

AutWave 2019, Saturday 2.11.

Main Programme

with translated materials

10.30-11.15 Kosma Moczek: Autistic advocacy in Poland (in English)

Kosma Moczek talks about the recent development of autistic advocacy and community in Poland.

11.15-11.30 Heta Pukki: Developing an autistic-led international network and an umbrella organization in Europe (in Finnish)

For the past three years, ASY has been involved in initiatives to develop the informal European Autistic Network (EAN) and, more recently, the umbrella organisation European Council of Autistic People (EuCAP), with the aim of supporting autistic people's groups and organisations to work together across national borders and language barriers. Brief accounts of the history, principles and aims of EAN and EuCAP will be presented, as well as views of some of the people from several countries who have been actively building EuCAP.

11.30-11.45 Orjo Pättiniemi: Culture festivals as a means of gaining positive visibility (in Finnish)

11.45-13.00 Lunch

13.00-13.30 Autistic Artists: Brief presentations by individual artists about their creative work (in Finnish)

Works by two autistic artists will be displayed on Maijansali screen.

Maija Oksanen has been drawing colorful singing female characters in a distinctive style for many years. Maija's characters come with entertaining background stories and descriptions that shed light on the rich, humorous, exuberantly bizarre imagination that underlies all her work. Maija will explain some of the features of her work to the audience.

Jani Rikhard describes himself as a modern Renaissance man inevitably approaching middle age, at least thinking he has a bit of skill in all kinds of things. Jani will not be present at the event in person, but a selection of his poetry and visual art will be displayed as a slide show.

13.30-14.00 Anna-Reeta Pakarinen: Autism and creativity (in Finnish)

Anna-Reeta Pakarinen from Pudasjärvi, northern Finland, presents on creativity and its expression in people on the autism spectrum. Anna-Reeta combines knowledge from literature and from running a peer group, as well as her own experiences of creative hobbies, and those of people close to her. These are complemented by surveys that Anna-Reeta has conducted on social media. Her thinking has been influenced by Kari Uusikylä's book *Luovuus kuuluu kaikille* (Creativity belongs to everyone).

14.00-14.30 Vesa Korhonen: The Autism Acceptance Project, learnings from 2019 (in Finnish)

Vesa Korhonen from the Autism Foundation, a major service provider for people on the autism spectrum, describes the results of a project that aims to change attitudes and increase awareness in Finland.

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-15.45 The Vave project and ASY peer groups: Supporting participation in cultural activities (in Finnish)

Project worker Emmi Varis presents, along with members of the peer groups that the project has been supporting, about how groups can encourage autistic people to participate in cultural events or develop their own creative expression.

15.50-16.30 Panel discussion (in Finnish)

Side Programme

in English only

13.00-13.45 Yo Dunn: Mapping Law and Policy (in English)

Using England (within the context of international and European law – UNCRPD, ECHR) as an example, the workshop will set out in more depth a process of identifying, understanding, using and influencing autism-relevant law and public policy and participants will have the opportunity to discuss how similar mapping is or could be undertaken in other systems.

13.45-14.30 Kosma Moczek: Reinventing the Wheel. Traces, signs and descriptions of autism in non-autistic research and literature (in English)

While autism-specific research didn't start until the 20th century, the foundations that underline developmental psychology predate it by over 200 years. The presentation will explore existing, well-established concepts that allow for better understanding of autistic development, comorbid conditions, trauma, identity, communication and behavior. I'll try to show that by looking for existing research - instead of inventing brand new "autistic" concepts and vocabulary - we can greatly benefit from standing on the shoulders of giants and realize that, after all, autistic humans are still humans, and are subject to the same developmental and psychological dynamics and processes that have been known and described for centuries.

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-15.30 Vesa Korhonen: The Autism Acceptance project, learnings from 2019 (in English)

Vesa Korhonen from the Autism Foundation, a major service provider for people on the autism spectrum, describes the results of a project that aims to change attitudes and increase awareness in Finland.