

**NIAS Consciousness Studies Programme
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES**

Bangalore, INDIA

Invites you to a
PUBLIC LECTURE

on

5.30 PM, Friday, 31st October 2014
(5.00 pm – Tea/Coffee)

Venue: NIAS Lecture Hall

by

Dr Prathibha Karanth

Program Director and Managing Trustee
Com DEALL Trust

on

**Mind or Body – the key to the Self
and the other in Autism**

Chairperson: Prof Sangeetha Menon, NIAS

ALL ARE WELCOME

Abstract

Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is currently among the most studied and debated upon developmental disorder. Not surprisingly so given that the estimates of the incidence of ASD have skyrocketed from 1 in 10,000 when it was first described in the 1940's to the current figures of 1 in 68. Despite the enormous research interest there is still no agreement on the causation of ASD, except for a broad consensus that the basis of the disorder is biological and not psychological as was presumed earlier. Among the more popular recent theories of ASD, many have focused on the social component of the disorder proposing that the core difficulty lies in the social domain. This position is perhaps best represented by the proponents of the 'Theory of Mind' (TOM) who propose that autism stems from the inability of the child or individual with ASD, 'in reading the minds of others'. This presentation will take the opposite viewpoint that the key to the issues that children with ASD are faced with, including their issues with mind reading; is perhaps to be found in the manner in which their bodies function. Support for this viewpoint will be drawn and illustrated from clinical experiences with and self-narrations from individuals with ASD. The thrust of the presentation will be for a greater focus on the body of the individual with ASD; from families, clinicians and researchers alike.

About the Speaker

Prof Prathibha Karanth has degrees in Psychology and Speech Language Pathology & Audiology, from the University of Mysore. She has worked as a clinician, teacher and researcher in premier national institutions such as NIMHANS, Bangalore, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and All India Institute of Speech & Hearing (AIISH), Mysore; focusing on neurogenic communication disorders in adults and children. Her particular focus has been on the cross linguistic and cross-cultural aspects. She is the recipient of several grants and awards including those from international organizations such as the Common Wealth, UNICEF, Fulbright and Rockefeller Foundations as also national bodies such as the ICSSR, ICMR, National Academy of Medical Sciences, NCERT and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust. Dr Karanth has published over a dozen books and manuals, and over 70 book chapters and papers in peer reviewed national and international journals – accessible on academia.edu. She is Series Editor for CommunicAids – an indigenous resource provider for children with communication disorders and serves on the Editorial Boards of several journals and publishers. Since 2000, she has been active in early intervention services for children with Autism, having designed and documented the Communication DEALL program. The demand for the replication of the program across the county led to her setting up the Com DEALL Trust, a non profit for the welfare of those with ASD and related communication disorders; of which she is currently Program Director and Managing Trustee. For more on Prof Karanth's work please visit www.communicationdeall.org and academia.edu

For more info write to:

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