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ASD is a class of neuro-developmental disorders that disrupt neural connectivity in the brain and regular interactions in the social realm. A shared hypothesis is that abnormalities in perception and processing of stimuli coming from social environment are in action since the first stages of life, with cascading effects on developmental abilities and intersubjective functions. The lack of reliable biological markers for identifying ASD has led researchers to concentrate on behavioral anomalies in order to detect early signs of autism. Much has been learned about early signs through retrospective studies involving family home videos. Several researches show that there are reliable signs of ASD by the end of the first year of life in the domain of social orienting (less orienting to social stimuli as name prompt and faces). Retrospective studies have revealed that impairments in social communication behaviors before 12 months may characterize some but a minority of cases. In the last years, retrospective findings have been supplemented by prospective studies of infants with an older sibling with ASD, who have an increased risk of developing ASDs, currently estimated at 10–20%. Existing large-scale research programs have focused on identifying the small subset who will develop autism. These studies suggest that behavioral signs of ASD in the social and communication emerge over time through a process of diminishment of key behaviors.

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Computation highlights subtle interactions between autistic babies and their parents, who are sensitive to their particularities

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We assessed, across the first three semesters, course of caregiver (CG)-infant (BB) interactions, taking into account synchrony and affective prosody, using home movies from 15 typical (TD) and 15 autistic (AD) infants. Interactive sequences were blindly coded through ICBS. An algorithm detected motherese in CG vocalizations. We selected BB-CG synchronous behaviors co-occurring in 3 seconds as dyadic events. GLMM statistics assessed significant differences in interaction (especially in BB response to CG vocalization) by Semester, Group (AD/TD), Speaker (mother/father) and Vocalization register (motherese/not). Motherese decreased over time similarly in both groups. Statistics showed that: – from the first semester, AD parents display more intense solicitations (rich in motherese); – motherese improved AD “toward people” (P = 0.005) and “receptive” responses (P = 0.009); – AD fathers tend to use more motherese (P = 0.05) and favored, at 3rd semester, AD “intersubjective” (P = 0.005) and “seeking people” (P = 0.02) responses. AD parents increase interactive behaviors that improve infant social responses.

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Suicide prevention of young people in Morocco

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Le Maroc est un pays avec une population jeune (40 % de la population a moins de 20 ans) ; l’analphabétisme demeure préoccupant, concernant plus de 50 % de la population ; le Maroc connaît des changements socioéconomiques rapides avec une anémie grandissante. Les vulnérabilités personnelles et groupales des adolescents intéressent depuis peu seulement les instances politiques, sans pour autant prendre en compte leurs aspirations. La pédopsychiatrie est balbutiante, les structures de soin et d’accompagnement sont embryonnaires et sans recul. La question du suicide est plutôt abordée par des associations militant peu soucieuses de l’effet Werther. Le sujet se prête depuis peu seulement à la discussion, même entre professionnels ; toute perspective phénoménologique est occultée. Aucune étude épidémiologique n’a été réalisée. La clinique retrouve pourtant les mêmes facteurs de vulnérabilité que dans les pays outre-méditerranéens. Aucun plan de prévention à l’échelon national n’a été mis en place plus que la simple diffusion des recommandations de l’OMS concernant le sujet.

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Youth suicide prevention in Australia

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How to keep them alive?

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