

SPEAKER: Emily Mae Kaplitz

TITLE: Neurodiversity

ABSTRACT:

Neurodiversity advocates for understanding that autism and other cognitive disorders are not diseases that need to be cured, but are vital to society. Neurodivergent is a term used to describe a person who has a cognitive disability such as Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, Tourette Syndrome, and chronic mental health conditions. It includes anyone who does not fit into what society thinks is 'normal' cognitive function. In this talk, different aspects of neurodiversity and disability will be discussed to help others understand different realities and ways of thinking. Topics of discussion will include common neurodiverse conditions and their symptoms, how neurodivergent individuals get diagnosed, common behaviors of neurodivergent individuals, language that is no longer used when discussing neurodiversity, common misconceptions from society, models of disability, and disability etiquette.

As a warning, this talk will handle heavy topics. This talk is not meant to be inspirational or make listeners feel good about themselves. This talk is meant to inform listeners about the reality of the neurodiverse community. Therefore, uncomfortable realities are discussed. However, this talk is also meant to give a crash course on neurodiversity, so there are no dumb questions that can be asked. Ignorance is ok.