

Being Neurodivergent+ shapes you/who you are, how you see, perceive and communicate; your gender/s and sexuality/s are also inherently linked to who you are, your perceptions, how you identify, and communicate... so, why wouldn't they interlink?

Neurogender - Umbrella term to describe when someone's gender is somehow linked to their neurotype, mental illness, or neurological conditions - *Non-Binary Wiki*

Autigender: When a person perceives that their experience of gender is influenced by their autism. For example if something about their gender is influenced by a special interest, a sensory experience, or a disconnect from neurotypical definitions of gender - *Queer Undefined*

Gendervague: Someone who is gendervague cannot separate their gender identity from their neurodivergence – being autistic doesn't cause my gender identity, but it is inextricably related to how I understand/experience gender - *Aone.org*

Neuroqueer: Any individual whose identity, selfhood, gender performance, and/or neurocognitive style have in some way been shaped by their engagement in practices of neuroqueering, regardless of what gender, sexual orientation, or style of neurocognitive functioning they may have been born with. - *Dr Nick Walker*

The word, 'Queer', historically, has been used as an insult for both LGBTQIA+ and Neurodivergent+ individuals. Both these groups have also been heavily pathologized, and suffered at the hands of medical 'professionals'.

Not only do Neurodivergent+ and LGBTQIA+ groups have historical parallels, but many ND+ individuals also experience their neurotype and their gender and/or sexuality as explored: d:

So... Are you neurodivergent+. Do you predominantly date other neurodivergent+ individuals?

- Has being neurodivergent+ made you feel differently about gender/ have you ever felt ostracised by gender?
- Are you neurodivergent+ and LGBTQIA+?
- Have you ever felt uncomfortable, or questioning of 'norms' surrounding gender roles/expectations and/or communication 'norms'/standards?
- Do you feel as if your natural/unmasked self exists outside of 'societal' boundaries?

If one, or more, fits, you might find this zine helpful! (please read it either way! :p)

Neurodivergent stands of feminism argue that women's rights movements still haven't fully recognised Neurodivergent identity, existence, or needs (such as: educational support, workplace support/opponentunities, parental support, medical/psychiatric support, the recognition of higher vulnerabilities to assault/sexual assault). Stigmas relating to female mental health and/or neurodivergent diagnosis have led to the underrecognition of ADHD/Autism/Dyslexia in women, and an overzealous focus upon mental health and personality disorders - impacting understanding and treatment of 'Neurofeminism' refers to 'bad/unreliable science or psychology being used to back up existing misogynistic views (e.g. Cohen's theory that autism is caused by having a 'male brain').

Neuroableism refers to using incorrect/outdated science to support/justify current ableist views towards disabled and neurodivergent+ individuals (such as adhering to outdated notions that parental neglect/abuse 'causes' autism, or that a certain diagnosis is inherently 'bad' or a good parent).

Elements of neurodivergent stands of feminism frame:

Neuroqueer, Neurogender, Autigender, Gendervague

These terms often go further than a person just being both Neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+...

They relate to the inherent feeling that your sense of self, you is influenced by being Neurodivergent+/ND+ experiences. And, that your sense of self, gender and sexuality is intrinsically linked/shaped by your perception and experiences of being neurodivergent+.

Some Neurodivergent+ individuals might not identify as LGBTQIA+, but do still identify with the above terms.

Perhaps we're just intrinsically radical?

Some, not at all exclusive, suggestions to Autgender, Neurovague, Neuroqueer, neurogender

- 1) An overwhelming desire/fascination of exploring societal boundaries... paired with less of likelihood to follow or feel encompassed (or included) by 'herd mentality' or 'set' ideologies (such as 'male', 'female')
- 2) A higher likelihood to question your place in society in relation to others; this could interlink with masking/feeling the need to mask and having to 'people watch' to build mask/s.
- 3) Feeling an inherent connection or kinship with other Neurodivergent+/Neuroqueer/LGBTQA+ individuals. (I've only dated neurodivergent+ people!)
- 4) Feelings of alienation or ostracization within social situations/dynamics - possibly relating, or arising from not fitting set gender 'expectations'
- 5) Communication, perceptible, and interrelationship differences, affecting how we exist and relate to others, how we choose to socialize, who we choose to socialize with, and how we show/feel affection.
- 6) Differences in what makes us happy, joyful, our sensory experiences, fixations, intense interests, tangled logics, intense communications...

NEUROQUEER

Neurogender

Gendervague

Autigender

We hope you've enjoyed this little Zine!

We want Neuroqueer existences to be more widely appreciated so that more people can feel accepted and heard.

Lets claim our magic!

@MixMatchedUK

Be true to you ☺

If you'd like to find out more...

Lydia X. Z. Brown (they/them): Autistic, non-binary activist, wrote an essay on their term **Gendervague, 'at the intersection of trans and autistic experiences'** discussing autism and gender. <https://tinyurl.com/gendervague>

Cordelia Fine (she/her): Feminist theorist, coined term, **'Neurosexism'**. – **The feminist practice and criticism of neuroscience.**

Dr Nick Walker (she/her): 'Trans, flagrantly-autistic, author', coined the term, 'Neuroqueer', and published: **'Neuroqueer Heresies'** <https://tinyurl.com/Nqueerd>

More Links: <https://tinyurl.com/autigender>
<https://tinyurl.com/neurogender>

It is important to note that these concepts are developing... YOU are developing these concepts, they are wild, transformative... free. This is only the start!

#OwnOurTerms #MixMatched

Keep On: Neuroqueering, Autigendering, Neurogendering

Why is it vital we grow an appreciation of these terms?...

Individuals who are neurodivergent+, particularly autistic, who also identify as Trans, have often not been taken seriously by medical professionals/educators/friends/family. Such people have sometimes viewed:

- Being autistic as 'counter' to trans identity. (e.g. the incorrect assumption that someone can't be 'truly' trans if they're autistic) - leading a number of Trans individuals feeling shame towards being ND+ (Not OK!!!)
- A person's ND+ experience/presentation of being trans does not fit 'ordinary' expectations of how medical professionals view trans people to present. (e.g. how they dress/present/ speak) leading to them being dismissed.
- Communication differences have not been understood (e.g., ND+ individuals haven't said the 'right' thing in a pressurized meeting... with a stranger!) and, that bureaucratic hoops are often harder, or impossible, for ND+ individuals to meander!

It's important to know that medical professionals/educators/family don't get to decide how you identify - **ONLY YOU DO** – and, while they catch up, we want you to know that there are people who will see and understand you on your own terms. #MixMatched

Finding/Developing Community

A large amount of Neurodivergent+ community exist within LGBTQIA+ communities (or would like to!), but have been unintentionally neglected: Many social events (Pride/clubs/bars) are too loud/overwhelming. And so, there needs to be more of an appreciation of Neurodivergent+ appropriate spaces/accommodations, and communication. The recognition of Neurodivergence within LGBTQIA+ communities could strengthen solidarity by supporting intersectional needs.