



**Richard Woods** @Richard\_Autism  
3 Nov · 10 tweets · [Richard\\_Autism/status/1323540299772272640](https://twitter.com/Richard_Autism/status/1323540299772272640)

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[@AutismBoat](#) [@DrRubySapphire](#) [@AnnMemmott](#) One cannot make the assumption from Newson's work PDA is part of the autism spectrum. Newson:

- Knew about triad of impairment in 1982, did not base PDA on it.
- There are important clinical differences that mean PDA is not autism.

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- She removed any cases who presented autism (even atypical) autism features from her data base.
- Explicitly tells us PDA is not autism & should not be described as that.
- Never assessed her PDA cases for autism.

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- Newson never systematically investigated features of autism features in her database.
- Included non-autistic persons in her diagnostic groupings, including a broader than what is accepted version of Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

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- Newson's definition for Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) is broader than is clinically accepted as it includes persons not meeting threshold for: Classic Autism/ Aspergers/ PDA/ Specific Language Impairment.

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- Other clinicians & research are indicating PDA is seen in non-autistic persons based on Newson's descriptions.

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- Newson said all persons with Pervasive Developmental Disorders have coding problems (failure to process/ make sense of certain aspects of communication). This does not reflect accepted descriptions of Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

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- Newson said PDA needs to be substantially different from the autism spectrum (Asperger's & Classic Autism). Which her research suggests it is.

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[@AutismBoat](#) [@DrRubySapphire](#) [@AnnMemmott](#) ... Short version viewing PDA as part of autism is the exact of what Newson was trying to do and how she viewed PDA.

Any credible, or reputable autism expert should be noticing this & saying PDA is NOT autism.

[@AutismBoat](#) [@DrRubySapphire](#) [@AnnMemmott](#) \*Exact opposite of what Newson was trying to do\*

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