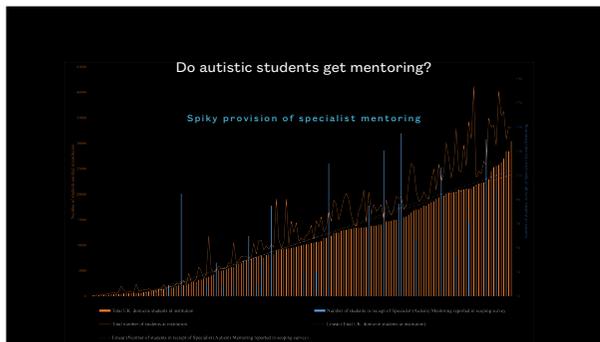




There are a lot more autistic students at our universities than there used to be.
Autistic students in the UK can receive Specialist (Autism) Mentoring paid for SfE. So to find out how much is going on I asked them..



The SfE know mentoring happens, but knowing the split between autism & mental health mentoring would take them more than 14 hours to find. Worrying that SfE seem to think autism and MH mentoring the same thing... MH mentoring is sometimes conceived of as a preventive measure, and that doesn't work for autism.

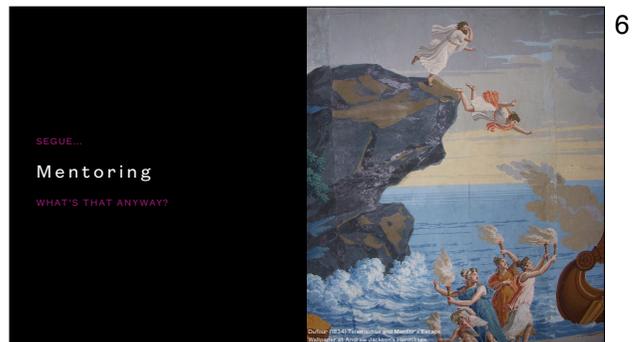


So I asked universities, via their disability offices. Findings:

- 1) Universities are not great at answering surveys
- 2) For every 1:160 to 1:480 (1:240 95%ci)
- 3) Provision is spiked top end - Birmingham City vs Kings... bottom end Ravensbourne



3 different models of mentoring provision
 ... skip this because a diversion is in order and time is short.



Before we get round to what Specialist (Autism) Mentors have been telling me about Specialist (Autism) Mentoring, worth a moment to explore mentoring as a concept

Mentor in Homer's Odyssey left to help Telemachus - spirit of Athena, wisdom 3 times... but Athena also used a seagull

16th century Fénelon wrote some fan-fic about Telemachus and Mentor's escapades. Picture - escape from the naughty nymphs. This is really where we get the ideas about support, care and wise counsel... it models a fairly egotistical young man growing into a model ruler.

Fénelon's *The Adventures of Telemachus: Son of Ulysses* gets picked up as THE book to read in Rousseau's *Émile* as a method of education and a way of judging society. Later Tennyson also picks this up Uylsses hope that Telemachus can grow into "offices of tenderness".



Of late:

70s - mentoring and the self-help movement into mentoring and business - job skills

80s - academic work on justifying mentoring and how pans out in career development

90s - mentoring as a means to bring justice in terms of gender, race and disability

Galbraith and Cohen model of mentoring emerged - power dynamic of the "Complete Mentor Role"

00s - shift to mentoring as personal rather than a more social development

10s - some work, like Nora & Crisp, looking at the black-box of wider student mentoring

some write ups of mentoring autistic students in REACH City Uni New York, AMP York Toronto, Curtain Australia, Cygnet at London Southbank, and RHUL



But Braun & Clark thematic analysis is perhaps showing a different way of thinking about mentoring.

3 distinct but related spheres

Diagnostic

Mentees talking about about what is not going ok in their lives

Prognostic

Mentees and mentors coming up with plans and strategies to make life better

Motivational

Mentor acts as a cheer leader.

9

Two tentative thoughts...

Diagnostic - Prognostic - Motivational

This resonates with the frame alignment of social movements.
(Snow et al., 1986)

And... more autistic Specialist (Autism) Mentors seem to be proponents of this mentoring-as-social-action.

Closer to the frame alignment of social movements than previous mentoring models.

And more autistic autism mentors endorse such an approach.

But perhaps it should be a model of more than this specific context. You will all take on the mantle of mentor at some point. I'd urge you to think about it in terms of a transmutation of the personal life, in mentoring-as-reframing you can all spot what needs changing, create plans to make things better, and to cheerlead for your favourite people.

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@BigBadBee
b.r.h.irvine@pgr.bham.ac.uk

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