

Clashing 'Normalities': - MANCHESTER

Addressing the clashes between non-autistic communication, social, school and employment structures and what comes naturally to those on the Autistic Spectrum.

by **Donna Williams**

There is an assumption that the ultimate goal is to help people on the Autistic Spectrum to fit into Non-Autistic structures and much time and money is poured unquestioningly into that goal. But teaching any human being to suppress or ignore their own natural systems in favour of those of the social majority might be 'functional' or 'practical', but is it healthy? Does it work in the long term? What do regressions, meltdowns and the ongoing need for 'behaviour management' have to tell us about the cultural ignorance of the non-Autistic social majority, about the long term picture regarding one-size fits all approaches, and about what it means to really 'connect'? What are the systems and structures of communication, socialising, learning and employment from the perspective of someone with an Autism Spectrum Condition, how do some of these clash with those of the non-Autistic social majority and what can be done about it so that people reach out and embrace their place in the world and not just 'put up' how others define what that place should be?

This lecture will take you beyond the symptoms and inside of the labels, to the cognitive systems, personality differences and chemistry states underpinning the natural systems and structures of people on the Autistic Spectrum and where these differ from those most common in 'the host society'.

*Donna Williams is a person diagnosed with Autism, a Sociologist and qualified teacher and the author of nine published books including **Autism; An Inside Out Approach** and her international best-selling autobiography, **Nobody Nowhere***

(all available from Jessica Kingsley Publishers www.jkp.com).

Donna is an internationally renowned public speaker, a consultant, as well as a sculptor, painter, screenwriter and composer. Her website is at <http://www.donnawilliams.net>

DATE: Saturday 13TH September 2008

TIME: 3pm- 5pm

VENUE: Manchester Business School, Booth St West, Manchester M15 6PB

CONTACT: Christine Breakey. Tel: 0114 2669731

COST : Professionals £25 Concessions £10 (autistic people and families)

BOOKING FORM: *Spectrum First Ltd. 13 Spring Hill Crookesmoor, Sheffield S10 1ET. Tel: 0114 2669731*

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