

# Thursday 5th September 2024 AutSPACES Meet-up

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## 📍 About

Welcome to our AutSPACES meet-up session! We are designing a participatory, citizen science platform called “AutSPACES”.

AutSPACES is a welcoming online space for autistic people to share their experiences of sensory processing differences. You can find out more on the platform's [repository](#).

**When?** Thursday 5th September 12:00-13:30 GMT ([see in your time zone](#))

**How?** Join Zoom Meeting: <https://turing-uk.zoom.us/j/5232350717>

*You're in the right place even if you're early!*

This meeting will be hosted by Georgia Aitkenhead. You can email Georgia on [gaitkenhead@turing.ac.uk](mailto:gaitkenhead@turing.ac.uk) for help, support, or to ask questions.

***All questions, comments, and recommendations are welcome! Feel free to add notes to this document.***

## 📍 Agenda

Time	Activity
12:00pm	👋 Welcome, <a href="#">Etiquette</a> & <a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>
12:15pm	Introducing the AutSPACES pilot! <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A tour of the website</li><li>• Adding our stories</li></ul>
12:50pm	 Break <i>Video and audio off, take 10 minutes to yourself.</i>
1:00pm	Celebrating the AutSPACES community
1:30pm	Close

Shared timer for this call

<https://cuckoo.team/autspaces-meetup>

*This link will allow you to keep track of different sessions.*

## 👤 Role call

**If you feel comfortable** please add your name, pronouns, and the **answer** to this week's ice breaker question on a new line below.



### **Icebreaker: What is one thing you have learned about yourself which surprised you?**

- Georgia/ she/her/ I am more resilient than I thought
- Kirstie W / she/her / I'm at the Research Software Engineering conference at the moment and I've just stepped out of an EDIA workshop. I think I'm always surprised at the biases I have in my worldview that are different to others! What I think is "always" is in fact "some"!! (for example being comfortable speaking in a meeting, or knowing what I want to achieve in life!)
- David / he-him/ child/teen me would be surprised that I came to appreciate arts and actually study some humanities, also very surprised that I can actually do sports. Apparently not everyone rationalises their feelings and thinking before sharing them
- Honkit he/him - being able to independently study at university and doing well on my degree without support when I previously had lots of support at school for my studies
- Sue : I know ore things than I think I know. My opinion is valued Yay !
- Susanna: I actually do have to capacity to remember things, as long as I'm not taking meds every morning
- Bastian / he/him / in the spirit of David's answer, teenage-me would be surprised how far i've come from my capital-S skeptic years :D
- Bryony she/her: I can use my strong emotions to be extremely calm and cope in stressful situations instead of getting worn out
- Claire: I struggle to focus on work when someone else is in the house (teenagers) - even when they are in a different room and quiet.
- Tom: How my empathy works, and seeming paradoxes. In other words, in some areas I am more easily empathetic, while in other areas I am less quick to be empathetic. (Although most would judge me for the areas in which they view me as less empathetic,

**If you feel comfortable** please add any notes or feedback you have during the session here. You can put your name next to your comment if you like, but you don't have to if you prefer to be anonymous.



### **Extra Information**

#### **Recommended Reading**

Follow this Google Doc:  [AutSPACES Recommended Reading](#) (and add your own suggestions if you like!)

#### **Calm Room**

The “calm room” is a breakout room to provide a safe space for anyone who needs to take a step out from the main room but doesn’t want to leave the meeting. Please message Georgia or Sophia directly on the Zoom chat and they will add you to the room and then send someone over to help you.

## AutSPACES Pilot Website

We’re excited to be able to show you the pilot AutSPACES website which is now live and ready for you to use! Just follow the link below to take part!

### Links

- AutSPACES Website: <https://autspaces-web.azurewebsites.net/>

### Feedback:

- “How to use” section doesn’t line up when minimised (SF & HC)
- iPhone screen: in portrait layout collapsed makes it trickier to use (HC)
- Server error 500 when trying to submit a story
- Interpretation of “default” is a bit tricky - might be better to rephrase so it’s clearer
- Text box moves as fast as your type - this is reassuring as you know you’re not being restricted (SI)
- Have a tips share part of the website (SI) - hacks for shorter journeys

## Celebrating the AutSPACES Community

A personal note from Georgia: My favourite thing about my research has been being a part of the AutSPACES community and getting to know you and work with you. I’ve grown a huge amount as a person, and you’ve given me a wealth of support, insights, wisdom and joy. I want to say an immense, heartfelt thank you to all of you. This part of the session is to celebrate our community and share our experiences of being citizen scientists.

### Discussion Notes:

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