

GEQ1000 Asking Questions Economics (Social Science) Segment Video 2-6 About Reading #2

Hi, in this video I would like to talk briefly about the reading for this segment, which is a website titled *The Evolution of Trust*.

The author of this webpage, Nicky Case, is not an academic. He's actually a game developer based in the United States. He was inspired by the work of Robert Axelrod, a political scientist from the University of Michigan.

Axelrod has written extensively on the use of game theoretic models to understand how cooperation between people is fostered or destroyed. His 1984 book *The Evolution of Cooperation* remains a classic in the field, and he has published an updated version in 2006.

Case has done an outstanding job of capturing Axelrod's main ideas into an interactive format, which is called an **Explorable Explanation**. The reader gets to play many variations of **the Game of Trust**, with accompanying music and animation.

I hope you'll enjoy this reading, just as I did! I think there's great potential in using explorable explanations to replace traditional textbooks. Perhaps some of you will be inspired to create your own explorable explanations!