

SCOPING REVIEW

FUNCTIONS OF

Stimming

IN AUTISTIC ADULTS

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Purposeless? According to whom?

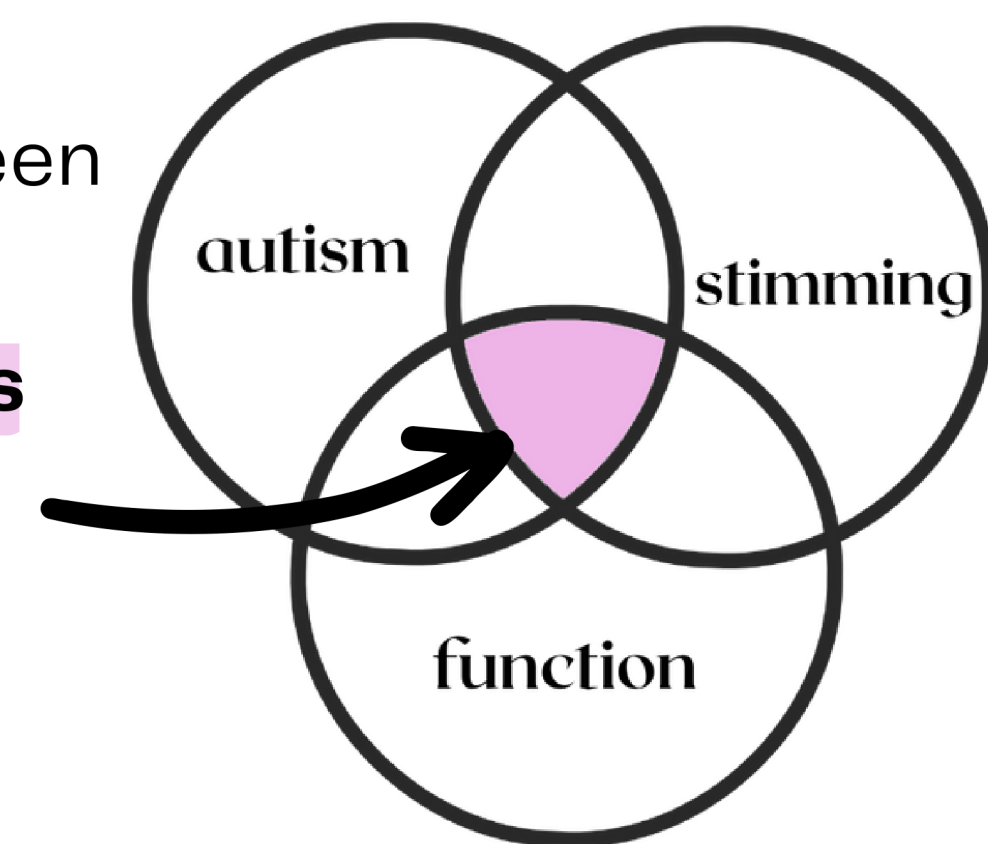
The **Autistic community** consistently characterises stimming as functional. **Researchers** have denoted stimming as “purposeless” & “behaviours of concern”.

Assuming stimming is purposeless means there is limited research on its potential functions.

Paediatric research relies on observation by others, which is a subjective interpretation. **Autistic adults** can offer us insights into the internal experience of being Autistic.

Search Strategy

What research has been conducted on **potential functions** of **stimming** in **Autistic** adults?



IMPLICATIONS

Potential **regulatory functions** of stimming: (1) sensory-motor (e.g., stress); (2) emotion (e.g., anger); (3) cognitive (e.g., attention).

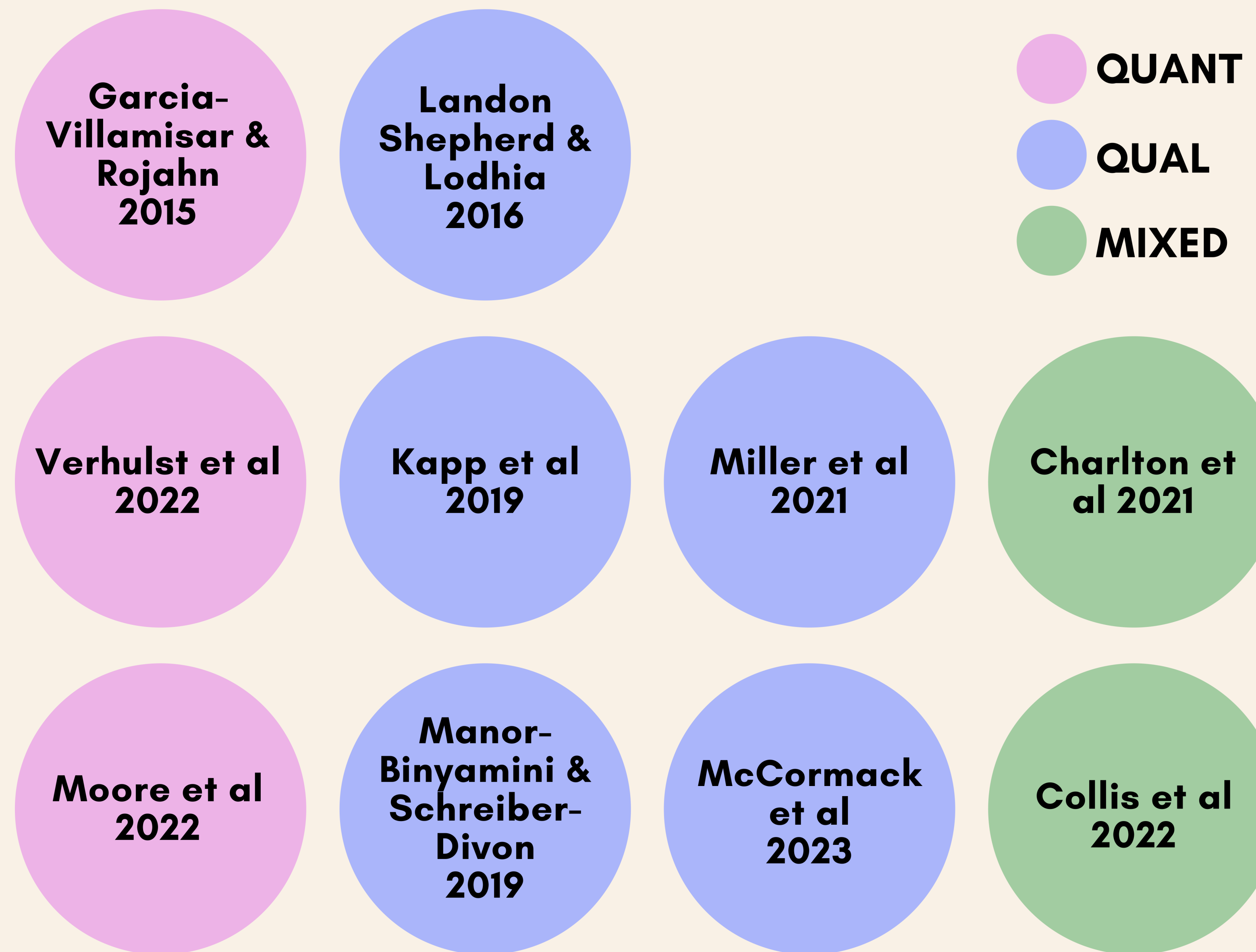
Further investigation may aid in understanding the potential importance of stimming **as a tool** in self-regulation & wellbeing.

This may call for considering the potential for **iatrogenic harm** when setting treatment goals to minimize stimming in children.

An understanding of stimming in Autistic adults may lead to **better recognition** of how adults can meet DSM criterion B.1. (stimming/RBs).

Inconsistent **terminology** calls for critical evaluation and refinement of existing constructs (e.g., repetitive motor behaviours vs sensory-seeking) is essential for examining relationships between them and other constructs (e.g., stress, emotion regulation).

EVIDENCE SOURCES



IDENTIFICATION

980

TITLE/ABSTRACT SCREEN

22

FULL TEXT SCREEN*

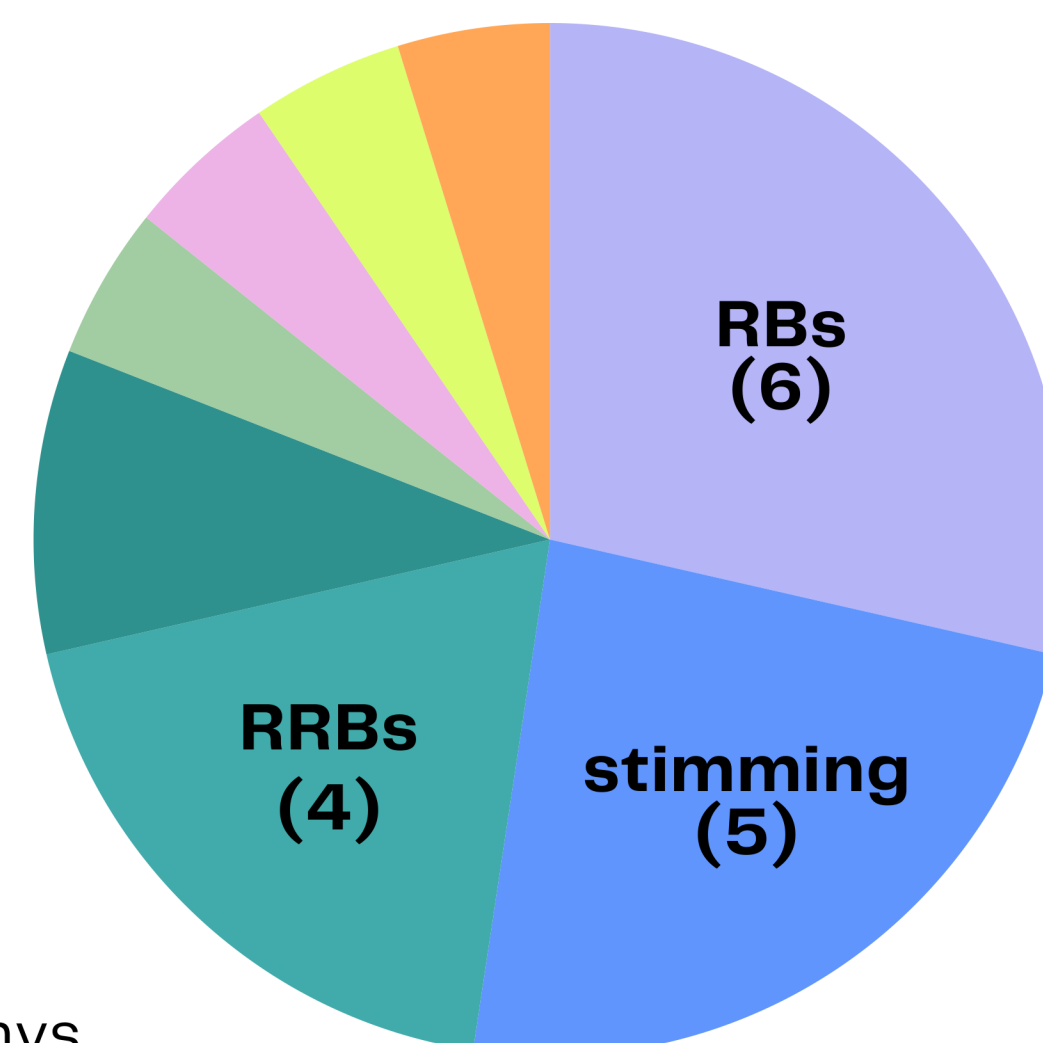
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*double-screening

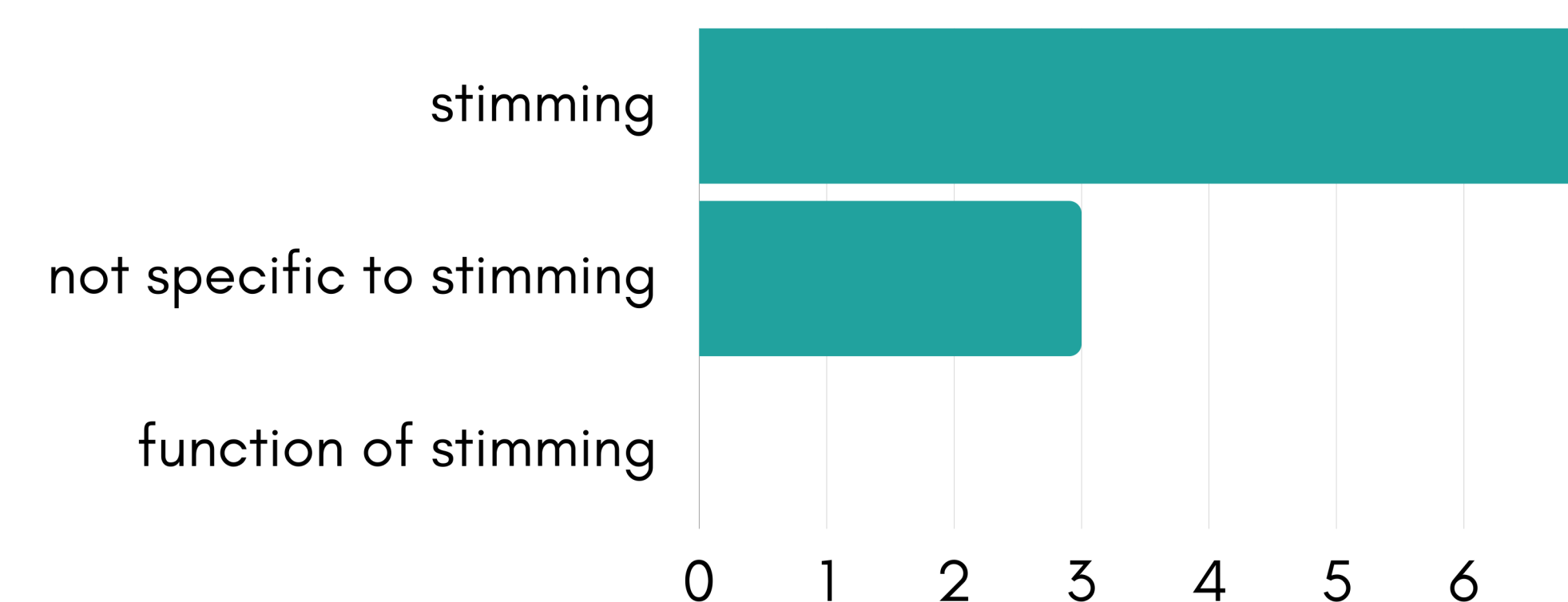
TERMINOLOGY

- stereotypies (1)
- stereotyped bhvs (1)
- lower-order RBs (1)
- sensory-seeking (1)
- self-stimulatory bhvs (2)

RBs = repetitive bhvs
 RRBs = restricted, repetitive bhvs



RESEARCH AIMS OF INCLUDED DATA SOURCES



SCAN QR FOR



MORE INFO