

‘Stunning breadth of scholarship’
Joseph Henrich, Human evolutionary biology,
Harvard University

**‘Wonderfully refreshing
and thought-provoking’**
Peter Frankopan, History, Oxford
University

**‘Makes sense of our
historical moment’**
Joshua Greene, Psychology, Harvard
University

‘Hugely enjoyable’
Ian Morris, Archaeology, Stanford
University

**‘Muthukrishna has a heart as
big as his intellect’**
Andrew McAfee, MIT Sloan School of
Management

‘A fabulous book’
The Economist

**‘Dense yet
accessible read’**
The Guardian



muth.io/book

The Guardian

A Theory of Everyone

Who we are
How we got here
Where we are
going

Michael
Muthukrishna

‘Mind expanding – this book will change your
view of the world forever.’ Matthew Syed

**‘A Theory of Everyone is for
everyone’**
Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Philosophy, Duke
University

‘Ambitious and breathtaking sweep’
David Halpern, Behavioural Insights Team

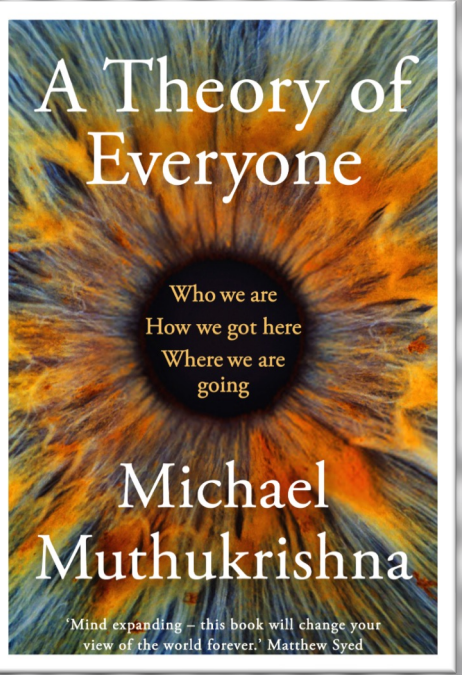
‘Extremely important’
Charles Hall, Energy scientist,
SUNY

**‘Marvellous, rich and
entertaining’**
Kevin Lala, Biology, University of St
Andrews

**‘Astonishing... will change
the way you think’**
Nichola Raihani, Evolution and
behavior, UCL

**‘The most important book you
will read this year’**
Brian Hare, Primatology and psychology,
Duke University





Michael Muthukrishna

A THEORY OF EVERYONE

*The New Science of **Who** We Are,
How We Got Here,
and **Where** We're Going*

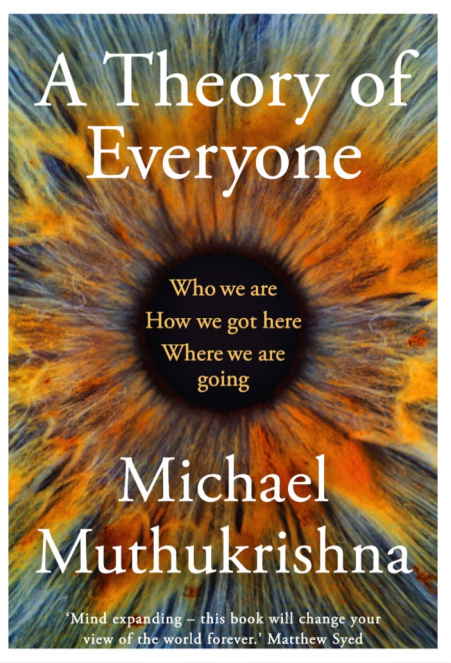
"A brilliant tour de force that takes us on an extraordinary journey
into the fundamental dynamics of what makes us human."

—MICHELE GELFAND



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And God said

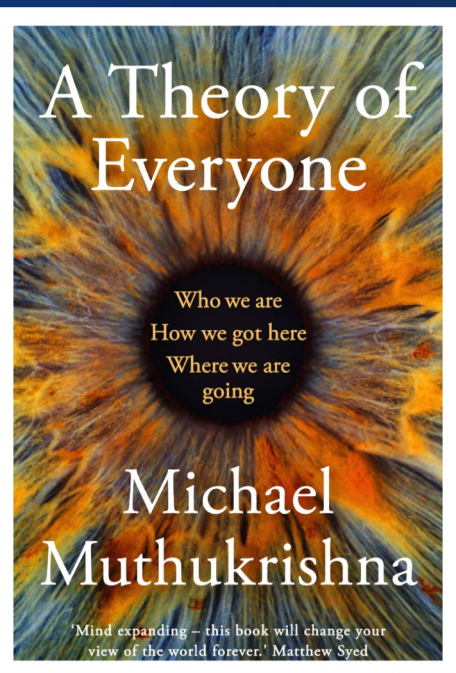
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

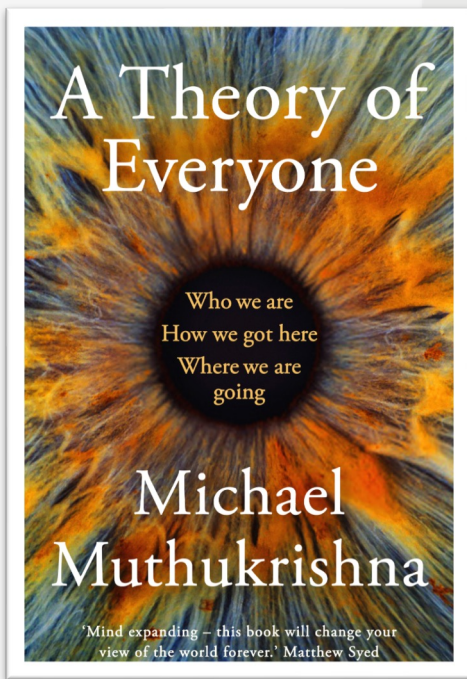
$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{J} + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t}$$

and there was light.



A THEORY OF



And God said

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*Science of Who We Are,
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A Theory of Everyone

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How we got here
Where we are going

Michael
Muthukrishna

"Mind expanding - this book will change your view of the world forever." Matthew Syed

The Periodic Table of the Elements

Atomic Number		Atomic Weight		Symbol		Name	
22	47.90	Ti	Titanium	black solid	blue liquid	red gas	white synthetically prepared most stable isotope

D

A

D-E-S-T-I-N-Y-S-A-G-E-N-T
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1	1.01																	2	4.003																			
H	Hydrogen																	He	Helium																			
3	6.94	4	9.01													5	10.81	6	12.01	7	14.01	8	15.999	9	18.998	10	20.18											
Li	Lithium	Be	Beryllium													B	Boron	C	Carbon	N	Nitrogen	O	Oxygen	F	Fluorine	Ne	Neon											
11	22.99	12	24.31													13	26.98	14	28.09	15	30.97	16	32.06	17	35.45	18	39.95											
Na	Sodium	Mg	Magnesium													Al	Aluminium	Si	Silicon	P	Phosphorus	S	Sulfur	Cl	Chlorine	Ar	Argon											
19	39.10	20	40.08	21	44.96	22	47.90	23	50.94	24	51.996	25	54.94	26	55.85	27	58.93	28	58.70	29	63.55	30	65.37	31	69.72	32	72.59	33	74.92	34	78.96	35	79.90	36	83.80			
K	Potassium	Ca	Calcium	Sc	Scandium	Ti	Titanium	V	Vanadium	Cr	Chromium	Mn	Manganese	Fe	Iron	Co	Cobalt	Ni	Nickel	Cu	Copper	Zn	Zinc	Ga	Gallium	Ge	Germanium	As	Arsenic	Se	Selenium	Br	Bromine	Kr	Krypton			
37	85.47	38	87.62	39	88.91	40	91.22	41	92.91	42	95.94	43	(98)	44	101.07	45	102.91	46	106.40	47	107.87	48	112.41	49	114.82	50	118.69	51	121.75	52	127.60	53	126.90	54	131.30			
Rb	Rubidium	Sr	Strontium	Y	Yttrium	Z	Zirconium	Nb	Niobium	Mo	Molybdenum	Tc	Technetium	Ru	Ruthenium	Rh	Rhodium	Pd	Palladium	Ag	Silver	Cd	Cadmium	In	Indium	Sn	Tin	Sb	Antimony	Te	Tellurium	I	Iodine	Xe	Xenon			
55	132.91	56	137.33			72	178.49	73	180.95	74	183.85	75	186.21	76	190.20	77	192.22	78	195.09	79	196.97	80	200.59	81	204.37	82	207.19	83	208.98	84	(209)	85	(210)	86	(222)			
Cs	Cesium	Ba	Barium	•		Hf	Hafnium	Ta	Tantalum	W	Tungsten	Re	Rhenium	Os	Osmium	Ir	Iridium	Pt	Platinum	Au	Gold	Hg	Mercury	Tl	Thallium	Pb	Lead	Bi	Bismuth	Po	Polonium	At	Astatine	Rn	Radon			
87	(233)	88	226.03	••		104	(261)	105	(262)	106	(266)	107	(262)	108	(265)	109	(266)	110	(281)	111	(280)	112	(277)		(113)		(114)	(285)		(115)		(116)	(289)		(117)		(118)	(293)
Fr	Francium	Ra	Radium			Rf	Rutherfordium	Ha	Hahnium	Sg	Seaborgium	Bh	Bohrium	Hs	Hassium	Mt	Meitnerium	Ds	Darmstadtium	Rg	Roentgenium																	

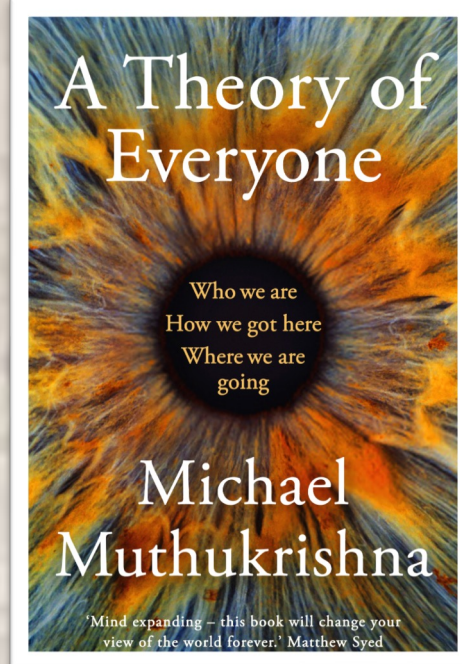
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- alkali metals
- alkali earth metals
- transitional metals
- other metals
- semiconductors
- other non-metals
- halogens
- noble gases
- unknown type



A THEORY OF

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and there was light.

The Periodic Table of the Elements

1 H Hydrogen	2 He Helium																
3 Li Lithium	4 Be Beryllium	5 B Boron	6 C Carbon	7 N Nitrogen	8 O Oxygen	9 F Fluorine	10 Ne Neon										
11 Na Sodium	12 Mg Magnesium	13 Al Aluminium	14 Si Silicon	15 P Phosphorus	16 S Sulfur	17 Cl Chlorine	18 Ar Argon										
19 K Potassium	20 Ca Calcium	21 Sc Scandium	22 Ti Titanium	23 V Vanadium	24 Cr Chromium	25 Mn Manganese	26 Fe Iron	27 Co Cobalt	28 Ni Nickel	29 Cu Copper	30 Zn Zinc	31 Ga Gallium	32 Ge Germanium	33 As Arsenic	34 Se Selenium	35 Br Bromine	36 Kr Krypton
37 Rb Rubidium	38 Sr Strontium	39 Y Yttrium	40 Zr Zirconium	41 Nb Niobium	42 Mo Molybdenum	43 Tc Technetium	44 Ru Ruthenium	45 Rh Rhodium	46 Pd Palladium	47 Ag Silver	48 Cd Cadmium	49 In Indium	50 Sn Tin	51 Sb Antimony	52 Te Tellurium	53 I Iodine	54 Xe Xenon
55 Cs Cesium	56 Ba Barium	•	72 Hf Hafnium	73 Ta Tantalum	74 W Tungsten	75 Re Rhenium	76 Os Osmium	77 Ir Iridium	78 Pt Platinum	79 Au Gold	80 Hg Mercury	81 Tl Thallium	82 Pb Lead	83 Bi Bismuth	84 Po Polonium	85 At Astatine	86 Rn Radon
87 Fr Francium	88 Ra Radium	••	104 Rf Rutherfordium	105 Ha Hahnium	106 Sg Seaborgium	107 Bh Bohrium	108 Hs Hassium	109 Mt Meitnerium	110 Ds Darmstadtium	111 Rg Roentgenium	112 (277)	(113)	(114)	(115)	(116)	(117)	(118)
57 La Lanthanum	58 Ce Cerium	59 Pr Praseodymium	60 Nd Neodymium	61 Pm Promethium	62 Sm Samarium	63 Eu Europium	64 Gd Gadolinium	65 Tb Terbium	66 Dy Dysprosium	67 Ho Holmium	68 Er Erbium	69 Tm Thulium	70 Yb Ytterbium	71 Lu Lutetium			
89 Ac Actinium	90 Th Thorium	91 Pa Protactinium	92 U Uranium	93 Np Neptunium	94 Pu Plutonium	95 Am Americium	96 Cm Curium	97 Bk Berkelium	98 Cf Californium	99 Es Einsteinium	100 Fm Fermium	101 Md Mendelevium	102 No Nobelium	103 Lr Lawrencium			

Atomic Number

Atomic Weight

Symbol

Name

black

blue

red

white

solid

liquid

gas

synthetically prepared

most stable isotope

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• Lanthanoids

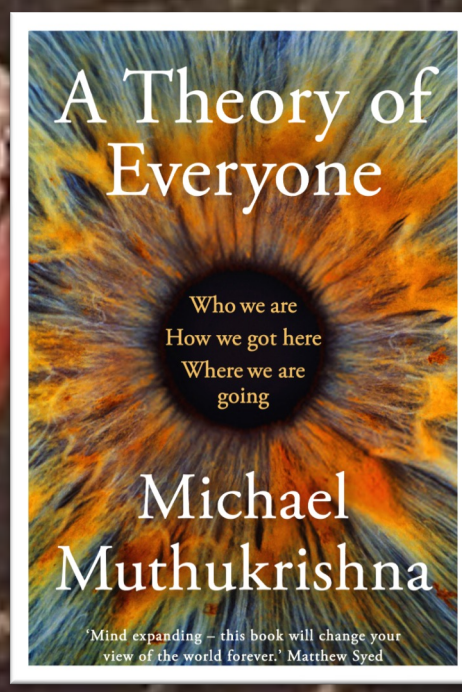
•• Actinoids

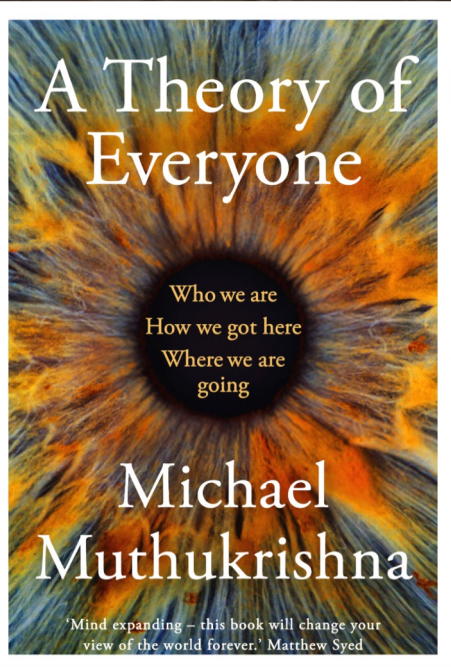
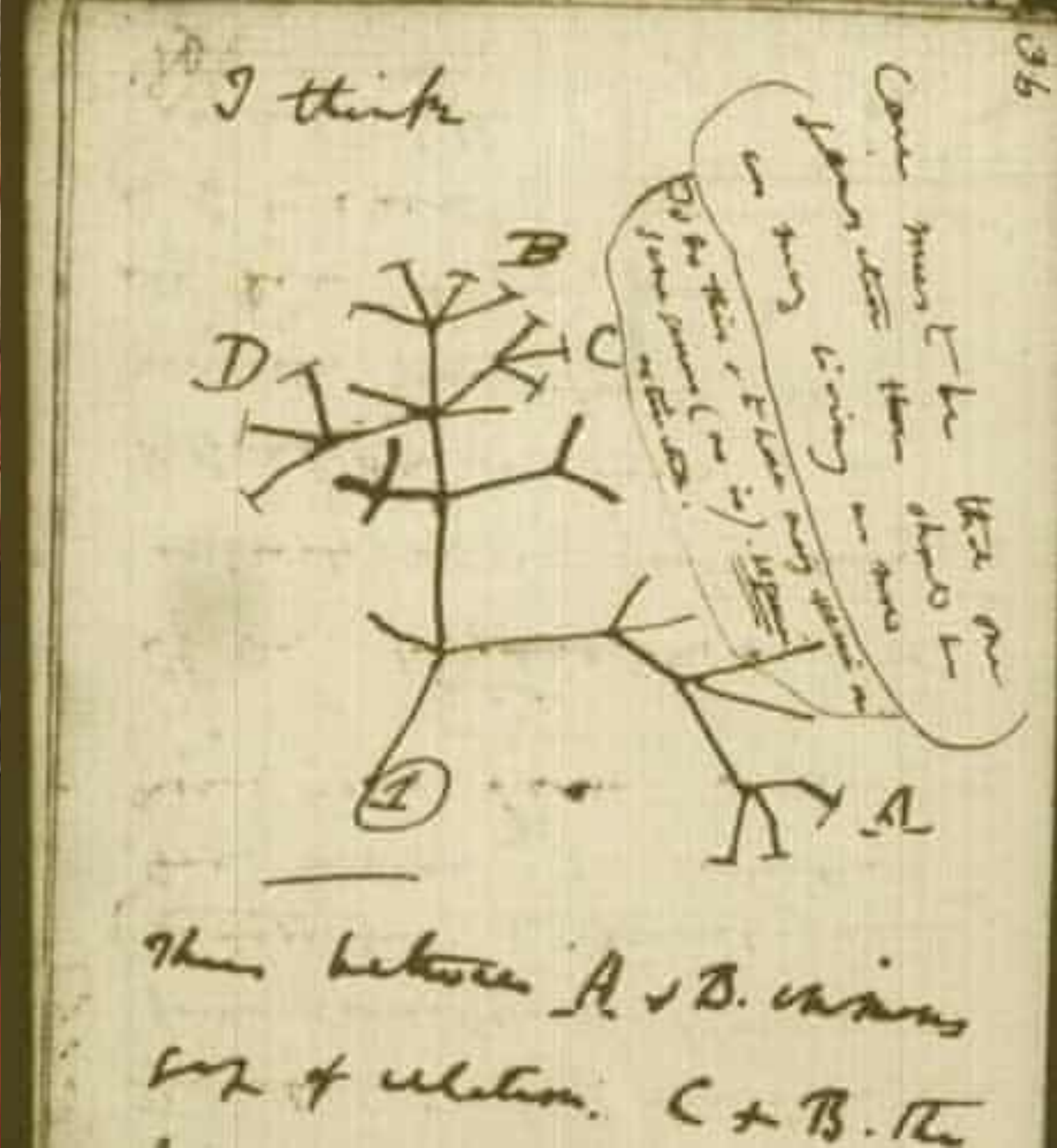
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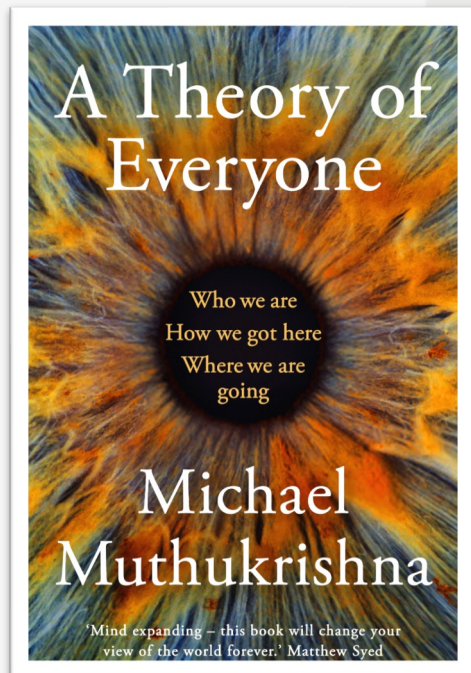


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- alkali metals
- alkali earth metals
- transitional metals
- other metals
- semiconductors
- other non-metals
- halogens
- noble gases
- unknown type







And God said

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

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The Periodic Table of the Elements

Periodic Table of Elements

Atomic Number →

Atomic Weight

Symbol →

Name

black solid
blue liquid
red gas
white synthetically prepared
most stable isotope



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1 H Hydrogen	2 He Helium
3 Li Lithium	4 Be Beryllium
11 Na Sodium	12 Mg Magnesium
19 K Potassium	20 Ca Calcium
27 Co Cobalt	28 Ni Nickel
37 Rb Rubidium	38 Sr Strontium
55 Cs Cesium	56 Ba Barium
87 Fr Francium	88 Ra Radium
57 La Lanthanum	71 Lu Lutetium
89 Ac Actinium	103 Lr Lawrencium

- **Lanthanoids**

- ● Actinoids

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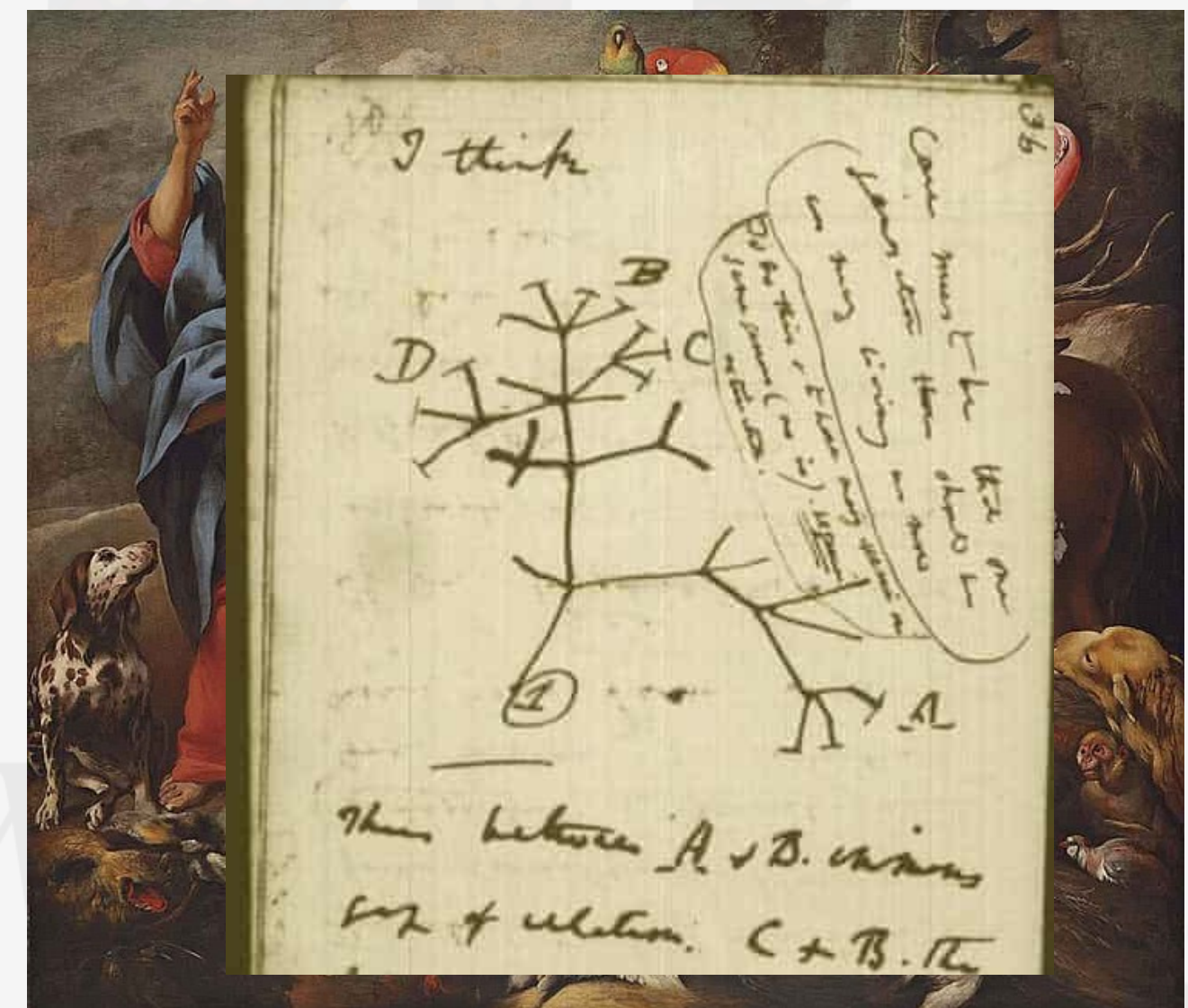


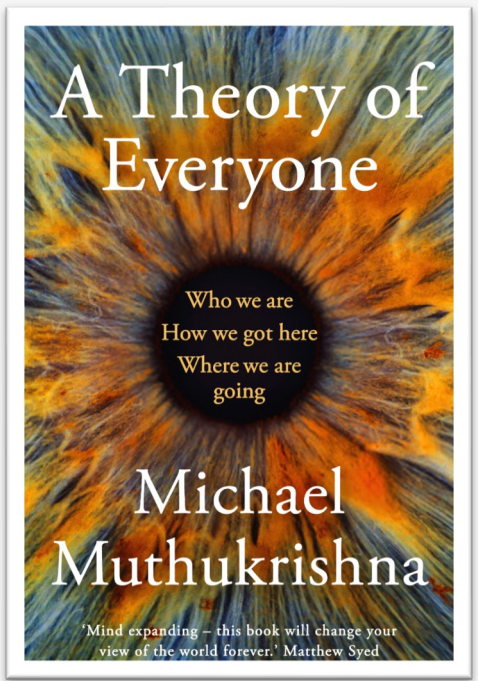
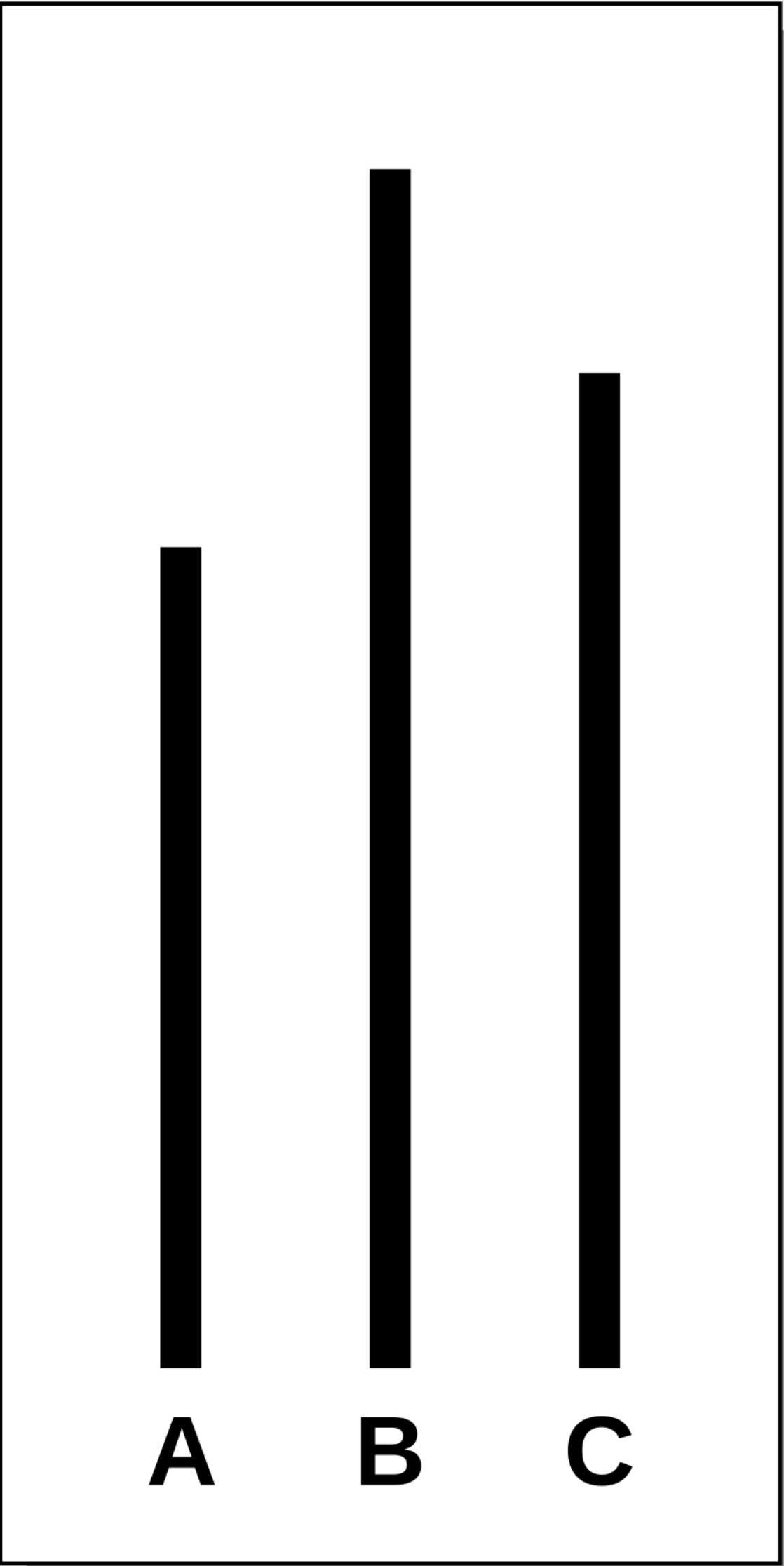
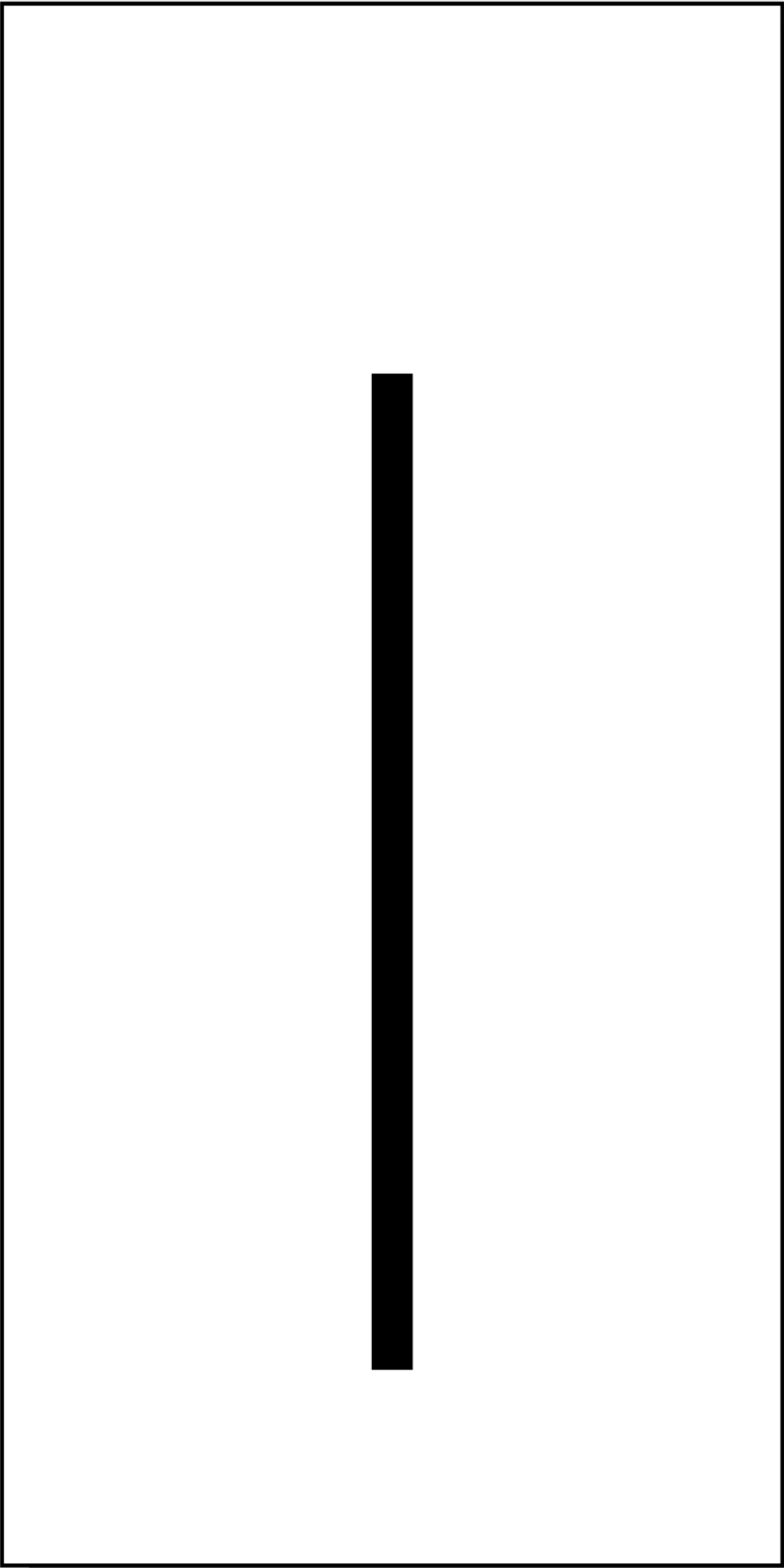
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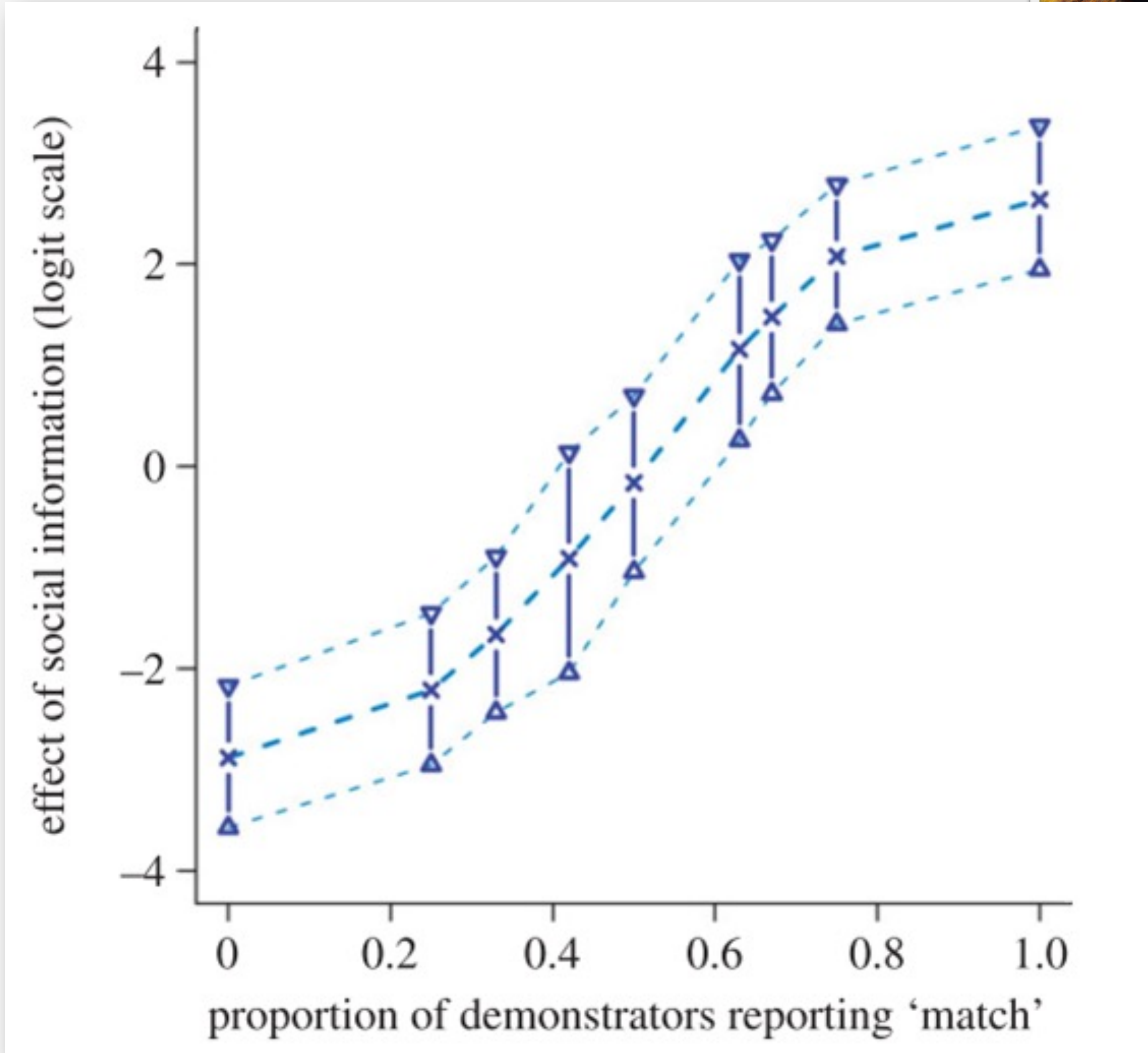
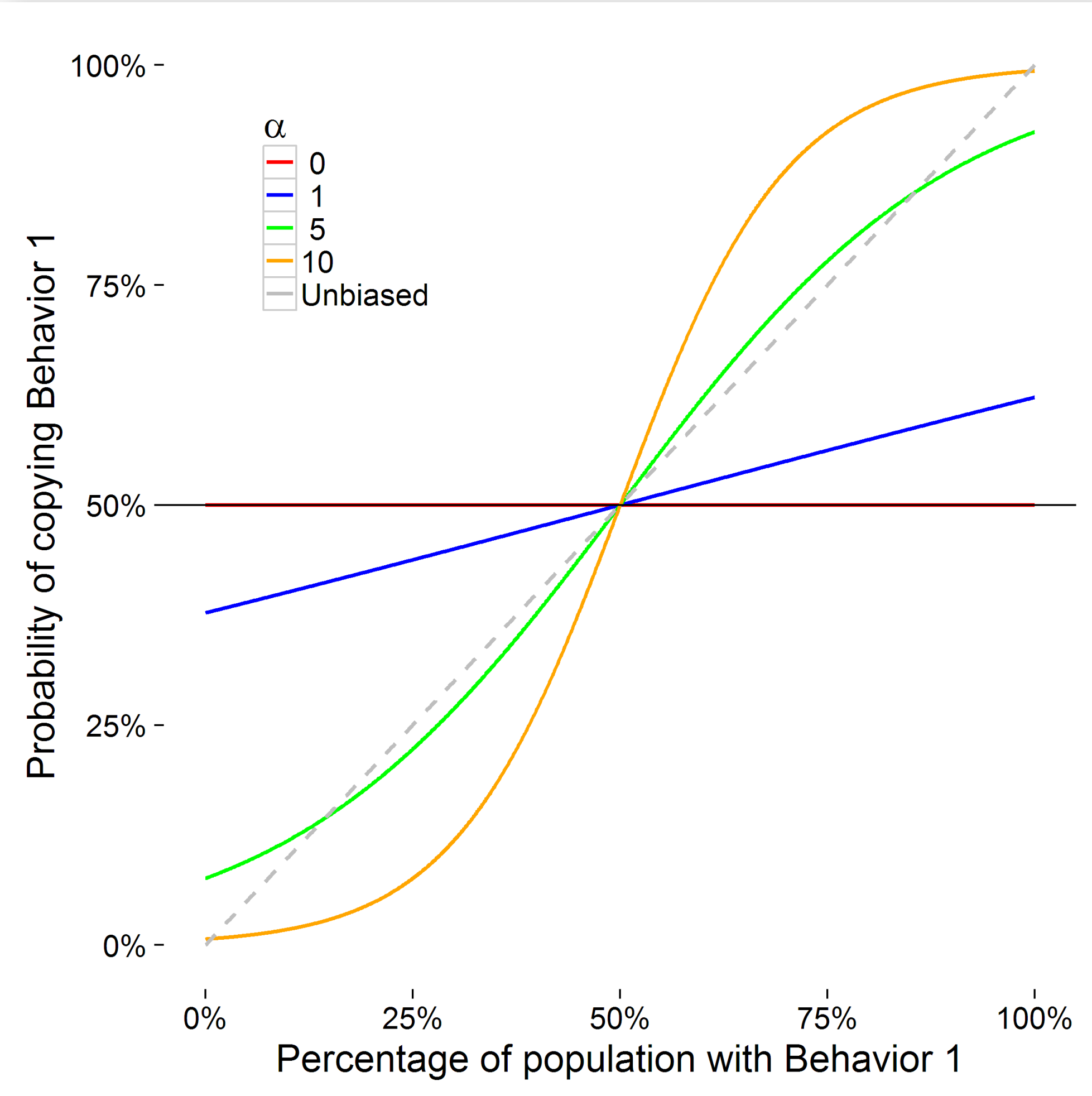
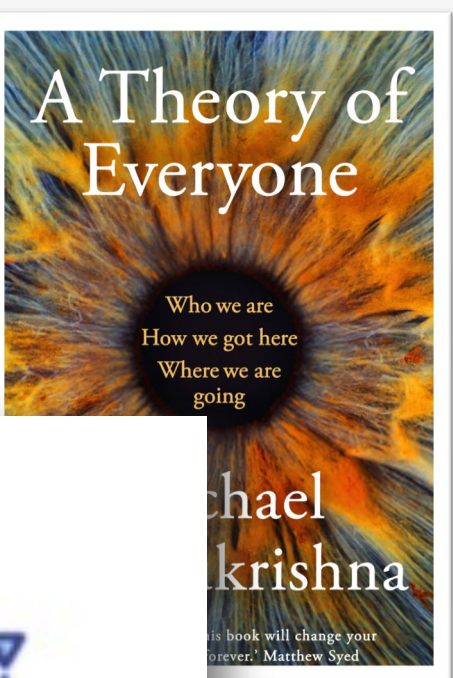
-  alkali metals
-  alkali earth metals
-  transitional metals

-  other metals
-  semiconductors
-  other non-metal

-  halogens
-  noble gases
-  unknown type

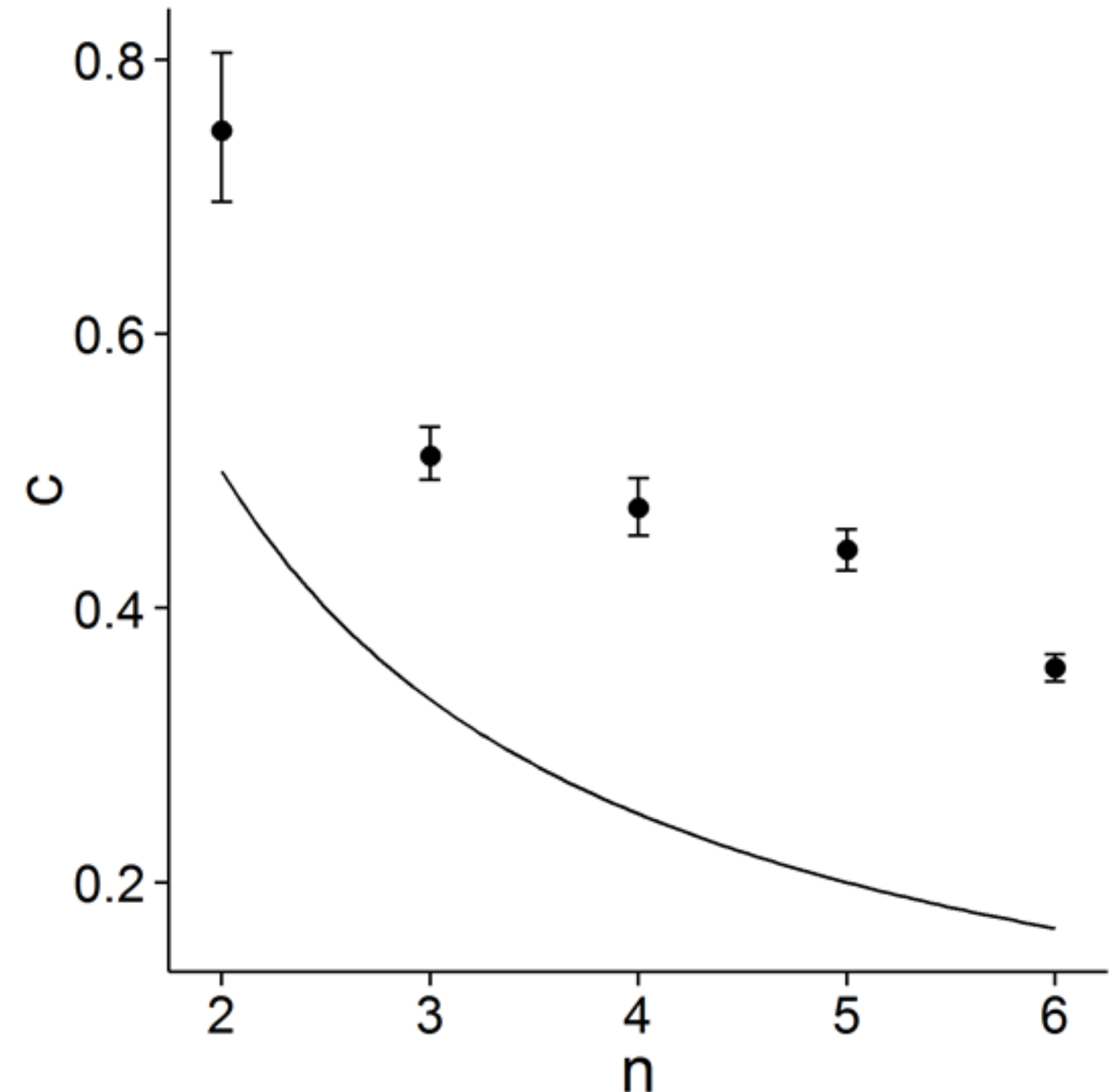
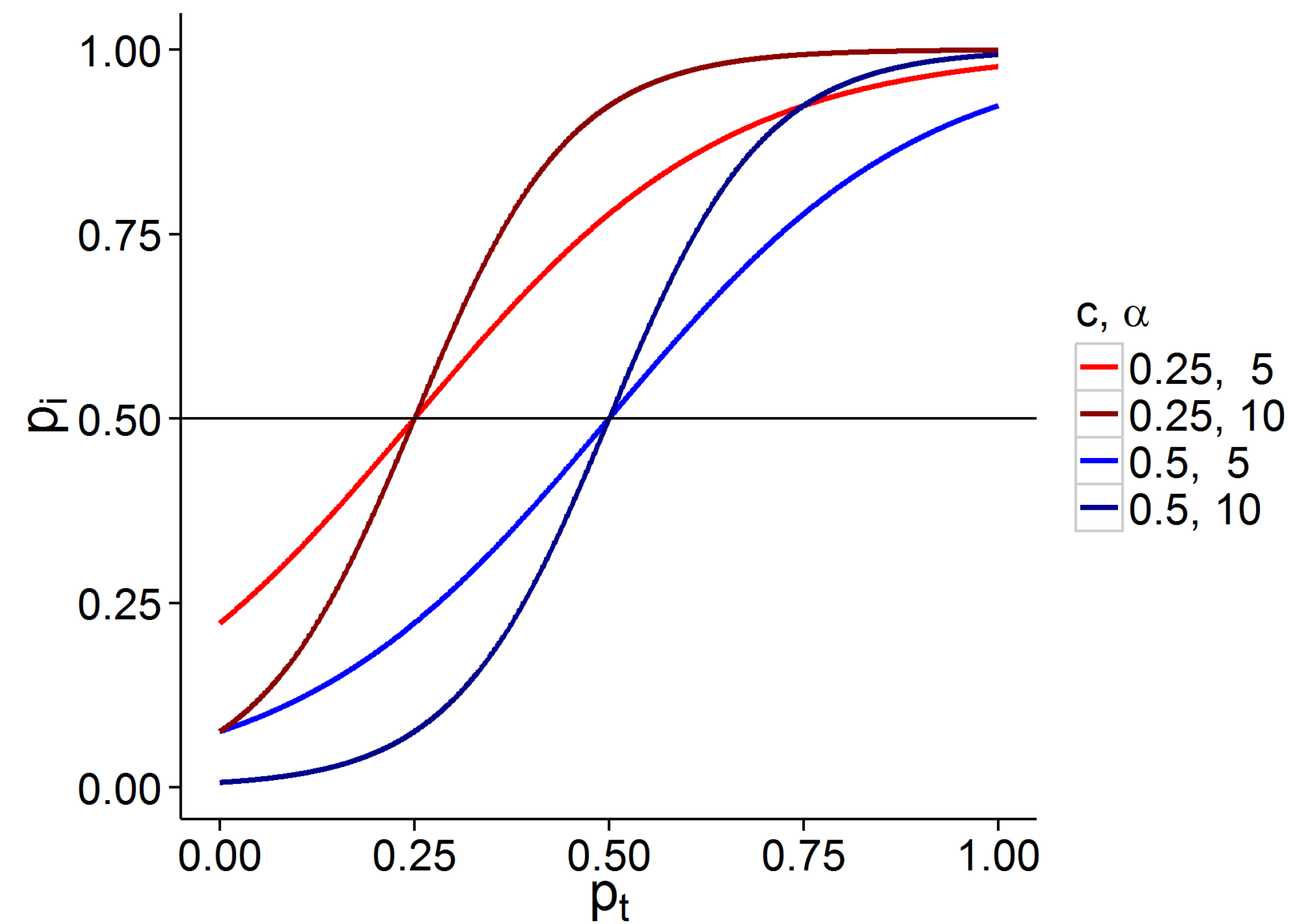
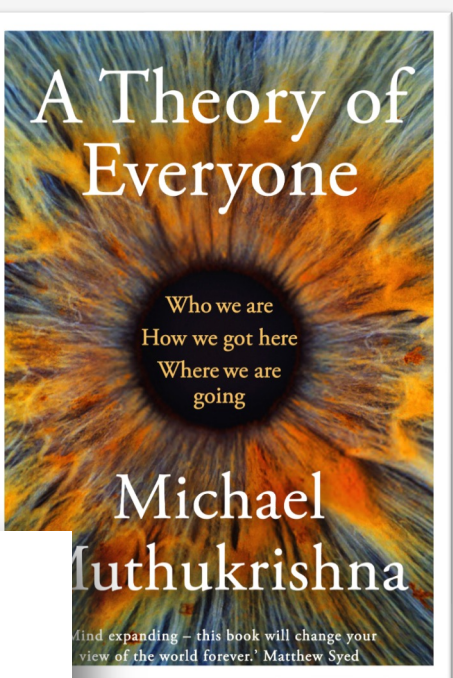






Muthukrishna, M., Morgan, T. J., & Henrich, J. (2016). The when and who of social learning and conformist transmission. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 37(1), 10-20.

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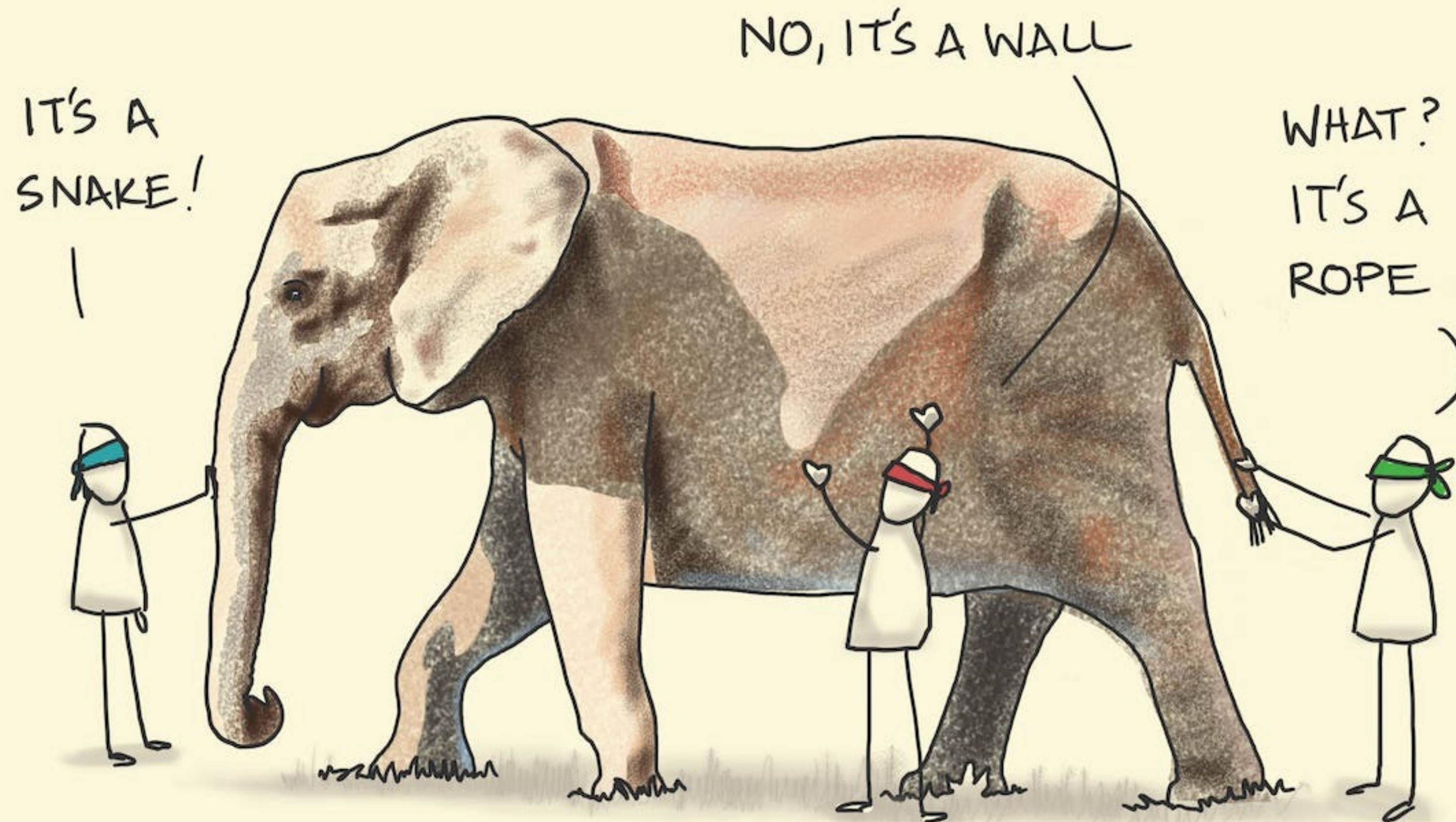


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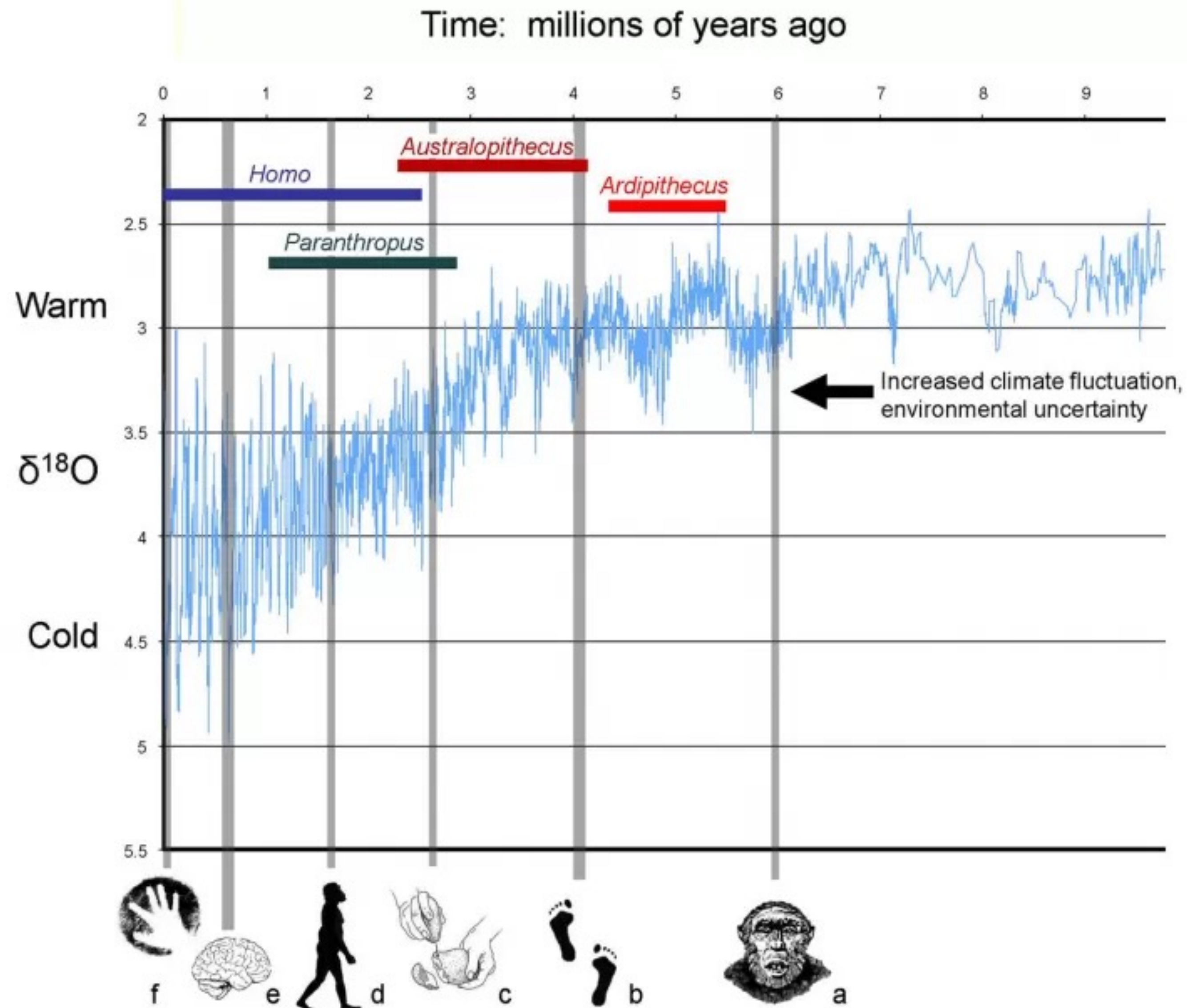
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THE BLIND AND THE ELEPHANT

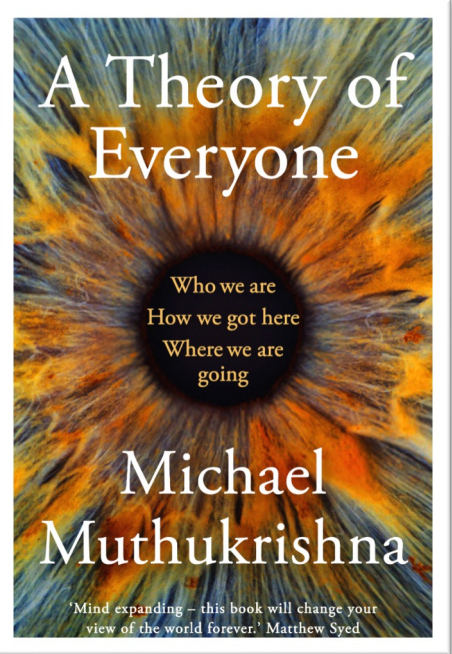
OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IS RARELY THE WHOLE TRUTH



sketchplanations



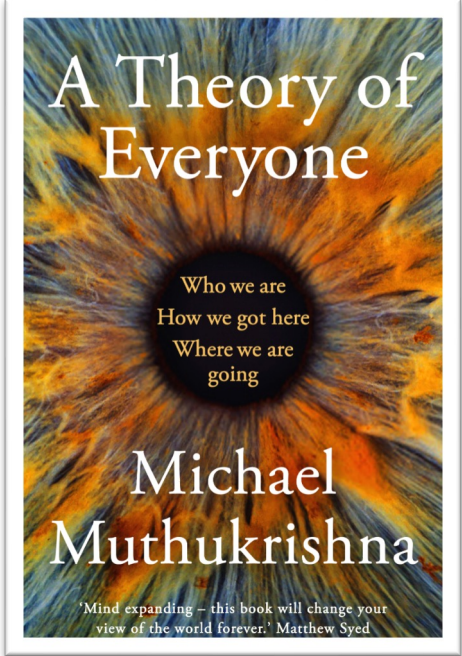
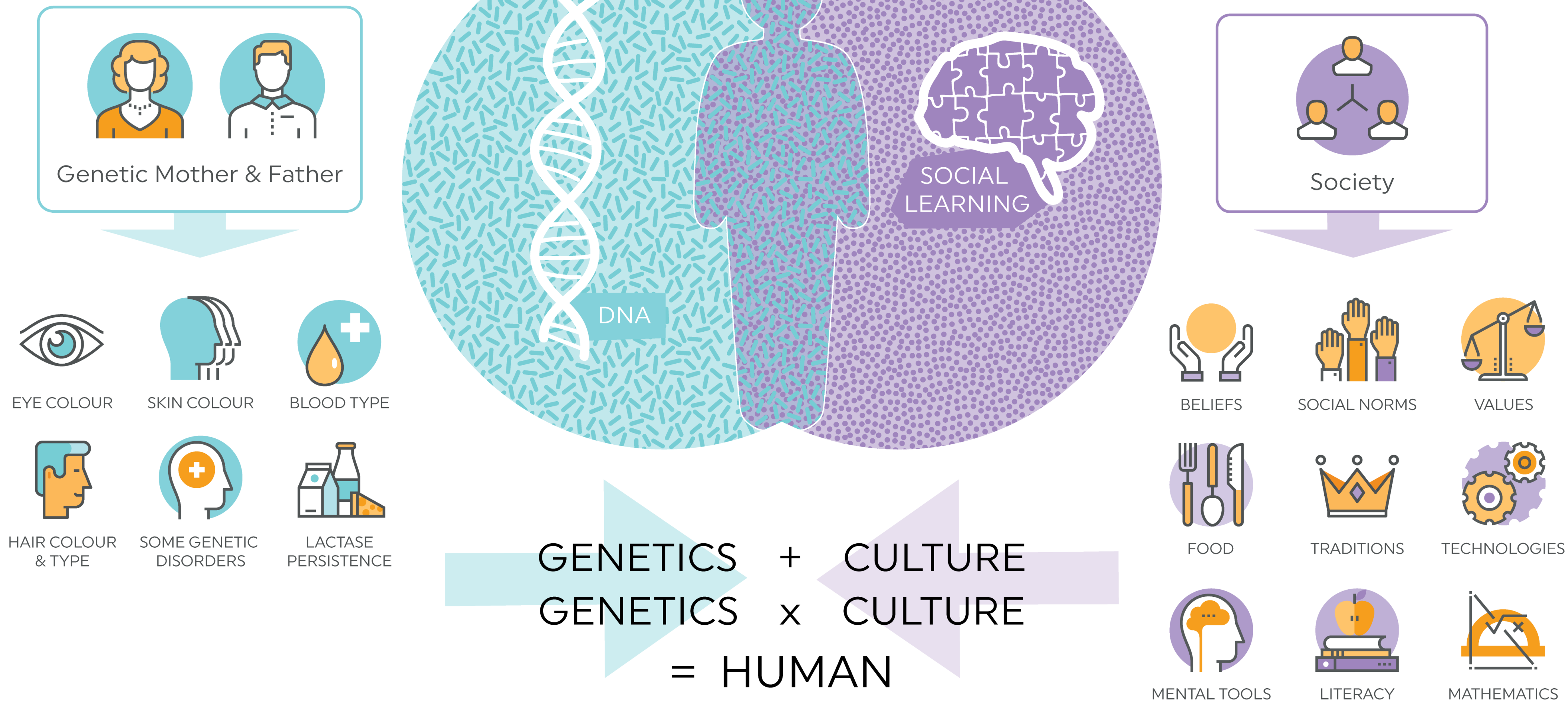
Oxygen isotope curve ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) for the past 10 million years (data from Zachos et al., 2001)
 (© Copyright Smithsonian Institution)



DUAL INHERITANCE THEORY

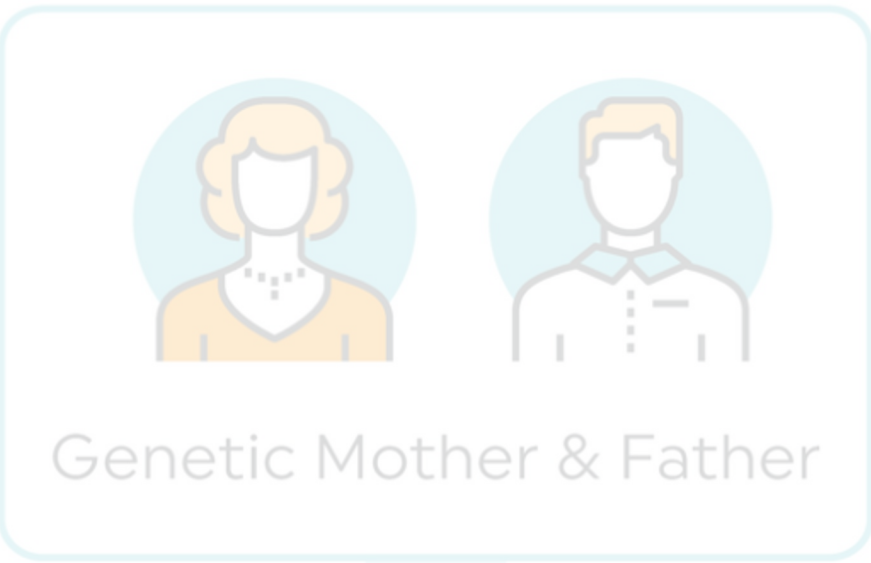
GENETIC Inheritance

CULTURAL Inheritance

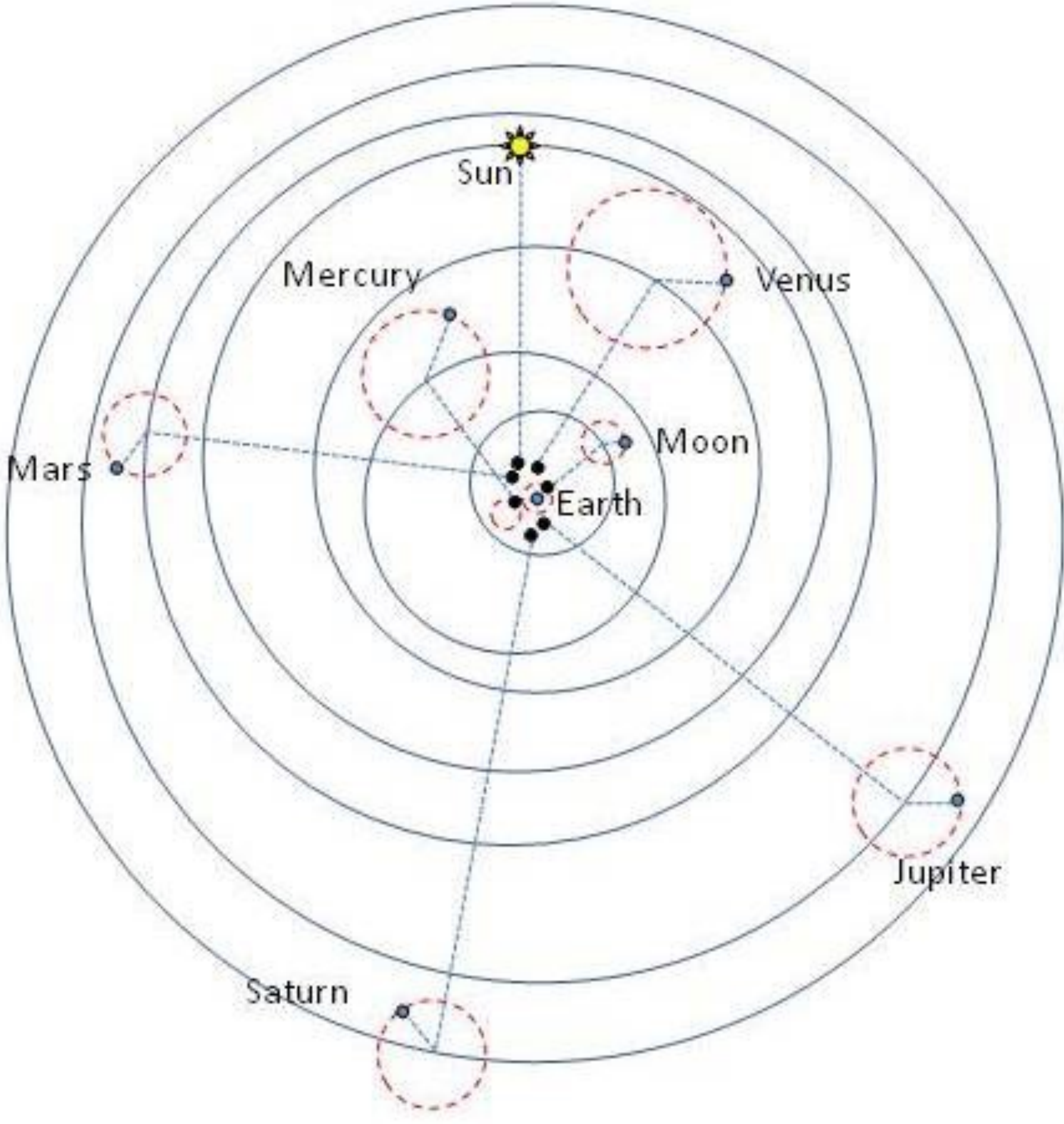


DUAL INHERITANCE THEORY

GENETIC Inheritance



- EYE COLOUR
- SKIN COLOUR
- BLOOD TYPE
- HAIR COLOUR & TYPE
- SOME GENETIC DISORDERS
- LACTASE PERSISTENCE

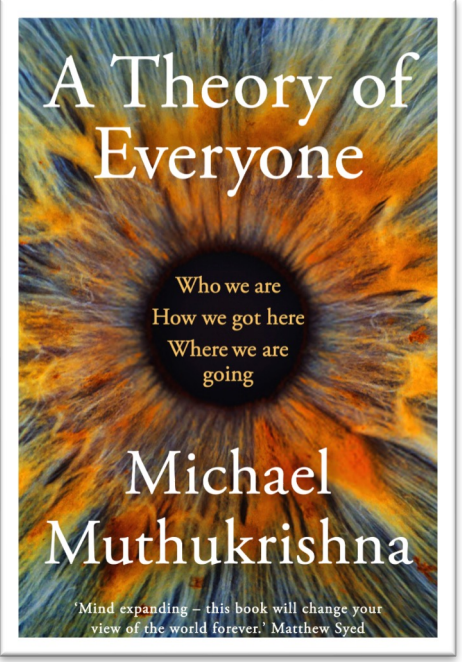


CULTURAL Inheritance

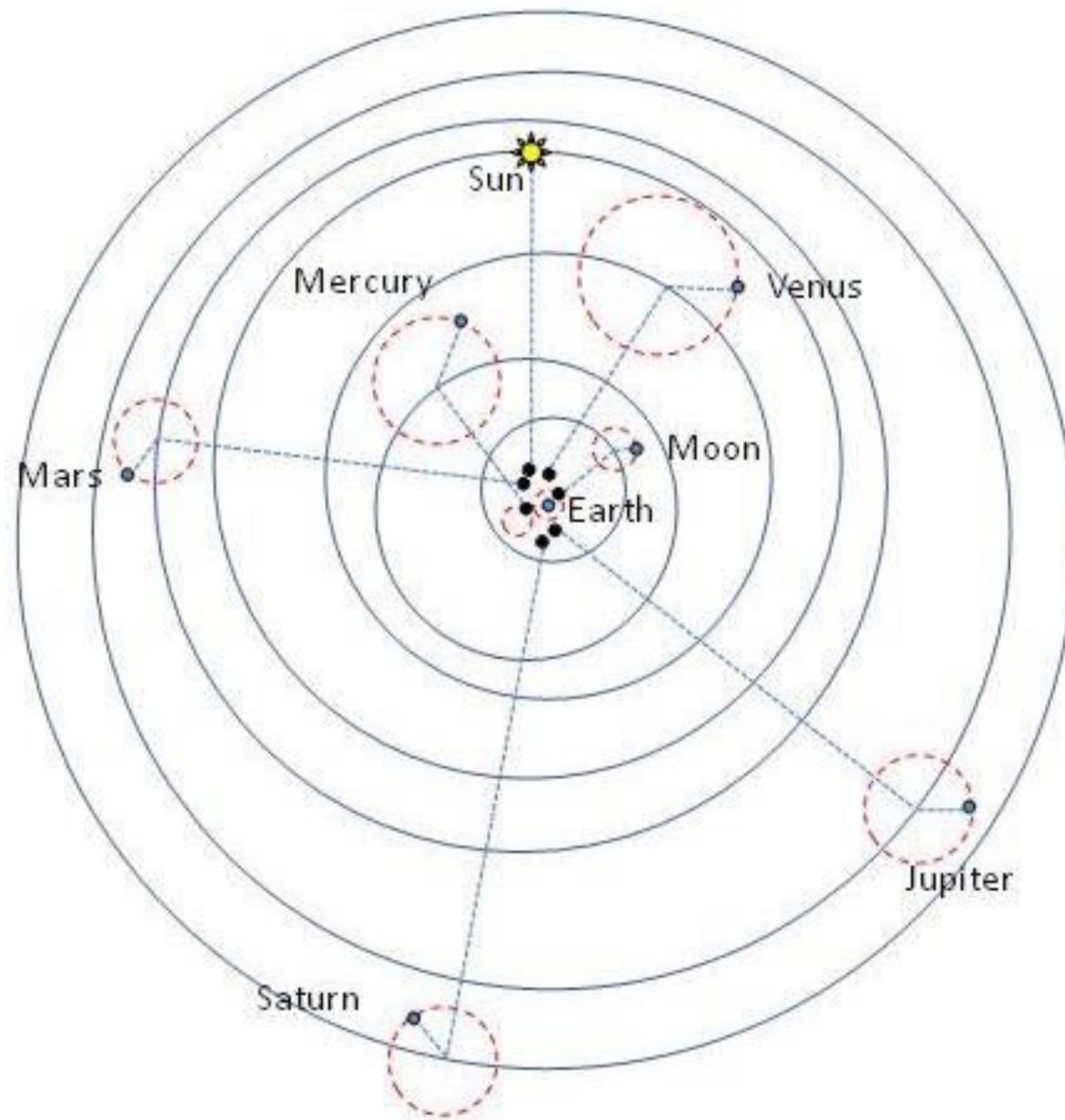


- BELIEFS
- SOCIAL NORMS
- VALUES
- FOOD
- TRADITIONS
- TECHNOLOGIES
- MENTAL TOOLS
- LITERACY
- MATHEMATICS

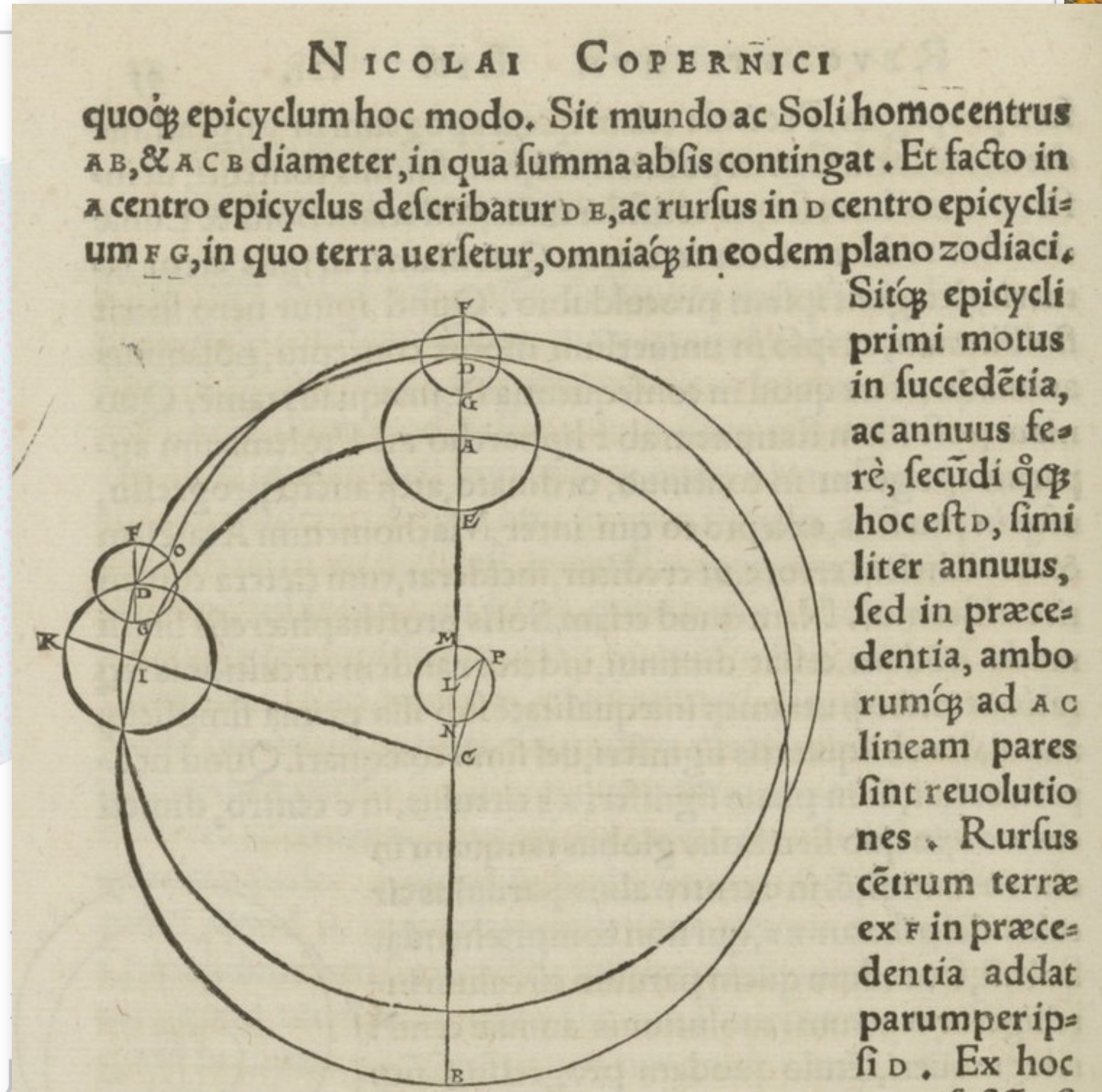
CREATED BY VERONIKA PLANT (2019)
in collaboration with MICHAEL MUTHUKRISHNA



DUAL INHERITANCE THEORY



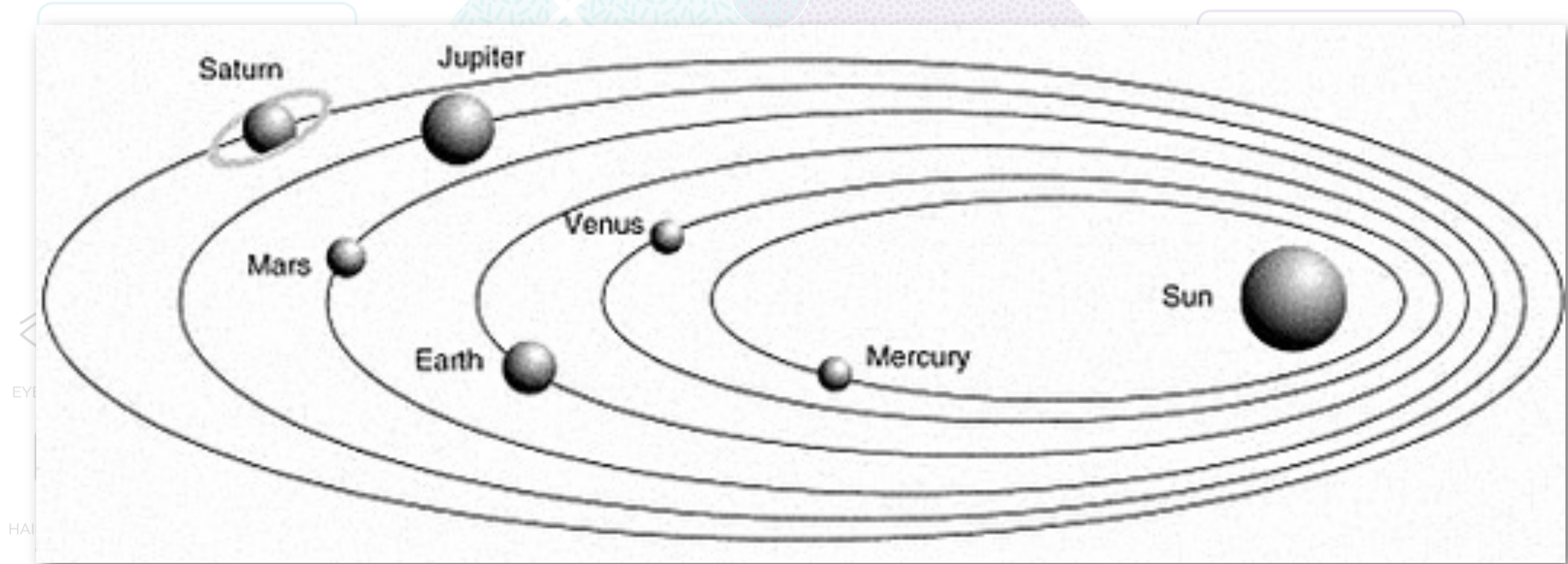
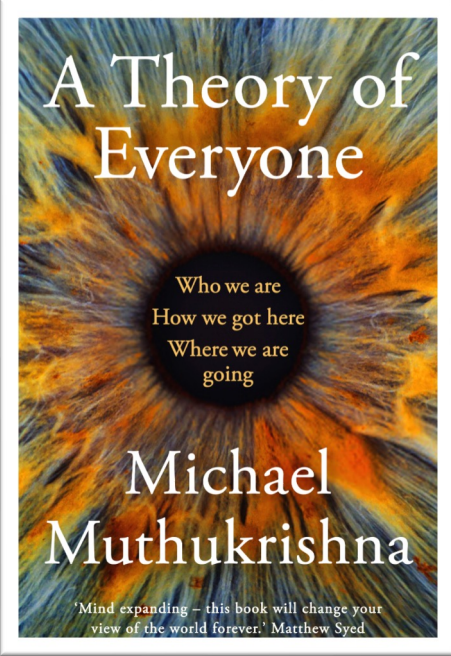
Ptolemaic Model



DUAL INHERITANCE THEORY

GENETIC Inheritance

CULTURAL Inheritance



GENETICS x CULTURE
= HUMAN



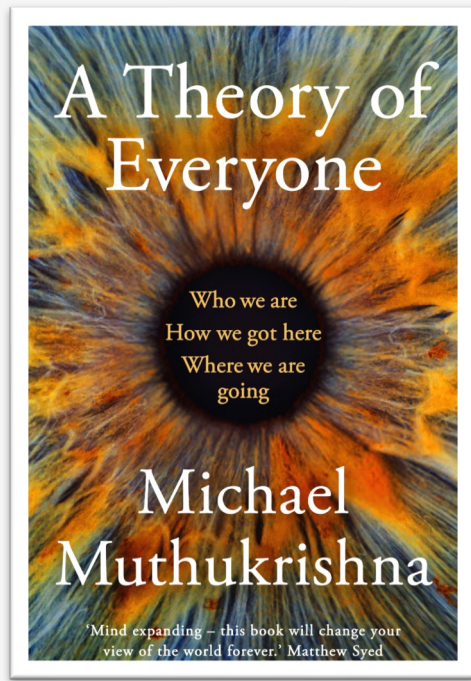
MENTAL TOOLS



LITERACY



MATHEMATICS



La cultura es el software de nuestras mentes

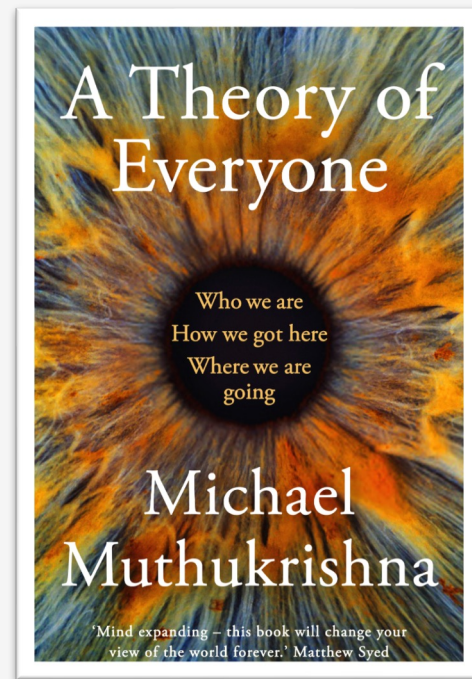
Uchiyama, R., Spicer, R., & Muthukrishna, M. (2022). Cultural evolution of genetic heritability. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*

Henrich, J., & Muthukrishna, M. (2023) What makes us smart? *Topics in Cognitive Science*

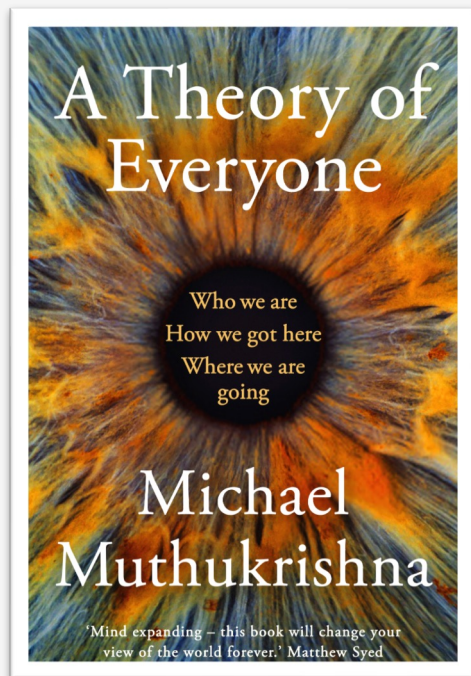
Davis, H. E., Henrich, J. & Muthukrishna, M. (2023). Formal education increases IQ Test Performance: Causal Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Namibia and Angola. *Working Paper*

Muthukrishna, M. (2023) A Theory of Everyone: The New Science of Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We're Going, *MIT Press & Basic Books*

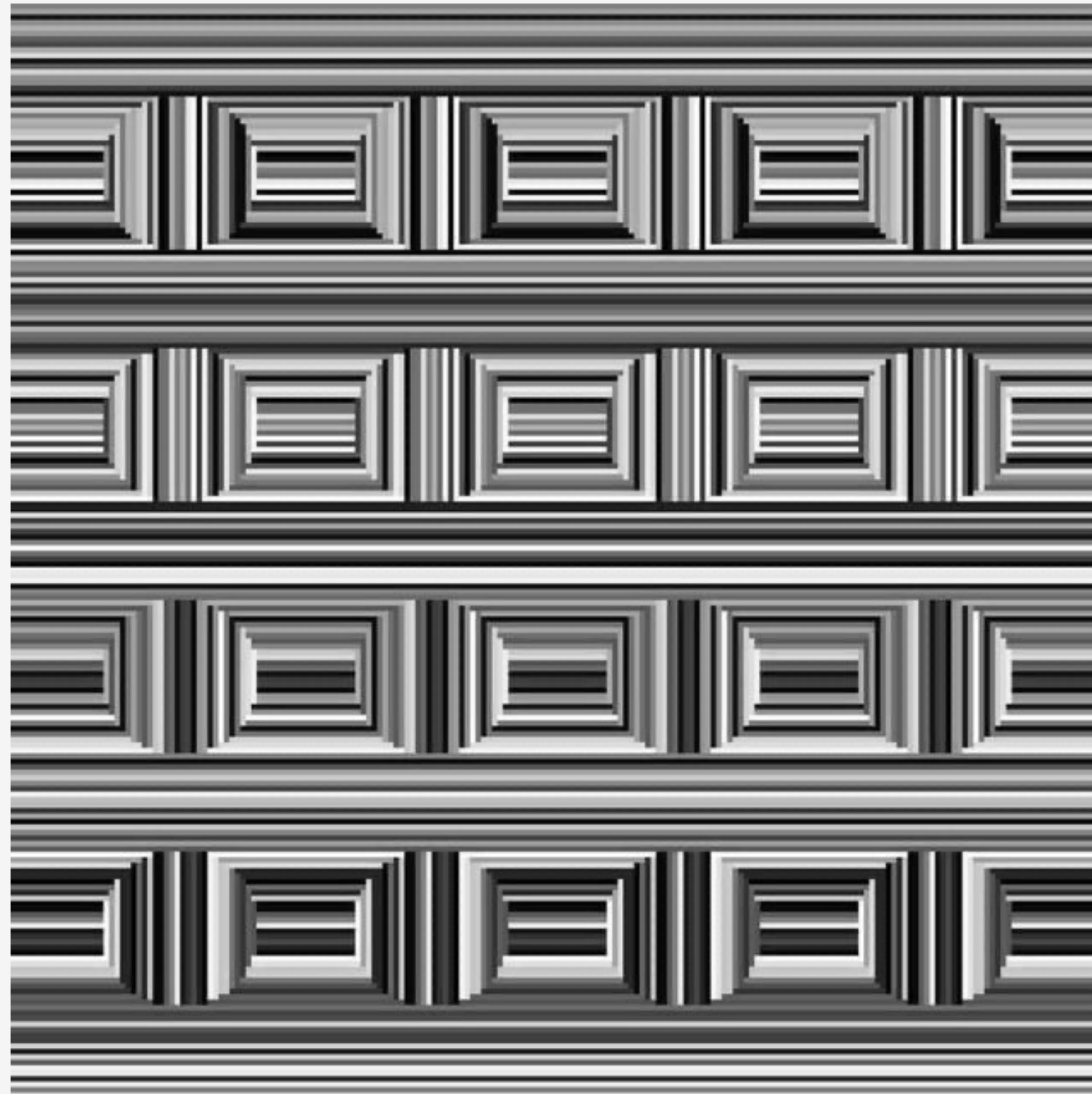
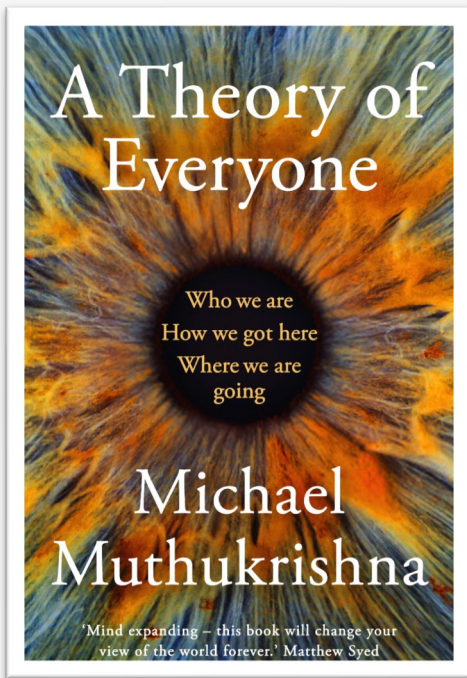
El software de nuestras mentes



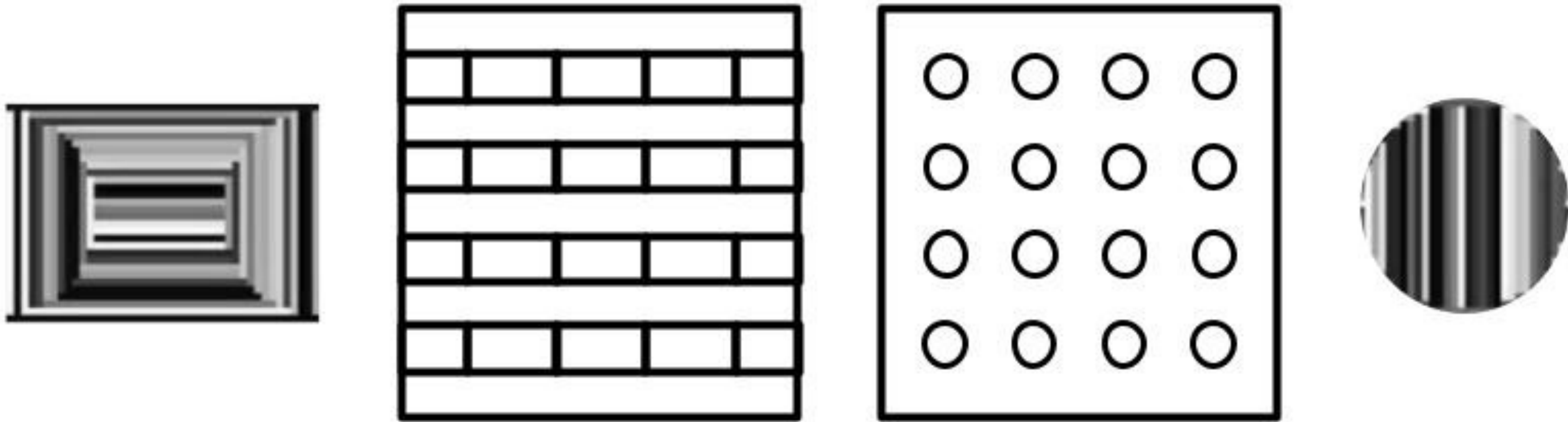
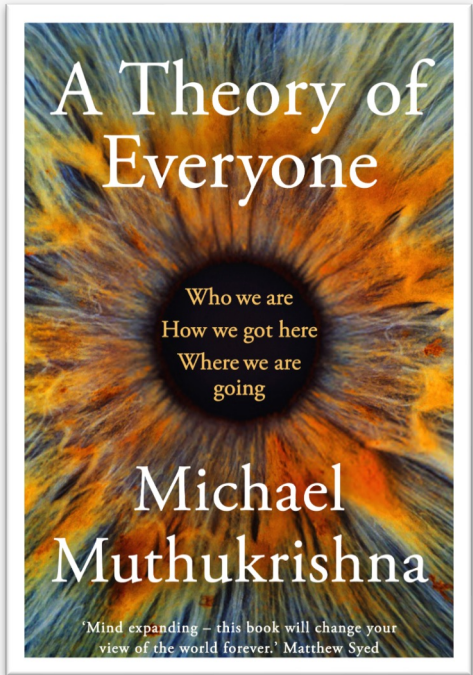
El software de nuestras mentes



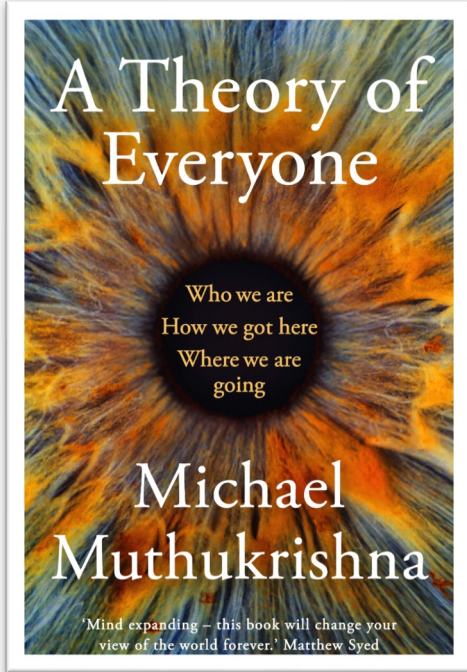
El software de nuestras mentes



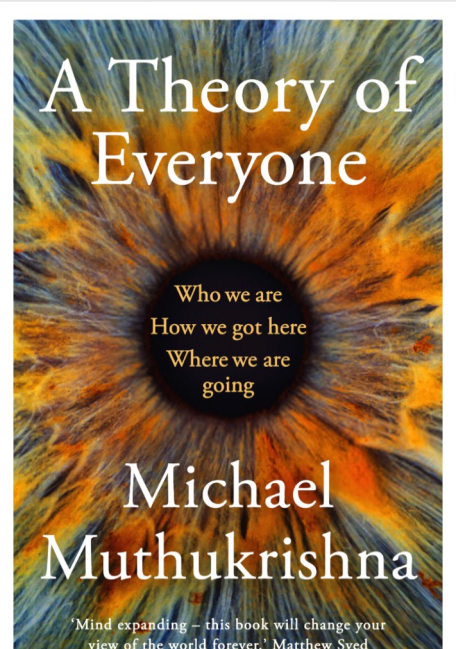
El software de nuestras mentes



El software de nuestras mentes



El software de nuestras mentes



A. **UK/US**
Many 90° angles



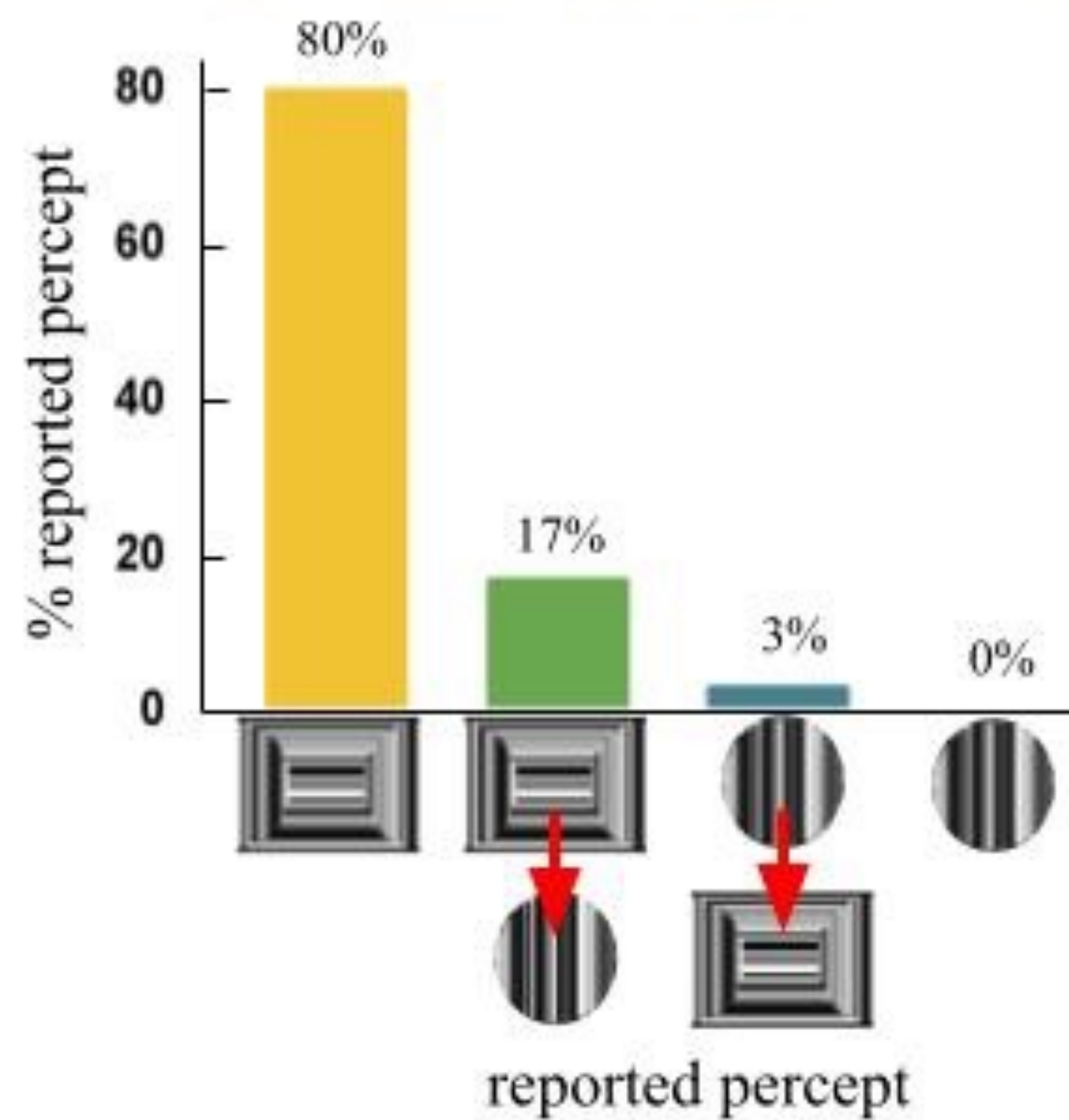
B. **Town**
Limited 90° angles



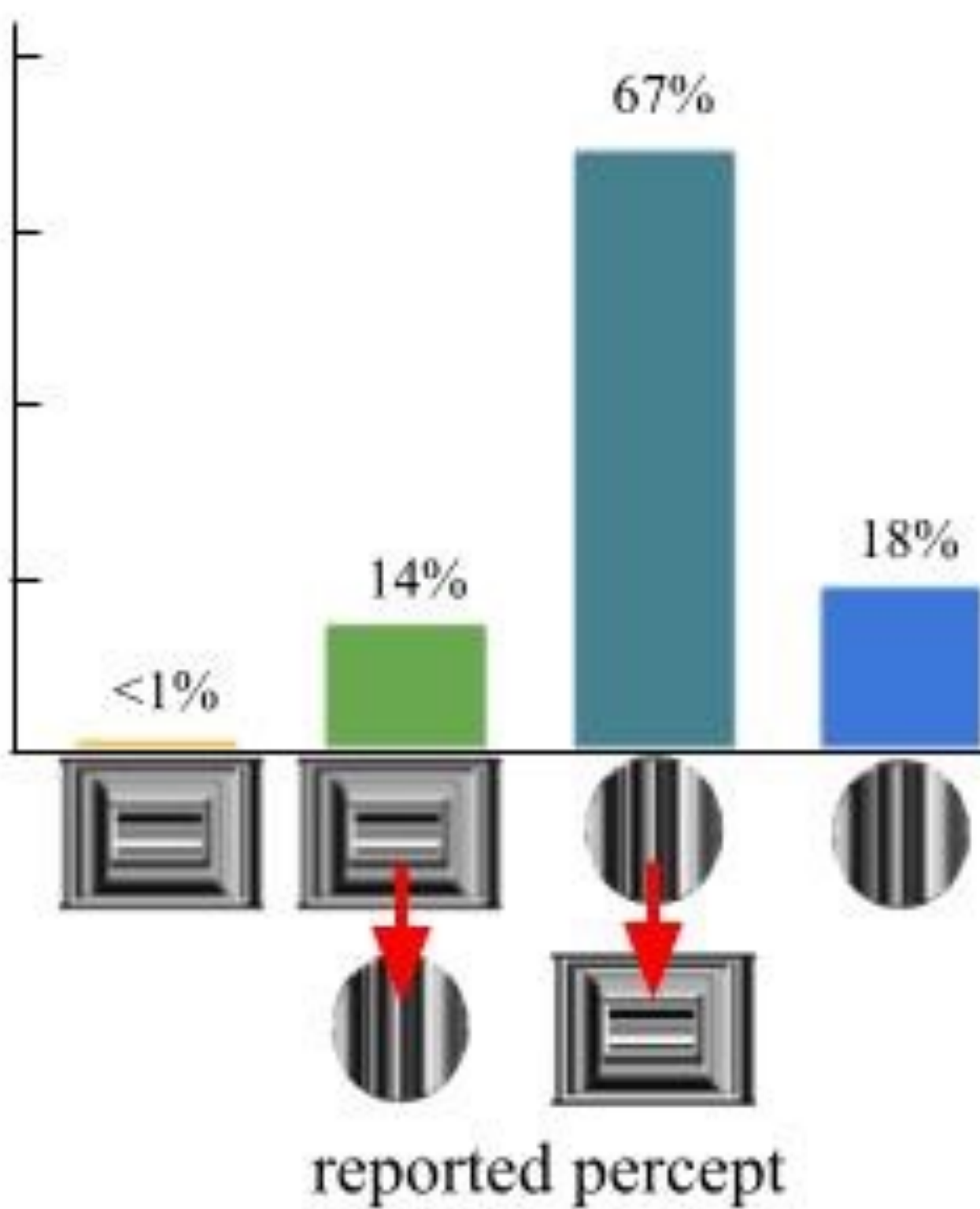
C. **Village**
Minimal 90° angles



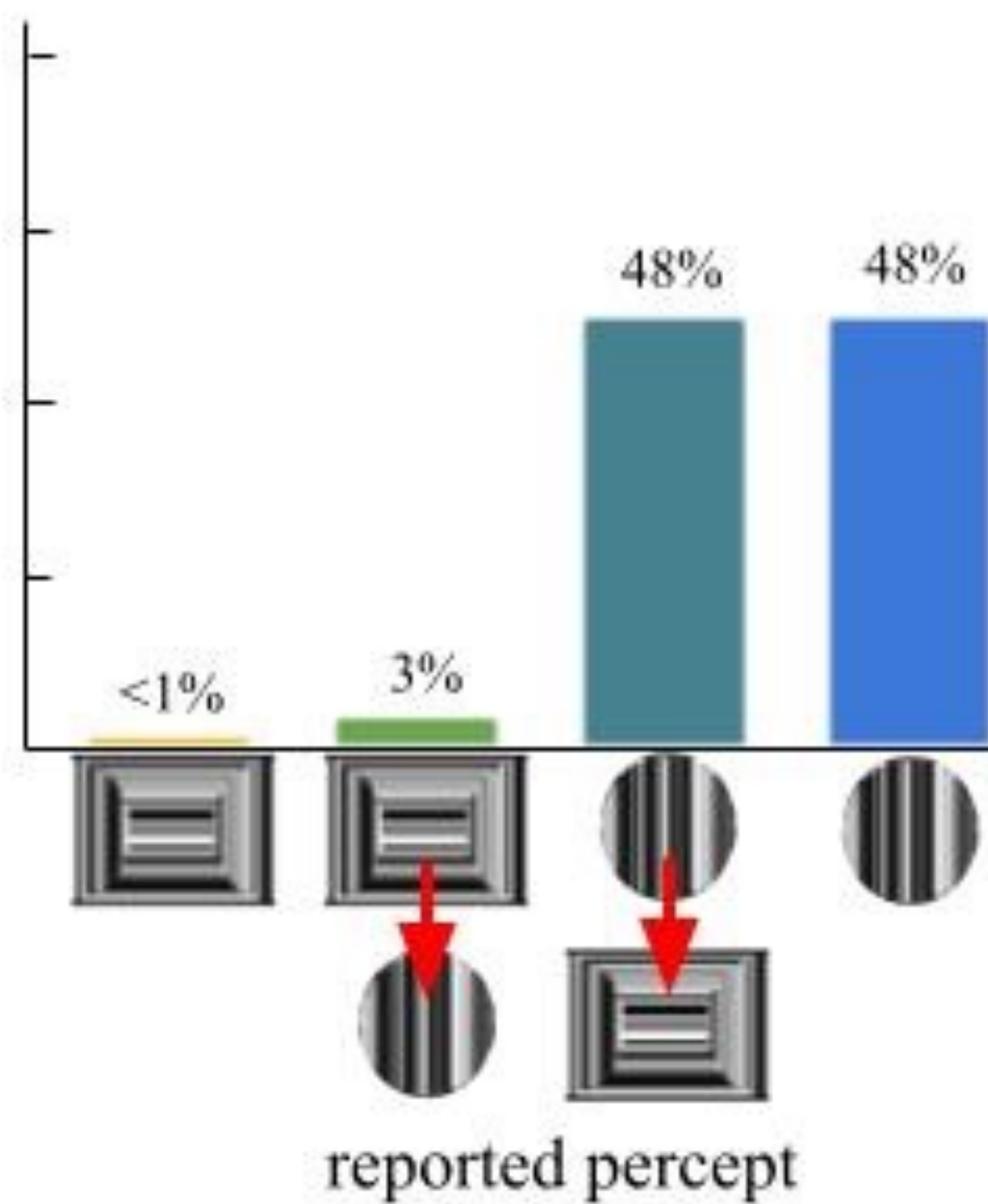
A. UK/US
Many 90° angles

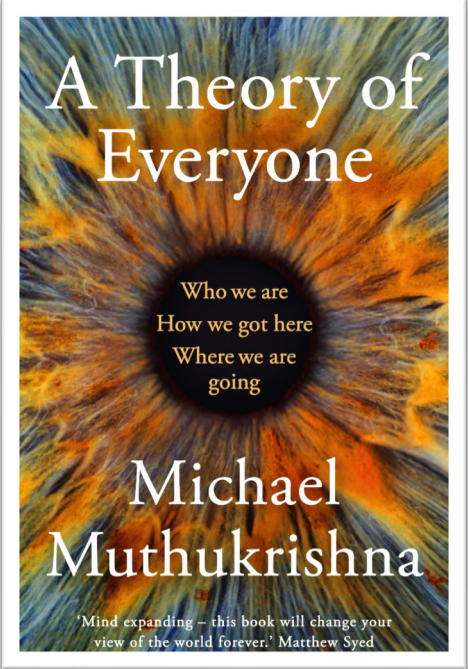
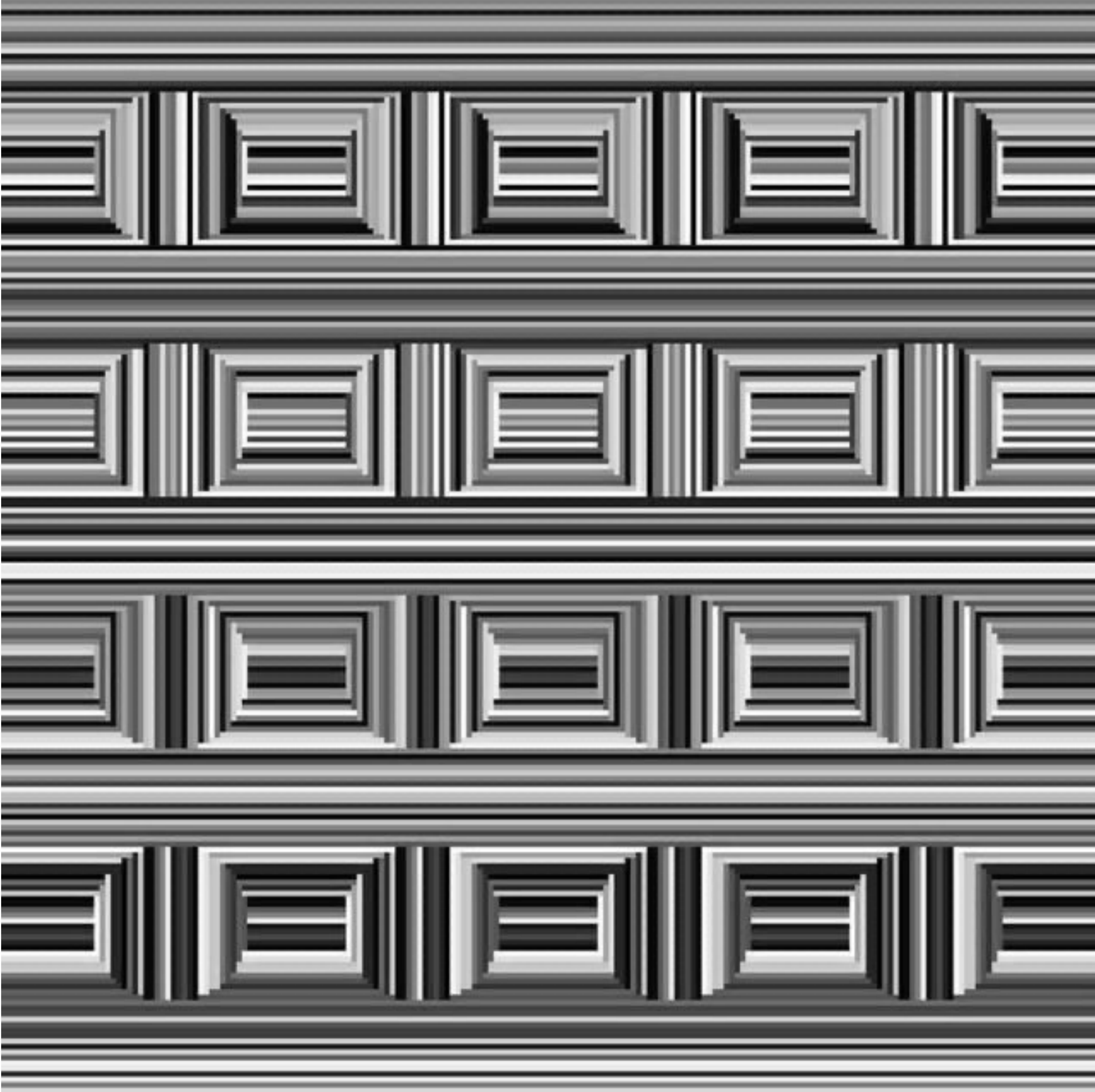


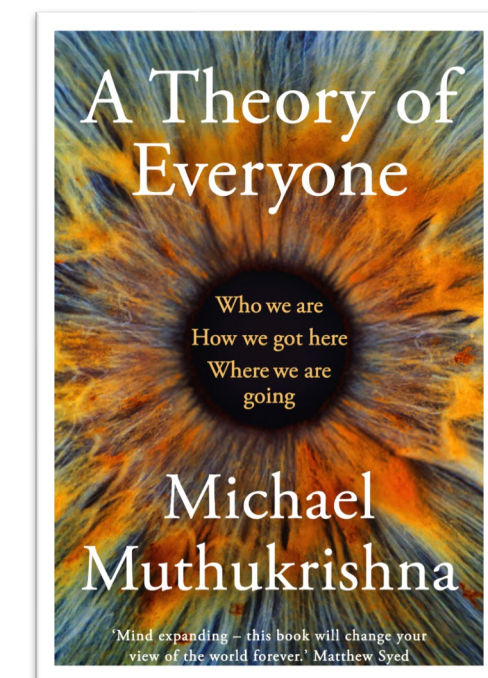
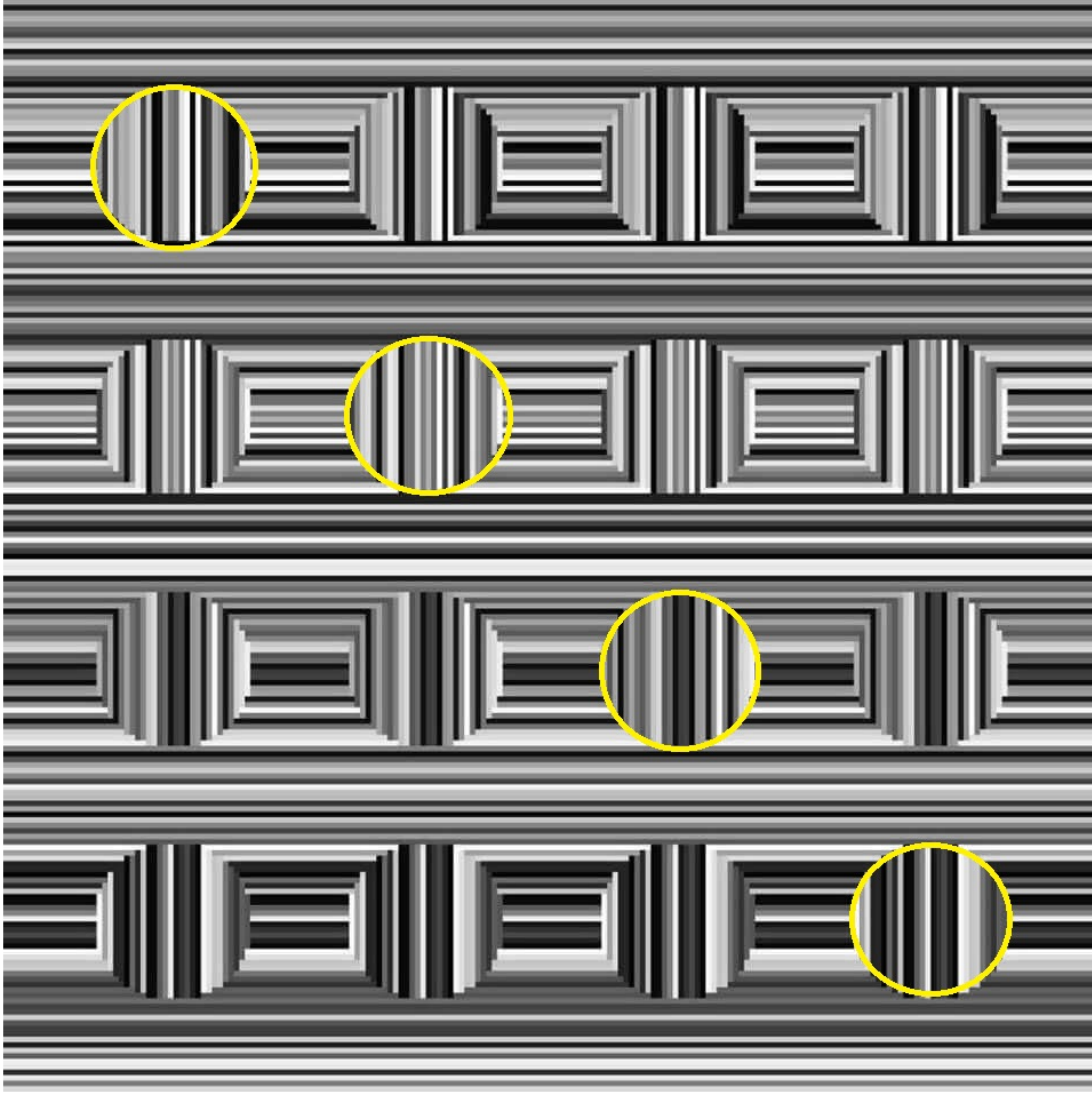
B. Town
Limited 90° angles

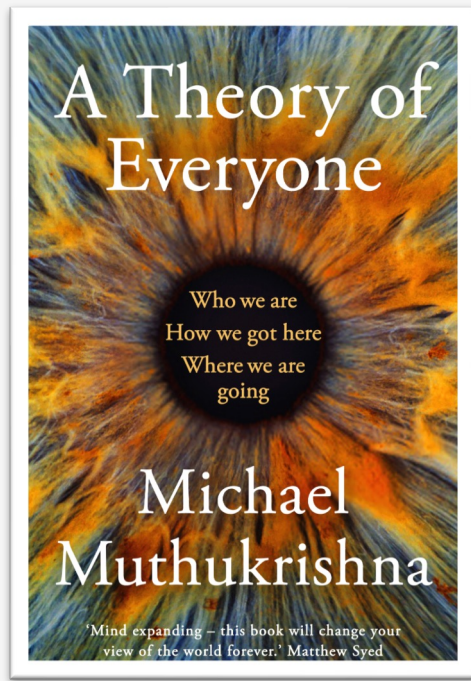


C. Village
Minimal 90° angles









Nuestra Inteligencia está en nuestro Software

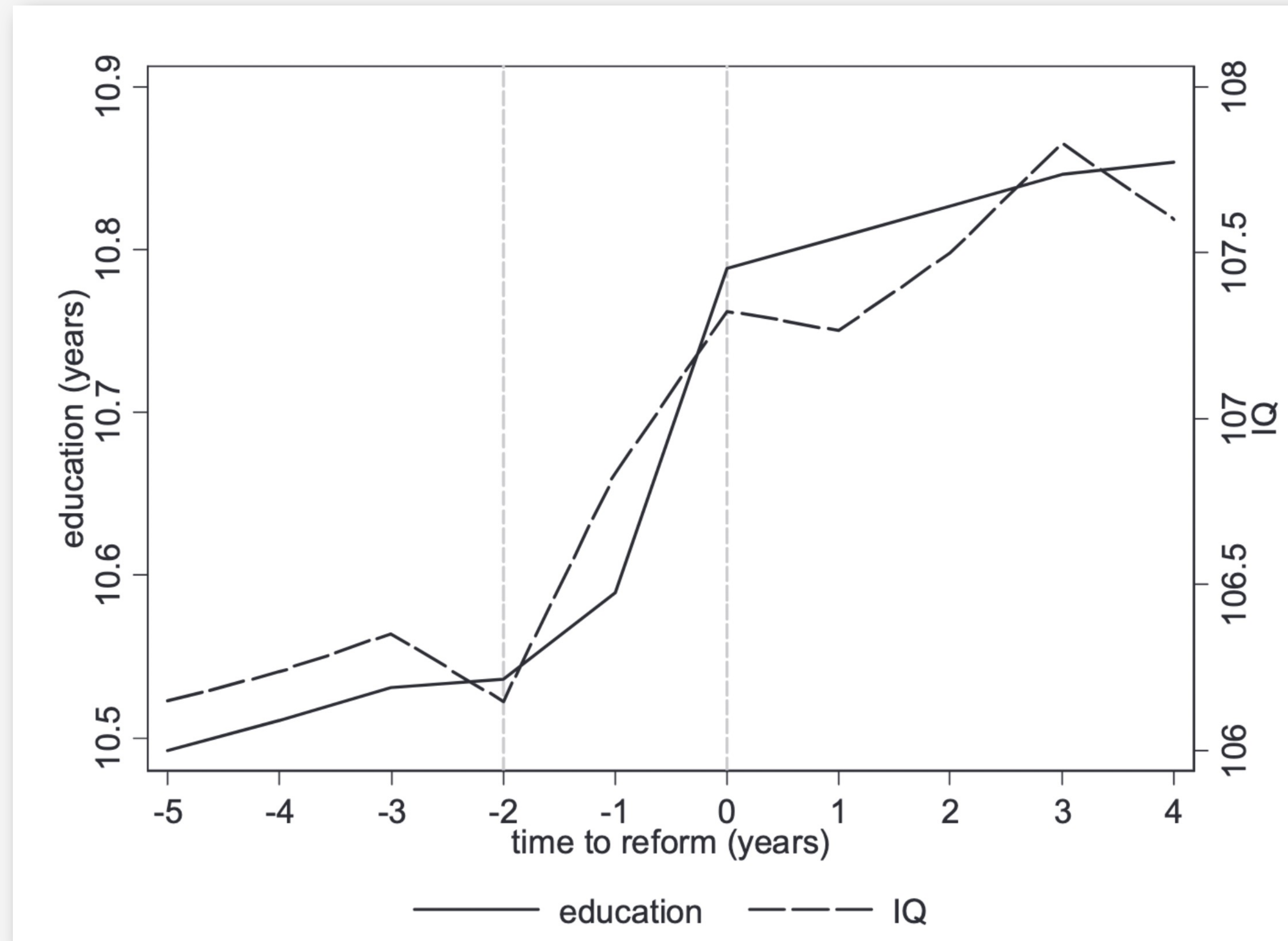
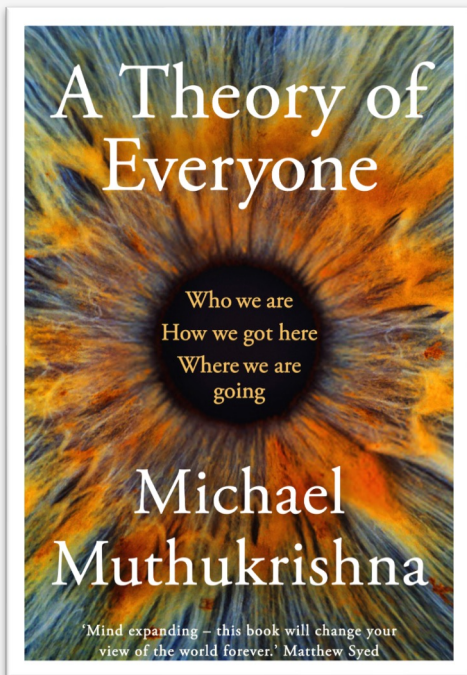
Uchiyama, R., Spicer, R., & Muthukrishna, M. (2022). Cultural evolution of genetic heritability. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*

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Muthukrishna, M. (2023) *A Theory of Everyone: The New Science of Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We're Going*, MIT Press & Basic Books

What makes us smart?



¿Qué nos hace inteligentes?

How Much Does Education Improve Intelligence? A Meta-Analysis



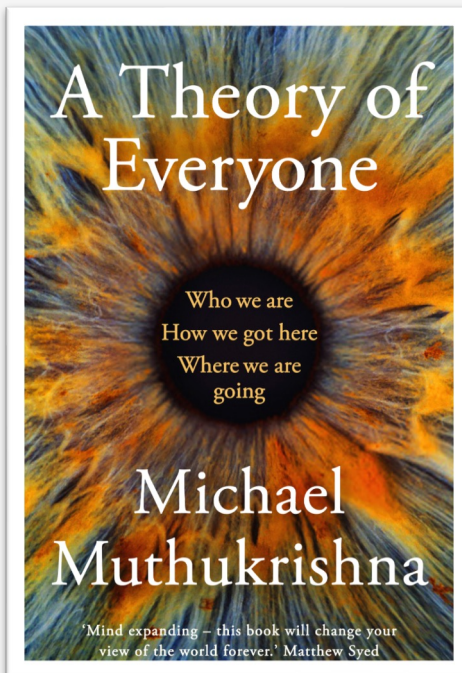
Stuart J. Ritchie^{1,2} and Elliot M. Tucker-Drob^{3,4}

¹Department of Psychology, The University of Edinburgh; ²Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Cognitive Epidemiology, The University of Edinburgh; ³Department of Psychology, University of Texas at Austin; and ⁴Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

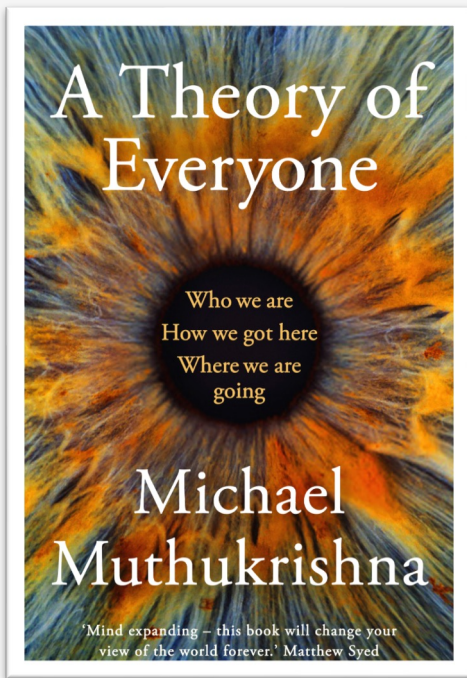
Abstract

Intelligence test scores and educational duration are positively correlated. This correlation could be interpreted in two ways: Students with greater propensity for intelligence go on to complete more education, or a longer education increases intelligence. We meta-analyzed three categories of quasiexperimental studies of educational effects on intelligence: those estimating education-intelligence associations after controlling for earlier intelligence, those using compulsory schooling policy changes as instrumental variables, and those using regression-discontinuity designs on school-entry age cutoffs. Across 142 effect sizes from 42 data sets involving over 600,000 participants, we found consistent evidence for beneficial effects of education on cognitive abilities of approximately 1 to 5 IQ points for an additional year of education. Moderator analyses indicated that the effects persisted across the life span and were present on all broad categories of cognitive ability studied. Education appears to be the most consistent, robust, and durable method yet to be identified for raising intelligence.

Psychological Science
2018, Vol. 29(8) 1358–1369
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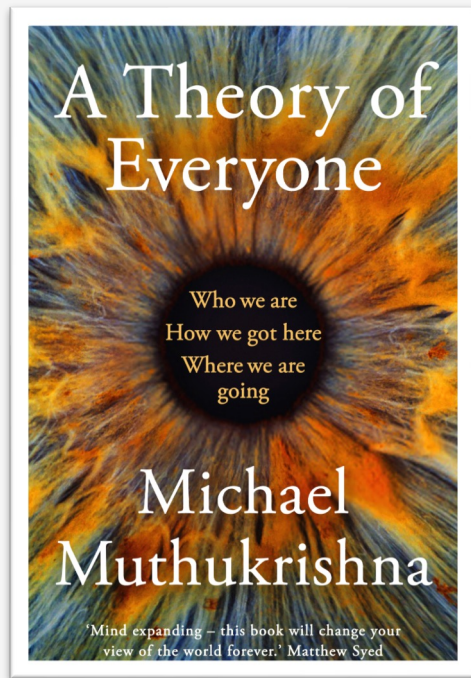
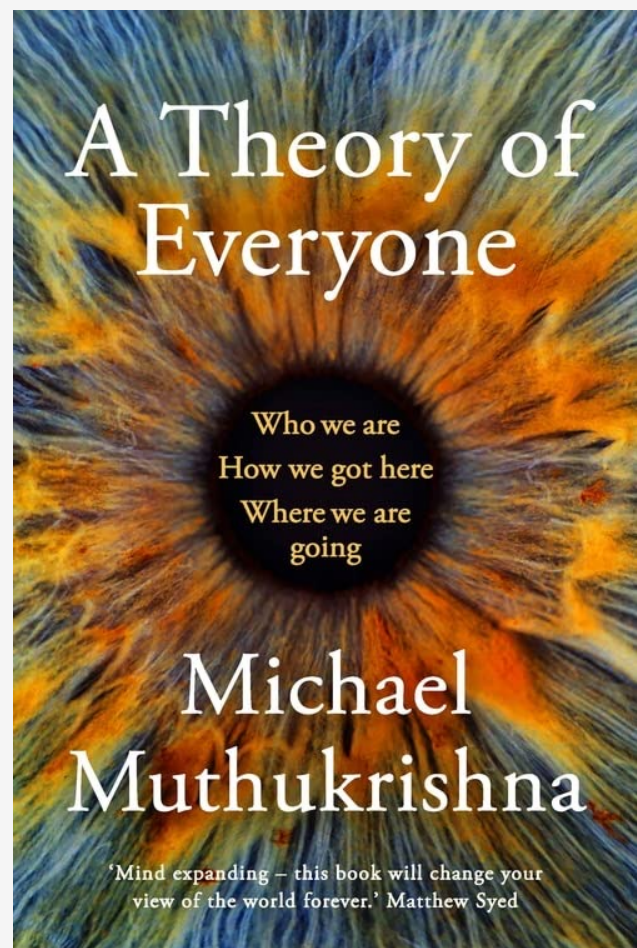
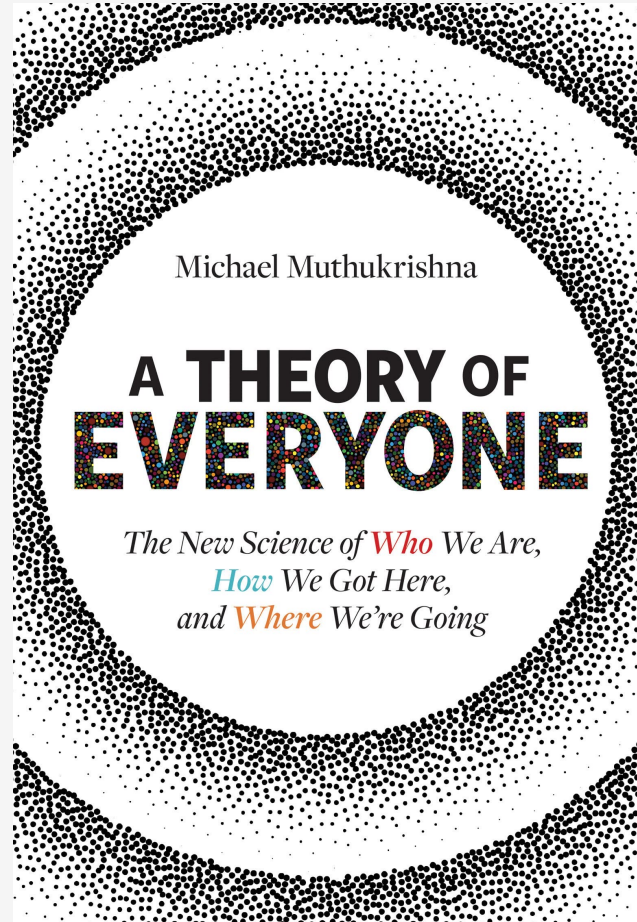


¿Qué nos hace inteligentes?



present on all broad categories of cognitive ability studied. Education appears to be the most consistent, robust, and durable method yet to be identified for raising intelligence.

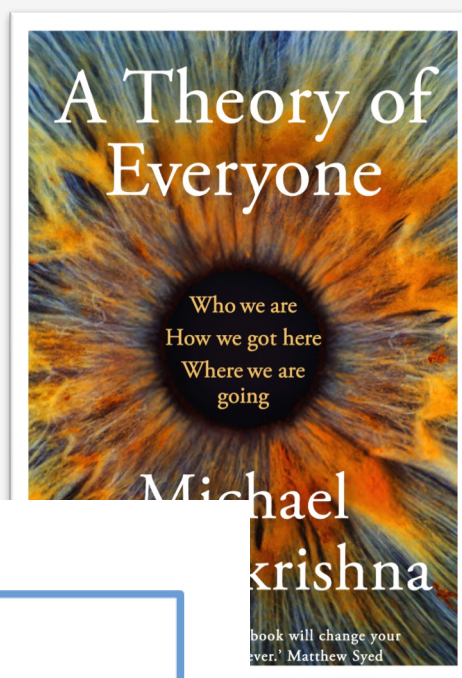
El software de nuestras mentes



1, 2, 3, many...

I, II, III, IV, V, VI...



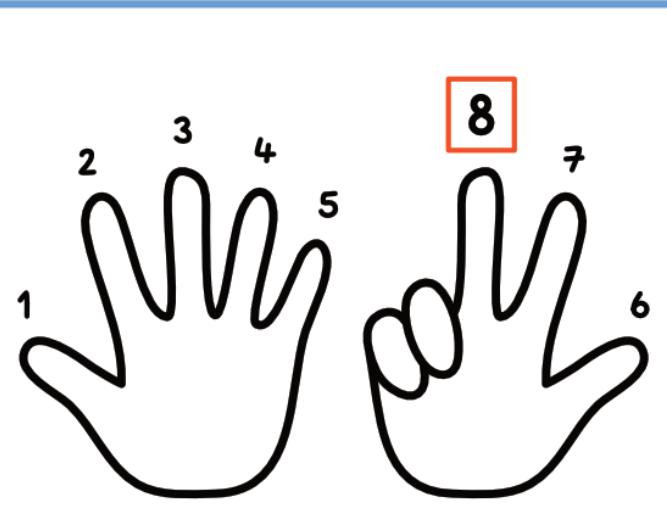
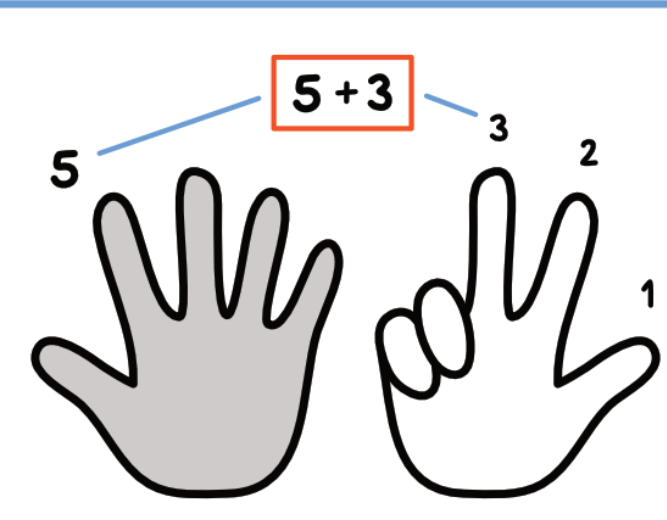
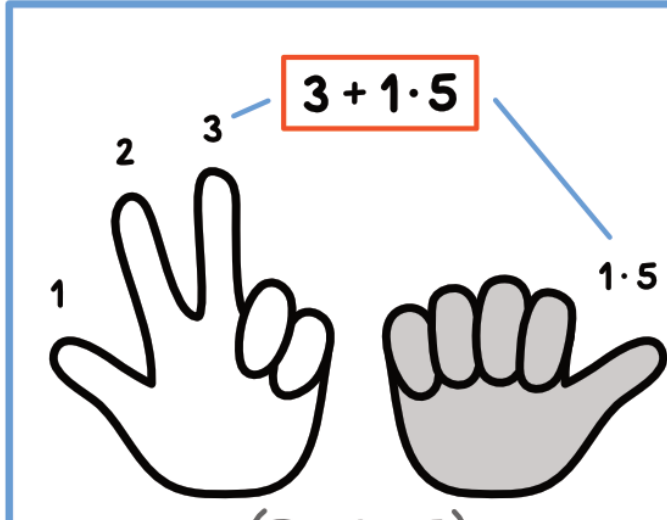
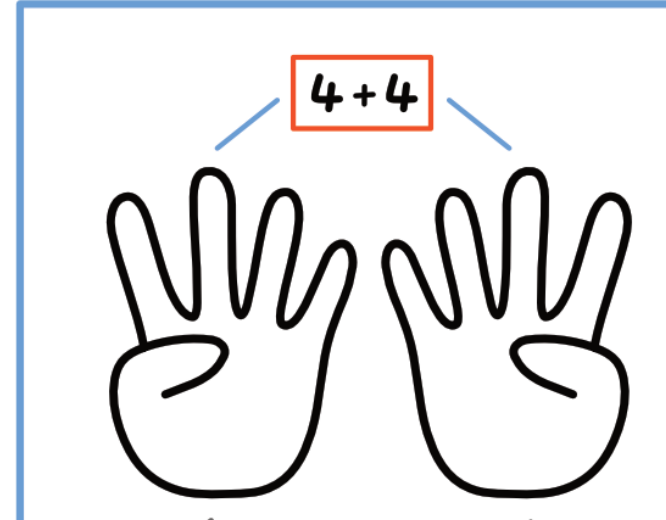


El software de nuestras mentes

1, 2, 3, many...

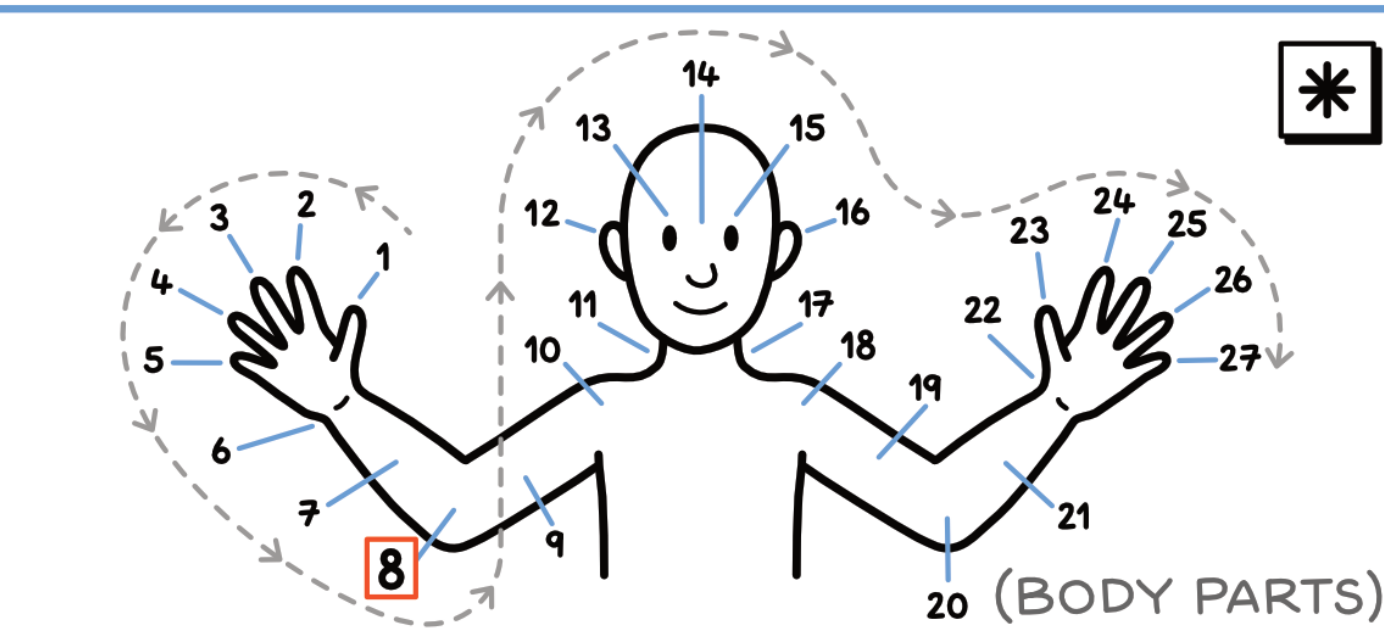
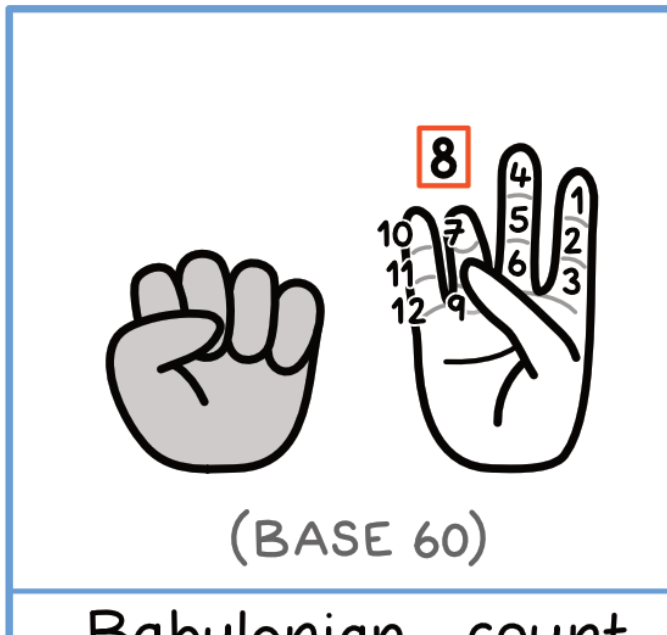
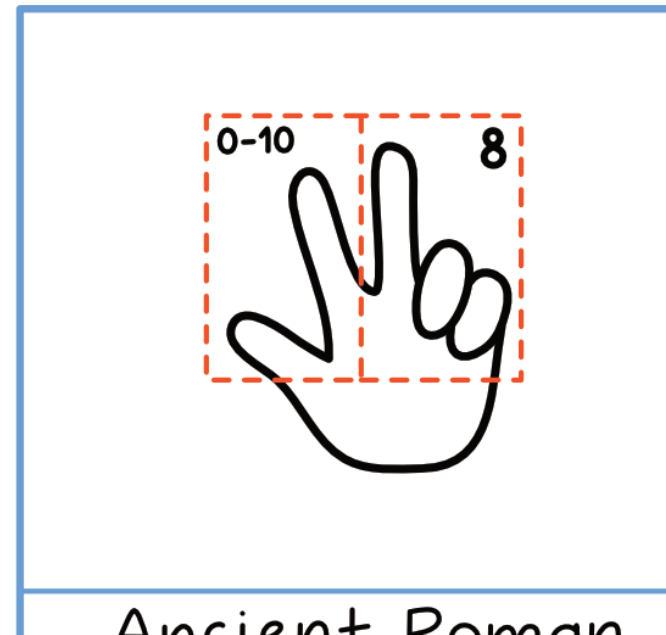
I, II, III, IV, V, VI...



 Common "Western" serial finger counting	 German Sign Language (DGS)	 Merchants in Maharashtra, India (BASE 5)	 East African Bantu Language (SYMMETRY)
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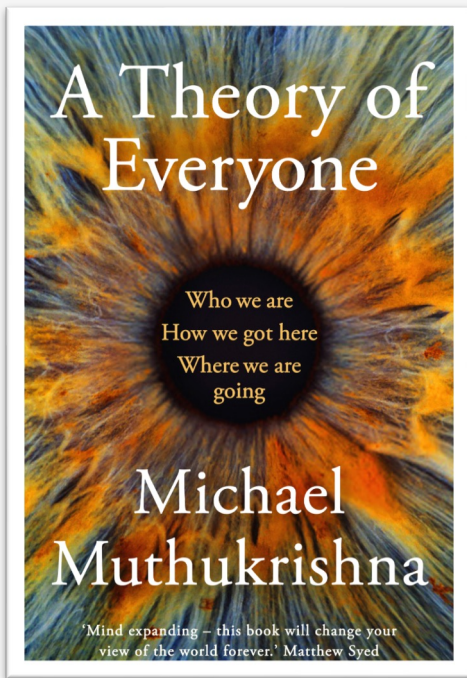
CULTURAL & HISTORICAL VARIABILITY

DIFFERENT WAYS to SHOW the NUMBER [8] in FINGER COUNTING

 Highland New Guinea Oksapmin counting system (BODY PARTS)	 Babylonian - count phalanges with thumb (BASE 60)	 Ancient Roman finger combination
--	--	---

© 2023 VERONIKA PLANT in collaboration with MICHAEL MUTHUKRISHNA
based on BENDER & BELLER (2011) *based on MARMASSE et al. (2000)

El software de nuestras mentes

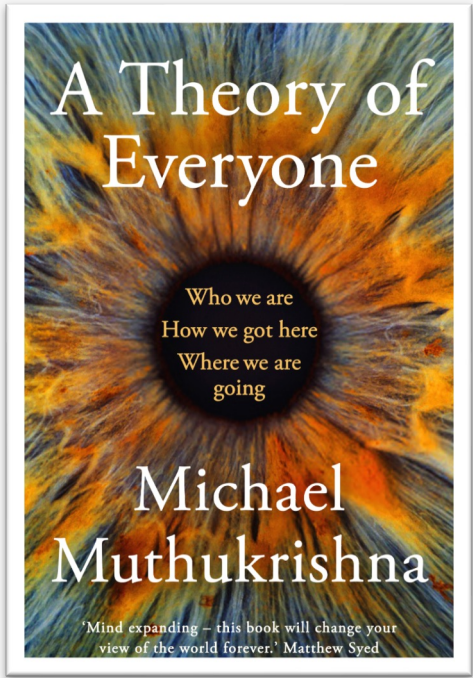


1, 2, 3, many...

I, II, III, IV, V, VI...

0?





El software de nuestras mentes

1, 2, 3, many...

0?

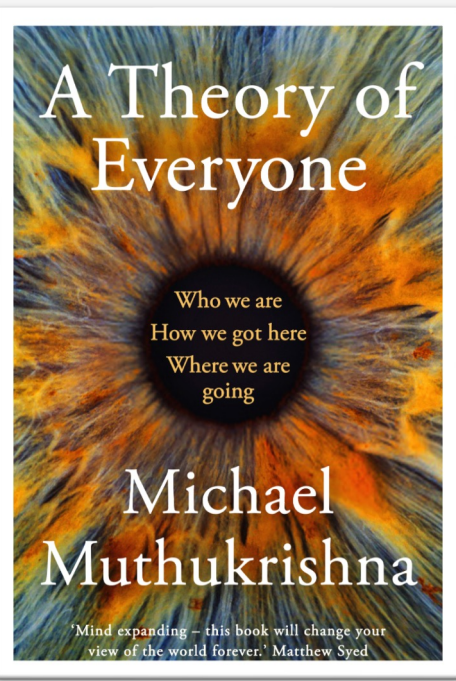
I, II, III, IV, V, VI...

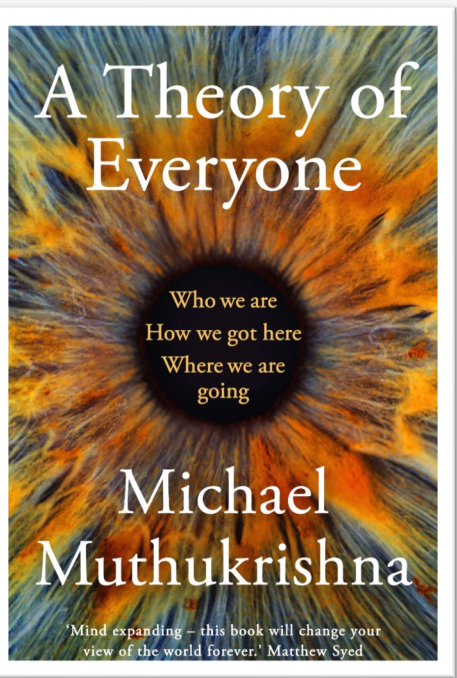


“Negative numbers **darken the very whole doctrines of the equations...**”

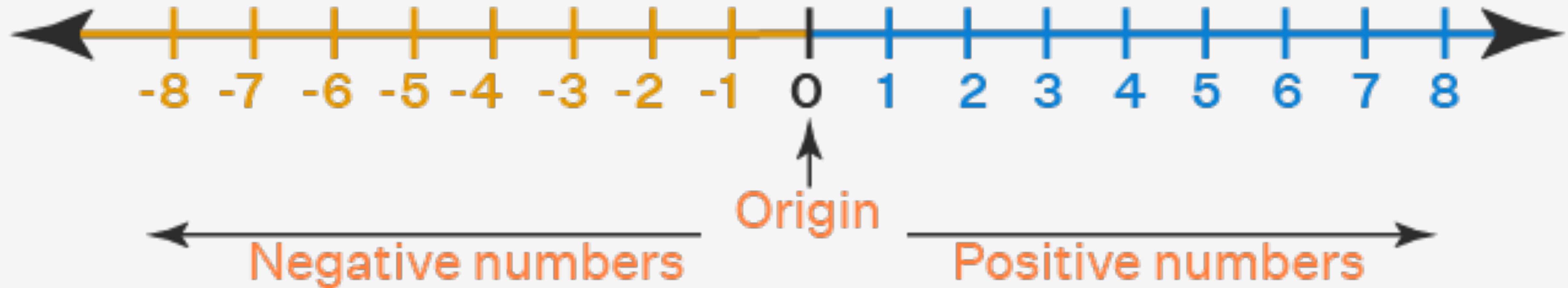
– FRANCIS MASÈRES, 1759

El software de nuestras mentes

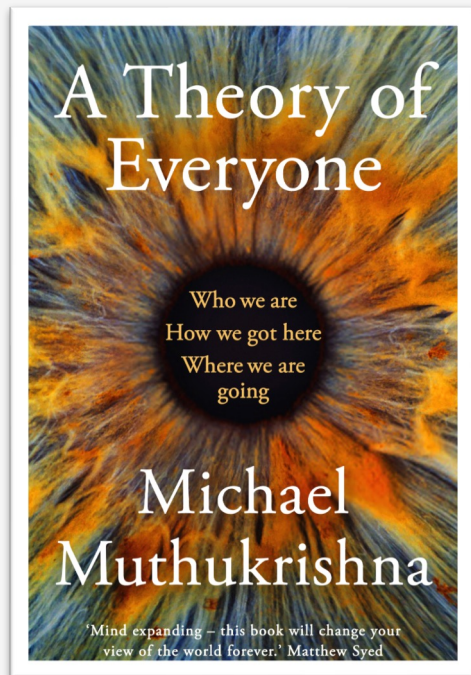




El software de nuestras mentes



El software de nuestras mentes

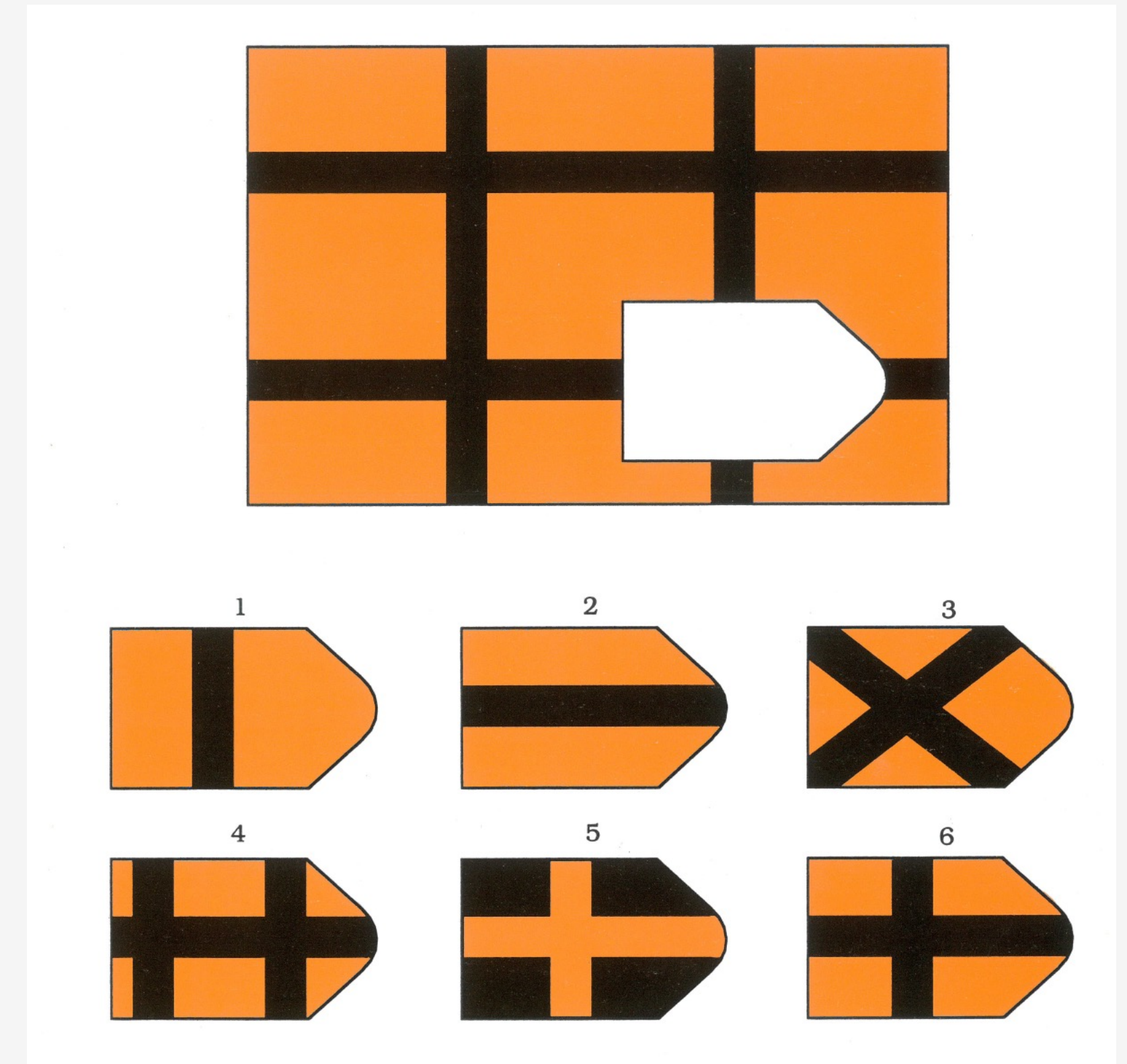


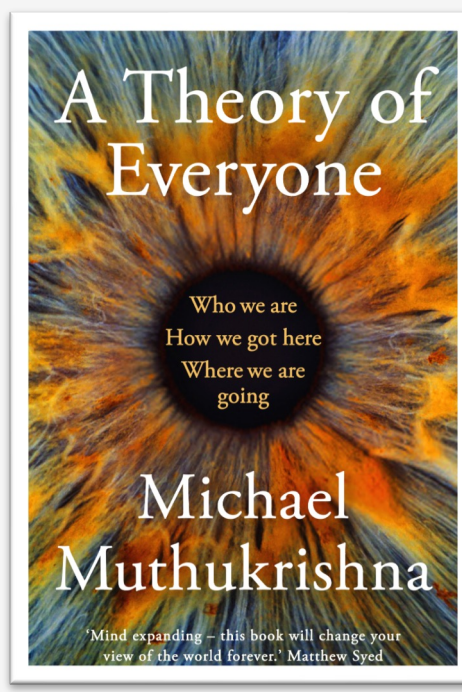
129 participants

Table 1: Descriptive statistics on key variables

Variable	No school			School			Test
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	
Age (years)	41	12.44	3.89	88	12.24	2.78	F= 0.112
Sex (0 = girls)	41			88			F= 0.021
Height (cm)	38	130.59	23.64	81	136.52	16.81	F= 2.45
Weight (kg)	39	40.07	32.23	81	31.93	10.65	F= 4.238**
BMI	38	22.50	18.37	81	16.64	1.90	F= 8.144***
Siblings (total)	19	6.84	3.18	86	6.14	2.36	F= 1.205
School (grade)	5	1.20	2.68	23	3.74	2.26	F= 4.875**
Reading ability (0-5)	40	0.19	0.70	83	2.20	2.04	F= 36.77***
Arithmitic (0-3)	40	0.05	0.32	83	1.14	1.07	F= 39.267***
Reading comprehension (0-4)	40	0.00	0.00	83	0.88	1.46	F= 14.454***
RCPM (z score)	40	10.88	2.95	84	15.01	5.80	F= 18.067***
QT (z score)	26	11.35	6.53	63	21.89	8.28	F= 33.478***

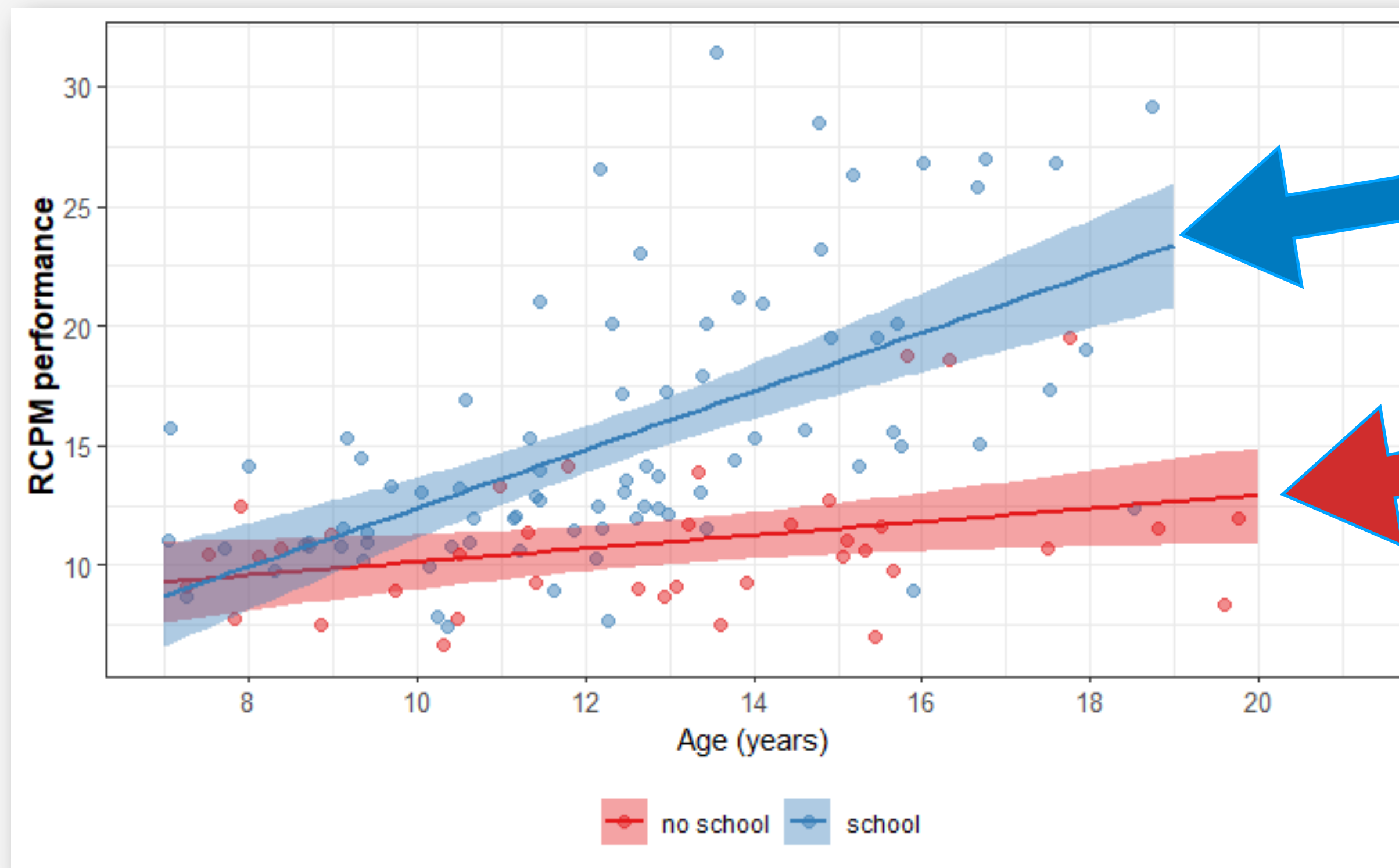
Statistical significance markers: * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$





El software de nuestras mentes

129 participants

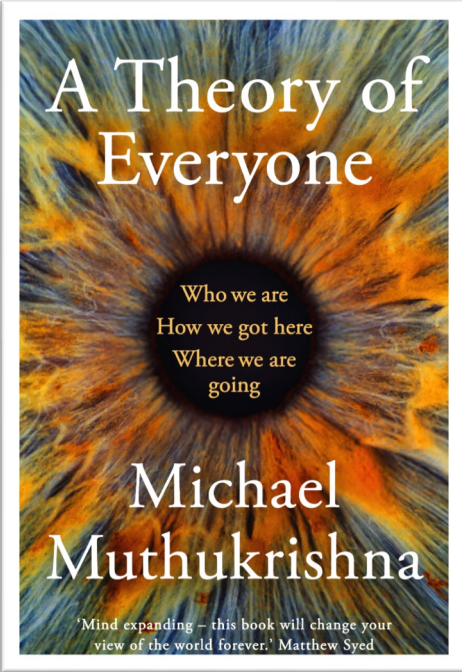
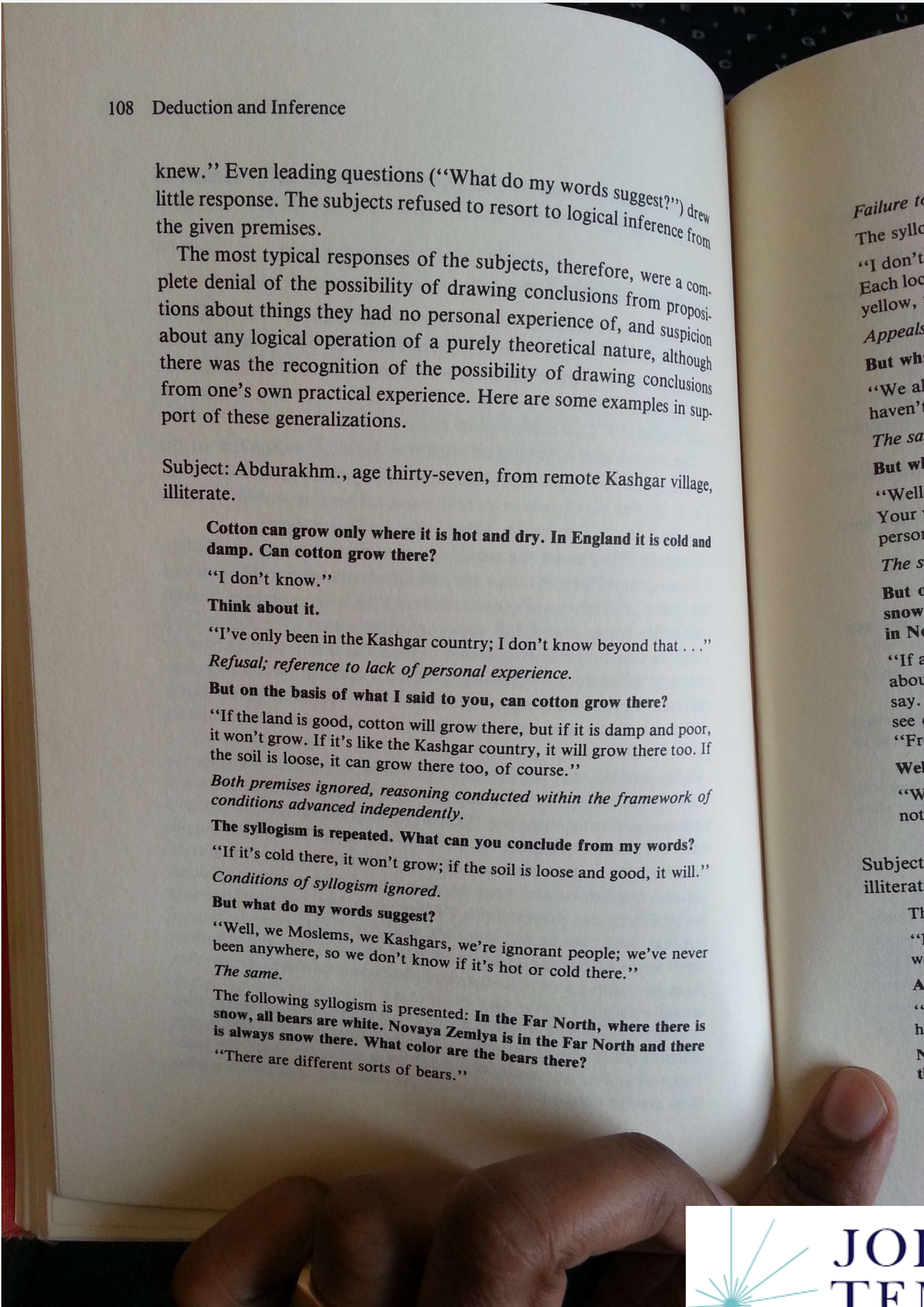
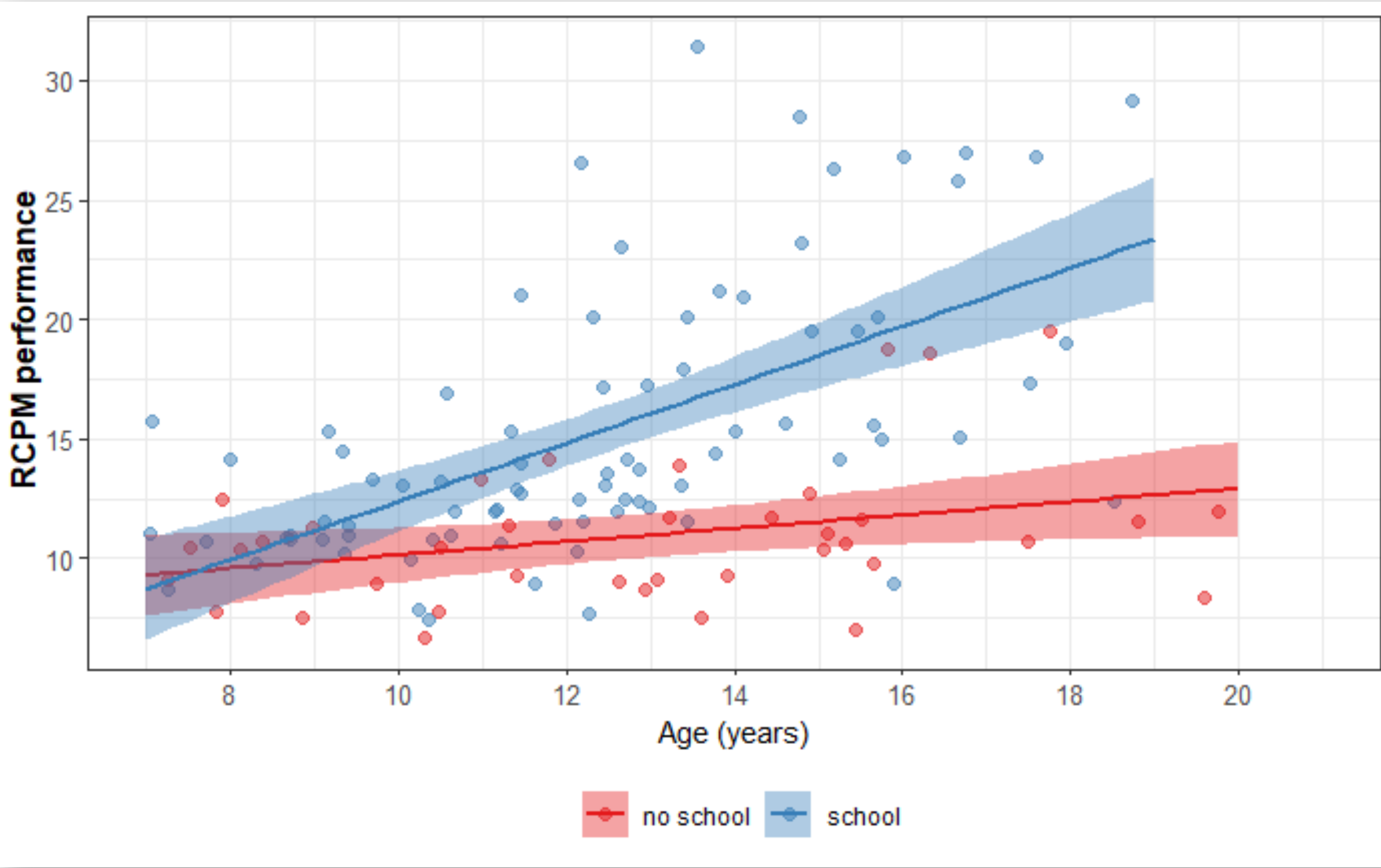


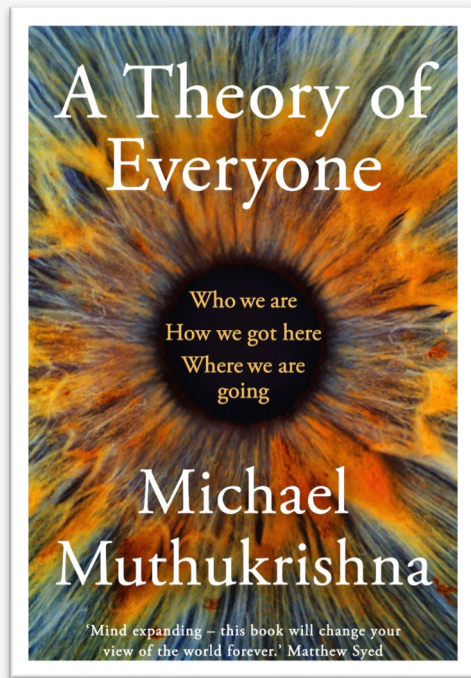
$b = 1.22, p < .001$

$b = 0.27, p = .03$

El software de nuestras mentes

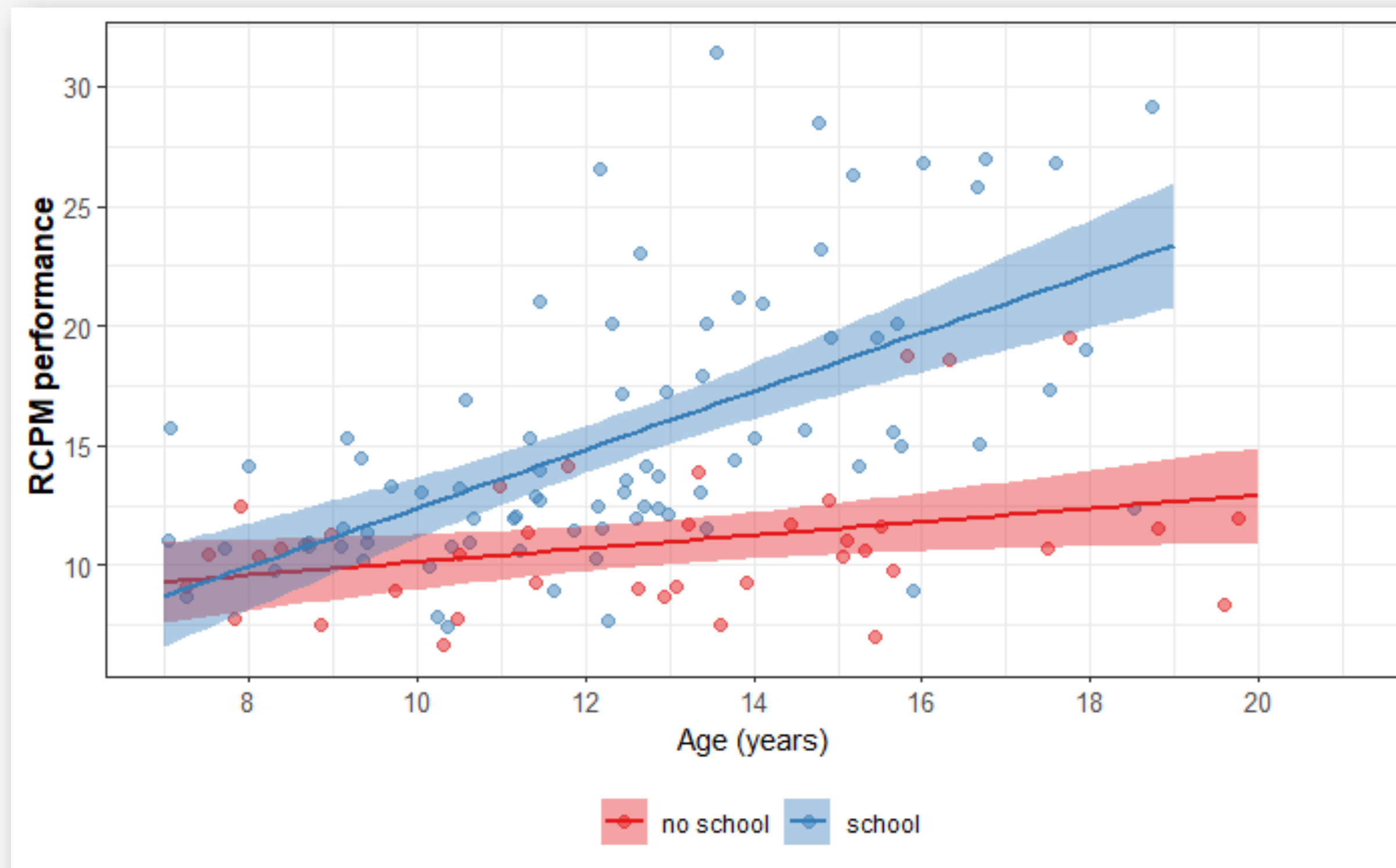
129 participants





El software de nuestras mentes

129 participants



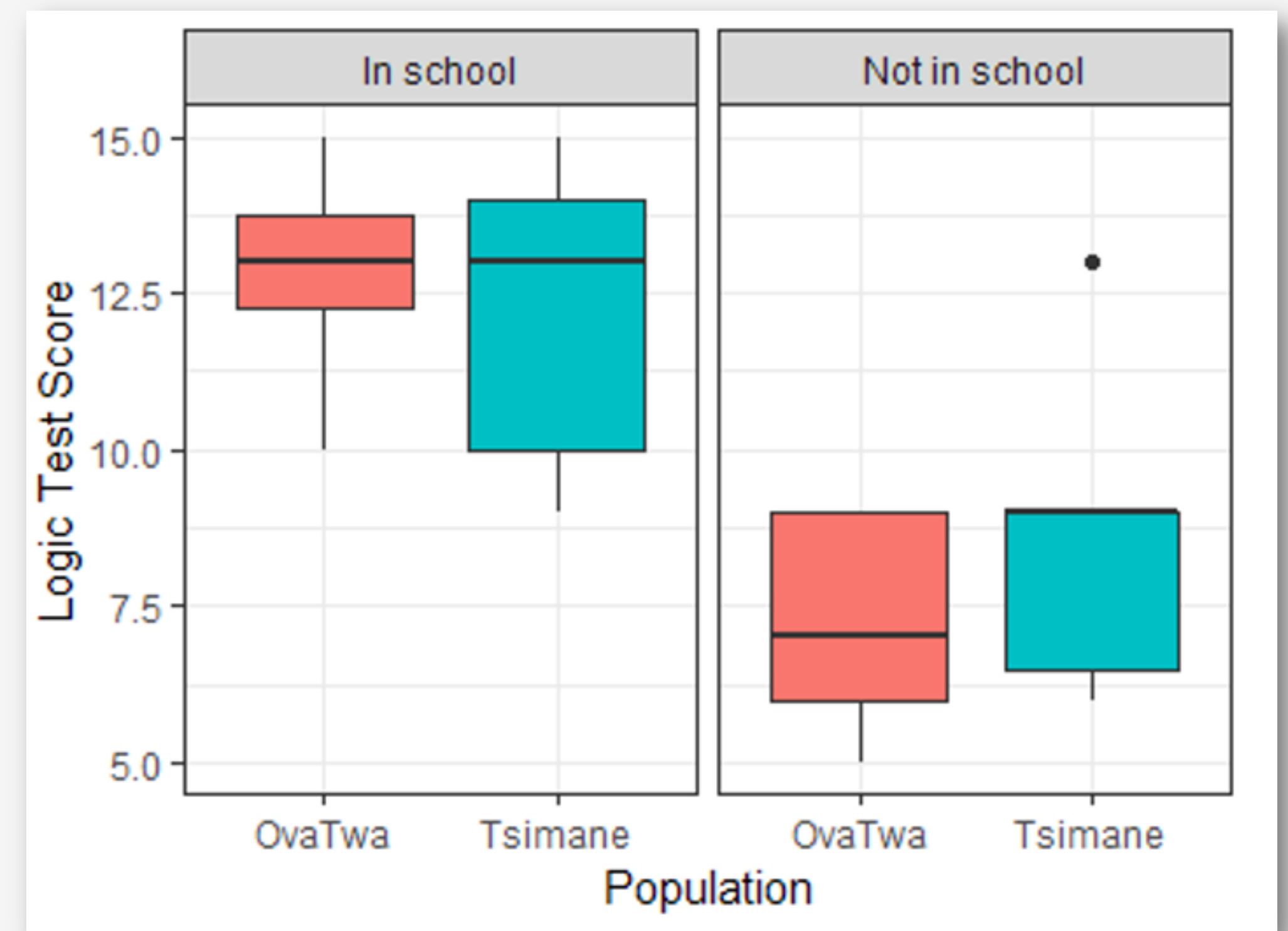
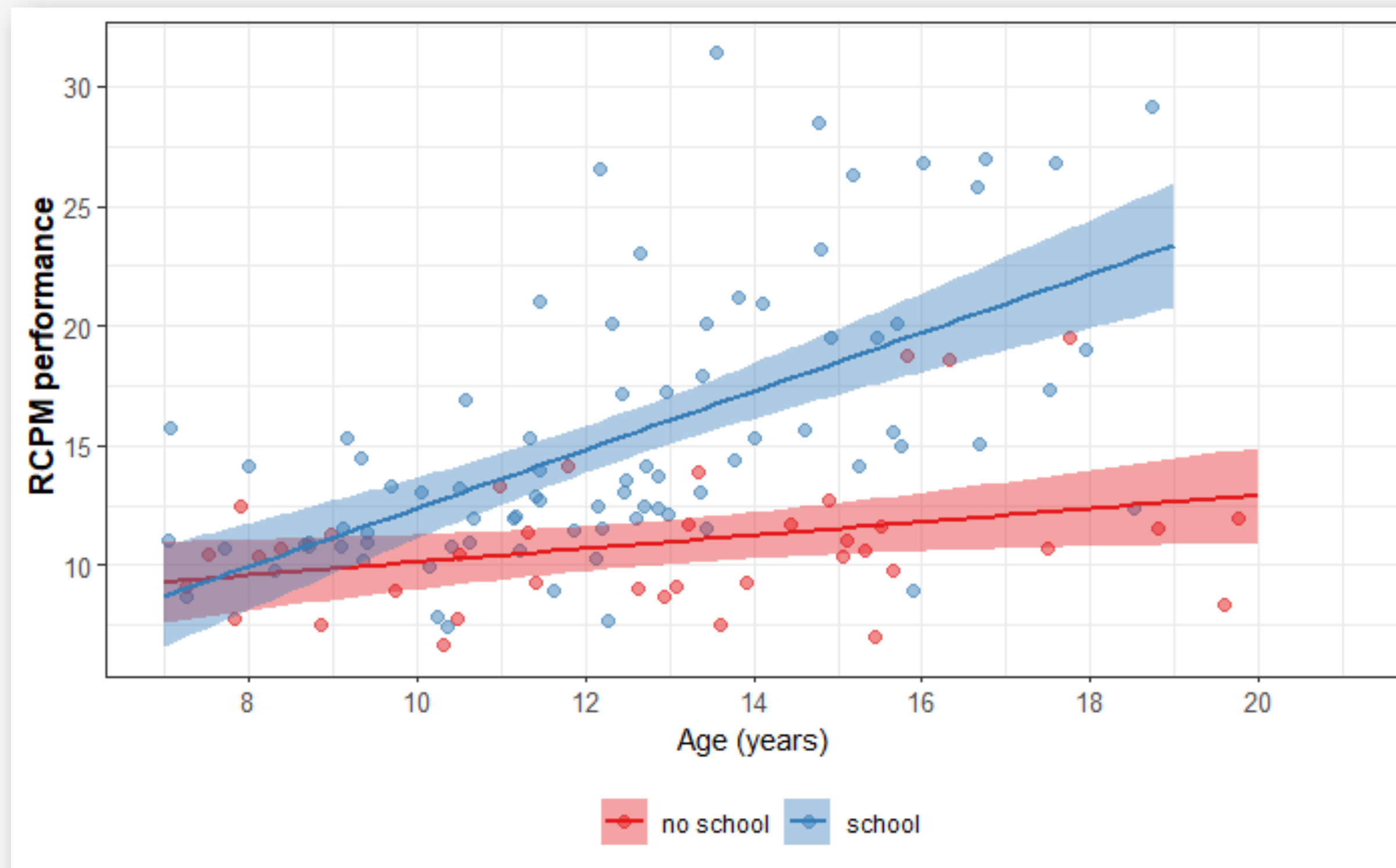
Luria: *“In the North, there is snow, and all bears are white. Novaya Zemlya is in the far North. What color are the bears there?”*

Peasant: *“I don’t know. I’ve never been to the far North. I saw a black bear here once.”*



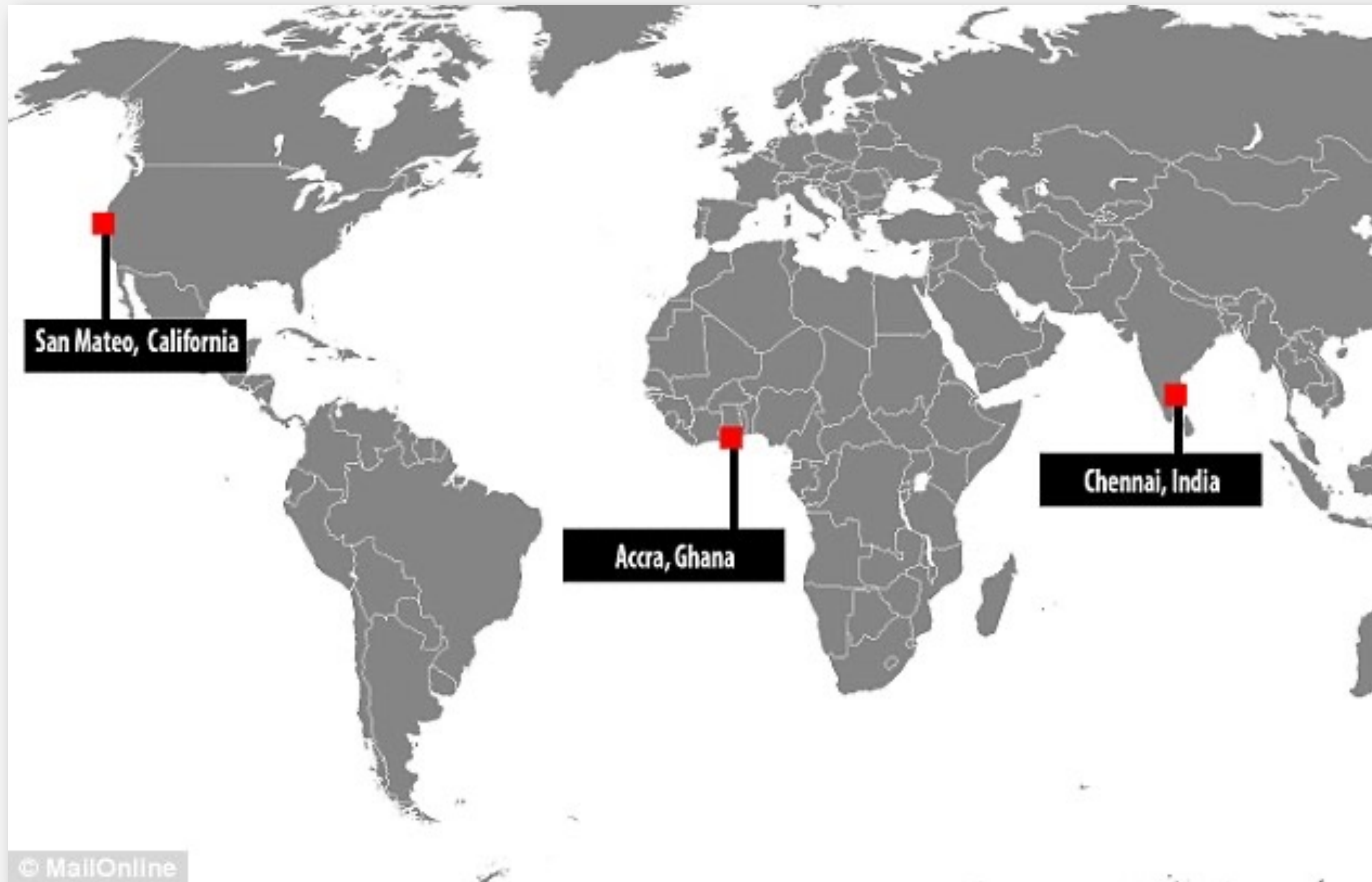
El software de nuestras mentes

129 participants





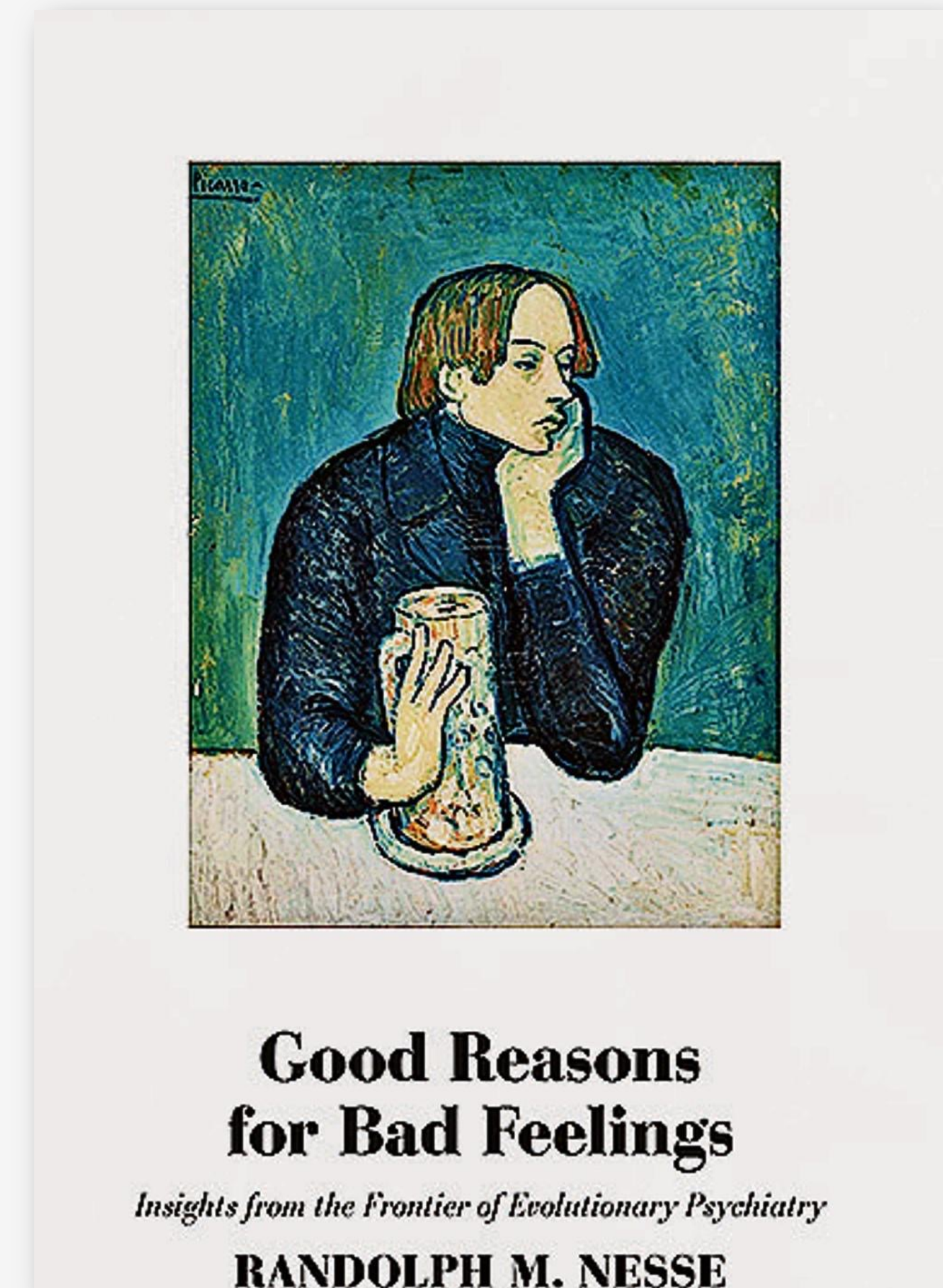
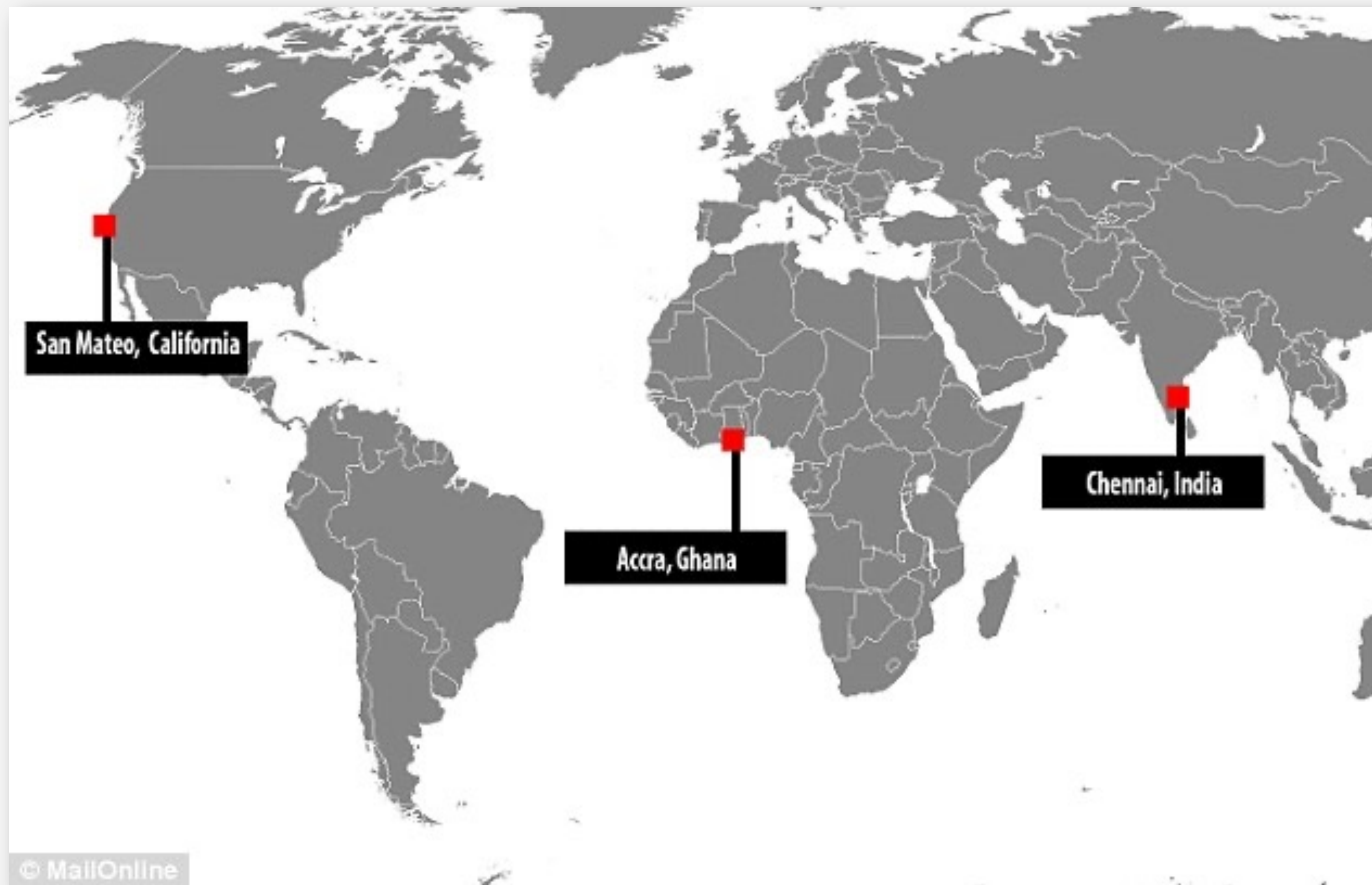
El software de nuestras mentes



Luhrmann, T. M., Padmavati, R., Tharoor, H., & Osei, A. (2015). Hearing voices in different cultures: A social kindling hypothesis. *Topics in cognitive science*, 7(4), 646-663.



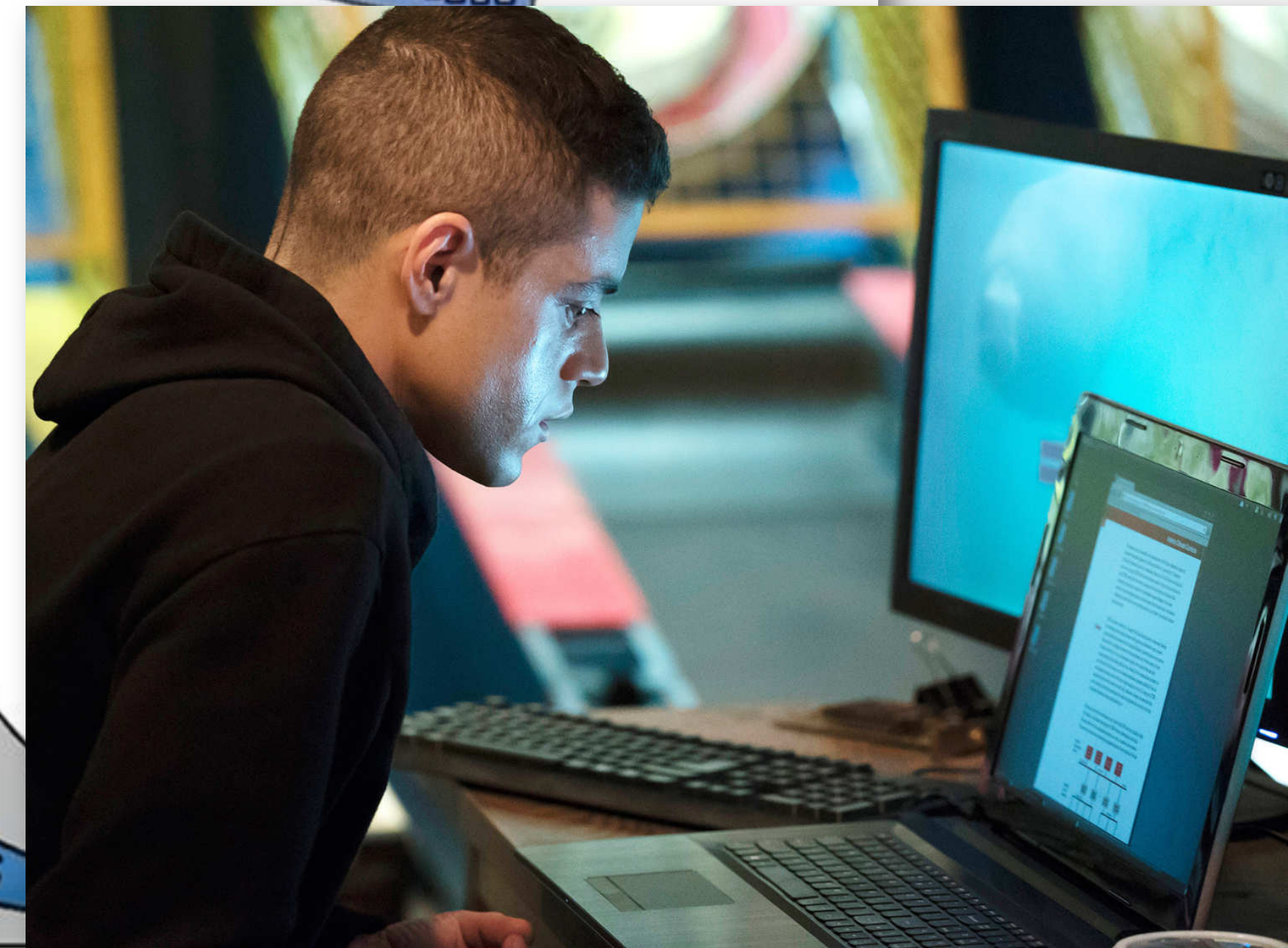
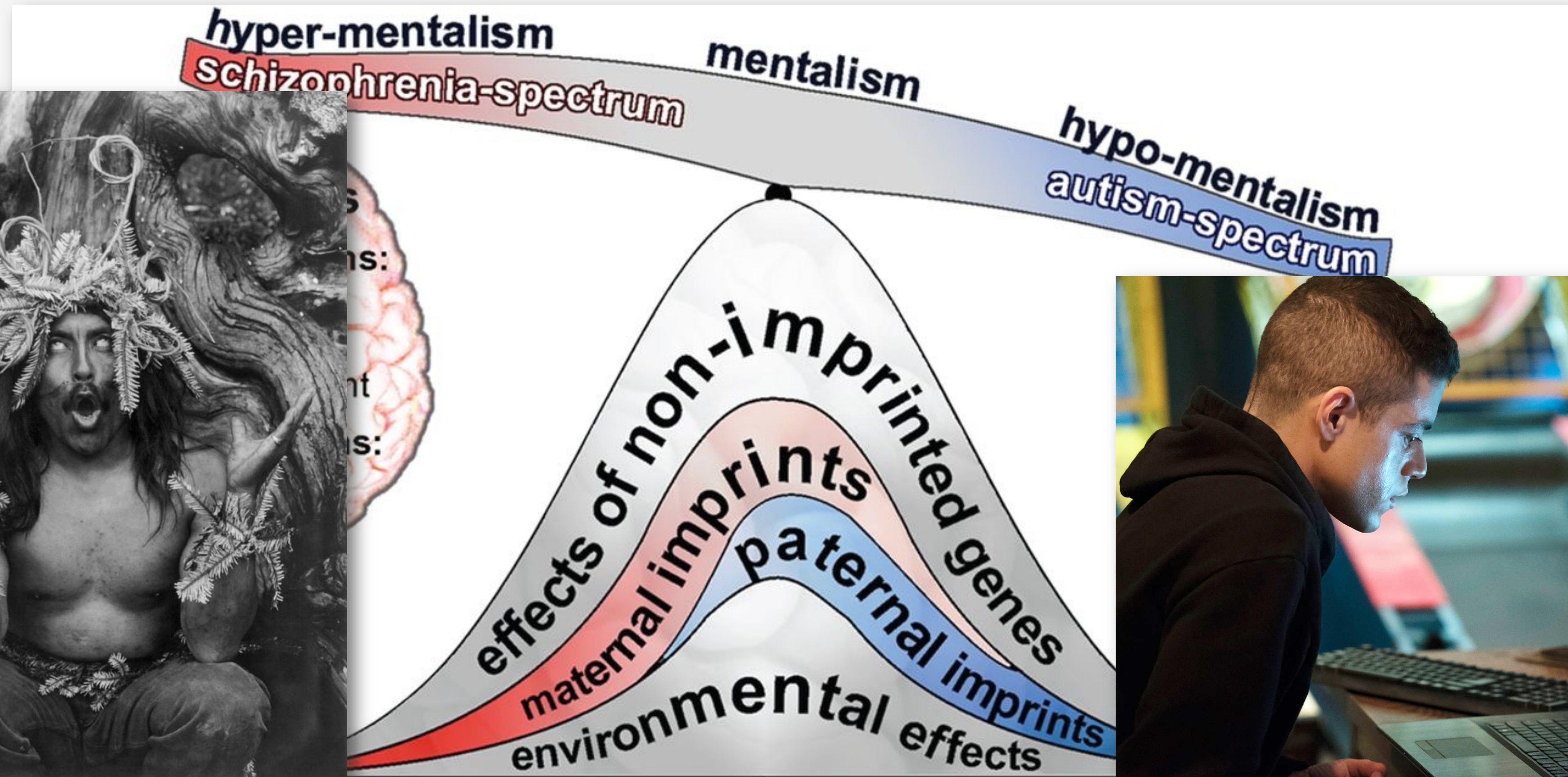
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Byars, S. G., Stearns, S. C., & Boomsma, J. J. (2014). Opposite risk patterns for autism and schizophrenia are associated with normal variation in birth size: phenotypic support for hypothesized diametric gene-dosage effects. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*



El software de nuestras mentes

blue yellow red
purple black



El software de nuestras mentes

blue yellow red
purple black



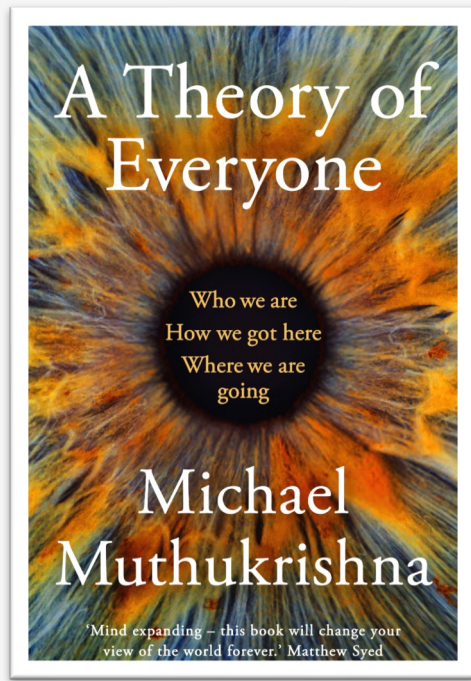
El software de nuestras mentes

blue yellow red

purple black

blue yellow red

purple black



¿Qué significa todo esto en la práctica?

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Henrich, J., & Muthukrishna, M. (2023) What makes us smart? *Topics in Cognitive Science*

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Muthukrishna, M. (2023) A Theory of Everyone: The New Science of Who We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We're Going, *MIT Press & Basic Books*

NUESTRO SOFTWARE ES FLEXIBLE

NUESTRO SOFTWARE PUEDE SER REESCRITO

LOS MODELOS MENTALES IMPORTAN

LA INNOVACIÓN ES UN PROCESO SOCIAL

LA IA PUEDE ACELERAR LA EVOLUCIÓN

CULTURAL



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Harvard University

**‘Wonderfully refreshing
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University

**‘Makes sense of our
historical moment’**
Joshua Greene, Psychology, Harvard
University

‘Hugely enjoyable’
Ian Morris, Archaeology, Stanford
University

**‘Muthukrishna has a heart as
big as his intellect’**
Andrew McAfee, MIT Sloan School of
Management

‘A fabulous book’ **‘Dense yet
accessible read’**
The Economist The Guardian



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The Guardian

A Theory of Everyone

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How we got here
Where we are
going

Michael
Muthukrishna

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view of the world forever.’ Matthew Syed

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University

‘Ambitious and breathtaking sweep’
David Halpern, Behavioural Insights Team

‘Extremely important’
Charles Hall, Energy scientist,
SUNY

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entertaining’**
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Andrews

**‘Astonishing... will change
the way you think’**
Nichola Raihani, Evolution and
behavior, UCL

**‘The most important book you
will read this year’**
Brian Hare, Primatology and psychology,
Duke University

