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Nov 6 · 15 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1589207480600760320](https://twitter.com/Richard_Autism/status/1589207480600760320)

So some are apparently saying that special interests focusing on others is only seen in autistic persons with PDA, so autistic persons without PDA, cannot have special interests on others persons/ fictional characters etc.

This gives me a headache. When talking about PDA, one needs to be clear over what they mean by PDA. For one Newson's PDA, obsessing over other persons were not a prominent aspect of it.

It is only recently, that some PDA descriptions have started to describe PDA's obsessive behaviour being focusing on other persons/ fictional characters, while Newson's was primarily about obsessive nature of PDA's demand-avoidance.

This matters, as in some PDA portrayals. E.g., of PDA has taken on "autism-like" aspects. Changing PDA's obsessive behaviour away from obsessive demand-avoidance, to obsessing over other persons/ fictional characters, PDA was changed to reflect some accounts autism in females.

I detail the above changes, & the other changes in PDA's descriptions in below book chapter which is due out around christmas.

https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=lang_en&id=PouWEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PT66&dq=%22pathological+demand+avoidance%22&ots=4G5kuC37yU&sig=m29Bn5CszVBgfwPfqwcHQSWhSLg&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=%22pathological%20demand%20avoidance%22&f=false

The above mentioned change is an example of a looping effect, in how the construction of PDA has been changed by viewing it as a "Profile of Autism", & often attributing PDA to autistic persons.

It is worth mentioning that, that there is no consensus over how to approach PDA, or how to diagnose it. Topic expert opinion is conflicted. PDA's evidence base is conflicted.

Furthermore, non-autistic persons with PDA have same rights to PDA diagnoses, research, & support.

I briefly discuss these issues below:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364348379_PDA_A_Preventable_Delicate_Activity

I want to address the point about viewing that special interests can only be viewed in autistic persons with PDA. This is nonsense. There is no aspect of PDA which is unique to it. PDA's features are seen throughout the ENTIRE autistic persons. This is recognised in literature.

Yes, autistic persons obsessing over other persons/ fictional characters is meant to be a rare thing, to the point that it makes it problematic fitting PDA in the autism spectrum. That feature is seen in some autistic persons.

This matters, not ALL autistic persons who express obsessing over other persons/ fictional characters will meet diagnostic threshold for "PDA Profile of ASD", but they will still express that feature despite "not having" "PDA Profile of ASD".

The fact some are even saying autistic persons who express obsessing over others persons/ fictional characters, must also have PDA, propagates false & arguably damaging stereotypes about autistic persons.

Avoiding spreading such negative stereotypes is an important reason for removing subgroups from the DSM-5.

Example of a person saying autistic persons obsessing over other persons/ fictional persons very common with PDA.



End of thread.

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