

Thoughts on Elevated rates of autism, other neurodevelopmental and psychiatric diagnoses, and autistic traits in transgender and gender-diverse individuals

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I often find work on the topic of mental health, gender identity, and other related fields very interesting, if not simply for the reason that I feel they are criminally understudied. Of course, that is not wholly surprising, I wouldn't want to wade into such a potentially controversial field. You have to make sure your science is of the utmost quality because it will be more heavily scrutinized than in other fields. That being said, a meta analysis is a pretty safe way to do so. And this was a very interesting meta analysis that I hope inspires (if it hasn't already) further work in the relationship between neurological disorders and gender identities. They suggest that there is a correlation that autistic traits and diagnoses are higher in transgender people than in cis-gender people. This is not a question I would've thought to ask and I hope that there is more work to explain why this phenomena exists. Although it is possibly just a significant feature of the data (rather than being a feature of reality), this seems unlikely (and is something they mention in the discussion).