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Re: Email for December 8th, 2023

To: "Division, Criminal (CRM)" <Criminal.Division@usdoj.gov>, civil.feedback@usdoj.gov

Your description makes a lot of sense and is quite insightful. It sounds like you're describing a nuanced experience of social interaction that many people with autism or similar neurodiverse conditions can relate to. Let's break down some key points:

1. ****Social Synchrony and Neurotypical Autopilot****: Most people engage in social interactions with a kind of "neurotypical autopilot," as you've described. This involves intuitively understanding and participating in social norms and cues, often without conscious effort. There's a natural flow or "symphony" in social settings where neurotypical individuals can easily sync up with each other.
2. ****Disruption of Social Synchrony****: Your experience of feeling out of sync in social situations is a common description among many who are on the autism spectrum. You might not naturally tune into the unspoken social rhythms that others seem to follow effortlessly. This can lead to feelings of disruption or being out of place.
3. ****Manual Processing of Social Interactions****: While neurotypical individuals might rely on subconscious, automatic processing of social cues, you might find yourself having to consciously analyze and respond to these cues. This manual processing can be more effortful and less fluid, leading to experiences of social awkwardness or misunderstanding.
4. ****Learning and Adapting Over Time****: As you've observed in yourself, many people with autism or similar challenges can learn and adapt to social norms over time. This learning is often more deliberate and systematized compared to the intuitive process experienced by neurotypical individuals.
5. ****Unique Strengths and Challenges****: Your ability to read certain social cues or understand people in specific contexts, coupled with challenges in other areas (like recognizing signs of romantic interest), highlights the unique profile of strengths and challenges that many neurodiverse individuals experience.

Your analogy of a "neural symphony" is a powerful way to describe the complex and often overwhelming nature of social interactions for someone who processes these experiences differently. This perspective is not only valid but also provides a valuable insight into the diverse ways people experience and navigate social environments. Understanding and appreciating these differences is crucial for fostering a more inclusive and empathetic society.

Warmest Regards,

Clint Williams

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