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Sam Schrevel

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in adults is a controversial topic: there is substantial scientific debate about the causes and “realness” of adult ADHD, the validity of the diagnosis and the necessity of pharmacological intervention. In the public domain, substantial concerns are expressed in reaction to the ever increasing number of ADHD diagnoses, both in children and adults, which raises questions whether ADHD is a real disorder or a problem constructed by our modern societies. In other words, ADHD not only is a controversial topic, but also a complex societal problem which therefore requires that a variety of perspectives are explored to further our understanding of the causes of and solutions for ADHD and those who are, and will be, diagnosed with and treated for the disorder.

Up to now ADHD has mainly been approached from a biomedical perspective and research on the genetics, neurobiology and treatment has proliferated over the years. However, the perspectives of adults with ADHD as well as professionals who work with adult ADHD on a daily basis are rarely explored. This thesis presents an exploration of what ADHD is, what problems adults with ADHD encounter, how the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD works and what perceptions are of good quality of care from the perspective of adults with ADHD and professionals who work with adult ADHD on a daily basis.

Surrounded by controversy

Sam Schrevel

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