



A NEW DYNAMIC  
FOR CHANGE AND INCLUSION

## Keynote Speakers

### Keynote speech- 01: “Understanding sex differences in autism”

- **Date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**
- **Time: 09:45- 10:30**
- **Place: Auditorium Apollon**
- **Speaker: Simon Baron-Cohen (UK)**



**Simon Baron-Cohen** is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology, University of Cambridge and Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge. He is Director, Autism Research Centre in Cambridge. He is author of *Mindblindness*, *The Essential Difference*, *Prenatal Testosterone in Mind*, and *Zero Degrees of Empathy*. He has edited scholarly anthologies including *Understanding Other Minds*. He has written books for parents and teachers including *Autism and Asperger Syndrome: The Facts*. He is author of the DVDs *Mind Reading* and *The Transporters*, to help children with autism learn emotion recognition, both nominated for BAFTA awards. He

formulated the ‘mindblindness’ theory of autism (1985) and the ‘prenatal sex steroid’ theory of autism (1997). He has also made contributions to many fields of autism research, to typical cognitive sex differences, and synaesthesia research. He created the first UK clinic for adults with suspected Asperger Syndrome (1999) that has helped over 1,000 patients to have their disability recognized. He gave a keynote address to the United Nations in New York on Autism Awareness Day 2017 on the topic of *Autism and Human Rights*. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society, the British Academy, the Academy of Medical Sciences, and the American Psychological Association. He is Vice-President of the National Autistic Society, and President of the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR). He was Chair of the NICE Guideline Development Group for Autism (Adults) and is Chair of the Psychology Section of the British Academy. He is co-editor in chief of the journal *Molecular Autism* and is a National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigator.

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## Keynote speech- 02: “The biological foundations of morality”

- **Date:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- **Time:** 14:00- 14:45
- **Place:** Auditorium Apollon
- **Speaker:** Jean Decety (USA)



**Dr. Jean Decety** is Irving B. Harris Distinguished Service Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Chicago and its College. He is the head of the Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab and the director of the Child Neurosuite. Decety is a leading scholar on the social neuroscience of empathy, morality and prosocial behavior, as well as other topics related to social decision-making. His research uses neuroimaging techniques (functional MRI and high-density EEG), combined with behavioral economics, to elucidate how biological and social factors interact in contributing to caring for the well-being of others.

His current developmental work examines the impact of resource scarcity and group dynamics on children’s moral cognition, distributive justice decisions, and considerations of fairness and equity. This project is conducted across countries in North and South America, Africa, Europe, Middle East and South East Asia.

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## Keynote speech- 03: "What do we (no yet) know about autism and ageing?"

- **Date: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019**
- **Time: 09:00- 09:45**
- **Place: Auditorium Apollon**
- **Speaker: Hilde Geurts (Netherlands)**



**Hilde Geurts** is currently a professor by special appointment (focus Autism: Cognition across the life span) at the Department of Psychology of the University of Amsterdam. One day a week she works as a senior researcher at the "Dr. Leo Kannerhuis". She recently finished her VIDI grant (MagW NWO, 2011-2016) and her fellowship at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS) to study the effect of aging in autism. This work will be continued to a recently received VICI (MagW NWO, 2017-2022). She will focus on cognitive aging and (potentially beneficial) cognitive strategy use and autism outlook subtyping.

Hilde obtained a MSc in Neuro- and Rehabilitation psychology (1996) at the University of Nijmegen (Radboud University). Next she worked for approximately two years as a neuropsychologist in a psychiatric hospital for children. She received her PhD at the Department of Clinical Neuropsychology at the Vrije Universiteit. Her PhD project focused on Executive control in ADHD and Autism spectrum Disorders (ASD) with prof.dr. J.A. Sergeant, prof.dr. H. Roeyers and prof dr. J. Oosterlaan as advisors. In the meanwhile she worked as a lecturer at the Department of Clinical Psychology (UvA). From 2002 till 2009 she was assistant professor Clinical Neuropsychology at the Psychonomics section (currently known as Brain & Cognition, UvA) and from 2009 onwards she she was associate professor at the same department. Since 2013 she is a member of the Young Academy of the Dutch Royal Academy of Science (KNAW). In 2014 she co-founded the research network reach-aut (see [www.reach-aut.nl](http://www.reach-aut.nl)) in which a wide range of stakeholders are together shaping autism research. For the next two years she is vice-president of the INSAR of which the annual meeting of 2018 has taken place in the Netherlands.

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## Keynote speech- 04: “From diagnosis to functioning and quality of life in autism”

- **Date: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019**
- **Time: 14:30- 15:15**
- **Place: Auditorium Apollon**
- **Speaker: Sven Bölte (Sweden)**



**Sven Bölte**, Ph.D., is professor of child and adolescent psychiatric science at the Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, Karolinska Institutet(KI), and senior clinical psychologist at the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Center for Psychiatry Research, Stockholm County Council, Sweden. He is director of the KI Centre of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (“KIND”), editor of AUTISM, The Scandinavian Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychology and Psychiatry, and associate editor of the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health. He is among other things founder of the Scientific

Society Autism Spectrum ([www.wgas.org](http://www.wgas.org)) and international ADOS and ADI-R trainer. For his work, he has received several recognitions, such as the “Life Watch Nordiska Priset”, “Årets Ljus” (Society Attention), and “Fellow of the International Society for Autism Research” (INSAR). Professor Bölte has published more than 300 original articles, reviews, book chapters, assessment and intervention tools in the field of autism spectrum, ADHD, and other neurodevelopmental conditions, and has been cited more than 13,500 times (H-index 50).

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## Keynote speech- 05: "Empowerment of persons on the autism spectrum within an inclusive society: what should it look like?"

- **Date:** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- **Time:** 09:00- 09:45
- **Place:** Auditorium Apollon
- **Speakers:** Stefany Bonnot-Briey (France), Camille Ribeyrol (France), Jean-François Renaut (France), and Tristan Yvon (France).



**Stéfany (Stef) Bonnot-Briey** is a user expert in autism. She is also a professional and activist. Consultant and independent trainer in a society of the social and solidarity economy (VIA), also responsible for quality development in the medico-social sector (AFG AUTISME). She works to promote empowerment, respect for the rights, and quality of life of people with autism across the spectrum. Stef has participated in various working groups in France dedicated to the public policies of autism: in particular the recommendations of good practices of the High Authority of Health. She is part of the "national council of disorders of the spectrum of autism and disorders of neuro-development" established by the French government in April 2018. Stef is co-founder and co-president of the association "Autistic people, for a Responsible and Innovative Self-Determination "(PAARI) that advocates for peer-emulation and empowerment. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Autism-Europe.

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**Camille Ribeyrol** is an 18-year-old young autistic woman who pursues an inclusive path, despite the need for intensive help and adaptation of the environment, to overcome her sensory difficulties. She lives in the west of France with her family. She was able to go to school in special classes (ULIS) with an individual school assistant and has been doing internships in companies in recent years. She is non-verbal and uses alternative means of communication. She enjoys traveling, going out with her family, and having a job that makes sense. She will come to testify of her personal journey with the help of her family, in particular her mother, Christèle Ribeyrol, President of the association "Coup de Pouce for autism" in Saumur, France.



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**Jean François Renault** is an autistic person who will come to testify of his career and what an inclusive society means for him. He works in an adapted environment facility (ESAT) where he has held several positions, including maintenance of gardens and premises. He lives independently in his apartment in Antibes, near Nice, with the help of a home service. On weekends he goes for walks, visits the surroundings, and goes to cultural events. He particularly likes to travel during his holidays.



Autistic activist **Tristan Yvon** is one of the founders and President of Add'autiste association. The mission of this association is to improve the living conditions of people with autism with a focus on raising awareness of autism, particularly in schools and in universities.

They also work on various themes with a variety other audiences (companies, conferences, etc.) to help others gain a better knowledge of autism. Their objective is to raise awareness among the general public through clear and accessible explanations, and encouraging people to be more tolerant towards autistic people.

Tristan has participated in several working committees with different public authorities. He is also the older brother of two teenagers with autism, with different profiles and needs. This life experience gives him a "panoramic" view to understanding of autism. In addition, he is also a landscape gardener and works part-time in a Montessori school.

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## **Keynote speech- 06: “Developmental Social Neuroscience meet Public Health Challenge: The Next Generations of Children with Autism”**

- **Date: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019**
- **Time: 12:00- 12:45**
- **Place: Auditorium Apollon**
- **Speaker: Ami Klin (USA)**



**Ami Klin, Ph.D.** is the Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar Professor and Chief of the Division of Autism and Developmental Disabilities at Emory University School of Medicine, and Director of the Marcus Autism Center, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of London, and completed clinical and research post-doctoral fellowships at the Yale Child Study Center. He directed the Autism Program at the Yale Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine until 2010, where he was the Harris Professor of Child Psychology & Psychiatry. The Marcus Autism Center is one of the largest centers of clinical care in the country, providing a broad range of diagnostic and treatment

services, and is also a National Institutes of Health Autism Center of Excellence, with a comprehensive interdisciplinary program of research in clinical and basic science. Collaborative projects include several departments at Emory and others institutions such as the CDC and the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, as well as care-providing agencies in the community. The Center also provides training in a broad range of disciplines, and is strongly committed to advocacy at the local, national and international levels. Dr. Klin’s primary research activities focus on social mind and social brain, and on developmental aspects of autism from infancy through adulthood. These studies include novel techniques such as the eye-tracking laboratories co-directed with Warren Jones, which allow researchers to see the world through the eyes of individuals with autism. These techniques are now being applied in the screening of toddlers at risk for autism. He is the author of over 200 publications in the field of autism and related conditions.

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