

# INTERSECTIONALITY & AUTISTIC CULTURE:

A Virtual Panel Hosted by ABCT's Autism Spectrum & Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Group



This panel discussion is on the gender diverse experiences of autistic people and how this intersects with racial and cultural expectations and biases. Often, responsibility falls on those within historically marginalized and underrepresented communities to explain the basics of their identities. We share this infographic in hopes that folks, particularly academics & clinicians, will **themselves take on the labor of learning terminology relevant to multiply marginalized autistic and disabled people.**

## Basic Terms & Ideas

### Neurodiversity paradigm

a perspective that diversity in brain structure and function across the human population offers valuable and necessary variability to society and should be embraced. [Learn more here.](#)

### Neurodivergent

coined by Kassiane Asasumasu, referring to people "whose neurocognitive functioning diverges from dominant societal norms in multiple ways." This includes, but is not limited to, autism, ADHD, learning disability, & intellectual disability.

### Neuroaffirming

validating and accommodating the needs of neurodivergent people, rather than trying to change or eliminate them.



### Intersectionality

coined by Black feminist scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, referring to the unique experiences and issues of Black womanhood; now more broadly used to explain the intersection of one's identities and how they create unique experiences, privileges, and forms of discrimination.

### Disability justice

an intersectional approach to disability that celebrates "access, self-determination, and an expectation of difference." [Learn more here.](#)

### Ableism

a form of discrimination experienced by disabled people living in a world that supports and privileges non-disabled people.

### Allistic

A person who is not autistic.

### Identity-first language

for example, referring to someone as an "autistic/disabled person." Autistic self-advocates and proponents of disability justice often prefer this language to highlight that autism/disability is inextricably linked to who they are.

### Person-first language

for example, referring to someone as a "person with autism/disabilities." Still preferred by some autistic people-- always ask!



## Suggested Readings

[Autistic identity, disclosure, & masking](#)  
Cage & Troxell-Whitman, 2020

[Intersection of autistic identity & gender identity](#)  
Moore et. al, 2022

[Addressing anti-Black racism in greater autism community](#)  
Onaiwu, 2020  
(includes actionable recommendations)

[Addressing anti-Black racism among clinicians](#)  
Straiton & Sridhar, 2021  
(includes actionable recommendations)

[Disparities in Black autism diagnoses](#)  
Dababnah et. al, 2018

[Trans autistic mental health](#)  
Murphy, 2020

[Intersection of autistic identity & transgender identity](#)  
Moore, 2022

[On structural racism](#)

[On disability justice](#)

Thank you for joining!

