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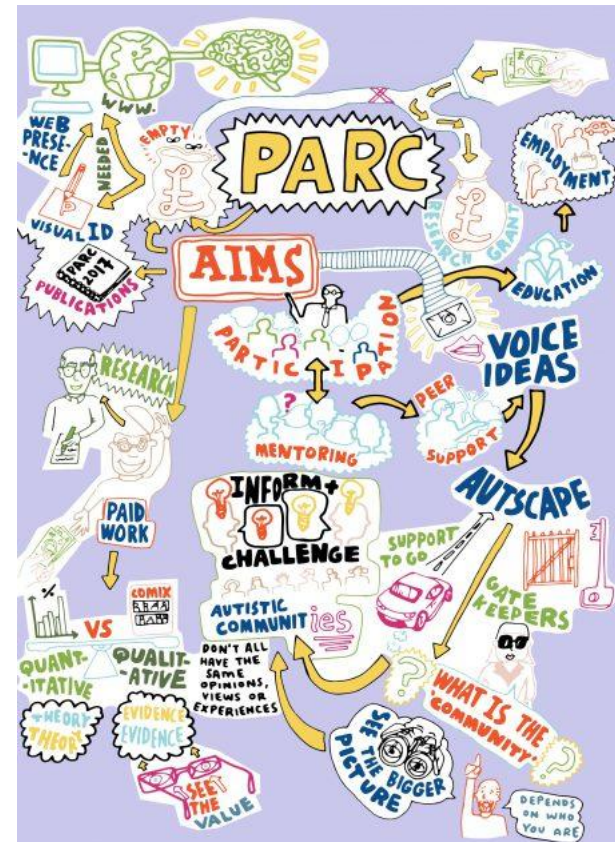
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# The Participatory Autism Research Collective (PARC): planning for the future

*Dr. Damian E M Milton*



# The Participatory Autism Research Collective

- The Participatory Autism Research Collective (PARC) was set up to bring autistic people, including scholars and activists, together with early career researchers and practitioners who work with autistic people.
- Our aim is to build a community network where those who wish to see more significant involvement of autistic people in autism research can share knowledge and expertise.
- Not just for researchers!

# Activity since last meeting and general plans

- The website for PARC continues to attract interest: [www.PARCautism.co.uk](http://www.PARCautism.co.uk)
- This has included links to events set up by PARC members or other related material.
- Critical blog posts regarding research and practice in the field.
- Expanding to other regions.
- Negotiations with Pavilion Press and academic journals (see later on this).
- Looking to set up as an association (and in time possibly a charity).

# Potential funding and projects

- LSBU
- University of Nottingham
- Donations
- Potential partnerships – e.g. Autistica
- Applying for research funding: Dr. Sue Fletcher-Watson, Dr. Marc Fabri
- The National Autistic Taskforce (NAT)

# Autumn meetings

- 19<sup>th</sup> September, London South Bank University (LSBU): Building Research Networks.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October, LSBU: Autism and Suicidality.
- 12<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> October, Birmingham City University (BCU): Use of Diverse Methods for Bringing Together Autistic and Non-autistic Individuals in the H.E. Environment to Explore Wellbeing.
- Potential meeting involving Dr. Stephen Shore in the New Year.
- Meeting to be organised for Autism and Marxism group.

## Conference streams

- Damian Milton and Nicola Martin from the PARC group will again be chairing a stream at the Learning Disability Today conference, involving talks by Yo Dunn and Cos Micheal among others.
- We have been asked to chair a stream on 'Neurodiversity' at the next Centre for Disability Research Conference at Lancaster University in September 2018.
- We will be looking to run our own PARC conference at LSBU in the Spring.

# Publications

- We have had a submission accepted regarding a special edition of the Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research (SJDR) regarding a critical dialogue on Neurodiversity. A call for papers will be announced fully in the New Year.
- We are also having discussions on the potential for a special edition of Advances in Autism (AIA), looking at participatory work in the field.
- Negotiations with Pavilion Press over future publications from the PARC group and partnering at the Lancaster conference.
- Invited to write an article for the Tizard Learning Disability Review.



# Reinvigorating the 'Theorising Autism Project'

- A series of workshop days
- One of these workshop days will be looking at research regarding the 'double empathy problem'. Another is likely to look at 'monotropism' and related theory and research.
- Similarity with workshops Autistica have also organised. Potential for partnership, or at least collaborating to ensure we can share and get the most out of these events.

# Practice workshops and delivering training

- There is potential to set ourselves up as being able to provide practice workshops and training, for which one would charge for.
- Possible topics include: models of practice across different settings (including education), stress ('challenging behaviour'), Employment, and so on.

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