

Autistic Women and Girls: Co-occurring Conditions

Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 7pm – 9pm via Zoom Webinar

This event will be recorded

7:00: Opening address from Jacinta McComish, Chair of the event

7:05: Presenter 1 Vanessa Lacey

Vanessa has worked with TENI since 2010, currently she is the Health and Education Manager. In her role she designs and delivers transgender related training for health care professionals throughout Ireland. She was directly responsible for creating the family support group TransParenCI in 2011, which currently support over 280 families. Vanessa has a BA (hon) Psychology and has recently passed her PhD viva voce examination. Her research focussed on grief and loss experienced by adult trans women and their families. Vanessa has worked on numerous occasions with media, and is a published author, both in media and academically. She is a member of various HSE and Tusla committees on both national and regional level. Vanessa is also a member of the World Professional Association of Transgender Healthcare (WPATH) and it's European version (EPATH). She is also a proud parent.

7:20 Presenter 2. Dr Fay Murphy

Fay (*BA Psychology, MSc Neuroscience, DClin Psy, PG Dip in Paediatric Neuropsychology*) is Principal Clinical Psychologist and Head of the Department of Psychology in Lucena Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and honorary tutor in the School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin. Dr Murphy completed her undergraduate degree in Trinity College, followed by an MSc in Neuroscience in the Institute of Psychiatry and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology in the University of London, Royal Holloway. Prior to her return to work in Ireland in 2014, Dr Murphy spent 11 years as a Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Child & Adolescent Mental Health (D-CAMH) in Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust in London. Dr Murphy recently completed a post graduate diploma in Paediatric Clinical Neuropsychology in University College London. Dr Murphy has a special interest in feeding and eating disorders as well as children and young people's cognitive functioning and the impact thereof on their mental health.

7:35: Presenter 3. Dr Mary Doherty

Mary is an autistic consultant anaesthetist with a special interest in regional anaesthesia. In her spare time, she researches barriers to healthcare for autistic adults and the experiences of autistic adults using mental health services. Her interests include reframing the tragedy narrative around autism which is pervasive in healthcare, improving the healthcare experience for the autistic community and more recently the presentation of autism in medical doctors. She is founder of the peer support & advocacy group “Autistic Doctors International”. She was a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists working group which produced CR228, The Psychiatric Management of Autism in Adults and has written numerous book chapters, articles and blogs on autism. She is working with The Association of Anaesthetists to develop supports for autistic trainees in anaesthesia. She is also a qualified ski instructor and teaches at The Ski Club of Ireland.

Mary's talk will explore the experiences of autistic adults accessing primary care and mental health services, including access barriers and their consequences along with practical solutions to facilitate engagement with healthcare services.

It will also touch on the role of autistic healthcare providers in changing the narrative around autism within healthcare and beyond.

7:50: Break (5 min)

7:55: Presenter 4. Jessica Doyle

Jessica is an autistic researcher with a passion for engagement in psychological research on autism, specifically autistic neuro, perceptual and sensory systems and gender differences. She attained an honours B.A. in psychology from Trinity College, Dublin. Currently, her focus is on her research into autistic perception from a predictive coding lens: linking perception, cognition and anxiety in autistic adults. Previously she was on a research team that looked at the effects of anthropomorphism on loneliness in autistic adults, and she is presently on a team exploring autistic experiences of psychiatric care. Jessica was a founding director of Galway Autism Partnership (GAP) from 2011 to 2014, where she developed, facilitated and advised on the special interest model youth cafe, and designed the GAP sensory room. Jessica enjoys linking and uncovering patterns, hypothesising and investigating theories, as well as experimenting with translating findings into applicable practice such as her prototype outdoor sensory space and the Autism Covid-19 Individual Health Action Plan.

Jessica's talk will summarise her ongoing international research into perception, cognition and anxiety in autistic adults. She will explore the predictive coding model of autism that prompted her investigations and inspired her prototype outdoor sensory space, designed to reduce uncertainty.

8:10: Presenter 5. Danni Burke

Danni Burke is an Autistic and ADHD Inattentive type adult with co-occurring SPD. She discovered she was neurodivergent in her late 20s after many years of misdiagnosis in the mental health system. Danni is a board trustee of Galway Autism Partnership. She has been involved in co-producing a peer run out of hours HSE Mental Health Café that opened recently. Danni is currently working as a Peer Connector in the Galway Community Café. Danni sits on other working groups within the HSE looking at best practice for treatment of adults that self harm or are suicidal. She has also been part of a team researching autistic peoples experiences of psychiatry.

Danni will briefly explore some common co-occurring differences in the Autistic community.

She will touch on why these differences and conditions are often overlooked and how many can be interconnected. Danni introduces the basics of Neurodiversity and the Social Model of Disability. She will talk about some approaches that may be helpful to support Neurodivergent people.

8:25: Break

8:30: Panel Discussion (*live*)

9:00: Chair closes event

For 2 CPD points please email: autism@psychologicalsociety.ie

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