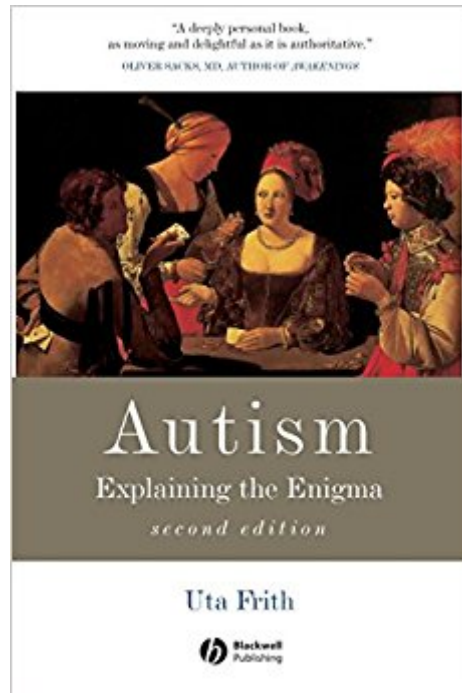




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Autism: Explaining The Enigma



Synopsis

The updated edition of this classic account of autism includes a new chapter outlining recent developments in neuropsychological research, and overviews one of the most important theoretical and practical consequences of Frith's original insights into this puzzling condition. Updated edition of this classic account of autism. Includes new sections covering practical and theoretical developments, and a chapter on recent investigations of the neurological basis of psychological impairments in autism. Accessible to a broad general readership.

Book Information

Paperback: 249 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell; 2 edition (April 18, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0631229019

ISBN-13: 978-0631229018

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,032 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Developmental Psychology #73 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Neurology #118 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Pediatrics

Customer Reviews

"Uta Frith's Autism has been an indispensable reference, an instant classic, since it was first published, and in this new edition it has been radically revised, with striking enrichments and enlargements in almost every chapter, most especially with dramatic new brain imaging studies which clarify the fundamental nature of autism. But it remains a deeply personal book, as moving and delightful as it is authoritative." Oliver Sacks, MD "One of the most recognised names in autism research ... Her [Frith's] book is valuable for educated parents interested in learning about autism in a larger historical context ... enlightening." Library Journal, July 2003 "provides a valuable introduction to contemporary cognitive theories." Sally Bigham, Brunel University, British Journal of Developmental Psychology, Vol.21, Part 3, September 2003 "Uta Frith has long been regarded as one of the leading experts in current autism research and psychological theory in this country ... this second edition presents an easy-to-read and logical journey through autism, from what it is and how

it is and has been perceived, through current psychological theory to neurological explanation and practical implications. It is an extremely worthwhile book for anyone who wants a research-led understanding of the psychology of autism, particularly students interested in the topic or parents and professionals who may wish to understand the theories feeding future interventions and current understanding of this complex spectrum of conditions." Fiona J. Scott, *Psychological Medicine*, Vol. 34, 2004

The first edition of *Autism: Explaining the Enigma* quickly became a classic because it provided the first satisfactory psychological account of what happens in the mind of a person with autism. The book proposed that the key problems were an inability to recognize and think about thoughts (theory of mind), and an inability to integrate pieces of information into coherent wholes (central coherence). It suggested that from this beginning, problems of communication, social interaction, and flexibility follow as the complex interactions of human development unfold. This updated edition reports on how this explanation has stood the test of time. A new chapter outlines developments in neuropsychological research that have taken place since the book was first published and reviews the growing body of work on the neurological basis of autism. The accessible style and structure of the original edition have been retained, with information and references updated throughout.

I got interested in autism/Asperger's in 2003 after hearing an NPR interview on Autism (i.e. the growing rates of autism in Silicon Valley and Sacramento). I realized that Asperger's Syndrome must have been what was wrong with a manager I worked for a few years earlier at a major aerospace company (up until this point I thought he was just a jerk with a PhD). I then read a couple of articles in *Wired* magazine on the Geek Syndrome which really motivated me to do some extensive reading on the subject. Then I ran across Firth's book "*Autism: Explaining the Enigma*". Of all of the books and articles I have read to date on autism this book is the finest introduction to the subject for those who are interested in what autism is and is not. Anyone with an ounce of intellectual curiosity will find this a highly rewarding book, however, if you are looking for a "how to" book on curing or helping someone with autism you will be disappointed. This book provides insight not answers. What Firth tries to address in this book is identifying what the essence of Autism is. This is extremely important since many of the characteristic features of autism show up in other disorders which are not autism. Firth has a very high clarity of thought in her effort to identify what is and isn't the essence of autism. For example, while mental retardation is very common in autism (>75% according to some accounts), it is not the characteristic that makes someone autistic, since

there are mentally retarded individuals who are not autistic. What I really like about Firth's book is not only her clarity of thinking but the quality of intellectual honesty in dissecting the autism question. This is not to say that she has the last word on this topic - I think she would be the first to admit this - but rather that she has done the best job to date of sorting out the research and models of autism that have been proposed up to the date of her book. The book is noteworthy for its readability. One does not need a graduate degree in psychology or cognitive science to read it. And Firth has done an excellent job of making this read an interesting subject through out the book. All said, I give this book a solid A rating.

There is so much left to learn about autism but this book is a good stepping stone

I got this book right away in perfect condition.

It's a must reading for every speech therapy who works with the autistic children , it digs into the history of autism quit well!

I am currently reading this book for a graduate course at Sierra Nevada College.....if you are interested in Autism...buy it....great info., history, case studies, and insights. Highly recommended.

It was a required text for SPED791 at SFSU. There's an interesting story about the cover inside the book, however.

Item delivered on time, was as described

I was upset to receive a damaged book without a receipt! I like this book, but I am not happy about how it arrived.

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