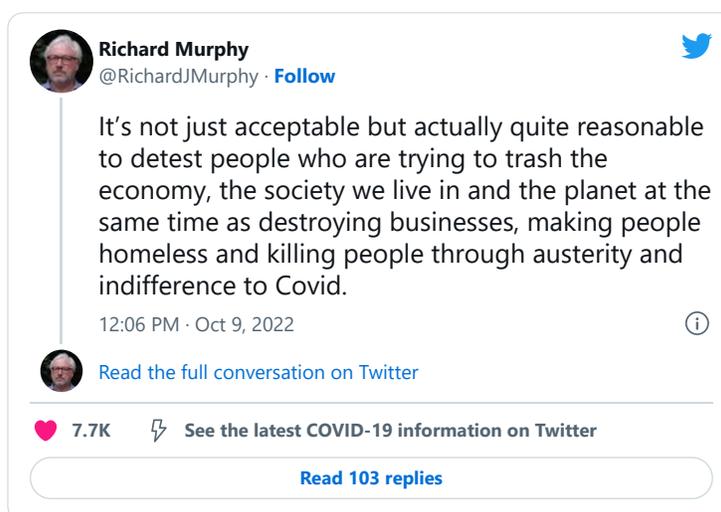




Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

Oct 9 · 66 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1579107274412281856](#)

This is to remind to do a thread explaining why I am exasperated & disappointed with significant stakeholders pushing "PDA Profile of ASD". It is about how they are acting like the Tories in disrespecting (& ignoring) things they probably should be accepting!



So, I will be doing a thread comparing actions of those significantly responsible for pushing "PDA Profile of ASD", with the Tories...

So, what do I mean by the Tories disrespecting things they should probably accept?

Many of you will be aware of the economic harm the Tories have inflicted on the UK, mainly by Kwarteng's mini budget.

The mini budget has had adverse affect of causing the pound's value to collapse, interest rate UK government pays for it's debt to rise. The Bank of England had to restart its Quantitative (printing money) Easing program to prevent pension funds collapsing.

A knock- on affect is that Bank of England is expected to raise interest rates higher than other wise be expected. 40% of mortgage deals were withdrawn by lenders. Thousands of home owners are facing substantially higher mortgage payment rates due to the mini budget.

As part of the mini budget, included plans for tax breaks, it is implied there will be cuts to government spending, including benefits to the poor.

This is part of a broader approach to create growth, such as deregulation & favouring big business.

This includes granting new oil & gas licences in North Sea, favouring fracking, refusing to do a windfall tax on energy companies. Changing environmental financial incentives for farmers. Happily allowing water companies to pour sewage into UK streams, rivers & coastal waters.

All the while many public services have been so chronically underfunded, many public professions either are striking, are likely to do so; including, nurses, barristers, teachers & train drivers.

All the while ignoring that leaving the EU, i.e., Brexit has removed 4% from UK's GDP. So, if Tories were genuinely interested in growth, they would be trying to improve trade relationship between UK & EU (I am not saying they should reverse Brexit, but it is a good idea!).

I (and many others) think there is a good chance of protests & even riots if the Tories continue to refuse to properly fund public services, pay public sector staff & properly fund benefit payments.

There have been some key reverses in recent decisions by the Tories, like retaining 45% income tax rate on highest earners & bringing forward OBR's forecast for Kwarteng's mini budget. There are reports of Tory rebellions on many other points too.

A key reason for why there are so many rebellions & u-turns by the Tories lately, is that in particular key members of government have been happily disrespecting (& ignoring) views of others peoples.

Going back to Fracking, The UK presently, does not do Fracking, as consensus is, it does not work & causes too many problems, such as minor local earthquakes & risk to polluting ground water (off the top of my head). Government is presently ignoring this.

Going back to Kwateng's mini budget. Kwateng sacked the respected senior civil servant, did not fully disclose all aspects of the mini budget with others, including Truss, ignored OBR's position it could produce a forecast in time for the mini budget...

... Broader consensus & recent (30 plus years) of economic data that trickle down economics do not work. The mini-budget was all about ideological beliefs of Kwateng & Truss.

I could give other examples of how the the Tories have been & are ignoring things, they really should be accepting, especially if they respect others views, others wellbeing & generally the wellbeing of the UK environment & the planet...

... e.g., pumping raw sewage into rivers harms the river's ecosystem. Or some UK sewage discharge ends up on French beaches.

Or how granting extra gas & oil licenses will add to global warming.

How much the Tories disrespect others views & generally disrespecting things they really should be accepting, should be self-evident to any reasonable person. It is, as it is reflecting in recent polling results...

... Presently, the Tories face to loose the next general election to Labour, with many Tory MP's loosing their seats & Labour are expected to form the next government with a majority.

How do the Tories actions, mirror-parallel those parties significantly behind "PDA Profile of ASD"?

Like much of UK, the situation for autistic population is dire. We know autistic persons, generally are suffering greatly, such as with high suicide attempts, suicides, systemically failed by society with lack of appropriate support, with poor quality ethics, research & practice.

The difficulties the autistic population faces, affects those around them, often their families are not adequately supported etc.

Many of the Tories actions described above are controversial & contested. PDA as a construct is both highly controversial & contested. There is no consensus over what PDA is, or how to approach in research & practice.

For instance, it is widely acknowledged there is large diversity in clinical practice towards PDA. Some refuse to diagnose PDA, some diagnose PDA in non-autistic persons, some diagnose PDA at non-pervasive thresholds, some only diagnose PDA in autistic persons etc etc.

I am doing this off the top of my head, so it will not be a complete list of things, in which significant partiers pushing "PDA Profile of ASD" disrespect (& ignore) in order advocate "PDA Profile of ASD". It will be many things.

Ignores reasons for why autism subgroups were removed from DSM-5. Including all the evidence showing autism cannot be successfully divided into autism subgroups. To reduce stigma for all autistic persons....

All the divergent opinion PDA is seen in non-autistic persons, & at different diagnostic thresholds, i.e., PDA does not need to be pervasive, or developmental in nature.

All the evidence that PDA is seen in non-autistic persons. All the reasons that PDA is not intrinsically pervasive, or developmental in nature. Likewise too about PDA needing to have social communication issues.

Not considering that PDA probably presents slightly differently in autistic persons vs non-autistic persons, but there would only be one PDA category (a demand-avoidance Disorder).



Disrespecting other topic experts views, including other clinicians who are diagnosing PDA differently to how "PDA Profile of ASD" proponents wish PDA to be diagnosed. Each of those divergent PDA diagnoses is can be viewed as evidence of clinical need for broader PDA construct.

Ignoring how PDA is only mentioned in one of NICE's three autism guidelines. The one it is mentioned in PDA's demand avoidance can be described as Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

Disrespecting that arbiters of clinical practice in the UK, have equally respected divergent topic expert opinions on the topic. i.e., they have not prioritised "PDA Profile of ASD" views over other outlooks.

Disrespected that RCP described PDA without having social communication issues.

Ignored how UK disability legislation is all needs based. Particularly, The Equality definition of disability does not care if a person counts as disabled by their demand-avoidance, if the person is autistic, or not, or if they believe in "PDA Profile of ASD", or not.

Trying to associate PDA with particular strategies which replicate good practice, is atypical of how strategies/ treatments tend to be issues- problem specific. PDA strategies should be used with anyone expressing significant demand-avoidance!

Disprecting the DMS-5 autism criteria. 1) co-occurring conditions diagnosed via specifiers are non-autism features, like anxiety. 2) Social communication issues are ALREADY pathologised as part of an autism dx, so do not need to be pathologised by PDA!...

... 3) DSM-5 autism criteria views demand-avoidance via transactional stress perspective, due Criteria C. Yet, "PDA Profile of ASD", demand-avoidance is meant to be due to deficits.

... Modern understandings of demand-avoidance are transactional in nature. Demand-avoidance features should not be viewed as being due to deficits, or a distinct unitary thing.

... Arguing that some autistic persons should receive special treatment, or are "complex"/ "perplexing" compared to other autistic persons. When generally, other autistic persons are suffering greatly & likely benefit from PDA strategies.

That most/ all humans have a need for control, or benefit from being in charge.

Seem perfectly happy to create a high risk of bias by strongly advocating for "PDA Profile of ASD", while much - most PDA research is sourced from those exposed to the "PDA Profile of ASD" narrative, thus are happy with contributing towards poor quality of most PDA research.

Ignoring how their views & actions on PDA not representative of broader, research, evidence, topic expert opinion & practice. I.e., ignoring that "PDA Profile of ASD" is a highly biased outlook!

Ignoring that in order to scientifically prove PDA is a "Profile of ASD", they would need to systematically investigate & falsify each of PDA's competing outlooks...

... Yet, considering most of PDA's competing outlooks has some (often poor quality) quality evidence, it is unlikely that "PDA Profile of ASD" is the only valid outlook on PDA!...

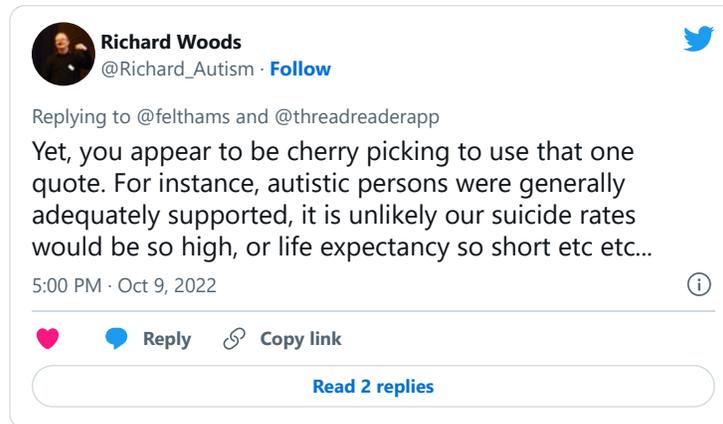
... If one accepts PDA's clinical need, only researching PDA's clinical need in autistic persons, scientifically proves what exactly? It does not provide evidence that PDA should ONLY be diagnosed in autistic persons!...

.... "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence".

I could go on, providing examples of what the parties significantly pushing "PDA Profile of ASD" are disrespecting". It should be clear there are clear parallels between their actions & the actions of the Tories!

I would argue a key difference between those parties significantly pushing "PDA Profile of ASD". Is that I do not act like the Tories. I actively try to respect, what I should be accepting, including the diverse opinions, practice & research on PDA!

That inclusive approach, is a key reason why I say I am the leading autistic expert on PDA, because I actively try not to be highly biased on the topic.





Richard Woods
@Richard_Autism · [Follow](#)



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... I would argue that using PDA strategies, including reducing demands, negotiating, building positive trusting relationships would help/ go a long way to helping to change those 2 above issues!...

5:01 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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It is much more than disrespectin the DSM-5 autism criteria. It includes points I forgot to make previously, like the increasingly unhappiness with categorical approach towards mental health issues, increasing favouring transdiagnostic approach to the topic...

5:03 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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... disrespecting the reasons why it is problematic fitting PDA into the autism spectrum. Disrespecting the views of those who thing autism has expanded too far & the debates around if autism should be divided etc etc.

5:04 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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The fundamental point is, I should not even be able to make the comparison between the Tories & those parties significantly pushing "PDA Profile of ASD"...

5:07 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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... fundamental reason why I can draw the parallels, is because those significantly pushing "PDA Profile of ASD" generally, are disrespecting FAR TOO MANY THINGS they reasonably should not be ignoring.

5:09 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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No, it is not even close to the basic argument here. From what I can tell those significantly pushing "PDA Profile of ASD", are generally ignoring typical research & practice standards, along UK legal requirements. It is MUCH more than ignoring the DSM-5 autism criteria.

6:53 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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This goes back to my point, they are generally disrespecting (& ignoring) they reasonably should not be ignoring. The motivations do not matter. They are ignoring things, like that autism subtypes were partly removed from DSM-5 reduce stigma for all autistic persons.

6:57 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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The crux of my point, is those parties significantly pushing "PDA Profile of ASD", are doing things they should NOT be doing. They are choosing this on a highly controversial & contested topic. It seems bonkers regardless of the motivations.

7:00 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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For instance, why I choose to ignore the Equality Act's definition for when a person counts as disabled by demand-avoidance?

Or. Why would I choose to adopt a highly biased position ("PDA Profile of ASD"), on a highly controversial & contested topic?

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Or, why would I advocate for a narrow PDA construct, when others are diagnosing PDA at lower diagnostic thresholds & thus indicating there is a clinical need for a broad PDA construct?

Why would I choose to take a different approach to NICE/ RCP etc?

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Or, why would I choose to ignore all the evidence that autism cannot be successfully divided into subgroups?
Or, ignore that all autistic persons would likely benefit from not experiencing ABA/ PBS?

I could go on.

It seems nonsense across the board, irrespective of motive.

7:08 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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It is equally applicable to the Tories. If they respected others views & what they should have done. Situation in the UK would not be as bad as it is. Like Kwarteng should have accepted OBR's offer to provide a forecast for the mini budget.

7:10 PM · Oct 9, 2022



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I am going to back to disrespecting that autism subtypes were removed from DSM-5 to reduce affects of stigma for all autistic persons. This matters when one considers the adverse affects of camouflaging, atrociously high mental health issues within the autistic population...

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... Yet, it does not matter at all, as some parties must choose PDA to be a "Profile of ASD". It is a choice to how one conceptualises & approaches PDA in research & practice.

It seems bonkers no matter what the motivation is.

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[@threadreaderapp](#) Please could you unroll this thread on [#PDA](#)?

Thank you in advance.

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