

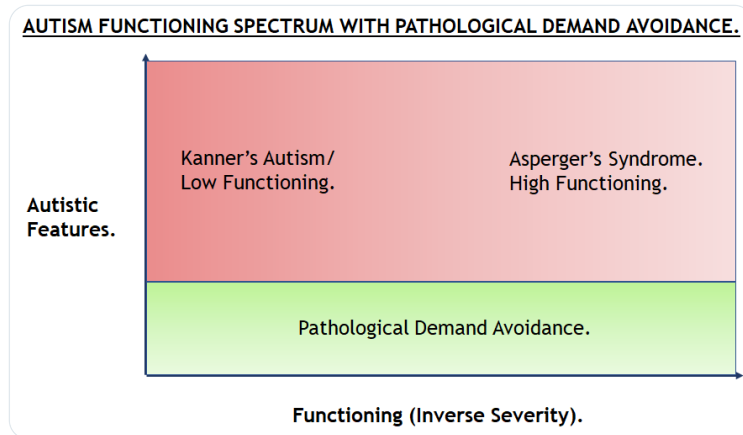


**Richard Woods** @Richard\_Autism

11 Jul · 22 tweets · [Richard\\_Autism/status/1414238773966249986](#)

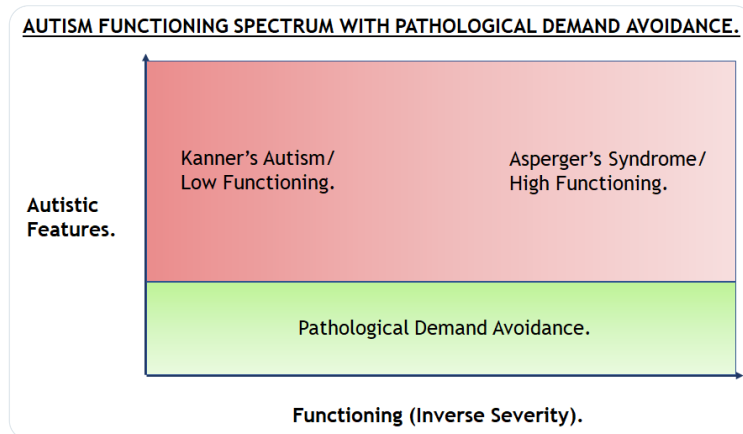


[@SamFellowesHPS](#) I think from those advocating PDA as an ASD, are referring to the entire autistic population, which confusingly includes any non-autistic persons with PDA. So I think they view it a bit like this.



[@SamFellowesHPS](#) That PDA is dimensional, perpendicular to autism severity/functioning (yes I know this is a false dichotomy & flawed conceptualisation of autism).

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) Sorry, you should want this image.



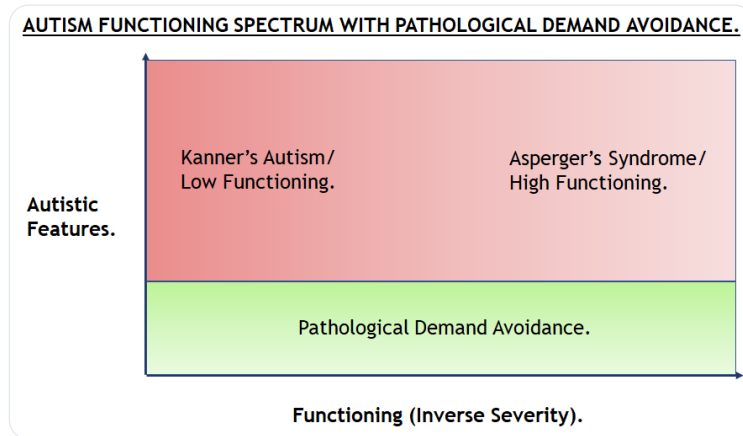
[@SamFellowesHPS](#) The reason being for this, is that they PDA to be autism as on a behavioural level, it has RRBI's & social communication issues. They ignore issue of non-autistic persons with PDA in research samples, presumably because they them as being autistic due to PDA.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) I do not agree with that logic for many reasons.

Moving on there is some research indicating that PDA presents at consistent level across the autistic population, if you look at severity/ functioning.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) We know that they know that PDA contains non-autism features like anxiety, and conduct problems etc etc. It is problematic just squeezing PDA between/ adjacent to LFA/ HFA based on severity. It seems to fit best perpendicular to severity/ functioning.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) Can people note I have graded the colours for autism & PDA based on severity. I placed PDA below autism, due to non-autistic features & non-autistic persons with PDA.



[@SamFellowesHPS](#) I am referring to dimensionality in the entire human population. Which to me makes sense. The DSM-5 is clear that narrow categories do not align with how human presents. Most Disorders present as a spectrum. That human presentations are dynamic over time.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) This is my issue with saying PDA is dimensional. One of the most replicated results is that PDA is seen in non-autistic persons. Many experts say PDA is seen in non-autistics. Many papers discuss how PDA features are seen outside of autism.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) O'Nions in her PhD thesis acknowledges seeing mild PDA presentations. Gillberg predicts PDA is a common, new Disorder. Help4Psychology "Rational Demand Avoidance" (which I view to be PDA, due to many reasons).

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) Considering we know that all attempts to create stable autism subtypes have failed, with this other information. It just seems ludicrous to say PDA is "dimensional" to autistic persons, when ignoring it apparently is dimensional in entire human population.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) Especially, when dx threshold for a generic Disorder is substantially lower than some have for PDA, it is around the "Rational Demand Avoidance" group/ EDA-Q threshold.

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

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) "...start to display avoidant behaviour and challenging behaviour in response to a particular stressor..." (Eaton 2018, p20).

Around EDA-Q threshold "problematic demand avoidance" (O'Nions et al 2018b)."

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) I am not really a fan of using a spectrum concept, we know from autism, it tends to be used as a one dimensional swingometer. I prefer a concept of a manifold, as advocated by Ian Hacking.

[@SamFellowesHPS](#)

**EXTREME DISORDERS.**

Nature of mental disorders.

- 1) Human features mainly exist in a continuum (Kinderman 2019).
- 2) *"Metaphors tend to be dangerous. I think 'manifold' is pretty safe. The OED gives as its first definition of the adjective, 'Varied or diverse in appearance, form or character, having various forms, features, relations, applications etc.' In mathematics and physics, a manifold is a space that in the very small looks familiar, like ordinary Euclidean space, but in the large is much more complex. Manifolds are not simply linear; they come in any number of dimensions. Hence the idea captures, far better than the metaphor of a spectrum, our present awareness of autism"* (Hacking, 2010, p635)

Aut|medes      Studio3 PDA Seminar - 28 June 2021      London South Bank University      21

[@SamFellowesHPS](#) It is sometimes worthwhile to use accepted language on a concept like a spectrum. Although, as I said I think a manifold is better representation of human nature, which is probably why it works better for autism than spectrum (because we are fully human...).

[@SamFellowesHPS](#)

**Richard Woods**  
@Richard\_Autism

Replying to @Richard\_Autism and @SamFellowesHPS

Science tends to go through paradigm shifts, especially when something is severely critiqued at odds with predictions. Physics to some extent is evolving again due to recent research results.

3:30 PM · Jul 11, 2021

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[@SamFellowesHPS](#)

**Richard Woods**  
@Richard\_Autism

Replying to @Richard\_Autism and @SamFellowesHPS

One could argue our understanding of Disorders is due a major paradigm change. I think there is a credible case to stop using them.

3:31 PM · Jul 11, 2021

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[@SamFellowesHPS](#)

 **Richard Woods**  
@Richard\_Autism 

Replying to @Richard\_Autism and @SamFellowesHPS

You are correct critiquing things is a good thing. Excessive criticism, not always so.

I would welcome your thoughts on my response.

3:31 PM · Jul 11, 2021 

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[@SamFellowesHPS](#)

 **Richard Woods**  
@Richard\_Autism 

Replying to @Richard\_Autism and @SamFellowesHPS

It is not a perfect diagram. It is the best I can come up with short notice. I would welcome feedback on it.

3:13 PM · Jul 11, 2021 

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[@SamFellowesHPS](#) [@SamFellowesHPS](#) I have tried to collate all my responses into one thread for ease of reading.

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