

We've Always Been Here

Research + Article Companion

The Pattern Seekers: How Autism Drives Human Invention

Simon Baron-Cohen

Baron-Cohen argues that human invention is underpinned by a systemizing mechanism that connects autism and creativity—a trait tracked back 70,000–100,000 years ago.



<https://behavioralscientist.org/exploring-the-links-between-autism-and-invention/>

Is Autism the Next Stage of Human Evolution?

Adam Hunt

Hunt proposes that autistic traits such as hyperfocus and perception offered evolutionary advantages, especially in early hunting and observation-based societies.



<https://medium.com/@RealAdamHunt/is-autism-the-next-stage-of-human-evolution-487266f8681f>

Autism and Evolution

Harvard Medical School

Reviews genetic evidence showing that autism-related traits are ancient, adaptive, and traceable to our primate ancestors.



<https://hms.harvard.edu/news/autism-evolution>

How Our Autistic Ancestors Played an Important Role in Human Evolution

Penny Spikins & Barry Wright

Spikins & Wright highlight archaeological tools made with repetition and consistency, reflective of autistic strengths in early human communities.



<https://theconversation.com/how-our-autistic-ancestors-played-an-important-role-in-human-evolution-73477>

Was the First Artist Autistic?

Penny Spikins

Analyzes how repetitive patterns and hyper-realistic drawings in Chauvet Cave suggest visual thinking aligned with autistic cognition.



<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/prehistoric-autism-cave-paintings-barry-wright-penny-spikins-university-of-york-a8351751.html>