Defining good outcomes for autistic people
What are “we” striving for?

At present, there is little consensus between policymakers, scientists, and advocacy groups as to what defines a “good” intervention or a “good” outcome for individuals with autism. Scientists often concentrate on narrowly-defined outcomes such as changes in IQ scores, autistic behaviours or language skills. Others, such as those in public policy, focus instead on life adjustment and social inclusion: whether a person is in paid employment, has friends and social contact, and achieves independence. And parents and people with autism themselves may focus on states of subjective wellbeing such as happiness and quality of family life.

In this talk, Dr Pellicano will discuss some of the social and ethical implications of issues surrounding what is a good intervention or a desirable outcome for autistic people and further consider who should get to make these decisions.

Liz Pellicano is Reader in Developmental Cognitive Science at the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE) at the Institute of Education, University of London. She is also a partner investigator on the Person Perception Research Program of the Centre for Cognition and its Disorders and an External Research Associate at UWA.

Her current research aims to understand the way that autistic people perceive and interpret the world around them and how any such differences impact upon people’s everyday lives. Liz also has a strong interest in social and ethical issues related to autism. She is committed to involving autistics and their families more directly in the research process and has written several discussion pieces on the social and ethical implications of biomedical research on autism.

Event Details
When: Tuesday 27th November, 6:30 – 7:30pm
Venue: Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, University of Western Australia
Cost: Free
RSVP: libby.taylor@uwa.edu.au

This lecture is hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders
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