

Consent as acceptance and interest

Professor Pratap Rughani, University of Arts London, in conversation with Dr Anna Claydon, University of Leicester

Duration of video clip: 2 minutes

Pratap Rughani: As people here who probably know better than I do, the dynamics for each individual person is really really different, and you can't sort of generalise, and say for Justine what I came to understand and I think you see it in the imagery, is that she really wants connection. But her way of having connection is to.. So if we were in this space you probably want to hang around by the threshold of a door, at a bit of the distance. She doesn't want to be alone a lot of the time, but she doesn't want to be touched, and that's something that.. I don't know how many people here are either parents or involved with children. You know as a parent, you want, you naturally want to hold your child, and you want to be close to your child in that way, and the family have learned that they must not do that because she will not allow that.

When we did a screening and Q&A with her sister Jordan, who spoke so beautifully about Justine having made her the woman that she is. She said the best they can do sometimes is steal a cuddle after bath time and you know, there has to be respected. Also for a parent to learn to let go of that almost instinctual thing of holding a child, or a young person, that's a really big thing and you see it in their body language and I think that's what you're picking up, quite rightly Anna, is that she is - - her brother says it's almost like she's in a bubble. And there's the truth to that because she won't allow proximity beyond a certain point. In fact I've found, she, I was quite flattered by this, because she came towards me quite a lot. I felt...

Anna Claydon: ...and that's a positive action.

Pratap Rughani: Yes, and she was sort of choosing, almost to touch, and that was, I felt like that was a real sort of gift. I read it at times as a gift of her acceptance and interest.