

# Evolution of Self-Consciousness. Pan-Homo Split and Anxiety Management (Feb 2023)

(Feb 2023 version of poster planned for June 2023 ASSC 26)

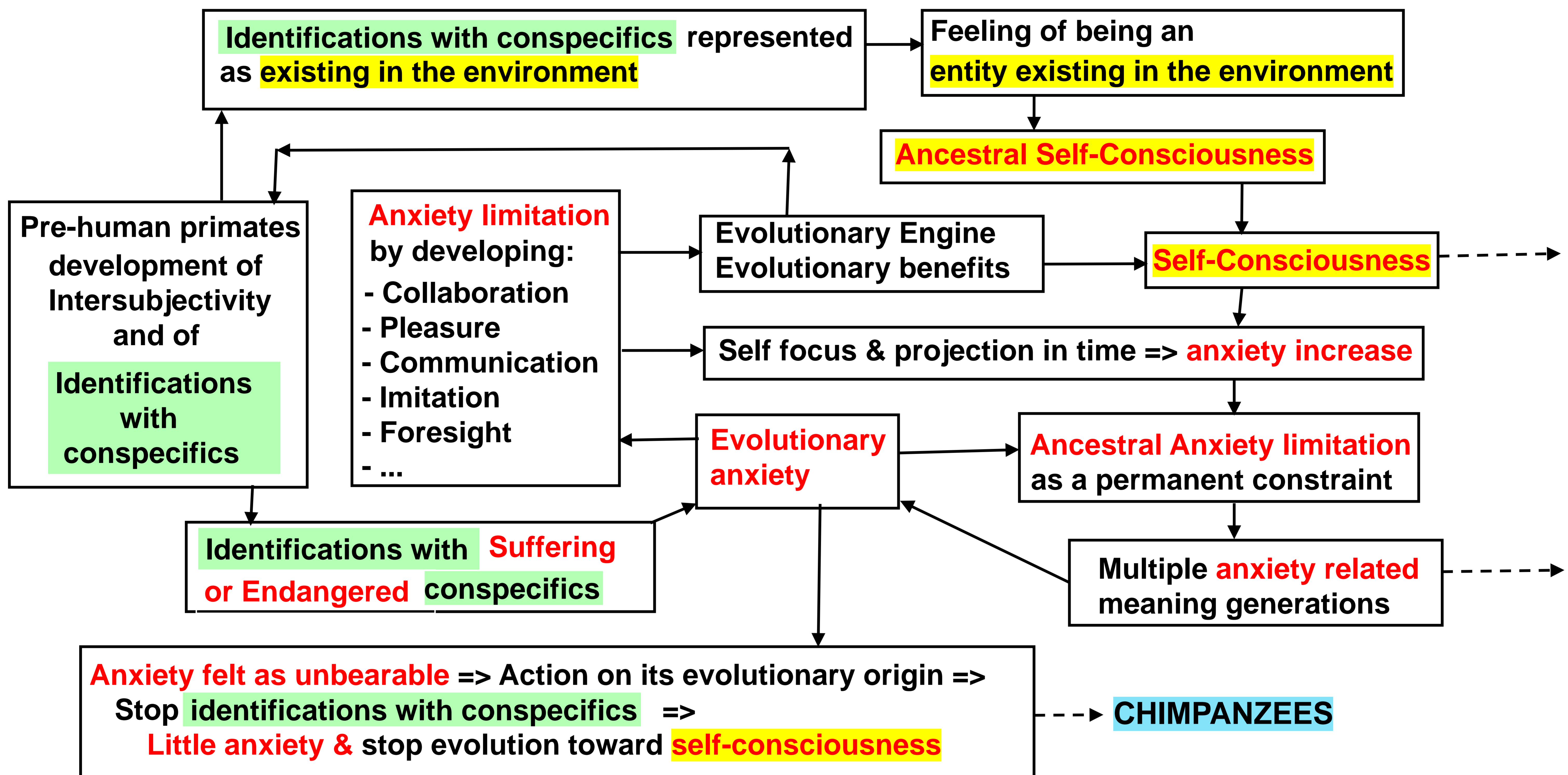
[Christophe Menant](#) Bordeaux – France .

## CHIMPANZEES & HUMANS

Common Ancestor  
(about 7 M years ago)

Evolution

HUMANS



## EVOLUTIONARY SCENARIO

- 1) **Identifications with conspecifics represented as existing in environment** [I]  
=> Pre-human primates represent their own entity as existing in environment  
=> **Ancestral Self Consciousness.**
- 2) **Identifications with suffering or endangered conspecifics** [II]  
=> Pre-human primates represent their own entity as suffering or as endangered.  
=> Creation of an **evolutionary anxiety** that has to be reduced.
- 3) **Two different modes of evolutionary anxiety reduction:**
  - a) Development of **anxiety limitation tools** (collaboration, caring, pleasure, communication, imitation, foresight, ..) [II, III]  
=> **Anxiety limitation** & evolutionary benefits => Evolutionary engine toward **Self-Consciousness** => **HUMANS**
  - b) **Stop identifications with conspecifics**  
=> **Stopped source of anxiety** and stopped evolution toward **Self-Consciousness** => **CHIMPANZEES.**
- 4) **Conclusion:**
  - **PAN-HOMO Split** may have come from different modes of **anxiety management** during primate evolution.
  - **Self-Consciousness** came in evolution with **anxiety management** as a key component of our human minds [II] .
- 5) **Continuations:**
  - Analyze intersubjectivity, **identifications with conspecifics** and **anxiety** in pre-human primate evolution.
  - Understand content of **ancestral anxiety** and of **anxiety related meaning generations** in humans [II, III].
  - Understand our evolutionary sourced modes of **anxiety limitation** (including evil behavior) [II, III].
  - Consider **feeling of being an existing entity** => **Reflectivity** => Entry point to **Phenomenal Consciousness.**

## References

- [I] C. Menant (2012) *Computation on information, meaning and representations* <https://philpapers.org/rec/MENCOI>  
[II] C. Menant (2018) *Proposal for an evolutionary nature of self-consciousness linked to a human specific anxiety.* <https://philpapers.org/rec/MENPFA-4>  
[III] C. Menant (2018) *Self-consciousness and human evil. Proposal for an evolutionary approach.* <https://philpapers.org/rec/MENSAH>