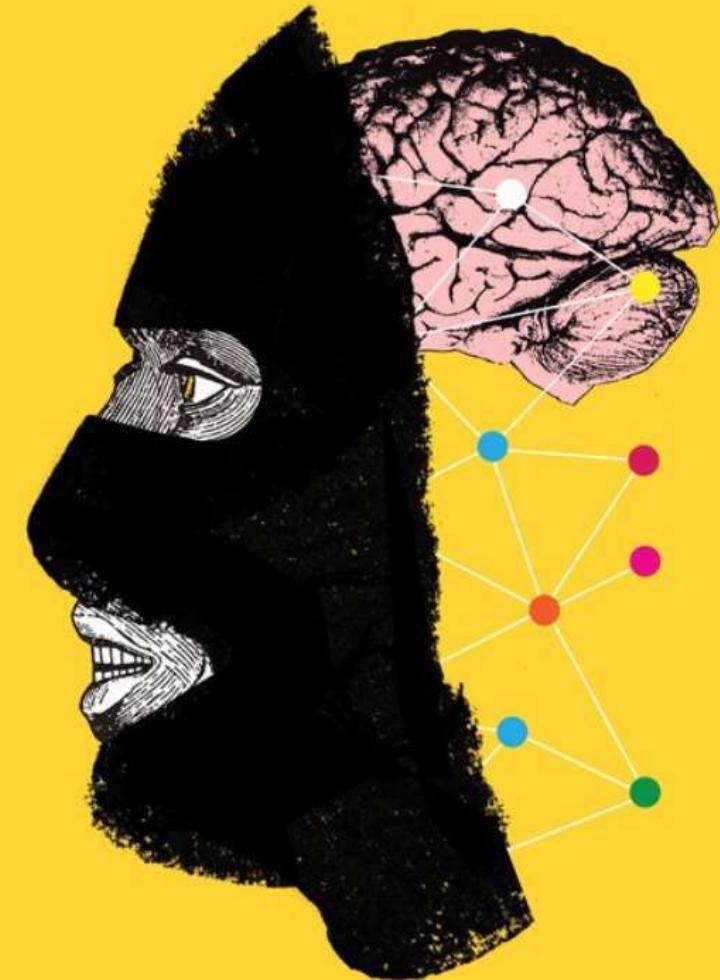


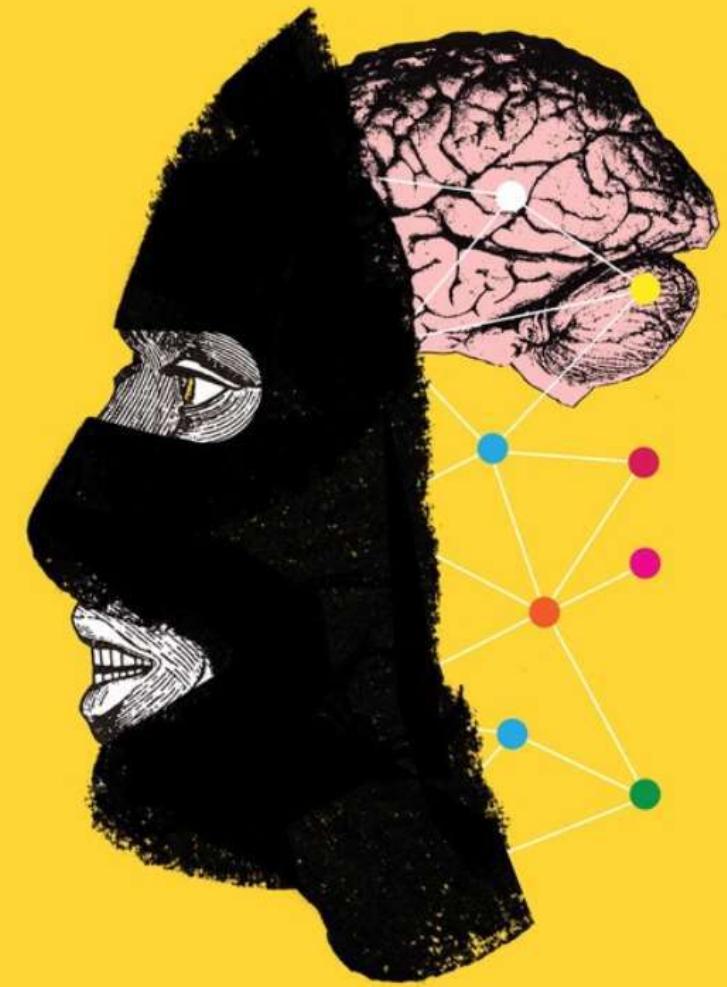


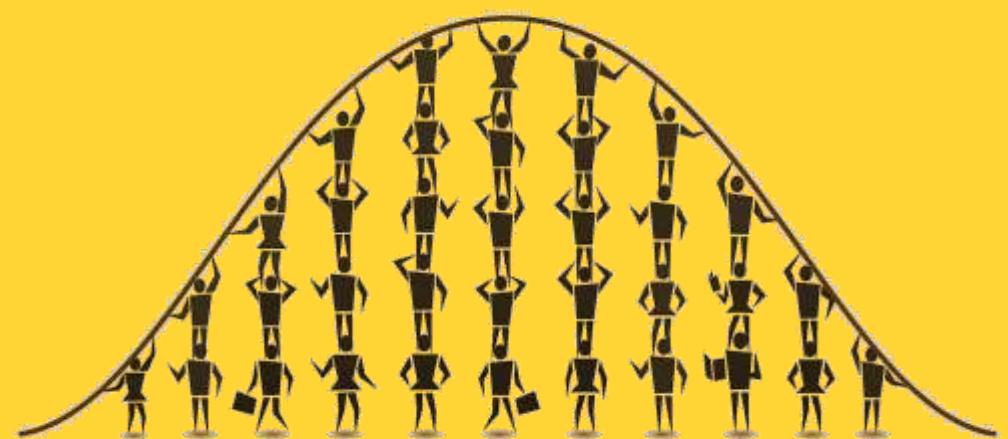
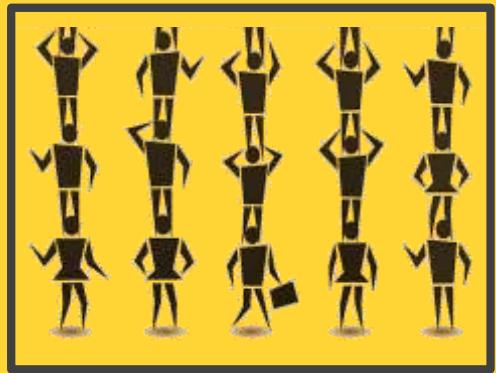
Why are some brains more attracted to extreme ideological doctrines than other brains?

Who is most susceptible to endorsing ideological extremism and violence?

What triggers change towards radicalization and deradicalization?

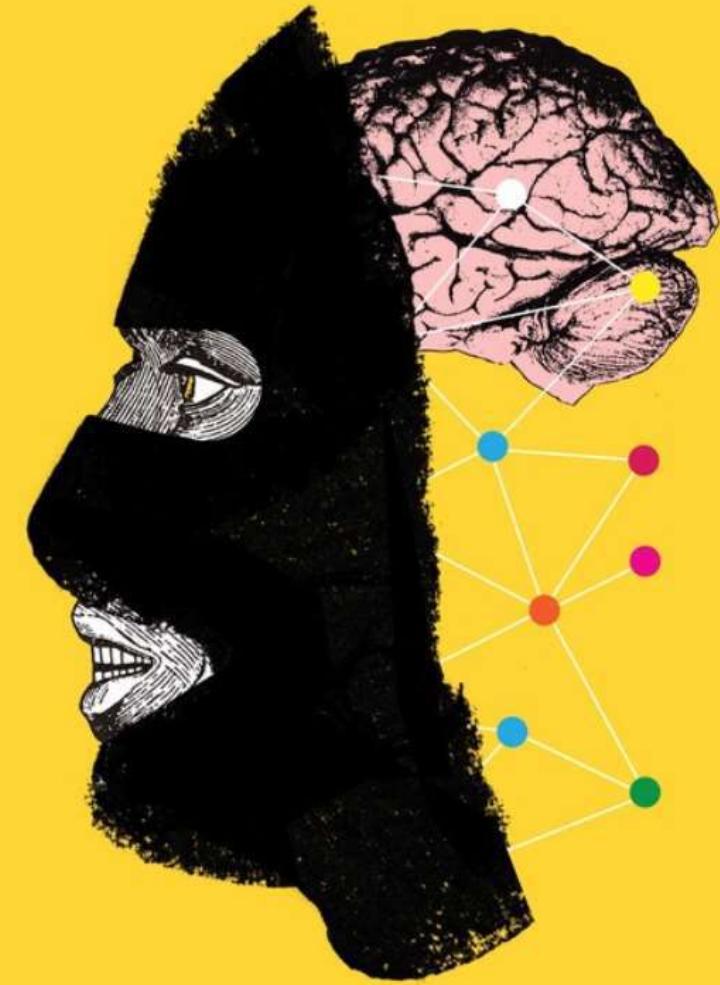






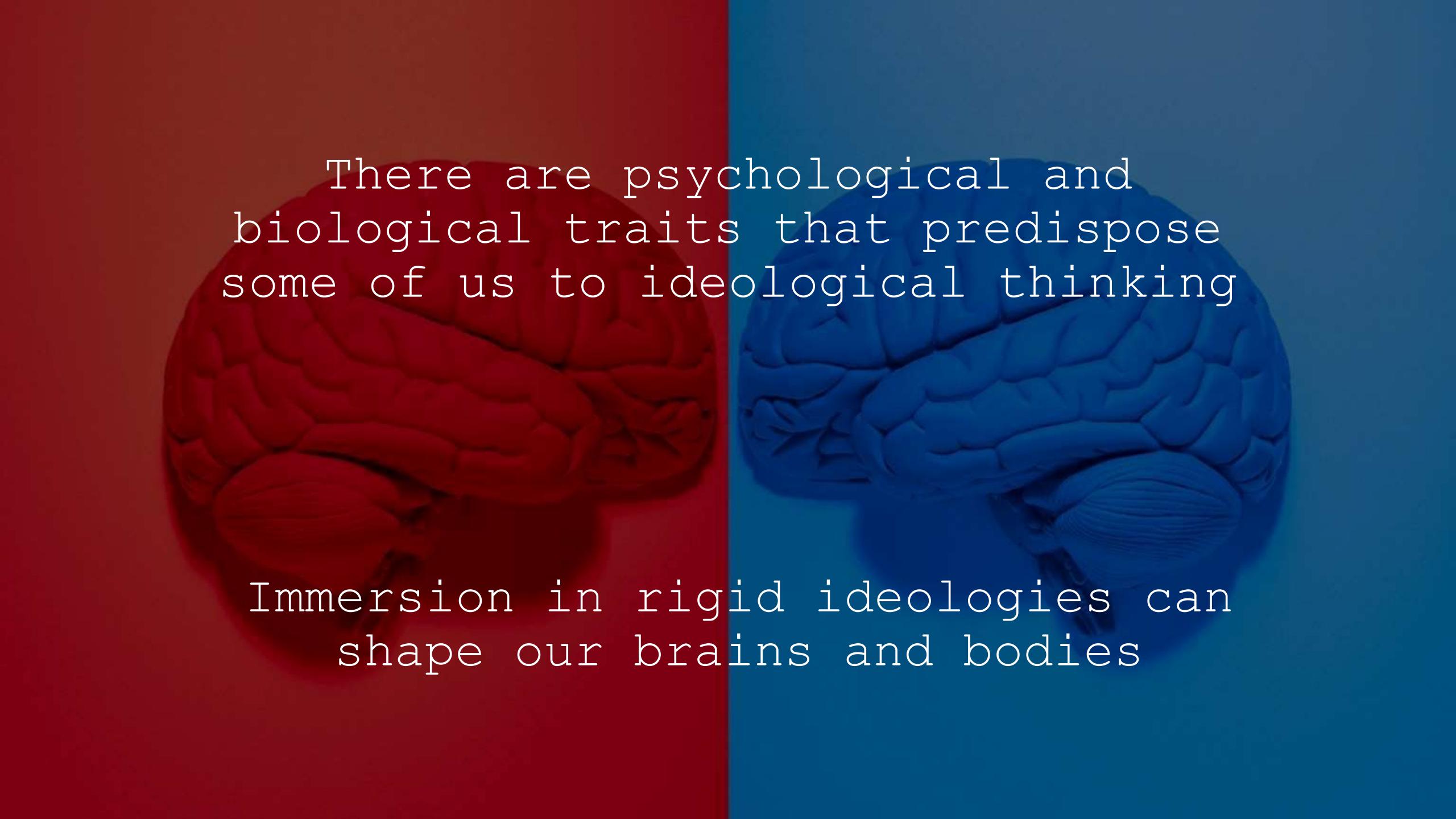
Resilient against
extreme
ideological
extremism

Susceptible to
extreme
ideological
extremism





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 point of view.

Ideology

set of beliefs, esp. that guides an individual's political beliefs or

RIGHT

WRONG

Fixed Doctrine

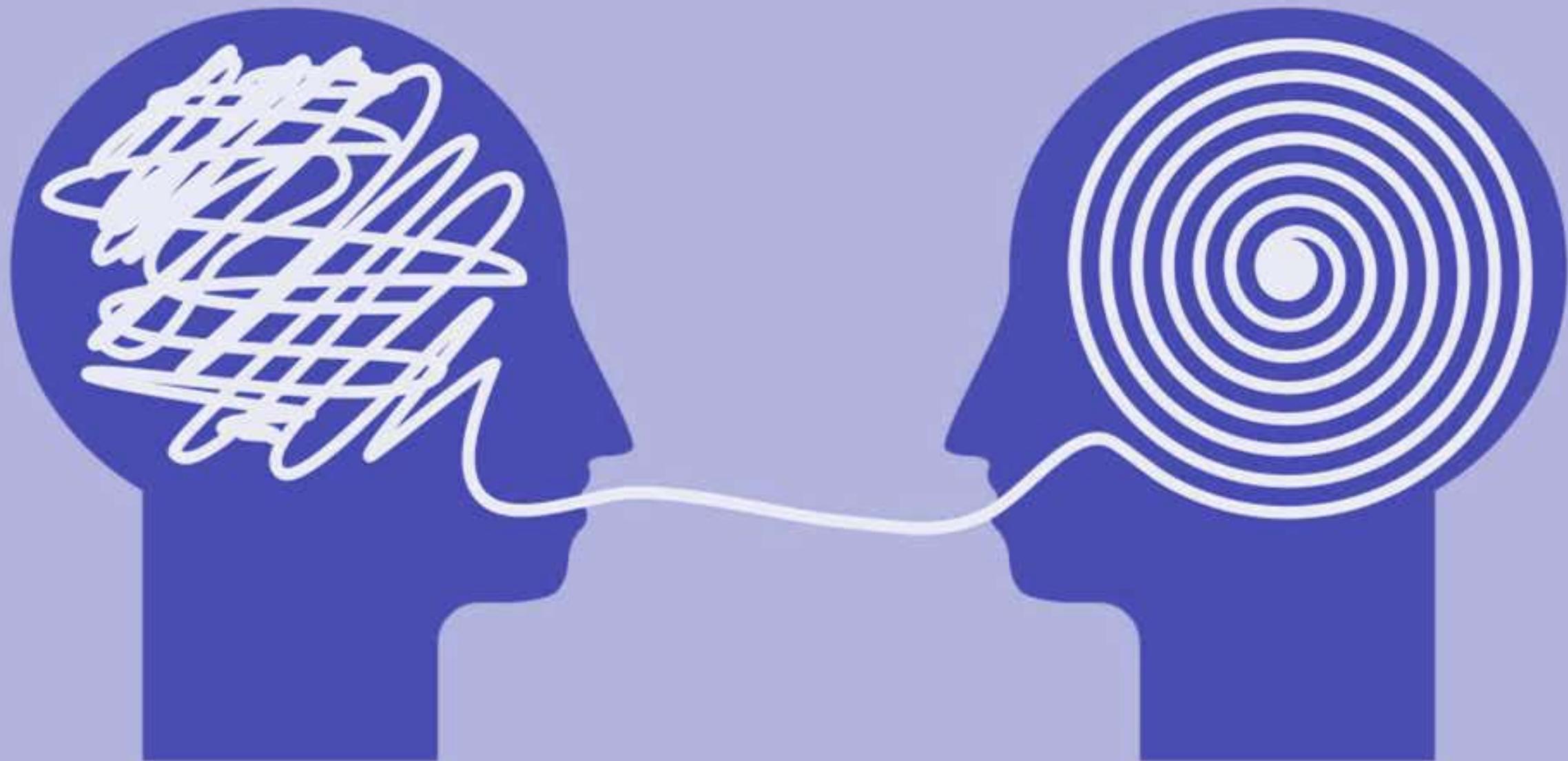
absolute moral rules, strict causal narratives
that resist evidence



Fixed Identity



strong identity categories, hostility to others
and willingness to harm

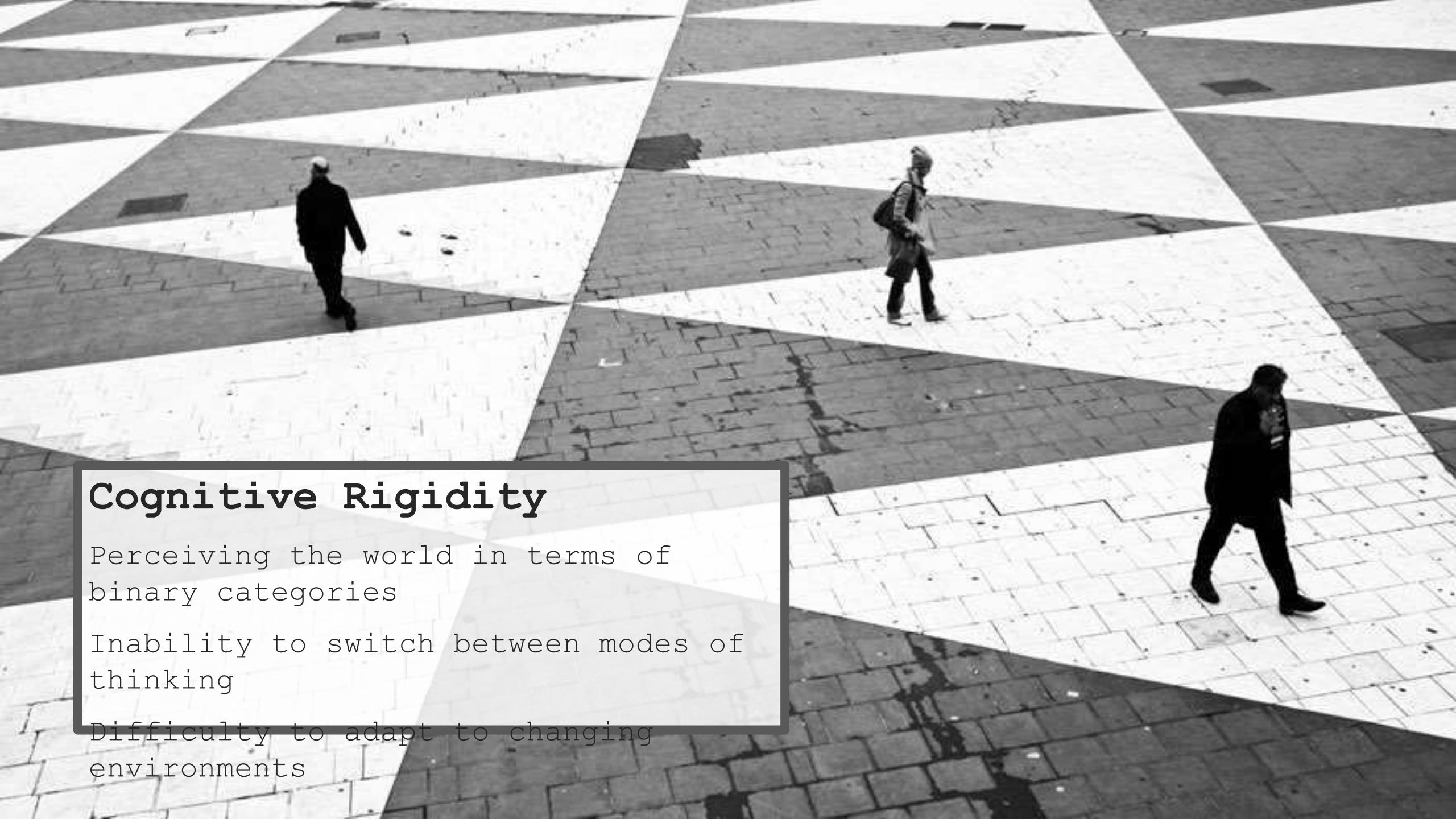


Cognitive Rigidity

Perceiving the world in terms of binary categories

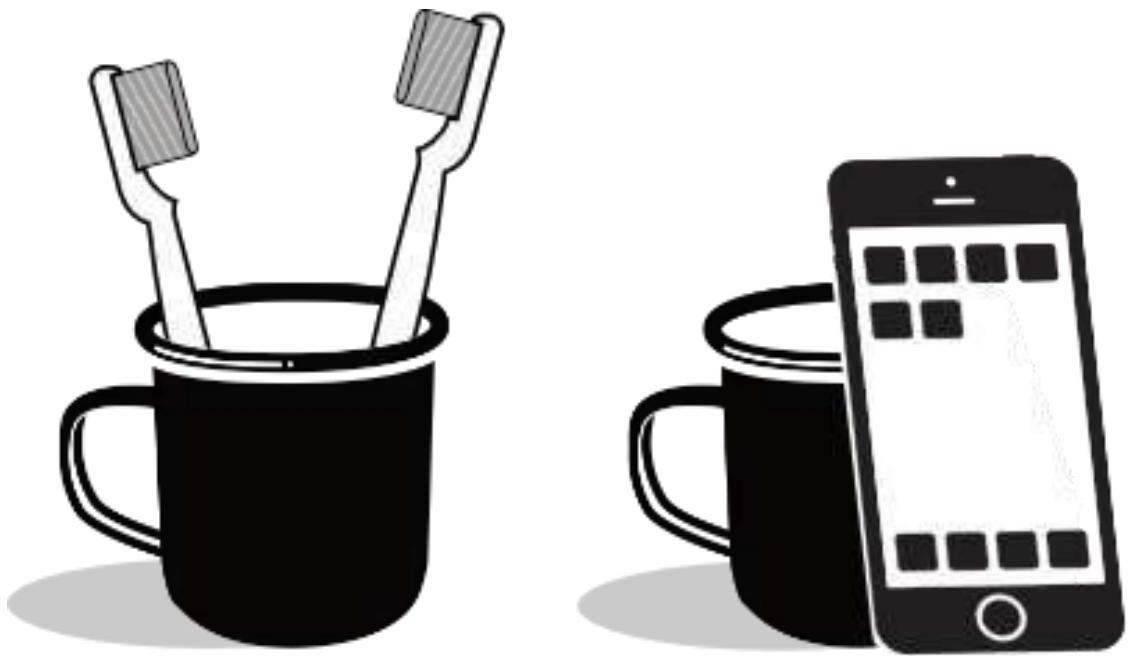
Inability to switch between modes of thinking

Difficulty to adapt to changing environments



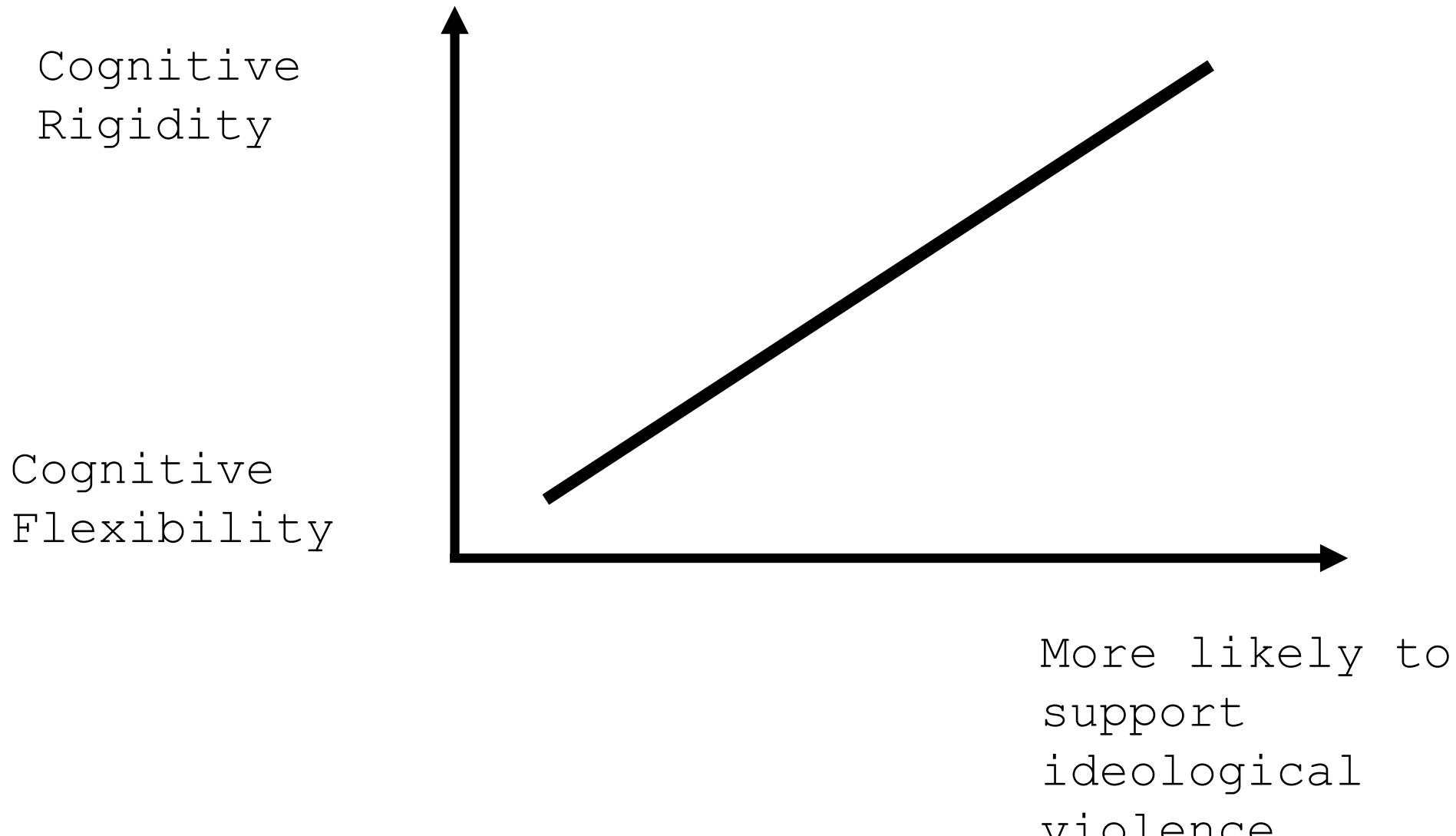




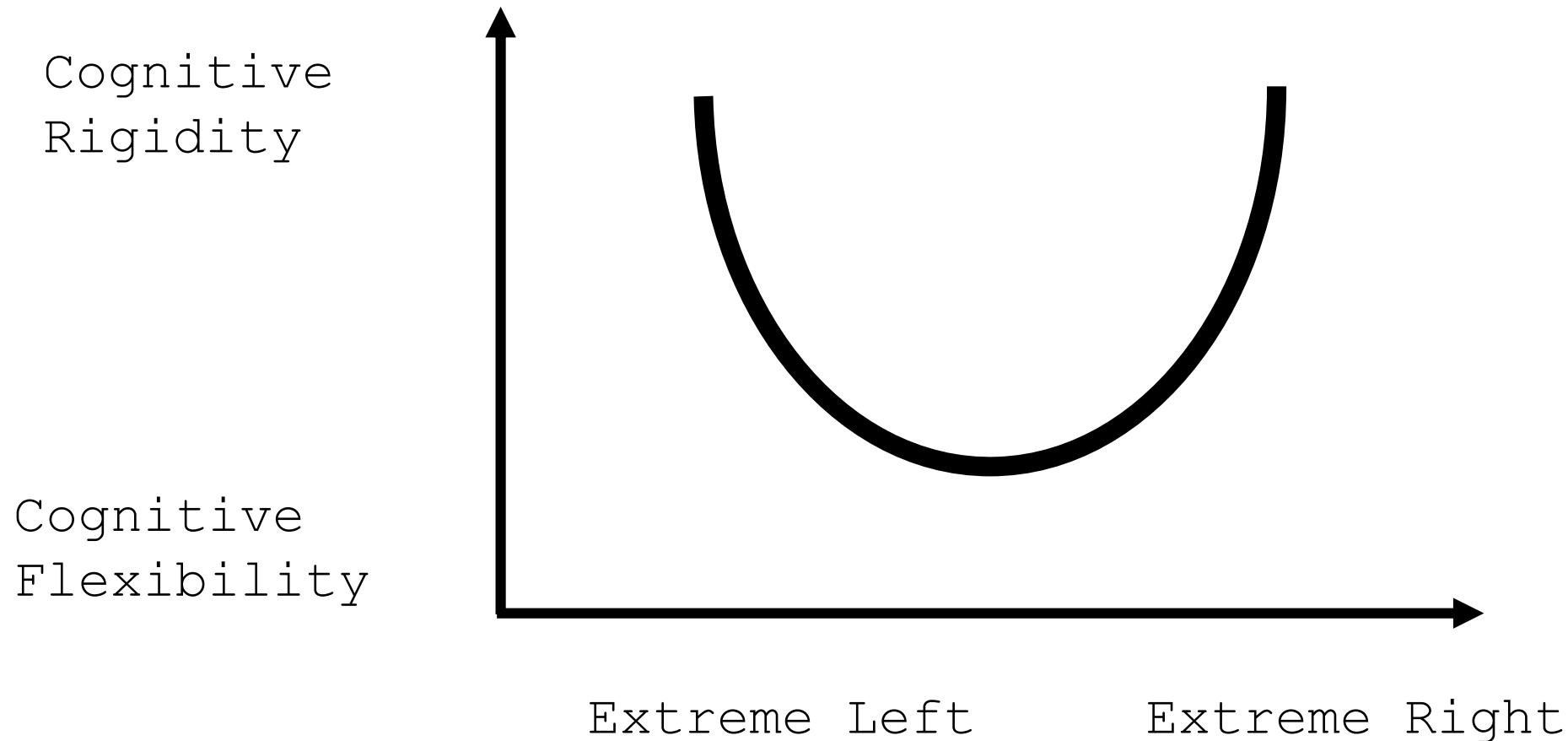




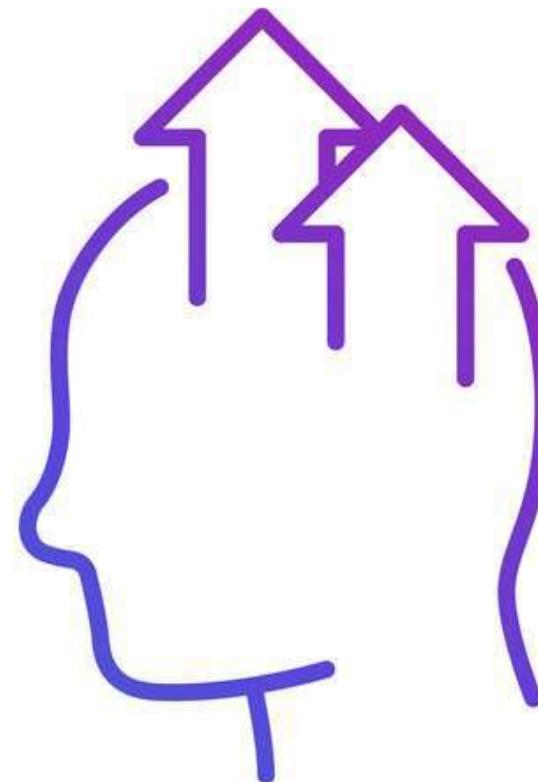
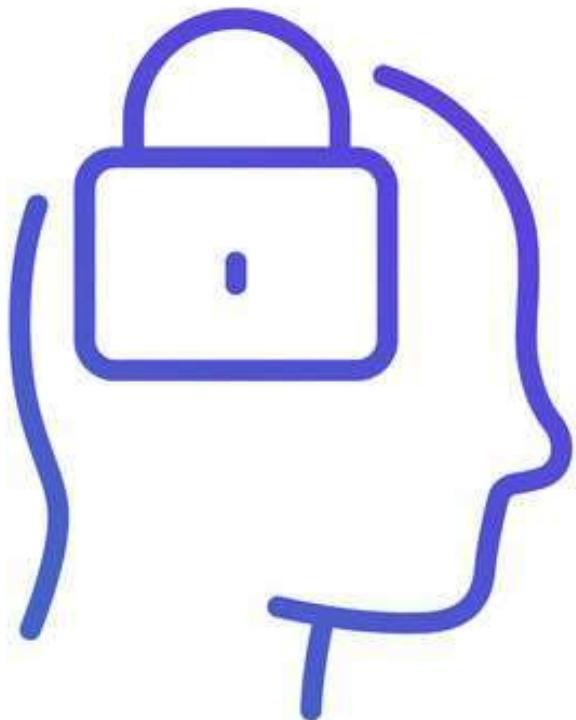
Cognitive rigidity is linked to ideological rigidity



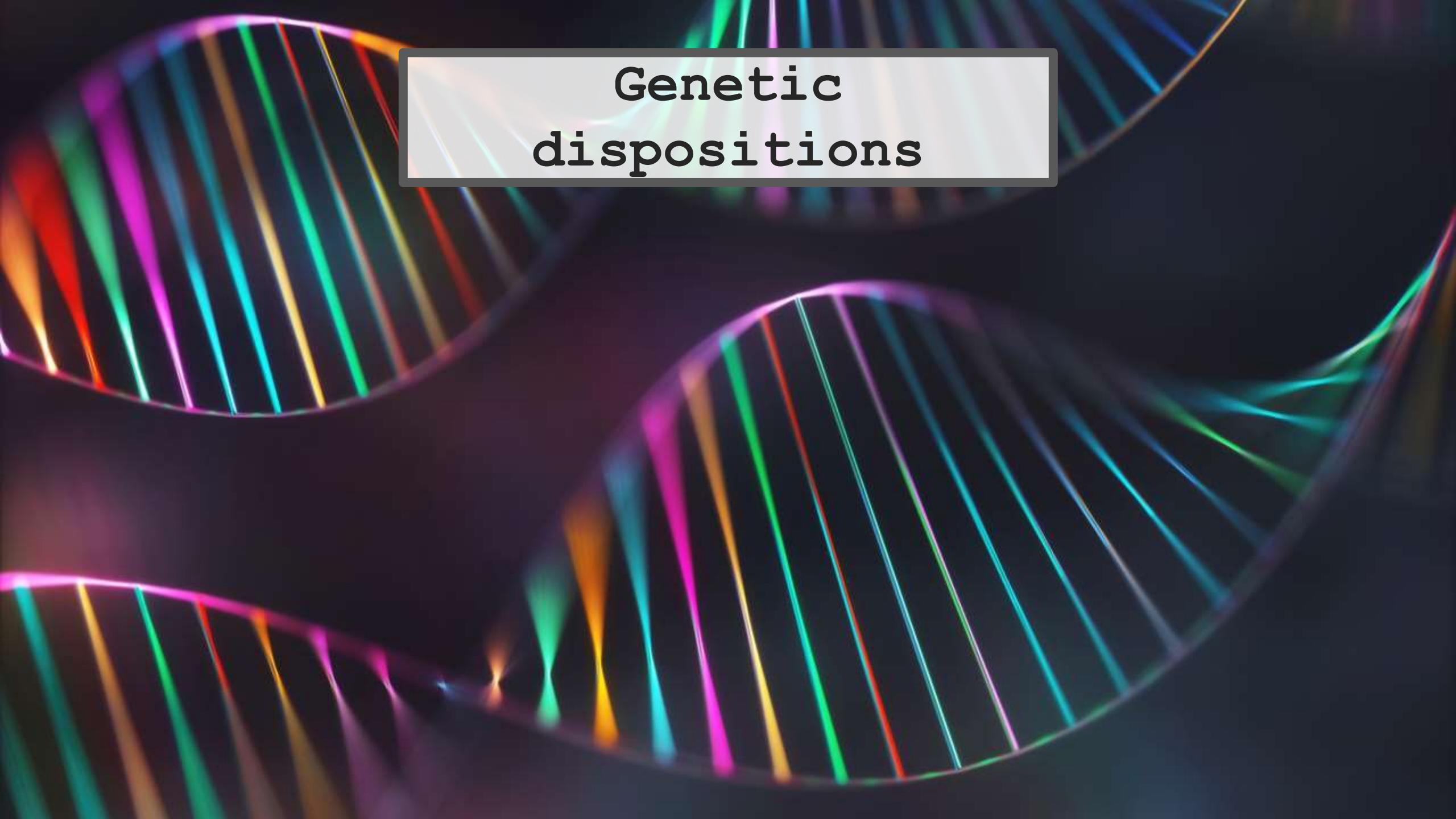
Cognitive rigidity is linked to ideological rigidity



Cognitive characteristics

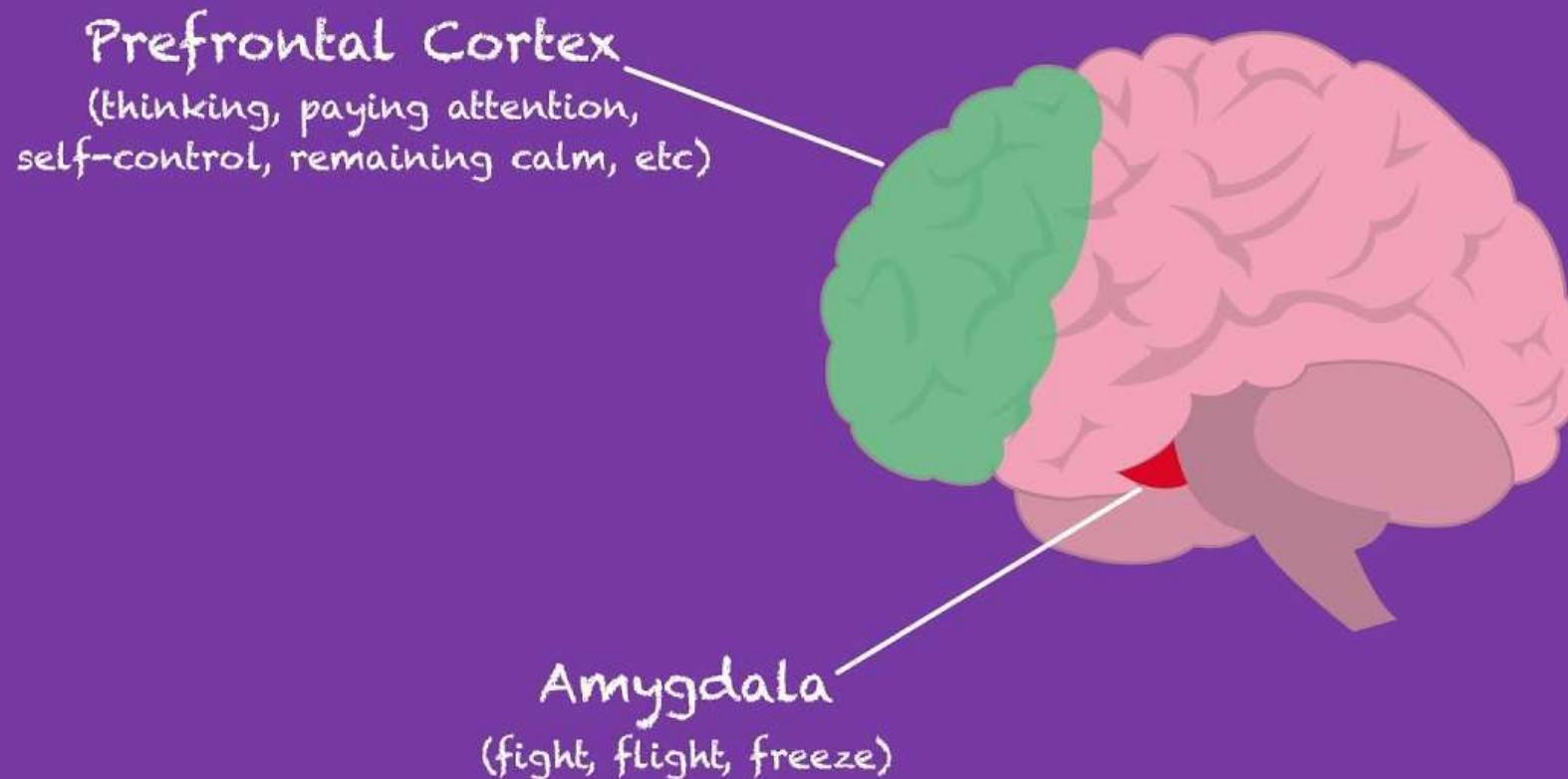




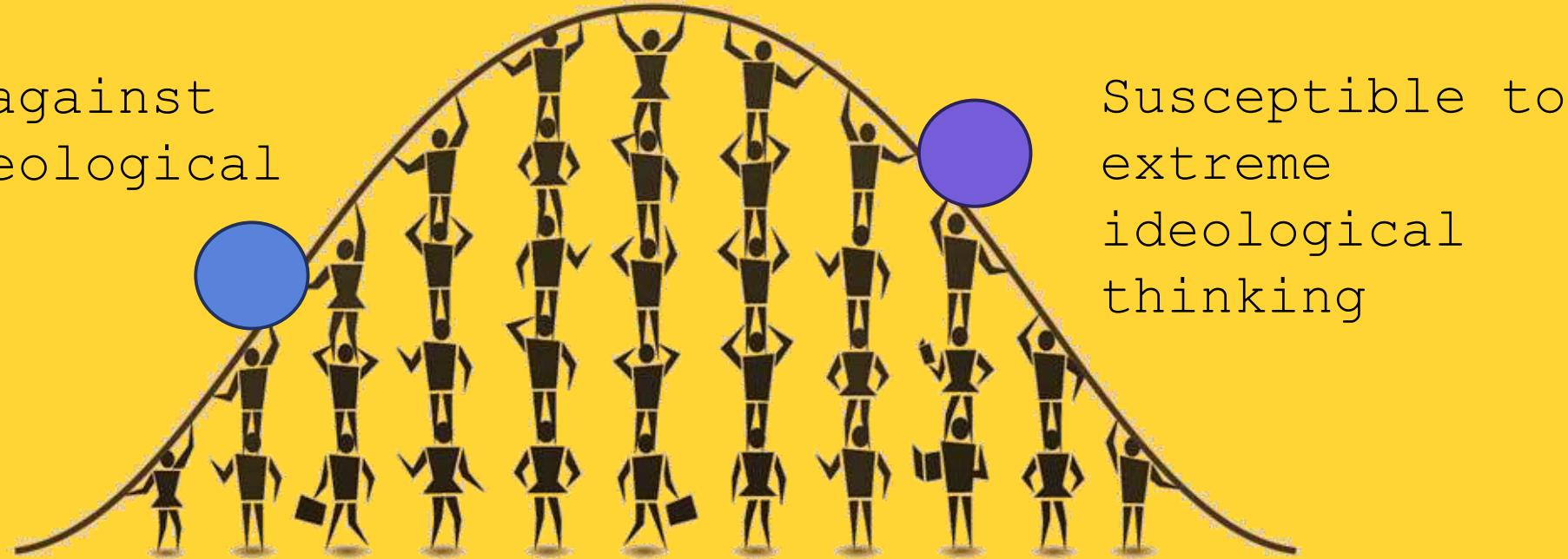


Genetic dispositions

Neurobiological differences in brain structure and function

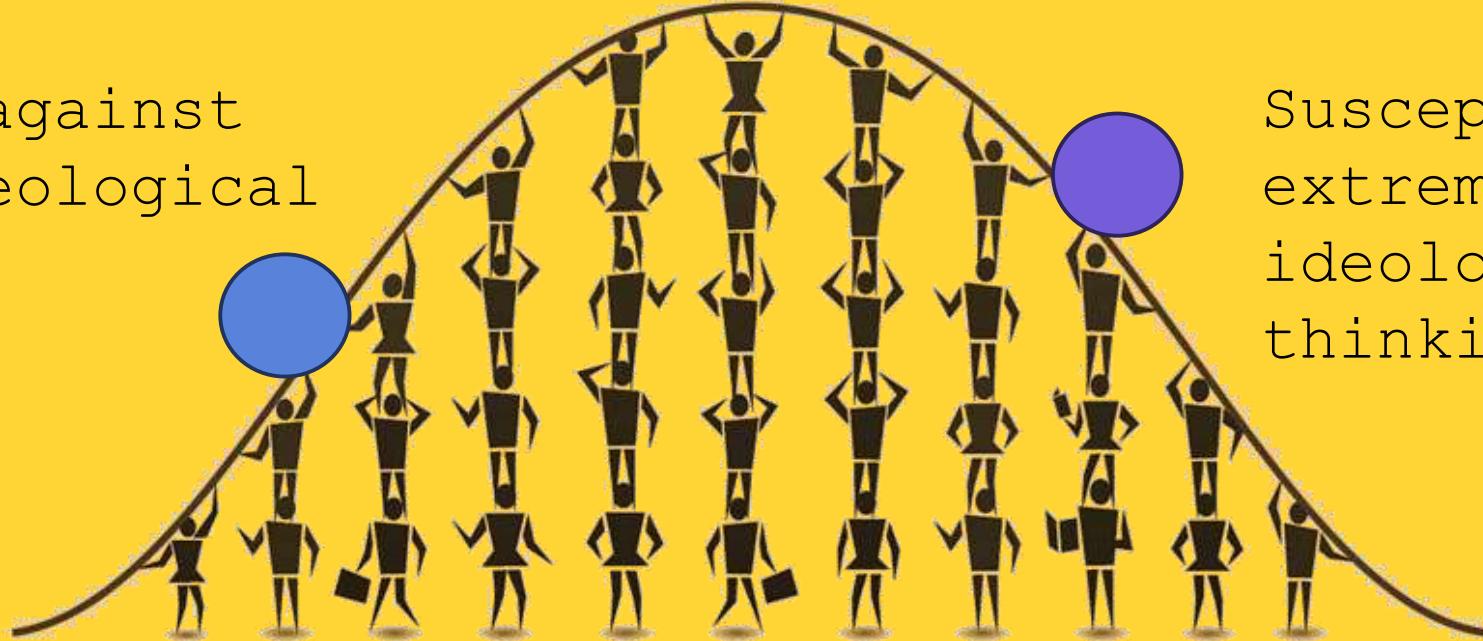


Resilient against
extreme ideological
thinking



Susceptible to
extreme
ideological
thinking

Resilient against
extreme ideological
thinking



Susceptible to
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thinking

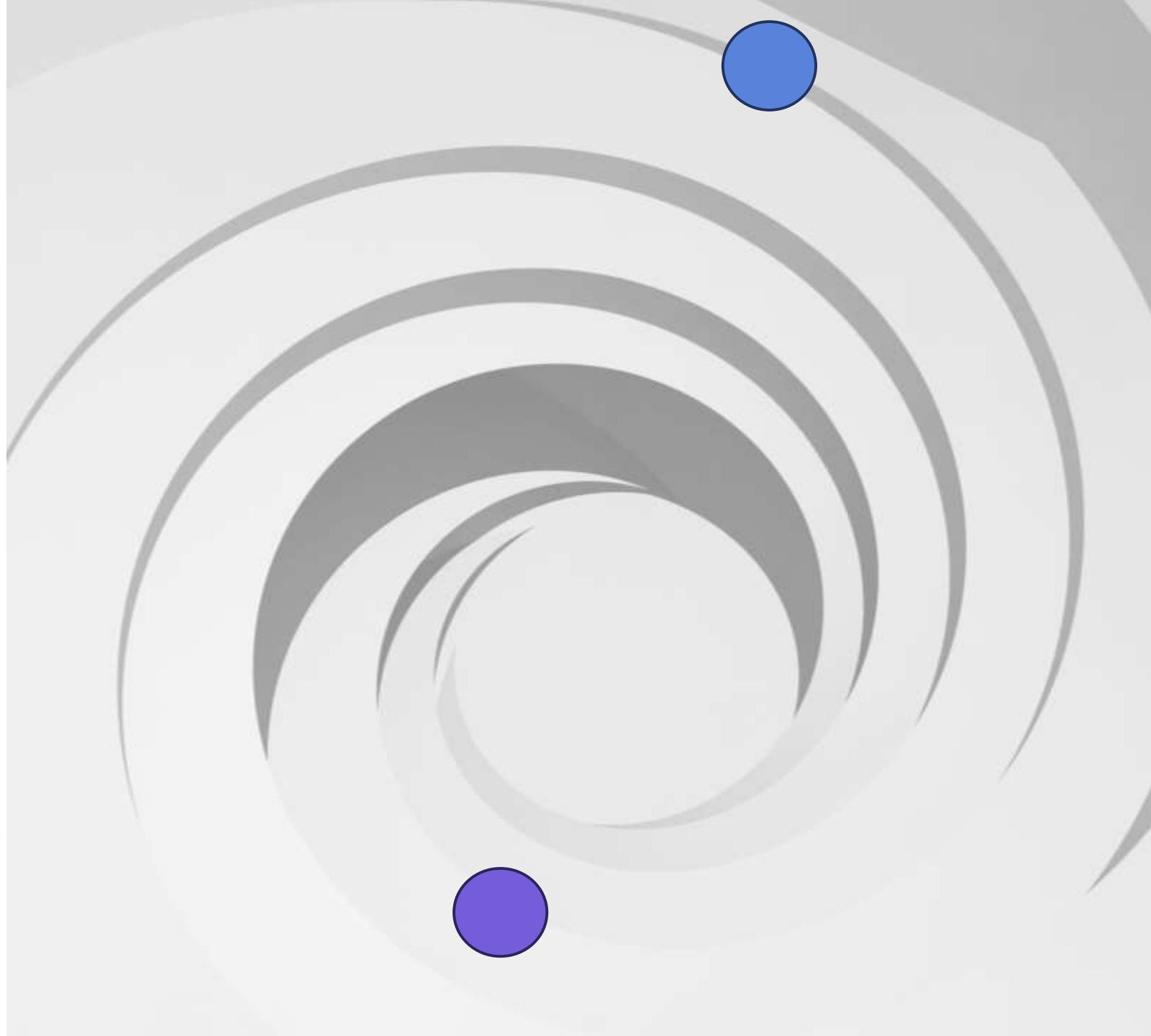
Can people unchain their
minds from extreme
dogmas?

Stre
ss



Environm
ent

Spiral
into
extremism



Spiral
into
extremism



A person's profile is shown from the side, facing right. The person is holding a smartphone in their left hand, which is emitting a stream of colorful digital icons and symbols that flow into their head. Inside the person's head, the icons are densely packed and appear to be floating in a dark space with small stars. The icons include various social media logos (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube), mathematical symbols (percent, equals, less than, greater than), and other abstract shapes. The overall effect is a visual metaphor for the digital overload and constant connectivity of modern life.

**Risk and
resilience**

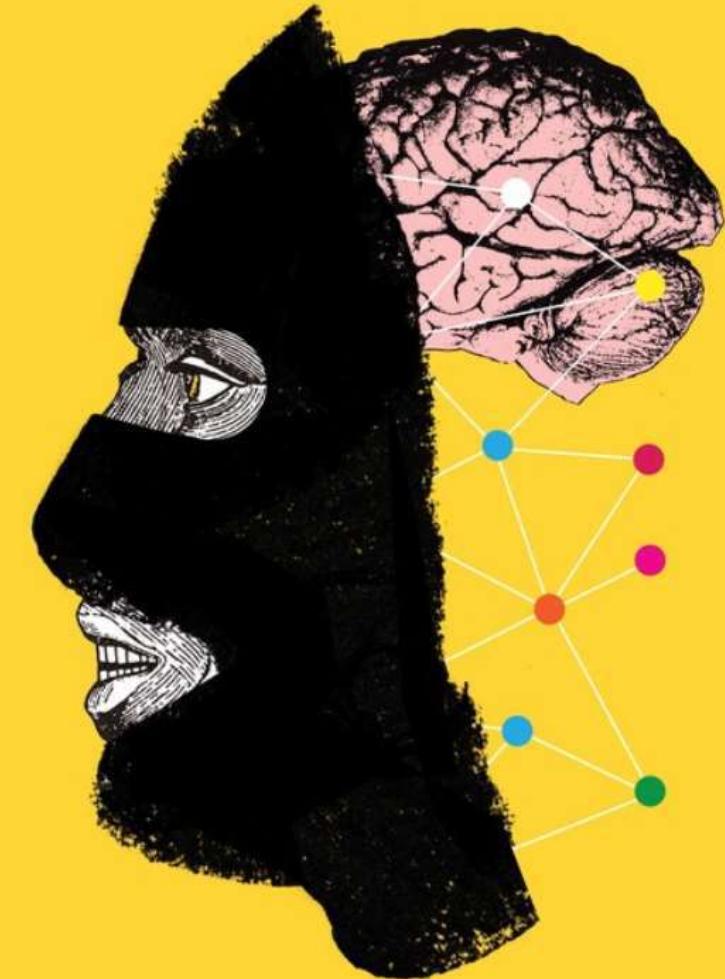


- 1. Psychological and neurobiological risks:** Some brains are uniquely and especially susceptible to ideological thinking, due to the nature of their personalities and brains
- 2. Effects and transformations:** Adopting extreme and rigid worldviews can transform our brains and bodies
- 3. Deeper dangers:** 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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