



Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

10 Jun 20 · 24 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1270730156315947009](https://twitter.com/Richard_Autism/status/1270730156315947009)



This article by Prof Garralda is the second PDA article:



The more I read it, the more I think it should have been referenced in early PDA literature. I have referenced more times than Christie and O'Nions, combined in print...

Important aspects include:

- Aspects of PDA are hard to measure, e.g. "sense of identity, price and shame".
- Various possible comorbidities e.g. ODD, ADHD, social anxiety disorder and precursors for schizotypal personality disorder.
- That PDA can cause confusion for stakeholders.
- Newson did not establish the validity i.e. specificity of PDA, i.e. she lacked the evidence to say PDA was exclusive to autistic persons and therefore could not claim PDA is an autism subtype.

If Garralda's article was referenced more in early PDA scholarship, it would arguably have prevented the premature community of practice around "PDA as an ASD narrative".

Sorry *Newson did not establish the validity and specificity of PDA*

For example, it is harder to justify doing research like this, which aims to make PDA a "meaningful subgroup" if one acknowledges there is not enough evidence to view PDA as an autism subtype:



Especially, when PDA literature acknowledges PDA might be an attachment disorder or personality disorder:

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2007/00000008/00000001/art00002>

Again attachment disorder:

<https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-29/january-2016/pda-there-another-explanation>

PDA is a common condition & possibly something new:



Again maybe PDA maybe a common condition upto a few % of human population:



In spite of the frequent reference to...

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00787-014-0647-3>

Must also be said example's of non-autistic persons in research samples here:

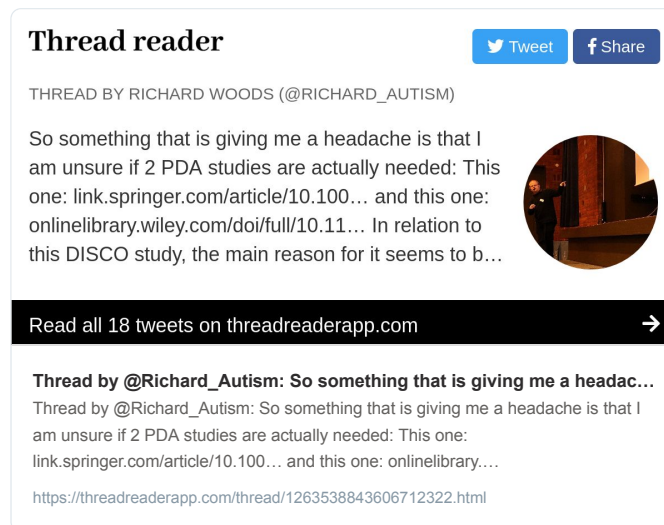


&

<http://www.pdaresource.com/files/An%20examination%20of%20the%20behavioural%20features%20associated%20with%20PDA%20using%20a%20semi-structured%20interview%20-%20Dr%20E%20O'Nions.pdf>

O'Nions and Happé were authors in both papers.

Adds to the other questions around why that study was undertaken:



If one were to make a construct an ASD subtype:


- Extend definitions of autism to include new construct.
- Change the nature of the construct to conform to definitions of autism.
- Combination of the above.


It is worth questioning if this is happening to PDA.

So we know that Newson had an over inclusive definition of Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) as it included Specific Language Impairment. Also Newson did not

base PDA on the triad of impairment:


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THREAD BY RICHARD WOODS (@RICHARD_AUTISM)

Thread on weaknesses of Help4Psychology PDA database: ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bil... From public information sources, that indicate it has severe limitations. The database is constructed by only diagnosing PDA in those the clinic believes are...



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Thread by @Richard_Autism: Thread on weaknesses of Help4Psychol...
Thread by @Richard_Autism: Thread on weaknesses of Help4Psychology PDA database: ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bil... From public information source that indicate it has severe limitations. The database ...
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1251878076465774592.html>

Triad of impairment underpins modern autism diagnostic criteria (Attwood, 2015), deficits in communication and social interaction and RRBIs:

https://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/1_So-what-exactly-is-autism.pdf

I know it has been collapsed down to a dyad:

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-diagnosis-criteria-dsm-5#:~:text=Restricted%2C%20repetitive%20behaviors&text=Great%20distress%2Fdifficulty%20changing%20focus%20or%20action.&text=Marked%20deficits%20in%20verbal%20and,to%20social%20overtures%20from%20others.>

Christie's PDD definitions from his 2019 NAS PDA conference are:

Pervasive: suggests that the effects can be seen in all of a child's development.

Developmental: Means that the disorder is present at birth, gradually becoming apparent during the course of development (circular).

Disorders: Implies more than straightforward delay.

Argues PDA is an PDD as PDDs were relabelled as ASD.

<https://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/5.2-strategies-for-teaching-pupils-with-PDA.pdf>

Worth noting there is not enough evidence to think PDA is specific to autistic persons & thus, PDA is a PDD/ASD.



Pathological demand avoidance syndrome: a necessary distinction wit...
A proposal is made to recognise pathological demand avoidance syndrome (PDA) as a separate entity within the pervasive developmental disorders, instead of being

classed under "pervasive developmental...
<https://adc.bmj.com/content/88/7/595.responses>

Christie's definition of PDD seem overly inclusive to me, there is nothing in those definitions that is particularly linked to the triad of impairment. This would be in line with Newson's definition of PDDs.

Furthermore, Christie's views ADHD, dyslexia & dyspraxia as ASDs (Trundle et al, 2017p 16):

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/JIDOB-07-2016-0013/full/html>

Individuals with PDA struggle with regulating emotions, demonstrated in excessive mood swings with dramatic over-the-top emotional reactions (Christie, 2015). Additionally, information processing difficulties can cause misunderstandings, and subsequently contribute to the PDA behaviour (Newson et al., 2003). Those with PDA may also display obsessive behaviours, sensory processing difficulties and behavioural problems, such as poor temper control (Christie, 2015). PDA is often diagnosed alongside other ASDs, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyslexia and dyspraxia (Christie, 2015). A comorbidity between PDA and epilepsy is being investigated with a correlation between the conditions being found (Rally et al., 2014), which could suggest the presence of unidentified underlying neurological cause.

Research has found that PDA demonstrates similar antisocial traits as those associated with conduct disorder (CD) and oppositional defiant disorder, demonstrating the extreme behavioural impairments of PDA (Gillberg et al., 2015). O'Nions, Christie, Gould, Viding and Happe (2014) and O'Nions, Viding, Grevin, Ronald and Happe (2014) also reported an overlap in difficulties between PDA and pervasive refusal syndrome, schizoid personality in childhood and borderline

London.

Christie, P. (2007). "The distinctive clinical and educational needs of children with pathological demand avoidance syndrome: guidelines for good practice", *Good Autism Practice*, Vol. 8 No. 1, pp. 3-11.

Christie, P. (2015). "What is pathological demand avoidance?", available at: www.autism.org.uk/docs/what-is-pda.aspx (accessed 10 November 2015; 20 January 2016).

Clark, S. and Chuan, J.S. (2015). "Evaluation of the impact personality disorder project - a psychologically-informed consultation, training and mental health collaboration approach to probation offender management", *Current Advances in Mental Health*, Vol. 26 No. 3, pp. 186-95, doi: 10.1002/cdm.1965.

Criswell, J., Mirovits, P., Shaw, J., Chuan, S.J., Simons, S. and Joseph, N. (2011). "Working with personality disordered offenders: a practitioners' guide", available at: www.jailco.gov.uk/downloads/offenders/mentally-disordered-offenders/working-with-personality-disordered-offenders.pdf (accessed 15 October 2015).

Department of Health (2011). "Response to the offender personality disorder consultation", available at: www.policing.co.uk/offender_personality_disorder_act_11.pdf (accessed 2 December 2015).

Dendrick, K. and Widge, T.A. (2016). "Antisocial personality disorder", in Fazel, S.H. and Clayton, P.J. (Eds), *The Mental Basis of Psychiatry*, Springer, New York, NY, pp. 229-45.

ADHD, dyslexia & dyspraxia are not part of the autism spectrum.

Seems more to be a definition of Neurodevelopmental Disorders:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurodevelopmental_disorder#:~:text=Neurodevelopmental%20disorders%20are%20a%20group,last%20of%20a%20person's%20lifeti me.

Just claiming PDA is a PDD is not sufficient to say PDA is an autism profile, PDA needs to conform to triad of impairment.

So it seems that Newson and Christie have both expanded the definitions of autism/PDD to artificially include PDA.

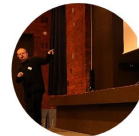
It also seems that PDA has been changed to conform to autism understandings:

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THREAD BY RICHARD WOODS (@RICHARD_AUTISM)

Thread: So tonight I have been trying to figure out why the wording for DISCO items is different between @ONionsLiz and @GillbergCentre PDA research. Yes, I emailed them to clarify why. Links to respective PDA DISCO articles:...



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So something that is giving me a headache is that I

So something that is giving me a headache is that I am unsure if 2 PDA studies are actually needed: This one: link.springer.com/article/10.100... and this one: onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.11... In relation to this DISCO study, the main reason for it seems to b...



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So it seems for some PDA is turning into an autism subtype. This begs the question is it deliberate?

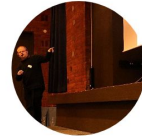
Maybe:

Thread reader



THREAD BY RICHARD WOODS (@RICHARD_AUTISM)

So I am googling PDA Development Group. All that seems to come out of it is: that they think PDA is part of the autism spectrum, mainly from their own (poor quality) research.
threadreaderapp.com/thread/1251878... The PDA...



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