



**Richard Woods** @Richard\_Autism

5 Mar · 28 tweets · [Richard\\_Autism/status/1367965884912910337](#)



I think I have found a copy of [@HappeLab](#) & O'Nions 2011 NAS PDA conference slides!

<http://school.youngpilepsy.org.uk/dmdocuments/mindthe-gap-happe.pdf>

Scratch that, I think it is this one. Apparently, they gave different versions of the talk under the same title!

<https://anyflip.com/yexu/wgpc/basic/mobile/index.html>

Can anyone download this?

I can not, I print it off. I cannot save it except as a internet page.

Although, I think [@HappeLab](#) has some explaining to do. Why they discuss PDA relating to Triad of Impairment here, but not in print. Why she discusses changes to DSM-5 ASD criteria in the talk, but not in print.

Subtext to this is that Happe was a member of the committee that set the DSM-5 ASD criteria, and discussed such things in print outside of her (co-authored) PDA scholarship.

Looking at the slides, I find it hard to think that there is any doubt that their intent is to get PDA accepted as ASD subtype. Which supports my views on what was likely contained in these slides.

There is a good case to question [@HappeLab](#) ethics on this, what she has stated elsewhere for removing autism subtypes, directly challenges reasons for viewing PDA as an ASD. She might even be one of the person's [@drstevenkapp](#) & [@arineeman](#) lobbied for ASAN.

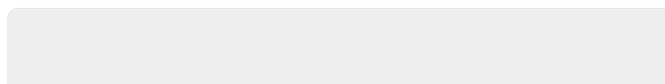
It really should not have taken me to reference Happe's scholarship, for these points to be covered in PDA literature.

Example [@HappeLab](#) scholarship discussing removing autism subtypes, that is relevant to PDA debate I have referenced

<http://apacu.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/HAPP%C3%89-2011.-Criteria-continua-categories-ASD-in-DSM-5.pdf>

Sorry, I mean [@aneeman](#) for Ari Ne'eman.

E.g. of said scholarship of mine:



## (PDF) Pathological Demand Avoidance and the DSM-5: a rebuttal to Ju...

PDF | My article "Demand avoidance phenomena: circularity, integrity and validity – a commentary on the 2018 National Autistic Society PDA Conference."... | Find, read and cite all the research you n...

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339240845\\_Pathological\\_Demand\\_Avoidanc...](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339240845_Pathological_Demand_Avoidanc...)

I can give a few reasons why I think it these slides that match up to Christie et al (2012) descriptions.

It includes what evidence will be needed to get PDA accepted into dx manuals.

Proposed ToM research.

Proposed tools, such as an observation schedule.

I am including copies of the slides here, as I cannot save them as a PDF/ powerpoint.

**New research ideas and questions about PDA**

Overview

- PDA: much concern, little research
- Why research PDA?
- PDA and Autism Spectrum Disorders?
- Does understanding the basis of ASD help us understand PDA?
- What underlies demand avoidance?
- How might PDA make it into the diagnostic manuals?
- Our current research into PDA

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**PDA: much discussed, little researched**

• Only one paper published in a clinical research journal to date

**'PDA' little used beyond UK**

- What are these difficulties called elsewhere?
- "Oppositional defiant disorder" or "conduct disorder"?
- "Severe attachment disorder"?
- "Severe disorder in childhood"?
- "School phobia"?
- "Shut themselves"?

• There are three young people? ASD-diagnosed? Excluded from school?

**Why research PDA?**

- Hard to manage for families and schools
- Typical ASD-suited approaches don't work? (repetition, routine, reward)
- Relatively gloomy prognosis in Newson follow-up

**THE FAMILY OF PERSISTENT DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS**

**PDA and Autism Spectrum Disorders**

- Similar to ASD?
- Fundamental problems
- No embarrassment
- Obsessive traits
- Highly anxious?
- Socially manipulative?
- Fail to read social cues?

**The Autistic Triad**

**Social impairments**

**Communication impairments**

**Restricted Repetitive Interests & Behaviours**

**The Autistic Triad: Relevance for PDA?**

**The ASD triad: No single cognitive explanation?**

**Mind-blindness in ASD**

**Defining criteria for PDA**

- Passive early history
- Resists and avoids ordinary demands of life
- Surface sociability
- Liability of mood
- Comfortable to role play and pretending
- Language delay, stems from passivity
- Obsessive behaviour
- Neurological involvement

**Understanding vs. Caring**

**Empathy dysfunction in conduct disorder + callous/unemotional**

**What might underlie Demand Avoidance?**

- Why do TD children (generally) comply?
- Want to please others? Enjoy positive emotional displays?
- Care about responses? Others' views of self matter?
- Hard instinct, instinctively recognise hierarchy?

**Why is complying so hard for children with PDA?**

- Anxiety → Attempt to control?
- Identity disorder?
- Theory of mind + empathy difficulties?
- No response to positive emotions?

**Making it into the diagnostic manuals**

**Proposed changes in DSM5 (APA)**

- Autistic disorder, Asperger Disorder, PDD-NOS to be collapsed into "Autism Spectrum Disorder"
- Individual's profile mapped in terms of:
  - Social and communication difficulties
  - Restricted and repetitive difficulties
  - Language level, intellectual functioning
  - Other factors (e.g. anxiety, depression, challenging behaviour, suicidality or self-harm)
- New diagnostic category under Language Disorders: Social Communication Disorder

**New Research at SGDP Centre**

- Questionnaire study
- New data from parents of 40 children with PDA (aged 5-10yr)
- Existing data from parents of 5,000 12yr olds, where we identified:
  - Conduct problems (CP: N=29)
  - Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD: N=39)
  - Typical levels of key behaviours in ~4,000 TD children

**Outcomes**

- Severity of difficulties in PDA
- Nature of difficulties in PDA vs. CP/ASD
  - Autistic-like behaviours
  - Social interaction problems
  - Difficult behaviour
  - Anxiety
- Genetic influences on PDA-related traits

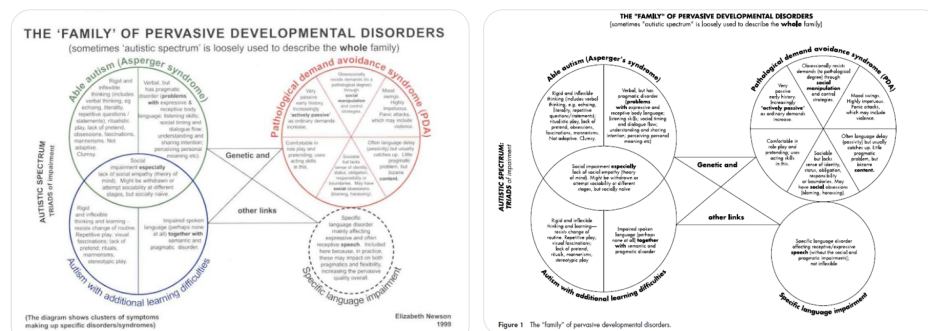


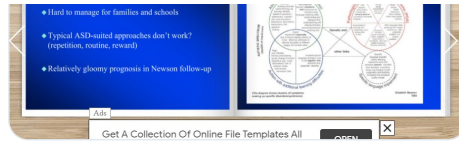
I am pretty certain there is a conflict of interest for Happe, by not discussing the issues around subtyping autism in their PDA scholarship. As it has made it easier to view PDA as an ASD, they co-authored research which views PDA as an ASD.

One can take the view Happe has benefitted from not discussing such issues in their PDA scholarship.

Which is why one can question Happe ethics on the topic.

I would also point out Happe and O'Nions used the 1999 Pervasive Developmental Disorders diagram, instead of using Newson et al (2003), diagram; this matters as it is harder to argue PDA is an ASD if they use the latest version of that image.





For examples of research where Happe & others have viewed PDA as an ASD.

"Their apparently intact awareness of how to 'push people's buttons' suggests a level of social insight that is unusual in children with ASD." p758.

<https://acamh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jcpp.12149>

"17 PDA-relevant DISCO items were not widely endorsed in general in an autism spectrum sample, since features typical of ASD in general are unlikely to be useful in identifying a meaningful subgroup." p410



"It should be noted that, so far, we have approached this profile from the starting point of four expertise in ASD" p2

<http://repository.tavistockandportman.ac.uk/2165/1/O%27Nions%20-%20Extreme.pdf>

It is reasonable to view that reviewer's/ editors would ask certain questions about this approach & research, if said articles also said things like,  
Subtypes were removed to reduce stigma.  
No evidence of differential treatment between subtypes.  
etc etc.

Like, so how does PDA not increase stigma for certain autistic persons?

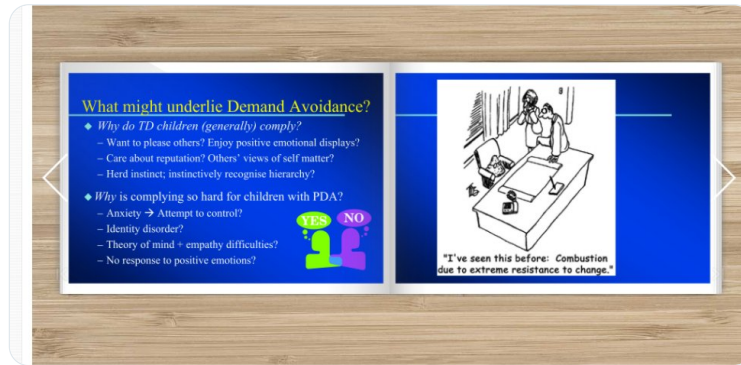
If PDA is different to autism, how is it an ASD?

If PDA has anxiety based approaches, surely PDA might be better suited outside of autism?

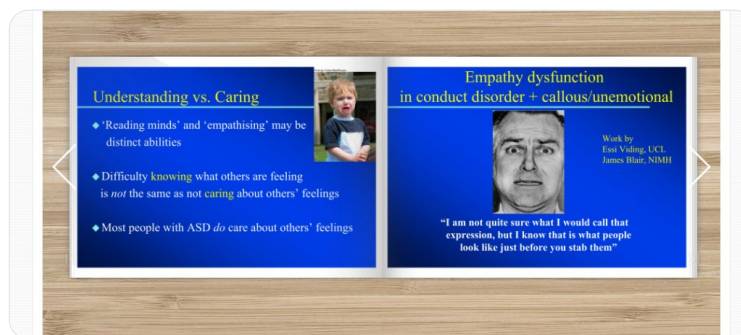
If all attempts to divide autism have failed, why have you chosen an arbitrary validation threshold of 30%? How is does this research add to scientific understanding of autism? questions for DISCO paper.  
etc.

Looking at the slides again, some of the proposed research is looking for what is

missing/ turned off in PDA, i.e. they are looking for decifits. For example not in ToM research, but in why non-autistic CYP comply & why PDA does not.



There is at least one positive comment about autistic persons in there, about how most autistic persons do care about other persons feelings.



I will stop here, and the unroll.

[@threadreaderapp](#)

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