

# **REVEAL THEIR STORY: USING THE STRENGTH-BASED MIGDAS-2 APPROACH TO AUTISM EVALUATIONS**

***Presenter: Marilyn J. Monteiro, Ph.D.***

**Friday, March 11, 2022 ♦ 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Zoom Webinar**

Clinicians are increasingly faced with identifying and supporting individuals with autism spectrum brain style differences. In this session, they are introduced to the *Monteiro Interview Guidelines for Diagnosing the Autism Spectrum, Second Edition* (MIGDAS-2) visual framework and descriptive language to identify the individuals they evaluate in positive, nuanced, and accessible terms. This framework shifts the autism assessment process away from the reductive language of deficits to the expansive language of describing individualized patterns of strengths and differences. The shift away from labeling behavioral deficits to describing patterns of behavioral differences leads to a positive narrative as well as to creative ways to develop supports and interventions for individuals across age and ability levels. The use of this visual framework and descriptive, strength-based language supports families and schools in their development of a positive and individualized understanding of the diagnosis, promoting resiliency in the individual and in their family and school support systems.

*Level of Curriculum Content: Intermediate*

## **Zoom at a Glance**

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video, whether you are connecting multiple conference rooms or meeting with attendees from their personal desktops or mobile devices. For more information or to download Zoom, please visit <https://zoom.us/>.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

**Marilyn J. Monteiro, Ph.D.** is a licensed psychologist and licensed specialist in school psychology, and an expert in the area of autism spectrum brain style differences. For over three decades, she has provided autism diagnoses and support to thousands of individuals and their families. Dr. Monteiro is the author of two books, a test protocol, and several journal articles, and is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences. She also provides national and international training for clinicians in the areas of autism evaluation methods and therapy supports for individuals with autism spectrum brain style differences. Dr. Monteiro thoroughly enjoys having autism conversations.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Identify and apply a visual framework and descriptive language to organize their behavior observations into an individualized brain style behavioral profile
- Utilize a practical framework and descriptive language to discuss the singular presentation of the individual's autism brain style differences when discussing a diagnosis with parents, teachers, and adults
- Explain how to integrate the use of the MIGDAS-2 process with the use of additional measures, such as behavior rating scales and the ADOS-2
- Describe the three-step process involved in conducting a sensory-based clinical interview using the MIGDAS-2 protocols

## PROGRAM AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Introduction to the MIGDAS-2 visual framework and descriptive language
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Clinical sample applications of the MIGDAS-2 sensory-based interview protocols
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Summary and question and answer opportunities

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**Psychologists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Nova Southeastern University maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

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**All mental health professionals will receive three (3) continuing education credits for the workshop. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be awarded. Check your licensing state's rules and regulations for more information regarding your continuing education requirements.**

Nova Southeastern University is committed to making its programs accessible to all prospective attendees. Let us know if you have specific requirements due to a disability.

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

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## NOTICES OF ACCREDITATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND NONDISCRIMINATION

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