

## ABSTRACT

I present my dissertation on the shame of difference; a relationally created phenomenon commonly experienced by neurodivergent individuals. I explore the history of shame theory, and the role of intersubjectivity in the neurodivergent client's experience of being misunderstood. I propose that for 'the shame of difference' to be healed, it is essential for the therapeutic relationship to contain understanding and acceptance of difference; further research and training could support this approach. The following introduction, rationale for practice, literature review and case study demonstrate my personal and professional interest in this topic and application of theory in practice.