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# QUALITY OF LIFE IN PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES INCLUDING AUTISM: ADVANCES IN PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

## 19-20 MAY 2023

UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA – THESSALONIKI  
1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM " PROFESSOR ILIAS KOUSKOUVELIS"



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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear All,

Welcome to International Conference entitled **"Quality of life in people with intellectual disabilities including autism: Advances in practice and research"**.

The Conference is organized by the **University of Macedonia, Department of Educational and Social Policy, Laboratory of Autism - Developmental Spectrum Disorders and Behavior Difficulties of the Human** (<https://labautism.uom.gr/>) in collaboration with the **International Journal of Developmental Disabilities** and the **British Society for Developmental Disabilities** (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/yjdd20/current>) on **May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023** in a hybrid form (with physical presence in University of Macedonia and remotely through a link).

The Conference aims to encourage international dialogue and exchange of views and perspectives or research experiences as well as best practice in relation to the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

This Conference is intended for Researchers, parents' representatives and professionals in the fields of assessment, education, rehabilitation and policy-making, from a variety of countries.

**Christine K. Syriopoulou- Delli**

Associate Professor, Director of Laboratory of Autism -Developmental Spectrum Disorders and Behavior Difficulties of the Human,  
University of Macedonia, Department of Educational and Social Policy

Chairman of Conference Organizing Committee

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THE TIME IS ATHENS TIME

Day 1 | Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023

09.30-11.00	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Session</b> Panel: <b>C. Syriopoulou-Delli, E. Gkiolnta, K. Sarri, E. Papaefstathiou</b></p> <p>Opening</p> <p>Greetings – Welcome Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E. Alexandropoulou-Egyptiadou</b> / Vice Rector and former Deputy Rector of the University of Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>A. Zervas</b> / Dean, School of Social Science, Humanities and Arts, Professor, "Music Theory - Music Creation", Department of Music Science and Art, University of Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>I. Bousdounis</b> / Head of the Directorate of Special Education, Hellenic Ministry of Education</li> <li>• <b>B. Salmons and A. Langa</b>/ Editors of the International Journal of Developmental Disabilities</li> <li>• Forging national educational policies for the equal access of students with disabilities and/or special educational needs to education: Goals, priorities, challenges. / <b>A. A. Christopoulou</b></li> <li>• Assistive technology and robots for art for people with autism spectrum disorders / <b>C. Syriopoulou- Delli</b></li> </ul>
11.00-11.30	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Session</b> Panel: <b>P. Varsamis, E. Gkiolnta, V. Giannouli</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A systemic behavior-analytic parent training intervention to improve the quality of life of families with children with autism spectrum disorder / <b>A. Gena</b></li> <li>• Stress and neurodevelopmental disorders / <b>P. Pervanidou</b></li> </ul>
11.30-12.00	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
12.00-13.15	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Session</b> Panel: <b>V. Giannouli, K. Sarri</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educators apply new teaching strategies despite initial attributions of autistic students' controllability of their behaviors / <b>J. Panganiban, C. Kasari</b></li> <li>• Are there sex differences in the prevalence and severity of early-stage trauma-related stress in mildly impaired autistic children and adolescents? / <b>V. Bitsika, C.F. Sharpley</b></li> <li>• Sedentary behavior and quality of life in children with autism: Insights from Romania and Greece / <b>R. Folostina, C. L. Iacob, C. Syriopoulou-Delli</b></li> <li>• Maturing alongside my son Manoli and the spectrum of autism / <b>E. Akrivou</b></li> <li>• Executive functions and academic achievement in children with ADHD / <b>K. Fiorentzi, A. S. Antoniou</b></li> </ul>
13.15-14.00	<p><b>Light Lunch</b></p>

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14.00-15.00	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Session</b> Panel: <b>V. Giannouli, A. Pampouri, V. Neofotistos, P. Varsamis, E. Papaefstathiou</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STE(A)M and educational robotics for inclusive education / <b>P. Foti</b></li> <li>• Robot programming for a child with autism spectrum disorders: A case study / <b>E. Gkiolnta, M. Zygopoulou, C. Syriopoulou- Delli</b></li> <li>• Application of eye-tracking technology and machine learning in autism detection: The case of high-functioning adults / <b>K. F. Kollias, C. Syriopoulou-Delli, P. Sarigiannidis, G. F. Fragulis</b></li> <li>• Assessing educational programs for intellectually disabled students in special primary schools / <b>P. Stagiopoulos</b></li> <li>• Narrative skills in children with ADHD or autism spectrum disorders: A systematic review of the literature / <b>E. Rousketou, K. Antonopoulou</b></li> </ul>
15.00-15.30	<b>Coffee break</b>
15.30-16.00	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Session</b> Panel: <b>A. Pampouri, V. Neofotistos, A.E. Filiou</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspects of social skills in high-functioning individuals with autism spectrum disorders: Related or separable? / <b>I. Dosi, Z. Resta</b></li> <li>• Standardization of Greek vocabulary and use of assistive technology for the reinforcement of communication to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders / <b>E. Gkiolnta, C. Syriopoulou- Delli</b></li> <li>• Enhancing independent living skills and professional integration of young people and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder through the use of assistive technology / <b>K. Sarri, C. Syriopoulou-Delli</b></li> </ul>
16.00	Discussion, Conclusion, Closing Remarks



## Day 2 | Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2023

<p>09.30-10.45</p>	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Session</b>  <b>Panel: P. Varsamis, M. Sitziouki, A. E. Filiou</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aligning quality of life and guidelines for off-label psychotropic drugs in adults with intellectual disabilities and challenging behavior / <b>P. Laermans, F. Morisse, M. Lombardi, S. Gerard, S. Vandeveld, G. de Kuijper, K. Audenaert, C. Claes</b></li> <li>To Tell or not to Tell - Disclosure of autism in the workplace / <b>D. Nimante</b></li> <li>Comorbidity of mental health and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Perception of practitioners in management of their challenging behavior / <b>E. Khasakhala, K. Bota, M. Sichari, G. N. Ayaga, B. Wesonga, D. Kokonya</b></li> <li>Knowledge with kindness is power! Knowledge about autism and kindness relate to better attitude towards persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder. / <b>J. A. Datu</b></li> <li>Sensory profiles, behavioral problems and auditory findings in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder / <b>U. Gundogdu</b></li> </ul>
<p>10.45-11.15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>11.15-12.30</p>	<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Session</b>  <b>Panel: E. Gkiolnta, P. Varsamis, V. Giannouli, E. Papaefstathiou</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Towards inclusive distance learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders / <b>E. Papaefstathiou, K. Sarri, A. E. Filiou, C. Syriopoulou- Delli</b></li> <li>Logometro: Assessing language development in young children. / <b>A. Mouzaki, F. Antoniou, A. M. Ralli</b></li> <li>Investigating the effectiveness of ayres sensory integration intervention in Autism Spectrum Disorders / <b>E. Maglari</b></li> <li>Co-educational teacher program-aspects-perspectives / <b>N. Papadopoulos</b></li> <li>Virtual reality on increasing vocational skills of people with autism spectrum disorder / <b>K. Sarri, E. Gkiolnta, C. Syriopoulou-Delli</b></li> </ul>
<p>12.30-13.15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Light Lunch</b></p>
<p>13.30-14.30</p>	<p><b>8<sup>th</sup> Session</b>  <b>Panel: K. Sarri, V. Giannouli, E. Papaefstathiou</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of life of people with autism and intellectual disabilities at two sustainable communities / <b>B. Valentini</b></li> <li>Quality of Life in parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Emphasizing challenges in the Indian context / <b>S. Raju, P.E.V. Hepsibah, M. K. Niharika</b></li> <li>Promoting learning and social experiences of people with autism spectrum disorders in the museums. / <b>C. Kanari</b></li> <li>Early intervention program for toddlers with ASD, parents and professionals / <b>E. Papaefstathiou, A. E. Filiou, E. Gkiolnta, K. Sarri, C. Syriopoulou-Delli</b></li> <li>Teaching social skills in small groups of children and young adults with developmental disabilities: An intervention program / <b>C. Lappa</b></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocational and social training program, transition to labor market and open society for adolescents and young adults with ASD / <b>K. Sarri, A. E. Filiou, E. Papaefstathiou, E. Gkiolnta, C. Syriopoulou-Delli</b></li> </ul>
14.30	<p><b>Poster Competition on the theme of “Quality of Life in People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Autism: Advances in Practice and Research”.</b></p> <p><b>Winner’s presentation</b></p>
15.00	Closing remarks / <b>Brian Salmons</b>
15.10	<b>Erasmus + project : CORTTEX</b> <a href="https://elearning.corttex.eu/?lang=el">https://elearning.corttex.eu/?lang=el</a> presentation



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## SPEAKERS LIST

- Akrivou Evdoksia**, Educator in an Elementary School, Vice- President of The Parental Association, M.A.m.A Veria (The welfare for People with Autism), Mother of a 17-year-old adolescent in the spectrum of Autism, Veria / Greece
- Alexandropoulou-Egyptiadou Evgenia**, Professor Evgenia Alexandropoulou - Egyptiadou, Vice Rector and former Deputy Rector of the University of Macedonia (Thessaloniki, Greece), Professor in I.T. Law at the Department of Applied Informatics, founder of the I.T. Law Scientific Group, Director of the Postgraduate Program (Master) in "Law and Informatics", Thessaloniki / Greece
- Antoniou Alexandros-Stamatios**, Professor Department of Primary Education, NKUA, Athens / Greece
- Antoniou Faye**, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens / Greece
- Antonopoulou Katerina**, Associate Professor, Department of Economics and Sustainable Development, Harokopio University of Athens, Athens / Greece
- Audenaert Kurt**, Associate Professor, Ghent University / Belgium
- Ayaga Godfrey Nyaoga**, Dr., Senior Lecturer, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology / Kenya
- Bitsika Vicki**, Professor of Neuroscience, University of New England, New South Wales / Australia
- Bota Kennedy**, Professor, Associate Dean, School of Education, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology / Kenya
- Bousdounis Ioannis**, Head of the Directorate of Special Education, Hellenic Ministry of Education, Athens / Greece
- Christopoulou Athina Anna**, Head of Unit for the Protection of the Rights of Pupils with Disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs, Directorate of Special Education, Representative of Board/Management Board Member of the European Agency for Special Needs & Inclusive Education, Athens / Greece
- Claes Claudia**, Decan Hogeschool Ghent and Guest Professor, Ghent University / Belgium
- Datu Jesus Alfonso D.**, Dr., The Education University of Hong Kong / China
- de Kuijper Gerda**, Intellectual Disability Physician and Senior Researcher Academic Collaboration Intellectual disabilities and Mental Health, University Medical Centre Groningen / The Netherlands
- Dosi Ifigeneia**, Assistant Professor, Department of Greek Philology, Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupolis / Greece
- Filiou Areti-Eirini**, Psychologist, PhD Candidate, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece
- Fiorentzi Krystallenia**, English Teacher, PhD Candidate, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens / Greece
- Folostina Ruxandra**, Dr, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Bucharest, Bucharest / Romania
- Foti Paraskevi**, Educational Coordinator in Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Post Doc c. on STEAM, PhD, Med, MA, Scientific Staff in University of West Attica, Athens / Greece
- Fragulis George F.**, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Western Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece
- Gena Angeliki**, Clinical Psychologist, Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens / Greece
- Gerard Sylvie**, Scientific Collaborator, Superior Health Council, Brussels / Belgium
- Giannouli Vasiliki**, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational and Social Policy, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece
- Gkiointa Eleni**, Special Education Teacher, PhD Candidate, University of Macedonia, Department of Educational and Social Policy, Laboratory of Autism -Developmental Spectrum Disorders and Behavior Difficulties of the Human, Thessaloniki / Greece

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**Gundogdu Ummugulsum**, Assistant Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Marmara University medical School, Istanbul / Turkey

**Hepsibah P.E.V.**, Post-Graduate Student Department of Speech-Language Pathology JSS Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysuru, Karnataka / India

**Iacob Claudia Luliana**, Dr, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy, Bucharest / Romania

**Kanari Charikleia**, Professor, School of Early Childhood Education, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki / Greece

**Kasari Connie**, Professor of Human Development and Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles / USA

**Khasakhala Edward**, Department of Educational Psychology, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology / Kenya

**Kokonya Donald**, School of Medicine. Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology / Kenya

**Kollias Konstantinos-Filippos**, PhD Candidate, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Western Macedonia, Kozani / Greece

**Laermans Pauline**, Researcher EQUALITY Research Collective, University College Ghent / Belgium

**Langa Arturo**, Editor of the International Journal of Developmental Disabilities, Edinburgh / Scotland, UK

**Lappa Christina**, Post Doc, PhD, MSc, Adjunct Lecturer, Hellenic Open University, Larisa / Greece

**Lombardi Marco**, Researcher EQUALITY Research Collective, Hogeschool Ghent / Belgium

**Maglari Elizabeth**, Dr., PP-OTD, OT/L, BCP, Board Certified in Pediatric Occupational Therapy, Pediatric Institute, Athens / Greece

**Morisse Filip**, PhD and Guest professor, Ghent University / Belgium

**Mouzaki Angeliki**, Associate Professor, Department of Primary Education, University of Crete / Greece

**Neofotistos Vasileios**, Laboratory and Teaching Staff, Department of Educational and Social Policy, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece

**Niharika M. K.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Speech-Language Pathology JSS Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysuru, Karnataka / India

**Nimante Dita**, Dr, Professor, University of Latvia, Rīga / Latvia

**Pampouri Anastasia**, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational and Social Policy University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece

**Panganiban Jonathan**, PhD Research Fellow UCLA, Los Angeles / USA

**Papadopoulos Nikos**, Special Education Teacher, MEd, MSc, Head of 1st Center for Interdisciplinary Assessment, Counseling and Support of Piraeus / Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Athens / Greece

**Papaefstathiou Elpis**, Psychologist-Special Education Teacher, PhD Candidate, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece

**Pervanidou Panagiota**, Professor of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Head of the Unit of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, First Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens / Greece

**Raju Suma**, Professor and Principal, Department of Speech Language Pathology, JSS Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysuru / India

**Ralli Asimina M.**, Associate Professor, Psychology Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens / Greece

**Resta Zoe**, Special Educator, MEd Physics, Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupolis / Greece

**Rousketou Evaggelia**, Secondary Education Teacher, M.Sc. in Educational Psychology, Department of Economics and Sustainable Development, Harokopio University of Athens / Greece



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**Salmons Brian**, Editor of the International Journal of Developmental Disabilities / Singapore

**Sarigiannidis Panagiotis**, University of West Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece

**Sarri Kyriaki**, Primary Education Teacher, PhD Candidate, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki / Greece

**Sharpley Christopher F.**, Professor of Neuroscience, Brain-Behaviour Research Group, University of New England, New South Wales / Australia

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