

**09-223b Autism Spectrum Disorders and Cumulative Traumatic Experience:
Do Contemporary Biopsychosocial Interventions Adequately Address the
Diverse Needs of Autistic Children? – 6 Hour Seminar**

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Friday, June 19, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course Description

Autism and related developmental disorders are challenging conditions for individuals and their families. Clinicians, teachers and caregivers may not be aware of the increasing demands/expectations that are placed on these children in various contexts. It is suggested that these children often develop symptoms that are similar to individuals who have experienced trauma. In an effort to acquire the best possible treatments for autism, do we fail to notice the day to day experiences of these children/youth? Is it possible that our present initiatives may be contributing in maladaptive ways? This presentation will critically review historical and contemporary strategies for treating autism. It will address the complexity of autism as a medical, psychological and social disorder requiring specialized intervention during critical periods. It will consider the relationship between ASD disorders and trauma. Finally, it will address ways in which social work practitioners can assess for and concurrently address trauma in the treatment of ASD disorders.

Faculty: Joseph Smith, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.-R., C.A.S.A.C. – Research Advisor and Adjunct Instructor, Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA; Social Science Department Coordinator, Professor and Chemical Dependency Studies Program Chair, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, NY; Clinical Social Worker and Coordinator, Enable, Syracuse; NY. Clinical Social Worker, St. Joseph's Hospital Psychiatric Outpatient Services, Syracuse, NY; Author and presenter.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Consider the impact of co-occurring trauma that exists for many children/youth with ASD.
2. Identify the utility and the limitations of existing ASD practice initiatives.
3. Explore optimal practice initiatives for advancing the recovery of children/youth with ASD.

References

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