

La neurocientífica del mes:

Uta Frith

6a entrega



Uta Aurnhammer va néixer el 25 de maig del 1941 a Rockenhausen, Alemanya

En aquell moment pensaven que l'autisme era degut a que els pares o mares eren poc afectuosos amb els seus fills. La Uta, però, ja sospitava que això no podia ser així i que hi havia d'haver una causa biològica

Va estudiar història de l'art i psicologia experimental

Al 1964, se'n va anar a Londres a fer unes pràctiques a l'Hospital Maudsley, on va conèixer el seu marit, Chris Frith, també neurocientífic

Al 1968 va acabar el seu doctorat en autisme

Gràcies al **Sally-Ann task**, un test que, als anys 80', va dur a terme el seu estudiant de PhD, Simon Baron-Cohen, va descriure que els nens i nenes amb autisme tenen **dificultats especials entenent els desitjos i pensaments d'altres persones**



Uta també és autora de la teoria del '**weak central coherence**', que diu que les persones amb autisme són millors que la resta processant els detalls però pitjors, a l'hora d'integrar la informació provinent de diferents fonts i entenent el context de les coses

Al 1989 va escriure el llibre **Autism, Explaining the Enigma**, que ha estat traduït a molts idiomes

Els seus treballs sobre la **dislèxia** també han estat molt importants. Va demostrar que aquest trastorn no té cap relació amb l'entorn ni amb la intel·ligència de la persona

Actualment és Professora Emèrita de Desenvolupament Cognitiu a l'Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London (UCL) i Professora de l'School of Humanities and Health Sciences, University of Aarhus a Dinamarca



"The intense competition in science is both lowering standards of published research and putting younger women scientists at a disadvantage. The pressure favours male scientists over women at the critical stage in a scientific career. Slower science would be better for everyone." - UF



Female neuroscientist of the month:

Uta Frith

6th release

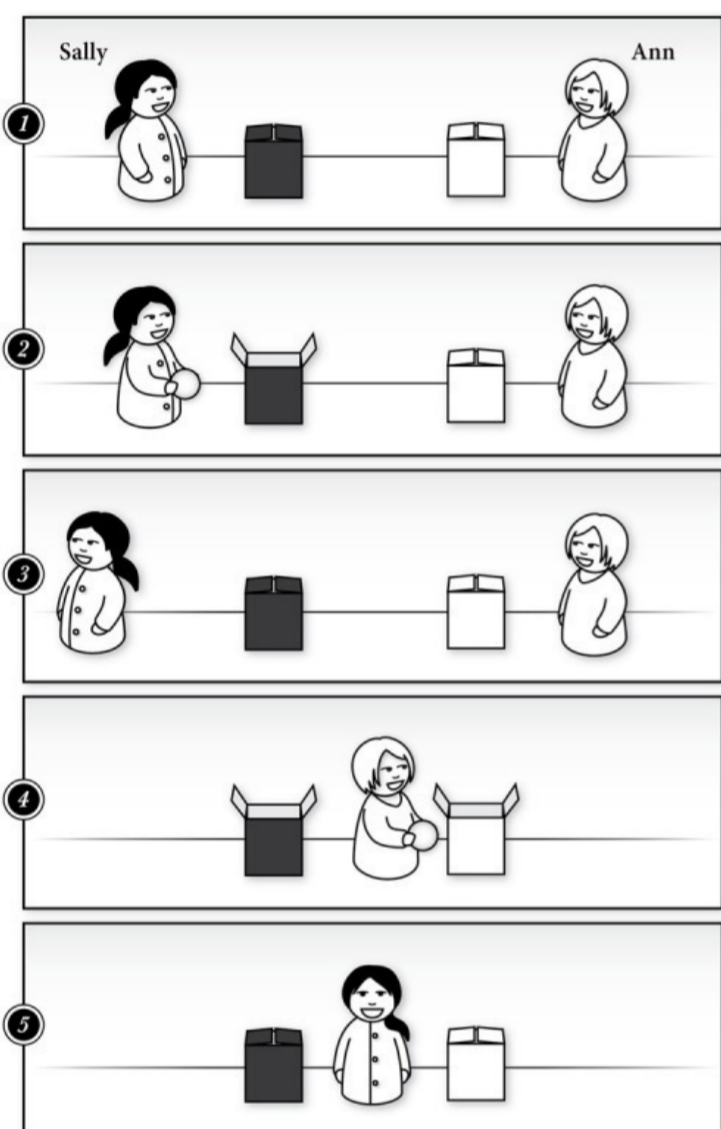


Uta Aurnhammer was born the 25th of May 1941 in Rockenhausen, Germany

At that time, autism was commonly blamed on 'cold parenting', but she always thought it had its roots in biology, not in their parents' failure to bond

She studied history of art and experimental psychology

She moved to London in 1964, to do an internship at the Maudsley Hospital, where she met her husband, the also neuroscientist Chris Frith



She completed her PhD on autism in 1968

An experiment performed at the 1980s by Frith's then PhD student, Simon Baron-Cohen, *the Sally-Ann task*, helped develop the theory that autistic children have specific *difficulties understanding other people's beliefs and desires*

Her work on *dyslexia* has also been highly influential, showing that this disorder has no relation with the intelligence of the individuals or the environment where they grow up

She also described the *weak central coherence* theory: individuals with autism, and are better than typical individuals at processing details but worse at integrating information from many different sources

She is currently an Emeritus Professor of Cognitive Development at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London (UCL) and Research Foundation Professor at the School of Humanities and Health Sciences, University of Aarhus, Denmark

In 1989, she wrote the book *Autism, Explaining the Enigma*, which has been translated into many languages

She thinks that *Slower Science* would be better for everyone, as the intense competition that exists in science nowadays is lowering standards of published research and putting younger women scientists at a disadvantage. 'The pressure favours male scientists over women at the critical stage in a scientific career' - UF

