

# Orderly chaos

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# Stellingen

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## **Orderly chaos: social defeat as a risk factor for psychosis in autism**

Rik Schalbroeck

1. Autistic individuals are at an increased risk of developing psychotic symptomatology. (this thesis)
2. Adverse social circumstances increase the risk of psychosis in autistic individuals. (this thesis)
3. Striatal dopamine synthesis capacity is not increased in non-psychotic, unmedicated autistic young adults, nor is this capacity positively related to indicators of social defeat. (this thesis)
4. Although the experience of social defeat might be an important risk factor for psychosis in autistic individuals, its exact role remains to be elucidated. (this thesis)
5. We should normalize asking autistic individuals about any psychotic symptoms they might have, using questionnaires adapted to their understanding. (impact)
6. Inclusion and acceptance of autistic individuals goes beyond the provision of jobs in IT.
7. Psychologists could benefit greatly from using positron emission tomography (PET) in their studies of brain functioning, and they do not need to be afraid of doing so.
8. “Theories are nets cast to catch what we call ‘the world’: to rationalize, to explain, and to master it. We endeavour to make the mesh ever finer and finer.” (Popper, 1935/2002)
9. Conducting scientific research often feels like watching the Dutch national team play football. You have high expectations beforehand, the outcomes are usually somewhat disappointing, and yet you will still want to do it all again afterwards.