Autism affects millions of people’s lives. There have been many legislative, policy and service initiatives in recent years aiming to improve the life chances and opportunities of autistic people. There has also been an explosion of autism research. But the focus of research is largely on the underlying biology and causes of autism rather than on services, treatments and interventions for autistic people and their families. How can we reduce this so-called “translational gap”, this gap between knowledge and practice? How can we ensure that our research focuses on issues of more immediate, practical concern, as prioritised by members of the autism community - autistic people, family members and practitioners?

In this talk, Dr Pellicano will suggest that we not only need greater investment in currently under-researched areas and under-served populations but we also need radical new ways of doing autism research. The talk will raise issues about autism and autism research but also highlight broader issues about decision-making and accountability in research.

About Dr Pellicano
Dr Pellicano is a developmental cognitive scientist committed to understanding the distinctive opportunities and challenges often faced by autistic children, young people and adults and tracing their impact on everyday life – at home, at school and out-and-about in the community. She trained as an educational psychologist in Perth, Australia, where she also completed her PhD on the cognitive profile of children with autism, before becoming a Research Fellow in Psychiatry at the University of Oxford.

She is Director of the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE) at the Institute of Education, London (http://crae.ioe.ac.uk).

Event Details
Date: Monday 27 October 2014
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Social Sciences Lecture Theatre UWA
Parking: P3 off Hackett entrance 1
Cost: Free, but RSVP essential via www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/pellicano

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