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Current Call for Submissions



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Current Call for Submissions

Family

Deadline: March 15, 2022

Family is a complicated notion when it comes to autistic experiences. Ideally, families offer love, support, and nurturing for autistic individuality and strengths; however, family may also connote ableist spaces that infantilize, repress, or punish autistic differences. The next issue of *Ought* seeks submissions that explore the real, varying experiences of family in autistic lives. Our aim is to collect stories and experiences from a wide range of neurodiverse perspectives. Towards that end, we recognize that autistic families exist in many forms beyond the traditional household.

Family may be forged through technology, social groups, support networks, and educational spaces. Therefore, our use of the term *family* aligns with Fay Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp (2015), who define families as “social constructions that vary across class, culture, time, and geography” (p.82). This issue will publish a variety of cultural pieces (narratives, art, poetry, academic articles, book reviews, multimedia pieces) that connect to family in the most inclusive sense of the term. Pieces may engage with one or more of the following topics:

- Autistic reflections on being raised by normative parents
- Joys or challenges of neurodiverse parenthood
- Finding an autistic family for the first time
- Being part of a non-normative family with no national borders
- The use of technology to foster family
- Struggles of raising autistic children in ableist social spaces
- Moments of guilt, pain, or regret from family experiences

References

Ginsburg, F. & Rapp, R. (2015) *Family. Keywords for disability studies*. Adams, R., Reiss, B., & Serlin, D. (Eds.). (2015). NYU Press.

Sexuality

Deadline: September 15, 2022

Anne Finger (2015) noted that “sexuality is often the source of our deepest oppression” (as cited in McRuer, p.169). And, while autistic perspectives have gained more voice in recent years, perspectives on autistic sexualities have yet to be fully heard. This issue of *Ought* aims to collect a diverse set of pieces that explore, challenge, express, and question sexuality from an autistic perspective. It is our hope to produce an inclusive issue that shares the varying autistic experiences of sexuality.

In thinking about the diversity of autistic sexuality, Nick Walker first coined the term *neuroqueer*. Neuroqueer applies to any “individual whose identity, selfhood, gender performance, and/or neurocognitive style have in some way been shaped by their engagement in practices of neuroqueering regardless of what gender, sexual orientation, or style of neurocognitive functioning they may have been born with.” While we welcome pieces that neuroqueer, we also welcome pieces that value, question, or push against all sexual orientations and communities.

In order to emphasize inclusivity, we consider this to be an open call for any pieces that resonate with the topic. However, we also include a list of questions that may spark inspiration:

- How is autistic sexuality portrayed in the popular media?
- In what ways is sexuality expressed in autistic communities?
- Does ableism stigmatize sexualities?
- How has the medical model harmed autistic sexualities?
- What are experiences of coming out?

References

McRuer, R. (2015). Sexuality. *Keywords for disability studies*. Adams, R., Reiss, B., & Serlin, D. (Eds.). (2015). NYU Press.

Walker, Nick. Neuroqueer: An introduction.” *Neuroqueer.com*. <http://neuroqueer.com>