

ASfAR Online Showcase Event 2025: Career Trajectories & Autistic-Led Autism Research by Autistic Researchers

 Thursday 4th December 2025
 12-3pm Melbourne/Sydney time
(follow this [link](#) for other time zones)

Link to register for the event [HERE](#)

Keynote speaker

Jac den Houting

Accidentally academic and Autistic AF



Ten years ago, I began my PhD. I was eager, earnest, and... largely oblivious to what I was getting myself into. In this talk, I'll reflect on what I've learned, what I wish I'd known, and what's helped me along the way. I'll also introduce my current research focus: a project affectionately known as "Autistic AF". Headed by a mostly-autistic team of academic and community collaborators, Autistic AF explores how variation in adaptive functioning shapes autistic people's lives, to determine *if* and *how* autism might be understood as a dynamic disability.

Brief Bio

Dr Jac den Houting (they/them) is a research psychologist and autistic activist working in pursuit of social justice. An emerging autism research leader, Jac is committed to creating real-world change that benefits autistic people, in the areas that matter most to the autistic community. Jac believes that autism research can be most meaningful and impactful when it is conducted *by* and *with* those it is intended to serve – autistic people.

Currently, Jac is a Senior Research Fellow at La Trobe University's Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre. Jac is proudly neurodivergent and queer, and shares their life with their equally-neurodivergent wife; an enthusiastic Labrador; and a disgruntled bearded dragon.

Image description: A person with short blue and purple hair is sitting in a recording studio, speaking into a microphone and smiling. They are wearing headphones and a sleeveless black top. Computer screens and audio equipment are visible around them.