Autistics Present Symposium: Foundations for Divergent Minds

# October 22, 2021, Bellevue College, WA, U.S.A.

# Closing Keynote:

*We’re Taking the Wheel: Autistics as Drivers of Autism Research*

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THIS IS OUR WORKSHOP.

WE ARE TAKING THE WHEEL.

ARE YOU READY FOR ME TO SHARE THE SCREEN?

>> MORENIKE: IT'S MOSTLY JUST KIND OF BACKGROUND.

>> I CAN'T HEAR YOU, KASSIANE.

>> I CAN'T EITHER.

>> DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIX YOUR MIC OUTPUT?

>> KASSIANE: CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

SO, I'M HAVING TO DO THIS FROM MY PHONE BECAUSE MY COMPUTER WON'T DO ZOOM.

THIS IS A GOOD TIME.

>> IT'S OKAY.

IT LOOKS FANTASTIC.

LET'S GO FOR IT.

INTRODUCTIONS?

>> MORENIKE: SURE.

>> KASSIANE: YOU SHOULD GO FIRST.

>> MORENIKE: OKAY, OUR PRESENTATION IS CALLED WE ARE TAKING THE WHEEL: AUTISTICS AS DRIVERS OF AUTISM RESEARCH.

WE ARE YOUR CLOSING KEYNOTE.

I'M MORENIKE.

IF YOU WERE AT THE EARLIER PANEL, I WAS HERE.

I'M WITH MY WONDERFUL ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE, KASSIANE.

>> KASSIANE: HI, I'M KASSIANE ASASUMASU.

>> RECORDING IN PROGRESS.

>> KASSIANE: THANKS.

I'VE BEEN AROUND FOR AN EXTREMELY LONG TIME.

YOU MAY KNOW ME FROM SUCH DIVERSE THINGS AS "WE ARE LIKE YOUR CHILD."

AND SEVERAL OF THESE CONFERENCES I ALSO HAVE POSSIBLY THE ENTIRE GROSS MOTOR SKILLS FOR THE ENTIRE AUTISTIC COMMUNITY.

THAT IS A JOKE.

YOU ARE ALLOWED TO LAUGH AT.

IT WAS A JOKE.

YOU WILL PROBABLY SEE MY CATS AT SOME POINT TODAY.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT ELSE I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY RIGHT NOW.

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE DAYS.

I'M REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION BECAUSE THIS IS FINALLY MOVING PAST SOME OF THE THINGS WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS AND NEW AND EXCITING THINGS THAT ARE BIGGER THAN HEY, MAYBE DON'T STOP US FROM CLAPPING HER HANDS, SO I'M SUPER EXCITED.

>> SARA, YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND SWITCH.

BEFORE I GO INTO THIS, I WANT TO LET YOU ALL KNOW THE WAY WE DO THINGS AT FDM IS A LITTLE UNCONVENTIONAL.

WE ARE COMING HERE TO COMMUNICATE IN DIALOGUE WITH OUR PEOPLE.

AND SO, WE HAVE OUR POINTS.

WE HAVE OUR CONTACT, BUT WE ARE REALLY SHARING THINGS REALLY THINGS WE FEEL LIKE THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN CRYING OUT FOR FOR SOME TIME, AS KASSIANE MENTIONED.

DESPITE THEIR YOUNG AGE, THIS IS ONE OF THE PEOPLE THAT HAS BEEN IN THE GAME IN THE TRENCHES FROM THE BEGINNING WITH NEURO- DIVERSITY HAVING COINED THE TERM NEURO- DIVERGENT.

QUICKLY, THIS IMAGE YOU WILL SEE HERE IS BASICALLY A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK WHATEVER AUTISTIC JOKE ABOUT THE WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MORE DIGITAL WHETHER THERE WAS A PANDEMIC OR NOT, BUT I KNOW THAT THE WORLD OVERALL HAS CHANGED.

DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU ARE IN THE WORLD MIGHT BE 4:39 FOR YOU.

EASTERN TIME IT MIGHT BE 1:39 PACIFIC.

MIGHT BE 3:39, 2:29 IN MOUNTAIN.

I APOLOGIZE, I DO KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS IF YOU WERE OVERSEAS.

>> KASSIANE: IT MIGHT BE THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, IN WHICH CASE GOOD FOR YOU.

>> MORENIKE: YOU MIGHT BE HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING OR HANGING OUT.

WHATEVER THE CASE IS, YOU MIGHT HAVE THE DOGS AND THE CAT AND THE KIDS.

SOON I'M PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO SEND MY SON TO GET THE DOOR BEFORE MY KIDS GET HERE.

WE JUST THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE, FOR STICKING ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE END OF AUTISTICS PRESENT.

THERE ISN'T A CONFERENCE LIKE THIS IN THE FREAKING WORLD THAT IS CREATED BY, LED BY AUTISTIC PEOPLE.

WE ARE SO HAPPY THAT YOU ARE A PART OF IT AND HAPPY FOR BELLEVUE AND SARAH TO BE GRACIOUS HOSTS AND HAVE INVITED US TO BE HERE.

THAT'S WHAT THIS SLIDE IS BASICALLY ABOUT.

>> I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, CAN YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE IT?

>> MORENIKE: THIS IS A SLIDE THAT HAS 3 PEOPLE AND A DOG IN IT.

DOG IS ON THE FAR RIGHT AND HIS FLUFFY BLACK DOG.

I AM KNOWING TO WHAT TYPE OF DOG.

>> KASSIANE: SOME KIND OF POODLE MIX I THINK.

>> MORENIKE: IT LOOKS LIKE A MALE PRESENTING PERSON WITH SHORT DARK HAIR, WHO WAS ON A CELL PHONE WHO HAS A BABY ON THE NECK, AND THEN THERE'S A KID ON THE OTHER SIDE KIND OF DOING SOME HOMEWORK OR DRAWING.

THERE'S POSTED NOTES OF ALL THESE DIFFERENT COLOR.

THERE'S WHAT LOOKS LIKE A SPERM DEMONSTRATION TOOL HERE OR SHOULD I SAY FLAGELLANTS.

THE WINDOWS ARE BRIGHT OPEN AND THE SUN IS BEAMING IN THE ROOM AND THERE'S A LAPTOP OPEN AND KIND OF CHAOTIC, LIKE A LOT OF OUR LIVES.

>> KASSIANE: IT'S A PICTURE.

>> SARA: THANK YOU.

NEXT SLIDE?

>> PLEASE.

>> MORENIKE: THIS IS US.

>> KASSIANE: THESE ARE OUR AVATARS.

>> MORENIKE: ASIDE FROM BEING AUTISTIC PEOPLE OF COLOR, WE ARE ON THE NERDY SIDE AND PROUD OF IT.

KASSIANE'S CATS ARE NAMED BY THINGS FOUND IN THE BRAIN, HENCE THE IMAGES.

YES WE CAN GIVE YOU LONG BIOS AND THINGS WE HAVE DONE, I THINK WHAT'S MOST ABORTED ABOUT US BEING HERE TODAY AS WE CAN RELATE TO YOU AND WE CAN RELATE TO THIS TOPIC AND RESEARCH AND WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT AND NOT JUST RIDING ALONG.

>> KASSIANE: ON THE LEFT IS AN ELF WITH BROWN HAIR, BROWN EYES, AND LIGHT BROWN SKIN AND A BAG OF GOLD.

THE BAG IS ALSO BROWN, AS IS THEIR SHIRT.

WE ARE COMMITTING TO THE THEME HERE.

THEY ARE STANDING IN A LAB/LIBRARY.

THIS KIND OF LOOKS LIKE ME.

THAT'S MY TWITTER AVATAR.

IS THE WOOD ELF.

RIGHT

>> MORENIKE: AND THE ONE ON THE OTHER SIDE ON THE RIGHT IS AN IMAGE OF IF YOU WATCH STEPHEN UNIVERSE IS THE CHARACTER, IS WHO I ASPIRE TO BE WHEN I GROW UP.

ANYWAY, THIS IS A FAN PIC OF GARNETS.

GARNET HAS GOT A NICE BIG GOOFY AFRO.

GARNET HAS ALL 3 EYES CLOSED, NICE FULL VOLUPTUOUS LIPS.

NO KARDASHIAN CAN TOP THAT WAS.

NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE.

WE ARE HERE FROM FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINES.

WE ARE INVOLVED IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

ALL OF US, LIKE PEOPLE IN THE AUTISTIC COMMUNITY, HAVE MULTIPLE PATHS WE ARE INTO FROM ACADEMICS TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES TO HEALTH TO ADVOCACY.

THIS IS ONE OF THE CONCEPTS THAT IS NEAR AND DEAR TO OUR HEARTS.

NOT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE DOING IT WITH PEOPLE WE ARE CLOSE TO THAT'S BASICALLY LIKE FAMILY TO US, BUT ALSO BECAUSE WE TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE FOUNDATION OF HAVING A BETTER WORLD AND LIFE IS TO REALLY USHER IN THE PRACTICE OF DISABILITY JUSTICE, OF NEURO- DIVERSITY, AND WHETHER YOU'RE A CHILD OR ADULT WE FEEL LIKE THE LIVES WE ARE LIVING, IT WAS MENTIONED IN ONE OF THE CHATS.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO JUST THRIVE.

WE ARE HERE TO SURVIVE.

FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINDS IS A LABOR OF LOVE AND HAS A LOT OF GREAT RESOURCES AND IN ADDITION TO THIS WE ARE DOING A PROJECT WITH -- WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE PEOPLE PRESENT.

WE'VE GOT SOME OTHER RESOURCES AND THINGS WE ARE WORKING ON, TOO.

I KNOW SOME OF THAT YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD FROM OSWIN.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WANTED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS SLIDE, KASSIANE.

>> KASSIANE: FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINDS, ONE OF THE WAYS I THINK ABOUT THIS, THE AUTISTIC COMMUNITY DID A LOT ABOUT BROKEN AUTISTIC ADULTS.

WE ARE NOW ASKING THE QUESTION, WHAT IF WE DID NOT BREAK AUTISTIC KIDS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THAT IS NOW THE ANGLE WE ARE APPROACHING FROM.

WE ARE BUILDING FROM A SOLID FOUNDATION.

>> MORENIKE: ABSOLUTELY.

AGAIN, WE ARE DISABILITY JUSTICE FOCUSED.

INTERSECTIONALITY, LEADERSHIP OF THE MOST IMPACTED, CROSS DISABILITY, SOLIDARITY, WANTING ACCESS, BELIEVING THAT PEOPLE ARE MORE THAN WHAT THEY PRODUCE.

ALTHOUGH PEOPLE MAY NEED TO MAINTAIN A JOB FOR WORK, CAPITALISM IS NOT OUR FOCUS.

IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND THE MOVEMENT AND WE CARE ABOUT ALL THESE DIFFERENT ISSUES.

THEY ALL BLEED INTO ONE ANOTHER, AND THAT'S HOW WE GET COLLECTIVE LIBERATION.

>> KASSIANE: THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO TALK ABOUT OUR ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS POINTS.

.3 MIGHT GO ON HERE, THOUGH I REALLY LIKE .1 AND 2. BECAUSE ORDER.

I LIKE THINGS IN ORDER.

ACTUALLY, I LIKE THIS SLIDE BETTER.

>> MORENIKE: OKAY, SORRY.

WHEN WE GET TO THE ONE THIS IS 5, I FIGURE THAT'S WHEN WE WILL TALK ABOUT THEM ALL.

WE DON'T HAVE 5 POINTS.

IT'S TRUE THERE'S 5 FOUNDATIONS IN FDM, BUT THAT'S NOT THE REASON WE HAVE THE 5 POINTS.

IT'S BECAUSE WE GOT TO TALKING AND THOSE 5 POINTS REALLY JUMPED OUT AT US SO MUCH.

WE JUST WANTED TO PUT THIS HERE AGAIN.

I KNOW SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THE WHOLE DAY, I WANT TO SHARE AND TALK ABOUT OUR 5 FOUNDATIONS.

THE NEXT SLIDE THAT YOU WILL SEE, THE NEXT COUPLE OF SLIDES IS BASICALLY THIS IS CALLED, WE ARE TAKING THE WHEEL.

I DON'T KNOW IF MANY OF YOU ALL ARE FAMILIAR WITH THAT PHRASE JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL, LIKE IN TERMS OF TAKING CONTROL OF SOMETHING, AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO NOT HAVE OUR KIDS BE BROKEN.

NEXT SLIDE, PLEASE.

WE ARE GOING TO BE THE DRIVERS OF RESEARCH.

PHYSICALLY DRIVING, DRIVING WITH GOLF, INTO IT, OUR DRIVE.

5 POINTS THAT ARE SIGNIFICANT TO US BEING DRIVERS OF RESEARCH.

>> KASSIANE: BOTH THE Y AND WHAT HAPPENS AND WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE.

I GUESS THAT'S NOT BOTH, THAT'S ALL 3. I CAN COUNT.

I'M NOT KIND OF AUTISTIC, THE ONE THAT CAN COUNT.

I'M ALSO THE FUNNY KIND OF AUTISTIC, SO I'M THE KIND THAT DOESN'T EXIST.

I'M FUNNY AND CAN COUNT.

>> MORENIKE: THAT WAS JUST SO YOU CAN HAVE SOME VISUALS.

NOW WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT OUR 5 POINTS.

AND WE BOTH HAVE DIFFERENT THINGS TO SAY, SO WE ARE GOING TO COME IN ON THEM.

DO YOU CARE HOW WE DO THIS?

KASSIANE, DO YOU WANT ME TO MENTION IT AND YOU START?

>> KASSIANE: THE BACK-AND-FORTH WORKS WELL FOR ME BECAUSE I'M A PERSON WHO CAN'T START TALKING AND LESS I REMEMBER WHAT I'M RESPONDING TO.

>> MORENIKE: OKAY, COOL.

OUR VERY FIRST POINT, AND I WILL SEE IF I CAN TYPE THESE IN THE CHAT OR SOMEBODY ELSE CAN.

ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS THAT WE, AUTISTIC PEOPLE, NEED TO BE DRIVERS OF AUTISTIC RESEARCH IS BECAUSE WE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BRACCIOSAURUS AND A BRONTOSAURUS.

WE ARE THE DRIVERS OF RESEARCH.

WE UNDERSTAND THE PRIORITIES THAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING AT.

WE UNDERSTAND WHAT CERTAIN THINGS MEAN.

WE ARE NOT GOING TO CONFUSE AND PUT THE WRONG THINGS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AND SAY THIS MUST MEAN THAT.

WE USE OUR RESOURCES MORE EFFECTIVELY, AND THERE SOME GREAT EXAMPLES.

>> KASSIANE: WE COME TO CONCLUSIONS THAT MAKE SENSE.

CAN I TALK ABOUT THE LAUGHTER STUDY?

THE LAUGHTER STUDY IS MY FAVORITE BIT OF COMPLETELY OFF-THE-WALL CONCLUSIONS.

SO, THEY DID THIS STUDY ON PEOPLE LAUGHING.

SO, THEY LOOKED AT ALL OF THESE KIDS LAUGHING.

THEY LOOKED AT SOCIAL LAUGHTER.

PEOPLE LAUGHING WHEN SOMETHING IS NOT FUNNY, RIGHT?

THAT FAKE LAUGHTER THAT PEOPLE DO BECAUSE EVERYBODY ELSE IS LAUGHING OR, YOU KNOW, BECAUSE EVERYBODY ELSE IS LAUGHING OR JUST TO MAKE A SOCIAL CONNECTION.

AUTISTIC PEOPLE DO NOT DO THAT.

WE LAUGH BECAUSE SOMETHING IS ACTUALLY FUNNY, RIGHT?

AND PEOPLE CAN TELL THAT YOU WERE LAUGHING BECAUSE YOU THINK SOMETHING IS ACTUALLY FUNNY.

PREFER LAUGHTER BECAUSE SOMETHING IS ACTUALLY FUNNY.

THE CONCLUSION THE RESEARCHERS CAME TO IS THEREFORE WE SHOULD TEACH AUTISTIC KIDS TO FAKE LAUGH.

PEOPLE PREFER REAL LAUGHTER.

THE ONLY KIND OF LAUGHTER PEOPLE DO, THEREFORE WE SHOULD TEACH AUTISTIC PEOPLE TO LAUGH BADLY.

>> MORENIKE: THAT WAY THEY CAN FIT IN WITH ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE LAUGHING.

>> KASSIANE: WE ARE HELPING YOU WORKSHOP YOUR JOKES, YOU ARE WELCOME.

>> MORENIKE: THIS IS A STUDY.

AND AGAIN, A PEER REVIEWED STUDY THAT WAS APPROVED A 7 DIGIT BUDGET.

ALL OF THESE TYPES OF THINGS WE THINK ABOUT RECRUITMENT, USAGE OF RESOURCES.

>> KASSIANE: THE THING IS, SO MUCH OF THE DATA WAS GOOD AND THE CONCLUSION IS COMPLETELY OFF-THE-WALL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

>> MORENIKE: WHEN WE ARE RUNNING IT, WE ARE NOT GOING TO SAY OH, I THINK THIS GOES HERE.

WE ARE GOING TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING OUT, THIS ISN'T FUNNY.

YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE BETTER RESEARCH DESIGN, YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE BETTER DATA BECAUSE WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR CAUSATION AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

>> KASSIANE: OR THE HABITUATION STUDIES.

THEY DID A STUDY -- THEY WERE MAKING A LOUD PAINFUL SOUND AND THEY WERE MAKING IT AT INTERVALS.

AUTISTIC PEOPLE DID NOT START RELAXING WHEN WE KNEW ANOTHER LOUD PAINFUL SOUND WAS COMING.

THEREFORE, AUTISTIC PEOPLE ARE NOT HABITUATED.

NO, WE KNOW IT IS COMING.

WE DON'T LIKE THINGS THAT HURT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I REALIZED THEY STILL HAVE ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHETHER WE FEEL PAIN, BUT I FEEL LIKE THIS IS, IN FACT, THEIR FAILURE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I FEEL LIKE WE COULD DO AN ENTIRE PRESENTATION JUST ON LOOKING AT THEIR COMPLETELY OFF-THE-WALL CONCLUSIONS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU GOT TO Z FROM Q OVER HERE.

THOSE ARE SOME OF MY FAVORITES.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU ARE CONNECTING YOUR DOTS.

>> MORENIKE: AND THAT BRINGS US TO THE 2ND POINT.

THERE'S SO MANY STUDIES, WE CAN KEEP GOING.

WE WERE LOOKING AT ALL THESE STUDIES AND LAUGHING.

THE 2ND POINT IS THAT AUTISTIC PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF ACTUALLY WALKING AND CHEWING GUM AT THE SAME TIME.

SOME OF US.

AND BASICALLY WHAT WE MEAN BY THAT IS WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR INTERSECTIONS ARE NOT JUST NOISE, THAT THESE THINGS ARE INTERRELATED AND THINGS THAT NEED TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR AND NOT IGNORED.

THAT IS UNFORTUNATELY SOMETHING THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO GET

>> KASSIANE: AND BY INTERSECTIONS MORENIKE MEANS, AND I'M SURE EVERYBODY IS HERE AWARE OF INTERSECTIONALITY THEORY.

BEING AUTISTIC AND A PERSON OF COLOR OR AUTISTIC AND QUEER AND A PERSON OF COLOR ALL AT ONCE.

THESE THINGS ARE GOING TO AFFECT HOW YOU SEE EVERYTHING AND HOW THINGS AFFECT YOU AND HOW YOUR WORLD IS.

LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, CODE SWITCHING.

MORENIKE AND I CAN BOTH COULD SWITCH.

A LOT OF OUR WHITE AUDIENCE AT HOME CAN'T.

I LOVE YOU, YOU CAN'T.

AND THAT ACTUALLY AFFECTS DIAGNOSIS RATES, I'M PRETTY SURE.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?

NOBODY IS RESEARCHING THAT AS MUCH AS THEY SHOULD BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO BUSY GETTING MONEY FROM WHITE PEOPLE TO FIND OUT MORE WAYS TO KEEP WHITE BOYS WHO LOVE TRAINS FROM LOVING TRAINS LOUDLY.

WHICH IS THE SADDEST SENTENCE I'VE EVER SAID FOR MULTIPLE REASONS.

>> MORENIKE: WHAT YOU JUST SAID, KASSIANE, MADE ME THINK OF SOMETHING.

FOR THE MAJORITY OF US WHO ARE IN THE AUTISTIC COMMUNITY, IT'S REALLY NOT A SURPRISE IS A LOT OF GENDER DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY WHERE THERE'S A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD OF BEING QUEER OR ASEXUAL OR ANY OF THESE THINGS.

IT'S A SURPRISE TO A LOT OF RESEARCHERS AND PARENTS AND -- WELL, IT'S STARTING TO BE.

WE ARE THINKING WE COULD'VE TOLD YOU THAT LIKE 6/10 PEOPLE WE KNOW IS THE CASE.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THEY UNDERSTOOD.

THEY JUST NOT OKAY, FOR A LONG TIME I HAVE A FRIEND NAMED CORY, WHO IS AN AUTHOR.

HE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT THIS HORRIBLE RESEARCH STUDY THAT HAPPENED IN TORONTO ABOUT HOW PEOPLE WERE BEING TOLD THAT THEY COULDN'T TRANSITION BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT REALLY ANOTHER GENDER.

YOU ARE JUST AUTISTIC, SO YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE AND SO ON.

IT'S A LOT OF THINGS THAT WE PRESENT WITH.

PEOPLE WILL SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HYPERMOBILITY OR SEIZURE DISORDER OR WHATEVER AND EVERYONE WILL SAY THAT WE ARE JUST TALKING NONSENSE UNTIL A STUDY BY ANON ON CYSTIC PERSON OR NON-AUTISTIC PARENT SAYS THE SAME THING AND THEN IT MAKES SENSE.

WE UNDERSTAND A LOT OF THE THINGS DOVETAIL INTO ONE ANOTHER.

SO WE WILL BE ACCOUNTING FOR THAT RESEARCH NOT WASTING TIME AND MONEY IF WE WERE GIVEN THE ABILITY TO RUN SUCH RESEARCH.

ABILITY AND THE MONEY.

THE NEXT THING IS, SHOW ME THE MONEY.

WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHY BASICALLY OUR CONTRIBUTIONS NEED TO BE FAIRLY COMPENSATED TANGIBLY BY OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

>> KASSIANE: SORRY, MY THING IS ON THE COMPUTER BECAUSE THIS PHONE SCREEN IS VERY TINY.

SO, THE THING IS, A LOT OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE ARE POOR.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE ARE POOR.

WE ARE SYSTEMICALLY SHUT OUT OF BEING QUALIFIED TO DO THIS KIND OF RESEARCH STARTING IN PRESCHOOL, AND THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM THAT WE CAN FIX FOR ADULT RIGHT NOW.

THAT IS A THING WE CAN FIX FOR AUTISTIC PRESCHOOLERS.

AND, YES, THEY WILL NOT BE OLD ENOUGH TO DO RESEARCH FOR 20 YEARS.

BUT THAT'S 20 YEARS, YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINDS, LET'S START FIXING IT NOW.

MOST OF US ARE SHUT OUT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THOSE WHO WERE NOT SHUT OUT SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT FROM DOING THINGS.

YOU KNOW HOW EVERYBODY IS LIKE OH, WELL, I HAD TO PAY BACK MY STUDENT LOANS SO YOU SHOULD, TOO.

IT'S LIKE WOW, YOU WANT EVERYBODY TO SUFFER BECAUSE YOU DID?

I WANT MELISSA TO BE ABLE TO DO THEIR RESEARCH, ETC.

THE PEOPLE WHO DID GET PAST THE BARRIERS, I WANT THEM TO BE ABLE TO DO THEIR RESEARCH.

GIVEN THE FUNDING TO DO THEIR RESEARCH.

THEY GOT PAST THE HURDLES, GOOD.

YOU KNOW, THERE'S OTHER TANGIBLE WAYS, I'M JUST SAYING.

>> MORENIKE: THERE REALLY ARE.

I COULD NOT SAY IT BETTER.

LET'S JUST BE REAL.

LET'S SAY -- OUR 4TH POINT IS TALKING ABOUT SOME OF THESE RESEARCHERS.

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HOW WE NEED TO RESPECT OUR AUTISTIC RESEARCHERS.

TALKING ABOUT THIS SHOW ME THE MONEY PIECE, LET'S SAY SOMEONE IS ASKING US QUESTIONS.

WE ARE DIGGING INTO OUR TRAUMA AND OUR PAIN AND ARE GIVEN ME A $20 GIFT CARD FOR RELIVING ALL OF THAT.

WHAT WE HAVE TO BRING TO THE TABLE IF YOU BRING IN A NON-AUTISTIC CONSULTANT YOU MAY BE PAYING THEM X AMOUNT PER HOUR FOR WHAT THEY HAVE TO BRING TO THE TABLE.

WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY IS IMPORTANT.

IT HELPS DRIVE THE RESEARCH AND WE CAN SEE THERE'S DATA.

THERE'S TONS OF DATA.

IF YOU LOOK AT HIV RESEARCH, BREAST CANCER RESEARCH, SO FORTH, THAT WHEN YOU HAVE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE RESEARCH YOU HAVE BETTER RETENTION.

BETTER EFFICACY.

MORE BUY-IN FROM THE COMMUNITY AND SO FORTH.

THE TRADITIONAL WAYS -- IF YOU ARE GETTING A GRANT, IT'S REALLY DISRESPECTFUL IF YOU HAVE A SEVEN-FIGURE GRANT AND YOU WRITE IN THIS RIDICULOUS AMOUNT FOR THE COMPENSATION OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE KNOWING OUR STRUGGLES.

EVEN THOSE OF US WHO MAKE IT ACROSS THAT HMMM, THERE'S SO MUCH AAC 5 AND BIAS.

WE WANT YOU TO UPLIFT THOSE PEOPLE.

EVERYBODY ELSE OUT THERE.

THEY'VE GOT EXPERTISE.

HIRE THEM, CITE THEM.

RECOMMEND THEM FOR THINGS.

>> KASSIANE: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US INCLUDES THIS, TOO.

WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THE GENDER GAP IN PAY AND WE KNOW ABOUT THE RACE GAP IN PAY.

WE KNOW ABOUT ALL THESE GAPS IN PAY.

IT'S HERE, TOO.

>> MORENIKE: AND WE KNOW EVERYBODY DOESN'T NOT HAVE MONEY.

WE KNOW OUR COMMUNITY IS CREATIVE ABOUT MAKING THINGS WORK ON A SHOESTRING AND A PRAYER.

THERE'S QUID PRO QUO.

COULD YOU OFFER THEM SOME TYPE OF OTHER THING OR MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING CAN HELP WITH GRAPHIC DESIGN.

WE ARE NOT SAYING EVERYBODY HAS MONEY, OODLES OF MONEY, BUT TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.

LET'S RESPECT AND HONOR OUR OWN AND DO RIGHT BY ONE ANOTHER, AND OTHERS SHOULD DO THE SAME.

LASTLY, LET'S GET BEYOND THE BINARY.

THIS RIDICULOUS ARBITRARY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE MY COMMUNITY AND RESEARCH.

REAL RESEARCH IS WHAT WE ALL DO.

WE HAVE INQUISITIVE MINDS.

WE WANT TO FIGURE OUT HOW THINGS HAPPEN.

WE WANT TO UNDERSTAND AND MAKE CHANGE.

WHY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A STERILE BORING LAB?

THERE'S PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH AND ART RESEARCH.

WE HAVE SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE CURATED THAT PEOPLE TAKE AND PACKAGE UP NICELY.

PLAGIARIZE AND GO MAKE MONEY OFF OF SADLY.

>> AND ACTIVIST RESEARCH AND ART RESEARCH.

WE HAVE SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE WE'VE CURATED IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT PEOPLE TAKE, PACKAGE NICELY, PLAGIARIZE AND GO MAKE MONEY OFF OF AND CAREERS OFF HAD SADLY.

>> A LOT OF USEFUL TO US RESEARCH WOULD BE QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH WHICH BY NECESSITY CAN'T BE DONE IN A LAB.

I DON'T LIVE IN A LAB.

>> YES, WE NEED PEOPLE TO PUSH FOR THESE TYPES OF STUDIES, PUSH FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, COMMUNITY ENGAGED RESEARCH, FIND WAYS TO CAPTURE OUR KNOWLEDGE, FIND WAYS TO ENSURE THAT THE STUDIES ARE ENROLLING PEOPLE THAT LOOK LIKE THE SPECTRUM.

WE NEED TO HAVE A RANGE OF GENDERS, AGES, COGNITION.

WHY IS THERE NO BODY IN YOUR STUDY IS A THAT IS NON-SPEAKING, THAT'S A PROBLEM.

WHY IS YOUR STUDY ONLY FOR 5-YEAR-OLD BOYS IN THIS UPPER WEALTHY ZIP CODE, THAT'S A PROBLEM.

>> WHILE STUDIES FOR ADULTS THAT RECRUIT ONLINE DO HAVE VALUE, THOSE ARE OF US HERE WHO ARE AUTISTIC, WE'RE NOT A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE AND WE REALLY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

WE NEED TO INTERNALIZE THAT.

WE'RE NOT.

AND WE NEED RESEARCHERS TO UNDERSTAND THAT AND WE NEED RESEARCHERS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT.

>> SO THOSE ARE OUR FIVE MAIN REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE THE DRIVER'S RESEARCH.

YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE ACCURACY.

>> I LOVE THAT WE HAVE A DINOSAUR JOKE.

>> GOT TO HAVE ONE. WE GOT TO CHEW GUM AND WALK AT THE SAME TIME.

PEOPLE THINK ARE FRIVOLOUS ARE IMPORTANT RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

I KNOW WE HAD ONE, RESPECT OUR AUTISTIC RESEARCHERS, YOU NEED TO SHOW US THE MONEY.

WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY IS IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE.

LOOK BEYOND THE BINARY AND REALIZE RESEARCHERS REAL-LIFE.

WHEN YOU HAVE THESE, YOU WILL SEE YOU KNOW LIKE, UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S A FEW EXAMPLES.

NCR HAS RESEARCHERS GROUP, REVIEW BOARD, NON-TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS RISING UP IN ACADEMICS.

>> LET ME MIND THE NAME OF THAT.

THERE'S A JOURNAL, AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD, IS THAT WHAT IT'S CALLED? I'M ON THEIR MAILING LIST.

>> AND AUTISM AND ADULTHOOD IS SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS.

HAVE DIFFERENT TYPES.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO NECESSARILY BE AN ACADEMIC, THERE'S A SPOTLIGHT YOU CAN WRITE FROM PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE. THEY'RE SOLICITING FOR EXPERIENCE.

IF YOU ARE AUTISTIC, I'M GUARANTEEING SOMETHING OTHER THAN AUTISTIC.

YOU LIVE INTERSECTIONALITY.

LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW.

EDUCATE PEOPLE.

WE NEED THESE VOICES.

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US.

IT'S NOT JUST A PHRASE.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> WE ARE THE TWO FASTEST TALKERS.

>> YOU ARE FANTASTIC, WE'RE REALLY OUT OF TIME FOR OUR CONFERENCE ANYWAY.

KASSIANE, MORÉNIKE, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE, FOUNDATIONS FOR DIVERGENT MINDS, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

PARENT PANEL, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE.

EVERYONE WHO IS IN ATTENDANCE, THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING IN THE CHAT.

THE LINK FOR THE LAST RESOURCE, NOT SURE WHAT THAT WAS.

PLEASE PUT IT IN THE CHAT.

WE'RE GOING TO BE CURATING ALL THE LINKS FROM THE CHAT, WE'LL BE GETTING RESOURCES FROM OSWIN FOR THE STUDY THAT FAYE MENTIONED.

IT'S GOING TO TALK ABOUT A WEEK.

PLEASE BE PATIENT.

I ALSO HAVE SOME ENERGY LEVELS TO DEAL WITH.

SO WE'LL BE WORKING ON IT.

>> DON'T HANG US UP YET SARA.

>> I'M NOT HANGING UP.

THANK YOU FOR QUICK CAPTIONS FOR DOING THE CAPTIONING AND FOR PURPLE INTERPRETERS FOR DOING THAT ASL INTERPRETATION.

REALLY APPRECIATE IT FOR BOTH COMPANIES.

THANK YOU FOR THE AUTISTIC WOMEN AND NONBINARY NETWORK.

YES, THANK YOU FOR COSPONSORING COHOSTING THIS EVENT WITH US.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO LEI-WILEY MYDSKE OF THE ED WILEY AUTISTIC ACCEPTANCE LIBRARY FOR OUR SYMPOSIUM FOR YEARS AND FOR GETTING THE PARENT PANEL TOGETHER AND THANK YOU FOR THE PANELIST ON THE PARENT PANEL.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

>> DON'T HANG UP.

I HAVE THE LINK.

>> WE'LL STAY UNTIL MORÉNIKE SENDS US ON OUR WAY.

>> OF COURSE MY COMPUTER IS SLOW.

CALL FOR PAPERS ON INTERSECTING IDENTITIES IN AUTISTIC ADULTS.

>> I FEEL LIKE THAT MEME, I SWEAR, I THOUGHT WE WENT TILL 2:30. WE HAD PLANNED MORE CONTENT. WE HAD TO RUSH THROUGH OUR STUFF.

>> WE LIGHT SPEEDED THROUGH EVERYTHING BECAUSE THE THING SAYS 2:30.

>> ON THE WEBSITE, SAYS WE HAVE AN HOUR.

>> PROVE IT.

>> OKAY. I WILL INDEED PROVE IT.

>> I DON'T DOUBT IT. HI PURKINJE.

THIS IS PURKINJE. I TOLD YOU HE WOULD BE MAKING AN APPEARANCE; I WAS NOT LYING.

>> THERE ARE NO COST TO SUBMIT.

SO AUTISM AND ADULTHOOD JOURNAL IS A DIFFERENT TYPE, THE EDITORIAL TEAM, THE LEAD PUBLISHER OR EDITOR AND CO-EDITORIAL, NEURODIVERGENT PERSON AND ALSO AUTISTIC PERSON.

BASICALLY THERE'S PEOPLE WHO HELP COACH YOU IF YOUR WRITING NEEDS WORK, AUTISTIC RESEARCHERS ON THE TEAM AND PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP.

SO THEY DON'T CHARGE FEES FOR PUBLISHING, YOU KNOW, FOR SUBMITTING, THEY DON'T CHARGE FEES FOR YOU TO HAVE ANYTHING IN THEIR JOURNAL.

IF WANT TO MAKE IT OPEN ACCESS, THERE'S A FEE FOR THAT THE JOURNAL CHARGES.

I -- THIS WILL BE TELLING SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES OF AUTISTIC ADULTS AND SPECIAL ISSUE THAT'S GOING TO BE FOCUSED ON THAT, SO IT'S GOING TO BE EDITED BY CHRISTINA LOPEZ AND DR. JOHN STRONG.

AND IT'S GOING TO TALK ABOUT ETHNICITY, RELIGION, GENDER, POVERTY, WE WANT YOU TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES, PERSONAL NARRATIVES OR RESEARCH YOU'VE COME ACROSS.

OR THE WAY YOU THINK THESE THINGS NEED TO BE LOOKED AT AND EXPLORED, UNIQUE IDEAS FOR WORK OR PROBLEMS, YOU HAVE UNTIL DECEMBER FIRST.

THIS IS A PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL.

CALLED AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD, I WILL PUT THE LINK IN ONE MORE TIME.

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO PUT YOUR VOICE OUT THERE.

THERE'S SO MUCH WE HAVE AGAIN, PEOPLE SCROLL THE INTERNET AND TROLL YOUR POST AND MAKE MONEY OFF WHAT YOU SAY AND DO.

THEY REALLY DO.

>> I GOT TO END US BECAUSE WE HAVE PEOPLE HERE WHO WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE HERE IT WILL 2.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, THANK YOU AGAIN EVERYONE, I'M GLAD YOU FOUND THE LINK.

AND HAVE A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON AND WEEKEND.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE EVERYONE.

BYE.

>> THANK YOU, BYE.