

## Panelists' Bios

**Sandy Magaña**, PhD, MSW, holds the Professorship in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work. She was a faculty member for 12 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work and later served as a Professor at the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At UIC, Magana was awarded a center grant from The National Institute on Disability Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) and founded the Family Support Research and Training Center (FSRTC) which she continues to co-direct from UT SSW.

Magaña's research focus is on the cultural context of families who care for persons with disabilities across the life course. Her current research includes investigating racial and ethnic disparities among children with autism and developmental disabilities and developing culturally relevant interventions to address these disparities.

**Paul Shattuck**, Ph.D. is an associate professor in the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University and the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute as the Leader of the Institute's Research Program Area on Life Course Outcomes. Most of his current research is aimed at understanding services and related outcomes among youth with autism as they leave high school and transition to young adulthood.

**Phil Martin** is a self-taught portrait and lifestyle photographer based in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. Phil is mostly known for his ability to capture emotion in his photographs. Phil has worked on campaigns for companies from Autism Speaks to KIA Motors. Aside from photography, Phil serves as an autism advocate, a fire department spokesperson, emergency dispatcher, and as a community manager for the DC Instagram community IGDC. Phil's greatest inspiration comes from his son, Bryce.

*"I was drawn towards portraiture because being on the autism spectrum makes one on one connections very difficult for me. Photographing people forces me to exit my comfort zone and get intimate with my subjects. I try to learn them as much as I can within the time allotted, this way, it becomes more than just a photographer/client relationship... It becomes personal." - Phil*

**Debbie Chan** was born, raised, and educated through high school in Hong Kong, China. Her husband grew up and was educated in Taiwan. Their son with autism was born in New York. Without any grandparents in the US, her and her husband manage their son's care themselves. She joined AFDN to try to help herself, her family, and others.

**Jim Ronyak** is the Sr. Director of Technology at the Mercatus Center at GMU and parent to a 10 year old boy with autism spectrum disorder and ADHD. Jim lived on the Colville Indian Reservation in Omak, WA for 7 years and fought to get therapy and services for his son as the reservation is 162 miles away from the nearest places providing that type of help.

**Monika Brooks** is a community member and advocate for literacy, racial diversity and autism awareness in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the founder of Great Books for Our Kids, a community organization that promotes literacy and education through interactive community building. She is also the Executive Director of the Mocha Autism Network in which she works to spread awareness of autism within communities of color. A member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Monika holds a bachelor's degree in the Area of Black Studies from San Francisco State University's College of Ethnic Studies. She is currently working towards and advanced degree in Educational Leadership.