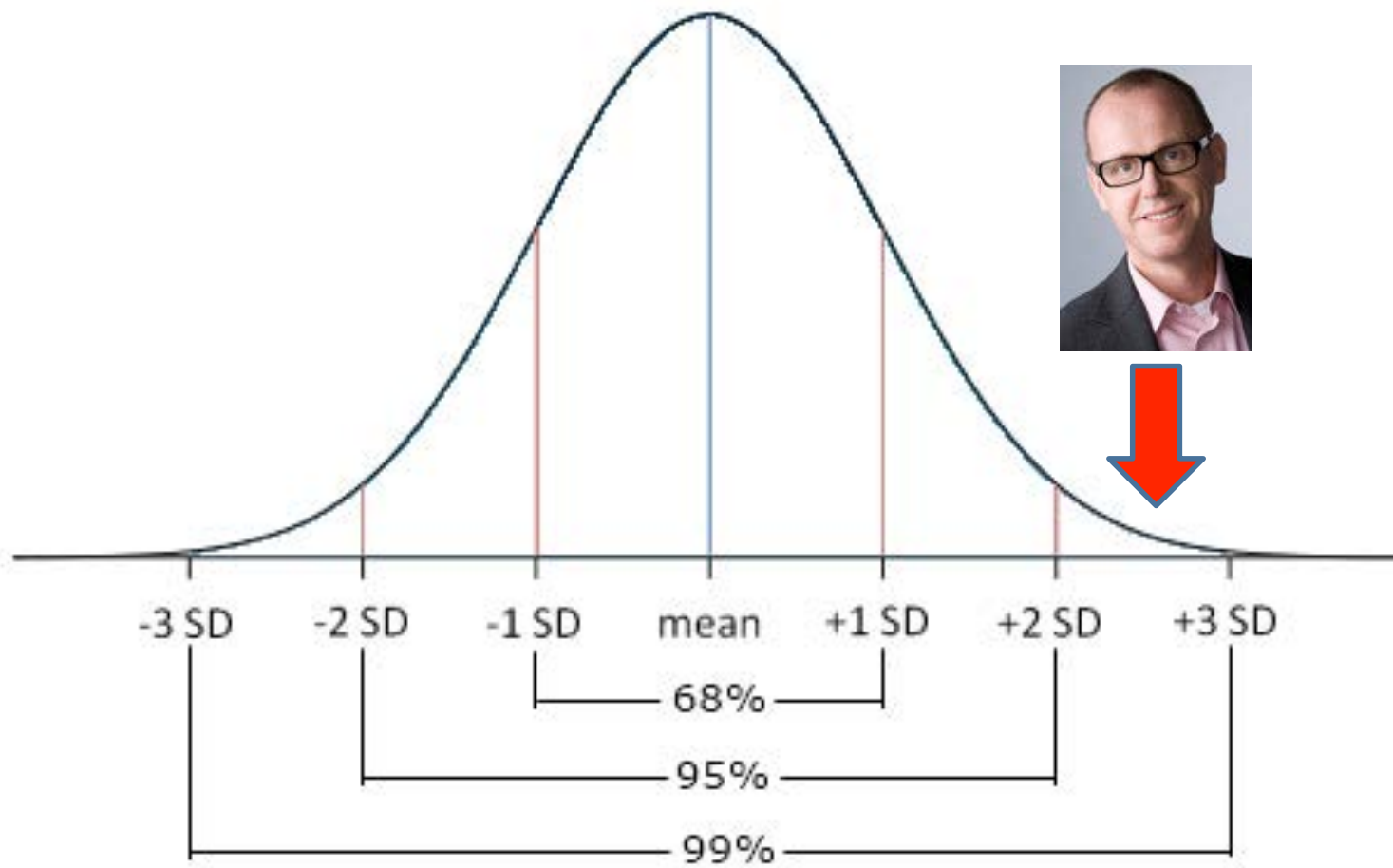


Entrepreneurship and psychological disorders
A research program

Johan Wiklund
Syracuse University
Stockholm School of Economics

re-search = me-search

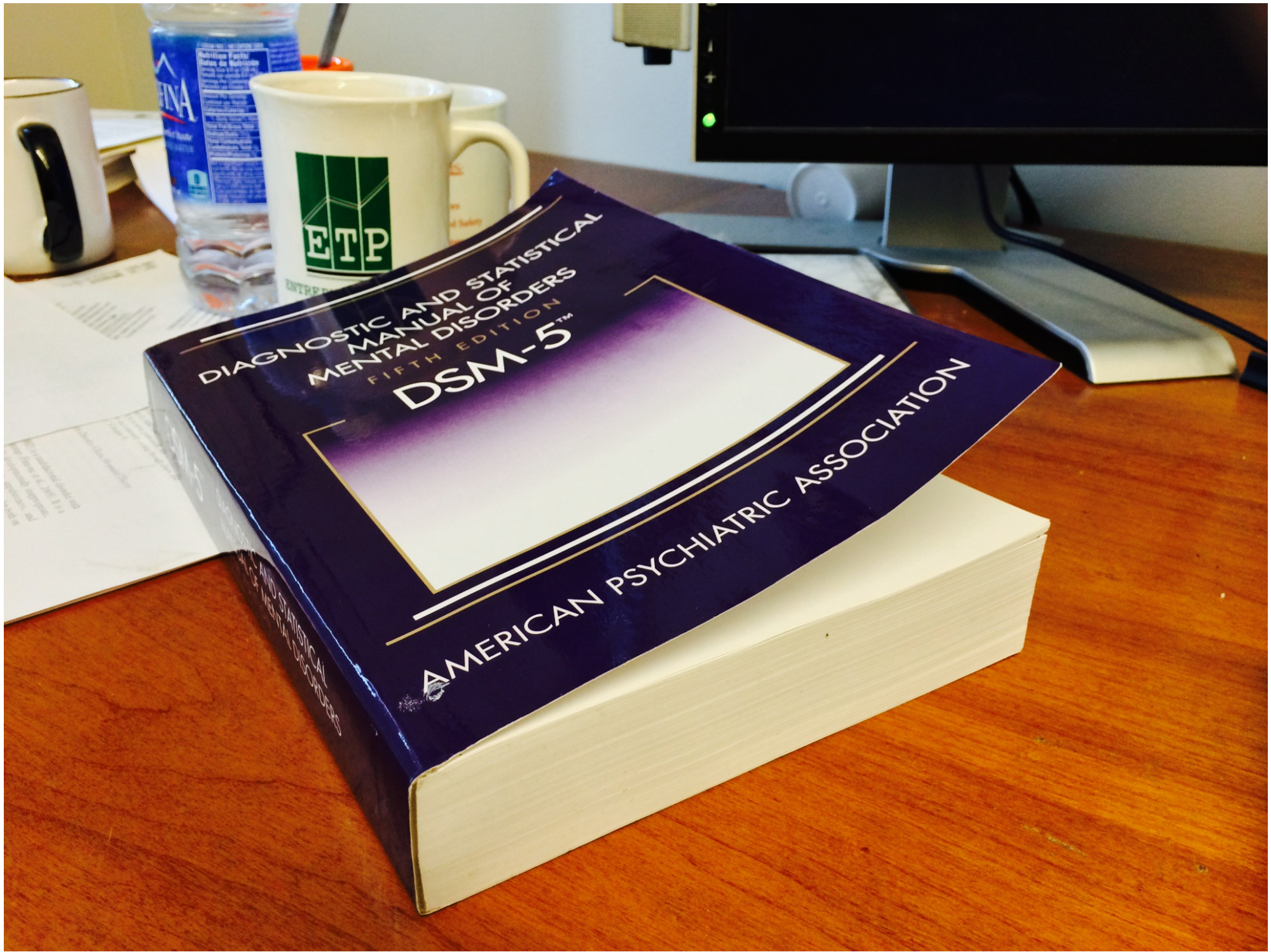
What is the first thing you notice when you see me?



Good or bad?

What is dysfunctional in one context can be functional in another





DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL
MANUAL OF
MENTAL DISORDERS
FIFTH EDITION

DSM-5™

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL
MANUAL OF
MENTAL DISORDERS

157

Restless Leg Syndrome

Alcohol use disorder

ADHD

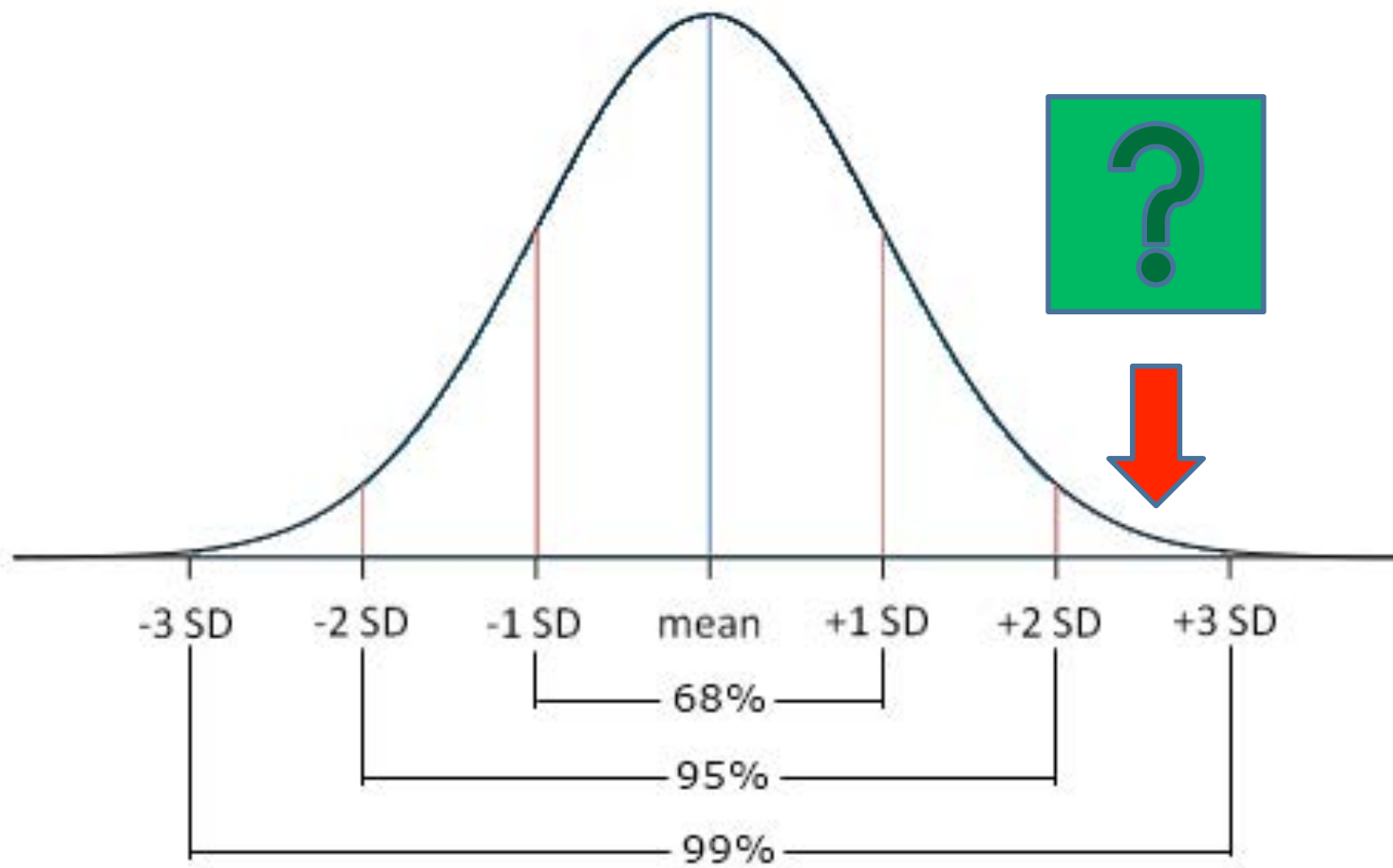
Autism

Schizophrenia

“A mental disorder or psychiatric disorder is a psychological term for a mental or behavioral pattern or anomaly that causes distress or disability, and which is not developmentally or socially normative. Mental disorders are generally defined by a combination of how a person feels, acts, thinks or perceives.”

*“A mental disorder or psychiatric disorder is a psychological term for a **mental or behavioral pattern or anomaly** that causes distress or disability, and which is **not developmentally or socially normative**”*

*“A mental disorder or psychiatric disorder is a psychological term for a mental or behavioral pattern or anomaly that **causes distress or disability**, and which is not developmentally or socially normative”*



Why research entrepreneurship and psychological disorders?

Fine line between genius and insanity

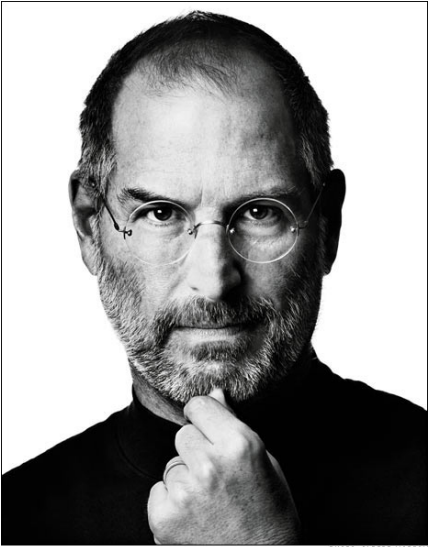


PHOTO: ALBERT WATSON





Mental health largest reason for unemployment in Sweden
Hampers economic growth
OECD (2013)

Samband mellan yrke och ohälsa undersöks

Den psykiska ohälsan ökar och nu vill regeringen veta vilken roll arbetslivet har i den utvecklingen.

- Är det jobbet som gör folk sjuka?

– Vi har aldrig tidigare tittat på den här frågan ur ett arbetslivsperspektiv, säger socialförsäkringsminister Ulf Kristersson (M) om det uppdrag som Forte, Forskningsrådet för hälsa, arbetsliv och välfärd, får av regeringen i samband med att höstbudgeten presenteras i veckan.

Forte ska sammanställa och granska den forskning som finns och se om bland annat följande frågor kan besvaras:

I vilka yrken är det vanligast med psykisk ohälsa?

Är det människor som redan har psykisk ohälsa som hamnar i dessa arbeten, eller finns det ett samband mellan den psykiska ohälsan och yrket?

– Vi vet för lite om det här i dag, säger Ulf Kristersson och konstaterar att det är hårt för många svenskar på jobbet. Kraven är många och stressen är hög. Det visar inte minst platsannonsernas beskrivningar av vad arbetsgivare förväntar sig av sina anställda.





Karin Bojs
Vetenskapsreporter

Karin Bojs: Här är nya kalla siffror på onödigt lidande

En ungdomsvän miste plötsligt sin make för ett par månader sedan. Han hittades hemma på gården. Död genom självmord.

En ung bekant – en av de mest begåvade jag känner – misslyckades nyligen med ett kritiskt steg i sina studier. Krafterna räckte inte till. En depression sänkte den annars så lysande förmågan.

En vän till en vän försökte hänga sig. Hon upptäcktes och räddades i sista minuten. Men då var det för sent för att återvända till livet som flerbarnsmor och framgångsrik yrkeskvinna. Den svåra hjärnskadan var ett faktum.

Tre exempel på vad psykisk sjukdom ställer till med. Vi blundar gärna för denna verklighet.

Psykiatrin har låg status inom vården. Skattepengar tenderar att gå till sjukdomar som anses finare. Vetenskaplig kunskap nonchaleras när moralism och ideologier väger tyngre.

Röststarka personer i den offentliga debatten raljerar ofta över diagnoser och mediciner och ägnar sig åt spetsfundigheter om vad som är "sjukt" och vad som är "normalt".

I medicintidskriften The Lancet i fredags kom ett par artiklar som borde förändra hela mänsklighetens inställning till mentala problem.

I medicintidskriften The Lancet i fredags kom ett par artiklar som borde förändra hela mänsklighetens inställning till mentala problem.

LOOK
INSIDE

DAVID
AND
GOLIATH



UNDERDOGS, MISFITS, AND
THE ART OF BATTLING GIANTS

MALCOLM
GLADWELL



Mikael Persbrandt: ”Jag har varit klantig och naiv”

Foto: Erik Ardelius

Sexig, macho och skandalös. Det är den gängse mediebilden av Mikael Persbrandt. Men när vår senaste Hollywoodexport fyller femtio håller den bilden på att krackelera. För DN Söndag berättar han om verkligheten bakom rubrikerna. Om hur det är att leva som bipolär, om kärleken till



Förra året fick Mikael Persbrandt diagnosen bipolär sjukdom typ 2. "Vi måste få bort tabut kring psykisk ohälsa", säger han. Foto: Erik Ardelius

DAGENS NYHETER.

TISDAG 22 OKTOBER 2013. SVERIGES STÖRSTA MORGONTIDNING. DIGITAL EDITION

De kallar sig för "dyssar"

● **Ny serie på
Insidan.** Petra
Nylén och Niklas
Nilsson har
dyslexi – ett
vanligt problem
som fortsätter
efter skolan.



Adhd.



Filmhjältar. Percy Jackson, till höger, har adhd och dyslexi. Som tolvåring får han veta att han är son till en grekisk gud och att hans hjärna är anpassad för strid. Bild ur filmen "Percy Jackson och Monsterhavet". Foto: Supplied by LMK



Dysfunctional in employment

Potentially functional in self-employment

Employment Conditions and Health Inequalities

Final Report to the WHO

Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH)

[Employment Conditions Knowledge Network \(EMCONET\)](#)

Joan Benach, Carles Muntaner, Vilma Santana (Chairs)

Health Inequalities Research Group
Occupational Health Research Unit
Dept. Experimental Sciences and Health
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain



Social Equity and Health Section
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada



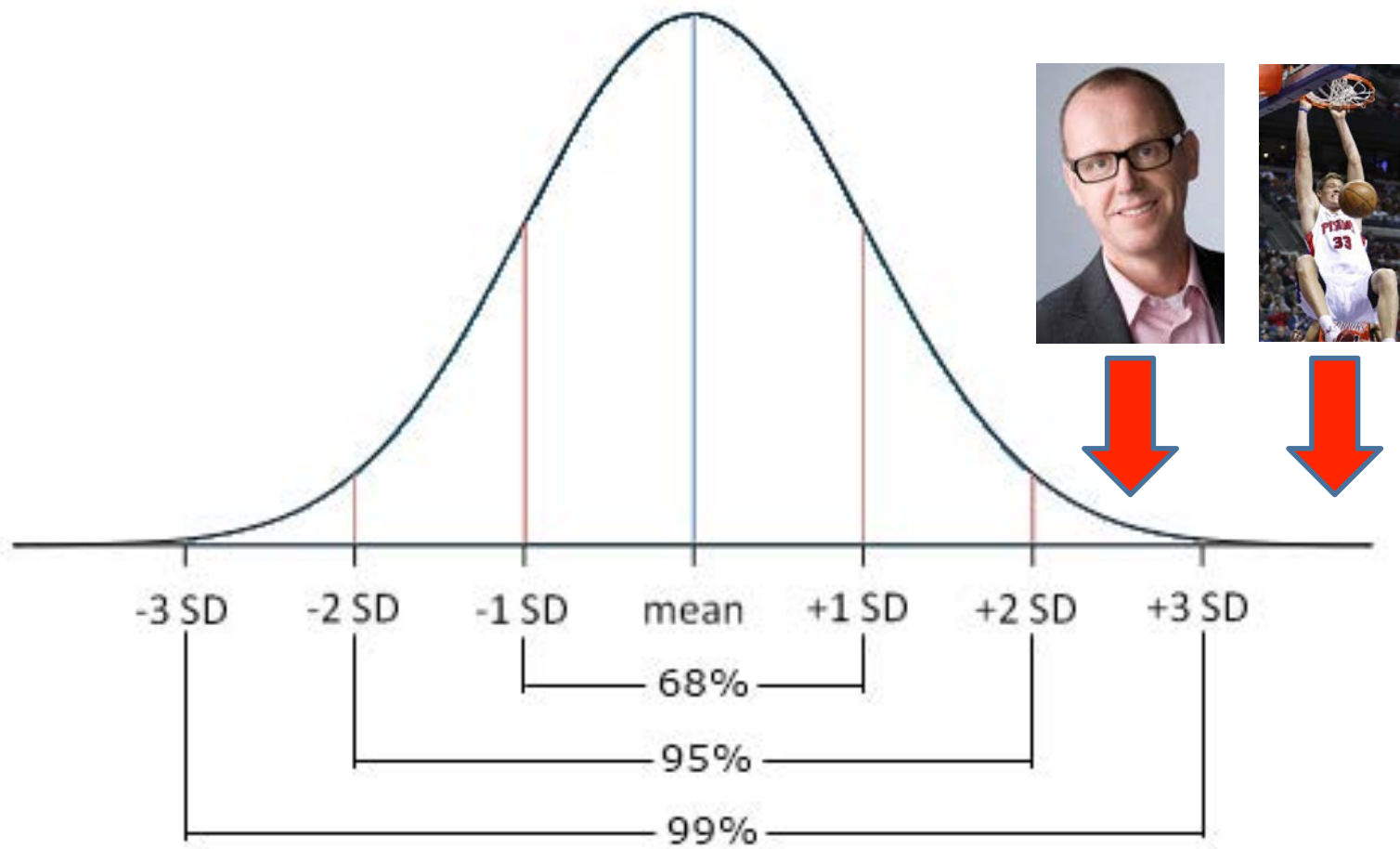
Institute of Collective Health, Federal
University of Bahia, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

What is the link with entrepreneurship?

4



When is too much a good thing?



Risk-taking

Self-efficacy

Optimism

Achievement orientation

Confidence

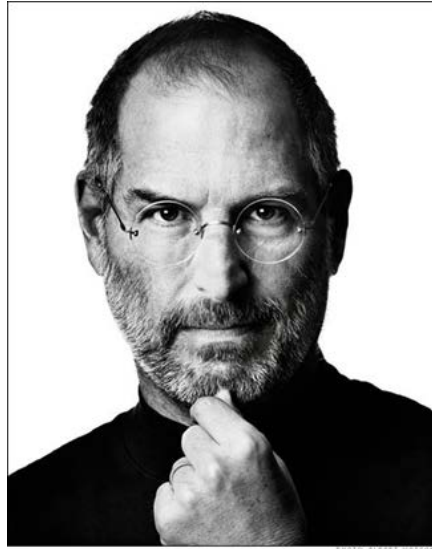


PHOTO: ALBERT WATZON

?

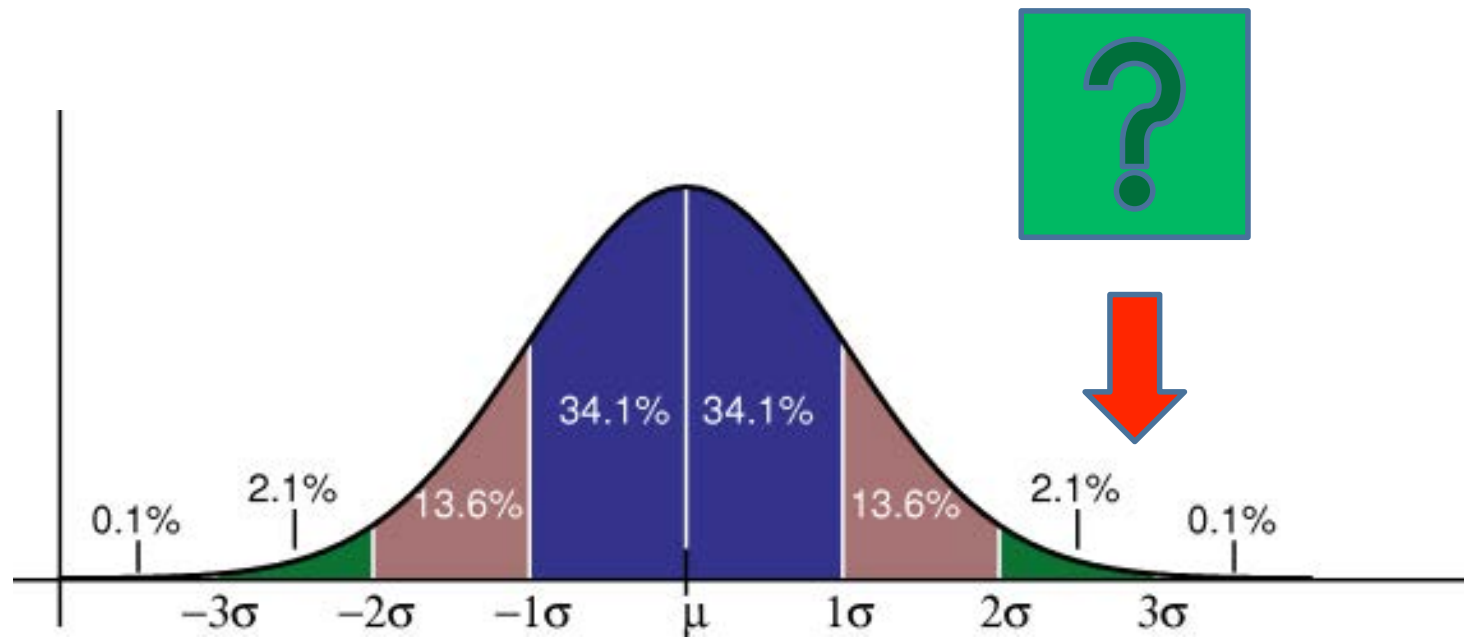


Pushed away

Furniture design



Job design



Disorders generally dysfunctional in labor market

Pushed into entrepreneurship?

Pushed into unemployment but not self-employment

Any diagnosis

Anxiety, depression, affective, drugs, alcohol

Self-perceptions

Neither causes nor cures anxiety & depression

Why this lack of results?

157



dreamstime.com







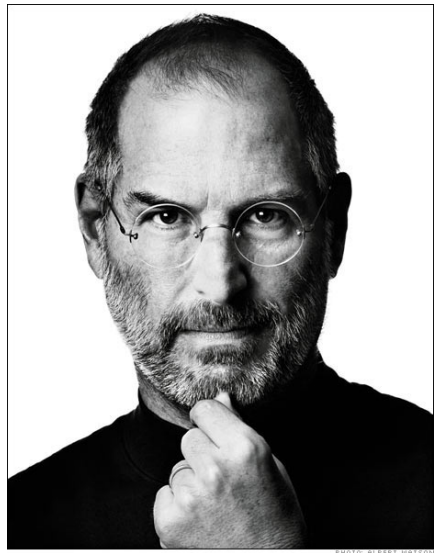
Neurodiversity

Still in the gene pool

Some selection advantage

Entrepreneurs can design their own work contexts

Can pursue opportunities and create organizations suited to
them







We Hug Your Stress Away™

The Cozy Calm Weighted Blanket for Therapeutic Sleep and Relaxation

[ABOUT](#) | [CART](#) | [ACCOUNT](#) | [HELP](#)

Search

WEIGHTED BLANKETS

- ▶ [Helpful FAQ](#)
- ▶ [Queen Size](#)
- ▶ [Double \(Full\)](#)
- ▶ [Twin Size](#)
- ▶ [Child Size](#)
- ▶ [Adult Relaxation Blanket](#)
- ▶ [Couch-Length Blanket](#)
- ▶ [Lap Blanket](#)
- ▶ [Neck-Shoulder Wraps](#)
- ▶ [Hospital](#)
- ▶ [Bargain Bin](#)

EVEN MORE...

- ▶ [Shipping Info](#)
- ▶ [Coupon 5% Off](#)
- ▶ [Reviews](#)
- ▶ [Weight Chart](#)
- ▶ [Gift Certificates](#)
- ▶ [Media](#)
- ▶ [Refund/Exchange Policy](#)

CONTACT US AND MORE

- ▶ [Contact Us](#)



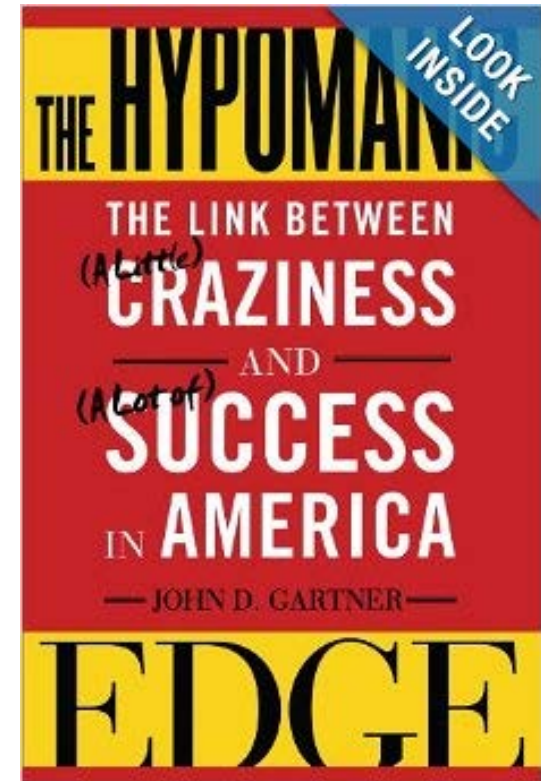
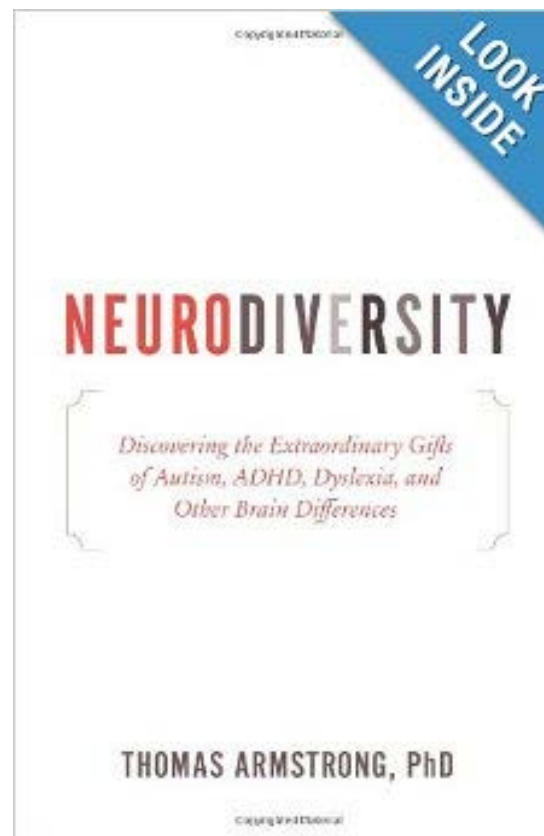
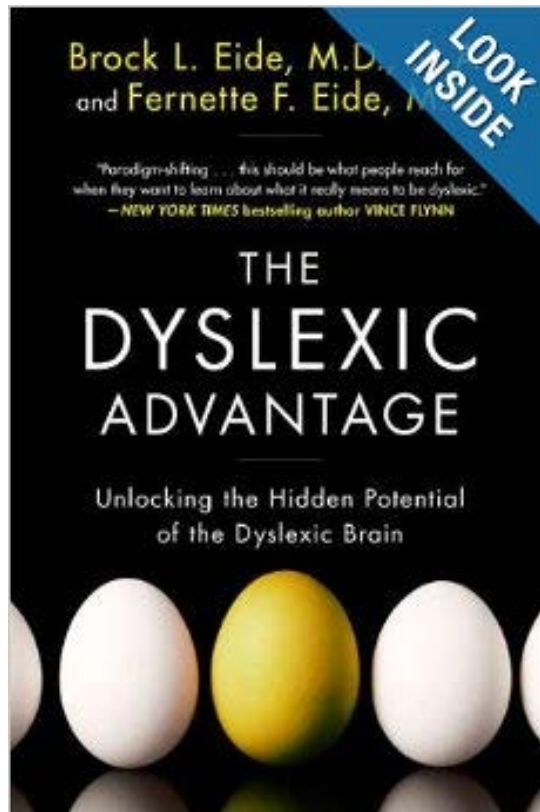
High-Quality Weighted Blankets for Sleep and Relaxation

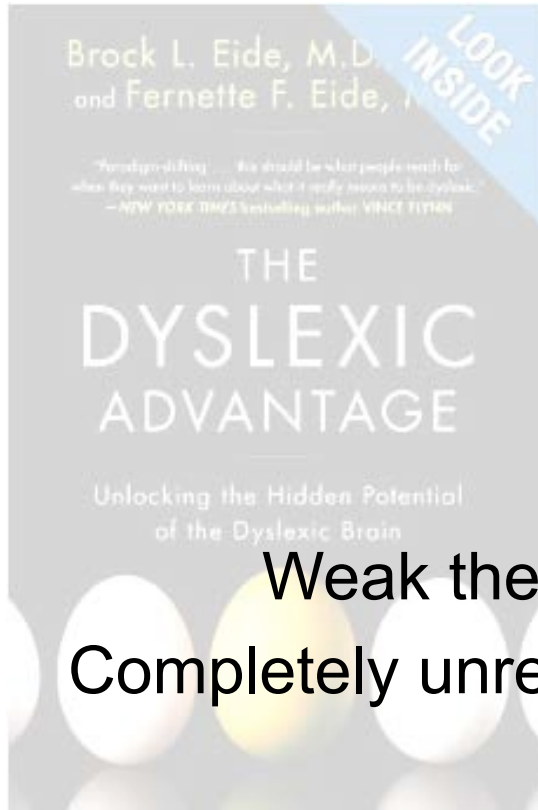
Home Use (pictured) and Hospital Weighted Blankets.

For Shannan in North Carolina, an 18 lb twin size **weighted blanket** was the solution for her **insomnia**:

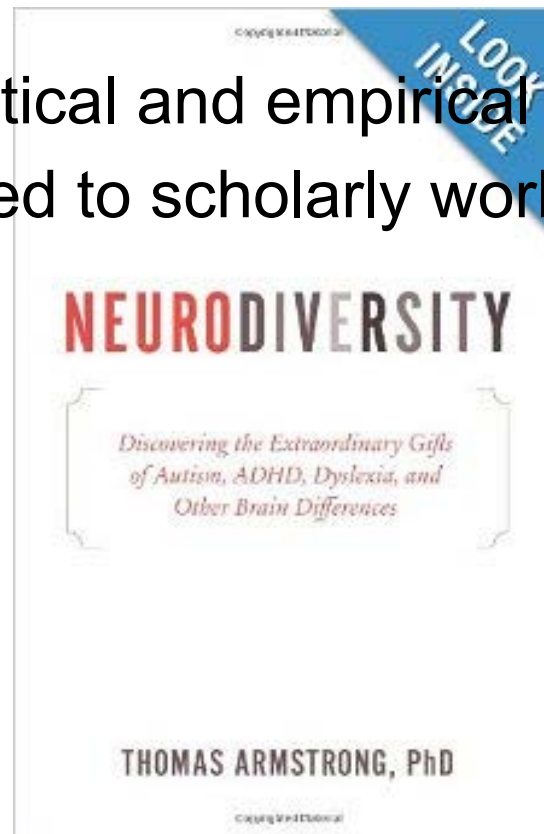
"Eileen, I meant to send this a while ago, but thank you so much for the blanket! It has helped with my insomnia more than I ever imagined. I'm no longer tossing and turning at night, waking up countless times, or having trouble getting to sleep. Even when I only have time for a few hours or even a nap, I feel so refreshed afterwards. Now I found a new problem though-I never want to get out







Weak theoretical and empirical underpinnings
Completely unrelated to scholarly work in entrepreneurship



Dyslexia and ADHD more prevalent among entrepreneurs

Dysfunctional in employment
Potentially functional in self-employment

ADHD, Dyslexia, Autism

Some very suggestive possible linkages...

ADHD

Alertness to opportunity

Focused

Passionate

Persuasive

Work capacity

Dyslexia

Creativity
Big picture thinking
Spatial ability
Memory
Reliance on others

High-functioning Autism (Asperger's)

Attention to detail

Focus

Pattern recognition

Engineering abilities

Certain sensibilities



© Original Artist / Search ID: mbcn406



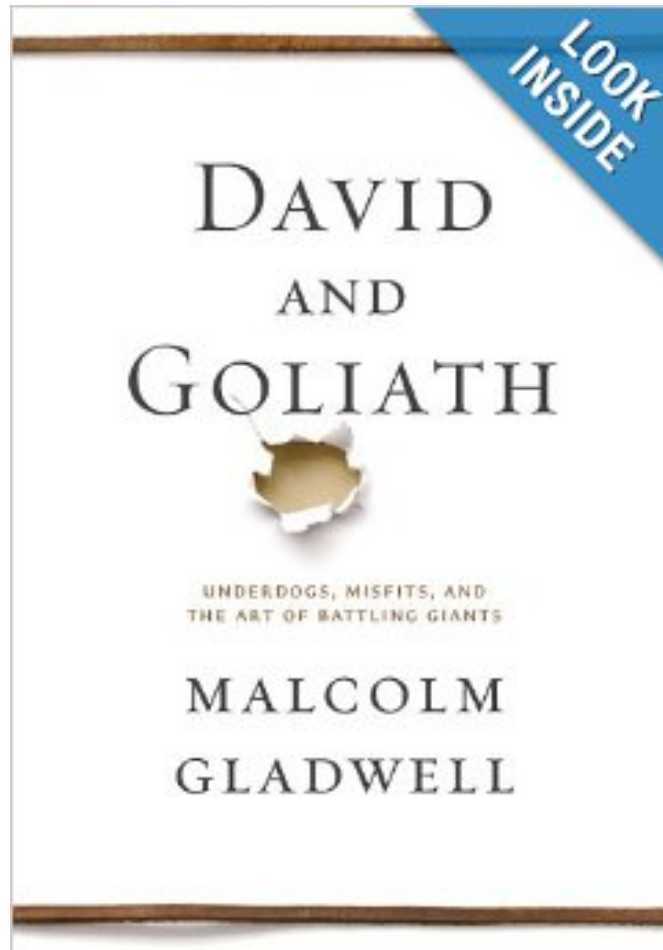
Rights Available from CartoonStock.com

"Stop your whining. Don't you know that what doesn't kill you will make you stronger?"

Resilience



brooke williams



Many with ADHD, Dyslexia, Autism become successful

Coping strategies can have value across context



My research combines



Inherent advantages



Coping strategies

Dysfunctional in employment

Potentially functional in self-employment

1

- Research question • Exploring the nature of entrepreneurship among people with disorders
- Methods • Multiple case study of entrepreneurs with ADHD, autism, dyslexia
- Theory • Psychology and learning of entrepreneurs
- Intended contribution Interesting to know! Moreover, we assume that certain (psychological) characteristics and learning abilities are important for entrepreneurship. Empirical cases of successful entrepreneurs with learning disabilities and mental handicaps represent a challenge to established theories.

2

- Research question
 - Testing similarities within and differences across disorders in terms of opportunities pursued and ensuing organizations built
- Methods
 - Surveys of people with various disorders. Relying on EBV, support groups etc.
- Theory
 - Person–organization fit
- Intended contribution
 - Generating theory related to person – organization fit in entrepreneurship generally and people with disorders specifically

3

- Research question
 - How does entrepreneurship facilitate or hinder the achievement of important life-aspirations among people with disorders?
- Methods
 - Case studies and/or surveys of people with various disorders. Relying on EBV, support groups etc.
- Theory
 - Self-determination theory
- Intended contribution
 - Important to know if entrepreneurship is a feasible option for people with various disorders. Theoretically, extreme cases can shed light on the question for entrepreneurs in general

4

- Research question
 - Prevalence, nature, and performance of entrepreneurs with disorders
- Methods
 - Panel of Swedish population matched with info on hospitalization or medication, or diagnoses and their career histories
- Theory
 - Occupational choice
- Intended contribution
 - Providing systematic evidence to anecdotal assumptions about the extent and pros and cons of certain disorders in entrepreneurship

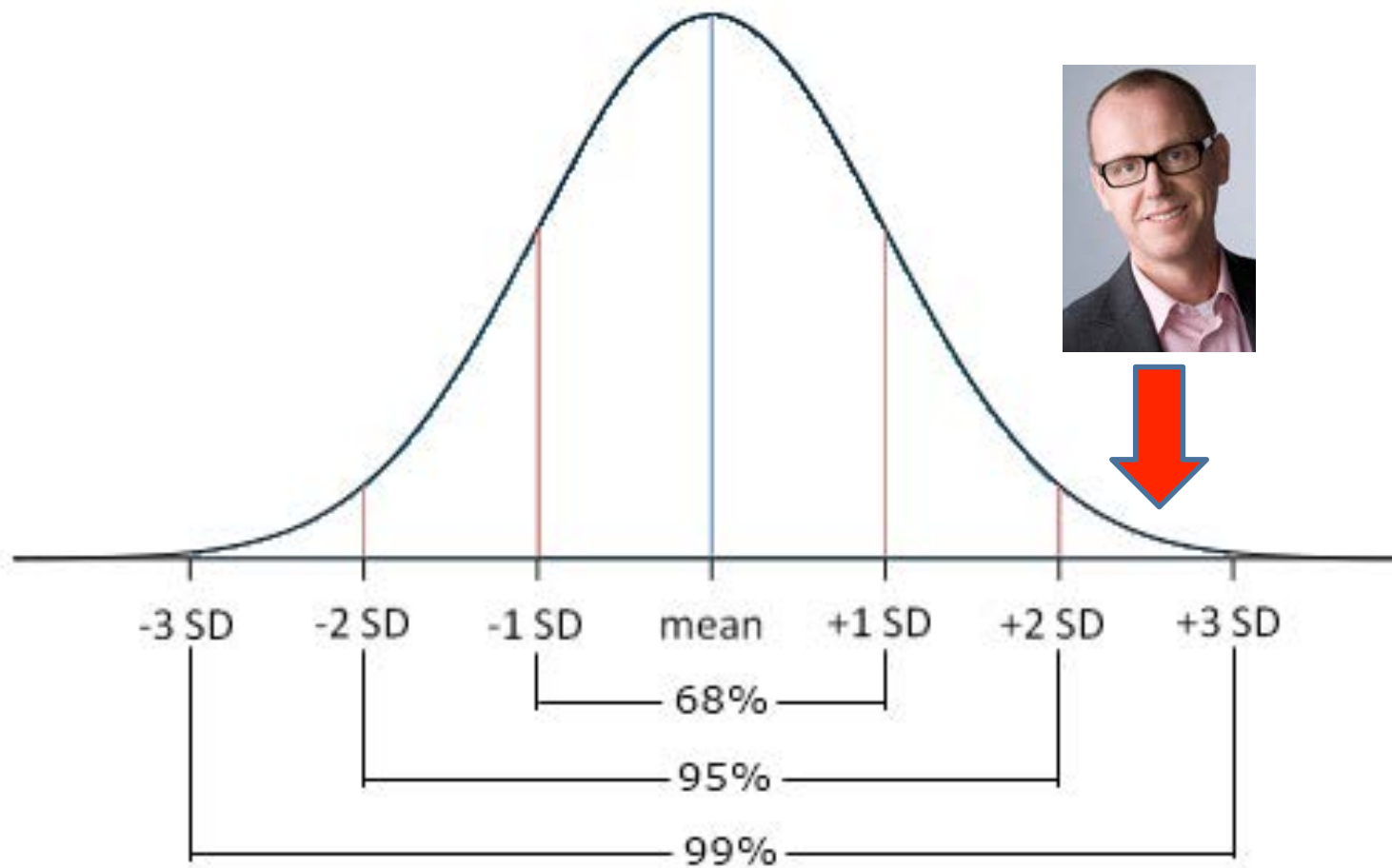
1, 2, 3, 4

Bigger picture

Provide facts to be used for policy, education, and research

Contribute to focus on abilities rather than disabilities
Entrepreneurship can be viable career option

Being different isn't necessarily bad



The End