



Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

18 Jun 20 · 13 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1273714896463675397](#)



So War on Autism, discusses dominant autism advocacy being. It makes statements about what happens to those who deviate from main advocacy discourse' frame of recognition...

... is at risk of being delegitimised/ excluded from joining in recognised advocacy works. So main PDA advocacy by lived experience is that PDA is an ASD, that demand avoidance is irrational and tend to prefer name "Pathological"...

... So most people in PDA community will know I am not invited to talk at most PDA events or let alone PDAer advocacy. Probably as my views on PDA differ from central PDA discourse...

... Main PDA discourse is:

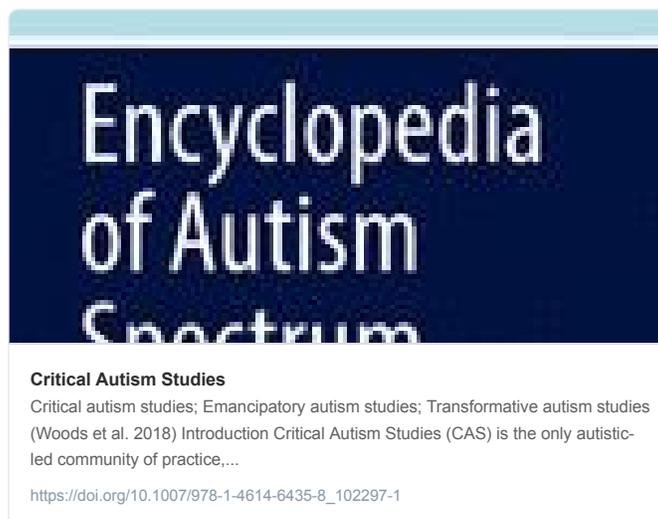
- Called Pathological/ Extreme Demand Avoidance.
- Is a PDD/ ASD subtype.
- PDA is a distinct entity.
- It has its own strategies.

...

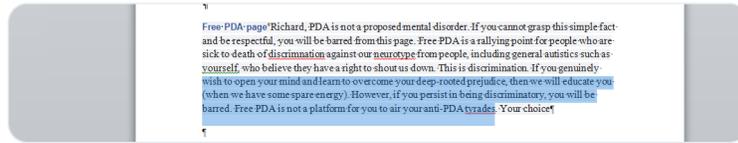
... I get a lot flak from PDA supporters for my views on PDA, such as complaints, name calling. Told I do tirades. Or I have narcissistic personality disorder.

My underlying approach is of many autistic persons/ social model neurodiversity supporters...

... So seeking good quality scientific method based research, being inclusive and a robust ethical case:



For instance I am seeking the inclusion of non-autistic PDAers, but I am told they do not exist. Likewise I do not have PDA.



... Screenshot is underline previous comment about the flak I get from PDA supporters.

My work is indicating that PDA has prematurely formed a community of practice assuming it is an autism subtype:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337146735_Demand_avoidance_phenomena_circularity_integrity_and_validity_-_a_commentary_on_the_2018_National_Autistic_Society_PDA_Conference

A screenshot of a research paper abstract. The text is as follows:

their potential and to be independent. This is a deciding factor in why some view DAP as a redundant clinical construct (Green et al, 2018b). An additional diagnostic label that exists to access approaches that replicate good practice requires substantial ethical justification.

DAP citation survey
A lack of debate
There are concerns over silencing divergent opinion to the main on DAP (Woods, 2018a). Discourse maintains that it is an autism subtype and has its own unique strategies. Its leading proponents frequently argue that debating DAP is a distraction from diagnosing it (Christie, 2007; Christie et al, 2011; Fidler and Christie, 2018). Elizabeth Newson and colleagues argued in their original paper that DAP is needed to benefit parents (2003). The 'lightbulb moment' is when a person (typically a carer) has strong resonance (recognition) upon initially encountering information of the DAP profile. More recently, the lightbulb moment is a vital justification to support the dominant discourse (Christie et al, 2011; Fidler and Christie, 2018; Russell, 2018).

This central tenet to the main DAP discourse, that it is required for the benefit of parents, is pivotal to the bias to maintaining the integrity of the DAP discourse. It means that the supporters of DAP's main discourse appear closed to the DAP construct evolving away from being an autism subtype (PDA Society, 2018). It must be noted that much DAP research is coordinated by the PDA Development Group that is headed by Phil Christie. Researchers are required to be open minded, to avoid research "designed to support a preconceived notion or belief" (Chown et al, 2019, p1). Ethically, researchers need to attempt falsification of their hypothesis as part of the scientific method that is involved in most research

The results show:

- the primary DAP discourse is being challenged
- key literature is being accessed thousands of times
- key literature rarely references critical literature, except to support its case or disagree with critique
- a lack of autistic perspectives referenced
- a community of practice forming

There are various reasons why these matter to practice, particularly the implication it is a community of practice. Firstly, the main DAP discourse lacks the evidence to justify its claims. Community of practice form their own ideology (Milton, 2017). For DAP's main discourse it is that DAP is an autism subtype with its own unique strategies. This means the lack of supporting evidence for their claims is not being sufficiently challenged internally within the main discourse, as DAP is reified as Pathological Demand Avoidance. Most concerning, are the potentially negligent assumptions forming within the main DAP discourse; for instance, it is argued that the DAPers' behaviours are not caused by their parents (Durà-Vilà, and Levi, 2018). However, there is inadequate evidence to justify this (Milton, 2017).

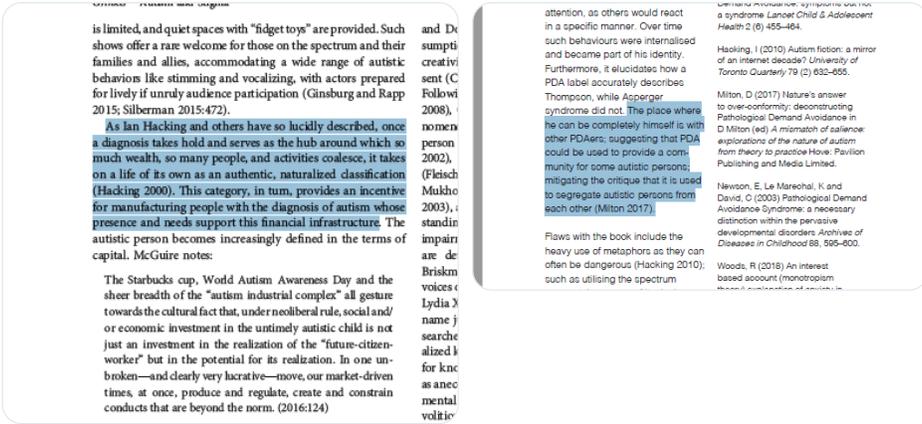
Resulting from its individual ideology, the main DAP literature is creating its own terminology, such as 'more straight forward autism' (Fidler and Christie, 2018) and 'atypical autism' (Durà-Vilà and Levi, 2018; Thompson, 2018). Such terms are problematic for various reasons. 'Atypical autism' is nonsense as we know that autism

... PDA is providing a community to some autistic persons:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333634638_The_PDA_paradox_the_highs_and_lows_of_my_life_on_a_little-known_part_of_the_autism_spectrum_Book_Review

Thus, PDA is reified taking a life of its own, despite lacking evidence to justify this.

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/705748>



... Please note the example of me engaging PDAer perspectives.

More importantly, as there is a PDAer community, that advocates for it being a distinct form of autism. My inclusive, scientific method approach to PDA undermines their efforts...

... So responding to my advocacy and calls for my social model neurodiversity based approach to PDA. @sallycatPDA & Harry Thompson were tagged. Harry mentioned to me there is a team of people working on something...



... My prediction is based on that @sallycatPDA, Harry Thompson and others are probably working on a collection of essays/ videos to delegitimise me or discredit my work as my work undermines their campaigning.

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THREAD BY RICHARD WOODS (@RICHARD_AUTISM)

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[@EDalmyne](#) if you disagree with such an interpretation?

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