

HOROSCOPES & HUMOUR

By Dave Tompkins

THE “GRAD STUDENT IRRATIONAL FEARS AND DISEASES” ISSUE



ARIES (March 21 – April 19)

You suffer from *litreviewaphobia*, which is the fear that if you read too many articles related to your thesis you're going to realise it's not very original.



TAURUS (April 20 – May 20)

You have a mild case of *badhoroscopaphobia* and are suffering from it right now: Every time you read a horoscope you fear it's going to be bad news.



GEMINI (May 21 – June 21)

You have a *split personality disease*: always switching between your lowly student persona and the persona that insists you're practically faculty.



CANCER (June 22 – July 22)

You have thesis cancer (*thesamona*): Bad results or incorrect conclusions you can't ignore that are slowly eating away at and destroying your thesis.



LEO (July 23 – Aug. 22)

You have *peaktoosoonaphobia*: you fear that your prime years are behind you, and that your mental capacity is diminishing daily. Sadly, you're right.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 – Sep. 22)

You suffer from *publishophobia*: the fear that as soon as you produce results you will be judged by your peers and they will realise that you're an idiot.



LIBRA (Sep. 23 – Oct. 23)

You have *realworldophobia*, meaning you fear the pressure of succeeding in the real world to the point where the academic cocoon seems too safe to leave.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24 – Nov. 21)

You have *procrastinitis*: a near-fatal academic disease. If you happen to be reading this horoscope on-line, it's twice as bad... and fatal if you wrote it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

You suffer from *importomania*: the delusion that your research is important to your community and may actually make the world a better place.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

You have *snobitis*, an academic social disease that artificially inflates your self-worth: making you think you're better than the undereducated masses.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

You suffer from some kind of *addiction*: You know that we're right, and you know you're addicted, and that it's a problem. So get some help already.



PISCES (Feb. 19 – March 20)

You have *perfectionitis*: a virus that forces you to spend time sweating over tiny insignificant details in your work. It's often caught from supervisors.