

Cognitive Behaviour Drama: A Research Based Intervention Model to Improve Social Thinking in High-Functioning Children with Autism

Haris Karnezi, Trinity College Dublin, Greece

Cognitive Behaviour Drama is a research based intervention model that brought together the science of psychology with the art form of drama to create an unobtrusive and exciting approach that would provide children on the higher end of the autism spectrum the motivation to explore the rules of social interaction and develop competences associated with communicative success. The method involves engaging the participants in exciting fictional scenarios and encouraging them to seek various solutions on a number of problems that will lead them to an understanding of

causal relationships and how a different course of action may lead to a different outcome. Within these scenarios the children are enticed to engage in activities designed to help them improve theory of mind, central coherence, executive functioning.

The aim of the workshop would be to introduce the CBD model to the audience through practical / interactive examples, that will allow them to get an experiential understanding of the method, as well as the theory underpinning the practice.

Dr HarisKarnezi, is the founder/director of the Cognitive Behaviour Drama Centre in Athens. Awards for her work in the field of autism include the prestigious Woman of the Year Award -science category- (Greece, 2009), the Trinity College Dublin Postgraduate Research Award (Ireland 2007), funding from the Irish National Council for Special Education (2007), three year scholarship from Trinity College Dublin (2004-07). She has presented her work in peer-reviewed conferences, nationally and internationally and has trained professionals around the globe- Ireland, Australia, Mexico, USA and Greece- on how to implement her method.

Biography

Dr. Haris Karnezi is a Greek psychologist, educator, and innovator in the field of autism intervention. She is best known for developing Cognitive Behavior Drama (CBD), a research-based therapeutic model that merges psychological science with the art of drama to support children with behavioral and communication challenges, including high-functioning autism, ADHD, and selective mutism

karnezih@tcd.ie