



Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

Oct 9, 2021 · 35 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1446763585871433732](#)



[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) PDA cannot be a form of autism when there are non-autistic persons with PDA in the literature. Tweets like the one above are important examples, why balanced & accurate information should be presented to vulnerable stakeholders.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Screenshot as evidence the tweet happened.



[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) It also shows why it is problematic for those advocating for PDA's acceptance to use neutral language, to prevent vulnerable persons being misled on the topic.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) The research referred to in the above tweet viewed PDA as an ASD; using not neutral language on the topic.

"Have education professionals you have met accepted the PDA profile of ASD as a useful descriptor and implemented appropriate strategies?" Question 23.

...

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Front cover of that research report by the PDA Society.



[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) It is not only misleading by also discriminatory towards non-autistic persons with literature indicates they also benefit from PDA strategies.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) "it is likely that many of the original cohort of children assessed by Newson and her team would today meet the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder using DSM 5." (Eaton & Weaver 2020, p34).

I.e. non-autistic persons present in Newson's cohort.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) This observation is also supported by Soppitt (2021) book chapter, that there are non-autistic persons with PDA existing. This is supported by other studies & expert opinion.

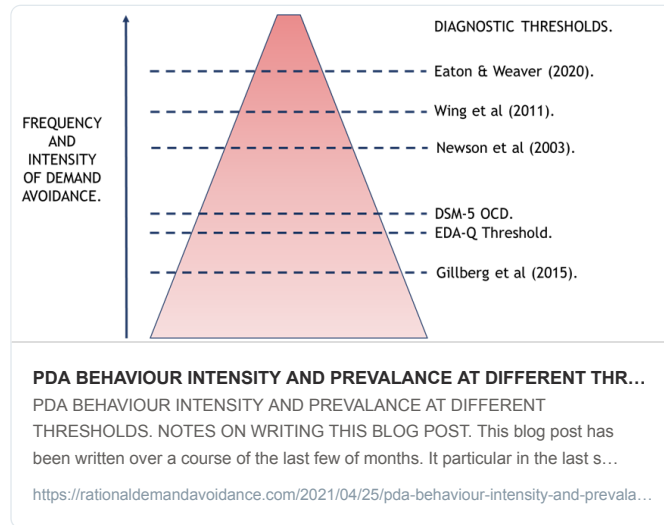
[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) "Praise, reward, reproof, and punishment ineffective; behavioural approaches fail."

"Teachers need great variety of strategies, not rule based: novelty helps."

"Indirect instruction helps."

All from Newson et al (2003, p597).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) I discuss how some of the other arguments around clinical need for PDA diagnoses, are applicable to lower diagnostic thresholds (& non-autistic persons with PDA here).



[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) "In the absence of any agreed standardised diagnostic criteria for PDA, the principle of 'best interests' is applied, from Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Summerhill & Collett 2018, p30).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Those are universal rights to research, support & diagnosis. SEND system is needs based, so if autistic persons need a PDA dx, then non-autistic persons also do (which set above is explained in the literature).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Before anyone points out to literature supporting "PDA as an ASD", one much/ most of this literature is poor quality, & probably impacted by COIs. Just because PDA is not researched much in non-autistic persons does not mean situation is markedly different.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. One can simply conduct research into non-autistic PDA; which probably exists as much/ most critique of PDA seems valid.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) AND threshold when demand-avoidance becomes "pathological" according to DSM-5 is.

"the disturbance causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning." (APA 2013, p21).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) "...start to display avoidant behaviour and challenging behaviour in response to a particular stressor..." (Eaton 2018, p20). Around EDA-Q threshold and/ or "problematic demand avoidance" (O'Nions et al 2018b).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) I.e., at a lower level than many "PDA as an ASD" advocates realise.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) This campaigner referring to "PDA Profile of Autism" is an example of what this paper means about researchers comments & portrayals of autism (or PDA) can take route in real life culture.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.727542/full>

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) It is also probably why researchers ethically need to present balanced & accurate information on a topic, to prevent such biased notions, such as "PDA as an ASD" prematurely taking route in culture.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) "As an autistic I feel the reverberations of the scientific discourse into my personal life—it radiates into social media, informs stereotypes, creates discourses,...

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) ... and ideas of autism that comes to grow amongst our families, friends, colleagues, community, and the strangers we encounter." (Botha 2021, p7).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) "Regardless of whether autistic read these accounts (and both autistic people and autistic autism researchers can and do), there are consequences that the rest of us will come to experience anyway, as it cascades into the media and our lives." (Botha 2021 p8)

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) I am describing part of the cultural processes that Grinker describes in this quote, about how diagnostic constructs can take a life of their own, & be given properties of a natural kind.

WHY IS IT ALWAYS ME (AUTISM)?

Demand from non-autistic stakeholders.

- 1) Interest is driven by non-autistic stakeholders (Christie et al 2012; Newson et al 2003).
- 2) *"once a diagnosis takes hold and serves as the hub around which so much wealth, so many people, and activities coalesce, it takes on a life of its own as an authentic, naturalized classification (Hacking 2000). This category, in turn, provides an incentive for manufacturing people with the diagnosis of autism whose presence and needs support this financial infrastructure."* (Grinker 2020).

AutImedes FOR THE TELEHEALTH COMMUNITY Studio3 PDA Seminar - 28 June 2021. London South Bank University 30

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Reinforcement-based approaches may remove CYP only coping mechanism to aversive environments (O’Nions & Eaton 2020). DAP diagnosis needed to protect CYP from caregiver interventions for disruptive behaviour disorders (O’Nions & Neons 2018).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) Previous tweet is strengthening the point about how non-autistic persons with PDA should also require PDA strategies, hence that argument around clinical need is applicable.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) With regard to what a neutral position on PDA looks like there are examples by reputable independent parties, which do not view "PDA as an ASD", like Kildahl et al (2021), NICE & BPS.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#)

Richard Woods
@Richard_Autism

Replying to @Richard_Autism

8:01 AM · Sep 5, 2021

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Richard Woods
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Replying to @Richard_Autism

Links to NICE's document.
[nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128...](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128...)

BPS's document.
[bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps....](https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps....)

8:02 AM · Sep 5, 2021

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[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) This is an important point. Recently been reading BPS Code of Human Research Ethics, much is made about being aware of power differentials & authority (read & perceived) researchers have.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) These issues of power differentials & authority (real & perceived) are applicable to other stakeholders in similar positions, like charities. Notable PDA stakeholders have an ethical duty to present balanced & accurate information on PDA.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) If viewing & stating "PDA as an ASD" was a balanced & accurate position to adopt, reputable & independent parties like NICE, BPS & Kildahl et al would, be adopting it (which they are not).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) We would not be having weird things like researchers basically saying there are non-autistic persons in Newson's PDA cohort,

while only diagnosing PDA in autistic persons (while also ignoring broader evidence & expert opinion).

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) If independent & reputable parties are treating divergent opinion equally, it means that it is an ethical & accurate thing to do.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) I will end the these musings on that note.

[@YIMAN38111877](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@threadreaderapp](#) please can you unroll?