EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM COLLOQUIUM

THE GRADUATE CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Educational Psychology PhD Program Presents:

"Using A Participatory Approach to Improve Autism Understanding and Help Autistic Adolescents and Adults Thrive."

Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 2PM-2:45PM / Q&A 2:45-3PM

"I will introduce the neurodiversity movement and illustrate the participatory, neurodiversity-aligned approaches that are central to most of our current research. I will highlight recently completed and ongoing projects including a comparison of the writing skills of autistic and non-autistic university students, a randomized comparison of a participatory and a non-participatory autism training for college students, an evaluation of a participatory Autism and Universal Design training for faculty, and an NSF-funded participatory study that aims to help autistic adolescents develop work-related skills through a game design workshop at an innovative non-profit (Tech Kids Unlimited) while using student feedback to help educators better engage students with diverse attentional profiles and interests."

Dr. Kristen Gillespie-Lynch
Assistant Professor, College of Staten Island

About the Speaker: After working directly with autistic people for a number of years, Dr. Kristen Gillespie-Lynch obtained a PhD in Developmental Psychology from UCLA. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center. She uses a multi-method participatory approach to investigate strengths and weaknesses associated with ASD across the lifespan, including relations between early attention and later linguistic and adaptive skills. In collaboration with an autistic colleague, she develops online surveys about autism that have revealed that autistic people recognize unique benefits associated with autism but desire adaptive supports. She developed and directs Building Bridges Project REACH (a mentorship program for autistic college students and students with other disabilities) and an associated online autism training. Participation in the training has been associated with decreases in autism stigma and increases in knowledge among students internationally. She and her collaborators continue to develop creative approaches to evaluating and reducing stigma, including theatre-based training and collaborative adaptations of the training for students, teachers and parents internationally. Students in Project REACH are guiding development of a computer game, Connecting through Kinect, that she is and her collaborators are designing to help autistic people develop collaboration and emotion recognition skills. Autistic researchers are also involved in an evaluation of an innovative program at NYU to help autistic youth develop authorial computer skills, Tech Kids Unlimited, that she is guiding. She is the Director of CSI's Advanced Certificate Program in ASD and is helping develop a meaningful credential for CUNY students with intellectual disabilities (TPSID).

Join by Zoom! Click the link at the time of the meeting: https://tinyurl.com/colloquium12-7
Email edpsych@gc.cuny.edu for more information.

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