Speaker, Roy Richard Grinker is Professor of Anthropology, Human Sciences and International Affairs at the George Washington University. In addition to his work on autism, he has published books and articles on topics such as the ethnic conflict in central Africa, the intellectual history of African Studies, and north-south Korean relations. He is also the author of, most recently, Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism (NY: Basic Books) for which he won a Ken Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The University of Minnesota LEND Program is an interdisciplinary leadership training program spanning 11 disciplines across the U of M and is funded by the Maternal Child Health Bureau of the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Combating Autism Act. The U of M LEND’s Interdisciplinary Training Program curriculum incorporates didactic, research, practicum experiences, and community service opportunities using a combination of activities located in both clinical and community training sites.

Session 1: Professional & Academic
The Effect of Culture on the Recognition and Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders
9:30-11:00 a.m.
Phillips Wangensteen Building Room 2-470, 516 Delaware Street SE Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Professor Grinker, researcher, writer, and parent, will describe the current state of research on autism prevalence and diagnosis from a global, cross-cultural perspective. In addition to describing the role of epidemiology in autism research, he will present data from his epidemiological project in South Korea, and discuss research on early diagnosis among Zulu toddlers in South Africa and Mexican migrant farmers in Florida.

Session 2: Community
What in the World is Autism?: Global and Cultural Perspectives
2:00-3:30 p.m.
Minnesota Department of Health Snelling Office Park 1645 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108

In this lecture, Professor Grinker, a researcher on autism, and parent of an 18-year-old daughter with autism, will describe the range of cultural influences on both scientific and public understandings of autism. He will draw on his research in South Africa, South Korea, India, and the U.S. to show how autism awareness across the globe is having a positive effect on the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

Registration is required and can be completed at lend.umn.edu

This event was possible by the following organizations: Maternal and Child Health Bureau, University of Minnesota LEND program, Center for Leadership Education in Maternal and Child Health. Additional contributors include; Center for Neurobehavioral Development (CNBD), Institute on Community Integration (UCEDD), Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Excellence in Children’s Mental Health, Arc Greater Twin Cities, Arc Minnesota