Differentiating humans from animals

by Justin Mallone, Dec 2019

- What if a person seems to be like an animal (eg Bree)
  - Bree not a great case cuz her mom is an unreliable narrator who believes in eg mediums
  - It's possible for a human being to be so damaged due to medical issues that they're not a person. If you have an explanation why that would be the case then that can go into your context of interpreting the behaviors
- How do we know people are people with minds?
  - We see them engaged in a process of the open ended creation of knowledge, which requires a mind
    - How do we determine that that's what's going on?
      - Guesses and criticism.
        - Eg if we know some intelligent sounding statement is coming out of an animatronic robot, we use that context to criticize the guess that the statement indicates intelligence
    - Why does open ended knowledge creation require a mind?
- How do we distinguish people from animals
  - We use many criteria
    - Does it look like something in the category of things we know to have personhood (eg a human being) and not eg a fox
    - Does it seem to have human level capacities regarding knowledge creation
      - If it has dumb algorithmic behavior like digger wasp example that's bad sign