

Critical Autism Studies: Travelling through Autistic Worlds in Policy, Practice and Identities



Date: 13th-14th June 2017

The Leverhulme Trust

Venue: London South Bank University, London, UK.

Supported by the Leverhulme Trust

Ideas about 'autism' as a diagnosis and as an identity have changed significantly over recent years. In this free two day conference we invite contributions from a diverse range of perspectives on critical autism studies including experiential, theoretical and practitioner, to explore and think about autism differently. The conference welcomes empirical papers and alternative presentations.

Building upon the edited collection by Davidson and Orsini (2013), and the work of the conference organisers, the conference seeks to prioritise and give space to intersectional approaches and marginalised perspectives or ways of knowing about autism. These will be explored through a series of linked key themes focusing on understandings, interventions and policy concerning autism.

- *Constructing 'autistic personhoods'*: How do ideas about normative childhood and adulthood shape concerns and experiences of autistic children and adults?
- *Autism as neurodiversity*: how does public and research discourses of neurology affect our theoretical and conceptual understandings of autism? How can critical autism studies challenge the biomedical construction of autism?
- *Interventions and policy*: how do social and policy interventions in the name of autism shape autism services and programs. How are these experienced by recipients of these services?
- *Research methodologies and ethics*: critical consideration of research methodologies drawn on when researching autism. How are participatory, emancipatory and research ethics engaged with in autism research?
- *Cultural and artistic representations of autism*: an exploration of how autism is depicted in culture through art, film, expression, literature and music.

Places are very limited. Deadline for registration and abstract submissions: **28th November 2016**

For more information see <http://www.open.ac.uk/health-and-social-care/research/critical-autism-network/> or FaceBook: Critical Autism Studies

To register for a free place and to submit an abstract (or an alternative submission) please email charlotte.brownlow@usq.edu.au. Conference registration is free and includes lunch and refreshments. We are unable to fund travel expenses.

Conference organisers:

Critical approaches to autism, an international network funded by the Leverhulme Trust:

- Lindsay O'Dell, The Open University, UK;
- Charlotte Brownlow, University of Southern Queensland, Australia;
- Hanna Bertilsdotter Rosqvist, Umea University, Sweden;
- Michael Orsini, University of Ottawa, Canada;
- Francisco Ortega, State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

London South Bank University is hosting the conference and inviting MA education/autism/SEND students to attend. Based on the principle 'nothing about us without us', the MA seeks to engage with the authentic voices of autistic people in order to develop a deep research informed understanding of autism, individuality and identity. Content is relevant across the age range and encourages critical thinking rather than the uncritical adoption of various interventions.