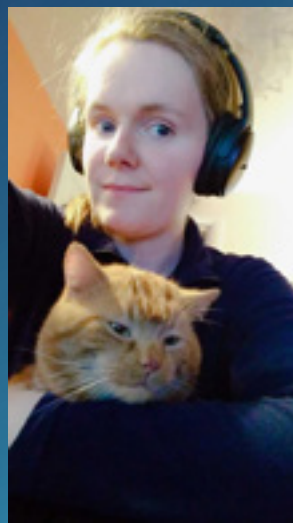




Persons with Disabilities and the Right to Family Life

11th International Disability Law Summer School
17-21 June 2019

#11thdss



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17-21 June 2019

Introduction to the 2019 Programme

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) at the National University of Ireland Galway is pleased to announce that its International Disability Law Summer School in 2019 will focus on 'Persons with Disabilities and the Right to Family Life.'

The right to family life of persons with disabilities includes, but is not limited to, the right to form a family, the right to reproductive autonomy, the right to marry and enter civil partnerships, the right to privacy, the right of disabled children not to be separated from their families, the rights of persons with disabilities as parents, the right to information about one's biological family, the right to choose where and with whom to live on an equal basis with others, and the right to liberty.

The summer school will consider how solidarity can be built across a wide range of social movements to address particular challenges faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights to family life. These will include the experiences of LGBTQI activists, adopted persons, reproductive justice advocates, migrants and refugees, and ethnic minorities, including members of the Traveller and Roma communities.

This year's summer school will build on our learning from 2018's summer school on intersectionality, to pay particular attention to the intersections of ableism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism, racism, and other forms of oppression which affect the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their rights to family life. We will also consider the particular barriers faced by persons with disabilities and LGBTQI activists in various contexts across the global north and global south.

The 11th International Disability Law Summer School will explore creative advocacy to advance the right to family life from around the world, informed by the experiences of front-line advocates from social movements, academia, NGOs, policymakers and other stakeholders with different forms of expertise. The course will spur participants to think in a more inclusive way about the identities and contexts of constituencies who face barriers in exercising their right to family life and how we can ensure protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, not just in terms of antidiscrimination measures, but also in terms of policies that promote human rights across a range of different environments and contexts.

The proceedings will be highly interactive – including roundtables and conversations between speakers, with plenty of space for questions and answers. The proceedings will be video recorded and placed on the Centre's YouTube site.

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Day 1: Monday 17 June

About Today

Introduction to the CRPD

Day 1 will provide participants with a general introduction to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Leaders from the global disability rights movement will participate in a roundtable discussion and will provide inside knowledge of how the treaty came about as well as sharing their experiences and stories from the negotiation process. Today will provide participants with an introduction to the right to family life. Day 1 will also introduce the profound intersections that exist around the Right to Family Life between the disability and LGBTQI communities, a thread that is woven throughout the week's discussions toward finding common cause and building more vibrant, stronger cross-constituency movements on these issues.

Chair: Siobhan Mullally, Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway

8:30 – 9:15 **Registration**

9:15 - 9:30 **Welcome to the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP)**

Eilionóir Flynn, Centre for Disability Law & Policy

9:30 - 9:45 **Introduction of the 11th International Disability Law Summer School**

Catriona Moloney, Centre for Disability Law & Policy

9:45 - 10:00 **Craftivism**

This is a form of activism through art. The summer school will provide space for people to reflect on panel conversations, use craftivism to express understandings of the right to family life for persons with disabilities, and the challenges requiring action into the future. Participants will be invited to craft a message on fabric (this can be drawn, sewn or applied – materials will be provided at the summer school. Participants will craft a message on leaf-shaped fabric which will be stitched together to form a tree – photographs of the tree will be taken and made into postcards that participants can take home as a memento of summer school. The craftivism work will be facilitated by a local group, including disabled women who run knitting and sewing circles.

10:00 - 10:10 **Welcome to the University and the Summer School**

Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, President, National University of Ireland Galway

10:10 - 10:40 **Keynote Address**

Freyja Haraldsdóttir, TABU, Iceland

10:40 - 11:00 **Response**

Clíona de Bhailís, CDLP, NUI Galway, Ireland

11:00 – 11:15 **Questions and Answers**

11:15 – 11:30 **Tea and Coffee Break**

11:30 – 1:00 The Convention: Drafting Opportunities, Challenges and the Committee’s Interpretations

This session will focus on the panellists’ experiences as article facilitators, and members of state and civil society delegations during the Ad Hoc Committee in developing the text of the Convention and deciding how to apply existing human rights protections to persons with disabilities.

It will also address the panellists experiences, including as current and former members of the Committee in developing the Committee’s jurisprudence and applying it in practice – including the individual complaints, concluding observations and General Comments.

This session will have an emphasis on the rights contained in the Convention which are connected to family life – including the right to be recognised as a person before the law, the right to live independently and be included in the community, inclusive education and reproductive rights.

Panel discussion: facilitated by Eilionóir Flynn.

Panel members to include:

- Robert Martin, CRPD Committee Member, New Zealand
- Eric Rosenthal, Disability Rights International, USA
- Silvia Quan, International Disability Alliance, Switzerland

Questions and Answers

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 2:30 Finding common cause: a conversation on the intersecting Issues on the Right to Family Life for the disability and LGBTI communities

- Ellen Murray, Transgender NI, Northern Ireland
- Ian Southey Swartz, OSISA, South Africa

Questions and Answers

2:30 – 3:30 Human Rights and Family Life

The focus of this session is to outline the core rights to family life contained in both the CRPD and other international human rights instruments which persons with disabilities should enjoy. These include the right to marry and form a family, and to decide freely on the number and spacing of one’s children. Pia’s presentation will focus specifically on persons with disabilities while Maeve will give a broader perspective with reference to other marginalised groups who have also experienced denial of these rights.

- Pia Justesen, Human Rights Lawyer, Denmark
- Maeve O’Rourke, Irish Centre for Human Rights, Ireland

3:30 – 3:45 Tea and Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:00 Preparation for the Moot Court

The moot problem for the week will be outlined and participants will be assigned to different teams, and allocated a mentor to help develop their arguments. Rooms will be made available during lunch-breaks and allocated sessions during the remainder of the week for teams to meet and refine their arguments. The moot will be based on an individual complaint under the Optional Protocol to the CRPD Committee alleging a violation of one or more rights to family life contained in the Convention.

Day 2: Tuesday 18 June

About Today

Human Rights and Family Life

Following on from discussions yesterday around the scope of the right to family life, Day 2 will focus on the meaning and application of the right in the lives of persons with disabilities and LGBTIQI persons, with particular focus on (1) belonging to families and communities, and (2) right to sexual and reproductive autonomy. Day 2 will also set the context for understanding the right to family life and its interaction with various other rights in the CRPD. This will include conversations on the relationship between the right to family life and legal capacity, and the right to independent living. Today will provide a foundation to open up conversations over the next few days on areas including (1) the perspective of children and parents, (2) experiences of disabled parents, (3) fostering, adoptions and surrogacy, (4) diverse families: perspectives from LGBTIQI, single parents and intergenerational child rearing.

Chair: Charles O'Mahony, School of Law, NUI Galway

8:30 - 9:15 Registration

9:15 – 11:00 Belonging to Families and Communities

This conversation will focus on how to support belonging in families and communities, and the lived experience of family life for persons with disabilities.

- Rachel Cassen, LEAP Ireland
- Maria Ní Fhlatharta, CDLP, NUI Galway, Ireland
- Liberty Matthyse, Gender Dynamix, South Africa

Questions and Answers

11:00 – 11:20 Tea and Coffee Break

11:20 – 1:00 Legal Capacity and Family Life

This session will focus on the relationship between legal capacity and family life. Specific examples of the need to recognise the legal personhood of individuals to make decisions related to family life will be discussed – including the right to marry and the right to form a family. It will also address how family members can support or restrict the exercise of legal capacity and how this can be addressed.

- Alberto Vasquez, Office of UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Switzerland, SODIS, Peru
- Bo Chen, CDLP, NUI Galway, Ireland

Questions and Answers

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 **Sexual and Reproductive Rights**

This session will focus on the need for people with disabilities to enjoy sexual and reproductive rights. It will address the barriers which have faced disabled people in exercising these rights, including recognition of sexuality and gender identity, reproductive justice (including forced sterilisation and access to abortion) and the right to enjoy sexual relationships.

- Selina Bonnie, Disability Activist and Academic, Ireland
- Ellen Murray, Transgender NI, Northern Ireland
- Eleanor Lisney, Sisters of Frida, UK

Questions and Answers

3:30 – 3:45 Tea and Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:00 **Independent Living and Family Life**

This session will focus on the relationship between independent living and family life. Specific examples of how choice over where and with whom to live is essential for respecting the right to family life will be discussed. It will also address how family members can support or restrict the exercise of the right to live independently and be included in the community and how this can be addressed.

- Robert Martin, CRPD Committee Member, New Zealand
- Elizabeth Kamundia, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya
- Senada Halilčević, Inclusion Europe, Member of Steering Group European Platform of Self Advocates, Croatia

Questions and Answers

5:30 – 7:30 **Poster Presentation and Wine Reception**

Day 3: Wednesday 19 June

About Today

Respect for Family Life: Perspectives of Parents and Children

Drawing on the framework of the previous days, Day 3 provides insights into the lived experience of children with disabilities and disabled parents. Today will include conversations on the right to be raised in your family and raising children as disabled parents. The right to family life will also be explored in the context of engaging in processes of fostering, adoption and surrogacy. Day 3 will also consider respect and support for diverse families, including conversations between the LGBTQI and disability communities regarding common links for building stronger social movements on these issues.

Chair: Shivaun Quinlivan, School of Law, NUI Galway, Ireland

8:00 - 8:30 Registration

8:30 - 9:30 Preparation for the Moot Court

9:30 - 11:00 **Rights of Children to be Raised in their Families (including respect for culture)**

- Fatma Wangare Haji, Kenya Association of Intellectually Handicapped, Kenya
- John Bosco Conama, Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Youth panel, chaired by Clíona de Bhailís, CDLP; young disabled people speak about their experiences of growing up in families (a mix of perspectives including people raised by disabled parents and/or with disabled siblings)

- Mariana Comacho, Young Activist, META Juevenil (iiDi) Costa Rica
- Abby Smyth, Blogger, Ireland
- Alan Fay, Empowering People in Care, Youth Council Member, Ireland

Questions and Answers

11:00 - 11:20 Tea and Coffee Break

11:20 - 1:00 **Experiences of Disabled Parents**

This panel will focus on personal experience as disabled parents but panellists may wish to also refer to the experiences of others they have worked with or researched.

- Sarah Fitzgerald, Writer, Blogger, Ireland
- Catherine Carter, Change UK, UK
- Carlos Rios, Human Rights Watch, Mexico

Questions and Answers

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

Afternoon Chair: Suzy Byrne, National Advocacy Service, Ireland

2:00 – 3:30 **Respect for Human Rights in Fostering, Adoption and Surrogacy**

This conversation will look at the right to family life in context of these three areas. This will include a discussion around lived experience of engaging in these types of processes taking account of any challenges arising due to actual or perceived disability.

- Claire McGettrick, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Freyja Haraldsdóttir, TABU, Iceland
- Fiona Breathnach, CDLP, NUI Galway, Ireland

Questions and Answers

3:30 – 3:45 Tea and Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:00 **Respect and support for diverse families**

- Shakira Hussein, National Centre for Excellence in Islamic Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Victoria Petitjean, The Global Interfaith Network, South Africa
- Sally Friedman, Legal Action Centre, USA

Questions and Answers

6:30 **Evening Social Activity: A BBQ for the participants at the Galmont Hotel & Spa**

Day 4: Thursday 20 June

About Today

International Solidarity and Human Rights Monitoring to Protect Family Life

Day 4 will focus on the role of international and national monitoring bodies in keeping states accountable in protecting the right to family. It will also spark conversations around how key stakeholders can work together to create change. For example, we will look to civil society organisations to discuss social movements where disabled people worked with other groups to defend an aspect of the right to family life.

Chair: Lucy-Ann Buckley, School of Law, NUI Galway, Ireland

8:30 - 9:15 Registration

9:15 - 11:00 The Role of the UN: Keeping States Accountable

Panel discussion: facilitated by Victoria Lee, OHCHR/Switzerland

- Robert Martin, CRPD Committee, New Zealand
- Velina Todorova, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Bulgaria

Questions and Answers

11:00 - 11:20 Tea and Coffee Break

11:20 - 1:00 Solidarity on the Right to Family Life: Inclusive Campaigns for Change

The purpose of this panel is to explore what different social movements (including the disabled people's movement and LGBTQI movements) can learn from each other in designing and implementing campaigns for change on the right family life (e.g. decriminalisation of sexual activity, abortion rights, rights to marry and to parent)

Decriminalisation of sexual activity – with disabled people and LGBTQI people

Panel discussion: facilitated by Eilionóir Flynn, CDLP, NUI Galway, Ireland

Panelists:

- Phil Davy, Self Advocate, Ireland
- Christina Burke, National Platform of Self Advocates, Ireland
- Reshma Valliappan, The Red Door, India
- Ger Minogue, Clare Inclusive Research Group, Ireland
- Ian Southey Swartz, OSISA, South Africa

Questions and Answers

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch (G009 informal lunchtime research workshop)

Afternoon Chair: Catriona Moloney, CDLP, NUI Galway, Ireland

2:00 – 3:30 **Bringing Human Rights Home: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in supporting rights to family life**

- Iris Elliott, Research and Policy, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Ireland
- Valentin Aichele, CRPD National Monitoring Body, Germany
- Elizabeth Kamundia, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya

Questions and Answers

3:30 – 3:45 Tea and Coffee Break

3:45 – 5:15 **Tools and tactics to achieve change – holding our governments accountable**

- Shadow Reporting – Silvia Quan, International Disability Alliance, Switzerland
- Strategic Litigation – Ann Campbell, Validity, Hungary and Dmitri Bartenev, St Petersburg State University, Russia
- Direct Action - Roger Lewis, Disabled People Against the Cuts, UK

Questions and Answers

Day 5: Friday 21 June

About Today

Moot Court Competition

The purpose of this day is to provide participants with an opportunity to apply the knowledge and expertise acquired during the Summer School through a participatory group exercise. Participants are provided with a fact scenario for a moot court competition framed by an oral hearing at the CRPD Committee. The objective of this exercise is to put forward arguments based on the knowledge acquired over the week.

8:30 - 9:15 Registration

9:15 - 11:00 Moot Court Competition: Oral arguments of the Teams before “UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

Moot Court Judges:

- Alberto Vasquez, Office of UN Special Rapporteur, Switzerland and SODIS, Peru
- Victoria Lee, OHCHR, Switzerland
- Ann Campbell, Validity, Hungary

11:00 - 11:30 Tea and Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:00 Moot Court: Decision and Issue of Judgement

12:00 - 12:30 Close & Award of Certificates

- Presentation of Certificates for attendance at Summer School to participants
- Certificate for Best Moot team
- Certificate for Best Poster Presentation

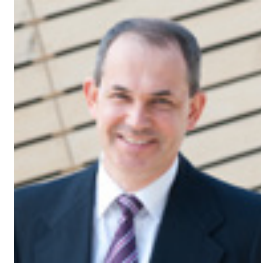
12:30 - 12:45 Closing Remarks

Charles O'Mahony, Head of the School of Law, NUI Galway

12:45 Lunch

Valentin Aichele

Dr. Valentin Aichele, LL.M. (University of Adelaide) is with the German Institute for Human Rights since 2005. His expertise and interests are inter alia public international law, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); human rights action plans; poverty and social exclusion, non-discrimination; economic, social and cultural human rights, in particular right to education; the right to be equal before the law; the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), human rights-based monitoring and evaluation; human rights treaty law in the German justice system. Since May 2009, Valentin Aichele is Head of the independent National CRDP Monitoring Mechanism.



Dmitri Bartenev

Dmitri Bartenev is Associate Professor of International Law at St Petersburg State University where he teaches international law, human rights, and international judicial process. As a practicing attorney he has represented clients in a number of topical cases at the European Court of Human Rights and the UN human rights bodies in anti-discrimination, mental disability, LGBT rights, freedom of association and freedom of speech cases. His publications include *Fundamentals of Constitutional Law of Finland* (2004), *Implementation of Shtukaturv v Russia: Challenges and Strategies* (INTERRIGHTS Bulletin, 2011), *Justice or Complicity* (Equal Rights Trust, 2016); *LGBT Rights in Russia and European Human Rights Standards*. In: *Russia and the European Court of Human Rights. The Strasbourg Effect*. Mälksoo, L. and Benedek, W. (eds.). Cambridge University Press, 2017; Chapter on Russia in “The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Practice: A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Courts”, Waddington, L. and Lawson, A. (eds.). Oxford University Press, 2018.



Selina Bonnie

Selina is an Indian / Irish disabled woman who holds a Master’s Degree in Disability Studies from the University of Leeds and a Professional Diploma in Human Rights and Equality from the IPA / IHREC. She has been an activist, lecturer and trainer in the international disabled people’s movement for more than 25 years. Her particular research interests centre on sexuality, sexual expression and reproductive rights for disabled people. Selina has been published on related topics in various fora including a chapter titled ‘Towards Sexual Citizenship: Dispelling the Myth of Disabled People’s Asexuality’, in the book *Sexualities and Irish Society: A Reader*. She is also a busy wife and mother who works full time for South Dublin County Council as their Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Officer.



John Bosco Conama

Dr. John Bosco Conama is the Director of the Centre for Deaf Studies, Trinity College Dublin. He is the Board Director of the Irish Deaf Society and has been involved in many committees and working groups within the Civil Service and other Government bodies to monitor the progress of Deaf and disabled people in society. His recent publications have focused on Deaf people in society, especially focusing on language rights and equality. He holds a PhD from University College Dublin which focused on a comparative policy analysis of signed languages in two countries – Finland and Ireland. Dr Conama sits on the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission's disability advisory committee. He was named as the Language Ambassador of the Year 2015 by the European Language Label.



Fiona Breathnach

Fiona is a human rights activist who has been advocating for the last seven years for human rights CRPD compliant responses to those who experience psycho social distress/disability. Her contributions are all in a personal capacity and not related to her employer. A member of 'Recovery' Experts by Experience (REE) and Mind Freedom Ireland (affiliated to MindFreedom International), she has written submissions and presented in person on behalf of various groups to UN Human Rights Committees reviewing Ireland's adherence to international covenants, (ICCPR 2014 written submission), (ICESCR 2015) and UNCAT (2018). Fiona represented REE as a member of the Capacity Coalition which was formed to advocate for CRPD complaint Capacity Legislation passed in 2015 in advance of the ratification of the UN CRPD (March 2018). On behalf of REE Fiona was also invited to present at the European Disability Forum (EDF) annual general assembly held in Dublin on 22nd May 2016. From the lived experience perspective of psycho social distress, she has also worked as a trainer in the CDLP, assisting to train a variety of professionals and members of civil society in the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015. Fiona also contributed to the *Campaign to Support CRPD Absolute Prohibition of Commitment and Forced Treatment* (www.absoluteprohibition.org).



Lucy-Ann Buckley

Dr Lucy-Ann Buckley is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway, where she is affiliated to the Centre for Disability Law and Policy. Dr Buckley specialises in equality law and social justice. She has published widely regarding gender equality issues in family and labour law, including intersectional discrimination on the grounds of gender and disability in the employment context. Forthcoming work focuses on international approaches to reasonable accommodation in disability discrimination law. Dr Buckley is a member of the Berkeley Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Study Group, where she is a member of the Sexual Harassment Working Group and the Disability Rights Working Group. Her current work for this group focuses on the impact of the #MeToo movement on women with disabilities. Dr Buckley is actively engaged in international policy development. In recent years, she contributed to the *Joint Statement Towards Inclusive Social Protection Systems Supporting the Full and Effective Participation of Persons With Disabilities* (2019), developed by the International Labour Organisation in consultation with stakeholder organisations. She is currently acting as an expert advisor to the States of Guernsey in relation to the development of a new multi-ground equality legislation.



Christina Burke

Christina is a service user with the Brothers of Charity and lives independently. She is the Secretary of the National Platform of Self Advocates. She is also a member of the Inclusive Research Network and sits on a number of other committees.



Suzy Byrne

Suzy Byrne is a disabled woman who has over 25 years experience working on equality and disability issues. She has also written and commented extensively on issues affecting disabled people in Ireland. She is currently working on building a disabled people's movement to advocate for the full implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).



Mariana Camacho

I am Mariana Camacho Cordero: A Costa Rican young woman and a wheelchair user. I am the oldest sibling, so I am 28 years old. I lived in Heredia with my parents and brother. My sister is married so the family members have recently increase.



I studied in a private school with people without disabilities. In high school, there were other students with disabilities in the senior year; however, I was the first woman so the necessary adjustments to the infrastructure had been made as long as I advance in the education level. When I was in the fifth grade, I started to share my personal experience with my professors and classmates.

I really enjoyed to be a university student because bullying no longer exists. I am a professional in International Relations, who is very passionate about project management and human rights. During my participation in social workshops and lectures organized by the National Council of People with Disabilities, I realized that I did not know much about disabilities needs or people realities. During an internship in this state institution I was aware but the protection mechanisms of persons with the disabilities.

I became an activist and META (We are all in Action Movement) in 2015. Since then I have been participating in the Latin American meetings with other young leaders. Together we have organized workshops and activities related to the CRPD: inclusive education, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights and independent living.

Nowadays, I work as a consultant on public policies and disabilities. This year I have started a master's degree on International Law of Human Rights at the University of Peace.

Ann Campbell

Ann Campbell joined Validity in May 2014 and is responsible for planning and implementing Validity's litigation strategy. She was appointed Co-Executive Director alongside Steven Allen in September 2018. Ann has worked in national and international law for upwards of eleven years with, among others, the Irish Refugee Council, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific and as a Barrister-at-Law in the Irish courts. She holds a BCL with French from the National University of Ireland, Cork and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham, UK. She has carried out voluntary work with a number of NGOs as well as the Irish Human Rights Commission. Ann has engaged in advocacy and strategic litigation at national and international fora, including UN Treaty Bodies, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Committee of Social Rights.



Catherine Carter

I have been working at CHANGE for 10 years, as a project worker and a lead trainer. I bring a wealth of lived experience and expert knowledge, as a parent with learning disabilities and Aspergers.



I am an experienced trainer and speaker, and I have worked across the UK and internationally. An example of some of my international work was when I delivered training to 45 people from 45 different countries, in Thailand, to improve communication between people with and without learning disabilities. I co-led CHANGE's Criminal Justice project, working closely with Police, Courts, Prison and Probation Services, to develop accessible resources and raise awareness about the support needs of offenders with learning disabilities.

My specialist area of expertise and interest is around women's health issues and parenting issues, experienced by women and parents with learning disabilities. I deliver training for health and social care professionals, on supporting parents with learning disabilities, as well as delivering good sex education for adults with disabilities and how to better support women with learning disabilities who have experienced abuse. I have worked with Shelter and the Richmond Fellowship, supporting them to work more accessibly and inclusively with people with learning disabilities. I am currently working on a 2 year project funded by DRILL around Peer Support Workers. This is called Learning By Doing Together. This project is being led by CHANGE and University of Leeds, where a partner will look at their organisation, to see where they can hire peer support workers, who have learning disabilities.

Rachel Cassen

Rachel Cassen is the Director of Leap, a social enterprise which empowers families to take action for an inclusive life. Leap works with families to build their knowledge, capacity and skills and to challenge existing attitudes and beliefs. Through her work in Leap, Rachel provides a range of opportunities to assist families to develop a vision of a good life for their family member and to focus on relationships, belonging and socially valued roles. Rachel believes families are foundational in their capacity to pursue inclusive lives and drive social change. Rachel has been a member of various Government committees including Transforming Lives and the Task Force on Personalised Budgets. www.leapireland.com



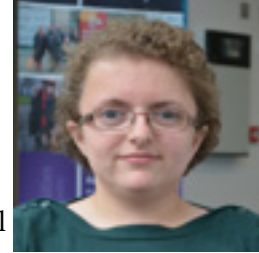
Bo Chen

Bo Chen is currently a PhD researcher at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway and an editor of *Disability Rights Studies in China*. Bo Chen's research interests include international mental health and capacity law, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and non-discrimination law.



Clóna de Bhailís

Clóna de Bhailís is a PhD Candidate at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP), NUI Galway. Her research focuses on supported decision making for young people with disabilities. In her previous role with the CDLP she worked as a Research Assistant on the European Research Council funded VOICES project. She holds a Bachelor of Civil and graduated with first class honours from the LL.M in Public Law in NUI Galway in 2013 with a minor thesis in the area of legal capacity and access to justice for people with disabilities. During her studies in NUI Galway, Clóna was the first Disability Clinics Coordinator with the Free Legal Advice Society. This role involved managing and volunteering with the Disability Legal Information Clinic. Clóna continues to manage the clinic and supervise LL.M student volunteers in her current role.



Iris Elliott

Iris joined the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission as Head of Policy and Research in March 2018, the month that Ireland became the last European Member State to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She is leading IHREC's work on CRPD including working with the Disability Advisory Committee, and preparing IHREC's first Independent Monitoring Mechanism report.



Iris has worked as a social worker, health promotion specialist, policy advisor, researcher and educator. She holds a PhD in Sociology (NUIG) for research into women's human rights activism in Ireland, a MA in Public Culture Studies (IADT), and a MSc in Health Promotion (UU). Her research interests include: realising human rights and equality in everyday life, social movement activism, poverty, and mental health within peace building.

Iris was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in recognition of her exceptional and longstanding commitment to improving public mental health in Ireland and the UK.

Alan Fay

Alan Fay is 22 years of age and currently attending the Irish Wheelchair Association where he is learning independent living skills.



Alan is also a member of the EPIC (Empowering People in Care) Youth Council where he is passionate about being a strong advocate for young people with care experience and also people with disabilities.

In his spare time Alan enjoys socialising, watching football and going to Dublin GAA matches with his family, a tradition he hopes to one day continue with his own family.

Alan is a confident and energetic young man who is currently in the process of auditioning for an Irish tv dating show in a bid to find his true love.

Sarah Fitzgerald

Sarah Fitzgerald is a writer and a blogger. She is passionate about the realisation of human rights for disabled people. She is a member of the board of Independent Living Movement Ireland. Lastly, and most importantly, she is a mummy to a wonderful seven year old girl called Alison.



Eilionóir Flynn

Prof. Eilionóir Flynn is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway. She is a graduate of University College Cork (BCL, PhD), and published her first book with Cambridge University Press in 2011, entitled 'From Rhetoric to Action: Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.'

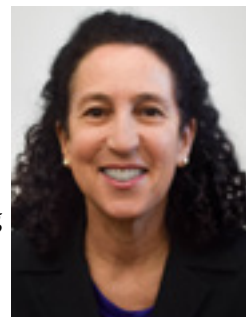


Eilionóir's current research interests include legal capacity, advocacy, access to justice, and the intersectionality of disability, gender and ageing. Her most recent book 'Disabled Justice? Access to Justice and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' was published in March 2015 by Ashgate. In 2014 she was awarded a European Research Council Starting Grant for the VOICES project, to document the narratives of people with lived experience of legal capacity denial.

At a national level she is actively engaged in the process of legal capacity reform, and co-ordinates a working group of over 15 civil society organisations in the fields of disability, mental health and older people on this issue. Internationally, she has supported the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the working group which developed General Comment 1. She is also actively engaged with the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing which aims to strengthen the international human rights of older persons. She can be contacted at eilionoir.flynn@nuigalway.ie

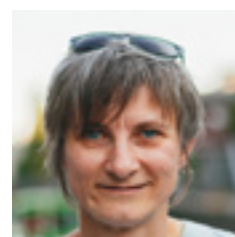
Sally Friedman

Sally Friedman is the Vice President of Legal Advocacy at the Legal Action Center, a non-profit law and policy organization that fights discrimination against individuals with criminal justice histories, substance use disorders, and HIV/AIDS. Ms. Friedman has litigated precedent-setting cases, including *Beckett v. Aetna*, a class action lawsuit challenging Aetna's violation of over 13,000 members' HIV privacy rights, and *Innovative Health Systems v. City of White Plains*, a federal lawsuit establishing that the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits using zoning laws to exclude facilities serving people with disabilities. She has worked extensively to reduce barriers to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder. Her publications include *Legality of Denying Access to Medication Assisted Treatment in the Criminal Justice System*, *Medication-Assisted Treatment in Drug Courts: Recommended Strategies*, and *Defense Lawyers and the Opioid Epidemic: Advocating for Addiction Medication*.



Senada Halilčević

Senada Halilčević was born in Tuzla in Bosnia and Hercegovina. She spent most of her life living in various institutions. Today she lives in Zagreb and works for Association for Self-Advocacy as a self-advocate. She was the President of European Platform of Self-Advocates and Vice-president of Inclusion Europe. Her work includes supporting and training of self-advocates on national and international level, editing of easy to read materials and advocating for the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.



Freyja Haraldsdóttir

Freyja Haraldsdóttir is a feminist disability activist and a scholar from Iceland. She has a BA in social education, a MA in gender studies and is currently doing here PhD in education from the University of Iceland where she also works as an adjunct lecturer. Freyja is the former director of the Independent Living Centre in Iceland and has put a lot of effort into activist work around Personal Assistance Services but now she leads the feminist disability movement Tabú.



Shakira Hussein

Shakira Hussein is a writer and researcher based at the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne. She has published about a wide range of issues, including gender violence, racism, and disability.



Pia Justesen

Pia Justesen, Ph.D., is an independent Danish human rights lawyer, researcher, and writer who moved to the U.S. in 2014. In Chicago she has taught disability rights at the University of Illinois and worked with the independent living organization Access Living. She has an extensive list of publications on human rights and discrimination issues. Her work focuses specifically on the human rights of racial minorities and persons with disabilities. In Denmark she also worked as a corporate social responsibility advisor and a labor union lawyer. Pia currently lives with her family in Evanston, Illinois.



Her upcoming book *From the Periphery – Real-Life Stories of Disability* is a work of oral history and will be published by Chicago Review Press in October 2019.

Elizabeth Kamundia

Dr. Elizabeth Kamundia works as an Assistant Director in the Research, Advocacy and Outreach Directorate at the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. She holds an LLD from the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria and an LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy from the Centre for Disability Law and Policy – National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG). Elizabeth has worked with the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUIG (Legal Researcher) and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (Disability Rights and Law Schools Project Coordinator). She has also worked at the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution of Kenya (Consultant on Disability) and the Committee of Experts on Constitutional Review – Kenya (Legal Researcher). Elizabeth is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.



Victoria Lee

Victoria Lee is the acting Adviser on human rights and disability of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Formerly, she was Senior Human Rights Adviser of the International Disability Alliance leading the work before the UN treaty bodies to promote participation of organisations of persons with disabilities and ensure the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities aligned with the CRPD. Victoria has worked in several non-governmental organisations engaged in strategic litigation on the rights of persons with disabilities as well as on behalf of survivors of torture and ill-treatment. Having acquired her law degree in Sydney, Australia, she was admitted as a legal practitioner to the New South Wales Supreme Court and obtained her Masters in Law at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Européennes of the University of Strasbourg, France.



Roger Lewis

Roger has been a member of the National Steering Committee of Disabled People Against Cuts, DPAC, for eight years. He has taken a leading role on many of our direct action protests in London and elsewhere and has been one of the lead speakers for DPAC#.



He has spoken at Trade Union conferences and on many public platforms and is an active Trade Unionist and Assistant Branch Secretary and Disabled Members Convener in his Union, Lambeth Unison. Roger supports DPAC by advising on writing motions for support and financial contributions. He has assisted in the establishment of the National Union of British Sign Language Interpreters, NUBSLI.

Eleanor Lisney

Founding member and director of Sisters of Frida, a disabled women's collective and Culture Access, supporting access, bringing an inclusive edge intersectionally. Trustee of Metro GAD (Greenwich, London) and NAWO coordinator



An access advisor, public speaker, a content writer, secretary of NUJ LIBNM branch. On the British Council Disability Advisory Panel and the web team of the International Network of Women with Disabilities. Co founder of #CripthevoteUK. Recently part of the UK women NGOs for the CEDAW review in Geneva.

Born and bred in Malaysia, she's lived and studied in the UK, France and the USA. She is a mother of two grown up children and is resident in London.

Robert Martin

Robert has spent his life advocating on behalf of disabled people and in particular people with learning disability, both in New Zealand and around the world. Robert spent the majority of his childhood in institutions. This experience has given him a great interest in ensuring that all disabled people get the opportunity to live in the community from birth. Working for IHC New Zealand for some years, Robert assisted the organisation to bring self-advocacy and People First to New Zealand. He is now a Life Member of the Disabled People's Organisation, People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi, and is the local assistant for the Whanganui group.

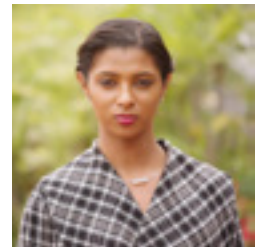


Robert was a long-standing member of the Inclusion International Council and was Chairperson of the Self-Advocacy Taskforce from 1996 to 2008. Through his roles in Inclusion International, he took part in negotiations around the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Robert is a recognised role model for people with learning disability and a sought-after international speaker and advisor on self-advocacy. Over the years, Robert has travelled the world speaking to organisations, families and people with learning disability about many topics, including the right to live in the community, deinstitutionalisation, the right to work, and having the life of your choice. His words have effected change in policies and practices which have made a positive difference for disabled people around the world. Robert has had a book written about his life called "Becoming a person". He was New Zealand's nominee for the Committee for the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and was successfully elected to this role in June 2016. He is the first person with a learning disability to sit on a United Nations Human Rights Treaty Body, and is now in the third year of his four-year term as an Independent Expert.

Liberty Matthyse

Liberty Matthyse is the Executive Director of Gender DynamiX. Based in Cape Town, South Africa, the organization advances access to human rights and social justice for trans and gender diverse persons through health, education and legal advocacy. Liberty is a trans non-binary person and holds an LL.M degree (cum laude) as well as qualifications in Leadership and Project Management, Financial Management and Strategic Business Management. In 2016, she/they also self-published a book entitled: 'A Darling's Journey to Liberty: A compilation of experiences of a young gender non-conforming (fluid) person'. In addition to academic writing she/they have also published numerous articles in magazines focused on sexual and gender diversity in relation to transformation agendas. She/They represents the interests of trans and gender diverse persons and broadly queer persons on multiple national, regional and international forums and bodies.



Claire McGettrick

Claire McGettrick is an Irish Research Council postgraduate scholar at the School of Sociology in University College Dublin. Her PhD research is investigating the bodies of expert knowledge on adoption, how adopted adults and children have been classified and defined in the discourses of expert knowledge, and how they have been managed in adoption policy and practice. She is co-founder of Justice for Magdalenes (now JFM Research) and Adoption Rights Alliance. She coordinates the Magdalene Names Project, and jointly coordinates the Clann Project with Dr Maeve O'Rourke.



Ger Minogue

Ger Minogue: Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare: Founder member Clare Inclusive Research Group & Inclusive Research Network, Gruntvig / IASSID international presenter. Campaigner against 1993 Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act, Consultant to Law Reform Commission re disability/relationships legislation, and to Katherine Zappone's private members Bill.



Catriona Moloney

Dr. Catriona Moloney is a Lecturer in Disability Law at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP), National University of Ireland Galway and previously lectured at the University of Limerick. Catriona has a Bachelor of Civil Law and an LLM in Public Law. She was awarded her PhD entitled *Empowering Children and Young People: An Access to Justice Assessment of Mental Health Law and Policy* for which she was awarded a School of Law (NUIG) Scholarship to undertake this research. Catriona was a full-time legal researcher for the Law Reform Commission from 2008–2010 where she worked on the Commission's statute law restatement programme. Catriona was also a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School's Project on Disability during the summer of 2013. She was appointed to the Board of EPIC (Empowering Young People in Care) in 2014; EPIC advocates at a national and local level for the rights of children and young people separated from their families through the Irish care system. She also volunteers for Children at Risk Ireland as a Forensic Accompaniment Officer in the Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment Service (CASATS) in Galway, supporting children and their families who attend the forensic unit. Catriona has lectured in Family Law and contributed to outreach community programmes on the law and family relationships. Recently Catriona has worked as an individual researcher contributing to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency Annual Country Reports on issues in childhood. On behalf of the CDLP, she has drafted reports on disability issues at national level for the Academic Network of European Disability Experts. In April 2018 she was appointed to a panel of Research and Policy Specialists on matters related to children's rights and welfare at the Ombudsman for Children's Office.



Siobhán Mullally

Siobhán Mullally is Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway. She has published widely in the fields of gender, women's rights, migration, asylum and multiculturalism. She is currently the President of the Council of Europe anti-trafficking body, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking (GRETA). She is a Commissioner with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, and is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague. She is the founding Joint Editor-in-Chief of the Irish Yearbook of International Law (with Professor Fiona de Londras), published by Hart Bloomsbury, Oxford.



Ellen Murray

Ellen Murray is Executive Director of strategic human rights organisation TransgenderNI, and human rights activist focusing on disability and LGBTQ rights issues. She is a public appointment to the UK Government Equalities Office LGBT Advisory Panel, and focuses on strategic accessibility improvement work within LGBTQ organisations across the UK, Ireland and Europe.



Maria Ní Fhlatharta

Maria Ní Fhlatharta holds an LLM in Comparative International Disability Law and Policy, and is a graduate of the BCL in NUI Galway Law. As a founding member of Disabled Women Ireland, Maria is active in both the gender and disability equality movements in Ireland. Maria has a keen interest in reproductive justice, and worked on the campaign platform for Together For Yes.



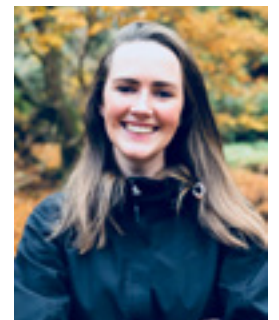
Charles O'Mahony

Dr. Charles O'Mahony has been Head of the School of Law, NUI Galway since May 2017. He joined the School of Law in 2012. He completed a PhD at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, NUI Galway entitled "Diversion: A Comparative Study of Law and Policy Relating to Defendants and Offenders with Mental Health Problems and Intellectual Disability". Charles was elected as President of the Irish Association of Law Teachers (IALT) from 2014-2016. He previously worked as Amnesty International Ireland's Legal Officer on its mental health campaign and as a legal researcher for the Law Reform Commission of Ireland. He was awarded a LLM from University College London, a LLM in Public Law from NUI Galway and holds a BA in Law and History and a LLB.



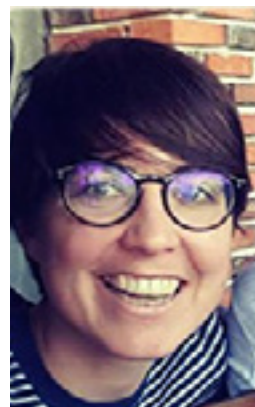
Maeve O'Rourke

Dr. Maeve O'Rourke is Lecturer in Human Rights at the Irish Centre for Human Rights and School of Law, NUI Galway. She is a practising barrister and worked as Senior Research and Policy Officer for the Irish Council for Civil Liberties prior to joining NUIG. For the past 10 years Maeve has provided voluntary human rights research and advocacy assistance to *Justice for Magdalenes / JFM Research* and *Adoption Rights Alliance*. In this capacity she has coordinated several evidence-gathering initiatives and advocated internationally and domestically for reparation and transitional justice measures concerning Ireland's history of institutional abuse and forced separation of families. Maeve co-directs the Clann Project, which recently published its Principal Submissions to the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes and Certain Related Matters (drawing from 79 witness statements and extensive archival research). She also co-authored Justice for Magdalenes' Principal Submissions to the Inter-departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalene Laundries (based on 800 pages of witness testimony and a further 4,000 pages of archival material).



Victoria Petitjean

Victoria Petitjean is Programme Manager for the Global Interfaith Network (GIN-SSOGIE), since October 2016. She is Franco-British, holds a BSc in Economics and International Development from Bath University and a MPhil in International Relations from Oxford University, and has 9 years of experience in international policy (working at the European Commission, UNESCO and OECD) and human rights work (in South East Asia and East Africa, notably working in NGOs and for local political representatives). Previous to this position, she was Treasurer and Board member of the French LGBT organization, SOS homophobie, and interned at UNESCO, to work on the first UN report examining violence against LGBT youth in schools around the world. She and her partner live in Paris, France.



Silvia Quan

Silvia Quan, born in Guatemala. My parents are Chinese immigrants, growing up being the daughter of very traditional Chinese parents, my childhood and young age was highly marked by stigma and discrimination from a very conservative Guatemalan society. I became a disability rights activist from young age and in 2003 joined the Ombudsman's Office as the Disability Rights Defender. At international level, participated in the UN Ad Hoc Committee in charge of drafting the text that was adopted in 2006 by the General Assembly as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; served as independent expert to the CRPD Committee from 2011-2016, was the CRPD Committee's Vice-Chair from 2015-2016. From 2017 is holding the position of Senior Human Rights Advisor at the International Disability Alliance (IDA).



Shivaun Quinlivan

Dr Shivaun Quinlivan lectures at the School of Law NUI Galway. Her research interests and publications focus primarily on the right to equality with a particular focus on the right to education for people with disabilities: see De Beco, G., Quinlivan, S., & Lord, J. (Eds.). (2019). *The Right to Inclusive Education in International Human Rights Law* (Cambridge Disability Law and Policy Series). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.



Shivaun is currently working on a disability legislative project with the States of Guernsey and on an inclusive education pilot in NUI Galway. Shivaun Quinlivan was the first director of the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy and is a member of the management committee of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy in NUI Galway. She has recently completed an O'Brien Residential fellowship in the Centre for human Rights and Legal Pluralism in McGill University in Canada. Most recently, Shivaun Quinlivan was appointed to the role of Vice Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in NUI Galway. Dr. Quinlivan holds a BA and an LLB from NUI Galway, an LLM from King's College London, a BL (barrister at law) from The Honourable Society of King's Inns and a PhD from Trinity College Dublin.

Carlos Rios

Carlos is a top expert on international disability rights, serving on the CRPD Committee (UN treaty body) from 2011 to 2014, including as Vice Chair for 2 years. In this role, he was very involved in the Committee's jurisprudence on legal capacity, torture, right to liberty and access to justice. Carlos is a lawyer and expert on criminal justice, and has been involved in criminal procedure reform in Mexico since 2004. In 2013, the Mexican Senate appointed him as National Commissioner for Victims, where he oversaw the activities of the special committees against torture and kidnapping. Since 2015, he has worked with the Human Rights Clinic of Mexico's National University to litigate human rights abuses against people with disabilities. He has also served as a board member of the Mexico City Human Rights Commission. Carlos has a law degree from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico, and a Masters in comparative criminal systems from University of Barcelona, Spain. He speaks Spanish, French and English. In his spare time, he loves to read literature, go to concerts and enjoy his family.



Eric Rosenthal

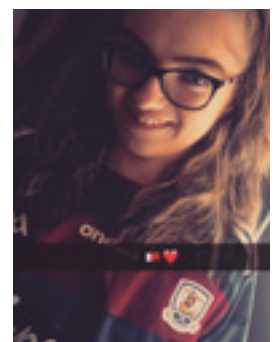
Eric Rosenthal is founder and Executive Director of Disability Rights International (DRI), one of the first and leading human rights organizations dedicated to the protection of children and adults with disabilities under international law. Over twenty-five years, Rosenthal has investigated abuses and trained activists in three-dozen countries, published reports on the rights of people with disabilities, conducted media campaigns, and launched the World Campaign to End the Institutionalization of Children. He has published on human rights, disability rights, and the right to family. On behalf of DRI, Rosenthal brought and won cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to protect people with disabilities in psychiatric facilities and orphanages in Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, and the United States. Rosenthal served as an expert to the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the US National Council on Disability, and co-chaired the US International Council on Disability (USICD) committee working for US ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Rosenthal has been recognized for "pioneering the field of international human rights advocacy for people with disabilities and bringing unprecedented international awareness to their concerns" by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

Rosenthal is an adjunct Professor at the American University's Washington College of Law where he teaches in the Human Rights Academy. He was the 2015-2016 Drinan Chair in Human Rights at the Georgetown University Law Center and was awarded a Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, by Georgetown University in 2016.

Abby Smith

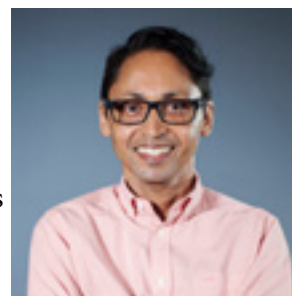
My name is Abby Smyth, I am almost 18 years old and I have cerebral palsy. I attend Merlin College and am going into 6th year in September.

In 2017, I received an award from the GRETb in the category of 'Overcoming Adversity'. I started my blog in 2018 to try and show what life with a physical disability is like - yes some things can be a struggle but we can also have just as much craic as everyone else!



Ian Southey-Swartz

Ian Southey-Swartz is an activist with his roots in HIV and AIDS, and broader health rights movements. He specifically worked on sexual and reproductive health rights. Ian is known for his contribution to numerous feminist publications in which he dissects the identity and ever evolving role of the African male. He is however best known for his work on the rights of lesbian, gay, transgender, intersex, gender non-conforming and queer (LGBTIQ+) persons and communities.



Ian's home country is Namibia where he was the founder of the first national LGBT organisation. He was part of a team that successfully advocated to get same-sex families recognised as a type of family in the grade 8 Life Skills textbook, the first time this was done worldwide.

Ian joined the Open Society Foundations in 2009 with the mandate to build a new portfolio of work - the now well established LGBTI Programme in Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). He is also part of the LGBTI team in the Human Rights Initiative, another foundation within OSF.

In July 2018 he took charge of the Indigenous Peoples Rights (IPR) programme in OSISA. He is currently looking at how essential development practises in Botswana, Namibia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are eroding "traditional family life" within indigenous communities.

Reshma Valliappan

Reshma Valliappan aka Val Resh is the founder-director of The Red Door® that has been using creativity to redefine mental ill health and other disorders. Val is also the protagonist of an award winning documentary 'A Drop of Sunshine' based on her living with schizophrenia without medications. Author of her memoir 'Fallen, Standing; My Life as a Schizophrenist', Val's artwork and articles are published in many journals, textbooks and covers. She has been featured in countless magazines, newspapers, television channels, interviews, and spoken at many platforms globally.



Resh is also an Ashoka and Ink Fellow working closely with community schools to empower boys and girls through sex-gender education, to enable them in channelizing their aggression through creative processes. The program 'Peaceful Warrior Changemakers' aims at turning bullies into healers as kids do make the world a beautiful place, while the second program; Festival of the Merchants of Madness works towards redefining the way in how madness is marketed, labelled, and supported. Her work has been recognized by many national and international organizations.

However, she refers to herself as an 'Alien-vampire sent to earth to redefine madness through having lived with Reye's syndrome, paranoid schizophrenia, sleep disorders and scar epilepsy caused by a brain tumour - without medications. Humans require names and labels and so the above bio of importance is necessary. Her alter ego is SKii the mime, who plans on taking over the world - a hundred at time through silence.

There are other things Val does, of which she herself might not know of. In short, she spends her free time by annoying ghosts and talking to her imaginary friends.

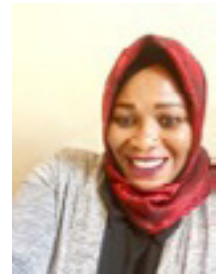
Alberto Vasquez

Alberto Vasquez works as Research Coordinator at the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. He is a Peruvian lawyer and holds a LL.M in Disability Law and Policy from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has worked at the Peruvian Ombudsman Office and at the Peruvian Congress on disability-related issues, as well as a consultant to a number of UN agencies. He is president of the Peruvian NGO Society and Disability - SODIS and a member of the Latin American Network of Psychosocial Diversity.



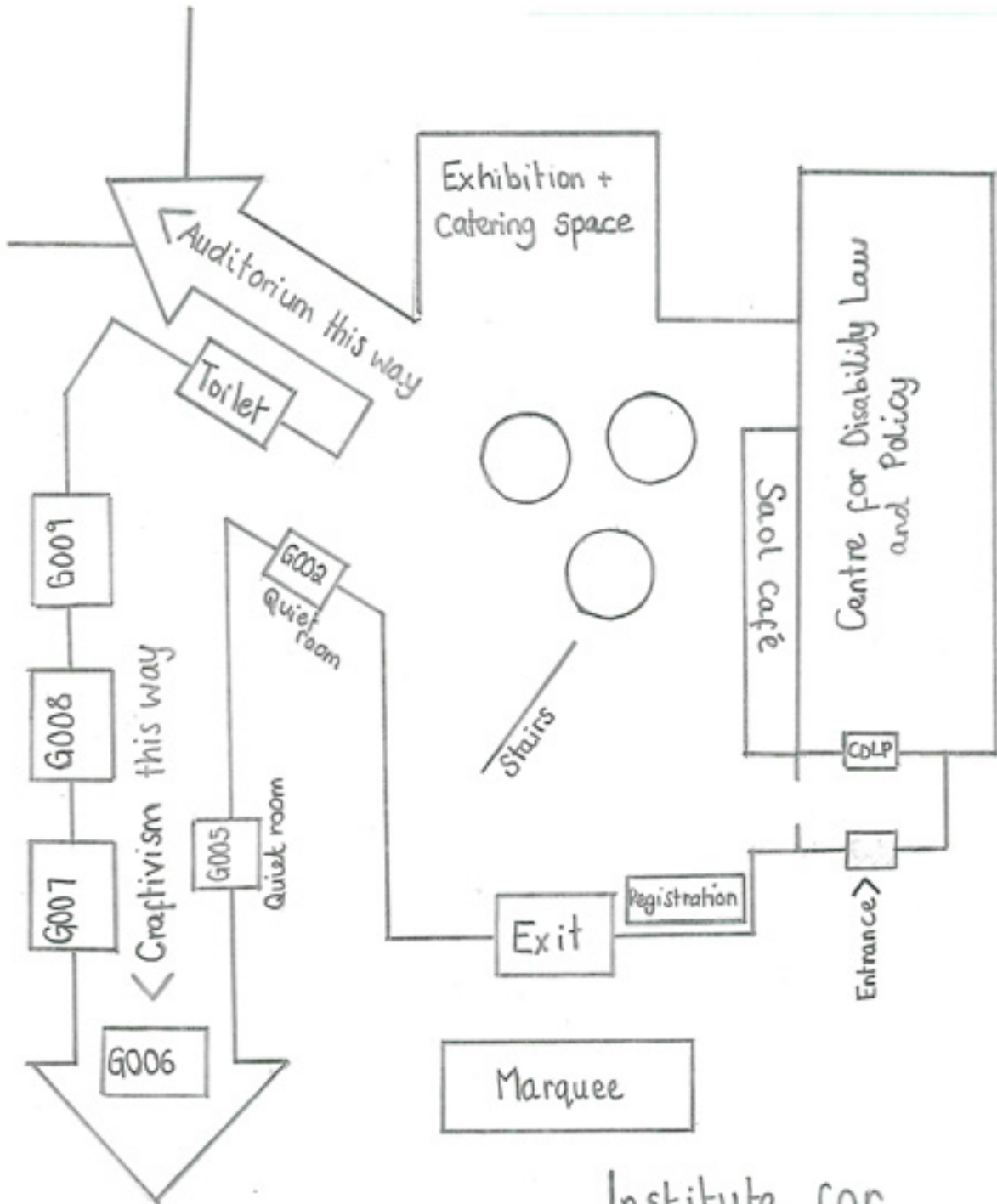
Fatma Wangare Haji

Ms. Fatma Wangare Haji is the current regional coordinator for Inclusion Africa and outgoing Executive Director of the Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH) and mother to a daughter with an intellectual disability. She started her career in the hospitality industry in the early nineties but switched to human rights and development work after a series of discriminatory challenges faced in accessing services for her daughter with an intellectual disability. She has actively worked in the disability movement for 14 years now. Fatma serves in the board of the African Disability Forum, which is the regional body that advocates for persons with disabilities and their families in Africa. She has previously served as a board of trustee at the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and a board member at the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) and Inclusion Africa. Fatma is a member of the Inclusion International catalyst for inclusive education Africa response team.



She lives and works with a simple philosophy of “change starts with me”. This is embedded on strong values of human dignity and respect, exceeding expectations and experiencing the world through the eyes of persons with intellectual disabilities and empowering others to really understand what disability is, array their fears that it is not contagious and it is not also a myth but a reality in our society.

Institute for Lifecourse and Society



Institute for Lifecourse and Society (ILAS)

Accessible Venues in Galway

Things to See

- Galway City Museum
- The Prom (Promenade Salthill)
- The Spanish Arch
- Galway Market
- Coole Park and Visitor Centre

Things to Do

- Palas Cinema (Art house)
- Eye Cinema
- IMC Cinema
- Town Hall Theatre
- Corrib Princess River tours (no bathroom)
- Galway Greyhound Track

Places to Eat

- Hooked (Seafood)
- Mc Donaghs (Also Seafood)
- Asian Tea House (Asian Restaurant)
- Kashmir (Indian restaurant)
- Lime (Asian restaurant)
- Dela (Nice Brunch and Fancy dinner)
- Asian tea house (Asian restaurant)
- Whooly Cow Burgers (Burgers)
- Papa Rich (Asian view of the river)
- Caprice

Bus Service

- 404 Serves ILAS and the city centre

Useful Numbers

- An Garda Síochána (Police), Ambulance Service, Fire Service: 112/999
- Accident & Emergency, University College Hospital: 353 91 524222
- Pharmacy on Campus, Matt O'Flaherty Chemists: 353 91 495044
- WestDoc Out of Hours Urgent GP Care: 1850 365 000 / 353 91 747700

Good Bar Food

- Oslo (Salthill)
- Tartare Cafe + Wine Bar
- The Kings Head
- Kellys
- BierHaus
- The Quays
- An Pucan
- Busker Browns
- Massimo
- Roisin Dubh
- Murphys
- The Quays

Clubs

- Halo
- DNA

Cafes

- Mr Waffle
- Gourmet Tart Co (Salthill)
- The Kitchen Café
- Ground and Co

Cafes

- Galway City Taxis +353 91 525 252
- Bigo Taxis +353 91 585858
- Cara Cabs +353 91 563939
- Pro Cabs +353 91 535353

Staff and Volunteers

Staff and Student volunteers are available to assist participants if required with tasks such as navigating the building, getting lunch or answering questions. All will be wearing purple t-shirts and green lanyards.

Fire Exit

There are multiple fire exits in this building. They are located as follows: 6 on the ground floor, 4 on the first and 4 on the second floor. They are all clearly marked by a green sign with a man walking. Alternatively ask someone in a purple t-shirt. The assembly point is T1 located outside the front of the Institute for Lifecourse and society (ILAS) building. If you require assistance to exit the building in the event of an emergency evacuation for Fire or other evacuation, please ensure you have completed a "Personal evacuation plan" with a member of the team.

Accessible Bathrooms

The ILAS building has 3 accessible bathrooms, one on each floor. There is a portable hoist which can be used in the ground floor bathroom and a fixed hoist and changing area in the bathroom on the second floor.

Captioning

Live captioning will be available each day a link will be available on the holding slide A. Transcripts from each presentation will be available on Dropbox at the start of the following day.

Registration Desk

There will be a manned registration desk in the main foyer. There will be someone available to answer any queries you may have.

Photography

There will be photos taken throughout the week. If you do not want your photo taken please inform the person at the registration desk and you will receive a different coloured lanyard.

Accessible Parking On Campus

There will be blue-badge parking spaces reserved outside the ILAS building. Please display your blue badge at all times as clamping is in operation across campus.

Permit Parking On Campus

Parking permits are available from the registration desk. Please ensure you only park between the white lined spaces in the park and ride car park only. Ensure your permit is on display as clamping is in operation.

Quiet Room

We will have two quiet space rooms, G002, opposite the bathrooms on the ground floor and the second (please see notice boards behind registration desk).

WIFI - NUIG WiFi

User: 9876001t

Password: rbhzi7872

Twitter

#11thdss



LAW POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

LLM International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy is unique in the world as an innovative and internationally focused LLM dealing with the process of law reform in the field of disability. The programme delivers a solid grounding for future practitioners, policy-makers and academics in the field of disability reform.

The introduction of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has resulted in significant changes in the area of disability law and policy. Our graduates will be among the first to be skilled in this growing area of law and policy.

This programme will be of interest to students who have completed a primary law degree, legal practitioners, public servants, disability and human rights advocates and people working in disability services.

Course Highlights:

- **Unique Qualification** achieved as no other university offers a similar programme. This LLM is innovative, pioneering and provides specialist education for our students.
- **Prestigious Internships** based in Geneva with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Disability are exclusively available to our students. The interns will have exclusive access to the UN system.
- **Expert Lecturers** with national, European and international teaching and research profiles deliver the programme.
- **The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP)** is the only research centre of its kind in Ireland dedicated to producing research that informs the debate on national and international disability law reform and policy.
- **Skills development** is a key focus of this programme. Modules develop expertise and an ability to critically appraise issues faced by law and policy-makers in this rapidly changing environment.
- **Guest lectures** from practitioners and international experts on current challenges around disability policy and reform. Students are also encouraged to attend the conferences, seminars and events run by the CDLP.

- A **Minor Thesis** is completed by students on a topic of their choice under close supervision by leading national and international experts.
- **Career Support** is provided through professional workshops concentrating on students CV and interview skills. Careers in Law Week also provides an opportunity to meet partners from leading law firms.
- **Assessment** is primarily through research papers, presentations and minor thesis rather than exams.

Career Opportunities

Graduates have found employment in a variety of areas, including work in the UN, senior legal appointments, as lecturers, solicitors and barristers, in national, regional and international advocacy organisations, in national human rights institutions, as government advisors and with non-governmental organisations.

Many of our graduates are leading change and reform in disability law and policy throughout the world. Graduates of the programme have also secured funding to pursue PhD research and are now working in universities around the world.



QUALIFICATION:	LLM
DURATION	1 year full time or 2 years part time
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	<p>An approved Second Class Honours Degree, Grade 1 (2.1) in law, or an inter-disciplinary degree in which law was a major component.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, applicants holding a degree in another discipline or a degree of less than 2.1 standard may be considered where they have relevant professional experience in law or disability rights.</p> <p>International students should refer to the country specific information section of the International Office website: http://www.nuigalway.ie/international-students/country.html</p>

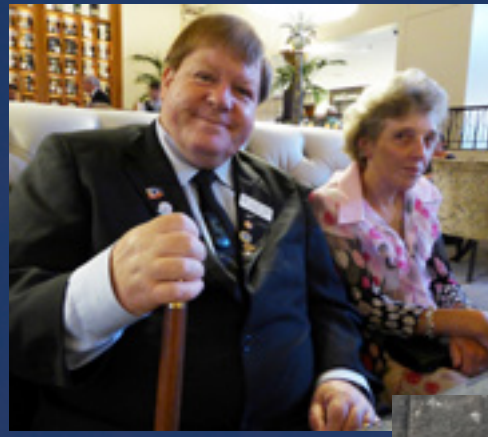
WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway is the only LLM programme of its kind in the world; one focussed specifically on disability rights issues within a broader human rights framework. I will shortly begin working as a policy advisor with the Disability Discrimination Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission; I have no doubt that I would not have secured this position if it wasn't for the LLM.

EMILY CUKALEVSKI



Contact us: lawpostgrad@nuigalway.ie	Apply at: www.nuigalway.ie/apply	Programme information: www.nuigalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/law-intl-comparative-disability-policy.html
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All photographs courtesy of speakers attending the Summer School

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