

# AUTISM SPECTRUM & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SIG



## SPRING 2024 NEWS BRIEF

### IN THIS ISSUE

### PAGE

March Seminar Series Recap

2

Upcoming Events Calendar

3

ABCT 2024 Convention

4-5

SIG 2023 Expense Report

6

ASDD SIG Leadership

7

Social Media News: @ABCTAutism

8

Website Resources

9

SIG Priorities

10

# Seminar Series Recap:

## Mental Health Interventions for Autism

Hosted by the ASDD SIG Membership Committee on March 21, 2024



**Kelsey Dickson, PhD**  
(she/her)  
San Diego State University

**Dr. Kelsey Dickson** presented on her systematic review of mental health interventions for autistic youth at our march seminar series session. She shared that mental health interventions are most frequently developed broadly and then adapted for autistic youth rather than being designed specific to autism. Adaptations to increase engagement and/or effectiveness include adding visuals, parent involvement, or concrete language. One takeaway point was the need to design and implement mental health interventions specifically for autistic youth in the community. Dr. Dickson also called for increased representation from other historically marginalized identities in autism research,

as well as incorporating autistic voices within intervention development and evaluation. Following, **Micah Peace Urquilla** shared their perspective as an autistic advocate on priorities for autism research in developing and adapting mental health interventions for autistic people. In response to a question about incorporating autism culture in therapy, Micah talked about the importance of not encouraging eye contact, having fidgets available, considering lights and sounds, and asking your autistic client what is most comfortable for them. Check out our website for the session recording and reference list shared by Kelsey and Micah!



**Micah Peace Urquilla**  
(they/them)  
University of New Hampshire

“What autistic people need to know is that we’re still going to have support after that [a meltdown]--people will still like us afterward. **That our acceptability is not contingent upon how well we meet neurotypical norms** or how comfortable that we make everybody around us.” - *Micah Peace Urquilla*



# Don't Forget!

## Upcoming Events

### Summer & Fall 2024

#### **Thursday June 27th, 1pm EDT/10am PDT:**

ASDD SIG Virtual Panel: Autistic Culture & Intersectionality  
[More info coming soon!]

#### **Wednesday August 14th, 12pm EDT/9am PDT:**

ASDD SIG Webinar: Navigating Internship and Post-doc Fellowships

#### **August:**

ASDD SIG Poster Submissions Due  
SIG Awards - Call for Submissions

#### **October:**

SIG Awards Submissions Due

#### **November 14 (afternoon):**

ASDD SIG Pre-Conference - in person

#### **November 14 - 17:**

ABCT 2024 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

# The 2024 ASDD SIG Pre-Conference is In-Person!



**November 14 - Afternoon | Philadelphia, PA**

## **Featured Symposium**

Leveraging Community Based Participatory Research to  
Co-Produce Research that Aligns with the Priorities of  
Autistic People Across the Lifespan



## **Plus:**

Networking  
SIG Updates  
Poster Expo  
SIG Happy Hour



**See You  
in Philly!**

*opening our doors*

# 58th Annual Convention

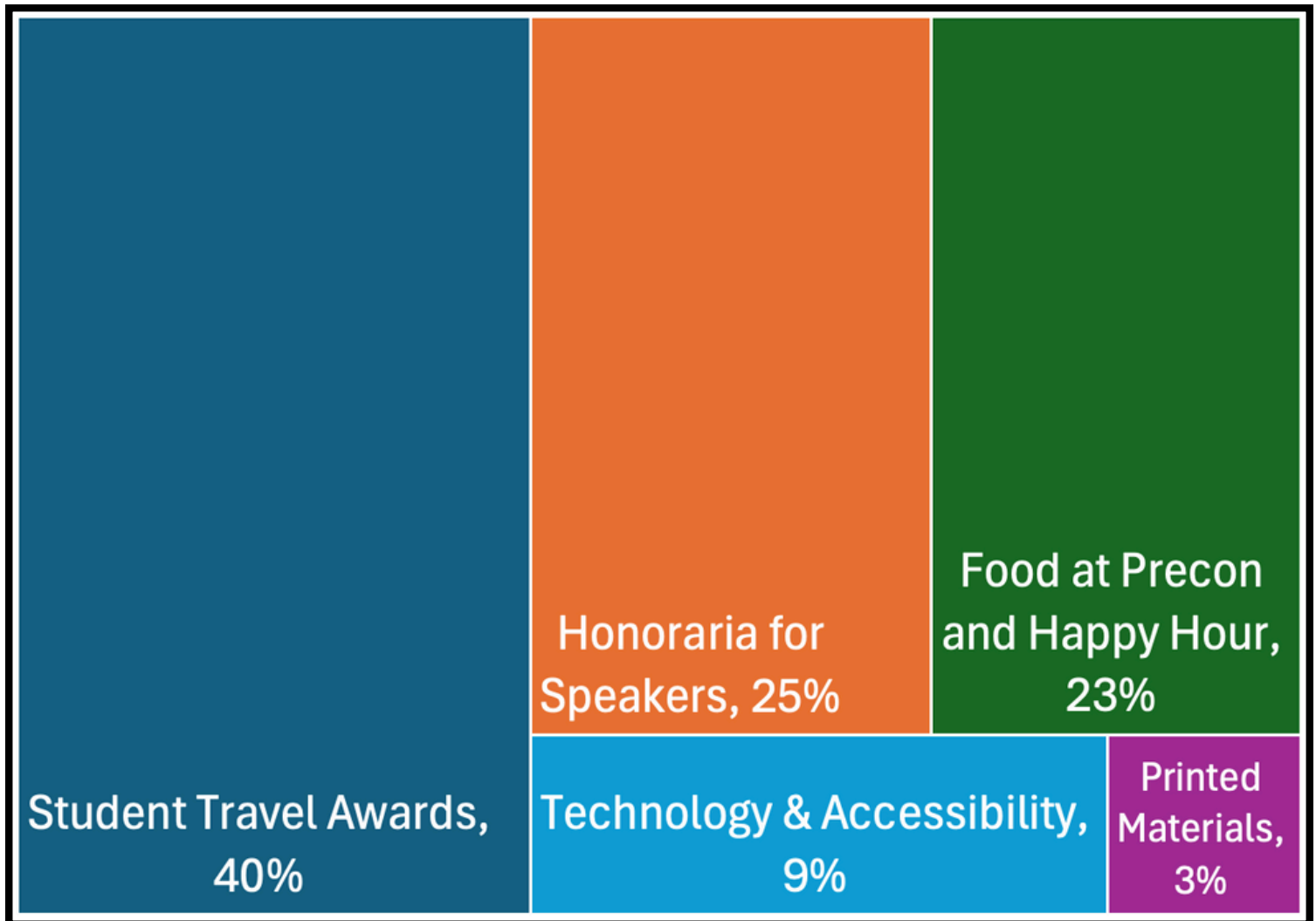
**November 14–17, 2024** | *Philadelphia*

*Inspiring  
Community  
Engagement,  
Advocacy, &  
Innovation  
to Advance  
CBT*



# 2023 SIG Expenses

*Your dues and donations were used to fund:*



## Looking to Make an Impact?

**Consider donating** to support our trainee awards and our new autistic researcher travel award! Contributions received by Monday, July 1st will be used towards ABCT 2024 in Philadelphia.

- Contribute any amount: <https://asdd-sig.cheddarup.com>
- Select "Donations for SIG Support"
- [optional] Select how your donation should be used



*Supporters will be thanked with virtual plaques at our Business Meeting to acknowledge their generous support that increases accessibility for autistic people and trainees. You will also receive an email receipt from our platform.*

**Co-Chairs**



L to R: Tyler Higgs, PhD, Hannah Morton, PhD, & Katherine Pickard, PhD



**SIG  
Leadership**

**Committees**

**Diversity Liasons**

**Chair: Sadaf Khawar, PhD**

<b>Conference Planning</b>	<b>Chair: Jessica Granieri, MA</b>
	Rebecca Elias, PhD
	Reina Factor, PhD
	Caroline Freden, BS
	Valeria Gaus, PhD
	Shannon LaPoint, PhD
	Hannah Rea, PhD

Alexis Khuu, BS
Myles Lopez, BS

<b>Technology &amp; Communications</b>	<b>Chair: Angela Dahiya, PhD</b>
	<b>Chair: Grace Lee Simmons, PhD</b>
	Alexis Brewe, MA
	Krista Drapalik, MA
	Josh Golt, MA
	Kristin Walker, MA

Jenny Phan, PhD
Kathleen Ramsey, PhD
Maya Renaud, MA

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Chair: Andrea Weickowski, PhD</b>
	Mary Isaac Cargill, MA
	Dawn Greathouse, PhD
	Ted Tomeny, PhD

Keiran Rump, PhD
Yoreidy Tavárez, PhD

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Chair: Amy Keefer, PhD</b>
	Katie Ahlers, PhD
	Autumn Austin, MA
	Rejil Joseph, MPH
	Morgan McNair, MA
	Elisabeth Sheridan, PhD

<b>Chair: Allison Ratto, PhD</b>
Erin Kang, PhD



Edit profile

## ABCTAutism

@ABCTAutism

Autism Spectrum & Developmental Disabilities (ASDD) Special Interest Group promoting cutting edge research, scientific memes, & advocacy for [#AutismAcceptance](#).

**ABCTAutism** @ABCTAutism · 4/27/24 ...  
Looking for a new [#podcast](#)? 🎧

Celebrate [#AutisticJoy](#) & check out the Autistic Culture Podcast for "authentic insights into what it REALLY means to be Autistic" with hosts Dr. Angela Lauria (@[alauria](#)) & Matt Lowry, LPP.

Listen at [autisticculturepodcast.com](https://autisticculturepodcast.com)

[#AutismAcceptanceMonth](#)

**Follow us on X:**  
[@ABCTAutism](#)

**Featuring**  
SIG Events  
Conference News  
Research Updates  
Job Postings  
Autistic Perspectives  
& More!

**ABCTAutism** @ABCTAutism · 5/1/24 ...  
Happy [#MentalHealthAwarenessMonth](#)!

We'd like to start the month by featuring Dr. Ashlee Flanagan @[IamDrAshlee](#), who is presenting research at @[AutismINSAR](#) on [#Black](#) caregivers perspectives on the policing of Black [#autistic](#) children

This research highlighted 3 concerns... (1/3)

# Website Resources



## **Autism Resource Library**

The latest addition to our website is an extensive list of autism-related resources, organized by target audience (e.g., clinicians, young adults) and topics (e.g., gender and sexuality, perspectives from non-speakers).



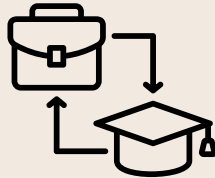
## **Autism Research Faculty**

Our Technology & Communications committee maintains a database of universities and faculty offering doctoral-level training related to autism and developmental disabilities. Check it out if you are applying to doctoral programs!



## **Graduate Student Success**

Current graduate students can learn more about funding opportunities, calls for awards, and other resources to support success in grad school. You got this!



## **Clinical Internship Programs**

For doctoral students applying to clinical internship, we also have a database of APA-accredited clinical internship programs with autism-related activities and tracks.



## **SIG Awards**

Each year, we recognize outstanding trainees, mentors, and clinicians/researchers in the field of developmental disabilities. We added a new travel award in 2023--Don't forget to submit your applications this fall!



## **Joining the ASDD SIG**

We are excited to welcome new SIG members who are also members of ABCT! Non-members can still join our listserv to receive email updates and event notifications. Click or scan to learn more about SIG membership benefits.

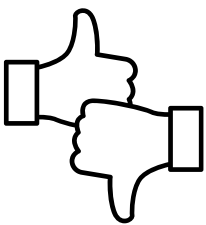
# ASDD SIG Priorities

Conducting work that is aligned with the priorities of the autistic community

Promoting meaningful and relevant clinical care

Collaborating with and learning from autistic advocates and other community members

Using respectful and affirming language to reference autism and developmental differences



## **Got Feedback?**

We'd love to hear from you! Please send comments and suggestions to [asddsig@gmail.com](mailto:asddsig@gmail.com) or by filling out our [anonymous survey](#).