



COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK

ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

The Summit is Visible in the Distance!

The 4th [College Autism Summit](#) will be held October 27-30. This *virtual* event brings together scholars, practitioners, self-advocates, employers and families to learn from each other and support the success of college students with autism. We hope you can join us!



**Summit Opening Speaker Announced: Robia Rashid,
Creator, Producer and Writer of the Netflix Series “*Atypical*”**



Robia Rashid



Join Robia Rashid, creator, producer and writer of the Netflix series “Atypical” for a conversation with CAN leader Brett Ranon Nachman. “Atypical” is readying for its fourth season chronicling the adventures of Sam Gardner, a college student with autism, as he navigates college, romance, friendship and independent living. Considered one of the most authentic autistic characters on television, Sam has helped millions understand the potential and challenges of life on the spectrum. He is smart, funny, kind, occasionally frustrating to others (including his professors), but above all, he is real, as are the actors with autism that Rashid has cast in the show. Rashid was awarded the 2017 Writers Guild of America West Evan Somers Memorial Award at the Media Access Awards, which honors individuals who are showcasing the disability narrative. Additionally, AutFest 2018 honored “Atypical” with their Spotlight Award. Robia was nominated for a HUMANITAS Award in 2020 and the show was nominated for a Peabody Award for 2018.

[Register for the College Autism Summit](#) by September 16 to receive the early bird rate.

The CANVAS Fall Line-up

Stay up to date with the latest and most interesting research going on in the world of autism and higher education by joining our monthly CANVAS calls, a one-hour gathering of scholars from around the world who listen to a research presentation and then talk with the presenter. Next up:

Thurs, Aug 13 at 11am ET: **Dr. Eilidh Cage** (University of Stirling) and **Jack Howes** (Autistic Writer and Fundraiser) discuss "Dropping out: Understanding the university experiences of autistic students who could not complete their studies." Meeting agenda and link can be [found here](#). Please add your name to the RSVP list.

To be added to the CANVAS list for meeting links, contact [Brett Nachman](#). Here's the Fall schedule:

- **Thurs, Sept 17** at 11am ET: **Dr. Jonathan Vincent** (York St. John University) discusses "Transitions from higher education for autistic students and graduates: qualitative insights from the UK context" (see below for their training video links)
- **Thurs, Oct 15** at 2pm ET: **Dr. Julie Lounds Taylor** (Vanderbilt University) discusses serving as an editor of the *Autism* journal: "Pulling back the curtain: tips from the editorial desk."
- **Thurs, Nov 12** at 3pm ET: **Dr. Cheryl Widman** (University of Illinois at Chicago) discusses "Understanding Parent Participation in the Postsecondary Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder"

Program Directors' Monthly Calls

Since the start of campus shutdowns, CAN has been hosting a monthly call with directors of autism programs to share challenges, strategies and resources. These calls have been a great networking opportunity for professionals who often feel a bit isolated on their own campuses, as well as a way to hear what others are figuring out. If you are the director of an autism program and have not been getting our invitations to our monthly calls, please [let us know](#) so we can add you to the invitation list. Our next call is August 12 at 3 pm ET.

Useful Training Videos Now Available

Jonathan Vincent and the participatory team of PRO Autism at York St. John University in the UK have developed some short videos (ranging from three to eight minutes) that you might find useful for campus trainings, especially now that we are relying on more online outreach:

- [What is autism?](#)
- [What are the barriers to employment?](#)
- [What are the challenges in the workplace?](#)
- [What strategies enable neurodiverse colleagues to be successful in the workplace?](#)
- [What difference can employing neurodiverse staff make for companies?](#)
- [If employers could understand one thing it would be...](#)

The College Autism Network (CAN) is a division of [NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education](#). If you have questions about CAN, the College Autism Summit, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact [Lee Burdette Williams](#).

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