



Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

Oct 28 · 17 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1585938154309181440](#)

So what is my critique of "Profound Autism". Here are my points from a talk I did last December.

 **Spectrum (Autism Research News)**
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"Pretending people with profound autism don't exist by eliminating language to describe their symptoms is itself ableist," writes [@alisonsinger](#) in this Viewpoint.

[@AutismScienceFd](#)



spectrumnews.org
Opinion: It's time to embrace 'profound autism' | Spectrum | Autism Res...
"We need to bifurcate the diagnosis of 'autism spectrum disorder' and add a new diagnosis of 'profound autism' to better serve this vulnerable..."

3:10 PM · Oct 27, 2022

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"Profound Autism".

Autistic persons with co-occurring ID (IQ below 50).

Minimal or no language.

Who require round-the-clock supervision and assistance with activities of daily living (Lutz 2021)....

Seems covered by DSM-5 autism criteria, e.g., specifier for Intellectual Impairment (APA 2013).

Like with DAP, it uses a co-occurring difficulty to try create a new subtype.

Has different support needs from other autistic persons.
Clinical communities to prioritise needs of this vulnerable & underserved group.
Group is often excluded from research & research prioritised by those with HFA...

Prioritise research funding to this group (Lutz 2021; Robison 2021).

Strategic planning.

Comparison of research findings.

Enabling access to certain resources.

To better understand CYP (Christie 2019).

Rationale for removing subtypes are still valid.

All attempts to successfully divide autism failed (Woods 2020b).

Autism subtypes are intrinsically unstable, we can transition between subtypes over lifespan (Frith 1991; Wing 2002; Wing et al 2011),...

e.g., "Profound Autism" 18%-48% (Lutz 2021).

In different situations, e.g., non-speaking population (Botha et al 2021).

Autistic IQ imprecise proxy for functional, i.e., HFA is a misnomer (Alvares et al 2020).

Rationale for removing subtypes are still valid.

"This is particularly important for some people with autism, including those with Asperger syndrome, who may face very significant challenges in their everyday lives, despite having average or above average IQ." (DoH 2015, p15)...

Autistic social model supporters tend to advocate for ALL autistic persons to be better supported & included in practice & research (Woods & Waldock 2019).

Rationale for removing subtypes are still valid.

There are insignificant differences between autism subtypes.

No evidence of differential treatments between subtypes...

Best predictor of which autism spectrum diagnosis a person received was which clinic the individuals went to, rather than any characteristic of the individual.

To reduce stigma for all autistic persons (Happé 2011).

Most autistic persons do not want autism to be divided...

(Fletcher-Watson & Happé 2019; Kapp & Ne'eman 2019).

Some rationale for removing autism subtypes applicable to DAP.

Persons can transition into DAP over lifespan (Newson 1989; 1999; Newson et al 2003; Wing et al 2011).

Under transactional models of DAP, persons can transition into DAP (Kildahl et al 2021)...

CYP can transition out of DAP (Woods 2020a).

This thread refers to PDA as a DAP which stands for Demand-Avoidance Phenomena.

This information is from slides 43-48 of this talk below:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357033261_Demand-Avoidance_Phenomena_PathologicalExtreme_Demand_Avoidance_what_are_the_implications_of_it_being_a_biopower_identity

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

Thank you in advance.

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