Abstract:

**Presentation title**

**Young adults with autism spectrum disorders exceeding mandatory schooling: Characteristics of occupational groups**

**Background:** Individuals growing up with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are reported to have substantial difficulties in transition from the period with mandatory schooling to further education or the labour market. Thus, individuals with ASD show very diverse capacities with respect to education and employment. This study will focus on potential behavioral differences among occupational groups with the aim of clarifying possible obstacles in the transition process.

**Methods:** A nationwide survey including individuals born in the period 1990-1999 and diagnosed with ASD before 14 years of age was conducted in 2016 with all ASD cases identified in the Danish Psychiatric Central Registry. In total, 5642 individuals with ASD were invited to participate together with their parents. Information on occupational activities was gathered together with behavioral data such as psychiatric comorbidity, ASD symptoms, maladaptive functioning as well as quality of life (QoL) and sociodemographic data.

**Results:** A total of 1731 parents and 931 individuals with ASD participated in the survey corresponding to response rates of 30.7% and 16.5% respectively. This study is based on a subsample of the total sample (N=822) with a mean age of 21.7, and a male:female ratio of 1:0.23. From the reported occupational activities, three groups were constructed based on engagement in primarily education or employment respectively, or no involvement in either education or employment. Analyses will focus on behavioral differences within and across occupational groups as well as levels of QoL.

**Conclusion:** The study will provide knowledge about factors associated with different occupational groups.