

## **Autistic Women and Girls: Neurodiversity in the workplace**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7pm – 9pm via Zoom Webinar**

**\*This event will be recorded. Recordings can be accessed via [www.sjogresearchfoundation.ie](http://www.sjogresearchfoundation.ie)\***

**7:00: Opening address from Jessica Doyle, Chair of the event**

**7:05: Presenter 1 Elaine Chapman**

Elaine is a library assistant. Elaine does presentations and study for work with regards to making libraries more accessible. Elaine helped to set up the Ability Network for staff and students in TU Dublin. The network aims to link the students and staff and give them a voice in University affairs when needed. Elaine is autistic and has an interest in autism and intersectionality, neurodiversity and universal design.

**7:20 Presenter 2. Claire I. Gleeson**

Claire is a Senior Occupational Therapist and researcher who has been working collaboratively with the autistic community for over 12 years in supporting engagement and participation in meaningful daily activities. Claire has supported autistic persons across all educational levels and into employment. She has a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy, a Master's by Research in Occupational Therapy, specialised in the area of autism and leisure occupations from Trinity College Dublin and a Post Graduate Advanced Certificate in Education from Queens University, Belfast, also specialised in Autism. She is currently conducting PhD research exploring the experiences of autistic women in navigating the world of work within an Irish context. She lectures in the area of autism and has worked with and continues to work with autism organisations. Claire also holds the position of Practice Education Coordinator in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy in Trinity College where she lectures and supports undergraduate students undertaking occupational therapy work placements.

**7:35: 5 minute break**

**7:40 Presenter 3. Kirsten Hurley**

Kirsten first discovered the world of autism when she was diagnosed as a young adult and since then has studied, volunteered, worked and researched in this fascinating field. She has been involved in Autism Studies in University College Cork since the first offering of the courses in 2013 as a tutor and lecturer (and formerly programme coordinator), and is currently the project coordinator for the

[Autism Friendly University Initiative](#) in UCC. She is also a guest speaker on the UCC Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme and has a particular interest in the experiences of girls and women who are autistic.

**7:55: Presenter 4. Tara Killen**

Tara is the founder of Thriving Autistic, a strengths-based coaching psychology practice that supports the mental wellbeing of autistic adults.

Tara holds a Master of Science degree in Coaching Psychology and Positive Psychology and has over two decades experience in working with diverse groups of adults across the globe, drawing on tools such as solution-focused, acceptance, mindfulness and self-compassion approaches to help support people to build a thriving life. Being a lifelong passionate advocate of the rights of all people to thrive, she founded Thriving Autistic to bring a neurodiverse affirmative approach to coaching support for adults. Alongside her work in Thriving Autistic, Tara collaborates with a team of clinical psychologists in The Adult Autism Practice, providing post-diagnostic support for newly diagnosed adults. Tara's expertise is grounded in both professional and lived experience, as along with being the mother of three fantastic autistic children, she is herself an autistic woman.

**8:10: 5 minute break**

**8:15: Panel Discussion (*live*)**

**8:45: Chair closes event**

*For 2 CPD points please email: [autism@psychologicalsociety.ie](mailto:autism@psychologicalsociety.ie)*

To access recordings from all 3 events in this webinar series, please visit [sjogresearchfoundation.ie](http://sjogresearchfoundation.ie)