

# Research on Autism and Families in India (RAFIN)

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**Research Sites:** UCLA and New Delhi, India

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## Purpose

To assemble and help sustain a team of students, postdoc, faculty, and affiliates of disability organizations who are committed to cross-cultural and US field and laboratory research focused on children and families living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in cultural context.

## Primary Objectives

- Establishing a field site in New Delhi, India, led by cultural psychologist Tamara Daley, in collaboration with Research Director Nidhi Singhal, Director Merry Barua, and others at Action for Autism (AFA), a Delhi-based NGO.
- A comprehensive study of an intensive, empowerment-based parent training program, the Parent Child Training Program conducted at AFA. The study uses a mixed-method approach to examine culturally relevant outcomes at the conclusion of the three month training period and at a 6 and 12 month follow up.
- A study of adults with autism in New Delhi, India that will examine daily routines; independent functioning; educational and interventions; adult self-concepts among higher functioning participants; and future plans for care.
- A potential fMRI study of adults with autism in India using the AFA adult sample.
- Timeline: The evaluation of the PCTP was launched in Fall 2011; the first cohort was completed in April 2012 and the subsequent cohorts will follow in July and October. The adult and fMRI studies are currently being planned and piloted, with recruitment and data collection to begin in early 2013.