



RESEARCH AUTISM

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

The Research Autism/Lorna Wing series
of conferences and seminars presents

**Autism in women and girls:
implications for diagnosis, education, services, support and quality of life.
A national conference**



Date and time

Thursday 25th February 2010 – from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Venue

London Marriott Hotel Marble Arch
134 George Street, London W1H 5DN

Conference bookings:

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Welcome

This event is the first in the series of Research Autism-Lorna Wing conferences and seminars and will examine the timely issue of autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) in women and girls. We are delighted to bring together some of the foremost experts in the world to explore this topic.

Following Professor Gillberg's findings regarding possible "under diagnosis", this issue has attracted great interest from clinicians, academics, the third sector, the national press and from women with ASC.

We aim to

- Provide further insight into the possible "under diagnosis" of girls and women
- Explore the particular issues surrounding the education of girls with ASC and of women and employment
- Examine the links between eating disorders and ASC in women and girls
- Provide first hand accounts of life from women with ASC and the implications for life and relationships
- Highlight the need for future research in this area.

This conference is for

- Clinicians and researchers
- Health and social care professionals
- Staff in independent and voluntary sectors
- Individuals with ASC
- Families and carers of individuals with ASC
- Journalists and other media representatives
- Government representatives.

Programme

- 08.30 Registration and coffee
- 09.30 Welcome and introduction of Chair
Richard Mills, Research Director of Research Autism
- 09.40 Chair's opening. Autism in women and girls. An overview of the topic and the day
Dr Lorna Wing, Consultant Psychiatrist, National Autistic Society
- 10.00 Autistic conditions in women and girls: Clinical perspectives on diagnosis, assessment and intervention
Professor Christopher Gillberg, Consultant Psychiatrist, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 Relationships, family and life in an alien society – A personal perspective of late diagnosis and implications for health, family and social relationships.
Nadine Stavonina - de Montagnac (aka Rozagy). Award winning screenwriter, artist and writer with autism.
- 12.00 What are the important features involved in the education of girls with an autism spectrum condition?
Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith, Principal, Helen Allison School, Kent, National Autistic Society
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 The world of work: What are the special considerations for the female job seeker with an autism spectrum condition?
David Perkins, Manager, National Autistic Society Prospects Employment Service, London & Scotland
- 14.30 Personal perspectives of communication, change and relationships within the workplace
Professor Marie Harder, University of Brighton
- 15.15 Break
- 15.30 Eating disorders in girls and young women. The relationship of eating disorders to ASC and implications for diagnosis and treatment
Professor Janet Treasure, Institute of Psychiatry, London
- 16.15 Chairs summing up.
Dr Lorna Wing
- 16.30 Close of conference

Autism

The term autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) is used to describe a range of complex neurodevelopmental conditions present from birth or early life. The characteristics of ASC vary considerably but essentially affect instinctive social behaviour and communication. Although individuals may have many strengths, as a consequence of lack of recognition and support they may experience severe stress, bullying, isolation and a failure to achieve academic qualifications and other potential. ASC's are now widely recognised in boys but much less in girls. The causes of autism are not known. Genetic factors are important. There are a host of treatments and other interventions but very few have been systematically evaluated. Over half a million children and adults in the UK are known to have autistic spectrum conditions.

Research Autism

Research Autism's sole focus is on interventions in autism. We were established as an independent charity with the support of the National Autistic Society to address concerns of its members about the dearth of high quality scientific research in this area. Working with individuals with ASC and with Cambridge University as our research sponsor, we have the active support of the most eminent figures from the world of autism; they give their time for free. Our web-based information service, through which we disseminate research findings, attracts over 25,000 visitors a month.

Research projects

Research Autism is committed to a programme of research that is important to the autism community that will improve quality of life and support social inclusion.

Cover photo with thanks to Luke Jackson ©



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