Breakout 1

What’s Love Got to Do with It?  Well… Everything

There are a plethora of misconceptions about autistics and our relationships, be they romantic, platonic, or sexual. Utilizing the personal experiences of an autistic adult as well as empirical sources, this session will dismantle those myths and explore numerous ways that love impacts, intersects, and influences various aspects of our lives and affects our day to day functioning.

Breakout 2

Born This Way: My Life as an Autistic Parent

Led by an autistic parent of autistic and non-autistic children, this informative and interactive session will provide participants with an in-depth view of autistic parenting and opportunities in order to build meaningful connections with autistic and neurodiverse families.

Morénike Giwa Onaiwu is an educator, writer, public speaker, parent, and global advocate. A proactive, resourceful professional and disabled woman of color in a multicultural, neurodiverse, serodifferent family. Morénike, who is American-born to immigrant parents, possesses undergraduate and graduate degrees in International Relations and Education. She is passionate about human rights, justice, and inclusion. She is involved in various social justice advocacy endeavors including HIV awareness, learning via technology, research, gender, disability, and racial equity and other issues. A prolific writer, Morénike has written for and/or been featured in numerous blogs, abstracts, magazines, books, and other platforms, often drawing from her personal experiences as a late-diagnosed Autistic adult woman, a person of color, an Autistic parent of Autistic and non-Autistic children, and a survivor of intimate partner violence. She is also involved in several projects in addition to her advocacy and writing; notably, she is one of the editors (along with Lydia X.Z. Brown and E. Ashkenazy) of a groundbreaking anthology on autism and race as well as a co-coordinator of the Fund for Community Reparations for Autistic People of Color’s Interdependence, Survival, and Empowerment.

Morénike has been an invited speaker in the White House, at the United Nations Headquarters, and a keynote speaker and/or presenter at numerous peer-reviewed advocacy, education, disability, and research conferences. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the “Advocating for Another: Health Activist of the Year” 2014 WEGO Health Award and the “Service to the Self-Advocacy movement” 2015 Autistic Self Advocacy Network Award.