



Morénike Giwa Onaiwu



Advocate, Public Speaker, Writer, Educator, Mom

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Tentative Speaking/Consultation Proposal

Speaker Bio/Qualifications (can be shortened/lengthened/otherwise modified as needed)

Morénike Giwa Onaiwu, MA, (she/they) is a non-binary Autistic woman of color, educator, public speaker, parent of Autistic children, and advocate. She is involved in various social justice activism endeavors and is a contributing author/editor of several publications, abstracts, and books focusing on community engagement, intersectionality, disability, advocacy, and inclusion.

Morénike has spoken at the White House, the United Nations, the AIDS Clinical Trials Group Network plenary, and several national conferences. Her board membership includes Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, Autism in Adulthood Journal, Ethical Autism Research Expert Group, the National Disability Parenting Research Center and other entities. She has written for or been featured in Salon, Huffington Post, Spectrum, NPR, NY Times, POZ, Conde Nast, etc.

Morénike is a full-time college faculty member, a current Rice University Scholar in the School of Humanities, Co-Chair of the Women's HIV Research Collaborative, and Innovation & Digital Communication Director of the Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network. She is also co-editor of the first anthology of Autistic people of color, *All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism* and *Sincerely, Your Autistic Child: What Every Person on the Autism Spectrum Wishes Their Parents Knew About Growing Up, Acceptance, and Identity*.

Speaking and Related Fees (lower fees may be available for grassroots organizations)

- Honorarium Fees (subject to change) via check or [PayPal.me/AdvocacySansBorders](https://www.paypal.com/AdvocacySansBorders)
 - Keynote Address: \$5000
 - Breakout Session/Other Public Speaking: \$3500 and up (depending upon length)
 - Panelist or Moderator: \$1000
 - Virtual Presentation: \$1500 and up (depending upon length)
- Additional costs include provision of or prompt reimbursement for:
 - Flight costs: Variable (Economy direct round trip flight typically departing from HOU or IAH. Prices may range ~\$200-\$500+ depending upon when purchased)
 - Hotel/Lodging: Variable (Lodging at a 3, 4, or 5 star hotel or comparable housing alternative one day prior to event plus each day of the event if applicable)
 - Transportation: Variable (Uber/Lyft/Taxi costs to and from airport, hotel, and venue (minus any transportation that is provided by host)
 - Meals/Per Diem: \$55 flat rate per day (minus any meals provided by host)



Potential Speech/Presentation Topics (* indicates CEU-ready topic)
(*Proposed Titles and Summary of Content* - can be modified as needed)

Forged by Fire: The Intersection of Race, Disability, and Gender

Existing at the intersection of multiple marginalizations dramatically shapes the way an individual perceives the world and is perceived by the world. Utilizing facts as well as personal experience, this presentation will highlight some of the unique ways that gender and race impact individuals with disabilities (including neurodevelopmental disabilities i.e. autism).

Neither Created Nor Destroyed

Like energy, autism is an internal, natural force. Though often unseen, it is a vital component for sustaining life and its presence is manifested in a variety of ways. In the right circumstances, it has a seemingly unlimited capacity for growth and transformation, but if isolated, overextended, or misused, chaos ensues. This interactive keynote incorporates one of Morénike's "special interests" as well as an intersectional lens to focus on how to cultivate an environment to maximize our powerful energy.

More than Seeds: Digging Deep to Find Our Resilience, Our Beauty, and Our Value

"They tried to bury us. They didn't know we were seeds." Widely known as the battle cry of indigenous Mexican activists, queer Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos' defiant words are frequently quoted in social justice circles. But is it true for the Autistic community?

Utilizing one of Morénike's "special interests" as context, the closing keynote speech will pinpoint numerous ways that this prolific quote fails to embody to the Autistic community effectively as well as highlight various attributes Autistics possess that contribute to our individual AND collective resilience, beauty, and worth.

Leading with Your Life Story

This interactive keynote that will illustrate key concepts of inclusion as well as highlight practical strategies ways to transform difficult lessons learned from past experiences and/or mistakes into useful knowledge that can be used for navigating life, developing one's own unique style of personhood and leadership, and overall growth.

Born This Way: Autistic + Parent

Led by an Autistic parent of Autistic and non-Autistic children, this informative and interactive session will provide participants with an in-depth view of Autistic parenting and opportunities to build meaningful connections with Autistic and neurodiverse families.

***"Sick and Tired of Being 'Sick and Tired'": A Panoramic Journey of Disabled PoC**

Inspired by the poignant words of Black disabled activist Fannie Lou Hamer, this interactive presentation on disparities experienced by people of color with disabilities will reflect on the past, explore present concepts and cross-cultural resources, and express hopes for the future related to people of color and our allies utilizing data, discussion, and media.



Potential Speech/Presentation Topics (* indicates CEU-ready topic) - continued
(*Proposed Titles and Summary of Content* - can be modified as needed)

Chaotic Yet Symbiotic: Finding, Embracing, and Being the Real You

Despite a number of shared characteristics, similar experiences, and common interests, there is a vast amount of diversity within the Autistic, neurodiversity, and disability communities. At the macro level, these different and sometimes conflicting aspects of our identities can produce opportunity AND obstacle; glee AND gloom; strength AND strife...sometimes simultaneously. A similar multichotomy often exists within the individual as well, complicating things even further.

As individuals and as a community, concepts such as acceptance, intersectionality, inclusion, autonomy, and respect are more than trendy terms. For us they are critical - but they can at times feel abstract. How can we live them out in practical, healthy ways and still be our unique, authentic selves? We will explore ideas for integrating them into our personal identities, workplaces, schools, and our overall lived experiences while striving for balance and acknowledging that our fallibility does not negate our value.

***Beyond 98.6°F /37°C: Establishing Our Own “Normal”**

There is a predominant societal view that individuals with I/DD experience emotions in a manner that differs from that of typically developing individuals. Several hypotheses suggest diminished capacity for emotion, impaired “Theory of Mind”, etc. Similarly, the emotions of caregivers of those with I/DD are perceived to be dissimilar as well, aided in part by the growing trend toward community inclusion, increased lifespan, and the concept of caregiver fatigue. This presentation examines the origins, context, and accuracy of these perspectives as well as the implications for those living with I/DD, their families, and those who work with them.

***Eye of the Beholder: Our “Obsessions” = Opportunities**

The DSM calls them “highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus,” but we call it “deep love...going big or going home.” (Kassiane Asasumasu) Our passions don’t have to just be hobbies! The purpose of this interactive workshop is to explore mechanisms for channeling areas of intense interest into a potential means of connection, socialization, learning/teaching, and self-actualization (that might even generate occasional income!).

Trifecta, Triad, Triumvirate? Neurodiversity, Deficit-View, & “Aspie Supremacy” Explained

Should we say, “A person with autism” or an “autistic person” - and why? Should the “a” be capital or lowercase in “autistic” - and why? Is autism a disability? A difference? A super power? The “next stage” in human evolution? A regrettable (and preventable) genetic mutation? This interactive presentation answers all of these questions...and more.



Headshot

