

Kay Lilley (She/Her)
LEND Trainee (2021-2022)

Alyx Medlock, Mentor

How can we be culturally responsive to neurodiverse people who identify as LGBTQI+?

LEND Competencies

- Knowledge of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, with a focus on ASD
- Cultural and linguistic responsiveness and diversity
- Research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice
- Public policy and health equity

Research

- Literature review
- Interviews
- Panel discussion
- Observation
- No IRB approval necessary

- People on the autism spectrum have diverse sexual preferences.
- Gender identity and sexuality are more varied among neurodiverse people and transgender people are more likely to be autistic than the general population.

- People with multiple minority statuses experience poorer mental and physical health outcomes.
- People with disabilities in general are commonly excluded from sex education.
- Sex ed classes tend to focus exclusively on heterosexual relationships between cisgendered people.

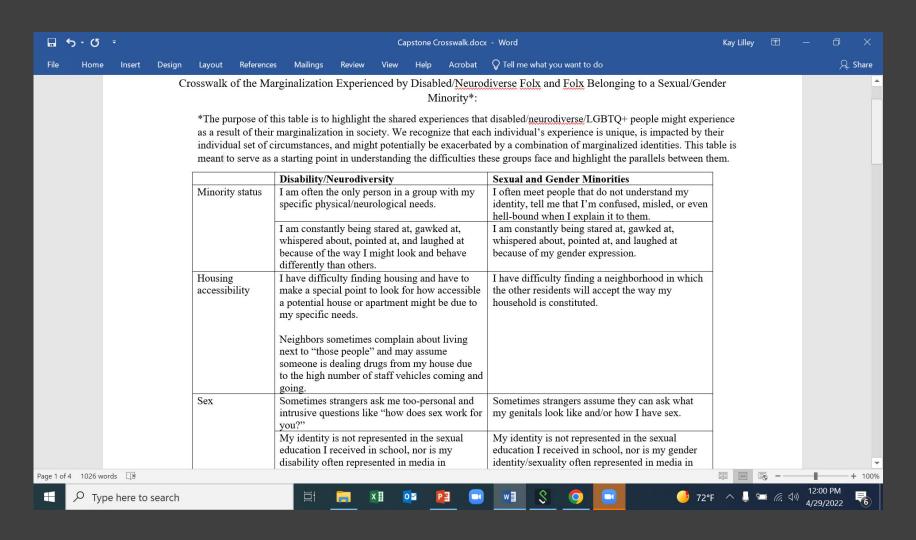
- Neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ folks tend to camouflage or "mask" in order to pass as neurotypical or straight and cisgender. This can cause significant stress and negatively affect health.
- There are experiences common to LGBTQI+ and neurodiverse people resulting from those identities.

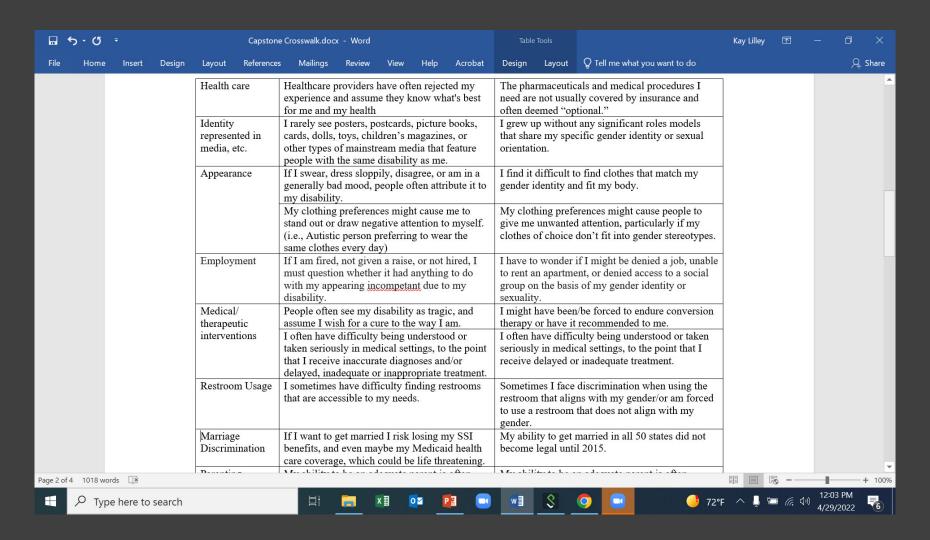
 Social and activist spaces for both neurodiverse and LGBTQ+ groups are generally not inclusive of each other. Yet these and other marginalized communities are inevitably bound by common experiences with bias and discrimination in education, health care, etc.

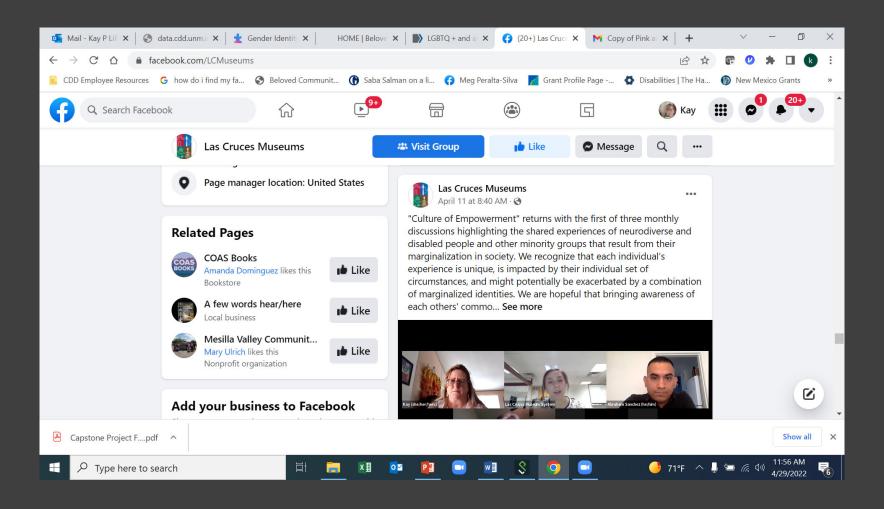
References

- "Sexual & Gender Minorities with Autism Spectrum Disorder May Face Challenges to Getting Needed Healthcare" (National Rehabilitation Information Center, March 2020)
- "Unmasked" (Miles J.); "New Study Examines Sexuality of People with Autism" (U.S. News, May 2021)
- "Gender and Sexuality in Autism, Explained (Laura Dattaro, Autism Research News, September 2020);
- "LGBTQ & Autism Spectrum Disorder: Experiences & Challenges," National Library of Medicine, April 2019).

- Tip sheet
- Resources link
- Crosswalk
- Culture of Empowerment series







Dissemination

- DD Waiver providers
- Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)/Behavioral Support Services
- Disability & LGBTQI+ advocacy organizations
- City ADA Advisory Council
- Career & Life Skills Academy

Dissemination

- Email
- Presentations
- Social media
- Beloved Community website