

Can I Tell You About Autism

History of autism

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The history of autism spans over a century; autism has been subject to varying treatments, being pathologized or being viewed as a beneficial part of human neurodiversity. The understanding of autism has been shaped by cultural, scientific, and societal factors, and its perception and treatment change over time as scientific understanding of autism develops.

The term autism was first introduced by Eugen Bleuler in his description of schizophrenia in 1911. The diagnosis of schizophrenia was broader than its modern equivalent; autistic children were often diagnosed with childhood schizophrenia. The earliest research that focused on children who would today be considered autistic was conducted by Grunya Sukhareva starting in the 1920s. In the 1930s and 1940s, Hans Asperger and Leo Kanner described two related syndromes, later termed infantile autism and Asperger syndrome. Kanner thought that the condition he had described might be distinct from schizophrenia, and in the following decades, research into what would become known as autism accelerated. Formally, however, autistic children continued to be diagnosed under various terms related to schizophrenia in both the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and International Classification of Diseases (ICD), but by the early 1970s, it had become more widely recognized that autism and schizophrenia were in fact distinct mental disorders, and in 1980, this was formalized for the first time with new diagnostic categories in the DSM-III. Asperger syndrome was introduced to the DSM as a formal diagnosis in 1994, but in 2013, Asperger syndrome and infantile autism were reunified into a single diagnostic category, autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Autistic individuals often struggle with understanding non-verbal social cues and emotional sharing. The development of the web has given many autistic people a way to form online communities, work remotely, and attend school remotely which can directly benefit those experiencing communicating typically. Societal and cultural aspects of autism have developed: some in the community seek a cure, while others believe that autism is simply another way of being.

Although the rise of organizations and charities relating to advocacy for autistic people and their caregivers and efforts to destigmatize ASD have affected how ASD is viewed, autistic individuals and their caregivers continue to experience social stigma in situations where autistic peoples' behaviour is thought of negatively, and many primary care physicians and medical specialists express beliefs consistent with outdated autism research.

The discussion of autism has brought about much controversy. Without researchers being able to meet a consensus on the varying forms of the condition, there was for a time a lack of research being conducted on what is now classed as autism. Discussing the syndrome and its complexity frustrated researchers. Controversies have surrounded various claims regarding the etiology of autism.

Societal and cultural aspects of autism

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Societal and cultural aspects of autism or sociology of autism come into play with recognition of autism, approaches to its support services and therapies, and how autism affects the definition of personhood. The

autistic community is divided primarily into two camps: the autism rights movement and the pathology paradigm. The pathology paradigm advocates for supporting research into therapies, treatments, or a cure to help minimize or remove autistic traits, seeing treatment as vital to help individuals with autism, while the neurodiversity movement believes autism should be seen as a different way of being and advocates against a cure and interventions that focus on normalization (but do not oppose interventions that emphasize acceptance, adaptive skills building, or interventions that aim to reduce intrinsically harmful traits, behaviors, or conditions), seeing it as trying to exterminate autistic people and their individuality. Both are controversial in autism communities and advocacy which has led to significant infighting between these two camps. While the dominant paradigm is the pathology paradigm and is followed largely by autism research and scientific communities, the neurodiversity movement is highly popular among most autistic people, within autism advocacy, autism rights organizations, and related neurodiversity approaches have been rapidly growing and applied in the autism research field in the last few years.

There are many autism-related events and celebrations; including World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Sunday and Autistic Pride Day, and notable people have spoken about being autistic or are thought to be or have been autistic. Autism is diagnosed more frequently in males than in females.

The Reason I Jump

The Reason I Jump: One Boy's Voice from the Silence of Autism (Japanese: ??????????????????????????????????????, Hepburn: Jiheish? no Boku ga Tobihaneru Riy?

The Reason I Jump: One Boy's Voice from the Silence of Autism (Japanese: ??????????????????????????????????????, Hepburn: Jiheish? no Boku ga Tobihaneru Riy? ~Kaiwa no Dekinai Ch?gakusei ga Tsuzuru Uchinaru Kokoro~) is an autobiography attributed to Naoki Higashida, a largely nonspeaking autistic person from Japan. It was first published in Japan in 2007. The English translation, by Keiko Yoshida and her husband, the English author David Mitchell, was published in 2013, with an introduction by the translators.

The book alleges that its author, Higashida, learned to communicate using a version of the scientifically discredited technique of facilitated communication, which raises suspicions about the book's authorship. The psychologist Jens Hellmann said that the accounts "resemble what I would deem very close to an autistic child's parents' dream".

The book became a New York Times bestseller and a Sunday Times bestseller for hardback nonfiction in the UK. It has been translated into over 30 other languages, and inspired a play from the National Theatre of Scotland and a feature documentary. Higashida has published several other books in Japan.

List of autistic fictional characters

LGBTQ identities Autism in popular culture Autism in Television List of fictional characters with disabilities List of films about autism Labelle is autistic

This is a list of fictional characters that have been explicitly described within the work in which they appear, or otherwise by the author, as being on the autism spectrum. It is not intended to include speculation. Autistic people involved in the work may be mentioned in footnotes.

Conditions comorbid to autism

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or simply autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that begins in early childhood, persists throughout adulthood, and is

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or simply autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that begins in early childhood, persists throughout adulthood, and is characterized by difficulties in social communication and

restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior. There are many conditions comorbid to autism, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorders, and epilepsy.

In medicine, comorbidity is the presence of one or more additional conditions co-occurring with the primary one, or the effect of such additional disorders. Distinguishing between ASD and other diagnoses can be challenging because the traits of ASD often overlap with symptoms of other disorders, and the characteristics of ASD make traditional diagnostic procedures difficult.

Autism is associated with several genetic disorders, perhaps due to an overlap in genetic causes. About 10–15% of autism cases have an identifiable Mendelian (single-gene) condition, chromosome abnormality, or other genetic syndrome, a category referred to as syndromic autism.

Approximately 8 in 10 people with autism suffer from a mental health problem in their lifetime, in comparison to 1 in 4 of the general population that suffers from a mental health problem in their lifetimes.

Refrigerator mother theory

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The refrigerator mother theory, also known as Bettelheim's theory of autism, is a largely abandoned psychological theory that the cause of autism is a lack of parental, and in particular, maternal emotional warmth. Evidence against the refrigerator mother theory began in the late 1970s, with twin studies suggesting a genetic etiology, as well as various environmental factors. Modern research generally agrees that there is a largely epigenetic etiology of autism spectrum disorders.

The terms refrigerator mother and refrigerator parents were coined around 1950 as a label for mothers or fathers of children diagnosed with autism or schizophrenia. Both terms are now regarded as stigmatizing and no longer used.

Outline of autism

interaction and communication, and involves restricted and repetitive behavior. Autism can be described as all of the following: Disability – may be physical, cognitive

The following outline is provided as an overview of and topical guide to autism:

Autism spectrum disorder – a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects social interaction and communication, and involves restricted and repetitive behavior.

EmiSunshine

South Bend Tribune. "I met him and I didn't know that he had autism. The kids would tell me not to talk to him, even adults... I want this song to be

Emilie Sunshine Hamilton (born June 8, 2004), known professionally as EmiSunshine, is an American singer-songwriter from Madisonville, Tennessee, and a social media personality. Her performance of Jimmie Rodgers' "Blue Yodel No. 6" was posted on YouTube in 2014 and received over 1 million views and attention from the Today show (NBC) and Music Row. Her YouTube series, Americana Corner, featured Holly Williams for its debut episode and earned a feature story in Rolling Stone's country section.

EmiSunshine's music is generally described as country, but also exhibits Americana, bluegrass, blues and gospel influences. She has described her style as "old-time music turned upside-down." She is known for writing and performing songs about mature subjects not ordinarily associated with artists her age, including

murder, poverty, politics, autism and family dysfunction. In 2017, Rolling Stone named her among "10 new country artists you need to know."

Autistic rights movement

not have autism. Autism Speaks (20 April 2016). I am Autism. Retrieved 23 February 2025 – via YouTube. "Horrific Autism Speaks 'I am Autism' ad transcript"

The autistic rights movement, also known as the autism acceptance movement, is a social movement allied with the disability rights movement. It emphasizes the neurodiversity paradigm, viewing autism as a set of naturally occurring variations in human cognition, a cognitive difference with both strengths and weaknesses, rather than as a disease to be cured or a medical disorder. This paradigm contradicts and diverges from the medical model of disability, without opposing all aspects of it.

Central to the autistic rights movement's beliefs is the right to self-determine if one is part of the autism community, that autistic people should be seen as the primary voice for autistic people, and that autistic people have the final say in what language should be used when talking about autism. A common motto used by the autistic rights movement, borrowed from the disability rights movement, is the phrase "nothing about us without us".

Autistic rights movement advocates strive for widespread acceptance of people with autism, as well as the traits and behaviors (e.g. stimming, lack of eye contact, and special interests) associated with autism, for autistic people to socialize on their own terms, and to mitigate the double empathy problem. The movement seeks to reform, advance, and foster autism-oriented support services, interventions or therapies in accordance with neurodiversity principles to emphasize coping skills for challenging situations, promote adaptive skills, and promote psychological well-being and mental health, through incorporating voices and perspectives of autistic people in intervention reforms, advancements, and developments.

The movement criticizes therapies and interventions that—implicitly or explicitly, unintentionally or intentionally—encourage masking behaviors associated with autism and imitating neurotypical social behaviors, as higher tendencies of camouflaging, autistic masking, or passing as neurotypical are associated with worse mental health outcomes according to most recent studies and multiple systematic reviews and some autistic adults who experienced some forms of behavioral interventions reported adverse effects such as detrimental effects on their mental health due to increased or excessive camouflaging or masking. Limited but a few quantitative studies found that such adverse effects (e.g. reinforcement of masking, trauma, mental health worsening) appear to be experienced by a substantial proportion of autistic people who received these interventions.

The movement also advocates for autistic people to be recognized as a minority group rather than as having a disorder. Within the autistic rights movement, autism is often compared to different variations in human biology not categorized as disorders, such as homosexuality.

Autism and LGBTQ identities

gender dysphoria, and autism. Alternatively, autistic people may be less reliant on social norms and thus are more open about their orientation or gender

Current research indicates that autistic people have higher rates of LGBTQ identities and feelings than the general population. A variety of explanations for the increased prevalence of LGBTQ identities have been proposed, such as prenatal hormonal exposure, which has been linked with sexual orientation, gender dysphoria, and autism. Alternatively, autistic people may be less reliant on social norms and thus are more open about their orientation or gender identity. A narrative review published in 2016 stated that while various hypotheses have been proposed for an association between autism and gender dysphoria, they lack strong evidence. In a special issue of *Autism in Adulthood*, editors note that research support for autistic sexual

minority studies is lacking.

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