

# AutSPACEs: Co-creating a Citizen Science Platform

Georgia Aitkenhead, Sophia Batchelor, Helen Duncan, Susanna Fantonia, Bastian Greshake Tzovaras, James Kim, David Llewellyn-Jones, Callum Mole, James Scott, Otis Smith, Martin Stoffel, Robin Taylor Kirstie Whitaker, the AutSPACEs community.

Correspondence: gaitkenhead@turing.ac.uk Newsletter https://tinyletter.com/AutisticaTuringCitizenScience





#### Introduction

**AutSPACEs** stands for **Aut**ism research into **S**ensory **P**rocessing for **A**ccessible **C**ommunity **E**nvironments.

https://github.com/alan-turing-institute/AutSPACEs

Together with a team of neurodiverse co-researchers and open-source developers, we are using **participatory** research to co-create an open source, citizen science platform.

When it is launched, AutSPACEs will be used to collect together **rich**, **qualitative data** on how sensory processing differences affect autistic people's daily lives.

#### Goals

Share people's stories and adaptive techniques with others who have similar experiences

**Educate** neurotypical people to better support their friends, family and colleagues

**Advise** organisations on how they can design and adapt spaces to improve people's lives

Openly released code and resources: a platform that can be reused and adapted for other research purposes

9/10 autistic people experience sensory processing differences compared to non-autistic people, for instance they may find lights brighter, sounds louder, or busy spaces more overwhelming.

This can lead to everyday spaces such as school, hospitals, public transport and offices being suboptimal, uncomfortable, or totally inaccessible to many autistic people.

While autism is not a disability, AutSPACEs is inspired by the **disability rights movement** social model of disability and motto:

"Nothing About Us Without Us"



### Methods IDENTIFY DIVERSE GROUPS ASK THEM WHAT THEIR NEEDS ARE ENSURE THEY ARE BEING MET CITIZEN PARTICIPATORY OPEN SOURCE RESEARCH SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT FOR NON-MEMBERS "...it's not just expert advice, everyone is...coming from their life experience, from their relative's experience, and they're saying, 'it helped someone, I'm sure it would help others', so I think a project like this is important" Scriberia Autistic adult and parent to an autistic child

## Co-design case study

MODERATION DILEMMA

discriminatory or abusive

content without censoring

Allowing autistic people who

themselves to be represented

while centring autistic voices

negative experiences

can't use the platform

Protecting users from triggering

Protecting users from

content

## **Moderating the AutSPACEs platform**



Experience Share publicly on AutSPACEs? **AutSPACEs** 

Pre-publication review to

Traffic-lights system which

triggering content and allows

representing others based on

co-created principles. No

significantly reduce risk

sorts disallowed from

viewers to filter stories.

Tailored guidelines for

comments on posts

Experience is sent to Does submission contravene code of —Yes→ and moderator conduct? assigned include triggering —Yes→ **AUTSPACES STRATEGY** 

AutSPACEs without snippet view and with triggering category tag. Notify submitter Labelled GREEN. of story Published on AutSPACEs with snippet view. Notify submitter of story Text Users must open Experience is instantly experience to read it. They riewable by all AutSPACES can filter out categories of triggering content.

Green = Meets all requirements

Amber = Doesn't break CoC but contains potentially triggering content so will be flagged

Labelled RED. Do not

publish. User notified

and shown section of

CoC violated

Labelled AMBER

Published on

Red = Breaks CoC and will not be approved for public sharing

## **A Diverse Community**

Twitter













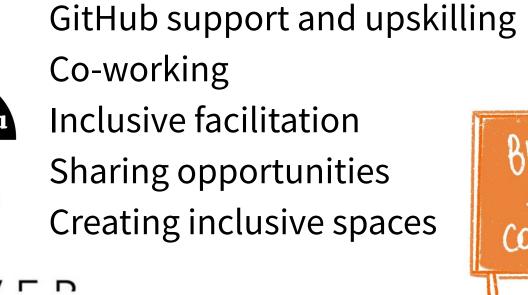












Meet-up sessions

Monthly newsletters







## **Collaborator Stories**

Scan here to listen to Susanna talk about moderation for a podcast:





share his **Susanna Fantoni** 



Scan here to

watch Otis

STANDARD APPROACH

Binary moderation options -

Anyone can use or comment

Post-publication review

publish or remove





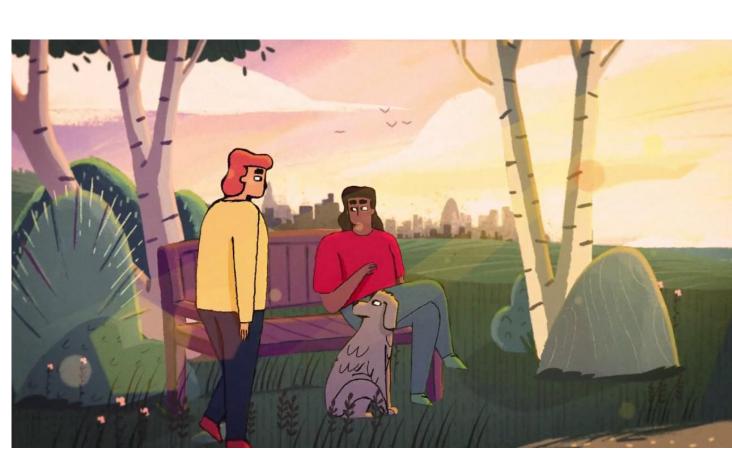
### **Future directions**



Collect data and open to researchers

Continue to user test and iterate

Support adaption for other projects





User can edit and

resubmit

or delete their

experience in their

account,

or change

sharing

permissions

