

# A Study of Variability in Autistic Trait Expression

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## Help us explore how environment shapes language use in autism.

This family study explores language use in autistic individuals and their family members across different biological and linguistic backgrounds. Findings will help us understand how language structure and environmental factors interact with genetic influences to impact social communication in autism.



**Northwestern**  
Neurodevelopmental  
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### STUDY OBJECTIVE:

- To understand how social language profiles in autism are influenced by important biological and environmental factors.

### IMPORTANCE OF STUDY:

- Examines social language in autistic individuals and their relatives across Chinese and English languages, and in these Eastern and Western groups
- Helps us understand the causes of language differences in autism and inform connections between gene, brain, and environmental influences

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- English-speaking individuals with autism ages 12–30 and their biological parents ages 75 and under
- English-speaking individuals without autism ages 12–30 and their biological parents ages 75 and under

### PARTICIPATION INCLUDES:

- Completing language-based tasks
- Solving puzzles
- Completing measures of brain activity

### COMPENSATION AND TIME:

- Participation involves either 1 or 2 visits
- Participants will be compensated for their time



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