

Timeline : Autistic Experience

Autistic Collaboration Trust <https://autcollab.org>

Autism Aotearoa <https://autismaotearoa.org/>

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Year	People & Events	Autistic Narrative	Autism Industry	Neuro-diversity Movement	Relevance
1750s	Compulsory Regulated Education				Focus on (Christian) religion, singing, reading and writing based on a regulated, state-provided curriculum of text books. Teachers were often former soldiers. Compulsory schooling based on the Prussian model spreads to other countries.
1800	Adolphe Quetelet				Invents the "average man". Average became normal , the individual became error. Stereotypes were validated with the imprint of science. These assumptions prompted generations of parents to worry if their child did not develop to average milestones.
1883	Francis Galton				Invents the term eugenics "to express the science of improving stock, ... which takes cognisance of all influences that tend ... to give the more suitable races or strains of blood a better chance of prevailing speedily over the less suitable."
1911	Egon Bleuler				Term autism first used by Bleuler to try and describe a type of what was then called ' childhood schizophrenia '
1940	Leo Kanner				Psychiatrist, defines autism as neurodevelopment disorder 'these children have come into the world with an innate inability to form the usual, biologically provided contact with people'.
1944	Hans Asperger				Physician, publishes a definition of autistic psychopathy (1944). He cooperated with the NAZI regime, and actively cooperated with the child 'euthanasia' program.
1960	Ivar Lovaas				Psychologist, inventor of ABA, "You see, you start pretty much from scratch when you work with an autistic child. You have a person in the physical sense - they have hair, a nose and a mouth - but they are not people in the psychological sense... "
1967	Bruno Bettelheim				Refrigerator Mum theory for cause of autism. Since then debunked.
1971	Judge Rotenberg Center				In Massachusetts, still operates today. Torture in the name of treatment : JRC's abuses represent some of the most extreme forms of behaviourist violence. 20% of Residents are forced to wear electric shock backpacks throughout the day.
1985	Baron-Cohen et al.				Baron-Cohen invents theory that autists have an impaired 'theory of mind' . All of his theories have been debunked.
1986	Temple Grandin				Emergence : Labeled Autistic, the first book by an Autistic author writing about her experiences for a wide English-speaking audience. Written for a neuro-typical audience. Main ideas: 1. "recovery" is possible and desirable. 2. Autism is a tragedy.
1991	Donna Williams				Nobody, Nowhere, book by Donna Williams. New idea for the general public: Autists can narrate their own experiences and have rich internal lives . Experts would still be needed to authenticate these accounts to be fully trusted to narrate Autism.
1992	Jim Sinclair, Donna Williams, Xenia Grant				Autism Network International (ANI), co-founded and run by Autists . Self help and advocacy organisation for Autistic people.
1993	Jim Sinclair				" Don't Mourn for Us ". Essay on his presentation at the International Conference on Autism in Toronto, addressed primarily to parents. Jim implored parents to embrace their child's differences and work to meet their needs.
1996	Autreat				Started by ANI, United States. First annual retreat style autistic-led conference for autistic people and allies
1996	Martin Dekker				Email list InLv. First entirely Autistic self-run and self-hosted autistic community on the Internet. An inclusive space that helped spawn new ideas such as "neuro-diversity" . Email is a natural communication medium, like sign language is for Deaf people.
1998	Autistics.org				Website. The focus of the early community was largely self help, compilation of support and resources for Autistic adults. Satire: " Institute for the Study of the Neurologically Typical (ISNT) ".
1998	Dinah Murray				Campaign ' Autistic People against Neuroleptic Abuse '. An autistic-led campaign in the UK to stop the overuse of drugs being given to people with intellectual disabilities.
1998	Judy Singer				Coins the term " neurodiversity ".
1999	Rejection of person-first language				Person-first language rejected by Jim Sinclair, in favour of identity first language. Jim Sinclair likely the first Autistic person to reject person-first language. Essay 'Why I dislike Person First Language'.
2000	Kassiane Asasumasu				Coins the term " neurodivergent " and " neurodivergence ".
2004	Nick Walker				Coins the term " neurominority ".
2005	Autistic Genocide Clock				Publicised fear of eugenics to prevent autism through development of a genetic test for selective abortion.
2005	Autescape				Started in the U.K. Annual conference autistic-led for autistics and allies .
2005	Autistic Pride Day				Launch of Autistic Pride Day .
2005	Getting the Truth Out				Website in response to Autism Society of America's fear-mongering "Getting the Word Out".
2006	Autism Speaks, United States				Release of video " Autism Every Day " by Autism Speaks (newly formed) . Lives of families with Autistic children are described as a fate literally worse than death.
2006	Autistic Self Advocacy Network				ASAN incorporated as a nonprofit organisation run by and for autistics " Nothing About Us Without Us ".
2006	Autism Hub				Aggregator of blogs. Online petition " Don't Speak for Us " as a reaction to Autism Speak's "Autism Every Day".
2007	Advocacy to remove billboards entitled "ransom notes"				ASAN and Autism Hub bloggers advocacy effort ended in the removal of billboards in New York that depicted autism and other disabilities as evil kidnappers snatching children.
2007	Autism discourse				Well-funded organisations such as Autism Speaks largely dominate the discourse through traditional media , but this time society was becoming aware that other view existed.
2009	Video "I am Autism"				By Autism Speaks. The video characterised autism as a monster, destroying lives and families .
2011	Autistic Genocide Clock page taken down				The page was taken down because the culture had improved enough so that prenatal testing for eugenics purposes would not be widely seen as desirable .
2014	What is Autism				Definition of Autism, by Nick Walker, an autistic advocate .
2017	Autistic Collaboration				Website by Autistic people for Autistic people. Collaboration can take many forms. Autistic people learn and play differently . We communicate and enjoy ourselves by sharing information and knowledge, and not by negotiating social status.
2018	Neurodiversity Manifesto U.K.				UK Labour Party Conference. Make neurological status a protected characteristic under the UK's Equality Act 2010 , critical appendix on Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) and Positive Behavioural Support (PBS).
2019	Communal definition of Autism				Community powered definition of Autism , curated by the Autistic Collaboration Trust.
2021	Communal definition of Autistic ways of being				Community powered definition of Autistic ways of being , version 1.02.
2021	Towards a ban of all conversion therapies				Submission in relation to the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill (15 Sep 2021) by the Autistic Collaboration Trust. Submission to include all minorities in the ban on conversion therapies , including autistic children.
2022	The Human Rights Case against Harmful Behaviour Modification for Autistic People				The Human Rights Case against Harmful Behaviour Modification for Autistic People . Global Disability Summit. Autistic Strategies Network, South Africa; Kenyans Living with Autism, Kenya, Autistic Collaboration Trust, Aotearoa.
2022	Global Autistic Task Force on Autism Research				Open letter to the Lancet Commission on the future of care and clinical research in autism. Signed by the Global Autistic Task Force on Autism Research, a consortium of Autistic organisations and Autistic researchers from around the world .