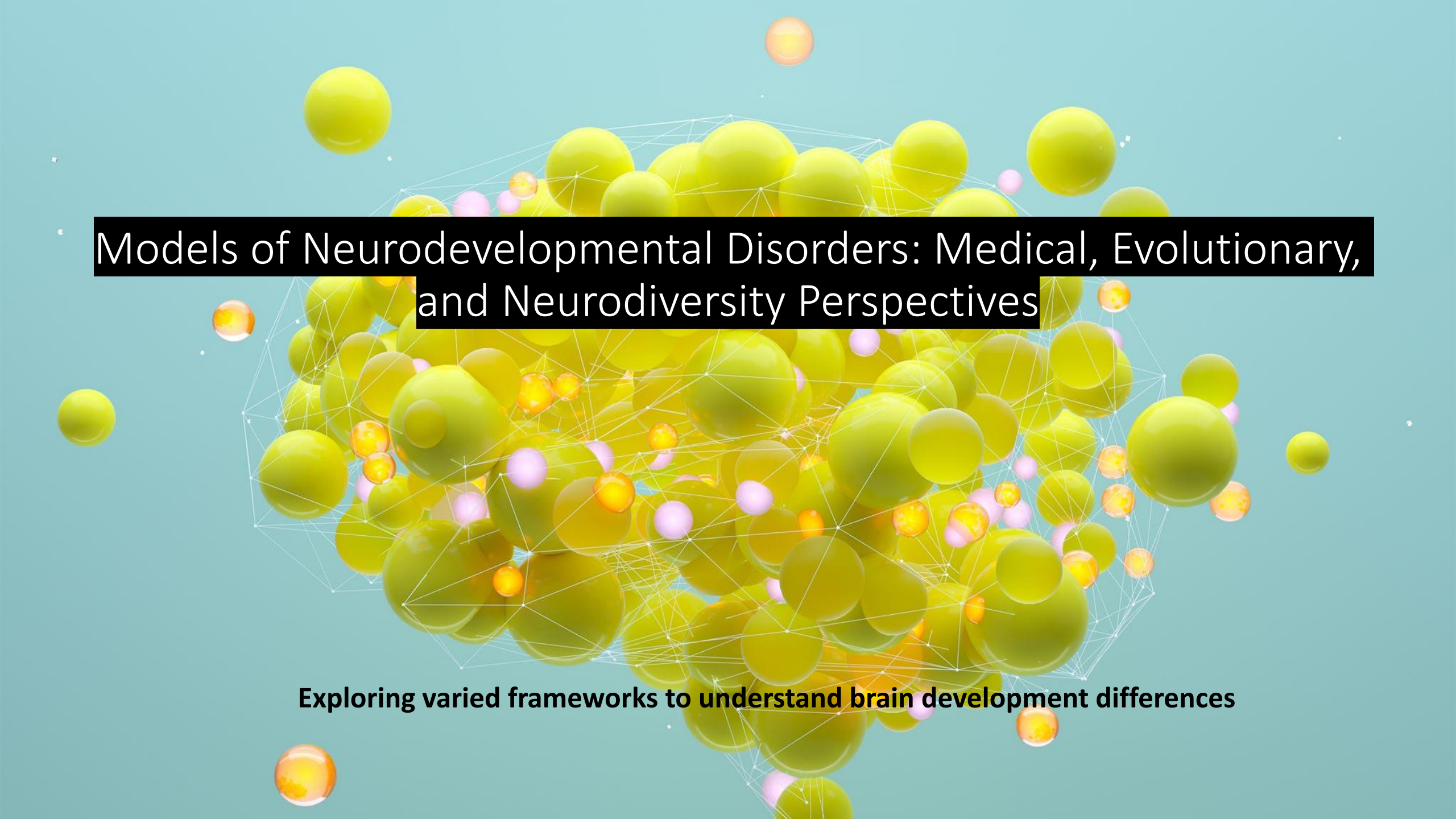


ECAS7010 Week 2

Historical Foundations of Neurodevelopmental Models

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Models of Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Medical, Evolutionary, and Neurodiversity Perspectives

Exploring varied frameworks to understand brain development differences

Origins and Evolution of the Medical Model



- Historical Foundations
 - Originated from early psychiatry and neurology
 - Focus on pathological deviations in development.
 - Diagnostic Standardisation
 - DSM categorised disorders like ADHD and autism
 - Emphasis on clinical diagnosis and intervention needs.
- Impact and Criticism
 - Shaped treatments and funding
 - Criticised for oversimplifying and stigmatising individuals.
 - Formal diagnoses often required for support
 - Marginalises those with less typical symptoms.



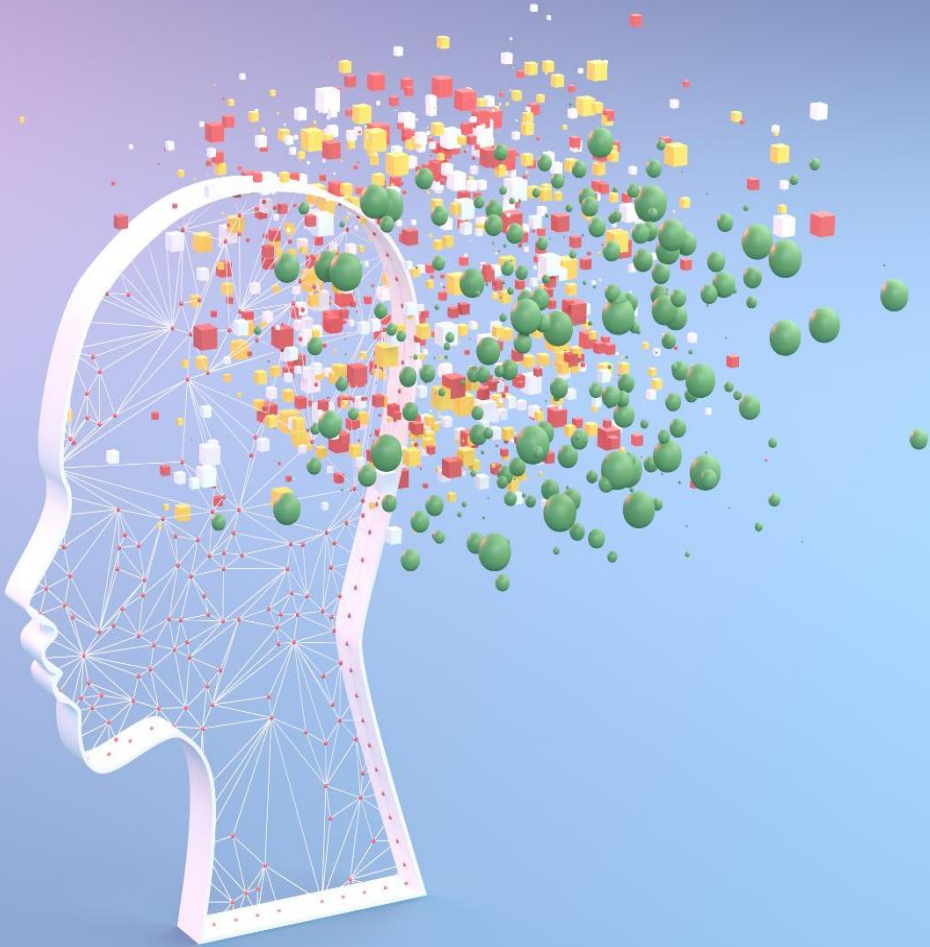
Medical Model: Pathology and Treatment



- Pathological Conceptualisation
 - Neurodevelopmental disorders viewed as deficits in cognition, behaviour, or social functioning.
 - Focus on diagnosing causes and applying medical or therapeutic interventions to treat disorders.
 - Criticised for neglecting individual experience and emphasising normalization over well-being.

Emergence of Evolutionary Psychiatry and Neurodiversity

- Evolutionary psychiatry views psychiatric traits as adaptations from ancestral environments rather than disorders.
- Neurodiversity movement promotes acceptance of cognitive differences as natural human variations.
 - Both paradigms challenge deficit-based views and encourage more inclusive, holistic understandings of neurodevelopment.

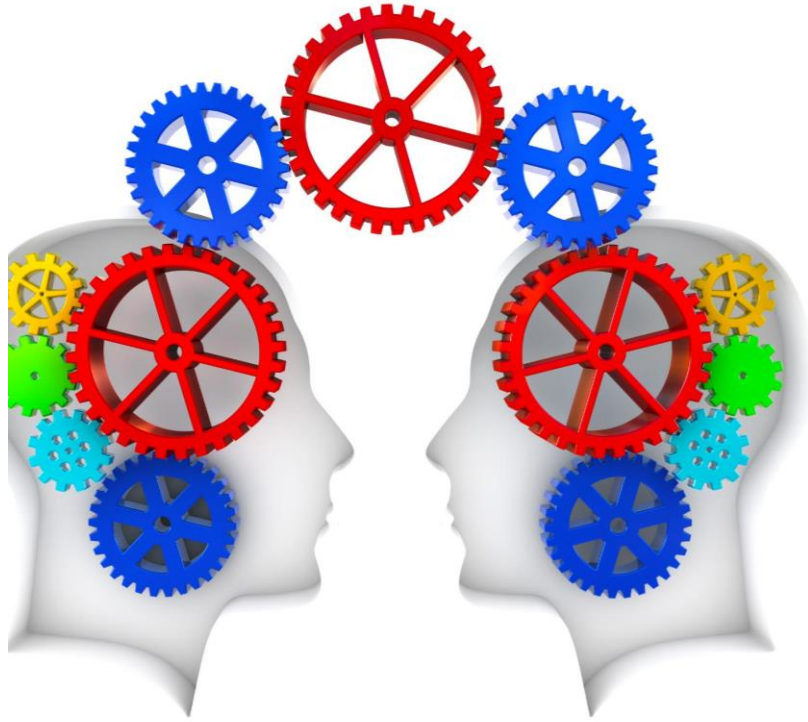


Evolutionary Psychiatry: Adaptation and Mismatch



- Evolutionary Basis of Disorders
 - Neurodevelopmental traits may have provided survival advantages in ancestral environments.
 - Mismatch in Modern Context
 - Traits like heightened attention may be maladaptive in today's world, causing impairments.
- Cognitive strengths linked to neurodivergence support intelligence and technical skills development.
- This approach distinguishes adaptive traits from pathological cases using evolutionary criteria.

Neurodiversity Approach: Inclusion and Strengths



- Neurodiversity sees cognitive differences as natural human variations, not disorders to cure.
 - Social model of disability alignment
 - Focus on societal barriers causing impairments rather than individual pathology or deficits.
 - Promotes acceptance, accommodation, and inclusive practises in education, employment, and healthcare.
 - Influences policy, participatory research, and public discourse to support neurodivergent voices.

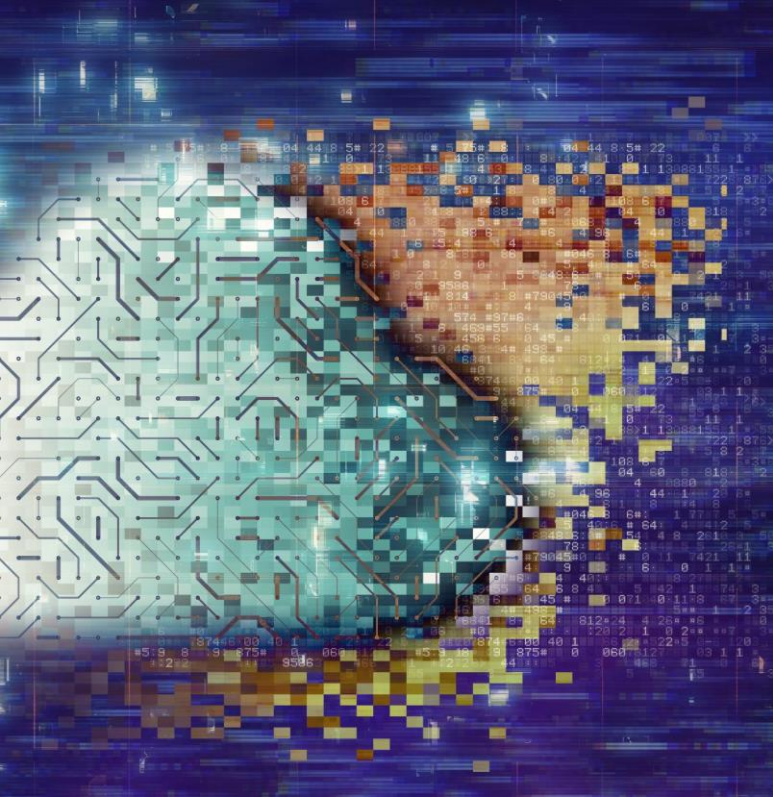


Areas of Overlap and Divergence

MODEL	CORE PRINCIPLE	HISTORICAL CONTEXT	CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS	RESEARCH FOCUS
Medical Model	Deficit-Based	20th Century Psychiatry	Diagnosis and Cure	Biomedical Causes
Evolutionary Psychiatry	Adaptive Traits and Mismatch	Evolutionary Biology	Contextual Interventions	Evolutionary Origins
Neurodiversity	Natural Variation and Inclusion	1990s Advocacy	Accommodation and Support	Lived Experience and Social Context

Implications for Practice and Research: Clinical Applications and Ethical Considerations

- Medical Model in Practice
 - Supports standardised assessments and evidence-based treatments but may reinforce stigma and overlook individual needs.
- Evolutionary Psychiatry in Practice
 - Encourages understanding adaptive value of traits and tailoring interventions to environmental contexts.
- Neurodiversity in Practice
 - Advocates for inclusive practices, respect for autonomy, and participatory decision-making in care.
- Integrating models enhances ethical support by focusing on strengths, preferences, and social environments.
 - Holistic, Person-Centered Care



Directions for Future Research

Integrate Model Strengths

- Combine strengths of medical, evolutionary, and neurodiversity models to address limitations effectively.
- Medical model research must study biological mechanisms while considering ethics and individual differences.
- Evolutionary psychiatry should investigate adaptive traits, environmental interactions, and evolutionary mismatches.
- Participatory research should focus on neurodivergent perspectives, stigma, resilience, and social influences.

