# Sl*i*ghtly different… – The Autminds 2021 theme

C A L L   F O R   P A P E R S  
  
Autminds now accepts proposals for lectures, workshops and activities at Autminds 2021.

Would you like to present a paper at Autminds, give a workshop, exhibit art, give a musical performance? Let us know!

Date: October 9-10th 2021

Venue: Online, The Netherlands

[www.autminds.nl](http://www.autminds.nl)

When submitting a proposal, please use the fixed format (see chapter 7) and send it to: sprekers@autminds.nl

**ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED ULTIMATELY BY June 14th**

Submitters will receive confirmation of acceptance or rejection by June 30th

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## 1. About Autminds

Autminds is a conference aimed at people with autism. Content and Setup are geared towards the interests, needs and sensitivities of people with autism. The theme has been selected by people with autism and we also want them to further define the content and deepen it. Autminds started in 2015 and now attracks 300 participants. We have a collection of large (250) and small (80) halls and classrooms (24-30).

When online, we use simultaneaously Zoom for presentations and Discord for discussions between all participants during and after the presentations.

2. Theme  
This years’ theme is a broad theme that encompasses many aspects of autism. We invite you to be creative and feel free to interpret the theme.

## Introduction to the theme

Everyone does it from time to time: comparing something or someone with what you know and then categorizing it. Using boxes makes it easier to understand when viewed from the outside. But what if you fall sl*i*ghtly outside the box? What if you are just that little bit different? In which areas do we experience something sl*i*ghlty different, are we sl*i*ghtly different, do we deal with it sl*i*ghtly differently, with sl*i*ghtly different consequences?

Sl*i*ghtly different offers a different way of looking at ourselves and our environment, and of telling others where boxes hinder and help.

The theme and the examples are meant to inspire speakers and to promote a degree of coherence in the programme. The theme is not meant to limit you, so feel free to be creative with it. We invite everyone to submit proposals from all possible angles and in all forms. We also hope for activities that are creative, engaging and relaxing in nature. Contributions of an academic nature (own work or dealing with other people's work) will be given priority. We also hope to receive proposals that will connect the participants of Autminds with each other.

What’s that feeling of being sl*i*ghtly

different and how does it affect me?

Which things in daily life are helpful,

and is sl*i*ghtly wrong good enough?

You might camouflage when

being sl*i*ghtly different, but

what else happens when

pretending to be sl*i*ghtly different?

Is the autism box fitting you and how much does knowledge about and the image of autism help when you sl*i*ghtly differ?

Is there a sl*i*ghtly different model

explaining autism which better fits you?

How do you deal with those well-meant

things that turned out sl*i*ghtly different?

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## *Do you have a good idea, but outside this years’ theme?*

We give priority to proposals for presentations & activities that explore this theme. But if you have another topic that is not directly related to the theme, then of course we will also consider it as thoroughly as we do other proposals.

## 3. What are we looking for

We are seeking theoretical, practical and personal views on the theme in relation to autism. All kinds of activities are possible: traditional lectures, creative expression, physical activities, interactive workshops, discussions etc.

The proposals that will be accepted have the following characteristics:

* The subject is relevant for autistic people. Although non-autistic participants will be welcome, the majority is autistic: the program is by us, not about us. Consider why your contribution is interesting or relevant to autistic participants.
* The subject fits the concept of Autminds. Something in the contribution must be particular to the autistic community, attractive to autistic people or -in your view- should be shared by the autistic community. How would your contribution differ from those that are commonplace in conferences that are run by non-autistics?
* The presentor/leader has knowledge about his/her subject. You should know what you talk about or what you want to achieve.
* The presentation or activity engages the participants. It should be clear that you have prepared it. It is obvious that the participants have expectations.

Proposals that will probably not be selected are:

* Lectures about personal experiences being autistic: we all have our personal experiences being autistic. So should you want to present from your personal experiences please consider carefully how and why others would benefit. Indicate so in the summary of your proposal.
* Workshops about curing or preventing autism
* Subjects that have not been developed sufficiently. If you have insufficient time to think through your proposal then it might be better to wait until next year. Please contact us if you exactly know what you want but have difficulty finding the words for it.

## 4. Language

The normal language at Autminds is Dutch. However we welcome contributions in the English language. Most Dutch and Belgium participants have more than a working knowledge of English. Provided that the contribution is supported with sufficient written text, the content will be grasped and discussions will be possible.

We will provide on-the-fly machine translation to/from English on our Discord channels

Example presentations were (2020):

<https://www.autminds.nl/presentaties-2020/>

5. Our expectations:

From you, as a speaker, we expect

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* **Ability to transcend your own experiences and autism**

We expect that all speakers and activity leaders are able to transcend their own , personal experiences. We seek the capacity to think and look beyond your own autism and life. Simply said: if all you want to do is talk a (small) hour about yourself then Autminds is not the place.

* **Reliability**Once you have been accepted in the program we expect you to come. Surely, there will always be unforeseen circumstances, but please help in preventing last minute cancellations. People may be looking foreward to and count on your contribution!
* **Provide information for the website**On our website we want to present a short bio of all contributors. It woud ben ice to have yours too. Also we would like to publish your presentation such that it can be viewed by others too.

6. What to expect from us

Wat kun je als spreker / activiteitleider van ons verwachten?

* Travel costs (inside the Netherlands) based on public transport cost (railway: 2nd class)
* Free access to the conference
* A special occasion to be heard by an interested audience
* The opportunity to receibve feedback from those that are active in the field.
* A highly accessible setting. We will endeavour to address your special wishes or needs provided that you give us sufficient time to organise them.

7. How to submit your proposal

Submit your proposal with the special form:

<https://www.autminds.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Submission-Form-Autminds-2021.docx>

If you encounter problems using this form please email to: [sprekers@autminds.nl](mailto:sprekers@autminds.nl) .

Should you expect or encounter problems with the form, the deadline or any other aspect of submitting your proposal: please (!) contact us before the deadline. Submissions post deadline are -in principle- not accepted.

The Autminds Projectgroup decides which presentations and activities are accepted within 3 weeks of the submission date and informs all submitters in case of missing data.

## Additional Questions?

Mail to [sprekers@autminds.nl](mailto:sprekers@autminds.nl)

## Newsletter (Dutch only)

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<http://eepurl.com/b3hD11>