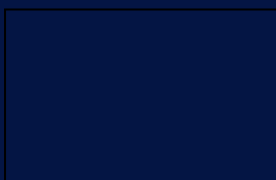


Accountability, Resistance and Disruption!

2025 Research Conference of
the Disability, Law and Society
Network of Australia &
Aotearoa New Zealand

2025 Program



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For more information on safety and security, and to watch
the Stay Safe at UTS video, visit [this webpage](#)

Important Information

Locations

The Conference will be held in **UTS Building 10, Level 4, Classrooms 430 and 440**



Building 10 is a short walk from Central Station and accessible via train, bus and light rail.

When you enter Building 10 from Jones St, walk the length of the foyer to the elevators at the back and go up to level 4. When you exit the lifts turn left and you will see signage for the rooms.

There will be volunteers onsite to assist with finding the space.

Accessibility

Should you have any campus accessibility questions, please contact security by **email security.general@uts.edu.au or phone (02) 9514 1192.**

For more information on campus access please visit: [Campus access](#)

Accessible parking is available, however you will need to book in advance with security.

There are toileting facilities for your assistance animal on campus.

The space is fitted with a hearing loop.

Schedule and Order of Proceedings

Day 1 - Thursday 11 December 2025

Time	Room 1 Zoom - https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/89149437891	Room 2 Zoom - https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/87272829423
9:00am - 9:15am	Participants arrive and register	Participants arrive and register
9:15am - 10:45am	<p><u>Health, Consent & Reproductive Rights</u></p> <p>Legal narratives on abortion care for women with cognitive disabilities – Resisting stories of choice and control against a background of reproductive injustice</p> <p>Julia Duffy</p> <p>Informed consent: Myth or Reality?</p> <p>Annmaree Watharow</p> <p>Anti-Ableist Reproductive Rights</p> <p>Anna Arstein-Kerslake, Eilionoir Flynn and Theresia Degener</p>	<p><u>Abolition, Ethics and Accountability</u></p> <p>Resisting police reform: Building insurgent research in the aftermath of the Disability Royal Commission (DRC)</p> <p>Simone Rowe, Leanne Dowse, Michael Baker</p> <p>A Dialogue on Modern Slavery</p> <p>Tabitha Lean and Shaun Bickley</p> <p>Maddening ethics: resisting and disrupting unethical ethics practices in the academy</p> <p>Indigo Daya</p>
10:45am - 11:00am	Morning Tea	Morning Tea
11:00am - 1:00pm	<p><u>Professional Practice and Pedagogy</u></p> <p>The role of trauma-informed lawyering in protecting legal services clients’ human rights: Preliminary Enquiries</p> <p>Puneet Sansanwal</p> <p>Reframing Access and Competence in Clinical Legal Education: Toward an Anti-Ableist Pedagogy</p> <p>Tess Sheldon and Roxanne Mykitiuk</p> <p>Inaccessible Justice: Improving civil and administrative legal systems for people with disability</p> <p>Kate Davies and Sarah Ratcliffe</p>	<p><u>Global Disability Rights Reform</u></p> <p>Towards Deinstitutionalisation: Incorporation of Community-Based Support System Into Mental Health Intervention Plan in Jakarta</p> <p>Hisyam Ikhtiar Mulia</p> <p>Te Kete Rongomau: Respecting our rights, will and preferences</p> <p>Sarah Gordon</p> <p>Realizing Article 33 of the UNCRPD: Models of Inclusive Implementation Mechanisms Between Australia and South Africa</p> <p>Silomo Khumalo</p>
1:00pm - 1:45pm	Lunch	Lunch

<p>1:45pm - 3:30pm</p>	<p><u>Accountability and Ableism</u></p> <p>Accessibility Under the CRPD: Evaluating Human Rights Complaints Services for Victorians with CCN</p> <p>Julia P Manning</p> <p>Presumed human: Reframing disabled rights and common law requirements</p> <p>Hannah Solomons</p> <p>The Disclosure Dilemma: Jobseeker Strategies in Discriminatory Recruitment Contexts</p> <p>Frederike Scholz</p>	<p><u>Disability Data</u></p> <p>Disrupting Disability Data</p> <p>Panel discussion with Scott Avery, Panos Karanikolas, and Philippa Duell-Piening (chair: Piers Gooding)</p>
<p>3:30pm - 5:00pm</p> <p>Afternoon Tea during 3:30pm session</p>	<p><u>Implementing and Monitoring Disability Rights Reforms</u></p> <p>Realising Article 12 of the UNCRPD: Cross-Pollination of Emancipatory Research with Law Reform Processes</p> <p>Lydie Schmidt</p> <p>Rethinking Adult Support and Protection in Japan: A Culturally Grounded and Rights-Based Approach</p> <p>Yukio Sakurai</p> <p>Setting Expectations for Disability Human Rights Monitoring under OPCAT: Lessons from lutruwita/Tasmania</p> <p>Yvette Maker</p>	<p><u>International Perspectives & Advocacy</u></p> <p>A collaborative session chaired by Dina Afrianty with a feature presentation by Prof Amita Dhanda with responses from colleagues</p> <p>Bridging academia and advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>Amita Dhanda</p> <p>(Re)Building the foundation: disability rights activism and fragmented legal/policy development in China</p> <p>Chen Bo</p> <p>Shining a Light on Unheard Voices: Addressing Barriers and Fostering Disability Inclusion In UK and Indonesian Higher Education Institutions</p> <p>Wuri Handayani</p> <p>A perspective from the Phillipines</p> <p>Arlene Cosape</p>

Day 2 - Friday 12 December

Time	Room 1 Zoom - https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/89149437891	Room 2 Zoom - https://utsmeet.zoom.us/j/87272829423
9:00am - 11:00am	<p><u>Movements and Resistance</u></p> <p>Understanding the International Mad Movement(s) from the perspectives of Mad peoples resistance stories Matthew Jackman</p> <p>Disabled Belonging as Agentic Resistance: Counterstories at the Intersection of Displacement, Refugee Designations and Disability Law in Australia and Latin America Alexis Padilla and Kelley Johnson</p> <p>Co-production in Prefigurative Disability Law Research Methods Clare Williams</p> <p>Crippling Transformative Justice: Crip Methodologies from the Field Danielle Santos</p>	<p><u>Disability Support, Rights & Policy Reform</u></p> <p>Beyond the Buzzword: 'Intersectionality', Gender Inequality and the 2023 NDIS Review Diana Piantedosi and Sophie Cusworth</p> <p>Can the NDIS be saved? Nita Haynes</p> <p>Human Rights and Dementia: People with dementia don't know what they don't know Kate Swaffer</p> <p>Supporting or Subordinating: The Place of Supported Decision-Making in Australian Democracy Reece Blackett</p>
11:00am - 11:15am	Morning Tea	Morning Tea
11:15am - 12:45pm	<p><u>Children, Education & Institutions</u></p> <p>Resistance and Accountability: Ending Solitary for Children with Disability Raahat Shaik and Saakshi Kumar</p> <p>Disrupting Segregation: A National Roadmap to Achieve Inclusive Education Emily Cukalevski, Catia Malaquias, Stephanie Gotlib and Loren Swancutt</p> <p>From Little Things, Big Things Grow Charlotte Chilvers</p>	<p><u>Health, Rights & Ethics</u></p> <p>Looking for Suicide in All the Wrong Places Stephen Kilkeary</p> <p>Embedding Human Rights in Mental Health Practice: Development of the Recovery Knowledge and Attitudes Scale (R-KAS) Naomi Badu</p>
12:45pm - 1:45pm	Lunch	Lunch
1:45pm - 3:15pm	<p><u>Disability Institutions and Memorialisation</u></p> <p>Remembering Disability Institutions: Moving Forward by Looking Back Panel discussion with Leigh Creighton, Robert King, Jack Kelly, Jim Simpson, Phillippa Carnemolla, Linda Steele and Kelly Willis</p>	<p><u>Discrimination, Rights and Law</u></p> <p>Does Guidance for States on Ethical and Rights-Compliant Neurotechnology Address Disability Human Rights Concerns? Reyhan Ramazanova</p>

		<p>The Treacherous Twins – Ableism in the Interpretation of the Concepts of “Reasonable Adjustment” and “Unjustifiable Hardship” in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) – An Exploration Applying Standpoint Theory to the Case of King v Jetstar</p> <p>Heike Fabig</p>
<p>3:15pm - 3:45pm</p> <p>Afternoon tea served during 2:45pm session</p>	<p><u>Voice and Rights in Reforming Systems</u></p> <p>Knowledge Translation and Implementation Science: The Missing Ingredient in Our Response to the Disability Royal Commission Jade McEwen</p> <p>Towards Voice and Visibility: Adopting an Interrogative, Social Model Approach to Australian Social Security Law Darren O’Donovan</p> <p>Disability and Refugee Rights in New Zealand: Bridging the Gap Lida Ayoubi and Deborah Manning</p> <p>Abolition Pragmatism: Comparative Lessons from Nova Scotia’s Rapid Covid-19 Decarceration and Disability Rights Coalition Settlement Sheila Wildeman</p>	
<p>4:45pm</p>	<p>Conference Close</p>	<p>Conference Close</p>

Presenter Biographies (Alphabetical by Surname)

Dina Afrianty

Dr Dina Afrianty is an Indonesian scholar specialising in women's rights, disability rights, gender, and Islam. She completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne and has published widely on social justice, gender equality, and disability rights in Indonesia. Her first book, *Women and Sharia Law in Northern Indonesia: Local Women's NGOs and the Reform of Islamic Law* (Routledge, 2015), examines local women's activism and legal reform in Aceh. Prior to moving to Australia in 2014, Dr Afrianty was a senior lecturer and Head of Department at the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University in Jakarta. She is the founder of the Australia-Indonesia Disability Research and Advocacy Network (AIDRAN), an interdisciplinary forum promoting inclusive policy and research. She has recently completed her role as Guest Editor for the Special Issue on Disability Law in the Asia-Pacific, where she published her article on Disability, Religion and Citizenship in Indonesia. Her work also addresses women's and disability rights awareness, public policy reform, and building the capacity of officials in education and health sectors to implement internationally recognised human rights standards. She has contributed as an expert to the UNESCO Right to Education Global Project (2022) and the ASEAN-Europe Foundation Outlook 2030 initiative on inclusive and diverse education.

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Anna Arstein-Kerslake

Professor Anna Arstein-Kerslake is an internationally recognised expert on legal personhood, including the rights to legal capacity and personhood. She has published widely in these fields and provides key-note presentations on the subjects at venues around the world. She is a Professor at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University of Galway and an Associate Professor at Melbourne Law School. She has also consulted widely with government and civil society groups, including providing support for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability in the development of their first General Comment on the Right to Legal Capacity.

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Scott Avery

Dr Scott Avery is a professor of Indigenous disability health and wellbeing in the School of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney. He is an Aboriginal man descendant from the Worimi people and is profoundly deaf. Dr Scott (as he is known in the disability community) is a recognised educator, researcher and policy adviser on Indigenous cultural approaches for the inclusion of people with disability. He has extensive experience in conducting community-based research and policy in Indigenous and disability organisations, and is the 'Professor in Residence' at the First Peoples Disability Network, an Indigenous Disabled Peoples Organisation. His publication 'Culture is Inclusion: A narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability' (2018) has influenced national policy across Closing the Gap, Australia's Disability Strategy, and the Disability Royal Commission. He has been appointed as an expert advisor to numerous Government bodies and is a director on the board of disability service provider Achieve Australia Ltd. He was appointed Ambassador for the International Day of People with Disability in 2024, and gave the 2024 Disability Leadership Oration titled 'deaf defying' which was broadcast nationally on the ABC's Big Ideas Program.

scott.avery@uts.edu.au

Lida Ayoubi

Dr Lida Ayoubi is a Senior Lecturer and the Director of Postgraduate Programmes at Auckland University of Technology, Law School. She specialises in international human rights law and public law, with a strong research focus on disability rights. She holds a PhD from Victoria University of Wellington. For her thesis on the

access to information rights of disabled persons she received the 2015 John Miller Award in Social Justice. She also holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from Lund University and an LLB from the University of Tehran. More recently, she authored a UNESCO-commissioned report on access to information laws and the rights of disabled persons and currently serves on the Steering Group of Aotearoa Disability Law.
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Naomi Badu

Naomi Badu is a Lecturer in Community Services at the Crown Institute of Higher Education in Sydney. She holds a Ph.D. in Health from the University of New England, where her research led to the development of the Recovery Knowledge and Attitudes Scale (R-KAS), a tool for measuring how professionals and students understand recovery in mental health. Naomi also holds a Master's degree and a First-Class Honours Bachelor's degree in Disability, Rehabilitation, and Development from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana and has recently completed a Diploma of Counselling at TAFE NSW. She has taught in both Australia and Ghana, and her academic work covers mental health, social work, counselling, disability studies, and research methods. Naomi's research is deeply shaped by human rights principles, with a focus on promoting recovery-oriented practice, challenging stigma, and supporting inclusive, person-centred care. She has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and received awards for her research. Naomi is passionate about bridging the gap between policy, practice, and lived experience in mental health and disability support.
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Michael Baker

Michael Baker (he/him) is an advocate, scholar and policy practitioner whose work focuses on diversion from, and alternatives to, the prison industrial complex. He has held roles across the public sector, community organisations and advocacy services, including as Manager, Case Manager and Advocate with the Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS), a NSW disability advocacy service supporting people with cognitive disability in the criminal legal system. Michael's practice is informed by a commitment to disrupting carceral logics, and draws from ways of knowing grounded in lived and living experience.

Shaun Bickley

Shaun is an Autistic disability justice activist, storyteller, and athlete. He organised the first city-level ban of subminimum wage in the world (Seattle, 2018) and is the only person to organise subminimum wage bans in two countries (the US and Australia). An international subject matter expert on disability employment policy, Shaun has presented & consulted with legislators and organisations on 3 continents. He is also a high school dropout with a traumatic brain injury who lives in segregated housing.
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Reece Blackett

I am a lawyer at a commercial law firm, where I work in disputes and investigations. I also tutor as a casual academic at the University of Technology Sydney, where I completed my law degree. Since graduating in 2023, I have been published in the UNSW Law Journal, with further articles accepted and forthcoming. I am deeply passionate about advancing the rights of persons with disabilities and have introduced a new pro bono stream at my firm focused on matters relating to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
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Phillippa Carnemolla

Phillippa Carnemolla is a Professor in the School of Built Environment within the Faculty of Design and Society at the University of Technology Sydney. Her research explores questions of social justice and built environments through the experience of ageing and disability. Phillippa is a Visiting Fellow at Queen's University Belfast. For over five years, she has collaborated with Professor Linda Steele on a diverse program of research examining the histories of disability institutions, memorialisation, sites of conscience, reparative planning, and cultural heritage. In addition to this, her research into housing, home modifications and care has

informed national and international policy on housing design and construction, and she currently holds an Australian Research Council Fellowship in housing and aged care.

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Bo Chen

Chinese legal scholar on disability rights, mental health law, and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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Charlotte Chilvers

During the final year of her undergraduate degrees, Charlotte represented Western Sydney University at the 2022 Inspiring Legal Research: New Scholarly Horizons and Career Pathways Workshop, hosted by The University of Sydney's Law School, where she presented a preliminary draft of her Law Honours paper. After completing both a Bachelor of Social Science, majoring in Sociology, and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours Class I) at Western Sydney University, Charlotte commenced her PhD at the University of Sydney's Law School in 2023. In 2024, Charlotte completed her Graduate Diploma in Legal Professional Practice at the University of New South Wales and was admitted as a solicitor at the NSW Supreme Court in December 2024. Whilst continuing to make progress on her PhD, Charlotte worked as a research assistant for Associate Professor Cathy Little, from the University of Sydney's School of Education and Social Work, on a project titled 'Hearing the Voices of Students with a Lived Experience of Disability in Higher Education'. At the 2024 Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) Conference, hosted by Macquarie University, Charlotte shared the key findings of this project in a joint presentation with Associate Professor Little.

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Leigh Creighton

Leigh is a Newcastle-based human rights advocate who is co-presenting with Rob. He is passionate about sharing his experience as a person with Down Syndrome and regularly speaks at events and panels across Australia.

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Emily Cukalevski

Emily Cukalevski is an experienced lawyer, policy executive and founder of Disability Rights Connect, a consultancy driving rights-based reform in disability law and policy. She was Policy Director at the Disability Royal Commission, leading national work on inclusive education, autonomy and access. Emily holds a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy from the University of Galway and has worked with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

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Sophie Cusworth

Sophie Cusworth (she/her) is the CEO of Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA), which is the National Disabled People's Organisation and National Women's Alliance for women, girls, feminine identifying, and non-binary people with disabilities in Australia. WWDA is governed, run, led, staffed by, and constituted of, women and gender diverse people with disabilities. Sophie's work is informed by her experience as a Workplace Relations, Safeguarding and Discrimination lawyer, her passion for research and advocacy, and her lived experience of disability. Sophie has a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Gender Studies from the University of Melbourne, and a post-graduate Law degree from Monash University.

Kate Davies

Kate Davies is the Research Director at the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW. Kate is passionate about the power of research to shape more socially just and equitable systems. Her research explores intersections between justice and experiences such as homelessness, mental illness, disability, poverty and child protection. She is continually seeking to align rigorous research with lived experience expertise, practice wisdom, and policy development to drive real-world impacts. Kate is a conjoint at the University of Newcastle and has worked throughout the Asia Pacific region in research, evaluation and community development roles.
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Indigo Daya

Indigo Daya (she/her) is a mad/survivor artist, (re)searcher and activist. She practices independent peer support, training & co-reflection, and works with others to grow emancipatory alternatives to carceral psychiatry. Her practice draws on the collective wisdom of the C/S/X movement, survivor research and mad studies, and her own experiences of madness, harm and psychiatric incarceration. Indigo's PhD focuses on self-injury and the related experiences of injustice and silencing. It welcomes other psych survivors to co-create an arts-based, anticarceral peer-support space which generates testimony, solidarity, epistemic justice and collective resistance, and invites the community to witness and dialogue through art. She seeks collective, emancipatory, disruptive, loving and creative practices which recognise the deeply meaningful and sociopolitical nature of madness. Indigo held consumer/survivor work roles for 18 years, including education, supervision, advocacy, government policy, reform, consulting and peer-delivered programs. She finally absconded from the system in 2022 to pursue abolitionist work, building mad collective spaces. Indigo is a white settler, living on the stolen lands of The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nations.
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Amita Dhanda

Prof Amita Dhanda is Professor-Emerita and Head Centre for Disability Studies at NALSAR University, Hyderabad. Dr Dhanda was amongst the first person's in India who looked at how the law addressed the rights of persons with psychosocial disability. Her Book Legal Order Mental Disorder is a pioneering effort in the field. Her Centre has taken the lead in reforming the disability law prevailing in the country after India ratified the CRPD. More recently her Centre helped the Supreme Court of India on assessing the status of the right to accessibility in India.
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Leanne Dowse

Leanne Dowse is Emeritus Professor in Disability Studies at UNSW, Australia. Her work focuses on intersectional scholarship in disability studies with a focus on complex social disadvantage, gender, race, age and their relationships to criminalisation, violence and marginalisation.

Philippa Duell-Piening

Dr Philippa Duell-Piening is a socio-legal researcher specialising in the human rights of people who are refugees with disability. She recently published a monograph, Refugee Displacement, Disability and Human Rights: The Production, Processing and Power of Data. Before transitioning to academia, Philippa coordinated the Victorian Refugee Health Network at the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, where she led initiatives in health sector development and government engagement to reduce health inequalities and improve access to healthcare services for people who are refugees. Earlier in her career, she worked as an occupational therapist and case manager in mental health services in Australia and the UK. Philippa has also worked in forced migration contexts, including Timor-Leste in 2002 and the Thai-Myanmar border in 2012. Philippa holds a PhD from Melbourne Law School, a Master's in Community and International Development, and a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy. Drawing on her interdisciplinary expertise across human rights law, community development, and health, Philippa develops innovative socio-legal research methods that challenge

traditional power dynamics in research, working collaboratively with communities to better understand the drivers of marginalisation and the levers for change.

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Julia Duffy

Julia Duffy researches and publishes in the area of disability, mental capacity and human rights at the Queensland University of Technology, Australian Centre for Health Law Research. Her published papers include: research on legal frameworks for supported decision-making; comparative adult guardianship and supported decision-making law; Australia's implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Inhuman Treatment; the rhetoric of 'least restrictive' in mental health law, and legal capacity to decide on abortion care. In 2023 her book *Mental Capacity, Dignity and the Power of International Human Rights* was published by Cambridge University Press. Prior to entering academia, Dr Duffy had an extensive career in public policy and management in the Queensland Government across several portfolios.

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Heike Fabig

After becoming mother to two children with disability Heike went back to university to study law. She developed a personal interest in disability discrimination and how ableism that permeates our everyday language and thinking. She became an activist and law student and has personal knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of Australia's disability discrimination legislative scheme.

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Piers Gooding

Piers' work focuses on the law and policy of disability and health. He is the author of *A New Era for Mental Health Law and Policy: Supported Decision-Making and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), and the co-editor of two edited collections: *The Future of Mental Health, Disability and Criminal Law* (Routledge, 2024) and *Disability, Rights and Law Reform in Australia* (Federation Press, 2017), among other publications.

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Sarah Gordon

Sarah's personal experience of mental illness shaped her university study with the areas of psychology, medical law, bioethics, and psychological medicine being the focus through to PhD level. Combining this theoretical education and personal experience, Sarah has spent her career working and advocating for an improved mental health sector and societal perceptions of mental health from the perspective of a person who personally experiences mental illness. Most recently she has focused on doing this as a service user academic – promoting and progressing service user-led and co-produced education and research. From 2011 -2024 Sarah worked as a service user academic with the Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Otago. This work resulted in the establishment of "World of Difference | He Ao Wakatoihara Kore", the focus of which was on ending discrimination and promoting recovery, social inclusion and respect for human rights. Sarah remains as an honorary affiliate with the University of Otago. Since 2024 Sarah has worked as a service user academic with Te Huataki Waiora - School of Health, University of Waikato. Current research foci include human rights, mental health law and ethics, supported decision-making and advance preference statements

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Stephanie Gotlib

Stephanie is a widely recognised and respected disability advocate and CEO in the not-for-profit sector with more than 25 years of experience. She is the Executive Director - Government Relations and Advocacy of All Means, the Asia Pacific Regional Representative for Inclusion International, and is also on the Board of Rights and Inclusion Australia. Stephanie was the Chief Executive Officer of Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA) from 2009-2019.

stephanie.gotlib@allmeansall.org

Wuri Handayani

I am an Assistant Professor in Accounting and the Director of Disability Service Unit at the Universitas Gadjah Mada. I have experience in researching disability inclusion in higher education. I also a qualitative researcher, conducted FGD as well as interview in exploring barriers face by students with disabilities in higher education. I also work on the advocacy on the rights of people with disabilities.

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Nita Haynes

Nita is a Badimia Yamatji woman currently living on Menang Noongar country. She has over a decade of lived experience as a Person with Disabilities (PwD) and an extensive career in disability, health, suicide prevention, voluntary assisted dying sectors. Nita is highly sought after due to her pragmatic approach in advocating on topics and mediating in spaces that attract contentious conversations. In her time as an undergraduate law student at Edith Cowan University, she has had a meteoric rise in the sector inclusive of authoring the legal article 'Something About Us, Without Us: The Intersect Between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Disability and the Pursuit of Self Determination' and sitting as the only undergraduate law student member of the Indigenous Legal Issues Sub Committee of the Law Society of Western Australia. Nita recently resigned as a board director and Interim Chairperson of a disability NFP and NDIS provider. She is the voice of every person, every patient who has ever been disregarded and 'thrown into the too hard basket' by the systems and professionals who are meant to be there in our time of needing care and assistance.

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Matthew Jackman

I am a doctoral researcher undertaking a National Disability Insurance Scheme Participant-funded PhD on Lived Experience Theory and Practice in Mental Health at the University of Sydney. My PhD project investigates the global mapping, history, activism and future direction of the user/refuser/consumer, psychiatric and trauma survivor, ex-patient and inmate, and Mad movement (c/s/x/m). Using a qualitative research design conducting WHO regional-based focus groups and deepening this knowledge with dyadic interviews with (c/s/x/m) leaders, the PhD addresses gaps in the broader movements' collective aims, goals, values, principles, sustainability and future direction. The PhD is grounded in Mad studies, and I am an insider-outsider Mad researcher, who identifies as part of the Mad Pride movement. I am a WHO Consultant for meaningful engagement in Non-Communicable 'Diseases'. Furthermore, I was awarded the National Mental Health Advocate of the Year in 2020 by Mental Health Australia. I see my Madness as a dangerous gift that requires harnessing for the betterment of my (c/s/x/m) community and social movement, and my PhD as a conduit for Mad activism. Matthew is a Commissioner (co-author) on the Lancet Psychiatry Commission on Lived Experience in Mental Health Research, led by Traumascares and the Service User Research Enterprise at King's College London.

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Kelley Johnson

Professor Kelley Johnson has undertaken research across a wide range of social policy issues both nationally and internationally. She has managed a national action research evaluation of the *Stronger Families and Communities* project at the Australian Institute of Family Studies; has undertaken research in relation to attitudes to poverty, and services for older people; and has conducted evaluations of government and non-government organisations. However, her main focus has been in researching with people with disabilities with a particular interest in gender, deinstitutionalisation, community living and sexuality and relationships. Professor Johnson has written extensively in refereed journals and has published five books; the latest being *People with intellectual disabilities: towards a good life?* with Jan Walmsley (2010 Bristol University Press).

Dr Panos Karanikolas

Dr Panos Karanikolas is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the La Trobe Law School and an Honorary Fellow at the Melbourne Social Equity Institute, at the University of Melbourne. Panos contributes to the ARC Discovery Project 'INDICATE: A Human Rights Implementation Assessment for Mental Health Law and Policy', co-led by Associate Professor Piers Gooding and Professor Chris Maylea. Panos is socio-legal researcher, whose research critically examines law, madness/disability and carcerality. Their PhD dissertation explored experiences of involuntary psychiatric treatment under Community Treatment Orders in Australia. Panos has experience working in disability advocacy, the community legal sector and contributing perspectives arising from lived experience of mental health services in coproductive research.
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Jack Kelly

Jack Kelly is an Honorary Research Fellow at UTS in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building. Jack has worked in the disability research and advocacy sector since 2015, having worked with both UTS and the Centre for Disability Studies (CDS) Inclusive Research Network as a Research Associate. Jack also holds a position at the Council for Intellectual Disability (CID) as a project worker. Jack is passionate about advocating for the rights of people with intellectual disability, with a strong focus on good health care due to his own experience within the health care system.
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Silomo Khumalo

Silomo Khumalo is a South African social justice activist and aspirant human rights lawyer, currently pursuing a PhD at La Trobe University Law School. His doctoral research focuses on strengthening focal points and coordinating mechanisms for the implementation of disability rights, reflecting his deep commitment to advancing equity and inclusion. Professionally, Silomo has held impactful roles in both civil society and government. Blind himself, Silomo brings lived experience and academic rigor to his work, championing disability rights and inclusive policy reform across sectors.
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Stephen Kilkeary

Gay. Irish. Buddhist. Child abuse survivor. Suicide survivor. Disability rights activist. Advocate. Social worker. Educator. Researcher. Content creator. Project designer. Counsellor. Cook. Traveller. Opposed to the mass pathologising of human suffering. Dedicated to finding humane responses to subjective and collective distress. Currently working with people living with disability who are caught up in the criminal justice system.
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Robert King

Rob is a self-advocate who spent most of his life in institutions. He likes to be a role model and shares his experience to support other people with disability to live a good life.
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Saakshi Kumar

Saakshi is the Advocacy and Policy Coordinator at No Child In Solitary and a UNSW Law and Criminology student entering her penultimate year. She has experience in complex civil litigation, working for victims of trauma and possesses a strong commitment to justice and youth rights. In her role, she helps translate legal research into practical advocacy, monitors legislative developments, and supports the campaign's engagement with government and oversight bodies to advance reforms that protect children in detention.

Tabitha Lean

Tabitha Lean is a First Nations prisoner activist, Mad survivor, abolitionist and storyteller whose work is grounded in her lived experience of criminal and psychiatric incarceration. A disruptor and trouble maker, Tabitha uses poetry, art, and narrative to expose and resist the violence of the colonial carceral state. Her activism is rooted in collective care, community accountability, and the belief that no one is disposable. Living and creating at the margins, she channels her experiences into a powerful refusal of systems of punishment and control — always with love, always in resistance.
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Arlene M. Lorejo-Cosape

Prof. Arlene L. Cosape is a seasoned educator. She started as a high school teacher of English grammar and literature and moved on to teach law and governance courses while practicing litigation. Using her eclectic experience as an educator, academic administrator, litigator and social justice advocate, she also designs courses and training modules on public administration, governance and law which won her an Innovation Fellowship from the Universities and Councils Network on Innovation for Inclusive Development in Southeast Asia (UNIID-SEA). Her interest in disability law stems from having a son diagnosed with autism for whom she works for inclusion. Currently, she is the Dean of the University of Southeastern Philippines - School of Law.
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Yvette Maker

Dr Yvette Maker is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Tasmania, where she coordinates the Clinical Legal Education program. Her research focuses on disability- and gender-related dimensions of law, policy and practice through a human rights lens. Yvette is the author of 'Care and Support Rights After Neoliberalism: Balancing Competing Claims Through Policy and Law' (Cambridge University Press, 2022) and co-editor of two Routledge collections, 'Restrictive Practices in Healthcare and Disability Settings' (2021) and 'The Future of Mental Health, Disability and Criminal Law' (2024).
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Catia Malaquias OAM

Catia is a lawyer, board director and advocate for the human rights and inclusion of people with disability. She founded Starting With Julius, promoting equal representation of people with disability in advertising, media and education, and co-founded All Means All – The Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education, the Australian Coalition for Inclusive Education (ACIE), and the Global Alliance for Disability in Media and Entertainment (GADIM). She is completing a PhD with the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University and is an External Affiliate Member of the Centre for Inclusive Education at QUT.
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Julia P. Manning

Julia P. Manning is a researcher and human rights professional living and working in Melbourne, Australia, on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. She specialises in disability inclusion, human rights, and systemic reform within a Victorian and broader Australian context. With professional experience in legal, governmental, non-profit and board settings, Julia's work spans policy and strategy development, organisational change and behavioural reform across government and community sectors. Julia's research is centred around human rights and their praxis. In her professional work and academic research, Julia aims to address the gaps in human rights law and policy, and the ways in which rights are – and are not – afforded to individuals.
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Jade McEwen

Dr. Jade McEwen (she/her) is a highly accomplished, results-driven researcher and policy strategist specialising in the intersection of public policy, evidence, and equitable service delivery. Holding a PhD in Public Policy and a Master's in Disability Studies, her professional identity is anchored by a deep commitment to ensuring that policy is effectively implemented to genuinely improve the lives of people with disability and diverse cohorts.

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Hisyam Ikhtiar Mulia

Hisyam Ikhtiar Mulia is a policy professional and researcher with seven years of experience in human rights, disability inclusion, and program management. He serves as Research and Advocacy Team Lead at the REMISI Foundation and is a graduate of the Master of Public Policy program at the Universiti Malaya. Hisyam's work bridges academic research with practice, focusing on systemic change driven by the leadership and expertise of people with disabilities. He has collaborated with government institutions, international partners, and grassroots organizations to design and implement evidence-based programs that advance equity and social justice. His expertise spans research design, advocacy, and project leadership, with a proven ability to translate complex policy issues into actionable strategies. His professional interests include mental health, disability inclusion, and community initiatives, all approached through a public policy lens. He is passionate about shaping inclusive governance systems and fostering cross-sectoral solutions that ensure meaningful participation of marginalized communities in policymaking.

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Roxanne Mykitiuk

Roxanne Mykitiuk, BA, LLB, LLM, JSD, is a Professor at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto where she engages in research and teaching in the areas of Disability Law, Health Law, Bioethics and Family Law. She is the founding Director of the Disability Law Intensive Clinical Law Program and was Director of the Graduate Program in Health Law in the Professional Development Program and Co-Chair of Enable York. Roxanne was the Chair of York University's Senate from 2013–2015. She is nationally and internationally recognised for her work in disability law and the legal construction and regulation of embodiment, and the regulation of reproductive and genetic technologies and reproductive health more generally. Roxanne has been consulted by a range of actors in policy making and litigation contexts and provided expert opinions related to her areas of expertise. Her research has been funded by CIHR, SSHRC, the Australian Research Council and the European Research Council.

Dr Darren O'Donovan

Dr Darren O'Donovan is Senior Lecturer in Administrative law at La Trobe Law School. His work focuses on human rights, frontline decision-making and the role of oversight bodies in delivering administrative justice. He is regular contributor to parliamentary inquiries on the NDIS and social security.

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Alexis Padilla

Dr. Alexis Padilla is a disabled lawyer, sociologist, theologian and educator born and raised in Venezuela and later displaced into the academic peripheries of USA higher educational institutions. His first solo book, *Disability, Intersectional Agency and Latinx Identity*, was published by Routledge in 2021. Dr. Padilla's most recent volume is currently under contract with Routledge under the title *Decolonial Disability and Social Epistemologies*. As scholar and disability activist, Dr. Padilla pursues a blend of actionable ideas and interdisciplinary framings which enhance intersectional disability justice and decolonial projects helpful in bridging Global North and Global South contexts toward cross-coalitional movement building and emancipatory learning endeavors, namely, collective resistance grounded on intersubjective sources of identity and relationality.

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Diana Piantedosi

Diana Piantedosi (she/they) is the Senior Manager, Policy & Advocacy at Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA). WWDA is the National Disabled People's Organisation and National Women's Alliance for women, girls, feminine identifying, and non-binary people with disabilities in Australia. WWDA is governed, run, led, staffed by, and constituted of, women and gender diverse people with disabilities. Diana is also an Honorary Research Fellow at Deakin University and have submitted their Sociology PhD thesis at La Trobe University (now under examination). Their thesis with publications looks at practical applications of lived experience in research, policy and clinical practice. Through six mixed-method case studies, Diana critically examines whose lived experience is valued, its limits and how we can design systems more equitably, by listening to the people that they serve.

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Sarah E Ratcliffe

Sarah is a Senior Researcher at the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW and a Research Fellow at the University of Sydney. She is passionate about advancing equity and reducing stigma through inclusive, evidence-based research. Her work sits at the intersection of gender, sexuality, and disability, and aims to develop practical tools that support systemic change. She has led national projects with community and government partners, including the creation of seven validated tools to measure abortion stigma and a major synthesis of best practices for inclusive workplaces. Sarah holds a PhD in Science and a Master of Psychology, and is committed to co-creating research that delivers meaningful and lasting impact.

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Reyhan Ramazanova

Reyhan Ramazanova is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Law at the University of Tasmania. Her research examines the impacts of AI-powered neurotechnologies on the human rights of persons with disabilities, aiming to contribute to regulatory and research efforts that ensure the design, development and deployment of AI-powered neurotechnologies respect and protect the human rights of persons with disabilities as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). She holds a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, England. Her prior work has particularly focused on building a mobile application for disability rights, reproductive coercion against persons with psychosocial disabilities, and domestic violence cases involving women.

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Simone Rowe

Simone Rowe (she/her) is an interdisciplinary researcher, writer and educator deeply invested in the (re)building of anti-colonial, anti-ableist and non-carceral worlds. Her recently completed PhD thesis examines what the lives of criminalised people with cognitive disability in the colonial carceral state of Australia reveal about the logics, structures and practices of coloniality, ableism and carcerality.

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Yukio Sakurai

Dr Yukio Sakurai, Doctor of Laws (Yokohama National University, 2022), also holds a Master of Medical Administration (Institute of Science Tokyo, 2025), an MBA in Social Design Studies (Rikkyo University, 2017), and a Bachelor of Laws (The University of Tokyo, 1980). He is a collaborative researcher at Yokohama National University and a member of the European Law Institute (Vienna). His research focuses on elder law, health policy, and global governance, which he has pursued as a lifelong academic commitment. His principal publications are available via his ORCID profile: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1273-9227>.

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Puneet Sansanwal

Puneet is an early career researcher working from a consumer lived experience perspective within the mental health sector. Puneet is a PhD candidate at La Trobe University exploring trauma informed practices within the legal assistance sector that uphold clients' human rights. Puneet is also a member of Lived Experience Advisory Panel at Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing. His previous background includes working on frontline as a consumer peer support worker/ consumer consultant within public area mental health services in Victoria
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Danielle Santos

Danielle Santos is a disabled, queer, and mixed-race lawyer, researcher, and disability advocate with a decade of experience in disability policy, research, and direct support. She joined Legal Aid NSW's Disability Legal Support Service in 2024 and has previously worked with the Social Policy Research Centre, People with Disability Australia, and the Intellectual Disability Rights Service, supporting clients across education, justice, and human rights contexts. Her independent research in partnership with collaborators at UNSW Sydney explores the impact of climate disasters on disabled communities in the Philippines, funded by a 2024 Disability Human Rights Seed Grant. Danielle's work is grounded in lived experience and shaped by co-design, disability justice, and access intimacy.

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Lydie Schmidt

My name is Lydie Schmidt and I am a graduate researcher from Aotearoa New Zealand. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Theory (first class honours) and my Bachelor of Laws from the University of Otago in 2017 and 2018. I subsequently practised as a family law barrister and solicitor in Dunedin, New Zealand from 2019 to 2021, specialising in parenting disputes, care and protection proceedings and family violence proceedings. I then moved into the research space where I worked as a qualitative disability researcher at the Donald Beasley Institute (an institute specialising in pan-disability research) from 2022 to early 2025. I loved this work and I am now currently completing my PhD in the faculty of law at the University of Melbourne with my thesis focusing on legal capacity law in Aotearoa and the intersectional experiences of disabled people within this context. I am interested in intersectionality, capacity law, legal personhood, disability justice and the rights and experiences of disabled parents in the Family Court.
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Frederike Scholz

Frederike Scholz is an Associate Professor of Organizational Change and Digital Transition at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht in the Netherlands. Her academic pursuits primarily focus on issues around diversity, inclusion, and equality in the workplace for minority groups (e.g., topics around disability or neurodivergence), her own personal reflections of working in Academia from a gender and/or new parent perspective, but also the impact of digital transformation in organizations, such as the use and influence of AI technologies on healthcare professionals. She has employed predominantly qualitative and autoethnographic methods in her research published in Human Relations, Human Resource Management, Career Development International, and Gender, Work, and Organization (GWO) and is an Associated Editor for Culture and Organization.
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Raahat Shaik

This presentation is delivered on behalf of No Child In Solitary, a national youth-led campaign working to end the use of solitary confinement on children in Australian youth detention. The campaign advocates for the immediate abolition of isolation-based practices and the establishment of enforceable federal minimum standards that protect the dignity, development, and wellbeing of every child. Through

research, policy advocacy, coalition-building, and public education, No Child In Solitary works to expose the systemic conditions that allow isolation to persist and to advance legislative and institutional reform grounded in human rights and disability justice. Representing the campaign, Raahat Shaik contributes to ongoing efforts to align domestic youth justice laws with Australia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The presentation draws on the campaign's research and advocacy to highlight the legal, policy, and rights-based implications of isolation practices, and to identify pathways for accountability, resistance, and reform.
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Tess Sheldon

Tess Sheldon writes, presents and teaches on a variety of mental health, access to justice, disability and human rights topics. Dr. Sheldon completed her doctorate at the University of Toronto, exploring the legal issues raised by the covert administration of medication in psychiatric settings. She practiced exclusively with Ontario's legal clinic system, including at ARCH Disability Law Centre and Justice for Children and Youth. Dr. Sheldon's research, including about coercive medication administration practices in psychiatric settings, scrutinizes the role of law to protect and promote our communities' health. She explores the law's possibilities (and perils) to confront the regimes that reflect and reinforce economic and social exclusion of persons with disabilities and consumers/ survivors of the psychiatric system.
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Jim Simpson

Jim Simpson is an advocate who has worked in the disability field for over 40 years. He does systemic advocacy work for the Council for Intellectual Disability and has had a central role on gains in relation to issues including health of people with intellectual disability and diversion from the criminal justice system into the NDIS and other human services. Jim previously was the first Principal Solicitor of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service and a longstanding member of the NSW Guardianship Tribunal. He is an Officer of the Order of Australia.
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Hannah Solomons

Hannah is the founder of Disability Pride Sydney and currently completing PhD focussed on the intersection of disability and judicial power in Australian law at UTS. She has long experience as a disability activist dating back to her teens on the student union as an undergraduate. Her research uses knowledge synthesis methodologies to assist in applying a critical lens to case law. She maintains that failing to support disability rights is a form of judicial activism and is not compatible with modern conceptions of the separation of powers.
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Linda Steele

Linda is a Professor in Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney and a board member of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales. She is currently leading a program of research 'Truth Justice Repair' exploring individual redress and social repair in relation to violence, institutionalisation and segregation of disabled people. Linda is the author of *Disability, Criminal Justice and Law* (2020, Routledge) and co-editor of *Sites of Conscience: Place, Memory and the Project of Deinstitutionalization* (2024, University of British Columbia Press). In 2024 she was the recipient of the inaugural Hudson-Primer Fellowship Award from Northwestern Pritzker Law School Center (USA) for Disability and Racial Justice.
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Kate Swaffer

Kate Swaffer is an author and speaker, and a PhD Candidate and independent researcher at the University of South Australia, School of Justice and Society, investigating disability rights for people with dementia, including access to rehabilitation, and social care for people with dementia and older people receiving community, respite or residential care. Swaffer is an award-winning disability rights and global campaigner, including the

2017 Australian Of The Year in SA. Swaffer has been a major catalyst for rehabilitation for people with dementia, and for dementia to be managed as a disability. She has a MSc (Dementia Care), BPsych, BA, is retired chef and a retired nurse. She is an Ambassador for Step Up For Dementia Research Australia and the Australia Day Council SA. Her other research has focused on dementia rehabilitation, and reparations and redress for harm to people in residential care.
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Loren Swancutt

Loren is an experienced educator, school leader and advisor dedicated to advancing inclusive education in Australia. She has led whole-school inclusive reform and supports education systems nationwide to implement inclusive practices. Loren is the co-founder and Chairperson of Inclusive Educators Australia, a professional organisation that represents and connects educators committed to realising every child and young person's right to inclusive education. She is completing a Doctor of Education at QUT's Centre for Inclusive Education.

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Annmaree Watharow

Annmaree Watharow has Usher syndrome and completed a medical degree as the first deaf person to do so at the University of Sydney. She undertook a PhD examining the hospital experiences of people with deafblindness and now works at the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at the University of Sydney. She also recently completed a Master's of creative writing and writes essays and creative nonfiction about living with deafblindness-dual sensory impairment. Annmaree's current research interests include: disability and identity; the pursuit of recognition of deafblindness as a unique and distinct disability and in particular highlights the failure of protections and policies to be implemented in practice.
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Sheila Wildeman

Sheila Wildeman is Director of Dalhousie University's Health Justice Institute and Professor at Dalhousie's Schulich School of Law, where she teaches Administrative Law, Poverty Law, Public Health Law and Imprisonment Law. She is Chair of East Coast Prison Justice Society, which hosts a jail oversight and assistance line. Her recent research focuses on disability-based isolation, exploring possibilities and limits of legal remedies for isolation in prison and health spaces (see eg, Ch. 46 in Anita Szigeti et al, Canadian Anthology on Mental Health and the Law (2024)). Since 2020 Sheila has supported arts-based action research collective My Home My Rights to produce videos and an art show celebrating the intersectional justice insights of individuals who learn and communicate in ways described as intellectual disability.
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Clare Williams

Clare is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Birmingham, having previously worked as a lecturer at the University of Kent following her ESRC postdoctoral fellowship there. Clare's PhD, from the University of London, explored the ways that we do, talk and think about the relationships between law, economy, and society, and her monograph 'An Economic Sociology of Law Reimagined: Beyond Embeddedness' was published with Routledge in 2022. She has since extended this into the field of disability, drawing on her experiences of labour markets during lockdown as a disabled researcher to develop the theory of ability capitalism. She is a trustee of the Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) and co-chairs the SLSA EDI committee, as well as being active with DDPOs in her local area of south London, UK.
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Kelly Harrison Willis

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