

# Autism and the Predictive Mind, Absolute Thinking in a Relative World:

## Practical Implications for Treatment and Intervention



CE Broker Tracking  
#50-31070



### PRESENTER

#### Peter Vermeulen, PhD

*An internationally recognized author, speaker and expert on Autism*



### WHEN

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

8:00 am – 3:00 pm EST

*Please email [info@theramoves.com](mailto:info@theramoves.com) with any special needs requests at least 2 weeks prior to the webinar*



### WHERE

#### Live Web Conference

*(If you are unable to attend due to time zone difficulty, please email us at [info@theramoves.com](mailto:info@theramoves.com))*



### FEES

**\$179 Register before November 20**

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### ACCREDITATION

#### 6 contact hours

0.6 ASHA CEUs

0.6 AOTA CEUs

7.5 NBCOT PDUs

0.6 CEUs for NY OTs/OTAs

0.6 CEUs for NY SLPs

6.0 CTLE contact/clock hours

0.6 CEUs for NY social workers

7.2 PT NY contact hours

#### Certificates will be Awarded

- Credits listed are offered by Theramoves for full attendance, ASHA partial credits will **not be** awarded for this webinar
- Learning assessment will be completed via an online post course quiz. Passing a multiple choice with 70% accuracy within 1 week is required to receive your certificate of completion.

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Introductory

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** SLPs, OTs, OTAs, special educators, educators, social workers, principals, and mental health professionals

**INSTRUCTION METHODS:** Lecture, slides, video

## DESCRIPTION

Many ideas about the autistic brain are based on conceptions about the human brain that are outdated. The computer as a metaphor for the brain, with its input, processing and output, has been very useful in the past, but seems to be incorrect in the light of recent discoveries in brain science. The brain is not a computer: the brain is guessing more than it is computing. In order to make these smart guesses, the brain has developed a unique characteristic: contextual sensitivity. The brain uses context to predict the world. This is known as the predictive coding account of human information processing. But what if your brain is not so talented in using context? What if your brain does think in absolutes? This is the case in autism. Difficulty seeing and understanding context can explain why people with an autism have difficulties with communication, social interaction, sensory stimuli, and flexible thinking and behavior in daily living.

This course will explain the concept of absolute thinking (reduced contextual sensitivity in predicting the world). The predictive coding perspective offers some thought-provoking new ideas, such as why traditional emotion recognition programs and traditional social skills training are not a good idea for children with autism and why autism friendliness is not the same as eliminating or reducing stimuli. The predictive coding perspective will change some of the currently used strategies in autism and offer new, dynamic strategies and solutions.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this seminar the participant will be able to:

1. Describe what predictive processing is and what the role is of context in predictions
2. Identify the role of context in social interaction, communication, sensory processing and flexibility in thoughts and actions
3. Articulate the role of predictability in sensory processing, communication and social interaction
4. List the strategies associated with 'pushing the context button' and describe how it is pivotal for creating an autism friendly environment
5. Identify at least 3 practical strategies for helping your clients/students to contextualize
6. Name at least 2 things that will be changed in your treatment in order to support students in being more competent in social interaction



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- TheraMoves Services, LLC, is Approved for Sponsor by New York State Board for OTs & OTAs
- Approved for 6 contact hours by NYSEDs State Board for speech-language pathologists
- Approved by NYSED for Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE hours) Provider # 23490. This webinar will qualify for 6 approved (CTLE) Hour(s)
- Approved for Social Workers by the NY State ED Dept. #SW-0499
- Recognized by NYSED State Board for PT as an approved provider of PT and PTA continuing education. Approved for 7.2 contact hours

## AGENDA

- 8:00 – 10:00 From a stimulus-response model to predictions: a description of the predictive mind, prediction and prediction errors
- 10:00 – 10:15 *break*
- 10:15 – 11:45 The predictive mind in autism: what are the scientific findings and how can they change the autism interventions
- 11:45 – 12:15 *lunch*
- 12:15 – 1:45 The predictive mind and sensory issues in autism: hyper- and hypo-reactivity
- 1:45 – 2:00 *break*
- 2:00 – 2:45 The predictive mind and social communication issues in autism: pushing the context button
- 2:45 – 3:00 Q&A - discussion

## PRESENTER'S BIO

Peter Vermeulen, PhD in Psychology and Clinical Educational Sciences, has more than 35 years of experience in the field of autism. Peter is an internationally respected lecturer/trainer and presents all over the world. Founder of "Autism in Context", where autism is understood in context. Peter has written over 150 articles on autism and is author of more than 15 books with translations into more than 10 languages. For his +30 years of work in the field of autism, he received in 2019 a Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Disclosure:** Financial: Peter will receive a speaker's honorarium from TheraMoves Services LLC for the presentation. He receives royalties from the sale of his book Autism as Context Blindness that he will refer to in his course. Peter Vermeulen, PhD has no nonfinancial relationships to disclose.

**REFUNDS & CANCELLATIONS:** A full refund less \$75 dollars administrative fee per course will be given for cancellations received up to 3 days prior to the course. After that, no refunds will be given for cancellations. We reserve the right to cancel any course due to extenuating circumstances. If this event is canceled, you will be refunded the cost of registration within 10 days. Please do not make non-refundable arrangements until you contact us &/or receive confirmation that the course will be held. We are not responsible for any expenses incurred by participants if the course must be cancelled.



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Introductory Level  
0.6 ASHA CEUs