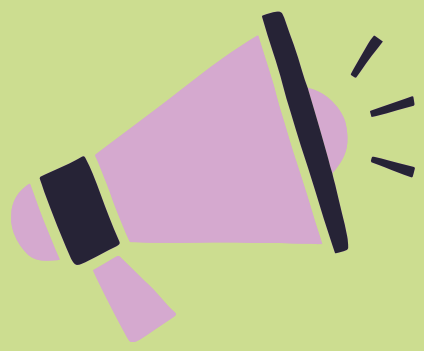




Psych Talk

Promoting Social and Emotional Wellbeing in Autistic Adolescents and Adults:

Predictors, Challenges, and Pathways to Intervention

Erin E. McKenney
Hunter College



November 5

RNS150
at 3:30 PM

An estimated six million U.S. adults are on the autism spectrum and face elevated rates of depression, anxiety, and trauma-related disorders, yet support often declines in adulthood. My research uses longitudinal, mixed-method, and participatory approaches to identify factors that promote mental health and wellbeing in neurodiverse communities. Recent projects focus on neurodiversity-affirming sexual consent education, using experiments, surveys, and interviews co-developed with autistic community members to understand how autistic young adults interpret and express consent, with the goal of informing interventions that foster healthy relationships and emotional wellbeing