

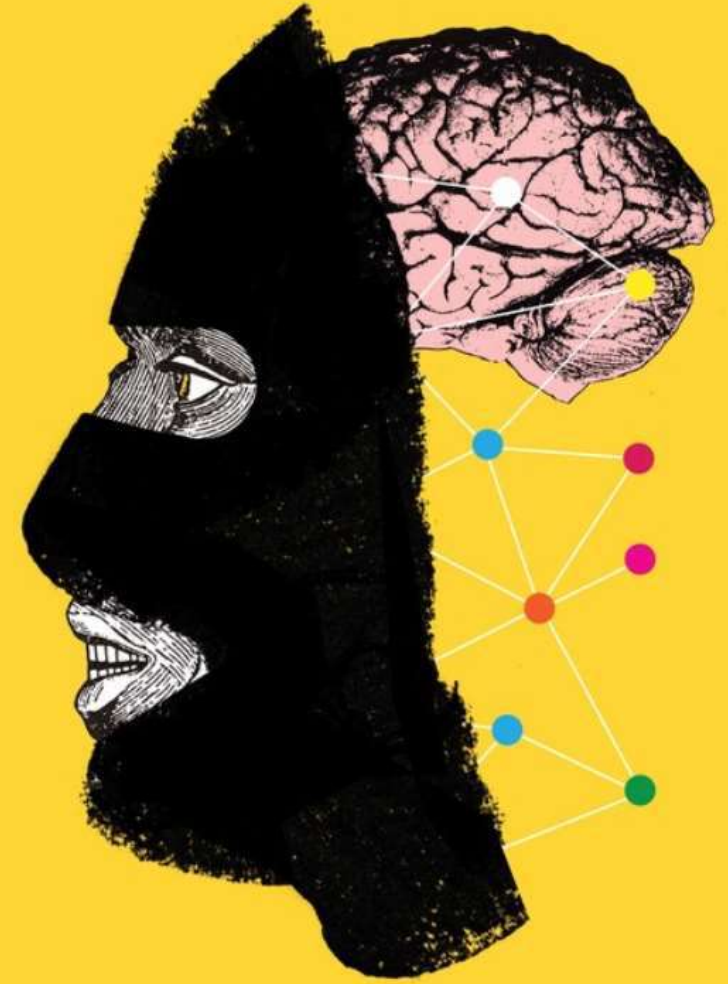


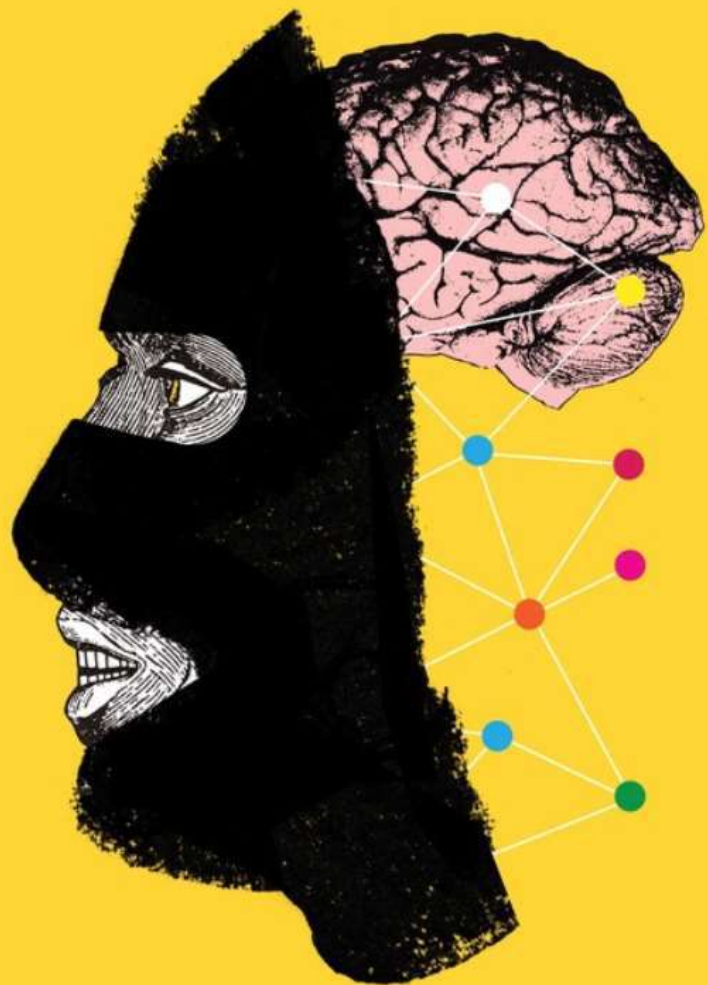


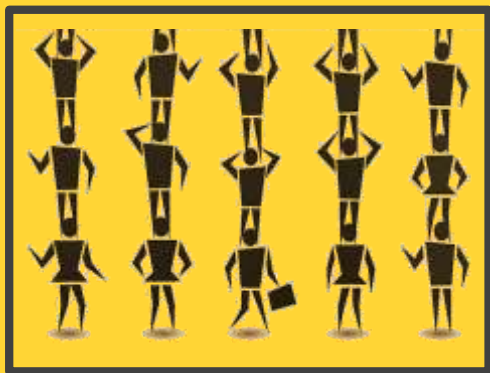
Why are some brains more attracted to extreme ideological doctrines than other brains?

Who is most susceptible to endorsing ideological extremism and violence?

What triggers change towards radicalization and deradicalization?

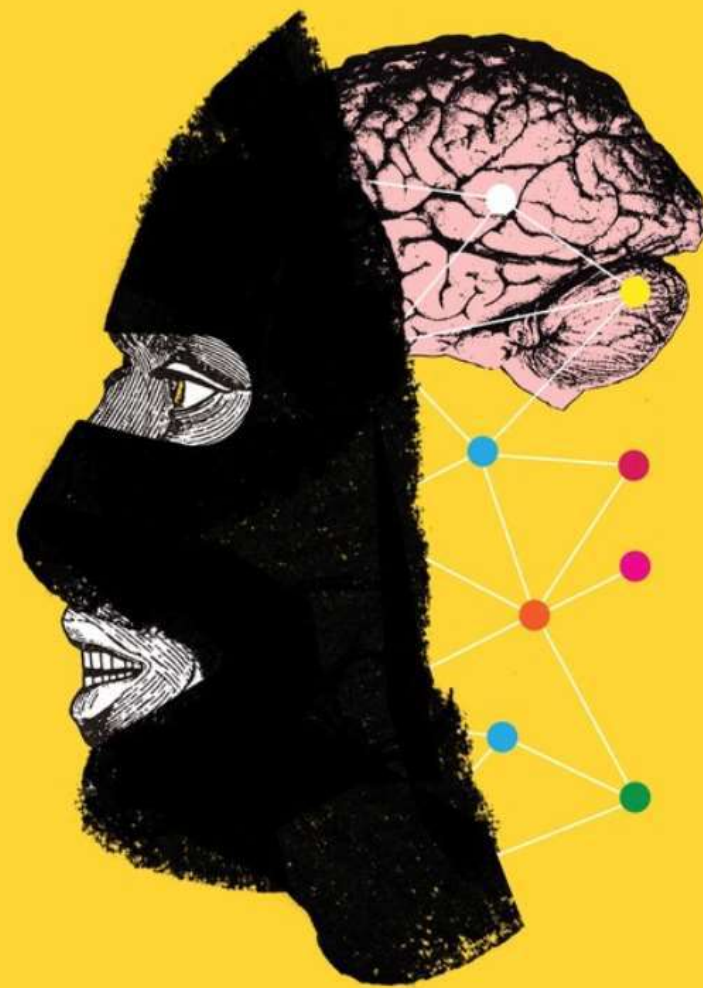






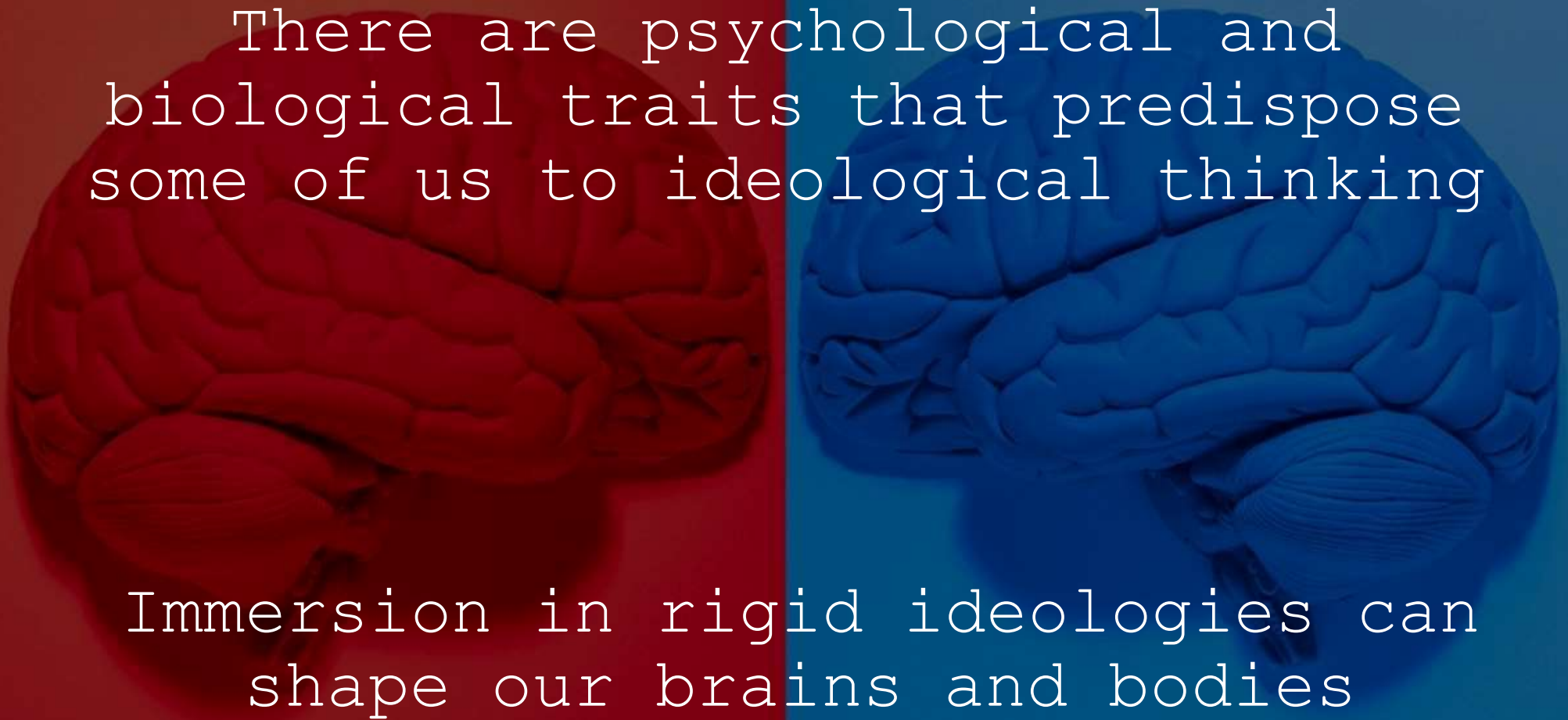
Resilient against
extreme
ideological

Susceptible to
extreme
ideological





Political
Neuroscience



There are psychological and
biological traits that predispose
some of us to ideological thinking

Immersion in rigid ideologies can
shape our brains and bodies

for what is thought
to be best in any re
point of view.

Ideology

set of beliefs, espe
that guides an inc
political beliefs o
... though



RIGHT

WRONG



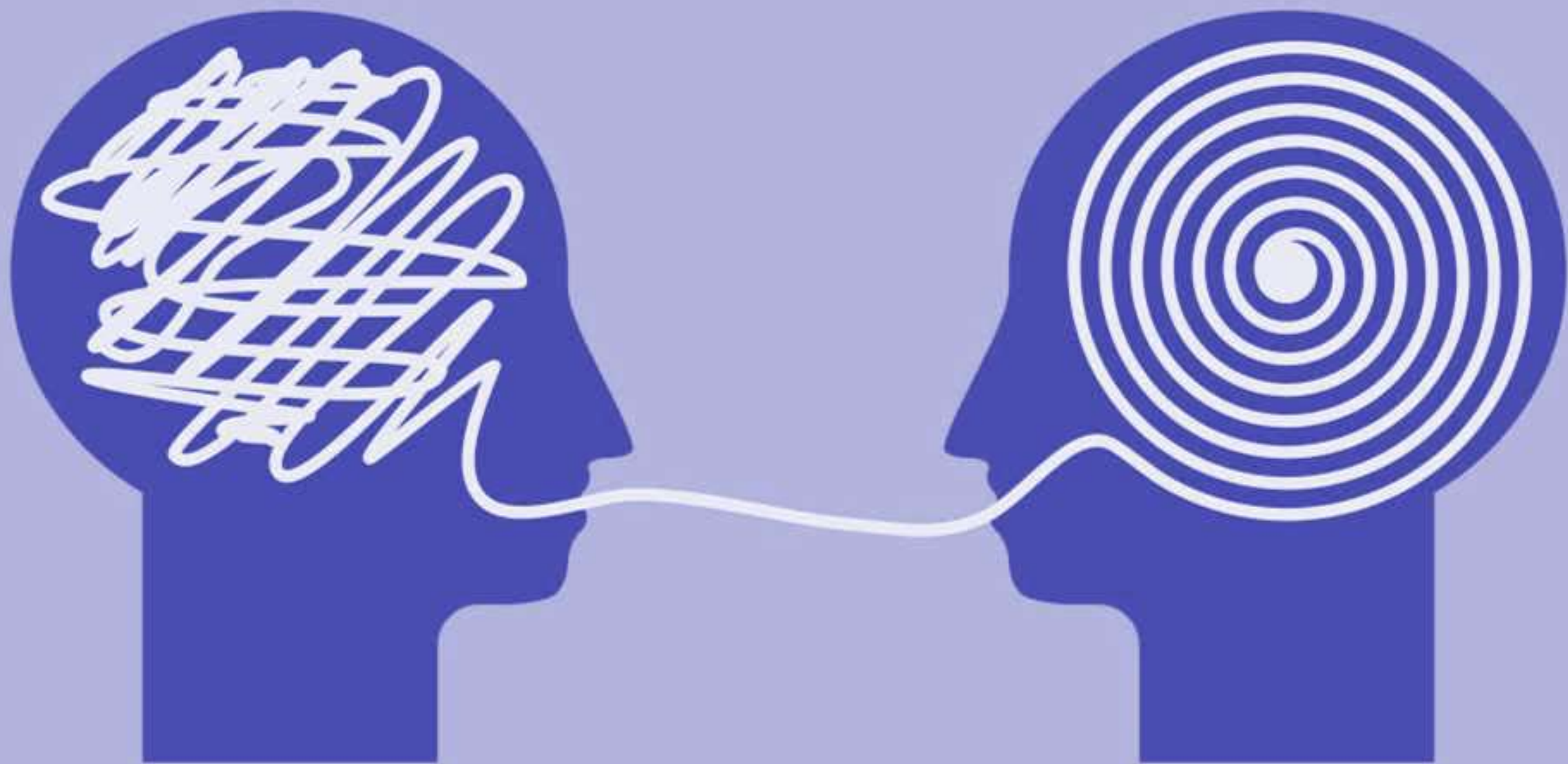
Fixed Doctrine

absolute moral rules, strict causal narratives
that resist evidence



Fixed Identity

strong identity categories, hostility to others
and willingness to harm





Cognitive Rigidity

Perceiving the world in terms of binary categories

Inability to switch between modes of thinking

Difficulty to adapt to changing environments

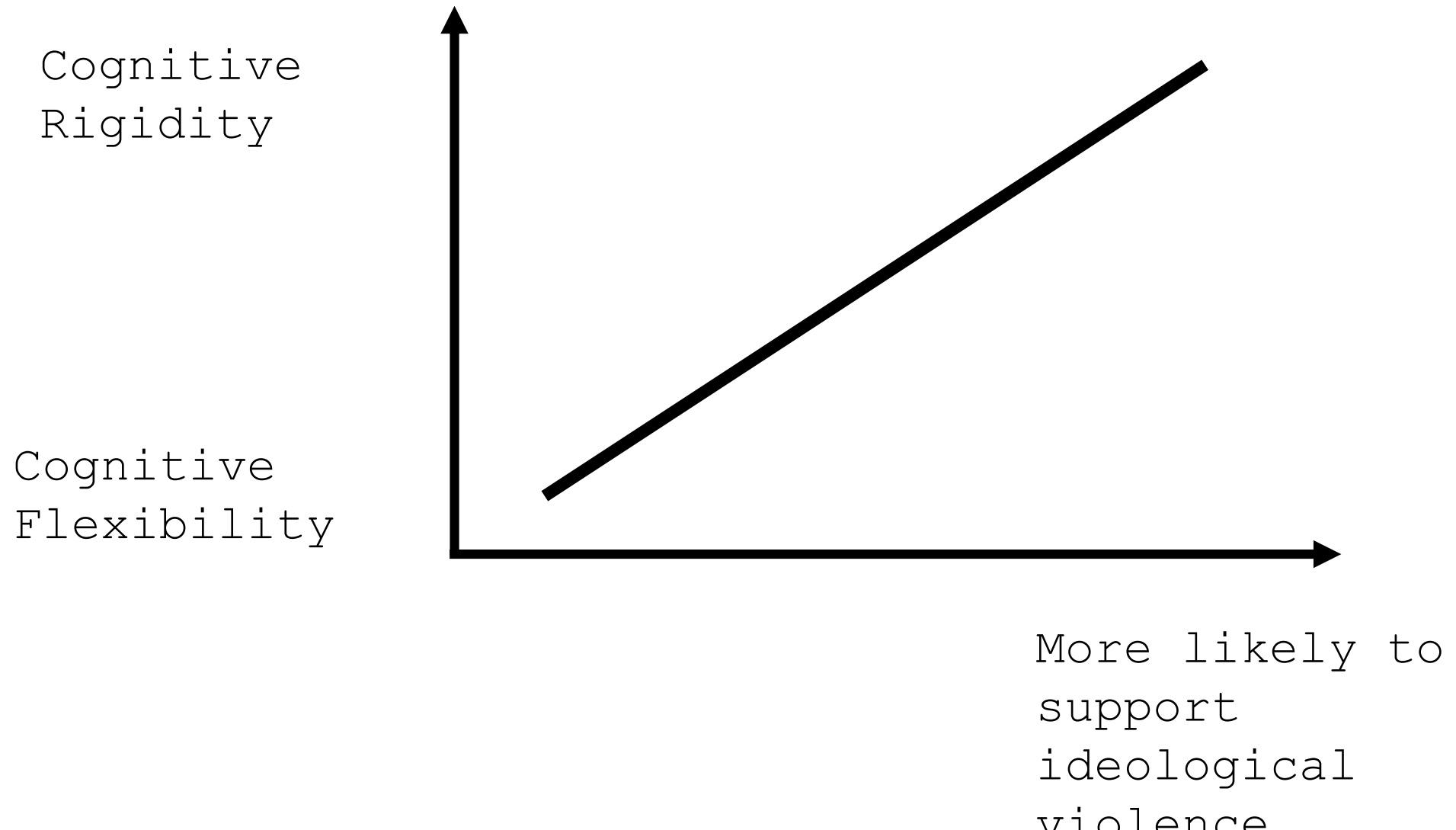




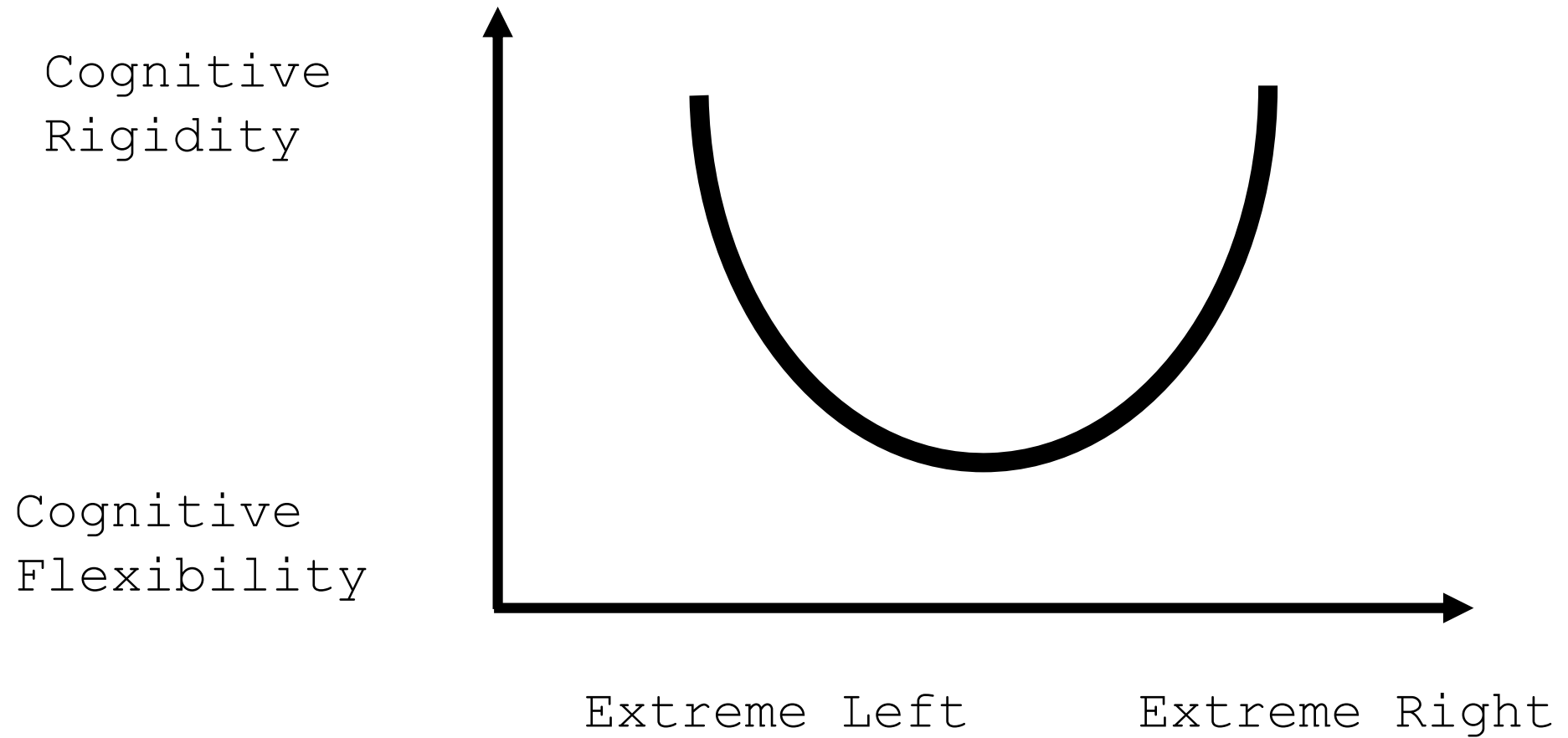




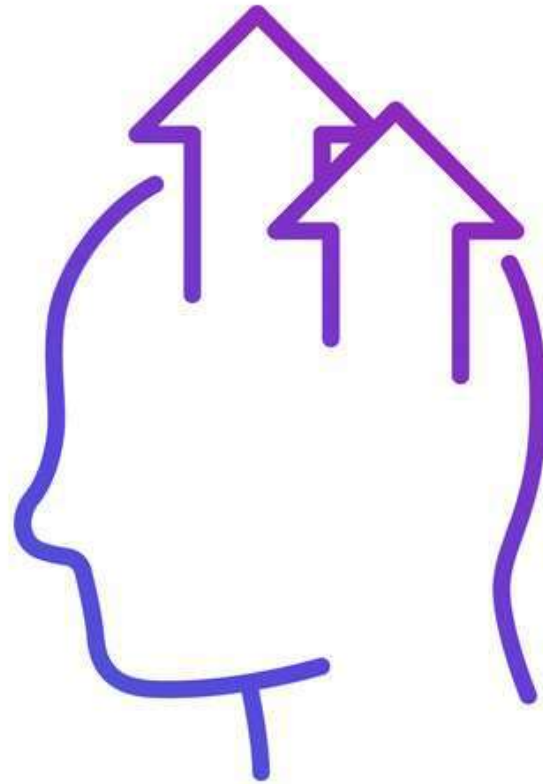
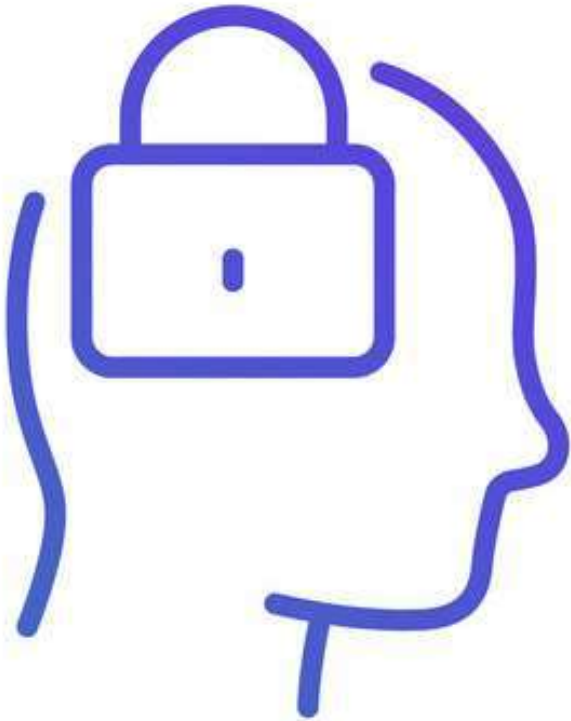
Cognitive rigidity is linked to ideological rigidity




Cognitive rigidity is linked to
ideological rigidity



Cognitive characteristics





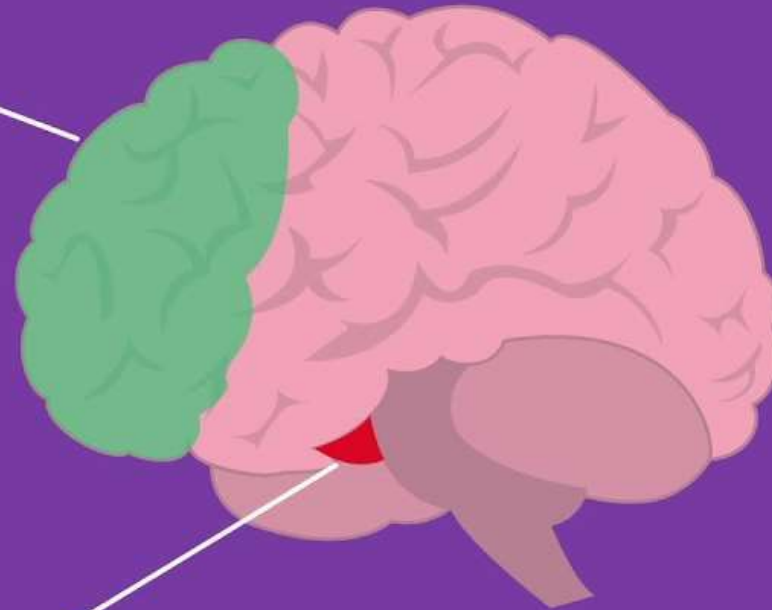
The background features two stylized DNA double helices. The helices are composed of glowing, multi-colored lines (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) that spiral around each other. The lines are slightly blurred, giving a sense of motion or depth. The overall color palette is dark, with the glowing lines providing a vibrant contrast.

Genetic dispositions

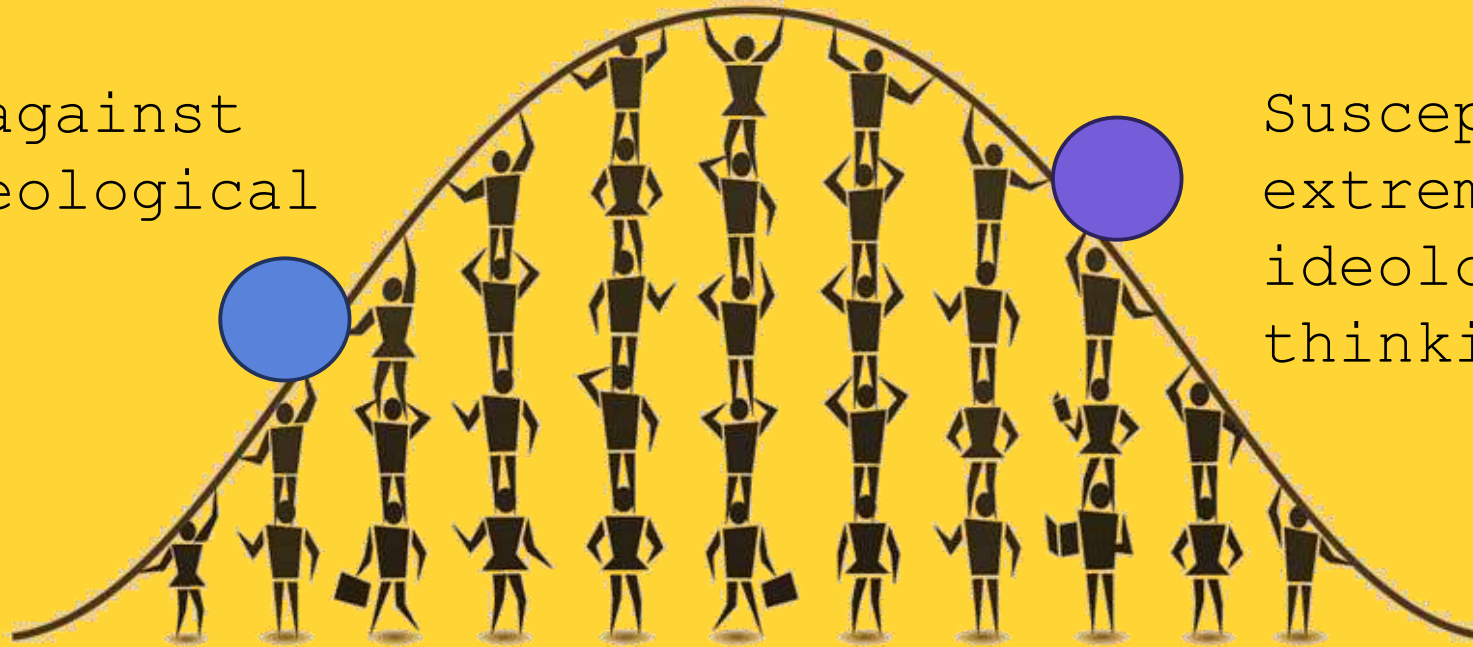
Neurobiological differences in brain structure and function

Prefrontal Cortex
(thinking, paying attention,
self-control, remaining calm, etc)

Amygdala
(fight, flight, freeze)

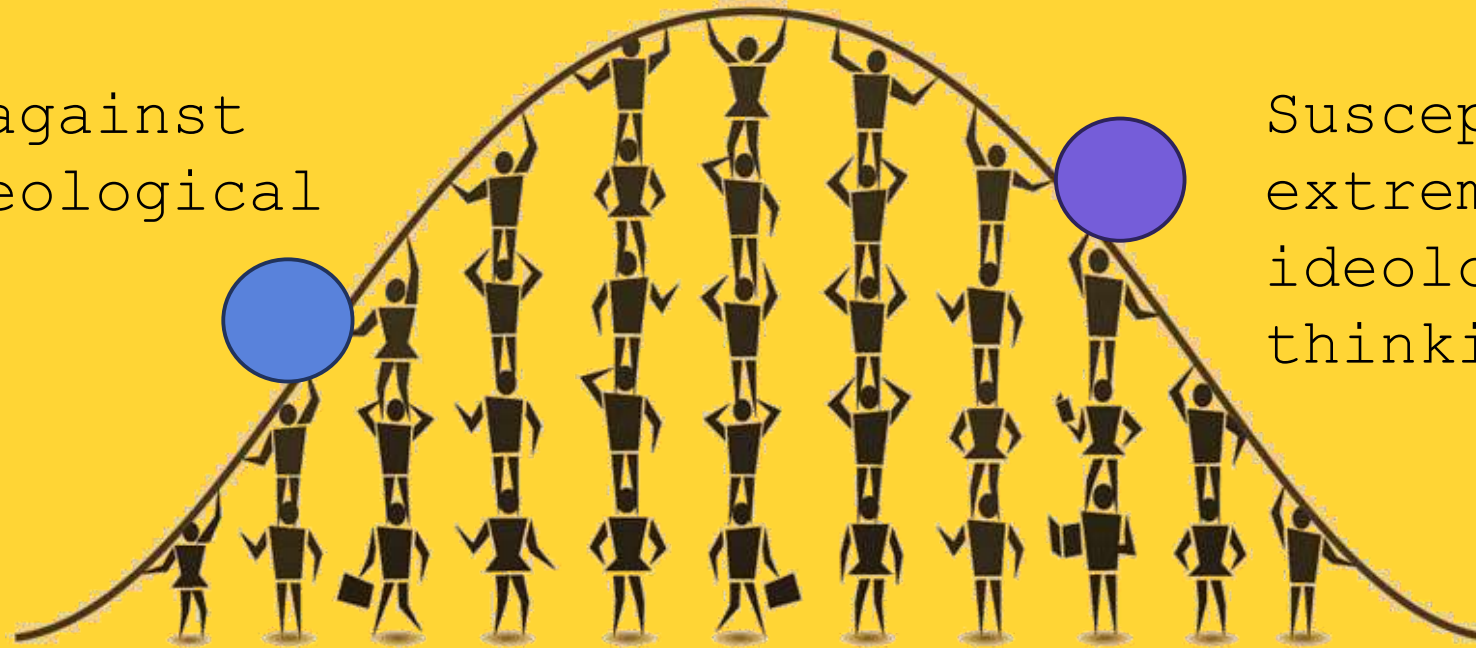


Resilient against
extreme ideological
thinking



Susceptible to
extreme
ideological
thinking

Resilient against
extreme ideological
thinking



Susceptible to
extreme
ideological
thinking

Can people unchain their
minds from extreme
dogmas?

Stress



Environment




Spiral
into
extremism



Spiral
into
extremism



A conceptual illustration of a woman's head in profile, facing left. Her head is filled with a dense, colorful cloud of digital icons and symbols, including social media logos (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram), communication icons (speech bubbles, mail), and various geometric shapes. The icons are rendered in a vibrant, glowing style with a mix of colors like red, orange, yellow, blue, and green. She is holding a smartphone in her right hand, which is positioned near her face. The background is dark, making the glowing icons stand out. The overall composition suggests the overwhelming nature of digital information and its impact on the human mind.

Risk and
resilience

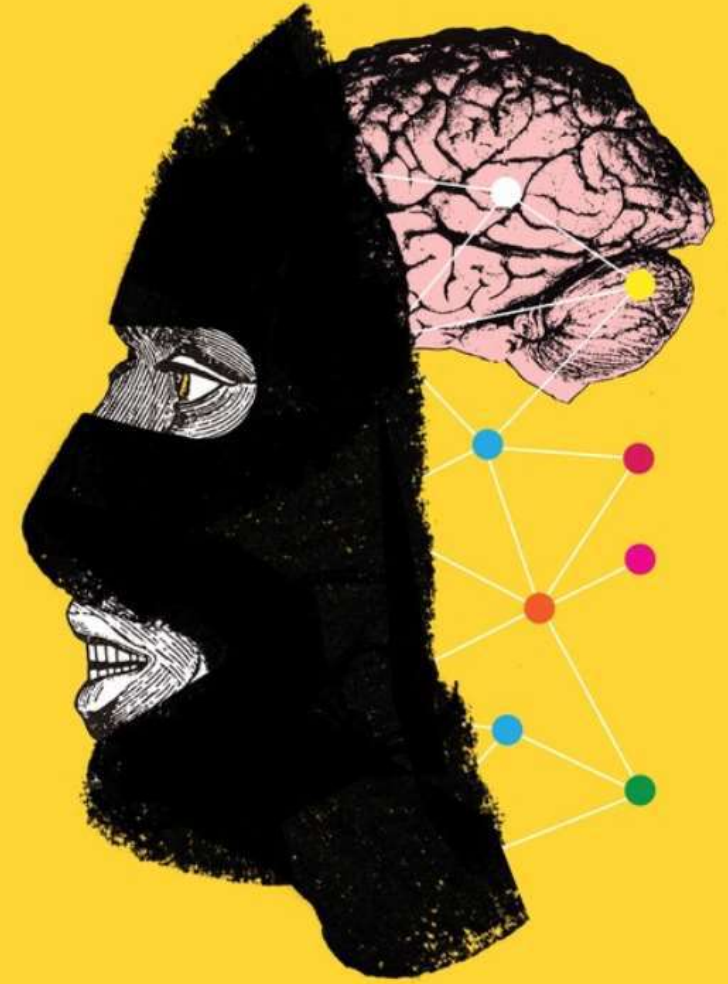


- 1. Psychological and neurobiological risks:** Some brains are uniquely and especially susceptible to ideological thinking, due to the nature of their personalities and brains
- 2. Effects and transformations:** Adopting extreme and rigid worldviews can transform our brains and bodies
- 3. Deeper dangers:** Dangerous ideologies are not only dangerous for our social lives but also for our individual bodies and capacities for freedom

Counter extremism policy

Focus on structure of
ideological thinking
rather than mission

Upcoming shifts in
response to social media
and AI



Thank you!

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