of the butterfly wing,  
mover of worlds!  
  
A-tier.

— Learned Helplessness —

I can’t be bothered.  
  
See Peter Principle  
and Murphy’s Law.  
  
B-tier. Meh.

— Social Comparison Theory —

Everyone is going to the prom—  
but me!  
  
Grow up. D-tier.

— Law of Diminishing Returns —

If a joke gets a laugh,  
repeat it.  
  
Still gets a laugh?  
Again.  
  
Again?  
  
…  
  
C-tier.

— Occam’s Razor —

S-tier. (‘Nuff said.)

— Law of Diminishing Returns (Returns) —

One more time?  
  
Still C-tier.

— Dunning–Kruger Effect —

If true,  
1000% A-tier!  
  
(Really D-tier.)

— Hanlon’s Razor —

Every ex:  
  
“I didn’t mean to hurt you,  
I’m just stupid.”  
  
B-tier.

— Growth Mindset —

Almost S-tier,  
but the name?  
Too LinkedIn.  
  
A-tier.

— Parkinson’s Law —

Due tomorrow?  
Start tomorrow.  
  
B-tier.

— Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs —

Food.  
Rent.  
A text back.  
Resigning as assistant manager  
to become a butterfly wing.  
  
S-tier.

— Self-Fulfilling Prophecy —

If you think life is F-tier,  
it will be F-tier.  
  
If you think it is A-tier,  
well…  
  
A-tier.