



The conference will address the post-COVID world with a panel of speakers who will facilitate a reflection on growth, adaptation and resilience in a changing and changed world. These are:



Barry Prizant

With 50 years' experience, Barry is among the world's leading authorities on autism, and is recognized as an innovator of respectful, person and family-centered approaches for individuals with autism and neurodevelopmental conditions.



Richard Grinker

Author of the highly acclaimed book "Nobody's Normal", Richard is Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at the George Washington University in Washington.



Maja Toudal

An autistic psychologist, speaker, self-advocate and author, Maja has worked in autism communication for more than a decade.



Stephen Shore

A professor at Adelphi University, Stephen's research focuses on matching best practice to the needs of people with autism. He shares examples from his own life, as an academic on the autism spectrum.



Jed Baker

Jed Baker the director of the Social Skills Training Project, an organisation serving individuals with autism and social communication problems.

**Jody O'Neill**

Jody is an award-winning autistic writer and performer with over 20 years' experience working in the theatre, film and TV sector in Ireland and internationally.

EVENT PROGRAMME

DAY ONE | Friday 23 April 2021

09.15 Check in

09.30 Welcome and introduction - Gary Cooper, CEO, Middletown Centre for Autism

09.40 Keynote: Neurodiversity in Action - Barry Prizant

10.40 Break

11.00 Seminars

ONE - Barry Prizant leads a workshop entitled Uniquely Human

TWO - The Middletown team will discuss the Centre's recently published book on Autism and Anxiety Management

12.00 Break for Lunch

12.45 Keynote: Nobody's Normal - Richard Grinker

13.45 Middletown Centre for Autism's work and resources: this session focuses on The Centre's work in schools

14.15 Comfort break

14.30 Keynote: Being Autistic in a Time of Uncertainty - Stephen Shore

15.30 Question and answer session

16.00 Close

DAY TWO | Saturday 24 April 2021

09.00 Check in

09.30 Welcome and introduction - Gary Cooper, CEO, Middletown Centre for Autism

09.40 Keynote: Quality of Life and Stress Management in Autism - Maja Toudal

10.40 Break

11.00 Seminars

ONE - Maja Toudal provides further detail on stress management strategies

TWO - Autistic writer and performer Jody O'Neill discusses her recent production 'What I (Don't) know About Autism'

12.00 Break for Lunch

12.45 Keynote: What I (don't) Know About Autism - Jody O'Neill

13.45 Middletown Centre for Autism's work and resources: this session focuses on The Centre's work with families

14.15 Comfort break

14.30 Keynote: Practical Strategies for Managing Anxiety - Jed Baker

15.30 Question and answer session

16.00 Closing remarks