

University of Rijeka - Faculty of Medicine
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND
MEDICAL HUMANITIES

CENTER FOR AUTISM, RIJEKA

**Religious experience of people
with autism spectrum disorder:
theory and practice**

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP



February 11 - 12, 2022
Rijeka, Croatia

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WORKSHOP PROGRAMME (time zone: CET)

FIRST DAY (February 11th, 2022)

- 8.30 - 8.50 Opening of the workshop and welcome addresses
- 8.50 - 09.20 **First lecture: Sandra Čavrak** (Center for autism, Rijeka)
„Poremećaji iz spektra autizma“ („Autism spectrum disorders“)
- 9.20 - 9.35 Discussion
- 9.35 - 10.05 **Second lecture: Sandra Čavrak** (Center for autism, Rijeka)
„Prikaz rada Centra za autizam Rijeka“ („Review of the work of the Center for Autism Rijeka“)
- 10.05 - 10.20 Discussion
- 10.20 - 10.40 Break
- 10.40 - 11.10 **Third lecture: Ingela Visuri** (Dalarna University, Sweden)
„The naturalness hypothesis of religion: a theoretical viewpoint from the cognitive science of religion“
- 11.10 - 11.25 Discussion
- 11.25 - 11.55 **Fourth lecture: Ingela Visuri** (Dalarna University, Sweden)
„Autism, theism and atheism: why disembodied beings are more accessible to autistic individuals“
- 11.55 - 12.10 Discussion
- 12.10 - 14.00 Break
- 14.00 - 14.30 **Fifth lecture: Radojka Sućeska Ligutić** (Zagreb)
„Unutarnji svijet osoba iz autističnog spektra“ („The inner world of people on the autism spectrum“)

14.30 - 14.45 Discussion

14.45 - 15.15 **Sixth lecture: Radojka Sućeska Ligutić**
(Zagreb)

„Zašto i kako uključiti osobe iz AS u crkvena događanja?“ („Why and how to involve people from AS in church events?“)

15.15 - 15.30 Discussion

15.40 - 15.50 Break

15.50 - 17.20 **Lectures and discussions**

15.50 - 16.05 **Ana Muhvić** (Center for Education, Velika Gorica) and **Ines Ilečić** (Center for Education, Velika Gorica)

„Putovanje u sigurnu luku – dalja priprava učenika sa PSA za primanje sakramenta Prva svete Pričesti“

(„Journey to a safe port - further preparation of students with ASD to receive the sacrament of the First Holy Communion“)

16.05 - 16.20 Discussion

16.20 - 16.35 **Ivana Dugandžić** (Center for autism, Osijek)
“Iskustvo molitve anđelima djece iz spektra autizma“

(„The experience of praying to angels of children from the autism spectrum“)

16.35 - 16.50 Discussion

16.50 - 17.05 **Elizabeth Agnew Cochran** (Duquesne University, USA)

„Religious Belief and the Moral Experience of Individuals with Autism“

17.05 - 17.20 Discussion and conclusion of the first day of the workshop

SECOND DAY (February 12th, 2022)

- 8.30 - 9.00** **First lecture: Lluís Oviedo** (Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome)
„What factors might influence the development of religious beliefs in autistic subjects?“
- 9.00 - 9.15** Discussion
- 9.15 - 09.45** **Second lecture: Lluís Oviedo** (Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome)
„An empirical assessment of the perception of supernatural phenomena among autistic persons“
- 9.45 - 10.00** Discussion
- 10.00 - 10.20** Break
- 10.20 - 10.50** **Third lecture: Brian Brock** (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)
„The autistic voice in the community of Praise“
- 10.50 - 11.05** Discussion
- 11.05 - 11.35** **Fourth lecture: Brian Brock** (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)
„Beyond the Hesitation Blues: How churches can get better at first contacts“
- 11.35 - 11.50** Discussion
- 11.50 - 13.30** Break
- 13.30 - 14.00** **Fifth lecture: Magdalena Jančec** (Centre for Autism, Zagreb)
„Primijenjena analiza ponašanja u poučavanju učenika s poremećajem iz spektra autizma“
(„Applied Behavioral Analysis in Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder“)
- 14.00 - 14.15** Discussion

14.15 - 14.45 Sixth lecture: Magdalena Jančec (Centre for Autism, Zagreb)

„Primjena metoda primijenjene analize ponašanja u poučavanju učenika i nošenju s nepoželjnim oblicima ponašanja“
(„Application of methods of applied behavior analysis in teaching students and dealing with undesirable forms of behavior“)

14.45 - 15.00 Discussion

15.00 - 15.10 Break

15.10 – 16.20 Presentations and discussions

15.10 - 15.25 Léon van Ommen (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)

„The Religious Experience of Autistic Children in an Autism-Centred Church: A Case Study“

15.25 - 15.40 Discussion

15.40 - 15.55 Adam Machowski (Kolegium Jagiellonskie Torunska Szkoła Wyższa, Poland)

„Pastoral work with a group of children and adolescents with autism. Its similarities and differences compared to working with people with other disabilities“

15.55 - 16.20 Discussion and conclusion of the workshop

Introduction to the workshop

As part of the international project „The religious experience of children with autism spectrum disorder“, an international scientific workshop entitled „Religious experience of people with autism spectrum disorder: theory and practice“ will be held online on February 11-12, 2022.

The leaders of the project are doc. dr. sc. Saša Horvat (University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine) and Tanja Horvat, dipl. theol. (Center for Autism, Rijeka). The aim of the project is to contribute to a better interdisciplinary scientific research of the religious experience of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) through various scientific activities. Funded by the „New Visions in Theological Anthropology“ (NViTA) project made possible by the John Templeton Foundation.

The lectures and presentations of the workshop will be given by experts who have dealt theoretically and practically with the topics of autism and religious experience in their work. The scientific workshop is primarily aimed at theologians and/or religious educators who work with children with ASD, but experts from other fields are also welcome.

Organising committee

- Tanja Horvat** (Center for Autism, Rijeka, Croatia),
president
- Saša Horvat** (Faculty of Medicine, University of
Rijeka, Croatia)
- Sandra Čavrak** (Center for Autism, Rijeka, Croatia)
- Lluis Oviedo** (Pontificia Universita Antonianum,
Italy)
- Tomasz Huzarek** (Faculty of Theology, Nicolaus
Copernicus University, Poland)
- Ivanka Pejić** (Center for Autism, Rijeka, Croatia)

Scientific committee

- Amir Muzur** (Faculty of Medicine, University of
Rijeka, Croatia)
- Piotr Roszak** (Faculty of Theology, Nicolaus
Copernicus University, Poland)
- John Perry** (School of Divinity, University of St
Andrews, Scotland)

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Centar za
autizam
Rijeka