

Curriculum Vitae: Simon Baron-Cohen

January 1st 2012

Overview

Simon Baron-Cohen is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge and Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. He is Director of the Autism Research Centre (ARC) in Cambridge (www.autismresearchcentre.com). He holds degrees in Human Sciences from New College, Oxford, a PhD in Psychology from UCL, and an M.Phil in Clinical Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry. He held lectureships in both of these departments in London before moving to Cambridge in 1994.

He is author of *Mindblindness* (MIT Press, 1995), *The Essential Difference* (Penguin UK/Basic Books, 2003), *Prenatal Testosterone in Mind* (MIT Press, 2005) and *Zero Degrees of Empathy* (Penguin UK/Basic Books, 2011). He has edited a number of scholarly anthologies, including *Understanding Other Minds* (OUP, 1993, 2001), *The Maladapted Mind* (Erlbaum, 1997) and *Synaesthesia* (Blackwells, 1997). He has also written books for parents and teachers such as *Autism and Asperger Syndrome: The Facts* (OUP, 2008), and *Teaching children with autism to mind read* (Wiley, 1998). He is author of the DVD-ROM *Mind Reading: an interactive guide to emotions* (Jessica Kingsley Ltd, 2003) and *The Transporters* (www.thetransporters.com, 2007), an animation for preschool children with autism to help them learn emotion recognition. Both of these were nominated for BAFTA awards.

He has been awarded prizes from the American Psychological Association, the British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA), and the British Psychological Society (BPS) for his research into autism. For 2007 he was President of the Psychology Section of the BA, Vice President of the National Autistic Society, and received the 2006 Presidents' Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychological Knowledge from the BPS. For 2009-2011 he was Vice President of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR). He is Patron or Vice President of several autism and disability charities (including Autism Anglia, Autism Yorkshire, and Speaking Up). He is a Fellow of the BPS and the British Academy, and founding co-editor in chief of the journal *Molecular Autism*. His current research is testing the 'extreme male brain' theory of autism at the neural, endocrine and genetic levels.



Degrees

- BA Hons Human Sciences, New College Oxford, 1978-81.
- PhD in Psychology, University College, London, and MRC Cognitive Development Unit, London, 1982-85. Funded by an MRC Studentship.
- M. Phil in Clinical Psychology, Institute of Psychiatry, London, 1985-87. Funded by a University of London Scholarship.

Awards

- The British Psychological Society (BPS), Spearman Medal, 1990.
- The American Psychological Association (Division 7), McCandless Award, 1990.
- Fellowship to the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, 1992.
- The British Psychological Society (Clinical Psychology Section), May Davison Award, 1993.
- Fellow of the British Psychological Society, 1996.
- The British Association for the Advancement of Science (BA), Joseph Lister Lecturer, 1998.
- BAFTA Award – Nomination, Best DVD in off-line learning, 2002
- Autism Award – Outstanding investigator, Philadelphia Autism Association/Princeton University, 2004.
- Vice-President, National Autistic Society, 2004-ongoing
- Presidents' Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychological Knowledge, British Psychological Society (2006)
- President of the Psychology Section of the British Association (2007)
- The Tizard Lecture, University of Kent (2007)
- BAFTA Award – Nomination, Best DVD in children's learning, 2007.
- Vice-President, International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) (2009-2011)
- Fellow, British Academy (2009)
- Fellow, American Psychological Association, (2009)
- Distinguished Lecture, MIND Institute, University of Davis, Sacramento (2009).
- Lifetime Achievement Award, MENSA (2011)
- Blake Marshall Lecturer (2010) Royal College of Psychiatry
- Andrew D White Professors-At-Large, Cornell University (2010-2015)
- Kanner-Asperger Medal (2013, German Society for Research into Autism Spectrum Conditions, Cologne)

National Contributions

- Chair, NICE Guideline Development Group for Autism (Adults), (2010-2012)
- Program Board, Autism Strategy, Department of Health (2010)
- Autism Europe Conference Scientific Committee (2010)
- Autism Neuroscience Conference Organizing Committee (2006, 2008, 2010)
- British Psychological Society Fellowship Committee (2002)
- Chair, National Autistic Society Accreditation and Standards Body (2002)
- Member of the MRC Review Group for Autism (2001)
- Research Ethics Committee, National Autistic Society (1995-1997)
- Scientific Advisor, National Autistic Society (1995-ongoing)
- Scientific Advisor to Tree-House Autistic School, London (2001-ongoing)

- Scientific Advisor to Project Kaspar (Shirley Foundation) (2002-2004)
- Scientific Advisor to the Research Autism Trust (2002-ongoing)
- All Party Parliamentary Group for Autism (2000-ongoing)
- MRC College of Experts in Neuroscience (2005-2008)
- Trustee of Resources for Autism (2004-2006)
- Medical and Educational Advisory Panel, Prior's Court Foundation (2005-2007)
- Council, Norwood Charity (2007-ongoing)
- The Autism Research Trust (Trustee) (2010-ongoing)
- Academic Council, Learning Skills Foundation (2007-ongoing)

International Bodies

- Vice-President, International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) (2009-2011)
- Professional Advisory Council to the Geneva Centre for Autism, Canada (2000-ongoing)
- Advisory Board, W Kahn Institute of Theoretical Psychiatry and Neuroscience (2004)
- Beit Issie Shapiro Foundation Advisory Board (Israel)

Patron

- Yorkshire Autism Association (2000-ongoing)
- Hertfordshire School for Children with Autism (2003-ongoing)
- UK Synaesthesia Association (1997-2007)
- Autism Anglia (2008-ongoing, Vice President)
- Speaking Up (2005-ongoing)
- Cambridge University Science Festival (2006-ongoing)
- Cam Sight (Vice Patron) (2008-ongoing)
- Autism In Mind (AIM) (2001-ongoing)

Academic Posts

1987-1994

- Lecturer in Psychology, University College London, Department of Psychology, 1987-88. (Joint with Department of Psychiatry, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London).
- "New Blood" Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, Departments of Psychology and Child Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, 1988-1991.
- Senior Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, Departments of Psychology and Child Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, 1991-1994.
- Acting Head of Department, Psychology Department, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, 1991-1994.
- Joint-Head of Autism Section, MRC Child Psychiatry Unit, Institute of Psychiatry, London, 1992-1994.

1995-2010

- Lecturer in Psychopathology, University of Cambridge, Departments of Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry, October 1994-1999
- Reader in Developmental Psychopathology, University of Cambridge, Departments of Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry, October 1999-2001
- Professor in Developmental Psychopathology, University of Cambridge, Departments

- of Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry, October 2001-ongoing.
- Teaching Fellow in Experimental Psychology, Trinity College, Cambridge 1995-2007
- Professorial Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge, 2007-ongoing.
- Co-Director, Cambridge Autism Research Centre (ARC) 1997-2002
- Director, Cambridge Autism Research Centre (ARC) 2003-ongoing.

Current Grants

- MRC Program Grant (2007-2013) Foetal testosterone, autism and autistic traits (£980K)
- Wellcome Trust (2010-2013) Foetal testosterone effects on brain structure and function (£280K)
- NIHR CLAHRC (2009-2013) Mental Health in the NHS (£13 million: PI: Prof Peter Jones, Co-Applicants: Prof Ian Goodyer, Dr Belinda Lennox, in partnership with the Judge Business School and the Dept of Engineering and Design). [I am co Theme Lead for the Child and Adolescent Section].
- Waterloo Foundation (2011-2012) Neural differences between autism and Asperger Syndrome (£30K)
- EU (2012-2015) ASC-Inclusion (using new technology to help emotion recognition and expression in autism). 2 million euros (Cambridge partner: 500K euros)
- EU (2012-2015) EU-AIMS (autism brain imaging. Led by Prof Declan Murphy. Total award: 23 million Euros. Cambridge partner: 500K euros)

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Dr Chris Ashwin, NAAR, 2003-2005
- Dr Michelle O’Riordan, Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkins Fellowship, 1999-2004, and ‘Cure Autism Now’, 2005-2007.
- Dr Melissa Rutherford, Fulbright Commission Fellowship, 1997-1998
- Dr Valerie Stone, ‘Cure Autism Now’ (CAN), 1997-1998
- Dr Fiona Scott, Shirley Foundation, 1997-2005
- Dr Matthew Belmonte, ‘Cure Autism Now’ (CAN), 2002-2004
- Dr Marie Gomot, INSERM, 2003-2005
- Dr Bhismadev Chakrabarti, MRC, 2007-2009
- Dr Greg Pasco, The Big Lottery, 2007-2010
- Dr Uma Mallya, Target Autism Genome, 2007-2008
- Dr Bonnie Auyeung, MRC, 2009-2012.
- Dr Carrie Allison, CLAHRC, 2009-2012.
- Dr Mike Lombardo, British Academy Fellowship, 2011-2013
- Dr Meng-Chuan Lai, Waterloo Foundation, 2011-2012

PhD Students

Current

1. Lindsay Chiura (2008-2011) The corpus callosum in autism (Gates Scholarship). Jointly supervised with Dr Mike Spencer.
2. Caroline Robertson (2009-2012) Visual pathways in autism. Gates Scholarship/NIH.
3. Stephanie Mok (2009-2012) Oxytocin effects on mind and brain: innate and experiential factors. NIH. Jointly supervised with Dr Bhismadev Chakrabarti.
4. Amber Ruigrok (2010-2013) White matter tracts and foetal testosterone. Jointly

supervised with Prof John Suckling

Completed

1. Wendy Phillips, (1989-1993) Understanding intentions and autism. MRC Studentship. Now working in the NHS as a Consultant Clinical Psychologist
2. Tony Charman, (1991-1994) Precursors of theory of mind. Self-funded. Now Professor of Developmental Psychopathology, Institute of Education, and Director of the Centre for Autism and Education, University of London
3. Fiona Scott, (1992-1996) Reasoning in autism. MRC Studentship. Now ADI/ADOS National Trainer.
4. Therese Jolliffe, (1993-1997) Central coherence and autism. MRC Studentship. Now training in medicine, Kings College, London.
5. Jaime Craig, (1994-1997) Imagination in autism. BBSRC Studentship. Now working in the NHS as a Clinical Psychologist.
6. Michelle O’Riordan, (1995-1998) Visual attention in autism. MRC Studentship.
7. Svetlana Lutchmaya, (1997-2000) Prenatal testosterone MRC Studentship. Left academia for industry.
8. Chris Ashwin (2000-2004) The amygdala theory of autism. MRC RA. Now Lecturer in Psychology, Bath University.
9. John Lawson (2000 – 2004) Systemising in autism. Isaac Newton Trust. Now Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, Oxford Brookes University.
10. Rebecca Knickmeyer (2001-2005) Prenatal testosterone and autism. Fulbright Scholarship. Now Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Carolina, Chapel Hill, in neuroendocrinology.
11. Richard Griffin (2002-2007) Cognitive development in toddlers with autism. MRC RA. Now Fellow at Tufts University, Boston.
12. Ofer Golan (2002-2006) Teaching emotions to people with autism. Corob Foundation/NAAR. Now Senior Lecturer in Bar Ilan University, Israel.
13. Bhisudev Chakrabarti (2003-2006) fMRI and Genetic Studies of Empathy Trinity College. Now Lecturer in Neuroscience, Reading University Dept of Psychology, and Research Associate, in the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge University, and Fellow at Darwin College, Cambridge.
14. Jaclyn Billington (2003-2007) fMRI Studies of systemizing in autism MRC Studentship. Now post-doctoral research fellow at Royal Holloway College, London University
15. Julian Asher (2003-2007) Genetics of synaesthesia. Cambridge Overseas Trust. Now postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard University.
16. Gina Owen (2004-2008) Interventions in autism: systemizing empathy. MRC Studentship. Now a postdoc at the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge and Director of Action Research, National Autistic Society, London.
17. Bonnie Auyeung (2004-2007) Fetal testosterone and autism. Trinity College Studentship. Now Research Manager and postdoc at the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge.
18. Emma Chapman (2004-2008) Fetal testosterone and the brain. MRC. Now a postdoc at the University of Bath.
19. Carrie Allison (2005-2009) Early screening of autism. (Lottery). Now Research Manager and a postdoc at the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge funded by the CLAHRC/NIHR.
20. Mike Lombardo (2007-2010) Structural neuroimaging in autism (Shirley Foundation). Now Research Fellow at Jesus College Cambridge, and British Academy postdoctoral

Fellow at the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge.

21. Teresa Tavassoli (2007-2011) Sensory processing in autism (Pinsent Darwin Trust and Autistica). Now a postdoc at the Seaver Autism Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital Medical School, NY.
22. Meng-Chuan Lai (2008-2011) Females with autism: neuroimaging studies. (Taiwanese Govt). Now a postdoc at the Autism Research Centre, funded by the Waterloo Foundation.

MSc/MPhil Students

Current:

Emma Robson (2011-2012) Mirror touch synaesthesia and empathy.

Completed:

1. Sarah Humphries, (1990) Social-cognitive development in autism. Clinical Psychology Scholarship.
2. Francis Goodhart, (1991) Referential communication. Clinical Psychology Scholarship.
3. Emma Citron, (1991) Mentalistic explanations in speech. Clinical Psychology Scholarship.
4. Tony Charman, (1991) Pictorial representation in autism. Clinical Psychology Scholarship. Now Professor and Director, Centre for Autism and Education, Institute of Education, London University.
5. Pamela Dearsley, (1994) Obsessive-compulsive disorder. Clinical Psychology Scholarship.
6. Ruth Staunton, (1994) Accent acquisition in autism. Clinical Psychology Scholarship.
7. Jennifer Connellan, (2000) Sex differences in infancy.
8. Anna Bakti (2000) Gaze in neonates Trinity College Research Studentship (E. Europe).
9. John Herrington (2001) fMRI studies of biological motion in autism. Rotary Scholarship. Now Associate Professor at Philadelphia University.
10. Rebecca Jones (2006) Social cueing tasks in autism. Gates Scholarship. Now doing a PhD at Columbia University.
11. Jennifer Barnes (2007) Narrative ability and autism. Fulbright Scholarship. Now doing a PhD at Yale University
12. Jon Breidbord (2008) Online testing of EFT and Eyes Tests in autism. Gates Scholarship. Now doing a second MPhil in Cambridge in Public Health.
13. Cara Damiano (2008) Face perception in autism. Now doing a Phd in the US.
14. Donielle Johnson (2010-2011) Synaesthesia in autism. Gates Scholar. Viva in September 2011. Now at University of Philadelphia

Clinical Work

- 1990-1995: Honorary Clinical Psychologist in Developmental Neuropsychology, Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London, working with Dr Mary Robertson and Professor Michael Trimble.
- 1990-1994: Honorary Clinical Psychologist in Developmental Neuropsychology, Maudsley Hospital.
- 1990-2000: Co-Director of the CHAT (Checklist for Autism in Toddlers) Project, Guys Hospital, Newcomen Centre.

- 1999-2005: Consultant Clinical Psychologist, NHS Lifespan Healthcare Trust, Director of the CLASS Clinic (Cambridge Lifespan Asperger Syndrome Service).
- 1999-ongoing: Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Director of CLASS Clinic, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT).

Summary of original contributions to research or services

- 1985: The ‘theory of mind’ (ToM) hypothesis of autism
 1987: Pretend play deficits demonstrated
 1988: Pragmatic impairment demonstrated
 1989: The ‘specific developmental delay’ hypothesis of autism
 1989: Joint-attention recognized as a key developmental precursor to ToM
 1992: Lowering the age of diagnosis of autism to 18 months old in ‘baby sibs’ using the Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (CHAT)
 1992: Gaze-direction as a cue to ToM identified
 1993: Understanding Other Minds (OUP)
 1994: The orbito-frontal cortex (OFC) theory of the brain basis of ToM in autism
 1995: Mindblindness (MIT Press).
 1996: Population study of the CHAT
 1997: The extreme male brain (EMB) theory of autism
 1997: Teaching children with autism to mind-read (Wiley).
 1997: The broader autism phenotype identified in parents
 1997: Autism linked to parents or siblings who are high ‘systemizers’
 1997: The Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test
 1998: Superior attention to detail in autism demonstrated
 1999: Establishing the rate of Tourette Syndrome in autism
 1999: The amygdala theory of the brain basis of ToM in autism
 1999: Reliability of early diagnosis of autism established
 2000: Establishment of the Cambridge Lifespan Asperger Syndrome Service (CLASS)
 2000: Neonatal sex differences in social interest
 2001: Dimensionalizing autistic traits on the Autism Spectrum Quotient (AQ)
 2001: Linking mathematical talent to AQ
 2001: Prevalence of Asperger Syndrome in childhood reported as 1 in 166.
 2001: Understanding Other Minds-Second edition (OUP)
 2001: The Reading the Mind in the Eyes Test - Revised
 2002: The prenatal testosterone theory of autism
 2002: The ‘empathizing-systemizing (E-S)’ theory of sex differences
 2002: Linking foetal testosterone (FT) to eye-contact and vocabulary development
 2002: The ‘extreme male brain’ (EMB) theory of autism
 2003: Mind Reading DVD for teaching emotion recognition (jpk.com)
 2003: The Empathy Quotient (EQ) and Systemizing Quotient (SQ)
 2003: The Essential Difference (Penguin)
 2003: Amygdala lesions impair ToM demonstrated
 2004: Prenatal Testosterone in Mind (MIT Press)
 2005: The EMB theory at the biological level (*Science*)
 2005: Linking FT to social development and narrow interests
 2005: Dysconnectivity with amygdala in autism demonstrated
 2005: Development of a diagnostic method for adults with Asperger Syndrome (Adult Asperger Assessment (AAA)).
 2006: The ‘Assortative Mating/hyper-systemizing’ theory of autism

2006: The broader autism phenotype in parents using fMRI
2006: Role of Cannabinoid Receptor Gene (CNR1) in emotion perception and neural activity
2006: Linking FT to empathy and systemizing
2006: Benefits of emotion recognition training demonstrated
2006: The Adolescent AQ
2007: The Transporters (DVD) (www.thetransporters.com), BAFTA nomination
2008: Linking FT to autistic traits
2008: The Child AQ
2008: The Q-CHAT
2009: Candidate genes for Asperger Syndrome, empathy and autistic traits
2010: Elevated autistic traits linked to parents of children with autism
2010: Launch of *Molecular Autism*
2011: Development of 'red flags' for autism (short AQs)
2012: Linking FT to regional gray matter volume in the brain

For further information relevant to this CV, see Appendix (separate document)