



**Richard Woods** @Richard\_Autism

Jul 9 · 32 tweets · [Richard\\_Autism/status/1545695290124107776](#)

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) I am not going to express persons who have not expressed it academically. For instance, I, [@milton\\_damian](#), & [@Allison66746425](#) have all written about how PDA pathologises a person's self agency.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) "I suggest that there are many issues with attempts to sub-type autism and such efforts can also impact upon solidarity amongst the autistic community. For me, one needs to be aware of the potential harms that could come from the application of the PDA narrative,"

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) From p7 of here: <https://www.pdasociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Research-Meeting-Report.pdf>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Damian also mentions how some "PDA Profile of ASD" autistic supporters are taking a "biological citizenship" approach to PDA, prematurely reifying PDA, as a distinct thing. Some evidence & much clinical opinion suggests PDA is not a distinct a thing.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Slide 23 of this conference talk by [@milton\\_damian](#) <https://kar.kent.ac.uk/67064/1/PDA%20and%20alternative%20explanations.pdf>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) I go into detail how PDA is interacting with autistic persons, including how some of us choosing to have a PDA dx in an attempt to access good quality strategies, which include having others offering choice, & negotiating with you. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357033261\\_Demand-Avoidance\\_Phenomena\\_PathologicalExtreme\\_Demand\\_Avoidance\\_what\\_are\\_the\\_implications\\_of\\_it\\_being\\_a\\_biopower\\_identity](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357033261_Demand-Avoidance_Phenomena_PathologicalExtreme_Demand_Avoidance_what_are_the_implications_of_it_being_a_biopower_identity)

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) There are also issues in how many topic experts & much evidence indicates PDA is seen non-autistic persons, yet many "PDA Profile of ASD" supporters ignore non-autistic persons with PDA.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) This is despite a person counts as disabled under Equality Act, when their demand-avoidance is impairing for at least 12 months. Then there are issues, like Sally Cat & others (falsely) claiming they have extra rights because they believe in PDA.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Autscape is down the road from me in Alfreton this year. I have not to attend it, & to not refute the absolute nonsense SallyCat is going to be talking about PDA, at Autscape.

**The adult PDA community's self-care**  
Presenter: [SallyCat](#)  
Description: This is a guided tour of the little-known world of adult PDA.

Viewers will be introduced to the complex "geography" of our little-known, and largely uncharted neurotype.

The tour takes in many features of PDA that are invisible from a distance. These lesser-known features include internalised presentations where meltdowns are instinctively contained.

We see how PDA is frequently attacked from outside (including by members of the wider autistic community) because they don't "believe" in PDA; and may actually view our existence as a threat.

We'll then see how the support we give each other can literally be life-saving. Online adult PDA groups are oases, which resound with "me too!" moments, and practical understanding of the pressures we face.

By working together, we have managed to find self-respect and initiate much-needed research to prove to doubters that PDA is real.

**Understanding Autistic Play: Challenging the Neuronormative Lens**  
Presenter: [Katie Brook](#)  
Description: Observation of child / parent play can often be used by social workers and clinicians in ways that may lead to life changing decisions. However, we know almost nothing about how autistic parents interact with their children, nor how this is interpreted by practitioners.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) \*I have chosen not to attend\*  
I am concerned about SallyCat's wellbeing as she is likely to go into meltdown when she is challenged for talking nonsense. Anyone who does challenge her, could then be targeted with memes etc by SallyCat, like her defamatory petition against Damian.



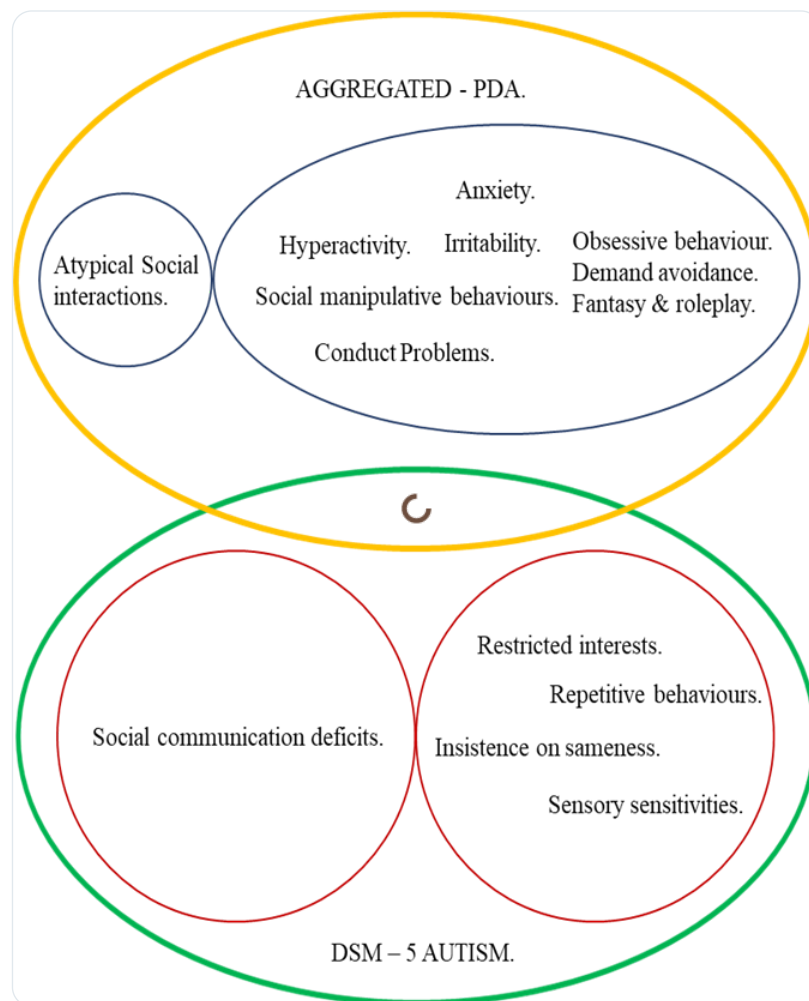
[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) I am concerned about Damian attending it. As SallyCat's talk is likely to encourage people to gossip about him. When Damian has been attending Autscape for over decade & it was meant to be his only stress free holiday of the year, & Damian is highly stressed this year.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Most autistic persons tend to be social model neurodiversity supporters, we tend to want autism to not be divided into subgroups, & tend to want autism to be depathologised & removed from the diagnostic manuals.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) When "PDA Profile of ASD" autistic supporters, tend to want their views on PDA to be accepted. I.e. For PDA to be in the diagnostic manuals, to be viewed as a distinct medical thing, & for autism to be divided. All while using a construct which pathologises a persons self-agency.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Additionally, the discriminating against non-autistic persons with PDA, & autistic persons with PDA, who do not advocate for "PDA Profile of ASD", like me & Damian. Equality Act does not care what a person believes about PDA, to count as disabled by demand-avoidance features.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Best bit, we cannot even be sure how many persons with PDA are actually autistic, especially when some clinicians are viewing persons as being autistic due to PDA features, & not due to features associated with autism!



[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) Last point, is that how "PDA Profile of ASD" is being propagated mirrors how autism industry takes advantage of caregivers. In portraying an extremely negative image, makes persons scared. Then offers them hope of a normal life, if they recognise, support & campaign for PDA.

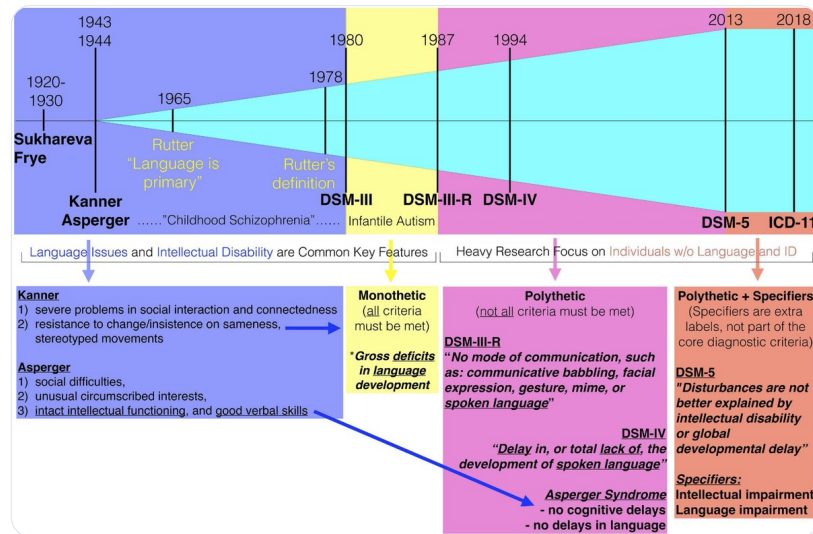
[@GillLoomesQuinn @milton\\_damian @Allison66746425](#) I set out here, how those arguing autism has been expanded to include autism, are talking nonsense.

<https://rationaldemandavoidancecom.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/02-february-2022-reflections-on-pda-society-research-report-portraying-pro-pda-profile-of-asd-supporting-clinicians.pdf>

[@GillLoomesQuinn @milton\\_damian @Allison66746425](#) There are ongoing debates if autism has been expanded too far, which is something I point out 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)

[@GillLoomesQuinn @milton\\_damian @Allison66746425](#) I do not agree with everything in this image, but it shows that some consider breadth of features associated with autism to be static since 2013.



[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) We know what "PDA Profile of ASD" supporters is ethically problematic, when likes of [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) refused to provide guidelines on PDA when looking at it recently. They all equally respected divergent opinions.



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/5yyUXxGmenw?start=946>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) What is concerning to me is that NICE guidelines are there to protect the public. That those pushing "PDA Profile of ASD" are not following same standards as NICE should deeply concerning to anyone.

<https://rationaldemandavoidancecom.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/02-february-2022-reflections-on-pda-society-research-report-portraying-pro-pda-profile-of-asd-supporting-clinicians.pdf>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) An example is when 11 out of 12 clinicians who contributed to this research report pretending to be clinical guidance, are based in private practice & did not disclose any conflicts of interest.

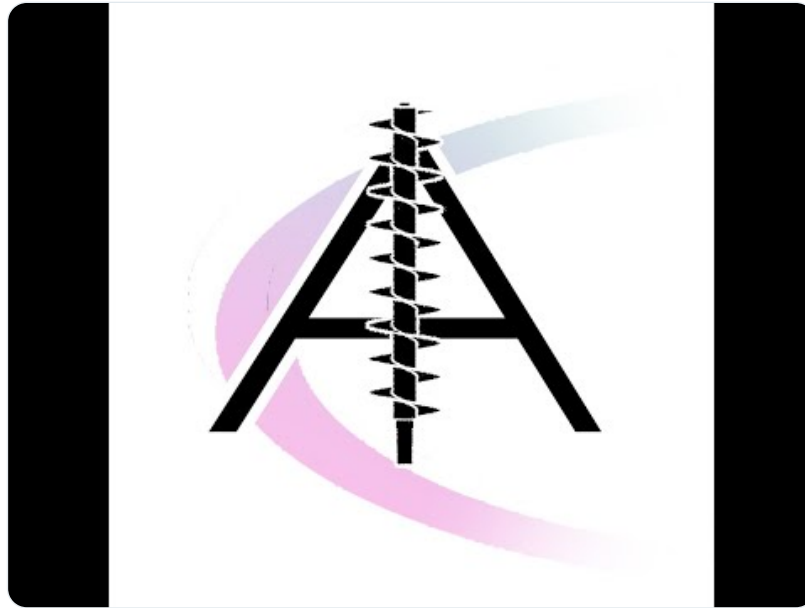
<https://www.pdasociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Identifying-Assessing-a-PDA-profile-Practice-Guidance.pdf>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) Something which concerns me about how "PDA Profile of ASD" supporters seem to ignore divergent views, is that most other divergent views have some supporting evidence (even if it is poor quality along with other PDA evidence).

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) This matters as no-one stakeholder group has a monopoly on what PDA is, or conducting research into PDA. Those who with different views to "PDA Profile of ASD", have done & will continue to conduct research into PDA; contributing to how PDA is understood.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) Which means outlooks different to "PDA Profile of ASD", are likely to gain further evidence. The risky & tenuous position "PDA Profile of ASD" supporters, should be obvious to anyone.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) One also needs to consider that it remains to be seen if PDA actually helps anyone, & if it actually adversely affects those diagnosed with PDA. It ethically problematic to argue for a niche diagnosis which has strategies which are "common practice".



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/BAqsf6gUJno>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#) There are also questions we should be asking like do we want PDA to be associated with autism, when many criminal features are assessed for as part of a PDA diagnosis? Autism is not known for its criminal features.

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#) [@rcpsych](#)



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[@rcpsych](#)



[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#)  
[@rcpsych](#) Those features are taken from table 2 of the 11 revised PDA DISCO questions.  
[https://static-content.springer.com/esm/art%3A10.1007%2Fsoo787-015-0740-2/MediaObjects/787\\_2015\\_740\\_MOESM1\\_ESM.pdf](https://static-content.springer.com/esm/art%3A10.1007%2Fsoo787-015-0740-2/MediaObjects/787_2015_740_MOESM1_ESM.pdf)

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#)  
[@rcpsych](#) This ethics case study discusses report of CYP diagnosed with PDA being denied  
an educational placement by Kent's SEND schools. It also asks, who would employ someone  
with a "pathological"/ extreme" response to "ordinary" (often others) demands (requests)?



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/BAqsf6gUJno>

[@GillLoomesQuinn](#) [@milton\\_damian](#) [@Allison66746425](#) [@NICEComms](#) [@BPSOfficial](#)  
[@rcpsych](#) I think I am done this time. It was relevant to point the poor ethical position "PDA  
Profile of ASD" has.

[@threadreaderapp](#) Please can you unroll.

Thank you in advance.

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