

Call for Additional Papers (2024)

SPECIAL ISSUE

Critical and Intersectional ADHD Thought: ADHDers Think Back

The organisers **invite ADHD academics, PhD students and activists** to submit an abstract to be considered for inclusion in the special issue **Critical¹ and Intersectional ADHD Thought: ADHDers Think Back**. The special issue will be published in the open access journal *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*. We already received several promising abstracts and we have room for a few more. Please find considerations for submission below.

[To help navigate the CfP, this document uses navigation headings.]

Organisers

- Dr Dyi D. Huijg, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in Sociology, University of Roehampton
- Dr Eric Olund, Lecturer in Human Geography, University of Sheffield

Contact information

- ADHDersThinkBack@gmail.com

Complete timeline

- **25 Feb 2024:** **Submission abstracts**
- 10 Mar 2024: Communication decision abstracts
- 3-5 Sep 2024: *Disability Studies Conference Leeds*
- **29 Sep 2024:** **Submission full papers to the organisers**
- 27 Oct 2024: Return decision from the organisers with editorial comments
- **1 Dec 2024:** **Submission complete papers to CJDS**
- TBD: Revisions return date
- TBD: Publication of the special issue

¹ Critical as in 'race critical theory' or 'critical autism studies', not as in 'gender critical'.

Current ADHD research

Despite recent exponential growth, the field of ADHD Studies is predominantly produced by non-ADHDers and continues to be dominated by the ‘medical/individual model of ADHD’ (Huijg, under review). This can refer to a biomedical lens (symptomatological, medicinal, genetic, neuroscientific etc.), clinical or therapeutic approaches for ‘treating’ ADHD, and/or to blatant anti-ADHD ableism. It can refer to any way that ADHD or ADHDers are posited as a problem or burden to themselves, or to anyone or anything else. What is central in this model is that the cause of ADHDers’ difficulties and/or the responsibility and solutions for these difficulties are located in, for instance, the ‘ADHD brain’, ‘ADHD treatment’, or the ADHDer’s behaviour or mental health (management). Even when ‘social dimensions of ADHD’ are discussed, they are too often made sense of “as a direct consequence of individual impairments” (cf. Oliver, 1990, p.6).

Publications with a more benevolent intention – employing e.g. an ‘It Is NOT Your Fault’ approach, focussing on empowerment, and/or on ‘good qualities/benefits’ of ADHDers in the workplace – might seek to move away from the problem/burden rhetoric, but rarely escape the individual responsibility/solutions angle. This is reinforced by the non-engagement with the disability movement’s adage ‘Nothing About Us Without Us’: ADHD knowledge is produced about ADHD and ADHDers, but without ADHDers’ *own* voices. It is fair to claim, then, that ADHD knowledge production is overwhelmingly dominated by the medical/individual model of ADHD and its gatekeepers.

Despite a 1:1 gender ratio of adult ADHD, ADHD is still associated with naughty white boys climbing up the walls and annoying their parents/teachers (Huijg, under review; see also e.g. Alharbi, 2017, p.2188). There is increasing literature about ADHD women, although specifically feminist analyses are missing. There is almost no research on race and ADHD – this includes a lack of the most foundational knowledge about, for instance, racial biases and disparities in accessing ADHD healthcare (e.g. in the UK this lacuna was only recognised recently by prominent ADHD professionals and scholars, see Young et al., 2021, p.4). Too much of the scientific ADHD literature lacks representation or mostly focuses on boys and men (e.g. Biederman et al., 2012), on white people (Barkley, 2008; Michielsen et al., 2015), or relies on the exclusion of, for instance, indigenous populations such as “Canadians living on an aboriginal setting” (Pond, Fowler & Hesson, 2019, p.946). There is practically *no* knowledge on ADHD and other social categories – e.g. sexuality, faith, migration background, gender identity or class. And research that *does* engage with multiple social categories can still reproduce problematic if not neuroableist ideas.

At this point, it is fair to conclude that ADHD Studies is an acritical and non-intersectional field, produced by non-ADHDers. What we need is critical and intersectional ADHD knowledge produced by ADHDers themselves.

An invitation to ADHD academics, PhD students and activists

We invite academics, PhD students and activists who identify as ADHDer to submit an abstract for a complete draft paper to be considered for the special issue 'Critical and Intersectional ADHD Thought: ADHDers Think Back'. A special invite to papers authored by multiply marginalised ADHDers and papers authored by ADHDers from the Global South. The special issue will be published in the open access journal *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies (CJDS)*.

The objective of this special issue is to contribute to the 'field in development' of Critical and Intersectional ADHD Studies, specifically by generating contributions by ADHDers themselves. There are two interlinked aims:

- (1) 'Think back' against the medical and denialist models of ADHD.
- (2) Offer a critical and/or intersectional engagement that enables the reader to think differently about ADHD and ADHDness.

We want to emphasise that at this moment in time there are no specialists as Critical and Intersectional ADHD Thought is an emerging area of study. We encourage those yet unfamiliar with the terrain to expand their existing research knowledge to ADHDness!

Thinking with ADHDers on ADHDness

Unfortunately, as organisers we do not have the capacity to offer individual developmental support with contributions. If you think you need such support, please make sure to arrange this. We will *only* be able to provide editorial comments for minor issues of clarity etc. prior to submission (however if too much editorial intervention is required we will have to reject it).

There are, however, alternative opportunities for talking about your ideas on ADHDness with other ADHDers:

1. We may propose one or more 'ADHDers Think Back' panels for the Disability Studies Conference Leeds, which will take place 3-5 September 2024. If you intend to submit an abstract to this conference and would like to be included in our intended prospective panel(s), please let us know once the conference organisers circulate their call for papers. Details: <https://disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/events/conference/>.
2. Dyi is the organiser and facilitator of the ADHD Reading Group. This resumes 2 Feb 2024. This twice-monthly reading group, meeting the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 3-4.30pm, is an opportunity to discuss with others critical and intersectional texts about ADHDness. Find details about the reading group here: <https://intersect-nd-dis-rg.wixsite.com/rg-site/neurodiversity-rg>. You can already register for the mailing list. Find details about how to register for the mailing list here: <https://intersect-nd-dis-rg.wixsite.com/rg-site/registration-mailing-list>

Submission process

We make a decision (acceptance/rejection) about which abstracts can move to submitting a full paper for consideration of inclusion in the special issue on the basis of whether or not it will meet the below selection criteria. Please do not hold back in your ‘critically and/or intersectionally thinking back’!

If your abstract is accepted, you then **submit your full paper to us** – the organisers of the special issue – **by 29 September 2024**. As organisers we will then make a final decision which papers can be submitted to the *CJDS* for consideration of this special issue. If we do not accept your full paper submission, then you are welcome to submit it elsewhere or submit it independently to the *CJDS* (but not as part of this special issue). If we accept your paper, you will receive (minor) editorial comments from the organisers. Note: we do not provide editorial comments on rejected papers.

If the paper can proceed with submission to *CJDS*, each contributor has to **submit their complete paper directly to CJDS** and do so by **1 December 2024**. Submission to *CJDS* can be done here: <https://cids.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cids/about/submissions>. In your submission you need to include that it is part of the special issue. *CJDS* will then send out the submission to (external) reviewers.

Selection criteria

- The paper **meets academic standards**
- The **editorial revisions** required for submission to *CJDS* are **minor enough** to be addressed quickly
- The paper **meets CJDS submission requirements** – find these here: <https://cids.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cids/about/submissions>. Let us know if you need any advice regarding this.
- The paper **offers a critical² and/or intersectional engagement that enables the reader to think differently about ADHD and ADHDness**
 - Papers that offer an intersectional approach are in particular invited.
 - Consider engaging with, for instance, intersectional disability, social model of disability, feminist, race critical, feminist and black feminist disability, disability justice, critical disability, DisCrit, trans, trans disability, critical faith, neurodiversity, critical autism, mad or survivor, anti-capitalist, crip, neuroqueer or adjacent approaches.
- The **paper ‘thinks back’**, explicitly or implicitly, **against medical and denialist models of ADHD**
 - Critical discussions of the medical, pharmaceutical and diagnostic industry – as well as inequalities therein – are explicitly welcome.

² Critical as in ‘race critical theory’ or ‘critical autism studies’, not as in ‘gender critical’.

- Papers that offer biomedical, symptomatological, neuroscientific, experimental, clinical, treatment or adjacent research on ADHD will be rejected. (Note, papers that critique such approaches are welcome.) As a rule of thumb, if your paper might be a good fit for the [Journal of Attention Disorders](#), it might not fit this Call. (Contact the organisers if you want to discuss this in relation to the idea for your abstract.)
- Papers that promote ADHD denialism will be rejected.
- Papers that judge personal choices of ADHDers in accessing ADHD healthcare (including ADHD medication use) will be rejected.
- Other than this, there are no thematic or disciplinary limitations – **think back as critically, intersectionally and as ‘outside the box’ as you can!**

Paper requirements

- **Submission paper:** we expect that papers submitted for consideration of inclusion in the special issues are *complete* formatted draft papers – we will only offer editorial comments (on accepted papers)
- **Word count:** max. 6000 words, including footnotes
- **References:** max. 40 references
- **Formatting:** Word document, Arial 12pt, 1.5 line spacing
- Note that submissions of the final paper for the special issue will undergo regular ‘external review’ per the guidelines of the journal. In other words, as organisers we have no say in the final acceptance of papers.

Tick list for abstract submission

- **Word count:** 400-500 words (include references in your abstract)
- **Formatting:** Word document, Arial 12pt, 1.5 line spacing
- **Working title**
- **Personal details authors** (where applicable):
 - Confirm the author(s) identify as an ADHDer (this time non-ADHDers cannot contribute)
 - Full name
 - Title (please include PhD student status, if applicable)
 - Affiliation (e.g. department, university; organisation; independent researcher)
 - Email address(es) for correspondence
- **Your abstract should give a clear idea about what you intend to write** in the paper.
 - The abstract includes a discussion of the theoretical framework(s) that you will employ, the ‘object’ of your analysis, the methods or approach you will rely on, the analysis that you intend to offer, the argument(s) that you will make, and what the paper seeks to achieve

- **The abstract makes clear that the paper will meet the aforementioned selection criteria**
 - The abstract makes explicit what/how it will contribute to the emerging area of ‘Critical and Intersectional ADHD Thought’
 - If applicable, the abstract makes clear, implicitly or explicitly, that/how the paper will move away from the medical/individual model of ADHD, ADHD denialism, and that it will not judge personal choices with regards to ADHD healthcare
 - Specifically if your paper intends to employ a critical and intersectional ADHD lens to *critique*, for instance, sectors that produce the medical/individual model of ADHD, ADHD healthcare and/or the ADHD industry, then the abstract needs to detail how it will do so.
- **Submission dates:**
 - Submission abstracts: **25 Feb 2024**
 - Submission full papers to organisers: 29 Sep 2024
 - Submission full papers to *CJDS*: 1 Dec 2024
- **Submit your abstract to:** ADHDersThinkBack@gmail.com

Communication

- Please communicate with us through: ADHDersThinkBack@gmail.com

Let us know if you have any questions.

We look forward to receiving your abstract!

Dr Dyi Huijg and Dr Eric Olund