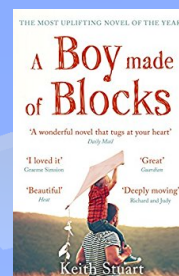
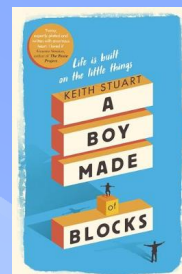
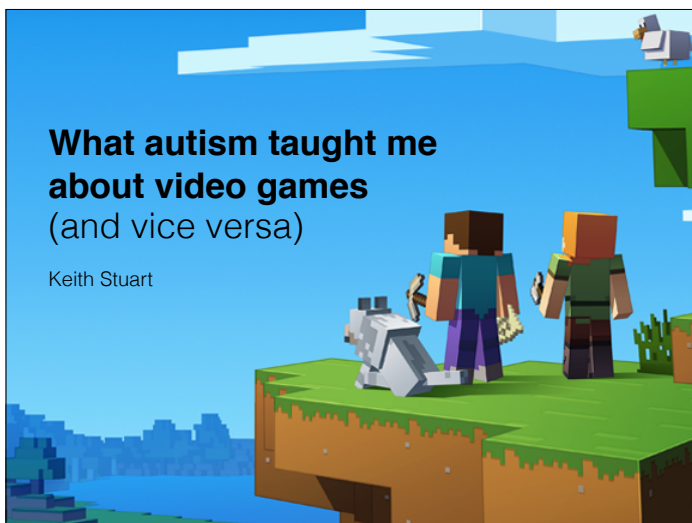


What autism taught me about video games (and vice versa)

Keith Stuart



This is a very serious profession



From the age of 36 months, we knew
there was something different about Zac



One thing he really loved was technology



It was partially my fault



LittleBigPlanet



The joy of agency



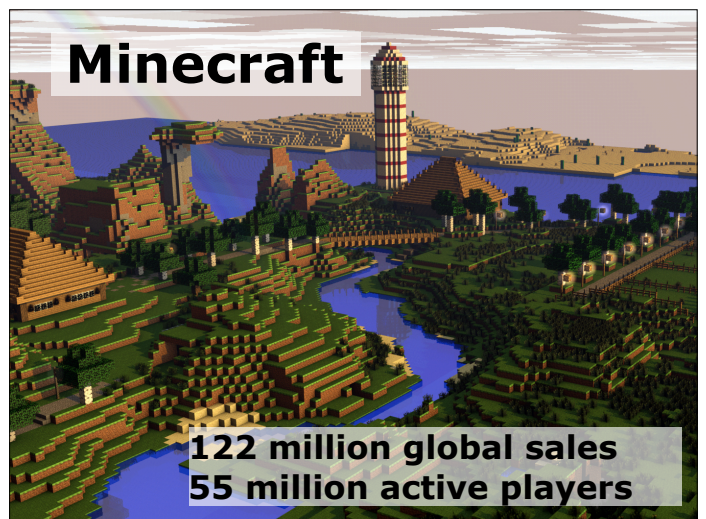
Burnout Paradise

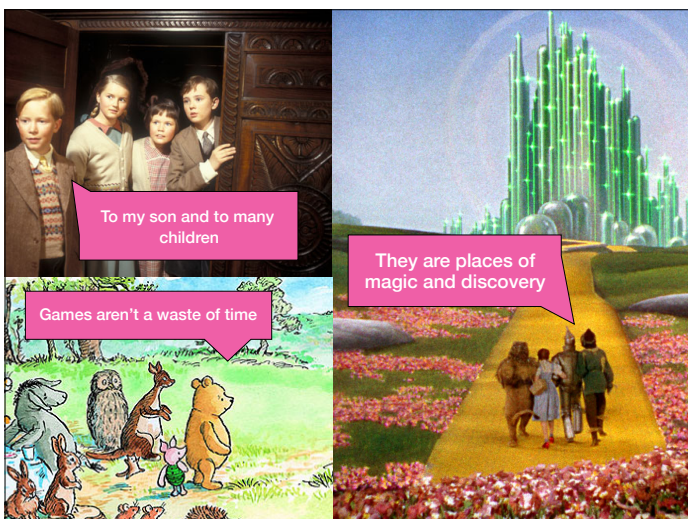
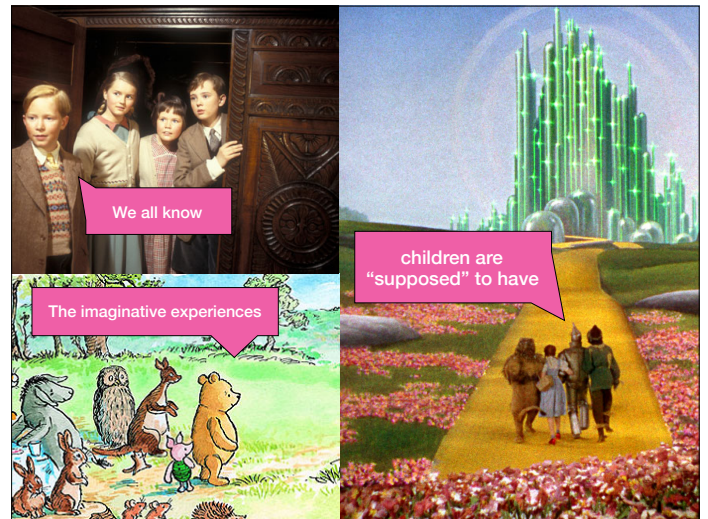
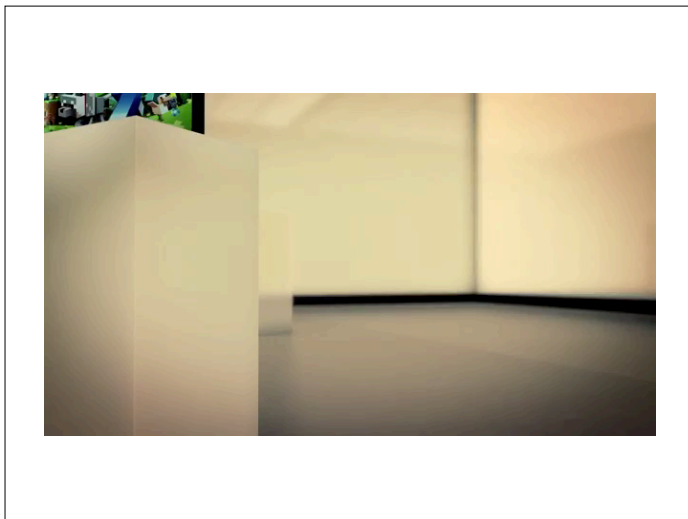
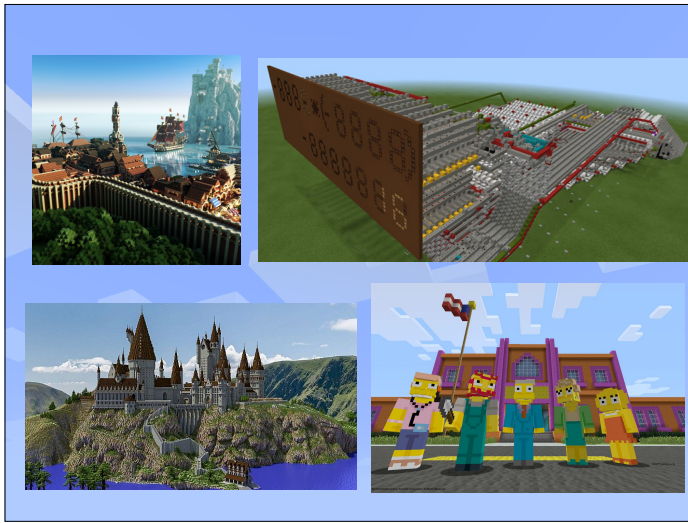
Exploration and
improvised rule sets



Minecraft

122 million global sales
55 million active players





Autism and Minecraft

There are no proscribed missions or objectives – you play how you want. It works with the interests of the autistic player.

It is a recognisable world, but simplified and unambiguous.

It has logical mechanics and systems and these never change.

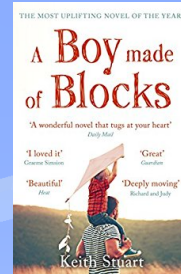
The ambient atmosphere and quiet piano-led soundtrack are calm and reflective.

It is social, but does not depend on understanding social cues like eye-contact, body language and personal boundaries.

Games are permissive spaces

Minecraft provided my son with a liberating distraction

SHAMELESS PLUG



Games are permissive spaces

Minecraft provided my son with a liberating distraction



How 'Pokemon Go' is helping kids with autism and Asperger's

By Rachel Cao, Special to CNN

Updated 1512 GMT (2312 HKT) August 5, 2016

NEWS

Home UK World Business Politics Tech Science Health

UK England N. Ireland Scotland Wales Cymru



Pokemon Go helps autistic boy Adam leave house

1 August 2016 Last updated at 06:07 BST

How Pokémon Go Might Actually Be Helping Kids With Autism

By Jesse Singal



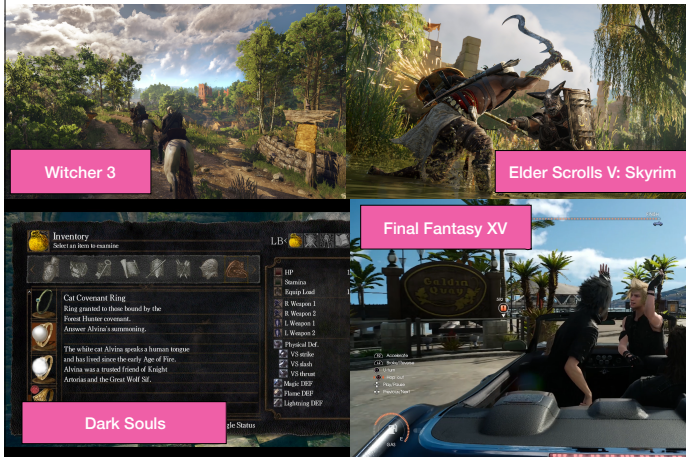
Keith Stuart @keefstuart

I have a question for people on the autism spectrum who play video games: are there specific games that make you feel good/comfortable? If so which ones and why? This is for a talk on autism and games and it would be great to get other people's experiences!

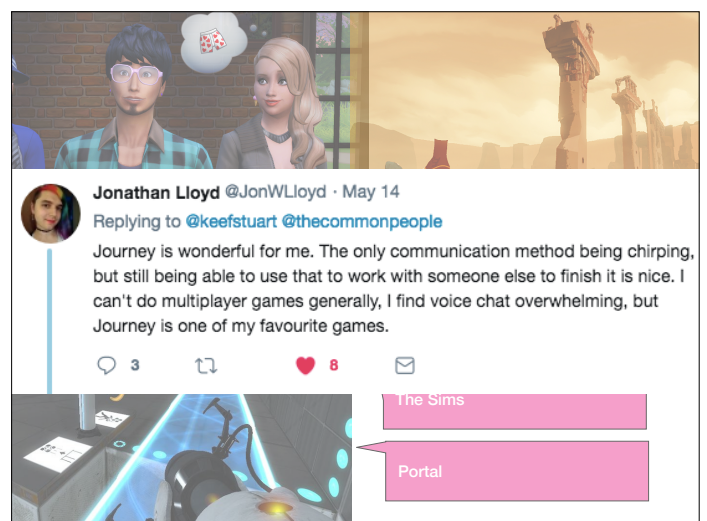
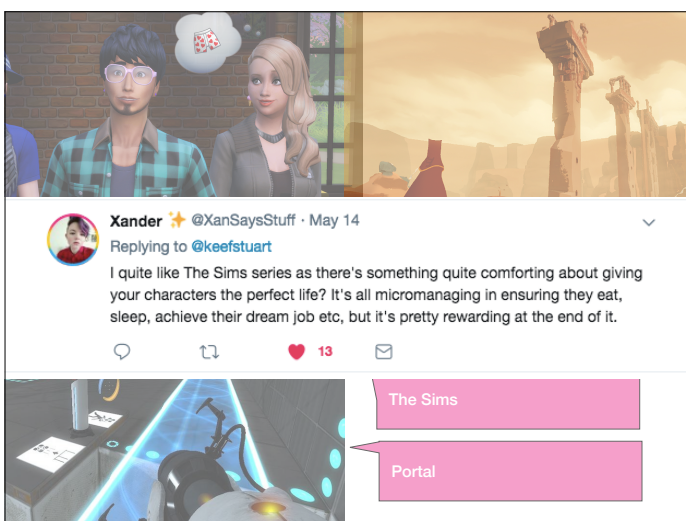
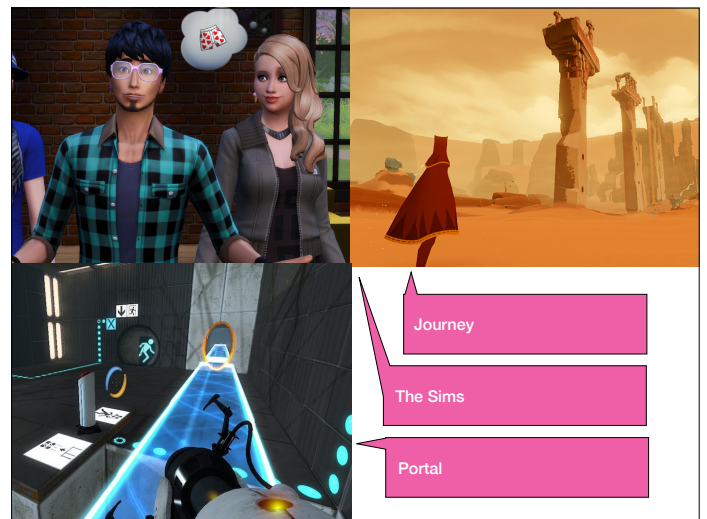
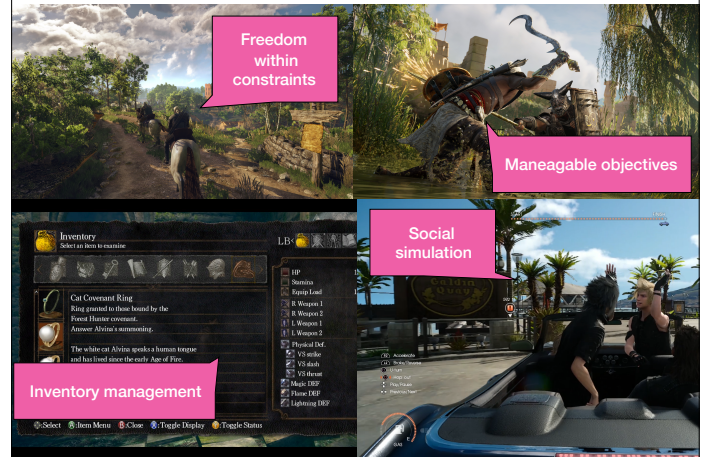
9:55 AM - 14 May 2018

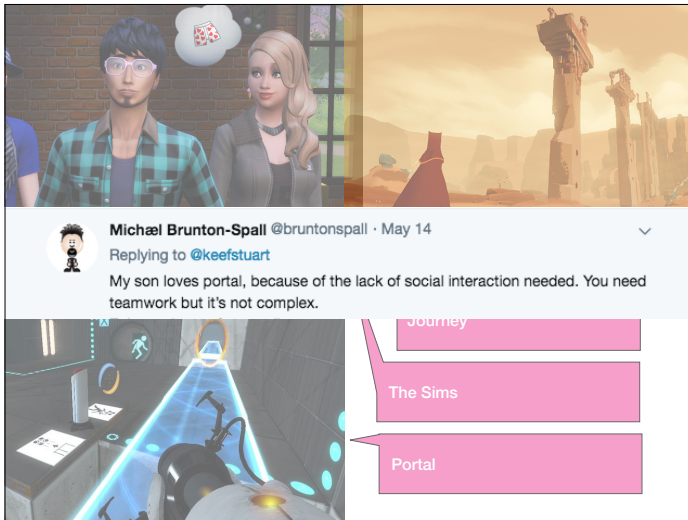
129 Retweets 140 Likes

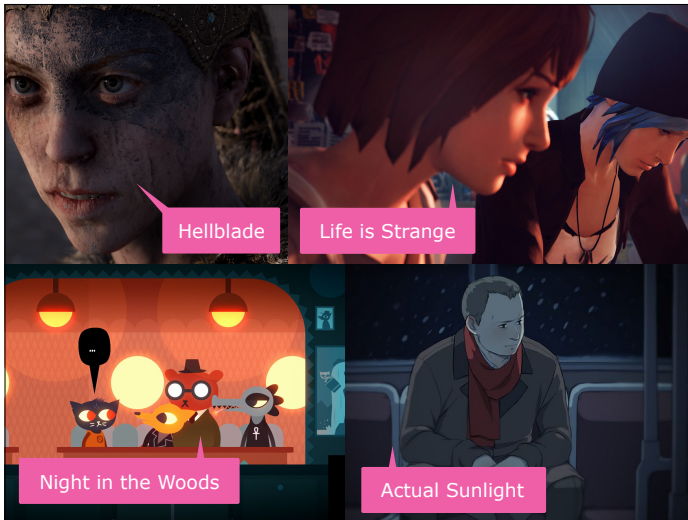
Fantasy role-playing games (RPGs)



The appeal of role-playing adventures







A new generation of independent games is subverting and radically softening established genres

Two game screenshots are shown. The left image is from *Stardew Valley*, showing a farm scene. The right image is from *Undertale*, showing a character in a room with a text box that reads: "(Playfully wrinking through the leaves fills you with determination.)"

The 2017 game Celeste uses the conventions of the platform genre to explore anxiety and panic attacks

A screenshot from the game *Celeste* is shown, depicting a character on a platform in a dark, starry environment.

The tech and games industries are actively recruiting (and creating support mechanisms for) people with ASD

Two images are shown. The left image is a screenshot of a Microsoft article titled "Microsoft Wants Autistic Coders. Can It Find Them And Keep Them?". The right image shows a group of people sitting around a table, working on laptops, representing the nonPareil institute.

The games industry is waking up to the need for greater diversity of thought, design and action

Four images are shown. The top-left image shows Spider-Man with a Pride flag. The top-right image shows the Apple App Store autism month. The bottom-left image shows the Girls Make Games coding clubs. The bottom-right image shows an Xbox Adaptive Controller.

video games are about freedom

A photograph of a person in a wheelchair using a game controller, with a text box overlay that reads "video games are about freedom".

Six games that are fun to share



**Forza Horizon
series**



Sea of Thieves



Fortnite



Rocket League



**Legend of Zelda:
Breath of the Wild**



**Lego Marvel
Super Heroes 2**

keith.stuart@theguardian.com

Twitter: @keefstuart

