Twitter Thread by Noah Sasson



Noah Sasson
@Noahsasson

Before we get too far into 2021, I thought I'd write a thread recapping some of the research that came out of my lab in 2020. Most of this work was led by my talented team of graduate students, Kerrianne Morrison, @kmdebrabander, and @DesiRJones.

Back in January, a news story was published about Kerrianne's study showing improved social interaction outcomes for autistic adults when paired with another autistic partner. https://t.co/3hct0yZ3Ly

A detailed thread about the study and a link to the paper can be found here (feel free to DM me your email address if you'd like a copy of the full paper for this study or any of our studies): https://t.co/Sc7B2ob6h0

> In our new paper out today, autistic adults held a \u201cget to know you\u201d conversation with an unfamiliar autistic or typically-developing (TD) person. We were curious: would social interaction outcomes differ when their partner was also autistic? THREAD https://t.co/4koqUKV9G1
>
> — Noah Sasson (@Noahsasson) December 11, 2019

Another paper published early in 2020 (it appeared a few months earlier online) showed that traditional standalone tasks of social cognition are less predictive of functional and social skills among autistic adults than commonly assumed in autism research. https://t.co/96HTjX75Rk

> How well does social cognition predict functional and social skills in autism? Our new paper attempts to answer this question. This thread summarizes why we conducted the study, what we found, and why I think it\u2019s important. https://t.co/KB1nIpK0M2
>
> — Noah Sasson (@Noahsasson) August 16, 2019

Next, @kmdebrabander led and published an innovative study about how well autistic and non-autistic adults can predict their own cognitive and social cognitive performance. https://t.co/GbDkZzNe67

> New by @kmdebrabander and our lab: Autistic adults don\u2019t differ from non-autistic adults in the accuracy of their self-assessment on general cognitive tasks but are less accurate on social cognitive tasks. This however was

> unrelated to social functioning https://t.co/0MrqMKKO0r
>
> — Noah Sasson (@Noahsasson) September 20, 2020

Meanwhile, @DesiRJones was making huge strides highlighting how the woeful underrepresentation of Black scientists and Black autistic people within autism research affects cultural assumptions and clinical practice. https://t.co/0V1H0eS9Mt

> Black scientists and Black autistic people are woefully underrepresented in autism research. I'm honored to have written an editorial addressing these issues and recommending ways to improve with @DSMandell now out in @journalautism. https://t.co/kWZQM9MR4n
>
> — Desi Jones (@DesiRJones) October 1, 2020

Desi also hosted this powerful round table about the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx autistic adults. https://t.co/KNOjygLZcd

> \u2728 More good news today \u2728
>
> How does systemic racism impact autistic people of color? In a new paper, I talk with Black, Indigenous, and Latinx autistic adults and researchers to understand the critical issues related to race, ethnicity, and autism.https://t.co/gUy0lWYy1F
> 1/3
>
> — Desi Jones (@DesiRJones) November 6, 2020

She then participated in this thoughtful podcast produced by @Spectrum about being Black in autism research. https://t.co/SnoArruJ3a

Our lab then published a paper supporting the “double empathy theory” by @milton_damian showing that traditional measures and notions of social skill, social motivation, and social cognition have almost no relation to the real-world social interaction outcomes of autistic adults. https://t.co/2ZyK3qIkr8

> A thread about our new open-access paper, just out today. We tested how well standardized measures of social cognition, social skill, and social motivation predict real-world social interaction outcomes for autistic and non-autistic (NA) adults. https://t.co/eJ8vuVWaW0
>
> — Noah Sasson (@Noahsasson) November 25, 2020

My lab isn’t an island, though! We continue to pursue collaborations with wonderful colleagues around the country (and now internationally as well! @cjcrompton @SueReviews among others). For instance...

I was thrilled to be part of this incisive and righteous paper led by @KristenBott about avoiding ableist language when taking about and researching autism. https://t.co/sC3MxSVdql

I’m also so lucky to continue to work with @ClareHarropPhD and colleagues examining sex differences in social and non-social attention in autistic children. We have a series of papers on this topic. Here’s the latest that came@out this year: https://t.co/BNluinj2gx

We have several other papers coming out soon, including a really important (IMO) study led by @DesiRJones testing how well an autism acceptance “intervention” for non-autistic adults reduces explicit and implicit biases about autism. Stay tuned!