



SIMON  
BARON-COHEN

THE  
SCIENCE  
OF EVIL

ON EMPATHY AND THE  
ORIGINS OF CRUELTY

Simon Baron-Cohen

## The Science of Evil: On Empathy and the Origins of Cruelty



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A groundbreaking and challenging study of the social, cognitive, neurological, and biological roots of psychopathy, cruelty, and evil. Borderline personality disorder, autism, narcissism, psychosis: Most of these syndromes have a very important factor in common--absence of empathy. A genuine psychologist, nevertheless, he examines interpersonal and environmental factors that can erode empathy, including neglect and misuse. Based largely on Baron-Cohen's own research, *The Science of Evil* changes the way we understand and treat individual cruelty. In some instances, this absence can be dangerous, however in others it can just mean a different way of seeing the globe. In *The Research of Evil* Simon Baron-Cohen, an award-winning British researcher who has investigated psychology and autism for many years, develops a new brain-based theory of human cruelty.



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A great book but too short I read *Technology of Evil: On Empathy and the origins of Cruelty* by Simon Baron-Cohen at one sitting. That's rare for me. So, I am amazed that Dr. I usually like to dip in a little and then think it over for a day or so but the material was thus gripping that We was on the edge of my chair.) psychopaths can turn on / off empathy. Baron-Cohen shares his horrors reading as a kid on the subject of Nazi's who ran focus camps by day and went home during the night to learn Here's what I've concluded: if you would like to truly understand evil, its source and a possible direction for a solution to evil this publication is for you. These books delve deeply into evil and its own causes. Worth the amount of money if you're curious about that kind of stuff Really interesting and insightful Didn't like it. Disappointing I found this book to become a bit disappointing. Both share the perspective of a Jew, in the case of Fromm a German Jew, who knows evil all too intimately. What produced this book so gripping was its relevancy. But how about psychopaths? That discovery was a huge relief. Both men were serious guys of science. When I worked at Narconon at the maximum protection prison in Minnesota (SRM) my wife and I figured what we were producing inside our system were "happy criminals. I live it as a victim of sexual abuse. Many prisons are universities of lower learning where criminals become better, more successful criminals. I am a counselor on the GI Rights Hotline and have been trained in suicide intervention. Today I take phone calls and focus on cases of men and women who oftentimes have observed evil first hand. I hear their stories as well of the tales of vets experiencing PTSD trying to get help because of their suffering. (If you cannot handle all the mind anatomy, skip that chapter and continue reading. Public school teachers, particularly if you taught in internal city institutions, work daily with some children who are severely emotionally and sometimes physically broken. Reading *Science of Evil*, We realized the unfortunate soul why were trying to greatly help was suffering from undiagnosed Asperger's. (For instance, the reason that many kids with conduct disorder don't grow up to possess antisocial character disorder has more to do with how conduct disorder can be diagnosed than that they all of a sudden develop empathy. We realize just too well how lonely, difficult, and relatively unsupported such function is. Baron-Cohen also shares lessons learned from years of leading edge study with the autistic. We submit that on a bell curve evaluating those who have personal understanding of evil I'd be on the downward slope toward the severe range. If you strive to practice kindness and understanding, then read a different reserve. We finally realize why he was thus unempathetic and, yet, thankfully did not seriously harm others. Not having empathy means one isn't alert to what the other person might be considering or feeling, but it doesn't determine the inspiration to hurt or eliminate. The author describes, extremely briefly, the neuroscience of empathy as derived from brain imaging and genetic studies. Most of the books I've read about evil have already been from the perspective of depth psychology. Since 1980, I've go through and reread pretty much everything Erich Fromm has written on human destructiveness and aggression. Also people who have zero empathy - with autism and Asperger's could be educated or train themselves never to harm others which they see as essentially objects. In the name to the review I suggested the reserve was too short. The book *Research of Evil* is not all science. But these research, What I wanted from this publication was a reasoned explanation of what evil is certainly and where does evil come from. Attachment Theory is essential for unlocking causes for evil It's full of neurological info, and switches into detail about how the mind circuits become compromised when babies and toddlers are abused and abandoned. July 24, 2013 07:19pm ET published in livescience. Just about everyone has accepted that people behave differently after they experienced a stroke, or acquired a traumatic mind injury; Without entering the grim details, I've seen, heard, and experienced evil from the within out. Fromm (1900- 1980), founder of Scientist Against Nuclear Energy (SANE) was a psychoanalyst and sociologist who had advanced degrees in both. And it lead me to pursue deeper research on the analysis of evil and empathy. Asked to view the film again while "trying to end up being empathetic" their brains lit up like normals. Both Fromm and Baron-Cohen also create that evil is closely related to the objectification of the various other. In a way, it's revictimizing.

Fromm explains the process of evil from a sociological/psychological perspective that while profound isn't fully objective. Simon Baron-Cohen is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge in Britain. He, like Baron-Cohen, concludes that close to zero empathy happens with those who commit evil actions. I must say I enjoyed the supportive specifics on certain genes I must say I enjoyed the supportive information on certain genes, places of the brain, etc. The problems of representation in this review run deep to the primary of his entire philosophy, and are thus compellingly inseparable from the materials. Like all of us, I have had so many exposures to evil in my own life. I waited a number of days before composing this review to procedure what I go through. nursery stories with their children from a light with a color manufactured from human skin. That is extremely relevant for psychotherapists of many types who want to understand who among their individuals with poor moral advancement is likely to be a good candidate for therapy. The idea of viewing human behavior as noticed through the lenses of neurosciences is certainly fast becoming a prominent model for explaining behaviors, as well as perhaps we can 1 day rid ourselves of the cause and then the bias that presently is present for all those unfortunate ones who have been strapped with a disability that affects all of us. easily had had relatives who were murdered in a such camps. " If you're searching for an in-depth debate of evil and free of charge will, this is not it. However, people with autistic and Asperger's seldom if ever hurt others. I somehow skipped that in this review. The difference is they have developed a moral code that keeps them from harming others. In Baron-Cohen's analysis it is the difference from zero-positive from the zero-detrimental of the narcissist, Machiavellian, and psychopaths. Background is full of examples of individuals who harm others because they find it enjoyable, due to the fact they have empathy more than enough to let them become fully alert to how much your partner will suffer, I mean, they know the type of pain they are causing - this is exactly what guides the "art of torture" - and people do it anyway. That is a robust insight with tremendous implications. As a kid psychiatrist, I found a couple of trivial points to dispute. For further theory browse A General Theory of Love by Thomas Lewis, Fari Amini and Richard Lannon, three SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA Bay psychiatrists, who popularized limbic resonance which arise as we encounter empathy and intuition. I've known a few psychopaths in my own day and the question haunted me however the answer was not available in Baron-Cohen's Science of Evil. I appeared online for answers to the question. In the Netherlands brain imaging analysis of psychopaths in prison for violent crimes revealed that "charming" (Machiavellian? See - Coldhearted Psychopaths Feel Empathy Too by Tanya Lewis, Baron-Cohen's publication is based on sound objective science.com Researchers had psychopaths while being imaged see a film which consistently evoked empathetic mind response in "normal" humans. There is no empathetic brain response in the psychopathic subjects. This gave both a distinctive ethnic/racial perspective unavailable to many gentiles. This is proof that zero-negatives may potentially become zero-positives. We studied it as a historian. However, as my own encounter with criminals suggest caution is necessary. Not definitive, but worth the time to read. Leopards don't easily change their areas. And I observed it employed in a maximum security prison for just two years. Not really that they can not change nor that we shouldn't hold trying but it's a long very difficult slog with many setbacks and few successes. Fromm has written amazing case studies of Martin Luther, Hitler and Himmler. Like any good read, Baron-Cohen still left me wanting more. and compares and contrasts with people on the autism spectrum. But could more end up being less? Not in cases like this. Baron-Cohen, who has become quite known in the Psychology field, eventually ends up believing evil could be explained just through empathy analysis. Baron-Cohen couldn't include analysis that happened after publication. Empathy will not relate to pleasure. However, I believe the author may have shared a few of the research of neuroscientist Dr. PS: I am a psychologist. Davidson, who network marketing leads the Center for Investigating Healthy Thoughts at the Waisman Center, University Wisconsin-Madison. If you ever ever experienced an abusive relationship with a narcissist or a borderline or sociopath/psychopath you understand otherwise. Their

findings support Baron-Cohen's thesis. He explains how low empathy accounts for some of the behaviors observed in individuals with borderline, narcissistic, and psychopathic (or antisocial) personality disorders; Are they even with the capacity of empathy? For methods to deepen your very own empathy I would recommend *A Route With Heart* and *A Wise Heart* by Jack Kornfield a medical psychologist, meditation instructor and previous Buddhist Monk in the Theravadin custom. Length aside, this is a wonderful, important reserve that deserves five superstars, with a little more stuff. It's quite thorough in the explanation of and the etiology for "poor" behavior. What the book is, is extremely readable, nearly a page-turner, reviewing the research of empathy. Bowlby and his "Attachment Theory," in addition to Lawrence Kohlberg's "Morality Level." It creates one pause and think about the influence of early parenting approaches and how we, as a society, must view "evil" behavior not as a willed choice, but--rather, a breakdown or compromised system of specific parts of the brain no longer working accurately. It's understood within an attributional rationale. Such stories jolted me out of my white-male privileged comfort zone but imagine just how much more affecting. This is an excellent book with a misleading title. This is an excellent book with a misleading title. If you're searching for a textbook, this is simply not it. Serial rapists, murders and the autistic and the ones suffering from Asperger's Syndrome share being at or near zero about the empathy scale Baron-Cohen and his colleagues designed. The research is compelling and provides been coupled with the work done by J. The book is also beneficial to parents of persons on the autism spectrum who are struggling to comprehend their child's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't design of morality. Therefore I have more than a passing interest in the main topic of evil and empathy, both subjects of Baron-Cohen's important publication. While employed in the prison program, 1978 - 1980, and recently in my career as a general public school teacher I caused the emotionally challenged.) Then reviews the Empathy Quotient Scale (helpfully included in the book!) and the outcomes obtained in people with various kinds of psychopathology. And finally, my wife and I spent years living and working unsuccessfully with a family member who is emotionally disturbed. Baron-Cohen also doesn't note that there are kids identified as having conduct disorder who are not callous and unemotional.) Having finished the reserve yesterday, I recommended it to a patient today and brought it up in discussion with a colleague. It gave me valuable fresh insights into evil and also providing a good, scientific basis for conclusions I've reached through study and experience. Although the author says they're not excusing evil behavior they sort of do and they imply evil people don't exist. Davidson and his co-workers conduct rigorous scientific analysis on healthy characteristics of brain such as kindness, compassion, altruism, forgiveness, mindfulness and well-being. Viewing people as non-human or deeply "other" is essential for a human to rape, beat, mutilate, enslave or murder. Excellent read. Great information, you will learn a lot. Horribly inaccurate representation of disabled people Simon Baron-Cohen clearly writes just on his own pre-conceived ideas about those with disabilities, failing to see how various and complex each individual is. In wanting to describe autistic people as "zero level empathetics" he totally ignores a large part of autistic individuals who feel more than the "regular" of empathy and instead tried to describe an incredibly varied group of individuals as being "robotic" and "emotionless". Simon Baron-Cohen has only further demonstrated his own insufficient understanding and empathy for individuals who are different than himself. Baron-Cohen, nevertheless, provides a modern, scientific basis for similar conclusions reached simply by Fromm working before modern neuroscience. Not a lot of science, very little evil, rather it had been mostly about the empathy bell curve and as the writer ran out of room at zero he postulated negative and positive zero empathy states. That on the facial skin of it flies in the face of both good sense and science while predicated on impeccable logic and the best available science of the time, are subjective. Probably I am one of those zero empathy positive men. The first few chapters were kind of hard to find yourself in, but it got actually interesting and I found it hard to place the book down. Four Stars Good book on having less empathy. and committed the crime anyway and actually enjoyed witnessing the despair in the victim's eyes Insufficient empathy

doesn't equal evil. Background and police records are full of good examples in which it had been quite clear the killer got empathy, After all, they had without doubt how the victim would feel, and dedicated the crime anyway and also enjoyed witnessing the despair in the victim's eyes. So, they knew the victim's feelings quite well. Certainly, Richard J.



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