



Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

11 Dec · 14 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1337505482953527297](#)



[@ekverstania](#) How I define autism is an interesting question.

[@ekverstania](#) I do not have time to do a blog post on this so I will do my best to cover here briefly.

[@ekverstania](#) First point is that, I think autism is complex, it is not a simple concept. Any such approach to do so, is going to have issues. At the same time, depending on the situation, I can be happy working with such models, like DSM-5 autism criteria.

[@ekverstania](#) I define autism as an interactive construct, that is dependent on: (1) a person's autistic features; (2) the situation the autistic person is in at any given moment; (3) the bias of each observer, the autistic person has.

[@ekverstania](#) To get an accurate representation of what autism is, you need to map multiple dimensions. It is an interactive phenomenon with its environment. There are multiple reasons for this.

[@ekverstania](#) First off, each autistic person will have their own constellation of features that are attributed to autism. These features will also interact with any comorbidities & vice versa. This is with a person being by themselves and relaxed.

[@ekverstania](#) We know that the features of autism, vary depending on age of the person. The situation the person is in. A highly distressed autistic person, is typically displays more pronounced autism features.

[@ekverstania](#) So you have to model environment and situation an autistic person is in, in order to adequately show how it presents in any given moment.

[@ekverstania](#) It is even more complicated than that, as an observer's bias will affect, how they interpret where autism starts and stops.

[@ekverstania](#) We know clinician bias, is a barrier to diagnosing autistic females. How caregiver's bias, can deny certain opportunities to their autistic Child & Young Person's.

[@ekverstania](#) A lot of this is from double empathy problem research. Wider knowledge of each person around what autism is.

[@ekverstania](#) I would have different axis for each individual factor. It is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. While a person is autistic, autism as a phenomenon is broader than that.

[@ekverstania](#) If this makes sense?

[@ekverstania](#) [@threadreaderapp](#) please could you unroll?

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