



**Richard Woods** @Richard\_Autism

Sep 18, 2021 · 129 tweets · [Richard\\_Autism/status/1439269688479993860](#)



[@NDx5fam](#) Thank you for tweet.

I have many nuanced views on PDA.

I am critical of:

Much of its research.

How it is often theorised.

How it is being propagated.

Lack of ethical debate on it.

Generally, situation with PDA is bad. How bad, needs being investigated!

[@NDx5fam](#) I think PDA can be validly viewed as:

Rebranded autism.

A pseudo-syndrome made of features from accepted constructs.

A common disorder.

I think it is obvious nonsense that PDA is not autism, & it never should have been viewed as such.

[@NDx5fam](#) The situation with PDA, is appears akin to ABA, we know its practice & research are extremely shoddy, but we did not know how bad its research ethics necessarily were until research like this:

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.676303/full>

[@NDx5fam](#) We know the situation is bad & unethical with PDA, when [@PDASociety](#) is pretending to be an autism stakeholder on little to no evidence of worth, working with various organisations to spread their views PDA is an ASD.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) So it is a matter of when this charade ends & the fallout of the bubble bursting. Who is going to be there to help all the vulnerable persons caught up in the fiasco?

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) Thread on 10 studies I think indicate PDA is seen outside of autism.

<https://rationaldemandavoidancecom.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/20-june-2021-10-studies-indicating-pda-is-seen-in-non-autistic-persons.pdf>

@NDx5fam @PDASociety Two other studies which probably contain non-autistic persons with PDA.

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

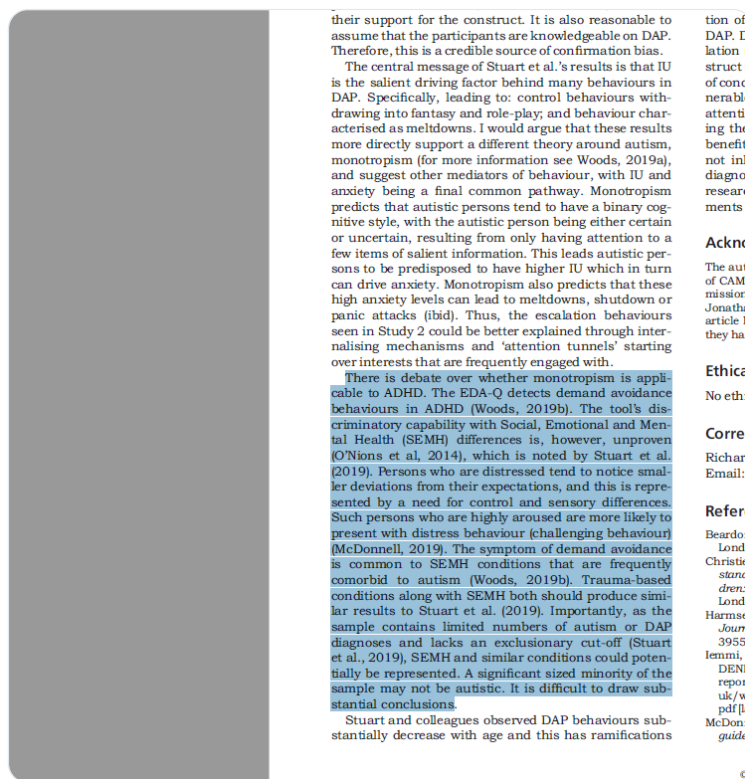
& this one:

<https://acamh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/camh.12336>

@NDx5fam @PDASociety For Stuart et al (2020) reasons why it probably includes non-autistic CYP, are provided here:

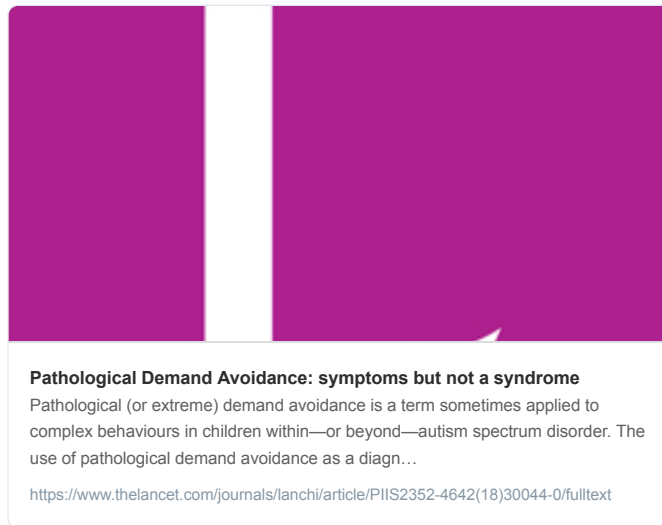
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338650142\\_Commentary\\_Demand\\_Avoidance\\_Phenomena\\_a\\_manifold\\_issue\\_Intolerance\\_of\\_uncertainty\\_and\\_anxiety\\_a\\_s\\_explanatory\\_frameworks\\_for\\_extreme\\_demand\\_avoidance\\_in\\_children\\_and\\_adolescents\\_-\\_a\\_commentary\\_on\\_Stuar](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338650142_Commentary_Demand_Avoidance_Phenomena_a_manifold_issue_Intolerance_of_uncertainty_and_anxiety_a_s_explanatory_frameworks_for_extreme_demand_avoidance_in_children_and_adolescents_-_a_commentary_on_Stuar)

@NDx5fam @PDASociety Screenshot to section where.



@NDx5fam @PDASociety Example of many experts views:

"Pathological (or extreme) demand avoidance is a term sometimes applied to complex behaviours in children within—or beyond—autism spectrum disorder."



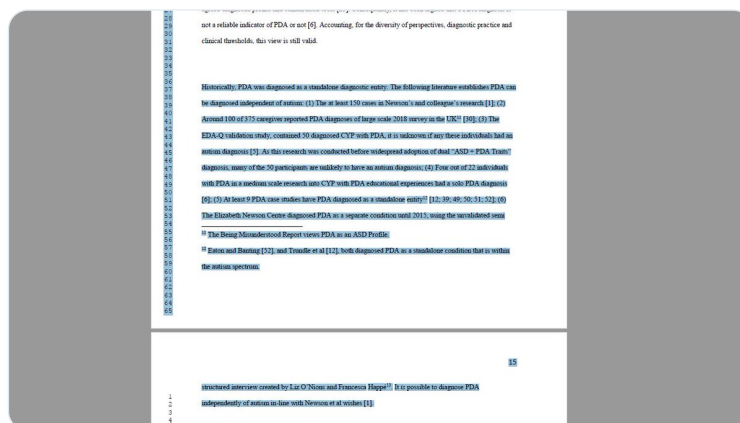
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) Other examples of persons expressing PDA is seen in non-autistic can be found here:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339240845\\_Pathological\\_Demand\\_Avoidance\\_and\\_the\\_DSM-5\\_a\\_rebuttal\\_to\\_Judy\\_Eaton](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339240845_Pathological_Demand_Avoidance_and_the_DSM-5_a_rebuttal_to_Judy_Eaton)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) There are sufficient examples in the PDA literature to indicate it can diagnosed separately from autism, as noted here:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351071989\\_Is\\_Pathological\\_Demand\\_Avoidance\\_a\\_meaningful\\_subgroup\\_of\\_autism](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351071989_Is_Pathological_Demand_Avoidance_a_meaningful_subgroup_of_autism)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) Screenshot of paragraph detailing examples of where PDA has been diagnosed as a standalone entity.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) Does this answer your questions?

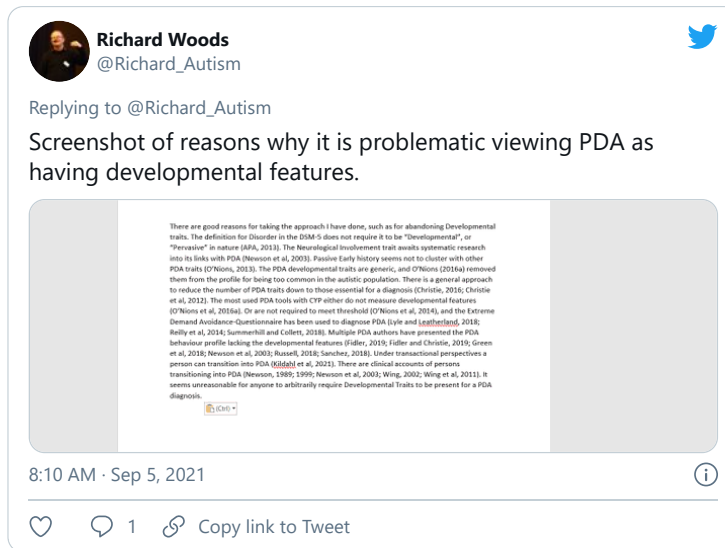
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) How is it ethical or professional for "PDA as an ASD" advocates like [@DrJudes03](#) say they know PDA better than the PDA literature does due to their experience (which includes results & opinions which disagrees with them). Another bad sign?

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) There are good reasons why I am not basing my views on PDA on my "experience" (both personal & professional). I certainly would not base my reputation as a PDA expert, by placing my opinions on PDA, over the literature.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) This is another example of "PDA as an ASD" advocates & experts seemingly ignoring typical research, practice, & professional norms. What would I know (rhetorical)?

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Specific part I am referring to, is that PDA needs to be from early infancy. [@DrJudes03](#) would say yes it has to. based on their experience. I would say literature clearly says no on that topic.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#)



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Apparently, it is perfectly fine & acceptable for "PDA as an ASD" supporters to place their own views over the PDA literature, & to conduct research to support their own opinions on the topic.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Another good example situation is bad with PDA is when a caregiver writes a book stating PDA is an ASC. This simply should not be happening considering the lack of evidence, contradictory evidence & divergent opinion on PDA.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Helping-Your-Child-Live-Happier/dp/1787754855/ref=asc\\_df\\_1787754855/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=499352049769&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=13869500188184430532&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006965&hvtargid=pla-1231940785561&ppsc=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Helping-Your-Child-Live-Happier/dp/1787754855/ref=asc_df_1787754855/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=499352049769&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=13869500188184430532&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006965&hvtargid=pla-1231940785561&ppsc=1)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Surely if Alice Running was presented with balanced & ethical information on PDA, they would not be stating PDA is an ASD in print?

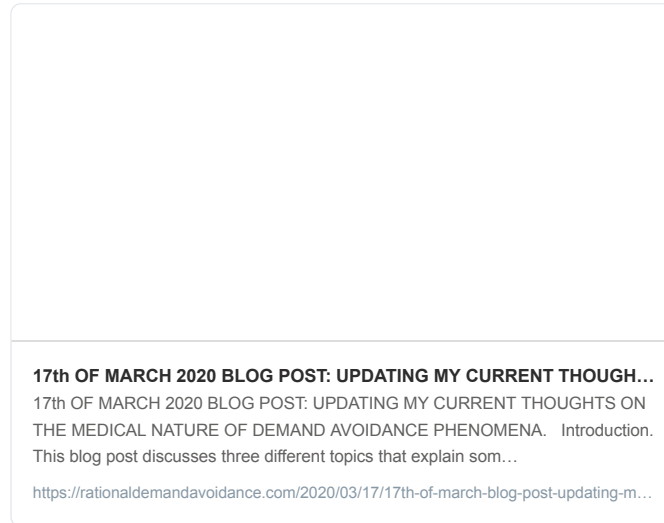
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) I am going to back to Help4Psychology here. It just not ignoring literature that PDA does not have to be from early infancy, other example is that PDA might not be a form of autism, & PDA is seen in non-autistic persons is ignored due to their experience.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) I cover parts of the PDA literature which indicate PDA is seen in non-autistic persons previously in the thread. For a least of what PDA could be, which includes attachment disorder/ personality disorder, see

this:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337146735\\_Demand\\_avoidance\\_phenomena\\_circularity\\_integrity\\_and\\_validity\\_-\\_a\\_commentary\\_on\\_the\\_2018\\_National\\_Autistic\\_Society\\_PDA\\_Conference](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337146735_Demand_avoidance_phenomena_circularity_integrity_and_validity_-_a_commentary_on_the_2018_National_Autistic_Society_PDA_Conference)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) I have updated this table in this blog post here:



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Why I am noting these points. Scientific-method based research is not conducted to support persons opinions. Help4Psychology research should be reflecting broader PDA literature, nor favouring the outlook PDA is an ASD.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Researchers should not be designing researching to favour one outlook over another, which obviously viewing PDA to be an ASD, only diagnosing it in autistic persons, & viewing it to be developmental nature does.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) "Researchers are required to be open minded, to avoid research "designed to support a preconceived notion or belief" (Chown et al, 2019, p1)...

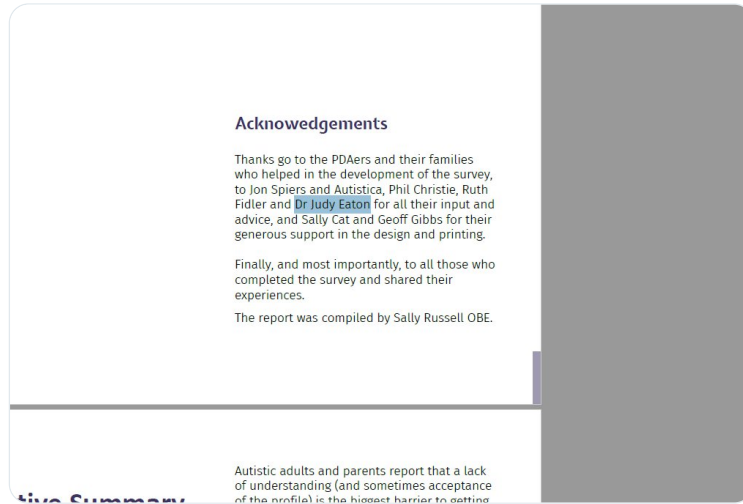
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) ... Ethically, researchers need to attempt falsification of their hypothesis as part of the scientific method that is involved in most research (Milton, 2016; Rutter and Pickles, 2016)." (Woods 2019, p36).  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337146735\\_Demand\\_avoidance\\_phenomena\\_circularity\\_integrity\\_and\\_validity\\_-\\_a\\_commentary\\_on\\_the\\_2018\\_National\\_Autistic\\_Society\\_PDA\\_Conference](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337146735_Demand_avoidance_phenomena_circularity_integrity_and_validity_-_a_commentary_on_the_2018_National_Autistic_Society_PDA_Conference)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Help4Psychology research into PDA as an ASD, would not be the first time, some of its staff have taken in part in PDA research which unethically views PDA to be ASD. Another example can be found in the Being Misunderstood Report.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Screenshot, of where Being Misunderstood Report shows who assisted in creating the report.

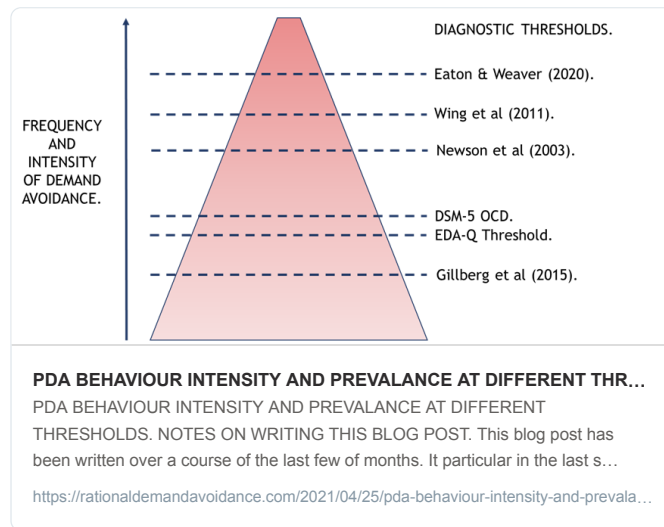
And a link:

<https://www.pdasociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/BeingMisunderstood.pdf>



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Should I take PDA research seriously if it seems so biased in favour of one outlook on PDA? Probably not, no. There is a simple reason for this, there are many different diagnostic thresholds for PDA in its literature.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Link to how there are different diagnostic thresholds for PDA.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Now if for example, divergent opinion on PDA is valid, that it is seen in non-autistic persons, can be diagnosed at lower diagnostic thresholds, independent of autism.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) As I point out here, it is perfectly reasonable to question if PDA can be seen at lower diagnostic thresholds:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353348556\\_Demand\\_Avoidance\\_Phenomena\\_Pathological\\_Extreme\\_Demand\\_Avoidance\\_is\\_it\\_a\\_Disorder\\_at\\_a\\_lower\\_diagnostic\\_threshold](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353348556_Demand_Avoidance_Phenomena_Pathological_Extreme_Demand_Avoidance_is_it_a_Disorder_at_a_lower_diagnostic_threshold)

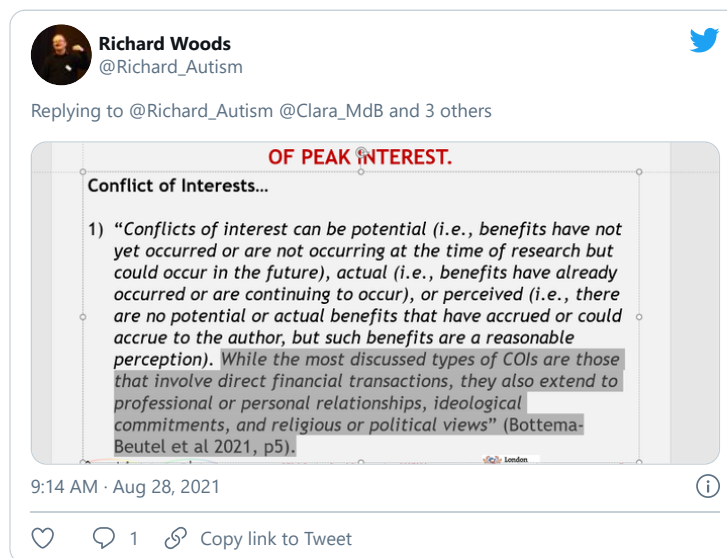
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Which PDA research is the the "real" PDA? PDA is an ASD, like Help4Psychology, or research at a lower diagnostic threshold & in non-autistic persons?

Obviously, both versions of PDA, cannot be simultaneously true, PDA is an ASD, & not an ASD.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) It does not make any sense to favour the notion "PDA as an ASD" until divergent opinions on PDA have falsified.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Now it is important to mentions conflicts of interest (COIs). From my understanding, from a research, professional perspective Help4Psychology should be declaring their COIs.

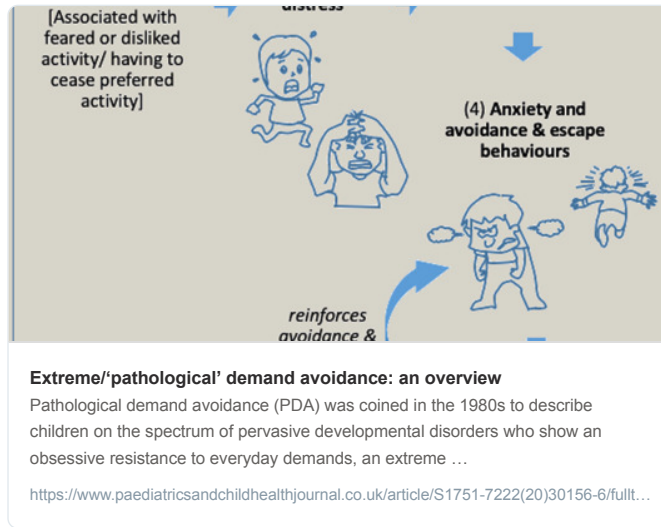
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#)



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Above image is a definition for conflict of interests. One should note it is broad, not just for earning income from an activity, it can include propagating political views & ideological commitments.

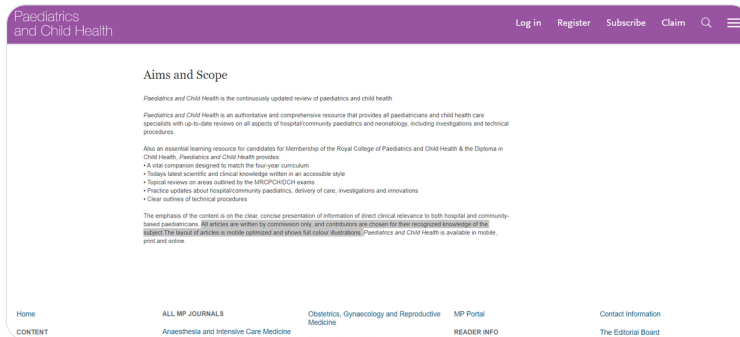
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) A brief example of some research being discussed by a member of Help4Psychology, where no conflicts of interests are declared. Yet, they do seem to be benefitting from propagating their version of "PDA, i.e., PDA is an ASD".

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Link to a recent PDA overview article by O'Nions & Eaton.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) "All articles are written by commission only, and contributors are chosen for their recognized knowledge of the subject. The layout of articles is mobile optimized and shows full colour illustrations." from journal's Aims & Scopes.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Link to Paediatrics and Child Health, Aims & Scope.  
[paediatricsandchildhealthjournal.co.uk/content/aims](https://www.paediatricsandchildhealthjournal.co.uk/content/aims)



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) So the member from Help4Psychology would have been commissioned to co-author a review based on their understandings & (biased) PDA research. Same critique is probably applicable to O'Nions.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) "One of the study authors (JE) runs a clinic known for its awareness of the PDA profile, which receives a significant number of referrals of young people with these difficulties." (O'Nions & Eaton 2021, p412).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) So not only has the member of Help4Psychology apparently been commissioned to co-author an article. Said article acknowledges the clinic's "awareness of the PDA profile". So it appears the clinic is gaining reputationally from their (biased) views & research.

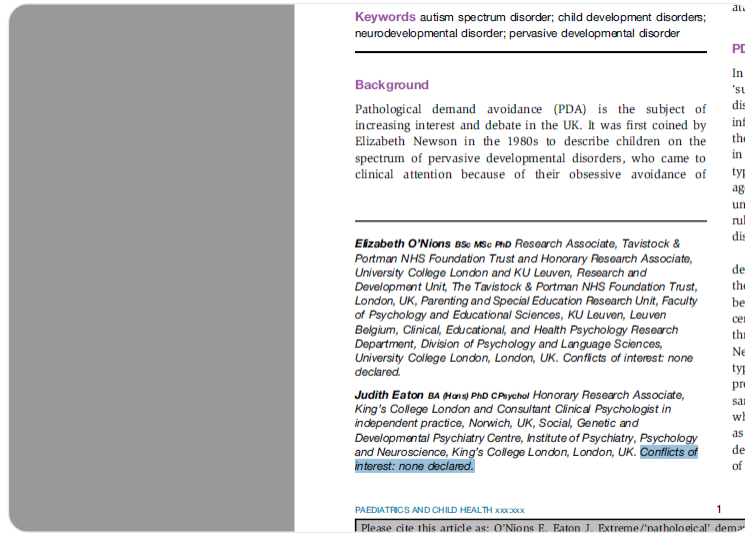
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) Also the pertinent point Help4Psychology is a private clinic which earns income from assessments for PDA (and autism). Has the member of Help4Psychology declared any conflicts on interest, which they should be doing?



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudess03](#) "Conflicts of interest: none declared."  
(O'Nions & Eaton 2021, p411).

One would also note O'Nions has not declared any conflicts of interests either.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudess03](#) Screenshot to Help4Psychology member saying they have no conflicts of interests in that article.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudess03](#) I have discussed elsewhere, that often where we have poor quality research, there are poor quality ethics. [@mitziwaltz](#) has done a good job here:



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) We know that the PDA research, is generally poor quality, such as by NICE, and observed in this recent systematic review (link below).



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) So is it really surprising the apparent poor quality ethics of this one PDA article, which involves a member from Help4Psychology:

[Associated with feared or disliked activity/ having to cease preferred activity]

(4) Anxiety and avoidance & escape behaviours

reinforces avoidance &

**Extreme 'pathological' demand avoidance: an overview**  
 Pathological demand avoidance (PDA) was coined in the 1980s to describe children on the spectrum of pervasive developmental disorders who show an obsessive resistance to everyday demands, an extreme ...

[https://www.paediatricsandchildhealthjournal.co.uk/article/S1751-7222\(20\)30156-6/fullt...](https://www.paediatricsandchildhealthjournal.co.uk/article/S1751-7222(20)30156-6/fullt...)

Probably not, no.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) As I keep on saying the situation with PDA is bad, it remains to be seen how bad it is. I am aware that persons are observing my critique of PDA, that most of it seems valid.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) Said critique of mine is being noted by others, as some has been included in here.

**Pathological demand avoidance in children and adolescents: A syste...**  
 Requests for pathological demand avoidance diagnoses have increased over recent years but pathological demand avoidance remains a controversial issue. We undert...

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/13623613211034382>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) There is also a broader move, at least within some circles of the autism research community to move away from the atrociously poor quality standards associated with autism research & practice. Like, here with [@journalautism](#)

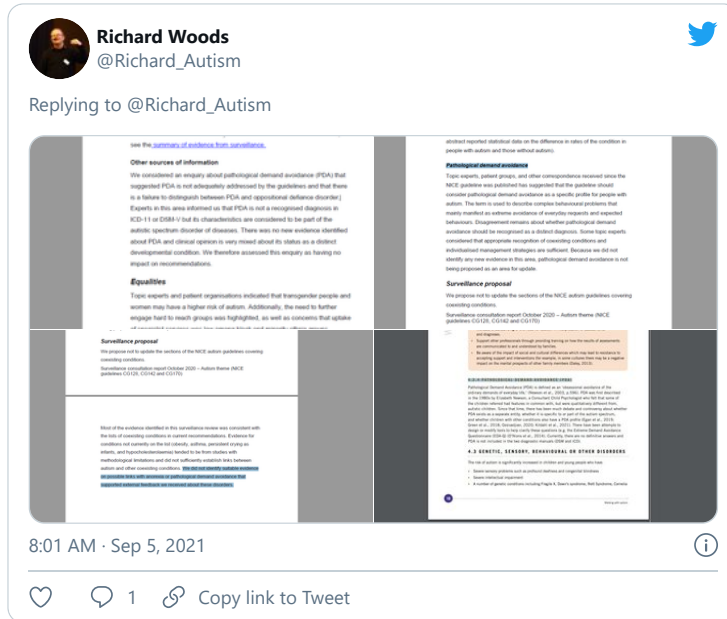
**Publishing standards for promoting excellence in a...**  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/13623613211019...>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) The final point I am trying to convey today is that, this bubble "PDA as an ASD" is highly likely to

burst, when researchers start investigating the bad situation surrounding PDA.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) Essentially, a choice for "PDA as an ASD" supporters: do they want to be damaged when its bubble bursts, or do they wish to be OK? If they wish to be OK, I suggest adopting an ethical position similar to what [@NICEComms](#) & [@BPSOfficial](#) have recently taken.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#)



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Above is screenshots of BPS & NICE neutral position on PDA.

Link to NICE document.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/documents/surveillance-review-proposal>

Link to BPS document.

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Working%20with%20autism%20-%20best%20practice%20guidelines%20for%20psychologists.pdf>


[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) I think this is it for today.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) To highlight lack of disclosing relevant conflicts does appear to be pervasive among key "PDA as an ASD" supporters. I discuss some of the issues from Phil Christie not disclosing his presence on the PDA Development Group here:

**Thread reader** Tweet Share

Thread by Richard Woods (@Richard\_Autism), 27 Aug

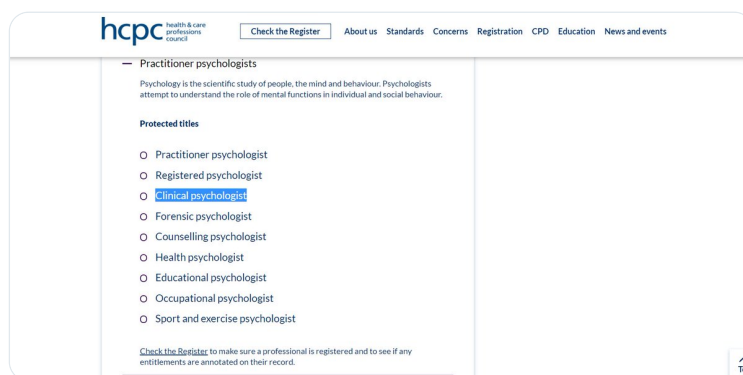
What is not in the DSM-5 autism criteria. Simply put. Why the \*\*\*\* are the likes of @PDASociety @Autism making the stupid decision to view P...



**Thread by @Richard\_Autism on Thread Reader App**  
 Thread by @Richard\_Autism: What is not in the DSM-5 autism criteria. Simply put. Why the \*\*\*\* are the likes of @PDASociety @Autism making the stupid decision to view PDA as an anxiety based disorder ...  
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1431294048543952897.html>

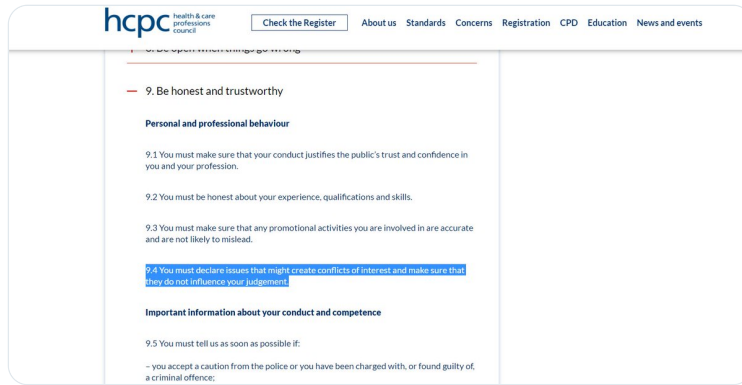
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) So I am going to look at the conflict of interest disclosure by Judy Eaton, in their other PDA articles. They are clinical psychologist, & should be covered by HCPC standards which are there to protect public.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of clinical psychologists being regulated by the Health & Care Professions Council. Screenshot from this link below <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/about-us/who-we-regulate/the-professions/>

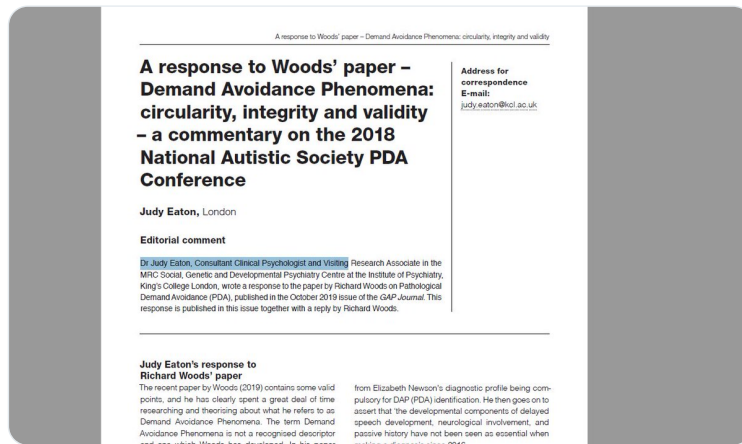


[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of HCPC standards, which include must disclose conflict of interests. These standards are there to protect persons. Link to the standards, below.

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/>



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot where it is identified Judy Eaton is a clinical psychologist, from this article:  
<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2020/0000021/0000001/art00009>



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of another article stating they are clinical psychologist. Link to the article below:

**Extreme 'pathological' demand avoidance: an overview**  
 Pathological demand avoidance (PDA) was coined in the 1980s to describe children on the spectrum of pervasive developmental disorders who show an obsessive resistance to everyday demands, an extreme ...

[https://www.paediatricsandchildhealthjournal.co.uk/article/S1751-7222\(20\)30156-6/fullt...](https://www.paediatricsandchildhealthjournal.co.uk/article/S1751-7222(20)30156-6/fullt...)

and educational professionals to particular challenges surrounding compliance with everyday requests in some children with ASD.

**Keywords** autism spectrum disorder; child development disorders; neurodevelopmental disorder; pervasive developmental disorder

### Background

Pathological demand avoidance (PDA) is the subject of increasing interest and debate in the UK. It was first coined by Elizabeth Newson in the 1980s to describe children on the spectrum of pervasive developmental disorders, who came to clinical attention because of their obsessive avoidance of

*Elizabeth O’Nions BSc MSc PhD Research Associate, Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust and Honorary Research Associate, University College London and KU Leuven, Research and Development Unit, The Tavistock & Portman NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK, Parenting and Special Education Research Unit, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, KU Leuven, Leuven Belgium, Clinical, Educational, and Health Psychology Research Department, Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, University College London, London, UK. Conflicts of interest: none declared.*

*Judith Eaton BA (Hons) PhD CPsychol Honorary Research Associate, King’s College London and Consultant Clinical Psychologist in independent practice, Norwich, UK, Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King’s College London, London, UK. Conflicts of interest: none declared.*

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)

[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Another article, this from 2018 stating Judy Eaton is a clinical psychologist. Link to the article below

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2018/00000019/00000002/art00003>

Modification of the Coventry Grid Interview (Flackhill et al., 2017) to include the Pathological Demand Avoidant profile

### Modification of the Coventry Grid Interview (Flackhill et al., 2017) to include the Pathological Demand Avoidant profile

Judy Eaton, Kathryn Duncan and Ellen Hesketh, London

**Address for correspondence**  
E-mail: [ojud@edon@help5psychology.co.uk](mailto:ojud@edon@help5psychology.co.uk)

**Acknowledgements**  
The authors would like to thank Heather Moran for developing the original Coventry Grid, Charlotte Flackhill and her colleagues for their work on the Coventry Grid Interview and the Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Society for their clear and accurate description of the features of the PDA profile. This research did not receive any funding.

**Editorial comment**

The authors are a Consultant Clinical Psychologist (UE), a Higher Assistant Psychologist (KD) and a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (EH). Their paper aims to build on the instrument developed by Moran (2010) and added to by Flackhill et al (2017). The Coventry Grid interview was designed to be used by clinicians as part of a comprehensive assessment process and not as a stand-alone diagnostic tool. There is often diagnostic confusion over the differences between children presenting with autism and those with attachment disorders and some children have both. This paper adds further to the Coventry Grid interview by including items which might help to identify children with a Pathological (or Extreme) Demand Avoidant profile. There is much debate and controversy surrounding PDA with some arguing it is a subgroup and part of the autism profile and others querying its value and validity. Some autistic adults use the term Rational Demand Avoidance to highlight the fact that often autistic people are asked to meet demands which are unreasonable, irrelevant and inappropriate, and are thus avoided. Other professionals in the field believe there are some children who are qualitatively different from autistic children and who require and respond to a different approach. As yet, PDA is not included as a separate diagnostic category in the diagnostic manuals and research is ongoing to determine whether there are sufficient and distinct differences for a separate diagnostic category to be developed.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)

[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) It appears on a professional level Judy Eaton should be disclosing conflicts on interest, what on an ethical level conducting research, & getting academically published?

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)

[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Well interestingly a high profile pro ABA article in Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders has published a correction, partly because many of its authors did NOT disclose a conflict of interest on earning income from ABA activities.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "The original version of the manuscript was published declaring no conflicts of interest. It should be noted that ABA research, trainings, and services are provided by authors..."

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) ... J. Leaf, Cihon, R. Leaf, McEachin, and Russell. Shapiro serves as board member of Autism Partnership Foundation and J. Leaf serves on several Editorial Boards, including JADD."

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Link to open access notice of corrections, that has been quoted above.

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10803-021-05200-8.pdf>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of the quoted text, which is highlighted.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Some points relevant to Judy Eaton's apparent conflict of interests. First one is the providing: training, services, & ABA research count as a conflicts of interests. Which means Help4Psychology being a private clinic generates a conflict of interest.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Next point is relevant, is the mention of persons being on various boards/ committees that might stand to benefit from the article being published. Meaning Judy Eaton being on the PDA Development Group, is another COI.


[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) I argue here, that simply advocating for PDA to be an ASD, generates conflicts of interests:



**Thread reader** Tweet Share

Thread by Richard Woods (@Richard\_Autism), 27 Aug

What is not in the DSM-5 autism criteria. Simply put. Why the \*\*\*\* are the likes of @PDASociety @Autism making the stupid decision to view P...



**Thread by @Richard\_Autism on Thread Reader App**  
Thread by @Richard\_Autism: What is not in the DSM-5 autism criteria. Simply put. Why the \*\*\*\* are the likes of @PDASociety @Autism making the stupid decision to view PDA as an anxiety based disorder ...  
<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1431294048543952897.html>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Now we have an idea of what the main conflicts of interest seemingly Judy Eaton has, lets take a look at what conflicts of interest have been declared in their other PDA articles?

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Link to Judy Eaton's 2012 adult case study: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/20420921211305891/full/html>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) The only conflicts of interest that Judy Eaton might have in 2012, is arguing PDA is an ASD, as from my understanding they were not practicing privately then, or at the time, on the recently established PDA Development Group.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) The issue, this 2012 article seems to have no section for declaring conflicts of interest. No acknowledgements have been made.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "This paper summarises the literature in relation to the diagnosis of Pathological Demand Avoidance (an atypical presentation of Autism Spectrum Disorder) in children and describes how this diagnosis may present in adults." (Eaton & Banting 2012, p150).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) So there does appear to be a conflict of interest present in arguing PDA is an ASD.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Next PDA article by Judy Eaton, is the co-authored revision of the Coventry Grid Interview in 2018. From my understanding, at this time, they are practicing privately & a member of the PDA Development Group.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Link to the 2018 article.  
<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2018/00000019/00000002/art00003>

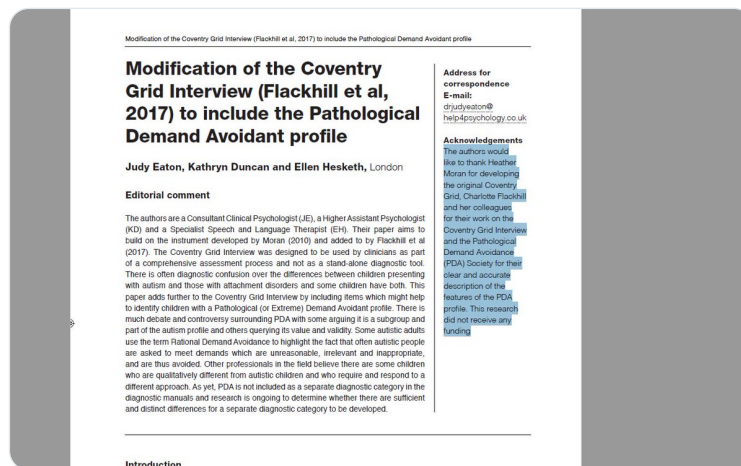
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) In this article there is an acknowledgement section.  
Seemingly no mention of conflict of interest.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "The authors would like to thank Heather Moran for developing the original Coventry Grid, Charlotte Flackhill and her colleagues for their work on the Coventry Grid Interview...

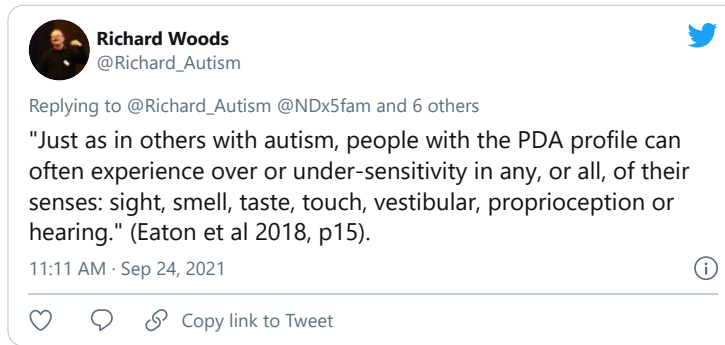
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) ... and the Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Society for their clear and accurate description of the features of the PDA profile. This research did not receive any funding" (Eaton et al 2018, p12).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Considering the lack of evidence for what PDA is, sheer amount of divergent opinion on PDA, & contradictory evidence; it seems rather shortsighted in the extreme of Judy Eaton to thank the PDA Society in the manner they have done. That's a tangent.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of the highlight acknowledgements of the article.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#)



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Eaton et al (2018) views to PDA to be part of the autism spectrum.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Again there seems to no conflict of interest mentioned in the article, despite the seemingly being about a few present for Judy Eaton.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Next article, is a response to my critique of 2018 National Autistic Society PDA conference. This was authored solely by Judy Eaton. Link below:  
<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2020/00000021/00000001/art00009>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Again there is no mention of acknowledgements, or conflict of interests present in the article.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) She makes some odd comments, like:  
"He then goes on to assert that 'the developmental components of delayed speech development, neurological involvement, and passive history have not been seen as essential when making a diagnosis since 2016.'" (Eaton 2020 p71)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) I can give multiple references, where PDA developmental traits are not required for a PDA diagnosis since, 2016. In fact they were not even needed for a dx by Newson.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Newson stated only most of her dx traits were required for a PDA dx, & if one checks the statistics of features in her research, vast majority are NOT universal.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) There is also the issue of Newson repeatedly saying persons can transition into PDA. This is another tangent.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "Clearly no child will show all the behavioural examples

listed, any more than all autistic children show the whole repertoire of autistic behaviours;...

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) ... but every child with clear-cut PDA will manifest the overall complex pattern, not merely one or two features" Newson et al 2003, supplementary notes.

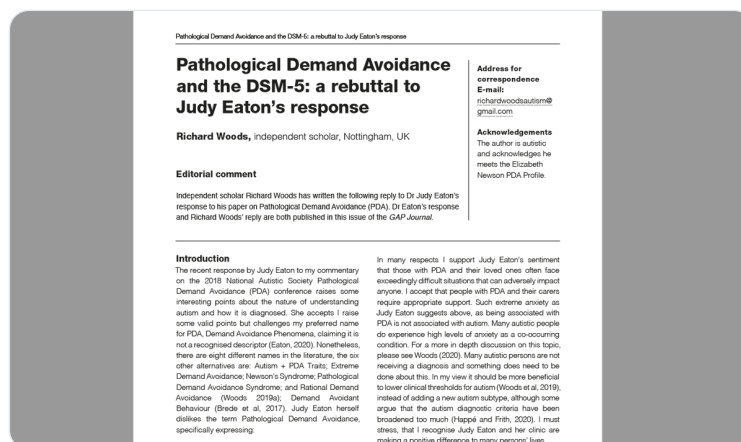
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Link to article & supplementary notes below:  
<https://adc.bmj.com/content/archdischild/88/7/595.full.pdf?with-ds=yes>

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Eaton 2020 spends much effort to argue that our understandings of autism are fluid & change over time, presumably because Eaton views PDA as an ASD (as they have done in previous & later articles). That autism understandings will evolve to include PDA.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) So again, there seems to be multiple conflicts of interest present, which are not declared.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) I should mention, while I have generally been good in disclosing my own conflicts of interest since earning an income from PDA related activities & arguing specifically being a common Disorder. I did not disclose my own conflicts of interest in my rebuttal.

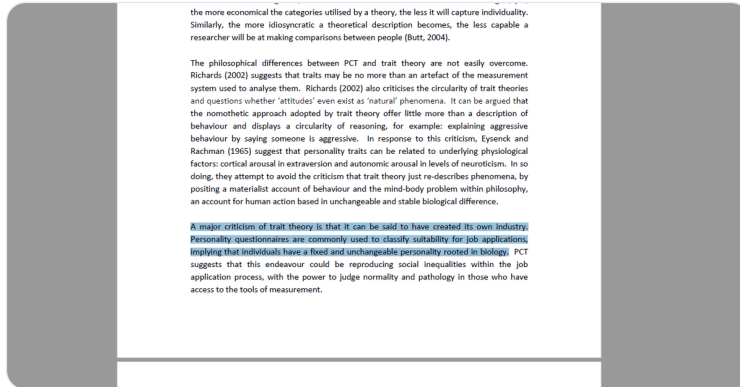
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of my acknowledgements from my rebuttal article, & a link below to the article:  
<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2020/0000021/0000001/art00010>



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) I do need to go back to Eaton et al (2018), for a second, because there appears to be another undeclared conflict of interest.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Creating diagnostic interviews/ questionnaires, can often indicate more about their designers view, than those being assessed by them. More pertinently, they can create their own industries for their creators.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of where the latter point is argued in an essay by Damian Milton.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Link to the essay is below:  
[kar.kent.ac.uk/62725/1/PCT.pdf](http://kar.kent.ac.uk/62725/1/PCT.pdf)

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) The point about creating their own industry for the creators of diagnostic tools/ questionnaires, is relevant to Judy Eaton, as their recent articles state their private clinic is known for their awareness/ knowledge of PDA (as an ASD).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "One of the study authors (JE) runs a clinic known for its awareness of the PDA profile, which receives a significant number of referrals of young people with these difficulties." (O'Nions & Eaton 2021, p412).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "The clinic is well known for its interest and knowledge on PDA and so it is likely that more children with this type of profile are referred than in other autism diagnostic services." (Eaton & Weaver 2020, p34).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) As I should have stated before Judy Eaton does appear to be benefitting from their biased PDA related activities.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) I am moving on to the final article to be reviewed for conflicts of interest by Judy Eaton, Eaton & Weaver (2020). Which is them reporting their believed differences between PDA & autism/ autism without PDA/ other - trauma related group.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Link to Eaton & Weaver (2020) link.

<https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/bild/gap/2020/0000021/0000002/art00005>

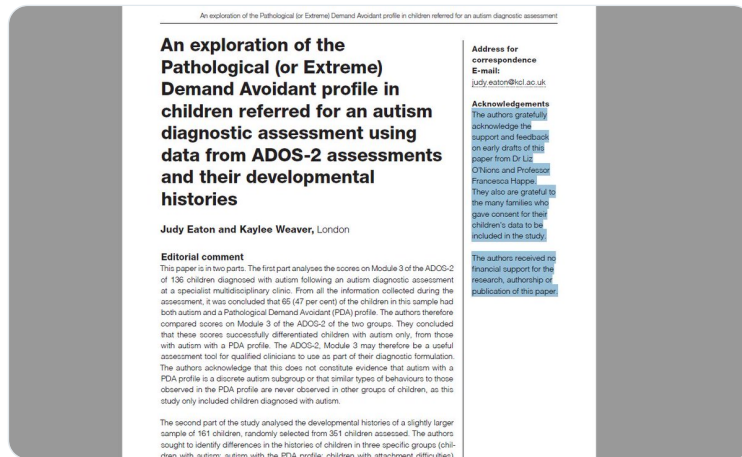
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwartz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) There is an acknowledgements section in this article, but it does not mention conflicts of interest.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwartz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "Acknowledgements The authors gratefully acknowledge the support and feedback on early drafts of this paper from Dr Liz O'Nions and Professor Francesca Happe..."

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwartz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) ... They also are grateful to the many families who gave consent for their children's data to be included in the study.

The authors received no financial support for the research, authorship or publication of this paper." (Eaton & Weaver 2020, p33).

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwartz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of the acknowledgements section, of the quoted text above.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwartz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) "It is hoped that the features identified in this study in the ASD with PDA group can be used in the future to develop standardised tools which will be useful to help clinicians in the difficult task of differential diagnosis." (Eaton & Weaver 2020, p49).

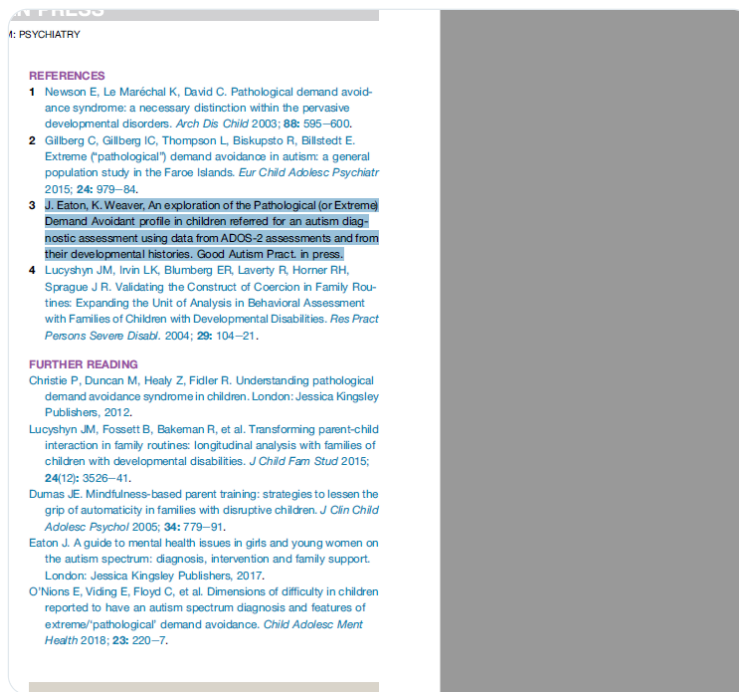
[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwartz](#) [@journalautism](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) So much for claims this research is only meant to used for discussion purposes.

This research only diagnosed PDA in autistic persons & mistakenly viewed PDA as needing to be developmental in nature for a reason; likely because clinic views PDA to be an ASD.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Screenshot of the features which Judy Eaton believes show PDA. Taken from O'Nions & Eaton 2021, p413.



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) The above list of believed PDA features, is cited from reference 3. Reference 3 is actually Eaton & Weaver (2020). Screenshot of reference 3, from O'Nions & Eaton (2021).



[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) So it does appear that Help4Psychology do view their

PDA research to be definitive on what PDA is & looks like. Despite their research being based on their experience, & not reflective of the broader literature.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Reflecting how PDA seems to be seen outside of autism, & it does not need to be developmental in nature.

I am done analysing Eaton & Weaver (2020), again there seem to a few undisclosed conflicts of interest present.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Considering what appears to be consistent, one could say pervasive non-disclosure of relevant conflicts of interests by Judy Eaton. Does anyone genuinely think other notable "PDA as an ASD" experts are being more professional & ethical on the topic?

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) Bear in mind, that I have already pointed out Phil Christie does not disclose all his conflicts of interest, such as being on the PDA Development Group.

[@NDx5fam](#) [@PDASociety](#) [@DrJudes03](#) [@mitziwaltz](#) [@journalautism](#)  
[@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) On that note, [@threadreaderapp](#) please can you unroll?

Thank you in advance.