

DR. LAKSHMI PRASANNA is a pediatrician specializing in neonatology. She started her career with newborn babies in intensive care and had a private neonatal intensive unit for more than 15 years. She was a founding parent of the Abhaya Waldorf School in Hyderabad, South India, and a co-founder and former president of the Anthroposophical Society in India. She is the director of Saandeevani, a curative center for special needs children that works with autistic children from a metabolic and sensory perspective based on Rudolf Steiner's indications. Lakshmi worked for many years as a school physician, as well as traveling the length and breadth of India regularly teaching and inspiring new centers, clinics, and schools. Since 2007 she has worked extensively with her partner Michael Kokinos as an educational consultant for Blue Sky Children's Services in Australia and as a health promotion lecturer in school communities. Visit: www.blueskytherapies.com.au



MICHAEL KOKINOS specializes in physiotherapy and cranial sacral work inspired by a holistic understanding of sensory perception and movement. He is a certified TaKeTiNa rhythm facilitator and founded Blue Sky Therapies in 2006. Using a somatic approach to trauma rehabilitation, he works at a crisis center, and as a healer for Aboriginal elders and health workers. Michael has vast experience in cross-cultural encounter in health, education, and community development projects, working with Arnhem Land Aboriginal communities and schools, as well as in India & Nepal. He holds a Masters of Remote Health Management and has been senior neurological physiotherapist and adviser to the Australian Government on health and disability programs in rural and remote areas. He is a faculty member of the Goetheanum Medical Section International Postgraduate Medical Training, teaching the medical aspect of the Waldorf school curriculum and community development in India and Australia with a focus on organizational health, resilience, and wellness.



LISA ROMERO is an author of inner development books, a complementary health practitioner, and an adult educator, who has been delivering health care and education enriched with anthroposophy for 20 years. From 2006 the primary focus of her work has been on teaching inner development and anthroposophical meditation. Through the Inner Work Path Lisa offers lectures, courses, and retreats for professional and personal development in communities and schools worldwide. Since 1999 Lisa has been presenting on the subject of gender, sexuality, and spiritual life, working directly with parents, teachers, and students in Waldorf schools as part of their health and wellbeing curriculum. She also facilitates professional development training in this field. Lisa is a contributor, tutor, and director of the Inner Work Path, EduCareDo, Developing the Self/Developing the World, and the Y Project. Her books are *The Inner Work Path*, *Developing the Self*, *Living Inner Development*, and (forthcoming) *Sex Education and the Spirit* (all published by SteinerBooks). For more information visit: www.innerworkpath.com and developingtheself.org.



SteinerBooks
Anthroposophic Press
610 Main Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ripon, WI
Permit No. 100

STEINERBOOKS invites you to a seminar at **THE KIMMEL CENTER, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**
60 WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK CITY

AUTISM: On the Spiritual Threshold

& LIVING INNER DEVELOPMENT

FRIDAY to SATURDAY
MARCH 17-18, 2017

with

DR. LAKSHMI PRASANNA

MICHAEL KOKINOS

LISA ROMERO

2017 SteinerBooks
Spiritual Research Seminar

Senecio by Paul Klee, 1922, Kunst Museum, Basel



Autism: On the Spiritual Threshold
& LIVING INNER DEVELOPMENT

It seems that nothing related to autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is simple or straightforward, no broad statement immune to disputation.

The prevalence of ASD, most especially in the United States, but also elsewhere, appears to have increased dramatically in the last 40 years. (The most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] estimates for the US are that 1 in 68 children is identified with an autism spectrum disorder; for boys: 1 in 42.) Some voices, however, insist that this apparent increase is due to better detection techniques and broader awareness; while more than one study has suggested that the increase can not possibly be attributed to these factors alone. Then there are the complex (and controversial) questions of contributing factors: genetic predispositions versus environmental toxicity factors such as the mercurial preservative thimerosal that is widely used in vaccines.

As a phenomenon of our current moment in history, the broad examination of ASD, its consciousness and controversies, as a symptom and as a riddle, can undoubtedly be a useful entry point for discerning something about the world in which we are living. And yet, lest we become too theoretical, there is also the ever-present reality of the individual human being to consider. For parents and grandparents, teachers and caregivers, doctors and therapists, this is the first consideration. And this is the focus of our program.

From a purely therapeutic standpoint, and in the presence of a unique living individual human being, these broader questions, disputes, and controversies can take a backseat to the utterly singular person before us. Here the tools and insights of anthroposophical spiritual science are not merely useful but ultimately necessary. How can we use these insights to meet the one before us with an even greater love and out of a deeper wisdom?

PROGRAM

Friday evening | March 17

6:00 REGISTRATION

6:45 Introduction / Gene Gollogly

7:00 Medical diagnostic pictures of autism. Therapy based on spiritual science I – DR. LAKSHMI PRASANNA

As a pediatrician and founder of Saandeevani, a curative education and therapy center for autistic children, Dr. Lakshmi will share her vast clinical experience working with diet, rhythms, and sensory therapies according to Rudolf Steiner's indications on the digestive process and environment of the child, as well as intergenerationally with family members.

8:00 Break

8:15 Understanding of the consciousness soul – LISA ROMERO

Why is it that being different is becoming normal? Lisa Romero will explore embracing genuine individuality as an expression of social understanding. Lisa's work springs from the inner work, meditation, and exercises, together with a dedication to the path of unfolding consciousness, bringing a depth of insight that is reflected in the experiences and changes in the participants who share in this work.

9:15 Reception

Saturday | March 18

8:00 Bagels and coffee

9:00 The perceptual vortex of autism - words and pictures from the threshold – MICHAEL KOKINOS

Since 2006 Michael Kokinos has worked with severely autistic, non-verbal children. In 2012 a group of autistic adolescents broke through to be able to communicate using a keyboard. Michael will present the unexpected, stunning results from their unique perceptual world.

10:00 Break

10:15 Eurythmy

10:45 Break

11:00 Medical diagnostic pictures of autism. Therapy based on spiritual science II – DR. LAKSHMI PRASANNA

12:15 Lunch

1:45 Body therapies for autism: anthroposophical sensory integration – MICHAEL KOKINOS

Each autistic child presents a unique sensory processing mystery. Keys to progress lie in understanding the individualized specific sensory needs of each child. Michael will show how anthroposophic spiritual science gives us a rich perspective and fruitful directions through understanding the twelve senses that bridge spirit, soul, and body.

2:45 Eurythmy

3:15 Break

3:30 Growing up male and female – Lisa Romero

In the esoteric schooling Rudolf Steiner gave clear pictures of our need to work toward a new understanding of what it means to be a man or a woman and where we need to be heading as humanity. A healthy social sex education is not only the responsibility of primary caregivers, parents, and teachers but the wider community that contribute to the collective consciousness. Lisa will bring an understanding for the healthy development of gender and sexuality within society today that supports both our individual and community wellbeing.

4:30 PANEL DISCUSSION

TO REGISTER NOW

2017 STEINERBOOKS RESEARCH SEMINAR

NAME E-MAIL ADDRESS

ADDRESS PHONE

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Conference Fee Check enclosed [payable to SteinerBooks]

Credit Card No. Exp. date CVV Signature

CONFERENCE FEE: sliding scale \$225 > \$75 includes full conference, Friday reception, Saturday breakfast and lunch

MAIL TO STEINERBOOKS: 610 Main Street, Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230

Inquiries, and to register by phone, contact: Paul Haygood: 413-528-8233 ext 1, or email: seminar@steinerbooks.org