




AUTSCAPE

2012 “Similarities and Differences”

23 – 26 July 2012 Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham, East Anglia, UK

Part 2: Programme

Table of contents

Schedule	2
Daily activities	2
Monday 23 July	4
Tuesday 24 July	6
Wednesday 25 July	8
Thursday 26 July	10
Bios and summaries	11
Larry Arnold	11
	11
Malcolm Hamilton	11
Caroline Hearst	12
Josh Hennessy	12
Damian Milton	13
Dinah Murray	13

Schedule

Everything at Autscope is completely optional. You are not obliged to attend anything, communicate with anyone (unless you are a parent or carer), or participate in any way. If you are interested in doing things, there is plenty going on throughout the day, serious, fun, structured and unstructured.

Daily activities

Unless otherwise stated, each of the following activities occurs every day of Autscope at the indicated times.

Place	Time	Activity
Drop-in Area (Rainbow Rooms)	Ongoing	Drop-in Come to the Drop-in Area, just outside Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall), to chat with people, do some simple crafts, help with a jigsaw, decorate your badge, or play a board game. There will be some scheduled sessions for an opportunity to learn or share an informal activity. The information area will also be here.
	12:30-13:00 AND 17:30-18:00 (18:00-18:30 on Monday)	Sharing Sessions A chance to share your own creative works. There will be a different focus each time: music compositions, photography, handicrafts, artwork, and writing, with a further session for whatever doesn't fit one of these.
Various locations	12:30-13:00 AND 17:30-18:00 (18:00-18:30 on Monday)	Interest Groups A new initiative this year to help participants meet others with shared interests. A variety of topics will be available to choose from, each of which will run twice during Autscope, so you will have another chance to go to one you may have missed, or to revisit a favourite topic. These are not intended to be in depth discussions, but we hope some people will take away connections for interaction at other times and places.
TV Room (Ellingham)	Morning	A place to view films and documentaries about autism as well as programmes that are popular with autistics or feature 'autistic' characters.
	14:00-17:30 AND 19:30-23:00	TV marathons On Tuesday we will have a Star Trek marathon during the afternoon and evening featuring a selection of favourite and 'most autistic' episodes and on Wednesday there will be a similar marathon of The Big Bang Theory.
Lounge (Small Conference Hall)	Afternoon	Art workshops
	Evening	Casual socialising
	21:00-23:00	Bar open A small selection of drinks will be available to buy.
Sensory Room (Beccles)	Ongoing	We will have a small sensory room set up for participants to explore and enjoy equipment at their leisure. At certain times there will be scheduled sessions in here, as well as some silent times and a noisy time every evening after dinner until 9pm.
	14:30-15:30	Sharing sensory toys and apps – unfacilitated
	19:30-21:00	Noisy time
	21:00-11:00	Quiet time All night and for the first part of the morning the sensory room will be on 'red' which means no interaction or unnecessary noise.
Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room)	Afternoon	Table Tennis The table tennis table will be located here for scheduled coaching or free play except when the room is in use for films.

Place	Time	Activity
	21:00-23:00	Films Each evening an autism-relevant film will be shown.
Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall)	Evening	This room houses a grand piano and may be booked for personal use when not in use for scheduled activities.
Outdoors	21:30	Sparklies in the dark Lawn or Meeting room 1 (Main Conference Hall) in case of rain Time to share enjoyment of light up toys and glow sticks.
	Breaks, after meals, other free time	Singing It is traditional at Autescape for small groups to gather in the garden to sing simple songs such as rounds. Feel free to join in. Everyone welcome.
	Ongoing AND 14:30-15:30	Swimming There is an outdoor pool available for swimming during daylight hours. At least two adults must be present at all times. You are very likely to find someone else who wants to swim during the leisure time in the afternoon, particularly if the weather is good.
Play Area Outdoors	Ongoing	There is a play area outside which may be used by children any time and by adults when no children are using it, or with the consent of their parents or carers.
	12:30-13:00 (in Creche – Bungay – if raining)	Family Meet-up Families with children, or others who wish to, are invited to meet at the play area outside. In case of bad weather, parents may meet at the creche to talk to each other and/or to childcare staff. These sessions are intended as an opportunity to have an accessible experience of meeting with other parents and children. There is no obligation for families to attend.




Monday 23 July

Time	Activity
16:15-17:15	Registration Lounge (Small Conference Hall) On arrival, please go to registration, then you can leave your things in your room.
	Drop-in activities During registration, the following drop-in activities will be available to join at any time.
	<div> <div> Decorate your badges Drop-in Area (Rainbow Room) Help others to identify your interests, or just decorate for fun. Remember to leave enough uncovered that others can tell what it says. </div> <div> Autistic friendly cooperative games Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room) Spend time with others in a less verbal, more active way. No NT-style 'ice breakers', we promise! </div> </div> <div> <div> Refreshments Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham) A chance to meet up with old friends and acquaintances or get to know new ones. </div> <div> Children's programme meet & greet Creche (Bungay) People bringing children to Autescape may use this opportunity to get familiar with the childcare rooms and staff. </div> </div>
17:30-18:00	Orientation Meeting room 1 (Main conference hall) Orientation will explain a few things about how things work at Autescape. We are at a new venue this year, so please come along even if you have attended Autescape before.
18:00-18:30	Interest groups An opportunity to meet others with shared interests. Each topic will be run twice. More details on pg. 2.
	<div> <div> Activism Meeting room 1 (Main Conference Hall) </div> <div> Diet Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham) </div> </div> <div> <div> Alternative sexuality Meeting room 2 (Conference Room) </div> <div> Sports/Olympics Discussion room (Earsham) </div> </div> <div> <div> Psychology Activity room (Small Conference Hall) </div> <div> Programming & alternative OSeS (e.g. Linux, Mac) Sensory room (Beccles) </div> </div> <div> <div> Languages The Library </div> <div> Filmmaking TV room (Ellingham) </div> </div>
	<div> <div>Sharing session</div> <div>Share your own music compositions</div> </div> Drop-in Area (Rainbow Room)
18:30	Evening meal Dining Room & Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham) Please be on time for meals. Service will end when everyone present has been served. Those who need more time to eat may stay for up to 1.5 hours, but catering staff will begin to clear up and prepare for the next meal before this. A quiet dining room will be available in the Ditchingham Room. Please eat your meal in one of these rooms unless you are unable to.
20:00-23:00	Evening activities A variety of casual and semi-structured activities will be on offer, and more may be added at Autescape, so be sure to check the information area for updates or to add your own. See pages 2 & 3 for daily activities such as socialising, drop-in, sensory room and films. At the time of publication, we currently have the following activities planned:
20:00-22:00	32 Short Films about Glenn Gould TV Room (Ellingham)

Time	Activity
20:00-21:00	<p>Escaping the zoo: autistic run projects and ventures – discussion facilitated by Damian Library</p> <p>About 'projects' such as setting up groups, compiling books, running events, etc..</p> <hr/> <p>Women's group – facilitated by Alexis Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham)</p> <p>This group is intended for women only. Male carers may attend if necessary to facilitate a woman's participation, but should not participate in their own right.</p> <hr/> <p>Making 'logo bugs' – facilitated by Debbie and others Drop-in area (Rainbow room)</p>
21:00-22:00	<p>Loneliness Library</p> <p>This discussion is organised in memory of Baukje van Kesteren, an Autescape member who passed away recently. Loneliness in autism was a topic so important to Baukje that she wrote a book about it.</p>
21:00-23:00	<p>Adam (film) Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room)</p>

Tuesday 24 July

Time	Activity
8:30	Breakfast Dining room & Quiet dining room (Ditchingham) Please be on time for meals. Service will end when everyone present has been served.
9:30-11:00	Lectures Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall)
9:30	Support workers. What are they supposed to do and how do I get them to do it? – Josh Hennessy
10:00	Perceptions of diversity and the parent/self-advocate divide – Damian Milton
10:30	Questions and answers about morning lectures.
11:00	Break Refreshments in the Dining Room
11:30	Discussions
	The parent/self-advocate divide Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall)
	Support workers Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room)
12:30	Interest groups
	Politics & current events Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall)
	Green Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room)
	Neuroscience Activity room (Small Conference Hall)
	Education Library
	Mental health Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham)
	Fitness & weight management Discussion Room (Earsham)
	SciFi Sensory room (Beccles)
	Dancing Computer room (Ellingham)
	Family meet-up Play Area or Creche (Bungay) if raining
	Sharing session Share your own writing/poetry Drop-in Area (Rainbow Room)
13:00	Lunch Dining Room & Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham)
14:30	Leisure activities
	A number of leisure activities will be on offer, and more may be added at Autescape, so be sure to check the information area for updates. At the time of publication, we currently have the following activities planned:
	Similarities and diversities in musical tastes – unfacilitated Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall) Look for similarities and diversities in the music we enjoy.
	Star Trek Marathon TV Room (Ellingham) Back-to-back episodes of some of the best and most autistic episodes of any series of Star Trek. 14:00-17:30 & 19:30-23:00
	Choosing and applying makeup – Elaine Library
	Learn to draw mandalas – Lydia Drop-in Area (Rainbow Rooms) Make beautiful patterns using only a pencil, compass and ruler.
	Card making – Caroline Lounge (Small Conference Hall)
	Table tennis coaching – Damian Meeting room 2 (Conference Room)

Time	Activity						
15:30	Break Refreshments in the Dining Room						
16:00	<p>Workshops – Parallel workshops and discussions will be available to choose from. Other discussions or activities may be added later. We currently have the following planned:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Formal Programme</th><th>Alternative Programme</th></tr> <tr> <td> <p>Dating and romance – have more success and less heartbreak –  Meeting room 1 (Main Conference Hall)</p> <p>Exploring personal responses to similarity and difference in the context of autistic community – Caroline Hearst Lounge (Small Conference Hall)</p> </td><td> <p>Exploring the ‘rhizome’: how non-verbal autistic people helped to inspire postmodernist philosophy – Damian Library</p> <p>Similarities and diversities in sensory processing – Kalen Sensory Room (Beccles)</p> </td></tr> </table>	Formal Programme	Alternative Programme	<p>Dating and romance – have more success and less heartbreak –  Meeting room 1 (Main Conference Hall)</p> <p>Exploring personal responses to similarity and difference in the context of autistic community – Caroline Hearst Lounge (Small Conference Hall)</p>	<p>Exploring the ‘rhizome’: how non-verbal autistic people helped to inspire postmodernist philosophy – Damian Library</p> <p>Similarities and diversities in sensory processing – Kalen Sensory Room (Beccles)</p>		
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Wednesday 25 July

Time	Activity
8:30	Breakfast Dining room & Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham) Please be on time for meals. Service will end when everyone present has been served.
9:30-11:00	Lectures Meeting room 1 (Main conference hall)
9:30	How to get the best out of your dentist – Malcolm Hamilton
10:00	Vive la difference: does how others describe us matter? – Larry Arnold
10:30	Questions and answers
11:00	Break Refreshments in Dining Room
11:30-12:30	Discussions
	Dentist – Malcolm Hamilton Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall)
	Vive la difference – Larry Arnold Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room)
12:30-13:00	Interest groups
	Activism Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall)
	Alternative sexuality Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room)
	Psychology Activity Room (Small Conference Hall)
	Languages Library
	Diet Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham)
	Sports/Olympics Discussion Room (Earsham)
	Programming & alternative Oses (e.g. Linux, Mac) Sensory Room (Beccles)
	Filmmaking TV Room (Ellingham)
	Family meet-up Play Area or Creche (Bungay) if raining
	Sharing session Share your own artwork Drop-in Area
13:00	Lunch Dining room & Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham)
14:30-15:30	Leisure activities
	Expressing autistic views of social life – Art workshop facilitated by Damian Lounge (Small Conference Hall)
	Finding musical pitches using the principles of relative pitch – Music workshop by John Meeting room 1 (Main conference hall)
	Table tennis – no coaching Meeting room 2 (Conference Room)
	The Big Bang Theory Marathon TV Room (Ellingham) Back-to-back episodes of The Big Bang Theory, which features at least one unidentified autistic character. 14:00-17:30 & 19:30-23:00
15:30	Break Refreshments in Refreshment Area of Dining Room

Time	Activity
16:00-17:30	Workshops
	<div> Formal Programme Interests, people, and autism – Dinah Murray Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall) </div> <div> Alternative Programme Art Workshop – Trish Lounge Getting involved in organisations – Yo Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room) </div>
17:30-18:00	Interest groups
	<div> Politics & current events Meeting Room 1 (Main Conference Hall) </div> <div> Mental health Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham) </div>
	<div> Green Meeting Room 2 (Conference Room) </div> <div> Fitness & weight management Discussion Room (Earsham) </div>
	<div> Neuroscience Activity Room (Small Conference Hall) </div> <div> SciFi Sensory Room (Beccles) </div>
	<div> Education Library </div> <div> Dancing TV Room (Ellingham) </div>
	<div> Share your own handicrafts Drop-in Area (Rainbow Room) </div>
18:30	Evening meal Dining room & Quiet Dining Room (Ditchingham)
20:00-23:00	Evening activities
	<p>More may be added at Autscape, so check the information area for updates or to add your own. See pages 2 & 3 for daily and ongoing activities. The following are currently planned:</p>
19:30-23:00	The Big Bang Theory Marathon (continued) TV room (Ellingham) 14:00-17:30 & 19:30-23:00
20:00-21:30	Entertainment Evening Meeting room 1 (Main Conference Hall) Our ever-popular final evening event where participants share their talents with an appreciative audience. All forms of entertainment can be included, from poetry recitation to leading a sing-along. If you have something to contribute, please contact the organisers Trish or Katja.
21:00-23:00	Film (title TBC) Meeting room 2

Thursday 26 July

Time	Activity								
8:30	Breakfast Dining room & quiet dining room (Ditchingham) Please be on time for meals. Service will end when everyone present has been served.								
By 10am	Vacate rooms Pack up and put your bags in the Lounge (Small Conference Hall). Don't forget anything you may have created or brought to share. When you are finished, please leave your key in the bedroom door.								
10:00	Panel discussion Meeting room 1 (Main conference hall) An opportunity for questions and debate on the theme of 'Similarities and Diversities' with a panel of presenters and others representing different views on the topic.								
11:00	Break Refreshments in Dining Room								
11:30	Annual General Meeting Meeting room 1 (Main conference hall) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is where you can hear about how things went last year and influence the future of Autescape. Come take part in other major decisions asked of the membership.								
12:30	Interest groups								
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Sociology Library	Animals & pets TV room (Ellingham)								
	Share other creative work Drop-in Area								
13:00	Lunch Dining room & quiet dining room (Ditchingham)								
14:00	First transport to Norwich Station leaves								
14:30-15:30	Casual activities You may use this opportunity to say goodbye to other participants, to play a little tennis or table tennis, go for a swim, join in playing music or other leisure activities. However, there will be few, if any, structured activities during this time. Organisers will be busy packing up.								
15:30	Break Drinks and biscuits in Dining Room								
16:00	Final transport to Norwich Station leaves								

Bios and summaries

Larry Arnold

Presenting: Vive la difference: does how others describe us matter?

I intend to start from the idea that although there are probably different ways of becoming autistic through ones genes that the historical ways in which the spectrum has been divided has had little to do with any real differences. I intend to explain how I see that way autism has been defined from the outside has had a lot to do with how we view ourselves and suggest that the divisions between us are often more to do with the way we have reacted to the labels than anything else. For instance, Amanda Baggs has written that the way people define a difference between Asperger's and Kanner's autism is often arbitrary and based on personal observation not objective fact. I think this is relevant to the theme and very appropriate for a time when there is a lot of public debate about whether Asperger's should stay in DSM 5 or not.

Presenter's bio

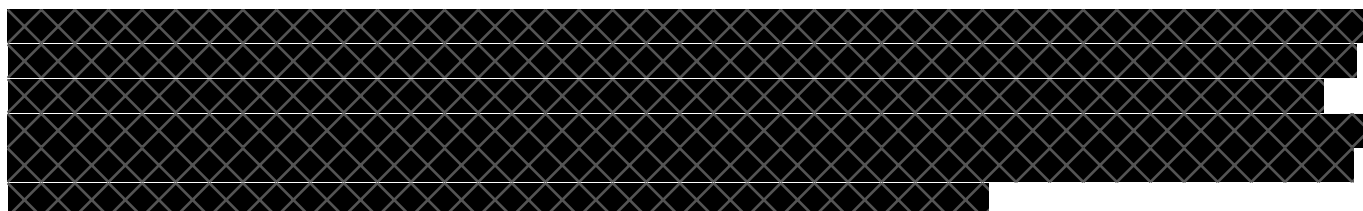
Larry has played a pivotal role in the Autism Rights movement in the UK, serving on the board of the NAS and facilitating a local neurodiversity group amongst other things. He has presented at Autscope before, and at various conferences. He comes from a background of disability rights and specialises in video, this being the topic of his PhD research in Autism and Education at the University of Birmingham. He claims the right to be called neuro-diverse by virtue of more than one neurological diagnosis; however, autism is one he is happy to use as a positive affirmation of who and what he is.



Presenting: Dating and romance – have more success and less heartbreak

What is a relationship and how can I find one? Although autistic people differ from neurotypicals when it comes to communication, a relationship is much more than a set of social rules and regulations – it is not only about shared experiences, it is also about celebrating our oneness and humanity. This workshop will explore and bring awareness to the typical barriers that autistic people may come across in the dating world, including behaviours, thoughts and beliefs about themselves and the world around them and thus gain insight into how to have more success in this area.

Presenter's bio



Malcolm Hamilton

Presenting: How to get the best out of your Dentist

This workshop will explore various strategies that can be used to enable those with an Autistic Spectrum Condition attend a dentist more easily.

It will outline the different types of dental services that are available.

The various adaptations that can be made by a dentist will be outlined.

Also discussed will be the information that should be given to a dentist beforehand to allow any possible adaptations to be made.

To allow an informal discussion around any concerns attendees may have around visiting a dentist.

Presenter's bio

Malcolm is a Senior Dental Officer with NHS Highland in Scotland, he treats Special Care patients and has written the Guidance for patients with an Autistic Spectrum disorder for the NHS Highland Dental Department. He previously worked as the Special Care Senior Dental Officer in NHS Orkney before moving to the Highlands.

Malcolm qualified as a Dentist from Dundee University in 1989 and first worked as an Army dentist before becoming a partner in an independent practice in Orkney. He joined NHS Orkney in 2003. He has a special interest in those with an Autistic Spectrum Condition and been involved in providing treatment for over 20 years. He also has been involved in the training in Autistic Spectrum Conditions for the last 10 years.

Caroline Hearst

Presenting: Exploring personal responses to similarity and difference in the context of autistic community

In this workshop we will use art materials in an exercise especially developed to explore individual feelings about similarity and difference. No art experience or ability is required, and images produced are incidental benefits but not the object of the exercise.

Those who feel comfortable to do so will have the opportunity to share their experience of the exercise with the group.

We will then discuss the nature of some autistic differences and similarities and examine how we accommodate similarities and differences within the autistic community.

This workshop is structured to move from eliciting and exploring personal responses to difference and similarity via an image making exercise to exploring how these responses could help or hinder the development of autistic community (and or political effectiveness / the development of an authentic autistic voice or voices). How the workshop evolves will depend on the participants.

Discussions based on the following questions might develop:

Can we as autistics can capitalise on our differences so that one person's strengths can compensate for another's weaknesses?

What difficulties arise in trying to do work together in this way?

Do differences necessarily prove divisive?

Is developing community particularly difficult for autistics because part of the autistic profile is interpersonal difficulties (which could be considered a different way of socialising)?

The workshop will have a maximum of 20 participants.

Presenter's bio

Caroline has a degree in fine art and postgraduate qualifications in art psychotherapy and librarianship. She brought up two sons and worked as a librarian, consumer advisor and teacher of adults before beginning to suspect that some of her difficulties might be due to an autistic spectrum condition. This hunch was confirmed with a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome three years ago.

Since her diagnosis Caroline has participated in online and real life autistic communities in both NZ and the UK. She has published articles about autism in general and mental health publications. She served on the board of ASK (Autism Spectrum Kiwis) and the NZ Government Advisory Group on Autism. She is currently working to devise and deliver training sessions about autism from an insider perspective. She believes increasing awareness about autism will enable those with Autism Spectrum Conditions to have a greater opportunity to live fulfilling lives and contribute to society.

Josh Hennessey

Presenting: Support workers: What are they supposed to do and how do I get them to do it?

I will give my view of what good support consists in, with a focus on autonomy and independence. I will consider why support workers might fall short of such a standard. I will suggest practical ways an autistic person might help a support worker understand what is required of them, and I will offer some example training materials autistics might like to use or adapt for their own circumstances. I will talk about support workers who are (1) employed directly by the autistic person, (2) supplied by an agency and (3) unpaid family members and friends.

I will NOT cover the following in any significant detail:

How to get support workers in the first place. My presentation assumes that the autistic person already has some support secured.

Supporting autistic children. This presentation is about supporting autistic adults.

Legal issues and technical employment issues. Unfortunately I am not sufficiently expert on these.

Presenter's bio

I have worked as a support worker for an autistic adult for three and a half years and have been involved with recruiting and training other support workers in that time. The person I support employs me directly as her support worker. I have had informal training from my employer during that period. Previous to that I was self-employed for about six years doing building work, and previous to that I was an electrician. I also have a degree in philosophy.

Damian Milton

Presenting: Perceptions of diversity and the parent/self-advocate divide

This presentation gives a simple overview of the common ways in which autism is defined, before using a personal case study of a father and son on the spectrum in order to highlight the issues that are raised in the definition of autism, and how these ideas frame common understandings and perceptions. This presentation highlights how although there is great diversity between those on the spectrum, that there is also many potential similarities between those deemed 'verbal' or 'high-functioning', and those classed as 'non' or 'pre-verbal' and 'low-functioning'. This discussion then lays a foundation for an exploration of the political issues and differences in perception and narratives between the diversity of parental accounts of advocacy and those of autistic people themselves.

Presenter's bio

I am currently studying for a doctorate with the Autism Centre for Educational Research at the University of Birmingham. I am a member of the steering group for this department, and a member of the programme board for the Autism Education Trust. I have a number of academic qualifications and a number of years of experience as a lecturer in both FE and HE. I have also formally presented papers at academic conferences. My interest in autism began when my son was diagnosed in 2004 as autistic at the age of two. I was also diagnosed with Asperger's in 2009 at the age of thirty-six.

Dinah Murray

Presenting: Interests, people and autism

There will be active discussion re questions about the idea of minds as sets of interests constrained by variations in the distribution of a scarce processing resource (cf "spoon theory").

The discussion will begin with me presenting some graphic slides to explain the basic ideas of an Interest model of mind. These often work better than words and will be used to briefly show how various patterns of human thinking caused by changing just one aspect of the overall picture can be portrayed. The discussion will then aim to take one variant at a time for people to consider and talk about together in relation to themselves and other people they know. Some questions on this theme will have been available since the beginning of Autscope to encourage people to think about it. Contributions to the discussion can be made in speech or writing, prepared beforehand or be spontaneous responses.

Hopefully some reasons for quite major differences in what get described as "levels of functioning" will become clearer, as will reasons for thinking that these have little to do with levels of "native intelligence" / IQ.

Presenter's bio

Dinah is a co-founder of Autism and Computing (mid 90s), APANA (Autistic People Against Neuroleptic Abuse — late 90s), Outreach and LARM (London Autistic Rights Movement) and Outreach IT. She curated the work of several autistic contributors, including Autscopees, to the video *Something About Us*, <http://www.autisticrightsmovementuk.org/>. She's a tutor on Birmingham University's Distance Education Autism Adults course. She's been assessed as on the autism spectrum and has written, researched and published about it extensively including editing and contributing to *Coming Out Asperger's* and co-writing *Getting IT* (JKP).

With Mike Lesser and Wendy Lawson, she co-wrote *Attention, Monotropism, and the Diagnostic Criteria for Autism*, 'Autism' 2005. She has presented in Australia, Greece, Finland and Denmark as well as the UK. She's spent thousands of hours working one to one with non-speaking autistic adults. Dinah has a BA in Linguistics and Anthropology, an MA in Philosophy, and a PhD in Linguistics, all from the University of London.