

## Summary

- she realized that when an autistic person exhibited characteristics that we would call strengths if they belonged to a normal person, we still saw those strengths as merely the fortunate byproducts of bad wiring.
- she found that many studies routinely emphasized only the negative aspects of autism, even when some results were positive
- even when a study does recognize a strength in autistic subjects, the authors often regard it as the brains way of compensating for a deficit
- intelligence has been underestimated in autistics
- discusses and reframes abilities that are seen as deficits and changes to see the positive abilities within them
- autistic people take in every detail before they form a general picture of what something is so they take into account every piece of data before they form a theory; they aren't usually wrong because of this
- there's an overlap between autism and schizophrenia and people who are creative have a higher risk of developing schizophrenia and similar psychopathologies
- she reframes autistic people's abilities as detail-first thinkers as from being a negative aspect to a positive one "I think that bottom-up, detail-first thinkers like myself are more likely to have creative breakthroughs just because we don't know where we are going. We accumulate details without knowing what they mean and without necessarily attaching emotional significance to them."
- studies have shown that autistic people can identify biological motion as oppose to neurotypical and with these motions they don't attach emotion to feelings.
- autistic people rely on visual and spatial parts of their brain as oppose to the formulating language areas sections of the brain
- In the Wechsler test, one third of the subjects qualified as "low functioning"
- In the Ravens test, only 5% qualified as "low functioning" and one third were categorized as having "high intelligence"
- They scored higher on the Ravens test because it was based on visual ability and not on social ability, and since they rely on the visual part of their brain more, this makes sense.
- The Ravens one was nonverbal so that was to their advantage also
- Most non-autistic people are unlikely to remember information they learned 10 days ago but they are less likely to misremember long-term data

## Questions:

- 1) Why do you think autistic people are only being judged on their weaknesses and do you think this is fair? Why does this happen?
- 2) Have you ever encountered an autistic person and how did you find they interacted with their surroundings?
- 3) Do you think because of the bottom-processing abilities autistic people have, are they more likely to be more creative and have more creative breakthroughs and why?
- 4) Do you think that being a detailed oriented thinker is a positive or a negative ability for autistic people?