

Rethinking autistic mindedness: a trans neurodivergent approach

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Several studies show the prevalence of trans modality of gender (TMG) in autistic individuals, but most of the research in the area aims at explaining TMG from autistic traits, more particularly from the alleged mind-blindness or lack of theory of mind (ToM). ToM, however, has received several criticisms from 4E cognition and neurodiversity perspectives. In line with this criticism, the main goal of this essay is to argue that the prevalence of autistic individuals with trans modality of gender is actually a *counterexample* to the idea of mind-blindness defended by the theory of mind (ToM). For doing so, I will start by defining ToM and exposing some of its limitations to explain TMG in autistic individuals. Then, I will introduce the Interaction Theory as an alternative to ToM and I will provide some insights of how neurodiversity principles are integrated into 4E cognition perspectives. I will conclude that a 4E-neurodiversity paradigm is a more fruitful theory to account for the complexity of the autistic spectrum, particularly the TMG.