DREXEL UNIVERSITY
A.J. Drexel Autism Institute

# From Behavior to Brain: A Deeper look at Females on the Autism Spectrum

## Tuesday, December 4, 2018

## 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

**AJ Drexel Autism Institute**
**3020 Market Street**
**Suite 501**
**Idea Lab**

Research suggests that females with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) differ in subtle yet important ways. These differences may contribute to later diagnoses and a greater ability to camouflage their difficulties. In this talk, Dr. Harrop, will discuss the use of different methodologies, from parent child interactions to electrophysiology, to understand differences between males and females. The long-term goal of this body of research is to understand if, when and how females with ASD differ from males and how these differences can inform detection, diagnosis and intervention approaches for females on the autism spectrum.

– Clare Harrop, PhD, is an Assistant Professor and developmental psychologist at UNC-Chapel Hill specializing in understanding the female phenotype of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through a combination of behavioral and physiological methods. She completed her PhD in the UK as part of the Preschool Autism Communication Trial where her research focused on developmental trajectories of play and restricted and repetitive behaviors in ASD. Following her PhD, Dr. Harrop coordinated the first prodromal intervention for infants at risk of ASD which was featured in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's 2015 Summary of Advances. She continued this research at UCLA's Center for Autism Research and Treatment under the mentorship of Dr. Connie Kasari, focusing on the behavioral female phenotype of ASD and the impact of early intervention on ASD core deficits. She is currently an Assistant Professor and KL2 Scholar in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine where her research uses eye tracking and electrophysiological approaches to inform the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of ASD females. Her long-term goal is to understand how biological sex influences the complex interplay between brain and behavior and synthesize data from multiple sources to develop targeted and personalized treatments for females on the spectrum.

*For more information contact*
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