

# Self-blindness as prerequisite for the evolution of advanced intelligence

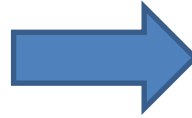
## (Towards “Amathology” or the Science of Ignorance)

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### Compare:

Apes (non-human)  
Parrots  
Dolphins  
Crows  
Octopusses

Different phyla  
Different periods in evolution  
But: similar levels of intelligence



Evidently: sort of upper limit to intelligence

High intelligence may produce alternative, novel shortcuts to satisfaction of proximate urges

Reason for upper limit of intelligence:

*Proximate Urges* lead to *Ultimate* (evolutionary) Goals

However, novel intelligent short cuts to proximate satisfaction may bypass collateral costs that – involuntarily – always provided the added value in evolution (and were selected for for those reasons).

Result(1): high intelligence tends to open the road to rational but sterile innovations in behaviour.

Result(2):  
\* moderate intelligence is handy tool = ESS (evolutionarily stable strategy);  
\* high intelligence, modifying own behaviour ≠ ESS.

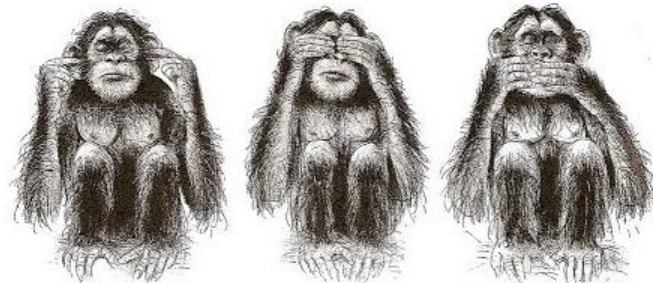
### Trick of Homo sapiens:

Utilize higher intelligence for tool making and complex communication, but *not* regarding own, personal urges and reflexes → “Blindness for Self”

### Hypothesis:

Brain volume of our hominid ancestors only could explode some quarter million years ago, after “Self-Blindness” had been built in genetically.

After start of agricultural revolution, some 10,000 years ago, tool making exploded into complex cultures. This did not weaken the evolutionary need for Blindness to the Self. Self-blinding varieties of human cultures were more successful than cultures bringing understanding of the own behaviour, because they strengthened the effects of the indispensable innate Self-Blindness. So, in spite of technical developments, understanding of our own behaviour is (still) at a relatively low level.



A large number of cultural peculiarities and tricks can be found that serve to enhance Self-Blindness. Global developments and dangers, resulting from recent technical advances, make understanding human behaviour very urgent.

More focus on investigating human behaviour undermines the stability of Self-Blindness, the foundation of all large human cultures.

### Postulate:

In a near future cultural props to enhance and strengthen Self-Blindness will lose their stability and make way for understanding of human behaviour.

In the mean time it would be useful to focus on investigating scientifically the myriad ways our awareness and understanding of our own behaviour is blocked or distorted.

We suggest to call such a research discipline

“Amathology” or the Science of Ignorance.