

# “Adolescent Development, with a Round Table Discussion on Executive Functioning”

Fusion Academy Speaker Series, Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Lincoln Center Campus, 157 Columbus Avenue, on the corner of 67<sup>th</sup> street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

## *The Presenters:*



Gabriel Rivera has thirty-four years of experience in working as a community advocate, both in counseling and education. Gabriel has worked with adolescents, adults and families in a variety of settings. His work in the community began as an outreach worker in Los Angeles, California. His projects included facilitating of gang interventions, implementing summer youth work projects and organizing mural art programs throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Gabriel has founded several programs intended to meet the needs of adolescents in crisis. The culmination of his experiences has enhanced his abilities to understand and assist adolescents, young adults and their families in meeting their needs in a variety of scenarios.



Dr. Sejal Vyas is a Pediatric and Adult Neuropsychologist who specializes in the neuropsychological evaluation and learning consultation of children, adolescents, adults, and geriatrics. Her areas of specialization include neurodevelopmental syndromes such as ADHD, concussions, autism spectrum, and epilepsy. In addition, she has expertise working in psychiatry, brain injury, and dementia. She has held positions at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, as an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Neurology *and* Psychiatry. She is currently serving as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and as a Supervising Neuropsychologist at St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center.



Sharon Thomas is the Director of MAIAA Parent Resource Center, a comprehensive education organization that offers tutoring, school placement counseling K-12 and workshops to parents and professionals. Sharon has over a decade of experience in the field of education and research, and she has worked with hundreds of families to identify resources, establish goals, and implement practical plans. Sharon is licensed in General and Special Education, with a concentration in Learning Disabilities. She holds a BA in Psychology from Georgetown University, a MSc in Child Developmental Psychology from University College London, and a MEd in Special and General Education from Hunter College.



Michael Rosenthal, PhD is a child clinical psychologist and pediatric neuropsychologist who works at the Child Mind Institute in Manhattan, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of children with psychiatric and learning disorders. Dr. Rosenthal possesses expertise in the evaluation and treatment of children and adolescents from pre-school through early adulthood. He is specialized in diagnostic, developmental, and neuropsychological evaluations of children with ADHD, executive dysfunction, learning disabilities, social cognitive weaknesses, and emotional/behavioral challenges and has authored several research articles on executive functioning in children.



Karen Kraskow has been a learning specialist in private practice for 25 years; she is also a social worker. She has taught in special ed schools as well as independent schools. Teaching reading and math to early learners, she also has a special interest in teaching 'reluctant writers,' those who talk fluently but are reluctant to share their ideas. "Tools for Reluctant Writers," and "Writing and Executive Functions" have been the subjects of several talks she has given at the Everyone Reading Conferences.



Jules Csillag, BA, MS, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist and learning specialist who works at the Brooklyn Heights Montessori School and in private practice. She is passionate about evidence-based interventions for students in special education. She is also a contributor on the educational site Noodle.org.



Jade Giffin is a New York State licensed and nationally board certified Creative Arts Therapist. Jade earned her master's degree in Art Therapy from New York University, where she was the recipient of the Governor and Mrs. Lehman Art Therapy Award for outstanding scholarship and clinical work. She received her bachelor's degree in Visual Arts and Psychology with distinction from Barnard College. Jade currently divides her time as an Art Therapist in a school setting for children with a broad range of developmental needs, and in private practice. She has accrued fifteen years of experience working with various populations, including children with autism spectrum disorders and developmental delays, at-risk adolescents, and adults with dementia or impacted by chronic illness. Jade facilitated art therapy abroad in Cape Town, South Africa and presents her work nationally.