

Intersectionality

Being autistic is only one way that a person might identify.

A person might also identify with their culture, ethnicity, gender orientation and sexual orientation.

For example, being a black, gay, autistic woman brings multiple identities and experiences that are even more difficult to navigate.

Autistic people are more likely to identify as LGBTQIA+ and more likely to identify as a different sex to the one they were assigned at birth.

This intersectionality creates multiple marginalization and people can then be at greater risk of mental health problems.

Origins

The term 'intersectionality' has its roots in Black feminist activism. It was originally coined by American critical legal race scholar Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw in 1989. Crenshaw used the term intersectionality to refer to the double discrimination of racism and sexism faced by Black women. The concept itself can however, be traced back to 1977, when the Combahee River Collective, a Black lesbian socialist feminist organisation, published 'A Black Feminist Statement' which is often cited as one of the earliest expressions of intersectionality.