



@acornsussex

Twitter: use #acornslaunch

# Welcome!

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# Autism Community Research Network Sussex

Modelled on ACoRN @ Southampton:  
Sarah Parsons & Hanna Kovshoff

Supporting all autism stakeholders to  
influence, engage and become  
informed about research and local  
initiatives

## Since 2017...



National and international conferences

New ACoRN@Sussex in Oct 2020

15+ student projects

3 x Doctoral training bursaries from SCDTP

7 published papers; more to come...

c.£80k research funding

Student impact prize

Local Authority funding (Springwell)

New ACoRNS partners

Teaching for UG, ITE, Doctoral students

Practice-focused dissemination to >500 people so far  
3 x Festival of Social Science events



Autism transitions

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton



Economic and Social Research Council

<https://autismtransitions.org/>  
<http://acornsnetwork.org.uk/>

## Our Aims

- Follow successful practices of ACoRNS Southampton
- Take a participatory and inclusive approach to research and practice
- Plain English reporting on work being done
- Stimulate co-constructed research and evaluation
- Work to engage health, education and social care
- Develop networks among all stakeholders

# Autism-focused Projects in Progress

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- Zoom or Room: comparing online & in-person assessment and intervention
- Parent views on lockdown for children with SEND
- School transitions
- Time for Autism (medical school)
- Synchrony in autism: studying mechanisms in Intensive interaction
- KITBAG project in social care
- WeChat project: language alignment in conversation
- ChatLabConnect: an app to support communication with minimally-verbal autistic children
- BHCC 'just right' emotion regulation intervention

<b>Nicola Yuill</b>	Psychology
<b>Jacqui Shepherd</b>	Education
<b>Tish Marrable</b>	Social Work and Social Care
<b>Rory Matthews</b>	Woodlands Meed special school
<b>Rachel McDonald-Taylor</b>	West Sussex autism support
<b>Dr Harriet Clompus</b>	Consultant Paediatrician – Seaside View
<b>Dr Alison Stewart</b>	Educational Psychologist (Lead Role for Autism in the Educational Psychology Service)
<b>Melanie Horsfall</b>	ASC Class Teacher & RE Lead
<b>Alison Smith</b>	Time for Autism - BSMS
<b>Helen Cottell</b>	ISEND East Sussex
<b>Bryony Wilkinson</b>	Autistic person/Amazing Futures
<b>Jim Jackson</b>	Research fellow, webmaster
<b>Sadie Gillett</b>	Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service
<b>Ethan Lam</b>	Placement student

# Steering group 2019-2021

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**Facilitator: Devyn Glass**  
**Social media team: Jenny,**  
**Ethan, Ailish, Clare, Imee**

**Advisory: Sarah Parsons &**  
**Hanna Kovshoff, Southampton**

## Ways to be involved

- Our launch event: Rethinking Education: follow up document
- ACoRNS website: [acorns-sussex.org.uk](https://acorns-sussex.org.uk)
- Follow us on twitter [@acornsussex](https://twitter.com/acornsussex)
- ACoRNS mailing list [acorns@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:acorns@sussex.ac.uk)
- Termly Autism Reading Group: 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 4-6pm
- Logo competition: prizes for school and designer  
<https://tinyurl.com/AcornsLogo>
- Future Events.....your ideas welcome
- 'Digital transitions: learning from lockdown for the future' – ACoRN@Soton free webinar: Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 10-12 (registration via Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/y67c9pxd>)
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