



YCCSA Seminar Series Spring 2016

An interdisciplinary seminar series hosted by the York Centre for Complex System Analysis aimed at researchers from all disciplines

The Autism Paradox: A view from Prehistory

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3 June 2016

Ron Cooke Hub, RCH/204 at 13:30

The prevalence of autism seems hard to explain from an evolutionary standpoint. If autism is a 'disorder' then why are so many people affected? In contrast if autism is a 'difference' why and how could it have been incorporated into past human societies given selection pressures on complex social understanding and social skills? Here I consider the contribution that the archaeological evidence from Palaeolithic and from modern hunter-gatherers can make to understanding selection pressures acting on the integration and maintenance of genes associated with autism. I will argue that the question is both very much simpler, and much more complex than it might appear.

The seminar includes a refreshment break to fuel interdisciplinary discussion

Ron Cooke Hub is on Heslington East Campus – accessible by free bus services

Nos. 66 and 44 running at frequent intervals from Heslington West.

The YCCSA Seminar room is on the second floor