



Where did the term
Neurodiversity
come from?



Origin

Judy Singer, an Australian social scientist, first coined the term 'Neurodiversity' in 1997, when she was writing her thesis about online support groups for autistic people.



Movement

Judy wanted to create a movement for people who were made to feel like outsiders or abnormal simply because of their neurological differences.



Family History

Judy's interest was driven by her family history. She recognised that there was something "different" about her mother, and that the condition was hereditary.



Personal Research

It was through her own research and her own experiences that Judy recognised her mother, her daughter and Judy herself were all on the autism spectrum.



Oppression

Judy also recognised that people with different minds were oppressed the same way women and gay people were prior to their own movements, and that neurologically diverse folk needed a movement of their own.



Inclusivity

The term 'neurodiversity' is important as it does not classify or rank people. It is a viewpoint that brain differences are normal, rather than deficits.



Evolution

The movement has evolved growing from only autism to include ADHD, dyscalculia and dyslexia. It has sent a message that society needs to accommodate rather than *fix* neurodivergent individuals.



Long-term goal

The long-term goal of the neurodiversity movement is to advance the recognition and change society's perceptions of neurodivergent people while facilitating inclusion.

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