

# **Amy Gravino**

**Relationship Coach at Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services**

Greater New York City Area, NJ, US

President, A.S.C.O.T. Consulting, Autism Sexuality Advocate, Writer, International Speaker

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## **Biography**

Autism sexuality advocate and Relationship Coach in the Center for Adult Autism Services at Rutgers University. President of A.S.C.O.T Consulting, which offers autism consulting, college coaching, and mentoring services for organizations, schools, individuals on the autism spectrum, and their families. International speaker who has given TED talks, spoken twice at the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day, and presented worldwide to audiences on a variety of topics related to autism, with a dedicated special focus and research on the subject of autism and sexuality. Obtained her Masters degree in Applied Behavior Analysis from Caldwell University in 2010 and currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Specialisterne USA, Yes She Can, Inc. and the Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City, as well as the Scientific Advisory Board of Simons Foundation Powering Autism Research (SPARK). Award-winning writer whose work has been featured in Spectrum, the leading online news source for autism research, Reader's Digest, special education textbooks, and other outlets. Visit [www.amygravino.com](http://www.amygravino.com) to learn more.

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## **Availability**

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Host/MC, Author Appearance

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## **Industry Expertise**

Professional Training and Coaching, Writing and Editing, Education/Learning, Women

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Public Speaking, Autism, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Sexuality, Advocacy, Writing, Autism and Behavior Analysis, Applied Behavior Analysis, College Coaching, Blogging

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## **Affiliations**

Autism New Jersey (formerly COSAC)., New Jersey Association of Behavior Analysis (NJABA), Association of Behavior Analysis International (ABAI), New York State Association for Behavior Analysis (NYSABA)

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## **Event Appearances**

Panelist, In A Different Key screening + Q&A  
Teaneck International Film Festival 2021

**Invited speaker, "Why Autism Is Sexier Than You Think It Is"**  
TEDxJerseyCity 2016

**Invited speaker**  
Professional Development Workshop

**Invited panelist and speaker**  
UJA-Federation of New York Hilibrand Autism Symposium, "Autism Grown Up: Building the Future Together"

**Invited guest speaker**  
Peace and Diversity Conference Day

**Co-presenter, "Sexuality & Sexuality Instruction for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Everyone Needs To Know"**  
Autism New Jersey 32nd Annual Autism Conference

**Invited Keynote, "The Girl Behind the Curtain: A Journey Inside the Nooks and Crannies of Autism"**  
AHANY 24th Annual Fall Conference

**Co-presenter, "Sexuality and the Spectrum: Lessons on Sex, Dating, and Love, Autism Style"**  
Autism Society of America 45th Annual Conference

**Emcee and Auctioneer**  
GRASP (Global and Regional Autism Spectrum Partnership) 11th Annual Benefit

**Invited Speaker**  
TEDxSetonHall Annual Event 2014

**Guest Speaker for "Gabrielle" Film Premiere**  
REELAbilities NY Film Festival

**Co-presenter, "Sexuality & Sexuality Instruction for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Everyone Needs To Know"**  
Autism Society of Central Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University community event

**Invited Panelist**  
World Autism Awareness Day: Solving the Autism Public Health Puzzle

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## **Education**

**Caldwell University**  
Master of Arts (M.A.) Applied Behavior Analysis

## **King's College**

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) English, Writing

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## **Accomplishments**

### **King's College Alumni Award**

Recipient of the King's College Leo Award as part of the Alumni Awards Ceremony.

### **Began working as a Relationship Coach in the Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services**

Began new job as a Relationship Coach in the RCAAS, New Brunswick, NJ.

### **Yes She Can Advocates for Adults with Autism Award**

Recipient of the Yes She Can Advocates for Adults with Autism Award, autistic adult honoree.

### **Named one of 10 Talented Individuals with Autism Who Inspired in 2014**

Chosen by Autism Speaks as one of 10 Talented Individuals with Autism Who Inspired in 2014:

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/news/news-item/10-talented-individuals-autism-who-inspired-2014>

### **Spoke at the United Nations**

Spoke on a panel of autism experts at the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day in 2011.

### **Founded A.S.C.O.T. Consulting, LLC**

Started my own Asperger's Syndrome college coaching, consulting, and public speaking business, A.S.C.O.T. Coaching, LLC.

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## **Testimonials**

### **Robin Portanova**

Amy Gravino is an inspiration to all! The lecture she gave our organization, Stamford Education 4 Autism, has stayed in the minds of many who attended. I especially remember her words of, 'You are a good person. Believe in yourself' as she explained how it was for her growing up with Asperger's Syndrome. Amy speaks from her heart, speaks the truth of her life, and her lecture will no doubt touch your life in an unforgettable way. She has given me strength in understanding my son with PDD-NOS. The evening of her lecture, my goodnight to my son included Amy's words from her Letter to her younger self: 'It's not your fault.' Amy, thank you! I have heard your message and may it be heard by all! It will truly stay with me forever!

## **Joanne McMahon**

What better way to celebrate Autism Awareness Month than to hear a firsthand account of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of an individual on the spectrum? I had recently read an article written by Amy Gravino in "Autism Spectrum Quarterly" and was impressed by her story. So, as we began to plan our offerings to celebrate April as Autism Awareness Month, everyone agreed I should contact Amy. We were not disappointed. Amy's presentation afforded the students at Fox Lane Middle School an opportunity to walk a mile in her shoes. The students were truly attuned to her life story. Many were visibly moved by the various episodes of bullying and goading she experienced while in middle and high school. When she concluded her formal remarks, she was more than willing to answer questions, and there was so much interest and so many questions that we ran out of time, much to the dismay of the inquisitive students! Amy was a huge hit among staff as well, and the entire community felt enlightened and enriched by her visit. Surely the highlight of the day was when we were walking through the halls and a student called out to her, "We love you Amy!"

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