

The Case of Carly Fleischmann, Her Speech Therapists, and the Media: Factitious Heroism by Proxy, Factitious Heroism, Foile à Plusieurs, and the Global Impact Thereof

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Howitt, Dan (2021) The Case of Carly Fleischmann, Her Speech Therapists, and the Media: Factitious Heroism by Proxy, Factitious Heroism, Foile à Plusieurs, and the Global Impact Thereof. *Ukrainian Policymaker*, Volume 9, 12-28. <https://doi.org/???>

The global impact of the public presentations of the profoundly autistic woman Carly Fleischmann has been substantial. In this article, I reveal the brilliant communicative fraud that Carly's two speech-therapists engaged in with her between 2008-2018 on an array of major television programs, and which has not been observed by anyone else. The speech-therapists have deceived innumerable millions of people worldwide that Carly has a normal if not advanced neurology and mind, and that all profoundly autistic persons may as well. They devised a variation of the treatment method and educational method that is referred to as Facilitated Communication. By my having revealed the intricacy of the communicative fraud that they engaged in with Carly, there may be a global response via cooperation between persons of an array of different countries that results in treatment methods and educational methods for autistic persons being assessed more carefully by scientists, physicians, journalists, autism organization leaders, and others; and the global response may include that the ways that autistic persons are conceived of may be proceeded with more carefully. I do not intend for my observational work, and ensuing conceptual work, to demonstrate to others that the particular fraud that Carly's speech-therapists engaged in should be monitored for; but rather that all claims of, and demonstrations of, treatment methods and educational methods for autism be acutely visually and auditorily observed, such that the innumerable kinds of fraud that may be occurring are observed. The assessment of treatment methods and educational methods for autism with preexisting methodologies will likely result, as it did of Carly and her speech-therapists, in highly surreptitious fraud being overlooked, and perpetuated; and this entails the proliferation of mass deception.

Keywords: Carly Fleischmann, Howard Dalal, Barbara Nash-Fenton, Factitious Heroism By Proxy, Factitious Heroism, Facilitated Communication, Autism

Received: 30 September 2021 / Accepted: 28 October 2021 / Published: 1 December 2021

Introduction

From 2008-2021, Carly Fleischmann, who has extreme non-verbal autism, has been portrayed by her two speech therapists, via a multitude of variations of surreptitious fraud, as being able to type-communicate with keyboards and icon-touchpads at a normal level, if not advanced level. She was globally portrayed as such on an array of major television programs, as well as on her YouTube channel, which purportedly shows her conducting in-person interviews with an array of celebrities. Her two speech therapists, in succeeding for approximately thirteen years with this, engage in what I refer to as “Factitious Heroism By Proxy,”¹ as they have accomplished persuading innumerable millions of people that Carly is an extremely rare hero of autism. Moreover, the speech therapists, in doing the aforementioned, concurrently engage in Factitious Heroism, because they accomplish persuading innumerable millions of people that they are the heroes who in part are responsible for Carly’s heroism.

Unlike my case on Tito and Soma Mukhopadhyay,² while Carly’s speech therapists engage in a multitude of variations of surreptitious fraud, the fraud was not so masterful that Nobel Prize level scientists, other elite scientists, elite physicians, elite journalists, innumerable millions of other people, etc., would not be able to observe at least some of it. Due to this, I believe that this matter is also one of Folie À Plusieurs.

In my aforementioned article on Tito and Soma, I provide an extensive Introduction and Conclusion on, for example, the history of Facilitated Communication (and a variation thereof), and the globally detrimental impact of the communicative fraud on treatment for autism, the conception of autism, and humanity. I will refer the readers of this article to that article for those extensive discussions. I will, however, emphasize that the fraud of both of these matters has had an immense global impact, as innumerable millions of people worldwide have, for twenty-one years regarding Tito and Soma, and for thirteen years regarding Carly, been subjected to substantial deception about autism treatment, and about autism itself.

Discussion

I

Carly Fleischmann was presented on ABC News in 2008 (when she was approximately 13 years old), and on 20/20 in 2009: 2008, “Autism Breakthrough: Girl’s Writings Explain Her Behavior and Feelings”³; 2009, “Teen Locked in Autistic Body Finds Inner Voice.”⁴ Within the 2009 article, there is the following notice and webpage link: “Watch Carly’s story on “20/20” Friday at 10 p.m. ET”; however, there is no 20/20 archive-webpage that provides the television episode. A copy of the episode is provided at YouTube.⁵

The following is about the aforementioned episode; and as a preface I will mention that the two primary speech-therapists of Carly are Dr. Barbara Nash-Fenton and Howard Dalal: At **3:55**, Nash-Fenton is shown, and the narrator, John McKenzie, states, “Barbara Nash-Fenton is one of Carly’s long-time therapists”; Dalal is shown with Carly when she was a young child at **2:42**, **2:58**, **3:14**, **3:16**, **3:17**, and **3:20**, instructing her to touch one finger on various objects; and at **3:21 – 3:41**, and several times thereafter, Dalal is shown with her at the time

¹ See (Howitt, November 2021).

² See (Howitt, November 2021).

³ See (McKenzie, 2008).

⁴ See (Goldberg & Putrino, 2009).

⁵ See (McKenzie, 2009a).

of the episode. Aside, Dalal's name is never mentioned during the episode, although it is mentioned in this August 2012, ABC News article: "Howard Dalal, Fleischmann's aide, and lead therapist."⁶ He is also presented in this CBS, *The Doctors* episode, "Carly Joins The Doctors," of September 2012,⁷ from 1:00 – 1:06, as having the following discussion with Dr. Jim Sears: "Now Howard, you have been Carly's therapist for quite a while right?", to which Dalal states, "About ten years now," which means that he had been working with her since she was approximately seven years old, as she was born in January 1995.⁸

4:08 – 4:36: Carly's father, Arthur Fleischmann, states the following about the speech therapist(s)' first report that Carly could type-communicate: "At first we did not believe it. Knowing this child for ten years and never seeing her write a thing, of course, you are going to be skeptical." McKenzie responds: "Everyone was, including her other therapists, who were now desperate to see proof; but Carly refused to type, exhibiting the same hysterical behavior that led experts to label her as mentally retarded." Dr. Nicole Walton-Allen (about whom McKenzie at **2:39 – 2:44** states, "Dr. Nicole Walton-Allen is a clinical psychologist who led Carly's therapy program") states: "So the typing was great, but no one could see it."

During the 9 minute 51 second episode, there are twenty-five separate time-periods in which Carly does one key-strike; and after each key-strike, an intricate series of adult-level-intelligence sentences are shown on the computer-screen, and read by a female narrator: **0:23, 0:26, 0:29, 0:37, 0:50, 3:37, 4:47, 4:55, 5:05, 5:10, 5:21, 5:39, 5:51, 6:00, 6:43, 6:48, 7:19, 7:35, 8:11, 8:15, 9:11, 9:17** (three key-strikes, namely, the backspace key is struck twice, and then a letter-key), **9:21, 9:27, 9:42**. Carly is never shown typing all of the letters of even one word. Aside, the female narrator is not an automated narrator, but rather an actual person; and via her voice, she seems to be of Carly's age.

7:46 – 8:18: McKenzie, in person (and he is concurrently narrating the episode), begins by stating, "The one thing that she can control is where and when she will type; and usually she needs to be motivated." However, if she "can control where and when she'll type," this means that she can motivate herself to type-communicate. McKenzie continues: "When I tried to make conversation with Carly, she would not type back, her finger hovering over the keys for hours, until I brought up my teenage son." Surely "hours" did not elapse between the beginning of the aforementioned excerpt, namely **7:46**, and when Carly, at **8:08 – 8:10** and **8:15**, did three key-strikes, the entire time of which McKenzie was standing approximately three feet away from her. Even if there were breaks in between the twenty-nine seconds, surely hours did not elapse.

Regarding Carly's aforementioned three key-strikes: First, at **8:08 – 8:10** she appears to type "h" twice; second, at **8:15**, she appears to type "2"; third, at **8:16**, nine letters are shown, namely "Is hee cute." She is not shown typing nine letters; and of those letters, none are "2". However, at **8:11 – 8:12**, a word-auto-complete program appears at the left side of the computer screen: When "c" is typed (although it is unclear who typed it) a list of words that begin with "c" appear at the left of the screen; however, typing "2" would have selected "can". Likely, one of the speech-therapists was operating the computer via a wireless control, and was either, or both, typing one or more letters, modifying the word-auto-complete list, and then choosing one or more words from the word-auto-complete list. Another possibility is that Carly typed each of the letters, and that one of the speech-therapists modified the words

⁶ See (Brown, 2012).

⁷ See (The Doctors, 2012a).

⁸ See (The Genius Of Autism Wiki, 2019; National Library Board, 2012).

that were presented in the word-auto-complete list, and that Carly, upon recognizing the word “cute” via, as I will discuss shortly, extensive preparatory instruction, typed “2” in order to select “cute.”

9:09: McKenzie states, “She is even writing a novel.” At **9:11**, Carly is shown making one key-strike; and then from **9:11 – 9:16**, an automated female voice reads from the twelve sentences that are shown on the computer-screen in front of her.

II

2017. This is a home-video of Carly when she was approximately 22 years old,⁹ the title of which is “Carly Fleischmann Typing A Message For Oprah.” There is no mention of who the photographer is. The highest resolution of the video is 240p, which, along with 144p, are the two lowest resolutions for all YouTube videos: The other standard resolutions are 360p, 480p, 720p, 1080p; and 720p and 1080p are used when a visually acute image is desired. Moreover, the photographer is filming at a distance from Carly, her keyboard, and her computer-screen, such that, even with the YouTube video-box maximized on one’s computer screen, it is not possible to see which key-strikes she makes (except for the space-bar strikes), nor which words are emerging on the screen. The photographer could have easily taken the video in higher-resolution, and at a distance to Carly, her keyboard, and her screen, that showed which key-strikes she was making, which words were emerging on the screen, and how the key-strikes were coordinated with the emergence of the words on the screen. Aside, an automated female voice reads the words that emerge on the screen. Also aside, two identical sets of words are present at the beginning of the video: Carly faces one set, and the photographer faces the other. As the video proceeds, the additional words, and then sentences, appear after the initial words.

0:00 – 0:04: As will be discussed further shortly, there is already one word on the screen, namely apparently “Oprah”; and apparently there are two letters of another word that follow. Carly then presses one key and the space-bar, and the automated voice reads “why.” As is mentioned below, the space-bar is the read-key.

0:05 – 0:29: Carly presses one key, a letter emerges, she then presses another key, another letter emerges, she then apparently presses the backspace key, the aforementioned second letter is deleted, she then presses another key, a letter emerges, she then apparently presses the “1” key (or a key near it), several letters immediately appear after the aforementioned two letters, and the automated voice reads “would.” First, she pressed a total of two keys that produced enduring letters, whereas the word “would” consists of five letters. Second, her pressing of the apparent key “1” resulted in the simultaneous production of three letters and the reading of “would.” Third, as for whether Carly, by pressing “1”, was selecting from a word-auto-complete list on the screen, no such list can be seen on the screen, and Carly seemingly does not look at the screen during that time-period, nor at any other time-period during the entire video. Fourth, at **0:33**, she presses the space-bar, which apparently is the read-key for the program; and the automated voice says “would” again. Fifth, Carly presses the space-bar several times during the video (**0:03, 0:33, 0:43, 0:55, 1:11, 2:07, 2:12, 2:35, 2:55**), and each time she does this a word is immediately read by the automated voice. This indicates that the space-bar is the read-key, and that the above “1” key, or whatever it may be, is not the read-key.

Another apparent purpose of the video, aside from the purpose of claiming that Carly is typing a message to Oprah in the video, is to provide a demonstration of Carly typing a message. If this is the case, then a low-resolution video, taken at a far-away distance, would have not

⁹ See (YouTube, 2021f).

been done. Moreover, the presence of the aforementioned two identical sets of words that are opposingly faced, such that Carly can see one, and the photographer the other, indicates that the photographer desired to see the letters and words because he or she was partly or entirely involved in their production via a wireless control; and note that Carly's keyboard is wireless, as is her screen.

On the possibility that some, or perhaps a significant extent, or all, of the aforementioned words, were typed by Carly, the issue then arises as to whether she, as I demonstrated about Tito Mukhopadhyay and his mother Soma¹⁰, wrote the letters from having been repeatedly instructed on how to do so: Immense preparatory instruction could have resulted in her memorizing the succession of key-strikes that were necessary in order for the two sentences in the aforementioned video to be produced. Support for that this may be the case is the following: During the aforementioned *The Doctors* television episode,¹¹ from **0:39 – 0:55**, Mr. Fleischmann states: "We then went on to picture-symbols, and I think that was kind-of the breakthrough, because all these pictures had words, and we didn't know she was learning the words, but through the years she was memorizing and learning the spelling on all the words on all the pictures." Moreover, in the aforementioned *20/20* episode, McKenzie at **1:56 – 2:02** states, "So ever since Carly was three, her therapy has been intensive – unrelenting"; and Mr. Fleischmann at **2:02 – 2:10** continues: "This took about forty to sixty hours a week of one-to-one therapy. She always had about three to four therapists working with her." There, of course, is a difference between learning the words of what is pictured, such that the words can be used with other words, or alone, in order to express one's thought and emotion, and memorizing the words of what is pictured, and learning which letters should to be pressed on a computer in order to spell the words, such that the words do not express one's thought and emotion, but rather, only express what one was repetitively taught to write upon being cued with particular written words, written phrases, verbal words, verbal phrases, non-verbal expressions, etc. This indicates that of whatever words Carly may type without in-person, external involvement, they may arise from immense preparatory instruction. I will further discuss this shortly.

Continuing: In the aforementioned home-video, from **2:06 – 2:10**, the automated voice states, "Oprah, why would you not let me interview you?"; and from **2:11 – 3:21**, the words of the final sentence are read individually by the computer, namely, "I, am, smart, and, funny." As I demonstrated is in fact the case during many particular interactions between Tito and Soma, a cue-word or phrase is provided at the outset; and this likely is the case for the aforementioned home-video, as the video begins with the word "Oprah" already on the computer-screen: Via repeated preparatory instruction, Carly, like Tito, surely knew that the cue-word means that what is required is a series of additional particular words; and in the above case, Carly may have typed the above two sentences in this way. Unlike Tito, though, she apparently was not verbally cued via an additional surreptitious method as she wrote the subsequent words, which is what Soma did with him. However, she may have had an earphone in one or both ears, which would have been hidden by her hair, which covers the entirety of her ears and much of the sides of her face: Someone may have been verbally instructing her on what to type; and this would be consistent with the aforementioned several surreptitious obfuscating methods.

What would be necessary is, simply, a third-party to ask Carly to provide a simple comment about a simple matter, about which she has no advanced knowledge, and to not have Dalal nor anyone else with whom she has a relationship involved, nor aware of the experiment, nor

¹⁰ See (Howitt, November 2021).

¹¹ See (The Doctors, 2012a).

aware of the location of the experiment, and to use computer equipment that is not connected to, nor controlled, by anyone else's computer connection and equipment, and, if necessary, to use a third-party to provide the extremely simple aid that Dalal does, namely, as is shown in the above and below television episodes, sitting next to her, placing the computer on her lap, directing her to her computer, intervening into her bodily flailing when necessary, sustaining her seated position, etc.

Regarding the aforementioned second sentence, namely "I am smart and funny," the following is a variation by 20/20 of the aforementioned 20/20 episode that consists of some additional filming.¹² **0:07**: What appears on the computer screen, for the second sentence, is "I am cute, funny and like to have fun." **5:31 – 5:39**: McKenzie states, "Then there was this exchange"; and presented on the screen is a sentence next to the aforementioned Nash-Fenton's first name, and a sentence next to Carly's name. McKenzie reads the sentence next to Nash-Fenton's name, and a automated female voice reads the sentence next to Carly's name, which is, "I am so cute blind people stop and stare." Notwithstanding that Carly is not shown typing this sentence: Assuming that she did, she, as I discussed above, surely types the words of these sentences from immense preparatory instruction, and, as such, has no knowledge of what the words mean conceptually, nor emotionally.

Continuing: **0:26 – 0:33**: The aforementioned Dr. Sears of The Doctors, in the episode "Autism: What Everyone Should Know", asks Carly what stimming is.¹³ **0:33**: Carly presses the same key three times, and in rapid succession, and Dalal abruptly intervenes after the third key-strike by reaching his right arm across her body and computer to her right hand, at which time she abruptly startles, moves her upper-body backward several inches, and concurrently abruptly moves her right hand and right arm away. At the instant of Carly's second key-strike, the voice of a female narrator begins to read what will be an approximate sixteen sentence answer to Dr. Sears's question. Clearly, the computer program is such that the pressing of a particular key, or any key, begins the narration; and since Carly's three key-strikes were done in rapid succession, the narration likely began at the first key-strike, or the second one if the first one was a miss-strike. Moreover, further key-strikes, such as the third one, are surely locked, such that they do not interfere with the prosody of the narration. Dalal surely rapidly intervened as he did in order to prevent the obvious issue of why Carly's additional key-strikes did not produce any narrated communication.

III

2012. In the episode of The Doctors entitled "How Carly Communicates," Dr. Travis Stork from **0:00 – 0:06** expresses to Dalal that he has been noticing that Carly has been touching her face with one of her fingers, and asks what Carly is asking for.¹⁴ During this time, Carly's iPad is turned upside down on her lap, she continuously looks at it, and she firmly pats the back of it three times with her left palm. Moreover, from **0:07 – 0:09**, she writhes back in her seat, slides the iPad with both of her hands toward Dalal, and once he takes hold of it, they turn it right side up together. Clearly, she was anxiously waiting for Dalal to initiate turning the iPad right side up, and that she was taught to keep the iPad upside down on her lap until he did this, and that after he did this, to proceed with what I will now discuss.

¹² See (McKenzie, 2009b).

¹³ See (The Doctors, 2012b).

¹⁴ See (The Doctors, 2012c).

0:06 – 0:17: After Dr. Stork finishes his question, the following three things occur at the same time: Dalal turns the iPad right side up on Carly's lap, at the same time he states, "So Carly what do you want?", and at the same time Carly begins to do four icon-strikes in rapid succession (three icon-strikes are different, and the fourth one appears to be a double strike on the icon "Coke In A Can"). More specifically, immediately after the iPad is turned right side up, and as Dalal *begins* to speak (that is, before he even partially expresses his question), she rapidly begins searching for, and pressing, particular icons. This demonstrates that she received the preparatory instruction that once the iPad is turned right side up, she should proceed to press three particular icons in succession. Her icon-strikes were not done in response to Dalal's question.

0:09 – 0:11: The accretion of the three icon-strikes produces the following accretion of three statements, which are read by an automated female voice: "Food And Drink"; "Drinks"; "Coke In A Can." Notwithstanding that the iPad screen is shown only briefly, and at an angle that does not afford a complete view of it, the following six screenshots of the video over the aforementioned six seconds show the kinds of icons that Carly presses, one screen-change (the first screen that is shown is at **0:11**, which then changes to the second screen from **0:12** to the end of that particular use of the iPad), the particular "Coke In A Can" icon that she apparently pressed, as well as an accretional list of that icon at the header of the screen (at **0:12** and **0:13** there are two "Coke In A Can" icons at the header of the screen; and at **0:14** there are four of such icons).

0:09 1 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dyDzxTPkFq8L8byN9>

0:10 2 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ctmGTUApEUwpxM23A>

0:11 3 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8h7pyfTu2zadsRFfA>

0:12 4 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/z1fcR6ia6Mkichqz9>

0:13 5 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/u5t5nb8RTHtkyh3y6>

0:14 6 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NjmBz4nXY7DcKhzg9>

0:14 (icon circled) 7 <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4HadDchHu5iNeSEh6>

Carly likely successfully pressed the aforementioned three icons in rapid succession, which resulted in two screen-changes (her first icon-strike, which occurred between **0:09 – 0:10**, when the camera did not show the screen, was done on the screen that she was presented upon the iPad being turned right side up); and then for her fourth icon-strike, she double-pressed the "Coke In A Can" icon.

Aside, if, as is claimed of Carly, she can read, understand, and type-communicate language, picture-icons on the screen would not be necessary; and their presence indicates that they are necessary because she likely cannot read language in the sense of understanding its conceptual and emotional meaning: Language to her, whether experienced via her vision alone, or vision and audition concurrently, or audition alone, likely consists of communicatively meaningless words, and instead, means that she should proceed with doing X, or X and Y, etc., as she was previously trained.

Clearly Carly can visually identify at least some of the picture-icons on the iPad, and, as such, knows what at least some of them mean: For example, she surely knows that the picture of a "Coke In A Can" means a coke in a can, and either that the picture-icons for "Food And Drink" and "Drinks" mean food and drink, and drinks, or that they will, by pressing them, change the screen to a screen of more specific picture-icons – that is, picture-icons of specific food and drink items. However, this is radically different than being able to read, understand, and type-communicate language for its own conceptual and emotional meaning, rather than for the ulterior meanings that one or more people have inculcated her with via preparatory training.

Continuing: In this 2012 CNN article,¹⁵ a picture¹⁶ of Carly's phone-dialer is provided, and discussed): "Carly uses a phone dialer and an iPad to help her make phone calls. Her assistant, Howard, found a dialer attachment, and using that, ProLoQuo2Go and a speakerphone, Fleischmann can call friends." The phone-dialer consists of twelve icon-pictures, ten of which are visible in the above article. Three are of family members (her father, mother, and sister Taryn), three are of her therapists (Shiela, which likely should be spelled as "Sheila,"¹⁷ Barb (Nash-Fenton), and Howard (Dalal)), and the others are "Security Desk," "Open Door," "Chinese Food," "Sub Sandwich Delivery," perhaps "Home," and the text for the last one is not shown, and it is unclear what the icon-picture is. First, if Carly can read, picture-icons would not be necessary; and the presence of picture-icons indicates that she likely cannot read, and that the text is for other people besides the six people pictured on the phone-dialer, in case they do not know who the people of the picture-icons are. Second, Carly has never been demonstrated to be able to use the phone-dialer, nor, as such, integrate using it with using her keyboard-type communication, icon-type communication, or the aforementioned ProLoQuo2Go.¹⁸ Third, since there are no picture-icons on the phone-dialer for other people, she would not be able to "call friends." Fourth, I will cursorily mention that certain apes have apparently been demonstrated to be able to use lexicon-icon communication in a way that appears to be immensely superior to what has been demonstrated of Carly to the present time.¹⁹ Aside, Dalal in this episode of *The Doctors* in 2012, at **1:15 – 1:30**, states: "I actually go with her into the school, and she's in a grade-10 typical class. She is actually this September will be in a grade-11 gifted classroom." Also aside, in this 2012 article,²⁰ the following is stated: "While doctors predicted that Carly would never intellectually develop beyond the abilities of a young child, Carly, who is now 17 years old, has an IQ of 130 and communicates by typing on a laptop or an iPad. Carly has ambitions to attend college and become a journalist, maybe even the host of her own TV show." Relatedly: In 2016 – 2017, a YouTube channel was created that is entitled "Welcome to Carly's official talk show: Speechless with Carly Fleischmann."²¹ There are seven videos, five of which consist of Carly with particular celebrity interviewees²². In April 2018, her YouTube channel was a "Finalist In Web Series" for the 10th Annual Shorty Awards.²³ She, however, in each interview, engages in the previously discussed one key-strike communication; and in this excerpt²⁴ of one of her interviews, the automated female voice begins at **0:57**, and she does the key-strike at **0:58**, which indicates that someone else (likely Dalal) is initiating the prosody of the automated female voice via a wireless connection to her iPad, and that he failed to coordinate his initiating of the prosody with her key-strike. Moreover, in this portion of another of her interviews,²⁵ **4:37 – 4:45**, she begins to look for a key at **4:41**, and then does one key-strike at **4:43**, and no prosody begins at that time, nor shortly thereafter. Moreover, the interview-videos are videoed with two cameras (one which

¹⁵ See (Carmichael, 2012).

¹⁶ See (Carmichael, 2012, photograph 1; photograph 2).

¹⁷ See (Fleischmann & Fleischmann, 2012).

¹⁸ See (Dredge, 2013).

¹⁹ See (Raffaele, 2006; Glaser, 2017; Savage-Rumbaugh, 2006; Iowa Primate Learning Sanctuary, 2008; *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, 2010; Schweller, 2012; Coulthart, 2016; Tinius, 2016).

²⁰ See (Honan, 2012).

²¹ See (Carly Fleischmann YouTube, 2016).

²² See (YouTube, 2021a).

²³ See (10th Annual Shorty Awards, 2018).

²⁴ See (Cooperman & Neihausen, 2017).

²⁵ See (YouTube, 2021b).

shows both Carly and the interviewee, and the other which shows only the interviewee), and are extensively edited post hoc into strategic fragments, and thereafter combined. For example, the film that is used to show only the interviewee will be used until the instant that Carly does a key-strike, or the instant that the prosody begins (without a key-strike being shown), at which time Carly is then shown with the interviewee. The following is one example though in which the filming is not fragmented strategically enough, as it leaves the interviewee too quickly, and shows Carly clearly not doing a key-strike both before and after the prosody begins: At **0:33 – 0:40**, interviewee Beth Behrs is shown alone speaking to Carly; and abruptly at **0:40**, both Carly and Beth are shown, and the prosody begins with “Beth” while both of Carly’s arms and hands are clearly away from the iPad (she, with her right hand, is persistently picking at the couch surface, and looking at her hand doing this; and her left hand the entire time is extended downward, out of view of the camera, and positioned outside of her left leg).²⁶

IV

2012. In the episode of *The Doctors* entitled “Carly Joins The Doctors,”²⁷ at **2:34 – 2:43**, film is used from the following apparently unedited eleven minute and twenty-eight-second filming project of *Viver Autismo*.²⁸ (The 2012 Telemundo episode also uses that film, between **1:24 – 2:17**.²⁹ The portion of the *Viver Autismo* film that is used in both of the above episodes is between **0:00 – 2:05**).

From **0:00** onward, Carly gradually types the following sentence with significant use of the auto-complete list that is located at the upper left of the screen (which was discussed above), which she selects from by apparently pressing various numbers; and the first word of the sentence, “So”, is already present on the screen at **0:00**: “So what do I have to do to get a chip.” (The presence of “So” could have been a cue-word for Carly; and if it was, it likely was produced by Dalal). During this time-period, Dalal has a bag of chips resting on the end of the table, and slightly hidden from Carly behind his left shoulder and left arm. A bowl of chip-dip is present between him and Carly, and located about three inches from Carly’s keyboard. Likely, the presence of the bag of chips and bowl of dip, and perhaps the word “So”, are the cues for Carly to type the above; and likely she was extensively trained in advance to type that sentence upon receiving the cues. Moreover, the food-cues are additionally used by Dalal as motivation for Carly to abide by the primary purpose of the cues, namely to type the above sentence: During the aforementioned time-period of **0:00 – 2:05**, Carly, during the following eight time-periods, lifts her right hand (her typing hand) from the keyboard, extends her right arm across herself to the left, and in the direction of the bag of chips, and points at it with her typing finger: **0:00 – 0:06**, **0:07 – 0:08**, **0:12 – 0:15**, **0:22 – 0:24**, **0:37 – 0:41**, (from **0:41 – 1:20** the camera shows only the computer screen) **1:29 – 1:31**, **1:38 – 1:40**, **1:58 – 1:59**. At **2:05 – 2:09**, Dalal gives her two chips upon her completing the sentence. It would not be necessary for a person, about whom the aforementioned following statements are made, to be so explicitly cued, and concurrently taunted-motivated (due to the slightly hidden bag of chips, and the dip located about three inches away from the keyboard), and denied-motivated via having her request for the chips denied eight times, over a total of twenty-three seconds, in two minutes: “I actually go with her into the school, and she’s in a grade-10 typical class. She

²⁶ See (YouTube, 2021c).

²⁷ See (The Doctors, 2012a).

²⁸ See (YouTube, 2021d).

²⁹ See (YouTube, 2021e).

is actually this September will be in a grade-11 gifted classroom”; “While doctors predicted that Carly would never intellectually develop beyond the abilities of a young child, Carly, who is now 17 years old, has an IQ of 130 and communicates by typing on a laptop or an iPad. Carly has ambitions to attend college and become a journalist, maybe even the host of her own TV show.” Dalal surely had to engage in extensive cue training with Carly, concurrent with operant conditioning, prior to the above filming. Aside, some of the aforementioned television episodes on ape communication demonstrate essentially the same processes, as well as similar behavior of both the trainers and apes.

2:33: Dalal states, “Ok pop-quiz... Alright pop-quiz; random stuff; so even the cameraman gets in on the question. First question: Favorite color. Favorite color.” At **3:04**, Carly finishes typing “Pink.” The cameraman then states, “I like blue.” At **3:45**, Carly finishes typing “Blues ok”. At **4:08**, Dalal states to Carly, “Favorite singer; top of your head”. At **4:22**, Carly finishes typing “jt”. At **4:23**, Dalal states, “I think I know who that is. Give me his first name.” At **4:47**, Carly finishes typing “Justin.” At **4:57**, Dalal states, “Next question.” At **5:00**, Nash-Fenton then states, “How about your favorite summer holiday.” At **5:03**, Dalal states to Carly, “Favorite summer holiday.” At **5:06**, Nash-Fenton states to Carly, “What do you like to do in the summer”. At **7:10**, Carly finishes typing, “I love going to capecod.” At **7:13 – 7:16**, the cameraman states, “Where is that?”, “Where is that?”; and Dalal then states, “Where is that Carly.” At **8:08**, Carly finishes typing “Boston.”

The following two screenshot-pictures of the video of the episode show the various typed words that are discussed above.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/kwnxCZUeVCG9vwE26>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DnRURLxfzssGLyG7>

The aforementioned pop-quiz questions are surely only a small number of questions of a repertoire of questions that Dalal and Nash-Fenton rigorously taught Carly to recognize by sound and appearance, and to then respond to with particular typed letters and, or, words. Surely Carly does not know what any of the words mean, and instead, only knows that the sounds and, or, appearances of particular words means that she should then type particular word-responses, which she, too, only knows by their appearance. Dalal attempts to persuade the viewer that the questions are novel ones for which Carly had no preparation. Regarding the cameraman’s question of where Cape Cod is, Carly likely identified the word “where” in the context of having typed the word “Cape Cod,” and then typed a rote answer that she was previously taught to provide in the context of the aforementioned question about what she likes to do in the summer (and the question was asked three times by Dalal and Nash-Fenton; and the word ‘summer’ was emphasized three times). Aside, the answer “Boston” is of course incorrect, as Cape Cod is not in Boston, but rather is in Massachusetts: The base of Cape Cod is approximately seventy miles from Boston; and the end of Cape Cod is approximately one-hundred and fifteen miles from Boston; and there are a multitude of other cities between Boston and Cape Cod. Moreover, Cape Cod is not in any city, but rather is a geographical region of Massachusetts that comprises Barnstable County, and which is comprised of cities. As such, the cameraman’s question was answered incorrectly; and this was likely due to how Carly was not precisely prepared to answer it, and to how she simply provided a rote answer in response to the verbal phrases about summer. Alternatively, perhaps the word ‘Massachusetts’ is too lengthy for her to remember via instruction, and that she was instructed to type ‘Boston’ in response to any verbal questions that have the word “summer.”

Most importantly though, the above two screenshot-pictures of the video of the episode, again,

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/kwnxCZUeVCG9vwE26>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DnRURLxfozssGLyG7>

and this similar screenshot-picture from her 20/20 episode,

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/UFh2SztJGjfvYPZ7>

show a production of typed language that is in diametric contrast to the extensive already-typed language that appears in front of Carly on her computer-screen many times during the 20/20 episode. Here are some examples:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/RiSEDGGmCGt9Hweq9>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/oAMbUJ7iZx3WQH7c7>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ioV8o9ApXTT9Jg6aA>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/r6U2hoZimkvuJjms7>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/8A4Xpcg5Yp2Nxs266>

Aside, regarding the above final two screenshot-pictures, the first is of **9:12** in the episode, and the second is of **9:13** in the episode; and as is evident in the 20/20 episode, the black highlighting cursor, which is rapidly advanced over each word by someone else (as Carly is not shown advancing the cursor), is shown being advanced, from **9:12** to **9:13**, to a partial new page: two new sentences are abruptly shown when the cursor advances over the last two words of the page at **9:12**, namely “humankind is.” Clearly the typed language has already been typed, and that, moreover, someone else is operating the black highlighting cursor, and in such a way as to coincide with the female automated computer voice that reads the language. Also aside, there appear to be three concurrent instances of fraud in this case: Carly does not type such language, and never has been shown to; someone besides Carly is advancing the black highlighting cursor; and the female automated computer voice is used in order to persuade viewers that she produced the language, advanced the cursor, and perhaps that she speaks like that in her mind.

V

Oral Motor Apraxia: There are an array of media-articles that provide an array of statements regarding, apparently, Dalal’s, and perhaps others, such as Nash-Fenton’s, report that Carly’s nonverbal nature is due to an additional condition that she has, namely Oral Motor Apraxia, and not her autism. For example: At the The Doctors’ webpage that provides an excerpt of the episode that is entitled “How Carly Communicates,” there is the following statement by The Doctors below the video-player: “At age two, Carly was officially diagnosed with a severe form of autism. The developmental disorder caused cognitive delays and a condition called oral motor apraxia, which would prevent her from ever speaking.”³⁰ However, autism does not cause Oral Motor Apraxia.³¹ Moreover, the diagnosis of Oral Motor Apraxia entails the following: “Typically, we need children to have at least some speech in order to hear and see if they have symptoms of apraxia.” Carly does not produce any speech. Moreover, there is no discussion that Oral Motor Apraxia causes a loss of speech. Moreover, the symptomology of Oral Motor Apraxia includes the following; and again, Carly does not have this symptomology because she is devoid of speech.³²

³⁰ See (The Doctors, 2012c).

³¹ See (Shriberg, 2011; Blume & Murray, 2015).

³² See (Blume & Murray, 2015).

Children with apraxia have difficulty coordinating the use of their tongue, lips, mouth and jaw to produce clear and consistent speech sounds. Therefore, each time they say a word, it may sound different.

(...) Inconsistent errors with consonants and vowels when pronouncing syllables and words. For example, the child says the same word slightly differently each time. This may be particularly obvious with new words and longer, more-complex words.

(...) Difficulty moving from sound to sound and syllable to syllable. This tends to result in rather long pauses between sounds and syllables. Related to this, the child may have difficulty repeating a string of words or syllables.

(...) Unusual emphasis on parts of speech. For example, a child may pronounce all the syllables in a word or sentence with equal stress. So instead of the usual “melody” of speech, the child’s speech sounds odd. It can be particularly difficult to distinguish this symptom of apraxia from the very similar “flat” speech intonation that is common among those who have autism.

Moreover:³³

Oral Apraxia (...) may impact feeding (...).

(...) a child exhibits difficulty easily coordinating and initiating movement of the jaw, lips, tongue and soft palate.

(...) Swallows Food Without Chewing

(...) Over-stuffing Mouth with Food

(...) Eats a Very Limited Diet

(...) A History of Nursing and Feeding Difficulties as an Infant

(...) An Open Mouth Posture

(...) Tongue Protrusion

(...) Excessive Drooling

(...) Teeth Grinding

There are no reports by Carly’s care-providers, family, etc., nor via statements that are purported to be made by her, that she had, and continues to have, difficulty with the intricacy of eating and drinking. Moreover, seemingly she has never demonstrated the last four of the above symptoms during her extensive television coverage.

In the previously discussed Viver Autismo unedited film, Carly demonstrates during the following time-periods that she can eat potato chips and dip facilely: **2:13 – 2:40, 3:15 – 3:30, 4:02 – 4:17, 5:02 – 5:25, and 8:24 – 8:45.**³⁴ There were no time-periods during which she had any degree of difficulty with eating and swallowing. Moreover, in the previously discussed The Doctors episode during which Carly is purported to have requested, via the computer, “Coke In A Can,” a staff member of the television program brings Carly a can of soda at **1:00 – 1:04.**³⁵ While she did not drink it in the excerpt of the episode that is provided at The Doctors’ website, speculation can be made that she could drink it facilely, because otherwise, Dalal would not have trained her to do as I discussed above. Moreover, and again, there is no discussion by Carly’s care-providers, family, etc.,

³³ See (Burford, 2020).

³⁴ See (YouTube, 2021d).

³⁵ See (The Doctors, 2012c).

nor via statements that are purported to be made by her, that she has difficulty drinking any fluids.

At the Facebook account that is purported to be Carly's, but which is likely operated by Dalal, the following post was done in October 2017 (below are two screenshots of the post). (Aside, this is a screenshot (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/C8AiLEzuVjPq8cyM7>) of a post at this Facebook account that was done in May 2017 about Nash-Fenton's death, which indicates that it is likely Dalal who operated the Facebook account).

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6QyYicXFvUxZpigx5>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VHq4aajyo5BxEKtb9>

The following is a portion of the caption that is written next to the picture of Carly:

For a significant part of my life, I was voiceless. No one could hear my inner thoughts or my inner voice I wanted to get out. Shouts of I'm in here echoed through my head. I was a victim of my own Oral Motor Apraxia. My brain knew what it wanted to say, but the message from my brain to my mouth was scrambled. I was not able to control the fine motor skills I needed to make sounds out of my mouth.

It is therefore evident, via the above statement, and via the other discussions that I provided in this section, that the intent of, likely, Dalal, is to portray Carly as being not only normally or typically neurologically functional, but neurologically advanced, and that it is simply an oral motor condition that is constraining her ability to speak the content of her mind. That is, it is her Oral Motor Apraxia that constrains her ability to speak, and not her autism. Generally, Dalal likely desires to portray Carly as having what was until recently referred to as Asperger's Syndrome and as not having profound or non-verbal autism. Moreover, he likely desires to portray her as having successfully circumvented her Oral Motor Apraxia via what I discussed previously.

VI

In December 2018, I wrote to John Vause of CNN, and Jen Spyra of the Colbert Late Show. Vause conducted a television interview with Carly in 2017, a transcript of which is provided by CNN³⁶ (it begins at the listing "1:48:27"), and Spyra was at that time a writer for the Colbert Late Show, as well as the show's announcer.³⁷

On February 2, 2019, the media company The Mighty wrote an article entitled "Autistic YouTube Personality Carly Fleischmann Says She Was Sexually Assaulted."³⁸ The article is about how on February 1 Carly purportedly wrote on her Facebook page that her father's boyfriend "assaulted" her by engaging in promiscuous physical contact with her.³⁹ The article provides the response that Carly's father, Arthur Fleischmann, wrote to her on her Facebook page; and the article mentions, but does not provide, the presence of a photograph of Arthur's boyfriend and Carly lying together on a couch. The photograph was provided by several anonymous sources via screenshot: For example, the following is a screenshot of both the top portion and bottom portion of Carly's purported Facebook message; and the bottom portion provides Arthur's response to her.⁴⁰

³⁶ See (Vause, 2017).

³⁷ See (Perez, 2021).

³⁸ See (Fabian, 2019)

³⁹ See (Fabian, 2019, photograph)

⁴⁰ See (Twitter, 2019, photograph 1; Twitter, 2019, photograph 2).

On February 3, 2019, Carly purportedly wrote the following message on her Facebook page in which she indicates that she deleted the aforementioned February 1 message because “people were threatening my families life.”

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/3ubHAAX98FJb2PFK8>

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/NjtHdyTL7rbdue7B9>

Aside, apparently, the final television coverage that Carly received was in January 2018 on the aforementioned Colbert Late Show, the episode of which was entitled “Carly Fleischmann Gives Late-Night TV A Try.”⁴¹ In the video, Carly is featured as the host of the television program between 2:20 – 6:31. During this time-period, Carly, several times, does one or more key-strikes while the automated computer voice is already proceeding: 2:45 (one key-strike); 3:27 (two key-strikes of the same key, and a motion toward a key-strike that is then withdrawn); 4:04 (one key-strike); and 4:33 (one key-strike). This demonstrates that (a) Carly is not in control of her computer, (b) someone else is in control of her computer, (c) while there are times that Carly’s key-strikes seem to be immediately followed by the pre-programmed automated computer voice, this too is therefore surely controlled by someone else, (d) Carly often does not know when to do a key-strike, which, moreover, demonstrates that she does not follow the discussion that is occurring between the pre-programmed automated computer voice and the person or people who verbally respond to the voice, and (e) she was likely trained to do a key-strike after the person who is speaking to her discontinues speaking; and at times she mistakenly does a key-strike after the automated computer voice pauses slightly after one or more sentences, before continuing; and her key-strikes at these times do not alter the computer voice: For example, 2:29. For the aforementioned time-periods of 2:45, 3:27, 4:04, and 4:33, I speculate that she engaged in those key-strike mistakes because, via her autistic auditory perception, she experienced moments of the prosody of the pre-programmed automated computer voice as being moments during which the prosody paused in such a way that she believed it was time to do a key-strike: Via what is generally referred to as “sensory disintegration,” she likely, in my opinion, often experiences the speech prosody that she hears as pausing, or discontinuing, at particular times, when it, in fact, has not.

Now, in light of how it was surely Dalal who wrote the aforementioned Facebook messages that are purported to have been written by Carly, the following is about the relation between assisted communication methods, such as Facilitated Communication, and such conduct:⁴²

(...) there are multiple documented instances where FC [Facilitated Communication] led to false charges of sexual abuse, invented by the facilitator, that severely damaged families and even led to the imprisonment of innocent parents.

The harms of FC [Facilitated Communication] also include false allegations of sexual abuse (Probst, 2005) and other forms of maltreatment (Boynton, 2012; Chan & Nankervis, 2014; Wombles, 2014).

I speculate that after my presentations of this case-report to the aforementioned people in December 2018, Dalal shortly thereafter received communications, or a lack thereof, that either explicitly or implicitly expressed that the media with whom he had been in contact was no longer interested in presenting Carly via television and other media mediums. Moreover,

⁴¹ See (The Late Show, 2018).

⁴² See (Salzberg, 2018; The American, 2018)

Dalal, surely finding that this matter was intractable, elected to engage in the above conduct; and I believe that the impetus for his assault-allegation against Carly's father's boyfriend was the aforementioned photograph, which I speculate that either he took, or which Carly's father or someone else took, and which Dalal then discovered, and then used as he did.

VII

Folie À Plusieurs: Again, unlike my case on Tito and Soma Mukhopadhyay,⁴³ while Carly's speech therapists engage in a multitude of variations of surreptitious fraud, the fraud is not so masterful that Nobel level scientists, other elite scientists, elite physicians, elite journalists, innumerable millions of other people, etc., would not be able to observe at least some of it. Due to this, I believe that this matter is also one of Folie À Plusieurs: Likely, due to the chronic, widespread despair about the poverty of even a partial cure for autism, the people who were involved in presenting Carly publicly, including some physicians, adopted the fraud of Dalal et al, but converted the fraud, in their minds, to an elating, delusive belief.

Conclusion

There, of course, has been an impoverished history of treatments for autism that actually impact the symptomology of autism, and which not only lessen the symptomology, but which give rise to neurological improvements. However, devising masterfully fraudulent treatments that deceive humanity – that is, that deceive on a global scale – is highly detrimental to autism treatment, and the conception of autistic persons. It is crucial to not only visually and auditorily observe the fraud that I reveal, but to improve one's observational acuity, so that future variations of fraud can be observed. Using conceptual *methodologies* and observational *methodologies* to assess the public presentations of Carly, and Tito and Soma, resulted in the inability to observe the fraud, and the ensuing global dissemination of the fraud by major television media, and other media, for an immense amount of time – twenty-one years for Tito and Soma, and thirteen years for Carly.

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⁴³ See (Howitt, November 2021).

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