

Untangling the knots of neuroqueer intersectionality

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pronouns)

Introduction

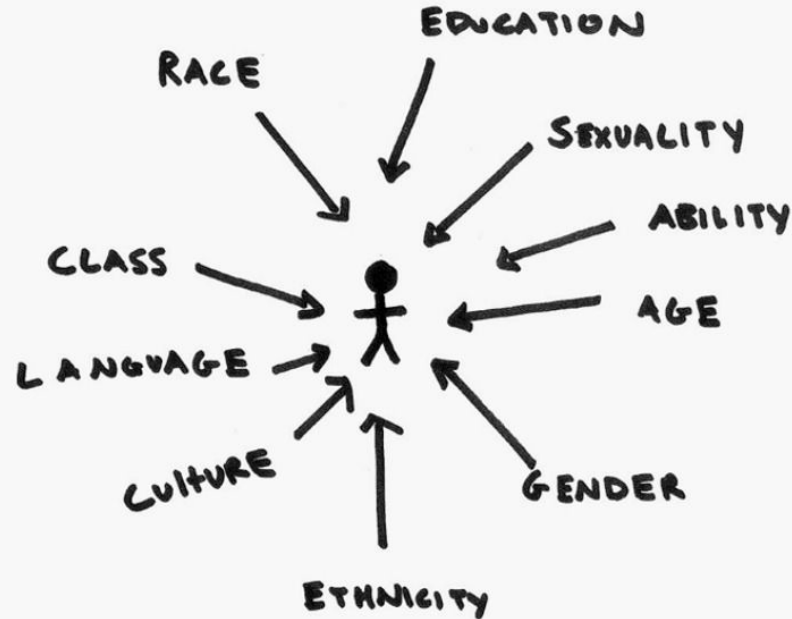
Answer the question: What does it mean to be neuroqueer?

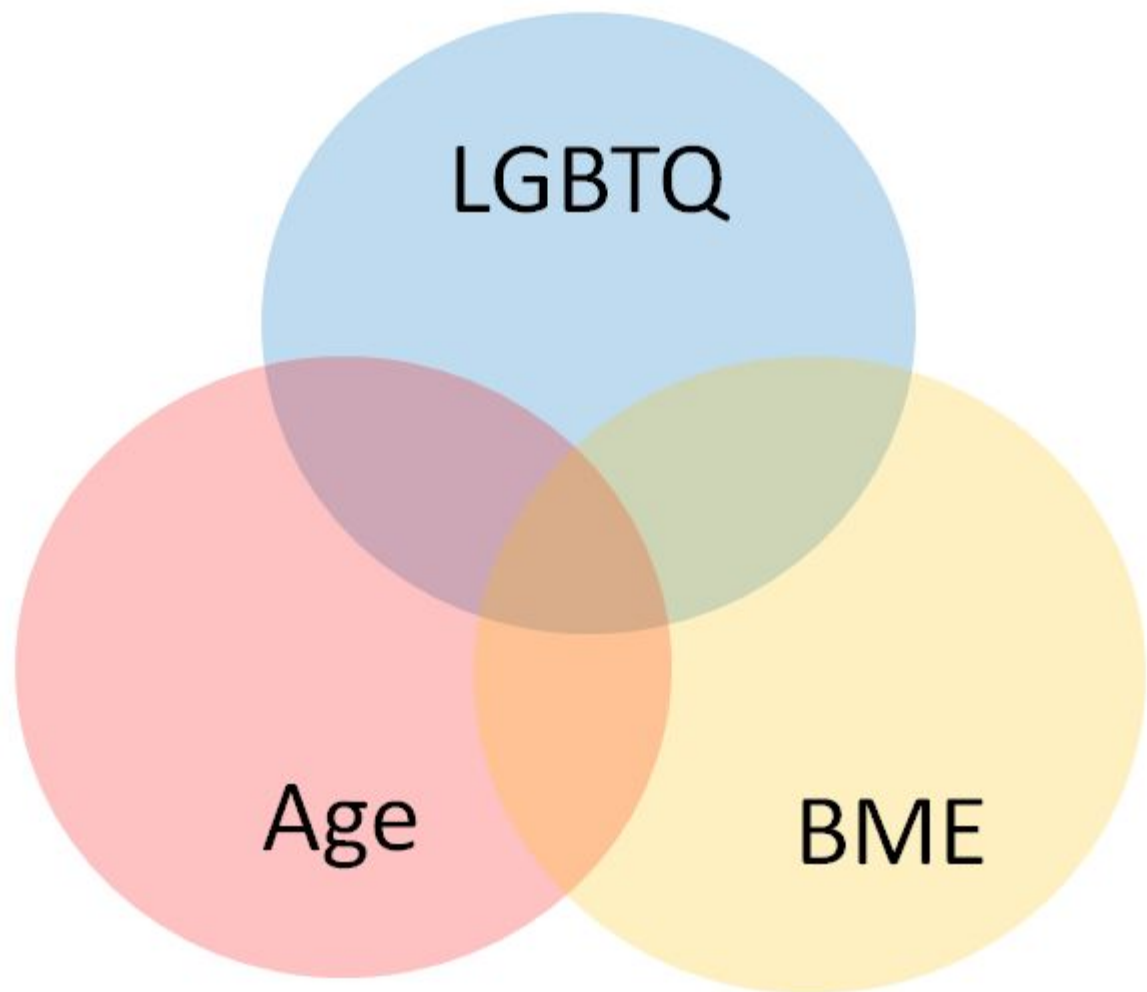
Do we exclude each other? Addressing the issues that both autistic and LGBTQ communities have that can lead into exclusion .

Applying Performativity theory into autistic spaces.

What is intersectionality

Intersectionality is an analytic framework which attempts to identify how interlocking systems of power impact those who are most disenfranchised in society. The concept first came from American legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989 and is largely used in critical theories, especially Feminist theory.





Neuroqueer is taken from the intersectional framework and focuses on Neuro-(Neurodiverent) and queer identity to form one single identity that is neuro-queer.

They are many many different ways to approach to neuroqueer experience such as:

an personal experience to describe how one's queerness and neurodivergence influence each other.

Approaching one's neurodivergence as a form of queerness. Example by approaching neurodivergence (like autism) in ways that are inspired by, or similar to ways in which queerness is understood and approached in Queer Theory/activism, Gender Studies and feminist discourse.

The Neuroqueer experience

- 1) There is no “universal” experience of being Neuroqueer.
- 2) “Social norms?” What social norms?
- 3) Your own conclusions about yourself and your gender/sexuality are scrutinised.
(more so)
- 4) Clothing tags are painful!



Autistic and queer liberation. A common history?

In 1974 at the UCLA, Ivar Lovaas, a proponent of ABA, used such techniques for the Feminine Boy Project - an early attempt at reparative therapy for homosexuality and gender nonconformity.

The creation of Autistic spaces and the autistic pride movement uses inspiration from many civil rights movements in particular, from Queer liberation movement as well as the disability rights movement which all started to take recognition in the 1970's, 80's and 90's.

Less “legitimate” identities

Autistic identities and expression are often under content scrutiny from NT peers and the NT gase.

Over medicalization and inferentialism play a part in this.

Queer identities face similar scrutiny from a hetromomative society.

This creates a very unique form of intersectional marginalization where society views neurodiversity and queerness as a contradiction.

Sounds familiar?

The autistic community has been calling for an end to eugenic based practices. Especially, in regards to autism speak's DNA mapping "MSSNG project"

Autistic and trans movements have been pushing back against the medicalised models in recent times. Perhaps there is common ground?

Looking for a biological cause for transness is neurosexist, transphobic, cisnormative and eugenicist.



What are they gonna do if they find a biological cause for transness?

Test trans people to see if they have that condition and if they don't, prevent them from transitioning?

Or worse, "treat us" so trans people basically disappear?

And how do you think a trans person would react if they found out they didn't have the "trans gene"? "Uh, I guess I'm not trans after all!"?

Trans people are who they say they are, not what a diagnosis forces them to be.

Unwritten rules within the autistic communities

Acceptance is favoured over awareness	Autism is something that one is born with rather than gained/caught	Autism is a “collective experience”
Pro: It's builds a more dimensional picture	Pro: It's a simple model to understand	Pro: creates a relatable framework for the an autism experience
Con: It makes us less accountable.	Con: Is essentialist	Con: Can be used as tool to exclude.

Unwritten rules within queer communities

Acceptance is favoured over awareness	Being Queer is something that one is born with rather than gained/caught	Queer is a “collective experience”
Pro: It's builds a more dimensional picture	Pro: It's a simple model to understand	Pro: creates a relatable framework for the an Queer experience
Con: It makes us less accountable.	Con: Is essentialist	Con: Can be used as tool to exclude.

Does the autistic communities enforce heteronormative values on it's members and if so, what does this look like?

Does the queer community enforce neuronormative value on it's members and if do, what does this look like?

Performativity

"gender performativity" was first coined in American philosopher and gender theorist Judith Butler's 1990 book *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Butler sets out to criticize what she considers to be an outdated perception of gender. This outdated perception, according to Butler, is limiting in that it adheres to societal constraints that label gender as binary. Butler introduces the unification of the terms gender and performativity in stating that "gender proves to be performance—that is, constituting the identity it is purported to be. In this sense, gender is always a doing, though not a doing by a subject who might be said to pre-exist the deed

Performing gender

Gender is performed through:

Your clothes, shoes, accessories, hairstyle, selective shaving/trimming of facial hair and body hair,

your body language

your chosen title of address, i.e. Mr., Ms., Mrs., Mx and so on.

your role in big events

socialized behaviors.

Do autistics Perform autism?

Autism can be performed through:

Clothes, shoes, accessories, hairstyle, selective shaving/trimming of facial hair and body hair,

Your body language

Role in big events

Socialized behaviours

Can Neurodiversity be seen as a social construct of norms in a similar way to how gender and sexuality are seen?

Is the autistic community falling for the same essentialism and gatekeeping that the queer community has fallen for?

Thanks for listening.