

ON SHARING: A NEUROTYPICAL DIFFICULTY

A Preliminary Global Audit of Wealth, Autism, and the Coming Age of Relative Disability

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Abstract

Autistic people are frequently characterised as having deficits in social reciprocity, including difficulty with sharing. This paper examines that claim through a comparative lens, contrasting common stereotypes about autism with observable global patterns of wealth concentration, political resistance to redistribution, and emerging labour displacement driven by artificial intelligence. Drawing on basic economic data, political discourse, and future projections of AI capability, this paper proposes that difficulty with sharing is not an autistic trait, but a dominant feature of neurotypical-led economic systems. As AI rapidly exceeds human productivity, the paper further argues that most people will soon experience *relative disability* in economic terms, necessitating a rapid cultural shift toward collective sharing. The findings suggest that autistic perspectives may be less socially impaired than previously assumed — and instead prematurely adapted to a future the rest of society is unprepared for.

1. Introduction: The Autism and Sharing Narrative

Autistic people are routinely described as struggling with sharing, cooperation, and reciprocity.

This claim appears in:

- Early childhood assessments
- Educational reports
- Popular media portrayals

The underlying assumption is simple:

Autistic people have trouble distributing resources fairly within social groups.

This paper asks a naïve but necessary question:

If that were true, where is the evidence at scale?

2. An Observational Contradiction

Globally, the majority of wealth is held by a very small minority of people.
This is not disputed.

What is notable is that:

- Wealth concentration is highest in societies led and governed by neurotypical norms
- Resistance to redistribution is loudest among those holding the most
- Sharing is frequently reframed as “unsustainable,” “a burden,” or “a threat to markets”

Meanwhile:

- Autistic people, as a group, hold negligible global wealth
- They are disproportionately reliant on collective systems
- They are routinely accused of lacking social reciprocity

This presents a contradiction.

If sharing were the problem, the distribution would look very different.

3. The Projection Hypothesis

This paper proposes the **Projection Hypothesis**:

Dominant groups may pathologise traits they themselves systemically exhibit,
while attributing moral or cognitive deficits to marginalised groups.

In this case:

- Hoarding is normalised as “economic success”
- Resistance to redistribution is reframed as “fiscal responsibility”

- Calls for sharing are labelled naive or dangerous

Autistic people are then positioned as the ones who “don’t understand” sharing — despite being structurally excluded from hoarding behaviours altogether.

4. Policy Language and Public Perception

Public fear does not arise in a vacuum.

When political leaders describe disability supports using terms such as:

- “burden”
- “alarming numbers”
- “unsustainable growth”
- “market dislocation”

The public learns to associate disability — including autism — with threat and excess.

This framing shapes perception more powerfully than any diagnostic label.

5. Artificial Intelligence and Relative Disability

Artificial intelligence is rapidly surpassing human capability across:

- Analysis
- Pattern recognition
- Knowledge work
- Creative production

As AI becomes cheaper, faster, and more reliable, most humans will experience a decline in economic competitiveness.

This paper introduces the concept of **relative disability**:

A state in which individuals are functionally disadvantaged relative to dominant systems, regardless of biological status.

By this definition:

- Disability will soon be the norm
- Productivity-based worth will collapse
- Access to resources will depend on sharing, not performance

Autistic people, long excluded from productivity-as-worth models, may be uniquely prepared for this shift.

6. Conclusion: Learning to Share

If sharing were truly a neurological deficit, global economic data suggests we have been studying the wrong population.

As AI accelerates inequality unless actively countered, societies face a choice:

- Learn to share rapidly
- Or allow mass exclusion to become the new normal

Autistic people are not the warning.
They are the early signal.