

# Elliot Gavin Keenan

[egkeenan@ucla.edu](mailto:egkeenan@ucla.edu)

## ***Professional Experience***

2024 – 2026            Postdoctoral Fellow  
Drexel University, AJ Drexel Autism Institute

## ***Education***

2017 – 2023            University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development & Psychology  
*Dissertation:* “Making Waves: Dynamic Modeling of Bipolar Disorder”  
*GPA:* 3.6

2014 – 2017            Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY  
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Departmental Honors  
Minor in Creative Writing  
*Undergraduate GPA:* 3.4 | *Psychology GPA:* 4.0

2013 – 2014            State University of New York at Purchase, Purchase, NY

## ***Awards and Honors***

2016 - 2017            Honors Thesis Program  
*Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*

2014 - 2016            Dean’s List  
*State University of New York at Purchase, Purchase, NY*  
*Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*

2014, 2016            Academic Achievement Award  
*Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*

- 2013 - 2014      Presidential Scholarship  
*State University of New York at Purchase, Purchase, NY*
- 2013              Young Scholar Program  
*Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*
- 2013              Graduate, Alpha Science Fiction Workshop  
*University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, PA*

### ***Grants and Fellowships***

- 2023              Postdoctoral Fellowship. PI. \$150,000.  
Funded by the Eagles Autism Foundation.  
*Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA*
- 2016              Undergraduate Summer Research Grant. PI. \$3,000.  
Funded by the Autism Science Foundation  
*Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*
- 2018 (May 9-12)      Diversity Travel Award. \$1,000.  
Funded by the International Society for Autism Research  
*Rotterdam, Netherlands*

### ***Journal Publications***

McNair, M.L., **Keenan, E.G.**, Houck, A., Lerner, M.D. (2023). Seeking Contexts that Promote Neurodiverse Social Success: Patterns of behavior during minimally-structured interaction settings in autistic and non-autistic youth. *Development & Psychopathology*.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Gurba, A.N., Mahaffey, B., Kappenberg, C.F., & Lerner, M.D. (2023). Leveling Up Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Autistic Individuals with Emotion Dysregulation: Clinical and Personal Insights. *Autism in Adulthood*.

Libsack, E.J., **Keenan, E.G.**, Freden, C.E., Mirmina, J., Iskhakov, N., Krishnathasan, D., & Lerner, M.D. (2021). A systematic review of passing as non-autistic in autism spectrum disorder. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Gotham, K., & Lerner, M.D. (2018). Hooked on a feeling: repetitive cognition and internalizing symptomatology in relation to autism spectrum symptomatology. *Autism*.

### ***Academic Symposia***

**Keenan, E.G.**, Lerner, M.D. (2024). Adapted DBT for Neurodivergent People. Keynote at the *Society for DBT*, October 3.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Morton, H.E., Gates, J., Miller, C., Kerns, C. (2023). Discussant. In Kerns C. (Chair). Developing Inclusive Clinical Research and Practice for Neurodivergent Youth. Symposium at the *Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies* (ABCT), Seattle, WA, November 16 – 19.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Baczewski, L., Robins, D. (2022). Civil Discourse Dialogue Session with a Focus on LGBTQ+. Co-Chair. Symposium at the *International Society for Autism Research Annual Meeting*, Austin, TX, May 11 – 14.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Lerner, M.D. (2017). Hooked on a feeling: repetitive cognition and internalizing psychopathology in autism spectrum disorder. In Gotham K. (Chair). Repetitive thinking as a pathway to anxiety and depressive symptoms in autism spectrum disorder. Symposium at the *Society for Research in Child Development*, Austin, TX, April 6 – 8.

### ***Poster Presentations***

**Keenan, E.G.**, Gurba, A., Houck, A., & Lerner, M.D. (2022). Hands on Loop: Repetitive behaviors are increased in transgender and gender diverse autistic adults. Poster at the Autism Spectrum and Developmental Disabilities Special Interest Group Session (ASDD SIG) at the *Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies* (ABCT), New York, NY, November 17-20.

Libsack, E.J., **Keenan, E.G.**, Freden, C.E., Mirmina, J., Iskhakov, N., Krishnathasan, D., & Lerner, M.D. (2021). Passing as non-autistic in autism spectrum disorder: a systematic review. Poster at the *Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies* (ABCT), New Orleans, LA, November 18-21.

Eigsti, I. M., Coppola, M., Coulter, K., Hector, B., Henner, J., **Keenan, E.G.**, . . . Steiner, R. (2019). Community Engagement in Deafness and Autism Research (CEDAR): Challenges and promises. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the *International Society for Autism Research*, Montreal, Canada, May 1 - 4.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Madison, M.J., Wood, J.J., & Lerner, M.D. (2018). Psychometric Analysis of the Autism Spectrum Quotient Using Diagnostic Classification Modeling. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the *International Society for Autism Research*, Rotterdam, Netherlands, May 9 – 12.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Esposito, C.M., Labozzetta, A., & Lerner, M.D. (2017). Repetitive cognition mediates the relationship between autism symptoms and depression. Poster at the *International Meeting for Autism Research*, San Francisco, CA, May 10 – 13.

Zhou, J., **Keenan, E.G.**, Zinn, L., Burns, A., & Lerner, M.D. (2017). Effect of ASD traits on young adults' romantic relationship experience. Poster at the *International Meeting for Autism Research*, San Francisco, CA, May 10 – 13.

Rosen, T. E., Kang, E., **Keenan, E.G.**, Jin, J., Weber, R.J., & Lerner, M. D. (2016). Do affective processing impairments in ASD extend to non-social stimuli? Findings from an olfaction task. Poster at the 50th Annual *Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies*, New York, NY, October 27 - 30.

Culoso, A., Keifer, C., Burns, A., **Keenan, E.G.**, & Lerner, M.D. (2016). Greater sensory arousal impedes affect recognition: evidence across olfactory and auditory domains. Poster at the Annual Meeting of the *Society for Psychophysiological Research*, Minneapolis, MN, September 21 - 25.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Doshi, D., & Lerner, M.D. (2016). Restricted and Repetitive Behavior mediates the relationship between Verbal IQ and Comorbid Symptoms in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Poster at 2016 *URECA Undergraduate Research Symposium*, Stony Brook, NY, April 27.

Culoso, A., Keifer, C., Burns, A., **Keenan, E.G.**, & Lerner, M.D. (2016). Greater Sensory Arousal Impedes Affect Recognition: Evidence across olfactory and auditory domains. Poster at 2016 *URECA Undergraduate Research Symposium*, Stony Brook, NY, April 27.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Rosen, T.E., Kang, E., & Lerner, M.D. (2016). Sniff check! Adults with greater autism symptoms report odors as being more positive. Poster at the *International Meeting for Autism Research*, Baltimore, MD, May 11 - 14.

**Keenan, E.G.**, Culoso, A., Burns, A., & Lerner, M.D. (2015). Alexithymia partially mediates the relationship between autism symptoms and impaired relationship closeness. M.D. Lerner & C.M. Kerns (Chairs), Poster at ASDD Special Interest Group meeting at the Annual Meeting of the *Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Convention*, Chicago, IL, November 11 - 14.

### ***Research Experience***

2017 – 2022 Graduate Student Researcher

*University of California, Los Angeles*

*Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Wood; Mentors: Dr. Connie Kasari and Dr. Catherine Lord*

- Studied quantitative methodologies intensively, including multi-level modeling and latent class analysis (LCA)
- Developed an app (Shiny Mood App) using R Script, which aims to identify and predict mood state in people with rapid-cycling bipolar disorder using LCA and harmonic regression models
- Dissertation focused on a pilot study of Shiny Mood App

2016 – 2017 Student Principal Investigator

*Social Competence and Treatment Lab, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*

*Director: Dr. Matthew D. Lerner*

- Designed and conducted an independent thesis study
- Gained familiarity working with the university's institutional review board process, as well as other practical matters in the development of independent research
- Produced a manuscript, which was then published in *Autism*

2015 – 2016 Undergraduate Research Assistant

*Social Competence and Treatment Lab, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*

*Director: Dr. Matthew D. Lerner*

- Adapted a version of the SELweb paradigm originally developed at Rush University for use with EEG, did extensive debugging of another student's work.
- Ran study visits with participants for a wide range of studies, and for a wide age range of participants (from young school-age children to adults).

### ***Clinical Experience***

2014 Volunteer Clinical Assistant

*Department of Child Psychiatry, Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY*

- Collaborated with supervisors to run therapeutic groups for children on the inpatient psychiatric ward; for example, a weekly goals group
- Supervised recreational and therapeutic activities of inpatient children, while acting as a positive role model and source of interaction
- Enacted behavioral interventions, which targeted problem behaviors, often by utilizing a token economy of points to be exchanged for privileges

- Gained clinical experience working with a diverse group of kids, including kids with autism spectrum disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, pediatric bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorders

### ***Teaching Experience***

- 2016 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant  
*Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*  
PSY 334 Autism. Undergraduate lecture. Professor: Matthew Lerner.
- 2018 (Nov. 2) Invited Guest Lecture  
*Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*  
PSY 334 Autism. Undergraduate lecture. Professor: Matthew Lerner.
- 2021 (Mar. 12) Invited Guest Lecture  
*Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*  
PSY 334 Autism. Undergraduate lecture. Professor: Matthew Lerner.
- 2022 (Mar. 4) Invited Guest Lecture  
*Department of Psychology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*  
PSY 334 Autism. Undergraduate lecture. Professor: Matthew Lerner.

### ***Advocacy and Leadership Experience***

2021-2022 LEND Medium-Term Trainee (MTT)

*School of Medicine, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY*

The Stony Brook University LEND program (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) is a graduate and post-graduate level interdisciplinary leadership and service training program. MTTs will participate in a 5-9 month program and complete 40-299 didactic and experiential contact hours.

- Attended weekly didactics on a variety of topics pertaining to neurodevelopmental disabilities, ranging from accessing services in school to issues pertaining to older adults and end-of-life care
- Completed an out-of-discipline rotation in adult psychiatry
- Talked with families, clinicians, and self-advocates
- Submitted an IACC public comment for the April 2022 meeting

### ***Conference Organizing Experience***

- 2018 (Oct. 13) Executive Committee of CEDAR Workshop  
(Community Engagement in Deafness and Autism Research)  
*University of Connecticut, Groton, CT*
- 2024 Co-Chair of Autistic Researchers Committee of INSAR  
(International Society for Autism Research)

### ***Skills***

- Trained in biostatistics. Achieved an A grade in a class aimed to prepare graduate students to work as statistical consultants for health sciences at UCLA.
- Experienced in “data wrangling” and organization of large datasets.
- Skilled with a variety of software for statistical computing including SPSS, R, MATLAB, and MPlus.
- Trained in advanced quantitative methods including hierarchical/multi-level regression, moderated and mediated regression, latent class analysis, hierarchical clustering, and exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis.
- Programming experience in HTML/CSS, R, Mplus, Presentation, Bash, and more. Ability to learn new programming languages quickly.
- Familiar with app development using R Shiny and deployment using Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- Trained to administer the KBIT-2 brief cognitive assessment and EVT expressive vocabulary test to children and adults.
- Operated an EEG system (32 active electrode Brain Products acti32CHamp EEG recording system with licensed BrainVision Recorder and BrainVision Analyzer 2 software) and experienced in training undergraduate research assistants in operation of this system.
- Strong and versatile writing and presentation skills, as evidenced by a track record in creative writing and literary publishing.
- Experienced in providing mentorship to graduate students.
- Trained in pedagogy, specifically to teach first-year composition at UCLA.
- Skilled in working with children as well as adults.

### ***Literary Publications***

Keenan, E.G. (2022). *On Being Insane (in sane places)* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Retrieved from <https://www.amazon.com/Being-Insane-sane-places/dp/B09QGB41D7/>

Keenan, E.G. (2018, Summer/Fall). Notes to Self. *Lunch Ticket*. Retrieved from <https://lunchticket.org/notes-to-self/>

Keenan, E.G. (2017). *On Being Insane: in search of my missing pieces*. Mississippi: Dreaming Big Publications.

Keenan, E.G. (2017, February). Everything Else. *Gravel: A literary journal*. Retrieved from <https://bipolarcoaster.blog/2021/09/24/everything-else/>

### **Current Projects**

#### ***Research Studies***

*Adapted Criteria for Manic Episode in Profound Autism*. This study aims to identify emergent properties that indicate mania and bipolar disorder in people with autism across cognitive levels. I have received funding to pursue this project.

*Views on Neurodiversity in Severe Mental Illness*. This study will use a mixed-methods survey based on one used by Dwyer et al. in the autistic population, modified for use with individuals with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. The survey development is underway.

#### ***Literary Works***

*Luminous Mind*. My second full-length memoir follows my years in graduate school. It deals with the topic of mental illness, including my personal experience with severe bipolar disorder, and explores the theme of “building a life worth living”.