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## **AUTISM AND THE PREDICTIVE MIND, ABSOLUTE THINKING IN A RELATIVE WORLD:**

**Practical Implications for Treatment and Intervention**

**SPEAKER: PETER VERMEULEN, PHD**

**October 19, 2022 | 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Central Standard Time**

**ZOOM - INTERACTIVE WEBINAR**

*This Webinar will replay as a recording on Saturday, October 22nd beginning at 8 am Central Time. This is not a recording that can be downloaded and replayed at your own pace. All registered attendees will receive a link to the live webinar and a link to the recording replay on Saturday. Full attendance will be taken during the replay and will still qualify you for a certificate of attendance and other professional development opportunities listed. "Live" Q&A feature with the speaker will not be available, however you will have the ability to use the "chat" feature to interact with other participants. Same registration process for both live webinar and the recording replay.*

Many ideas about the autistic brain are based on conceptions about the human brain that are outdated. The computer as a metaphor for the brain, with its input, processing and output, has been very useful in the past, but seems to be incorrect in the light of recent discoveries in brain science. The brain is not a computer: the brain is guessing more than it is computing. In order to make these smart guesses, the brain has developed a unique characteristic: contextual sensitivity. The brain uses context to predict the world. This is known as the predictive coding account of human information processing.

But what if your brain is not so talented in using context? What if your brain does think in absolutes? This is the case in autism. Difficulty seeing and understanding context can explain why people with an autism have difficulties with communication, social interaction, sensory stimuli, and flexible thinking and behavior in daily living.

We will explain the concept of absolute thinking (reduced contextual sensitivity in predicting the world). The predictive coding perspective offers some thought provoking new ideas, such as why traditional emotion recognition programs and traditional social skills training are not a good idea for children with autism and why autism friendliness is not the same as eliminating or reducing stimuli.

**Financial Disclosure:** Peter Vermeulen, Ph.D. receives an honorarium for his presentation with AEP Connections, LLC. Dr. Vermeulen is a paid autism trainer and also receives royalties for the books that he has written. **Non-Financial:** Dr. Vermeulen has reported no conflicts of interest, financial, or non-financial regarding this presentation.

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## **AUTISM AND THE PREDICTIVE MIND, ABSOLUTE THINKING IN A RELATIVE WORLD: Practical Implications for Treatment and Intervention**

**SPEAKER: PETER VERMEULEN, PHD**



### **PETER VERMEULEN, PHD**

Peter Vermeulen, PhD in Psychology and Clinical Educational Sciences, has more than 35 years of experience in the field of autism. Founder of "Autism in Context", where autism is understood in context. Peter is an internationally respected lecturer/trainer and he presents all over the world. Peter wrote more than 15 books and several articles on autism, some of them translated into more than 10 languages. For his +30 years of work in the field of autism, he received in 2019 a Lifetime Achievement Award.

### **LEARNER OBJECTIVES:**

1. The participant will be able to describe why the traditional model of understanding the brain (stimulus-response model) is not correct.
2. The participant will be able to explain what predictive processing is and what the role is of context in predicting the world.
3. The participant will be able to summarize the effect of a reduced contextual sensitivity in predicting the world on social interaction, communication; theory of (own) mind and sensory processing.
4. The participant will be able to identify the role of context in social interaction and communication.
5. The participant will be able to identify what 'pushing the context button' means and explain how it is pivotal for teaching social cognitive and social behavioral skills.
6. The participant will be able to assess and modify the extent to which their own practice (teaching, therapy, ...) supports their clients/students in seeing and using context.

### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

*(All times are Pacific Standard Time)*

7:50 am - 8:00 am	<b>Zoom Webinar Opens</b>
8:00 am - 9:30 am	From a stimulus-response model to predictions: a description of the predictive mind, prediction, and prediction errors
9:30 am - 9:45 am	<b>Break</b>
9:45 am - 11:15 am	The predictive mind in autism: what are the scientific findings and how can they change the autism interventions
11:15 am - 11:45 am	<b>Lunch Break</b>
11:45 am - 1:15 pm	The predictive mind and sensory issues in autism: hyper- and hypo-reactivity
1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
1:30pm - 2:40 pm	The predictive mind and social communication issues in autism: pushing the context button
2:40 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Q&amp;A - Discussion</b>

*This is an interactive "live-stream". You will be able to ask questions throughout the day as well as "chat" with other participants via the buttons at the bottom of the screen.*

*Handout Links as well as webinar links will be sent at least three days prior to the conference.*



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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERED:**

1. **GRADUATE CREDIT OPTION** - 1-2 Credits through Concordia University. Cost will be \$250 per credit. Register for credits at conference. A syllabus will be available at [www.aepconnections.com](http://www.aepconnections.com) when details are finalized.
2. **CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** - 6 clock hours for attendance.
3. **NBCC** - AEP Connections, LLC has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 7173. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. AEP Connections, LLC is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs. This workshop offers 6 NBCC clock hours.
4. **ASWB** - AEP Connection, LLC, #1332, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. AEP Connections, LLC maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 1/27/2022-1/27/2025. Social workers completing this course receive 6 continuing education credits.
5. **AOTA** - AEP Connections, LLC is an AOTA Approved Provider of professional development. Course approval ID# XXXXX. This distance learning - interactive is offered at .6 CEUs. Advanced, OT Service Delivery. AOTA does not endorse specific course content, products, or clinical procedures.
6. **ASHA** - Provider approval and use of the Brand Block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.



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**REGISTRATION FORM**

**October 19, 2022 | 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Central**

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**ONLINE REGISTRATION** | Available for credit card transactions at: [aepconnections.com](http://aepconnections.com)

**CHECK OR PURCHASE ORDERS:** Please send completed registration form via mail, email or fax.  
*Purchase orders must accompany registrations.*

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*Confirmations and communications will be sent by email. Print print email clearly.*

**REGISTRATION COST**

<p><b>EARLY BIRD \$165</b> <i>(Register on or before September 30, 2022)</i></p>	<p><b>REGULAR PRICING \$195</b> <i>(Register after September 30, 2022)</i></p>
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Early bird registration - \$165

Regular Price registration - \$195 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**AEP Connections, LLC**  
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CANCELLATION POLICY: More than 45 days before the first day of the conference: Full Refund, less a \$25 processing fee. Less than 45 days, but more than 14 days before the first day of the conference: Credit towards a future conference or a substitute may be sent in your place, with prior approval by AEP Connections, LLC. Less than 14 days before the first day of the conference: No Refunds. AEP Connections reserves the right to substitute speakers in the event of a speaker cancellation. AEP Connections reserves the right to change "live in person" conference to a "Live-stream" webinar in the event of weather, pandemic, Acts of God, national or local guidelines. Our refund policy applies to all registration payments including those by purchase order.