



European disability network meeting

Leeds, 7-9 September 2007

List of invited participants

Anders Gustavsson	University of Stockholm and NNDR (Sweden)
Anne Waldschmidt	Internationale Forschungsstelle Disability Studies (Universität zu Köln, Germany)
Borgunn Ytterhus	Nordic Network on Disability Research (Norway)
Constanze Vageler	World Universities Network (University of Leeds, UK)
Jean-Francois Ravaud and Isabelle Ville	Institut Federatif de Recherche Réseau Handicap (INSERM, France)
Jo Camilleri (and Minda)	Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Dizabilità (Malta)
Maribel Campo (and PA)	Instituto Universitario de Integración en la Comunidad (University of Salamanca, Spain)
Mark Priestley and Anna Lawson	Centre for Disability Studies (University of Leeds, UK)
Oliver Lewis	Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (Hungary)
Patrick Devlieger	Department of Anthropology (University of Leuven, Belgium)
Shivaun Quinlivan	Disability Law and Policy Research Unit (National University of Ireland, Galway)

Venue

Weetwood Hall Hotel – <http://www.weetwood.co.uk>

The hotel is in the North of the city and easily reached from the airport or the train station by taxi (also by bus from the city centre or the University). City taxis and most buses are wheelchair accessible.

Background and objectives for the meeting

This meeting is co-ordinated by the Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds and made possible by a grant from the Vice Chancellor's fund for international research collaboration.

Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study (involving research and training) that addresses disability as a human rights issue and supports the full participation and equality of disabled people. Its models and theories (e.g. the social model of disability) construct the situation of disabled people as a social problem, with social causes. Its methods promote the participation of disabled people and their organizations. The research focus is on policies, environments and cultures that further the goal of full participation and equality for disabled people in society (rather than on cure or treatment). It is therefore distinctive from traditional disability research disciplines (e.g. based on medical or therapeutic approaches). Disabled people's organisations have argued, since the 1970s, that their voices and priorities should be better represented in research practice. They have also challenged traditional approaches to disability research. The emergence of critical disability studies, since the early 1980s, has been a direct response to these challenges. Its political and intellectual roots can be found in the struggles of the international disabled people's movement.

Critical Disability Studies is well established throughout the world, with research centres, international conferences and an extensive research literature. There are distinctive Masters or PhD programmes in the USA, Canada, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Australia. The American Society for Disability Studies (SDS) was founded in 1986, and provides extensive networking opportunities for researchers there. There are also disability research networks in some European countries and regions. The rationale for networking at the European level is to promote critical disability research throughout the European Research Area. There have been several attempts to establish European networking in disability studies (e.g. from a meeting in Belgium in 2000 to the creation of a new European Journal of Disability Research in 2007). In a submission to DG Research in 2005, the European Disability Forum emphasised the "need for the creation of a network of academic experts in the field" to "assist in EU policy development and data gathering". However, our proposal for a pilot project was unsuccessful (this proposal involved many of the participants in our meeting). In July 2007 the Commission released the tender for a new 'Academic Network of European Disability experts' (ANED). A proposal is being prepared by Human European Consultancy and the University of Leeds. It involves research centres and experts in more than 30 countries (in partnership with the European Disability Forum). The deadline for this proposal is 19 September 2007.

The objectives of this meeting are therefore to:

- Increase awareness of different disability research networks in Europe
- Provide an informal environment for discussion and greater understanding
- Help in the preparation of the network tender proposal to the European Commission
- Establish areas of common interest for future collaborative research

This is an informal meeting for discussion amongst friends, but we would like to provide the opportunity for each participant to make a short presentation (not more than 15 minutes). We suggest that the audience would be interested to know more about:

- the development of disability research networks in different parts of Europe
- the different academic disciplines or research methods that are used
- the availability of important research publications or journals in different languages
- relationships between researchers, disability activism and disabled people's organisations
- priorities for future research

If you would like to contribute a short written paper after the meeting then we would be pleased to publish these.

This will be a small and informal meeting (approximately 10 people) but we would also like to invite some of our young researchers to listen to some of the presentations and to ask questions.

Provisional programme and suggested themes

Some people will arrive at the hotel on Thursday evening (it may be possible to meet for a drink late evening in the 'Stables Pub', behind the hotel).

Friday 7 September – opportunities for European networking (Kirkstall Room)

Arrivals at the hotel

15:00 - coffee and introductions (meeting room available from 13:00)

15:30 - goals and objectives for the meeting (Mark Priestley)

16:00 - discussion of past and future experiences of European networking (chair: Mark Priestley)

17:00 - introduction to the EuRADE project and European Commission tender proposal ANED (Mark Priestley)

18:00 - break

20:00 - dinner and informal discussions (The Boardroom)

Saturday 8 September – Disability research in European countries (Kirkstall Room)

Breakfast available for residential participants in the hotel restaurant.

Additional participants for the day will include staff and PhD students from Leeds University

09:30 - disability research in the UK (Colin Barnes)

10:00 - disability research in German-speaking countries (Anne Waldschmidt)

10:30 - disability research in the Nordic countries (Anders Gustavsson and Borgunn Ytterhus)

11:00 - coffee and refreshments

11:30 - disability research in Belgium (Patrick Devlieger)

12:00 - disability research in Ireland (Shivaun Quinlivan)

12:30 - disability research in France (Jean-François Ravaud and/or Isabelle Ville)

13:00 - buffet lunch (break-out area)

14:00 - disability research in Spain (Maribel Campo)

14:30 - disability research and disability activism (Jo Camilleri)

15:00 - disability research and human rights advocacy (Oliver Lewis)

15:30 - coffee and refreshments

16:00 - discussion on key points and shared interests (chair: Mark Priestley)

17:00 - break

20:00 - dinner for invited participants (Jacobean Room)

speaker – examples of international academic networking (Constanze Vageler and/or Martin Hamilton)

Sunday 9 September – planning for European collaboration (Kirkstall Room)

Breakfast available for residential participants in the hotel restaurant.

09:30 - opportunities for research collaboration

11:00 - coffee and refreshments

11:30 – feedback on the European Commission tender for an Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED)

13:00 - buffet lunch (break-out area)

14:00 - end of formal meetings